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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

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**WALLTOWN REUNION** - The Walltown Community held its annual Reunion July 6-8. It began Saturday with a parade and finished with entertainment and cookout at the Recreation center on Club Blvd. See photos on page 2.

## New optimism about stemming spread of AIDS virus

By Lauran Neergaard  
WASHINGTON (AP) - An AIDS-free generation: It seems an audacious goal, considering how the HIV epidemic still is raging around the world.  
Yet more than 20,000 international HIV researchers and activists will gather in the U.S. capital later this month with a sense of optimism not seen in many years - hope that it finally may be possible to dramatically stem the spread of the AIDS virus.  
"We want to make sure we don't overpromise," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the National Institutes of Health's infectious disease chief, told The Associated Press. But, he said, "I think we are at a turning point."  
The big new focus is on trying to get more people with HIV treated early, when they're first infected, instead of waiting until they're weakened or sick, as the world largely has done until now. Staying healthier also makes them less likely to infect others.  
That's a tall order. But studies over the past two years have shown what Fauci calls "striking, sometimes breathtaking results," in preventing people at high risk of HIV from getting it in some of the hardest-hit countries, using this treatment-as-prevention and some other protections.  
Now, as the International AIDS Conference returns to the U.S. for the first time in 22 years, the question is whether the world will come up with the money and the know-how to put the best combinations of protections into practice, for AIDS-ravaged poor countries and hot spots in developed nations as well.  
"We have the tools to make it happen," said Dr. Elly Katabira, president of the International AIDS Society, which organizes the world's largest HIV conference, set for July 22-27. He points to strides already in Botswana and Rwanda in increasing access to AIDS drugs.  
But Fauci cautioned that mov

ing those tools into everyday life is "a daunting challenge," given the cost of medications and the difficulty in getting people to take them for years despite poverty and other competing health and social problems.  
In the U.S., part of that challenge is complacency. Despite 50,000 new HIV infections here every year, an AP-GfK poll finds that very few people in the United States worry about getting the virus.  
Also, HIV increasingly is an epidemic of the poor, minorities and urban areas such as the District of Columbia, where the

rate of infection rivals some developing countries. The conference will spotlight this city's aggressive steps to fight back: A massive effort to find the undiagnosed, with routine testing in some hospitals, testing vans that roam the streets, even free tests at a Department of Motor Vehicles office, and then rapidly getting those patients into care.  
"These are the true champions," Dr. Mohammed Akhter, director of the city's health department, said of patients who faithfully take their medication. "They're also protecting their community."  
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## US approves 1st rapid, take-home HIV test

By Matthew Perrone  
WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the first over-the-counter HIV test, allowing Americans to check themselves for the virus that causes AIDS in the privacy of their homes.  
The OraQuick test detects the presence of HIV in saliva collected using a mouth swab. The test is designed to return a result within 20 to 40 minutes.  
Government officials estimate one-fifth, or about 240,000 people, of the 1.2 million HIV carriers in the U.S. are not aware they are infected. Testing is one of the chief means of slowing new infections, which have held steady at about 50,000 per year for two decades.  
FDA officials said the test is aimed at people who might not otherwise get tested. The company's marketing efforts will focus on populations at greatest risk of being infected, including gay and bisexual men, African Americans and Hispanics.  
HIV awareness groups hailed the approval as an important step in expanding testing for the virus.  
"This test will allow anyone to empower themselves to know their HIV status when, how and with whom they want to," said Tom Donohue, founding director of Who's Positive.  
HIV eventually develops into AIDS, unless treated with antiviral drugs. AIDS causes the body's immune system to break down, leading to infections which become fatal.  
The FDA previously approved several HIV test kits designed to be used at home, although those kits - which usually require a blood sample - must be sent to a laboratory to be developed.  
FDA stressed in its approval announcement that the test is not 100 percent accurate.  
A trial conducted by Orasure showed the home test correctly detected HIV in those carrying the virus only 92 percent of the time. That means the test could miss one person for every 12 HIV-infected people who use the kit.  
The test was accurate 99 percent in ruling out HIV in patients not carrying the virus. That means the test would incorrectly identify one patient as having HIV for every 5,000 HIV-negative people tested.  
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## NC hearing held on reworked Racial Justice Act

By Allen Reed  
FAYETTEVILLE (AP) - Days after the Republican-controlled General Assembly finished reworking the Racial Justice Act, lawyers are already moving to test the boundaries of the new law.  
Prosecutors and defense attorneys met in the Cumberland County courthouse on July 6 to work out preliminary details on how four North Carolina death row inmates will have their sentences reviewed under the rolled-back act.  
Superior Court Judge Greg Weeks refused requests from Assistant Cumberland District Attorney Rob Thompson for the judge to take himself off the case or postpone future hearings indefinitely. He also ruled prosecutors had two weeks to give the defense evidence collected related to the Racial Justice Act.  
Thompson didn't mince words with how the state feels about the flood of inmates attempting to scale back their sentences.  
"We consider it to be an attack," Thompson said. "The defense is telling us you chose juries in a racist manner and we take issue with that every single time it's said and every single way it's said and we wish to defend ourselves."

"Nothing has changed..." Weeks said. "There is clear case law indicated that judges are not permitted to testify as to the mental impressions, mental processes or thought processes in cases."  
The lawyers also contested the rescheduling of a July 23 hearing. Thompson requested the hearing date be postponed

indefinitely until he had a statistical expert ready. He suggested that because the convicted killers can at best get life in prison, there's no need to rush.  
"If we went forward on the 23rd without an expert, we might as well be in a boxing ring with our hands tied behind our backs blindfolded on our knees and hogtied," Thompson said.  
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**105TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

The family and friends of Mrs. Lucille Ervin celebrated her birthday on July 7-8, with a cookout at her home on Massey Ave., Durham.  
She was born July 7, 1907 in Charleston, S.C. She moved to Durham in the early 1930s and later married. She is retired from Duke Hospital after 38 years of service. She is a member of St. Mark AME Zion Church.  
The cookout was attended by several friends and family from Virginia, South Carolina and her church family.



**Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray**

## Durham's Own Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray Expected to be Elevated to Episcopal Sainthood; Annual Celebration of Murray's Life and Legacy - July 18

The Episcopal Church will be voting during its General Convention in early July to include Durham reared Pauli Murray in Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints. If all goes as planned Murray will be honored as a saint for her advocacy of the universal cause of freedom and as the first African American female priest ordained by the Episcopal Church.  
St. Titus' Episcopal and the Pauli Murray Project are hosting the annual celebration of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray on Wed., July 18 at 6:30 pm at 400 Moline St., to mark this occasion. Bishop Michael Curry will serve as the celebrant and Rev. Roxane Gwyn will offer the sermon. A choir made up of representatives of Durham's Episcopal congregations will sing. Everyone is invited to the service and the reception that will follow on the church grounds. "Pauli Murray had an agenda for the human good that was constant and unswerving" says Bishop Michael Curry. "As a descendent of slaves and slaveholders, people who were members of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, she is a symbol for the importance of bringing different worlds together, even in midst of great pain."  
The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray (1910-1985) was a nationally and internationally known advocate for human rights and social justice who grew up with her grandparents Robert and Mrs. Cornelia Fitzgerald on Carroll Street in Durham. She lived at the crossroads of all of the important social movements of 20th Century America. In 1977, at age 66, she was the first African American woman to be ordained as Episcopal priest, offering communion for first time at Chapel of the Cross in Chapel Hill where her grandmother had been baptized as a  
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