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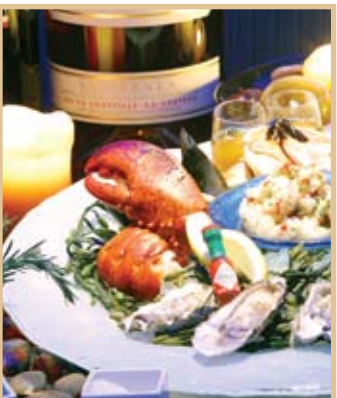
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Barack Obama delivers *hope*



Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., celebrates with his supporters after his victory in the Iowa caucus Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008, in Des Moines, Iowa. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

BY DENNIS MALCOLM
BYRON JR.
Managing Editor

On Thursday evening, January 3, phone lines and websites of vari-

ous media outlets received extraordinary traffic, and news networks ardently reported on the historical event that just transpired. It created a phenomenon, an uncanny energy that exuded promise, change

and hope throughout the United States and abroad. Illinois Senator and presidential candidate Barack Obama birthed this monumental moment after winning Iowa's first-
See HOPE, page 5.

Black-owned TV stations nearly extinct

BY NISA ISLAM
MUHAMMAD

Special to The Atlanta Voice



Over the last year, black TV station ownership dropped by 60 percent with the total number falling from 19 to eight and making black ownership almost non-existent, according to a recent report.

The dwindling numbers of black-owned broadcast outlets was also discussed during a Dec. 5 congressional hearing about media consolidation and how having fewer owners control more stations contributes to the problem.

"Minority television ownership is in such a precarious state that the loss of a single minority-owned company results in a disastrous decline," said S. Derek Turner, research

See BLACK-OWNED, page 11.

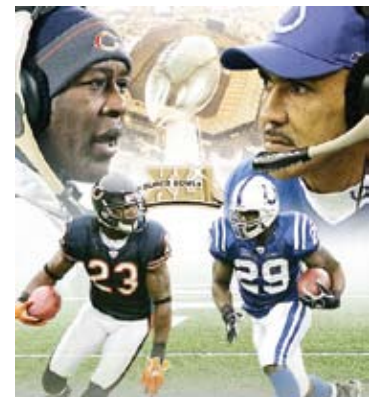
New Year means reflecting on past, plan for the future

BY MARC H. MORIAL
Special to The Atlanta Voice

With the holiday season over and 2008 upon us, it's time to reflect upon the past year and assess our achievements and setbacks in order to start the New Year anew.

Last January, the African-American community observed several firsts:

Election Day 2006 paved the way for the installation of new congressional leaders, including the first ever African-American chairman of



Tony Dungy and Lovie Smith became the first African-American coaches to face off at the Super Bowl

the powerful House Ways & Means Committee - New York Rep. Charles Rangel. Rangel was joined by a handful of other blacks ascending to leadership, including South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn.

Later in the month, the world of professional football observed two firsts at Super Bowl XVI: Tony Dungy became the first African-American to lead his team to victory against Lovie Smith, who beat out Dungy by a few hours in becoming the first black head coach to get to the Super Bowl in the first place.

That was capped off by the announcement of Illinois Sen. Barack Obama to enter the 2008 presidential race -- the first black since Jesse Jackson to be considered a serious contender for his party's nomination.

Al Sharpton and Carol Moseley Braun have also run in previous presidential cycles.

In March, the National Urban League unveiled its Homebuyer's Bill of Rights in response to the growing foreclosure problem, which worsened over the year. By December, we were down on Wall Street rallying in favor of something being done.

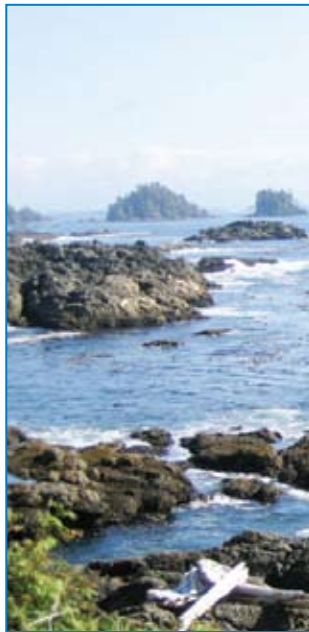
See NEW YEAR, page 14.

Ucluelet – For all reasons, for all seasons

**BY MARGO MALCOM AND
JAMIE GRIPICH**
Special to The Atlanta Voice

To really explore North America, two writers explore Ucluelet, Vancouver. Atlanta Voice readers will realize that once landing on the west coast of this British Columbia island, nature couldn't be more beautiful.

What makes a community livable? Retain its sense of self in changing times? The citizens of Ucluelet seem to know, and have been recognized internationally for their achievements and success in planning Ucluelet's future. They have



tell-tale craggy treetops against the sky that hint the nearing of the open ocean and your destination.

Mother Nature the 'Drama Queen' Mother Nature can be quite a drama queen in the "off" season. Rolling fog, tempest-tossed seas and giant migrating sea creatures are just a few of the treats she brings out between October and April on the Wild West Coast of Vancouver Island. And there is no cozier viewing platform for her theatrics than the village of Ucluelet. The Pineapple Express (tropical

more planned including a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf resort.

And when that fog-horn blows

Each season brings its own delights. Come in autumn and Ucluelet and its environs become a mystical place. You feel a different

type of energy in the fresh salt air. Rocky out-croppings and millennium old cedars shrouded

in fog give an ancient ambiance to the area. The low bleats of fog-horns will accompany you on your walks around town or along Ucluelet's Wild Pacific Trail. The Wild Pacific Trail is the town's pride and joy. It hugs the rugged shoreline around Ucluelet and offers incredible views of the Barclay Sound, the Broken Group Islands and the open Pacific Ocean. The first 4 phases have been completed and include 8.5 km of paths which wind past Amphitrite Point Lighthouse, He-Tin-Kis Park, and end at Big Beach Park.

An endless wave of whales

By mid-March, the storms abate in time for the procession of an estimated 19,000 migrating gray whales from Baja California on their way to the summer feeding grounds of the northern Pacific. While the migration starts in March, resident whales are in the area until late in the fall. Ucluelet and the surrounding area celebrate the whale's return with the week-long Pacific Rim Whale Festival, also in March. Local whale-watching tour operators in Ucluelet take visitors out to see the whales throughout the season. But a hike along the Wild Pacific Trail may also bring sightings. Wildlife is plentiful in the region and spring is an excellent viewing season. It is a good location for birdwatching with over 250 species of birds. Bald eagles, osprey, herons, oyster catchers and ducks circle in the sky, forage on the beach and dive in the water. Sea lions and seals bellow while basking on the rocks, and otters and minks scamper through the brush.

The community Ucluelet was recently rewarded



with high placements in several categories at the International Awards for Livable Communities in Hangzhou, China. Ucluelet received a Gold Award for their Official Community Plan; a Silver Award and 2nd Place for the Most Livable Community below 20,000 population; and the Winner's Trophy for The Most Sustainable Community. The locals call their town Ukee, like an old friend, and are very proud of their once-rough logging and fishing town turned year-round visitor destination.

Ultimately it's that intimate sense of caring residents express for their community that permeates a visit to Ucluelet. It's reflected in their relationship to the outdoors and wildlife; the numbers, types and style of businesses offered, in the recognition that they indeed have a special place and a determination to not spoil that gift.

For more information, visit www.uclueletinfo.com or www.ucluelet.com.

built a path for future growth while maintaining the natural beauty and small town atmosphere of their village. And while Ucluelet's amenities grow, it retains its vital individual character. No matter what the season, or the reason, a visit to the western edge of Vancouver Island, Ucluelet is poised to charm.



Getting there

Before you even arrive, the scenery along Highway 4 will take your breath away. You'll marvel that there are such massive mountains on Vancouver Island, and after the first snow, you'd think you're traveling through the Rockies. When you first catch a glimpse of Kennedy Lake, just a few kilometers from the village, you'll think you've reached the ocean because of its size. But it will be the

gales from Hawaii pushed along the jet stream) regularly hits Vancouver Island's exposed coast in the form of 120 km (75 mile) winds and 12 m (36 feet) waves. Add in the rain of the rainforest and you have a first-class, storm-watching location. Few communities are so well poised to comfortably view and experience some of the wildest storms in Mother Nature's arsenal than Ucluelet. The village of 1,800 is surrounded by verdant forest, islands and vast stretches of pebbly shore. And there are plenty of cozy places where you can snuggle up, drink a cup of tea (or a glass of wine) in front of a roaring fire and watch the winter waves pound the surf and the rain lash the windows.

Cozy cabins on the coast Ucluelet is gaining the reputation of being the cottage country of the west. With more than 50 fully-equipped cabins with ocean frontage or nestled in the rainforest it's no wonder. The town also offers everything from great B&Bs and luxury resorts to intimate motels. Dining facilities range from coffee shops to restaurants with gourmet menus. More hotels, lodges and eateries are currently under construction, with even



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