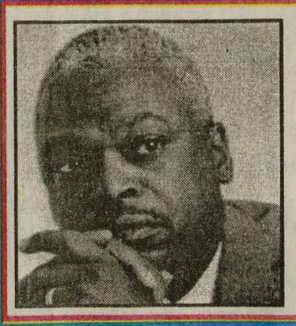
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Seattle Police Kill Suspect In Officer Slayings, Those Believed To Have Rendered Assistance In Custody

By Gene Johnson
Associated Press Writer

(AP) — The man suspected of gunning down four police officers in a suburban coffee shop was shot and killed by a lone patrolman investigating a stolen car early Tuesday. Four people were arrested for allegedly helping the suspect elude authorities during a massive two-day manhunt.

Maurice Clemmons was carrying a handgun he took from one of the dead officers when a Seattle policeman recognized him near a stolen car in the Southend of Seattle at about 2:45 a.m., Assistant Police Chief Jim Pugel said.

The vehicle was running but unoccupied when the officer pulled up, radioed in the license plate number and realized the car was stolen, Pugel said.

The officer saw something moving, got out of his car, saw Clemmons and ordered him to show his hands and stop.

"He wouldn't stop," Pugel said. "The officer fired several rounds."

Clemmons also had sustained a serious gunshot wound from one of the four officers killed in the coffee-shop shooting.

Police planned to arrest more people who helped Clemmons.



A sheriff's deputy carries a rifle from a home where a suspect in the slaying of four police officers gunned down a day earlier was believed to have been on Monday in the Leschi neighborhood of Seattle. A heavily armed SWAT team stormed the home where they thought they had cornered the suspect in the slaying of four police officers in Lakewood, Wash., only to find out that he was not in the house. The suspect in the case, Maurice Clemmons, was killed by a lone patrolman investigating a stolen car early Tuesday morning. *AP Photo/Elaine Thompson.*

"We expect to have maybe six or seven people in custody by the day's end," said Ed Troyer, a spokesman for the Pierce County sheriff. "Some are friends, some are acquaintances, some are partners in crime, some are relatives. Now they're all partners in crime."

Three people were booked into the Pierce County Jail on Monday and early Tuesday for investigation of rendering criminal assistance on four counts of first-degree murder. They are Ricky Hinton, Eddie Lee Davis and Douglas Edward Davis. Troyer said a getaway driver also was arrested. That person's identity wasn't immediately known.

On Monday, officers detained a sister of Clemmons who they think treated the suspect's gunshot wound.

"We believe she drove him up to Seattle and bandaged him up," Troyer said.

Authorities say Clemmons, 37, singled out the Lakewood officers and spared employees and other customers at the coffee shop Sunday morning in Parkland, a Tacoma suburb about 35 miles south of Seattle. He then fled, but not before one of the dying officers apparently shot him in the torso.

"I'm surprised that he managed to get away," Troyer said. "The officer did a good job in Lakewood."

Killed were Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39, and Officers Ronald Owens, 37, Tina Griswold, 40, and Greg Richards, 42.

The officer who shot Clemmons was not injured, Pugel said.

Police said they aren't sure what prompted Clemmons to shoot the four officers, who were in uniform and working on paperwork at the coffee shop just two blocks outside their jurisdiction.

"The only motive that we have is he decided he was going to go kill police officers," Troyer said. He said Clemmons talked the night before the shooting about killing a group of cops and watching the news.

Police believe Clemmons chose the coffee shop because it was frequented by police officers from various agencies.

"We do not believe that the Lakewood officers were actually targeted other than that they were police officers in that location at the time where he knew he could find police officers."

Police surrounded a house in a Seattle neighborhood late Sunday following a tip Clemmons had been dropped off there. After an all-night

(Cont'd. On Page 2)

Police: Woods At Fault In Crash, Will Get Citation

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Tiger Woods will be cited for careless driving in a car crash outside his Orlando-area mansion, but will not face criminal charges, the Florida Highway Patrol said Tuesday.

Woods faces a $164 fine and four points against his driver's license, not close to enough to have it suspended. The citation closes the investigation of last week's crash.

The patrol "is not pursuing criminal charges in this matter nor is there any testimony or other evidence to support any additional charges of any kind other than the charge of careless driving," Sgt. Kim Montes said.

According to an accident report, Woods crashed his SUV into a fire hydrant and a tree at 2:25 a.m. Friday. The airbags did not deploy and Woods' wife told Windermere police she used a golf club to smash the back windows to help him out.

Woods withdrew Monday from his own golf tournament, citing injuries from the crash.

Since the accident, tabloids and gossip Web sites have fueled speculation about the events leading up to it, including that there may have been a domestic dispute between Woods and his wife.

The crash came two days after The National Enquirer published a story alleging that Woods had been seeing a New York nightclub hostess, and that they recently were together in Melbourne, where Woods competed in the Australian Masters. The woman, Rachel Uchitel, denies the affair.

An attorney for the neighbors who dialed 911 after the crash said Woods did not appear to be driving under the influence and showed no signs of having been in a fight. Montes said there were no claims of domestic violence and insufficient evidence to subpoena any medical information.

"Despite the celebrity status of Mr. Woods, the Florida Highway Patrol has completed its investigation in the same professional manner it strives to complete each traffic investigation," Montes said.

Bill Sharpe, an attorney for the neighbors, said Woods' injuries were "consistent with a car wreck and inconsistent with him being beat up. The scratches on his face were consistent with someone who maybe was in a minor car accident and hit his head on the windshield. ... None of his injuries looked like he was beat up by his wife."

Sharpe said neighbor Linda Adams and her two adult sons went outside their home in the exclusive gated community of Isleworth after hearing the crash and Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, asked them to call the 911 emergency number.

He said the neighbors found Nordegren kneeling beside her husband, upset about his injuries. Sharpe said Woods appeared woozy and had scratches on his face and that his wife was trying to console him. The Adamses wrapped Woods in a blanket and made sure he didn't move.

Tabloid speculation has focused on whether Woods and his wife were fighting before the accident.

"One thing we want to make clear is that Mrs. Woods' attitude was consistent with her being concerned about her injured husband," Sharpe said. "Mrs. Woods was trying to help him. Mrs. Woods was worried about her husband. She was concerned."

Sharpe said the Adams family did not see the crash and did not see Woods' wife with a golf club. He said he was hired to get the message out that the Adams family members have told investigators everything they know about the crash and aren't hiding anything.

By skipping his tournament, Woods will escape the TV cameras and a horde of media seeking more details. The tournament was to be the last of the year for Woods anyway, and he did not say when or where he would make his return next year.

When healthy, he has made his season debut at Torrey Pines every year since 2006. The San Diego Invitational this year is scheduled the week of Jan. 25. That could mean Woods avoids the media for 10 weeks.

Neighbors in the exclusive Isleworth community said Tuesday they did not know if Woods was home. There were no cars in his driveway as the highway patrol held its news conference, and there was little sign that any accident had taken place - the fire hydrant Woods struck had either been repaired or replaced. The grass was perfectly trimmed.

The complex's private security force patrolled the plush community in marked cars and golf carts, the primary source of transportation around Isleworth.

Associated Press Writer Antonio Gonzalez contributed to this report.

In Memory of Queen Esther G. Jordan

On Nov. 29, 2009, God called home sister Queen Esther Jordan.

Queen Esther was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina on Sept. 22, 1923 to the union of Benjamin and Carrie Green. She had 5 brothers and 8 sisters. She accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at an early age and was baptized at Japanese Baptist Church in 1996 when she came to Seattle.

Esther spent many years in New York raising as a single parent her two children Venus and James. In her later years she moved to Florida and in 1996 she came to Seattle, WA to be with her daughter Venus Doyal. She lived at the Hill Top House for 8 years before moving to the Cannon House.

Esther's career was in Nursing at two major hospitals in New York and when she retired she opened a Senior Care Center in her home. Esther was involved in community work, mission and Evangelism all her adult life. She was a caring Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother.

She was a student of the bible and has taught many in Sunday school, Church work and her on-going daily ministry to those in need. Esther spent her life helping others and attending to those that needed her assistance. Most recently on Mother's Day she was elected Queen of Cannon House, a title she cherished dearly.



Queen Esther Jordan

Truly, Esther was a servant of the Lord, bringing the spirit of a living God to all that came into her presence.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her children, Venus Doyal (Gecova Doyal) and James Newton, 7 grandchildern, 18 great grandchildren, surviving bother Blease Green and sister, Bernice Jackson and a host of nieces and nephews, family and friends.

A viewing will be held on Mon., Dec. 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Southwest Mortuary - 9021Rainier Ave. S. in Seattle

Funeral Services will be held on Tues., Dec. 8 at 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Professor Adrien K. Wing To Speak At Human Rights Day Celebration

Professor Adrien K. Wing will speak at a free evening event to celebrate the 14th annual Seattle Human Rights Day on Thurs., Dec. 10 from 7-8:30 pm at Town Hall on 8th Avenue and Seneca.

As an expert in international human rights and social justice, Professor Adrien K. Wing has advised the founding fathers and mothers of three constitutions: South Africa, Palestine, and Rwanda. Professor Wing has authored more than 100 publications on topics such as constitutionalism, women's rights, rape in Bosnia, Muslim headscarves in France, Tunisian secularism, and Turkish democracy. Her US-oriented scholarship has focused on race and gender discrimination. An accomplished public speaker, Wing has lectured all over the world.

The event — which commemorates the anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted December 10, 1948 — also will include presentation of the 2009 Human Rights Awards to local human rights leaders Joe Martin, Legal Voice, Pride Foundation, Comunida a Comunida and Garfield High School student Suk Lin Zhou.

For more information call the Seattle Office for Civil Rights at (206) 684-4500 or check the web at www.seattle.gov/civilrights/events.htm.

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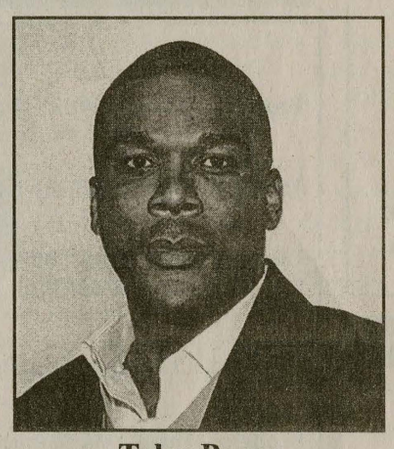
ENTERTAINMENT

Tyler Perry Donates One Million Dollars To The NAACP

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The NAACP, the country's oldest and largest civil rights organization, has announced that acclaimed film director Tyler Perry has donated one million dollars, marking the largest gift ever given by an individual artist. In addition, Perry purchased several NAACP commissioned Jacob Lawrence lithographs and additional lithographs by celebrated artists Jonathan Green, Elizabeth Catlett and Sam Gilliam. The gift was made to commemorate the organization's Centennial anniversary, according to a release.

"Tyler Perry exemplifies an unyielding commitment to uplifting and bringing hope to the disenfranchised and those less fortunate," said Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, "Both in his films and in his life, he reflects an impressive ethos of caring and conscientiousness. We are deeply grateful for his support."

NAACP Chairman Julian Bond also applauded the gift. "We are honored that Tyler Perry chose to support the NAACP," said Bond. "Tyler is a courageous pioneer in bringing positive images of African-American culture and struggles to the screen. His remarkable journey from poverty and childhood abuse to become one of the world's most successful filmmakers and entrepreneurs is an inspiration to us all."



Tyler Perry

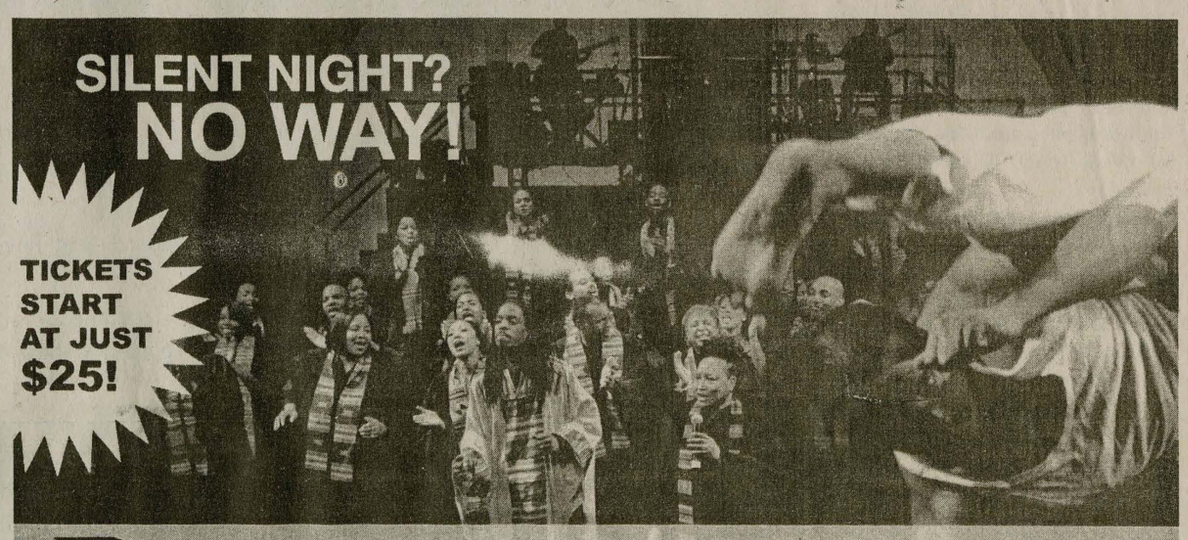
Perry expressed that it was the least he could do.

"I feel so honored and blessed to be in a position where I can give to the NAACP." Perry said. "Had it not been for the perseverance and vision of the thousands who came before me in the 100 years of this legendary organization, I would not be in the position I am in today. I continue to be thankful for the tireless work of the NAACP, and I am proud to be able to help in their mission to fight for the equality of all people, and to work towards the elimination of discrimination against race."

NAACP stalwarts sees Perry as a standard bearer in giving.

"This is a paradigm shifting moment in Black philanthropy. Here is a civil rights organization that is receiving a donation that is usually targeted only at education or cultural institutions. Tyler Perry is setting a high standard for others to follow," said Maxim Thorne, Senior Vice President of the NAACP.

Jealous says the money will be well-used toward the advancement of Black progress. He said, "The generous gift by Tyler Perry will be used to support our Second Century Society advocacy programs on economic equality, education, health care and criminal justice."



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Four Free H1N1 Vaccine Clinics To Open For High Risk People Who Can't Afford To Pay

Public Health of Seattle-King County is opening up four free H1N1 vaccine clinics on Sat., Dec. 5 and Weds., Dec. 9 as a way to provide access to people at the highest risk for being infected with H1N1 influenza (swine flu) who cannot afford to pay.

An estimated 280,000 people in King County who are at high-risk for complications have already been vaccinated for H1N1 influenza and an additional 90,000 doses of vaccine is on the ground or in the process of being shipped to vaccine providers in the county. Though flu illness seems to have peaked locally, at least temporarily, H1N1 illness continues in the community, and vaccination is the best wait to protect against H1N1 influenza.

"As more vaccine comes into the community, we're continuing to allocate limited amounts to people without insurance or who can't afford to pay," said Dr. David Fleming, Director and Health Officer for Public Health - Seattle & King County. "We encourage people to seek H1N1 vaccine through their health care providers or through pharmacies if they can afford the administrative cost or if insurance covers it."

Most of the vaccine arriving to King County continues to be allocated to health care providers so that they can vaccinate patients who are most at risk, including: pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, people between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old, people between 25 through 64 years of age with chronic health conditions or weakened immune systems, and healthcare and emergency workers.

The public vaccination clinics will be held at four sites on Saturday, December 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, December 9, from noon to 7 p.m.: **Columbia Public Health Center** - 4400 37th Ave S., Seattle; **Renton Public Health Center** - 3001 NE 4th St., Renton; **North Public Health Center** - 10501 Meridian Ave N., Seattle; and **Federal Way Public Health Center** - 33431 13th Place S., Federal Way.

On Dec. 5, there will be a total of 4,000 doses of vaccine available across the four sites, and on Dec. 9, there will be 1,000 doses of vaccine. Vaccinations are first come, first served, and no reservations will be taken. If demand is high, people will be given a time later that day to return for a guaranteed vaccination. Once supply is exhausted, people will be told as soon as they arrive.

The ability to pay will be determined on the honor system, and it will be assumed that people getting vaccinated at one of the four clinics cannot afford the administrative cost of H1N1 vaccination.

People who are recommended to receive H1N1 vaccine should continue to seek it. Vaccine supply is gradually improving each week, and it is expected that eventually there will be enough vaccine in King County for anyone who wants it. Visit the Public Health H1N1 influenza website at www.kingcounty.gov/health/H1N1 for updates on vaccine availability in the community or call the Flu Hotline at 877-903-KING (5464), which is staffed with operators to answer questions from King County residents about H1N1 influenza. Hours of operation with operators are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, with special 24-hour nurse line service extended over this weekend for people with flu seeking medical care advice. Recorded information is available 24 hours a day.

City Council Passes Resolution Directing Race And Social Justice Work To Continue

Earlier this week, The Seattle City Council passed a Race and Social Justice Resolution intended to heighten the City of Seattle's awareness of institutional racism and social disparities. The Resolution, sponsored by Councilmember Bruce Harrell, seeks to carry forward and strengthen the initiative begun by Mayor Nickels.

Councilmember Harrell believes that "Mayor Nickels had the vision and courage to drive this important work which demonstrated his recognition that race and social disparities continue to exist throughout our city. The initiative can result in a healthier and more efficient work environment and better city services to all communities.

Department heads, change teams, city employees and community leaders were all on hand to support the legislation. Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis, on behalf of the Mayor and the City's executive team, expressed their gratefulness that this important work will continue.

The Resolution states the strategies and tools to address racial and social disparities and describes the goals of improving workforce equity, contracting equity and best practices to achieve equal access to city services.

"This work must continue because all people in Seattle benefit when we demonstrate inclusiveness in how we make decisions, how we provide basic city services and how we manage change. This is the first piece of legislation on this issue and Seattle's commitment in this area has already been nationally recognized," says Mayor Nickels.

A key component of the work going forward was the 2009 establishment of a Race and Social Justice Community Roundtable. This group consists of individuals from community organizations, business, philanthropy, education and others with the mission of extending this work beyond city government and into the community.

Councilmember Harrell said he "looks forward to working with the Roundtable and moving this effort beyond City government."

The Seattle Public Library Offers Workshops For Job Seekers

The Seattle Public Library is offering series of free workshops for job seekers. The series will include workshops on how to look for jobs and how to ace job interviews, the Library can get you from start to finish in your job search. All workshops will be held at the Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., Level 4, Room 4 unless otherwise specified.

Class descriptions and times are as follows:

- **Beginning a Job Search** - Learn how to develop a successful job search plan in tough economic times. Classes will be held from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Jan. 4, Jan. 20, Feb. 1, Feb. 10, and Feb. 24.
- **Resume Basics** - Learn what employers are looking for in resumes and receive a resume template that can be used in paper or electronic form. Classes will be held from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Jan. 6, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, and Feb. 22.
- **Online Job Search Basics** - Learn how to submit online resumes and complete Web-based job applications. Prerequisites: Internet Basics 1 or the ability to navigate a Web page. Resume Basics or an existing resume. Classes will be held from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Jan. 11, Jan. 25, and Feb. 8.
- **Job Interview Basics** - Learn how to successfully prepare for a job interview. Learn about common interview questions and body language. Classes will be held from 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Jan. 13 and Feb. 17.

The workshops are presented in partnership with WorkSource at South Seattle Community College. The workshops are free and open to the public. No registration is required at the Central Library workshops. Paid parking is available in the Central Library garage and free parking is available at the branches.

For more information, call The Seattle Public Library at (206) 386-4636.

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HOROSCOPE (NNPA) DECEMBER 2 - 9, 2009

ARIES
Commit to a way this week, lucky archers! You are developing your craft by practice and more practice. Accept recognition gracefully, and keep on task. You are investing in your art this week. Soul Affirmation: Goodness is its own reward.

TAURUS
Your word this week is "Persistence." Keep at the task of persuading others that your idea or vision is as remarkable as you know it is. You just need to get the word out, and you need to be persistent in your efforts. Make a game out of it and have fun! Soul Affirmation: Often it's not what I say but the way I say it that gets the message across

GEMINI
Results that seemed like they would never show up may arrive this week, and it will make you very happy. Keep the feeling this week in mind so that you'll remember and benefit from it next time you are impatiently waiting for an outcome. Everything is working to your good. Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for the chance to give.

CANCER
Your exciting and adventurous self will want to come out and play. You'll be happiest if you are exploring something, and then topping it off with a visit to a restaurant that serves something you've never tried before. Live it up at the banquet of life this week! Soul Affirmation: When I am clear about who I am, the world becomes clearer.

LEO
Watch for that item you've been wanting to be on sale at a good price this week. While you are feeling pretty confident with money, you don't want to splurge or overspend just yet. Keep your eye out for bargains for a little while longer! Soul Affirmation: This week I find joy in the gifts that life has already given me.

VIRGO
It's easy to take it easy! Just slow down and let each moment arrive at its own speed. You'll get a lot done this week if you get in tune with the rhythm of the week. Each moment has its own beat. Stay with it. Soul Affirmation: The wisdom of the ages is revealed as my spirit.

LIBRA
Change is near, and it's going to be good. Clear your desk of pesky tasks this week and get your mind free to receive what life brings. Positive results help you feel even more positive. Soul Affirmation: Someone wonderful is looking to find me.

SCORPIO
You are the boss of your week this week, so act like the leader you are and let the week follow you around. Your creativity is soaring; schedule enough time to get some of your brilliant ideas on paper. Soul Affirmation: Trust gives me a deep sense of peace and joy.

SAGITTARIUS
A steady stream of opportunities is beaming your way, lucky you and they contain endless variations of possibilities. Wear your instincts like a rainbow colored coat this week and gather the good resources that you need. Soul Affirmation: Hope is future's way of shining on me this week.

CAPRICORN
Some down time will work wonders for you this week. You've been running fast with your projects, and now it's time to slow it down. Try to spend time outdoors and with nature. Enjoy! Soul Affirmation: Hope is a beautify jewel. I enjoy owning it.

AQUARIUS
You'll have lots of contact with folks telephone is your best tool, and you'll enjoy talking and listening to many supportive and loving friends. A letter may arrive with an invitation. Soul Affirmation: I smile and trust in the powers beyond myself.

PISCES
You are too kind this week and it's a wonderful thing. By doing things for others without thought of a reward, you're racking up beneficial vibrations for your future! Take personal pleasure in what you do for others this week. Soul Affirmation: Moving slowly is often the fastest way to get there.

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MLK Way So.
206-722-0204

One Stop
Custom Wheel & Tire
7636 Rainier Ave S.
206-721-2317
Fax-206-721-2347
Cell: 206-679-7444
Joseph "Pigg" Smith/Owner

BUD'S Muffler City
1801 Rainier Ave. So.
(206)
329-0666

BARBER SHOP
Paul's Custom Cuts
9431 Rainier So.
(206)
722-7106

Fade Master's
Sydni R.Owens, Barbar/Stylist
5600 Rainier Ave. So.
(206)
852-0603

Hodges Hair Quarter
4403 Rainier Ave. So.
(206)
722-7481

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Gloria's Barber Shop
Now at Stephen's Barber Shop
3600 Genesee
(206)
725-8115

Stephen's Barber Shop
3600 Genesee
(206)
725-8115

Standing On Top Barber Shop
11805 Renton Ave. S
206-772-7787

Floyd's *Barber*
3600 Genesee
206
725-8115

Richard's Barber Shop
15844 Pac. Hwy. So.
206 246-0207

BEAUTY SALON
Girlfriends Salon
221B So. 4th Place
Rento, WA
425- 255-4050

Hair Studio Of Soul
231 S. 4th Pl
Renton, WA 98055
(425) 227-8467

Salon Lorache & Day Spa
4901 Rainier Ave. S.
206-722-0371

Gary Ladd's Beauty Salon
12405 Renton Ave s.
206-722-1808

Ebony Designs
1402 E. Union
(206)
323-8776

Tana "Yasu" Montgomery
Braids, Extentions, Locks,Color&Relaxers
206-571-5815
only1tana@yahoo.com

Maude's Hair Design
5038 S. Wilson
(206) 725-6071

BEAUTY SALONS
Salon Dy'Als
879 Rainier Ave. N.
Ste. #A-105 in Renton
206-772-0110

Tee's Beauty Salon
212 Wells S. Suite #106
Renton
425-687-6322

Family Affair Style Center
3604 S. Genessee
(206)723-2902

DeCharlene
Beauty & Boutique
2108 E. Madison
(206)
322-8296

Wormwoods
Hair Works
1136 - 34th Avenue
206-860-9676

Hair Studio 57
9259 57th Ave. S.
Teresa Carter
206-721-7244

Salon Adidez
3705 So. Edmonds
206-725-3841

Ennis Ticeson Hair Design
9250 57th Ave. So.
Seattle, WA 98118
www.EnnisTiceson.com

Exclusive Persistant Image
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Seattle, WA 98118
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All Natural Beauty & Health Products
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Boutique
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#209 206-325-5911

Jean's Boutique
2301 So. Jackson #210
(206)
322-4925

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NY'S Finest Urbanwear Clothing
Store Locations
Seattle - 7630 Rainier Ave South
206-725-1400
Kent -214 W. Meeker St
253-852-5559
Tacoma - 5502 Orchard St. W
253-475-4342

CLEANERS
Jackson Cleaners
2301 So. Jackson
206-323-9060

SPACE RESERVED FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

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Seattle Central Grind & Cafe
2724 E. Cherry
709-9902

Check Cashing/Payday Loans
Cash Advance America
306 - 23rd Ave., Ste 103
Seattle, WA 98144
(206) 860-1900

DENTIST
Wonzel M. Mobley
1001 Broadway #313
(206)
328-1042

Raymond Hampton Jr.
ARCHWAY
Cleaning Service
Janitorial Supplies
425-931-5465

FLORAL
Flower's Just 4-U/Floral & Gifts
2216 So. Jackson
206-324-1440

FITNESS CENTER
Columbia City
Fitness Center
5023 Rainier Ave. So.
(206)
725-7894

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Bob's Quality Meats
Best Choice In Town
Meat bundles, all kinds...
•Lean Pork Ribs
•Hog Head Cheese
•Lean Ox Tails
•Louisiana Style Boudin
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4861 Rainier Ave. So.
(206)
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We accept food stamps, checks, Visa, Mastercard, Cash

Parnell's
Grocery Store
722 - 23rd Ave
(206)
324-0304

Jackson Street
General Store
2723 S. Jackson
(206)
325-8016

KEMAW
Grocery
1800 E. Yesler
(206)
860-6045

Bob's Quality Meats
4861 Rainier Ave. So.
(206)
725-1221

Rainier Food Market
4411 So. Mead St.
206-722-2828

TANA MARKET
Open 7am-11pm
2518 E. Cherry Street
206-322-3835

Semira's Grocery
2601 E. Yesler
206 324-4733

Blue Stars Food Mart
11463 Rainier Ave. So.
206-772-0840
Cell: 206-371-5564
Andy Mengustu
Owner/Manager

Quick Pack Food Mart
2616 S. Jackson

Busy Bee Grocery
5015 Rainier Ave. So.
206-723-5259

Daycare/Preschool Learning Ctr.
Damascus Pre-School & Childcare
5237 Rainier Ave. So.
(206)
725-9300

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Showroom Open Mon. -Sat.

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(206)
722-0313

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TV Shows & Online
Gordon Curvey
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11902 Interurban Pl So
Tukwila, WA
206-722-9160
www.musicinnercity.com
email:gcurvey@yahoo.com

REAL ESTATE
GEM REALTY
Joan Owens
206-850-5749

Paul Bascomb
Real Estate Services
Paul Bascomb
206-328-1527

RESTAURANTS
R&L Home of Good
Bar-B-Que
1816 E. Yesler
(206)
322-0271

Bill's Bodacious Bar-B-Q
3813 NE 4th St. in Renton
425-255-0535

WILLIE'S TASTE OF SOUL
BAR-B-QUE & CUSTOM SMOKE HOUSE
3427 Rainier Ave. So.
206-722-3229

Catfish Corner
Cherry & MLK Way
(206)
323-4330

Bob's Bar-B-Q
911 S. 11th St. In Tacoma
Open Mon. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
253-627-4899
Jonathan Clark, General Manager

This space reserved for your business!

BAR-B-QUE
Gabby's Q
Taste Of The South
12621 Renton Ave So
Suite D
Seattle, WA
Tue. - Sat. 11am - 8pm
206-772-6110

VETERAN SERVICES
African American Veteran Group Of Washington State
1122 East Pike, #1240,
Seattle WA 98122
(206) 720-7008

National Ass. Of Black Veterans
2310 S. Jackson St.,
Ste. 103 Seattle, WA
(206) 329-2094

RECORD STORES
Another Record Store
•9433-A Rainier Ave. So.
206-725-4462
•4801 Rainier Ave. So.
206-725-7478

COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

BARBER / BEAUTY SALON
Abe & Dex's
Barber Shop
7565 Renton Ave. So.
Abe Winston/Dexter Pollard
(206) 722-7290

Wilson's Barber Shop
324- 25th Ave. So.
(206) 322-9622

Jerry's Barber Shop
17921 108th Ave. S.E.
Renton, WA 98055
425-235-6917
Open 7 days

Hair Studio 57
9638 - 54th Ave. So
Seattle, WA
Teresa Carter/Owener
206-721-7244

Stalin's
Barber Shop/Salon
5609 Rainier Ave. S.
Seattle, WA
(206) 722-2070
Meleree/Stylist

List Your Business Here!!!

BARBER/BEAUTY SALON
Salon Vibe
4547 Rainier Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
(206) 722-VIBE

Hair By Boyce!
2921 E. Madison, Ste. 1
Seattle, WA
(206) 860-7011

Fatou Brading Salon
2202 S. Jackson
Seattle, WA
(206) 324-1622

ExodusSalon
9437 Rainier Ave.So.
Seattle, WA 98118
206-725-3820

Alpha Hair Design
1623 E. Jefferson
Seattle, WA
(206) 322-7418

PIZZA
Tino's Pizza
9435 Rainier Ave S
206 723-9955

NAILS
MiMi Nails
9254 57th Ave S
Seattle, WA 98118
206-588-1902 Salon
206-458-1307 Cell

RESTAURANT
Taste Of Louisiana
11831 Renton Ave. S.
Seattle, WA
(206) 772-1652

INSURANCE
Gregory Nunn, Agent
State Farm Insurance
200 Roy St. Suite 102
Bus.: 206-284-9700

Roll X Salon
2513 S. Jackson
Seattle, WA
(206)726-1185

From Roots To Wings Early Childhood Development Ctr
306 SW 146th Street
Burien, WA
(206) 246-7544

HAULING/MOVING
MR. CHEAP MOVING
425-290-9700
heymrcheap.com

GROCERY/DELI
UNION MARKET
2101 E. UNION
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98122
206-322-9090

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KING COUNTY

RFP

KING COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ADVERTISEMENT

King County is requesting Proposals from qualified firms interested in providing Professional Service Work Order Construction Management Services for Capital Improvement Projects.

The Request for Proposals, all addenda and current document holder's list are available on the internet at http://www.kingcounty.gov/procurement. The County will not mail, ship or fax RFPs and addenda.

Interested firms must register with the County at time of download and ensure that a valid contact email address is given. Notification of addenda will be sent to the registered email address. Failure to register will result in the proposer not being notified of any addenda, which may result in rejection of the proposal.

The County plans to issue one (1) contract with a maximum dollar value of $500,000. The contract will have an initial period of performance of one (1) year. The County reserves the right to amend the contract duration in one (1) year increments up to a maximum of three (3) years, if funds remain.

Contract Title:	**Professional Service Work Order construction Management Services for Capital Improvement Projects**
Number:	**P00070P09**
Proposals due:	**December 31, 2009**
Time:	**5:00 p.m.**
Pre-proposal Meeting:	**December 10, 2009**
Time:	**2:30 pm**
Location:	**5th Floor Conference Room 5C, (King Street Center, 201 S. Jackson St., Seattle WA)**

SUMMARY OF WORK: The Consultant shall provide construction management services, on a work order basis, for the Wastewater Treatment Division. Services may include but not be limited to: inspection and other field services, project management, contract administration services, project control services, cost control, and essential miscellaneous services described in Task 800 of the scope of work.

SUBCONSULTANT OPPORTUNITIES: Provided for informational purposes only, following are subconsulting opportunities that may be available on this Contract: construction inspection and construction change order estimates.

CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM: The King County Contracting Opportunities Program is a public contracting assistance program intended to maximize the participation of Small Contractors and Suppliers (SCSs) through the use of voluntary participation goals and awarding proposal evaluation points as an incentive factor in the award of King County contracts for Architectural and Engineering (A&E) and Professional services. The SCS goal for this Project is: 1 certified SCS firm.

QUESTIONS: Questions concerning this solicitation should be directed to **Mary C. Lee, Contract Specialist** at **206-263-9381**, TTY Relay: 711. The Proposer may be requested to submit the question in writing. No verbal answers by County personnel will be binding on the County.

This information is available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities upon advance request by calling 206-263-9400, TTY Relay: 711.

HAPPY HOLIDAY!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Obama Administratoin Kicks Off Mortgage Modification Conversion Drive

WASHINGTON – This week, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) kicked off a nationwide campaign to help borrowers who are currently in the trial phase of their modified mortgages under the Obama Administration's Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) convert to permanent modifications. More than 650,000 borrowers have been helped thus far. The modification program is part of the Administration's broader commitment to stabilize housing markets and to provide relief to struggling homeowners, and is a primary focus of financial stability efforts moving forward. Roughly 375,000 of the borrowers who have begun trial modifications since the start of the program are scheduled to convert to permanent modifications by the end of the year. Through these efforts, the Treasury Dept. and HUD will implement new outreach tools and borrower resources to help convert as many trial modifications as possible to permanent ones.

"We are encouraged by the pace at which trial modifications are now being made to provide immediate savings to struggling homeowners," said the new Chief of Treasury's Homeownership Preservation Office (HPO), Phyllis Caldwell. "We now must refocus our efforts on the conversion phase to ensure that borrowers and servicers know what their responsibilities are in converting trial modifications to permanent ones." In her new role, Caldwell will lead HPO's conversion drive efforts.

"Encouraging borrowers to move through the process of converting trial modifications to permanent modifications remains a top priority for HUD," said HUD Assistant Secretary for Housing and FHA Commissioner David Stevens. "As a part of our continuing efforts to improve the execution of the HAMP program, HUD is committed to working with servicers, borrowers, housing counselors and others dedicated to homeownership preservation to improve the transition of distressed homeowners into affordable and sustainable mortgages."

With tens of thousands of trial modifications being made each week, the Administration is now working to ensure that eligible borrowers have the information and the assistance needed to move from the trial to the permanent modification phase. *All mortgage modifications begin with a trial phase to allow borrowers to submit the necessary documentation and determine whether the modified monthly payment is sustainable for them.* As the first round of modifications reaches the time to convert, the Administration has identified several strategies for addressing the challenges that borrowers confront in receiving permanent modifications.

In addition to the conversion drive that kicks off today, the Obama Administration has already taken several steps to make the transition from trial to permanent modification easier and more transparent by:

• Extending the trial period for trial modifications started on or before September 1st to give homeowners more time to submit required information;

• Streamlining the application process to minimize paperwork and simplify the submission process; meeting regularly with servicers to identify necessary improvement to borrower outreach and responsiveness;

• Developing operational metrics to hold servicers accountable for their performance, which will soon be reported publicly;

• Enhancing borrower resources on the MakingHomeAffordable.gov website and the Homeowner's HOPETM Hotline (888-995-HOPE) to provide direct access to tools and housing counselors.

The Mortgage Modification Conversion Drive will include the following:

Servicer Accountability. As part of the Administration's ongoing efforts to hold servicers accountable for their commitment to the program and responsibility to borrowers, the following measures will be added:

• Top servicers will be required to submit a schedule demonstrating their plans to reach a decision on each loan for which they have documentation and to communicate either a modification agreement or denial letter to those borrowers. Treasury/Fannie Mae "account liaisons" are being assigned to these servicers and will follow up daily as necessary to monitor progress against the servicer's plan. Daily progress will be aggregated by the end of each business day and reported to the Administration.

• Servicers failing to meet performance obligations under the Servicer Participation Agreement will be subject to consequences which could include monetary penalties and sanctions.

• The December MHA Servicer Performance Report will include the number of permanent modifications as well as the number of active trial period modifications that may convert by the end of the year if all borrower documents are successfully submitted, sorted by servicer and date.

• Servicers will be required to report to the Administration the status of each modification to provide additional transparency about situations where borrowers face obstacles to moving to the permanent phase.

Web tools for borrowers. Because the document submission process can be a challenge for many borrowers, the Administration has created new resources on www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov to simplify and streamline this step. New resources include:

• Links to all of the required documents and an income verification checklist to help borrowers request a modification in four easy steps;

• Comprehensive information about how the trial phase works, what borrower responsibilities are to convert to a permanent modification, and a new instructional video which provides step by step instruction for borrowers;

• A toolkit for partner organizations to directly assist their constituents;

• New web banners and tools for outreach partners to drive more borrowers to the site and Homeowner's HOPETM Hotline (888-995-HOPE).

Engagement of state, local and community stakeholders. Through the conversion drive, the Administration is engaging all levels of government - state, local and county - to both increase awareness of the program and expand the resources available to borrowers as they navigate the modification process.

• HUD will engage staff in its 81 field offices to distribute outreach tools. HUD will also encourage its 2700 HUD-Approved Counseling Organizations to distribute outreach information to participating borrowers.

• By engaging the National Governors Association (NGA), National League of Cities (NLC) and National Association of Counties (NACo) the Administration is connecting with the thousands of state, local, and county offices on the frontlines in large and small communities across the country who are hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis. These offices will now have the tools to increase awareness of the program, connect with and educate borrowers and grassroots organizations on how to request a modification and take the additional steps to ensure they are converted to permanent status; and serve as an additional trusted resource for borrowers who are facing challenges with the program.

• In partnering with the Conference of State Bank Supervisors and the American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators, state regulators will now have enhanced tools to assist borrowers who are facing challenges in converting to a permanent modification and to report to the Administration on the progress and challenges borrowers and servicers are facing on the ground. Regulators will also be empowered to work directly with escalation and compliance teams to ensure that HAMP guidelines are consistently applied.

Toy Drive

Saturday, Dec. 12
9am - 5 pm
2600 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA

Walgreens

Sale Thursday, Dec. 3 thru Saturday, Dec. 5



Soft & Beautiful Botanicals Relaxer or Texturizer Kit

REGISTER REWARDS®*

Sale Price | REGISTER REWARDS* Good on Next Purchase | Like Getting Purchase

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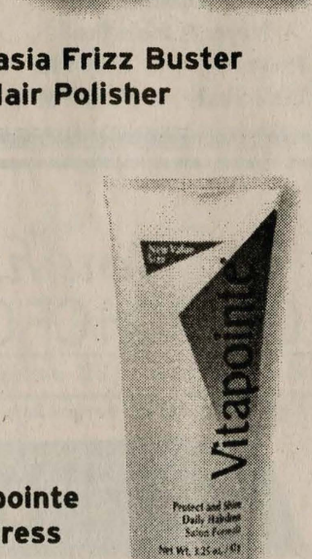
Warning: Follow directions carefully to avoid skin and scalp irritation, hair breakage and eye injury.

*Limit 1 coupon printed per offer.
See coupon for exclusions, limitations and expiration.

$6

SALE Cover Girl Queen Liquid Foundation

New



5.49

SALE Organic Root Stimulator Olive Oil Smooth-n-Hold Pudding
13 oz.

5.99

SALE Fantasia Frizz Buster Serum or Hair Polisher
6 oz.

4.99

SALE Vitapointe Daily Hairdress
3.25 oz.

4.99

SALE Dark & Natural Hair Color For Men

Sale merchandise may not be available at all stores and is not available at RxPress Pharmacies and Pharmacy only locations. Sale prices may also be limited to your local newspaper distribution. Rain checks are not available at stores that do not carry the advertised item. Sale prices offered for the dates listed on the front page unless otherwise specified in the ad or on the coupon. Right reserved to limit all quantities on all items. Coupons must be presented at time of purchase. Regular prices quoted may vary by store. Items may not be exactly as pictured. Availability at Walgreens.com may differ. *Items advertised with Register Rewards or rebates are subject to conditions and limits established by the mfr. See coupon or rebate form for details. Call 1-800-WALGREENS (1-800-925-4733) toll-free or visit www.walgreens.com/findastore for the location nearest you. While supplies last. ©WALGREEN CO., 2009, all rights reserved.

CHURCH & SOCIETY

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Walker Chapel A.M.E. Church

"A Church For All People"



Rev. David Aaron Johnson
M.Div., & First Lady

Sunday School:	9:40 am
Sunday Worship:	11:00 am
Weds. Bible Study:	6 - 7 pm
Weds. Prayer:	12 - 1 pm

800 - 28th Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98144

206-325-8468 • 206-324-7558 Fax
email: wcamechurch@yahoo.com
website: www.walkerchapelame.org

FIRST A.M.E Church - Seattle

A Place of Possibilities



Pastor
Carey G. Anderson
&
First Lady Phyllis
Gearring - Anderson

Schedule

Church School..... 9:30 AM
Worship Service.....7:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Prayer Service.....12 noon & 7 PM (WED)

1522 14th Ave. Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 324-3664 • (206) 324-0622 FAX
website: www.fameseattle.org

Also visit **FAME South (Kent Satellite)**
Emerald Park Elementary School, 11800 S.E. 216th St. in Kent.
Sun. Worship Svc: 9:30 a.m.

NEW DIRECTION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School ..... 10:00 AM
Worship Service..... 11:00 AM
Wed., Prayer & Bible Study.....6:30 PM
Thursday.....Noon Day Prayer

Rev. Matthew J. Thornton
Pastor
Sis. Nel Thornton, 1st Lady

755 S. Homer St.
Seattle, WA 98108
(Georgetown)

Phone: 206-763-2151
Email: secndmbc@aol.com
Fax: 206-763-1128



Supt. James E. Hicks
Founder/Pastor
&
Missy. Helen B. Hicks
First Lady

Unity Church of God in Christ
8302 Renton Ave S.
Seattle, WA 98118
206-723-3636

Sunday

Sunday School	9:30 AM
Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	7:00 PM

Tuesday
Prayer & Bible Band
Prayer 7:00 PM
Bible Study 7:30 PM

Thursday
Family Enrichment
(To Be Announced)

Southside CHURCH OF CHRIST

Experience LIFE designed by God

Love • Inheritance • Forgiveness • Encouragement



William H. Harper
Senior Minister

Kendall Harper
Assistant Minister

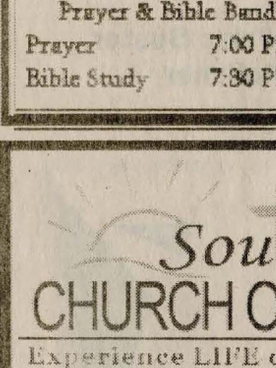
During the final construction phase of our new building, we are temporarily worshipping with Madison Park Church of Christ located at 1115 19th Ave - Seattle, WA

SUNDAY
Bible Study: 9:30am
Worship Services: 10:30am & 6pm

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
7pm (All Ages)

www.scocseattle.org
Office: 206.725.2780 | Fax: 206.723.4599

Bishop A. L. Hardy Academy



Bishop A. L. Hardy, Th.D.
Pastor & Founder

REGISTRATION OFFICE
3208 S. Hanford Street
MONDAY CLASSES
Biblical Marriage & Family Counseling
7 - 9 pm
TUESDAY CLASSES
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM &
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
ROSE OF SHARON ACADEMIC CENTER
4130 Rainier Ave. S.

Information	Fax	Academic Dean
(206) 725-4271	(206) 723-7879	Attorney Phillip Aaron

COME JOIN US AT FIRST AME CHURCH

For a Symposium on

Making it Through the Holidays: Living Close To The Edge

If you are facing what seems as insurmountable challenges and are wondering:

- Am I the only one who is going through this?
- did I go wrong?
- What resources are there for me to turn to?
- Why do I feel so ashamed?
- Who is to blame?
- Where can I find spiritual strength?
- Who will listen—who cares?

WE WANT TO HELP YOU GET HELP !!!

DATE & TIME: December 5th 2009 from 8:30 am – 2:00pm

PLACE: First AME Church – 1522 14th Ave., Seattle, WA
Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson, Host Pastor
Our goals are to:

- **Re-establish and enlarge our concept of village**
- **Sharpen our internal and external resources**

Deepen our spiritual connection with God
Strengthen our mental health capacity

GUEST PANELISTS:
Norman Johnson, Executive Director, Therapeutic Health Services
Professor Leonard Irving, Seattle Community College
Rev. Harriett Walden, Community Activist

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided along with childcare.

For more information and to RSVP please call (206) 324-3664 or (206) 605-1942

Together we can share the load .....Together we can find a solution.
Community Partners Include: Therapeutic Health Services, Parents for Student Success, Intra-Afrikan Konnection, Black Star Line: African Centered Family Educational Collective, Multi Media Center

Prince Hall Grand Chapter
Order of Eastern Star
WELCOMES THE HUNGRY
FREE meals, good food, good fellowship
EVERY 1st & 3rd WEDNESDAY
7:00 PM - 8 PM
All are welcome!
PLACE: Prince Hall Masonic Temple
306 24th Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98144

HEAVEN BOUND TRAIN
WEEKDAYS ON KZIZ AM 1560
All Day Gospel Music
Sundays on KRIZ AM 1420
KZIZ AM 1560
KYIZ AM 1620

Annual Founder's Day Banquet At Bishop A. L. Hardy Academy Of Theology

The Bishop A.L.Hardy Academy of Theology will host its Annual Founder's Day Banquet in honor of Founder Bishop A.L. Hardy and Dr. Gladys Hardy on Saturday, December 5, 2009. Since its humble beginnings, the Lord has blessed the Institution of Christian Learning to touch hundreds of Christians Lives from coast to coast, uniting pastoral community, and paths for others to follow uncharted areas.

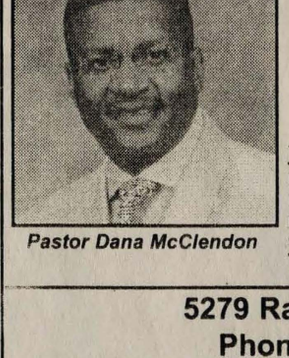
The Bishop A. L. Hardy Academy of Theology Fall Session is currently underway and new students are welcome.



Bishop A. L. Hardy & Wife Dr. Gladys Hardy

This year's celebration will take place at Zion Prep Academy located at 4730 32nd Ave. South Seattle, Washington 98118. The celebration will start promptly at 7:00 P.M. The Community and all alumni graduates are invited to join in celebrating 23 years of community service. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Please join in lifting Bishop Hardy and Dr. G. Hardy up for their years of devoted service in educating men and women in serving the Lord.

GREATER NEW BETHEL Missionary Baptist Church



Pastor Dana McClendon

"Let's Go Forward In Faith Together."

ORDER OF SERVICE

Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Worship Service..... 11:00 AM

Prayer & Bible Study

Wednesday
Midday Bible Study, 11:00 am
New Members Bible Study 6:00 pm
Evening 7:00 pm
Thursday
Youth Ministry Fellowship and Bible Study Thurs., 7:00 pm

5279 Rainier Avenue South
Phone: (206) 725-0490

Goodwill Missionary Baptist Church



Pastor Garry L. Tyson
& Wife Mrs. Tyson

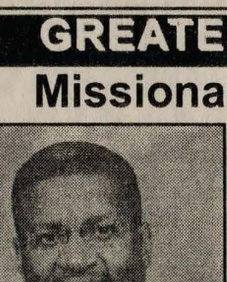
Sunday School..... 9:30 AM
Worship Service.....11:00 AM
Prayer Service.....7 - 7:30 PM (WED)
Bible Study.....7:30 - 8:30 Pm (WED)
Broadcast Ministry: 4 PM to 5 PM (SUN)
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Morning Worship	10:30AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study	7:00 PM

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Worship Hour...11:15am	
Sunday Evening...7:00pm	Prayer Saturday at Noon

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Black Joblessness Becoming Showdown Between Black Leaders And Black President

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – African-American joblessness – nearly twice the national rate - is quickly becoming the first showdown between Black leaders and the nation's first Black president as national Black and civil right leaders raise their voices telling the Obama Administration it's time to end the jobs crisis in the Black community.

"We're sending a strong message to the president and Congress that we need to step up. We need immediate jobs – not some time six, eight and 10 months down the road," National Urban League President Marc Morial said in an interview with the NNPA News Service. "African-American leaders are not just saying do something. We're offering solutions."

Morial has sent a letter to the Obama Administration and Congressional Leaders outlining specific recommendations for job creation as President Obama prepares for a job summit this week in the wake of national unemployment numbers that grew into double digits – 10. 2 percent - in October. In his letter, dated Nov. 24, Morial reminds the Administration that the Black community has suffered double digit jobless rates for well more than a year.

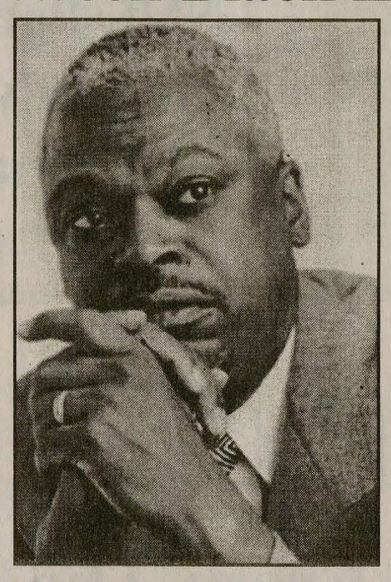
"While I applaud the Administration for publicly acknowledging the gravity of our nation's employment situation, I would add that double-digit unemployment has been a reality for communities of color since last summer – for African Americans since August, 2008, and for Latinos since February, 2009," he writes. "As President and CEO of the National Urban League, the nation's oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to empowering African Americans to enter the economic and social mainstream, I have firsthand knowledge of the tremendous obstacles these families have been facing, not just since national unemployment reached 10.2 % in October, but for over a year now."

Morial's strongly worded letter came on the heels of a Nov. 17 statement issued by leading African American civil right groups, the NAACP, headed by Ben Jealous, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, headed by Wade Henderson, and other major civil rights organizations.

"Despite an effective and bold recovery package we are still facing a prolonged period of high unemployment. Two years from now, absent further action, we are likely to have unemployment at 8% or more, a higher rate than that attained even at the worst point of the last two downturns," said the joint statement, which was issued in conjunction with a forum sponsored by the Washington, D.C.-based Economic Policy Institute.

"Unless we resolve our national job crisis, all of our other priorities – from reforming health care and fixing our broken immigration system, to stemming home foreclosures and expanding economic opportunity for all Americans – are in real jeopardy."

-- Wade Henderson
LCCR President and CEO



"Joblessness on this scale creates enormous social and economic problems—and denies millions of families the ability to meet even their most basic needs. It also threatens our nation's future prosperity by casting millions more children into poverty, foreclosing educational opportunities for many, limiting the investment and innovation that will fuel future growth, and dimming long-term labor market prospects, especially for younger workers."

The joint statement credits the Obama Administration for prioritizing the economy as its first major action, pushing through a $787 billion stimulus package approved by Congress and already creating more than a million jobs. But the groups are pushing for greater action.

Despite the issue of health care, still very much on the front-burner as it is slated for Senate debate this week, the jobless crisis is demanding equal attention as it boils to the top. House leaders hope to vote on a jobs bill by mid December while Senate leaders have indicated they would take up a jobs bill after the health care debate.

"Make no mistake – this is the civil rights issue of the moment," said LCCR President and CEO Wade Henderson, in a statement posted on the organization's website, Civilrights.org. "Unless we resolve our national job crisis, all of our other priorities – from reforming health care and fixing our broken immigration system, to stemming home foreclosures and expanding economic opportunity for all Americans – are in real jeopardy."

The joint statement, also signed by the AFL-CIO, the National Council of La Raza, the Center for Community Change, and the Economic Policy Institute, indicates that the crisis-level concern is escalating as the numbers grow out of control – and with racial disparity.

"Nearly 16 million Americans who are able and willing to work cannot find a job. More than one out of every three unemployed workers has been out of a job for six months or more. The situation facing African American and Latino workers is even bleaker, with unemployment at 15.7% and 13.1%, respectively," said the statement, titled, "An Urgent Call to Action to Stem the U. S. Job Crisis".

At a White House press conference last spring, President Obama fielded a question about rising Black unemployment by saying, "A rising tide lifts all boats," meaning as he addresses unemployment overall, Black unemployment will also be addressed. But, economists and civil rights leaders say general economic remedies will not be enough to rescue unemployed people who have nearly sunk to the bottom in their struggle to find work.

"A rising tide lifts all boats for those that are in the boats," Morial said. He says reported unemployment percentages only reflect those that are still looking for work; not those who have all but given up after repeated rejections.

"The real overall unemployment rate is something like 17 percent. And it's higher than that in the Black community," he said.

Morial's letter is addressed to Lawrence Summers, director of Obama's National Economic Council, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and Congressional Black Caucus Chair Barbara Lee. The following is a synopsis of his recommendations:

- Fund Direct Job Creation by offering financial support to cities, counties, states, universities, community colleges and non-profit community based organizations to hire the personnel necessary to provide critical services in communities across the nation.
- Expand and Expedite the Small Business Administration's Community Express Loan Program through a reduction of the interest rate to 1 percent targeted for those businesses located in areas where the local unemployment rate exceeds the state average.
- Create Green Empowerment Zones in areas where at least 50 percent of the population has an unemployment rate that is higher than the state average.
- Expand the Hiring of Housing Counselors Nationwide by investing $500 million to fund housing counseling agencies nationwide to help delinquent borrowers work with their loan servicers to secure more affordable mortgages.
- Expand the Youth Summer Jobs Program for 2010 by investing $5-7 billion to employ 5 million teens. The unemployment rate for African-American youth is over 40 percent.
- Create 100 Urban Jobs Academies to Implement an Expansion of the Urban Youth Empowerment Program (UYEP) to employ and train the chronically unemployed.

"At a time of the year when we traditionally give thanks and prepare to share generously with those around us, the American people are both frustrated and disappointed," Morial concludes. "Despite the ambivalence of most Americans with regards to spending billions of dollars to bail out the very businesses they felt had previously taken advantage of them, they understood the need to take swift and deliberate action to avoid a major national, or even global, financial crisis. We ask that the same urgency be given to the people experiencing a personal financial crisis in cities throughout this country."

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Chris B. Bennett & Joan Owens, Co-Publishers

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Police Shooting

Continued From Front Page

siege, a SWAT team entered the home and found it empty. But police said Clemmons had been there.

Police frantically chased leads on Monday, searching multiple spots in the Seattle and Tacoma area and at one point cordoning off a park where people thought they saw Clemmons. They found a handgun along with a pickup truck belonging to the suspect with blood stains inside, and alerted hospitals to be on the lookout for a man seeking treatment for gunshot wounds.

Authorities in two states were criticized amid revelations that Clemmons was allowed to walk the streets despite a teenage crime spree in Arkansas that landed him an 108-year prison sentence. He was released early after then-Gov. Mike Huckabee commuted his sentence.

Huckabee cited Clemmons' youth in granting the request. But Clemmons quickly reverted to his criminal past, violated his parole and was returned to prison. He was released again in 2004.

"This guy should have never been on the street," said Brian D. Wurts, president of the police union in Lakewood. "Our elected officials need to find out why these people are out."

Huckabee said on Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor" Monday night that Clemmons was allowed back on the street because prosecutors failed to file paperwork in time.

Pulaski County Prosecutor Larry Jegley, whose office opposed Clemmons' parole in 2000 and 2004, said Huckabee's comments were "red herrings."

"My word to Mr. Huckabee is man up and own what you did," Jegley said.

Clemmons was charged in Washington state earlier this year with assaulting a police officer and raping a child, and investigators in the sex case said he was motivated by visions that he was Jesus Christ and that the world was on the verge of the apocalypse.

A psychological evaluation conducted in October found he was a risk to public safety, but not a bad enough risk to justify committing him, The News Tribune of Tacoma reported.

The confidential report acquired by the newspaper was ordered by a Pierce County Superior Court judge to determine whether Clemmons was competent to stand trial on the rape and assault charges. He was found competent and was released from jail after posting bail with the assistance of Jail Sucks Bail Bonds.

At the time of his arrest, he allegedly made "religiously-themed comments, told the officer President Obama and Lebron James are his brothers, Oprah (Winfrey) is his sister and referred to himself as 'the beast,'" according to the evaluation.

Contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Manuel Valdes in Seattle, Rachel La Corte in Tacoma, George Tibbits in Seattle, Andrew DeMillo and Jill Zeman Bleed in Little Rock, Ark

New Future For Memorial Stadium Site

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels recently sent a bill to City Council authorizing an agreement between the City of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools on the future of Memorial Stadium on the campus of Seattle Center.

Under the proposed agreement, the city would acquire the Stadium site and lease the adjacent parking lot from Seattle Schools. Both the city and school district would share the use of a redeveloped, open-air amphitheatre. The Memorial Wall, which honors Seattle students killed in World War II, would be restored to a place of honor on the site.

"Seattle Center is often called 'Seattle's family room.' Consider this agreement the equivalent of tearing up the shag carpet and replacing the popcorn ceiling to create a more modern, livable, and beautiful space," said Nickels. "In 2012, Seattle will mark the 50th anniversary of the Century 21 Exposition – the Seattle World's Fair. We have the opportunity now to ensure Seattle Center remains a vibrant community gathering place for many generations to come."

Two years ago, Nickels tasked the Seattle Center to work with Seattle Public Schools on the future of Memorial Stadium. Execution of the MOA is a significant step towards implementing the Seattle Center's Century 21 Master Plan, the City Council-adopted blueprint for major campus improvements over the next 20 years.

While the MOA authorized by the bill outlines the terms under which the city would purchase the existing stadium site and lease the adjacent parking lot from Seattle Schools, it does not obligate the city to implement the agreement until adequate acquisition and construction funding for the project is secured. The City's option to exercise its rights extends through Dec. 31, 2015.

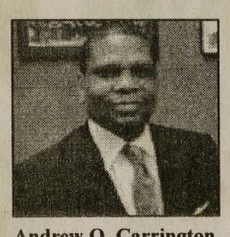
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NEW STYLIST - Salon Dy'Als is pleased to Welcome Stylist, Tina Thomas-Grant. She is a seasoned stylist whose expertise is hair cutting and coloring. We are pleased to have her on our dynamic team.

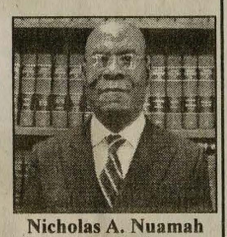
Salon Dy'Als still has opening's for a stylist who has braiding and weaving skills. Please contact Diana Davis at 772-0110 for an interview and or send your resume to 879 Rainier Ave. N. Ste. A-105 Renton Wa 98178

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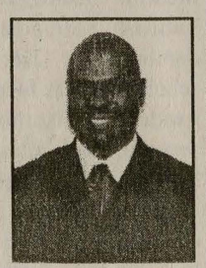
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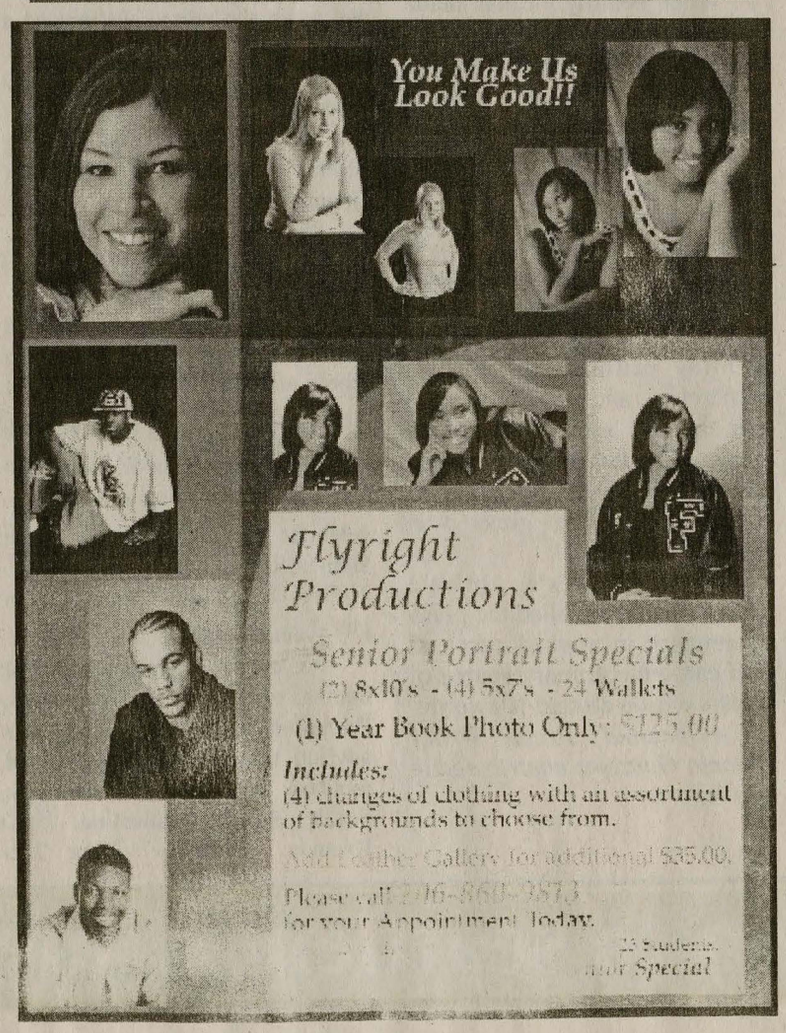
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Prof. Adrien K. Wing
Author, professor and advisor on international human rights

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Superior Court of Washington
County of King

In re: Temesgen PetitionerPublication and Kebede Bedasso Ereso Respondent

No. 09-3-01751-8 SEA
Summons by (SMPB)

To the Respondent:
The petitioner has started an action in the above court requesting that you marriage or domestic partnership be dissolved. The petition also request that the court grant the following relief: Dispose of property and liabilities.
You must respond to this summons by serving a copy of your written response within 60 days after the date of the first publication of this summons (60 days after the 11th day of November, 2009, the court may enter an order of default against you, and the court may, without further notice to you, enter a decree and approve or provide for other relief requested in this summons. In the case of a dissolution, the court will not enter the final decree until at least 90 days after service and filing. If you serve a notice of appearance on the undersigned person, you are entitlted to may be entered. Your written response to the summons and petition must be on form WPF DR 01.0300, Response to Petition (Marriage). Information about how to get this form may be obtained by contacting the clerk of the court, by contacting the Administrative Office of the Court at 360-705-5328, or from the internet at the Washington State Courts homepage: http://www.courts.wa.gov/forms. If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served on time. One method of serving a copy of your response on the Petitioner is to send it by certified mail with return receipt requested.

This summon is issued pursuant to RCW.4.28.100 and Superior Court Civil Rule 4.1 of the state of Washington. File original of your Response with the Clerk of the Court at King County, 516 3rd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104.
Serve a Copy of your Response on the Petitioner, Tigist Temesgen, 6727 Rainier Avenue South #20, Seattle, WA 98118, 206-334-2346

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BIDS BIDS BIDS

King County
Invitation to Bid

Project: A-Line RapidRide Passenger Facilities Improvements, C00485C09

Sealed Bid Time/Date: 1:00 p.m., January 5, 2010

Location Due: King County Procurement & Contract Services Section, Contracts Counter, 3rd Floor, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Engineer's Estimate: $1,200,000 to $1,450,000

Scope of Work: This contract involves the construction of forty two (42) RapidRide bus zones (Zones) in preparation for the future installation of bus passenger shelters and/or associated furniture by others. The main components of the work include elements such as concrete footings for bus passenger shelters, concrete foundations for electronic equipment pylons and luminaire posts, sidewalk and driveway restoration, and electric power wiring and electrical connections to power sources.

The work shall be performed at different sites along, or closely nearby, the Pacific Highway South (also known as Highway 99 or International Boulevard) corridor and within the following jurisdictions:

City of Federal Way, Washington: ten (10) Zones	City
of Kent, Washington: twelve (12) Zones	City
of Des Moines, Washington: four (4) Zones	City
of SeaTac, Washington: fifteen (15) Zones	City
of Tukwila, Washington: one (1) Zone	

Contact Information: Darren R. Chernick, 206-263-9321, TTY Relay: 711, Fax: 206-296-7675, or darren.chernick@kingcounty.gov. A bidder may be asked to put a question in writing. No verbal answers by County personnel will be binding on the County.

Pre-Bid Conference: December 15, 2009, 10:00 a.m., Room 4-D, 4th Floor, King Street Center, 201 South Jackson, Seattle WA 98104. A site tour is not scheduled.

Subcontracting Opportunities: Electrical Power & Lighting, Electrical Data &Telecommunications.

Apprenticeship Requirements: 15% minimum Apprentice Utilization Requirement.

King County has applied for, but as of the date of advertisement, has not received the permits referenced in Section 01 41 26, 1.03A of the Contract Document. If the permits are received during the bidding period, they will be issued by Addendum. If the County has not received all the permits by the bid opening date, the County will evaluate whether to extend the bid opening, cancel the procurement or open bids. Award and referenced in Section 01 41 26, 1.03A.

DBE Goal: The County has determined that no DBE goal will be established for this Contract. However, the County will require that the selected Contractor report any actual DBE participation on this Contract to enable the County to accurately monitor DBE program compliance. Please see §00120 for further information.

Applicable Federal Provisions: Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity, Federal Labor Provisions and Davis Bacon (Federal) Wage Rates

Federal Funding: This contract is funded, in part, by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transportation Administration and is subject to the requirements set forth in Grant

WA-03-0236 and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. The federal participation is estimated at 56% of the total contract value. In accordance with the requirements of the Grant and with FTA's policy on the utilization of socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and disadvantaged business enterprises in procurement under assistance programs, the Contractor shall comply with 49 CFR PART 26.

Bid Bond: Not less than five percent (5%) of the Total Bid Price

Plans/Specs: Electronic copies of the plans, specifications, reference documents, and any addenda for this solicitation can be accessed through an external link from our website shown below. This site includes options and instructions for printing. Printed documents may also be ordered by contacting Reprographics Northwest at 206-624-2040. Copies of documents are not available for purchase from King County, but are available for review M – F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Contracts Counter: Chinook Bldg, 3rd Floor 401 Fifth Avenue Seattle, WA 98104.

To receive email notifications of addenda or other important information concerning this solicitation, you must register to be a planholder under the "Solicitations" tab at the following internet link:

Website: http://www.kingcounty.gov/procurement

This information is available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities upon advance request by calling 206-263-9400, TTY Relay: 711.

Notes: Bids received after Sealed Bid Time will not be considered. Bidders accept all risks of late delivery, regardless of fault. King County is not responsible for any costs incurred in response to this Invitation to Bid.

LEGAL

BIDS BIDS BIDS

King County
Invitation to Bid

Project: Residential Aircraft Noise Remedy Improvements Program - Group 09, C00494C09

Sealed Bid Time/Date: 1:00 p.m., December 17, 2009

Location Due: King County Procurement & Contract Services Section, Contracts Counter, 3rd Floor, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Engineer's Estimate: $550,000 - $670,000

Scope of Work: Renovation of seventeen single family homes to reduce noise infiltration and provide mechanical ventilation. Work may include, but is not limited to: Replacement of windows with vinyl-framed acoustical windows, installation of secondary aluminum-framed sliding glass storm doors, installation of swing out glass storm doors, installation of chimney-top acoustical dampers at fireplaces, attic insulation, and installation of mechanical ventilation equipment with associated miscellaneous electrical modifications. The work is located at various residences around the King County International Airport, Seattle, Washington.

Contact Information: Darren R. Chernick, 206-263-9321, TTY Relay: 711, Fax: 206-296-7675, or darren.chernick@kingcounty.gov. A bidder may be asked to put a question in writing. No verbal answers by County, its officers, officials, employees, agents and consultants will be binding on the County.

Pre-Bid Conference: Conference will be held **December 9th, 2009** at **9:00 am**, Room 110, Terminal Building, 7277 Perimeter Rd. S. Seattle, WA, 98108-0245. Contractors will be bussed to various houses by the County.

Subcontracting Opportunities: Asbestos Abatement, Mechanical, Electrical, Painting.

Apprenticeship Requirements: No minimum Apprentice Utilization Requirement.

SCS Utilization Requirements. No minimum SCS Utilization Requirement.

Bid Bond: Not less than five percent (5%) of the Total Bid Price

At the time of solicitation King County has obtained Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant funding for 95% of the activities as described in the bid documents and is subject to the requirements set forth in FAA Project No. 3-53-0058-34 and is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal: The DBE goal for this project is 11% of the total amount bid. Based on the 9th Circuit Court Decision in Western States Paving Company v. Washington State Department of Transportation, King County has determined that it is appropriate to use a race/gender neutral goal. King County encourages all bidders to take active race/gender neutral steps to include DBE's in this and other airport contracts. Race/gender neutral steps include: unbundling large contracts, subcontract work the prime contractor may self-perform, provide bonding or financing assistance, provide technical assistance, etc. This contract can be awarded without the lowest responsive bidder meeting the goal or demonstrating good faith effort to meet the goal.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1986, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor Provisions. All labor on this project is subject to the highest wage rate of Davis Bacon (Federal) EEO requirements, labor provisions and wage rates are included in the specifications and bid documents and are available for inspection on line at the Builders Exchange of Washington web site and the King County Contracts Counter.

To be eligible for award each bidder shall comply with the affirmative action requirements which are contained in Division 0 of the Contract Documents and the FAA Special Provisions.

A contractor or subcontractor who may be awarded a contract of $10,000 or more will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Division 0 of the Contract Documents and the FAA Special Provisions.

Plans/Specs: Electronic copies of the plans, specifications, reference documents, and any addenda for this solicitation can be accessed through an external link from our website shown below. **This site includes options and instructions for printing. Printed documents may also be ordered by contacting Reprographics Northwest at 206-624-2040. Copies of documents are not available for purchase from King County, but are available for review M – F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Contracts Counter: Chinook Bldg, 3rd Floor 401 Fifth Avenue Seattle, WA 98104.**

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LEGAL

BID BID BID

ADDENDUM #1 IS AVAILABLE
Seattle Housing Authority – Lake City Village Apartments
Design Build Plumbing, Mechanical,
Fire Protection, Electrical & Low Voltage Systems

Bid Date: December 8th at 2:00 PM

Documents are posted at www.bxwa.com and available for review at the Seattle McGraw Hill Construction Plan Center 200 SW Michigan St.

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NUL Partners With Alternative Lender to Revive Small Businesses



Marc Morial

By Pharoh Martin
NNPA National Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Banks aren't lending very often these days, and minority business owners are having an especially hard time getting loans to expand or to simply get through hard times.

To help combat this, leading civil rights and economic organization the National Urban League has partnered with alternative business lender, On Deck Capital. They've announced a program that promises to provide much needed financial relief to thousands of minority-owned small business owners who can not qualify for traditional bank loans.

"We continuously evaluate and identify key economic empowerment drivers for those in the communities in which we operate," said Marc Morial, president and chief executive officer of the National Urban League. "On Deck Capital's lending solution perfectly aligns with our small business community's needs, and we are confident this will provide a strong resource for their ongoing growth."

On Deck Capital's mission has been working on figuring out ways of bringing capital to what they call "Main Street small businesses", or urban-based proprietorships.

"The access to capital problem that exists throughout the country is particularly intense in urban environments where there are lots of banks and so many financing opportunities that banks have but the small business owner is often overlooked as a priority," Jacobs said. "More significantly, when the business owner applies for a loan they are often turned down because of their personal credit score."

Through the arrangement On Deck will lend to small business owners that apply through NUL's local affiliate Entrepreneurship Centers. The program will launch in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, and then roll out nationwide in about six months. Philadelphia and Los Angeles as testers because the NUL has entrepreneurship centers there to advise business owners.

"Helping minority owned businesses grow in the Philadelphia market will lend itself to creating new jobs, building strategic alliances with major corporations, and providing business opportunities in new and emerging industries," says Patricia Coulter, president & CEO of the Urban League of Philadelphia, in a statement. "Through the collaboration with On Deck Capital, we will create a solid community of small businesses that contribute to the growth and sustainability of a stronger regional economy."

Like any program that's trying to bring capital to new communities it's really important to work with a respected local presence—and NUL's local entrepreneur centers and its affiliates will provide a crucial local partnership for On Deck, Jacobs said.

"I think the National Urban League is always listening to what the community it serves needs most," Jacobs said. "And they heard a strong demand for solutions for access to capital. And as they looked around for parties that could meet that need On Deck stood out as a company with a similar mission of trying to deliver a service where it is needed."

According to the Small Business Administration, Black-owned business are the fastest growing segment of new business with 1.2 million Black-owned businesses in the United States that generated nearly $89 billion in business revenues in 2002. Yet, this group remains greatly overlooked and underserved by traditional banks.

Lack of access to capital is one of the main causes for the sizable gap between annual revenue of minority-owned and non-minority owned firms, in which minority firms on average generate about 200 percent less revenue than their non-minority counterparts, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Owned Business Development Agency.

The program may help some business owners that borrowed against their personal credit score to build their business up and make it successful.

"Even though they have a low personal credit score they can be a great borrower because they have a successful small business," Jacobs explains.

Instead of looking at a credit score On Deck uses electronic underwriting methods to evaluate a business' performance data - the amount of cash flow a business is generating in order to determine a successful business from one that is not. The lender's typical customer is one that has been in business for three or more years and brings in $500,000 to $2 million dollars in annual revenue.

But there is a cost. The interest rate on On Deck business loans are between 18 percent to 36 percent, which is far more expensive than a typical commercial loan but still a less costly alternative than a cash advance service.

"Obviously, because we are dealing with higher risk population our goal is to deliver as much capital as is healthy for a small business at the lowest cost of capital we can," Jacobs explains.

"Part of the reason why we launched this program is that small businesses are relying on products that charge them 120 plus percent in interest rates. So we stepped in to provide an alternative that is much more comparable to traditional financing. Secondly, we are always looking at the current revenue and expenses of a business and only making loans that we believe are within the parameters of what a business owner can comfortably repay. Unfortunately, there are many cases where a business owner will choose much higher-priced alternatives because the business owner is being offered twice the amount of money than what we would offer, which is irresponsible"

Morial agrees that the lender's interest rates are high but said that an alternative outlet for small business loans are necessary because banks are not serving high-risk business owners.

"I questioned my team about the high interest rates but, it's a program for people who need short-term loan money. This is not a comprehensive loan," Morial said. "These are not the kinds of loans that the banks are making. These loans are specifically targeted to small retailers who in many cases don't have a lot of options."

Morial said many of these business owners are otherwise taking desperate measures such as mortgaging their homes in order to save their businesses. "There's nothing hidden about this. We've just introduced people to the option for the program."

FBI Wants Public's Help In Civil Rights Killings

By Shelia Byrd
Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP) - Over the last three years, the FBI scoured faded documents, interviewed aging lawmen and tracked down witnesses from killings that occurred decades ago, many of them involving white police officers who shot black men or teenagers.

Now, the agency is at a dead end in the search for relatives in at least 33 civil rights-era cases, and the FBI needs the U.S. public's help. Agents are appealing for relatives of the victims to come forward, the latest challenge in a three-year-old effort to right historical wrongs of the turbulent 1960s civil rights era.

``We have done everything we can to find those families and we've run out of leads," said Cynthia Deitle, unit chief for the FBI's civil rights division. ``Whether it's a spouse, child or parent. We've even gone as far as locating cousins who are the next of kin."

In some cases, the FBI is looking for family members to provide any evidence or details about the crimes. In others, agents want to give a status update or simply tell the relatives the FBI's investigation has ended.

Among the cases is Johnny Robinson, a black teen shot by police in 1963 in the aftermath of a notorious bombing at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Another case is the killing of John Earl Reese, a 16-year-old who died in 1955 when two men fired shots on a black cafe in Gregg County, Texas.

The Civil Rights-Era Cold Case Initiative began in 2006 with a solemn charge: Reopen long dormant cases from a period in America's history when blacks and whites were killed in the South's bloody fight to maintain a segregated society.

The unit had 108 cases under investigation, including the infamous Ku Klux Klan slayings of three civil rights workers found buried in an earthen dam in Mississippi in 1964. A part-time Mississippi preacher was convicted of manslaughter in 2005 in the case, and the investigation continues.

The FBI said those identified as suspects in nearly half of the homicides are now dead. Federal officials also have determined about 20 cases were not racially motivated homicides.

Successful prosecutions cited by the FBI include the 2003 conviction of Ernest Avery Avants, found guilty of federal charges of aiding and abetting in the 1966 Klan killing of Ben Chester White, a black handyman shot to death to possibly lure civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. to Natchez, Mississippi.

Another was the 2007 kidnapping conviction of James Ford Seale, a reputed Klansman. Authorities said Charles Moore and Henry Dee were kidnapped, beaten and thrown, possibly still alive, into a Mississippi River backwater in 1964.

Charles Moore's brother, Thomas Moore, was instrumental in getting that case reopened. Thomas Moore said he took FBI records he obtained to Mississippi U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton, who then looked into the case.

Though the FBI's effort has been applauded, some believe the pursuit comes too late.

``I think the window has been closing for a couple of years because many of the potential defendants are dying or have died. This was an effort that would have been wonderful about 15 years ago," said Susan Glisson, director of the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi.

Southern Poverty Law Center president Richard Cohen said his organization has turned over information to the FBI in hopes someone will be prosecuted in at least a few of the remaining unsolved killings.

``The justice that is achieved in those few is going to have to serve as symbolic justice for the whole," Cohen said.

Deitle said the investigations are ``incredibly labor intensive." Agents who can't get in touch with relatives seek sheriffs or deputies and comb neighborhoods where the crimes occurred. If that fails, they turn to grand jury dockets.

``We've dug that deep to just find anybody," she said.

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EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS

We Need Pathways Out Of Poverty



Rep. Barbara Lee

By Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif)
NNPA Special Commentary

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The economic crisis is having a devastating effect on millions of Americans and has resulted in record levels of unemployment. For the first time since 1983, that national unemployment rate has reached 10.2 percent. In my home state of California the unemployment rate has topped 12.2 percent.

Just last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that nearly to 14.6 percent of American families struggled to find food last year, the highest rate since 1995.

These numbers are painful reminders resulting from the economic policies of the former Bush Administration. They underscore the need for Congress and President Obama to continue to work together to create jobs in our economic recovery efforts.

Sadly, once again communities of color, particularly African-Americans and Latinos, are experiencing the worst of these job losses.

According to the Department of Labor, although the national unemployment rate was 9.8 percent in September, the rate for African-Americans was 15.4 percent and for Hispanics it was 12.7 percent. As disproportionate as those numbers are, the evidence indicates that the gap in unemployment rates for communities of color is widening. As a result, the pipeline to poverty is being filled with minority children and families at an increasingly alarming rate.

That is why in August the Congressional Black Caucus, along with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus sent a letter to the Speaker that called for the extension of unemployment benefits. People need help during this economic crisis, American workers, the unemployed and families are hurting.

I'm pleased that earlier this month Congress sent President Barack Obama legislation fulfilling our request giving an much needed economic lifeline to help those who've been laid off.

But the truth is that addressing the unemployment gap for minority communities will not happen through an extension of unemployment insurance alone. Millions of Americans are grasping to maintain their quality of life during this turmoil. This crisis is particularly acute among African-Americans. More than 24 percent of African-Americans live below the poverty line and African Americans are 55 percent more likely to be unemployed than other Americans.

The Congressional Black Caucus, in its continued role as the Conscience of Congress, has a moral obligation to address inequality and injustice as never before in history. We are aggressively advancing the role of government to empower and protect American families by collectively pursuing a legislative agenda that addresses the priorities of our constituents.

We believe that we have a responsibility and obligation to eradicate poverty by utilizing the full constitutional power, statutory authority and resources of our government to provide opportunities for all and to develop pathways out of poverty. Some of these opportunities and pathways include economic opportunities, job training, livable wages, education, mental health services, affordable housing, health care, child nutrition and a responsible foreign policy.

To that end, we need a concerted effort from the Federal government to expand access to education, job training and economic opportunities to provide a pathway out of poverty and ensure that people of color can compete for jobs on a level playing field.

In addition, we must ensure that banks improve their lending to small, minority and disadvantaged businesses to ensure that jobs are created in our neighborhoods. The legacy of the Bush Administration is failed policies that have weakened our economy and two wars that have sapped resources that should be directed to domestic needs.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus are working together along with congressional leaders and President Obama to fix our economy and create jobs to address the true depth of this recession.

U. S. Rep. Barbara Lee is chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

A Word To Tiger: Silence Isn't Always Golden

By David Burnett
NNPA Guest Columnist

(NNPA) - Let me start by saying that I am thrilled that Tiger Woods is healthy and was not seriously hurt in that accident outside of his home the other night. I selfishly want to see him continue to lay waste to his peers, because I am a huge Tiger Woods fan.

But that said, there are still some things I've heard and read about this accident that seem to defy common sense, and because of that, the old reporter in me is overriding the fan.

Making it worse is the fact that we have heard nothing from Tiger. This story is begging for a response from the world's greatest golfer.

As I write this, it has been more than 48 hours since the accident happened and there are still significant unanswered questions about what now appears to be a bizarre domestic incident. But Tiger Woods has said nothing to anyone, not even the police to adequately clear this up.

For me the smoking gun is the report that the air bags in Tiger's Escalade didn't deploy, which unless there was a major malfunction, means the vehicle was not traveling very fast at all when it hit the fire hydrant and a tree. And you have to wonder how do you hit a fire hydrant in the first place – unless you are greatly distracted or enraged?

Further you question how Tiger actually got his busted mouth and was knocked unconscious from what is being called a minor accident.

The other suspect detail is that Tiger was trapped in the SUV and his wife Elin, in the house, heard the noise from the accident and upon seeing Tiger trapped had to use golf clubs to break out the car's rear window to get Tiger out.

The timing for this could not be worse. It happens just as the tabloids are screaming that Tiger is having an affair. And the generally reliable TMZ is reporting that Tiger and his wife Elin, were arguing about that alleged affair just before the accident.

It is certainly possible that an angry wife dealing with rumors of an affair could do a lot of damage with a golf club. I'm not saying that's what happened but most of us would understand if it did.

Obviously, I am speculating. But what else am I left to do? I'm human and celebrities, even the ones I like, are fair game to wonder about. We all do that.

I want to be wrong about all of my doubts, but what we know about this accident is coming from everyone but Tiger Woods and his wife.

And that is never good.

With millions of dollars in endorsements on the line, a reputation to protect, and a legacy to leave, Tiger Woods has a lot to lose by mishandling this incident.

Indeed silence is not always golden.

Award-winning journalist David Burnett is former president of the Washington, D.C. Association of Black Journalists.

Afghanistan: The Big Decision

By Ron Walters
NNPA Columnist

(NNPA) - One of the biggest decisions of the young Administration of President Barack Obama will be made a few days after this is written on the strategy of the war in Afghanistan. A CNN poll has just come out that suggests the decision will be confronted by a public – of which I am one — that opposes the war by 62 percent and that support for his new strategy to send more troops is split 50-49 percent. While the split decision may not stay that way due to what CNN calls the "rally effect" of a president's ability to mount a campaign, still it tells us that the margin for error in this decision will be slight going forward.

One of the most striking things about the decision – now that its contents are beginning to dribble out of the Pentagon — is that after 10 "war council" meetings with key military decision-makers, the deliberations yielded a result close to that General Stanley McCrystal wanted. He sounded a note of urgency in his 66-page strategy document which said, in effect, that if he didn't get at least 40,000 troops, he would not be able to check the insurgency and we would lose the war against the Taliban. Well now, if President Obama sends 34,000, the rest will be made up by NATO forces, Korea and probably India and others.

Obama is no fool, so after about the eighth war council meeting, he asked for an "exit strategy," knowing that his Vice President, Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi and most of the Democratic establishment were against the war. Furthermore, he knew that if the American people could use the war, in part, to elect the first Black president of the United States, by 2012, they could un-elect him just as dramatically.

So, I think what happened was that the President called Prime Minister Gordon Brown in Britain and UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon to get some help and they proposed that the exit strategy should be internationalized. They then announced that on January 28 of the coming year, there would be a Summit on the elements of self-sufficiency in Afghanistan. Ban-Ki Moon is moving quicker with a high level meeting of various governments in Kabul in a few months with the Karzai government to stress programs for the development of a new police training and security force. Given this cover, the United States could at some point when the military benchmarks, goals an etc. look good, declare victory and move out.

The Obama Administration will have its most serious problems with the Republicans who are fixated on a "win – lose" type of evaluation of American objectives in the region. But they – and the American people — should face the fact that you cannot win a war in Afghanistan with 40,000 troops; if you used General McChrystal's own math for fighting a counter-insurgency war you would eventually need 668,000 troops. That means the whole country would have to be occupied, not just "strategic villages" as the case with his current strategy.

The method that Obama used in arriving at his decision then, was as much political as military. It was political in that the framework was one in which he knew in advance that he would leave Afghanistan in an appreciable time and so, should not invest the maximum amount of troops, given a hightening economic crisis by voters and the working class calling for jobs on his domestic front. But it was also political in that he had to use a mechanism which would bring along the legitimate voices in the military establishment to support the final policy and the only way this could be done was to bring them to the table, hear them out, offer counter-propositions and obtain their pledge to support the final decision. The consensus might still fall apart, but this was the best way to try to put it together.

Generals always want to fight a war to win, that's their job, but that will always be done in a given political context. The context when the Iraq war started and Obama announced during his campaign that Afghanistan was a "war of necessity" since that was where Al Queda that killed 3,000 Americans was hiding. The context has now changed, with 3,000 American casualties in Iraq eight years later and a White House Jobs Summit being held in the same week the new Afghanistan war strategy is being released. Sometimes context is everything, but this time it must at least be given equal time.

Dr. Ron Walters is Professor Emeritus of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park.

To Be Equal

Urgent Action For Jobs Needed Now

By Marc H. Morial
NNPA Columnist

As Congress and the nation focus on the passage of comprehensive health care reform, the latest jobs numbers show that our economy also remains in bad health. And while overall unemployment is now at 10.2 percent, African American joblessness has reached a 28-year high of 15.7 percent, compared with 13.1 percent for Latinos and 9.5 percent for Whites.

Black unemployment has risen to over 20 percent in states like Michigan and South Carolina. There are now more than 15.7 million Americans out of work and virtually every sector, from construction to retail, is hemorrhaging jobs. Clearly, while our overall economy is sick, Black America is on life support. That is why the National Urban League is adding its voice to those in Congress and the civil rights community who are demanding that the White House take immediate action to create jobs and ensure that the economic recovery extends all the way from Wall Street to Main Street.

The first phase of the President's $787 billion stimulus bill has provided needed tax relief to homebuyers and businesses and extended benefits to unemployed workers. But, we must do more to create jobs and stem the rising tide of unemployment, especially in hard-pressed urban communities. That means more focused spending on urban construction projects, greater relief for cities and states to prevent more layoffs and the possible creation of a direct government jobs program targeted to communities most in need. We are pleased that the Obama Administration will convene a "jobs summit" next month to consider these and other options.

But, even with friends in the White House and overwhelming support for progressive urban policies in the Congress, there is still a need for the same kind of focused effort from the civil rights community that has taken us to the brink of historic health care reform. Government can't do this job alone. That's why I was pleased to announce last week that the National Urban League has teamed up with On-Deck Capital, a leading small business financial specialist, to provide loans to minority businesses that are struggling to fulfill their mission as engines of job creation in urban communities. The program will kick-off in Philadelphia and Los Angeles and will expand to other major urban centers in the coming months.

We are also joining forces with the Congressional Black Caucus, the NAACP, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the National Council of La Raza and others who are urging Washington to take action now to address chronic African-American and Latino unemployment. As Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference recently said, "Make no mistake, for us this is the civil rights issue of the moment. Unless we resolve the national job crisis, it will make it hard to address all of our other priorities."

Working together, the civil rights community has recently won a number of crucial battles - from the election of the nation's first Black president to a new hate crimes law to unprecedented progress on health care reform. We are now engaged in a unified campaign to bring jobs and hope back to our communities. We must and we intend to win again.

Marc Morial is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

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