

# News at a Glance

## No DNA in dragging case

DALLAS (AP) — Texas prosecutors say they still plan to take to trial a racially charged murder case against two white men accused of running down a black man with a pickup truck, even though they have no physical evidence or eyewitnesses linking the suspects to the crime.

Special prosecutor Toby Shook said that forensic testing on the undercarriage of the pickup truck owned by one of the defendants turned up no DNA belonging to the victim.

"But that's not a surprise, considering it had been thoroughly washed," Shook said. Police contend the defendants cleaned the vehicle at a car wash after the incident.

Shannon Finley and Charles Crostley are accused in the death of 24-year-old Brandon McClelland, whose mangled body was found Sept. 16, 2008 on a country road near the East Texas town of Paris.

Authorities said McClelland died after the three friends went on a late-night beer run across the Oklahoma line. They argued on the way back about whether Finley was too drunk to drive, and McClelland got out of the car to walk home. Authorities allege that Finley then ran down McClelland, whose body was caught under the truck and dragged about 70 feet.

Ben Massar, Finley's attorney, said the lack of physical evidence indicates the prosecution's "weak case."



McClelland

## Smithsonian picks black designer for museum

WASHINGTON (AP) — The architectural group responsible for San Francisco's Museum of the African Diaspora will design the new black history museum on the National Mall in Washington.



Adjaye

A Smithsonian Institution jury announced the pick last week. The firm Freelon Adjaye Bond in Durham, N.C., in association with SmithGroup proposed a layered, glowing structure topped with a bronze crown.

The lead designer will be David Adjaye, who designed the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver.

The institution will be called the National Museum of African American History and Culture. It could be the final museum added to the expanse between the U.S. Capitol and Washington Monument.

## Teacher sorry for calling janitor 'the N'

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — A middle school teacher in the Pensacola area has been disciplined for using a racial slur in a letter complaining about a custodian's work.

Forty-six-year-old Jennifer Dickens referred to the janitor as "the N" and "Miss Maid" in the e-mail to an assistant principal. Dickens is white; the custodian is black.

A spokesman for the Escambia County School District says Dickens was disciplined for the March 12 letter. However, he would not specify what action the school took.

Dickens made a public apology in an e-mail to the local newspaper. The teacher called her actions "stupid" and "inexcusable."

## First black woman could be appointed to SC Supreme Court

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Three candidates have been approved for a seat on the South Carolina Supreme Court.

South Carolina lawmakers are expected to vote next month to fill the seat of Associate Justice John Waller of Marion, who is retiring. Waller's term expires in 2012.

The Judicial Merit Selection Commission nominated Court of Appeals Chief Judge Kaye Hearn of Conway and Circuit Court Judges Deadra Jefferson of Charleston and John Few of Greenville.

Hearn or Jefferson could become the second woman on the court, joining Chief Justice Jean Toal of Columbia. Jefferson would be the first African-American woman on the court and only the fourth black to serve on the panel.

Hearn is the first woman to head the state's second highest court.

## White supremacist set to be executed

ATLANTA (AP) — A white supremacist who was convicted of killing one of his followers is set to be executed later this month.

The Georgia Attorney General's Office said last week that William Mark Mize is scheduled to be put to death by lethal injection on April 28 at 7 p.m.

Mize was convicted in Oconee County Superior Court in 1995 of murder in the shooting death of Eddie Tucker after he didn't carry out an order to burn down a crack house in Athens.

Mize was the leader of a group called the National Vastilian Aryan Party, which state prosecutors say is similar to the Ku Klux Klan.



Mize

# Percentage of black players in the major leagues rises

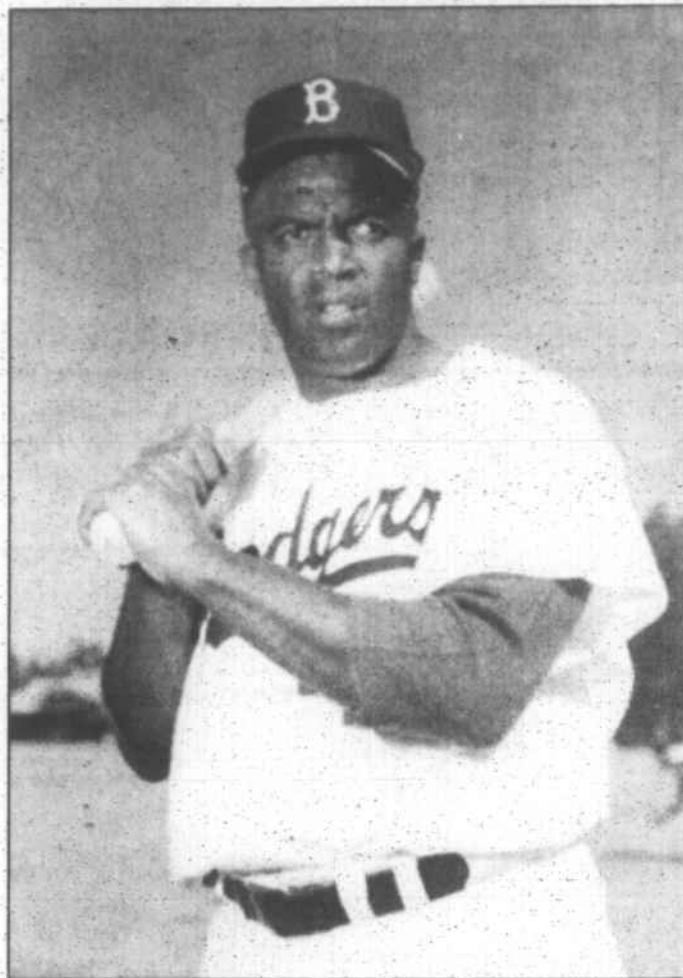
BY RONALD BLUM  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Black players accounted for 10.2 percent of major leaguers last year, the most since the 1995 season.

The sport had reached an all-time low of 8.2 percent in 2007, according to Richard Lapchick, director of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports. The percentage of black pitchers rose to 5 percent from 3 percent and the percentage of black infielders went up to 9 percent from 7 percent.

"I feel encouraged. It's not a huge leap, but it's a step forward," said Rachel Robinson, the widow of Jackie Robinson. "I think we have to feel encouraged, not only feel encouraged but feel inspired by progress so that we can not only sustain what we have, but work harder to see that we get that number up in future reports."

Baseball received an A for race hiring for the first time in his annual report, which was released Wednesday, up from an A-



MLB Hall of Fame Photo

Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier 62 years ago.

last year. Lapchick cited 10 minority managers at the start of this season, matching the previous high in

2002. There were five African-Americans, four Latinos and one Asian-American.

There were five minority GMs: three African-Americans and two Latinos. The sport got a B for gender hiring, up from a C+. Its overall grade went up to B+ from B.

Lapchick released the study on Jackie Robinson Day, the 62nd anniversary of when Robinson broke the major league color barrier.

"Bud Selig has led the way on these issues in MLB which achieved this through strong records for race in the commissioner's office, as well as at the levels of manager, coach, general manager and the professional administrators of teams," Lapchick said. "MLB continues to have an outstanding record for diversity initiatives."

He said the percentage of minority employees in the commissioner's office went up to 34 percent from 28 percent.

Under commissioner Selig's direction, Major League Baseball launched several programs designed

See Baseball on A8

# Microsoft spreading technological wealth

Company working to create opportunities and strengthen communities

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

An elegant equation is the simplest path to a solution. Microsoft plus Year Up equals unlimited opportunities. Microsoft and Year Up have come together in an effort to close the digital divide.

Partnerships such as the one Microsoft shares with Year Up are made possible through Microsoft's Unlimited Potential grant. Through this grant, Microsoft and its partners provide hands-on technology skills training to people within the community. The Microsoft Unlimited Potential grant aims to deliver the benefits of relevant, accessible and affordable software to the five billion people who today are without access to technology or the opportunities it affords.

Year Up is a one-year, intensive training program that provides urban young adults, ages 18-24, with a unique combination of technical and professional skills, college credits, an educational stipend and corporate apprenticeship.

"Year Up has achieved excellent results," said Tynesia Boyea Robinson, the executive director of the Washington, DC program. "91 percent of our graduates go on to further their education or obtain well-paying jobs."

A recent Annie E. Casey Foundation report estimates that "4.3 million youth in this country have not progressed beyond a high school diploma and are neither employed nor enrolled in postsecondary education."

Microsoft realizes that many of America's youth are woefully unprepared for and lack the skills needed to succeed in today's workforce. They are hindered by the inequities of what Year Up calls the Opportunity Divide — where young people who are in need of higher education and career opportunities are isolated from institutions, people and opportunities that can help them make a successful transition into adulthood and economic wellbeing.

For years, Year Up has worked with Microsoft to broaden access to jobs through information technology education and training. Microsoft has provided dollars, software and training materials to support Year Up's efforts. The company's partnership with Year Up is just one avenue the company



has pursued to help close the digital divide. "Microsoft and Year Up are working to reduce the barriers in our knowledge economy," said Donna

Woodall, Microsoft's director of community outreach for the Mid-Atlantic region. "Through this partnership, we are preparing the next generation for economic success through the power of technology."

Year Up participants like Jasmine Anderson are able to apply the skills they

See Microsoft on A8

**THE POVERTY LINE**

It separates nearly 13 million children in America from hope.

Life below the poverty line means barely hanging on. Every day is a struggle for one in six children in America. There are many ways you can make a difference. Together, we can break the cycle of poverty — for good. Will you help?

Go to [www.povertyusa.org](http://www.povertyusa.org) and get involved.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

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