

News in Brief



World

Namibia seeks to build \$1 billion power plant
Namibia plans to solicit bids as early as April for the \$1 billion power plant that forms part of its Kudu gas-to-power project. The development of the 1.3 trillion cubic feet offshore gas field has been plagued for over a decade by price disagreements and technical difficulties. The country is now seeking bids from companies worldwide to help develop and build the plant. "We are looking for a partner for construction of the plant," officials said.



Nation

SC State grad named Alcorn University President
SC State alumna Dr. M. Christopher Brown II, age 38, has been named president of Alcorn State University. Brown received his bachelor's degree in elementary education from SC State, master's degree in educational policy from the University of Kentucky, and a doctorate in higher education from Pennsylvania State University. At SC State, Brown served as the student body president and as the student representative on the Board of Trustees.



State and Local

Colin Powell to speak at SC State commencement
According to South Carolina State University Board Chairman Jonathan Pinson, Gen. Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State, will speak at South Carolina State University's graduation in May. Powell, the son of immigrant parents from Jamaica, rose to become a four-star general in the United States Army. During his military career, he served as National Security Advisor, commander of the U.S. Army Forces and became the first African American to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Sports

SC State track star wins triple jump
Junior Marcus Stephens jumped 15.41 meters (50-06.75) en route to capturing first place in the triple jump at the 33rd Annual Niswonger Invitational which is hosted by East Tennessee State. Senior Brandi Jefferson and junior Shamire Rothmiller both qualified for the finals in their respective events. Jefferson, who ran a 9.18, qualified in the 60 meter hurdles while Rothmiller qualified for the finals of the shot put with a throw of 14.45 meters (47-05.00).

Columbia Youth Safe Haven hold grand opening

By Nathaniel Abraham

Columbia
Last Thursday, the Columbia Youth Safe Haven (YSH) held a Grand Opening celebration to showcase a creative afterschool initiative supporting local students. The event took place at the Hammond Village Community Center, located at 921 Marlboro St. Several local leaders and educational partners shared their vision for keeping students safe while enhancing families and their communities.



From left to right: Charles Austin, program director Michael Myers, Councilman Sam Davis and Columbia Housing Authority CEO Gilbert Walker cut the ribbon on the Youth Safe Haven.

The YSH program supports students through after-school activities hosted at police mini-stations and youth safe-havens sites located directly in the communities they serve. Local businesses as well as police officers and social service agencies provide increased community policing and a safe haven for children and adults. A unique partnership between Richland School District One, the Columbia Police Department, The Police Athletic League, the Columbia Housing Authority

and local colleges encourages inter-agency collaboration. The program helps to create a safety net for children and has been proven to increase communication between parents, schools and safety officers.

Founded in part by The Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation in Washington, DC, the YSH program provides students with support through mentoring, tutoring and enrichment activities. These services are delivered

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Publisher and CEO of IMARA, Wendy Brawley with husband, President and CEO of IMARA, Paul Brawley.

IMARA Woman Magazine Business Celebration

From staff reports

BUSINESS CELEBRATION

Each week in this column, we feature community businesses - many of them new. The hard reality is that many businesses fail within the first two years. But this week, we celebrate a business that is celebrating its tenth anniversary.

IMARA Woman Magazine, a bimonthly based in Columbia, SC, is gearing up for a second decade of publishing excellence. What is the magazine's secret staying power? Publisher and CEO Wendy Brawley sums it up: "Every single day, we focus on delivering a quality publication that provides valuable information for every generation of the family. Our success is tied to meeting needs."

The magazine will celebrate its anniversary milestone with a Black-tie gala on Saturday, February 19 at The Summit Club, 1301 Gervais Street in Columbia. Students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities in South Carolina will be awarded scholarships and IMARA's community partners will be honored as well. "The gala is our opportunity to thank our corporate sponsors, supporters and friends, and to celebrate the publication's longevity," says President and CEO, Paul Brawley.

IMARA Woman Magazine

was the vision of husband and wife team Paul and Wendy Brawley, who set their sights on publishing a lifestyle magazine that highlights positive happenings and people in minority communities in South Carolina. The magazine has now evolved into a very popular television show, IMARA Woman Magazine TV - now in its third season on The CW stations in the Midlands, Lowcountry and Pee Dee - reaches 1.5 million households. And waiting in the wings is the IMARA Community Foundation, the publication's newly-formed non-profit, which will provide a range of community-based services for underserved populations throughout the state. Wendy Brawley explains, "the Foundation is really the next level of growth for us. It is so important for us to give something back on a regular and consistent basis."

Tickets to the IMARA Anniversary and Scholarship Gala are \$75 per person and include a one-year subscription to IMARA Woman Magazine. The black-tie event starts with a reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.; awards will be presented after dinner; dancing will follow 11:00 p.m. Finesse band will be the featured musical entertainment. Tickets and more information are available online at www.imarawoman.com, or call the office at 803-252-0647.

New airlines coming to the Midlands

A new regional airline is coming to the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. Vision Airlines will begin non-stop, low-fare air service between Columbia and Destin-Fort Walton Beach, Fla., starting on April 1, 2011, with rates starting at \$79/one way.



Bill Maloney, Vision Airlines' Director of Business Development, announces that the airline will begin non-stop service from Columbia to the Destin-Fort Walton Beach airport in Northwestern Florida.

"The people in the Columbia market show an affinity for traveling to the Destin area," said Bill Maloney, a Vision Airlines executive. "There's great beaches, there's fishing, there's golf - there are things to do for the whole family."

Mr. Maloney went on to say that over 10,000 people travel from the Columbia area to Northwest Florida every year. Because of Vision Airlines, those travelers will have a choice of a 8-hour drive or a 90 minute flight on a wide-body Boeing 737.

Vision Airlines will operate flights two days per week, from Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE) to Northwest Florida Regional Airport (VPS), utilizing a 148-seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft, allowing travelers to experience an outstanding beach destination the minute they step off the plane. The flights will take place every Monday and Friday.

Encompassing the southern sea towns of Destin, Fort

Walton Beach, Okaloosa Island, Northwest Florida's Emerald Coast has something for everyone, from basking on 24 miles of shagbly-white shoreline and teeing off on more than 1,080 challenging holes, to casting lines in the fish-filled waters of the "World's Luckiest Fishing Village" and watching dolphins dance at the state's oldest marine, Florida's Gulfarium.

"Vision's entry into the Columbia market will provide our travelers with non-stop service to Florida's Gulf Coast region just in time for spring and summer travel," said Dan Mann, executive

director, Columbia Metropolitan Airport. "I am pleased that they have selected CAE as one of their first new markets for 2011. We look forward to welcoming them into our community and to witnessing their success."

"This is an exciting new development for our city and region," said Mayor Steve Benjamin. "We are proud of this new addition to our local airport and look forward to ever-increasing quality and variety of service."

To learn more about Vision Airlines and to participate in special promotional offers, visit www.visionairlines.com.

Benedict College to host the 13th Annual HBCU National Student Media Conference

Benedict College is set to co-host the 13th Annual HBCU National Student Media Conference, at the Clarion Town House Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina from February 10-13, 2011.

largest annual gathering of student journalists from HBCUs.

The conference agenda will consist of workshops and seminars in newspaper and broadcast techniques from industry leaders, reporters, and faculty from various institutions; internship opportunities from organizations such as Disney/ABC, McCatchy Company, and the Freedom Forum; and a graduate school fair. This national conference, which focuses on multimedia news reporting and job preparedness in the competitive media industry, is one of the

"With the ever-changing world of journalism, it's important to prepare our students for the expectations and skill set requirements they will encounter in a convergent media workspace," said Mr. Dante Mozie, Instructor of Mass Communications at Benedict College. "The 2011 HBCU National Student News Media Conference provides students with a unique opportunity to learn from accomplished journalists and educators about the skills they'll need to become great storytellers, from writing skills to online journalism techniques. In addition, the participants will be able to interact with their peers, as

well as potential employers." The HBCU National Student Media Conference will offer unprecedented expertise in educating students who are aspiring to foster a career in the fields of publishing, journalism, communications, business, and media. It will also be valuable in promoting the journalistic work of students at many HBCUs and other institutions by linking young people who want to develop and/or enhance their training and skills in media and journalism.

For additional information about the 13th Annual HBCU National Student Media Conference, Mr. Dante Mozie at (803) 553-6774 or mozied@benedict.edu.

Sigmas to host African-American Male IMAGE Awards

The Fourth Annual African American Male IMAGE Awards Banquet presented by the Beta Chi Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. will take place on Saturday, February 26, 2011, at the Medallion Center located at 7309 Garner Ferry Road Columbia, South Carolina at 7:00p.m.

Slated to be honored are Mr. Alex Snipe Jr., President of Glory Communications, Mr. Vince Ford, Senior Vice President of Community Service at Palmetto Health, Rev. Charles B. Jackson Jr., Pastor, New Laurel Street Missionary Baptist Church, Mr. Paul Livingston, Chairman, Richland County Council, and three men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. Brother Dr. Robert Scott Retired Business Professor,

Benedict College, Brother Keith Bailey, Mayor - Town of Blythewood, SC and Brother Frank Tucker, Businessman.

The primary goal of this event is to recognize outstanding African American men in the Midlands. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Beta Chi Sigma Scholarship Fund and Youth Initiative Program.

Since 1950, the membership of Beta Chi Sigma has been instrumental in providing outstanding community service and programs that affect the midlands of South Carolina. The Beta Chi Sigma chapter is a 501(c) (3) community service organization and all contributions made are tax deductible. Tickets for the event can be purchased by contacting Dennis Gerald at (803) 254-6961.

Super Bowl is over; now the hard part begins

By Moses Brown

Mista Browns' Point of View

The "de facto" national holiday known as "Super Bowl Sunday" has come to the billion-dollar football palace built in North Texas by Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones served as the host stadium for Super Bowl XLV. After all the pomp and circumstance of the week leading up to the game was complete, the Green Bay Packers and the Pittsburgh Steelers met in a championship game that came close to living up to the enormous pre-game hype.



Moses Brown
Mista Browns' Point of View

Many pre-game prognosticators surmised that the team that made the fewest turnovers stood a good chance of winning the game. At the end of the day, three Pittsburgh mistakes (two interceptions and a fumble) led to three Green Bay scores that turned out to be the difference in a game, Green Bay won by a 31-25 score.

For the Packers, Sunday's victory was their fourth Super Bowl title in 5 appearances; it was also their NFL leading 13th overall National Football League title in the club's 89-year history. Steelers fans should not despair, as Pittsburgh still holds the record for Super Bowl victories with 6 wins against 2 losses.

The game got off to a less than rousing start when pop singer Cristina Aguilera mistakenly repeated a line twice during her performance of the National Anthem. Embarrassing I'm sure for Aguilera, especially with a US audience of 111 million viewers, making Super Bowl XLV the most watched tele-

vision program of any kind in American history. An estimated 162.9 million total viewers watched all or part of the game as Super Bowl parties were taking place all over America.

In recent years, the Super Bowl commercials (30 second spots started at \$3million) have become a game within the game. To millions of casual viewers, the commercials are more widely anticipated and analyzed than the actual game itself. The halftime show featured The Black Eyed Peas as the main attraction. Unannounced prior to the event, Slash and Usher made cameo appearances. Depending on your demographics, you likely either loved the halftime performance or you hated it.

Going into the game, much was made of the competition between the two starting QB's, Aaron Rodgers and Tom Brady. Rodgers has not been under a microscope the last three seasons, as he removed himself from the shadow of Brett Favre. Replacing an icon is never an easy task; especially when

the man that he replaced had rewritten the NFL record books. But now that Rodgers has led the Packers to a Super Bowl title, he has crafted his own record books. Rodgers connected on 24 of 39 passing attempts for 304 yards and 3 TD's.

On the other hand, Ben Roethlisberger entered the contest looking for his third Super Bowl title since entering the league in 2004. A win would have put him in the select company of Joe Montana, Troy Aikman and Steelers predecessor Terry Bradshaw, who have at least three Super Bowl titles. "Big Ben" did not fare well in this contest, as three Pittsburgh turnovers (two were INTs thrown by Roethlisberger) led to three TD's by Green Bay.

Now that the Super Bowl is over, the off-season is one of the most anticipated in recent memory. The NFL's collective bargaining agreement between the players union and the team owners has expired. Negotiations between the owners and the union are at an impasse. The threat of a lockout appears to be a strategy that may be employed by team owners to force the players to accept an agreement with which they are not comfortable in order to avert a work stoppage. If no compromise is worked out, don't be surprised to see the owners play "hardball" in the negotiations. The National Football League is a multi-billion dollar industry with teams owned by men of great wealth. They should be able to figure out a way to equitably divide the pie so all can live happily ever after.

Columbia Youth Safe Haven

Continued from page 1

President and CEO of the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation, Columbia was one of the nine cities chosen nationwide for funding because it already has a strong partnership between community groups and law enforcement. In addition, former Columbia Police Chief Charles Austin is a board member of the Foundation.

"The goal is to create individual change by providing a safe haven where kids can receive food, tutoring and mentoring," said Dr. Curtis. "We want to get them before they get into trouble."

Dr. Curtis went on to say that part of the concept came from a trip to Japan with law enforcement leaders from across the United States, including Chief Austin. The group toured Kobans, which were units set up in neighborhoods where law enforcement and community leaders worked together to build good relationships with kids and people in the neighborhoods. Austin brought the concept to Columbia when he led the police force.

"Our main focus is to provide positive deterrence for young people so that when they are out of school in the afternoons or the summer, they have outlets that will turn their activities toward positive things versus getting involved in delinquent things," said Austin. "I am very proud of our work. The kids here will be involved in mentoring and tutoring programs. They will have cultural, social and educational field trips. They will be involved in activities year-round."

Austin went on to say that lessons and successes learned in Columbia can be applied nationwide. "We want to make sure that Columbia can serve as a model for the rest of the nation," Austin concluded. For more information about the program, contact Michael Myers, program coordinator, at (803) 319-0327 or via e-mail at mpomcmeyers59@aol.com.

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Columbia Regional Sports Council to host

Second Annual Palmetto Half Marathon

Race is limited to 2500 runners

The Columbia Regional Sports Council (CRSC) is pleased to announce the second annual Palmetto Half Marathon. The event will span the course of two days beginning Friday, April 15 - 16. The race is limited to 2500 runners this year so participants should register early. Any one interested in participating in this event should visit www.palmettohalfmarathon.com for more information and to register or contact Anna Schroll at palmettohalfmarathon@hotmail.com or 803.206.3123.

Palmetto Half Marathon will take place at the Village at Sandhill located at the intersection of Clemson and Two Notch Roads. The event will consist of a 1-mile road race, half marathon (13.1 miles), 5k run/walk (3.1 miles), a fun run for kids age 10 and under, a youth half marathon, and an Expo. Race information is as follows:
Friday, April 15
Race Expo - 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Youth Half Marathon (final mile) - 6:30 p.m.
1-mile Road Race - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 16

Half Marathon - 7:00 a.m.
5K Run/Walk - 7:15 a.m.
Kids Fun Run - (0.5 miles) 9:00 a.m.
This year, the race proceeds will go to two organizations - Friends of Juvenile Justice and D.J.V.A., Inc. - that benefit at-risk children and youth. These organizations focus on providing safe places where kids, who may not have the opportunity otherwise, can develop essential life skills. For more information or to volunteer at the race, please email palmettohalfmarathon@hotmail.com

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