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VOLUME 41 NUMBER 25

FEBRUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 25, 2009

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL EDITION

NAACP Centennial Anniversary - A Celebration Of Struggle, Strength And Success



Stetson University College of Law's
Black Law Student Association

BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON
SPECIAL TO THE CHALLENGER

The centennial anniversary, of the NAACP, was a tribute to the history, progress, and future of the iconic civil rights organization. The St. Petersburg chapter of the NAACP and Stetson University College of Law's Black Law Student Association partnered to honor the historic occasion. Held at Stetson, the monumental occasion marked the birth of the association. In New York City, on February 12, 1908, a multi racial group including W.E.B DuBois, Ida Wells-Barnett, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villard, and William English Walling gathered to form a political organization that

would address Jim Crow segregation, brutal attacks, and the degradation of African-Americans. According to the president of the St. Petersburg chapter of the NAACP, Ray Tampa, the celebration was two fold. "The script couldn't have been written any better," Tampa said. "We're celebrating the fruits of all those years of struggle along with the election of the first African-American president."

Trenia Byrd-Cox, St. Petersburg NAACP first vice president, spoke eloquently about the violent, segregated past experienced by African-Americans and that many were "sacrificial lambs" of the civil rights movement. Cox

NAACP

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National African-American History Month, 2009

BY BARACK OBAMA,
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES
NNPA SPECIAL COMMENTARY

A PROCLAMATION

The history of African-Americans is unique and rich, and one that has helped to define what it means to be an American. Arriving on ships on the shores of North America more than 300 years ago, recognized more as possessions than people, African-Americans have come to know the freedoms fought for in establishing the United States and gained through the use of our founding principles of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assembly, and due process of law.

The ideals of the Founders became more real and more true for every citizen as African-Americans pressed us to realize our full potential as a Nation and to uphold those ideals for all who enter into our borders and embrace the notion that we are all endowed with certain unalienable rights.

Since Carter G. Woodson first sought to illuminate the African-American experience, each February we pause to reflect on the contributions of this community to our national identity. The history is one of struggle for the recognition of each person's humanity as well as an influence on the broader American culture. African-Americans designed our beautiful



President Barack Obama

Capital City, gave us the melodic rhythms of New Orleans Jazz, issued new discoveries in science and medicine, and forced us to examine ourselves in the pages of classic literature. This legacy has only added luster to the brand of the United States, which has drawn immigrants to our shores for centuries.

This year's theme, "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas," is a chance to examine the evolution of our country and how African-Americans helped draw us ever closer to becoming a more perfect union.

The narrative of the African-American pursuit of full citizenship with all of the rights and privileges afforded others in this country is also the story of a

maturing young Nation. The voices and examples of the African-American people worked collectively to remove the boulders of systemic racism and discrimination that pervaded our laws and our public consciousness for decades.

Through the work of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver, Martin Luther King and Thurgood Marshall, the African-American community has steadily made progress toward the dreams within its grasp and the promise of our more Nation.

Meanwhile, the belief that those dreams might one day be realized by all of our citizens gave African-American men and women the same sense of duty

and love of country that led them to shed blood in every war we have ever fought, to invest hard-earned resources in their communities with the hope of self empowerment, and to pass the ideals of this great land down to their children and grandchildren.

As we mark National African-American History Month, we should take note of this special moment in our Nation's history and the actors who worked so diligently to deliver us to this place. One such organization is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People - the NAACP - which this year will witness 100 years of service to the Nation on

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Trailblazer Chief Justice Peggy Quince Keynote FAMU's Black History Convocation

TALLAHASSEE — The Honorable Chief Justice Peggy Quince of the Florida Supreme Court, will deliver the keynote address at the annual Florida A&M University (FAMU) Black History Convocation.

The convocation is scheduled for Friday, February 20, at Jake Gaither Gymnasium from 10:10 a.m. to 12:10 p.m., and classes will be suspended.

Quince is the first African-American woman to serve as Chief Justice. She also has the distinction of being the first African-American woman appointed to both the Florida Supreme Court and one of the Florida District Courts of Appeal.

Prior to serving in those positions, she was an assistant

attorney general for the State of Florida, where she handled criminal appeals in the state and federal appellate courts. In her years as a lawyer and later as a judge, Quince has always shown a special interest in serving and protecting all the citizens of the State of Florida, but especially minority groups who are underserved. Quince received her bachelor of science degree in Zoology from Howard University and her juris doctor degree from The Catholic University of America.

She has been active in several legal and civic organizations including the Florida Bar, the Florida Association for Women Lawyers, Tallahassee Barristers, and the Williams H.

Stafford American Inn of Court. The American Bar Association Commission recognized Chief Justice Quince as a pioneering woman in the law on Women in the Profession with the 2006 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award. On March 13, 2007, she was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

Quince was born in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1948. She is married to Fred L. Buckine, attorney at law, and they have two daughters, Peggy, a graduate of FAMU, and Laura, a graduate of the University of Central Florida.

The general public is invited to attend. For more information, call (850) 599-3413.



Chief Justice Peggy Quince
of the Florida Supreme Court

The Weekly Challenger Newspaper

We Value *Diversity*. We Value *Education*. We Value *History*.

- A knowledge of history brings a feeling of fellowship that runs through the ages — be it a territory, a village, a district, or a nation.
- To live without history is likened to living without a form of memory.
- To be without history is to live without roots or a past, with the present having no real foundation, and very little meaning for the future.
- To know the events of our past (can help us) to know what future events can be.
- *The Weekly Challenger* is committed to featuring articles of all ethnic cultures for the reading enjoyment of both the young and old generations.

OPINION

Preserving Black History Month



BY GEORGE E CURRY
NNPA COLUMNIST

The clamor to get rid of Black History Month ignores a crucial yet often overlooked fact: Congress has authorized and every president — Democrat and Republican — signs an executive order each year honoring the contributions of not only African-Americans, but Latinos, Asians, Native Americans and women. February is Black History Month, March has been designated Women’s History Month, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15 and November is observed as American Indian Heritage Month.

Therefore, to single out the elimination of Black History Month while continuing the other observations is ludicrous. To recommend that all be eliminated is equally foolish. As the nation grows increasingly diverse — by the year 2040, whites will become a minority in the U.S. — I offer a different proposal. Instead of eliminating designated national observations such as Black History Month, let’s make an effort to learn more about the groups being celebrated at different times throughout the year.

The sad truth is that many groups do not have a sufficient knowledge of their own history and even less information about what other groups have endured and accomplished. This is a good time to change that. A knowledge and appreciation for other cultures might foster better inter-group rela-

tionships.

Why do we celebrate Black History Month in February? No, it’s not because it’s the shortest month of the year. Black history was initially observed the second week in February. Carter G. Woodson, the founder of what was then called Negro History Week, first chose the week in 1926 because it marked the birthdays of abolitionist Frederick Douglass, February 14, 1818, and Abraham Lincoln, the signer of the Emancipation Proclamation, February 12, 1809.

It was natural to expand the second week in February to the month that also contained the birthday of scholar and civil rights icon W. E. B. DuBois, February 23, 1868, marked the passage of the 15th Amendment granting blacks the right to vote, February 3, 1870, represented the day that the first black U.S. senator, Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi, took his oath of office, February 25, 1870, and the day the NAACP was founded, February 12, 1909. Additionally, the Greensboro, N.C. sit-in movement began February 1, 1960 and Malcolm X was slain February 21, 1965.

Women’s History Month also began as a week-long celebration. It was first observed in 1978 by Sonoma County, California. The second week in March was selected to include the March 8 observance of International Women’s Day. In 1981, Representative Barbara Mikulski of Maryland and Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution proclaiming national Women’s History

Week. In 1987, the week was expanded to a month.

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called on the president to designate the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week; the following month a similar bill was introduced in the Senate by Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the joint resolution for the annual celebration. In May 1990, it was expanded into a month. May was chosen to commemorate the official arrival of Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Chinese immigrants laid the majority of the tracks.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Sept. 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. They all declared their independence in 1821. In addition, Mexico celebrates its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18.

Oct. 12, observed as Columbus Day or Dia de la Razza, also falls within the 30-day period. The celebration began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon B. Johnson and expanded in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan to cover Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. Many Americans mistake Cinco de Mayo with Mexican Independence Day. The former, observed May 5, celebrates Mexico’s victory over the French Empire at the Battle of

Puebla, about 100 miles east of Mexico City, in 1862.

The first governor of New York declared American Indian Day Saturday, May 2, 1916. Several states set aside the fourth Friday in September to celebrate the cultures and contributions of Native Americans. Several other states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day.

Though November is now designated as American Indian Heritage Month, earlier efforts to honor the contributions of Native Americans have been inconsistent. In 1986, Congress requested that the president proclaim the week of November 23-30 as American Indian Week. In 1988, Congress changed the designation to National American Indian Heritage Week and moved the date of the observance to September 23-30 because “the last week of September begins the harvest season in the United States.” In 1989, Congress switched the week to December 3-9. In 1990, Congress requested the president to issue a proclamation designating the month of November 1990 as National American Indian Heritage Month. Congress said it selected November because it concludes the traditional harvest season and is a time of thanksgiving and celebration of American Indians.

As can be seen above, we know so little about one another. Instead of eliminating celebrations such as Black History Month, we should broaden the celebrations so that we’ll know more about one another and ourselves.

Black History, American History



BY MARIAN WRIGHT
EDELMAN
NNPA COLUMNIST

A century ago, a two-day race riot in Springfield, Illinois, where white mobs lynched two blacks, turned out to be the final straw for a small interracial group of Americans committed to social justice. Lynchings and other acts of terror against blacks at the height of the Post-Reconstruction Jim Crow era, had become all too common. But after the white mob violence instigated by some of the “best citizens” in President Abraham Lincoln’s hometown, this group decided to act. Historian and civil rights advocate Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, anti-lynching crusading journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett, suffragette Mary White Ovington, activist Dr. Henry Moskowitz, and about 50 other social reformers—white and black, women and men, Christians and Jews—from across the country, came together to collaborate in the work they had been doing separately.

This collaboration was formalized with the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on February 12, 1909, the 100th anniversary of Lincoln’s birthday, to fight for black Americans’ civil and political rights.

This February, at the centennial of the NAACP, the nation’s oldest

and largest civil rights organization, and the 200th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth, the NAACP’s founders would be amazed that these seminal dates in American history would occur within a month of the inauguration of President Barack Obama, a senator from Illinois, as our nation’s first black president. For some of those early visionaries, one hundred years might have seemed like a long time to wait. But as many civil rights leaders have said about President Obama taking office, “I didn’t believe I’d see it in my lifetime but I’m thrilled,” and “It’s been a long time coming, but change has finally come.”

As we celebrate all of these special events at once, Black History Month feels especially significant this year. At too many points in our national experience, black history and American history have seemed to tell different stories. But when President Obama took the oath of office on Jan. 20, many were quick to point out that it was a historic day for black Americans and for all Americans. The sea of nearly two million multi-colored faces of all ages and from every nook and cranny of America cheering together on the National Mall seemed to confirm that this was a moment when the threads of our separate stories were finally woven together in a new quest for unity and community as one people. Everywhere one looked during

Inauguration weekend were reminders of how black history and American history had converged. Journalists observed that the Capitol and White House were built with slave labor, and the Mall sits on land that once held slave markets. At the opening ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial on the Sunday before he was sworn in, then President-elect Obama, surrounded by monuments to our most revered leaders, reminded the nation of how the Civil Rights March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom took place on that sacred ground: “Directly in front of us is a pool that still reflects the dream of a King, and the glory of a people who marched and bled so that their children might be judged by their character’s content.”

Civil rights giants Dr. Dorothy Height and Congressman John Lewis, the Tuskegee Airmen, and many other trailblazers for liberty bore quiet witness by their presence. At the inauguration, Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, sang “My Country Tis’ of Thee,” and reminded all Americans of our nation’s original promise to “let freedom ring.” Finally, there was the benediction by Rev. Joseph Lowery, who began by quoting a stanza of the song we’ve known as “The Negro National Anthem,” “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” by James Weldon Johnson who would lead the NAACP for 10 years as the

organization’s executive secretary, made my deepest heartstrings throb.

“God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou, who has brought us thus far along the way, Thou, who has by Thy might Led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray... Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand, True to our God, true to our native land.”

For all of us raised on those beloved words, the symbolism was overwhelming. For over a hundred years, every time it has been sung in a church hall, school auditorium or community meeting, it has enabled us black folks’ to sing our own story about our faith in and struggle to make America’s promise real. Rev. Lowery didn’t recite every line, like those that speak of the bitter obstacles we’ve had to overcome and the blood that has been shed along the way, but he didn’t need to.

For now, as part of the blessing of our nation and our new young, brilliant president who reflects the DNA of our nation and globe, the Negro National Anthem has become—at long last—part of the larger American hymn. As President Obama’s name is added to the list that begins with George Washington, and his portrait becomes the face of America, the next chapters in black and American history are being written together.

The Weekly Challenger

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Rays Now Accepting Applications For Community Fund Grant And Field Renovation Programs

ST. PETERSBURG - The Rays Baseball Foundation, the charitable arm of the Tampa Bay Rays, is now accepting applications for its Community Fund Grant Program and its Field Renovation Program.

Applications for the Community Fund Grant Program as well as the Field Renovation Program are currently available on the Rays website www.raysbaseball.com, on the Community page.

The Rays Baseball Foundation Community Fund Grant Program will provide financial support to local non-profit institutions in the Tampa Bay region. These funds will support current youth and/or education programs offered by community-based non-profit organizations. Grants awarded through this program average \$5,000.

For more information on the Community Fund Grant Program, additional grants offered by the team, or other general information regarding the Rays Baseball Foundation, please contact the Rays' Community Relations department at (727) 825-3135 or email community@raysbaseball.com.

The Rays Baseball Foundation Field Renovation

Program will provide new or renovated ball fields to various communities throughout the Tampa Bay region. The grant will provide, repair or replace all amenities to a field including but not limited to: landscaping, irrigation, scoreboard and fencing. The Rays Baseball Foundation will determine a field's individual needs on a case-by-case basis. Previous field renovation projects include Azalea Little League, St. Petersburg, South Brandon Little League, West Tampa Little League, and Oliver Field, St. Petersburg.

Applications for either program must be received by mail no later than March 2. Mail applications to:

Rays Baseball Foundation
Attn: Suzanne Murchland
One Tropicana Drive
St. Petersburg

The Rays Baseball Foundation is committed to supporting youth and education programs and assisting in the completion of their respective missions throughout the Tampa Bay region. In 2008, the Rays Baseball Foundation proudly introduced several new grant programs, investing more than \$600,000 last year alone.

Actors, Poets And Community Leaders Celebrated James Weldon Johnson At Poetry Reading

This event brought leaders from the religious and civil rights community together to read from Johnson's "God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse"

ST. PETERSBURG – In honor of the 100-year anniversary of the NAACP, religious and community leaders performed a collection of James Weldon Johnson poems Monday with trombone interludes played by legendary St. Petersburg musician Buster Cooper.

God's Trombones: A Celebration of James Weldon Johnson was co-sponsored by the Studio@620, where it was held, USF St. Petersburg and through a grant from the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The rousing poems on biblical themes in Johnson's "God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse" were performed by a list of well-known Tampa Bay leaders and artists, including Bob Devin Jones, Studio@620; Leroy Mitchell, actor; John Conlon, USF St. Petersburg; Rev. Louis Murphy, Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church; Aleshea Harris, actor; Sharon Scott, actor; James E. Tokley, poet laureate, City of Tampa; Trenia Byrd Cox, NAACP; and Vikki Gaskin-Butler, USF St. Petersburg.

Julie Armstrong, associate professor of English at USF St. Petersburg and one of the event



Photograph courtesy of Melanie Marquez

Julie Armstrong, associate professor of English at USF St. Petersburg, answers questions about James Weldon Johnson as Vikki Gaskin-Butler, diversity officer and visiting instructor for psychology at USFSP and John Conlon, adjunct English instructor at USFSP, watch from the side.

organizers, led a Q&A session following the performance. Thomas Hallock, assistant professor of English at USF St. Petersburg, also helped organize the event.

"God's Trombones is a powerful work of poetry that deserves to be honored," Hallock said. "Particularly in light of Johnson's contribution

as a native Floridian."

Johnson, 1871-1938, had a prolific career as a writer, educator and activist. Born in Jacksonville, his widely regarded works include the novel "The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man," 1912, and the song Lift Every Voice and Sing, also known as The Negro National Anthem, which

he composed with his brother, Rosamond. Johnson served as secretary for the NAACP from 1916 to 1926, focusing his efforts on the fight against lynching. In addition to his work with the NAACP, he served as a diplomat in Venezuela and Nicaragua, and taught creative writing at Fisk University.

Come for the Tour.

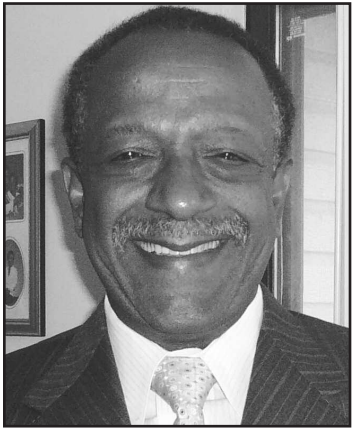
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COMMUNITY NEWS



THE Gantt Report

BY LUCIUS GANTT

I congratulate President Barack Obama on the passage of his first piece of “major” legislation, the so-called Stimulus Bill.

Before the President could even see, not sign, the finished product, America’s beast bankers began to blow their tops!

One aspect of President Obama’s bill calls for the end of exorbitant bonuses for bank officials. I, the president and every other taxpayer does not want our money used for million dollar bonuses for workers that caused their company to go bankrupt.

Yes, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan, another name for stimulus, is getting a lot of headlines but black people in America will still not be able to buy new homes or save the homes they have.

Why? Because the beast bankers are still beasts!

Politicians won’t tell you but bankers have been running schemes on Americans since the 1700s. Bankers will take a piece of paper that is worth \$10 and sell it ten or twenty times. Their greed finally caught up with them.

Will the stimulus make things better? Hopefully. Will the stimulus change things and make capital more accessible for the common man? No.

You’ve heard a lot about change but the only way to change banks is to change the banking laws. One law change should be jail time for banks that play fast and lose with depositor money.

After the stimulus bill was signed, before the ink was dry, bank lobbyists had their copy of the bill and were finding loopholes that would enable more taxpayer dollars to go into their pockets. How sick can they be?

Perhaps President Obama could make it easier for citizens to start new banks to compete with banks that need taxpayer bailouts. I’d be glad to deposit my money into a bank that doesn’t “redline” African-American neighborhoods or a bank that doesn’t make loans based on race.

Most black people don’t have many problems that money can’t solve.

If we could just have the number of community businesses today that we had 40 or 50 years ago, we would have more money. We would have more jobs. We would have a higher and better standard of living.

Let me tell you one more thing about this stimulus money. The states, counties and cities getting this federal financial boost have to abide by federal purchasing transaction guidelines. They have to “buy American”, “hire American” and, guess what, minority businesses and disadvantaged businesses must get a piece of the action.

I know states like Florida and others don’t have any minority business requirements for state purchases but they had better get some now! If your state doesn’t spend some stimulus dollars with black companies, report your state to congress and the president.

It won’t be on the morning radio comedy shows but I want The Gantt Report readers to know that a very key aspect of the stimulus bill is that as much money as possible should be spent in “economically distressed” communities that have high unemployment, foreclosures and so on.

You tell the beast banker and me, whose community does “economically distressed” describe? (Gantt’s book “Beast Too: Dead Man Writing” is now on sale in your city’s bookstores. Contact Lucius at www.allworldconsultants.net.

The Art Of Communication - Black History Month At St. Petersburg Museum Of History

ST. PETERSBURG - To celebrate Black History Month, the St. Petersburg Museum of History combines Jazz, African-American authors and St. Petersburg pioneers in the local black media to headline the 4th Annual African-American Author’s Lecture Series. The theme is “The Art of Communication.” The program features Keynote speaker, Kenny Walker of the Al Downing Tampabay Jazz Association and Norman E. Jones II, African-American author.

The Museum will pay special tribute to The Weekly Challenger Newspaper and WRXB radio station for being the dedicated voices for the black community, for nearly 75 years. Jazz, print and electronic media will be showcased during this Black History celebration that is open to the public and free.

Featured speaker, Kenny Walker, was born in a small town outside of Reno, and started playing the bass guitar in his father’s church. Playing in

church proved to be a great musical education, giving him the foundation to lead his band, the critically acclaimed Dr. LoHertz and the Groove Injektors. Kenny has held the bass violin chair in several theater productions and is an occasional host of an electrifying jazz show on WMNF 88.5 FM. He currently plays bass with Gumbi Ortiz and the Latino Projekt and will provide an engaging lecture on the “History of Jazz.” This interactive lecture will enlighten the public on how jazz musicians communicate with each other and with the audience.

In addition, Norman E. Jones II will speak about his new book “The Art of Livin’ Ink,” on his father Norman E. Jones I. His father was a controversial African-American photojournalist in the Tampa Bay area. Jones published the Tampa Star from 1952 - 1955 and authored the Let’s Talk Politics column in several black publications for twenty-years, 1956-1976.

This black history event is



Kenny Walker, Jazz Musician

perfect for aspiring journalists, musicians and all others who love “The Art of Communication.” Join us on Saturday, February 21, from 2 - 4 p.m. for an interesting afternoon sponsored by Reader’s Choice Books and Orange Blossom Catering.

Call Rinita Anderson, Marketing Director at (727) 894-1052, ext. 205 to RSVP. The Museum is located at 335 2nd Ave. NE, St. Petersburg, Florida. Admission is free so bring the whole family.

NAACP

continued from front page

said that the NAACP chose not to take their battle to the street, but instead took it to the courtroom. In 1954, the NAACP won a major challenge in Brown vs. Board of Education, under special council Thurgood Marshall. “Until we get political, social, and civic justice we will protest and assail the ears of America,” Cox stated.

Renee Flowers, who graciously handled Mistress of Ceremonies duties, said, “We are history in the making.” Keynote speaker was Leon Russell, director of Pinellas County Office of Human Rights National NAACP Board Member. Russell stressed that though many hurdles have been met there are still areas of concern that need to be addressed. He said there is still economic and achievement gap inequality. “It takes all us to change the world,” he said.

“One black on council, one black in the white house will not change the world.” Russell believes that for the community to survive and grow they must be called to the frontlines of activism. “We must respond to the cause, our mission is education, litigation, and agitation,” Russell explained. “We have to be the soldiers for the next 100 years.”

The evening was highlighted by inspiring musical performances by Pastor Kim Brinson and members from the 20th Street Church of Christ Choir. Herb Snitzer, civil rights activist, said, “It’s not just politics, but also music that brings people together.” There was an electrically charged spoken word performance by Patrick Miller, Shanoah Washington, and Leila Campbell, youth members from the Royal Theater Boys & Gils Club Arts Academy that brought the appreciative crowd to their feet.

Tampa is forging forward

with new initiatives and a recommitment to the ideals that the NAACP was founded on. He acknowledged that some of the former challenges have remained such as economic and educational equality, while there have been new issues that need to be addressed. “Combating black on black crime, we need to get values instilled in the younger generation that their life and others are worth something,” Tampa said. “HIV is devastating black communities across the nation.” Tampa wants his legacy to have significantly increased the local membership of the NAACP. “I want the organization on a firm financial footing that is run effectively and efficiency.”

“Progress has happened and it will continue to happen,” stated Cindy Meyers, president of Stetson’s Black Law Student’s Association. “If it were not for the NAACP I would not be able to pursue a legal career as an African-American female attorney.”

2009 City Wide Revival

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March 1st - 4:00 PM
March 2nd - 6th - Classes 7:00PM • Revival 7:45PM
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Rev. Clark Hazley, Host Pastor

PASTOR CLARK HAZLEY

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PASTOR NORRIS MARTIN

PASTOR LOUIS MURPHY

PASTOR FRANK PETERMAN

PASTOR ROBERT WARD

Revival Speakers

~Classes~
Men's Class- Pastor Richard Jackson • Women's Class- Sis. Cynthia Walker • Youth Class- Rev. James Smith

BMFC
of Greater St. Petersburg, Inc.

For More Information Contact
The Baptist Ministers Fellowship Conference Of Greater St. Petersburg, Inc.
P.O. Box 13042 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733
President: Rev. Martin Rainey (727) 420-1326

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Petersburg Business Assistance Center's Business Training Schedule

ST. PETERSBURG - The St. Petersburg Business Assistance Center (BAC) offers free business training and counseling sessions to assist emerging and existing small businesses with business development. They are located at 33 66 St. S., Suite 301 For information, call (727) 893-7146 or visit www.stpete.org/bac.

The schedule for the month of March is as follows:

Business Resource Center, located within the Business Assistance Center, has computers equipped with business software and Internet access, interactive videos, and an extensive business reference library for business research and planning. Business Plan Pro Software has arrived at the Business Assistance Center! Have you been putting off the writing of your Business Plan because the task just seems too complicated? Bring your flash drive to the BAC, and start your plan today! They are there to

assist. Visit the BAC's Business Resource Center and develop your business plan, at no cost, on software that offers over 500 business plan templates, with a model to suit your needs. Topics include, but are not limited to, retail and online businesses, non-profits, restaurants, day cares, personal services and much more!

BAC Training Schedule - 2: An easy step-by-step process*

Built-in market research data*

Powerful forecasting tools* SBA-approved document format*

Also ... receive a Free Business Plan Review by business counselors at the BAC!

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, March 2 - 31, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Business Counseling sessions by SCORE - Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.;

Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Florida Small Business Development Center at USF - Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 and 25; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Business Workshops: Introduction to Business Startup workshop by Florida Small Business Development Center at USF; Thursday, March 5, 6 to 8 p.m.

How to Write a Business Plan workshop by Florida Small Business Development Center at USF; Monday, March 9, 6 to 8 p.m.

Financing Your Business Lunch & Learn session provided by the Tampa Bay Black Business Investment, Corp. and Gulf Coast Business Finance, Inc.; Tuesday, March 10, AND Tuesday, March 24; 1 - 2 p.m.

BAC Training Schedule - 3: How to Make Your Business Thrive, Not Just Survive workshop by SCORE "Counselors to America's

Small Business"; Tuesday, March 10, 6 - 8 p.m.

Food Employee Training workshop provided by the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulations; Tuesday, March 17, 9 - 11 a.m.

Ten Steps to Start a Successful Small Business workshop by SCORE; Tuesday, March 17, 6 - 8 p.m.

SBA Programs and Services - Access to Capital workshop by GulfCoast Business Finance, Inc.; Thursday, March 19, 6 - 8 p.m.

Advertising: How to Make It Work for You workshop by SCORE; Monday, March 23, 6 - 8 p.m.

Disaster Preparedness for Small Business Owners workshop by St. Petersburg Fire Rescue and SBA; Tuesday, March 24, 6 - 8 p.m.

QuickBooks Basics - Part 2 workshop by SCORE; Thursday, March 26, 6 - 8 p.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Courtesy of

Publix

Thursday, Feb. 19 - Movies at MFA. "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," Museum of Fine Arts, 255 Beach Dr. N.E. Movies begin at 7 p.m. in the Marly Room, galleries open in the original building from 6 to 7 p.m. www.fine-arts.org or 727-896-2667.

Thursday, Feb. 19- Side Door Jazz: Nate Najar, plus special guests, The Palladium Theatre at St. Petersburg College, 253 5th Ave. N. 7:30 p.m. www.mypalladium.org or 727-822-3590.

Friday, Feb. 20 - Rick Gee's Jazz Jamm & Dr. Robert D. Rehnke presents "Blues In My Shoes" featuring Al "Coffee" McDaniel in the Bayview Room at the Mahaffey Theater - 400 First Street South. For additional information call (727) 866-1844.

Saturday, Feb. 21 - 4th Annual African American Author Lecture, St. Petersburg Museum of History, 335 2nd Ave. N.E. Features three local authors in an open forum of discussion after each lecture. 7 to 9 p.m. www.spmoh.org or 727-894-1052.

Gibbs Junior College Alumni Association Inc. Membership Drive

Gibbs Jr. College was established in 1957, and was named after the first African-American to serve as Florida Secretary of State, Jonathan Gibbs.

Gibbs Jr. College National Alumni Association was

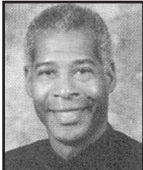
organized in 1993, and today is a non-profit charitable organization whose purpose is to provide educational scholarships to African-Americans Students at St. Petersburg College's, St. Petersburg/Gibbs Campus.

We are inviting all Alumnus Scholarship Recipients and friends to come out and "Help Us Keep the Legacy Alive" on Saturday, February 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at James B. Sanderlin Family Resource

Service Center, 2335 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg. Food will be served.

President, W. H. "Bill" McCloud; Chairperson, Carolyn Macon; Co-chair, Barbara Norris.

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or visit the USF SP Human Resources, 140 Seventh Avenue S., BAY 206, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

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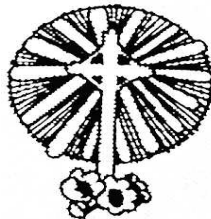
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Florida’s Dream Team Project Launches A New Community-Based Approach To Closing The Achievement Gap

On the heels of the national unveiling of President Barack Obama’s Organizing for America initiative, separate teams on the east and west coasts of Florida are tag-teaming the launch of the Dream Team Project, an innovative new community-based approach to closing the achievement gap in local schools.

The Miami-Dade County launch happened on February 9 at Holy Faith Missionary Baptist Church. Pinellas County will unveil its project on February 19 at 6 pm on the campus of Pinellas Technical Education Center (in the Community Room).

The two teams – which include community groups, elected officials, faith and civil rights organizations, as well as

the two Public School Districts – are working to recruit hundreds of new volunteers, including parents, to help “stand in the gap” and work hands-on with students who are most at risk for academic failure.

Mayor Shirley Gibson of the City of Miami Gardens, says, “This is precisely the type of community partnership needed to navigate us through tough economic times.” She is the architect and Founder of the Education Compact inked in 2007 between her city and the Miami-Dade County Public School District.

State Representative Darryl Rouson, whose District spans four counties on the west coast of Florida, urges “If it takes a village to raise a child, then it’s up to us to revive that

village and get more people involved with the mission.” In 2008, he spearheaded the 50-50 Challenge Project for summer employment among high-risk students now being replicated as a component of the bicoastal implementation.

The Dream Team Project is expected to dramatically expand the number of volunteer hours being invested in mentoring, tutoring, hallway monitoring, and parent outreach and support on behalf of local schools. It is also designed to counteract the deep budget cuts incurred by both Districts over this past year.

To become part of the Dream Team, please call Tamika Leeks-Hughes at 727-204-7989 or Gypsy Gallardo at 727-866-0873.

St. Petersburg Preservation Group To Hold Public Session On “Preserving The Vinoy”

ST. PETERSBURG - St. Petersburg Preservation, Inc. (SPPI) invites the public to a free forum on Wednesday, February 25, at 7 p.m. featuring four speakers whose expertise helped

support the bid to restore the Vinoy Resort Hotel to its 1920s splendor. The session will be held at The Renaissance Vinoy Resort, 501 5th Ave. NE, in Meeting Room Plaza CD.

For more information on the or to reserve a spot for the evening, call the SPPI message and events line at 727-824-7802. Additional information is at www.stpetepreservation.org

CHURCH NEWS

First Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Church and Pastor’s Anniversary
First Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist church is in the midst of celebrating the church’s 92nd Anniversary and the Pastor’s 17th Anniversary, February 16-22. Several ministers and their congregations have rendered nightly services, Monday thru Friday as follows:

- St. John Missionary Baptist Church-Rev. Norris Martin
- New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church-Rev. Troy Adams
- New Congregational Church of God- Elder Earl Mills
- Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church-Rev. Ronald Gibson
- Trinity C.M.E. Church, Tampa, FL-Elder Joe Johnson

The highlight of the anniversary will be held on Sunday, February 22, beginning at 8:00 a.m., with Host Associate Pastor, Minister Walter Jenkins, bringing the message. At 11:00 A.M., Reverend Samuel McPherson, of Unity Christian Church, will be our guest speaker.

Dinner will be served immediately after the service. The public is cordially invited to attend and fellowship with us.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg.

“One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Church”

Ripples of Love Part III - God loves you, period. He loves you more than you can imagine; His affection is deeper and more profound than you can fathom. God made you in His own image and gave you salvation through the person of His Son Jesus Christ. And now, precisely because you are a wondrous creation treasured by God, a crucial question presents itself: What will you do in response to God’s love? Will you ignore it or embrace it? Will you return it or neglect it? Will you deny it, or will you share it? These decisions, of course, are yours and yours alone.

When you embrace God’s love, you are forever changed. When you embrace God’s love you feel differently about yourself, your loved ones, your marriage, and your world. When you embrace God’s love, you share His message and His mercy with others.

Have you built every aspect of your life including your marriage upon the firm foundation of God’s unwavering love for you and yours? If so, you have built your life on the rock that cannot be moved. You accepted a priceless gift that is yours to share and to keep...now throughout all eternity.

On behalf of the First Family we wish you and yours a wonderful, purposeful and prosperous Week!

Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., God’s anointed and appointed leader and the entire Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Family extends a cordial welcome to each of you and a prosperous Week.

FMBC Christian Education Annual Teacher Certification Workshop previously scheduled for February 2 has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

Invites the community to attend our free “Couples Ministry Prayer Vigil” and Workshop

- Prayer for Strong Marriages
- Prayer for Husbands and Men
- Prayer for Wives and Women
- Prayer for the Family and Child
- Prayer for Release of Bondage

Over Marriages

There will be a complimentary continental breakfast and gift baskets will be given to the first 25 couples.

Saturday, February 21 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. at our Youth Chapel, located at 1022 20 St. S.

We request, that to obtain the ultimate benefit of this prayer vigil that all participants fast on Friday, February 20 from 6 p.m.- 6 a.m.

Girl Scout Troop forming at Mt.Zion! Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church will be holding a Girl Scout open registration. Girl Scout Troop 2233 will offer fulfilled activities, educational enhanced workshops, self-esteem building, field trips, arts & crafts and more for the girls of our community aged between 5-17 years old. Please come to register your child at our Youth Chapel, located at 1022 20 St. S. on Monday, February 23 between 7 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Please call 894-4311.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

“ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE”

Our Esteemed Pastor, Reverend Carlos L. Senior and the New Hope Church family invite you to our weekly services and events.

Early Morning Service 7:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
(Classes for all ages)
Mid-Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
MIDWEEK P.U.S.H. (PRAYER +UNDERSTANDING = SPIRITUAL HELP)

Wednesday Evenings 6:30 – 7:30
Prayer; 7:30 – 8:30 Bible Study (Adults & Youth)

Thursday 11:00 a.m Prayer Band, 6:30 p.m. Choir & Praise Team Rehearsal

UPCOMING EVENTS
February 22 10:30 a.m. Special
Guests: Predestination (German Gospel Music Performing Ensemble)
Come and hear them as they spread the

“Good News” through song and praise.
February 28 Women’s Prayer Breakfast “Prayer Changes Things” Healing for the Troubled Heart. Guest Speaker: Sister Kadette Curry 9:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hall Donation: \$10.00

SPRING REVIVAL March 25 –27, 2009 Rev. Kevin Adams, Guest Revivalist Olivet Baptist Church Chattanooga, Tennessee Come and hear this powerful man of God!

New Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church

The Mothers and Senior Women Mission Ministries are sponsoring a Give-a-way on Saturday, February 28 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The community is invited to stop by
New Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church
at 3001 18th Ave. S., St. and share in this event.

We look forward to seeing you.
Elder Tony L. Bradley, Pastor

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of its dynamic, spirited, man of God, the Reverend Brian Kenneth Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation of St. Mark, extends to the community at large, its wishes that there would be an overflowing of God’s blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central theme, a belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a world hungering for and thirsting after the enlightened word of God. At St. Mark, we are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, Jesus Christ for His awesome gift, His son Jesus Christ.

Feb. 28 - Women’s Bible Study 4 p.m.
St. Mark Offers ...
Sunday School is held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday School starts each Sunday morning at 9:30 All are invited to come out and join us.

Baptist Training Union is each Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Members and the general public are invited to come out and study the Bible with us and learn “What Baptist Believe”.

Children and Youth Ministry Meetings are held every Monday at 6:00 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.

Sunday School Teachers’ Meeting is held every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Senior Hour of Power Bible Study is held every Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

every Thursday evening at 7:00.

St. Mark After School Tutoring Ministry: Neighbors Involved in Kids Education (N.I.K.E.). Open to all school age children ever Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

DESTINATION GRADUATION:
Wednesdays - 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. all Ages: Reading Specialist; Free computer class for children and youth. In addition, there is tutorial assistance for Math (Algebra and Geometry) and Senior Focus for all High School Seniors (FCAT, ACT/SAT); assistance with college applications, essay and financial aid/scholarships.

St. Mark Technology Lab: The St. Mark Computer Lab will be open and available for use on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

This Sunday February 22, Trinity Presbyterian Church, located at 2830 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg will celebrate a holy time of worship. Our Black History Celebration culminates on the North Sunday as we pay tribute to the Nation’s First African American President, Barack Obama. Wear your “OBAMA” Attire . (Buttons, T-Shirts, Caps etc...) The “Lean On Me” community Youth church will sing.

We corporately come together on March 1 as we do every first Sunday as one body to remember and celebrate what Christ did for us as we observe Holy Communion. Pastor Alfonso Woods will deliver the sermon and lead the congregation in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship begins at 11:00 each Sunday. Bible study is held each Wednesday evening at 6:30.

Upcoming Events:
Host church for ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE - February 25, 6:30 p.m.

Joint Worship -Trinity and Lakeview Presbyterian Churches. The public is invited to worship with us.

Sunday, March 8, 11:00 a.m. worship service. Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday. In 2009 we continue the celebration of the gifts of women with praise and prayer. The Rev. Deborah Green will be the guest preacher.

Seniors Ministry meetings the 4th Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m.

Stated Meeting of The Presbytery of Tampa Bay. Saturday, February 28, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Boulevard West, Sun City Center.

The public is cordially invited to join us for praise, worship, prayer and study as we seek to fulfill God’s will for His church in today’s society.

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Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
January 26, 2009 – April 13, 2009

Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services
608 N. Garden Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33755
Mon.: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
January 26, 2009 – April 13, 2009
*Spanish

Daystar Life Center
226 - 6th Street S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-823-5993
Tuesdays: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
January 27, 2009 – April 14, 2009

Enoch Davis Center
1111 – 18th Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
727-893-7803
Mon., Wed., Fri.: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
February 2, 2009 – April 15, 2009

GRAYDI
13420 Adams Circle
Largo, FL 33774
Mon., Wed: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:00 – 12:30 p.m.*
*By Appointment Only: Saturdays
January 26, 2009 - April 15, 2009
*Spanish

High Point Neighborhood Family Center
5812 – 150th Ave. N.
Clearwater, FL 33760
727-533-0730
Tues., Thurs.: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
January 27, 2009 – April 14, 2009
*Spanish

James B. Sanderlin Family Center
2335 – 22nd Ave. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Mondays: 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tues., Thurs.: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lealman and Asian Center
4255 - 56th Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
727-520-9820
Thursdays: 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
January 29, 2009 – April 11, 2009
*Vietnamese, Lao


Pinellas Opportunity Council
3443 First Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33713
727-327-8690, Ext. 18
Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. - Noon
February 14, 2009 - April 14, 2009

Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce
6990 Gulf Blvd.
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
727-360-6957
Thursdays: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
January 29, 2009 – April 9, 2009

Union Academy
401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Thursdays: 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 noon
By Appointment Only: Saturdays
*Spanish
January 27, 2009 – April 11, 2009

* Languages spoken in addition to English

The Wealth Building Coalition/Pinellas Prosperity Campaign is supported by JWB Children's Services Council of Pinellas County, United Way of Tampa Bay, Internal Revenue Service, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Federal Reserve Bank, Bank of America, Wachovia Foundation, Pinellas County Government, WorkNet Pinellas and The Weekly Challenger. Its mission is to promote and expand economic and asset-building opportunities for low- and moderate-income households throughout Pinellas County.



ENTERTAINMENT



Prayers Go Out For Musicians On Fated Flight 3407

How many times have you said to someone “You never know. Today or tomorrow could be my last day. When it’s your time to go ... you go!” That statement couldn’t have been truer to some than what happened late last Thursday night. Continental Express flight 3407, a twin turboprop aircraft, plummeted unexpectedly from the sky and fell into a house, killing all 49 people on board and one person on the ground. What caused the terrible accident, most likely ice on the planes wings, is not what this column is about today. Since the column is one that deals with music, specifically jazz, it seemed befitting that brief mention should be given to the musicians on board that ill-fated flight.

The St. Petersburg Times reported that Marvin Renslow and Clay Yarber, who both have deep roots in the Tampa Bay area, were on board. Renslow was a drummer in high school, and grew up to be a pilot. Yarber, a former resident of Tampa living in L.A., was a guitar player who turned down a chance to play with Blue Oyster Cult; because he didn’t care for their style of music. Blue Oyster Cult is considered, by some, to be the thinking man’s heavy metal group; their popularity soared in the early and mid-70s when they were turning out some of the more listenable heavy metal music. Yarber’s was more of a R&B guitar player, performing with bands in the Tampa Bay area, including “Power of Two” and “Taxi.” Friends commented that Yarber was an incredible guitar player and vocalist.

However, it should also be noted that in addition to being a credible musician, he was also a Vietnam War hero. During time served, Yarber received two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

Continental Express Flight 3407 pilot Marvin Dean Renslow, a former St. Petersburg resident, lived in the Willow Bend community in Land O’ Lakes with his wife Sandy and their two children. Friends of Renslow say he was an excellent bowler but even a better drummer. His family stated that “they’re proud of his accomplishments as a pilot.” They know he did everything he could to save as many people as he could.

Other musicians on Flight 3407 were two members of jazz musician flugel horn player Chuck Mangione’s band. They were Gerry Niewood of Rochester, NY, and Coleman Mellett of Maryland. Personally, I am not familiar with either of the two jazz musicians; however, research says that ‘both musicians were based out of New Jersey, Niewood lived in Glen Ridge, and Mellett lived in East Brunswick. Both musicians were on their way to do what they did best...play music. They were scheduled to play with Mangione and the Buffalo Philharmonic.’

Sixty-four-year-old Niewood was a childhood friend of Mangione and had been making music with him since they were children. His instruments of choice were saxophone, clarinet and flute. He performed with some of the

biggest names in the industry. In addition to Mangione, he backed artists like Peggy Lee, Simon and Garfunkel, Frank Sinatra, and Sinead O’Connor. He also played on the sound tracks of movies including “A Bronx Tale”, “When Harry Met Sally” and “King of Comedy.”

Mellett, 33 years of age was living in East Brunswick, NJ with his wife, vocalist Jeanie Bryson, the daughter of jazz great, trumpeter and composer icon Dizzy Gillespie. Mellett’s instrument of choice was guitar. An accomplished guitarist, Mellett had been a touring member of Mangione’s band for the last several years. He studied jazz at William Paterson University, Paterson, New Jersey, and earned a master’s degree at the Manhattan School of Music.

Here we have four musicians taken from our midst without any notice or warning. Let us all take this as a lesson to live each day to the fullest. Life is so very, very short, and today is the beginning of the rest of our lives. Think about what Abraham Lincoln said “And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.”

Remember to “Keep Jazz Alive” by “Supporting Live Jazz!”

Jazz fans – do you have any feedback? I would like to hear from YOU! You may visit my Web site at: rickgees-jazzjamm.com or email me at JazzJamm@aol.com. You may also mail your letters to Rick Gee’s Jazz Jamm, c/o The Weekly Challenger, 2500 ML King St., S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

Donald Trump Quits Casino Company's Board

BY: WAYNE PARRY

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) - Donald Trump fired himself Friday from the casino company that bears his name.

Spurned by bond holders who rejected his effort to buy Trump Entertainment Resorts, the real estate mogul and his daughter Ivanka are resigning from its board of directors.

He called the troubled casino company he once controlled “worthless to me now.” He is the largest shareholder, owning more than a quarter of its stock, yet stressed that it comprises “substantially less than 1

percent of my net worth.”

The company won a fourth extension Wednesday on restructuring \$1.25 billion in debt, and some analysts have predicted it will file for bankruptcy protection for a third time if it doesn't work out a deal with its bond holders.

“If I’m not going to run it, I don’t want to be involved in it,” Trump told The Associated Press Friday night. “I’m one of the largest developers in the world. I have a lot of cash and plenty of places I can go.”

Trump said he recently offered to buy the company, which he used to control before relinquishing his grip

as part of a bankruptcy restructuring.

For now, his name will remain on the company's three Atlantic City casinos, although Trump said he may seek legal avenues to removing his name from the business.

“I don't like that my name is still going to be on it,” he said.

Trump said allies of the bond holders have a 5-to-3 edge on the board of Trump Entertainment Resorts, leading him to believe he was not likely to prevail any time soon in talks on the company's future direction.

Beyonce, Hudson Win Image Awards

BY: DERRIK J. LANG

LOS ANGELES (AP) - It was a dreamy night for a couple of “Dreamgirls.” Beyonce and Jennifer Hudson both glided away with trophies Thursday and wowed the audience with individual performances during the 40th annual NAACP Image Awards.

Beyonce, who opened the show with a wind-swept rendition of her song “Halo,” won the female artist category while Hudson, who performed “The Impossible Dream” for President’s Award recipient Muhammad Ali, picked up the new artist award. They costarred in the 2006 film “Dreamgirls.”

“This is where we come from,” Hudson said, accepting the trophy. “So it's always an honor to come home and feel welcome and to feel the love. I really cherish this and appreciate it.”

Along with Beyonce and Hudson, will.i.am and Seal performed on stage at the Shrine Auditorium ceremony, which was hosted by actress Halle Berry and actor-screenwriter Tyler Perry. The show coincides with the 100th anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and kicks off a year-long centennial celebration.

“The Secret Life of Bees” won for motion picture. “Grey’s Anatomy” won for TV drama. Several of the winners were

awarded before the live ceremony, including Chandra Wilson from “Grey’s Anatomy” for actress in a drama series, Columbus Short from “Cadillac Records” for supporting actor in a motion picture and singer-actor Jamie Foxx for male artist.

Chris Brown, who's accused in a domestic dispute that reportedly involves pop superstar Rihanna, was up against Foxx with Common, John Legend and will.i.am for the male artist trophy. Rihanna was competing against Beyonce with Alicia Keys, Jennifer Hudson and Mariah Carey for the female artist award. Neither Brown or Rihanna were in attendance.

Sean “Diddy” Combs picked up the TV movie actor trophy for his role in “A Raisin in the Sun.” Other acting winners included Hill Harper for “CSI: NY,” Tracee Ellis Ross for “Girlfriends,” Taraji P. Henson for “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” and Will Smith and Rosario Dawson for “Seven Pounds.”

The awards honor achievements and performances of people of color in TV, film, music and literature. Former Vice President Al Gore and Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai received the Chairman’s Award. Boxing legend Ali won the President’s Award. Hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons was given the Vanguard Award.

“I discovered that giving

made me happy,” Simmons said during his acceptance speech alongside daughters Ming and Aoki, who precariously held up his trophy and counted down his remaining speech time. “As you get older, that’s the easy route, so it’s always been such an easy thing. It seems kinda crazy to be honored for it.”

The inspirational evening was accented with praise and appreciation for President Barack Obama, who received the Chairman’s Award in 2005 but was not in attendance at this year’s glitzy star-studded ceremony. Smith and others used their time in the Image Awards spotlight to show their love for the newly elected president.

“This is a rare opportunity for me,” said Smith. “I stand on this stage today after a dream that I’ve dreamed for a long time because we have an African-American president. As a child, my parents always told me you could be whatever you want to be. You can do whatever you want to do.”

The ceremony ended with Stevie Wonder performing his 1976 song “Black Man,” which has lyrics referencing historic figures such as Sacagawea and Matthew Henson. During the song, hosts Berry and Perry recited the name-dropping refrain and added another person at the end: Obama. The audience enthusiastically raised tiny American flags in response.

TV Group Young Broadcasting Files Bankruptcy

NEW YORK (AP) - Young Broadcasting Inc., owner of 10 TV stations affiliated with the CBS and ABC networks, said Friday it has filed for bankruptcy protection.

The New York-based company said it will continue to operate the stations without interruption.

Among its television


stations are WATE-TV in Knoxville WKRN-TV in Nashville.

WATE-TV reports Chairman Vincent Young wrote a letter to employees saying the company has “more than \$20 million of cash on hand” and no layoffs are planned.

TV broadcasters in the U.S. are under pressure as the

economic downturn reduces advertising revenue.

Credit rating agency, Moody’s Investors Service, warned recently that broadcasters entered the recession with high debt and were struggling to retain audiences as more customers turn to portable gadgets and the Web for entertainment.




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CHALLENGER SPORTS

Matt Kenseth Wins Rain-Shortened Daytona 500



Matt Kenseth

BY: JENNA FRYER

DAYTONA BEACH (AP) - So consistently calm inside a race car, Matt Kenseth took his entire team by surprise when he started screaming for rain seconds after grabbing the lead in the Daytona 500.

He was out front in a race against the weather, and a victory in the Super Bowl of NASCAR hung in the balance.

“From nowhere I heard Matt Kenseth kind of scream that said, “Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain!” said rookie crew chief Drew Blickensderfer. “That’s very uncharacteristic of him. He’s so calm, cool, kind of ice cold, that you usually don’t have to say anything to Matt to calm him down.”

Kenseth quickly pulled himself together, quietly riding out six caution laps around Daytona International Speedway as the rain began to fall on Sunday’s season-opening race. NASCAR called the cars to pit road, and while other drivers climbed from their cars to wait for a decision, Kenseth sat alone inside his Ford.

When NASCAR called the race about 20 minutes into the delay, the real downpour began.

The quiet, unassuming former NASCAR champion burst into tears upon being

declared the winner of the shortened race in an unexpected show of emotion for one of the sport’s most underappreciated stars.

This race was against Mother Nature, with every driver hoping to be out front with the rain, that had been threatening the track all day, finally arrived.

Elliott Sadler prayed it would be him, but he was answered a tick too late. Kenseth used a huge push from Kevin Harvick to slide past Sadler 54 laps from the finish, and mere seconds before Aric Almirola spun to bring out a caution.

Then it began to rain, and after the six caution laps, NASCAR sent the drivers to pit road to wait out the storm.

That’s where Kenseth pulled it together.

“I actually am a pretty emotional guy. You guys just don’t always really see it,” he said. “I just wanted to wait until it was either over or we were going to go race again. I didn’t want to let my emotions get too high one way or another.”

The race was called after 152 of 200 laps. It was just the fourth rain-shortened 500 in race’s 51-year history, and first since Michael Waltrip’s 2003 victory. Sadler bemoaned his bad timing.

“If I would have made a better and smarter move, I’d be in Victory Lane right now,” Sadler said. “Very hard to swallow. Very emotional.”

The win was the first for Kenseth since the 2007 season finale, a streak of 36-winless races. He was also 11th in the final season standings, his lowest finish since he was 13th during a

winless 2001 campaign.

But he’s back on top again, and gave team owner Jack Roush his first Daytona 500 victory in the process.

“I tell you what, after last year, winning a race means a lot to me,” Kenseth said. “I’ve had a lot of great opportunities in my life from my family getting me in racing and really ... all the sponsors that we have that have stuck by us and made this happen in an up-and-down economy.”

“Man, I don’t know. Winning the Daytona 500 is definitely a dream moment. It’s just an unbelievable feeling.”

Harvick, who used a push from Kenseth to win the 500 in 2007, finished second and said Kenseth would be a popular winner among his competitors.

“I think Matt’s obviously a pretty stand-up person and a great race car driver,” Harvick said. “I think he’s one of those guys that he can win seven or eight races in a year and never receive any credit. He’s a really good race car driver. He’s a champion, Daytona 500 champion.”

AJ Allmendinger, who had to race his way into the field in one of Thursday’s qualifiers, finished third.

Clint Bowyer was fourth, and Sadler was fifth, devastated he lost the lead. He led 24 laps and was out front during an earlier caution, hoping the sky would open up at that moment to give him the win.

“That’s just my luck,” he radioed his crew. “It’s raining on the radar and not on the track. Welcome to the team.”

David Ragan was sixth and was followed by Michael Waltrip, Tony Stewart, Reed Sorenson and Kurt Busch.

Pole-sitter Martin Truex Jr. was 11th. Defending race winner Ryan Newman was 36th. Joey Logano, who at 18 was the youngest starter in race history, finished 43rd.

The racing picked up much earlier than usual because of the threat of rain.

So it was no surprise when Dale Earnhardt Jr., frustrated by two pit-road mistakes that had dropped him a lap down, aggressively raced Brian Vickers for position on a restart just past the halfway mark.

Vickers blocked an attempted pass by pushing Earnhardt down below the yellow out-of-bounds line. When Earnhardt re-entered the racing surface, he clipped the left-rear corner of Vickers’ car to trigger a nine-car accident.

“My goal is to keep Junior behind me,” Vickers said. “I went to block him. I beat him to the yellow line and then he just turned us. To wreck somebody intentionally like that in front of the entire field is really kind of dangerous. That’s my problem with it.”

The accident knocked out Kyle Busch, who had led a race-high 88 laps and figured he was in position for the win.

“Some guys having some bad days and not doing their best out there, just made their bad day our bad day,” Busch said. “It’s just a shame. It’s just unfortunate that two guys got together that were a lap down, were fighting over nothing.”

District Final: Boca Ciega 72, Lakewood 69

BY: PHILLIP HAYWOOD JR.
CHALLENGER SPORTS WRITER

BOGIE 72 LAKEWOOD 69

As everyone expected Lakewood would meet Bogie in the District Final. In the first quarter, Lakewood played with great intensity, but found themselves down by ten points. Bogie continued to keep the pressure on the Spartans and led by twelve points, however Lakewood cut the deficit to six points to close the gap. Bogie took a 34-30 lead to the locker room. Throughout the game Coach Wright kept rotating his players. Bernard Reedy made a contribution with ten points to keep the Spartans in the game. During the third quarter there was sloppy play by both teams as Bogie clanged to a 50-46

going into the fourth quarter. The Spartans played tenacious defense in the fourth quarter when the team went back and forth. Dominique made a great hustle play to tie the game up at 63-63. Lanes late heroics sent the game into overtime. After trading baskets during the extra period, Lakewood went up. Brandon Lilavois grabbed a rebound and tried to go one-on-one with two defenders draped all over him. He missed a shot and Myron Dempsey scored on a lay-up and was fouled (flagrant). Lakewood still had a shot to win it but Shamon Cox was called for traveling. Bryce Mosely led Bogie with eighteen points and Alderson chipped in with 8 points off the bench. Dominique Lane led all Spartans with twenty points.

Lions Keep Culpepper, Sign Hanson



Dante Culpepper

ALLEN PARK, Mich. - The Detroit Lions have restructured the contract of Daunte Culpepper and signed potential free agents, Jason Hanson and Stephen Peterman, to long-term deals.

The team did not release

terms for any of the contracts announced Tuesday.

Culpepper, who came out of retirement midway through last year’s 0-16 season, was due to receive a \$2.5 million roster bonus later this month, but team president Tom Lewand said that the deal had been restructured. Culpepper is still on the last year of a two-year contract.

Detroit signed Hanson, their kicker since 1992, to a four-year deal and kept Peterman, a starting guard, for five more seasons.

Singletary Won't Rule Out Vick In San Francisco



Mike Singletary

SAN FRANCISCO - Coach Mike Singletary did not rule out the possibility Monday of the 49ers making an attempt to land

quarterback Michael Vick, whom the Atlanta Falcons are actively shopping in a trade.

“I’m not going to say I’m open or closed,” Singletary said after the 49ers’ state-of-the-franchise event for season-ticket holders. “I’d say it has to be something, General Manager, Scot McCloughan and I, talk about and feel good about one way or the other. But we have not talked about it at this point in

great detail. We’re trying to focus on what we have.”

And what the 49ers expect to have is a quarterback competition that matches Shaun Hill against Alex Smith. But, first, Smith will have to take a large salary reduction from his scheduled 2009 base pay of \$9.625 million.

“I think right now we really need to look at the two guys we have,” Singletary added. “If everything works out with Alex and he’s

back, we need to look at that and go as far as we can go with that. The whole Michael Vick thing, we have to sit down and talk about that. But for right now, we have enough on our plates.”

Another possibility is free agent Jeff Garcia, a three-time Pro Bowl performer with the 49ers in the early 2000s. Garcia has been told he will not return to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers next season.

SHOOTING FROM MY LIP

Phillip Haywood Offers His Two Cents On The World Of Sports



BY: PHILLIP HAYWOOD, JR.
CHALLENGER SPORTS WRITER

THE WORST WEEK

Things did not go so well at ESPN last week. Two of their own air talents are in a bit of trouble. One’s trouble is a little more serious than the others. Serious stuff first, Jamul Anderson an occasional ESPN College Football Analyst was observed snorting cocaine off a toilet in an Atlanta bar. It’s a good guess that his ESPN gig is over.

Meanwhile Sportcenters Anchor Scott Van Pelt was thought to be suspended about comments that he made about Bud Selig. Van Pelt raved about Selig’s salary uttering several

insults and calling Selig a “PIMP”. “He probably has a chalice with BUD spelled out in jewels and diamonds”, Van Pelt said on the air. “If you drink from a chalice you are a pimp.”

HE WROTE IT

S.I writer Jack McCallum commented about Bobby Knight, ESPN Analyst, comments on swimmer Micheal Phelps on a recent M&M TALK SHOW. Knight said, “Once you’ve become a participant in a sport that is observed by a lot of people you then assume a responsibility to kids. When you discard that responsibility then you have not upheld what you should have been doing.” Knight was right, but McCallum was right and he wrote. “A better paradigm for youth, kick chairs

on to the court, bully players, intimidate subordinates and colleagues and generally act like a horses behind.”

WHINER OF THE DAY

Recently I was listening to to Senior NFL Writer Alex Marvez on 620 AM. Speaking on the fact that the NFL players do not agree on the NFL moving the Pro Bowl from Hawaii to Miami next season. Marvez mentioned that the Colts receiver, Reggie Wayne said, “he would never get to visit Hawaii if it was not for the Pro Bowl.” Do I have this right? Here we have a NFL player complaining about getting a free trip to Miami in February. Who’s handling these players finances? They are NFL stars and yet can’t afford to foot a bill

for a vacation to Hawaii.

CHARLES BARKLEY

The NBA Analyst has been off since he was arrested for DUI. He appears to be set to come back on the air after the All-Star break. “Clearly I made mistake by drinking and driving” Barkley said “and I’m getting penalized for that and rightfully so.” Here’s his take on Michael Phelps controversy: “I don’t think that he is the worst person in the world. Everybody is a hypocrite right now. He made a mistake. He said he was sorry. I guess they want us to take him out back and shoot him. This is the part that makes CB such a great analyst. He has an opinion and he sticks with it regardless.”

Baseball’s Black Cloud Grows



Alex Rodriguez

BY: PHILLIP HAYWOOD, JR.
CHALLENGER SPORTS WRITER

With all the allegations that surfaced with steroids, who would have believed that A-Rod would be a recipient of steroids. So many players have faced allegations of steroid use but some were found guilty and some were reprimanded after the rules were handed down for steroid use. For the most part the big name accusers have not faced sanctions from MLB.

A-Rod admitted using a banned substance during his tenure with the Texas Rangers from the 2001-03 seasons. His admission came after he was one of one hundred four players who tested positive. The group who tested positive is anonymous to the public. There are questions about the others who came up positive.

What puzzles me is that why did A-Rod lie to CBS’

Katie Couric? He agreed to do an interview ESPN’s Peter Gammons he said, “I did take a banned substance, for that I am very sorry and deeply regretful.” When he arrived in Texas, A-Rod felt an enormous amount of pressure to perform at a high level everyday. On top of that he had just signed a huge contract for 252 million dollars. As a professional you always want to keep that competitive edge. However taking a banned substance separates you from everyone else. The truth about steroids and banned substances may never be told by all the participants of baseball.

A-Rod is currently on pace to break Barry Bonds’ career home run record, with nine years remaining on his contract. There has been a black cloud over baseball since the BALCO lab was raided in 2003. MLB with the cooperation of the players association has since established a testing program that the commissioner Bug Selig calls “the toughest in all of sports.” The games image has been severely tarnished by allegations from its recent past. Testing has put the game back on track. However a black cloud will remain over baseball forever.

BLACK HISTORY

“CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY IS AN EVERYDAY THING”

Peete Played On Uneven Fairways

BY: VAUGHN WILSON
CAPITAL OUTLOOK

Few sports have displayed exclusion like professional golf. The “caucasian only” clause that was in the by-laws of the Professional Golf Association from its inception in 1916 until 1961 when Charlie Sifford’s emergence, along with pressure from the NAACP and white attorney Stanley Mosk dictated it be removed, was as direct an inhibitor as there has ever been in professional sports.

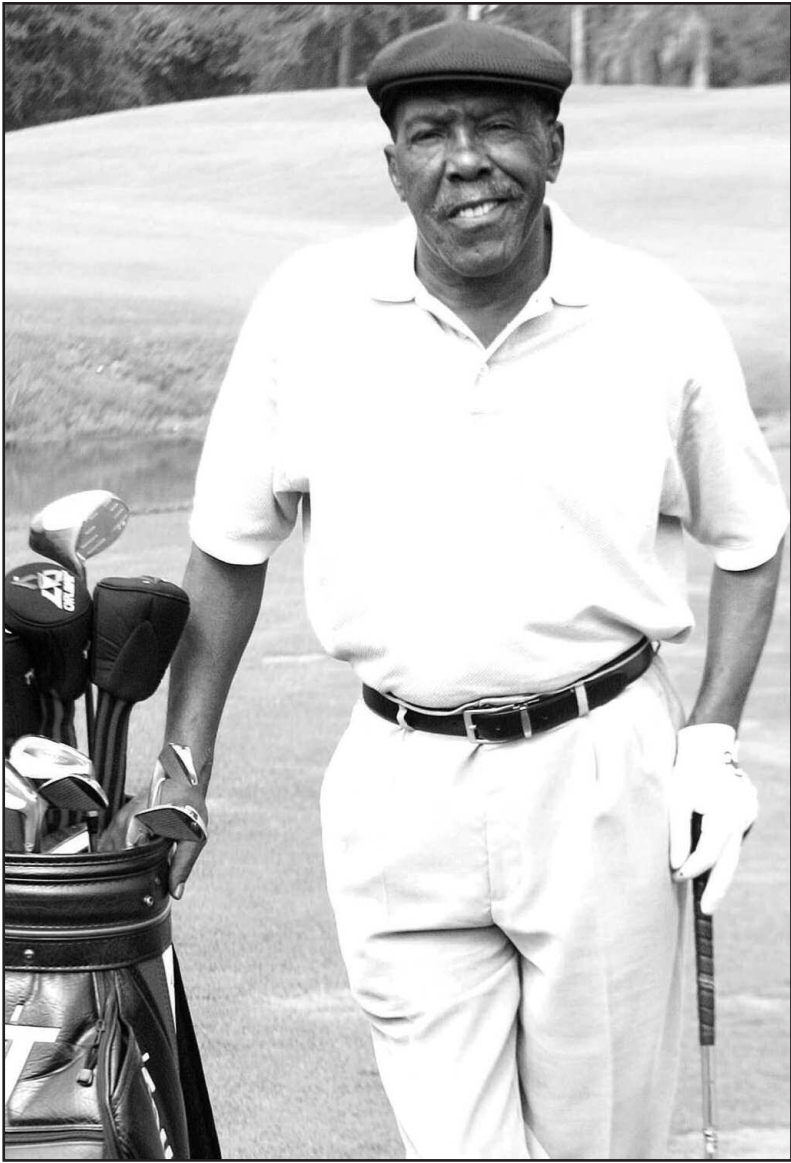
But, determined to enjoy the sport, blacks resorted to starting their own tour called the United Golfers Association. Blacks even developed their own country clubs.

Equivalent to what the Negro Leagues was to Major League Baseball, the United Golfers Association was where blacks competed on a professional level. As with the Negro Leagues, legend has it that many of the black players were better than some of their white counterparts on the PGA Tour. The issue was because they were not able to play head-to-head, the comparisons will always be subject to individuals’ interpretations.

As a result of the pioneers in the struggle for equality in golf, black PGA Tour players were eventually able to earn their cards. Sifford and former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis, helped open doors in the sport of golf. Later during this era, a cocky, straight-driving force emerged. Calvin Peete didn’t pick up the game until the age of 23, when he was convinced by friends to take up the game; but he made a great impact on the tour once he arrived.

He began pursuing his tour card in 1971, and attained it in 1975. Known over his career as one of the most accurate drivers of the golf ball, Peete went on to win 12 tournaments on the PGA Tour including the Players Championship in 1985.

On the show “Uneven Fairways” on the Golf Channel, Peete gave a surprising commentary. He explained that he didn’t experience animosity or racism among the white players on tour. In an exclusive phone interview, he elaborated saying, “Players didn’t care what color



Calvin Peete

you were, they wanted to beat you. They looked at you as a competitor.” “There was actually more instigation from the fans and media. The way questions were asked of us by certain media persons, they seemed to be baiting us or baiting the issues. Fortunately, I didn’t experience racism from the fans either.

That was probably due to the fact that Peete was winning. He was, by many sources, considered the best golfer on tour from 1982-1985. A reporter asked Peete as he was emerging on the PGA Tour what he was trying to accomplish and what made him unique? Peete confidently said “I am going to be the best golfer on tour.” The reporter agreed, “that would make him unique.”

On another occasion, in 1982, he was asked by a reporter, “How does it feel to be the best black golfer?” In his cocky and confident manner Peete said, “I’m not competing against black golfers, I’m competing against the field.”

Peete reflects on the diminished number of black golfers on tour today. “When I came in

1975, there must have been 10-12 active black golfers. Many of them fell by the wayside because of their struggles to retain their players cards. Overall, the interest is not there among the younger generation now. There are so many options now, that its hard to gain kids’ interest.”

When asked, which white golfer inspired him and gave him the most respect, Peete didn’t hesitate to name Jack Nicklaus. “He (Jack) probably gave me the most respect. Verbally he gave me compliments. In 1976 when I played in my first U.S. Open, my last round was with Jack. We played several last rounds together over my career.”

“One great experience was Jack and I were playing the Sawgrass together before it was the home of the Players Championship. On one particular hole, the bigger hitters like Jack were hitting 3-wood off the tee. Of course I hit driver and ended up farther down the fairway than Jack. Jack hit a great approach about pin-high and then leaned over to his caddie Angelo and said ‘Watch Peete hit that 2-iron stiff without taking a divot.’ I hit the best 2-iron of my career to about six feet...without disturbing one blade of grass. Walking down the fairway, Jack said, ‘I’d like you to teach me that shot, and if there’s anything I can teach you I’m there. Of course I took him up on his offer.

The Golf Channel special was very emotional for Peete. He is reluctant to accept the title pioneer. He says Charlie Sifford and Lee Elder deserve those titles and that he came in riding their shirt tails.

He actually brought more star power to the sport for blacks. I remember watching tournaments with my father as a kid and always looking for the black guy with the cool Kangol. Just as my father would have that extra sense of pride when Peete was playing, now my kids have Tiger Woods to look to. There is no future without a history and when it comes to blacks and the sport of golf, Calvin Peete radiates from the history books.



Photographs courtesy of Vaughn Wilson/Capital Outlook

Calvin Peete

Today In Black History



Smokey Robinson

William “Smokey” Robinson, Jr., born February 19, 1940, is an American R&B and soul singer-songwriter, record producer, and former record executive. Robinson is noted for being one of the primary figures associated with Motown Records, second only to the company’s founder, Berry Gordy. Robinson’s countless hits, and consistent contributions to the Motown label earned him the title of the “King of Motown.” As both a member of Motown group The Miracles and a solo artist, Robinson recorded thirty-seven Top 40 hits for Motown between 1960 and 1987, and also served as the company’s vice president from 1961 to 1988.

Robinson was born and raised in Detroit’s North End neighborhood, and when still a child was nicknamed “Smokey Joe” by an uncle because of his love of cowboy movies. In his teens, this was shortened to “Smokey.” In an interview, Robinson claims he has been friends with Diana Ross since they were eleven years old. In 1955, Robinson founded a group he called the Five Chimes with his best friend Ronald White, and Northern High School classmates Pete

Moore, Clarence Dawson, and James Grice. By 1957, the group was called the Matadors and included cousins Emerson and Bobby Rogers in place of Dawson and Grice. Later Emerson was replaced by his sister Claudette Rogers who later married Robinson, and guitarist Marv Tarplin joined the group in 1958.

With Robinson as lead singer, the Matadors began touring the local Detroit venues. In 1958, Robinson met songwriter Berry Gordy, who co-wrote for them the single “Got a Job,” an answer song to the Silhouettes’ hit single “Get a Job.” The group renamed itself The Miracles, and issued singles on both End Records and Chess Records before Robinson suggested to Gordy that he start a label of his own.

In 1959, Gordy founded Tamla Records, which he soon reincorporated as Motown. The Miracles were among the label’s first signees. Gordy and Robinson had a synergistic relationship, with Robinson providing a foundation for Motown’s hit-making success and Gordy acting as a mentor for the budding singer and songwriter. By 1961, Gordy had appointed Robinson vice-president of Motown Records, a title Robinson held for as long as Gordy remained with the company.

The 1960 single “Shop Around” was Motown’s first number one hit on the R&B singles chart, and the first big hit for The Miracles. The song was also Motown’s first million-selling hit single. They scored many more hits over the

years, including the much-covered “Who’s Loving You” (1960), “You’ve Really Got a Hold on Me” (1962), “What’s So Good About Goodbye” (1962), “I’ll Try Something New” (1962), “Mickey’s Monkey” (1963), “I Like It Like That” (1964), “Ooo Baby Baby” (1965), “The Tracks of My Tears” (1965), “Going to a Go-Go” (1965), “My Girl Has Gone” (1965), (Come Round Here) “I’m The One You Need” (1966), “More Love” (1967), “I Second That Emotion” (1967), “If You Can Want” (1968), “Baby, Baby Don’t Cry” (1969), and the international #1 smash, “The Tears of a Clown” (1970).

Besides penning hits for his own group, Robinson (often assisted by the other Miracles), also wrote and produced hits and album tracks for other Motown artists. Mary Wells had a big hit with the Robinson-penned “My Guy” (1964), and Robinson served as The Temptations’ primary songwriter and producer from 1963 to 1966, penning hits such as “The Way You Do the Things You Do,” “My Girl,” “Since I Lost My Baby,” and “Get Ready.” Among Robinson’s numerous other Motown compositions are “Still Water (Love)” by The Four Tops, “Don’t Mess With Bill” and “My Baby Must Be a Magician” by The Marvelettes, “When I’m Gone” by Brenda Holloway, “Ain’t That Peculiar” and “I’ll Be Doggone” by Marvin Gaye, and “First I Look at the Purse” by The Contours.

Denzel Washington



Denzel Washington

Denzel Hayes Washington, Jr., born December 28, 1954, is an American actor and director. He has garnered much critical acclaim for his work in film since the 1990s, including for his portrayals of real-life figures, such as Steve Biko, Malcolm X, Rubin “Hurricane” Carter, Melvin B. Tolson, Frank Lucas and Herman Boone.

Washington has been awarded three Golden Globe awards and two Academy Awards for his work. He is notable as the second African-American man, after Sidney Poitier, to win the Academy Award for Best Actor, which he received for his role in the 2001 film “Training Day.”

During the summer of 1976, Washington spent his summer in Southern Maryland, in St. Mary’s City, acting summer stock theater in the Wings of the Morning, the Maryland State play. Shortly after graduating from Fordham, Washington made his professional acting debut in the 1977 made-for-television movie “Wilma.” He made his film debut in the 1981 film “Carbon Copy.”

His big break came when he starred in the popular television hospital drama, “St.

Elsewhere” from 1982 to 1988. He was one of a few actors to appear on the series for its entire six-year run. In 1987, after appearing in several minor television, film and stage roles, Washington starred as South African Anti-Apartheid political activist, Steve Biko, in Richard Attenborough’s “Cry Freedom,” a role for which he received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor. In 1989, Washington won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for playing a defiant, self-possessed ex-slave in the film “Glory.” Also that same year, he gave a powerful performance as the conflicted and disillusioned Reuben James, a Caribbean-born British soldier who, despite a distinguished military career abroad, turns to a life of vigilantism and violence upon his return to civilian life in for Queen and Country.

In 2000, Washington appeared in the crowd-pleasing Disney film, “Remember the Titans,” which grossed over \$100 million at the United States box office. He was nominated and won an Oscar for Best Actor for his next film, the 2001 cop thriller, “Training Day,” as Det. Alonzo Harris, a rogue LAPD cop with questionable law-enforcement tactics. The role was a much-acclaimed change-of-pace for the actor, who was known for playing many heroic leads. The same night Washington won Best Actor for “Training Day,” Sidney Poitier received an Honorary Academy Award.

Washington holds the record for most Oscar nominations by an actor of African descent; so far he has earned five.

After appearing in 2002s box office success, the health care-themed John Q., Washington directed his first film, a well-reviewed drama called “Antwone Fisher,” in which he also co-starred.

Between 2003 and 2004, Washington appeared in a series of thrillers that performed generally well at the box office, including “Out of Time,” “Man on Fire” and “The Manchurian Candidate.” In 2006 he starred in “Inside Man,” a Spike Lee-directed bank heist thriller co-starring Jodie Foster and Clive Owen, and “Déjà Vu” released in November 2006. Next, he co-starred with Russell Crowe in “American Gangster” and directed and starred in “The Great Debaters” with Forest Whitaker.

Washington will next star as New York subway security chief Zach “Z” Garber in “The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3,” a remake of the 70’s thriller, “The Taking of Pelham One, Two, Three,” opposite John Travolta and directed by Tony Scott, opening in June 12, 2009. He is also attached to star as CIA intelligence officer Brandon Scofield in the film adaptation of Robert Ludlum’s Cold War spy thriller “The Matarese Circle,” and in February 2009, he will begin filming “The Book of Eli,” a post-Apocalyptic drama set in the near future.

STATE NEWS

Governor Crist Names Adora Obi Nweze Special Advisor On Minority Affairs

TALLAHASSEE – On the 100th anniversary of the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Governor Charlie Crist today called on Adora Obi Nweze of Miami to serve as Special Advisor to the Governor on Minority Affairs. Nweze will serve as a representative for the state’s minorities by advising Governor Crist on strategies that will ensure Florida’s government is accessible to these populations. She will continue as president of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP. The Governor’s appointment of Nweze is believed to be the first state partnership with the NAACP through an official appointment in the administration.

“The Sunshine State benefits from its diverse population in many ways, and a wide variety of cultural perspectives gives our state a unique advantage when pursuing economic opportunities in many different markets,” Governor Crist said. “Adora will help ensure that my administration is reaching as many of Florida’s diverse populations as possible.”

Governor Crist announced Nweze’s appointment during a civil rights roundtable discussion with leaders of Florida’s African-American community. Joining Governor Crist and Nweze were

representatives of the Urban League of Florida, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Florida A&M University and leaders of the Florida Conference of Black Legislators. Governor Crist invited leaders to provide suggestions for increasing minority access to state government. Later today, Governor Crist will meet with the full membership of the Florida Conference of Black Legislators to hear their priorities for the state.

In 2000 Nweze was elected president of the Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches, which pursues civil rights interests of Floridians of color throughout the state. She also serves on the NAACP National Board of Directors, the NAACP Special Contribution Fund/Board of Trustees and is the National Chair for the NAACP Afro-Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics committee that provides an opportunity for students to compete nationally in science, visual and performing arts, business, and humanities for scholarships, computers and other awards. She is former vice-chair of the NAACP Education Committee and former chair of the National 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. In Sept. 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, she was



Adora Obi Nweze

appointed by the NAACP as National Disaster Relief Coordinator. She has also served as president for the Miami-Dade NAACP branch for 11 years and the Opa-Locka branch for two years. Nweze is a retired educator with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and has been an adjunct professor at several universities. She received a bachelor’s degree from Fayetteville State University in North Carolina and a master’s degree in education from the University of Miami.

“I applaud Governor Crist’s efforts to reach out to all Floridians and work to ensure that every Floridian – regardless of race, color or national origin – has access to quality education and economic opportunity,” Nweze said. “I look forward to serving the people of Florida in this unique role.”

Florida Lawsuits Over School Segregation Remain Open

ORLANDO (AP) - Nearly 50 years after the first Florida lawsuits were filed to desegregate public schools, more than a dozen cases remain open around the state.

In some areas it’s an oversight, but in others it’s a statement by civil rights activists that their fight isn’t over. Some districts say they don’t want to spend the time and money to get back into and dismiss still-lingering litigation.

In Orange County, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People activists say unresolved issues remain 47 years after they filed suit. The Rev. Randolph Bracy Jr. said, “as far as he’s concerned, the case should stay open.” Orange county is the largest of 14 Florida school districts with a desegregation claim still unresolved, though there are hundreds more nationwide.

“We are still seeing the same shenanigans,” said Bracy, president of the NAACP’s Orange County branch.

Though the Orange school board is eager to clear the record, Superintendent Ron Blocker said he recognizes the NAACP wants to keep a bargaining chip. Today, 18 area schools have more than 80 percent black student populations, a greater number than the 11 that existed in 1971.

“There is a segment of the community that is reluctant to relieve us of any safeguards because they have no other assurances,” Blocker said.

The case would be closed if a federal judge determined the district had reached “unitary status,” meaning the last vestiges of segregation were gone. In some cases that’s easier than others. Wakulla schools received it last month, after getting notice from the Justice Department, it

was eligible. Superintendent David Miller said the district could’ve done that years earlier but didn’t want to bother paying an attorney.

In Seminole County, it took a decade of litigation and millions of dollars to gain release in 2006. Officials had to prove the school was unbiased in matters ranging from teacher placement to school repairs and cheerleader selection.

“We spent a lot of money. We modernized a lot of schools. We worked on our extracurricular activities to make sure they had the same access for everyone,” said Ned Julian, Seminole schools attorney.

Adora Obi Nweze, president of the Florida NAACP, is worried urban areas are resegregating, and whites still outperform black peers academically.

“In reality, we haven’t gotten as far as we need to get,” she said. “We still have a long way to go.”

Miami Banker Gives \$60M In Bonuses To All Staffers

MIAMI (AP) - Citing a desire to reward his employees, a Miami banker doled out \$60 million in bonuses to all staffers and even some retirees after he sold a majority stake in the company for close to \$1 billion.

Coming at a time when financial leaders are being publicly chastised for rewarding executives even as their institutions lost billions of dollars, the move by Leonard Abess Jr. caused many jaws to drop. The board chairman and CEO of Miami-based City National Bancshares said by way of explanation, “I sure

as heck don't need the money.”

Abess said he was concerned that employees' 401k plans had suffered major losses as stock values plummeted last year.

“I knew some of these people since I was 7 years old,” said Abess, whose father founded the bank in 1946. “It didn't feel right getting the money myself. Those people who joined me and stayed with me at the bank with no promise of equity. I always thought someday I'm going to surprise them.”

So in early November, all 399 workers on staff tellers, clerks,

bookkeepers and 72 former employees received bonuses based on years of service. That month, Spanish bank Caja Madrid paid \$927 million for an 83 percent stake in the company.

Longtime employees got bumps in the tens of thousands and, in some cases, more than \$100,000. Staffers were provided financial counseling and special high-rate certificates of deposit at the bank.

“We expected a bonus,” said Carleatha Barbary, who has been with the company for 39 years, “but the type we received, our mouths are still open.”

Lobbying For Florida Justice Appointment Increasing With Details, Quotes; ADDS Byline

BY BILL KACZOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TALLAHASSEE (AP) - Gov. Charlie Crist, who had urged a state panel to send him a diverse list of Florida Supreme Court nominees, is getting pressure from opposite ends of the political spectrum over a pending appointment.

The Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission responded to Crist’s request with a slate of four nominees that has racial and gender variety — a black male, a white female and two white males — from eight applicants. No Hispanics applied for the position that must be filled from the state’s 5th appellate district, which includes Orlando, Daytona Beach and Melbourne.

Civil rights advocates made a pitch Thursday for Circuit Judge James Perry of Sanford, the black nominee, at meeting with Crist on a variety of minority issues.

Conservative groups likewise are lobbying the Republican governor on behalf of Appeal Judge Alan Lawson of Daytona Beach. The other two finalists are Circuit Judge Debra Steinberg Nelson of Sanford, and Orlando lawyer Dan Gerber.

Crist said he welcomed outside opinions on the appointment.

“I’ll give all of them very significant weight and listen very carefully,” Crist said. “It’s great to have good advice from a lot of people and I take it all very, very seriously.”

The new appointee will replace Justice Charles Wells when he reaches the mandatory

retirement age of 70 next month.

The seven-member high court currently has one black, one Hispanic and two female justices. Chief Justice Peggy Quince is one of the two women and the only black member.

Wells, who is white, is a swing vote who sometimes sides with the high court’s two reliably conservative justices in close cases particularly on criminal justice issues.

His replacement will be Crist’s fourth appointee in less than a year. That will give him an unprecedented opportunity to select a majority of the high court in his first term.

At his civil rights round-table meeting, Crist announced the appointment of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People state president, Adora Obi Nweze, as his special adviser on minority affairs. One of her first pieces of advice was to appoint Perry.

A group called Florida Family Action is urging social conservatives to let Crist know they consider Lawson the only nominee they trust to protect their rights and values. The group opposes abortion rights and supports Florida’s ban on gay adoptions among other issues. The gay adoption issue currently is on appeal.

The group was created by John Stemberger who led a successful citizen initiative that amended the Florida Constitution last year to prohibit gay marriage.

The National Rifle Association also is lobbying for Lawson.

Crist played to his GOP base with his first two appointees, Justices Charles Canady and Ricky Polston, both white, non-Hispanic males with strong conservative credentials. Both are former appellate judges, and they replaced two conservatives who resigned last year. Canady also is a former Republican legislator and congressman.

The governor’s third appointee, Justice Jorge Labarga, the high court’s lone Hispanic member, has taken a more moderate stance.

NAACP lawyer Chuck Hobbs thanked Crist for appointing qualified minorities to the courts at Thursday’s meeting, which coincided with the organization’s 100th anniversary.

Hobbs said the group is considering legal action to support Crist’s effort to appoint a minority judge to the 5th District Court of Appeal in Daytona Beach, which has no full-time black judges.

The 5th District’s nominating commission sent Crist an all-white slate of nominees, passing over several black applicants including 9th Circuit Chief Judge Belvin Perry Jr. of Orlando. Crist asked the panel to send him a more diverse list, but it refused.

“The first step would be to seek an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court on whether Crist can replace entire nominating commissions,” Hobbs said. He said the NAACP may sue to obtain records and other information about the panel’s “secret deliberations to determine if any racial discrimination had occurred.”

Regulator Conditionally OK’s State Farm’s Pullout

TALLAHASSEE (AP) - Florida’s insurance commissioner says he’s giving conditional approval to State Farm’s request to withdraw from the state property insurance market.

State Farm Florida, a subsidiary of the Illinois-based

insurer, said last month it could not continue doing business in Florida’s high-risk property market without becoming insolvent.

Insurance Commissioner Kevin McCarty said Friday that State Farm can go ahead with its plan to withdraw from

the Florida property insurance market, but stipulated several conditions with which the company must comply.

State Farm has 21 days to review McCarty’s order and decide whether to abide by it or request an administrative hearing.

30,000 Haitians Ordered To Leave US

FORT LAUDERDALE (AP)- U.S. immigration authorities say they’ve ordered 30,000 Haitians to leave the country.

Haitian officials, however, say they’re not issuing the travel documents needed to process most deportees.

Handfuls of deportees with valid passports have been returned to Haiti since Dec. 5,

following a three-month break in deportations.

Haitian officials say the storm-battered Caribbean country needs time to recover and can’t handle the return of its citizens.

A spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says the lack of travel documents means some

deportees are spending more time in crowded detention centers. According to ICE, about 600 Haitians are being detained and more than 240 others are under a form of house arrest and being monitored with electronic ankle bracelets.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Black Colleges Struggle In Economic Downturn

BY SEAN YOES
SPECIAL TO THE NNPA FROM
THE AFRO-AMERICAN
NEWSPAPERS

Part of the mission of the nation's historically black institutions (HBI) is to provide a college education for a disproportionate number of students who can't afford to go to most traditionally white institutions (TWT).

Now, many of those black schools that have provided sanctuary for low-income students are stumbling under the weight of the country's economic crisis.

Enrollments at black schools are down while endowments are in decline and fundraising sources have dried up.

The fact is resources are scarce at most U.S. colleges and universities, but students at HBI's often need more financial aid to stay in school.

"What's most difficult for our institutions is that they are tuition-driven," said Michael Lomax, president of the United Negro College Fund to the Associated Press.

"They don't have the large endowments and even the ones who do, have seen a large reduction in the value of those endowments."

Most U.S. colleges are reeling from economic woes. A recent survey of 791 American public and private colleges indicates endowments fell three percent in the fiscal year ending June 30. A smaller group of schools reported a 23 percent drop in the first five months of fiscal year 2009, which began in July.

Only three black colleges—Howard University in Washington, D.C., Spelman College in Atlanta and Hampton University in Virginia—had endowments in the top 300 included in the survey.

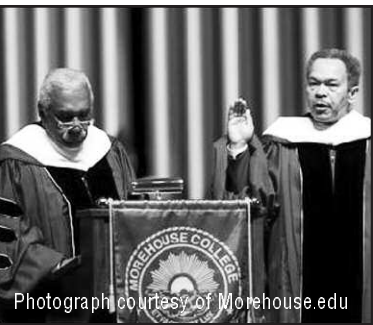
But, even venerable Spelman announced it will cut 35 positions due to the faltering U.S. economy.

Recently the all women's institution said it will reduce next year's budget by \$4.8 million. Enrollment at the school is also down three percent this year. Spelman will cut 12 vacant positions and 23 existing positions. One of Spelman's Atlanta neighbors, Clark Atlanta University cut about 100 workers last week because of plummeting enrollment.

Jennifer Jiles, a spokeswoman for the school said 70 faculty members and up to 40 staff learned that Friday was their last work day. She said no more cuts are expected and denies the school, which is the largest of United Negro College Fund institutions, is in any financial distress.

"There is absolutely no financial emergency and the university is not a cash marginal institution," Jiles told the Associated Press. She said students have been having difficulty getting loans for school.

"We were getting some indication by mid-fall and certainly by December, that we would have a number of students that would not be returning for the spring semester," Jiles said. She estimates about 98 percent of Clark Atlanta students get financial aid.



In a formal and tradition-clad ceremony at the Martin Luther King Jr. Chapel, President Robert Franklin Michael Jr. '75 was inaugurated 10th president of Morehouse College on February 15. "I come to this moment in my life with a profound humility matched by my determination to see our great school rise to new heights of accomplishment," Franklin said.

At Morehouse, also in Atlanta, enrollment is down about 8 percent from last year and the school's endowment is down to about \$110 million from a high of \$150 million.

But, there is a bright spot in the midst of the school's economic woes—an increase in alumni donors, especially first-time givers.

"They feel a greater responsibility for the health of the college," said Morehouse president Robert Franklin. 21-year-old Dabney Zanders, a senior finance major at Morehouse set to graduate in May says he is more worried about the future of the school than his own future.

"They're just spread very thin," he said. "At a certain point you have to wonder, when is my education starting to fall off?"

Report: Foster Care Is A National Priority

PORTLAND, Ore. (NNPA) - The findings from a National Online Harris Poll, commissioned by the National Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association, show 93 percent of African-Americans believe improving foster care should be a national priority. The poll also found that although the community deems the issue important, 87 percent of African-American adults polled know little or nothing about the experiences of children in foster care, and more than half (49 percent) know nothing at all about these children.

Furthermore, when the responding adults do think of children in foster care, only a minority (13 percent) cited positive impressions about these children and the foster care system that serves them. Most often, adults picture foster children as poorly treated, facing a hard life and in need of sympathy; 31 percent of knowledgeable adults believe these youth in foster care face unsuccessful futures.

However, when you talk to the youths themselves, you see an entirely different picture. A national focus group study of 50 current and former foster youth (more than 70 percent were African American) also commissioned by the National CASA Association. These youths see themselves as uniquely empowered by overcoming adversity, determined not to repeat the mistakes of their

birth parents, and were optimistic about their futures.

"I have a constant fear of failure. My parents failed, and my parents' parents failed. But I am not giving up" said a female San Diego foster youth who participated in the study.

"Yes, I have been through a lot of hell and high water, but because of that I am a stronger person. I'm still standing," said a male Dallas foster youth who participated in the study.

"African-American children represent 32 percent of America's 510,000 children in foster care but only 15 percent of the general population. Not only are these children disproportionately overrepresented in foster care, but once in the foster care system, children of color tend to receive fewer services, stay in care longer, and generally have worse outcomes than white children," said Ernestine S. Gray, National CASA Board President and Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge in New Orleans. Despite the lack of awareness by the general population of foster care, 80 percent of African-American adults agree that they have the potential to positively influence the lives of foster children.

"These are people we - and our foster youth - so desperately need," said National CASA CEO Michael Piraino. "We know that when a CASA volunteer is involved, children are 95 percent less likely to re-enter the foster care system. There are people out

there who are willing to help, they just don't know how." When asked what foster children want they say it's simple - "we just want someone to be there to listen. We trust people who are willing to listen to us."

"There are a number of ways caring adults can become involved in the lives of these youth, not only as foster parents, but also as mentors or CASA volunteers," said Piraino. "By becoming a CASA volunteer adults provide the stability that foster youth often lack. That stability helps these children transition from care into successful adulthood and helps ensure that each child has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential."

To volunteer, or for more information on the national studies on foster care, please visit the National CASA Association website, www.nationalcasa.org. You can also call 1-888-805-8457.

In 1977 a Seattle judge, concerned over making decisions about abused and neglected children's lives without sufficient information, conceived the idea of using trained community volunteers to speak for the best interests of these children in court. So successful was this program, that judges across the country began utilizing citizen advocates. Today, more than 950 CASA/GAL offices operate in 49 states, with more than 59,000 men and women serving as CASA/GAL volunteers.

'History'



L-R: Andrew Young, Colin Powell, Rosa Parks, Mary McLeod Bethune, W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall, Barack Obama, Shirley Chisholm, Booker T. Washington, Martin L. King, Jr., Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, A. Phillip Randolph, Sojourner Truth and Fredrick Douglas

Many of us are familiar with Martin Luther King accomplishments, but there are a host of other African-Americans that were instrumental in this history. Black History Month acknowledges these contributions, but this graphic makes it

more apparent, in our classrooms, homes and businesses.

The artist, Lawrence Jones, would like to provide educational institutions with copies of this graphic. He is certain that this picture will contribute to the field of education, serve as a

valuable teaching tool and inspiration to students. He goes on to say, "It's a great visual illustration of American hope and achievement and history not shared, is history lost."

To contact Jones, visit www.history200.com.

New Study: Rich Ethnic Consumers Hold \$282 Billion In Purchasing Power

Affluent ethnic Americans have been invisible to luxury marketers until now. A new study by chief economist Greg McBoat of the research firm and consultancy, Diversity Affluence, reflects "Estimates of Population, Income and Purchasing Power for African, Asian and Hispanics Americans in America."

It defines affluent ethnic individuals with an annual income of at least \$75,000 and households with an annual income of \$150,000 or greater. "Our data confirms wealthy ethnic groups, defined as, Royaltons, are a significant audience for all marketers to target," Mr. McBoat said. "Of the three primary groups of Royaltons that we researched African-Americans possess \$87.3 billion in purchasing power, Asian Americans possess \$90.2 billion, and Hispanic Americans hold \$104.5 billion."

These influential consumers

are the "new holders of the gold," said Andrea Hoffman, Diversity Affluence CEO. "While these recessionary times have luxury marketers overly cautious, reducing spending is an imprudent way to cut costs because a brand risks attracting new audiences that could otherwise help them survive and thrive," she said. "However, marketers should reallocate money towards new media and new audiences. It's more affordable, measurable and can deliver prospects instantly with the right call to action."

"Although they account for only 2.4 percent of all ethnic individuals in the country, Royaltons represent 39 percent of total income, a significant portion of wealth," said McBoat. "In other words almost one of every 42 people is affluent, income earned by the Royaltons represents one dollar out of every \$2.56 earned."

Ms. Hoffman said, "No ethnic group possesses the raw buying power and growth potential more than Hispanic Americans. Marketers' traditional market base is saturated and it is imperative to find new customers to maintain sales and revenue growth - regardless of economic times."

Hoffman also noted that the new study will help marketing managers, media buyers, retail and business development executives substantiate initiatives and pilot programs that target, attract and build loyalty between brands and Royaltons.

"The media and marketing landscape will continue to change at Internet speed and luxury marketers are at a challenging crossroads," Hoffman said. "But the raw numbers prove that new and affordable opportunities do exist if marketers choose to be nimble."

Rep. John Lewis Receives Apology From Elwin Wilson

On May 9, 1961, when the Congress of Racial Equality's (CORE) Freedom Riders came into town and attempted to enter an all white waiting room at the bus station, Ku Klux Klan member Elwin Wilson was there. When he saw future U.S. Representative John Lewis enter, Wilson attacked, pummeling the young civil rights worker, who responded with non-violence.

This was not the first or last time that Lewis would face abuse as a leader in the civil rights movement. During sit-ins, the freedom rides, and at the

front of the marchers who were violently abused with batons on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on "Bloody Sunday," Lewis was beaten numerous times. But, according to Lewis, none of the men who beat and abused him have ever apologized — until now.

A few weeks ago, Elwin Wilson contacted representative Lewis to apologize for beating Lewis nearly 48 years ago. For the past several weeks, Wilson has been apologizing to members of the African-American community in Rock Hills for his numerous acts of

racial hatred. He has had the guts to simply say "I'm sorry." And representative John Lewis responded to this former member of the KKK with mercy, grace and forgiveness, and now refers to Wilson as a friend.

The story of John Lewis and Elwin Wilson needs to be told and remembered. Parts of it are regrettable, and yet the power of forgiveness and healing found in their recent encounter an inspiration in a broken and fallen world.

HISTORY

continued from front page

Feb. 12.

Because of their work, including the contributions of those luminaries on the front lines and great advocates behind the scenes, we as a Nation were able to take the dramatic steps we have in recent history.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2009 as National African-American History Month.

I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to

observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that raise awareness and appreciation of African-American history.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.


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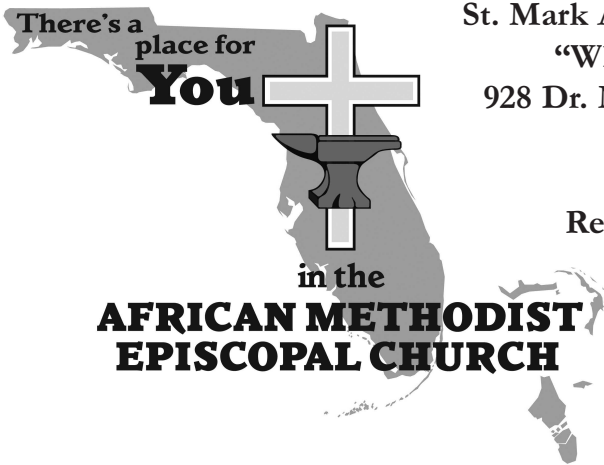
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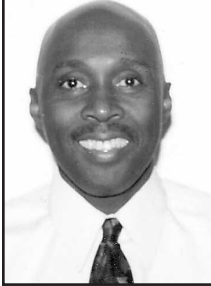
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Mailing address: P.O. Box 1235, Clearwater, FL 33755
Church Phone: (727) 443-1861 • Fax: (727) 443-0431
Email: sjpbcc@tampabay.rr.com
Radio dial: 1340 AM 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Radio internet: tantalk 1340.com

Scheduled Services:
Early Morning.....8:00 a.m.
Church School9:45 a.m.
Mid-Morning11:00 a.m.
Mid-week Family Night Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Theme: “Movers of the Christ Purpose”
Edifying the Church; Evangelizing the Community (Acts 1:4-8)



**Elder Benjamin
Adams, Jr.,
Senior Pastor**

New Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
1210 Union Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 823-2545


ORDER OF SERVICE
Sunday School.....9:30 AM
Sunday Worship Service11:00 AM
Bible Study Wednesday.....7:00 PM

Mission Statement
Reaching The Lost And Teaching The Saved
Luke 14:23 and Psalm 119:33,34




**Rev. Jerry B.
Alexander Jr.
Pastor**

**Unity Church. A group of open-minded followers
who welcome anyone seeking growth and truth,
not dogmas. A church whose philosophy is one
of life, love, and happiness.**




MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.



Temple of Truth Church
511 Prescott Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Tel: 727-898-2457 Fax: 727-895-6898
unitytempleoftruth@msn.com

**Rev. Prentiss John Davis, Minister
& Veronica Davis**

MOUNT PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
4000 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711 Phone: (727) 321-7375
“Returning God’s People to the Word of God”



**Pastor Clark
Hazley, Sr.**

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday General Worship11:00 a.m.
CommunionFirst Sunday
Sunday New Member Orientation.....9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study.....7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Bible Study7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday Tutoring6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mission Statement
Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our faith. We the people of God returning to God’s Word, proclaiming, God’s Will in provoking His love among one another.





Trinity Presbyterian Church
2830 22nd Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712
727-327-8590
Email: trinityp@tampabay.rr.com
pastorwoods07@yahoo.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study – Wednesday – 6:30 p.m.
Holy Communion Every First Sunday

**Alfonso Woods,
Pastor**

**First Baptist Institutional
Church**
3144 Third Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL
Phone: 323-7518

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

**Come Worship With
the First Baptist Family**



**REV. WAYNE G.
THOMPSON, PASTOR**

**YOUR CHURCH
COULD BE HERE!**

Call TODAY!!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL
(727) 321-6631 • www.stmarkch.org

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Thursday 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

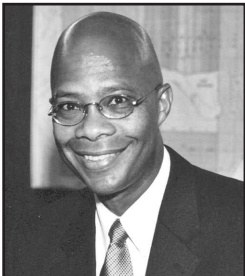


Rev. Brian K. Brown

BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240
E-mail: bcchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Web site: www.bmmbc.org

Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Teen Summit (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday).....7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston, Pastor

“God’s House In The City”



Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church



Bishop
Raymond T.
Baker, Pastor

900 - 16th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33705
Office (727) 895-4900 • Fax (727) 895-4990

Sunday Morning Service 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Mid-Morning 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Communion is observed every first Sunday

The Church Where Everyone is Welcome

20th Street Church Of Christ

820 20th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL
Home: 896-8006



Bro. Robert Smith

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship10:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday7:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship5:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.

PRAYER TOWER CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Elder Clarence Welch, Pastor
Elder Carson Skinner, Assistant Pastor
1137 37th Street South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 321-0670

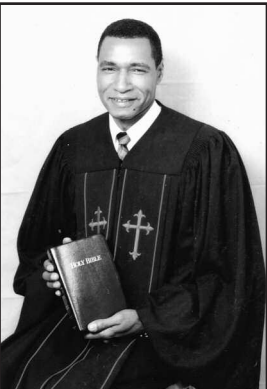
SERVICES

Sunday Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.
A. M. Service – 11:30 a.m.
YPWW (1st & 3rd Sunday) – 5:30 p.m.
P.M. Service (1st & 3rd Sunday) – 6:30 p.m.
P. M. Service (2nd & 4th Sunday) - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday Morning Prayer – 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study (for all ages) – 7:30 p.m.



First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

1121 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 327-8708



Rev. Wallace Elliott Sr. - Pastor

Sunday Worship Services . . . 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday)6:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Tuesday)7:00 p.m.
Baptist Training Union (Sunday)4:00 p.m.

“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”

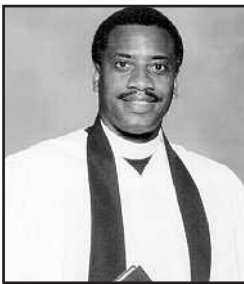
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Church School:9:15 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Devotion:10:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.
Praise and Worship:10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service:10:30 a.m.
Bible Study each Tuesday:6:30 p.m.

*Van service is available by calling:
(727) 327-0015*

**THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:
3940 – 18th AVENUE SOUTH
St. Petersburg, Florida**

**Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021
Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**



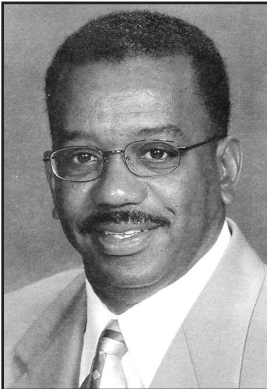
Rev. Frank W.
Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

McCabe United Methodist Church

2800 26th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Phone: 727-867-5287 • Fax: 727-906-9808

A Discipleship Making Community

Sunday Worship Services10:00 a.m.
Sunday Children Church10:00 a.m.
Sunday School8:50 a.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday)6:30 p.m.
Senior Fellowship (2nd Wednesday) . . . 12:30 p.m.



Rev. I. James Mitchell,
Senior Pastor

Sunday Morning Worship Experience
7:45am & 10:30 am (Childcare provided)
Christian Leadership School
9:15 am - 10:15 am

Wednesday Night Mid Week P.U.S.H
(Prayer+ Understanding= Spiritual Help)
In His Presence Prayer Service
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Adult, Youth & Young Adult Bible Study
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm



2120 19th St. So. St. Petersburg FL 33712
(727) 896-5228
www.spreadinghopeonline.org



Rev. Carlos L. Senior,
Pastor

Advertise in the
Church Directory!

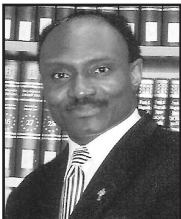
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727-896-2922

*Call Today!
Your Church
could be HERE!
Don't wait!*

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

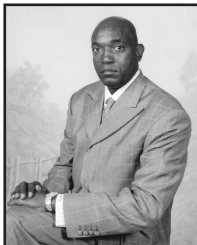
3300 31st Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300
www.fmbctheship.org

Sunday7:45 A.M. and 10:45 A.M. Worship
Sunday School.....9:30 A.M.
Monday Morning Meditation WRXB.....6:45 A.M.
WednesdayNoonday Bible Study and
Bread of Life; 7 P.M. Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday7 P.M. Youth Enrichment



Dr. John A. Evans,
Pastor

*“Serving and Saving
“Helping and
Healing”
“Inspiring and
Instructing”
“Praying and
Praising”*



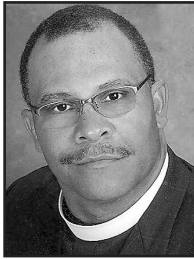
Elder Tony L. Bradley, Pastor

New Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church

3001 18th Avenue South • Saint Petersburg, Florida 33712
Phone: (727) 327-9904 • Fax: (727) 322-0409
Church School - 9:30 A.M. • Morning Worship - 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.
Worship Service Every Thursday Night after the First Sunday, at 7:00 P.M.

GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1045 16th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705
email: info@greatermtzioname.org
Website: www.greatermtzioname.org

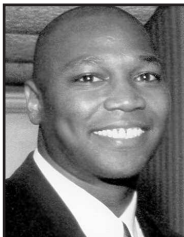


Rev. Clarence Williams,
Pastor

Live Broadcast WRXB (Every Sunday • 8:30 a.m.)Tape Ministry • Bus Ministry
Need a tape of a service or transportation – Dial 894-1393
"The church with a heart in the heart of the city"

Early Morning Worship7:30 a.m.
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Vintage Bible Study11:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Wednesday Bible Study6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service7:00 p.m.

10th Street Church Of God
207 - 10th Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 898-9407



Rev. Ronald L. Bell
Pastor

Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study7:30 p.m.

*The church where
what God's word teaches
is practiced!*



When you come from a history so rich in dreams and accomplishment, you can't help but think achieving the impossible is possible.

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