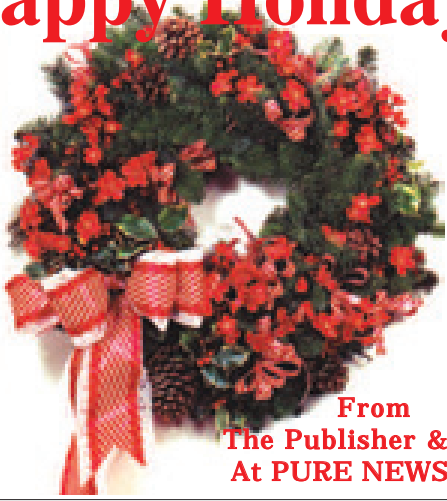


Happy Holidays



From
The Publisher & Staff
At PURE NEWS USA

PURE NEWS USA

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Governor Signs All Kids Bill



See 'Blagojevich Signs' on page 6

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Percy Sutton Honored By ADL



■ **New York/ NY...**Barbara B. Balsler, national chair of the Anti-Defamation League (center) and Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director (right) present the League's American Heritage Award to longtime civil rights activist and former Manhattan borough president Percy Sutton. Sutton was honored during the League's National Commission Meeting in New York City. (David Karp/ADL via U.S. Newswire)

At The Global Health Summit



■ **New York/ NY...**Performer Alicia Keys, right, meets Ugandan native Grace Akampumuza, left, an AIDS patient and HIV medic, and Michael Weinstein, middle, President of AIDS Healthcare Foundation and a Black Ball Honoree, at the Black Ball event in New York. The Black Ball is the finale event in TIME magazine's Global Health Summit. (Photo by Zack Seckler - (PRNewsFoto))

Gadson To Stomp Out Smoking



■ **Pittsburgh/PA...**The National Medical Association (NMA) has inducted Sandra L. Gadson, M.D., as its 106th president at their Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly in New York City. Dr. Gadson was named the spokesperson for the "Stomping Out Smoking in the African-American Community Through Education and Motivation" campaign, a partnership program between the

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Named To Board Of Directors

■ **Plano/TX...**J. C. Penney Company has announced that Mary Beth Stone West has joined the Company's Board of Directors. Stone West, 43, began her career in consumer marketing in 1986 at the Maxwell House coffee business of General Foods Corporation, which later came together with



Mary Beth Stone West Kraft. At Kraft, the largest food and beverage company in North America and second largest in the world, she has served in numerous positions of increasing seniority, including vice president, Business Development, and senior vice president and general manager of the Meals Division. In late 2004, she was named to her current position, group vice president and president, Kraft Foods North America Grocery segment, with revenue of approximately \$2.4 billion. Stone West has a B.S. degree in management from Nazareth College and an MBA in marketing from Columbia University. She is active in several charitable organizations in the Chicago area. In 2005, she was named to Black MBA magazine's "50 under 50."

One Of Today's Heroes

Springfield/IL...Governor Rod Blagojevich recently named the Salvation Army of Sangamon County as the latest recipient of the People Are Today's Heroes (PATH) Award for their efforts to help shelter residents find jobs in Sangamon County. The Salvation Army's work, started only a few months ago in conjunction with training provided by the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), has helped 42 formerly unemployed residents find jobs.

"The Salvation Army's credo of offering a hand up rather than a hand out is helping folks find jobs and have a better outlook at life in Sangamon County. That makes the Salvation Army one of today's heroes," said Blagojevich. "The Salvation Army in Springfield has embarked on a successful partnership with the Illinois Department of Employment Security to match its clients with appropriate jobs listed free at IllinoisSkillsMatch.com by private businesses and organizations."

The Governor's PATH Award recognizes groups or individuals who, through their hard work and commitment, improve the lives of those in their community and help Illinois move forward in the areas of health care, economic development, public safety and education.

The Salvation Army has served Sangamon County residents for 119 years - providing food, clothing, shelter and other assistance to millions of people. The Salvation Army brought the Illinois Skills Match program



(L-R) Salvation Army Captain, Deon Oliver receiving the 'People Are Today's Heroes' (PATH) Award from Illinois Department of Employment Security Director, Brenda Russell

to the front lines of unemployment last June, by taking the program to transitional shelter residents. Five computers were donated to the humanitarian organization, as IDES trained the Salvation Army staff, including the job placement specialist. All shelter residents were registered into the job match system and those coming in for other assistance are encouraged to enroll in the program. Forty-two formerly unemployed people have found jobs.

Local officials and Salvation Army and clients joined

IDES Director Brenda Russell, who presented the PATH Award to the Salvation Army on behalf of Blagojevich at the Salvation Army's headquarters.

"The Salvation Army in Springfield now sees two-thirds of its current shelter population employed since the June inception of the program to use Illinois Skills Match as a primary resource," said Russell. "The success is beyond our expectations and the Salvation Army is using knowledge gained from this process to improve the job-ready status of its clientele,"

Russell added.

"Our Salvation Army family is honored to have its work recognized by the Governor," said Salvation Army Captain Deon Oliver. "We see such improvement in the lives of our clientele as they leave daily to earn money. We want to refine our efforts to respond to market needs illustrated in the Illinois Skills Match listings. Our board is considering starting a cooking program in the near future because we see a large number of food preparation job openings," Oliver added.

"They Never Lost A Bomber"



Washington/DC...Tuskegee Airman and former 2nd Lt. William Wheeler (center) points out a detail of an oil painting depicting some of the history of the Tuskegee Airmen to retired Master Sgt. Ezra Hill (right) and former Staff Sgt. Phillip W. Broome (left) in the Pentagon on Nov. 10, 2005. Wheeler, Hill, Broome, and their fellow airmen were at the Pentagon to receive briefings on the state of the Air Force, an update on global operations and to have lunch with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. During World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen were credited with destroying 261 aircrafts, damaging 148 aircrafts, flying 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa. They destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. As an escort fighter wing during World War II, they never lost a bomber to enemy fighters. DoD photo by Master Sgt. James M. Bowman, U.S. Air Force.