

75 Cents

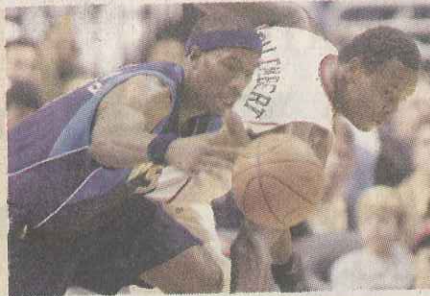


COLD

Weather - B6

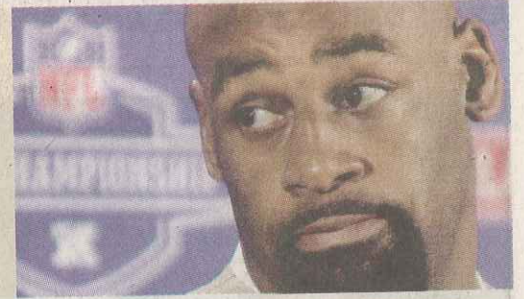
SIXERS

MAVERICKS END PHILADELPHIA'S WIN STREAK/C1



EAGLES

IS THE MCNABB-REID ERA GOOD ENOUGH OR NOT ENOUGH?/C1



DAILY LOCAL NEWS

www.DailyLocal.com

Chester County's Leading Information Source

For HOME DELIVERY, Call 800-568-2472

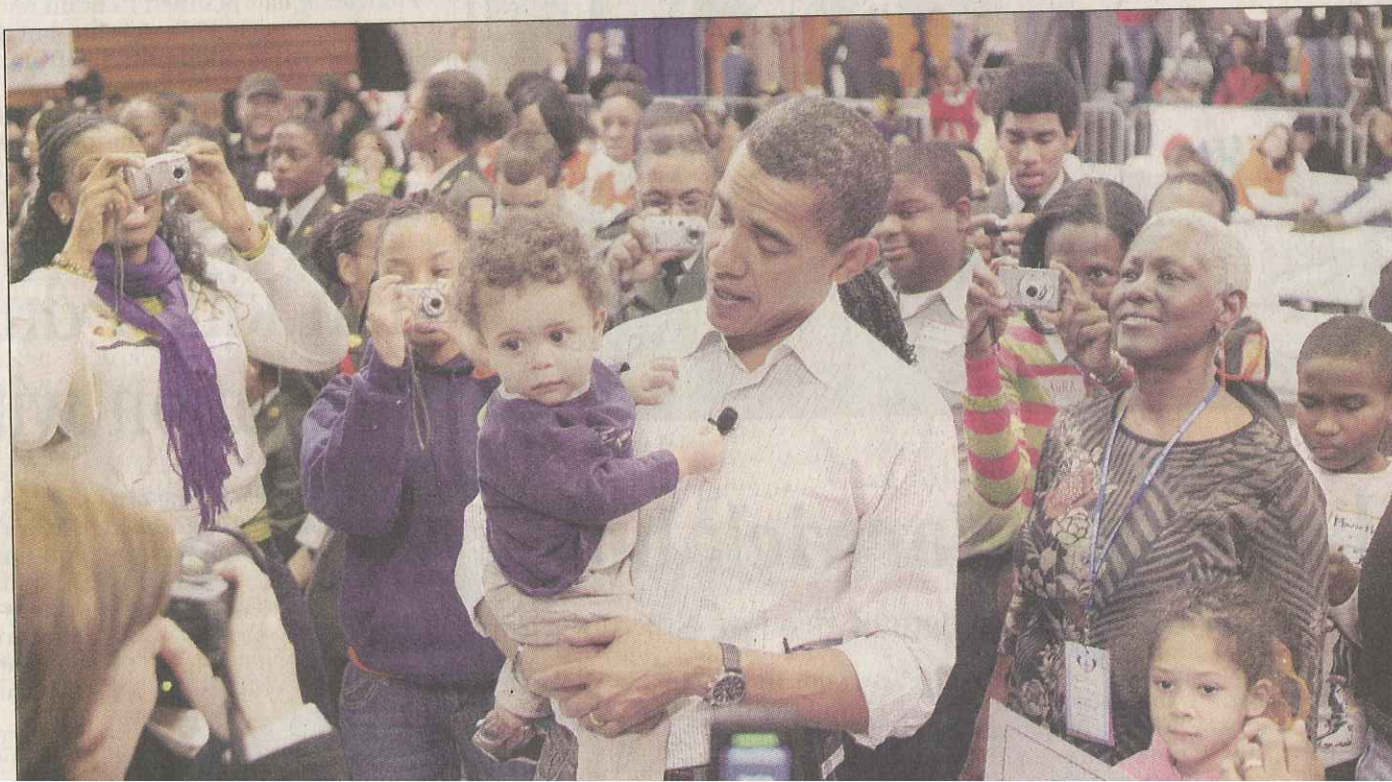
CHESTER COUNTY EDITION

TUESDAY, January 20, 2009

A DAY GENERATIONS AWAITED

Associated Press

President-elect Barack Obama holds Charles Rollins, 1, of Chevy Chase, Md., as he visits a community service project for troops Monday at Calvin Coolidge High School in Washington, D.C. The 47-year-old former senator takes office at noon today at a time of economic crisis at home and two wars overseas.



Obama to be sworn in as 44th U.S. president today

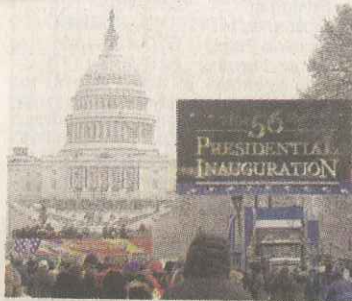
By DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama stood at the threshold of the White House on Monday, summoning fellow Americans to join him in service as tens of thousands flocked to the nation's capital to celebrate his inauguration as the first black president.

"Tomorrow we will come together as one people on the same Mall where Dr. King's dream echoes still," said the president-elect, invoking the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. on the national holiday in his honor.

The 47-year-old former senator takes office at noon today at a time of economic crisis at home and two wars overseas. But the challenges of the moment receded into the background for many who came for a chance to witness history.

"I didn't think I would see a black president in my generation. I just



MORE INSIDE

- Obamas, Bidens count down to the inauguration. See Page A4
- Obama honors Martin Luther King Jr. on final day before his presidency. See Page A4
- Jill Biden, Michelle Obama attend concert for kids in Washington. See Page A4
- It seems everyone in Washington is energized for today's celebration. See Page A5
- A special section on today's historic inauguration. Inside

On the road to D.C.

Locals make final arrangements for trip to see history

By DAN KRISTIE,
MICHAEL P. RELLAHAN
and GRETCHEN METZ
Staff Writers

Nothing was going to stop Nancy Arnosti of Kennett Square from attending Barack Obama's inauguration — not even the complete lack of available hotel rooms in Washington, D.C.

Arnosti, who wanted to make sure she got through the security gates nice and early, decided to spend Monday night in the capital. Lacking

accommodation, she and her family will be staying in the office building where one of her friends works, she said Monday.

That friend, too, will be sleeping in his office, Arnosti said. Even though he lives in the D.C. suburbs, he's afraid the inaugural crowds will prevent him from getting into town.

"There are a lot of people sleeping in office buildings," Arnosti said, as she waited for a cab at Union Station just after arriving in the city.

◆ See TRAVEL, Page A5



Staff photo by Larry McDevitt
A group from Dallas gathers in the lobby of the Holiday Inn Express in West Whiteland on Monday. They stayed here while en route to Washington for the inauguration.



Staff photo
by Amy Dragoo

Scott Middle School students wear matching hats and scarves as they climb aboard the bus taking the school's mentoring program to D.C. for the inauguration. The students have been working for a year to prepare for their trip.

Many celebrating occasion at home

By MICHAEL P. RELLAHAN
Staff Writer

WEST CHESTER — Barack Obama supporters and others will gather at two events today in the borough to celebrate the inauguration of the nation's first black president, both of which will be held at the Milestone Events facility on East Market Street.

There will be an open house that is free to the public, and then a "Yes We Did" inaugural ball in the evening that is by paid admission only.

The open house will begin at 10 a.m. and

run until 3 p.m., during which time guests can watch the inaugural festivities on the facility's large-screen television.

The viewing schedule begins with a musical prelude at 10 a.m., followed by the actual swearing-in ceremony at 11:30 a.m. The inaugural parade will follow at 2 p.m. Guests are invited to stop by during their lunch hour, or to spend the day celebrating together.

In the evening, the local inaugural ball will begin at 8 p.m. and run until midnight.

◆ See EVENTS, Page A4

King's inspiration adds lift to volunteer efforts

Service projects mark national holiday in memory of slain civil rights leader

By DAN KRISTIE
Staff Writer

"Imagine walking home from work at the end of a hot day," he said. "You're hot.



WEST CHESTER

"I wish I was in D.C. But I've got to go to work," said Rico Gilbert, a 23-year-old rider who planned to drive home through the night to be at work today.

feel like this was the people's election. There's a feeling that we did something that's bigger than us. To be a little piece of that — it's amazing," said Reshan, who has

team's playoff season. "In a football game, one team will win and one will lose. In this case nobody loses. The whole country wins. I feel the pulse of the tremendous number of people who are here."

the area between the Capitol and Lincoln Memorial, anticipating today's swearing-in ceremony. They took photographs and home movies to record their connection to history.

Travel

(From Page A1)

"My daughter's friend is camping in an office building a block away from us. She's planning to meet up with her later tonight."

Nate Bookman, of Coatesville, said he is also planning to spend the night in Washington. He'll be staying with friends in the suburbs and driving to a metro station before dawn.

"We're planning to head out at 5 a.m.," he said. "We're going to eat a good meal before we leave so we won't have to worry about lugging anything around. If we can get snacks along the way, that's fine, but we're more worried about just being there."

While some local residents are making the inauguration a two day affair, others plan to ride to Washington in the Chester County Democratic Committee bus, which will pull out of West Chester at 5 a.m., and the Chester County Peace Movement bus, which will depart at 5:30 a.m.

Chris Smith of Willistown spent Martin Luther King Day putting together care packages for the people who will be riding on the buses.

He said he's certain the packages will get past security.

"I made commemorative lunch cooler bags, and I sent one down to Washington where it was cleared by the secret service," Smith said. "I'll be filling them with sandwiches, crackers and fruit — hopefully enough to sustain passengers for a good part of the day."

A third Chester County bus, this one containing middle school students, will be heading to Washington.

In January 2008, students at Scott Middle School in Coatesville began preparing to travel to Washington to attend the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States — even though they did not know who that person would be.

"Of course, we had no clue who would win," said Teresa Powell, Scott's principal, on Monday, a few hours before 35 students and 12 administrators, parents and teachers boarded a bus to Prince Frederick, Md., where they will stay overnight before attending the events on the Capitol Mall for Obama's swearing-in ceremony.

"We knew whoever would win, it would be historic. If it were John McCain, he would be the oldest president. If it were Hillary Clinton, it would be the first woman

president," Powell said.

The winner being the first black president had special meaning, however, for the Scott students, part of the school's mentoring program, she said. Many of the students in the program are black themselves and now identify with Obama's success.

"For them to see an African-American as president is indescribable," said Powell. Coming from the inner city in Coatesville, "they now see they can succeed, and be who they want to be if they persevere."

The students raised more than \$25,000 through bake sales and car washes and other fundraising events to pay for the trip, which includes stops in Baltimore and some sightseeing on Wednesday.

Not all the people leaving from Chester County for Washington today were from Chester County.

A group of 50 students and chaperones from A. Maceo Smith High School in Dallas spent Monday night at the Holiday Inn Express Exton. After a 1,500-mile journey, they arrived at noon Monday.

"The kids are a little tired but very excited," said Angela Fulbright, a government and economics teacher at the high school.

the area to participate in service projects.

The event on Monday was co-sponsored by the center, the United Way of Chester County and the First Presbyterian Church of West Chester.

Participants went to the St. Agnes Church day room to sort and organize food for the Cares Food

on them.

"Tomorrow is going to be awesome," said Stacey Coral, a freshman at West Chester East High School. "I mean, today is an awesome day, too. It's good to help the community because we live around here."

Sarah DeMarco, a Stetson Middle School student, wore a shirt that

tant in bringing cultural awareness to our communities," she said. "The service projects give community members an opportunity to volunteer and see an immediate impact in their environment. The potential value of this kind of Day of Service is limitless."

Doris Bond, the Melton center's director, added that "this is an ex-

associate pastor of race relations at First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, delivered a speech during which he related a story about a man who ordered a cup of coffee at a diner during World War II.

Sugar rationing was in place, Porter said, and waitresses could only give patrons so much sugar. But this year, waitresses



Staff photo by Amy Drago
Scott Middle School students board the bus for Washington, D.C. They have been working for a year on essays, fundraising and assorted projects to prepare for today's inauguration.

The advanced placement students, and in the top 10 percent of their class, participated in a number of projects about politics during the first half of the school year, Fulbright said.

The trip, which cost \$16,000 to \$17,000, was paid for through donations from businesses and churches in the community, Fulbright said.

At noon, the hotel was waiting for them.

"This is hospitality at its best," said Elaine LaRosa, di-

rector of sales at the hotel. "If it's not, I'm in the wrong business."

Monday afternoon the students and their chaperones headed to Philadelphia for a lunch at the National Constitution Center and a run up the steps of the Philadelphia Art Museum, Rocky-style.

Today the students boarded their bus at 2:30 a.m. and headed for the 6:30 a.m. Maryland Area Regional Commuter, or MARC, train at Brunswick Station, Md., the only station where the group

could get train tickets.

The train is scheduled to arrive in D.C. at 7:40 a.m.

Taylor Wright, 17, said she made the journey to "witness history. Barack Obama will be the first African American president."

The 11th-grader said she did reports about both political candidates during the campaign but was particularly impressed by Obama's plan for change.

To contact staff writer Dan Kristie, send an e-mail to dkristie@dailylocal.com.