

“THE MEANING OF LIFE IS CONTAINED IN EVERY SINGLE EXPRESSION OF LIFE.” – MICHAEL JACKSON

# THE WASHINGTON Informer

*Wilmer Leon  
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Decline of Civil  
Liberties,  
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Zelphia Turner, a community health worker at Positive Pathways, shared her story as a person who has been HIV-positive for 24 years during a press conference to release the findings of the District's 2011 HIV/AIDS Report. Turner urged women to be tested when she addressed the audience on June 20 at the N Street Village in Northwest. /Photo by Victor Holt

## D.C. HIV/AIDS Report Reveals Fewer Deaths Infections Still Rampant Among Low-Income Black Women

By Dorothy Rowley  
WI Staff Writer

Two years ago, the District of Columbia struggled to get a grip on its burgeoning HIV/AIDS cases which had reached pandemic proportions among the heterosexual population, and giving the city notoriety as the

leading AIDS infected jurisdiction in the nation.

But even more disturbing is that in spite of its concerted efforts to quell the number of new cases, infections among heterosexual black women – particularly those living in the poorest wards in the city, have nearly doubled since 2008. The good

news however, is that in addition to the city showing a dip in the overall number of new AIDS cases in four years coupled with improvements that have gotten infected individuals into care more quickly, 76 percent of infected people received care within three months of diagnosis in 2010.

“The 2011 ‘HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and TB Epidemiology Report’ is a picture of progress and we try to follow the national HIV/AIDS strategy,” Mayor Vincent Gray said on June 20 during a standing-room only press conference at N Street Village in Northwest, where he along with Dr. Mo-

hammad Akhter, director of the D.C. Department of Health and Dr. Gregory Pappas, senior director at the department, shared findings contained in the 96-page study. However, officials said little about how the epidemic has become commonplace

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**THIS WEEK  
INSIDE**



## "2012 Options Public Charter School Graduation"



(L-R) Darian Cook ("2012 OPCS Valedictorian") and Antuan Washington ("2012 OPCS Salutatorian")

Options Public Charter School held their second high school graduation at Israel Baptist Church. Chief Judge Eric Washington was the commencement speaker. Dr. JC Hayward (Chair of OPCS Board) brought greetings and also give words of wisdom. Musical selections were preformed by Options teachers, Ms. Scott and Ms. Gordon. The award winning honor guard presented the colors. Darian Cook was the "2012 OPCS Valedictorian" and the "2012 OPCS Salutatorian" was Antuan Washington. Options is led by Dr. Donna Montgomery. Other members of the LEA Team are Atty. Paul Dalton, Dr. Charles Vincent, Dr. David Cranford and Mrs. Rebekah Roberts. The main campus principal is Mrs. M. Pianim, Ms. J. Mathes and Mr. D. Deane are the vice principals. Mr. A. Pierre is the principal of the Shaw Campus. Ms. S. Bartlett directed the graduation ceremony. For more information about Options go to [www.OptionsSchool.Org](http://www.OptionsSchool.Org).



(L-R) Mr. A. Pierre, Mr. P. Dalton, Chief Judge E. Washington (Chief Judge Court of Appeals), Dr. JC Hayward, Dr. D. Montgomery, Dr. C. Vincent, Dr. D. Cranford, & Ms. R. Roberts



(L-R) Dr. JC Hayward (OPCS Bd. Chairman) & Ms. E. Bloomfield (DCPCSB Membr.)



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(L-R) Lloyd Anderson (OPCS Bd. Secty.), Dr. JC Hayward (OPCS Chairman), Chief Judge E. Washington & Jeff Smith (OPCS Bd. Membr.)



Ms. Gordon Sang the National Anthem for the graduates.



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Eric Smith, owner of Barbecue Masters in Atlanta, Ga., prepares ribs for the 20th anniversary of the Safeway National Capital Barbecue Battle in Northwest on Saturday, June 24. Barbecue lovers come from far and wide to attend the annual event. /Photo by Mark Mahoney



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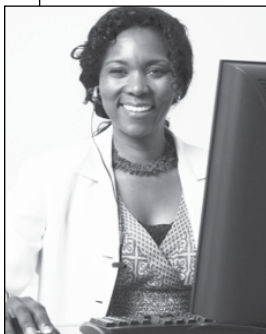


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Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, Sr.  
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SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS WEEK



**Life and Style:  
Six Ways to Teach Children About Money During the Summer**

Sure, camps and vacations are staples that burn a lot of energy, but the brain needs stimulation too. What is a parent to do? Why not take some free time to teach your children about money?

**Health:  
Beware of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease**

Hand, foot, and mouth disease is a contagious viral illness that commonly affects infants and children. There is no vaccine to prevent the disease. But, you and your family can take simple steps to reduce your risk.

**National:  
Shooting Death Prompts Charges of Racially-Motivated Violence in Milwaukee**

Although some disagree, others say this appears to be another Trayvon Martin incident.

**International:  
Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan Sacks Security, Defense Chiefs**

No official reason was given for the dismissals, but the Kaduna bombings intensified criticism of President Jonathan's handling of the Boko Haram insurgency.

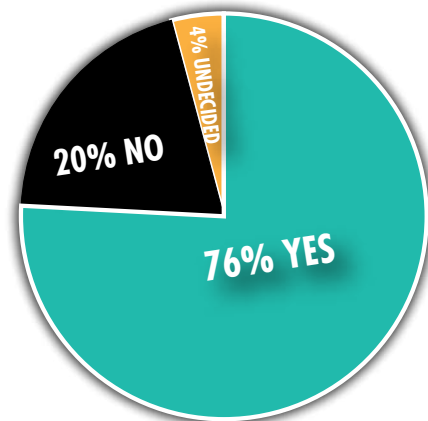


**This Week's Top Article:**

The D.C. Department of Health recently released its 2011 HIV/AIDS Report which shows a decrease in the number of new AIDS cases in the District. WI Staff Reporter Dorothy Rowley examines the 96-page document that discusses the city's efforts to stop the spread of the disease.

**Results from last week's Poll Question:**

Do you support President Barack Obama's decision to stop deporting young law-abiding immigrants?



**New Poll Question:**

Could gas prices realistically fall below \$3 by fall? Go to Washingtoninformer.com to cast your vote!





D.C. Council member Michael Brown (I-At-Large) received the thumbs up from D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson. /Photo by Victor Holt



Markus Batchelor disagrees with the Ward 8 Democratic Committee when it comes to his boss, D.C. Council member and Chairman Pro Tempore Michael Brown. /Courtesy Photo

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# D.C. Political Roundup

By James Wright  
WI Staff Writer

## Batchelor Defends Brown

Markus Batchelor, the first vice president of the Ward 8 Democratic Committee, didn't agree with a Sat., June 16 resolution passed by his organization criticizing the D.C. Council regarding his boss, D.C. Council member and Chairman Pro Tempore Michael Brown (I-At-Large).

Brown, 46, received the thumbs up from D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D). The brouhaha ensued when D.C. Council member Vincent Orange (D-At-Large) contested Brown's selection as second in-command, on the grounds that a Democrat should hold the pro tempore's position. Brown happens to be an independent even though his father, the late Ronald Brown, served as chairman of the Democratic National Committee and is the only black to have led the U.S. Commerce Department.

"I think who I work for is irrelevant to the Ward 8 Democrats," said Batchelor, who works as an intern in Brown's office. "I work hard for the party and when I am in the [John A.] Wilson Building, I work for the government."

The defining section of the resolution states "that the Ward Eight Democrats, Inc., request that the D.C. Democratic State Committee convenes as soon as possible a convocation of Democratic Party grassroots registrants, organizational leaders and pub-

lic elected officials to answer the question 'What is a Democrat?'"

Batchelor, 19, served as a former youth mayor of the District and currently attends George Washington University in Northwest. He's a political science major. Batchelor's considered a rising political star in Ward 8 Democratic circles and his election as first vice president on the ticket with the Rev. Joyce Scott as president and former D.C. Council member Sandy Allen as the second vice president in September 2011 is viewed by political observers as a first step toward the start of his political career.

However, Batchelor was outvoted by his running mates Scott and Allen, who both supported the resolution condemning the D.C. Council's vote for Brown. D.C. Council member Marion Barry (D-Ward 8) supported the resolution along with other Ward 8 Democratic heavyweights such as Philip Pannell, James Bunn, Mary Cuthbert, Anthony Muhammad and Charles Wilson.

Batchelor, however, remains undeterred.

"My loyalty is to the Democratic Party and where I work is irrelevant," he said.

## Barry Hires Veteran Media Personality

D.C. Council member Marion Barry (D-Ward 8) has hired Ward 5 resident LaToya Foster to be his press secretary. Foster's no stranger to D.C. politics and said she's excited about working with

the former four-term mayor.

"Who doesn't want to work for the 'mayor for life,'" Foster said. "He is a champion for the people."

Foster has had several shows on WOL-AM radio, including "Handle Your Business" that aired from May 2006-August 2008 on Sunday evenings with Washington Informer reporter James Wright as a political contributor and analyst. She also served as the lead host of the television show "In the Know", a weekly program that was broadcast on cable television on Saturday evenings and on WJLA-Channel 7 on Sunday afternoons. The program featured interviews with the city and nation's top political and business leaders along with a spirited political discussion with journalists Hamil Harris of The Washington Post and former Washington Informer editor Sonyrea Tate-Montgomery.

She has also hosted "Live at 5" and "Washington Insider" radio shows on WOL-AM. Foster is a graduate of Eastern High School in Northeast and has worked for the U.S. Department of Transportation as an international trade specialist.

Barry's controversial comments don't present a problem for Foster.

"It is an honor and a privilege to work for such an extraordinary human being," she said. "He is the best D.C. council member." WI

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WEEK OF JUNE 28 TO JULY 4

## Black Facts

#### June 28

**1971 – Muhammad Ali** is allowed to box again after winning a victory in the United States Supreme Court. The court overturned his conviction for refusing to be drafted and serve in the United States war in Vietnam. Asked how he could claim to be a pacifist opposed to war while being a professional boxer, Ali's most frequent response was "I am not going 10,000 miles from here to help murder and kill and burn poor people to help continue the domination of white slave masters over the darker people."

#### June 29

**1970 – NAACP Chairman Stephen Gill Spottswood** creates a national controversy by telling the annual convention of the civil rights organization that the administration of President Richard Nixon was "anti-Negro" and was pursuing policies "inimical to the needs and aspirations" of African Americans.

#### June 30

**1917 – Glamorous Singer-Actress Lena Horne** is born in Brooklyn. She would perform with jazz greats such as Artie Shaw, Teddy Wilson, Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington. She also became the first African American woman to sign a long-term contract with a major Hollywood studio. Horne died on May 9, 2010 at the age of 92.

**1967 – Major Robert H. Lawrence** is named the first Black U.S. astronaut in the NASA space program. The Chicago-born Lawrence would later die under somewhat mysterious circumstances during a training exercise in December 1967.

**1995 – Song stylist singer Phyllis Hyman** commits suicide in New York City shortly before she was scheduled to perform at a concert. Hyman was one of the premier female vocalists of her day.

#### July 1

**1899 – Thomas Andrew Dorsey** is born in Villa Rica, Georgia. Dorsey is widely credited with being the "Father of Gospel Music." During the early 1930s, after leaving Atlanta for Chicago, Dorsey

combined Gospel and the Blues while performing under the name "Georgia Tom."

#### July 2

**1822 – Denmark Vesey** and five of his co-conspirators are hanged in Charleston, South Carolina. Vesey's "crime" had been the organization of the largest slave rebellion in American history. But the insurrection was betrayed by a "house slave" before it could be implemented. Vesey was actually a former slave who had purchased his freedom.

**1908 – Thurgood Marshall** is born in Baltimore, Maryland. Marshall would go on to become chief counsel for the NAACP and the lead attorney in the Brown v. Board of Education case which led to the desegregation of the nation's schools. President Lyndon Johnson would in June

#### July 3

**1775 – Prince Hall** founds African Lodge Number One – the first Black lodge of Free Masons in the United States.

Hall would become the pioneer builder of Black Masons in America. He was also a leading voice against slavery and for Black rights in the North.

**1962 –** The first Black man permitted to play Major League Baseball, **Jackie Robinson**, is named to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

#### July 4

**1776 –** The United States formally becomes a nation with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. The document was largely written by later **President Thomas Jefferson**. Amazingly, although he was a slave owner himself, Jefferson originally included a section in the Declaration denouncing slave traders and slave owners, but it was later deleted by Congress.

**1881 – Booker T. Washington** opens Tuskegee Institute (now university) in Alabama. It would become a leading center for the education of Blacks. **WI**



Lena Horne

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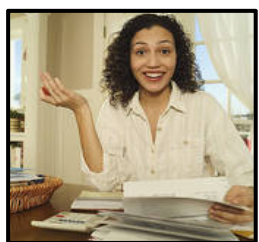
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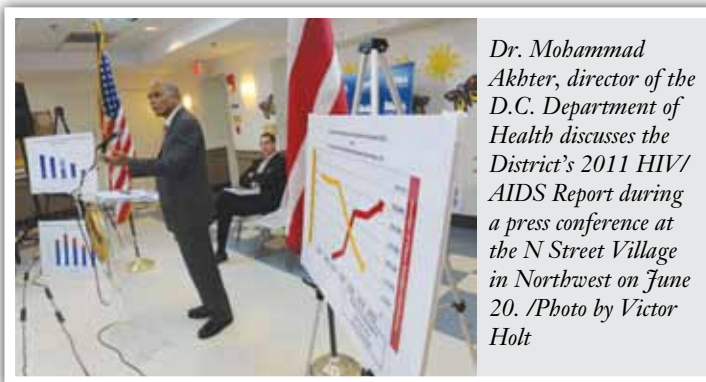
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Dr. Mohammad Akhter, director of the D.C. Department of Health discusses the District's 2011 HIV/AIDS Report during a press conference at the N Street Village in Northwest on June 20. /Photo by Victor Holt

### REPORT continued from Page 1

among black females.

"It's an initiative that I have been devoted to for a long time," said Gray, 69. "We're treating the whole person and a set of conditions . . . they [can obtain] treatment right away [as opposed to having to] wait months and months."

Nevertheless, with black women in D.C. taking the lead in newly-diagnosed cases, there remains great cause for concern as their numbers are also indicative of growing incidences of infections across the country. Particularly after a study in 2009 of 40 U.S. states and territories showed that 66 percent of women diagnosed with HIV happened to be African American as opposed to 17 percent white, and 14 percent Hispanic.

A Center for Disease Control and Prevention report in 2009 also revealed that when black men accounted for 70 percent of the estimated new HIV infections among all blacks, African-American women living in poverty-stricken areas such as the District's wards 7 and 8, accounted for 90 percent of the estimated new HIV infections among all blacks in the city. That not only means that the number of black women in the District who've contracted HIV has doubled from 6.8 percent over the past four years, but that they most likely represent a minority who have no idea they have been infected.

To that end, D.C. resident Zephia Turner, who has been HIV positive for 24 years, pleaded with other females to get tested. She also urged those who have tested positive for HIV to take their medications diligently. Turner, whose daughter was born with HIV, said that because of advances in medicine, living with HIV/AIDS is no longer the death sentence it used to be. As a result, she has become committed to helping others deal with their affliction.

"Being that that situation happened to me, I felt that I should get out here and try to help somebody else because somebody helped us get into care," Turner told an attentive audience at the press conference. "When I first

got diagnosed, they gave me 10 years and I was panicking . . . I started out working in prevention and outreach programs for needle exchanges and HIV testing and then the whole nine yards."

After attending nine months of training, Turner said she was hired for the outreach program, CommonHealth Action in Northwest, which gets HIV-positive individuals into health care.

"When I get notice that people are out of care, I call them. If I get no answer, I send them a letter – or I'll go and knock on their doors," said Turner. "I try to fix some of the barriers that led them out of care and I work with their case workers to get them back to taking their medicines, because if I hadn't been taking my medicines all these years, I might not be standing here. I've seen all three of my children and my grandson grow up."

On the other hand, Deloris Dockery, HIV-positive for 16 years and who runs the highly successful One Conversation project, a public-education AIDS-prevention and community-action campaign of the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation in Newark, N.J., said in an interview on Examiner.com, that she's looking forward to the International AIDS Conference which takes place next month in the District. Dockery noted why it's important for Black Americans to attend and what needs to be done to end the scourge of HIV/AIDS on society.

"We need to identify every single person who is infected by HIV, and we need to get them care," she said, echoing Turner's sentiments. "And 'care' does not necessarily mean putting them on medication – it does mean getting them into [health and social services] care and tracking their disease progression. This is important because if we can suppress viral loads to undetectable levels, we can reduce transmission."

Dockery added that involvement of more of the individuals infected is needed in the whole decision-making process regarding what can be done to stamp out HIV/AIDS. "This can't just be about people creating legislation and making other moves on behalf of people living with HIV," she said. "It has to be done in

partnership with those who are affected." She said that hearing the voices of black women living with HIV in the United States highlights their presence.

"Oftentimes we're not heard and we're not seen," she said. "For me that's really important. That's one of the things that I have been fighting for."

The CDC report goes on to state overall, that most black women with HIV contracted the virus through heterosexual sex.

But the good news for D.C. is that in spite of having 2.7 percent of its total population infected in comparison to December 2010 when there were 14,465 cases of residents diagnosed with HIV, the number of new cases declined last year. Also, since 2009, there have been no children born with HIV in the District.

Gray said that while the number of new AIDS-related cases in the District decreased last year by 32 percent, the number of deaths among individuals who died after 2006 decreased by half – from 399 to 207. He said there was a 24 percent reduction in the number of people diagnosed, and that cases fell last year from 1,103 to 835 cases. In addition, some 4,300 young people were tested in the same time frame for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Gray also said that the health department distributed five million condoms in 2011.

"We know that [the use of condoms] is a great prevention technique," Gray said. "As a result, it's a 10-fold increase from 2007," he said. "There was a point in the city when we were fearful that injection drug use was about to match sexual activity as a cause of transmission of the [HIV] virus." However, "The number of cases through IV drug use is down to below 100 at this stage, based on the most recent data that we have."

Akhter said "it's wonderful" to see the strides the District has made.

"The number of new cases are going down and they've been going down steadily. At this time, there are 835 new cases in the District, but they are 835 cases too many," he said.

Overall, Pappas praised the report's findings, insisting that leadership and commitment play a vital role getting the numbers down. But he also alluded to the shift in the District's population, saying that has had a lot to do with a decrease in cases.

"We've had fewer deaths [from AIDS], but that number [is] going down," Pappas said. "It's a statistical anomaly . . . that is part of a national trend." **WI**



# D.C. Democrats Top Priority: Re-electing Obama

District Supporters Will Travel to Various States to Campaign for the President

By James Wright  
WI Staff Writer

District Democrats expressed strong support for President Obama and pledged to work this fall to keep him in the White House for another four years during an annual fundraising soiree in Northwest.

The D.C. Democratic State Committee held its 26th Kennedys-King Gala at the Washington Hilton Hotel on Thursday, June 21. Hundreds of politicians and political activists mingled and chatted about the upcoming presidential election in November.

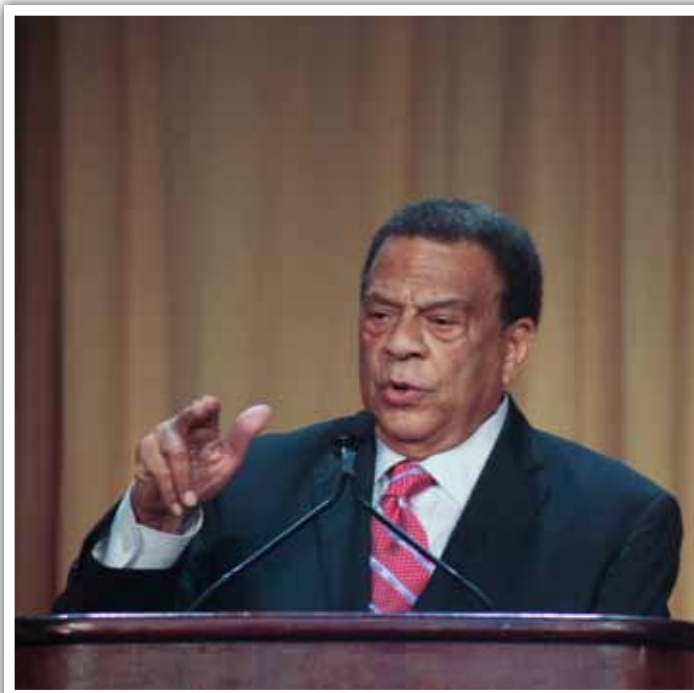
"I am planning to campaign for President Obama in North Carolina," said Frank Wilds, a former candidate for the Ward 5 D.C. Council seat. Wilds, 68, campaigned on behalf of Obama during the 2008 presidential race. "I will be spending a lot of time in Raleigh to help the president win. There is no need for me to stay here."

Wilds' efforts must have paid off. Obama eked out a win by carrying the state with less than 14,000 votes. The last Democrat to win North Carolina in a presidential race was Jimmy Carter in 1976.

The District of Columbia is the only jurisdiction that has voted for Democratic nominees since it participated in its first national election in 1964 as a result of the 23rd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1961, giving it three electoral votes in the Electoral College. The District delivers strongly for Democrats even during the election years of 1972 when President Richard Nixon defeated Democrat George McGovern decisively throughout the country and in 1984 when President Ronald Reagan overwhelmed Democrat Walter Mondale by a historic electoral landslide.

In 2008, Obama won 92 percent of the District's vote over GOP nominee Sen. John McCain, his largest margin in a jurisdiction that year. The president is expected to win the District handily, which is why many D.C. Democrats will join Wilds and campaign in other states.

Former D.C. Council member Betty Ann Kane, who is the chairman of the D.C. Public Service Commission, said she will work for Obama in New England.



Former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young addresses hundreds of Democrats at the Kennedys-King Gala on Thursday, June 21. /Photo by Shevry Lassiter

"I have a daughter who lives in Maine and when I visit her this fall, I will campaign for the president," said Kane, 70. "I can do everything for President Obama but raise money. The Hatch Act allows me to participate in political activities so when I go to Maine I will participate in phone banking and go where I am needed."

Obama did well in Maine in 2008, winning 57 percent of the vote, but political observers have put nearby New Hampshire in the swing state category.

Phinis Jones, a well-known businessman and political activist in Ward 8, said that he will help Obama in Pennsylvania. Obama won the Keystone State with 54 percent of the vote but it's always in contention in presidential election years because of the unexpected turnout in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh metropolitan areas.

"I will be knocking on doors to tell people to vote for the president," said Jones, 64.

Charles Wilson, an advisory neighborhood commissioner in Ward 8, said that he's telling his friends and family in the Washington region and other places to register to vote in the general election.

"I am telling them to do what they can in their own states," said Wilson, 36. "I am [telling] them that they cannot take this election

lightly."

In his address, former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young urged Obama "not to ignore the South but campaign there."

"There are a lot of changes going on in the South that focus groups and polling cannot predict," said Young, 80, who served two terms as mayor of Atlanta.

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn (D-S.C.), the Assistant Democratic Leader, said that "four states that are close to D.C.: North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania will determine whether or not we will keep Barack Obama."

Despite all of the political banter, guests definitely enjoyed the evening. D.C. Council member Yvette Alexander (D-Ward 7) danced with political activists Kemry Hughes and Keith Perry to the song "Statehood for D.C.," by LCB: Leonard, Coleman and Blunt.

Robert Brannum, a Ward 5 Democrat, said that serious work lies ahead.

"First, I am going to the convention in Charlotte to see Obama re-nominated," said Brannum, 59. "Then, I am going to campaign in Virginia like I did in 2008. I will help the team deliver his message door-to-door." **WI**

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D.C. Council member Marion Barry addresses a gathering at THEARC in Southeast while the Rev. Carolyn Scales (left) and Edmund Fleet, executive director of THEARC, listen to the council member's comments. /Courtesy photo by Will Thomas of THEARC

# Walmart Gifts \$50,000 to THEARC

## WI Staff Report

The nation's largest retailer recently gifted thousands of dollars to a Southeast arts facility for its programs that emphasize healthy eating and a health-conscious lifestyle.

Representatives of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation presented a \$50,000 check to Edmund Fleet, executive director of THEARC [Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus] for its nutrition and wellness programs that include its organic teaching garden. D.C. Council member Marion Barry (D-Ward 8) attended the event on Wed., June 20 and applauded Walmart for its generosity.

"THEARC is a committed member of this community and this partnership with Walmart will help address critical needs of our residents," said Barry, 76. "Improving the health and wellness of the children in our community, especially in an area of need as great as Ward 8, should be a top priority of our community partners. I applaud this generous commitment to help that cause."

THEARC opened in October 2005 and has hosted various events with White House officials, well-known artists and athletes and community leaders in attendance. It's also home to 11 non-profits and has a community theater, a gymnasium, libraries, computer labs and class-

rooms for public use. THEARC is known for its dance and music programs, particularly for young people.

Fleet, 43, echoed Barry's sentiments.

"THEARC is delighted and grateful to Walmart for enabling us to provide a healthy breakfast, lunch and dinner daily and health and wellness instruction each week to all of our campers this summer," said Fleet. "THEARC's mission is to provide the kids and families who live east of the Anacostia River with all of the opportunities they need in order to live healthy and productive lives. Providing our kids with healthy fresh meals and information about how they can take good care of themselves goes hand-in-hand with the educational, cultural arts and recreational programs we already provide at THEARC."

Fleet, who lives in Southeast, said that children who are well-nourished perform better in their fine arts classes. He noted that Walmart supported THEARC's healthy living efforts last year but the \$50,000 gift is a first of that magnitude for the company.

David Berns, the director of the D.C. Department of Human Services, said the gift comes at a critical time. "Convenient access to affordable, healthy foods is a pressing issue affecting an increasing number of families in the District of Columbia," Berns said.

A 2010 report by the Food

Research and Action Center in Northwest stated that over 35 percent of households with children in the District said that they were unable to afford enough food. The problem is more acute in Wards 7 and 8, which have the city's highest obesity rates and are home to large "food deserts", which are areas where people don't have access to quality foods and grocery stores.

The organic teaching garden is in response to first lady Michelle Obama's program that promotes good health through the expansion of farmers markets and home-grown foods. Walmart supports Obama's efforts. Walmart is scheduled to open six stores in the District, though none are located in Ward 8. Nevertheless, Henry Jordan, Walmart senior vice president of the Eastern Seaboard Division, said that his company is happy to do its part to help the community.

"We are committed to helping those in need in communities we serve," Jordan said. "Through this grant, we hope to help THEARC continue to provide healthy meals and engaging nutrition-based programming for young people in the District of Columbia." **WI**

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Registration is currently open for the 2012 Verizon’s How Sweet the Sound™ Gospel Celebration and interested choir representatives can visit [www.HowSweetTheSound.com](http://www.HowSweetTheSound.com) until Saturday, June 30th to sign up to be part of the How Sweet the Sound community. By registering, choirs will have the chance to rejoice in song and praise; sing in front of gospel greats and fans; and

compete for a chance to win up to \$50,000 in cash and prizes. After registering, choirs will be judged for their chance to advance to the regional competition. This year, one of seven power-packed regional finals and musical celebrations will be held in WASHINGTON, DC on SEPTEMBER, 12 at 7:30pm at VERIZON CENTER. Tickets are \$20.99, \$16.00, \$11.00. Tickets are available at the Verizon Center box office, all TicketMaster locations and online at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)

Other cities hosting the competition, as part of the 2012 Verizon How Sweet the Sound™ tour, are Dallas, Atlanta, Newark, Detroit and Los Angeles. Competing choirs will vie for their chance to advance to the finale in New York scheduled for November 4th at the Barclays Center, where they will compete for a chance to win cash and prizes and the title of “The Best Gospel Choir in America.”

GRAMMY® award-winning, songwriter, producer, arranger and music director Donald Lawrence will serve as host and be joined by GRAMMY® award-winning entertainer, producer, author and syndicated radio host

Yolanda Adams. In addition, Erica Campbell of Mary Mary, Fred Hammond, Bishop Hezekiah Walker and CeCe Winans will serve as resident judges for this year’s competition and also perform on stage, alongside Lawrence and Adams.

Last year, Tarboro, N.C. based Salvation and Deliverance Church Choir won the

grand prize and the title “Best Gospel Choir in America.” The choir used their prize money to support “Weight On The Lord” – a program designed to help people in their community make healthier lifestyle choices. They were also able to kick off their “How Sweet The Tidings” program just in time for the holidays. The program afforded

them the chance to adopt five families for the holidays, giving them food and gifts.

“Anyone would love to have the bragging rights of calling themselves “the best church choir” in the nation,” said Kristian Herring, director of Salvation and Deliverance Church Choir. “How Sweet the Sound truly helped change our lives.”



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# No Dice Yet for Prince George's Gaming *Gaming Expansion Not a Dead Issue*

By Gale Horton Gay  
WI Staff Writer

Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker isn't quite as hot as he was last week when a work group failed to agree on gaming expansion in Maryland.

A work group that was studying the possible expansion of gaming in the state announced last week that it failed to reach agreement on all the points it was considering and recommended to the governor that a special session of the Maryland Legislature not be called this summer to further discuss the issue.

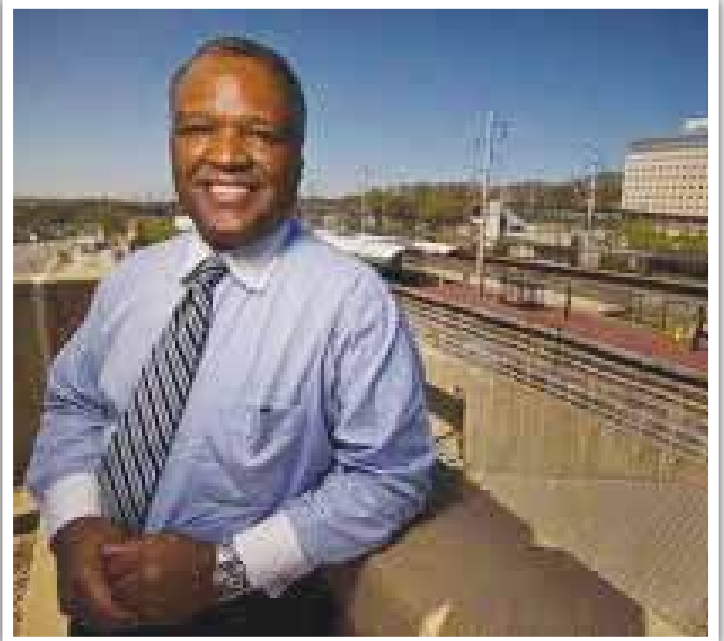
While the 11-member work group agreed on several issues, the one sticking point was making way for Prince George's County to be the site for the state's sixth casino, according to one source.

"When the impasse happened last week with the gaming commission, County Executive Baker did feel misled on this specific issue by the Speaker [Michael Busch]," said Baker's spokesman Scott Peterson. "However, since the impasse of the gaming commission, the county executive has been pleased to see that both the governor and speaker have quickly and continually addressed whether a second session will occur."

Gov. Martin O'Malley did not rule out the possibility of calling a special session to consider gaming expansion and possibly put the decision on gaming changes before voters in the fall.

"The commission arrived at a consensus for moving forward to resolve issues around gambling in Maryland," O'Malley said. "For some reason, the House leadership at the last minute decided they did not want to share in that consensus. Finding common ground will be difficult if House leadership has become invested in the notion that the Anne Arundel site should enjoy a virtual monopoly for as long as possible."

"Over the next several days, I will continue to have conversations with Senate President Miller, House Speaker Busch, Chairman Morton, and County Executive Baker to resolve these



Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker is encouraging the governor, senate president and the speaker to step in and ask the work group to hammer out an agreement. /Courtesy Photo

lingering issues," the governor said.

Baker remains optimistic that a second session will be called, Peterson said.

The work group's announcement came just days after National Harbor's developer, the Peterson Companies and MGM Resorts International announced that they have entered into an agreement for MGM Resorts to develop a "world-class destination resort casino at National Harbor." The agreement is contingent upon the Maryland Legislature passing legislation permitting a sixth casino license at National Harbor, a reduction in the casino tax rate and approval of a state-wide referendum by Maryland voters.

"County Executive Baker recognizes that the thrust of opposition to a special session on gaming and potential referendum by the voters on this issue is from the management of the Arundel Mills site," said Peterson.

Anne Arundel County officials and developers of the newly opened Maryland Live! Casino have expressed opposition to changes to the law to allow an additional casino. They say it would adversely affect the \$500 million investment in the casino.

"I am very disappointed," said Baker immediately following the

gaming commission's announcement last week. "Fortunately, there is still time for them to come to an agreement and not leave 4,000 jobs and over \$200 million in additional revenue for the Maryland Education Trust Fund on the table. I firmly believe that this important issue must be decided by the people of Maryland and the work group should give them an opportunity to weigh in."

"This was about creating jobs and opportunity for our citizens [at] a time when good jobs are hard to find," said Baker, adding that he's encouraging the governor, senate president and the speaker to "step in and ask the work group to hammer out an agreement. The people of Maryland deserve a voice in this," Baker said, adding that the work group's failure to reach consensus appears to have put Marylanders "chance to be included in jeopardy."

A group named Building Trades for National Harbor has started airing television commercials that focus on benefits to education and creation of new jobs based on having a casino at National Harbor. It urges viewers to contact lawmakers about giving Marylanders the right to vote on gaming expansion. **WI**

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# FAMU Still Reeling From Hazing Death

NATIONAL

By **Barrington M. Salmon**  
WI Staff Writer

Elaine Anderson has been following the fallout from the hazing death of a 26-year old Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University [FAMU] drum major with increasing dismay.

Anderson, a 49-year-old Tallahassee real estate broker and mother of two, said Robert Champion's death was totally unnecessary and as details of his death emerge, has cast a pall over two renowned institutions: the university and the famed Florida A&M Marching 100.

"It's disappointing first and foremost because someone died," she said. "But it's very disappointing that an HBCU [historically black college or university] was involved. And it's not just that, but it's also because the Marching 100 is a classic. The repercussions go far beyond the school and will likely affect different elements of the institution for years to come."

Champion, an Atlanta resident, died last November after what police described as an incident of hazing. He died after witnesses said he ran a gauntlet where he was beaten with drum fists, bass drum mallets and drumsticks. Champion is alleged to have entered a bus in a parking lot in Orlando at the Florida Classic football game in the hopes of gaining his peers respect by enduring the abuse.

Called the "cross over," successful completion of the ritual – making it from the front to the back of the bus – meant full initiation into the band. Champion died later on the night of November 19 from the complications of blunt force trauma.

A criminal investigation into Champion's death led to the arrest of 13 band members. Eleven of them were charged with felony hazing for allegedly beating him to death. A judge set the trial date for October.

The Marching 100 has a storied past with invitations to perform at lavish events and ceremonies, several Super Bowls and presidential inauguration ceremonies.

Champion's death has pulled back the curtain and exposed a culture of hazing, a pervasive practice that has been a not-so-secret part of the marching band for decades.

Yet even as band members past and present detailed examples of beatings and physical violence, school officials from the president on down, claim no knowledge of the band members' activities.

Sharon Saunders, FAMU's chief communications officer, said two investigations are still underway. One is being conducted by the Florida Board of Governors concerning the administration's response to hazing



reports and institutional controls to prevent hazing. And the other, a criminal investigation, is being conducted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement related to the use of band finances.

Since Champion's death, FAMU President James Ammons has been buffeted by criticism and endured increasing calls for him to step aside. Despite a recent vote of no-confidence by FAMU's Board of Trustees, Ammons refuses to resign promising that he will fix the problems.

The 8-4 vote reflects the trustees' displeasure with Ammons' handling of the hazing death, and concerns about his management of a range of issues, especially what board members see as a lax attitude toward band management prior to Champion's death.

Ammons, a FAMU alumnus who served as provost and assumed the presidency in 2007, remains defiant.

"This is my university. Until the final bell rings I am going to serve as president of Florida A&M," he said, according to published reports.

James W. Haskins, Jr., a retired Professor Emeritus in Journalism, said the decent thing for Ammons to do is to step aside.

"People who say they didn't know are lying. I support the notion that the buck stops with the president," said Haskins, 79, who began teaching at FAMU in 1980. "You can't haze someone without someone saying something. The ultimate responsibility is his. There's no way around it. I think he should resign. Other key players were forced out. There's more than enough culpability to go around."

Haskins described FAMU as a fine institution that unfortunately is "full of deadwood" and plagued by pockets of nepotism, incest, mediocrity and an unwillingness by those who run the university to make the hard choices.

"FAMU really is an outstanding institution because they understand survival in a white world with white

people," he explained. "But FAMU continues to fuel its own downfall. Too many people have no backbone or integrity. They see racism and don't understand it, won't stand up and fight this racism and discrimination, won't fight it and seem to busy driving around in their Lexuses, demanding to be called, 'Doctor, doctor ...'"

Ammons suspended the band last year and announced recently that the band would remain off the field through 2013. Other casualties include longtime Band Leader Julian White who was forced out after more than 40 years at the helm; and two music department professors who stepped down earlier this year when allegations surfaced that they were present while band fraternity pledges were hazed. And as the investigation deepened, university officials eventually admitted that 101 of the 457-member marching band were not FAMU students.

In response to the band's problems, the FAMU Board of Trustees has revised its anti-hazing regulation. An anti-hazing plan has been developed by the university at the direction of the trustees. Elements of the plan include the creation of an Anti-Hazing Special Assistant to the president, with broad-ranging authority to address hazing issues throughout the university; the establishment of a FAMU Compliance Officer for the Music Department, with direct reporting to the Special Assistant for Anti-Hazing; the reorganization and expansion of staff in the Office of Judicial Affairs to facilitate the adjudication of hazing issues and other matters pertaining to the student code of conduct. After input by trustees, the university will implement the plan.

Saunders acknowledged that it is "particularly challenging ... to stop [this crime] because of the conspiracy of secrecy and silence between the perpetrator and the 'victim.' However, because of the special nature of this crime, FAMU is putting anti-hazing initiatives in place to

help rid the campus of hazing."

"We also know that stamping out hazing requires a personal commitment from our students to treat themselves and their fellow students with respect and dignity," she added.

Saunders said many students have expressed concern about the attention this matter has received and remain committed to leading the national effort to reduce the incidents of hazing.

School-wide, the university has lurched from scandal to scandal, including financial mismanagement, faulty audits, countless examples of poor judgment, a series of ethical lapses and allegations that minors at the university's Developmental Research School were sexually assaulted.

Anderson fears that with all this

turmoil, FAMU may be mortally wounded.

"We stand to lose an icon of our culture," she said. "It's very sad to see that happen. It points to the sloppiness in some black institutions and corruption which seems to be unending. They shoot themselves in the foot and more dirt is exposed even as they are trying to escape a financial crisis."

"We can't blame white people. We really have to look at who we are as a people. We just don't seem to have a sense of discipline and dignity. School officials should have had enough respect for what they had achieved and guarded it more carefully." **WI**

(There's more to this story. Read it all at [washingtoninformer.com](http://washingtoninformer.com))

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# Nationals Celebrate Black Heritage Night

By Elton Hayes  
WI Staff Writer

Ernest Bennett Jr. has had a decades-long love affair with baseball. As a child, he and his father, Ernest Bennett Sr. frequently made the 28-mile commute from their Pomfret, Md. home to Griffith Stadium in Northwest to watch Washington Senator baseball games.

Although Griffith Stadium closed its gates in 1961, Bennett's passion for the sport today still burns as intensely as it did nearly 50 years ago. He is still completely captivated by the artistry, simplicity and uncommon beauty of America's pastime.

"My father used to take me to games at old Griffith Stadium," recalled the 64-year-old Suitland, Md. resident. "I played baseball in high school and around the community. We would all get together and form teams and play hardball. I love the sport and I'm proud to be a fan of the Nationals organization."

Bennett, along with other members of the Rise Band & Show music group, performed last Thursday evening for Black

Heritage Night festivities at Nationals Park in Southeast. Fans who braved the blistering 90-degree temperatures enjoyed more than the Nationals' 5-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

The gates at Nationals Park opened several hours prior to the start of Thursday's game to accommodate the steady stream of fans who trickled into the ballpark with cold bottles of water in hand and red and white Nationals gear to participate in festivities designed to boost African-American interest in the sport and to honor the legacy of African Americans who played the game.

Members of the KanKouran West African Dance Company, based in Southwest, greeted fans who entered the ballpark's centerfield gate. Unfazed by the heat, 11 KanKouran members — resplendent in West African attire — performed traditional West African dance routines accompanied by a cadre of drummers, as captivated fans gathered around to soak in the unique experience.

While the KanKouran en-

semble enthralled its fans, eight members of the Rise Band & Show crooned the smooth sounds of Motown. They also performed popular jazz and funk selections at the baseball stadium's Miller Lite Scoreboard Walk. Fans took advantage of the Walk's shaded area and flopped down on couches and in chairs while Bennett and the band's other members jammed.

"I am little hoarse right now," joked Bennett, who stayed after the band's performance to watch the baseball game. "I've been playing for about an hour and a half."

The Nationals also paid tribute to D.C.'s Godfather of Go-Go, the late Chuck Brown, as images of the iconic music legend splashed across the stadium's massive 4,500-square-foot high-definition scoreboard while his signature music pumped loudly from the stadium's speakers and resonated throughout the 41,000-seat ballpark.

According to a study published in April by *USA Today*, African Americans make up just 8.05 percent of all players on



Shawn Williams shares a moment with sons Tariq Craig (left) and brother Breond Williams (right) during Black Heritage Night at Nationals Park in Southeast on Thursday, June 21. /Photo by Victor Holt

Major League Baseball rosters, a sharp dip from 27 percent in 1975.

Young baseball players from local youth baseball leagues took to the field prior to the start of the game to take pictures and get coveted autographs from members of the Nationals as well as former Washington Redskins

cornerback and National Football League Hall of Fame member Darrell Green, who threw the game's ceremonial first pitch. Edwin Jackson, a starting pitcher for the Nationals and the team's lone African-American player on

See **HERITAGE** on Page 15

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## HERITAGE

*continued from Page 14*

its 40-man roster, stayed behind after batting practice to sign autographs and talk to his young admirers.

“It’s imperative that we reach out on a personal level and interact with fans. There are a handful of us out there and until people realize that they have a chance to do something that not a lot of us are doing, they don’t really have a true understanding of it,” said Jackson, 28, who signed a one-year \$11 million contract with the organization.

“To be able to come out on a night like this, the dedication to African Americans, is almost needed. The only way that we are going to continue to bring African-American youth into the game is to reach out and touch them on a personal level, interact with them and let them know that they do have a chance for opportunities and that it’s not just with basketball and football.”

Baseball purists and experts have posited any number of reasons for the decline with the lure of basketball and football siphoning off prospective baseball players.

Major League Baseball officials have used different instruments to ratchet up interest and cultivate the type of love baseball still engenders in Bennett and others like him. And former major league players such as Maury Wills and Joe Morgan have been cheerleaders for the game and involved in programs that they hope will draw more youngsters into the fold.

Pre-game festivities ended when nine Little League players took to the field and held the position of an assigned Nationals player who jogged onto the field and greeted them prior to the game’s first pitch.

A Nationals’ official said that it’s important to honor and acknowledge African-Americans’ contributions to the sport.

“The Washington Nationals host Black Heritage Night each year in order to highlight the achievements of African Americans in our region,” said Israel Negrón, Nationals senior director of community relations. “As the stewards of this great game here in the nation’s capital, this is our way of paying tribute to and celebrating the diverse cultures that are part of our baseball community.” **WI**

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## BUSINESS

### BUSINESS EXCHANGE

## Whites' Unemployment Numbers Will Decide Race



By William Reed

Whites appear mad as hell and don't intend to tolerate much more of the Obama Administration. But, African Americans are willing to accept business as usual as it pertains to the nation's economy and have opted to maintain the political status quo.

In 2012, America's Black and White voters seem separated by a simple economic question: Are you better off than you were four years ago? As you follow the 2012 presidential race don't be afraid to lift the racial veil from your eyes and track the state-by-state jobless numbers, because they will probably decide who will occupy the White House for the next four years.

Many states' unemployment rates are up, including a few pivotal battleground states that could decide who will be the next president. Numbers compiled and reported by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) say that in May non-farm employment fell in 22 states. The largest month-to-month decrease in employment was in North Carolina, followed by Pennsylvania and Maryland.

President Obama barely carried North Carolina in 2008, but that state now has a 9.4 percent jobless rate and is currently up for grabs and could deny him its 15 electoral votes and his chances for a second term. Pennsylvania is usually considered a swing state. Obama won there by an overwhelming 11 percentage-point margin. The BLS reports that Pennsylvania's job market is weakening as the state's economy continues to decline. Maryland, an important swing state is experiencing economic woes and could tilt Romney's way in November. No matter where you look, employment opportunities under President Obama are disappointing. Yet he maintains a 95 percent approval rating as the unemployment problem extends nationwide with low-income urban areas and minorities the hardest hit. The unemployment rate for urban Blacks that no one wants to discuss is 40.5 percent.

Overall, U.S. median household net worth declined 35 percent between 2005 and 2010 according to the Census, down from \$102,844 to \$66,740. Whites' median value of assets totaled \$110,729. For Blacks it was only \$4,955.

Socioeconomically speaking, Black America is in a rut – an extremely deep rut. At 13.6 percent, Black unemployment remains nearly double that of their White counterpart and higher than it was in 2008. The economic sit-

uation for African Americans remains comparatively low to that of Whites as it has been for the past 50 years.

Many Whites' job prospects, and their economic well-being, have diminished under Obama and they hold him responsible. But if the economic crises afflicting Black American communities have remained intractable, so has Black support of President Obama. In recent months the unemployment rate for African Americans has continued to rise. Overall Black and Latino unemployment are expected to remain elevated. In all 50 states the Black unemployment rate remains higher than the national overall level of unemployment. In the 25 states where African Americans are experiencing unemployment rates of 10 percent or higher, the expectation is they will continue to do so through the end of next year.

While Black Americans are so accepting of their second-class economic status, most Americans think of the monthly unemployment numbers as a clear and definitive statement about the economy. Blacks may accept being perennially down and out, but Whites don't go along with that mindset. Not long after he took office in 2009, the Obama Administration predicted that unemployment would be brought down to less than 8 percent. But, the latest state-by-state numbers show 20 states with 8 percent unemployment or higher.

Should Blacks be as rigid as Whites in their demands of Obama? Whites will tell you that the Obama Administration's gestures to fix American unemployment are "deplorable." For Blacks the employment outlook "is mixed." Black men appear to have gained some jobs since February 2011 in manufacturing, construction and the service sector. But, deep staff cuts in state and local government have hit Black women particularly hard. Indeed, government agencies, a sector that has slashed about 500,000 jobs since February 2010, employed just over one-quarter of Black women before the recession began. **WI**

(William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via the Bailey Group.org)

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# What Black Parents Must Do This Summer

There is a three year gap between Black and White students. Many people love to believe it's due to income, fatherlessness, educational attainment of the parent and lack of parental involvement. I believe that a major reason for the gap is that we continue to close school for the summer – as if we were an agrarian economy. And I doubt that many Black youth will be farming this summer. If you multiply three months by 12 years you will see the three year gap. It is my opinion that Black youth would have fewer academic challenges if their schools remained open during the summer and/or their parents kept them academically engaged.

Middle-income parents who value education enroll their children in some type of academic experience during the summer. They also visit libraries, museums, zoos and colleges. Other parents allow their children to sleep longer, play more video games, watch more television and play basketball until they can't see the hoop. These students will have to review the same work they had mastered in May, when the school year begins in Septem-

ber.

Black parents cannot allow their children to lose three months every year. Black parents should not say they cannot afford to take their child to the library. It's free! Most museums have discounted days. A male friend of mine shared his experience with me when he took his family to the museum. He wondered why so many people were staring at him. His wife and children had to tell him he was the only Black man in the building! I am appealing to every father to take his children to the library this summer, and to include a visit to the museum, and the zoo. And I am appealing to every mother to make other arrangements, if the father cannot or will not take the children.

We need for every parent to make sure that their child reads at least one book per week and to write a book report. I am reminded of the formula Sonya Carson used to develop Ben Carson to become the best pediatric neurosurgeon. This low-income single parent, with a third grade education, had enough sense to tell her sons to turn off the television, read a book and write a report that



*Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu encourages parents to take their children on educational outings during the summer. He also recommends that parents insist their children read one book per week and submit book reports. /Courtesy Photo*

her sister would grade!

I have a theory. I believe that I can go into your house and within five minutes tell you the type of student who lives there and predict his/her future. I believe that the items needed in the home of engineers, doctors, lawyers and accountants are very different from the ballplayers, rappers, and criminals. I am very concerned that when I visit a house that has more CDs and downloads than books. My company African American Images has designed a special collection of books

for boys. The specific set that I am referencing is titled, Best Books for Boys. We also have one for parents and teachers. We have found the sets to be

very resourceful since research indicates that one of the major reasons why boys dislike reading is because of the content.

Let's work together to close the gap. I look forward to your children's teacher asking them how they spent their summer ... and your children proudly answering by saying that they went to the library, museum, zoo, colleges and other great educational institutions.

Enjoy your summer! **WI**

*Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu is the author of more than 35 books including, There is Nothing Wrong with Black Students and Raising Black Boys.*

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## WHITMAN-WALKER HEALTH TO HOLD HIV/AIDS FORUM AT SITE OF DC'S FIRST AIDS FORUM IN 1983

**"Return to Lisner" on July 24 to Coincide with International AIDS Conference**

Whitman-Walker Health will host a forum on the current state of HIV/AIDS on Tuesday, July 24, at Lisner Auditorium, 730 21<sup>st</sup> St., NW, at 7:00 pm. "Return to Lisner" will be held in the same venue as DC's first HIV/AIDS forum on April 4, 1983. That first forum was also hosted by Whitman-Walker. The forum is free

admission, but registration is required at [www.whitman-walker.org/returntolisner](http://www.whitman-walker.org/returntolisner).

"Return to Lisner" will feature keynote speaker Jeanne White-Grinder, mother of Ryan White; a panel including Regan Hofmann, Editor in Chief of POZ magazine, Jose Zuniga, President of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care, Adam Tenner, Executive Di-

rector of Metro Teen AIDS, Robert Redfield, Chief of Infectious Diseases and Director of the HIV program of the University of Maryland, and Phill Wilson, President and CEO of the Black AIDS Institute; and a special performance by the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington.

"We have come a long way in the last 29 years," said Whitman-Walker Executive

Director Don Blanchon. "At that first forum in 1983, a community that was under siege and scared came to hear what little information there was on this new epidemic. Today, we face a much brighter future than we could have imagined then. Medical advances continue to enable people living with HIV to live longer, healthier lives. Recent breakthroughs have even led some to say that the 'end of HIV' is somewhere in sight. This forum will look at where we stand today with HIV and what the future of the epidemic looks like. It will be an interesting, exciting and moving event."

Whitman-Walker will host the event along with community co-sponsors the DC Center, Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL), Metro Teen AIDS, the National Coalition for LGBT Health, the Mautner Project, Team

DC and the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care.

Established in 1978, Whitman-Walker Health is a non-profit community health center located in Washington, DC. Our mission is to be the highest quality, culturally competent community health center serving greater Washington's diverse urban community, including individuals who face barriers to accessing care, and with a special expertise in LGBT and HIV care. Whitman-Walker Health offers primary medical and dental care; mental health and addictions counseling and treatment; HIV education, prevention, and testing; legal services; and medical adherence care management. We are especially committed to meeting the health needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and people living with HIV/AIDS.



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## STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Some of the youngest activists against homelessness and domestic violence in the District of Columbia were honored by the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., at its annual Youth Service Awards, Sunday, June 10. Each of the honorees, pictured above, demonstrated tremendous community service and leadership and include (from left to right): Alicia Johnson, Agatha Thomasik, Mya Harris, Christopher Bradshaw, RyShanik Chisholm, Nichita Mason, Chineye Amadi and Molette Green. / Courtesy photo

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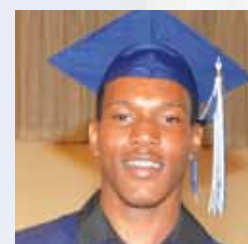
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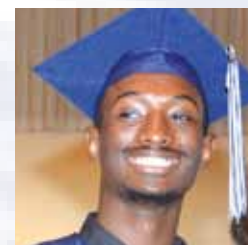
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**The Holder Decision**

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder should be commended for not buckling under the pressure House of Representative Republicans have been placing on him to step down as the nation's top law enforcement officer.

Members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, led by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), have pursued an 18-month investigation into the government's role in a gun-trafficking operation known as Operation "Fast and Furious" that went terribly wrong after a U.S. Border Patrol officer died from a weapon believed to have been connected to the botched operation.

Lawmakers have become increasingly frustrated with Holder's testimony about the operation and are now charging White House officials for being involved in a cover-up. President Obama's decision to use executive privilege over the release of the documents has taken some pressure off Holder but an infuriated committee will vote this week after deciding whether to hold Holder, the nation's first African-American U.S. Attorney General, in contempt of Congress for not providing information to the committee. Yet, committee members have repeatedly acknowledged that they have no proof that the administration is not being truthful.

Civil rights leaders have called this a political attack against Holder. The NAACP, National Urban League, the Asian American Justice Center, and the League of United Latin American Citizens are among the organizations that believe this is an intentional move to distract the Justice Department from addressing more crucial issues including voting rights, predatory lending and the immigration laws.

D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has labeled the committee's action a "witch hunt" and that the focus should be on the government's inability to control the illegal trafficking of guns, thanks to the efforts of the extremely influential gun lobby.

We know that the issue at hand is eliminating the violence in Mexico by disarming the drug cartel and eliminating access to illegal weapons. But the committee has gotten distracted and is focusing its attention on how to challenge President Obama. Making an example out of Holder isn't the way these politicians will want to be remembered on Election Day.

**Losing the Right to Vote**

D.C. residents are fortunate to have one of the nation's most progressive voting rights laws for anyone who wants to vote. While the voting rights laws across the country are under attack, District laws still protect the voting rights of many groups including students and ex-felons.

The D.C. Board of Elections provides that: In the District of Columbia, in order to qualify to register to vote, you must be a United States citizen, at least 18 years old on or before the date of the general election, not currently imprisoned for a felony, and not adjudged legally incompetent to vote by a federal or District court. Further, you must have resided in the District for at least 30 days before the date of the election and you must not claim the right to vote in another state or jurisdiction.

But while many District residents hail from other places, it's important to be aware of the attacks on voting rights that others are facing. As a result of what the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) calls the Felony Disenfranchisement Laws, work is being done to regain the right to vote for more than 3 million Americans with felony convictions. Most recently in Iowa, Gov. Terry Branstad (R), reversed a six-year policy that allowed felons to regain their voting rights once they had been discharged from prison. Now, felons must apply to the governor to have their voting rights restored, and they must submit a credit report along with their voting rights application. The law impacts nearly 8,000 felons who have completed their prison sentences. Iowa joins three other states with harsh voting rights laws.

Voter IDs may be simple and reasonable to some voters, but the ACLU reports that there are millions of Americans who lack a valid ID card through no fault of their own. Making it more difficult to vote is yet another way lawmakers are hoping to keep folks away from the polls.

It's an odd prescription next to an incumbent president who is casting a larger net to get more folks to the polls in November.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**High School Athletes Deserve Coverage**

Why doesn't your sports department cover local high schools and neighborhood sporting events? We have local athletes signing letters of intent to play sports at major colleges and universities and local athletes trying to make the 2012 Olympic team. These are the types of stories that would make everyone in the area proud of our young people.

Granted the photographs are interesting, but there are countless stories about the accomplishments of our young people that would make for great reading: The emergence of baseball once again being played in the city along with tennis, basketball, and soccer all being played by our young people. We want to read about them and their accomplishments.

Kenneth Meyers  
Washington, D.C.

**Blacks Can Govern Effectively**

It is plain to see by reading the comments in your View Point and the article by James Wright, "Blacks Embrace Mendelson," June 21, 2012 that there are some blacks who live in the District of Columbia who really believe that Phil Mendelson will make a good D.C. council chairman. I'm not one of them. I don't believe there is one honest politician, black or white.

I personally thought the sub-head that accompanied Mr. Wright's article was very offensive, "Better Political Leaders Needed," especially with the photograph of Mr. Mendelson. It seemed to suggest that a white politician is needed. We as blacks have to understand that we are fairly new to this political game and that for years white politicians have committed all sorts of crimes, but whites didn't stop believing whites could govern, so when we elect blacks to office we need to hold them accountable.

The District of Columbia will become a white city soon

enough, and the city council will represent just that, but blacks can make the same kind of political leaders as whites. Elected officials understand that they wield power, power to provide services to those to whom they are obligated. Let's not be put to sleep thinking that someone automatically feels obligated to us.

Jimmy Limerson  
Washington, D.C.

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Guest Columnist

By George E. Curry

## Mitt Romney Gets a Free Pass

One of the most remarkable things about Mitt Romney's run for the White House is that the presumptive Republican nominee is allowed to attack President Obama on everything from saving the automobile industry to immigration. Yet, the news media rarely point out that Romney is against many things, especially if proposed by President Obama, but is usually evasive on what he is for.

In a departure from the business-as-usual coverage, Politico published a story Sunday under the headline: "Mitt Romney's no-policy problem." It stated, "Vague, general or downright evasive policy prescriptions on some of the most important issues facing the country are becoming the rule for Romney. Hoping to make the campaign strictly a referendum on the incumbent, the hyper-cautious challenger is open about his determination to not give any fodder to Obama aides hungry

to make the race as much about Romney as the president."

The most recent example involves President Obama's position on the Dream Act, an acronym for Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors. After Congress failed to pass a bill sponsored by Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) Orrin Hatch [R-Utah], President Obama issued an executive order that incorporated many of the provisions of the bill.

Under the executive order, people younger than 30 who

came to the United States before they were 6 years old, pose no criminal or security threat, and were successful students or served in the military can get a two-year deferral from deportation.

"This is not amnesty. This is not immunity. This is not a path to citizenship. It's not a permanent fix," Obama said upon signing the executive order. "This is a temporary stopgap measure."

Speaking to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO),

Obama said, "When I meet these young people, all throughout communities, I see myself. Who knows what they might achieve. I see my daughters, and my nieces, and my nephews. That's the promise that draws so many talented, driven people to these shores. That's the promise that drew my own father here," said Obama, whose father was from Kenya.

Appearing before the same group a day earlier, Romney said,

See **CURRY** on Page 37



Guest Columnist

By Julianne Malveaux

## Taking Care of Those Who Take Care of Us

Ai-Jen Poo, a powerful and passionate advocate for the rights of domestic workers, leads the National Domestic Workers Alliance. Who are these folks? They are the private household workers (maids) who propped up inept women in the movie, *The Help*. They are the home health aides who take care of our elders when they are ill or disabled, bringing them meals, bathing them, and accompany-

ing them to medical appointments. They are the nannies that care for children when parents are working. In some ways, they are a backbone of our economy, and yet they often have neither voice nor money.

I was struck by the situation of domestic workers when I heard Ai-Jen at the National Council for Research on Women's annual conference. While some of us focus mostly on race, she is more likely to focus on class and the many ways that public policy is

made from an extremely privileged perspective. The women who stitch together a living by working two and three domestic jobs certainly don't have the time to put their situation in context with public policy. And those who make public policy have only limited exposure to those who have to live it. Ai-Jen and the National Domestic Workers Alliance bridge that gap.

The organization started in 2007, and now has representation in more than 20 states. In

New York, NDWA was instrumental in the passage of the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights that went into effect in November 2010. It requires that people who work in other people's homes for 40 hours a week or more (except for relatives and casual employees such as babysitters) must be paid the minimum wage, must receive overtime pay, vacation time, workers' compensation and disability benefits. One might assume that some of these benefits are already writ-

ten into law, and in some ways they are. But domestic workers are more likely to be treated as casual workers than as professionals, and if they are working full-time, they must be treated as professionals.

Listening to Ai-Jen Poo was like a blast from the past for me. My early academic work focused on private household workers. Although the Minimum Wage Act was passed during the De-

See **MALVEAUX** on Page 37



Guest Columnist

By Wilmer J. Leon III

## The Decline of Civil Liberties

Some of the most sweeping decisions pertaining to civil liberties for Americans came during the Warren Court (1953-1969). The Warren Court ended school segregation with the *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) decision. In *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961) the Warren Court established the exclusionary rule which banned courts from using evidence obtained in violation of the Four-

teenth Amendment. In *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963) the Court unanimously declared that State courts must provide attorney's to indigent defendants in felony cases. The right to privacy was established in *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) allowing individual access to contraception. This is the premise that the Burger Court used to rule in *Roe v. Wade* (1973). In *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966) the Warren Court held that the Fifth Amendment requires police officials to advise suspects of their rights before

they are interrogated.

Even as a Republican chief justice nominated by a conservative Republican president (Eisenhower), Warren understood that the framers of the Constitution constructed a document to protect individual liberties and rights against infringement by the government. Since the end of the Warren Court conservatives have been chipping away at the protections that have been provided by Warren. If Americans do not start "connecting the dots," the decline in civil

liberty protections may erode to the point of no return.

The most recent examples of these erosions are the Stand Your Ground Law, Stop and Frisk, the 2012 Defense Authorization Act (DAA), and Attorney General Eric Holder's assessment that a president can assassinate U.S. citizens in foreign countries without judicial overview.

A stand-your-ground law states that a person may use force in self-defense when there is reasonable belief of a threat, without an obligation to retreat

first. More than half of states in the United States have adopted the Castle doctrine, stating that a person has no duty to retreat when their home is attacked. The stand-your-ground law allows for a person to use deadly force when faced with a perceived threat, with no obligation to retreat when they are away from their home, even in public spaces. The Trayvon Martin case is the most recent example of how this law is a threat to the

See **LEON** on Page 37



Child Watch<sup>©</sup>

By Marian Wright Edelman

## Saving Our Democracy: A Loud Wake Up Call

I had the recent privilege of attending the annual dinner of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights honoring Congressman Barney Frank and National Council of La Raza head Janet Murguía. After affirming the enormous progress our nation has made in overcoming bias against people of color and gays and lesbians, Wade Henderson, the very thoughtful Leadership Conference head, issued one of the most eloquent

and sobering warnings I've heard about the enormous dangers to America's democracy we face today. We must heed and act upon his words.

"What happens this year will determine the future of American democracy for generations to come. This is the first presidential campaign conducted in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United*. As with *Dred Scott* and *Plessy v. Ferguson*, this is a rare ruling that narrows, not widens, American democracy. The fortunate

few with unlimited resources can engage in unlimited campaign spending and big money could shout out the voice of the people. An all-out assault on democracy is underway in America including:

Anti-voter laws from requiring photo IDs to restricting voter registration that seek to disenfranchise vulnerable voters, including African Americans, Latinos, low-income Americans, young people and senior citizens;

Attacks on newcomers to our nation, such as the anti-immi-

grant laws in Arizona and Alabama and copycats all across this country, that codify racial and ethnic profiling as legitimate law enforcement policy;

Restrictions on the right to organize unions and bargain for a better life and livelihood in the public and private sectors;

A war on women's rights, from earning equal pay for equal work to making her most personal choices without government interference;

Efforts to defund, de-unionize, demonize and privatize pub-

lic services of all kinds, from our public schools to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security; and

The unprecedented obstruction of judicial nominations that has left the nation with more than 90 current and future vacancies on federal courts, making it almost impossible for most Americans to have their cases heard in a timely manner.

The old saying really is true: Justice delayed is justice deferred.

See EDELMAN on Page 38



Guest Columnist

By Barbara Reynolds

## Spanking Bad Kids Shouldn't be a Crime

If only I could load up a bunch of bad kids across the nation and bus them to Pastor Creflo Dollar's church in Atlanta for a good old fashion smack down, I would certainly do it.

From his pulpit on Sunday, June 10 shortly after being arrested and jailed for allegedly beating his 15-year-old daughter, the mega-church pastor denied intentionally hurting her adding:

"I should have never been arrested."

Dollar was arrested after his 15-year-old daughter called 911 at about 1 a.m. Friday, June 8 and told a Fayette County sheriff's deputy that she and her father argued when he said she couldn't go to a party. A police report says the girl told a deputy her father charged at her, put his hands around her throat, began to punch her and started hitting her with his shoe. The deputy noted a scratch on her neck.

The pastor countered that the

scratch on her neck was actually a 10 year-old mark from a skin condition called eczema. He denied punching her but did admit "the conversation over her going out became emotional and things escalated from there."

Let's just say that that the truth lies somewhere between the police report and the pastor's view of what happened and that he smacked or spanked or jerked his daughter around to keep her from what could have been a bigger threat. If all that happened was a smack-down, I un-

ashamedly agree he should not have been arrested.

I have attended his church in Atlanta, watch his TV broadcast daily and as a fan I did not like his being arrested and paraded in the media in an orange prison jump suit on misdemeanor charges stemming from disciplining his daughter.

When you think of all the trouble that can happen to a young girl out after midnight, the pastor should be applauded for trying to stop her from defying his rules instead of being

treated like a criminal. What if his daughter had wound up in trouble? Imagine the headlines on Father's Day blasting Dollar, the father of five children, as an unfit dad as a moral leader with millions of followers who can't keep his own daughter in check.

Too many kids these days do not respect nor fear us as parents. Situations like the arrest of Dollar only reinforce beliefs among the young that parents will be punished for disciplining

See REYNOLDS on Page 38



ASKIA-AT-LARGE

By Askia Muhammad

## Eric Holder and the Proxy Impeachment of Barack Obama

There is a deep chasm – no a ravine – that defines politics in Washington. It creates gridlock in place of governance, and the reason has to be more than simple partisan differences Republicans have with Democrats led by President Barack Obama.

The stark differences oozed to the surface June 20 when the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee voted 23-17 – strictly along partisan

lines – to recommend that the full House hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress for defying a subpoena that he hand over thousands of documents pertaining to "Operation Fast and Furious."

The Fast and Furious operation was a gun-running scheme which allowed illegally purchased guns from the U.S. to be smuggled across the border to Mexican drug cartels, theoretically allowing law enforcement agencies to track the weapons and amass enough evidence

to destroy the gangs. Many of the 2,000 weapons were "lost," Holder confessed to Congress last year. Two of the guns were found in December 2010 at the scene of the murder of a Border Patrol agent in Arizona, according to a congressional report.

Democrats accused House Republicans of engaging in an election-year "fishing expedition" with their probe. "Instead of bringing job-creating legislation to the floor, the transportation bill, they are holding the Attorney General of the United

States in contempt of Congress for doing his job," House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi told reporters June 21 at her weekly press conference.

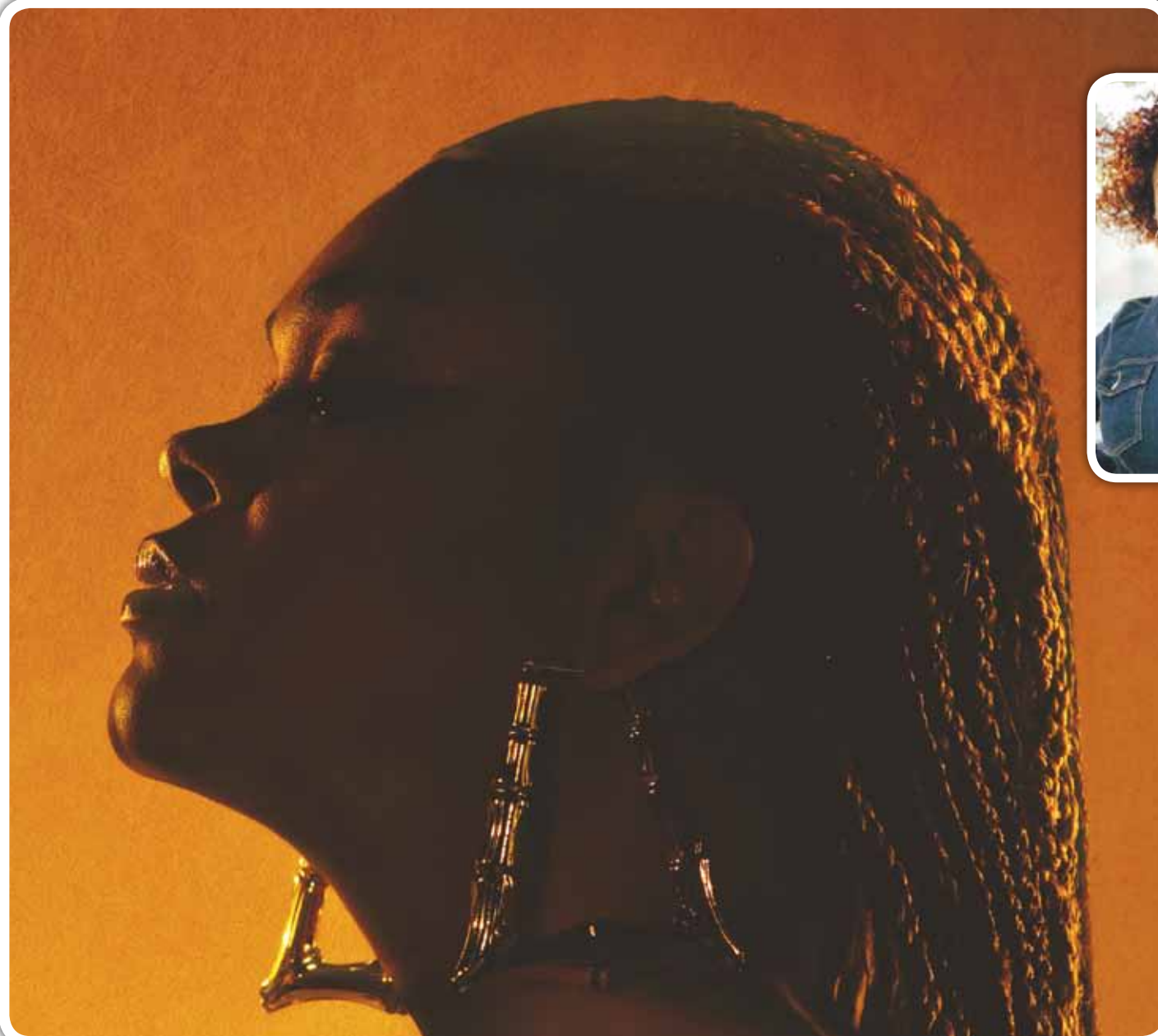
"It's really important to note how this is connected with some of their other decisions. It is no accident. It is no coincidence that the Attorney General of the United States, the person responsible for making sure that voter suppression does not happen in our country, that issues that relate to the civil liberties of the American people are up-

held. These very same people who are holding him in contempt are part of a nationwide scheme to suppress the vote. They are closely allied with those who are suffocating the system, unlimited special interest secret money, and they are poisoning the debate," Pelosi said.

"Instead of working with the president and Democrats in Congress to create jobs for the American people, Republicans continue to play political games,"

See MUHAMMAD on Page 38





/Courtesy Photos



## Jill Scott's Summer Block Party – For Adults Only

By Eve M. Ferguson  
WI Staff Writer

When Jill Scott throws a Block Party, like the one she staged at the Verizon Center last Thursday, let it be known that this was not your average family outing! This party was strictly for grown ups.

Scott's "Summer Block Party" did keep folks entertained, and took some back to their school days, opening with the still amazing rap duet of Salt-N-Pepa. Like soup-and-sandwich, you can't have one without the other, and despite the 25 years that have passed since their debut, these girls still got it going on.

Rolling through their hits "The Mike Sounds Nice," "I'll Take Your Man," "Whatta

Man," and "Shoop," the two who have barely aged a day, could have handled the show all by themselves. But they were just the openers! Emceed by another ageless entity, Doug E. Fresh, the first part of the party took the audience, which was primarily made up of the over-30 crowd, back to their teenage, or in some cases, pre-teen years.

After Salt-N-Pepa pumped up the crowd, there was a marked shift in energy when Kem, with his smooth soul sound, came on stage with a 12-person band all dressed in white. Despite the fact that he has only released three recordings, the audience seemed very familiar with his lyrics, singing along with "I Can't Stop Loving You," "Share My Life," and the Grammy Award-winning "Why Would You Stay."

Kem showed that he too could kick it "Old School" when his band and backup singers performed a medley of 70s songs; the Emotions "Best of My Love," Earth, Wind & Fire's "Can't Hide Love" and Chaka Khan and Rufus' "Sweet Thing," which backup singer L'Renee blew the roof off on.

Despite Kem's mellow groove, the crowd was ready for Scott, but a long band change followed since Kem's band and Scott's band are relatively large. But leave it to the ultimate MC, Fresh to keep the party moving, launching into a tribute to Chuck Brown, who he called "a friend, a *Real* friend," while the deejay played the best of Chuck B. to the delight of a D-M-V crowd still reeling from the May death of the Godfather of Go-Go.

Fresh took it a notch further, going into his own repertoire of human beat-box rhythms, including an extended version of "The Show," which utilized all of Fresh's skills as a rapper and beat-boxer. Adding the icing to the cake, he demonstrated how the "Original Dougie" dance should be done, interlocking smooth, flawless moves that should have been impossible for someone at the advanced age of 46. Not only did he do the real Dougie, but showed the basketballer's version of the Dougie as well as the "Golf Dougie," all to the absolute delight of the crowd.

But when it came down to time for Scott, the anticipation in the air was palpable. And the incredible Ms. Scott – singer, songwriter, poet and actress – did not disappoint. Her 100-minute set started with a rousing "It's Love," from her first album, "Who Is Jill Scott? Words and Sounds, Vol. 1," setting the stage for a night of total entertainment. At one point, she pulled out a straight bob wig

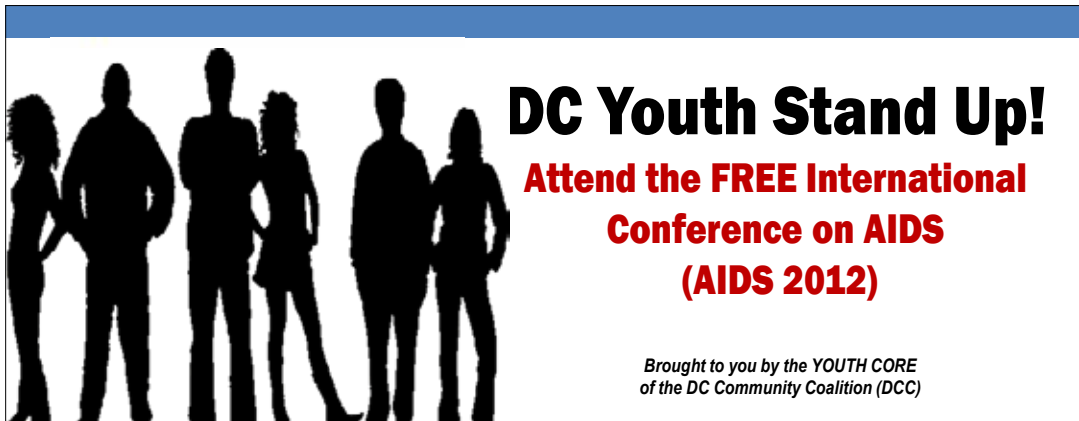
and placed it on her latest hair-do, a short natural that showed off her beautiful features, and morphed into rock-and-roll Jill after a duet of "All Cried Out Redux," with Fresh, who appears on her chart-topping CD "The Light of the Sun."

Perhaps what makes Scott so endearing to people are her monologues and honesty, and she spared no details from the recent weighing of her breasts; "under these 22 pounds ... is a heart," she quipped, to a raunchy infomercial for a male freshener, which she dedicated to Rick Ross and Waka Flocka Flame.

Relying heavily on her old tunes, some could have feigned disappointment that she did few songs from her most recent release. But what she did do were not only the beloved tunes like "The Way," "Golden," and "Cross My Mind," but she demonstrated her vocal versatility, putting a different spin on the old and the new.

When she did get to her newer songs, "So in Love," and "So Gone," she called on the talents of her all-male backup trio, The Pipes. While everyone who attended had one song they wanted to hear, time ran out and the Verizon Center threatened to lock Scott and the entire audience in for the night, which many would not have objected to.

But rather than sing her current hit, "So Blessed," to close out the night, she reached way back and performed "Chorus," using her multi-octave range to totally vocally tantalize her fans, until the next time. **WI**



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**Who?** You and all your friends (ages 13-30)

**Cost?** FREE !! You won't want to miss our:  
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 Rap Cipher Tues, July 24<sup>th</sup> 11:30am  
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 For locations, check us on Twitter

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# Horo scopes

JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2012



**ARIES** This week make your spiritual interest pay off in cash. Enough of goodness for goodness sake. You've got bills to pay. People expect generosity from a big hearted person like you. Ask them for something in return or they'll drain you. *Soul Affirmation: I call on my creative talents to pay my bills. Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 8*



**TAURUS** Compromise to get what you want this week. You'll want to meet others half-way, and in the long run, you'll get what you want anyway. You can afford to be gracious and giving. Do it with all your heart and soul. *Soul Affirmation: My emotions provide me a pathway into the sunshine of my being. Lucky Numbers: 6, 17, 43*



**GEMINI** Money matters may seem a little unstable this week; postpone a shopping trip. On the plus side, however, your friends are unusually supportive and wonderful. You'll enjoy conversations and being with another, especially after dark! *Soul Affirmation: I enjoy working with others this week. Lucky Numbers: 19, 30, 50*



**CANCER** Personal goals are important to you this week, and you'll want to budget some time to spend on formulating plans for your brilliant future. Something that happens without your knowledge is going to prove to be a huge benefit. Enjoy your lucky streak! *Soul Affirmation: My life itself is my greatest creation. Lucky Numbers: 7, 40, 43*



**LEO** Your straight-up attitude is going to come in handy this week. Plain talk is favored; keep it simple so others will understand where you're coming from. You'll get a lot done if you stick to a plan this week. *Soul Affirmation: I forgive, forget and keep on moving towards my good fortune. Lucky Numbers: 1, 29, 31*



**VIRGO** This is a good week to think about long-term plans. Your mind is clear and your vision of things to come will be lighted by your razor-sharp instincts. All week long be careful not to sound too sarcastic when you tell people stuff that you know and they don't. *Soul Affirmation: I keep my eyes open for the love that is everywhere. Lucky Numbers: 17, 18, 20*



**LIBRA** The clever way you think could expose you to an experience for you unlike any you've had recently. Move forward. Get into it. Don't doubt your ability to handle it. Don't let your mind get crowded with too much useless information. Love is simpler than you think. *Soul Affirmation: I allow good feelings to flow into my life with ease. Lucky Numbers: 6, 21, 34*



**SCORPIO** If someone has told you that you are more mental than emotional, believe them. This week especially your mind will be working a mile a minute to make sure that what you feel is good for you to feel. Cover the mental processes with an emotional facade, but keep thinking about what is best. *Soul Affirmation: I give special attention to special friends. Lucky Numbers: 3, 45, 51*



**SAGITTARIUS** Usually you're not much for gambling. You like to investigate and make sure before you make your move. This week you are lucky. Move on impulse. Follow your heart. Pay close attention to the love needs of your mate this week. The needs of children call. *Soul Affirmation: I can be whoever I am conscious of being. Lucky Numbers: 12, 32, 53*



**CAPRICORN** You'll face a formidable task but if you defeat it you'll take big steps toward a goal. Weigh in and give it your best. Your energy is high. The task looks larger before you start than it will once you've put your shoulder into it. Compromise with a partner. This week will bring more love than usual. Look for it. *Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for the blessing of life. Lucky Numbers: 33, 45, 50*



**AQUARIUS** Speak out. Take center stage. Any subject you choose is ripe for the "rap." People listen. Friends and associates will be impressed. Forgive a jealous soul who lingers nearby. Don't neglect the home front. *Soul Affirmation: My love of myself makes me lovable to others. Lucky Numbers: 2, 15, 16*



**PISCES** Enjoy yourself. The need to do that will be very apparent this week. What will not be as apparent is the key to your enjoyment which will depend on the attitude you take to someone who has been getting on your nerves. Don't think about them. Whenever the picture of their face appears in our mind use your imagination to turn that picture into a cartoon. Laugh. *Soul Affirmation: I am in tune with the best that is in me this week. Lucky Numbers: 36, 39, 40*

## Griot

"Between  
the Lines"

by Jodi Picoult and Samantha  
Van Leer  
c.2012, Emily Bestler Books  
/Atria

\$19.99 / \$22.99 Canada  
356 pages

By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
WI Contributing Writer

There's nothing "fair" about a fairy tale.

It's true: the princesses are always beautiful in fairy tales, and nobody ever has zits. They all live in castles, never in small apartments or houses with messy kitchens. And the fairy-tale prince is always smart and handsome, which is so unlike the dweeb in Algebra who kept asking you out this year.

Fairy tales? Maybe they should be called UNfair-y tales.

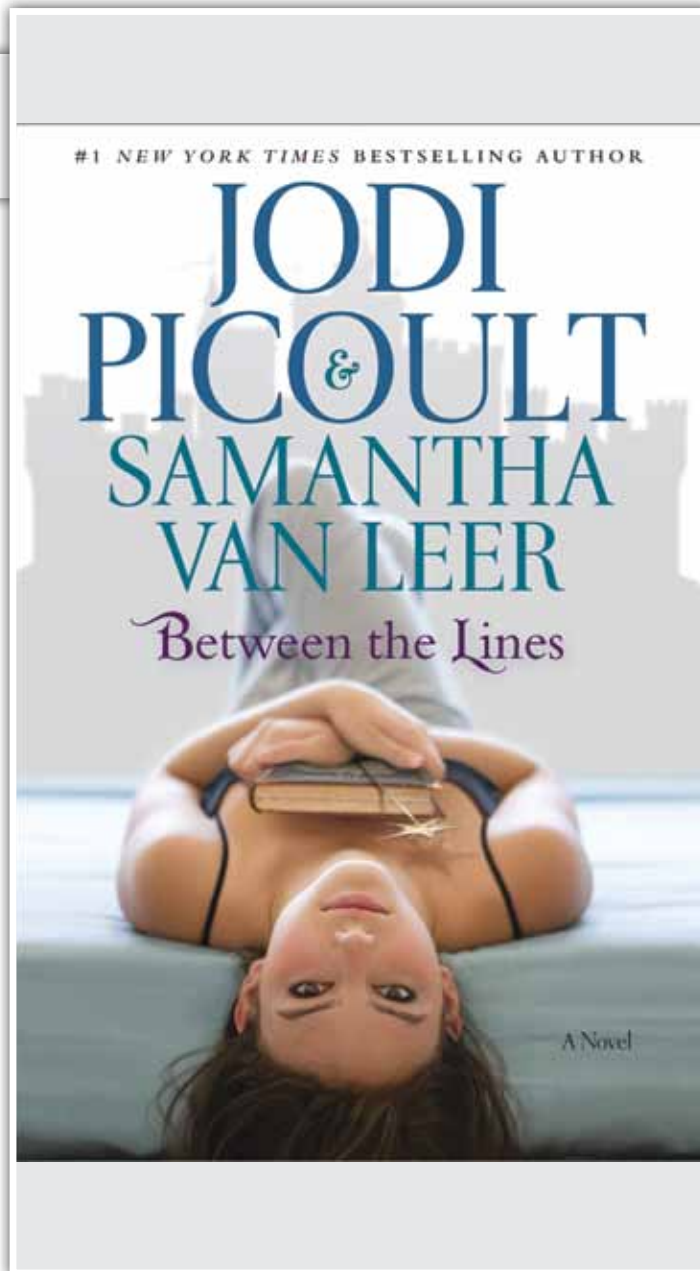
That's what 15-year-old Delilah thought, too, until she stumbled upon a secret in an illustrated kid's book. As you'll see in the new novel by **Jodi Picoult and Samantha Van Leer**, Delilah needed to look "Between the Lines."

From the moment he was born, Oliver's future was mapped out for him.

He had little choice, in fact, because his mother was Queen and his father was King. It was inevitable, therefore, that Prince Oliver would someday rule the kingdom.

The problem was that the kingdom ended on page 60-something. Oliver's life was predestined because he was a character in a book, end of story. His actions were part of the plot. His existence was written in ink, but his mind went way beyond paper.

None of the other characters in the fairy tale ever thought about life outside the pages, for instance, but Oliver did. What would it be like to escape page 43, or page 26? He always wondered as he sneak-peeked at the faces



peering into the book. One of the faces – a repeat reader – really captured his imagination.

She was older than most fairy tale fans, with silky hair and beautiful eyes. He wished there was a way to really know her...

Delilah hated her life. She hated school, she hated that she was a klutz, and she hated the popular girls. Was it any surprise that books were her escape?

This children's fairy tale book, though, was a surprise. Even Delilah herself couldn't completely understand why she was obsessed with it and had to read it dozens of times.

But then she spotted an illustration she'd never seen before.

And then she spotted movement within the pages.

And then the handsome prince-drawing *talked to her!*

For ages, you've been borrowing your mom's Jodi Picoult books and she seems kind of tired of it. So maybe

it's payback time: get a copy of this book and wait. It won't be long before she'll be asking to borrow your novel for once.

That's because "Between the Lines" is cute and very clever, with delightful plot surprises and characters you'll pull for. Author Jodi Picoult spins her typical magic here, in tandem with her daughter, Samantha Van Leer, to create a story that will appeal to anyone who ever wished that fairy tales were real, that characters might come to life, or that a prince was just a page away.

Meant for teens ages 12-17, this book is definitely going to be popular with a much wider audience hungry for Picoult. If that's you, reading "Between the Lines" will make you feel happily ever after. **WI**

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## FAITH

# Church Faces Financial Woes Similar to its Congregants

### Ark of Safety Christian Church Files for Bankruptcy

By **Gale Horton Gay**  
WI Staff Writer

The Sunday after the Ark of Safety Christian Church in Upper Marlboro filed for bankruptcy on June 15 it was worship as usual. Two services were held at its mall-turned-church facility with hymns, scripture readings and a reflective sermon.

C. Anthony Muse, bishop of the church and a state senator who represents Prince George's County, said that is as it should be. The church is optimistic that filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection will allow it to restructure its finances and emerge stronger.

Muse said the church faces the same financial crises as many of its congregants.

"We are in a recession, declining revenue," said Muse. "We have lost our equity... We don't have the same financial support."

Muse, who has been leading the Ark for 13 years, said the church's financial woes are the result of \$4 million loans to remodel its existing facility that have skyrocketing interest rates and the plummeting value of 29 acres the church owns in Fort Washington. Three to four years ago the value of the church and land totaled \$13 million, but today it's worth \$7 million, Muse said.

"We're upside down," said Muse. "We can't get a modification."

He added that offerings from Sunday services, which attract about 2,000 worshippers, have declined.

"Many of our members are out of their homes," Muse said. "They are out of jobs. They have been hit hard in Prince George's County by the recession."

Muse said that during one year the church has made \$500,000 in loan payments, however, all of it has been interest and the principal has not been touched. They sought modification of their loans [with interest rates ranging from 15-20 percent] but didn't get any relief from financial institutions, he said.

Muse said he and the congregation are committed to making good on the loans. About a month ago, 300 church leaders met and decided to stop making payments on their existing loans and file for



Sen. C. Anthony Muse. /Courtesy Photo

bankruptcy, he said. Now he's hopeful that the bankruptcy court will do what the church could not — get the banks to lower their interest rates.

"We didn't file to walk away," said Muse. "We filed so we can pay the debt."

The financial mess has also hit Muse and his family personally. Several years ago when the real estate market was "in its heyday" Muse and his wife, Patricia Lawson Muse, a news anchor with WRC-TV [Channel 4], took the equity out of their home in Fort Washington, more than \$600,000, and invested it into the church remodeling project. Now their home is upside down, he said, meaning it's worth less than the remaining loans on it.

"We are not screaming to get that back," said Muse of the money they put in. "That's our church."

Tony Chapman, 45, a trustee at the church, confirmed that the Muses poured more than \$600,000 into the church and the couple is one of its debtors.

He said that it was the congregation's decision to move forward with the bankruptcy filing and that in their church the pastor has a say in financial matters pertaining to the church but is "not the final decision maker."

"When you look at the numbers and when you look at what the banks were attempting to do to us, which was to put us in an impossible situation... it was clear it was not going to work," Chapman said.

Chapman, a resident of Waldorf who said he has been a member of the church for 15 years, said the banks caused the church "a lot

of unnecessary drama" by agreeing to renegotiate their loans, then changing their minds.

"The banks have a history of decimating churches," said Chapman, adding that they've heard from many other churches in Prince George's County and throughout Maryland that are in similar financial predicaments.

Muse ran unsuccessfully against U.S. Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.) for a state senate seat in April 2012.

Chapman describes Muse as a politician who "goes against the system," noting he voted against redistricting and a proposed tax hike on small businesses.

"We understand we have a pastor in politics," said Chapman.

Muse also wants to set the record straight. He said reports in other news media that he previously was involved in another church financial crisis are inaccurate.

He said he was an employee of the United Methodist Church while he was pastor at a church in Brandywine, Md., and had no authority over the church's financial affairs related to construction projects.

"I had no banking authority, no loan authority, no checking authority," said Muse of his 15 years at Gibbons United Methodist Church, which later became Resurrection Prayer Worship Center United Methodist Church. "They made those decisions. It was not my debt."

Muse left the church in 1999 and a large portion of the congregation followed him to his new church.

However, a report from the United Methodist News Service from June 2002 indicates that the Brandywine church building project which started in 1995, ended up costing double the building's appraised value and was never completed. It states that the church sued Muse "to get an accounting of its financial status and to ascertain if equipment had been taken by the departing pastor or members."

The United Methodist News Service states that Muse left behind a debt of nearly \$6 million. **WI**

# Money Answereth All Things

*Except: Faith! Forgiveness! Friendship!*

In an article I read recently by John Phillips a Bible teacher and author who lives in Marietta, Ga., he reminded me of this scripture reading: Ecclesiastes 10:19, which says: "Money answereth all things," said Solomon. There's a similar saying which most of us are familiar – "Money talks!"

The Bible is not against money in and of itself nor is it against the lawful possession of money, even in large amounts. It's not "money" which is at the root of all evil, despite the fact that a great many people misquote the Apostle Paul's words – it's the "love" of money which is at the root of all evil.

Solomon had so much money – enough to buy anything he wanted – for the most part, he had more money than he could possibly spend. However, he learned that there are a few things that his money could not buy.

His money could buy him as many wives as he wanted, yet it could not buy him peace of mind. Nor could it buy him wisdom for his son. "Money answereth all things." But there are some things it cannot buy.

The same lesson applied then as it does today, money cannot buy *friendship* but it can buy flattery. The prodigal son had plenty of parasites to help him spend his money but he had no *friends*. Once he spent it all, he found himself alone.

Money cannot buy *forgiveness*. "Shall I give my firstborn for my

transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" *Micah 6:7-8*. Salvation isn't for sale.

Money cannot buy *faith*. It actually undermines faith. Money cannot buy faith, forgiveness or friendship. It talks but in the wrong tongue.

To further emphasize this fact Jesus continued, "Children how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." *Mark 10:25*. And his followers were even more astonished and said to Him, "Then who can be saved?"

How hard is it for a rich person to enter into heaven? Well, how hard is it to get a camel through the eye of a needle? It is impossible isn't it? We too might ask, "Lord if that is the case who can be saved? Who then can ever enter into heaven?"

Jesus, looking upon the disciples said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God."

In today's society, we find our young men and in some cases, women on street corners, selling drugs to earn money. Many of them sell drugs because they can't find gainful employment; others do it because they want riches and all of the finer things in life that money can buy. The young men attract women based on their cars and their ostentatious jewelry. These individuals don't care about their families, education, faith, forgiveness or



*with Lyndia Grant*

friendship.

Back in the 1970s when street corners became magnets for drug dealers and as a way to catch our children the way slave catchers did back in the 1860s, I packed up my two sons and daughter and moved to a new and better neighborhood.

We've got to fight to save our children, before they get caught up in the "love of money" for the wrong reasons!

When we love and trust in material things we rely on ourselves and not God, which makes it impossible to enter the kingdom of heaven. Whether you own a little or a lot of the world's material riches, the only way to inherit eternal life is to completely submit your life to Jesus by obeying His commandments and use whatever you have to the glory of God. Do not let "one thing" stand between you and eternal life. **WI**

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Contact: Brother Jason Marrow @ (301) 257-1544

Minister of Music

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Wednesdays: 12:10 p.m. - Holy Eucharist

[www.stmarysfoggybottom.org](http://www.stmarysfoggybottom.org)  
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4915 Wheeler Road  
Oxon Hill, MD 20745

301-894-6464

Schedule of Service  
Sunday Service: 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM  
Bible Study: Wednesday 7:30 PM  
Communion Service: First Sunday

[www.livingwatersmd.org](http://www.livingwatersmd.org)

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Tuesday Topical Bible Study - 6:30p.m.  
Tuesday New Beginnings Bible Study - 6:30p.m.  
Wednesday Pastoral Bible Study - 6:30p.m.  
Wednesday Children's Bible Study - 6:30p.m.  
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Washington, DC 20002  
202-548-0707  
Fax No. 202-548-0703

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am  
Holy Communion - 1st Sunday  
Sunday School-9:45am  
Men's Monday Bible Study - 7:00pm  
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Women's Ministry Bible Study 3rd Friday - 7:00pm  
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1200 Isle of Patmos Plaza, Northeast  
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Office: (202) 529-6767  
Fax: (202) 526-1661

Sunday Worship Services: 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion: 2nd Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday Church School: 9:20 a.m.  
Seniors Bible Study: Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.  
Noon Day Prayer Service: Tuesdays at Noon  
Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7 p.m.  
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Church Email: [ipbsecretary@verizon.net](mailto:ipbsecretary@verizon.net)

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Pastors

4001 14th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
(202) 265-6147 Office  
1-800-576-1047 Voicemail/Fax

Schedule of Services:  
Sunday School - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship Service - 11:00 AM  
Communion Service - First Sunday  
Prayer Service/Bible Study - Tuesday, 6:30 PM

[www.blessedwordoflifechurch.org](http://www.blessedwordoflifechurch.org)  
e-mail: [church@blessedwordoflifechurch.org](mailto:church@blessedwordoflifechurch.org)

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3845 South Capital Street  
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(202) 562-5576 (Office)  
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Services and Times  
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Small Groups/Church School: 9:00 a.m.  
Small Group Bible Study  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
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Pastor Gerald L. Martin  
Senior Minister

3204 Brothers Place S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20032  
202-373-5566 or 202-373-5567

Service & Time  
Sunday Worship 7:45A.M & 11A.M  
Communion Service 2nd Sunday 11A.M  
Prayer Service Tuesday 7:00 P.M.  
Bible Study Tuesday 8:00 P.M.  
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Rev. John W. Davis, Pastor

5101 14th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20011  
202-726-2220/ 202-726-9089

Sunday Worship Service  
8:00am and 11:00am  
Sunday School 9:15am

Holy Communion 4th Sunday 10:00am  
Prayer and Bible Study  
Wednesday 7:00pm

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Wednesday 10:00pm  
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Joseph N. Evans, Ph.D  
Senior Pastor

901 Third Street N.W.  
Washington, DC. 20001  
Phone (202) 842-3411  
Fax (202) 682-9423

Sunday Church School : 9: 30am  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10: 45am  
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Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Holy Communion: 3rd Sunday-11:00AM  
www.friendshipbaptistdc.org  
Email: friendshipde1900@verizon.net



**All Nations Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. James Coleman  
Pastor


2001 North Capitol St, N.E. • Washington, DC 20002  
Phone (202) 832-9591

Sunday Church School – 9:30 AM  
Sunday Worship Service – 11:00 AM  
Holy Communion – 1st Sunday at 11:00 AM  
Prayer – Wednesdays, 6:00 PM  
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623 Florida Ave., NW • WDC. 20001  
Church (202) 667-3409 • Study (202) 265-0836  
Home Study (301) 464-8211 • Fax (202) 483-4009

Sunday Worship Services: 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Church School: 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.  
Holy Communion: Every First Sunday  
Intercessory Prayer:  
Monday – 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
Pastor's Bible Study:  
Wednesday – 7:45 p.m.  
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Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.  
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202-397-7775 – 7184

9:30AM. Sunday Church School  
11:00 Am. Sunday Worship Service  
The Lord's Supper 1st Sunday  
Wednesday 7:00pm Prayer & Praise Services  
7:30pm. Bible Study  
Saturday before 4th Sunday Men, Women,  
Youth Discipleship Ministries 10:30am  
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Rev. Keith W. Byrd, Sr.  
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Sunday Worship Service  
10:15AM- Praise and Worship Services  
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Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearin, Sr.  
Pastor

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Washington, DC 20018  
(202) 269-0288

Sunday Worship Service:  
10:00 A.M.  
Sunday School: 8:30 A.M.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday:  
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Prayer Service:  
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Early Worship Service 7:30a.m.  
Worship Service 10:45a.m.  
New Members Class 9:30a.m.  
Holy Communion : 1st Sunday -10:45a.m.  
Church School 9:30a.m.  
Prayer, Praise and Bible Study:  
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Sunday Church School 8:30 A.M.  
Pre-Worship Devotionals 9:45 A.M.  
Morning Worship Services 10:00 A.M.  
Holy Communion 1st Sunday Worship Services  
Bible Study Tuesdays, 6:00 P.M.  
Thursdays, 1:00 P.M.  
Prayer Meetings Tuesdays, 7:00 P.M.  
Thursdays, 12:00 P.M.



**St. Luke Baptist Church**

Rev. Aubrey C. Lewis  
Pastor

1415 Gallatin Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011-3851  
P: (202) 726-5940

Sunday Worship:  
11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.  
Holy Communion: 11:00 a.m., 3rd Sun.  
Bible Study:  
Monday - 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting:  
Thursday - 7:00 p.m.




**Mount Moriah Baptist Church**

Dr. Lucius M. Dalton, Senior Pastor

1636 East Capitol Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20003  
Telephone: 202-544-5588 Fax: 202-544-2964

Sunday Worship Services: 7:45 am and 10:45 am  
Holy Communion: 1st Sundays at 7:45 am and 10:45 am  
Sunday School: 9:30 am  
Prayer & Praise Service: Tuesdays at 12 noon and 6:30 pm  
Bible Study: Tuesdays at 1 pm and 7 pm  
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Web: www.mountmoriahchurch.org  
Email: mtmoriah@mountmoriahchurch.org




**Mount Pleasant Baptist Church**

Rev. Terry D. Streeter  
Pastor

215 Rhode Island Ave. N.W. • WD.C. 20001  
(202) 332-5748

Early Morning Worship: 7:45 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.  
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Bible Study:  
Wednesday 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Service: Wednesday 8:00 p.m.  
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Mondays 12 p.m.




**New Commandment Baptist Church**

Rev. Stephen E. Tucker  
Pastor and Overseer

625 Park Rd, NW • WDC 20010  
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Sunday School - 9:45 am  
Bible Study & Prayer Wed. - 7 pm  
Substance Abuse Counseling - 7 pm (Mon & Fri)  
Jobs Partnership - 7 pm (Mon & Wed)  
Sat. Enrichment Experience - 9:30 am

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**Peace Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. Michael T. Bell

712 18th Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
Phone 202-399-3450/ Fax 202-398-8836

Sunday Morning Worship Service  
7:15 am & 10:50 am  
Sunday School 9:30am  
Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:50am  
Wednesday Prayer & Testimonies Service 7:30pm  
Wednesday School of the Bible 8:00pm  
Wednesday - Midweek Prayer Service - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

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Email Address pbccexec@verizon.net




**Pennsylvania Ave. Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry  
Pastor

3000 Pennsylvania Ave.. S.E  
Washington, DC 20020  
202 581-1500

Sunday Church School: 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.  
Monday Adult Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Youth & Adult Activities: 6:30 P.M.

Prayer Service Bible Study




**St. Matthews Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. Maxwell M. Washington  
Pastor

1105 New Jersey Ave, S.E. • Washington, DC 20003  
202 488-7298

Order of Services  
Sunday Worship Services: 9:05 A.M.  
Sunday School: 8:00 A.M.  
Holy Communion 3rd Sunday Morning  
Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P.M. (Tuesday)  
Bible Study: 7:30 P.M. (Tuesday)

Theme: “Striving to be more like Jesus - “Stewardship”.”  
Philippians 3:12-14; Malachi 3:8-10 and 2 Corinthians 9:7  
Email: stmatthewbaptist@msn.com  
Website: www.stmatthewsbaptist.com




**Rehoboth Baptist Church**

Rev. R. Vincent Palmer  
Pastor

621 Alabama Avenue, S.E. • Washington, D.C. 20032  
P: (202) 561-1111  
F: (202) 561-1112

Sunday Service: 10 am  
Sunday School for all ages: 8:30 am  
1st Sunday Baptism: 10: am  
2nd Sunday Holy Communion: 10 am  
Tuesday:  
Bible Study: 6:30 pm  
Prayer Meeting: 7:45 pm

Motto: God First




**Salem Baptist Church**

Rev. Alonzo Hart  
Pastor

917 N St. NW • Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 232-4294

The Church Where GOD Is Working...  
And We Are Working With GOD

Sunday Morning Prayer Service: 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday Church School: 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:40 a.m.  
Third Sunday -  
Baptismal & Holy Communion: 10:30 a.m.  
Tuesday -  
Church At Study Prayer & Praise: 6:30 p.m.



**Shiloh Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. Wallace Charles Smith  
Pastor

9th & P Street, N.W. • W. D. C. 20001  
(202) 232-4200

Sunrise Prayer Services  
- Sunday 7:00 a.m.

Morning Worship: 8:00 a.m.  
Church School : 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 10:55 a.m.  
Bible Study, Thursday: 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting, Thursday : 7:30 p.m.




**First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church**

602 N Street NW • Washington, D.C. 20001  
Office: (202) 289-4480  
Fax: (202) 289-4595

Sunday Worship Services: 7:45am & 11:00am  
Sunday school For All Ages 9:30am  
Prayer Services Wednesday  
11:30am & 6:45pm  
Bible Institute Wednesday at Noon & 7:45pm  
“Changing Lives On Purpose “

Email: Froffice@firstrising.org  
Website: www.firstrising.org



**Mt. Horeb Baptist Church**

Rev. Dr. H. B. Sampson, III  
Pastor

2914 Bladensburg Road, NE Wash., DC 20018  
Office: (202) 529-3180  
Fax: (202) 529-7738

Order of Services  
Worship Service: 7:30 a.m.  
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion: 4th Sunday 7:30 a.m. & 10:30a.m.  
Prayer Services:  
Tuesday 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday 12 Noon  
Email: mthoreb@mtthoreb.org  
Website: www.mthoreb.org  
For further information, please contact me at (202) 529-3180.

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**THE WASHINGTON Informer**



View Sports Photos by **John De Freitas** at: [www.informerphotos.com](http://www.informerphotos.com)


## D.C. Divas Make Playoffs




The D.C. Divas traveled to Columbus, Ohio to play the Comets in the last game of the regular season on June 16, and won 42-0. The Divas have the same division record of 3-1 as the Pittsburgh Passion, but since the Divas beat the Passion by a larger margin, the Divas have won the Division Championship securing a bye for the first round of the playoffs. They will have home-field advantage for the second round which takes place on Saturday, June 30. The Divas, the only Women's Professional Football team in the area, has been around for 11 seasons with an impressive 38-16 record including a Super Bowl championship in 2006.

Next Saturday, June 30 the Divas will host the Boston Militia in a first round playoff game at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Center in Landover, Md. The game starts at 6:00 p.m. **WI**

The D.C. Divas will depend on Okiima Pickett to win at home. /File photo by John E. De Freitas



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## Nationals 5, Tampa Bay Rays 2



Tampa Rays catcher Jose Lobaton waits on the ball as Nationals RF Michael Morse slides into first base to make the score 2-1 in the third inning of a baseball weekend series between the Nationals and the Tampa Bay Rays on Thursday, June 21 at Nationals Park in Southeast. The Nationals defeated the Rays 5-3, winning the weekend series 2-1. /Photo by John E. De Freitas



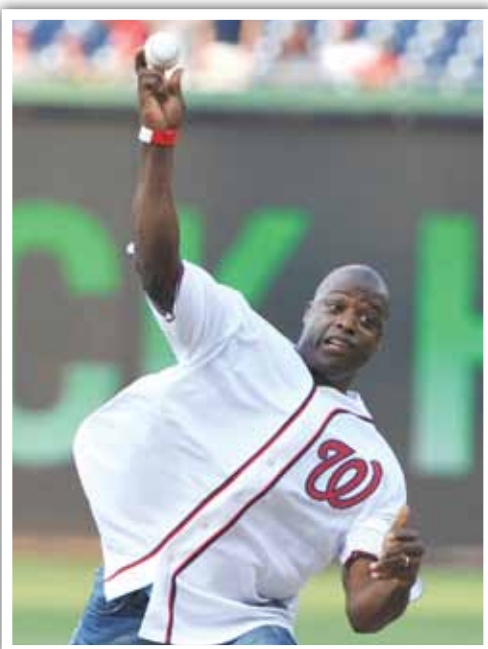
Nationals Ryan Zimmerman slides into third base safely before Rays Ben Zobrist could tag him during baseball action between the Nationals and Tampa on Thursday, June 21 at Nationals Park in Southeast. /Photo by John E. De Freitas.





*The KanKouran West African Dance Company performed at the entrance to Nationals Park in Southeast as part of the celebration of Black Heritage Night, an annual program, presented by the Nationals to highlight the achievements of African Americans in the region. /Photo by John E. De Freitas*

## Nationals Black Heritage Night



*Former Redskins star Darrell Green threw out the ceremonial pitch on Thursday, June 21 as part of the Black Heritage Night program. /Photo by John E. De Freitas*



*Members of the Ridge Road Recreation Center Baseball Team along with their coach, Kenya Stroughter Sr., participate in the Black Heritage Night festivities at Nationals Stadium in Southeast on Thursday, June 21. The Ridge Road Recreation Center in Ward 7 and home to the Titans, offers youth basic baseball instruction in a competitive environment and promotes sportsmanship, integrity and respect for authority. /Photo by Victor Holt*

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## LEGAL NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2012 ADM 528

Lurina Hall aka Lurina C. Hall aka LurinaG. Hall  
Decedent

Constance G. Starks, Esq.  
7063 Western Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Catherine D. Taylor, whose address is 4712 Medora Drive, Suitland, MD 20746, was appointed personal representative of the estate of Lurina Hall aka Lurina C. Hall aka Lurina G. Hall, who died on December 29, 2011 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W. Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before December 21, 2012. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 21, 2012, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
June 21, 2012

Catherine D. Taylor  
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY

Anne Meister  
Register of Wills  
Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2012 ADM 498

Mary A. Smith  
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Wanda S. Walker, whose address is 5508 Noble Effort Ct., Bowie, MD 20720, was appointed personal representative of the estate of Mary A. Smith, who died on March 28, 2012 with a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W. Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before December 14, 2012. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 14, 2012, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
June 14, 2012

Wanda S. Walker  
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills  
Washington Informer

## LEGAL NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2012 ADM 548

Della Frances Sanders aka Della F. Sanders  
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Patricia A. Sanders-Banks, whose address is 5526 B Street SE, Washington, DC 20019, was appointed personal representative of the estate of Della Frances Sanders aka Della F. Sanders, who died on February 11, 2012 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W. Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before December 21, 2012. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 21, 2012, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
June 21, 2012

Patricia A. Sanders-Banks  
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY

Anne Meister  
Register of Wills  
Washington Informer

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2012 ADM 521

Josephine V. Dyson  
Decedent

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Sheila Colbert-Fuller, whose address is 2105 Grouse Court Hephzibah, GA 30815, was appointed personal representative of the estate of Josephine V. Dyson, who died on November 20, 2011 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment (or to the probate of decedent's will) shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W. Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before December 14, 2012. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 14, 2012, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
June 14, 2012

Sheila Colbert-Fuller  
Personal Representative

TRUE TEST COPY

Anne Meister  
Register of Wills  
Washington Informer

## LEGAL NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Probate Division  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2131

Administration No. 2012 ADM 569

Annie C. Armstrong  
Decedent

Barbara Betsock, Esq.  
5225 Wisconsin Avenue NW Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20015  
Attorney

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT, NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS

Jenice Armstrong, whose address is 4 Elmwood Way, Burlington, NJ 08016, was appointed personal representative of the estate of Annie C. Armstrong, who died on April 16, 2012 without a Will, and will serve without Court supervision. All unknown heirs and heirs whose whereabouts are unknown shall enter their appearance in this proceeding. Objections to such appointment shall be filed with the Register of Wills, D.C., 515 5th Street, N.W. Third Floor Washington, D.C. 20001, on or before December 28, 2012. Claims against the decedent shall be presented to the undersigned with a copy to the Register of Wills or filed with the Register of Wills with a copy to the undersigned, on or before December 28, 2012, or be forever barred. Persons believed to be heirs or legatees of the decedent who do not receive a copy of this notice by mail within 25 days of its first publication shall so inform the Register of Wills, including name, address and relationship.

Date of first publication:  
June 28, 2012

Jenice Armstrong  
Personal Representative

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Anne Meister  
Register of Wills  
Washington Informer

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**Charles Akers**  
President

## CURRY

continued from Page 23

"I will put in place my own long-term solution that will replace and supersede the president's temporary measure."

And what is Romney's long-term solution? We don't know because he isn't saying.

Romney, with the media acting as a willing accomplice, has also lambasted Obama on gasoline prices.

In an interview on FOX News, Romney said there is "no question" that Obama was responsible for high gas prices.

If Obama was at fault for the steep increase in gasoline prices, shouldn't he now get credit for tumbling prices? Romney can't have it both ways.

Finally, I don't think a candidate's

religion should be fair game in most instances. That's why I objected to the media trying to Velcro the outspoken Rev. Jeremiah Wright to candidate Barack Obama. Similarly, I have advised against focusing on Romney's Mormonism during this presidential election — he has so many positions that make him vulnerable in November. The Obama camp should focus on his position — when Romney takes them — not his religion.

But if the media is going to hold Obama responsible for the statements of Rev. Wright, then in the interest of fairness, Romney should be asked what he did to repudiate the church's former teachings.

Although there were two Black priests under Mormon founder Joseph Smith, his successor, Brigham Young, instituted a policy of exclud-

ing males of African descent from the priesthood. In 1949, he said, "What chance is there for the redemption of the Negro? The Lord had cursed Cain's seed with blackness and prohibited them the Priesthood." That policy remained in place until 1978.

Although religion is a deeply personal matter, you can bet your 2008 "Barack Obama for President" campaign button that Republicans will resurrect Jeremiah Wright's comments this fall. And they will do it close to Election Day.

Political maneuvering aside, journalists have a responsibility to press Romney to move past his carefully studied talking points. And they can do that by forcing him to share what he plans to do beyond criticizing President Obama. **WI**

## MALVEAUX

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pression, private household workers and farm workers were excluded from the legislation until 1974. Even then, the law had so many loopholes that few adhered to it. At the same time, failure to abide by the law has tanked many a nominee for a federal appointment. Judge Kimball Wood comes to mind as a capable jurist who was snagged by her failure to take Social Security taxes out of the wages of her full-time housekeeper.

Ai-Jen's presentation reminded me how little has changed for private household workers. There are employers who deduct from low wages if there is breakage in their homes. There are others that may deduct for meals. Without intervention, the majority of 2.5 million workers take care of our most precious assets, our children and our parents, without being

paid fairly. They cook our food, and who wants someone who feels that they are being paid unfairly to cook their food? After all, even the private household workers in the pre-civil rights South weren't always benign.

In California, a piece of legislation that is similar to the New York bill is being considered. Indeed, Assembly Bill 889 passed the lower house of the California State legislature, but the California State Senate is dragging its heels. Indeed, some have so distorted the bill that they describe it as "the babysitter law," even though those who do not work full time are specifically excluded from the legislation. Those who oppose the bill talk about their free market rights, but have blinders on when it comes to the rights of others. Unfortunately, while women are the majority of private household workers, it is also women who are the majority of those who hire, and often exploit, them.

It is amazing how stuck the feminist movement has become around issues of women on the bottom. Twenty years ago there were passionate debates about housework pass along and the many ways that the women's movement could be mutually supportive along class lines. Now, though a passionate woman is fighting for domestic workers, she is not often joined by those who have greater voice, more power, and the ability to make a difference.

While domestic workers today are less likely to be African American than Latino, we in the African American community need to remember that the workplace has long been oppressive to those at the bottom. In speaking up for domestic workers, we speak up for our mothers and grandmothers, but also for ourselves, no matter what our economic status. **WI**

## LEON

continued from Page 23

civil rights and civil liberties of innocent individuals.

Stop-and-Frisk came out of the Warren Court decision in Terry v. Ohio (1968) where the principle in question was whether the police require a certain level of flexibility in dealing with quickly evolving and potentially dangerous situations that arise during routine patrol of the streets. The Court held that an officer can stop-and frisk if that officer has a reasonable suspicion that a person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime and has a reasonable belief that the person "may be armed and presently dangerous." (392 U.S. 1, at 30.)

According to the NY Civil Liberties Union, NYPD officers have stopped more than 4 million New Yorkers since the department began collecting data on the program in 2004. The latest stop-and-frisk report shows that the NYPD stopped and interrogated New Yorkers 152,311 times between

July 1 and Sept. 30, 2011. About 88 percent of those encounters did not result in arrests or tickets. Nearly 85 percent of those stopped were Black or Latino. Whites, who represent 33 percent of the city's population, accounted for less than 9 percent of people stopped. Stop-and-frisk has become a license to harass innocent individuals based upon racial profiling without any data to show a direct correlation to a reduction in crime.

During a speech at Northwestern University's Law School, Eric Holder explained that the American government can kill American citizens abroad under the following conditions, "First, the U.S. government has determined, after a thorough and careful review, that the individual poses an imminent threat of violent attack against the United States; second, capture is not feasible; and third, the operation would be conducted in a manner consistent with applicable law of war principles."

There's one small problem with Holder's analysis, it's called the Constitution. Holder is wrong on the

law, wrong on the politics, and on the wrong side of history.

Holder's comments are even more disturbing when considered in the context of President Obama signing the 2012 Defense Authorization Act (DAA). Section 1021 of the Act allows for the indefinite detention of American citizens and/or anyone who commits a "belligerent act" against the U.S. By signing the 2012 DAA President Obama reaffirmed Bush's suspension of habeas corpus instead of overturning it. So now, not only can American citizens be indefinitely detained, they can also be assassinated by their own government at the will and whim of their President.

Benjamin Franklin is credited with saying, "those who will sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither." If Americans don't pay closer attention to the direction to the laws that are being passed under the pretext of security they will have neither liberty nor security. **WI**

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- BY AUTHORITY OF -  
Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive

## EDELMAN

continued from Page 24

But American progress must never be a dream deferred." **WI**

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to [www.childrens-defense.org](http://www.childrens-defense.org).

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## REYNOLDS

continued from Page 24

them much harsher than they ever will be for misbehaving.

I'm not saying all kids deserve a smack-down, but it shouldn't be ruled out either as a last resort. Some parents can enforce order simply by taking away privileges. That might not work, however, for the hardcore knuckleheads, who curse their parents, hang-out in the streets late at night and walk around disgustingly with their pants hanging down showing their underwear or the girls wearing tattoos on low hanging breasts.

Smack-downs at home might prevent them from getting in the kind of trouble that would warrant more serious beat downs from police or prison guards later on.

Parents need to establish more spiritual and moral authority in our homes just as I believe Pastor Dollar was trying to do.

Up to 70 percent of African-American homes are headed by women. It is tough trying to be both nurturer and disciplinarian. We need more men in the home not only to love our children but also to help us discipline them, especially the disorderly males, who often get away with too much because of how many women raise our daughters to be responsible but pamper and over-indulge our sons.

As a single mother who reared a son, I tried everything to keep him in check, ranging from praying, switching, paddling, spanking and threats. When that didn't work I sent him to boarding school until he decided to comply with my rules. Now a college graduate with a career in law enforcement I think I found the proper balance.

My parenting advice, however, is hotly refuted by some doctors, such as board-certified pediatrician and psychiatrist, Dr.

Jan Hutchinson. "According to the American Society of Pediatricians it is never OK to strike your child. The only modification I would add is it could be acceptable in self-defense, if a life is being threatened. But this is rare and unusual."

Referring to a major study of 2,500 mothers by Tulane University in April, Hutchinson said, "Not only is spanking children of limited effect, it has long-term negatives. The study showed that children who are spanked twice monthly at age 3 are twice as likely to become destructive, aggressive and mean-spirited by the time they are five. ..."

To spank or not to spank if that is the question, it looks like Pastor Dollar chose the smack-down. If that act has taught his daughter a valuable lesson about honoring her father, who apparently has provided and cared for her all her life, perhaps jail was not too hard a price to pay. **WI**

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cause it's their philosophy," she continued.

Republicans are the ones who would exploit the system for privatizing the gain while nationalizing the risk in America's financial transactions, pretty smart. They don't want any initiatives for clean air, clean water, food safety, public education, public care, public transportation, public health, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. And they certainly don't want to see this President Obama re-elected.

And so what does the average citizen say? They throw up their hands and say: "a pox on both your houses," instead of blaming the Republican culprits. And

that ends up a net victory for the special deep-pocket, moneyed interests.

"These folks want a plutocracy where instead of the voice of the many, the checkbooks of the very, very few determine the outcome of the election," Pelosi said. "Again, a plutocracy. And so, what you see is diversion, diversionary tactics. Let's not talk about the transportation bill, which is only 9 days until it expires; student loans, which is only 9 days until the interest rate, the lower interest rate will expire."

"Instead let us tie the hands of the person who is assigned to make sure that the American people have the right to vote, who

have the right to vote, are able to vote, and that their vote is counted. It is all tied together," Pelosi explained.

Clever strategy. The president, by proxy, looks bad, while at the same time his enemies are making it harder for him to be re-elected. Don't let anything which might improve the lives of ordinary people get enacted, so the resulting resentment of government will throw the president out of office. That's why I say the attacks on Attorney General Eric Holder are in fact a proxy impeachment of President Obama.

They never give up. **WI**

## MUHAMMAD

continued from Page 24

Assistant Democratic Leader James Clyburn (D-S.C.) said in a statement.

"Today's contempt vote against Attorney General Eric Holder by the Republicans on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee represents an outrageous abuse of power.

Democrats in the House support proper and appropriate Congressional oversight of the Executive Branch, but House Republicans are out of control," Clyburn said.

"Combined with their threat on the debt ceiling, the Republican delay injects not only uncertainty — that has prevailed for a while — paralysis, paralysis in our economy," Pelosi said. "Why would they do such a thing? Be-

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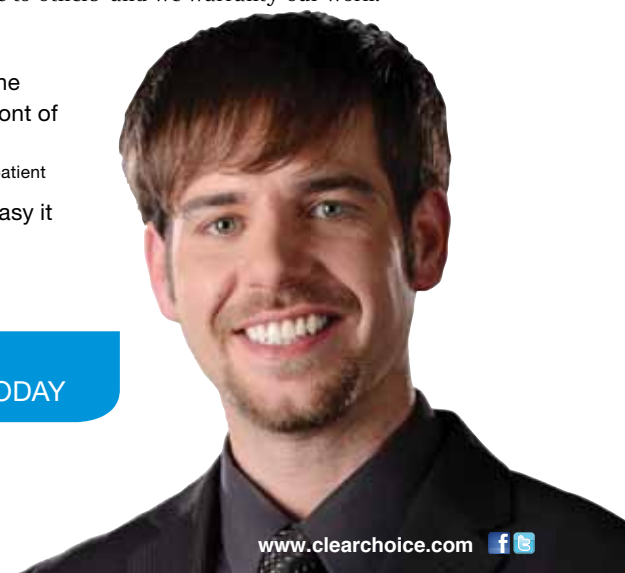
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