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The Seattle Medium

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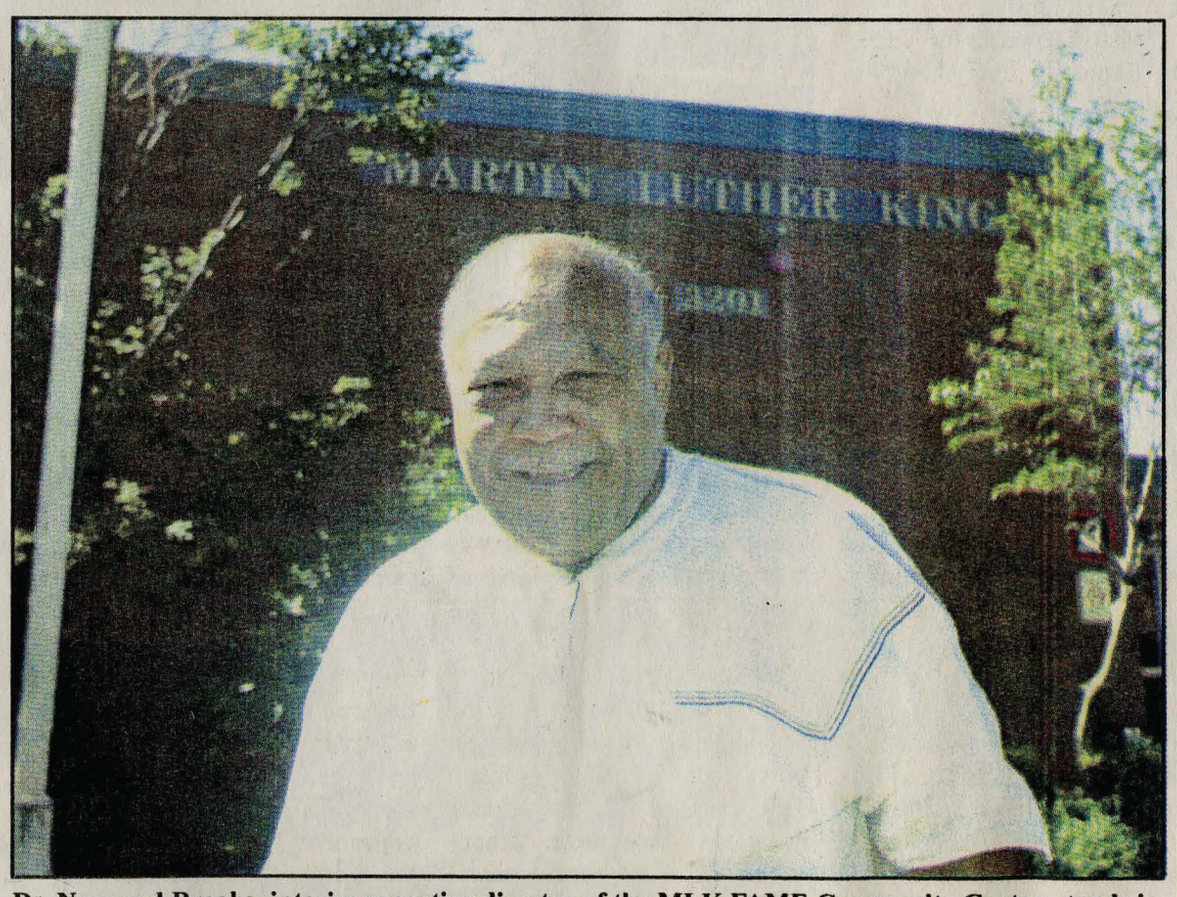
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First A.M.E. Defends Purchase Of MLK

First A.M.E. Church of Seattle (FAME) has drawn criticism from main stream media regarding the purchase of the Martin Luther King Elementary school building. These reports allege that FAME received preferential treatment during the bidding process for the surplus property.

Based on these reports one might believe that the sale of the school to FAME was the result of a district insider, and prominent member of the church, wheeling, dealing and hand-delivering the property, named in honor of Dr. King in 1971, to his beloved congregation.

However, members of the committee established by FAME, who recently described their version of how the building was acquired and its proposed use to their congregation last week, claim that they did their homework and simply put forth the best proposal based on the criteria established by the School Use Advisory Committee for MLK (SUAC).



Dr. Norward Brooks, interim executive director of the MLK FAME Community Center, stands in front of the MLK Elementary School Building. The building, awarded to First A.M.E. Church of Seattle, is now home to the MLK FAME Community Center. ***Staff Photo/Chris B. Bennett***

Over the course of a year, the committee – which includes many well-respected members of the community like Frances Stephens, Dr. Norward Brooks, T. Marie Floyd, Iva Tolliver and Ted Howard to name a few – worked tirelessly to produce a winning bid for the coveted school property to utilize as a community center with a focus on youth. However, that hard work was recently diminished by allegations in mainstream media outlets of preferential treatment of the FAME proposal by the Seattle School District.

"The media had the audacity to put on the front page of the paper a bunch of inaccurate information," said Rev. Carey G. Anderson, pastor of FAME, to his congregation. "We are going to share the accurate report of what happened with the MLK building."

The first issue that Rev. Anderson and members of the committee addressed was the length of time that they've actually had possession of the building and explain the "lack of tenants" that are either currently utilizing or planning to occupy the building. Although the school board voted to grant the property to FAME in October of 2010, the sale was contingent upon FAME securing a $2.4 million grant from the Washington State Dept. of Commerce.

"The application process [for the grant] took from October 21, 2010 until January 15, 2011," said Frances Stephens, president of the FAME MLK Committee.

According to Stephens, with the grant approval in-hand FAME was able to secure the property from the Seattle School District on Feb. 17, 2011, but it wasn't until March 30, 2011 that they received an occupancy permit from the Seattle Dept. of Planning.

Even though FAME had possession of the building and the right to occupy it, the building, which had not been in use since June 2006, was not in a condition suitable for occupancy.

"The school was closed for six years," said Dr. Norward Brooks, interim executive director of the MLK FAME Community Center.

"The lighting was almost gone, there was no communications system in the building, there was mold in the building, there was a lot of work to be done," said Brooks of the condition of the building when it was received by FAME.

However, since occupying the building, FAME has removed mold and asbestos from the property, repaired the roofs of the main building and portables, replaced the hot water tank, made improvements to the furnace, had an architectural and engineering inspection performed on the building, made necessary recommendations from a fire inspection, painted rooms in the building, replaced windows, and cleaned the grounds.

According to people associated with the project, at least part of the asbestos removal was unplanned. According to Brooks, as they were removing the old carpets in the building so they could replace them with new carpets, the tiles, which the carpets were placed on top of, came up with the carpet. These tiles contained asbestos and needed to be removed from the building.

"Had the carpet come straight up without removing the tiles we would have been okay, and just laid down the new carpet," said Brooks."But that wasn't the case."

Despite these setbacks, the center currently houses FAME's Child & Family Center, CAYA's Summer Youth Enrichment Program, and Literacy in the Community – a tutoring program for young people. All of these programs are in line with FAME's commitment towards youth services with the facility.

Meeting the Criteria

The criteria used to help determine the best use of the facility was determined by the SUAC and approved by the Seattle School Board. The SUAC was established pursuant to a City of Seattle Municipal Code to establish criteria for joint use or reuse of schools, comprised of Ron English of the Seattle School District, a non-voting representative of the Seattle Dept. of neighborhoods, a representative from the Seattle Dept. of Permitting and Development, four community members from the neighborhood surrounding MLK and an at-large member to represent city-wide education issues.

The SUAC met over the course of a year to establish the criteria for the reuse of the building. According to FAME MLK Committee member Ted Howard, he and fellow committee member T. Marie Floyd attended almost all of the meetings held over the course of the year and paid strict attention to what the SUAC wanted to see the building used for. That information was relayed to the rest of the committee for inclusion into FAME's proposal, with the assumption that other bids for the school would be submitted – including one from the Bush School, which sits adjacent to the MLK bldg. The Bush School submitted the highest bid for the property, however the Bush School wanted to tear down the building to make way for athletic fields and a playground, with free access to the community on the weekends and during the summer time.

"We took our grant and made sure that we met each and every one of the recommendations," said Howard. "We had to be competitive and our grant was well-written."

As a condition of sale, there is a covenant that requires FAME to make at least five of the rooms in the building available to organizations that support youth educational activities or provide social services at rates that are half of what they charge the general public to use the facility. In addition, they must make the gym, playground and auditorium available at no charge for youth activities for at least 8 hours per day. In addition the playground is supposed to be available for community use when the center is not using it for its own purposes.

However, the center has drawn criticism for not having yet opened the playground up to the community, and the lack of an established marketing plan.

"We have not opened up the playground yet because we want to make sure that it is a safe place for youth," said Stephens. "And we are being criticized for marketing even though that was not part of the covenant."

In addition, according to Stephens in June 2011, FAME's use of the building was reviewed by the school district under a very strict, and sudden timeline.

"We weren't supposed to be reviewed until December," said Stephens. "The School District came to us with a document and asked us to respond and the timeline for doing so was very, very quick."

Many leaders in the African American community question the motives behind the scrutiny of the sale of the building to FAME, but most agree that the community at-large would receive the most benefit from FAME's proposed use of the building.

"The early learning focus on African American kids is key to reducing the education achievement gaps, none of the other proposals even addressed this fundamental principle," said Nate Miles, a prominent member of the African American community.

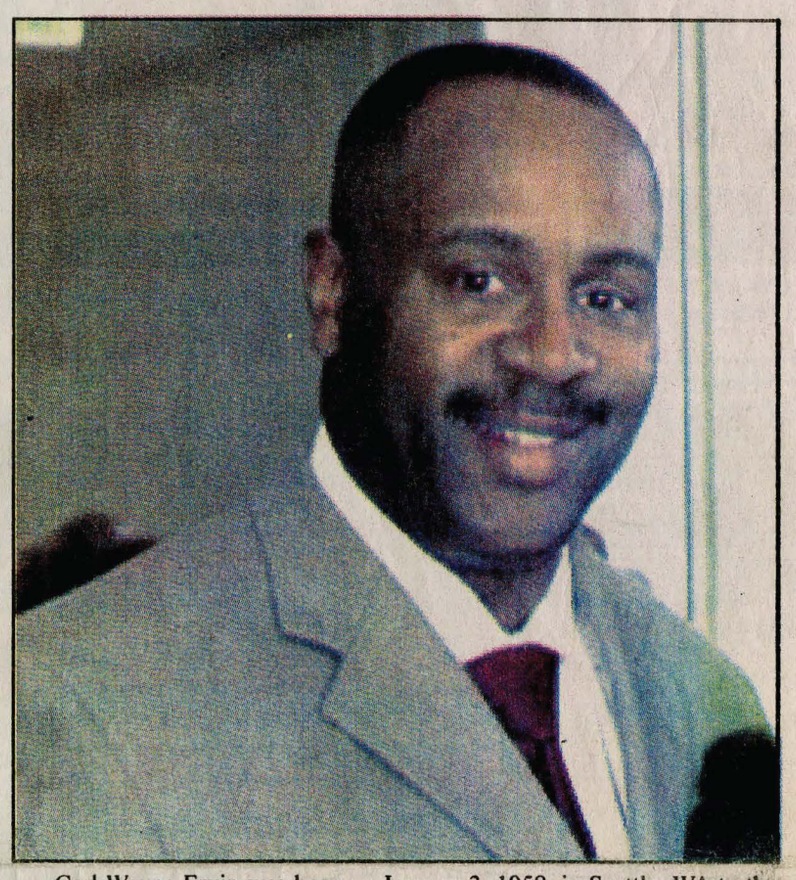
"Which other group has any programs specifically designed for kids of color to stem youth violence, criminal activity, and provide a safe environment for them?" he asked. "This program will help keep down youth violence, especially during the summer now that the state has cut funding due to budget cuts."

While things may not move as quickly as some might have hoped it would have, the committee is in the process of working out agreements with organizations to rent out the facility to community-based organizations. However, as it relates to the awarding of the school, the members of the committee want people to know that they didn't put forth their collective efforts for the benefit of FAME or themselves, but for the benefit of the community.

"We as a committee met the criteria of the RFP (request for proposal), and we submitted the best proposal," said Stephens. "We have the building and it's available for the community to use."

seattlemedium.com

Community Mourns The Loss Of Carl Wayne Ervin



Carl Wayne Ervin was born on January 3, 1958, in Seattle, WA to the union of Charles W. and Christene R. Ervin. He was the youngest of six children.

Carl attended Mount Zion Baptist Church with his parents and siblings. He accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at the age of nine and was baptized by Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney.

When he was six years old, his father erected a basketball hoop in their spacious backyard. Carl displayed an affinity and talent for this sport. He and his friends spent hours upon hours shooting baskets and perfecting their game. Carl started directing the action on the court and soon had neighborhood boys clustered around selecting teams. Nothing made his parents happier than looking out of their bay windows and seeing a yard full of kids playing together.

Carl went to Stevens Elementary and Meany Jr. High. He began playing organized basketball at the Rotary Boys and Girls Club. When he was 13, he received a scholarship sponsored by Lenny Wilkens to attend the Bob Houbart sports camp. The newspaper article and accompanying picture showing him shaking hands with the Sonic Player/coach is proudly displayed in one of his many photo albums.

When the family moved to Beacon Hill, Carl enrolled in Asa Mercer Jr. High and his knowledge of the fundamentals of basketball flourished under the expert tutelage of Coach Frank Ahern. While at Cleveland High School, that foundation was cemented under the guidance of Coach Fred Harrison.

Carl was a two-time 1st Team All-Metro and All-State performer who led the Eagles to back-to-back State titles in 1975 and 1976. Ervin, the Eagles captain, held assist records for one game (16) and tournament (35) while directing his team to a 50-1 record over two seasons. His perfectly arched 18' jumpshot, with only seven seconds remaining in the game, won the State Championship in 1976. Carl's jersey, along with teammates James Woods and Jawaan Oldham, was retired during the "Celebrating Champions and Legends" ceremony held in January of this year. The Eagles were declared "The Team of the Century."

Recruited nationally, Carl chose to attend Seattle University where he became a four-year starter and the school's all-time single season (179) and career (534) assist leader in the Division I era. As a senior captain, Carl led the Chieftains in 3 categories: scoring (505/18.7), assists (135/5.5) and free throws (87/100). Ervin scored 1,304 points during his career. Blessed with exceptional court vision, unique timing and commanding ball handling skills, Carl is one of the best ever to have played at Seattle University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies. He was inducted into the SU Athletic Hall of Fame in May of 2009.

A 7th round draft pick of the Seattle Sonics, Ervin spent two seasons in the CBA in Alberta, Canada, and continued playing locally in Pro-Am leagues for a number of years. He came back to Seattle U and coached under Al Hairston for ten years.

Carl continued to stay involved with basketball on all levels, coaching youth basketball at the Rotary and Vista Boys and Girls Clubs. He organized, directed and coached pro summer league camps for Doug Christie, Nate McMillan and Jamal Crawford. Last year, he helped to organize Mount Zion's 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament for the Ministry of Christian Education's Department of Recreation and Athletics. He was a member of O'Dea High School's "Dream Coach" team; they finished in third place at the State Tournament this year.

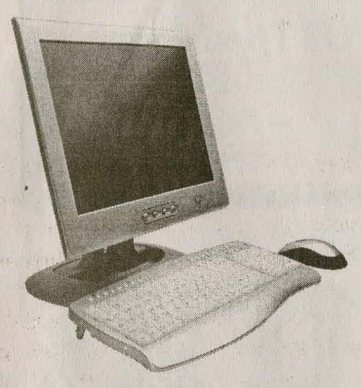
He was employed by Costco, Alpac Corporation, Pepsi-Cola, Winco and the SU Athletic Department. Being recognized as Employee of the Month was common for Carl. At Pepsi-Cola he was also named Employee of the Year and served as the company representative for United Way. Most recently, he worked for the City of Seattle Department of Transportation.

Carl was a meticulous dresser with a phenomenal sense of style and design. He knew fashion and paid close attention to detail. The first and only time he played golf was for the Ed O'Brien Golf

(Cont'd on Page 5)

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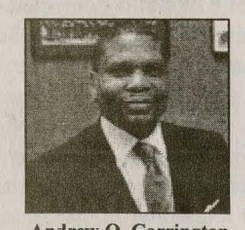
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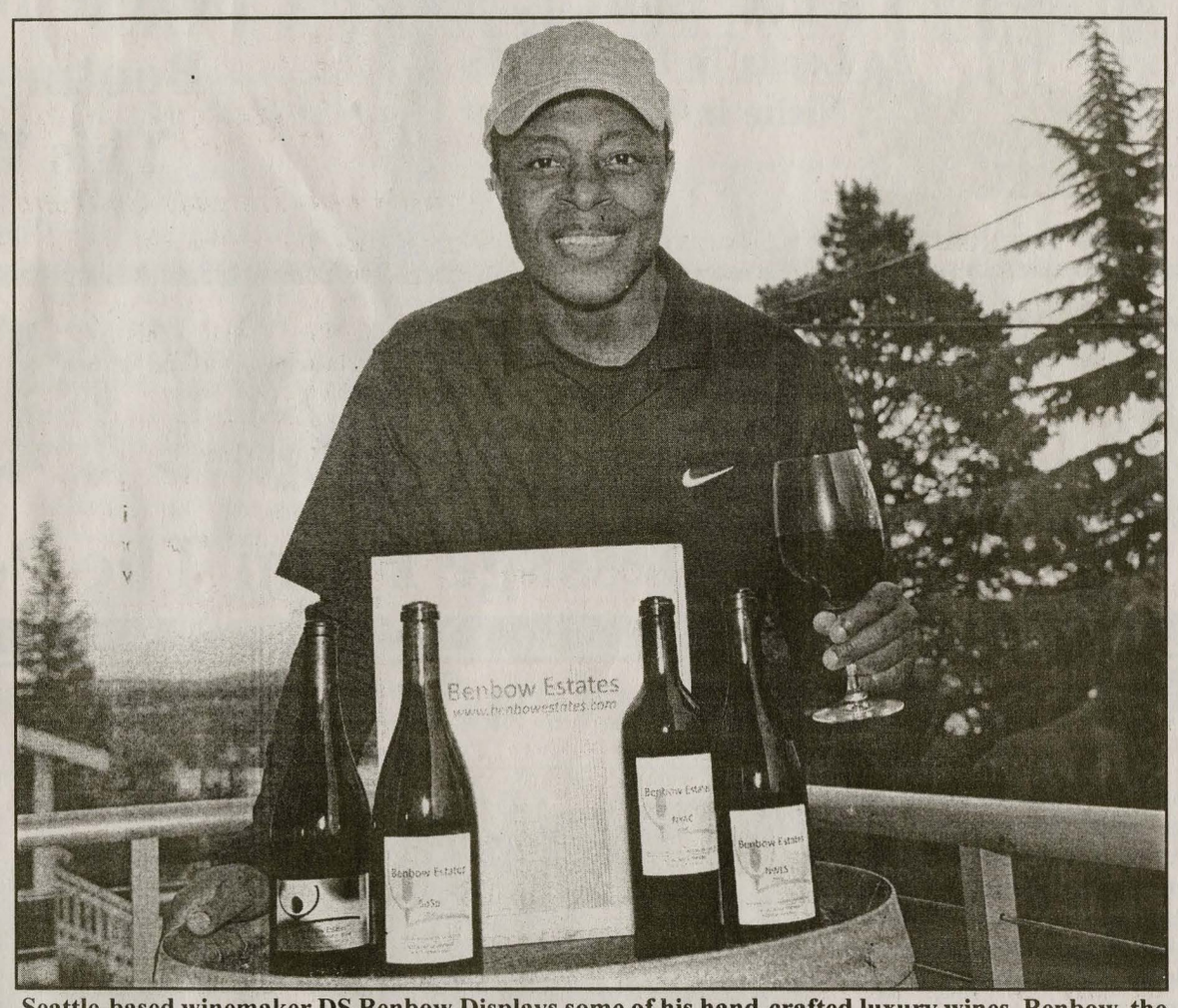
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Local Winemaker Looks To Expand His Niche In The Market

By Chris B. Bennett
Co-publisher/editor



Seattle-based winemaker DS Benbow Displays some of his hand-crafted luxury wines. Benbow, the only African American winery owner in a five state region, wants to educate people on how to drink and what to expect from good wine. ***Staff Photo/Chris B. Bennett***

Growing up DS Benbow had no idea that a remedy that he had discovered to deal with severe stomach aches would help lead him into the exclusive field of winemaking, but after growing an affinity for wines and years honing his palette and skills he has successfully launched his own label – Benbow Estates – with a unique blend called Ambrosia Red.

As a kid, Benbow used to get stomach aches due to having a very sensitive stomach. So much so that he would sometimes leave the dinner table, go to his room and ball up for like about an hour before being able to come back to the dinner table and sit down.

"That happened for years," said Benbow. "Everything that my mom tried didn't work."

One day, when he was twelve, Benbow, who was experiencing a stomach ache at the time, saw a bottle of communion wine that his father and mother, who were deacons and deaconesses in the Baptist church, had stored in the refrigerator and decided to drink some of the wine in an attempt to subdue the pain of his stomach ache.

"I was desperate and decided to give it a shot," said Benbow.

"It made my stomach feel better, so every time I had a stomach ache I'd take a little snip," he explained.

Eventually, Benbow's mother found out about his remedy and gave her approval.

"She said it was okay as long as you don't abuse it," said Benbow.

As he got older, Benbow upgraded his selection of wines, but it wasn't until he started working for a start-up tech company in Seattle that his knowledge and passion for wine grew.

"The CEO and a couple of execs were big into wine, and we would go to wine bars in downtown Seattle to do wine tastings," recalled Benbow, " At that point, I began to understand the characteristics of a how bordo Bordeaux and how they werewas supposed to taste and the difference between a burgundy and a pinot – which come from the same grape."

"I became intrigued by the landscape in which wine exists," he continued. "When you are sitting and drinking wine with others, you are usually eating good food or having a good conversation. You may be passionately debating, but you are infrequently upset or angry and [for me] it became a nice counter-balance to tech."

12 years ago, Benbow took his first stab at winemaking. He started off by making a Cabernet and then followed it up with a Chardonnay.

"I made my first batch right here at home and it turned out pretty good," said Benbow. " My mom likes white wine and she tried it and thought it was pretty good and that kind of evolved into launching my own label last year."

According to Benbow, there are 7,200 winemakers in the United States, with only less than 10 of them owned by African Americans. As the lone African American winemaker winery owner in a five state area, Benbow sees great potential not only for his brand, but also as a catalyst to increase the number of African Americans who consume wine.

"As an industry, African American market penetration in wine consumption is only ten percent," he states. "So, there is a significant upside of the growth potential to attracting the African American market to wine. "

In his first year, Benbow produced four barrels, the equivalent of about 200 cases, of his signature blend Ambrosia Red. Despite limited distributions channels the flavorful blend sold out in 13 months. This year, Benbow doubled his production and produced three blends: the next version of Ambrosia Red (renamed SoSp), a left bank Bordo blend (a heavy merlot called NYAC), and a white vignette blend (called NWLS).

Benbow takes great pride in the quality of his product, and produces nothing that he would not enjoy himself. His, luxury hand-crafted wines range from $29.00 to $49.00 per bottle.

"My goal is to not make cheap wine, but to educate people on how to drink good wine and what to expect from good wine," says Benbow.e."

According to Benbow, winemaking can be a very capital intensive business, and the costs associated with producing wine in significant quantities makes it very difficult to sustain. However, Benbow's, self-financed business model is what is called a virtual winery, where he works with a vineyard to supply his grapes and he has an agreement with a large Washington-based winery that allows him to use their facilities for production, labeling and bottling. While he admits that his business model might be limiting in some regards, it allows him to keep down costs, concentrate on crafting and, marketing and distributing his wines, and be solely responsible for his business decisions.

"Having worked in a number of start-ups I wanted to be able to call all of the shots this time around," said Benbow with regards to his decision to self-finance the venture.

"Eventually, I wish to own my own facilities, but the relationship that I have [with the winery] is really goodvery favorable," added Benbow. "It's a large winery and all of their facilities are top notch."

While the transition to winemaking hasn't been easy, Benbow said he has had a lot of help along the way. Various winemakers advised him about wine making techniques, equipment, label design, bottlin-goperations, etc. all of which he is very grateful to have received.

"A lot number of Northwest winemakers have helped me hone my craft," says Benbow. " I've had a lot of help assistance on the operational side of the business to really help me get to where I am today."

Winemaking is not something that can be done overnight, as it typically takes 12 – 22 months once a red blend is barrelled before it is ready for bottling, and about 3-6 months for white blend. That leaves plenty of time for Benbow to build relationships, market and brand his wines. For Benbow, winemaking is more than just a business venture, it is a lifestyle. A lifestyle that Benbow is ready to embrace. , one that is juxtaposedhe prefers to that of someone in the tech industry.

"One of the things that is a downsides to working in tech at Microsoft is that the time commitment is intense you're so disconnected from your friends, the community, and you're just very laser focused on work," said Benbow. "One of the beautiful things about the wine business is that connecting with others is part of the work. Having conversations is part of the work. Eating great food and meeting interesting people is part of the work, and that's an interesting quality of life for me."

In the future, Benbow hopes to engage a small distributor to help grow his business, and to export his blends into an African country outside of the U.S. Benbow says that he probably will not produce more four different blends and looks to eventually incorporate a lower price point product.

"My goal in the next five years is to be in the neighborhood of 5,000 cases, and getting the brand of Benbow Eestates in to the heads of more people."

When looking back at everything that has transpired throughout his life and work career, one can easily say that his journey through life has helped prepare him for this moment. His years in the tech industry have provided him with the skills to market and brand products, and a remedy for stomach aches has helped inspire and infuse a passion that he has turned into a lifestyle. A lifestyle that he hopes will be the center of conversations at many celebrations and social outings alike.

"I don't have any farming skill sets," said Benbow referring to growing of grapes, which is the heart of the industry. "But I do have marketing skill sets, and I have a knack for making a good bottle of wine."

Benbow Estates' blends are available at select Washington locations, and through the website www.benbowestates.com.

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Seattle To Begin Booting Cars This Week

Seattle Court Extends Collections Reduction Program To July 15

Beginning this week, scofflaw vehicles – those with four or more overdue, unpaid parking tickets – found in public right-of-way may get the boot, a wheel-locking device, whether they are parked illegally or legally in the City of Seattle.

The city plans a slow start to the program, booting only a limited number of vehicles in the first week. Once the program is in full swing, the city anticipates it can boot approximately 40 to 50 vehicles a day.

In order to avoid having their car booted and to save money, motorists are urged to take advantage of the Seattle Municipal Court's "collection reduction event," which waives all collections fees and interest on parking and traffic infractions if tickets are paid in full before a car gets the boot.

The event, originally scheduled for May and June, has been extended through July 15, 2011. People are taking advantage of this opportunity – 2,100 people have left the parking scofflaw list since the first notices went out in May. Officials attribute this primarily to a combination of payments and vehicles that were sold.

"It is important to remind everyone that they should respond to their parking tickets within 15 days. They can do so by paying the tickets, requesting a hearing, asking to be set up on a time payment plan, or checking with the court to see if they are eligible for community service," Seattle Municipal Court Presiding Judge Fred Bonner said. "If someone has not responded in the past and has delinquent parking tickets with our collection agency, now is the time to pay them off at a lower rate and avoid having their car booted."

Once a vehicle has been booted, all unpaid scofflaw-eligible parking tickets, collection fees and interest owed on tickets associated with that vehicle, as well as the $145 boot fee, must be paid to get the vehicle released. After the payment has been made, or time payment entered into, the vehicle will be removed from the scofflaw list. The boot fee paid to the city's boot vendor, PayLock, covers the vendor's charge for use of its boot devices and customer services.

If all unpaid parking tickets and associated fees are not paid within 48 hours, excluding weekends, then the booted vehicle may be towed and impounded.

After impounding, if the scofflaw-eligible parking tickets and associated fees (including tow and boot fees) are not paid in full or a time payment plan is not established with AllianceOne, the Municipal Court's collection agency, within 15 days, then the vehicle may be auctioned. Time payment plans do not cover tow and impound fees; those must be paid in full to release the vehicle.

Seattle officials, who have been doing outreach about the program since April, have worked with homeless advocates to develop a protocol to mitigate the impact of the parking scofflaw program on families with children and vulnerable individuals living in vehicles. (A vulnerable individual is a person who is at great risk of harm due to a disability or medical condition.) The number of individuals in this situation is expected to be low – based on an informal survey, city officials estimate roughly 90 percent of people living in their cars either have no parking tickets or are below the parking scofflaw threshold of four delinquent parking tickets.

The Seattle Human Services Department already has a policy to provide outreach services when the department is notified of families with children or vulnerable individuals who are homeless.

Given the new law and the risk of having vehicles towed, Seattle will implement a concentrated 12-month program to reach families and vulnerable individuals who may lose their vehicles to ensure they are aware of the options available to them and the actions necessary for them to be removed from the parking scofflaw list.

The parking scofflaw booting program is expected to increase parking availability, increase parking payment compliance, and reduce the amount of money owed to the city for delinquent parking fines.

SPD parking enforcement officers (PEOs) will patrol city streets with two license plate recognition technology equipped vehicles. When a scofflaw vehicle is identified, PEOs will apply a notice to the vehicle (which includes boot-removal information), and lock the vehicle's wheel with a boot.

Motorists have three payment options if their vehicles have been booted: Pay via telephone, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; Pay in person with cash, money order or cashier's check at Seattle Municipal Court, the King County Jail, or the municipal or district courts of Tukwila, Marysville, Kitsap County, and Clark County; or by entering into a time payment agreement with AllianceOne. The collection agency may set up a time-payment plan with a minimum down payment of $200 or 10 percent of the amount owed, whichever is greater.

Motorists are responsible for returning the boots, which should be placed in the vehicle's trunk for safety purposes. If motorists do not return the boot within two calendar days of release, a fine of $25 per day can be levied. If motorists damage or fail to return a boot, a replacement fee of up to $500 can be levied. Motorists who anticipate a delay in returning the boot are urged to contact PayLock via the phone number provided on the boot notice as soon as possible.

As of June 29, 2011, more than 20,000 vehicles are listed as eligible for booting. Registered owners of these vehicles are notified by mail of their status. While some of the license plates on the list,are inactive, vehicles with four or more overdue, unpaid tickets that have since been sold to a new owner will not be on the list, provided the new owner has noted the sale with the Washington State Department of Licensing, as required by state law.

To see if you have unpaid parking tickets and to pay them, go to www.seattle.gov/scofflaw or call (206) 684-5600. Payment can also be made in person at The Seattle Municipal Court at 600 Fifth Avenue in downtown Seattle.

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REQUEST FOR BIDS

KCHA is seeking qualified contractors who are interested in submitting bids for the exterior painting at Kirkland Place Apartments. The property is located at 419-421 7th Avenue, Kirkland, WA. Bid packets are available for download on KCHA's website at www.kcha.org. If you have questions, please contact Sarah Anderson at saraha@kcha.org. An optional pre-bid meeting will be held at the property on July 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The estimate is $19,536.

Homeowners Fearing Foreclosure May be Eligible for Up To $50,000 in Mortgage Assistance

The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle (ULMS) recently announced their participation in the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program (EHLP). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development created EHLP as an emergency mortgage assistance program designed to help homeowners who are temporarily and involuntarily unemployed or underemployed due to economic conditions or medical conditions, and are at risk of foreclosure. Due to EHLP's tremendous success as a viable alternative to foreclosure in over 30 states, the program will be made available to homeowners in the state of Washington starting this week .

The Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program provides a zero interest, forgivable bridge loan for up to 2 years, up to $50,000. The goal of the loan is to help bring homeowners current by covering eligible past due mortgage payments, as well as a portion of the homeowner's mortgage payments for up to 24 months or up to $50,000, and becomes a junior lien on the property.

To qualify, a Pre-Applicant Screening Worksheet must be completed and submitted to the Urban League by July 22, 2011. Demand for the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program is expected to be extremely high. If necessary and to ensure a fair selection process, homeowners with eligible Pre-Application Screening Worksheets will be entered into a random lottery. Homeowners selected through the lottery will be contacted and scheduled for an appointment to complete a full EHLP application with local housing counselors at the league. There is no charge for this service.

Mortgage counselors working with The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle will be gathering this information locally. To learn more about the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program and to obtain a Pre-Applicant Screening Worksheet, homeowners in crisis are urged to visit the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle or e-mail Linda Taylor at Ltaylor@urbanleague.org call (800) 368-1455.

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EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS

Fact Check On Debt Ceiling

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.
TriceEdneyWire

The first time a debt ceiling was raised was in 1940 when Franklin Roosevelt was President. During that time and until now, the federal debt limit has increased over fifty times, and it was done most of the time previously without much fanfare. The first increase during that time came on June 25th, 1940.

The United States soon entered World War II, and the federal debt limit quickly skyrocketed after the first increase. On April 3rd, 1945, Congress approved a new federal debt limit of $300 billion dollars, a marked increase from just a few years earlier. This was due to the large expenses involved in the war. We have a similar situation today with two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. During war, increases are normal and expected.

A "debt ceiling" is the maximum amount of debt that a government can take on. In order to spend beyond this ceiling, Congress must agree to raise it. The purpose of the debt ceiling is to try to limit too much spending. Of course, when you look at where the debt is today, it's easy to see that the desired effect has not been accomplished. The debt skyrocketed in the Administration prior to President Barack Obama being elected. The United States now has a debt ceiling of more than twelve trillion dollars, but we need to raise the ceiling.

It seems that the Democrats are saying we cannot balance the budget on the backs of those who have the least. The Republicans are saying we must continue to give tax breaks to those who can most afford to pay taxes.

Recently the Legislature in Texas suggested cutting four billion dollars from its education budget. Meanwhile, the University of Texas' annual football budget is 100 million dollars annually! That budget is untouchable. We have money, but it seems that our problem is prioritizing how to spend the money. When we don't pay our bills, our credit report is bad—making it difficult for us to borrow for necessities. When our country doesn't pay its bills, the same thing happens, but on a much larger scale.

President Obama has said that the consequences of the U.S. defaulting on our debt if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling will be both significant and unpredictable. In order to avoid what would likely be severe consequences, the ceiling must be raised by August 2, of this year or the options about which we know are said to run out. It's being called a "hard deadline".

The President went on to say, "We don't know how capital markets will react if that deadline passes without an agreement to raise the $14.3 trillion limit". That's what is being debated. It is pretty certain the consequences for the U.S. economy will be significant and despite all the efforts to improve our economy, we will lose ground.

I believe this hullabaloo over raising the debt ceiling is just another special Republican ploy to distract the people from knowing how their tax dollars are really spent, and to prevent President Obama from carrying on the business of the nation. Rush Limbaugh said at the beginning of this President's term, he wants him to fail. Apparently, the same is true for many Republicans whose leaders have walked out of negotiations where attempts were being made to find common ground.

Trying another prank will not be successful. It is in all of our best interest to resolve the matter, so why all the stalling? We should have no fear because raising the debt ceiling will go through.

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq. is National Chair of the *National Congress of Black Women*.

Michele Bachmann: The John Wayne Of Political Lies

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

Whether making the round of Sunday morning talk shows, giving the Tea Party response to President Obama's State of the Union address, or announcing her own presidential candidacy, Michele Bachmann does one thing consistently – lie.

The Republican congresswoman from Minnesota, who has been described as Sarah Palin with a brain, has enjoyed a dramatic rise in public opinion polls following the latest debate among GOP candidates seeking the party's presidential nomination. But Bachmann's comments are a reminder of the adage: Figures can lie and liars can figure. Here are some of the most egregious examples:

BACHMANN [CBS "Face the Nation," June 26]: The Congressional Budget Office estimated Obamacare will cost economy 800,000 jobs, probably the –

HOST BOB SCHIEFFER: Again, that is data that other people would question.

BACHMANN: That's – well, that's what the Congressional Budget Office, that's not Michele Bachmann, that's Congressional Budget Office figures saying that we're – we have the potential of losing 800,000 jobs.

FACTS: As Factcheck.org noted, "The CBO didn't say that. Instead the CBO said that the law would cause a reduction in the amount of labor workers choose to supply. Some Americans would decide to work fewer hours or retire earlier because their ability to get health insurance would be more secure. And low-income workers would receive subsidies to purchase insurance, putting more money into their pockets. Overall, the CBO said the impact on jobs would be 'small.'"

BACHMANN [Jan. 25 Tea Party Response to the State of the Union address]: Unfortunately, the president's strategy for recovery was to spend a trillion dollars on a failed stimulus program, fueled by borrowed money...Not only did that plan fail to deliver, but within three months the national jobless rate spiked to 9.4 percent. And sadly, it hasn't been lower for 20 straight months. While the government grew, we lost more than 2 million jobs. Let me show you a chart. Here are unemployment rates over the past 10 years. In October 2001, our national unemployment rate was 5.3 percent. In 2008...it was just 6.6 percent. But, just eight months after President Obama promised lower unemployment, that rate spike to a staggering 10.1 percent.

FACTS: The watchdog group Media Matters, on its politicalcorrection.org site, stated: "From December 2007 to July 2009 – the last year of the Bush second term and the first six months of the Obama presidency, before his policies could affect the economy – private sector employment crashed from 115,574,000 jobs to 107,778,000 jobs. Employment continued to fall, however, for the next six months, reaching a low of 107,107,000 in December of 2009. So, out of 8,467,000 private sector jobs lost in this dismal cycle, 7,796,000 of those jobs or 92 percent were lost on the Republican watch or under their policies. Some 671,000 additional jobs were lost as the stimulus and other moves by the administration kicked in, but 630,000 jobs came back in the following six months. The tally, to date: Mr. Obama can be held accountable for the net loss of 41,000 jobs (671,000-630,000), while the Republicans should be held responsible for the net losses of 7,796,000 jobs."

BACHMANN [Tea Party State of the Union response]: But instead of cutting, we saw an unprecedented explosion of government spending and debt, unlike anything we have seen in the history of our country. Deficits were unacceptably high under President Bush, but they exploded under President Obama's direction, growing the national debt by an astounding $3.1 trillion dollars.

FACTS: The rising debt can be attributed to Bush-era policies and the recession that began before Obama took office. As the conservative *Washington Times* observed, "The Congressional Budget Office announced a projected fiscal 2009 deficit of $1.2 trillion even if Congress doesn't enact any new programs…About the only person who was silent on the deficit projection was Mr. Bush, who took office facing a surplus but who saw spending balloon and the country notch the highest deficits on record."

BACHMANN [Tea Party response]: We need to start making things again in this country. And we can do that by reducing the tax and regulatory burden on job creators. America will have the highest corporate tax rate in the world. Think about that.

FACTS: Researchers at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities have thought about it and what they realize is that to grasp the corporate tax burden, one needs to look beyond statutory tax rates to the effective tax rate, which takes into account tax deductions. Judging by that standard, the Center notes, "The U.S. corporate tax burden is smaller than average for developed countries. Corporations in 19 of the member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development paid 16.1 percent of their profits in taxes between 2000 and 2005, on average, while corporations in the United States paid 13.4 percent."

Appearing on Fox News after officially declaring her candidacy for president, Bachmann said on June 27: "What I want them to know is, just like John Wayne is from Waterloo, Iowa, that's the kind of spirit that I have too."

John Wayne wasn't from Waterloo. He was born in Winterset, Iowa and grew up in California. Bachmann apparently got John Wayne mixed up with another John Wayne – John Wayne Gacy, the serial killer who was from Waterloo.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine and the NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. He can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com

Reality Check

Shameless And Cowardly Chicken Hawks

By A. Peter Bailey
TriceEdneyWire

It has long been my observation that the American press corps, especially that based in New York and Washington D.C., has been severely negligent in its coverage of those pundits, politicians and think tankers who consistently express their strong support of the wars of choice in Iraq, Afghanistan and increasingly, Libya.

If members of the press were seriously doing their jobs they would ask repeatedly, until fully answered, three basic questions of the armchair warriors who insist that the national security of the United States is at stake in all three wars. The first is whether that particular armchair warrior has been in the U.S. military on any level. The second is whether any son, daughter, grandchild, brother, sister, nephew, niece of said warriors is in the U.S. military. The third is whether that warrior or any of his family members have ever put or are putting their lives on the line in combat to fights those enemies whom they insist are out to wreak havoc on the United States.

If not, why not. If, as they declare daily, the country's national security is at stake, they should be among the first to sign up to confront the enemy. If they don't do so, it is not being unreasonable to conclude that they don't believe this is the case. Or that they do believe it, yet are not prepared to put their lives and the lives of their family members on line to destroy the haters of "freedom and liberty."

Instead of backing up their patriotic rhetoric with concrete action by joining the military to fight the enemy, Bill Kristol, Paul Wolfowitz, Sean Hannity, Charles Krauthammer, Rush Limbaugh and their cohorts are perfectly satisfied with sending children from low income and working class families to be killed or maimed in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya while they and their families enjoy their ultra-comfortable homes and offices, celebrate holidays, partake in happy hour at the local bar, go on vacations, write books and articles about what "we" must do to protect the national interest.

One of the most insidious of the armchair warriors is Bill Kristol, editor of the *Weekly Standard* and frequent commentator on Fox News Sunday. The smug Mr. Kristol usually has a smirk on his face as he pontificates on why it is absolutely crucial that "we" fight these wars of choice because of threats from dangerous and evil enemies. Yet it seemingly never occurs to Kristol that if the threat is so huge that the best way he can help is to either join the military himself or urge young Kristol family members to put their lives on the line in combat.

Otherwise he and his friends and colleague are blowing smoke and shamelessly sending children of low income and working families off to sometimes three or four tours of combat in Iraq, Afghanistan and possibly Libya. They share responsibility for the over 6000 American military personnel killed and the many thousands wounded in the wars they so ardently support but refuse to fight in. That is despicable the press and the parents of those young men and some women need to call them out as the cowardly chicken hawks they are.

Journalist/Lecturer A. Peter Bailey, a former associate editor of Ebony, is currently editor of Vital Issues: The Journal of African American Speeches.

To Break The NFL Lockout, The Fans Need To Get Mobilized

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

After constant attention on negotiations in the National Football League and the subsequent lockout [where the employers refuse to let the employees work] by the owners, there has been something close to silence. Recent court rulings have permitted the owners to go forward with their lockout, at least for now. And, the rest of us just sit back and watch the calendar slowly approach the beginning of the next season.

The gist of the dispute, as I have discussed in earlier commentaries, has been the greed of the owners. There is really no other way to put it. They are seeking concessions from the player, including an extension of the football season, in a situation where the owners cannot demonstrate any economic need for such givebacks. The only logical conclusion as to why the owners have pushed this dispute to the point of a lockout is so that they can destroy the union of the players—the *NFL Players Association*—and achieve total dominance over the players and the sport.

The Players Association, under its relatively new Executive Director DeMaurice Smith, has been doing a great job of fighting the good fight. In fact, sports writers and fans have expressed significant support for the Players and have, correctly, identified the greed on the part of the owners as the major source of this conflict. Yet the owners see no particular reason to back down. Conservative court decisions in their favor, along with a national political climate that promotes the destruction of labor unions, encourages their arrogance.

What the owners seem to be counting upon is passivity on the part of the fans. The owners actually do not care whether the fans support them or not. What they are concerned with, however, is what the fans do. It is for this reason that the fans of football need to become motivated and active if we want justice to be won by the players. Here are a few ideas:

1. There needs to be a highly visible organization of the fans, something like *"We stand with the Players"* or something like that. This needs to be more than a couple of people setting up a website. There need to be thousands of active members who sign up to participate.

2. This organization of fans needs to ensure that governmental bodies, particularly municipalities, that have been considering or negotiating any deals that concern new stadiums, put such talks on hold. Not only do most sports stadiums NOT bring economic advancement to locales, but they almost always involve major financial concessions by cities and counties, that is, by the taxpayers. Let's temper the greed of the owners by putting a freeze on further talks for the moment.

3. Few fans, except the most tried and true, have any idea who the actual owners are. So, let's go visit them and introduce ourselves. Let's have large delegations of fans show up at the offices of the owners and make clear, non-violently, our concern about their greed. Perhaps we should have massive vigils to pray for the souls of the owners.

This is a start. It is not a complete list but it is enough to get us running. Time to get away from the television and the sports bars and into the streets. Let's get the voices of the fans heard and put the owners on the hot seats.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies, the immediate past president of TransAfrica Forum, and the co-author of ***Solidarity Divided.***

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Carl Wayne Ervin Obituary

Continued From Front Page

Tournament. His team not only won 1st place, but he also received the "Best Dressed Golfer Award"

Carl enjoyed hosting celebrations and cooking "soul food feasts" for his family and friends. He had many specialties that included salmon fettuccini, catfish and bar-b-que. He often cooked the favorites of his nieces and nephews such as donuts, pancakes and, of course, his often craved after milkshakes with the secret ingredient he never revealed. He chaired the 2010 Ervin Family Reunion held in Seattle and planned the meals. A month before major surgery, he entertained over 80 of his closest friends for his annual March Madness Bash.

Did we mention how much Carl loved basketball whether playing, coaching, watching games or reading articles about his favorite sport?

He was a verbal encyclopedia for high school, college and professional basketball players and their teams; a statistician of extraordinary accuracy.

The joy and light of his life, however, was his beautiful daughter, Karlee Christine, who turned eleven on June 23rd. He beamed at the mention of her name and kept everyone informed about each of her many accomplishments. She even knew how to ride a unicycle! Karlee, a gifted student in the Spectrum Program, was selected to speak at John Muir's 5th grade graduation. Although her dad could not be there, he watched the video with great pride and relished every photo taken of her. He marveled in admiration of her intellectual acumen and poise.

His wife Penny was his best friend and closest confidante. Mutual respect and open communication were the foundation of their relationship. She was by his side every step of the way. The love they shared was magical and evident to all who saw them together. They packed a lifetime of memories into their "five-years-going-on-fifty" marriage. They honeymooned in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and celebrated anniversaries on cruises and trips abroad. A special anniversary was spent in Scottsdale, AZ with Keith Harrell and family vacations included trips to Ocean Shores, Sea World, Disneyland and Hawaii.

At the time of his passing, plans were underway for Carl to be honored by the Lenny Wilkens Foundation. With dignity and remarkable grace, "The Captain" fulfilled his mission. He achieved what God had asked of him and found perfect peace on June 25, 2011, surrounded by his family and friends.

Carl Wayne was preceded in death by his father, Deacon Charles W. Ervin, Sr.; his mother, Christene R. Ervin; and sister Charlene V. Franklin.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Penny Marsha Ervin; cherished daughter, Karlee Christene Ervin; adoring sisters, Etta B. Walters, C. Yvonne Ervin Carr, Sarah J.E. Dean; caring brother, Charles W. (Beverly) Ervin, Jr.; steadfast uncle, John H. (Malinda) Ervin; aunts, Naomi Waddleton, Clinton, MD and Doll McGee, Dallas, TX; a host of nieces, nephews and cousins; brother-in-law, Pierre (Alene) Brown; sisters-in-law, Pam Watley and Paula Woods; other relatives; and a multitude of dear friends.

His legacy of love for his family will continue.

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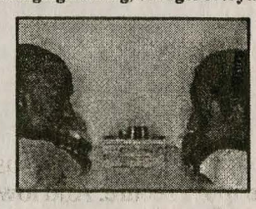
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The Prayer of Jabez

Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!

--I Chronicles 4:20

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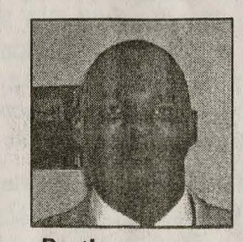
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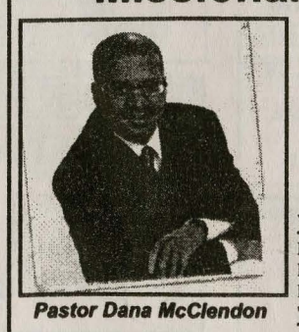
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3705 So. Edmonds
206-725-3841

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

Exclusive Persistant Image
4851 Rainier Ave. S
Seattle, WA 98118
exclusivepersistentimage@
general.com

Valarie
Shear Elegance
Unisex Salon
9000 Renton Ave. So.
206-310-0459

BEAUTY & HEALTH PRODUCTS

Something Smellable
All Natural Beauty & Health Products
7637 Rainier Ave S
Unit C
206-402-1986

BOUTIQUE

The Palace Beauty
Boutique
2301 So. Jackson
#209 206-325-5911

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

APPAREL & FASHION

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!

CAFE

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

Janitorial/Cleaning

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

GROCERY/DELI

Bob's Quality Meats
Best Choice In Town
Meat bundles, all kinds...
•Lean Pork Ribs
•Hog Head Cheese
•Lean Ox Tails
•Louisiana Style Boudin
•Hot or Mild Beef Sausage
4861 Rainier
Ave. So.
(206)
725-1221
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

GIFTS

Little Gallery On The Hill
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253.593.4850
Showroom Open Mon. -Sat.

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Farmer's Insurance
Group
3601 S. Alaska
(206)
722-0313

PHOTOS/VIDEO

Flyright Productions
2306 E. Madison
(206)
860-9813

ENTERTAINMENT

Music Inner City
Entertainment/Seattle
TV Shows & Online
Gordon Curvey
Executive Producer
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/DELI

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

Kenyon Street
Eatery
7821 Rainier Ave. So.
760-0606

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

GERI'S
Casual Dining &
Catering
509 So. 3rd St.
Suite B, Renton
425-687-8793

KING'S DELI
2800 E. Cherry St.
206
323-0330

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...cont'd.

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

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

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

BARBER SHOP

Brooks Barber Shop
5222 Rainier Ave. So.
Seattle, WA 98118
(206) 723-5157

FURS

Seward Park
Furs
(206)
772-3880

GROCERY/DELI

UNION MARKET
2101 E. UNION
SEATTLE, WA
98122
206-322-9090

Tana Market
2518 E. Cherry
Seattle, WA
(206) 322-3835

TOPS LANDSCAPING...Yard Work...Odd Jobs...206-849-5973

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

King County
Invitation to Bid

King County is requesting Proposals from qualified firms interested in providing corridor planning and multidisciplinary design services for a six mile stretch of the Lower Tolt River.

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 estimated value of this contract is $900,000 to $1M. The total estimated value of phases I and II is $270,000 to $300,000. The County plans to issue one contract.

Contract Title:	**Corridor Planning and Design Services for the Lower Tolt River**
Number:	**E00228E11**
Proposals due:	**July 21, 2011**
Time:	**5:00 p.m.**
Pre-proposal Meeting:	**July 7, 2011**
Time:	**3:30 p.m.**
Location:	**Chinook Building, 401 Fifth Avenue, Room 121, Seattle, WA**

SUMMARY OF WORK: Conduct a Corridor Plan for six miles of the lower Tolt River and provide project design and implementation support services for a selected Capital Improvement (CIP) Project identified by the Corridor Plan, including summarize and update data characterizing existing conditions; develop and evaluate conceptual-level designs of alternative floodplain management actions; and design and support the implementation of a CIP Project.

SUBCONSULTANT OPPORTUNITIES: Provided for informational purposes only, following are subconsulting opportunities that may be available on this Contract: geomorphic analysis; hydraulic analysis; aquatic resources analysis; environmental planning; environmental permitting; civil engineering; terrestrial and bathymetric surveying; and geotechnical engineering.

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: 15%

QUESTIONS: Questions concerning this solicitation should be directed to **Ruth Williamson, Contract Specialist** at **206-263-9333**, 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.

King County
Invitation to Bid

Project Title and Contract Number: Peasley Canyon Road at Peasley Canyon Way – (Intersection Improvement), C00650C11

Sealed Bid Time/Date: 1:30 p.m., July 19, 2011. Bids received after Sealed Bid Time will not be considered. Bidders accept all risks of late delivery, regardless of fault.

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

Engineer's Estimate Range: $550,000 to $650,000

Scope of Work: This project provides for the improvements to the intersection of Peasley Canyon Road and Peasley Canyon Way in King County by clearing and grubbing; removing asphalt pavement; installing a single-lane roundabout; installing drainage improvements; constructing structural earth retaining wall; constructing curb, gutter and sidewalk; selective planting; hot mix asphalt overlay and preleveling; erosion control; landscaping; installing painted and plastic pavement markings; installing illumination, and other work

Contact Information: Mark Hoge, Contract Specialist, 206-263-9325, TTY Relay: 711, Fax: 206-296-7675, or mark.hoge@kingcounty.gov. A bidder may be asked to put a question in writing. No verbal answers by any County personnel or its agents and consultants will be binding on the County.

Pre-Bid Conference: None. The site is open to the public.

Subcontracting Opportunities: Hot Mix Asphalt, Road Closure Signing and Temporary Traffic Control, Illumination, Landscaping, Traffic Markers, Beam Guardrail.

Apprenticeship Requirements: No minimum Apprentice Utilization Requirement.

SCS Utilization Requirements. 10% minimum requirement for King County Certified Small Contractors and Suppliers (SCS).

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

Copies of Contract Documents: 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 ARC Reprographics 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: King County is not responsible for any costs incurred in response to this Invitation to Bid.

King County
Invitation to Bid

Project: Asphalt Paving Maintenance Work Order 2011-2012, C00654C11

Sealed Bid Time/Date: 1:30pm, July 15, 2011

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

Engineer's Estimate: NTE $1,500,000

Scope of Work: The work under this Contract includes, but is not limited to, ACP patching, repairing, overlays and sealcoat applications; excavation and placement of subgrade, sub-base, base materials; utility frame adjustments; wheel stop placements. The work may also include installation of storm drainage structures such as catch basins, manholes vaults and storm piping. **Work site**: Various Transit facilities located throughout King County, Washington.

The work performed under this Contract shall not exceed $1,500,000.00 and the initial Contract Time shall not exceed 365 calendar days from the date of Contract execution by the County. The County does not guarantee any minimum amount of work or that the dollar amount of the Work Orders issued will total $1,500,000.00 during the duration of this Contract. At the County's sole discretion, this Contract may be extended for up to two additional years in one year increments, or until the Not to Exceed Contract Price is reached, whichever occurs first. In no event shall the Contract Time be greater than three years from the date of Contract execution by the County.

Contact Information: Kelly McKeever, Contract Specialist, (206) 263-9389, TTY Relay: 711, Fax: (206) 296-7675, or kelly.mckeever@kingcounty.gov. **Submit all bidders' questions in writing via email.** No verbal answers by any County personnel or its agents and consultants will be binding on the County.

MANDATORY Pre-Bid Meeting: July 11, 2011 @ 11:00am **OR** July 12, 2011 @ 11:00am. Chinook Building – 3rd Floor, Conference Room 328, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA, 98104. FAILURE TO ATTEND ONE OF THE MANDATORY MEETINGS WILL RESULT IN A NON-RESPONSIVE BID DETERMINATION. A sign in sheet will provide evidence of attendance. It is your responsibility to ensure you sign in and out.

Subcontracting Opportunities: Asphalt Grinding, Sawcutting, Trucking, Asphalt Supplier

Apprenticeship Requirements: No minimum Apprentice Utilization Requirement.

SCS Utilization Requirements: The Contractor shall ensure that at least **10%** of the Contract Price for all executed Work Orders shall be performed by King County Certified SCS Firms over the life of the Contract.

Bid Bond: Not less than five percent 5% of the Not to Exceed Amount of $1,500,000 or $75,000.00 must accompany your bid.

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.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

PHONE: 206-323-3070

Email Ads To: mediumads@aol.com

C

MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK

GIG HARBOR
MUNICIPAL COURT CLERK

The City of Gig Harbor is accepting applications for a Municipal Court Clerk. The position is a full-time clerical position that requires a high school diploma or equivalent. Prior JIS and court experience are preferred. Salary: $3,203 - $4,004 plus benefits. Application forms and a detailed job description are available at The City of Gig Harbor, 3510 Grandview Street, Gig Harbor WA 98335 or online at www.cityofgigharbor.net. Phone (253) 851-7808. A brief resume and cover letter must accompany the application and must be submitted to City Hall no later than 4:00 pm, July 14, 2011. Faxes or postmarks will not be accepted. EOE.

LEGAL

RFP

City of Seattle
Notice of Request for Proposal (RFP) Opportunity

Audit Services for 457 Deferred Compensation Plan.
The City of Seattle Personnel Department is overseeing a mandatory bid this summer for deferred compensation (457) plan audit services for a 7,800-participant plan with over $600 million in account assets. Required services include, but are not limited to, a report and presentation:

- Assessing the adequacy of fiduciary monitoring procedures and recordkeeping.
- Ascertaining the strength of third party service providers' control procedures and compliance support.
- Ensuring the completeness and accuracy of financial statement disclosures, and confirming the existence, value and ownership of Plan's assets.
- Identifying "best practices" of plan administration and financial reporting.

To receive the RFP, contact:
Florence Katz
Director, Employee Health Services
florence.katz@seattle.gov

LEGAL

BIDS

KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received by the King County Procurement Services Section, 3rd Floor, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104, until 2:00 PM of bid opening date for the following listed bids. Bid documents are available at the above office. Phone 206-263-9400 for information.

To download a document, go to our web page at: http://www.kingcounty.gov/procurement. King County encourages minority business enterprise participation. King County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

ITB No. 1315-11-JDH
OPENS: 7/14/2011
CATERED BOX LUNCHES AND RELATED ITEMS

RFQ No. 1286-11-RLDOPENS: 7/21/2011
SOUTH KIRKLAND PARK & RIDE TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

ITB No. 1123-11-MZS
OPENS: 7/28/2011
ESCALATOR REFURBISHING SERVICES, DOWNTOWN SEATTLE TRANSIT TUNNEL

Pre-Proposal Conference: A conference to discuss questions related to this ITB shall be held Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at King County Procurement & Contracts Services in the Bid Room, 401 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor, Seattle, Washington, 98104.

ITB No. 1348-11-JDH
OPENS: 7/21/2011
PVC PIPE, FITTINGS AND RELATED PRODUCTS

ITB No. 1314-11-JDH
OPENS: 7/19/2011
LAWN AND GROUNDS POWER EQUIPMENT REPAIR SERVICES

LEGAL

King County
Invitation to Bid

Project Title and Contract Number: Transit Security and Access Control Work Order Projects - FEMA Grant, C00613C11.

Sealed Bid Time/Date: 1:30 p.m., July 14, 2011. Bids received after Sealed Bid Time will not be considered. Bidders accept all risks of late delivery, regardless of fault.

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

Engineer's Estimate: Not-To-Exceed $500,000.

Scope of Work:
Work under this Contract includes construction, technical support, maintenance, and related services for security and access control projects at Transit facilities. Transit is expanding its security and access control systems to various existing and new facilities, and is connecting and integrating the new equipment into our existing security control network. The work under this contract will include these elements:

Supply and install security and access control equipment and systems.
Add to, delete from, and modify Transit's existing security and access control systems. Expand to additional facilities.
Provide technical support to configure, integrate, and program the equipment and control systems, including both hardware and software components.
Provide supporting electrical, mechanical, civil, and other work necessary to install, start up, and make functional the security and access control systems.
Provide training on operation, maintenance, installation, configuration, and programming for both hardware and software systems.
Provide maintenance services for the existing and new equipment and systems, including manufacturer-certified service work on existing and new equipment and systems.

The Contractor will be required to demonstrate qualifications and provide manufacturer-certified technical staff to install, configure, and integrate work with Transit's existing security and access control systems.

Work site locations: Metro Transit Division facilities in King County, Washington.

The work performed under this Contract shall not exceed $500,000 and the initial Contract Time shall not exceed 365 calendar days from the date of Contract execution by the County. The County does not guarantee any minimum amount of work or that the dollar amount of the Work Orders issued will total $500,000 during the duration of this Contract. At the County's sole discretion, this Contract may be extended for up to two additional years in one year increments, or until the Not to Exceed Contract Price is reached, whichever occurs first. In no event shall the Contract Time be greater than three years from the date of Contract execution by the County.

Contact Information: Mark Hoge, Contract Specialist, 206-263-9325, TTY Relay: 711, Fax: 206-296-7675, or mark.hoge@kingcounty.gov. A bidder may be asked to put a question in writing. No verbal answers by any County personnel or its agents and consultants will be binding on the County.

Pre-Bid Conference: A pre-bid conference is not scheduled.

Contracting Opportunities: Security systems installations, electrical.

Apprenticeship Requirements: 8% minimum Apprentice Utilization Requirement.

SCS Utilization Requirements. No minimum Small Contractors and Suppliers (SCS) Utilization Requirement.

Bid Guaranty: Not less than five percent (5%) of the Not to Exceed Amount of $500,000 or $25,000 must accompany our bid.

Copies of Contract Documents: 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: King County is not responsible for any costs incurred in response to this Invitation to Bid.

LEGAL

King County
Invitation to Bid

Project: Maintenance and Moorage Barge Project, C00655C11

Sealed Bid Time/Date: 1:30 p.m., July 26, 2011

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

Engineer's Estimate: $1,800,000 to $2,200,000

Scope of Work: Construct a barge vessel to serve as a permanently moored floating platform in Puget Sound from which maintenance and support services for the King County ferry fleet may be carried out. The vessel shall be longitudinally framed using welded-steel construction and shall be arranged with a permanently installed steel deckhouse structure. The vessel shall have five (5) below-deck independent tanks, associated equipment, and piping systems. Above deck workshop and office structures (Alternate Bid Item) shall be located on the finished Main Deck.

Principle Characteristics
Length overall 140'-0"
Breadth 40'-0"
Depth to Main Deck @ side 7'-0"
Depth to Main Deck @ CL 7'-5"
Lube Oil Tank 1,000 gallons No mechanical or electrical system
Waste Oil Tank1,000 gallons and piping
Sewage Holding Tank 1,000 gallons and mechanical and electrical system
Oily Bilge Water Tank 1,000 gallons and piping
Deck Loading 540 lbs/sq ft

Pre-Bid Conference: July 19, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 115, Chinook Building, 1st Floor, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104.

Contact Information: Tina Phipps, Contract Specialist, 206-263-9329, TTY Relay: 711, Fax: 206-296-7675, or tina.phipps@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.

Apprenticeship Requirements: 5% minimum Apprentice Utilization Requirement.

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 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transportation Administration and is subject to the requirements set forth in Grant WA-96-X020-00 and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. The federal participation is estimated at 65% 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 to Builder's Exchange of WA. 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.

seattlemedium.com

.KING COUNTY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ADVERTISEMENT

King County is requesting Proposals from qualified firms interested in providing design and related services for implementation of intelligent transportation system (ITS) improvements along the F-Line RapidRide route in the cities of Burien, SeaTac, Tukwila, and Renton.

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 estimated value of this contract is $800,000. The County plans to issue one contract.

Contract Title:F Line RapidRide

ITS Design and Related Services

Number:
E00221E10

Proposals due:
August 4, 2011

Time:5:00 p.m.

Pre-proposal Meeting: July 15, 2011

Time:10:00 a.m.

Location: 8th Floor Conference Center,

King Street Center, 201 S.

Jackson Street, Seattle, WA

SUMMARY OF WORK: This work is funded, in part, by the Federal Transit Administration and applicable federal requirements apply. The selected proposer will provide design and related services for installation of new equipment and infrastructure to provide signal priority for transit and passenger information systems, traffic cameras, traffic signal operation improvements, roadway striping modifications to improve transit operations, and roadway design.

SUBCONSULTANT OPPORTUNITIES: Provided for informational purposes only, following are subconsulting opportunities that may be available on this Contract: Structural Engineering

QUESTIONS: Questions concerning this solicitation should be directed to **Gib Myers, Contract Specialist** at **206-263-9323**, 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.

LEGAL

SMALL WORKS ROSTER

King County and Your Business
New Online Programs
Architectural and Engineering Roster
&
Small Works Roster

King County is pleased to announce the development of new online "Architectural & Engineering Roster" and "Small Works Roster" programs for projects estimated to cost less than $300,000. Commencing April 4, 2011, all registered King County Online Vendor Registration (OVR) consultant or contractor vendors interested in participating in this new Program may apply at the following King County website - http://www.kingcounty.gov/procurement. Firms may apply to the Roster(s) at any time during the year. Projects will be ready for bid by King County using the on line Roster(s) in July 2011. King County is also committed to providing contracting opportunities for small contractors and consultants interested in performing architectural, engineering and construction services for the County and encourages small firms certified by the County to apply.
King County Procurement and Contract Services | Chinook Building, 401 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor | Seattle, WA 98104 | Phone 206-263-9400 TTY Relay: 711 | Fax: 206-296-7675/ 206-296-7676

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ENTERTAINMENT

Movie Review: Transformers: Dark Of The Moon



Shia LaBeouf and Tyrese Gibson in Transformers.

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

It's on! After a lackluster sequel the Transformers franchise gets its mojo back. "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" is the first event movie of the summer, and though it is not perfect, it's a contender for sci-fi action film bragging rights.

Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) can't get any respect. He's saved America from giant, savage robots, has been commended by President Obama, but can't find a job in Washington D.C. and is mooching off his lovely girlfriend, Carly (Rosie Huntington-Whiteley). He finally gets a gig in an office as a mailboy, and sooner than later an enigmatic, geeky Asian dude (Ken Jeong, "Hangover") hips him to a devious master plot that could devour the earth.

As Sam tries to avert an Armageddon, evilly plotted by the Decepticons, he butts heads with the head of the CIA (Frances McDormand). He's aided by his old armed-forces pal Lennox (Josh Duhamel), as he heads to Chicago for the ultimate throw-down. The nemeses' diabolical scheme involves the powerful, hidden treasures on an ark-type Autobot space ship that crash-landed on the dark side of the moon and was sought after by the Russians and discovered by the American Apollo astronauts back in the '60s. Sam gets help from his transformer pals, The Autobots (cars, trucks and gadgets that "transform" into robotic fighting machines): Bumblebee, Ratchet, Ironhide and Sideswipe are all led by the alpha Transformer, Optimus Prime.

If you are new to the Transformers series, don't worry if you get a little lost. Thought the narrative is a bit tricky and complicated, you don't have to discern the entire storyline to follow the proceedings. The plot, as devised by writer Ehren Kruger, is just thick enough to stick to the ribs and give the characters reasons to fight for their lives. The bond between Sam and Carly is a mere cotton candy romance. The rivalries between the factions are just functional. This is an extreme action film inundated with movement, fights, flights, escapes, daring rescues, and bombs bursting on cue on a caliber unseen except in summer blockbuster wannabes.

Director Michael Bay ("Bad Boys," "Pearl Harbor") goes heavy on the blaring musical score and loud sound effects to accentuate his jaw-dropping battle scenes. He is less successful milking real drama or comedy out of this movie, but who cares. He painstakingly builds the storyline, suspense and thrills up through the first two acts. (Be patient.) Then he unleashes the torrent of phenomenal, kinetic, choreographed motion in the final act. He humanizes the Transformers and makes them feel like family as they fight to save the earth, which is in danger of being invaded and enslaved. Be prepared to be awed.

Shia LaBeouf has made other films ("Wall Street 2"), but Witwicky is his signature role in a movie series he can call home. He's on fire. Running, jumping, dodging, throwing punches, shooting. And when he can, he gets in a one liner, the kind that gives his character verve. Frances McDormand is all business as an uptight government official. Patrick Dempsy, as Carly's evil boss, makes a nice, devious villain. Tyrese Gibson has become the go to man, if you need a strong male buddy to back you up. Huntington-Whiteley is pure eye-candy, she pouts like a super model.

Bay and LaBeouf are given a huge helping hand by the visuals: Cinematography, Amir M. Mokri ("Bad Boys," "Fast & Furious"); Art Direction, Benjamin Edelberg; Set Decoration, Jennifer Williams; Editing, Roger Barton, William Goldenberg, Joel Negron; and a special effects team that is top-notch. The stuntmen deserve praise to, as it's hard to figure out when the lead cast is doing their own tumbles. Yes watching the massive machines brawl like over caffeinated robots on steroids is flabbergasting. But the most thrilling scenes involve the armed forces jumping out of planes and wingsuit flying down to targets like bats, or skyscrapers getting snapped in half like celery sticks.

Go for the action. Skip the drama. Stay for the battles scenes. Leave energized. You wont' know how much this film has affected you until you pass a huge 18-wheeler truck and hear its engine roar. You'll turn around and wait to see it transform itself into an Autobot.

Rating: *

Patti LaBelle Countersues Over Houston Airport Scuffle

Special to the NNPA from the AFRO-American newspapers

Soul singer Patti LaBelle is countersuing a West Point cadet who claims that she ordered her bodyguards to beat him outside a Houston airport in March.

In her suit, the R&B star claims the scuffle began after the cadet punched her son in the face and spewed racial slurs at her.

According to the *Associated Press*, the incident occurred on March 11 when cadet Richard King, 23, was waiting to be picked up by his family at a terminal at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport. The young man alleged that shortly thereafter, three of LaBelle's bodyguards attacked him for no reason.

King's suit was filed in early June and names LaBelle, her bodyguards, including her son and two others as defendants.

LaBelle's countersuit, which was filed last week in Houston, claims that King was drunk and provoked her first at the terminal.

"King directed profane and racial slurs towards LaBelle," the suit said, according to the *AP*. "When LaBelle's son [Zuri Edwards] heard the profanity and racial epithets, he informed King that the woman in the limousine was his mother. Without warning or provocation, King violently and deliberately punched Edwards in the face."

The suit also claims that LaBelle's guards responded with a degree of necessary force. The incident was caught on surveillance video and shows King talking on a cell phone, as one of LaBelle's bodyguards pushed against him. Then, it appears as if King pushed the guard back, though his lawyers have contended that he was just protecting himself from a punch. The videotape has no audio.

King's attorney, John Raley, dismissed LaBelle's suit, telling *The Houston Chronicle* that it was, "the same false story they told the police."

"Thank goodness we have the surveillance videotape, which speaks volumes and neutral eyewitnesses who will testify that Richard was brutally assaulted without provocation," Raley told *The Houston Chronicle*

While Raley said his client did have a few drinks prior to the incident, he says the young man was not inebriated. Police did report smelling alcohol on King's breath, but could not provide specific details of the actual incident.

Following the altercation, King was suspended from West Point for at least a year and he was ordered to go on active duty. Both suits are seeking unspecified damages.

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