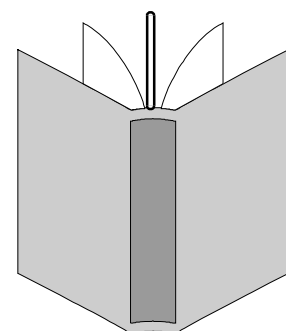




Editorial / Opinion



The Fayetteville Press Newspaper welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must be signed and must include a home address and a daytime phone number. All letters are subject to editing. We will not publish **unsigned** or **pseudonymous** letters.
Mail, Fax or E-mail your letters to: **The Fayetteville Press Newspaper**, P.O. Box 9166, Fayetteville NC 28311 - **Fax (910) 323-1113**
E-mail: fayeypress@aol.com

What is your perception of President Obama's leadership?



In 2008, it was "it's time for a change" or "change you can believe in." So what will it be in 2012? Has the president maintained your support? Has he faltered and made you question his decisions? Your responses zero in on perceptions and interpretations of the president's decisions.

Let's look at the facts. President Obama inherited a lot of problems. Financial collapse, deficits and debt are only a few of the issues. He also stepped into a political system that from the minds of many was broken. In the beginning, no one could blame any of that on President Obama. However, since he has been in office, have Obama's efforts helped or hindered the country? Well, that depends on who's doing the talking. It's all perception and interpretation, and in some cases, if you are a Republican or Democrat.

With the media constantly reminding us of the 2012 election timetable, can the president do enough to re-attract the people he lost, and maintain his supporters for a 4 year return to office?

The greatest consistent criticism is over the country's rate of unemployment. How can the president encourage businesses to hire the unemployed, if many companies have downsized due to the advances in technology. This is definitely a question that should be addressed. If industry and big business have no interest in hiring at this time what can the federal government do to change that!

According to the president, the country needs to return to the well for an attempt to

create more job opportunities. The Republicans hold the key. Some are hoping the country doesn't get the money while others are keeping their fingers crossed. Typically, the split is down party lines.

Perception and interpretation

There are some who say the Obama bailouts and stimulus money to save big business was a complete bust while many of those companies say without the government's help, they would have certainly gone under. Gas prices are also on the minds of the Americans. Is this the president's fault? What about unemployment? So often, the media's focus is on the unemployed but what about the ones who are looking for their first professional positions...college graduates? Should we be more concerned of the people who are living off unemployment or for the ones in the wings anxiously awaiting a shift to being self-sufficient?

There are still some who say blaming former President Bush for the economic woes of the country is valid, while others say it's a lame excuse or an old record with worn grooves.

Democrats want us to know that the Republicans who say our economic crisis is the fault of the president either have short memories or no shame. "The GOP owned Washington when it inherited a booming economy and a \$155 billion budget surplus," said one Washington insider. However, President Obama's situation was not as favorable. The national homeowner's market was also in free fall and a debt that doubled during the Bush years. What the critics are suggesting is our country's gloomy economic state is the lack of productivity of the president; he has done little to improve where we are. Obama is constantly referred to as a socialist and a spendthrift with no regard to the common man. He feels 'he can walk on water' are some of the perceptions that continue to surface when criticizing the president.

When President Bill Clinton left office, President George W. Bush acquired an economy that was great with growing surplus. Fast-forward to when George W. Bush left. The country's economic condition was atrocious. Has President Barack Obama input made things better or worse?

Actually, anything the president does is up for debate. What can the president do to keep the fire of his back? I say nothing; it comes with the territory. Every president gets it... 'verbal attacks,' and sometimes those verbal attacks are vicious. Furthermore, in Obama's case it is compounded for obvious reasons.

We live in a 'right now' country. We want our food right now, our nice cars right now, our raises at work right now, and our jobs right now. If you happen to be someone who doesn't have any of these things, your interpretations of the decisions made by the power structure won't be too favorable, especially of the president whoever he is. In this case, it happens to President Obama.

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Social Services Distributes Donated Fans, Opens Lobby for Heat Relief

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Social Services is accepting donations of new box fans from civic organizations, churches, businesses and individuals in the community.

Fans may be dropped off at the DSS building, 1225 Ramsey St., between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Contact the Adult Services Department at 910-677-2388 for more information about making a fan donation.

Fans are currently available at the DSS building for those in our community whose income falls below 200 percent of the current poverty level, and who have a family member in the home under the age of 2, over the age of 60, or with a heat-sensitive medical condition.

On days when heat advisories are issued because the heat index is expected to surpass 100 degrees, the DSS building at 1225 Ramsey St. will open an auxiliary lobby as a measure of relief to people who have no other way to escape the oppressive heat.

The lobby areas will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday throughout the summer when a heat advisory is issued or the heat index reaches 100.

Contact the Adult Services Department at 910-677-2388 for more information.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE)
GOAL FOR

Fayetteville Area System of Transit
Fayetteville, North Carolina

In accordance with requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation as set forth in 49 C.F.R. Part 26, as amended, the City of Fayetteville, North Carolina, hereby notifies the public that it is recommending the following Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal for applicable professional services, construction and procurement contracts during the Federal Fiscal Year 2012, beginning October 1, 2011 and ending September 30, 2012. The overall total DBE goal for 2012 is 23.4%. The overall total goal includes those funds projected to be spent under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Information pertaining to this goal and a description of how it was selected is available for inspection from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) at the City of Fayetteville Transit Administrative Offices, 455 Grove Street, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28301 for 30 days following the date of this notice. Written comments on this goal will be accepted for 45 days from the date of this notice. The comments are for informational purposes only and may be sent to Frances Jackson, Transit DBE Liaison Officer, same address above, or to Frank Billue, Regional Civil Rights Officer, Federal Transit Administration, Region IV, 230 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30303.

3264736T

Western Summit/Hickory Construction, a North Carolina Joint Venture is soliciting bids from certified MBE/WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following project:

Moore County Water Pollution Control Plant Expansion

Bid Date: June 29, 2011 @ 2:00PM

Submit Bid to:
 Western Summit/Hickory Construction,
 a North Carolina Joint Venture
 c/o Western Summit Constructors, Inc.
 5470 Valley Highway
 Denver, CO 80216
 (303) 298-9500 / Fax (303) 298-9501
 Contact: John East

Bonding may be required.

Specific Crafts, Trades and Materials include but are not limited to: Site Work, Concrete Work, Masonry, Metals, Woods and Plastics, Thermal and Moisture Protection, Overhead Coiling Doors, Finishes, Equipment, Mechanical, and Electrical.

Western Summit/Hickory Construction, a North Carolina Joint Venture intends to negotiate with qualified MBE/WBE firms and will, at its sole discretion, assist in obtaining bonds, lines of credit and insurance.

Western Summit/Hickory Construction,
 a North Carolina Joint Venture is an
 Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.