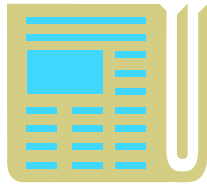




**Henry County Branch of the NAACP
Newsletter
May, 2008**

Website: www.hc-naacp.org



Political Forum Planned

Engaged participation in the political life of Henry County is never easy! Between the cryptic candidate qualification and registration criteria and the seemingly unending names of candidates, citizen participation remains a dusty maze.

The Henry County Branch of the NAACP attempts to help break the Gordian knot of competing and overlapping candidates by convening its regularly offered Political Forum. Candidates for the County Commission, State Senate, State House, and other office seekers are asked to participate in a unique and revealing forum.

A panel of questioners will pose a rapid fire onslaught of queries that test the candidate's mental agility and issues awareness. Planned for late June or early July, the event will assist just a little in the deciphering of the election conundrum.

Stay tuned!



NAACP Youth Development and Empowerment Tour

Realizing that dramatic jeopardizes demand dramatic measures, the Henry County NAACP has embarked on the ongoing quest to help in reconnecting with metro-wide youth in an effort to create better leaders for tomorrow through the convening of regularly scheduled summits and events.

The objectives of the Youth Development Tour focus on educating the youth on social aspects of their lives through the frank discussion of:

- Education Development
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Civic Consciousness
- Financial Development
- Spiritual Enrichment
- Commitment to Empowerment

The NAACP intends to solicit the support of youth role models to convey the message of hope and commitment. Music mogul Clifford Harris, Jr. (more commonly known as “T.I.” or “TIP”) will actively spearhead the program and its efforts.

Venues like public schools, colleges, community centers, recreation centers and various other public venues will be used to pass the message of responsibility and contribution.

Stay tuned for more news about this “H”istory making program!



Court: Abu-Jamal Deserves New Hearing

(Excerpted form BlackAmericaWeb.com)

An appeals court Thursday upheld Mumia Abu-Jamal's conviction for murdering a police officer 27 years ago but rejected prosecutors' request to reinstate the death penalty for the former Black Panther.

A three-judge panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that because the jury that sentenced Abu-Jamal to die was given flawed instructions in the penalty phase, he must either get a new sentencing hearing or be sentenced to life in prison.

Abu-Jamal's lead attorney, Robert R. Bryan of San Francisco, said he was glad the judges did not reinstate the death sentence, but added that he will continue fighting to get his client a new trial.

"I've never seen a case as permeated and riddled with racism as this one," Bryan said Thursday. "I want a new trial and I want him free. His conviction was a travesty of justice."

Gore Plans \$300 Million Climate Program

Former Vice President Al Gore is launching a three-year, \$300 million effort to make the world more aware of global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The three-year campaign by the Alliance for Climate Protection will start Wednesday with TV advertising, featuring unlikely alliances like Pat Robertson and Al Sharpton, and Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Republican former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

This climate crisis is so interwoven with habits and patterns that are so entrenched, the elected officials in both parties are going to be timid about enacting the bold changes that are needed until there is a change in the public's sense of urgency in addressing this crisis, Gore told the Washington Post.

The options available to civilization worldwide to avert this terribly destructive pattern are beginning to slip away from us, Gore said. The path for recovery runs right through Washington."

To help pay for the campaign, Gore is devoting the profits from his "An Inconvenient Truth" film and book, his salary from the venture capital firm where he works, and the money from his 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Donations are also being accepted at WeCanSolveIt.org.

Poetry Corner

By Alphonso Bynum

Claim Jesus like you're his #1 fan,
What's wrong? It's ok to hold his hand.
It's ok to call his name, and, remember his works.
We can make a change....just remember his works.
No, we're not 1st and no, we're not the same.
It all starts from birth, like I said, let's make a change.
I know this sounds strange, but we can work in sync, compared to forever, life is a blink.
But it'll get better when we start from scratch.

Like in a group of good cookies out of a bad batch.
Don't look back, we gotta look forward.
Heaven is where we're going toward...



Who Am I?

I was a self-taught, black astronomer and mathematician.

From Ellicott, MD., at the age of 22, I created a working clock from wood after studying the watch of a friend. It took me two years to finish the clock, which kept accurate time in hours, minutes, and seconds until my death. I became interested in astronomy through a local surveyor named George Ellicott, who loaned me astronomy books. In 1791, George Washington commissioned George Ellicott and French engineer Pierre L'Enfant to help plan the construction of the nation's capital on a ten-square mile area of land. Ellicott invited me to be his assistant. A dispute between some Americans and Frenchmen led L'Enfant to abandon it and make the drafted plans with me. Over the course of two days, I reproduced the intricate plans from memory, preventing a major delay.

Shortly after returning to my farm in April 1791, I issued my first of some ten annual almanacs, which were published by several printers and sold widely in both England and the United States. I charted the movement of heavenly bodies and successfully predicted several solar eclipses. Farmers and navigators relied on this important information. I and my sisters were born free and grew up on a self-sufficient, 100-acre tobacco farm. Growing up, I spent much of my free time devising and solving mathematical puzzles. It was not until after my retirement from farming at the age of 59 that I began to study astronomy through borrowed books, becoming a man of science and mathematics through unassisted experimentation and close observation of natural phenomena.

I built a clock out of wood, planned the survey for the establishment of the city Washington, D. C., and published important almanacs, and died in 1806.

Who Am I?

The April 2008 guest, award winning author and native Georgian Alice Walker!