

Tyler's First Book Debuts At #1



Tyler Perry

New York/NY...Tyler Perry, the ground-breaking and immensely popular playwright, director, producer and performer, has conquered the literary world at #1 on The New York Times hardcover nonfiction bestseller list with his first book, Don't Make A Black Woman Take Off Her Earrings: Madea's Uninhibited

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☆☆ Founded In 1983 ☆☆

Band Donates \$1.5 Million To New Orleans Musicians' Village



The Dave Matthews Band

Photo by Danny Clinch/Habitat for Humanity International
See Band Donates on page 9

Free Online: www.purenews.com

Health Insurance For "All Kids"



Gov. Rod Blagojevich

Chicago/IL... Illinois Governor Rod R. Blagojevich joined parents and students at Lake View High School to announce a new partnership between the State of Illinois and Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The new 'All Kids' program will provide affordable, comprehensive health insurance to children. As parents arrived to pick up report cards, nearly all of the 600 CPS schools distributed information about the All

See "All Kids" Insurance on page 6

Jamaica's Female Prime Minister



Washington/DC...Congressman Gregory Meeks (D-NY)-third from the left took part in a US congressional delegation to Jamaica for the inauguration of the first female Prime Minister of Jamaica, Portia Simpson Miller-fourth from the left. "With the election of Michelle Bachelet of Chile, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia and now Portia Simpson Miller -- I can see this trend drawing closer and closer to home and I look forward to the United States some day soon electing it's first woman President," said Meeks.

Sugar Ray Robinson Honored

Wash./DC...Six-time world champion boxer Sugar Ray Robinson was immortalized recently at Madison Square Garden with a commemorative postage stamp. The dedication ceremony took place during the Daily News Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Tournament finals. In his prime, Robinson (1921-1989) was virtually unbeatable in the ring. He launched his career



Sugar Ray Robinson

with a second-round knockout of Joe Escheverria on Oct. 4, 1940, at Madison Square Garden. Sugar Ray would go on to lose only once in his first 132 fights -- a ten-round loss to Jake LaMotta, a decision he would reverse five times.

Berryhill Gets Presidential Honor



Memphis/TN...(L-R) Shelby County, Tenn. Mayor A.C. Wharton; U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt and Vivian Berryhill, president and founder of the National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses. Berryhill was honored on April 25, 2006, with the prestigious Presidential Service Award (Roshanne Redmond/NCPS via U.S. Newswire).

Jones Applauds \$2.5 Mil Grant



Stephanie Tubbs-Jones

Washington/DC...U.S. Rep. Stephanie Tubbs-Jones applauded the Department of Justice's announcement of the selection of the City of Cleveland as one of six cities to implement the Department's new Anti-Gang Initiative which will complement the ongoing effort to combat

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Front Page Editorial

It is what it is!

Front Page Editorial

By T. C. Christian, Jr.
Publisher/PURE NEWS USA

As one of the voices which pleads the causes of African Americans, we were notified that there was a 'private meeting' prior to the school board meeting held last month on Monday, April 17. We were told that Judith Johnson, the reigning president and the only black member on the board, would be removed and replaced by Cheryl Wise. And since we're in the business of trying to reach out and help our sisters and brothers, we decided to attend this meeting for a better understanding of who, what, when, where and why.

Obviously, we, African Americans, have been relegated to the back door, the back room, the back of the bus and the back side of the community for so long until the mere sound of leadership, ownership, representation, and recognition still brings music to our ears. Understandably, it's a bitter-sweet feeling to know that the president of the school board is the first black woman elected to that position, even though, there's only one black member on the board. And just in case you didn't know, Springfield's District 186 is still under a federal desegregation order which requires the district's numbers to resemble the racial makeup of the community. In other words, blacks make up about 40 percent of public school enrollment but only about 6 percent of the 1,000 teachers in the district are black.

We need to tell you that the school board elects new officers every year. We also need to note that the board hired Cynthia Shambley, a black assistant principal at Springfield High school, as a recruiter to attract more minority teachers. And the board also interacts with an advisory council to steer more students toward teaching jobs. So, you're probably wondering: "If the board is trying to make some progress, why was there such an uproar at



Cheryl Wise

the last school board meeting?" Well, in 1976 the federal government required desegregation of the schools after the district admitted that it had been segregating students by race for years. Therefore the policy of busing students to different schools is an ongoing effort to integrate the school system. However, two years ago, Cheryl Wise wanted to 'Stop the buses!' She wanted black students to go to their black schools and likewise for white students. Do we really need a debate on which schools would most likely have up-to-date text books, which students would most likely be sitting in less crowded classrooms, which schools would most likely have enough computers for all the students and--yeah!--



Judith Johnson

his involvement in the writing and production of the film, "Color of the Cross." He believes this version of Jesus Christ has been long overdue. "I think that people will welcome this as a fresh perspective, especially as well-researched as this story is,"

Movie Depicting Jesus As Black Aims To Unite Blacks And Jews

Los Angeles/CA...Rev. Cecil "Chip" Murray, for over twenty-seven years served as the senior pastor of Los Angeles' First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME). He has been a prominent influential leader to over eighteen thousand members in the community and around the globe. Rev.

Murray and his church's efforts to end community violence during the 1992 Rodney King riot are continuously recognized in our city's religious and civil landscapes. Rev. Cecil "Chip" Murray is a distinguished civic leader who brought forth a wealth of knowledge and support to

his involvement in the writing and production of the film, "Color of the Cross." He believes this version of Jesus Christ has been long overdue. "I think that people will welcome this as a fresh perspective, especially as well-researched as this story is,"



Rev. Cecil Murray

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The Fantastic Jones Family Celebration



Springfield/IL...The Fantastic Jones Family will celebrate 33 years in the gospel music ministry on Sunday, 4:00 p.m., June 4, 2006, Abundant Faith Christian Center located at 2525 Taylor Avenue, Springfield, Illinois with the release of their new double CD. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call 544-6771.