

# News at a glance

## Negro Leagues Museum names new director

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - Gregory D. Baker, a former assistant to the Kansas City city manager, has been named executive director of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

Baker replaces Don Motley, who is retiring after 18 years as the executive director of the museum. Motley will continue as a member of the organization's board of directors. Baker will oversee the operations and organizational and strategic planning for the museum, and will report to its board of directors.

Baker's hiring Friday also caused at least two board members to resign in protest. Baker was chosen over Bob Kendrick, the museum's longtime marketing director.

But Pellom McDaniels III, president-elect of the NLBM Board of Directors, applauded Baker's selection. "Greg Baker brings an outstanding combination of business and technical acumen," McDaniels said. "He is well-equipped to further enhance the museum's position as a premier destination for baseball fans, historians, and scholars from across the country and around the world."

Baker is a native of Kansas City, Mo., and for the last seven years has been the assistant to the Kansas City city manager.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, opened in 1997 and is a privately funded, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history of African-American Baseball. The museum contains a collection of baseball photographs and artifacts dating from the late 1800s through the 1960s.

The museum was designated by Congress in 2006 as "America's National Negro Leagues Baseball Museum."



Baker

## Nominations sought for NAACP Spingarn Medal

The National NAACP is soliciting nominations for the 94th Spingarn Medal, which was instituted in 1914 by the late J.E. Spingarn, the then NAACP Chairman. It is awarded for the highest or noblest achievement by an American of African descent during the preceding year or years.

The purpose of the medal is to call attention to distinguished merit and achievement among Americans of African descent, serve as a reward for such achievement and stimulate the ambition of youth of African descent.

Nominations must include a detailed, current biographical profile of the nominee, highlighting relevant activities and achievements. Supporting and verifying documents such as news clippings, honors received, etc. should also be attached. This information should be clearly typewritten or printed, as it must be reproduced.

The final selection of the medalist is made by the Spingarn Medal Award Committee and the Association's Board of Directors. The Committee's decision is final in all matters affecting the award.

All nominations for the 94th Spingarn Medal must be submitted, in writing, and postmarked on or before Dec. 31. Nominations should be addressed to: The Spingarn Medal Award Committee, Attention: Office of the Chairman, 4805 Mount Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215.

## Election Day fliers to get scrutiny

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) - A special prosecutor will look into fliers distributed by Virginia Beach's winning mayoral candidate depicting him with President-elect Barack Obama.



Sessoms

Commonwealth's Attorney Harvey Bryant says he knows who ordered the fliers to be distributed on Election Day on behalf of Will Sessoms. He's turned that information over to a special prosecutor.

The problem is that the fliers did not say who authorized them, as required by law.

They were mostly distributed to black voters, even though Sessoms said he supported John McCain for president.

After the election, Mayor Meyera Oberndorf filed a complaint about the fliers.

## Paterson promises to send forgotten food aid to Haiti

(GIN/NNPA) - Some 77 tons of donated food and clothes for hurricane victims in Haiti have been rescued from storage where it sat forgotten for three months.

New York Gov. David Paterson took responsibility for failing to move the much needed collected items. A donated plane from Federal Express is leaving this week with about 4 tons of food designated for Catholic Relief Services. Another 8 tons will arrive Dec. 23.

Some 65 tons of aid collected mostly from Haitians in the Tri-State area are awaiting some offer of transport.

"The fault lies with me," Paterson said at a recent press conference. "It was messed up and it's going to get cleaned up."

Meanwhile, church collections for the hurricane victims are continuing, including a "Wine and Cheese and Buy Something Please" in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Auburn, for its sister parish, Notre Dame du Mont Carmel in Cabaret, Haiti.

# N.C. had largest increase in turnout

Across the nation, voters break four-decade-old record

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Enthusiasm among blacks and Democrats for Barack Obama's candidacy pushed voter turnout in this year's elections to the highest level in 40 years.

Final figures from nearly every state and the District of Columbia showed that more than 131 million people voted, the most ever for a presidential election. A little more than 122 million voted in 2004.

This year's total is 61.6 percent of the nation's eligible voters, the highest turnout rate since 1968, when Republican Richard M. Nixon defeated Democrat Hubert Humphrey, said Michael McDonald, a political science professor at George Mason University.

States finished certifying their election results this weekend, including California on Saturday. The Electoral College was scheduled to elect Obama president on Monday, with electors meeting in each state to vote in a largely ceremonial procedure.

Turnout increased for the third straight presidential election, encouraging news for those who have warned about voter apathy. Four years ago, 60.1 percent of those eligible voted.

"We seem to have restored the levels of civic engagement that we had in the 1950s and 1960s," McDonald said. "But we didn't break those levels."

McDonald calculated turnout rates based on the number of eligible voters among adult U.S. citizens. Experts calculate turnout rates in different ways based on



File Photo

Early voters line up outside of the Forsyth County Board of Elections.

whom they consider eligible voters, a process that excludes noncitizens and, in most states, convicted felons.

Regardless of the method, turnout fell short of many predictions, in part because voters in some Republican areas of the country were not as enthusiastic this year with Sen. John McCain as the party's nominee as they were four years ago when President George W. Bush won a second term.

Bush's unpopularity after eight years in office, the nation's fatigue with the Iraq war and the worst economic crisis since the Great

Depression of the 1930s - coupled with Obama's message of change - contributed to the increased turnout for Obama. He was also helped by a surge in black voters, who had the opportunity to elect the first black president.

The number of registered Democrats jumped in many states, helping to propel Obama to a larger share of the vote than Sen. John Kerry, the 2004 Democratic nominee, in 44 states and the District of Columbia.

Early voting hit a new high, with about 41 million people - or more than 31 percent - voting before Election Day, either by mail or at des-

ignated sites, according to returns compiled by The Associated Press. Early voting accounted for 22 percent of the votes cast in 2004.

The Obama campaign invested heavily in early voting, and it appeared to be the difference in several states, though many of those people might have eventually voted on Election Day.

Voter turnout increased substantially in newly competitive states such as Virginia, Indiana and North Carolina, which all went for Obama after decades of favoring Republican presidential candidates. Turnout also increased in some Republican states with large black populations, such as Mississippi, South Carolina and Georgia.

North Carolina, which had

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# NYPD cops indicted in sodomy case

BY CYRIL "JOSH" BARKER THE AMSTERDAM NEWS

\$50,000, \$20,000 for Morales and \$10,000 for Cruz. Kern has a history of excessive force and has cost the city \$50,000 in lawsuits for police brutality.

NEW YORK (NNPA) - The officers accused of sodomizing a Brooklyn man in October in a subway station maintain their innocence after being indicted Dec. 9.

Officers Richard Kern, Andrew Morales and Alex Cruz were charged with sexual assault and trying to cover up the incident. Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes made the announcement last week.

The case was heard before a grand jury and ended with the officers being charged. Kern, 25, is charged with first-degree aggravated sexual abuse and faces a minimum sentence of five years and a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison.

Among the 32 charges are official misconduct and falsifying business records for attempting to conceal the incident, Morales and Cruz, both 26, face up to four years in prison.

The victim, Michael Mineo, 24, alleged that the officers sodomized him with a police baton in the Prospect Park subway station in Brooklyn. Mineo was suspected of smoking marijuana before he ran from police. He alleges that the officers caught him, pinned him to the ground and assaulted him.

The tattoo parlor worker was hospitalized for injuries to his anus, and medical records state that there was anal assault. Lab tests proved that Mineo's DNA was on Kern's baton. Two transit workers and one officer from the 71st Precinct came forward with information about the alleged attack. Police Commissioner Ray Kelly is awaiting the outcome of the investigation.

The three officers were originally put on desk duty, but Hynes reported that bail would be set for Kern at

The Chronicle (USPS 067-910) was established by Ernest H. Pitt and Nubisi Egemone in 1974 and is published every Thursday by Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101. Periodicals postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. Annual subscription price is \$30.72.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636 - Winston-Salem, NC 27102-1636