

TODAY'S NEWSMAKERS

**ANNE DOUGLASS AND JEANNIE ALLEN**

Anne Douglass and Jeannie Allen from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center will present Gardening for Ozone Air Quality (Citizen Science) at 11:30 a.m. today in the Library of Congress' Mary Pickford Theater, 101 Independence Ave. SE.. Gardeners or others who are curious about ozone levels where they live or work, and are willing to make careful observations over time, can become involved in ozone monitoring.

**SALMA KIKWETE**

The first lady of Tanzania, Salma Kikwete, will visit American University from 6:30 to 7:30 tonight at the university's Mary Graydon Center. Her visit is part of an 11-day tour of Washington, D.C., and New York City. Kikwete, a former teacher, will speak on "The Next Generation of Leadership: Investing in Education and Health for Economic Empowerment."



Kikwete

**DAVE BRUBECK**

The renowned jazz musician will join in a discussion at George Washington University on Cultural Diplomacy and Dave Brubeck. The event, scheduled for 7 p.m. today at Harry Harding Auditorium, will explore the significance of cultural diplomacy and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of when Brubeck and his jazz quartet embarked on the Cultural Ambassador Tour to the Middle East and Asia.



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**D.C. councilman no longer member of Clinton camp**

By Michael Neibauer  
Examiner Staff Writer

A D.C. Council member and unpledged Democratic delegate has withdrawn his prominent public support for Sen. Hillary Clinton, preferring instead to be listed as undecided in the race for the nomination.

Ward 5 D.C. Councilman Harry Thomas Jr. was elected last week by the D.C. Democratic State Committee as a delegate to the national convention. Thomas, who had endorsed Clinton, was listed as a Clinton backer on a delegate spreadsheet circulated Monday by the committee.



Thomas Jr.

But by the end of the day, the party had retracted that announcement, and Thomas was switched to simply "unpledged."

"He wants to confer with the party," said Vicky Leonard-Chambers, Thomas' spokeswoman.

The District will send 39 delegates to the Democratic convention in Denver, including 15 pledged delegates, the 20 so-called superdelegates and two unpledged add-on delegates — Thomas and Ward 7 Councilwoman Yvette Alexander.

Though Barack Obama romped in D.C.'s Feb. 12 primary, taking 75 percent to Clinton's 24 percent, the most recent count, according to the local committee, has 21 for Obama, 12 for Clinton and the remaining six undecided. Every vote is considered crucial in the tight race for delegates.

In Thomas' Ward 5, Obama won 83.15 percent of the vote to Clinton's 16.01 percent. Nationally, Obama has won 1,414 delegates to Clinton's 1,250, according to The Associated Press. A survey of superdelegates shows Clinton with 250 and Obama with 218. Candidates need 2,024 delegates to win.

Council Chairman Vincent Gray and at-large Councilman Kwame Brown, both Obama backers, will join Thomas and Alexander in Denver. The Democratic State Committee will elect the last three delegates on May 1, two for Obama and one for Clinton, to finish up the D.C. roster.

The local party says the only unpledged D.C. superdelegates are Anita Bonds, the state committee chairwoman, Donna Brazile, Larry Cohen, Mona Mohib and Christine Warnke.

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**YOU ARE WHAT YOU ...**

Kufuma Aralere, of Centreville, Va., smiles Monday when George Washington University Public Health graduate student Leah Kasowitz, right, tells her she's picked the healthiest breakfast choice, which, Aralere learns, can still contain a high degree of sodium. Kasowitz teamed with D.C. Voices for Meal Choices at Freedom Plaza to give nutritional quizzes on popular restaurant foods to gain support for the D.C. Menu Education and Labeling Act, requiring certain restaurants to be more forthcoming about nutritional information. — Andrew Harnik/Examiner

**Prosecutor: Madam case won't be built on sexual escapades**

**Trial to hinge on racketeering, money-laundering charges**

By Scott McCabe  
Examiner Staff Writer

Jurors in the D.C. Madam case will be subjected to disturbing sexual secrets of Washington's working girls and their high-priced clients, but the case will not be about prostitution, a federal prosecutor said during opening arguments Monday.

Calling the witness stand "probably the hottest seat in D.C. this year," Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine K. Connelly told the jurors that the case against Deborah Jean Palfrey was about racketeering, money laundering and mail fraud, not sex.

High-profile D.C. clients on the witness lists include Sen. David Vitter, R-La., Randall Tobias, who

stepped down as deputy secretary of state last summer after he admitted to using Palfrey's business, and Harlan Ullman, the author of the "shock and awe" military doctrine used at the start of the war in Iraq in 2003.

Many of the witnesses will be reluctant to testify for fear of revealing their private lives, attorneys from both sides said. Some will be forced to testify under a subpoena.

Connelly opened the trial by reading a resignation letter from one of Palfrey's workers who wrote that she regrettably had to quit because she contracted a sexually transmitted disease. A dozen women will testify that they performed sex acts for \$250 and mailed half the money in to Palfrey in California, Connelly said.

Regular clients tested out new recruits to make sure they would perform sex acts and looked as good as they described themselves, she said.

But defense attorney Preston Burton said his client ran an upscale legal escort business that offered

"sexual fantasy," paid its taxes and prohibited the workers from engaging in prostitution.

"This is not street prostitution," Burton said. "These people are not meat."

Holding a D.C. Yellow Pages phone book, Burton flipped through 14 pages of escort services listings, including Palfrey's advertisement, which contained no mention of sex.

Palfrey took calls from clients and arranged appointments with the women. Sometimes they went out to dinner, sometimes they played cards, and sometimes the dates ended up in two consenting adults having sex, Burton said.

"She was like a taxi dispatcher," Burton said. "What happened afterward was between the driver and the customer."

He noted that only 10 percent of the 130 women that Palfrey hired will testify that they took money for sex.

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**THE 3-MINUTE INTERVIEW**

**Laurie Verge**

For 23 years, Laurie Verge has been the director of the Surratt House Museum. The Clinton, Md., site focuses on the conspiracy to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln.

**What is the Surratt House?**

Its history goes back to 1852, when it was built for John and Mary Surratt. It had a tavern, a public dining room for travelers. It became the post office and polling place, a hub for the community. It was functioning this way during the great debate that led to the Civil War.

**What did the community think about Lincoln?**

I can tell you, there were a lot of dirty names that people called Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Surratt was a vocal secessionist. Youngest son John quickly became a courier for espionage, and the tavern served as a Confederate safe house. Food and spies could be hidden here or they could pass along secret messages from Washington. In the fall of 1864, Maryland outlawed slavery, so Mary had to rent out this home and move to a home on H Street in Washington. That's where she started the infamous boarding house. Her son John caught the attention of John Wilkes Booth. Members of the gang would meet at the house, and hide rifles and ammunition here at the country home. [When a kidnapping attempt against Lincoln failed,] Booth turned to the assassination on April 14, 1865. Booth fled to the Surratt Tavern, the first stop on the escape that would last 12 days.

**Where is the boarding house?**

The H Street home still stands. It's now 604 H St., the Wok n' Roll restaurant.

**What happened to Mrs. Surratt?**

Mrs. Surratt got herself arrested, tried and convicted and hanged, marking the first time a woman was executed by the federal government. People today still argue about [her role in the plot]. We don't try to persuade them either way. The museum is not a memorial to Mary. We want them to get so interested that they want to read more to get their own opinion.

— Scott McCabe

