

NEWS CLIPS

MALCOLM X HOME MIGHT BECOME LANDMARK

BOSTON — Malcolm X's boyhood home is under study as a historic landmark. The city Landmarks Commission voted unanimously last Tuesday to look into whether the house in Roxbury meets legal requirements for landmark status, which would keep it safe from demolition or major renovation. Malcolm X, then 14-year-old Malcolm Little, moved from Lansing, Mich. to the three-story wood-frame house owned by his older sister Ella in 1941. He was living there when he was sentenced to prison for burglary in 1946 and returned to it briefly when he was paroled in 1953. The house is owned by Ella's son, Rodnell Collins.

SURVEY: TIMES GETTING WORSE FOR WORKING BLACKS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NNPA) — A national public opinion poll entitled "Family Matters: A National Survey of Women and Men" has found that despite an improving economy, two-thirds of African-Americans say time pressures on working families are worsening. Seventy-five percent of African-Americans under the age of 45 expect to need family or medical leave in the next 10 years. Ninety-six percent want employers to do more to help working families and 90 percent want the government to do more. "Americans want more responsive employers and lawmakers," said Judith L. Lichtman, president of National Partnership for Women & Families, the sponsors of the survey. "They want change. They expect change. And they're willing to pay for it and vote for it." The survey also found that 51 percent of African-Americans say that quality is the most important factor when choosing a health care plan. More than nine in 10 would favor a Federal Patient Protection Act and 63 percent would pay additional out-of-pocket costs for those protections. Half of African-American women say time spent at work often interferes with their responsibilities at home. Yet only 27 percent say employers are doing a good or excellent job when it comes to treating women fairly in terms of pay and promotions. National Partnership has announced two new programs to help change the situation: The Quality Health Care Initiative to help women get the information and basic consumer protections, and the Family Leave Initiative to make family and medical leave available to more working families. For more information call (202) 986-2600.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ECONOMIC GROUP TABS BLACK CEO

LARGO, MD (NNPA) — Directors of the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation selected Joseph J. James, a national leader in economic development, to head the agency. James is the first African-American named president and chief executive officer of the corporation. James has nearly 25 years of economic and business development experience gleaned from stints in Chicago, Philadelphia, Austin, Texas and most recently in Richmond, Va., where he successfully attracted nearly 70 companies resulting in 2,000 new jobs and \$175 million in investments. James was selected for promoting the growth of small and minority businesses while in Richmond. His background in business development and community revitalization is just what we need to carry out and advance the county's economic development strategies," said Wayne K. Curry, Prince George's County's first African-American county executive. Prince George's County has been tabbed one of the most racially and ethnically diverse communities in the nation. African-Americans comprise 57 percent of the households. The average income hovers at \$50,998. In a recent Wall Street Journal article, the county was called the most affluent Black suburban community in America.

ACTIVISTS SLATED TO ATTEND BLACK RADICAL CONGRESS IN JUNE

Chicago (NNPA) — African-American activists throughout the nation will meet in Chicago on June 19 for the Black Radical Congress, which its organizers say will revive and rebuild the spirit of Black militancy and social justice. "Black people face a deep crisis," a prepared statement read. "Finding a way out of this mess requires new thinking, new vision and a new spirit of resistance. We need a new movement of Black radicalism." The statement also touched on hotbed issues like unemployment, imprisonment, homelessness, police brutality, violence and drugs. "The politicians build more prisons but cut budgets for public schools, day care and health care," the statement read. "They slash welfare yet hire more cops ... working people must pay more taxes and receive fewer services." Author Amiri Baraka, activist and scholar Angela Davis; AFL-CIO education secretary Bill Fletcher and educator Cornell West have endorsed the meeting.

EOB to thank supporters at luncheon

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The National Association of Community Action Agencies has designated May as National Community Action Month.

In recognition, the Economic Opportunity Board is hosting an appreciation luncheon on Friday, May 15 at the Golden Nugget Hotel to honor its supporters.

The EOB is a private, non-profit agency. Since its inception in 1964, it has served more than 41,000 low-income and disadvantaged individuals through programs like Micro

Business Development, Head Start, Home Buyers Assistance, Foster Grandparent Program, KCEP Radio, health clinics, substance abuse treatment and more. EOB Board Chair Verlia Grice Davis said that the event "is a celebration of community action successes around the country" and "a time to share our message that 'Community Action Works!'"

"We will honor the achievements of some remarkable people, and reaffirm our commitment to making community action work in our future," she said.

White teens face July trial for beating black boy Judge postpones trial at the prosecution's behest

By Karen Shields

Special to Sentinel-Voice

CHICAGO — Yielding to the prosecution's request for a delay, criminal courts Judge Daniel Locallo last week postponed jury selection in the trial of three white teens accused of beating a black youth.

Instead of facing an April 20 trial date on charges of attempted murder, aggravated battery and two counts of committing a hate crime, Bridgeport teens Michael Kwidzinski, Frank Caruso and Victor Jasas will not stand trial until July 6.

"We asked for a three-week delay for two reasons: security concerns and because Lenard Clark continues to experience post-traumatic stress syndrome," said state's attorney spokesman Bob Benjamin. He

said that the state's attorneys office felt it would be better if Clark had more time to recuperate.

Some contend the delay has more to do with a missing witness. During the open-court session, Locallo announced that one of the prosecution's witnesses was missing. The state attorney's office declined comment on the judge's statement.

On March 21, 1997, Clark was allegedly beaten by Kwidzinski, Caruso and Jasas as he biked home through the Armour Square neighborhood in the south side of Chicago.

Prosecutors charge that as Clark and two of his friends were riding their bicycles they were surrounded by the trio.

A witness told police that the three

defendants punched and kicked Clark, according to police records. The attack left Clark brain damaged and in need of special care. His friends were not badly hurt.

The prosecution plans to have Clark, who has had to relearn how to eat and walk, testify at the trial. Prosecutors contend the beating was racially motivated because the defendants wanted to protect their turf from outsiders.

When the case does come up for trial, Caruso and Jasas will have separate juries. Kwidzinski requested a bench trial, authorities said.

Defense lawyers have attempted to focus attention on a fourth youth who was considered a possible suspect after the attack, but was never charged.

Police break up protest by Anti-Klan proponents

Special to Sentinel-Voice

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Police in riot gear used tear gas on anti-Klan demonstrators who broke through a fence and tossed bottles and rocks in an attempt to disrupt a Ku Klux Klan rally Saturday.

At least five people were treated for minor injuries, but no arrests were made.

Hoping to avoid the violence of a similar 1996 Klan rally, the city set up a separate fenced area for the Klan, outfitted police with gas masks and handheld metal detectors and trained more than 100 volunteers to roam the crowd to keep the peace.

Hundreds of counter-demonstrators showed up, many flashing signs reading "Smash the Klan."

While the Klan members were in front of City Hall, the anti-Klan protesters broke through the fence behind the building and threw rocks and bottles, breaking eight windows but coming nowhere near the Klan members.

Police Chief Carl Ent said volunteers did a good job of

keeping the angry crowd away from the 37 Klan members, who rallied for about an hour, playing music and making speeches. Several times they shouted "white power" and raised their hands in the Klan salute.

Jamal Benin, 24, said he was yelling at Klan members when the tear gas wafted his way.

"They shouldn't have brought them (the KKK) out here in the first place," said Benin, wiping tears from his eyes.

One city worker was taken to the hospital for tear gas exposure and five people were treated at the scene for minor injuries, said Roger Simpson with Huron Valley Ambulance.

Ent said police have video and witnesses and will be pursuing several suspects for inciting violence and damaging property.

Before the rally began, at least two men were hit by bottles apparently tossed by anti-Klan demonstrators.

"All I was doing was standing here. I got cracked in

the head because I have a tattoo that says 'white pride,'" said John Patton, 27.

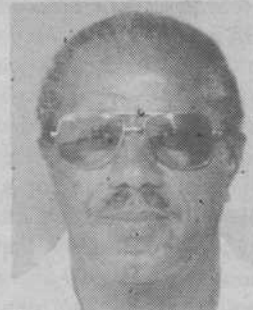
Klan leaders had promised to return to Ann Arbor after a 1996 rally ended in violence between police and anti-Klan protesters.

Police also used tear gas to disperse that crowd after some protesters began throwing rocks and bottles. Seven people were arrested. A black teenager, Keshia Thomas, was hailed as a hero after she

jumped between protesters and a white man who was being beaten because he was wearing a shirt with the Confederate flag printed on it. This year, city officials staged a "Rally for Unity and Justice" five blocks away from City Hall.

The Detroit-based National Women's Rights Organizing Coalition had distributed fliers calling the city-sponsored rally a "diversion." The group called on people to oppose the Klan with "militant" action.

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