

Pfizer, Urban League bring health to 'block'

By Dr. Consuelo H. Wilkins
Special to Sentinel-Voice
ST. LOUIS (NNPA) - The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and its Federation of Block Units has kicked off its Neighborhood Health and Wellness Initiative. Nearly 100 community leaders attended the session late last month to learn about

the importance of health and innovative approaches to improving it. Earlier this year, the FBU proposed to mobilize its block units in an effort to increase community awareness about the importance of preventative healthcare and early intervention, in particular, with very high-risk popu-

lations. Dr. Gina Villani, National Urban League vice president of Health and Quality of Life, expressed her excitement about St. Louis' pioneering approach to health and wellness. "Health and wellness are so important for our community to thrive," said Villani. "Getting the message out to the community is key to being successful, and this initiative is right on target with our national goals."

tional programs and materials to be delivered by trained volunteers and will recruit and train volunteers to deliver healthcare literacy programs. Pfizer spokesman Forest Harper said, "Local Urban League affiliates, such as the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and its auxiliary unit the Federation of Block Units, are well positioned and will play a very significant role in helping the National Urban League accomplish its strategic health and quality-of-life empowerment priorities."

health, which include access to health services, economic opportunity and equity, educational background, health behaviors, trust in health and research systems, and environmental risk. According to the Institute of Medicine, individuals and families are embedded within social, political and economic systems that shape behaviors and constrain access to resources necessary to maintain health. Greater emphasis is needed on public health interventions that involve communities, with the goal of collectively identifying resources, needs and solutions. "Health care is a right. Actually, it is a civil right. And it should be demanded by every American," said Harper.

"There is no reason that anyone in this wealthy nation should go without needed prescription medication," Harper added. Harper emphasized that Pfizer is dedicated to community health advocacy and presented a letter of support to Rolandis Nash, vice president of the St. Louis UL chapter; Norman R. Seay, president of the Federation of Block Units and Villani. Pfizer also distributed health literature on diet, exercise and smoking cessation. A toll free number, 1-866-706-2400, was also given for any patients having difficulty getting prescription medications. Dr. Consuelo H. Wilkins is a gerontologist and writes for the St. Louis American.

No Child

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Congress say it could weaken the law.

Miller also said the law should pay teachers extra for boosting student achievement, an idea generally opposed by the national teachers unions.

Miller said he hopes the full House will vote on the legislation next month.

Massachusetts Democrat Sen. Edward Kennedy, who chairs the Senate education committee, said he hopes the bill gets through his committee in September.

The legislation is a priority for President Bush, who pushed for its initial passage in 2001.

A majority of Americans want the law to be renewed as it is or with minor changes, according to a poll out Monday by Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and *Education Next*, a publication of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

Gangs

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Walker Gladden, Rose Guyton said, consider what others see as dysfunction to be normal.

"They been in it since they were born," he said. "If you were to say to them you come from a dysfunctional family, they wouldn't know what you were talking about. All they know is [that] their dad's in jail or their mom is on drugs."

Guyton adds, "In this community, it's normal not to have a dad in the house... It's normal to have somebody in your family on drugs."

Street's youth coordinator, who hands out the cleaning assignments, said the morning ritual is not about money, but about "opportunity."

"Even though it is 4 o'clock in the morning, it is a place where opportunity is presented to them," said Gladden. "What environment would they rather be a part of than an opportunity, and family-oriented environment?"

Leonard Sparks write for the *Afro-American Newspapers*.

Plea

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they left the federal courthouse. Prosecutors also would not comment.

During the hearing, Taylor spoke only in response to routine yes-or-no questions from U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson. He answered "Yes" when the judge asked if he had agreed to cooperate with the government.

Taylor acknowledged in the summary of facts that he found the property that Vick purchased in 2001 for \$30,000 for development into a dogfighting compound.

Taylor says he maintained and trained the dogs for about three years, using his share of winnings — which were split among the partners — for living expenses.

He left the operation after a falling out with co-defendant Quanis L. Phillips and others in September 2004, according to the statement of facts.

Vick and Purnell A. Peace, 35, of Virginia Beach, and Phillips, 28, of Atlanta, are scheduled for trial Nov. 26. They remain free without bond.

Your Horoscope Says... August 2-8

ARIES

Lots of creative energy is available this week, and you can use this in many creative ways. Whatever your heart tells you to focus on, focus on that. Maintain emotional balance by taking periodic breaks from your work.

Soul Affirmation: True friendship is a mirror into which I look to see the beauty of my inner-self.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 13, 30

TAURUS

Your sense of self is feeling unusually well-defined. And it's causing you to look confident. People will notice your regal bearing and noble outlook this week.

Soul Affirmation: My emotions provide me a pathway into the sunshine of my being.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 29, 45

GEMINI

The week may start off cloudy but will soon turn bright if you keep your outlook positive and your thoughts on higher, more optimistic ideas. Be thankful for your wise and generous heart. You have a shining spirit.

Soul Affirmation: Jewelry reflects the beauty of my feelings about myself.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 45, 51

CANCER

Who is your spiritual family? Celebrate your life with these people this week. Offer praise and grace-filled vibrations, and share your blessings. Things on the mundane level are clearing up and working out perfectly.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy discovering new territory this week.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 14, 29

LEO

Love gets you back on an even keel, and you feel balance and much appreciation for all of the blessings in your life. Your creativity is soaring; let some of your wilder ideas free

and watch them fly.

Soul Affirmation: Being true to others is the way to be true to myself.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 29, 40

VIRGO

Sometimes, a path down the middle is better than taking sides in an issue that may lead to discomposure of your emotional harmony. Your challenge this week is to double-check arrangements or tasks that others say they have done. Be discreet, but if it involves your schedule or needs, do check twice.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy learning new things about myself this week.

Lucky Numbers: 22, 38, 42

LIBRA

Your mind is sending bubbles to the top of your consciousness, signaling the imminent arrival of a couple of brilliant ideas. These ideas may even come as you are in your bubble bath or asleep in your comfy bed, so keep a notepad and pen nearby at all times to capture those impressions as they make themselves known to you.

Soul Affirmation: I master fear by knowing that all is well.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 33, 35

SCORPIO

Check the fine print carefully this week. You may find yourself in a number of positions this week to advance your financial state. Be sure you have scrutinized the details before signing on any dotted lines. A partner or relative could seem to be urging you toward one of these opportunities; examine that one with love and common sense.

Soul Affirmation: What I need to be is fully present inside of me.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 15, 40

SAGITTARIUS

Keep your sunny side up and avoid arguments with anyone who seems to give off any negative vibes in your direction. You know in your heart that what you do in the world is much needed. Others know too, they just may

have a hard time admitting it this week. Look for love to give you a lift.

Soul Affirmation: The winner is me. I smile for the cameras.

Lucky Numbers: 31, 32, 54

CAPRICORN

Your philosophical principles are ready for a larger congregation. Your hard work, patience, and determination to present a positive outlook will be paying off this week. You'll be blessed with an intuitive flash of all that you have going for you, and the realization will make you very happy. You'll be encouraging many others with your manner of being in the world.

Soul Affirmation: All things work together for good

Lucky Numbers: 12, 16, 30

AQUARIUS

Be cautious about when and where you present your ideas this week. There's some minor jealousy lurking about, and it wants to rain on your gorgeous parade. Be calm and keep your faith in yourself high. You've earned the respect and admiration of many by simply acting with complete faith in the rightness of your actions. Take all criticism, constructive or otherwise, with a grain of salt.

Soul Affirmation: I change the way I look at business this week.

Lucky Numbers: 28, 32, 50

PISCES

Your charm is unstoppable, and your poise is unflappable, sweeties. Continue to take advantage of all of your gifts this week and be your whole, wonderful self. If you take a high road where shared property is discussed, you may wind up with more than you started with. Exercise some caution when dealing with negative energy, whether from people or just a vague intuition.

Soul Affirmation: I get joy from giving good things.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 39, 41

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