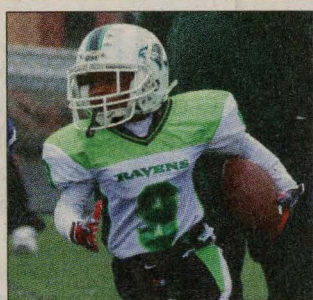




Little League Football Playoff Coverage

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Special Seattle King County NAACP Centennial Edition

-- See Inside

Best Assumes Role Of Captain At SPD's South Precinct

-- Page 2



The Seattle Medium

A Message From The People... To The People \$1.00

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 44

NOW IN OUR 44TH YEAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2013

Millions Fall In Health Care Coverage Gap

By Jazelle Hunt

NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Every day Richard Green, 67, wakes up in pain. He creeps over to the edge of the bed and sets his feet down, bracing himself for the day ahead. First are the pangs of putting each leg into his slacks. Then, he undergoes the torment of sliding each arm into his shirt. Even lacing his shoes, something he has done since childhood, is a test of strength. Often he'll take ibuprofen before willing his knees and back to lower his body into the car and withstand the painful drive to work as an administrative temp worker.

About seven years ago, Green was diagnosed with degenerative disc disease, the breakdown, bulging, or tearing in the spine's flexible cartilage discs, as well as the narrowing of the spinal canal that houses the spinal cord. The worn discs put pressure on the spinal cord and surrounding nerves, which leads to chronic pain and nerve damage.

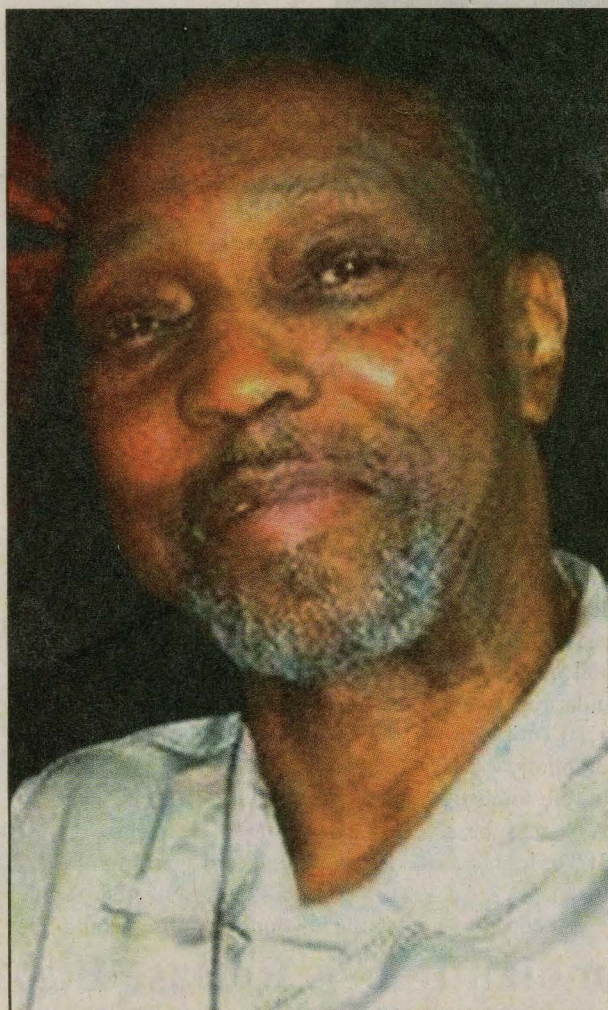
"You learn to cope," he explained. "You just have to move; it's worse if you don't. By the end of the day, I'm completely exhausted from coping with the pain. When I get home I just go to bed. Sleep becomes your only relief."

And that's only if his sleep apnea and GERD (a severe form of acid reflux) are tolerable enough to let him get a good night's rest. Fortunately, his lifelong asthma and heart condition rarely give him any trouble.

Green, who is uninsured and ineligible for Medicaid, can afford neither a doctor's visit nor the resulting treatments or prescriptions. According to his home state of Georgia, his monthly income — \$850 by his account, and inexplicably around \$2,000 by theirs — is enough to afford healthcare without the assistance of Medicaid, the federal insurance program for low-income families and individuals.

Green is one of 48 million Americans currently living without insurance in the United States, according to the Census Bureau. Of those, 7 million are non-elderly African Americans. Green's age qualifies him for Medicare, though he doesn't have it yet—if he opts in next year, he expects to pay a \$150 annual deductible, plus incidental charges.

Without the benefit of Medicaid or Medicare, he will have to pay an insurance company directly for medical coverage. With the start of open enrollment



Richard Green may be harmed by Georgia opting out of a provision of the Affordable Care Act.

for health insurance exchanges under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Green might be able to get insured and access the care he needs.

Within the first year of the Care Act's enforcement 14 million previously uninsured Americans are expected to enroll.

At the time of his diagnosis, Green was insured through his wife's employment. Insurance paid for a \$100,000 surgery, recovery, and medication, and he was seeing a neurologist. Even with the insurance though, his healthcare costs began to climb.

"Cost of care became such an issue I couldn't continue [treatment]. It was an insurance problem, because you have out-of-pocket costs that come along with it," he explained.

When his wife's job downsized, his access to healthcare evaporated. And that's why he is excited about President Obama's signature health care plan.

Low-income citizens who are unable to afford the least-expensive plan offered by the companies in their state will be eligible for federal subsidies (to pay for insurance), or tax penalty waivers.

This is where Medicaid steps in. Medicaid, which was created and built into the Social Security system in 1965, is intended to act as a healthcare safety net for low-income individuals and families with children. Originally, the Affordable Care Act called for states to expand Medicaid eligibility to those who make less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level. Today, that's \$15,857 per year for a

single person, and \$38,047 per year for a family of five.

But last year, as a result of Supreme Court case *National Federation of Independent Businesses v. Sebelius*, the Medicaid expansion provision was made optional for states. Currently, 24 states and the District of Columbia have enacted the Medicaid expansion, 15 have rejected the expansion—including Richard Green's home state, Georgia—and 11 states are currently undecided.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, in the states that aren't expanding 5.2 million adults — 6 in 10 uninsured African Americans — are expected to fall into the gap between the original Medicaid eligibility standards and the least-expensive insurance coverage premiums.

Kansas City CARE Clinic, formerly Kansas City Free, is located in Missouri where Medicaid won't be expanded. It's one of the largest free clinics in the country, funded primarily through government grants and donated goods and services. Although patients are asked to make a \$10 donation on every visit, no one is turned away for inability to pay or documentation status.

Kansas City CARE Clinic service area straddles both Kansas and Missouri—the latter having rejected the expansion, and the former remaining undecided. Kansas and Missouri have been at legislative odds before. In the years leading up to the Civil War, Kansas was a newly minted territory preparing to join the Union

as a free state, which threatened Missouri's slavery economy as well as the fragile balance between slave and free state representatives in Congress.

Of course, the Medicaid expansion probably won't lead to another "Bleeding Kansas," but there will be winners and losers when Kansas makes its decision. Although the state seems to be leaning toward rejecting the expansion, Kansas City CARE Clinic and other healthcare providers could end up with a split; expanded Medicaid would cover most of their patients residing in Kansas, while their patients from Missouri will fall into the coverage gap.

Because of this uncertainty, the clinic is implementing a billing system for the first time in their 43 years, so that they are equipped to serve those who are able to receive Medicaid or enroll in the marketplace and purchase insurance. Instead of the good-faith \$10 donation, all patients will pay via income-based sliding scale, Medicaid, or insurance.

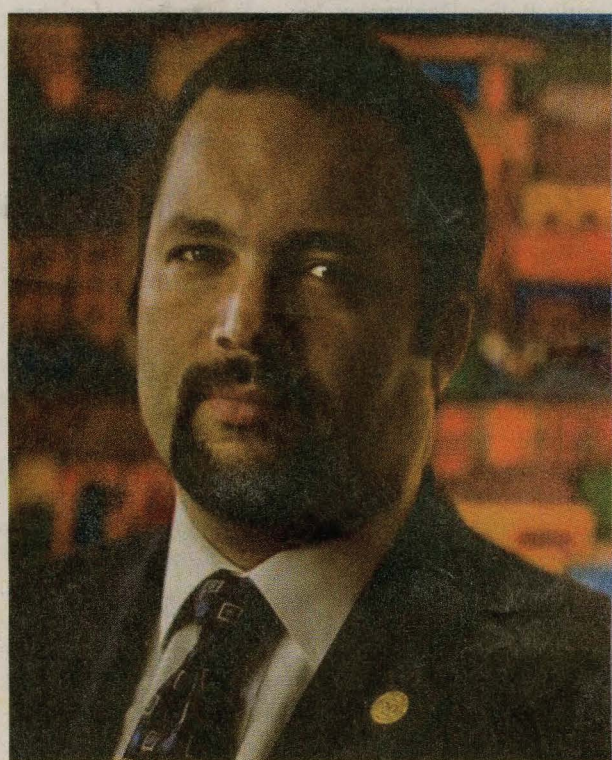
"We felt we had no choice," says Dennis Dunmyer, vice president of community services at Kansas City CARE Clinic. "We wanted them to expand [Medicaid], but we feel like we don't want to turn away the people who can get it because we can't accept their insurance. We don't want to turn anyone away. But it's a different dynamic to say, 'Here's your bill' instead of 'Are you able to donate \$10?'"

Richard Green lives in Clayton County, Ga. In April, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal told a Fox News host that the Affordable Care Act "was a train wreck about to happen." In a video made public by the Georgia Democratic Party, Georgia Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens tells an audience, "The problem is Obamacare. We've got to now determine what we can do to solve that problem. Let me tell you what we're doing — everything in our power to be an obstructionist."

And that doesn't help Richard Green.

"I'm hopeful but doubtful that I will be able to get insurance, because... I'm here with a governor who has decided to be totally uncooperative," he said. "I'll probably have to check the federal market. Everyone deserves affordable healthcare. Hopefully [the reform] will help me, but more importantly, all those who need coverage and medical care."

Ben Jealous To Keynote NAACP Centennial Celebration This Saturday



**Benjamin Todd Jealous
President/CEO, National NAACP**

In one of his last public appearances before stepping down as president of the national NAACP, Benjamin Todd Jealous will speak at the Centennial Celebration of the Seattle King County NAACP this Sat., Nov. 2 at the Double Tree Hilton-Airport.

Jealous recently announced that he is leaving his position at the end of the year. He has been president of the national NAACP since 2008.

"We are honored to have Benjamin Jealous, president and CEO, join us as we celebrate 100 years of vigilance in Seattle and King County, and as we honor the phenomenal work of our past presidents and longest-serving committee members," said Cynthia Hobbs, chairwoman of the Centennial Committee.

During the Centennial Celebration, the Seattle King County NAACP will honor Lacy Steele, who served as president of the NAACP branch for 26 years, and retired King County Superior Court Judges Charles V. Johnson and Donald Haley. All three honorees have been Seattle King County NAACP leaders for more than 50 years.

Bishop John Hurst Adams former president of the Central Area Committee on Civil Rights will also be a speaker on the program.

Since 1913 the Seattle King County NAACP has worked for civil rights and equality, and to end racial profiling and discrimination in housing, education, and employment.

The event will feature a ceremony, dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$100 and available by calling the NAACP office at (206) 324-6600 or online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com>.

Constantine Orders Inquest Into Fatal Police Shooting Of Gunman At Capitol Hill Condo

On Monday, King County Executive Dow Constantine ordered an inquest into the fatal shooting of Joel Reuter by Seattle police on July 5, 2013.

According to reports, Police responding to reports of gunfire in the 100 block of Bellevue Avenue E. found an armed man barricaded inside his condominium and threatening to shoot. After hours of negotiation, police say the gunman fired at SWAT officers covering the building and an officer fired and struck the suspect, who retreated into the unit. Police say the gunman came forward again, still holding the handgun, and was fatally shot by a second SWAT officer.

King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg recommended the inquest after his office reviewed investigative materials from the Seattle Police Department.

Inquests are fact-finding hearings conducted before a six-member jury. Under a standing Executive Order, they are routinely called to determine the causes and circumstances of any death involving a member of any law enforcement agency within King County while in the performance of his or her duties.

Inquest jurors answer a series of interrogatories to determine the significant factual issues involved in the case, and it is not their purpose to determine whether a person or agency is civilly or criminally liable.

The order signed by the Executive requests King County District Court Presiding Judge Corinna Harn to assign a judge to set a date and conduct the inquest.

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Founder/Pastor
&
Mary Helen B. Hicks
First Lady

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

Sunday

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

Tuesday

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

Thursday

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Worship Hour...11:15am
Sunday Evening...7:00pm

Wednesday Evangelistic
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Prayer Saturday at Noon

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Worship Service.....11:00 AM

Prayer & Bible Study

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New Members Bible Study 6:00 pm
Evening 7:00 pm

Thursday

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Rev. Dr. Linda Smith

www.skyurbanctr.org; linda-smith1@comcast.net

The Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Senior Care Support & Outreach Ministry Host 4th Quarter Free Forums & Workshop

Date: Wednesday, October 30, 2013

Time: 1pm to 2pm

Topic: "Positive Endings" with Dori Gillam,
Program Manager for "Aging Your Way."

Date: Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Time: 1pm to 2pm

Topic: "Hopelink Transportation for Seniors."
Guests will be Program Manager, Sheila Sloan-
Evans and group.

Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Time: 1pm to 2pm

Topic: 2014 Medicare Annual Open Enrollment
forum. Guest will be a Representative adviser
from SHIBA (Statewide Health Insurance Benefit
Adviser). Medicare open enrollment begins from
October 15, 2013 through December 7, 2013.

Date: Wednesday, November 20, 2013

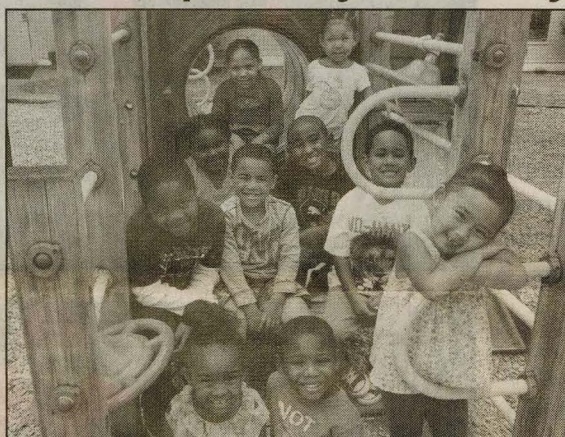
Time: 1pm to 2 pm

Topic: "The Affordable Health Care Act Highlights:
How it will Affect Your Health Insurance if You
Have or Do Not Have Coverage?" Guest speaker is
Sanithia Parker, Health Ministry Lead Coordinator.
Lunch will be served.

All forums will be held at Tabernacle Missionary
Baptist Church, 2801 South Jackson Street, Seattle,
WA. 98144.

For further information contact Minister Shirley
Perry -Poston at (425) 917-3158 or
seniorcaresom@gmail.com

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Rev. Herbert J. Carey, Pastor

Service Times

Sunday

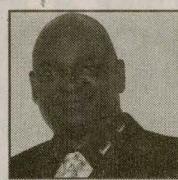
Early Morning Service - 8:00 AM
Sunday School 9:15
Morning Service - 11:00 AM

Wednesday

Bible Study - 12 Noon & 7:00 PM

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Thomas R. Martin, Jr.
Minister

Schedule of Services

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

MLK Memorial Baptist Church Presents Pastor Smokie Norful

On November 14, 2013, Pastor Herbert and Diane Carey and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Baptist Church 2013 Evangelism and Outreach presents a spirit filled gospel evening of evangelism and outreach. Featured on this powerful evening is the dynamic ministry and music of the anointed Pastor Smokie Norful.

Rev. W.R. Smokie Norful, Jr. is best known as an American Grammy award winning gospel singer. Smokie Norful answered his call to the ministry of the gospel in 1998, and pursued a Master of Divinity degree at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. He is currently pastor and founder of

Victory Cathedral Worship Center in Romeoville, Illinois. His ministry and his singing will deliver, save and set souls free and bring us into the presence of Almighty God.

This is his first trip to the Pacific Northwest!

All this is taking place at New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, 19300 - S. 108th St., Renton, Washington, November 14, 2013, 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are: \$50 (Regal VIP), \$40 (VIP) and \$30 (General Admission).

Tickets are selling quickly! For more info on getting your tickets, get information at <http://mlkbaptistchurch.bpt.me> or call the church at 425-255-1446 today.

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Sundays,

6 am - 11 am

Here on

KRIZ AM 1420

KZIZ AM 1560

KYIZ AM 1620

Tune in to the Heaven Bound Train Sis. Elaine Wilson

Sundays,

Noon - 5 pm

Here on

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KZIZ AM 1560

KYIZ AM 1620

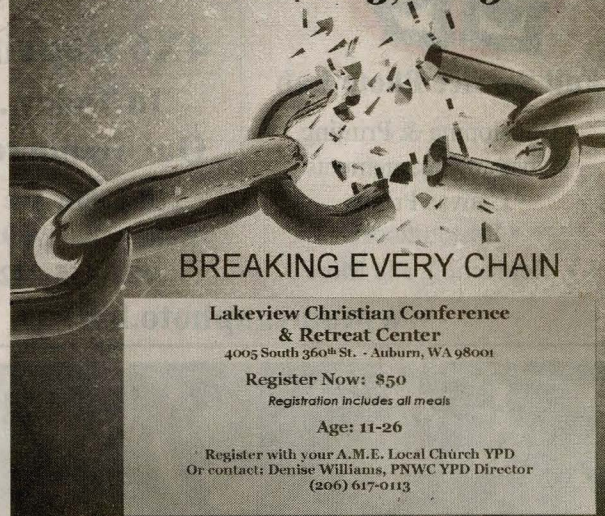
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Church Announcement Policy:

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.

KRIZ AM 1420
KZIZ AM 1560
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Little League Corner

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Greater Seattle Youth Football League Playoffs

Peewees

Beacon Hill Cowboys 14, SWAC 7

This game went down to the wire as the Cowboys defense stopped a SWAC scoring threat at the 8-yardline with 0:52 left in the game. Caleb Reed and Reggie "JetSmoke" Witherspoon, III scored touchdowns for the Cowboys. Courtney Reed, Jr. recorded an extra point for the Cowboys.

Renton Rangers 33, Kent Cobras 6

Jason Brown, Jr. and Raequan Watkins both scored two touchdowns as the undefeated Rangers punched their ticket to the "ship" with a 33-6 win over the Cobras.

89ers

Rainier Eagles 2, Beacon Hill Cowboys 0

The Eagles prevailed in a hard fought game as they recorded a safety during the fourth quarter.

Renton Rangers 54, Kent Cobras 14

The undefeated Renton Ranger 89'ers claimed a spot in the championship game with a 54-14 win over the Kent Cobras. Joshua Conerly Jr., Jaelin Green & Tremaine Guidry, Jr. all scored touchdowns for the Rangers.

Juniors

Beacon Hill Cowboys 35, Renton Rangers 7

Avery Morrow scored three touchdowns (2 rush, 1 rec.) as the Cowboys advanced to the championship game with a 35-7 victory over the Renton Rangers. Beacon Hill quarterback Javon Tade threw for one touchdown and rushed for another, and teammate Jayuan Stiles scored on a 62-yard interception return for a touchdown. Kenneth Gilbert scored the lone touchdown for the Rangers.

SWAC 34, Pac Highway Chargers 12

The Chargers' Jaylen Bogan scored to keep Pac Highway in the game early, but in the end the SWAC trio of Bishop Jackson, Donnie McMillan and Jalandie McMillan would not let the Cougars be denied a spot in the championship game.

Seniors

Rainier Eagles, Renton Rangers 6

The Rangers took an early lead as Royal Dotson-Goode scored on a 9-yard touchdown run, but the Eagles quickly re-grouped and rattled off 26 unanswered points in en route to a big playoff win over the Ranges. De'Lovontae Sanders, Kyon Ellis, Jarron Hopkins and Reality Jordan all made their way to paydirt for the Eagles. Elijah Steele recorded an interception for the Rangers.

Beacon Hill Cowboys 25, SWAC 7

The Cowboys put forth a total team effort as they posted a 25-7 win over SWAC. Beacon Hill's Darrien Sampson scored two touchdowns to help pace Cowboys.

Championship Schedule:

Sunday, Nov 3rd

French Field - Kent

Seniors - 9:00 a.m.

Rainier Eagles (7-2) vs Beacon Hill Cowboys (8-1)

Juniors - 11:00 a.m.

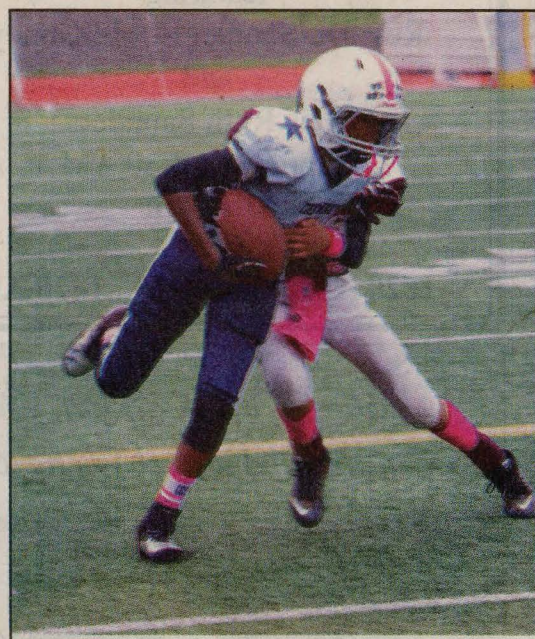
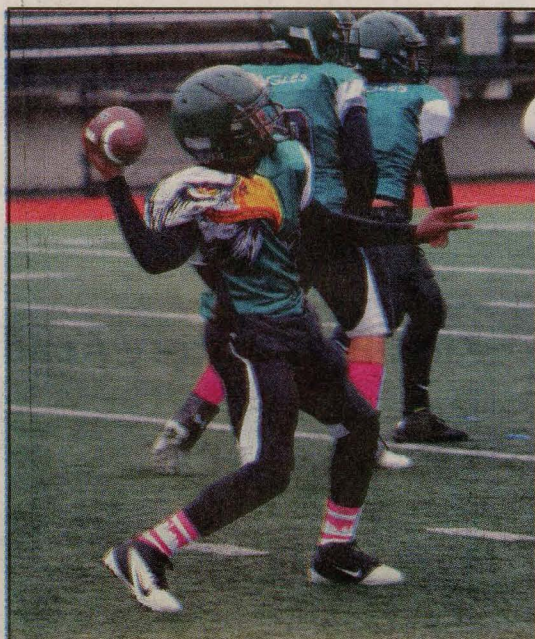
Beacon Hill Cowboys (8-1) vs SWAC Cougars (9-0)

Peewees - 1:00 p.m.

Beacon Hill Cowboys (6-2-1) vs Renton Rangers (9-0)

89ers - 3:00 p.m.

Rainier Eagles (6-3) vs Renton Rangers (9-0)





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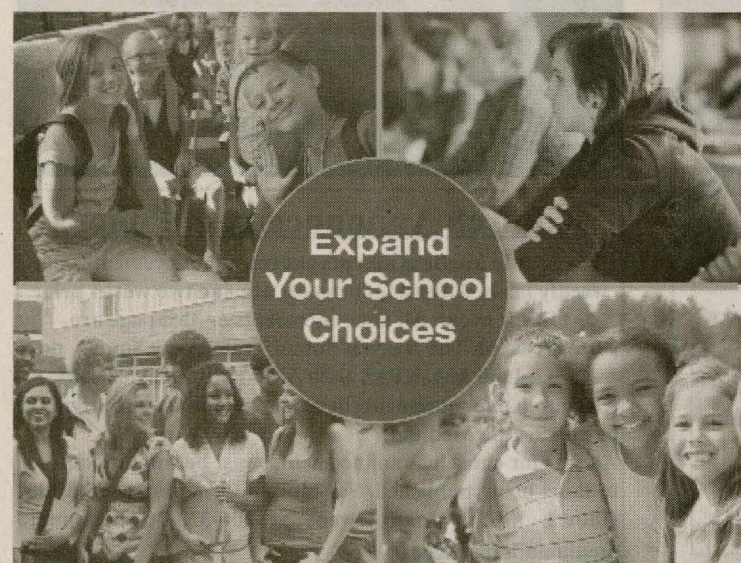
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For more information about the fair go to www.pugetsoundindependentschools.org

EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS

Coping With Student Loan Repayment

By Charlene Crowell

NNPA Columnist

A new report from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) found that many of the same types of loan servicing problems that affected consumers in the mortgage market are now affecting student loan borrowers. Just as troubled homeowners were often unable to pay their mortgages, refinance their loans, or receive timely assistance from loan servicers, many student loan borrowers are now experiencing many of the same difficulties. Although the report focuses on private student loans, some of the servicing problems identified also affect federal student loan borrowers.

“Unfortunately, with few refinancing options, many student loan borrowers tell us they feel stuck in loans with high rates, well after they’ve graduated and landed a job,” said Rohit Chopra, CFPB’s Student Loan Ombudsman.

After analyzing approximately 3,800 student loan complaints submitted from October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013, CFPB focused on problems with crediting payments to private student loan accounts. In this manner, CFPB found that nearly half of these complaints came from consumers seeking a loan modification. Further, 87 percent of complaints received were directed at one of eight companies. Sallie Mae, a financial services firm specializing in educational loans for more than 40 years, topped the complaint list with 49 percent.

Since July, CFPB has accepted complaints on debt collection activities, hearing from consumers

whose accounts defaulted and were sent to collections because they were unable to afford their loans. Other complaints involved how loan payments were applied, lost payments, late fees and changes in servicers without borrower notification.

In a weak economic recovery, many borrowers are financially challenged to pay their loans on time. Still others, facing financial hardships through unemployment and under-employment, are finding few, if any, available options to refinance private student loans.

Even so, CFPB advises that there is yet hope for challenged borrowers determined to make good on their debts and get on with their lives.

Providing clear and timely instructions to your servicer can direct how your payments are applied and likely reduce the interest paid over the life of the loans.

For example, consumers with multiple credit cards and balances on each are usually advised to retire the highest-priced card debt first. A similar approach can apply to retiring private student loans.

Most borrowers take out multiple loans to pay for college, and private loan interest rates can change from year to year. Following graduation, these loans are often bundled into a single account or billing group. The borrower, however, receives one bill for all loans incurred. As payments are remitted, the loans will have different balances and still have different interest rates.

By paying the minimum amount due on each loan first, additional available monies can be applied to the

loan with the highest interest rate. Over the life of the loans, giving priority payment to the most expensive one will likely save thousands of dollars.

Conversely, if a borrower can only afford a partial payment, speaking with the servicer before the payment due date can help avoid unnecessary late fees and penalties. Knowing the exact minimum amount and the interest owed on each loan can guide which loans can be paid and their corresponding amounts. Armed with this knowledge, it may also be possible to minimize delinquent fees or penalties.

If borrowers do not direct how their payments are to be applied, loan servicers typically act in the interest of the lenders by applying payments to earn the most money for the lender. Loan servicers should not apply payments in a way that benefits them rather than the borrower.

The Center for Responsible Lending urges the CFPB to act promptly to address all complaints alleging unfair, deceptive or abusive practices. In addition, the CFPB and the Department of Education can and should work together to establish requirements for both federal and private student loan servicers.

In the interim, troubled borrowers should seek assistance early. If communications with loan servicers do not resolve borrower concerns, the CFPB’s online complaint system can take information and assign a complaint number that can be used to check complaint status at <http://rspnslb.li/Hdlc00>. If you prefer to speak with CFPB directly, call their toll-free line at (855) 411-2372.

‘Entitlement Programs’ Serve Elderly And Poor

By George E. Curry

NNPA Columnist

Republicans have made it clear that their next budget goal is to slash so-called entitlement programs. Democrats have failed to explain to the public that the misnamed programs are valuable and prevent millions of Americans, many of them elderly or children, from living in poverty.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) issued a report last week that found: “Social Security benefits play a vital role in reducing poverty. Without Social Security, 22.2 million more Americans would be poor, according to the latest available Census data (for 2012). Although most of those whom Social Security keeps out of poverty are elderly, nearly a third are under age 65, including 1 million children. Depending on their design, reductions in Social Security benefits could significantly increase poverty, particularly among the elderly.”

The report explained, “Almost 90 percent of people aged 65 and older receive some of their family income from Social Security. Without Social Security benefits, 44.4 percent of elderly Americans would have incomes below the official poverty line, all else being equal; with Social Security benefits, only 9.1 percent do. These benefits lift 15.3 million elderly Americans — including 9.0 million women — above the poverty line.”

Medicare has proven equally as effective. Yet, Republicans like to pretend that the U.S. is quickly moving toward an entitlement society.

However, CBPP issued a report last year titled, “Contrary to ‘Entitlement Society’ Rhetoric, Over Nine-Tenths of Entitlement Benefits Go to Elderly, Disabled, or Working Households.”

It stated, “More than 90 percent of the benefit dollars that entitlement and other mandatory programs spend go to assist people who are elderly, seriously disabled, or members of working households — not to able-bodied, working-age Americans who choose not to work. This figure has changed little in the past few years.”

It stated, “The claim behind these critiques is clear: federal spending on entitlements and other mandatory programs through which individuals receive benefits is promoting laziness, creating a dependent class of Americans who are losing the desire to work and would rather collect government benefits than find a job.

“Such beliefs are starkly at odds with the basic facts regarding social programs, the analysis finds. Federal budget and Census data show that, in 2010, 91 percent of the benefit dollars from entitlement and other mandatory programs went to the elderly (people 65 and over), the seriously disabled, and members of working households. People who are neither elderly nor disabled — and do not live in a working household — received only 9 percent of the benefits.

“Moreover, the vast bulk of that 9 percent goes for medical care, unemployment insurance benefits (which individuals must have a significant work history to receive), Social Security survivor benefits for the children and spouses of deceased workers, and Social Security benefits for retirees between ages 62 and 64. Seven out of the 9 percentage points go for one of these four purposes.”

The research also shatters another myth, the idea that entitlement programs shift resources for the middle class to the poor.

“The data show that the middle class receives approximately its proportionate share of benefits: in

2010, the middle 60 percent of the population received 58 percent of the entitlement benefits. The top 20 percent of the population received 10 percent of the benefits; the bottom 20 percent received 32 percent of the benefits.”

Even with a sluggish economy, Congress seems unwilling to support those on food stamps, now called SNAP — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Under the 2009 Recovery Act, recipients received a 13.6 percent temporary boost in benefits. However, that provision is set to expire on Nov. 1, resulting in a \$80 a month loss for a family of four. That means SNAP benefits will average less than \$1.40 per person per meal in fiscal 2014.

Instead of continuing to help those in dire need, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) introduced legislation in September cutting SNAP by at least \$39 billion over the next decade.

To his credit, President Obama has suggested a more balanced approach, with cuts being matched by closing some of the loopholes for the wealthy.

According to the Tax Policy Center, the top fifth of the population receives 66 percent of tax-expenditure benefits, the middle 60 percent of the population receives a little more than 31 percent of tax-expenditure benefits, the bottom fifth receives just 2.8 percent of tax-expenditure benefits and the top 1 percent of the population receives 23.9 percent of tax-expenditure benefits. And the report pointed out, “That’s more than eight times as much as the bottom fifth of the population, and nearly as much as the middle 60 percent of the population.”

It’s time for President Obama and Democratic leaders to show that they can stand up to Teapublicans more than once.

Grambling’s Football Strike: A Wake Up Call For The Nation

By Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

NNPA Columnist

The strike of football players at the legendary Grambling State University received attention across the world. GSU President Frank Pogue praised the players for providing the “creative tension” needed to bring attention to the plight of Grambling and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in general.

The players were protesting poor practice and dilapidated locker room facilities as well as the firing of their coach Doug Williams early in the season, but their protest exposed the broader reality facing Grambling and HBCUs: they face a brutal and increasing financial crisis.

At Grambling, President Pogue reports, aid from the state of Louisiana has been cut by nearly 60 percent over the last six years. The school has gone, as its Office of Finance and Administration reports, from a “state ‘funded’ institution to a state ‘assisted’ institution — and the assistance isn’t nearly enough. Trying to operate on a budget lower than it was six years ago, Grambling has cut full-time employees by more than one-fourth over five years.

The state cutbacks have forced increases in tuition and fees of about 60 percent over the last five years. At the same time, the state has forced closure of summer school, and raised admission requirements to make the school harder to get into.

Like most HBCUs, Grambling’s students come largely from lower income families, and are often the first in their families to go to college. They cobble

together their tuition from financial aid, part-time work, and parental loans.

And to add to the misery, the Department of Education decided to tighten eligibility requirements for parental PLUS loans, denying applicants with even minor credit blemishes, such as overdue parking tickets or cell phone bills — exactly the kind of difficulties that low income families often run into.

The inevitable result is that Grambling and other HBCUs are losing students — an estimated 28,000 were denied Parental PLUS loans over the past year — as more and more qualified students simply can’t get Parental PLUS loans and can’t afford to pay their way.

This is an historic reversal. Historically Black Colleges and Universities have provided real opportunity to underserved communities, particularly African Americans. These colleges were founded in the ashes of slavery with a mission — to take the rejected stones and turn them into cornerstones of a freed people. Education, it was assumed was key to reconstruction. Now, states are constricting access to college even as they expand entrance to private prisons and jails. They are moving from education and reconstruction to incarceration and separation. Instead of opening paths from poverty, they are locking more young people out by locking them up.

This takes place despite the remarkable success of HBCUs. As Leslie Baskerville, the president and CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education reported in 2008,

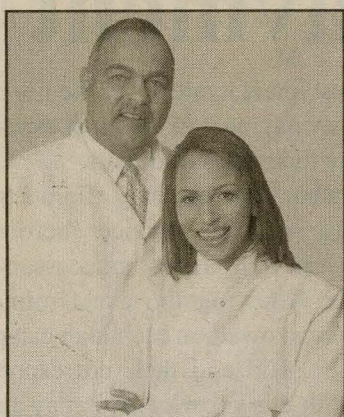
the 103 HCBUs confer 24 percent of all doctoral degrees awarded to African Americans. They represent 4 percent of all colleges and universities in number, but enroll 16 percent of African Americans in a four-year colleges, graduate 30 percent of all African Americans receiving a bachelor’s degree, 40 percent of those granted degrees in science and math, 50 percent of those graduating in engineering and 50 percent of those granted a teaching degree.

Grambling State President Pogue notes that HBCUs “have never been equally funded in this country, and we’re not equally funded today.” He praises the football players for calling attention to the broader crisis facing Grambling State and other HBCUs, while redoubling his efforts to raise support from the school’s loyal alumni.

But neither Pogue nor the alumni can carry this load alone. In many ways, historically Black colleges and universities are the proverbial canaries in the mines of college education. What endangered them threatens public colleges across the land. State cutbacks are force higher and higher tuition and fees. More and more students are priced out of the very education they need. We all have a stake in educating the next generation. Only with Washington fixated on cutting spending back to levels not seen since the 1950s, and states facing continued budget squeezes, we are asking the young to bear the burden that should be widely shared. Perhaps the strike by the football team of a legendary program will begin to wake us up.

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8,000 State Health Applicants Given Wrong Tax Credit

By Donna Gordon
Blankinship
Associated Press

(AP) - Officials with Washington state's new health exchange announced Friday that 8,000 insurance applicants erroneously qualified for higher tax credits because of a system error.

Richard Onizuka, CEO for the Washington Health Benefit Exchange, said the system error was uncovered and corrected this week. The problem was traced to an inconsistency in file formats that were being shared between the Washington Healthplan-finder and federal data.

Onizuka said the error "caused applicants to qualify for higher than expected tax credit amounts than allowed based on their income level or household size."

"The Exchange is very disappointed to have discovered this issue and we find the situation unacceptable," he said in a statement. "Our staff will not stop working until we have notified all those affected and helped each and every one of our customers ensure they have the correct tax credit amount and can choose the best plan to meet their needs and budget."

Health exchange officials said that they are in the process of notifying applicants who were affected. Exchange spokeswoman Bethany Frey said that of the 8,000 affected, 3,400 were completely enrolled and had submitted payment, but that those payments had not yet been processed. The rest had completed their applications but had not yet submitted payment.

The error is the largest acknowledged since the web-based application's

shaky launch at the beginning of the month. Even though the site hasn't left all its errors and glitches behind, thousands are signing up for health insurance each week and the program has moved from startup to maintenance, said Michael Marchand, spokesman for the Washington Health Benefit Exchange, which runs the website, a call center and outreach efforts across the state.

After trying to sign up during the first few days of October and failing, William Towey logged back in a few days later and had health insurance in under 30 minutes.

On Jan. 1, the 48-year-old, self-employed handyman from Tacoma will be covered by health insurance for the first time in more than a decade.

"I've got a reasonably secure, modest lifestyle," Towey said. "I don't have a lot but I feel like I've made progress over the years, but I'm in no position to deal with a large medical bill."

Towey said he shopped for health insurance about a year ago but gave up when he found it would have cost between \$400 and \$500 a month. The plan he signed up for this month will cost about half that amount.

Marchand summarized the biggest problems keeping people from using the website during its first days of operation as:

- Communication problems between the state site and the federal government;
- Choke points where a lot of data was being uploaded by a lot of people at the same time;
- People entering the wrong kind of information or in the wrong format or using characters the program couldn't read, such as ampersands.

City Council Seeks Candidates For The OPA Review Board

The Seattle City Council is seeking candidates for the Office of Professional Accountability

(OPA) Review Board. The Review Board serves the City's police accountability system and works closely

Some of those issues were fixed in the first few days; others have required an ongoing process of responding to error reports, complaints to the call center and comments on social media, Marchand said. Helpful hints also have been imbedded into the site now, reminding users to do certain things.

Volumes at the call center have been many times greater than expected, in part because of all the error messages on the website. The call center, where people can ask for help or can set up their account and shop for insurance with help from a real person, was staffed to answer about 2,500 calls a day, but the reality has been an average of 6,000 calls a day and up to 10,000 on some days.

The exchange is hiring about 80 additional people for the call center to decrease wait times, as call volume is expected to remain high through December.

About 35,000 Washington residents have signed up for insurance through the exchange since it opened on Oct. 1. Another 56,000 people have completed online applications for insurance but won't officially be signed up until they pay the insurance company. Those payments are due in December for coverage that begins in January.

Another 20,000 have created an account on the website but have not signed up for insurance. Nearly 300,000 more have taken a look at the site but haven't registered.

Before health care reform went into effect, an estimated 1 million Washington residents did not have health insurance.

with the civilian OPA Director and the civilian OPA Auditor.

The OPA Review Board recommends best practices for reform with regard to police accountability oversight. There are four open positions on the seven-member Board. The Board will also work with the 15-member Community Police Commission (CPC) to assist in the reform efforts embodied in the Settlement Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding instituted by the Department of Justice.

Additional responsibilities of the OPA Review Board include reviewing the handling process for police accountability complaints, holding community outreach events to receive community feedback, and researching national trends to determine effective and innovative measures in the area of police accountability and civilian law enforcement oversight. The OPA Review Board delivers its findings and recommendations to the City Council twice a year.

Interested candidates should deliver a resume, cover letter, and the names and contact information of three references by **5 p.m. on Friday, November 15th** to Councilmember Bruce Harrell by email bruce.harrell@seattle.gov, by fax (206-684-8587; provide cover memo with Attn: Bruce Harrell) or by mail to: Councilmember Bruce Harrell, Seattle City Council, P.O. Box 34025, Seattle, WA 98124-4025

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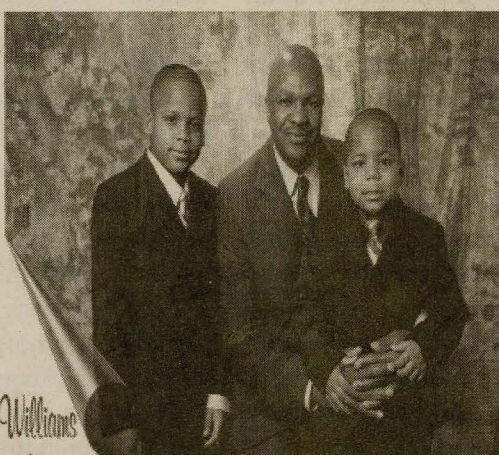
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Tuesday, Nov. 19
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PROJECT 1327 BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY REPLACEMENT

Intercity Transit, the public transportation provider in Thurston County, Washington, is requesting bids for Project 1327 – Backflow Assembly Replacement. Work shall be accomplished at 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 remove the existing backflow prevention assembly and successfully install and test a new assembly as specified in the RFB document.

Prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to attend the pre-bid meeting scheduled for November 6, 2013 at 2:00pm PST in the Intercity Transit Administration Facility Board 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 2:00pm PST on November 19, 2013. Late bids will not be considered.

The Request for Bids document, specifications, addenda, and plan holders list for this project will be solely provided through Builders Exchange of Washington, Inc., at www.bxwa.com. Click on: Posted Projects>Public Works>Intercity Transit (under Public Agencies)>Projects Bidding>I Agree>1327 Backflow Assembly Replacement. Bidders are encouraged to select "Register on this project" in order to receive automatic e-mail notification of any future addenda and to be placed on the "Bidders List". 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, Procurement Coordinator, Intercity Transit, at (360) 705-5837 or ehamilton@intercitytransit.com.

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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.

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Best Assumes Role Of Captain At South Precinct

By Gizelle Fletcher
The Seattle Medium

Seattle Police Officer Carmen Best was recently promoted to the rank of Captain and has been assigned to the Seattle Police Department's South Precinct.

Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, Best says she applied to become a police officer on a whim rather than a lifelong desire to work in law enforcement.

"I chose to become a police officer because I was at a point in my life where I wanted to try something new," says Best. "I didn't know if I was going to stay here or not, or that I would be right here where I am 21 years later."

Best values her role as a police officer with the Seattle Police Department (SPD) and has made the best of her tenure, and made long-lasting contributions to her community.

Over the course of her career, Best has worked in many positions within the department including: patrol supervisor, school safety and as media relations department spokeswoman. Most recently, she has been detailed to community outreach where she spent three years working in and with youth outreach, crime stoppers, demographic advisory council and false alarm among others.

In August of this year, SPD recognized her hard work and dedication, as Best was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain.

"I am very excited, as would be anyone who has been with an organization for so long," says Best of her promotion.

To prepare for her position, Captain Best underwent training at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Center, as



Carmen Best was recently promoted to Captain of The Seattle Police Department's South Precinct.

does every officer at the beginning of her career. Later, she went on to train at the Senior Management

Institute for Police in Boston in 2006 and at the FBI National Academy in 2011.

"Working with the community is the most rewarding thing," Best says when asked about the most rewarding part of her job. "The things that motivate and excite me are working with the people, the community, in whatever capacity."

Though she will be working in a different capacity, Best assures The Medium that as Captain, just like her role as Lieutenant, she will still be working with the people.

"You never lose community," says Best. "We still have to figure out what is going on, what the problems are and how to fix them."

Holding many positions with different missions and working alongside diverse groups of people, Best's desire for "something different" 21 years ago has been fulfilled working with the Seattle

Police Department.

As a woman of color on the force, Captain Carmen Best does her job to the best of her ability.

"Being a woman of color on the force is much like being a woman of color in any other establishment," says Best. "You know that you are noticed more because there are so few of you. So, I do my job to best of my ability and worry about myself."

Best hopes that more women of color and people from the communities get involved in law enforcement.

"People may not think of it as a possible career, but it is. There are a vast number of positions, leadership roles, and ways of making a difference," she says. "I believe we can make a difference in the community from the inside out."

Report: Half Of Single Young Adults Could Get Health Coverage For \$50 Or Less

A new report released Monday by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shows that nearly half (46 percent) of single young adults who are uninsured and may be eligible for coverage in the Health Insurance Marketplace could get coverage for \$50 or less per month.

"The health care law is

making health insurance more affordable for young adults," said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. "With nearly half of single, Marketplace-eligible uninsured young adults able to get coverage at \$50 or less per month, the health care law is delivering the quality, affordable coverage people are looking for."

Young adults are the

age group most likely to be without health insurance. But through the Health Insurance Marketplace, young adults can purchase quality, affordable coverage and get lower costs on monthly premiums through tax credits. Young adults may also be eligible for Medicaid. The amount an individual can save depends on his or her family income and size.

The report examines data from the 34 Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces

and finds that out of 2.9 million single young adults ages 18 to 34 who may be eligible for coverage in the Marketplace, 1.3 million (46 percent) could purchase a bronze plan for \$50 per month or less after tax credits. In the 34 states, a total of 1.9 million young adults, representing nearly 7 in 10 (66 percent) of the potentially Marketplace-eligible uninsured ages 18 to 34, may be able to pay \$100 or less for coverage in 2014.

According to the

report, an additional 1 million eligible uninsured single young adults may qualify for Medicaid in the states that have opted to expand the program in 2014. Today's report also shows that if each of the 34 states expanded its Medicaid program, the proportion of young adults who could obtain low-cost coverage would be even greater. If each of the 34 states expanded its Medicaid program, 4.9 million uninsured single young adults would be

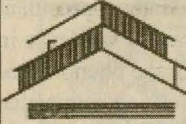
eligible for Medicaid.

While some states are expanding their Medicaid programs in 2014, other states are not doing so. Under the health care law, states can receive 100 percent federal funding in 2014 to expand their Medicaid programs to cover people with incomes up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level. That's about \$15,800 a year for an individual, or about \$32,500 for a family of four.

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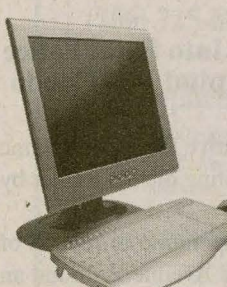
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By George E. Curry
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — FARC, the Colombian guerrillas, freed former U.S. veteran Kevin Scott Sutay Sunday after more than four months of captivity.

According to a joint statement by Cuba and Norway, Sutay, 27, was handed over to U.S. officials at the airport in the capital city of Bogota at 11:30 a.m. He was examined and reported to be in good health. It was unclear when he would leave for the U.S.

Sutay, who was captured June 20 while backpacking through the thick rainforest of Colombia in a region controlled by FARC, was released to representatives of the Red Cross, Cuba, and Norway. FARC-EP — the Spanish acronym for Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — the People's Army — has been at war with the

Colombia government for 50 years.

FARC representatives had made at least two offers to free Sutay, the latest on Sept. 27 in Havana, where they were engaged in ongoing peace talks with representatives of the Colombian government. Rebel leaders accepted an invitation to meet with Jesse Jackson in Cuba and agreed to turn Sutay over to him without any conditions.

Sutay fought in Afghanistan for a year. The *Los Angeles Times* reported that Sutay, who grew up in Willow Spring, N.C., but was a resident of New York at the time of his capture, served as an explosives specialist with the U.S. Navy. Other news accounts have described him as an Army veteran. He was discharged from the military two years ago.

FARC said Sutay told them that he had been hiking through Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rico,

Nicaragua, Panama and Colombia before being captured. He had been warned against traveling through a dangerous war zone, but he ignored those warnings. Sutay was captured by FARC just 12 days after entering the country.

In a statement announcing they were willing to release Sutay as a humanitarian gesture, the rebels said, "The FARC-EP has taken the decision to ask Reverend Jesse Jackson to make available his experience and integrity to expedite Kevin Scott's release."

However, Colombia President Juan Manuel took to Twitter to say, "Only the Red Cross will be authorized to arrange for the handover of the North American kidnapped by the FARC. We will not allow a media spectacle."

Jackson stepped aside at that point, saying his goal was to win the freedom of

Sutay on whatever terms established by President Santos.

In a statement issued Sunday, Secretary of State John Kerry said: "We welcome the release today of Kevin Scott Sutay from captivity at the hands of the FARC."

"The United States is profoundly grateful to the Government of Colombia and commends its tireless efforts to secure his release. We offer special thanks to President Juan Manuel Santos for his assistance."

"We also appreciate the contributions of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Governments of Norway and Cuba in securing Mr. Sutay's freedom. And we thank the Reverend Jesse Jackson for his efforts in consistently advocating for Mr. Sutay's release."

Jackson said in a statement, "I join in celebrating with the State Department the release of Kevin Scott Sutay. A month ago, we met with FARC leadership in Cuba and they agreed to release Kevin to me with no conditions. The release did not occur due to logistic issues between the Colombian government and the FARC. I never gave up on advocating for Kevin's freedom and it is a joy to know that he is finally free and will be united with his family very soon."

"I thank the FARC leadership for keeping to their commitment to free Kevin. I also thank President Juan Manuel Santos whom I met with in Bogota, Colombia regarding Kevin. His role was vital in the joy we celebrate today."

Jackson thanked all parties involved in the successful release and said, "I hope and pray that all parties to the Colombian conflict will agree to move from the battle field and embrace a political solution to this long and devastating conflict."

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Peewees

Emerald City Seahawks 19, Rainier White Ravens 0

The Seahawks' Samuel Taylor got the ball rolling early for Emerald City as he scored on a 48 yard touchdown run early in the first quarter. Emerald City quarterback Donovan Gill completed a pass to Nyale Robinson for the extra point. Donovan also scored two touchdowns of his own as the Seahawks posted a shutout win over the White Ravens.

CD Panthers 14, Rainier Beach 6

The Panthers and the Vikings played a close game that the Panthers were able to pull out thanks to two touchdowns scored by Kashani Lexing. Rainier Beach scored on a long TD run by Damari King but came up short to the Panthers 14-6. The Vikings' Coach Kitty is Rainier Beach's first woman coach to make it to the playoffs. King is just in her second year of coaching.

Sweet Peas

Emerald City Seahawks 42, Rainier Green Ravens 19

Emerald City's Cole Reynolds scored four touchdowns, including a 45 yard fumble return for a touchdown to lead the Seahawks to a 42-19 win over the Green Ravens. Nahmier Robinson and Ke'Shawn Lynch also scored touchdowns for the Seahawks, and teammate Myles Campbell recorded an extra point. The Green Ravens' got touchdowns from Jaylin Stewart and Xiyelon Watson.

Seatac Sharks 19, CD Panthers 13

In the most exciting game of the day, The Seatac Sharks were able to pull out the victory with 17 seconds left on the clock thanks to a touchdown run by Caleb Presley. It was Presley's third touchdown on the day, giving the Sharks a 19-13 victory over the Panthers. Alvin Hollins and Jamaica Myers each scored a touchdown for the Panthers who fought hard but came up a little short.

Bantams

Rainier Green Ravens 13, Rainier White Ravens 0

Jalen Dixon's 19 yard interception return for a touchdown put the game out of reach, as the Green Ravens posted a hard-fought shutout win over the White Ravens. Jayden Wingo scored on a 19-yard run, and Silk Harris recorded an extra point for the undefeated Green Ravens.

Emerald City Seahawks 7, CD Panthers 0

A defensive battle that ended with the Seahawks prevailing 7-0 on a touchdown run by quarterback Marquise Roy. Penalties took away two touchdowns by the Panthers and an interception by Ronald Miller III sealed the victory for the Seahawks who had lost their two previous match-ups with the Panthers.

Juniors

Rainier Green Ravens 27, Rainier White Ravens 0

The Green Ravens' Derek Ray returned the opening kickoff 75 yards for a touchdown, as the Green Ravens punched their ticket to the championship with a 26-0 shutout win over the White Ravens. Ray finished the day with two touchdowns. Green Ravens quarterback Trey Morris scored on a one yard touchdown run, the play was set up by a 37 yard run by A'Skhari Davis. Davis converted the extra point attempt. Malik Jones rounded out the scoring with a 9 yard run for the Green Ravens. On defense, Robel Yohannes had a fumble recovery and Tony Dias had an interception for the Green Ravens. The Green Ravens also got big defensive performances from SaV'ell Smalls, Saint Prim and Tanford Russell. Robinson Semo recovered a fumble for the White Ravens, and teammate Jo'Kori Moe recorded a sack.

CD Panthers 26, Seatac Sharks 12

After giving up the opening kick-off for a touchdown by Elija Johnson, the Sharks settled in to get the win over the CD Panthers 26-12 on the legs and arm of quarterback Mark Tafia who scored on the ground, returned a kick-off for a touchdown, and added a TD pass that was caught by Tama Ma'alona. The Panthers were close, down 14-6 on the goaline when an unfortunate fumble ended a promising drive. The Panthers' Jhmar Brown scored on a TD pass from Emonte Scott but it wasn't enough in the end to take down the Sharks who also got a TD run from Michael (Bubba) Ulugalu.

Seniors

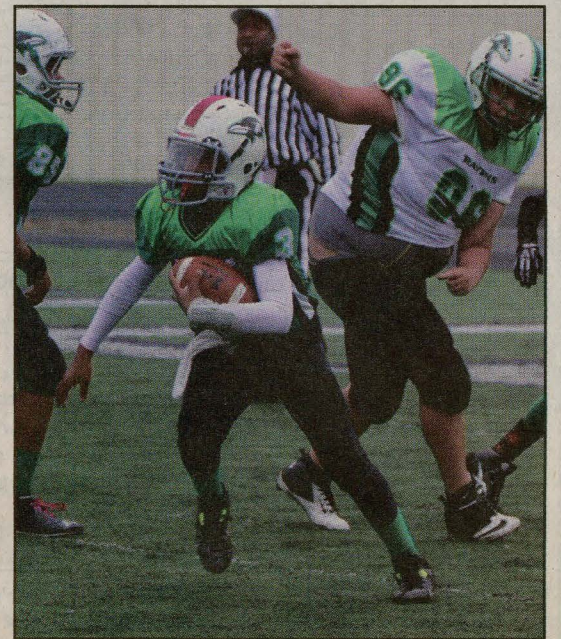
Seatac Sharks 38, Rainier Beach 0

The Beach Boyz put up a good fight, but they were just out-manned by the #1 seed Seatac Sharks. Darius Bourne scored three touchdowns (17, 26 and 48 yards) to help pace the Sharks, while teammate EJ Brown was a workhorse rushing for many tough yards and one touchdown. The Sharks got two late defensive touchdowns as Julian Tuimauga scored on a 22 yard fumble recovery and Jamyn Patu scored on a 34 yard fumble recovery. Patu also recorded an extra point on the day, and Izaías Ramirez recorded an interception.

CD Panthers 46, Rainier White Ravens 7

The Panthers win big with a 46-7 victory over the Rainier Ravens with four players reaching the endzone. Ze'Andre Braxton, Ramari Hampton and Robert Fleeks had a touchdown a piece, while Kaprice Paine scored a receiving touchdown and had a kick-off return for a touchdown to boost the CD Panthers to the championship game.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to Rainier Beach Head Coaches Kitty King (Peewees) and Frank King (Seniors) on becoming the first husband and wife coaching tandem to make it to the playoffs in the same year.



More action shots available at www.flixandpixnw.com

Playoff Schedule:

Sat., Nov 2 at Foster High School – Tukwila

Seniors – 9:00 a.m.

CD Panthers (9-2) Vs. Seatac Sharks (10-1)

Juniors – 11:00 a.m.

Seatac Sharks (9-2) vs. Rainier Green Ravens (11-0)

Peewees

CD Panthers (9-2) vs Emerald City Seahawks (11-0)

Sweet Peas

Seatac Sharks (9-2) vs Emerald City Seahawks (10-1)

Bantams

Emerald City Seahawks (6-5) vs Rainier Green Ravens (11-0)

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