

News at a Glance

Clark wins major U.N. prize

(GIN/NNPA) — Ramsey Clark, a former U.S. attorney general and founder of the International Action Center, has received the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights for his lifelong efforts to defend human rights, and uphold standards of universality.

A renowned human rights defender, Clark received the prestigious award on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Among the many well-known figures that Clark defended over the years were Saddam Hussein, Slobodan Milosevic, Camilo Mejia and Father Philip Berrigan.

Clark played a key role in the civil rights and peace movements in the United States, and more recently, has been outspoken against human rights abuses committed in the name of counter-terrorism. He has called for war crimes against American, British, and other world leaders for human rights abuses, and has criticized the Iraqi Special Tribunal's trial of Saddam Hussein.

By receiving this award Ramsey will join the ranks of accomplished individuals such as, Nelson Mandela, Jimmy Carter, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.



Ramsey Clark

Morris Brown College rally raises \$60,000 to pay water bill

ATLANTA (AP) — Morris Brown College officials raised \$60,000 during a four-hour rally Saturday to help pay a massive water bill that is threatening to shutter the embattled institution.

The city of Atlanta turned off the school's water on Dec. 15 because the historically black institution owes \$380,000. Unless the bill is paid in full, the school will not reopen when classes are scheduled to resume on Jan. 9.

School officials say they will continue to hold rallies and other events until they have raised the full amount. Morris Brown acting President Stanley Pritchett said Saturday he is appealing to Atlanta-based celebrities to donate money to the school.

Morris Brown is rebounding from an embezzlement scandal that brought it to the brink of extinction a few years ago.

All-Africa Prayer Day set for Zimbabwe on Jan. 25

(GIN/NNPA) — Africa's largest Christian group, the All Africa Conference of Churches, has set Jan. 25 as a Special Africa Day of Prayer and Fasting for Justice in Zimbabwe.

At a meeting in the Mozambican capital, Maputo, the group condemned Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe for "using power-sharing negotiations as a strategy for wasting time and exercising continued control."

The church leaders called on the African Union and its 53 member nations to state clearly that the current Zimbabwean regime is "illegitimate" and to stop recognizing it.

"The AACC member churches confess that we have been slow to respond to the crisis in Zimbabwe and the suffering of the Zimbabwean people, in part because of our lack of unity."

Churches on the continent and around the world should engage in a Special Africa Day of Prayer and Fasting for Justice in Zimbabwe, they wrote. "Action should be taken for justice and peace in Zimbabwe through measures appropriate to their national contexts."

Chicago most segregated big city

CHICAGO (AP) — A published report says Chicago is the country's most segregated big city.

After analyzing 2008 population estimates, the Chicago Tribune found that blacks in Chicago are the most isolated racial group in the nation's 20 largest cities.

The figures show that more than 80 percent of the black or white population would need to change neighborhoods in Chicago to truly integrate the city.

The Tribune report points to racial patterns that took root more than 100 years ago in the city.

It says discriminatory practices helped spawn segregation. But income differences and personal tastes further perpetuate segregation.

The newspaper notes that people tend to select a place to live where their own color has a large presence.



Plaintiff says she is happy with NASCAR settlement

BY JENNA FRYER
RICHMOND FREE PRESS

CHARLOTTE (NNPA) — The former official who filed a \$225 million racial discrimination and sexual harassment lawsuit against NASCAR is very pleased with her settlement and looking forward to moving on, her attorney said recently.

Mauricia Grant reached a confidential settlement with NASCAR following 12 hours of mediation last month in New York. The session was suggested by U.S. District Court Judge Deborah A. Batts after the first court appearance in what was expected to be a lengthy court fight.

Grant claimed she was referred to as "Nappy Headed Mo" and "Queen Sheba," by co-workers, was often told she worked on "colored people time," and was frightened by one official who routinely made Ku Klux Klan references. Grant also alleged she was subjected to sexual advances from male co-workers, two of whom allegedly exposed themselves to her.

"We thought it was in the best interest of our client not to drag this out two to three years," said her lawyer, Benedict P. Morelli of New York-based Morelli Ratner PC. "She needed closure."



NASCAR Image

NASCAR has been trying to broaden its appeal to reach communities of color.



Mauricia Grant

York-based Morelli Ratner PC. "She needed closure."

She's a young woman, and when you make the sort of allegations she did, it's difficult to move forward and get on with your life."

Settlement terms were confidential, and neither side admitted liability or wrongdoing.

"She's very, very happy with the resolution," Morelli said. "And I don't think NASCAR wanted to leave it out there."

Grant worked as a technical inspector responsible for certifying cars in NASCAR's second-tier Nationwide Series from January 2005 until her

October 2007 termination. In the federal lawsuit she filed in June in New York, Grant alleged 23 specific incidents of alleged sexual harassment and 34 specific incidents of alleged racial and gender discrimination during her employment.

NASCAR chairman Brian France denied Grant ever complained to her supervisors about anything listed in her lawsuit. But an internal investigation into her claims ultimately resulted in the firing of two of the 17 officials named in her suit.

Obama taps Jackson as first black to head EPA

FROM THE LOUISIANA WEEKLY

NEW ORLEANS (NNPA) — President-elect Barack Obama has nominated New Jersey's Lisa Jackson, a New Orleansian, to become the first African-American to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Jackson was born in Philadelphia, Pa., but was raised and educated in New Orleans. She is the second New Orleansian selected by Obama as a member of his Cabinet. Barack Obama announced late last month that Orleans native Desiree Rogers, a former Zulu queen and the daughter of the late New Orleans City Councilman Roy Glapion Jr., will serve as White House social secretary for the next four years.

Born Feb. 8, 1962, in Philadelphia, Pa., Jackson was adopted a few weeks later and raised in the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans. A straight-A student who once described herself as "a geek basically," she graduated first in her class at St. Mary's Dominican High School.

After graduating summa cum laude from Tulane University's School of Chemical Engineering, she earned a master's in chemical engineering from Princeton University.

She and her husband, Kenny Jackson, and their two sons live in East Windsor, N.J. Like Rogers, Lisa Jackson is a proud New Orleansian whose signature culinary dish — gumbo — is a tribute to her Louisiana roots. A talented party-giver in her own right, Jackson is renowned for her annual Mardi Gras party, which she has not thrown since Hurricane Katrina devastated her hometown in 2005.

Jackson worked for 16 years at the EPA in Washington and in New York before taking over the helm at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection in 2002, an agency that has been plagued by budget cuts and personnel shortages.

Jackson was named the head of the department in 2006 by Gov. Jon Corzine, overseeing environmental regulation in a state besieged with pollution problems and home to the most hazardous waste sites in the country.

She left earlier this month to take a job as Gov. Corzine's chief of staff. During her brief stint, Jackson has worked to pass

mandatory reductions in greenhouse gases, to reform New Jersey's cleanup of contaminated sites and to establish a scientific advisory board to review agency decisions.

Not everyone was pleased with Obama's selection of Lisa Jackson. A small but vocal group of



Lisa Jackson

environmental protection groups campaigned against her the week before she was officially selected, asking President-elect Barack Obama not to consider Jackson as a candidate.

In a letter to the transition team, the Public Employees for

See Jackson on A5

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Tues., Jan. 13, 2:00 p.m.
Courtyard By Marriott
1600 Westbrook Plaza Dr.
Winston-Salem
(1600 Westbrook Plaza Dr.)

Tues., Jan. 20, 2:00 p.m.
Broyhill Conference Center
3540 Clemmons Rd.
Clemmons (I-40 to Exit 184 on Clemmons Rd.)

Thurs., Jan. 22, 2:00 p.m.
Winston-Salem Hampton Inn
1990 Hampton Inn Court
Winston-Salem
(Near Hanes Mall)

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