

NEWS CLIPS

BLACK FARMERS PROTESTED LAND LOSS

John Boyd Jr., president of the National Black Farmers Association, led a delegation of farmers and supporters in a Tuesday protest in the nation's capitol against Black land loss from discrimination by the United States Department of Agriculture. "[USDA] Secretary Dan Glickman must be held accountable along with his employees — civil rights director, farm service agency undersecretary, and office of general counsel for civil rights — who are further depriving Black farmers of their land in USDA inventory and processing of Black farmer complaints who have opted out of the class action lawsuit. "This is the last civil rights movement of the 20th century. We will not enter the new millennium without our land," Boyd said. Those interested can call (804) 580-9089.

CBCF TO HOST LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Inc. will hold its 29th Annual Legislative Conference Sept. 15-18 in the District of Columbia's Washington Convention Center. The theme is "Tools for 2000: Planning Our Work - Working Our Plan." "For 29 years, CBCF has brought together some of the country's most influential leaders to chart the course for Black America during our conference," said Eva Clayton, D-N.C., chair of the CBCF. "The ALC is a four-day event which includes a series of issue forums, workshops and congressional braintrusts convened by the members of the Congressional Black Caucus. There are also six major fund-raising events which support our four national educational programs and public policy research." Registration will gain access to the following events: the CBCF chair's reception, jazz concert, national town hall meeting; and CBC braintrusts and issue forums. Pre-registration payments must be postmarked by Aug. 13 and should be sent to: Post Office Box 15670, Washington, DC 20003-0670. Call (800) 784-2577 or visit: cbcfonline.org

CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN HOUSING SUMMIT

Approximately 500 people participated in the recent Southeastern Regional Summit on Housing and Wealth Accumulation in Charlotte, N.C. entitled "Raising the Roof: Home Buying Strategies for the 21st Century." Sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, participants explored various obstacles and opportunities for homeownership. Also, a campaign was launched to generate one million new African-American homeowners by the year 2005. In response to the campaign, Fannie issued a \$500,000 grant to the CBCF. "This starts the process of bringing together people from different areas of interest and expertise — mortgage lenders, potential home buyers, housing advocates, church and community leaders — to find ways to make real the American Dream of homeownership," said Rep. Eva Clayton, D-N.C.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR BLACKS JUMPS

While the nation's unemployment rate held steady at 4.3 percent in July, the rate for blacks rose to 8.8 percent from June's record low of 7.3 percent. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman said she was concerned by the increase but noted that the jobless rate for blacks was still much lower than a year ago. In other details: — The employment rate for whites edged down to 3.7 percent from 3.8 percent in June. — The rate for Hispanics declined to 6.2 percent from 6.8 percent and now is near the record low of 5.8 percent set in March. — The rate for teen-agers dropped to 12.7 percent from 13.5 percent. — The jobless rate for adult women rose slightly — to 4 percent from 3.9 percent — while the rate for adult men dipped to 3.5 percent from 3.6 percent.

Gunshot injuries cost \$2.3 billion a year

CHICAGO (AP) — The cost of treating the nation's gunshot victims in a recent year was \$2.3 billion and the government paid half the bill, researchers reported last week.

The figure is an estimate of what the nation spent treating gunshot victims in 1994, based on data from hospitals in Maryland and New York that year, from South Carolina emergency rooms in 1997 and other sources.

"We have been concerned that a lot of folks don't see gun violence as their problem, they see it as someone else's problem," said one of the researchers, Philip Cook,

director of the Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University.

"The costs are shared by everyone through government payment.

"In that sense, we all have a stake in reducing gun violence."

This has not been lost on many cities and counties — at least 23 are pursuing gun makers in court to recover money spent treating gunshot victims.

The study published in today's *Journal of the American Medical Association* looked at the costs hospitals incurred treating almost 135,000 gunshot injuries, including fatal ones.

The average cost per injury was \$17,000. When a victim was hospitalized, the average lifetime cost jumped to \$35,000, the researchers estimated.

A researcher not involved in the study said it was a solid analysis of the limited data that is available. Mark Cohen, a Vanderbilt University economist who does research in this area, said the breakdown of who bears the costs of gunshot wounds is the study's most valuable component.

The government, mostly through Medicaid and Medicare payments, paid \$1.1 billion of the total cost, the study found. Private

insurers covered 18 percent of the cost, and victims picked up another 19 percent.

The researchers speculated that victims' costs are often passed on to other patients because many victims can't afford treatment.

Despite the seemingly high numbers, Cohen said the costs are small when compared to the \$1 trillion spent on medical care annually.

"If you did away with gunshot injuries, would you reduce medical costs?" Cohen said. "Not by much."

He said fraud is more costly to hospitals than gunshot wounds.

San Francisco mayor's race has crowded field

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The upcoming mayor's race features a crowded field, plenty of money and candidates who are anything but boring.

Dapper Willie Brown is running for re-election as an FBI corruption investigation swirls around his administration. His main opponents are ex-mayor Frank Jordan, who lost a re-election bid after taking a shower with two disc jockeys, and Clint Reilly, a wealthy political consultant who ran Jordan's failed campaign.

The suave, dressed-to-the-nines mayor, who has been photographed wearing a crown, has been pestered with pies. Riders of the city's public transit system have reviled him. The FBI is poking around the city's Housing Authority and Human Rights Commission, looking for evidence of irregularities.



WILLIE BROWN

After brashly promising to make the city's buses and trolleys run on time in his first 100 days in office, after almost four years the buses are still late.

The city continues to be one of the most expensive in the nation, with the middle class all but priced out of the housing market. It's a magnet for the homeless, bicycle riders and motorists are constantly at each others' throats, there's no place to park — and a new stadium

for the NFL's San Francisco 49ers is buried deep in limbo.

Brown's regime has seen spending and hiring both increase rapidly. In 1994-1995, the city budget was \$2.65 billion. Brown, who took office in 1996, produced a budget for 1999-2000 of \$4.15 billion — and called for the hiring of 1,400 additional municipal workers in a city of some 760,000.

Reilly, the son of a milkman, already has spent \$1.3 million to oust Brown — \$273,041 more than he's raised — and most of the total came out of his own pocket.

Political consultant Ellie Schafer of Schafer Campaigns said she expected Reilly and Brown each would spend about \$4 million, while Jordan has pledged to stay inside the suggested — but not legally required —

campaign spending limit of \$600,000.

Reilly's had some problems that will be certain to come up again. He has a temper to go with a drunk driving rap, and a well-publicized brawl with *San Francisco Examiner* Executive Editor Phil Bronstein. Reilly ended up with a broken ankle — and a settlement.

Jordan, a former police chief, hurt himself near the end of his re-election campaign when a publicity stunt putting him half-nude in a shower with two radio DJs backfired.

Schafer said she thinks Reilly and Jordan are basically fighting for the same "anti-Willie" votes.

"It puts them in a tough spot," she said Friday. "There are only so many anti-Willie votes to go around."

Board

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executive director of the Nevada Supreme Court Task Force and a citizen-member on the board's advisory committee. Simpson has been a vocal proponent for the creation of a community-based body to monitor the police department, particularly in cases of police brutality.

"It's going to be a very positive thing," he said of the review board.

Dr. James Tate, local physician and executive director of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, disagreed, saying the board bears little resemblance to what he envisioned when he began the petition to get an independent agency to review police activity.

"The civilian control board, as it should have been called, had a specific purpose," Tate said. "People don't like the idea of having to go to the police to complain about the police. People don't want to go to Jesse James to complain about Billy the Kid. The problem is that there is no place to go that's neutral. In essence, the County Commission and the City Council control the board. How can they be objective?"

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the contact number for the A.D. Guy Center programs in the July 29 issue was left out. Resource specialist the Rev. Jesse Scott can be reached at 651-4996.

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