

NEWS BRIEFS

DALLAS OFFICIAL THAT FIRED FIRST BLACK POLICE CHIEF QUILTS

DALLAS (NNPA)—Dallas City Manager Ted Benavides recently announced his retirement, surprising many city council members and Dallas Mayor Laura Miller. Benavides will end his term Nov. 19. "My decision comes after considerable thought and soul searching," Benavides wrote in a two-page memo. "Employment with the City of Dallas has been a challenging, enriching experience. I am grateful for the many people who have given me the chance to grow and contribute here. For me, as with many other hardworking, caring city employees, the opportunity to contribute to the city's quality of life has been very rewarding." Benavides' resignation culminates a difficult time in Dallas political history. In August, Benavides, who is Hispanic, fired the first African-American police chief, Terrell Bolton, spurring massive protests, some racial unrest and an effort to recall Miller. Bolton, who has sued the city, had said he believed Miller instigated his firing. Miller has denied the charges. During a city council meeting last year, Bolton said he was "whisked out the back door" and "perceived as the enemy" prior to his firing. At the time, many community activists had said Miller also was planning to fire Benavides. Benavides just hired David Kunkle, Arlington's deputy city manager, to replace Bolton.

APPEALS COURT REJECTS LAWSUIT AGAINST HONDA

CINCINNATI (AP) - A federal appeals court rejected a lawsuit Thursday that accused Honda of America Manufacturing Inc. of discriminating against Blacks by denying them promotions at four central Ohio plants. Three judges of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upheld a Columbus federal judge's 2001 ruling that Honda employees, Marc Bacon and Terry Harden, failed to support their allegations against the company. The appeals court also upheld U.S. District Judge James Graham's decision to deny a request by Bacon and Harden to let their lawsuit also represent all current and former Black employees of Honda's Marysville auto and motorcycle plants, the Anna engine factory and the East Liberty plant. Bacon estimated that the group could have included at least 800 current and former employees. Bacon and Harden sued in 1999, demanding court orders to stop the alleged discrimination and that Honda pay money damages, grant the promotions and provide the appropriate wages that would have been earned. The appeals judges said Bacon and Harden failed to support claims, including that tests given for promotions were discriminatory to Black employees and Blacks were more often noted as being late or absent than other employees. Robert Steinberg, a lawyer for Bacon and Harden, said he had not seen the court's ruling and could not comment.

FOUNDATION DROPPED FROM RICHARDSON LAWSUIT

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - The nonprofit Razorback Foundation was dismissed recently from a discrimination lawsuit filed by former Arkansas basketball coach Nolan Richardson. U.S. District Judge William R. Wilson said there was insufficient evidence that the foundation and the university were Richardson's joint employer. The foundation is a fund-raising arm of the athletic department. Richardson was fired in 2002. He sued the school and the foundation, saying he was dismissed because he is Black and outspoken. The school said it feared Richardson had lost faith in the program by stating publicly that he would leave if the school bought out his contract. Wilson also threw out much of the foundation's counterclaims against the fired coach, though he said it will be allowed to pursue claims that Richardson has not sought employment as his contract requires. "We're thrilled about the judge's decision," foundation president Chuck Dicus said. "On behalf of all the donors to the Razorback Foundation, we've stated since the beginning we shouldn't be a party to this." The Razorback Foundation is paying off Richardson's \$7.21 million-a-year contract at \$500,000 a year through June 2008. However, Richardson is contractually obligated to try and get another job. His buyout would then be reduced by whatever his new salary was.

NAACP alleges bias at S.C. biker fest

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) - The NAACP has filed discrimination lawsuits accusing restaurants of shutting their doors during a Memorial Day weekend biker rally to avoid serving the Blacks who attend.

The lawsuits, filed this week against four restaurants, are similar to two lawsuits filed a year ago at this time - one against Myrtle Beach and Horry County, the second against a hotel.

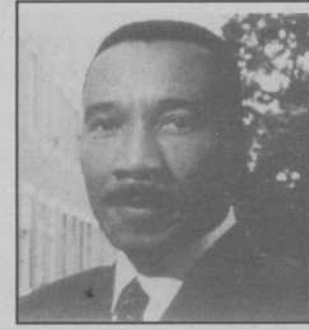
The earlier cases aren't expected to go to trial until next year.

The new lawsuits claim the restaurants closed in the past during the Black biker rally to avoid serving Blacks.

"In this day and age you would think that business owners realize that discrimination is not just illegal, but also immoral," said Kweisi Mfume, president and chief executive officer of the

"In this day and age you would think that business owners realize that discrimination is not just illegal, but also immoral."

—Kweisi Mfume, president of the NAACP



NAACP. "That kind of discrimination can't hold up in court."

In all the lawsuits, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People says Black bikers are treated differently than White bikers attending the Carolina Harley-Davidson Dealers Association Myrtle Beach Rally, which is held earlier each May.

The Harley-Davidson rally draws about 200,000 to a 60-mile stretch of beaches. The Atlantic Beach Bikefest

attracts as many as 350,000 to 60 blocks of beach, officials have said.

The new lawsuits name J. Edwards Great Ribs & More and Fleming's, both owned by J. Edward Fleming. Also named are Damon's Grill and Greg Norman's Australian Grille.

"I think it's ridiculous," Fleming told The (Myrtle Beach) Sun News. "I think they are the racists and they are out of line."

It was unclear whether his restaurants would be open this

weekend.

There was no answer at either establishment Friday afternoon.

At Greg Norman's, a restaurant manager refused to comment when reached by The Associated Press.

Brad Ritter, a spokesman for Damon's, said the company has not seen a copy of the lawsuit and could not comment.

But he said its North Myrtle Beach location will be open because traffic patterns have changed, relieving congestion.

"We welcome the business this event brings to Myrtle Beach and we hope that these traffic pattern changes will allow us to serve both visiting and local guests," Ritter said.

The lawsuits seek injunctions and unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

Program aids with home down payments

WASHINGTON (AP) - Families who can afford a monthly mortgage payment but do not have enough money for a down payment on a home can apply for assistance through a government program that got under way Wednesday.

The Housing and Urban Development Department will distribute over \$161 million to state and local agencies as part of the program.

It is intended to help first-time home buyers defray the costs of the down payment and closing costs typically due at settlement.

Grants will be worth up to \$10,000 or six percent of the purchase price of the home, whichever is greater.

The money can also be used to rehabilitate the property. "These dollars will help first-time home buyers with the single-greatest obstacle to homeownership," HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson said at a news conference with several congressional Republicans.

Jackson said the program may especially help more

minorities become homeowners. Almost 69 percent of U.S. residents own their homes.

For the first time, the homeownership rate for all minorities is just over 50 percent, Jackson noted.

Specifically, just under 50 percent of Blacks and Hispanics own their homes. The rate for Whites is over 75 percent.

Supporters say the program could help up to 40,000 low-income families.

President Bush, who signed the program into law in December, has said he wants to add 5.5 million new minority homeowners by the end of the decade.

The department notified local agencies on Wednesday about how much money they were receiving. People apply for assistance from those agencies; applicants cannot have incomes exceeding 80 percent of their community's median income.

The administration is asking for \$200 million for the program in next year's budget.

Summit

(Continued from Page 2) issue because of the problem with the Nigerian scam," she said. "We want to be able to use this summit as a way of cleaning up some of that negative images associated with Africa and let them know that we have millions and millions of decent, honest, and good Africans that just want to live a good life."

There is a need for economic development in Africa and the U.S.

"The poverty level in Africa creates a situation where people just desperately want to get out, want to do things to find their way out of their present existence," Cole said. "If we put back into the economy some of what we earn, I know that it will be a better way and the impact

that we can make because we're blessed here and have an opportunity to do better there."

For more information about the "African Summit," contact Atlantic at (702) 228-7894. Their address is 626 S.

9th St., Las Vegas, NV 89101. You may also contact them at the Web site: www.atlanticresorts.net.

MLS Realty, Inc.

• We Serve Greater Las Vegas •

1 1/2%
Commission

• We'll Get Your Home SOLD

Keep more of your money
Why Pay 3%?

• Maximum Exposure through

MLS Listing, Newspapers, Internet, etc.

• We have Investors and

Pre-Qualified Buyers

Call 326-2787

Baffour Adusei, Broker/Realtor

www.lasvegastophomes.com

