

THE AC
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NEWS BRIEFS

Using Carbon Monoxide To Preserve Red Meat?

A leading retailer wants the U.S. Department of Agriculture to permit labels that define meat treated with carbon monoxide. The additive serves to preserve the color of meat and the request comes despite concerns about its connection to cancer. Target Corporation is rallying for the labels in the hope of luring consumers.

Pressure Forces Judge to Keep Jena 6 Trial Open

La Salle Parish District Judge U.P. Mauffray bowed to media pressure and will keep the Dec. 6 trial of Jena 6 defendant Mychal Bell open to the public. The judge had said the pretrial hearing for Mr. Bell did not have to be open to the media and public. But major news organizations objected, saying the judge's earlier decision to close proceedings was out of step with U.S. Constitutional and Louisiana juvenile and constitutional law. The Black 17-year-old faces charges of aggravated second degree battery conspiracy for taking part in an alleged attack on a white student in December 2007 in Jena, LA.

The Spirit of Marcus Garvey Lives On

PALM BEACH, FL—Marcus Garvey Jr., the first-born son of the great Black Nationalist, and his wife were honored guests of the Glades Area NAACP branch. During the Freedom Fund and Awards Banquet on Nov. 3, Mrs. Jean Garvey, the daughter-in-law of the historic figure was the keynote speaker.

Mrs. Garvey noted that her father-in-law was deported from this country 85 years ago at the hands of White opponents. Mrs. Garvey said Black efforts at economic empowerment are all but non-existent. "Where are our shipping lines, our airplanes, our manufacturing plants?" she asked. "A race without authority and power is a race without respect."

The senior Marcus Garvey was founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). He was known throughout the world for a strong position on Black self-reliance and the Back to Africa movement in the 1920s.

Unemployment? The Answer is in the Prison Industry

DRAPER, UT—White employment is scarce around the country; just the opposite seems to be true for the population of Draper County, the location of the Utah State Prison. The small town has a job vacancy of 25 percent at its 4,300 capacity prison.

State Department of Corrections executive, Tom Patterson, sees the circumstance as being on the 'verge of crisis.' The warden of the facility has had to assume an additional role, most recently, by putting on a uniform to cover shifts for his correctional officers.

Joycelyn V. Johnson to Lead University Communities Council

Washington, DC – Winston-Salem, N.C., Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson has been appointed to head the National League of Cities' (NLC) University Communities Council (UCC) for 2008. Council Member Johnson will chair the UCC for a one-year term. Also appointed were two vice chairs, North Miami, Fla., Council Member Michael R. Blynn, and Glendale, Ariz., Council Member Phil Lieberman.



Council Member Joycelyn V. Johnson

The UCC is a voluntary group of elected officials from municipalities with a university or institution of higher education within its borders or within an adjacent municipality. This NLC member group was formed in 1977 to encourage the active involvement of university communities in the organization, its policy-making process and in programs at NLC.

"The year ahead will be critical for the future of this country – and for our cities and towns," said McCollum. "During the election debate, we must work to ensure that the needs of our hometowns are part of the conversation. Issues such as transportation, sustainability, housing and workforce development along with reliable sources of funding for municipalities are critical to building a stronger America and must be addressed. I will look to Joycelyn's leadership on this important council to help define our expectations and sharpen our message on behalf of cities and towns."

The Council's objectives are to assist cities, NLC, and state municipal leagues in gathering, sharing and analyzing information about opportunities, issues and policies of interest to university communities. It also serves to foster a spirit of cooperation between universities, colleges and city and town governments. With a diverse membership of urban, suburban and rural communities, the UCC is governed by a Steering Committee with a chair and two vice chairs appointed by the President.

Off-campus student housing, parking problems, student revelry, alcohol and noise violations, and tax-free properties may not be significant problems for most cities and towns, but for cities with universities, these represent real problems with real cost implications. Conversely, university towns have opportunities to utilize the expertise of university staff for scientific and operational problems. University fellows and student interns assigned to specific projects and joint economic development projects are examples of productive city/town partnerships.

The National League of Cities is the nation's oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 U.S. cities, towns and villages, which collectively serve 218 million people. To learn more about the National League of Cities, go to www.nlc.org.

Christmas Treats

One of the great pleasures of the season is to express our warmest thoughts to those whose friendship we value so highly...

Merry Christmas From
Chenita Johnson

