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The Seattle Medium

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Community Mourns The Loss Of A Giant - Henry Beauchamp, Jr.

By Chris H. Bennett
Chair, The Seattle Medium Group

The State of Washington lost one of its truly great Citizens and the State's African American Community lost a truly great icon and leader with the passing of community activist and former Yakima mayor, Henry Beauchamp, Jr. Mr. Beauchamp was born in Clinton, Louisiana on November 9, 1933 to Henry Beauchamp, Sr. and Cornelia Smith Beauchamp. He passed away peacefully with a smile Thursday, April 25, 2013 at the Leon Sullivan Health Care Center in Seattle, Washington, among loving friends and caretakers. At age 13 his family moved to Yakima, Washington in 1946, where he made his home until his passing.

Henry, with a signature smile, was known as a committed, passionate and effective civil rights leader. Yakima, a small central Washington town, with a small and close knit African-American community elected Beauchamp as its first and only African American Mayor.

Growing up in the segregated south, Henry never forgot the fear and humiliation of being Black in the South. It was during the Jim Crow era that his roots put him on a lifelong mission to fight for racial and economic justice, a path that spanned across Washington State. A realist, Beauchamp realized that if he worked for the benefit of all people, his people, African Americans, would benefit also. That vision led to the founding of Yakima's Opportunities Industrialization Center (YOIC), a nonprofit agency providing education, work and housing services. Furthermore, this vision also allowed Henry's political path to cross all racial lines and barriers to be elected by the people and he served almost a quarter century on the Yakima City Council and two terms as the City's mayor.

A graduate from Yakima High School, Beauchamp was a master bricklayer by trade. However, in 1967, his activist mission began when he was appointed the director of the Southeast Yakima Community Center, which is an anti–poverty community action agency. Beauchamp championed Yakima's block grant program, which spent more than $20 million to rehabilitate housing and improve neighborhoods; he also helped create the Substance Abuse Coalition and Yakima's first anti-gang program, and pushed the city to open its workforce to women and ethnic minorities. He was unafraid and didn't shy away from controversy when it came to jobs and business opportunities for Blacks and other minorities. He challenged the hiring practices of local unions raising issues of racial and economic discrimination against Black and Hispanic workers. Henry Beauchamp was little known outside of the central and eastern Washington communities, however, that soon changed in the 2002 when he and his Board of Directors stepped up to the plate to help save Washington State's only African American nursing home. After a bitter and hard fight by a half dozen community activists against the State's first minority Governor, Gary Locke, the State's Attorney General's Office, and the State's huge, mammoth agency DSHS, prospectors, developers and community rip off artists, Beauchamp and his YOIC Board rescued the failing facility through a little known underground highly effective networking of African Americans by one of the group's activist. At their first meeting, Henry and the community activist discovered that both groups had one champion – God. Henry and his group came in praying and the group continued to trust God with their prayers— prayers that defeated all efforts of the State and community agency's snitches and provocateurs. The angels of God that are often sent to answer His people's prayers were realized.



Henry Beauchamp, Jr.

Henry loved the Lord and in all ways acknowledged Him and served Him. He never wavered in his faith and belief that all things work through Him. Every major decision he made in his private and public life included strong deliberation and prayer for guidance. He was a member and faithful servant of the Morning Star Church of Christ Holiness for 56 years, where he served on the Board of Trustees, the Deacon Board, as a choir member, Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, and various other offices. As we say our last farewell to our departed Brother, Henry Beauchamp, Jr., we also salute his great work and many contributions. The family and the community will miss his presence, but his spirit and legacy remain very much alive, Matthew 25: 21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Rest in peace, you have fought the good fight.

As important as his public service was, Henry's love of his family and their well-being was always his first priority. He is survived by his loving spouse, friend and helpmate of 57 years, Wilma Jean Mitchell Beauchamp; one son, Jon Mark Beauchamp; one daughter, Korie L. Beauchamp; six grandchildren, Africa, Michael, Tyler, DeMarcus, Jazmyn, and Mar'Ion; six great grandchildren; one sister, Jeri Beauchamp Mims of Tacoma, WA, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, five siblings and one daughter.

Visitation will be held on Friday, May 3, 2013 from 3-7:00 PM at Shaw & Sons funeral Directors 201 N. 2nd St. in Yakima.

Funeral services will be held at Saturday, May 4, 2013 at 11:00am at Mourning Star Church 509 N. 4th St. in Yakima with interment services following at Tahoma Cemetery in Yakima.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to NAACP Youth Services, 1211 S. 7th ST, Yakima WA 98901

To the family and friends of Henry Beauchamp, Jr., we leave you with this scripture: John 14: 1-4 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

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17 Arrested, Jailed During NAACP 'Pray In' Protest

By Ben Wrobel
Special to The Seattle Medium

RALEIGH, N.C. – Seventeen people, including eight ministers, civil rights leaders, and students, were arrested during a prayerful protest at the state legislature in Raleigh, North Carolina on Monday.

The activists were handcuffed and taken to jail while they sang and prayed in front of the locked doors of the North Carolina Senate. The nonviolent civil disobedience was the opening round in a series of protests to focus national attention on what Rev. Dr. William Barber, North Carolina NAACP State President, called "the ideologically driven, extremist, mean-spirited agenda" that has captured both legislative houses and the Governor's office in North Carolina.

"The decision to engage in civil disobedience is not one we take lightly," stated Dr. Barber. "But the extremists are acting like the George Wallaces of the 21stcentury. They are pursuing a cruel, unusual and unconstitutional agenda reminiscent of the Old South. What happens in North Carolina does not stay in North Carolina. It has national implications. North Carolina is ground zero in a national struggle to defend democracy for all."

The group arrested Monday was composed of men and women of many different races and backgrounds, with ages ranging from 18 to 74. They were charged with second degree trespassing and with singing loudly and holding placards in the General Assembly, which is not allowed.

The ministers included Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II; Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins; Rev. Curtis Gatewood; Rev. Nelson Johnson; Rev. John Mendez; Rev. Maria Palmer; Rev. Larry Read and Rev. Theodore Anthony Spearman. The others included three college professors, two students, and veteran civil rights leaders: Adam Sotak; Dr. Timothy Tyson; Margaretta Belin; Bryan Perlmutter; O'Linda Gillis; Professor Perri Morgan; Molly McDonough; Barbara Zelter; and Bob Zellner.



Rev. Barber and other activists sing during the "pray-in" outside the doors of the NC Senate. *Photo/NAACP.*

In the first 50 days of the North Carolina legislative session, the Republican-controlled legislature enacted polices that will adversely impact hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians. A recent PPP poll found that North Carolinians oppose this extreme and aggressive agenda. However, the legislature appears steadfastly committed to acting outside the best interest of the people of North Carolina. This session, the legislature has:

- Rejected funding to expand Medicaid to cover 500,000 North Carolinians without health insurance;
- Rejected more than $700 million in federal funds for unemployment benefits, affecting 170,000 laid off workers;
- Cut the payroll tax credit for over 900,000 poor and working people, while giving a tax break to 23 of the wealthiest people in our State;
- Planned to reduce access to pre-school and kindergarten; and
- Attacked the right to vote with a series of voter suppression laws, including a voter ID bill that will disenfranchise nearly 500,000 voters.

"Love and justice demand a witness in the face of this regressive public policy," stated Rev. Barber. "The noblest sentiment of our constitution and deepest aspirations of our religious traditions summon us in the public square to enact policies that maintain a commitment to the protection of civil and human rights, the common good, the good of the whole, equal protection and justice for all, and the uplift of the poor and marginalized. Anything opposing these principles must be challenged."

He continued, "This much is clear: the Republican-led legislature is standing in the way of progress and passing laws that violate fundamental constitutional rights. As leaders of moral conscience, we must draw the line somewhere. That is what this direct action is all about."

The attack on voting rights seen in North Carolina is being mirrored in state legislatures across the country, particularly the South. Legislators are pursuing extremist, regressive agendas to block progress by making it hard for people to vote.

"Those most impacted by these policies are seniors, students, people of color and the working poor," stated Attorney Al McSurely of the North Carolina. "Reverend Barber calls on all people of conscience to hold similar protests and direct actions in cities and states across the country, in solidarity with us in North Carolina."

County Council Sends Proposed Parks Levy To August Ballot

On Monday, The King County Council approved sending to the voters in August a six-year property tax levy lid lift proposal to raise revenue for the maintenance and operations of the County's regional park system, as well as funding for local city parks and the Woodland Park Zoo. If approved by voters, the proposed levy would replace two voter approved measures set to expire at the end of 2013.

"All residents of King County have access to the regional park and trail system," said Council Chair Larry Gossett. "This ordinance will give the people the opportunity to decide how much value they get from the system."

"The Parks levy proposal that we adopted today is intended to ensure joint parks operations and maintenance," said Council Vice Chair Julia Patterson. "It also includes trail investments that may eventually connect communities in South King County to our regional parks system."

The King County Parks system has evolved from 150 acres in 1938 to more than 26,000 acres today. Today, regional county parks and trails include Marymoor Park, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center and the Sammamish River Trail.

"Voters now have the opportunity to renew this levy and decide if they want to continue supporting the operation of parks and the preservation of open space in King County," said Councilmember Joe McDermott who chairs the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee.

The adopted legislation sends to voters a six-year property tax levy lid lift of 18.77 cents per $1,000 of assessed value – an estimated $56 per year for the owner of a home valued at $300,000. If approved by voters, the proceeds from the levy would go toward funding the maintenance and operation of King County's 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, and 26,000 acres of open space. Levy funds would also be used to expand the regional trails system – including developing the Lake to Sound Trail – and to expand the Community Partnership and Grant program, as well as to support local city parks and the Woodland Park Zoo.

"I want to thank the County Council for giving people the opportunity to support our open space and parks," County Executive Dow Constantine said.

The levy proposal is consistent with county's practice to end the use of General Fund monies on regional parks, trails and open spaces and on local facilities in the rural unincorporated areas. King County also continues its regional business plan for parks with support from non-profit, corporate and community partners.

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SE-M

Seattle Central Foundation Launches Major New Education Initiative

The Seattle Promise will guarantee college tuition to any student in need

On Tuesday, Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn and Seattle Central President Paul Killpatrick joined Seattle Central Foundation Director Adam Nance to announce a bold new initiative to eliminate financial need as a barrier to paying tuition for anyone who wants to pursue a higher education in the city of Seattle. The program, entitled the Seattle Promise, will eventually pay the full tuition costs for every student at Seattle Central Community College who demonstrates financial need, enrolls full time and maintains a 3.0 GPA.

"Today we're making a promise to students in Seattle – if you want to go to college but can't afford to, we've got your back" said Mayor McGinn. "This is a great opportunity that makes it easier go to college and build a better life, regardless of financial circumstances. Seattle Central Community College is making that possible."

Through generous donations from private funders – including lead sponsors Safeco Insurance Foundation and Boeing – the Seattle Central Foundation is launching the Seattle Promise by awarding $100,000 in Seattle Promise scholarships for academic year 2013-14.

"Because the Seattle Promise focuses on students with significant financial need who already receive Pell Grants and State Need Grants, we estimate this $100,000 next year will cover tuition expenses for 225 students," said Foundation Director Adam Nance. "That's 225 hard working students who won't have to worry about dropping out of school when tuition comes due. That's 225 families whose lives will be changed forever when these students graduate and step into high paying jobs in Seattle's knowledge economy."

"The Seattle Promise is what community colleges are all about – truly democratic education, available and accessible to everyone," according to Seattle Central President Killpatrick. "We can't fund everyone, but if a student is willing to put in the work to enroll full time and maintain a 3.0 GPA, they shouldn't have to worry about dropping out of college because of financial need."

College officials estimate the full cost to fund every eligible student at Seattle Central to be around $1.1M per year, which is totally achievable within the next five years according to foundation Director Nance: "With the help of Boeing and Safeco, we're beginning this effort with more than $600,000 in endowed funds right off the starting block, and with all of our scholarships combined, we'll award more than $500,000 next year. So $1.1M will be an increase, but it isn't outside our comfort zone. The fun challenge will be when this program costs $2.2M a year because we've doubled the number of students with financial need attending Seattle Central. That's when we'll know the Seattle Promise is working."

Seattle Central alumnus and FareStart Head Chef Varin Keokitvon said he was proud to help launch this effort. "Every day at FareStart, I witness the power of education to change people's lives, to help people lift themselves up out of poverty," Keokitvon said of the 21 year old organization that trains homeless and otherwise disadvantaged adults to prepare them for careers in the food service industry. "The first time I thought I wanted to become a teacher was during a lecture Seattle Central instructor Gregg Shiosaki was giving. He was so passionate and real and so inspiring that it made me want to be in his shoes right there. That feeling never left me. I've always wanted to be an inspiration to others one day. My goal in life is to give back what I learned to the next generation and that's why I do the work I do today."

Finally, Seattle Central Student Body President Najwa Alsheikh spoke about her own path to education. "Someone gave a poor struggling single mother with a minimum wage job and a seventh grade education a scholarship so I could go to college, and this forever changed my life. I currently serve as the Student Body President and a leader in our honor's society. I've finished my Associate's Degree and was recently granted full ride scholarships to Smith College and to Seattle University. I love telling people this story because changing lives forever is completely possible. We just have to decide to come together to make it happen, and that's what this is: this is people coming together to change lives forever."

"We're proud to take the lead on the Seattle Promise, but we couldn't even attempt this without the support of our many community partners and sponsors" said Dr. Killpatrick. "Special thanks to Safeco Insurance Foundation and Boeing for helping us get this off to a great start. This is a community effort – we're looking for more sponsors, so get in touch with us to be part of the future of higher education in our city."

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EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS

Felony Disenfranchisement Is Jim Crow Era Holdover

By Benjamin Todd Jealous
President/CEO of the NAACP

(TriceEdney Wire) - Last week, the Delaware State legislature approved a constitutional amendment to all but remove the last Jim Crow-era voter suppression law from its books.

The amendment, passed at the urging of the Delaware NAACP, allows people with nonviolent felony convictions to vote after their release from prison. This is a major victory for voting rights and a strike against the practice of "felony disenfranchisement". But it is also a major step forward for a nation still struggling to heal old racial wounds.

Felony disenfranchisement has direct roots in the Jim Crow Era. In the late 19th century, states above and below the Mason-Dixon Line began to find new and creative ways to keep black voters away from the polls. Banning people with felony convictions was one of the solutions.

For example, in 1901 the Commonwealth of Virginia had 147,000 black voters on the rolls. But many lawmakers saw this growing political block as a threat. At that year's Constitutional Convention, they hatched a plan to disenfranchise African Americans through a combination of black codes and felony disenfranchisement. One legislator said on the record that the plan would "eliminate the darkey as a political factor."

Ninety years later, Kemba Smith-Pradia was an undergraduate student at Hampton University. She got involved with the wrong crowd and found herself behind bars as an accessory to a nonviolent drug offense. President Clinton granted Kemba executive clemency in 2000, six years into her 24 year sentence. She went on to become a college graduate, law student, mother and foundation president - but until 2012, when her rights were finally restored, not a voter.

Kemba's story is just one example of how the legacy of the 1901 Convention lives on. In today's Virginia, 350,000 people are still disenfranchised by the 1901 law, and many of them are African Americans. Nationwide, 48 states allow some form of felony disenfranchisement, and one out of every 13 voting-age African Americans is affected. In four states - Virginia, Iowa, Kentucky, and Florida - disenfranchisement can be permanent.

When Virginia introduced felony disenfranchisement in 1901, they also expanded the list of felony crimes. By raising the penalty for a number of minor offenses, they planned to lock African Americans in the prison system - and out of the political system. A century later, our drug laws have the same amplifying effect. African Americans are far more likely to be arrested for minor drug crimes, and therefore more likely to have their vote taken away.

The good news is that Delaware and other states are beginning to turn the tide. In Virginia, Governor Bob McDonnell has sped up the review process for those who have finished the terms of their sentence. So far he has restored the votes of more than 4,000 citizens. And Iowa Governor Terry Branstad, who callously eliminated automatic restoration of voting rights early in his term, is now taking steps toward restoring those rights.

These are certainly steps in the right direction, but there is more work to do. Virginia, Iowa, Kentucky, and Florida still allow permanent disenfranchisement, and 44 other states permit some level of felony disenfranchisement. You can learn about the law in your state at www.restorethevotes.org. If you or someone in your community is affected, you can use that information to educate your family, your community and your elected officials about why this is an important issue.

Felony disenfranchisement is an affront to our democracy. Millions of people like Kemba Smith-Pradida - parents, workers, and community leaders - pay taxes, raise families and contribute to society. But they cannot fully participate in our democracy.

If poll taxes, literacy tests, and gumball-counting tests could be outlawed because of their racist intent, then felony disenfranchisement laws from the same era should be overturned today.

Remembering How Black South Africans Won Their Freedom

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa – A trip to South Africa provides painful reminders of the protracted struggle to establish democracy, how the United States propped up the White minority-rule government and the courage Black South Africans demonstrated to win their freedom.

A key aspect of the struggle is vividly captured in the Hector Pieterson Memorial Museum in the heart of Soweto, not far from the homes of Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu. The name of the museum itself is steeped in unforgettable history. The most compelling image of the Soweto student protest of 1976 is a photo taken by Sam Nzima.

In the foreground of a crowd of Black student protesters is a tearful Mbuyisa Makhuba, a high school student, running with the small, limp body of 13-year-old Hector Pieterson and his screaming sister, Antoinette, running beside them.

The teenager's story is told inside the museum under the heading, "An individual life can change society." It begins: "Hector Pieterson lost his life under police fire on June 16, 1976 during a student march protesting Afrikaans as the language of instruction in African schools. He was thirteen years old. News of his death and the violence that subsequently erupted in most African townships in South Africa spread rapidly across the world. In his death Hector Pieterson became a symbol of the plight of the black South African youth under the yoke of Apartheid."

It continued, "His public funeral commemorated, as does this museum, all those who died as a result of the tragic events of June 16, 1976 – a turning point in the struggle towards a true South African democracy."

Hector Pieterson became one of many martyrs of the fight against apartheid, a rigid system of racial segregation designed to keep the White minority in control of the country's political, economic and social system.

In fact, Pieterson's last protest march was prompted by the ruling National Party's decision to force Black schools to use Afrikaans – which Bishop Desmond Tutu called "the language of oppression" – and English in equal measure.

On April 20, 1976, students at Orlando West Junior High School went on strike, refusing to go to school. The protest quickly spread to other schools in Soweto. On the morning of June 16, an estimated 20,000 students started walking from the junior high school to Orlando Stadium, where they had planned to hold a mass rally before continuing to the regional office of the Department of Bantu Education.

Instead of allowing the students to walk peacefully, police barricaded the march route and unleashed dogs on the crowd. According to some news accounts, students stoned the dogs and police soon began opening fire on the students, killing 13-year-old Pieterson and 22 others that day, all but two of whom were Black. At the end of a series of protests, called the Soweto uprising, estimates of those killed ranged from 176 to more than 600.

The violent attack on the children thrust the African National Congress (ANC) to the forefront of Black political protest and ignited international protests. But that did not curb the all-White police force's appetite for violence.

A quote from Steve Lebelo, a student at Madibane High School, describes the violence that was inflicted on the community in the immediate aftermath of Pieterson's death. The quote, which also hangs in the museum, recalls:

"It was on the 17th and 18th, when police went out and systematically were killing people. I do know that suddenly there was the infamous green car. It was a 3800 Chev, it was a green car, and at the time they were used mostly by the police. We suspected that they had a sniper in there who picked up people at random and shot and killed them. I do know a friend of mine who was killed on the 19th of June, under the same circumstances. He had gone to the shop, and as he came back from the shop carrying a litre of milk, he was shot by a sniper and killed."

Above the quote is a photo of a green Chevrolet, loaded with White men, with rifles sticking out of the windows.

There are other reminders throughout the museum. There is a picture of a small, naked child being drenched in a bottle of water to soothe her pain in tears. Another photograph contains student protesters, with one holding up a sign reading, "To hell with Afrikaans."

Erected in 2002, the museum honors the memory of the students who died in the uprising. A brick bearing each name is built into the ground just steps from the entrance of the museum, which is only two blocks away from where Pieterson was killed.

The inscription about Hector Pieterson in the museum ends by noting, "When National Youth Day is celebrated each year on June 16 at the Hector Pieterson Memorial Museum, it becomes a national site of commemoration, also reflecting current changes in the articulation of the South African democracy."

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA).

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Reparations Movement Should Be Revived

By William Reed
NNPA Columnist

Ask anyone you know and you'll find most Americans don't see the validity of the issue of reparations for Blacks and don't connect the dots to see how the injustice of the past shapes everyday life in America. The father of America's contemporary reparations movement was Ray Jenkins, who died in 2009.

In the 1950s, Jenkins earned the name "Reparations Ray" for speaking around Detroit about "the debt" America owed Blacks "for enslavement of their ancestors." Jenkins found attentive audiences, but reparations never really has taken hold and has been ridiculed as loud in the ghettos as they are among Whites in suburbia.

Since "Reparations Ray" died, octogenarian Robert L. Brock, an attorney and president of the "Self Determination Committee" has become the face of the movement. A legend among reparations activists, Brock first filed a reparations class action suit in 1956. His *Ashton vs. Lynn Park* case went to the Supreme Court. Brock says, "The wealth of America is our legal property. But we must make our legal claims to get money."

By 1965, Brock was demanding $500,000 for "each descendant of a slave of African ancestry." "Claim What's Yours!!! Find Out How to Make Your Legal Claim" was a banner headline across the pages of Black newspapers during the 1980s and 1990s. The ads were placed and paid for by Brock. Many of the ads procalimed: "Black People in United States have been wondering what they need to do to get paid for the 'forty (40) Acres' and 'a mule' they never received. Well, it is easier than you think. You must: (1) File a Claim for it (2) To do this, send your name and address, along with $50.00."

Primarily through Black media and networks, Brock's campaign produced more than 500,000 filed claims. His activities garnered him the ire of the government and majority media innuendos that he was advocating "tax rebates" for slave descendants. According to Brock, his procedure required slave descendants to 1) get a claim form, 2) fill it out, 3) get it notarized, 4) return it to Brock with $50 for processing and filing with the United Nations and 5) wait to hear back.

Undeterred, Brock worked with the late Johnnie L. Cochran and his reparations for slavery lawsuit against the United States as well as with Randall Robinson on his pursuit of "The Debt." Brock says "a debt is owed Blacks for the centuries of unpaid slave labor that built America's early economy and money from discriminatory wage and employment patterns Blacks have been subjected to since emancipation." He chides Blacks in America for "damping down discussions about reparations during the presidency of a Black man."

Before being confined by health problems, Brock was holding meetings across America supporting Congressman John Conyers' H.R. 40 Bill "to form a Commission to Study Reparations for African-Americans." For almost two decades Brock spoke at forums with Conyers endorsing the concept of a study of reparations for Blacks.

Since becoming House Judiciary Committee chair in 1989 and its ranking member since Republicans gained control of the chamber, Conyers was celebrated as he made a yearly ritual of "submitting" bill H.R. 40 in Congress. Detroit Congressman Conyers perpetrated a 25-year political charade when he asserted that he was submitting reparations legislation every year, but he "couldn't get it out of committee." Surprisingly, Conyers now says reparations are "too controversial to pursue at this time."

Are all Black Americans of the same mindset as Conyers? Have conversations regarding rectifying economic injustices done to Blacks completely died? The vestiges of slavery and segregation continue for Blacks. Yet, the first Black to head the House Judiciary Committee now says reparations are "too controversial to pursue." What's going on when Blacks hold high positions and offices that the level of discussion about the absence of wealth, work, educational, and economic equity among them is still muted?

Brock says, "The time is ripe to move the reparations movement to the top of the American agenda." What say you?

New Efforts To Curb The 'Debt Trap' Of Payday Lending

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

The small-dollar loans that generate long-lasting debt for consumers and cost them billions of dollars each year are drawing the active attention of legislators and regulators alike. On April 24, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) released a white paper on payday loans made by storefronts and by banks. Despite years of bank efforts to portray themselves as anything but payday lenders, the CFPB strips them of that cover.

According to CFPB Director Richard Cordray, "What we found is there is not much difference from the consumer's perspective, between payday loans and deposit advance loans. They have similar purposes and, as it turns out, similar usage by consumers."

At the same time, three members of Congress – Congressional Black Caucus Members Elijah Cummings D-(MD) and John Conyers (D-Mich.) were joined by Oregon's Rep. Suzanne Bonamici in urging federal regulators to take actions on bank payday loans.

"We urge you to take meaningful joint regulatory action to ensure that no bank, regardless of its prudential regulator, traps borrowers in high-cost payday loans," the members said in a statement. "Our constituents, and consumers everywhere, deserve better from our nation's financial institutions."

The following day, two regulators, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) announced new regulatory actions to address potential consumer risks associated with the products as well as the safety and soundness of operations. The two regulators' actions are very similar, focusing on a borrower's ability to repay while meeting ongoing expenses, safe and sound underwriting, and limiting the numbers of loans.

According to Thomas J. Curry, OCC Comptroller, "We have significant concerns regarding the misuse of deposit advance products."

OCC supervises all national banks and federal savings associations with combined assets of $10.1 trillion, representing 71 percent of total U.S. commercial banking assets, according to its most recent annual report.

Similarly, FDIC Chairman Martin J. Gruenberg said, "The proposed supervisory guidance released today reflects the serious risks that certain deposit advance products may pose to financial institutions and their customers."

FDIC insures deposits in more than 7,000 banks and savings associations.

According to CFPB's findings these actions could benefit about 12 million households that borrow payday loans each year, a potential reduction in the $7 billion in annual fees that are generated by more than 18,200 payday storefronts across the country.

CFPB's report examined 15 million payday loans made during a 12-month period, covering more than 90 percent of the market. Both storefront and bank versions exposed consumers to the risk of being caught in a revolving door of debt. What was sold as a short-term bridge became an expensive, long-term loan. Risky loan structure, loose lending standards, sustained usage and accompanying high costs were cited as characteristics of both products.

According to the report, 75 percent of storefront payday lending revenue is derived from borrowers taking out 10 or more loans a year. For 68 percent of these borrowers, their annual income is $30,000 or less.

Among the findings:

- Nearly one-in-four borrowers received government assistance or benefits such as Social Security, disability, unemployment or welfare benefits;
- The average borrower took 11 loans in the 12-month period, paying $574 in fees for $392 in credit; and
- Despite lender attempts to reject the use of an annual percentage rate (APR), a two-week loan with a $15 fee per $100 borrowed is actually a 391 percent APR.

On banks' deposit advance loans, CFPB also found that:

Borrowers usually had much lower average balances than other bank customers, suggesting a smaller financial cushion to cover unexpected shortfalls;

- Nearly two-thirds of consumers also incurred additional fees such as overdraft or non-sufficient funds;
- The annual percentage rate (APR) of interest was 304 percent; and
- Most borrowers remained in debt for at least 149 days.

Commenting on these findings, Director Cordray said, "We want to make sure that consumers can get the credit they need without jeopardizing or undermining their finances. Debt traps should not be part of their financial futures."

Earlier this month and in an effort to heighten Capitol Hill awareness of payday lending's debt trap, Congressman Conyers convened a briefing that included representatives from the NAACP, Native Community Finance, Consumer Federation of America, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Center for Responsible Lending.

Also this month, CRL and National People's Action delivered to regulators more than 150,000 petitions urging the officials to crack down on high-cost payday lending. Also part of the petition drive were CREDO and Green America and Americans for Financial Reform.

For more than a decade, payday lending has been a centerpiece of the Center for Responsible Lending's policy efforts. The new CFPB findings strengthen earlier independent research by CRL.

Commenting on CFPB's findings, Uriah King, CRL's vice-president of state policy, said, "This white paper affirms our long-standing critique of payday lending. The debt trap of payday loans is now official."

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending.

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Attorney General Says T-Mobile's Advertising Is Deceptive

Early cancellation of phone plans results in undisclosed balloon payment

OLYMPIA - Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson has ordered T-Mobile to correct deceptive advertising that promised consumers no annual contracts while carrying hidden charges for early termination of phone plans.

Last week, the Attorney General's Office filed a court order signed by T-Mobile and effective nationwide that will ensure the company clearly communicates the limitations of its new "no-contract" wireless service plans and allows customers duped by the deceptive ads to exit their contracts with no penalty.

"As Attorney General, my job is to defend consumers, ensure truth in advertising, and make sure all businesses are playing by the rules," Ferguson said. "My office identified that T-Mobile was failing to disclose a critical component of their new plan to consumers, and we acted quickly to stop this practice and protect consumers across the country from harm."

T-Mobile recently launched a new type of wireless service plan, claiming to offer "no restrictions," "no annual contract" and no requirement that the consumer "serve a two-year sentence." However, this new plan does not include a phone. Instead, the company provides the option for consumers to purchase a phone at a monthly rate over a two-year term. They also offer the opportunity to bring your own phone or pay the entire cost of the phone up front.

After an investigation of the company's practices, the Attorney General's Office learned that the company failed to disclose that customers who purchase a phone using the 24-month payment plan must carry a wireless service agreement with T-Mobile for the entire 24 months— or pay the full balance owed on phone if they cancel earlier.

Consumers who cancel their wireless service face an unanticipated balloon payment for the phone equipment – in most cases higher than termination fees for other wireless carriers depending on how early they cancel. Instead of a "two-year sentence" for wireless service, consumers face a different two-year "sentence" to avoid a lump-sum balloon payment for the phone.

T-Mobile cooperated with the Attorney General's Office in signing an Assurance of Discontinuance (AOD) filed in King County Superior Court today. Under the AOD, the company agrees to stop:

• Misrepresenting that customers can obtain wireless service and telephone equipment without restrictions; and

• Failing to disclose that customers who terminate their T-Mobile wireless service before their device is paid off will have to pay the balance due on the phone at the time of cancellation.

All consumers who purchased T-Mobile service and equipment between March 26 and April 25, 2013, may obtain a full refund for their telephone equipment and cancel their service plans without being required to pay the remaining balance owed on their devices— as long as the customer cancels his or her service per the terms of the agreement.

The company is required to contact consumers who purchased telephone equipment under the terms of their new business plan to advise them of their right to cancel and obtain a refund. Consumers can call T-Mobile at 1-877-746-0909 for more information or dial 611 from their T-Mobile telephones.

The company also agrees that it will:

• Not misrepresent customers' true obligations under the terms of its contracts for the sale of service or equipment;

• Make clear the consequences of cancelling T-Mobile service, including restrictions or limitations on cancellation; fees and costs; and early termination fees;

• More clearly state in all advertisements the true cost of telephone equipment, including the requirement the customer carry a wireless service agreement for the life of the 24-month financing plan;

• Instruct representatives to fully disclose obligations under the terms of its contracts, including developing a "Frequently Asked Questions" page; and

• Train customer service representatives to comply with the settlement within 21 days of signing.

Seattle Public Schools' Symposium To Focus On Summer Learning Programs

All Seattle Public Schools families are invited to a Family Symposium: Building Bridges for Summer Learning on May 18 at Garfield High School, 400 23rd Ave., Seattle.

The symposium, which runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., includes a resource fair with community resource booths and activities for children ages 4 and up. Families will learn how to support their children in the areas of early learning, math, reading and writing, arts education, college and career readiness, special education, graduation requirements and four-year planning as well as postsecondary planning for college and careers. In addition, families will be able to register their students to participate in summer learning programs.

A light continental breakfast and lunch will be provided to families free of charge.

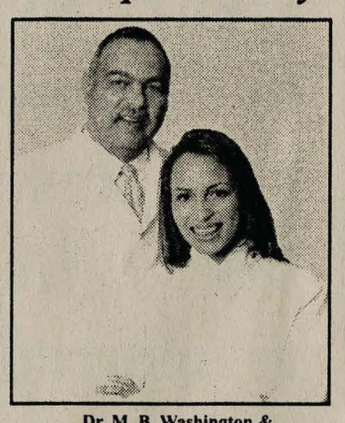
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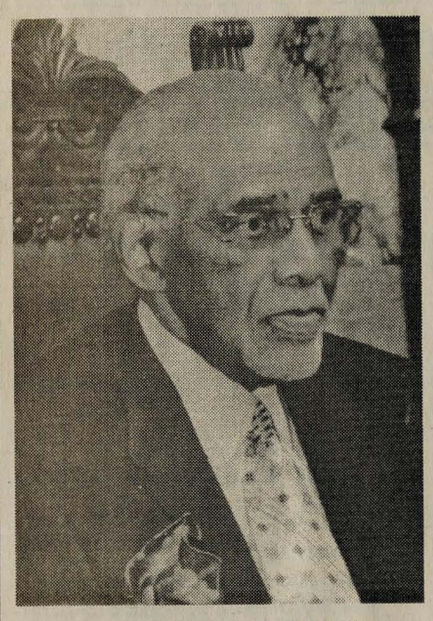
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Rev. Dr. Samuel B. McKinney

To the family, extended family and friends of Henry Beauchamp, Jr., our sympathy is with you. Rest assured that his life will be treasured and his legacy will be long in memory among us for his service to other beyond self. Many worry them self into nameless graves, however, every now and there comes one who forget him or herself into immorality.

Reverend Doctor Samuel Berry McKinney,
Pastor Emeritus, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Seattle, Wash.
Past Vice President, OIC of America
Co-Host of "The Truth Radio Ministry"

Scripture of Comfort: John 14:1-4 *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[a]; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."*

The Staff and Management of The Seattle Medium Newspaper Group & Kris Bennett Broadcasting would like to extend their condolences to the friends and family of Henry Beauchamp, Jr.

His contributions to Washington state and the African American Community will never be forgotten.

Chris H. Bennett
Chair

Leon Sullivan
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Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Beauchamp family during this time of mourning. Leon Sullivan Health Care Center's Board, Staff and Residents would like to extend our deepest condolences during this time of sorrow. God loves all of you and he will give you peace, restore and strengthen your spirits.

From the Leon Sullivan Health Care Center Family

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The extended family At Yakima OIC Board of Directors, Staff and Management join thousands of Washingtonians in mourning the passing of our beloved Founder and Leader, Mr. Henry Beauchamp, jr. Our prayers are with the Beauchamp family, extended family, friends and associates as he ascends to everlasting eternal life.

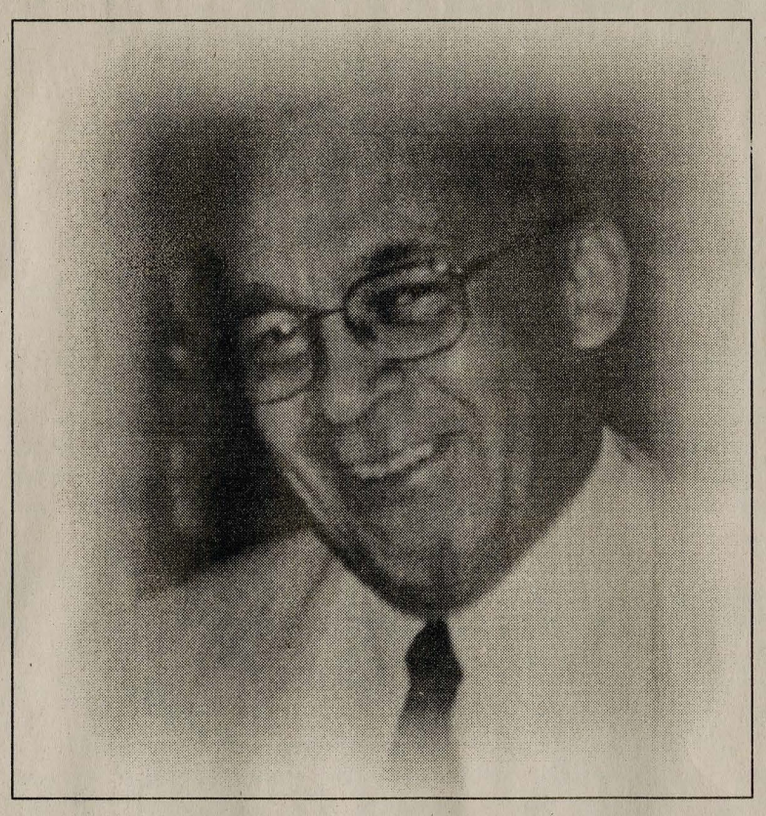
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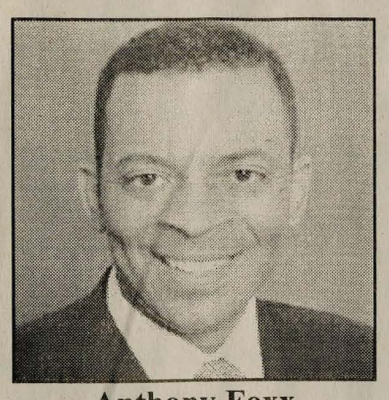
You will be dearly missed, but NEVER forgotten.

Matthew 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.A)" Come and share your master's happiness!'.

Rest In Peace Dear Brother.

Nate and Leslie Miles and Family

President Obama Taps Charlotte Mayor As Transportation Secretary



Anthony Foxx

By Hazel Trice Edney

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – President Obama has made his first nomination of an African-American to his cabinet this term, winning accolades from some African-American leaders.

Charlotte, N.C. Mayor Anthony Foxx, nominated as Secretary of Transportation this week, will now go under scrutiny by the U. S. Senate, which has to confirm all presidential cabinet members.

Foxx was thrust into the national lime light last year as his city hosted the Democratic National Convention in September. In his nomination speech, President Obama said it was Charlotte's growth under Foxx's leadership that underscored his qualifications.

"When Anthony became mayor in 2009, Charlotte, like the rest of the country, was going through a bruising economic crisis. But the city has managed to turn things around," the President described. "The economy is growing. There are more jobs, more opportunity. And if you ask Anthony how that happened, he'll tell you that one of the reasons is that Charlotte made one of the largest investments in transportation in the city's history.

The President continued, "Since Anthony took office, they've broken ground on a new streetcar project that's going to bring modern electric tram service to the downtown area. They've expanded the international airport. And they're extending the city's light rail system. All of that has not only helped create new jobs, it's helped Charlotte become more attractive to business. So I know Anthony's experience will make him an outstanding Transportation Secretary."

The President's cabinet includes the vice president and the heads of 15 executive departments. If Foxx is approved by the Senate, he will be one of only two African-American cabinet members so far. The other is Attorney General Eric Holder, appointed in Obama's first term.

In his few minutes of remarks, Foxx seemed to immediately take charge.

"There is no such thing as a Democratic or Republican road, bridge, port, airfield or rail system," he said. "We must work together across party lines to enhance this nation's infrastructure."

Among the invited guests looking on from the audience in the East Room of the White House were Black leaders Ralph Everett, president/CEO of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; Michael Grant, president/CEO of the National Bankers Association (NBA); Ron Busby, president/CEO of the U. S. Black Chamber of Commerce, and Julie Compton, president/CEO of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). Joining Obama and Foxx on stage was current Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

Within minutes after the President's televised announcement, accolades started to fly.

"I am especially pleased the President has appointed Anthony Foxx as Secretary of Transportation. Through his work as mayor and as a city councilman in Charlotte, Anthony addressed the needs of an area that experienced tremendous growth within the past decade," said U. S. Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-Ohio), chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, in a statement.

Fudge has been among the most vocal critics of the fact that President Obama had not appointed the first African-American to his cabinet this term. She recently sent a letter expressing her disappointment, then changed her tune after a conversation with a White House representative. She then said she would take a wait and see attitude.

"Anthony will surely be an asset to the President's cabinet and to this nation and I look forward to working with him to ensure the needs of our country's transportation system are adequately met," she said in the statement.

Other groups followed suit.

"Under his Administration, Charlotte has grown to what is called one of America's most vibrant cities," said a release from the National Conference of Black Mayors.

Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network said it is "delighted with the nomination." The NAN statement from Janaye Ingram, Washington Bureau Chief, continued, "We have worked with outgoing Secretary LaHood, most recently having hosted him at our 15th Annual National Convention in New York City. During his plenary session, Secretary LaHood committed DOT to working with NAN to expand opportunities for minorities in relation to jobs and procurement opportunities as well as creating open dialogue with members of the community. We look forward to continuing to work together with the Department of Transportation under the leadership of Mayor Foxx and urge Senate to confirm him without delay."

Likewise, the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) posted a release on its website saying Foxx has been a "strong proponent of transportation issues and small businesses."

The release quotes COMPTO President/CEO Julie Compton as saying, "It was an absolute honor to attend today's announcement of the Mayor's nomination by President Obama…We congratulate Mayor Foxx and look forward to working closely with him as COMTO continues our commitment to a diverse and inclusive transportation industry."

Despite the praise for the Foxx appointment, some are still waiting and watching the President's future moves. A string of Black leaders have signed a letter asking the President to appoint Small Business Administration's second in command, Marie Johns, to head that agency. That letter was written by Black Chamber President Ron Busby and signed by leaders of organizations, including the NAACP, the National Urban League and the NBA.

Meanwhile, NUL President/CEO Marc Morial, himself a former mayor had high accolades for Foxx.

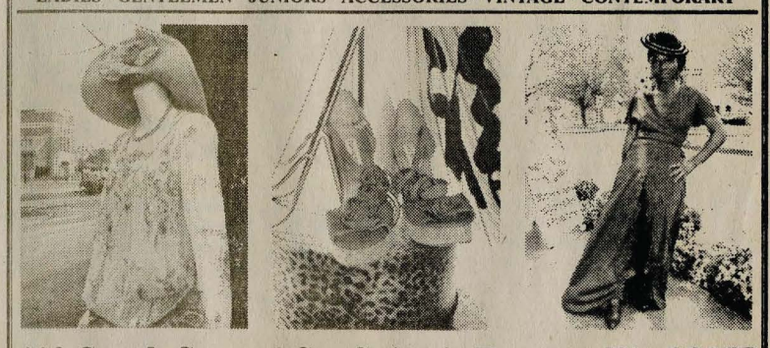
"Mayor Foxx brings a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between transportation and economic development, including the practical implications of a top-tier infrastructure on job creation. His vision for and experience in creating an advanced transit system to help ensure the competitiveness of the dynamic city of Charlotte and the businesses that operate there will translate well to this role - where strategic innovation will be required to drive economic growth and continued recovery," Morial said in a statement.

The Black Mayors' release was also quick to point out that Foxx was the president's first Black appointee this term. It states:

"Mayor Foxx will be the first African American nominated to the president's cabinet this year, and if confirmed, he will be one of two African Americans, in addition to Attorney General Eric Holder, serving in the Cabinet."

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NBA Veteran Jason Collins Comes Out As Gay

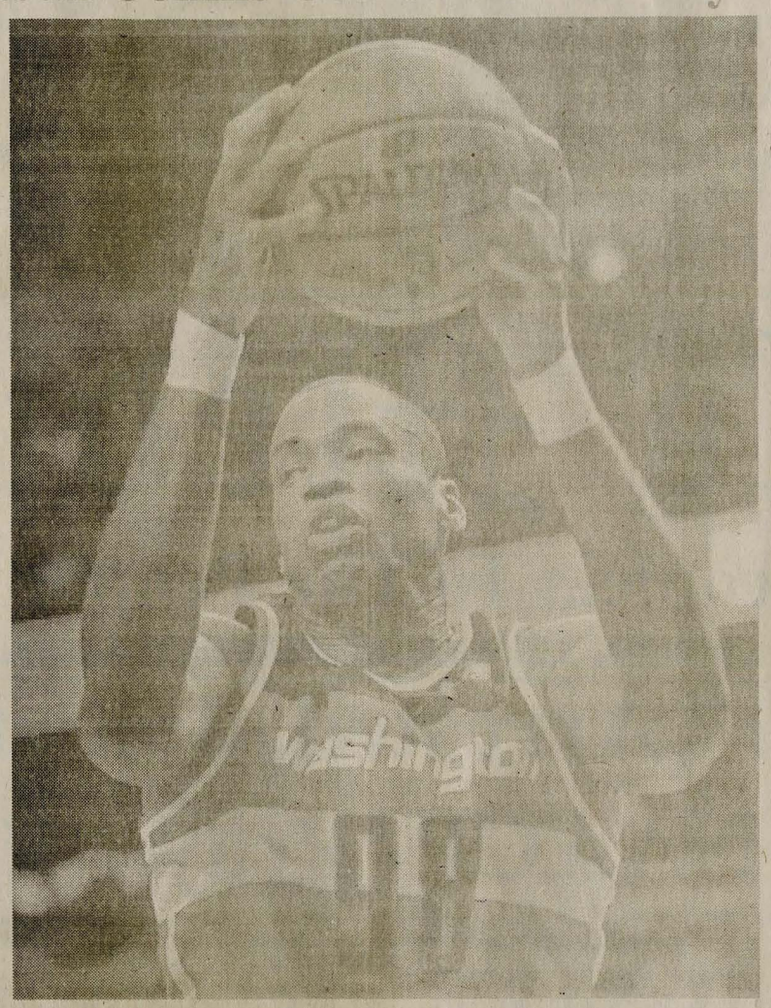
NEW YORK (AP) - *NBA* veteran Jason Collins became the first active male player in the four major American professional sports to come out as gay.

The 34-year-old center, who has played for six teams in 12 seasons, wrote a first-person account posted on Sports Illustrated's website Monday. Collins finished this past season with the Washington Wizards and is now a free agent. He says he wants to keep playing.

``If I had my way, someone else would have already done this,'' he writes. ``Nobody has, which is why I'm raising my hand.''

Collins played in a Final Four for Stanford and reached two NBA Finals. His twin brother, Jarron, was also a longtime NBA center. Jason says he came out to his brother last summer.

NBA Commissioner David Stern said in a statement: ``Jason has been a widely respected player and teammate throughout his career and we are proud he has assumed the leadership mantle on this very important issue.''



Jason Collins

Among those offering support on social media was former first daughter Chelsea Clinton, a friend from Stanford. She tweeted: ``Very proud of my friend Jason Collins for having the strength & courage to be the first openly gay player in the NBA.''

Mostly a backup in his career, Collins has averaged 3.6 points and 3.8 rebounds for the Nets, Grizzlies, Timberwolves, Hawks, Celtics and Wizards. He was traded from Boston to Washington in February. Collins was the 18th pick in the first round of the 2001 NBA draft.

Several male athletes have previously come out after they retired, including the NBA's John Amaechi, the NFL's Esera Tuaolo and Major League Baseball's Billy Bean. But Collins is the first to do so while planning to continue playing.

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Cantwell Leads EffortTo Fight Crime

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Charles E. Grassley (R-IA) led a bipartisan coalition of 48 senators in support of continued investment in a crucial tool for Washington state law enforcement in their efforts to address crime, drug trafficking and gangs.

The coalition, in a **letter** sent Friday to Senate appropriators, requested that funding be maintained in the fiscal year 2014 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program. This key program helps states and communities across the country reduce crime, prevent juvenile delinquency and reduce recidivism.

The program is a partnership among federal, state and local governments that tailors federal law enforcement grants to the needs of different communities. It supports a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system that include: law enforcement programs; prosecution and court programs; prevention and education programs; corrections and community corrections programs; drug treatment programs; and planning, evaluation and technology improvement programs.

"It is clear to us that the strong foundation of federal, state, and local partnerships built from the Byrne JAG program remains as vital as ever," wrote the Senators in a letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. "Byrne JAG-funded programs facilitate cross-governmental intelligence and information sharing on terror and criminal threats, drug and human trafficking organizations and sexual predators. This collaboration is essential to address today's criminal networks that cross city, state and even international boundaries.

"With over 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S., cross-jurisdictional learning and coordination cannot happen effectively without federal support," the Senators continued in the letter. "We know of your steadfast commitment to the Byrne JAG program in years past, and we ask for your continued support in the fiscal year 2014 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill."

In Washington state, Byrne JAG investments have been used to continue vital law enforcement programs that go after criminal gangs and facilitate drug treatment during a time when local and state budgets for law enforcement officials and prosecutors across the state have been cut. These grants can be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and criminal justice information systems.

In Snohomish County, Byrne JAG grants have consistently been used to aid the Snohomish Regional Drug & Gang Task Force. Between 2008 and 2012, these investments were used to support operations that led to the seizure of more than 78,000 grams of cocaine and more than 35,000 grams of methamphetamine. During that time, the Task Force made 886 drug arrests in Snohomish County.

"With sequestration forcing budget cuts at every level, funds from the Byrne grant are needed now more than ever," said Snohomish County Sheriff John Lovick. "Our communities depend on these funds to help law enforcement fight crime and to help courts find justice for victims of crime. From protecting the children in our schools from violence to preventing seniors from becoming victims of fraud, Byrne grant funds improve the quality of life for all of our citizens."

In Benton and Franklin counties, Byrne JAG grants support the Tri-City Metro Drug Task Force, which is dedicated to the disruption of narcotic trafficking, illegal gun sales and gang activity in the region. In 2012, these investments were used to support operations that led to 91 arrests and seizures of more than 3,000 grams of methamphetamine and more than 1.3 million grams of poppies.

"The Tri-City Metro Drug Task Force is a collaboration of local efforts which started in 1988 and is primarily funded through federal assistance," said Kennewick Police Chief Ken Hohenberg. "Federal support is more crucial now than ever in combating violence in our communities due to criminal gangs and their involvement in dealing drugs to support their efforts. Senator Cantwell continues to lead our efforts in bringing federal resources and funding to our communities to support our crime fighting in the area of violence and criminal gang activity."

In Pierce County Byrne JAG grants support local anti-gang and drug units as well as domestic violence prosecutions during a time when budgets for law enforcement officials and prosecutors across the state have been cut. These grants can be used for state and local initiatives, technical assistance, training, personnel, equipment, supplies, contractual support, and criminal justice information systems. But investments in the program have been reduced by over one-third in the past few years.

"In Pierce County, Byrne JAG grants support the prosecution of gang crimes, drug crimes, and domestic violence offenders during a time when budgets for law enforcement officials and prosecutors across the state have been cut," said Mark Lindquist, Pierce County Prosecutor. "Our Gang Unit has convicted hundreds of violent gang members, earned long prison sentences, and reduced gang crimes by over 70 percent in our county. Our community is safer thanks to support from the Byrne JAG grants."

New Guidelines Issued To Improve Cultural Competency

By Maya Rhodan
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The Department of Health and Human Services has updated its standards for cultural competency in health care, hoping to narrow the racial and ethnic health disparities common throughout the United States.

"This provides another opportunity to significantly improve health disparities," Dr. Howard Koh, the agency's Assistant Secretary for Health, said at a press conference on Wednesday. "Care needs to honor culture, it needs to be effective, understandable and respectful. Care needs to be delivered with 'CLAS.'"

National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care – also known as CLAS Standards— serve as guidelines for facilitating "culturally and linguistically appropriate health services."

The new standards were announced last week by HHS's Office of Minority Health at a gathering of health care organizations the Kaiser Family Foundation office in Washington.

In 2000, under the Bush administration, the Office of Minority Health published the first set of standards, which were updated in 2010, to better cater the health care system to the nation's increasingly diverse population.

The recently updated standards include 15 guidelines for effective cultural communication between patients and caregivers, including a "principal standard" that encourages hospitals to provide service that is "responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy, and other communication needs."

Other standards include:
- Recruiting more culturally diverse leadership staff
- Offering language assistance at no cost to the patient
- Collecting and maintaining accurate demographic data
- Partnering with the community to design cultural and linguistic appropriate policies.

As the U.S. population becomes more diverse, with Whites becoming a minority in the U.S. by 2050, cultural competence in health care is being considered crucial to ending health disparities.

And those disparities are striking.

Black babies are 2.3 times more likely to die in infancy, Asians are 2.5 times more likely to develop liver cancer, Latinos are three times more likely to be uninsured and Black men are seven times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than their White counterparts.

Currently, seven of the 15 most populated cities are majority minority yet African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and Asians continue to receive lower quality care than their White counterparts according to National Healthcare Disparities reports.

"Health is the most important thing we have regardless of our race, socioeconomic status," said Dr. Nadine Gracia, director of the office of minority health at the Department of Health and Human Services. "Nothing more essential to opportunity than good health."

In a 2002 report on Cultural Competence in Health Care presented by the Commonwealth Fund, a New York based foundation, states, " As we become a more ethnically and racially diverse nation, health care systems and providers need to reflect on and respond to patients' varied perspectives, values, beliefs, and behaviors about health and well-being. Failure to understand and manage sociocultural differences may have significant health consequences on minority groups in particular."

A huge barrier between patients and health care providers occurs among non-English speakers. According to the National Health Disparity Report, Spanish-speakers are more likely to not have health insurance and are also more likely to report poor communication with nurses.

"Culture is language – it's the way that we through signs, customs, beliefs, practices present ourselves to other people, understand other people," said Leon Rodriguez, director of the office of civil rights at HHS. "Proper communication is not just a civil rights issue, it's about delivering the best quality care—this is all about delivering good care, this all about good business."

Although helpful, the standards are not mandatory; they are merely a set of guidelines put in place to assist the medical community better serve people of color.

Studies have shown that cultural competency training improves the patient-healthcare provider relationship. However only six states have legislation that requires or suggests cultural competence training: Maryland, Washington, Connecticut, New Mexico, California, and New Jersey.

Five states, including Illinois and Florida where 15 and 20 percent of the total populations are uninsured respectively, have vetoed or denied such legislation. Iowa, Colorado, and Oregon also followed suit.

The authors of the standards believe that if they can get hospitals and health care providers to adopt their standards, both the patients and the medical community will be better served.

"We hope over time this will be good for practice and good business," Koh said. "If every organization can at least start by saying we embrace these values and get leadership to infuse these values throughout everyday work, we can begin to gather more data that show that this is not only good practice, but it's good for business."

New Music Format Smooth Jazz:

Smooth Jazz Returning To Seattle/Tacoma On 1560 KZIZ

Are you feeling Jazzy? Get ready for the Jazzy "Z" On Your Radio Dial At 1560AM Smooth Jazz



(L-R): Smooth Jazz radio hosts Kenny G, Sandy Kovach, Miranda Wilson, Allen Kepler and Maria Lopez.

Last Friday, Chris H. Bennett, Chairman of Kris Bennett Broadcasting (KBB), announced a major format change with Bennett's Broadcast stations.

"I'm proud to announce that we have acquired the exclusive rights to the Smooth Jazz format, and will become the officially licensed Pacific Northwest affiliate for the Smooth Jazz Network effective May 1, 2013," said Bennett.

"We are thrilled to bring the smooth jazz network to the Seattle area once again," says Smooth Jazz Network president Allen Kepler. "Our history in the market goes back to the mid-90's, and even very recently we have continued to hear the outcry from former supporters of the format."

The Smooth Jazz network daily host lineup includes format veterans; Sandy Kovach mornings, Miranda Wilson mid-days, Allen Kepler PM Drive and Maria Lopez evenings. Programming on the Smooth Jazz Network includes the first ever countdown show for the format; The Smooth Jazz Top 20®, Smooth Weekend (both hosted by format creator Allen Kepler), Contemporary Jazz with Kenny G and The Dave Koz Radio Show.

According to Bennett, Smooth Jazz in one of the most coveted niche formats in the country and was one of the highest rated formats in the Pacific Northwest. The format consistently ranked in the top ten for radio listeners in this market for over 5 years.

"The audience in the region has some of the most avid supporters we've seen of any radio format," said Kepler. "The AM option is one everyone should be looking at. This format fills a wide void left open in most major markets right now, and the local AM signal, combined with a stream provides an excellent lane for broadcasters who truly want to sell a unique position in the market; adult, upscale, intelligent listeners who have basically been abandoned by radio."

"We hope to fill a void in the marketplace and provide this huge under-served audience in the Seattle/Tacoma/Everett metro area with a great listening experience through our Jazzy "Z" KZIZ radio station and internet streaming," said Bennett. "It certainly allows KBB, Inc. to diversify and market our various formats to include this particular listening audience."

In order to make room for the Smooth Jazz format, KBB will implement the following changes: The Gospel format currently on 1560 AM KZIZ will move to 1420 AM KRIZ. The Blues format on 1420 will be cut back to accommodate gospel format. The talk shows – Community Potpourri, Rev. Al Sharpton, and GameTime Sports – heard on 1620 MA KYIZ will not be affected as the 1620 lineup will remain the same.

"It will take a few weeks to reconfigure the all of the stations for the format shift, but at the end of the day Kris Bennett Broadcasting will provide even more great listening options for the Pacific Northwest," concluded Bennett.

Chris Brown's Father Not A Fan Of Son's Relationship With Rihanna

Special to the NNPA from the Afro-American Newspaper

The father of mega-star singer Chris Brown finds singer Rihanna an engaging, attractive woman but, he recently told the New York Daily News, he believes his son should not be in an intense personal relationship with her.

"I personally really didn't want him and Rihanna back together," Clinton Brown, 48, said in an exclusive interview with the Daily News.

Brown told the interviewer of his concerns that the roller-coaster romance could end tragically, citing other famous celebrities.

"I hate to use examples, but Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston and Amy Winehouse — I mean I could go on and on!"

Speaking in his modest bungalow in Tappahannock, Va., a small town an hour northeast of Richmond, Va. he said "Is that a given — that you can't have fortune and fame without (death) being the end result?"

He explained that he met Rihanna "years ago" and that she "was very respectful and polite as well."

"She's beautiful, she's exotic, she's successful," Clinton said.

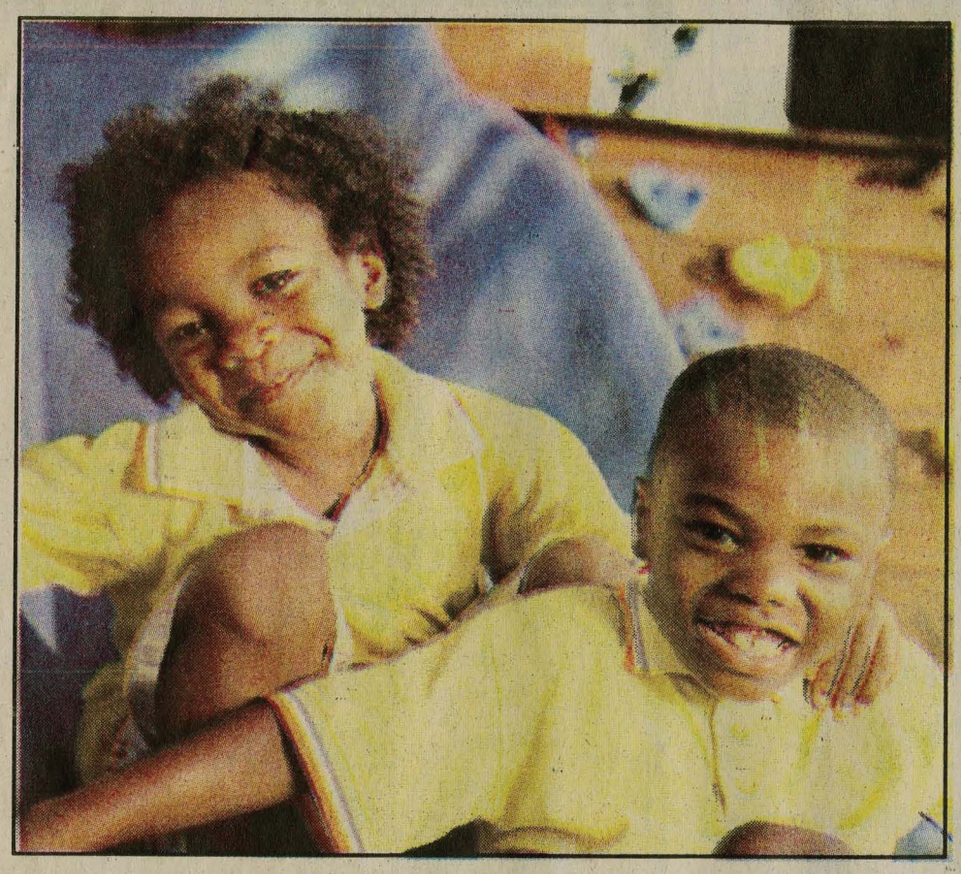
Still, he said, "You have to have a balance in a relationship. You have to have someone who is spontaneous and whimsical but you also have to have someone who is grounded and logical."

Clinton was in Los Angeles in 2009 when Brown assaulted Rihanna en route to the Grammy Awards ceremony. The senior Brown said, while he would not share details about the attack, the entire story had not yet been told.

"One has to assume because they are back together that it wasn't one-sided," he said. "You just have to imagine it was a circumstance in which they both had a disagreement." If there are to be children in the future of their relationship, there would have to be behavior changes, he said.

Rihanna "would make a good mom. I think she would probably have to change some of her antics — the party attitude would probably have to change," Clinton said. "I don't think they would just whimsically and spontaneously have a child with them being in this mode. That's why I don't see it happening — but anything's possible, man."

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Jackson's Health And Finances Part Of Civil Trial

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) _ Millions, and possibly billions, of dollars are at stake in a civil trial starting Monday over allegations from Michael Jackson's mother that the company promoting his comeback failed to properly investigate the doctor convicted in his death.

Katherine Jackson, her son Randy and daughter Rebbie came to court as attorneys prepared to deliver opening statements. Outside the courthouse, a large contingent of news media awaited developments. Two people won a lottery for the only seats in the tiny courtroom that were available to the general public.

Jurors will listen to remarks from attorneys who hope to frame the issues before testimony begins in the months-long trial.

Lawyers for concert giant AEG Live contend the company did nothing wrong and could not have foreseen the circumstances that led to Jackson's death in June 2009 at age 50.

The case will focus on the last few months of Jackson's life and his overall health and financial history. Jurors will also hear evidence throughout the case about Conrad Murray, the former cardiologist convicted in 2011 of involuntary manslaughter after giving Jackson doses of the powerful anesthetic propofol as a sleep aid.

Any award in the case will be determined by a jury of six men and six women who have agreed to hear the case, which may last 90 days.

Lawyers for Katherine Jackson and the singer's three children have said AEG failed to spot red flags about Murray's finances and created a conflict of interest for him between a major payday and maintaining the superstar's health.

Murray agreed to serve as Jackson's doctor for the planned series of ``This Is It" comeback shows in London for $150,000 per month, but Jackson died before the superstar and AEG officials signed the agreement.

AEG contends it did not hire Murray, who had previously treated Jackson and who the singer requested serve as his physician.

Murray remains jailed and is appealing his conviction.

The trial will address issues about Jackson's health and finances that were not factors in Murray's criminal trial, and may also feature testimony from the singer's two oldest children. Stars such as Diana Ross, Spike Lee and Quincy Jones are also listed as potential witnesses, and several top AEG executives are expected to testify.

AP Special Correspondent Linda Deutsch contributed to this report.

Nicki Minaj To Make Big Screen Debut Alongside Cameron Diaz

Special to the NNPA from the St. Louis American

According to Eurweb.com, Nicki Minaj is set to make her live action film debut in "The Other Woman." The film, a Nick Cassavetes-directed comedy, stars Cameron Diaz as a woman who finds out that she is "the other woman" in an affair. She teams up with the wife (Leslie Mann) to get revenge on the cheater, being played by Nikolaj Coster-Waldau.

Minaj will play Diaz's opinionated assistant at a law firm, a woman on her third marriage.

Minaj – who is currently a judge on "American Idol" – made her animated film debut as a character in Fox's "Ice Age: Continental Drift."

"The Other Woman" begins shooting in late spring/early summer in New York.

Information from Eurweb.com contributed to this report.

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&
Mary. Helen B. Hicks
First Lady

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Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Evening Worship	7:00 PM

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Prayer & Bible Band

Prayer	7:00 PM
Bible Study	7:30 PM

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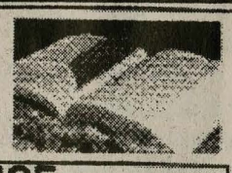


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Thursday
Youth Ministry Fellowship and Bible Study Thurs., 7:00 pm

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The Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Senior Care Support & Outreach Ministry (SCSOM) Host Free Community Forums

On this Wed., May 1, from 1 pm to 2 pm in the sanctuary, Tabernacle MBC will host a forum on "Memory and Aging: What's Normal, What's Not." Join them in an informative discussion with Dr. Jeannine Skinner, PH.D from the University of Washington, School of Medicine.

On Wed., May 8, from 1pm to 2pm in the sanctuary, Tabernacle will host a forum with "The Seattle Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens." The guest speakers will be Alain Rhone, Senior Information and Assistance Advocate and Rowena Rye, Program Supervisor. Join them for a conversation to learn about what city programs, services, and opportunities are provided for our seniors.

On Wed., May 15, from 1pm to 2pm in the sanctuary, Tabernacle will host a forum on "Affordable Burial and Cremation Services" with the City of Renton's family owned business, Serenity Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Our guest is owner, Calvin Tolbert.

For information on any forums contact Minister Shirley Perry-Poston (425)917-3158 or shirleyposton@q.com. Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church is located at 2801 S. Jackson St., in Seattle. Senior Pastor, Reverend Dr. Robert L. Manaway, Sr., and Overseer, Evangelist Jessica P. Manaway.

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Sunday

Bible Study	9:30AM
Morning Worship	10:30AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study	7:00 PM



Life Celebration of Donald Anthony Williams

Saturday, May 4, 2013
Viewing 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Homegoing Service
11:00 a.m.

Primm Tabernacle A.M.E. Church
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God called for his good and faithful servant to finally come home, on April 19, 2013.

On August 8, 1964, Donald Anthony Williams, was born to the late David F. Williams and Fannie Williams. He was a faithful member of Primm Tabernacle A.M.E. Church throughout his life.

Donnie attended Seattle Public Schools and graduated from Summit K-12 in 1984.

Donnie loved cooking and was blessed to have lived out that passion of life. He became an entrepreneur, the owner of Big D's World Famous Bar-B-Que known for his Brisket, Sweet Potato Pie and his Big Smile.

Family members left to cherish his memories are: his loving mother Fannie Williams of Seattle; brother Ronald Williams (Kathie) Kent, WA; sisters Madeline Williams Johnson of Seattle, Sherry A. Williams of Atlanta, GA; nieces Charnelle Ford and Miya Johnson of Seattle; nephews Aaron David Johnson of Seattle, Darrell Williams, Dominique Williams, and Tyree Williams of Kent and great nephew Davion Ford of Seattle; his two brother cousins, Keith Davis and Anthony Cornelius of Seattle and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins and a special circle of friends.

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The Seattle Medium accepts church announcements on a weekly basis. All announcements are due two weeks prior to your event. All announcements on this page are broadcast on The Heaven Bound Train every Sunday on KZIZ 1560 AM, KRIZ 1420 AM and KYIZ 1620 AM.

All church announcements heard on the radio must originate in The Seattle Medium.

All fees for church announcements must be submitted prior to them being published. For more information contact the Church Editor, Joan Owens at 206-323-3070 ...email: mediumads@aol.com.

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5237 Rainier Ave. So.
(206)
725-9300

GIFTS

Little Gallery On The Hill
"An Afrocentric Gift Store"
913 S. 11th St. In Tacoma
253.593.4850
Showroom Open Mon. -Sat.

INSURANCE

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

Rose Petals Restaurant
6901 MLK Way So
206-725-7746
email:rosepetals206@hotmail.com

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

Advertise
call
206
323-3070

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

TUTORING

Literacy in the
Community, LLC
206-295-3695
www.freeliteracy.net
literacy@comcast.net
info@freeliteracy.net

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

RAFEEQ SADEEQ
Hair Boutique
9420 Rainier Ave. So.
206-723-4247
CELL: 206-396-7010

BARBER/BEAUTY SALON

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

Mafatou & Fatu
Beauty Supply &
Hair Braiding
308 - 22nd Ave So
Suite 103
206-841-6908

BARBER/BEAUTY SHOP

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

Jonathan's
Beauty Box
5701 Rainier Ave. So
206-225-5794

BODY OILS & INCENSE

The Sweet Spot
Body Oils
4272 So. Mead St
Seattle, WA

GROCERY/DELI

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

GOOD 2 GO
Deli & Grill
1800 E. Yesler Way
Seattle, WA
206-860-6045

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

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

CLASSIFIED

LEGAL

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

PROJECT 1302
LIGHTING UPGRADE

Intercity Transit, the public transportation provider in Thurston County, is requesting bids for Project 1302 – Lighting Upgrade. Work shall be accomplished throughout Intercity Transit's main facility located at 526 Pattison Street SE in Olympia WA 98501.

The successful bidder for this project shall provide Intercity Transit with all materials, equipment, and labor necessary to retrofit or replace existing lights with specified new, energy-efficient equipment and materials.

Prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to attend the pre-bid meeting scheduled for May 9, 2013 at 10:00am PDT in the Intercity Transit Maintenance Facility Conference Room located at 526 Pattison Street SE, Olympia WA 98501. The meeting will include an inspection of the work site.

Sealed bids are due no later than 3:00pm PDT on May 21, 2013. Late bids will not be considered.

Plans, specifications, addenda, and plan holders list for this project will be solely provided through Builders Exchange of Washington, Inc. at http://www.bxwa.com. Click on: Posted Projects>Public Works>Intercity Transit (under Public Agencies)>Projects Bidding>I Agree>1302 Lighting Upgrade. Please contact Builders Exchange of Washington at (425) 258-1303 should you require assistance with accessing, downloading, or printing the solicitation documents.

Questions regarding this project must be directed to Erin Hamilton CPPB, Procurement Coordinator, Intercity Transit, at (360) 705-5837 or ehamilton@intercity-transit.com.

LEGAL

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.

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.

1147-13-RMB
OPENS: 5/9/2013
Equipment Trailers; 3-Axle Tilt Deck

1165-13-PCR
OPENS: 5/9/2013
Floating Islands for Water Quality Improvement

1168-13-AAB
OPENS: 5/14/2013
Tire Recycling Services

LEGAL

FIRST PUBLICATION

King County Housing Authority (KCHA)

Roofing Replacement at Meadowbrook Apartments

Bid Due Date: May 16, 2013 2:00 pm

REQUEST FOR BIDS

KCHA is seeking qualified contractors who are interested in submitting bids for low slope roofing replacement at Meadowbrook Apartments. Meadowbrook is located at 1408 NW Richmond Beach Rd., Shoreline, WA 98177. Bid packets are available for download on KCHA's website at http://www.kcha.org/business/construction/open/. If you have questions, please contact Sarah Anderson at saraha@kcha.org. An optional pre-bid meeting will be held at the property on May 7 at 11:000 a.m. The estimate is $349,377.

seattlemedium.com

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