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## The Weekly Challenger : 2009 : 07 : 02

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# The Weekly Challenger

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

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**VOLUME 41 NUMBER 44**

**JULY 2 - JULY 8, 2009**

**ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA**

## Top Teens Of America Awarded Scholarships At 'Me And My Mentor' Luncheon



**Chris Norton Scholarship Recipient**

SUBMITTED BY  
DEASIA ROBINSON

Those Top Ladies of Distinction are at it again! This time, it was all about the organization's Top Teens of America (TTA) prodigy. On June 6th, in celebration of their 2009 Top Teen graduates, the St. Petersburg Chapter hosted a "Me and My Mentor Luncheon" at the South Branch Library in St. Petersburg.

Teen DeAsia Robinson presided during the graduation and awards program. Two graduates were honored: Teen Christopher Norton is a graduate of East Lake High School in Tarpon Springs and is headed to Virginia Tech in the fall; Teen Cedric Goins was a former graduate and is enrolled at St. Petersburg College. Both teens were awarded scholarships and graduate trophies by TLOD President, Lady Delores Wesley.

In addition, all Top Teens were recognized and awarded appreciation trophies for their service and commitment during the 2008-2009 program year. Other Teens being honored were: Shakura Dedmon; Christian Hawthorne; Chauntea Kirnes; DeAsia Robinson; Shardonny Stevenson; Sharnice Stevenson; Skylar Braswell, Alexis Braswell; Danielle Johnson; Yhente' Webb; and Destiny Young.

The event was full of excitement! Not only were there songs and music by La'Zaire Reese and Joshua Riggins, but there was also delicious food and a dynamic guest speaker, Miss Kelci Smith, a junior at the University of Central Florida. Kelci addressed the Teens, offering special advice for the graduates upon entering college.

**TEENS**  
*continued on pg. 3*

## At BET Awards, Michael Jackson's Legacy Honored



**Michael Jackson on stage at the last rehearsal before his death.**  
Photograph by Kevin Mazur/GETTY IMAGES

BY NEKESA MUMBI  
MOODY  
AP MUSIC WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Some of the biggest stars on the planet turned back into gushing Michael Jackson fans at the BET Awards, donning single gloves, swapping stories about their idol and singing The King of Pop's standards.

In her first public appearance since her brother Michael's shocking death, Janet Jackson memorialized him as her beloved sibling and vowed his memory would live forever.

"To you, Michael is an icon," a somber Janet Jackson told the

crowd at the end of Sunday's Black Entertainment Television Awards show. "To us, Michael is family and he will forever live in all of our hearts."

It was a stirring emotional climax for a telecast that was completely revamped to recognize the legacy of Jackson, who died Thursday at age 50. For the most part, it was a joyous wake.

"He's the man who made it possible for me to be on the stage; I love you and I miss you," said Ne-Yo, who sang one of Jackson's most sensual songs, "Lady In My Life."

Host Jamie Foxx kicked off the show with a re-enactment of

the choreography from Jackson's iconic "Beat It" video in front of the star-studded crowd, on its feet from the start of the show.

Throughout the night, Foxx also regularly turned up in some of Jackson's signature looks, like the wide-collar black leather outfit from "Billie Jean." Sean Paul, Estelle and Alicia Keys were among the celebrities who at one point donned single gloves as part of their ensembles.

Ciara sang Jackson's humanitarian anthem, "Heal the World," dressed in a jacket that had Jackson's signature military epaulets.

Joe Jackson, the singer's father, also represented the grief-

stricken family, though he did not appear on stage. "I just wish he could be here to celebrate himself," he said on the red carpet. "Sadly, he's not here, so I'm here to celebrate for him."

People close to Michael Jackson have said since his death that they were concerned about his use of painkillers. Los Angeles County medical examiners completed their autopsy Friday and said Jackson had taken unspecified prescription medication. But an official cause of death could take weeks to determine.

**JACKSON**  
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## FAMU College Of Education Hosts Educational Access And Success In The 21st Century Workshop

TALLAHASSEE - Florida A&M University's (FAMU) College of Education hosted the "Educational Access and Success in the 21st Century," a Florida school counselors' recruiting and professional development workshop at the FAMU Multipurpose Center Teaching Gymnasium.

"We invited high school counselors to FAMU to participate in the workshop in hopes they will return home and share what FAMU has to offer to their students," said Gennifer Bell, Ed.D., dean of the FAMU College of Education. "There were representatives from each school and college on-hand as well as representatives from student services."

By 2010, minorities will account for roughly 30 percent of the population, according to the United States Bureau of the Census. But entry rates for college-age minorities into higher education are declining. This was one of the main reasons, FAMU decided to host this workshop.

The workshop focused on promoting the inclusive access and success through various on-going programs, services, initiatives and related efforts that will address financial and cultural barriers to higher education participation. All aspects of the college environment were involved in the workshop.

**FAMU**  
*continued on pg. 9*



Photograph courtesy of Angel Suri

**High school counselors enjoy themselves at the Education Educational Access and Success Workshop**



# 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.

## Faith Moves Mountains ... And A Few Valleys



BY FARRAH GRAY

I had reached a state of grace and peacefulness. I was being told, I made things look easy. But everyone who's had success knows that it looks easy because a tremendous amount of time and effort has gone into making it look that way. Easy is simple and simple is easy, when you find balance and harmony in your mind and heart. I don't want it to sound like my journey to this place was without challenges. That's not the case at all. But I am in awe of how fluid my life became when I realized that I wasn't in control of anything outside of me. It's a beautiful place to inhabit.

Anger is a normal, usually healthy emotion. But when it turns destructive it can affect the very quality of our lives. Fits of angry display that need medical intervention - I was struck at the thought of how ill-equipped we are sometimes to deal with this particularly difficult emotion.

Most of us have had days when we have given in to our angry feelings and along with the raised voices we can actually feel ourselves becoming hysterical. Stress, coupled with anger, can

insidiously eat away at our professional productivity and personal happiness.

Anger can be caused by external events, for instance you could get angry with your colleague or co-worker and internal which is often triggered by unhappy memories or by worrying and brooding.

Managing or trying to control such feelings of stress and rage does not resolve the problem that caused it in the first place. The underlying negative feelings erupt frequently at the least provocation turning you into an emotional wreck.

What you must understand is that you have to reduce the angry feelings by resolving the underlying issues rather than mastering any techniques to keep them under check.

Keep them at bay. Besides, there are ways to keep those angry emotions at bay. Simple relaxation tools like deep breathing and soothing music can help calm you down.

Emotionally healthy people are comfortable with their feelings of anger and rage and know them for what they are. Depending on the situation, they are able to change their responses.

Once they have expressed their anger it does not return. Such people are genuinely able to forgive because that old anger is forgotten. If you encounter a familiar situation, which you know will annoy you, do not let it smother you.

Consciously making an attempt to relax and calm down, and telling yourself to take it easy helps to diffuse the situation to an extent. Yoga and meditation can also help you relax your muscles and make you feel calmer.

Sometimes the environment or the surrounding you are working in may cause you irritation. Problems and responsibilities at work can make you feel trapped from which you see no way out. Go easy on yourself! Make sure you have some personal time and space specially on stressful days. Accept that difficult emotions like anger and rage are natural and part of everyday life. Do not avoid them ... That will give you only a temporary respite.

If you avoid such feelings long enough they will overwhelm you at some stage in your life. Learn to deal with them constructively. Simply put, it means changing the way you think. Angry people can be illogical, try replacing that with

rational thought.

The minute you begin to justify your anger, you will most likely alienate and perhaps humiliate people who might otherwise be ready to help you with the problem that had been bothering you.

Remind yourself constantly that getting angry will not solve any problems; rather it will only aggravate the situation and make you feel like a heel when you have cooled down. This is not to deny that sometimes your anger can indeed be caused by real and inescapable problems.

To resolve any deep-rooted issues, you must accept your inner feelings and fears. It is not wrong to get angry, even insanely so, it's unhealthy to block it and refuse to confront the cause.

Find the source, express it as appropriate and see how negative feelings vanish.

This is not an easy task, however it is better than a lifelong struggle to manage and control difficult emotions.

Remember, though you cannot completely 'do away' with anger, what you are experiencing is a little rough weather in the joy ride called Life!

## Peace, Be Still - Thoughts For And About Michael



BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX

As I think about Michael Jackson, I am listening to John Legend sing "Green Light", and thinking about black men, music and movement. It seems redundant to add my thought to the many that have chimed in about the death of the icon of pop music, and at the same time, it seems very necessary to offer the public wish that Michael Jackson has finally found peace. Without knowing the man (in the mirror) at all, my observation is that peace eluded Michael Jackson. He changed his appearance, lightened his skin, engaged in public drama, and apparently earned and lost a fortune. He maintained a spirit of innocence and a soul of service. Wow!

Certainly Jackson's family drama, often publicly disclosed, led to some of his angst. How much more of the drama was fueled by the context of our nation's racism? Why did he feel compelled to get lighter, lighter, lighter or to get his nose thinner,

thinner, thinner? Where did that compulsion come from? It could not have been completely internal, something he simply decided on. To what extent did the signals that all of us, black folk (I'm not going African American right now — just black folk), get take hold of his brain and drive some of his decisions?

Did Michael Jackson feel that he needed to buffer his success by looking like what he thought success ought to be; whiter, thinner nose, all that? I'm not trying to get into his head, just raise a question for a group of people who are being asked to reject themselves, even with the cries of "get over it" on slavery, with the call for race neutrality. There is no such thing as being race neutral. You are who you are, nothing is wrong with it. Just embrace it. At this moment, embrace it in the name of Michael Jackson.

Every Fourth of July I read Frederick Douglas' "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro" just to remind myself of who I am and where I come from. Rarely will I

engage myself in the festivities of the day, the patriotic flag-waving, the consumption of grilled meats, the gatherings. I generally read to anyone who will listen — "your freedom is not my freedom, your justice is not my justice, you may rejoice, I must mourn." I read this to others to the point of irritation. Indeed, I have friends and colleagues who will not return my calls on July 4, understanding that they are about to be read to.

I wonder if I will engage in the ritual this year — I haven't decided. It somehow seems petulant to hold to this tradition with an African-American President in the White House. Part of me actually longs to put my hand over my heart (it won't happen) and sing about "the land of the free and the home of the brave." My lyric has been "the land of the thief and the home of the slave." Is it time to let it go, to embrace that which is good in our country, to shrug off the shackles of oppression in order to embrace the possibilities of a new and exciting America.

If only a shrug of the shoulders could accomplish so much. I bet

that Michael Jackson would have, if he could have, shrugged off the images of success that pushed him into transforming his appearance so drastically. I bet he would have, if he could have, shrugged off all his demons so that he could simply, freely, moonwalk his way across a stage and across his life. I bet he would have chosen peace instead of the turmoil we all witnessed.

The concert tour that Jackson was about to embark on was seen by most as a way for him to earn some money and pay some bills. Might it also have been a cry for peace, for rapprochement, a harkening for a simpler time when Michael Jackson was a performer, a pop icon, not a lightning rod for controversy? I would like to think that Michael Jackson found peace on stage and that his concert tour was a step toward peace. His death suggests that he has moon walked to peace in another way.

Let me add my voice to the many asking for moments of silence and commemoration. Peace, be still, for Michael Jackson, and for all of us.

### The Weekly Challenger

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## 4th Of July Celebration Downtown St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG - Celebrate the 4th of July Saturday, July 4, downtown on the waterfront with family activities, food concessions and fun throughout the day. Tune to US 103.5 for the latest update on weather and fireworks information. US 103.5 simulcasts patriotic music to accompany the fireworks display scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. (or between 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. as weather mandates). No rain date scheduled. Non-alcoholic event, free admission.

North Straub Park - US 103.5 broadcast live at 4 p.m., activities for the kids including bounce house and Rays staff with interactive games from 4 to 9 p.m. Live music: 5:30 Sweet Caroline; 6:45 p.m. Due West; 8 p.m. Krista Marie. Visit [www.us1035.com/common/celebrate/](http://www.us1035.com/common/celebrate/)

Vinoy Park - WFLA listener party from 4 to 9 p.m., ticketed

event, listen to WFLA radio [www.970wfla.com/common/celebrate/](http://www.970wfla.com/common/celebrate/) for free ticket giveaway.

The Pier - Star spangled day of music and fun for the whole family starting at 1 p.m. Live remote from Mix 100.7 [www.tampabaymix.com/common/celebrate/](http://www.tampabaymix.com/common/celebrate/) from 3 to 8 p.m. Rays game shown on big screen t.v. starting at 8 p.m.

Visit [www.tampabaymix.com](http://www.tampabaymix.com) for information. For Pier events visit [www.stpete.pier.com](http://www.stpete.pier.com)

Parking is available at Al Lang/Progress Energy Field lot, Baywalk Garage, and South Core Garage. Muvico at Baywalk patrons who park at the Baywalk Garage.

Special event fee to park in all city-owned parking lots and garages is \$10.

Progress Energy Center for the Arts at Mahaffey Theater parking is \$6.

Motorcycle parking is

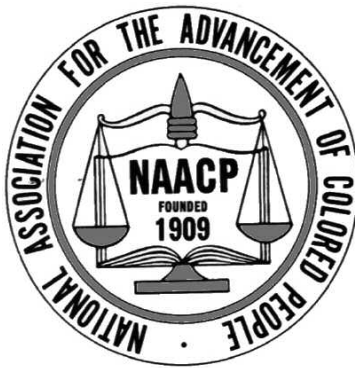
available in The Pier Parking lots and the Progress Energy Park parking lot. Special motorcycle parking also designated in front of North Shore Aquatic Complex. Many privately owned lots also provide motorcycle parking.

Bicycle racks provided in four areas between The Pier and Vinoy Park.

Parking lots and garages offer accessible parking for people with disabilities. On July 4, additional disabled parking is designated in the parking lot south of North Shore Aquatic Complex (901 North Shore Dr. NE) and on portions of Beach Drive.

For information on city trolley Looper service schedule for the holiday, view [www.loopertrolley.com](http://www.loopertrolley.com).

This event is proudly sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg, the Pier, Clear Channel Radio, GTE Federal Credit Union and Soldierwater.



## THE NAACP SPEAKS

### South Central Technology And Literacy Center

BY PATTY VAN ALSTINE

ST. PETERSBURG - African-American students in Pinellas County School District are disproportionately at risk for poor educational outcomes including high school graduation. This crisis is consistent with the national trend as it relates to suspension rates, special education placements, truancy (absent 21 or more days) as well as recipients of free and reduced lunch. Consider the statistical profile for a student of color leaving high school without obtaining a regular high school diploma as compiled by the Alliance for Excellent Education.

In 2006-07 school year, 1.2 million students failed to graduate with their class; a majority of these non-graduates were racial and ethnic minorities (EPE Research Center 2007).

In the 2003-04 school year, only 53.4 percent of black students, 43.3 percent of American-Indians and Alaska Native students and 57.8 percent Hispanic students graduated on time (EPE Research Center 2007). In Pinellas County Schools, for FY 2004-05, African-American students had an overall 43 percent graduation rate, with 24 percent for African-American males.

As a response to this crisis, the Eta Rho Educational Services has developed a program targeting the youth in the neighborhoods of greatest risk: 33712, 33705, 33711 and 33713 to address the above need. The program is

entitled South Central Technology and Literacy Center. This Center has six components:

- Family literacy services (GED)
- Academic support services
- FCAT preparation
- Homework Assistance
- Math Camp
- Reading

Utilizing professional volunteers and one paid instructor from the Pinellas County Schools, these services will be provided Monday through Friday. The program schedule is as follows:

GED classes: Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. -1 p.m.; Comprehensive academic support services: Monday - Friday, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. for K-9th grade; and Computer literacy classes: Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; Saturdays: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Modules: Six weeks time period.

The hours for the comprehensive academic support are consistent with the research that states these are the hours where youth are more likely to be victimized and/or engaged in juvenile crime. Further, research supports that the best predictor of future success is academic success. In order to ensure the successful implementation of the program, the major collaborative partner will be the St. Petersburg National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, whose building is located at 1501 16th St. S., St. Petersburg, which will serve as the program site.

## City Facility Closings Due To Fourth Of July Holiday

ST. PETERSBURG - Many city of St. Petersburg facilities including City Hall, Municipal Services Center, city government offices and Sunken Gardens business offices will be closed Friday, July 3, due to the Fourth of July holiday. St. Petersburg's seven public libraries are closed both days,

July 3 and 4, for the holiday.

Facilities open on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4 include Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, three city golf courses, municipal marina, The Pier, nine public pools, and Sunken Gardens attraction.

Residential Trash Pick-up: During the week of June 29 to

July 3, there are no changes to residential trash collections since the holiday is on a Saturday. Brush sites will be open as usual on July 3 and 4.

For water or sewer emergency service, call the Water Resources Dept. at 893-7261. For police, fire, or medical emergencies, dial 9-1-1.

## Pfc. Anthony L. Dorsey Jr.

Army Pfc. Anthony L. Dorsey Jr. has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction

and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid,

foot marches, and field training exercises. He is the son of Ronida Dorsey of Ninth Ave. S., and grandson of Merceda Dorsey of 27th Ave. S., both of St. Petersburg.

Dorsey is a 2003 graduate of Northeast High School, St. Petersburg.

### TEENS

*continued from front page*

She also shared some of her travel experiences and a few secrets that could enhance their grades and even score points with their teachers. She stressed the importance of hard work and how creating a balance in work and play is critical to success.

The "Mentoring Experience" between Top Ladies and their Top Teens was articulated by

Lady Nell Stokes. Top Ladies were introduced and all parents in attendance were recognized for their dedication and support. The event not only afforded the teens, mentors, and family members time to bond and fellowship, but it also provided an opportunity for everyone to see how serious the Teens take their Oath; how they seek to accomplish high academic standards to strengthen

their leadership, fellowship, and moral and social graces in order to be well-rounded productive citizens of the world.

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. is a national humanitarian and service organization committed to serving youth and adults. Top Teens of America is its major programmatic thrust. Together, they co-exist in carrying out the purposes of the organization.

## Tampa Bay Job And Career Fair

Looking for a new job? How about a new career? Come on out to the employment event of the season, the Tampa Bay Job and Career Fair. A great day to establish a new future... Monday, July 20 from 10 am – 3 pm at the St. Pete Times Forum in Tampa.

Meet with local companies who have immediate employment needs from; entry level positions to skilled trade, to health care and even top managerial positions, there is something for everyone at The Tampa Bay Job Fair. A special

event designed to help put you face to face with companies with open positions which they are looking to fill immediately.

This year's event will also include a Career Fair. Several of the area's top schools for continuing education, local universities and vocational/ technical institutes will be on hand. It is a great opportunity to look at ways to further develop your skills for the jobs of today and review the bright career prospects of tomorrow. Expand your skill set or even learn a whole new career.

Come prepared, bring a few resumes and get ready to say "Hello". Looking for a new job...this is an event that you don't want to miss. Come on out to the Tampa Bay Job and Career Fair at the St. Pete Times forum—downtown Tampa, 401 Channelside Drive. Admission is free—no pre-registration required. You could be to work by the end of the day. Or even on your way to a whole new career.

For information contact: Dave LaBell 727-893-8523 or visit [www.tampabayjobfair.com](http://www.tampabayjobfair.com).

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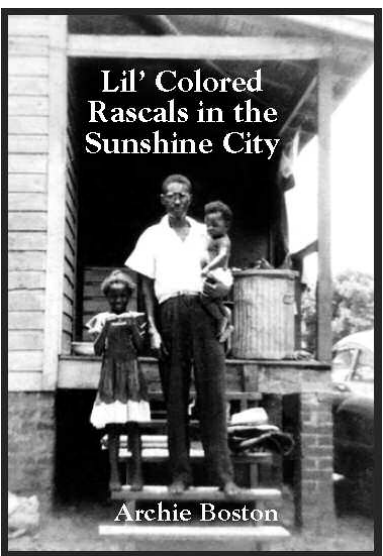
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**Lil' Colored Rascals Book Signing Locations:**

**Mid Peninsula  
Seafood Restaurant**  
Thursday, July 9,  
1:00 to 3:00 pm  
400 49th Street South

**Gibbs High Gladiators  
Alumni Association Picnic**  
Saturday, July 18,  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Dell Holmes Park  
2741 22nd Street South

**James Weldon  
Johnson Library**  
Monday, July 20,  
6:30 to 8:00 pm  
1059 18th Street South

**Galilee Missionary  
Baptist Church**  
Sunday, July 26,  
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
505 35th Street South



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Obama Crunch Cookies Take Off

ST. PETERSBURG - Local business man, Eric Atwater, the creator, founder and CEO of Obama Crunch Cookies has big ideas and plans for the crunchy delicacy.

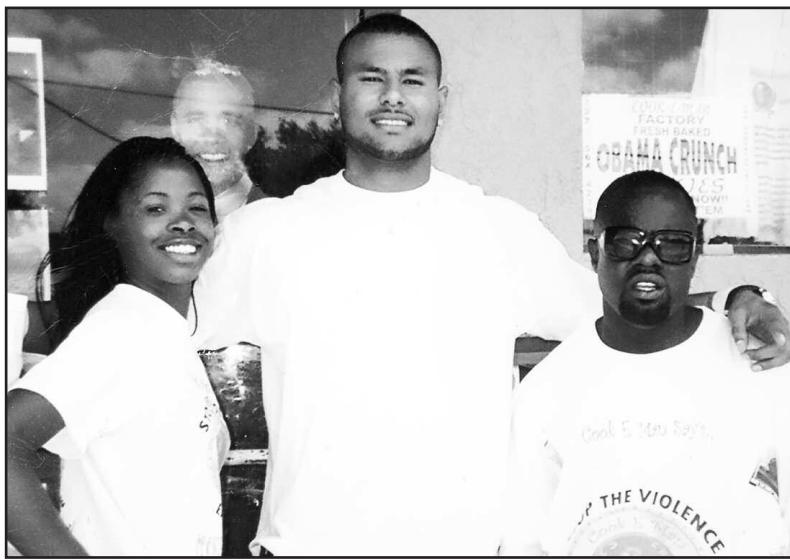
Atwater, who got his start in the family restaurant located in south St. Petersburg area, has been literally churning away at the Obama Crunch Cookie concept for well over 20 years (formally known as Hurricane Crunch). When asked where did the idea of Obama Crunch come from he stated, "It represents a win for African-Americans." Atwater has been working in the family business since he was three years old has created a business plan to expand Obama Crunch to Walgreens and other supermarkets and convenient stores.

Atwater credits Mario Shirley, Mario Mctier and Antiwone Shirley with helping him come up with the recipe and marketing idea for Obama Crunch Cookie. Both Shirley and Mctil assisted with research and creating the logo for the product.

Today Atwater, who is also known as "cookie man" in the community, is all about giving back. He has hosted several events in the community to help our youth.

Atwater also states that Obama Crunch is for everyone not just the African-American community. Atwater favorite quote is "it's not what you do but how you do it." He believes hard work, no excuses, prayer and perseverance is the key to success.

The Weekly Challenger salutes Eric Atwater and wishes



From left to right, Sonsera Neeley, assistant manager, Oakland Raiders football player, Louis Murphy Jr. and Eric Atwater, creator, founder and CEO of Obama Crunch Cookies

him well in his business 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg. Call endeavors. (727) 564-4239 or visit his website at www.cemfactorinc.com.

You may contact Eric Atwater, aka cookie man, at 885

## Correction To Photograph Credit

Photograph courtesy was given to Alexis Shuder of the City of St. Petersburg on the wrong image in last week's edition of The Weekly Challenger.

She actually provided the

wonderful aerial shot of Dell Holmes Park, which ran as the lead story on the front page.

We apologize for this error and extend a special thank you to Alexis Shuder for the use of this photograph.



## St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. Celebrates 2009 Partners Luncheon

BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON

St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. (SPNHS) recently held their "2009 Partners Luncheon" to give recognition and show appreciation to their "partners" who, through dedication and service, have provided valuable assistance to SPNHS with housing programs, and launching "National Homeownership Month."

According to C. Randolph Wedding, vice chair of the board at SPNHS and a former mayor of St. Petersburg, "partners" contribute to the success of St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc by providing man-power support, knowledge, and in some cases even financial assistance. He noted that the city of St. Petersburg's Housing Department

and SPNHS partnered successfully to promote homeownership and rehabilitation programs. "The premier things at the moment are foreclosure intervention and neighborhood preservation programs," Wedding stressed.

St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., located at 1600 Dr. Martin Luther King St. S., provides homeownership education and counseling, down payment, and assistance loans. However, with the severe economic climate the majority of the time is spent in foreclosure prevention and intervention counseling. For the current fiscal year SPNHS has helped 100 families save their homes from foreclosure, while providing financial fitness and homebuyer education to approximately 400 families. They are now intervening and working closer with another 250 families to hopefully save them from foreclo-

sure. Deborah F. Scanlan, president and CEO of SPNHS, also noted that through the help the agency received, from some partners, within the last year they have successfully helped 15 families become new homeowners.

The "2009 Partners Luncheon" also offered a political forum for several of the mayoral candidates. In attendance were Jamie Bennett, Richard Eldridge, Bill Foster, Kathleen Ford, Deveron Gibbons, and Larry Williams. All of the candidates complimented the work that St. Petersburg Housing Services, Inc. does for the community. Also attending the luncheon were Tom DeYambert, Housing and Financial Manager for the city of St. Petersburg, Deputy Mayor David Metz, City Council members Wengay Newton, Leslie Curran, and Karl Nurse, Cherin Stover from the Wealth Building

Coalition, realtor Lou Brown, State Representative Darryl Rouson, and wife Angela, who is a candidate for city council, and many other distinguished guests.

Congresswoman Kathy Castor sent representatives and Congressman Young sent a letter acknowledging the outstanding work that SPNHS has done to help more people become homeowners.

Some of the "partners", of St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services Inc., include Bank of America, BB&T Bank, City of St. Petersburg, Colonial Bank, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, General Home Development, Northern Trust Bank, Pinellas County, Regions Bank, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, Spectrum Mortgage, Sun Title Insurance, SunTrust Bank, Third Federal Savings, and Wachovia Bank.

## JACKSON

*continued from front page*

Jackson's family has sought a private autopsy, in part because of questions about Dr. Conrad Murray, the man hired to keep an eye on the pop star ahead of a planned comeback.

Edward Chernoff, a lawyer for the doctor, said Sunday that Jackson still had a faint pulse and his body was warm when Murray found him in bed and not breathing. "The doctor immediately began administering CPR," Chernoff said.

Chernoff said any drugs the doctor gave Jackson were prescribed in response to a specific complaint from the entertainer. "Murray never prescribed or gave Jackson the drugs Demerol or OxyContin," Chernoff said.

Paramedics were called to the mansion while the doctor was performing CPR, according to a recording of the 911 call.

Because Jackson was so frail, Murray "administered with his hand behind his back to provide the necessary support," Chernoff said. Some have speculated the doctor botched the CPR. "He's a trained doctor," Chernoff said. "He knows how to administer CPR."

Murray was interviewed by investigators for three hours Saturday. His spokeswoman called Murray "a witness to this tragedy," not a suspect in the death, and police described the doctor as cooperative.

Jackson's death prompted BET producers to scramble to meet the moment. While Beyonce, Lil Wayne and Ne-Yo each took home awards, giving out trophies was an afterthought: Honoring Jackson became the show's main focus.

"This is for you, Michael Jackson," said Beyonce, as she held her trophy for best female R&B artist skyward, calling the singer "my hero."

While some artists performed their own hits, most made sure to incorporate some of the man who influenced them in their performances. A chant of "Michael Jackson, Michael Jackson!" was heard while Keri Hilson performed, and Foxx's "Blame It" incorporated some of the Jacksons' dance hit "Blame It On the Boogie."

"We all know none of us in this room wouldn't be here for Michael Jackson," said Lil

Wayne, as he picked up his award for best male hip-hop star.

Backstage, Ciara recounted talking on the phone with her idol and her regrets that she never got to meet him. As she talked, she started to cry. "He meant so much to me," she said through tears.

While Jackson's incredible influence stretched across genres, races and cultures, he had a unique place in the world of black entertainment. His influence is arguably most visible in urban music, seen in stars like Usher who mimic his dance moves, to Ne-Yo, whose music is marked by its Jacksonisms. But that influence went beyond music: Jackson was black America's biggest star, one who broke racial barriers that allowed so many other entertainers to follow.

"Michael Jackson was so important to our world, to our country, to this network," said BET Chairwoman Debra L. Lee. "Michael was truly a musical deity."

New Edition, the 1980s teen sensations, ran through several of the Jackson 5's greatest hits, from "I Want You Back" to "ABC," mirroring their idols right down to the group's original choreography.

And Eddie Levert of the classic R&B group the O'Jays talked about how much he'd miss Jackson - even as his group was honored with a lifetime achievement award.


Jackson connections were inescapable: Even the building where the ceremony took place, the Shrine Auditorium, was where Jackson's hair and scalp were burned during the filming of a Pepsi commercial in 1984. It was also the location for several of his Grammy and American Music Award performances.

The night ended with Janet Jackson's memorial.

"On behalf of my family and myself, thank you for all of your love, thank you for all of your support," she said. "We miss him so much, thank you so much."

Afterward, Ne-Yo and Foxx performed a somber version of the Jackson 5 classic "I'll Be There," as photos of Jackson flashed across the screen.


The Black Entertainment Television network in the U.S. established the awards in 2001 to honor black and other minority artists in music, acting and sports.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Free Back-To-School Dental Exams

The U.S. Surgeon General estimates that children with oral diseases miss over 51-million hours of school each year and untreated oral disease can lead to serious or even life-threatening conditions resulting in emergency room visits, extended hospital stays and costly medications.

Preventative dental services reduce costly dental problems. Pinellas County Department of Health is offering free dental exams and cleanings to school age children 4-18, Wednesdays, beginning July 1 through July 29, at the health centers listed below. The exams and cleanings are for children who have never been to

the dental clinic at the Health Department and have no private health insurance. Medicaid is accepted. First and second visits are free. The third visit fee is a sliding scale based on income. A parent or guardian must accompany the child. No appointments are necessary.

At the following Health Centers: July 1-Tarpon Springs, 301 S Disston Ave., (727) 942-5457; July 8-Clearwater, 310 N Myrtle Ave., (727) 469-5800, ext. 121; July 15-Largo, 12420 130th Ave. N, (727) 588-4040, ext. 129; July 22- St. Pete, 205 Dr. M. L. King St. N, (727) 824-6975; July 29-Pinellas Park, 6350 76th Ave. N, (727) 547-7780, ext. 103. Wednesdays only, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Student Backpack Donations Needed

CLEARWATER - The Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin will partner with Clothes to Kids for our third annual Back to School Fair. At the Back to School Fair, 100 low-income students will receive five days worth of clothing from Clothes to Kids and a backpack filled with school supplies for the upcoming school year. The event will take place July 18, at the Clothes to Kids Store in Clearwater. A donation of \$15.00 will provide students with a backpack and school supplies necessary to start the 2009-2010 school year successfully, and the League is seeking donations from the public.

Checks can be made out to the Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin and mailed to JLCD, 1265 Bayshore Blvd., Dunedin, Florida 34698, attn: Back to School Fair.

The Junior League of Clearwater-Dunedin is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

To find out more about JLCD, including how to become a member, please visit [www.jlcd.org](http://www.jlcd.org).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Courtesy of Publix®

**Sunday, July 5** - Photography Hike, Weedon Island Preserve, 1800 Weedon Dr. N.E. 8 a.m. Visitors hike the Preserve in search of that perfect shot. Center staff members highlight seasonal features of the Preserve, as well as specific wildlife behaviors that help participants capture the natural beauty of Weedon Island Preserve. [www.weedonislandpreserve.org](http://www.weedonislandpreserve.org) or 727-463-6500.

**Sunday, July 5** - Music Fest on the Water. "Rock n' Chair Band", The Pier, 800 2nd Ave. N.E. 1 to 4 p.m. Relax by the water and enjoy the melodies of local musicians. [www.stpetepier.com](http://www.stpetepier.com) or 727-821-6443.

**Wednesday, July 8** - Jungle Boogie, Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, 1101 Country Club Way S. 11:15 a.m. For ages 3 to 5, from crafts to walks in the preserve, your child will learn about Florida's natural ecosystems, animals, and plants. [www.stpete.org/boyd](http://www.stpete.org/boyd) or 727-893-7326.

## Summer Open Enrollment Began July 1

Parents who wish to request a change in their child's assigned school for the 2009-10 school year may do so during the student assignment open enrollment period that begins July 1. Parents who apply for a new school assignment by the July 30 deadline will be notified of their request results by phone or e-mail beginning Aug. 10.

Open Enrollment Guidelines are students must already have an assigned school for 2009-10. Parents will be given the opportunity to select up to three different schools in priority order (first selection, second selection, and third selection). Parents cannot use this process to be assigned to a magnet program/school, fundamental school or exceptional student education (ESE) center.

They must call the student assignment office, (727) 588-6210, to request a change for these schools/programs.

Open enrollment assignments will be made based on seat availability and proximity in the following order: students selecting their zoned school will be considered first followed by students selecting a non-zoned school. Every effort will be made to keep siblings together.

Parents trying to place more than one child at the same school should enter the second child's student I.D. number when making the first desired school selection.

Transportation will not be provided for non-zoned school selections.

Parents will need a ParentCONNECTxp user ID and

Password to use the Student Reservation System (SRS) to request a change. If they already have a user I.D. and password for any of their children, they are ready to proceed to the application to make a request. To get a user I.D. and password, parents can go to any high school or visit the Student Assignment Office, Administration Building, 301 Fourth St., SW, Largo.

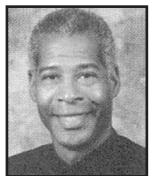
The Student Reservation System (SRS) is located on the home page of the district website, [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org). Parents log into the site by entering their user ID and password. After entering the SRS, parents should click on "My child currently attends a Pinellas County public school." They must click on this selection, even if their child is a new student in the

district. Next, they will click on "Open Enrollment" and follow the steps.

If the child is issued a new school assignment during Open Enrollment, the parent must then take required registration documents to the assigned school - birth certificate or other proof of identity/age, proof of residency, child's Social Security number (optional), child's most recent report card if available, Florida Certificate of Immunization, physical examination certificate. For a complete list of required registration documents, go to [www.pcsb.org](http://www.pcsb.org), click on "parents," then "new student registration."

For more information, call the Student Assignment office, (727) 588-6210.

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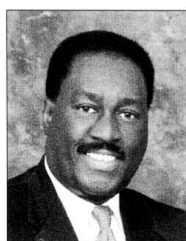
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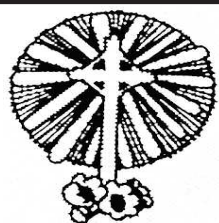
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### CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of St. Petersburg has scheduled a Public Forum to receive comments on the proposed FY 2010 Budget.

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will hold a public forum on Thursday, July 9, 2009, at the meeting of the St. Petersburg City Council, beginning at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the same may be heard.

City Council Chamber, City Hall  
175 5th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Notice is hereby given that all interested parties may appear at the meeting and be heard by City Council, with respect to the proposed FY 2010 Budget.

Eva Andujar, City Clerk

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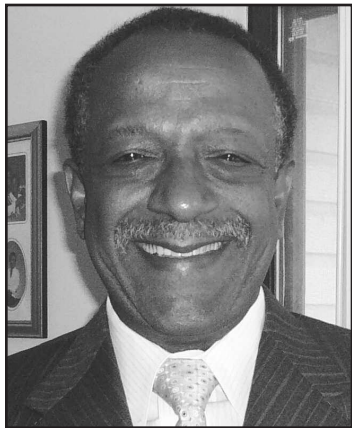
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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## THE Gantt Report

BY LUCIUS GANTT

Back in the day, when we heard couples we knew were breaking up or getting a divorce, oftentimes it was a big shock. They looked and acted like the perfect couple as if they loved each other, but the truth was their relationship was far from perfection.

One reason for the relationship shock and awe stemmed from the fact that couples in the past kept their business to themselves.

No relationship that I know of is perfect but couples, partners, teams and other groups that relate acted more like family. If there was an issue in the family, a concern in the family, a disagreement in the family or even a squabble or confrontation in the family, usually it was kept behind closed doors.

You didn't talk about what went on in your home in the street. You didn't disclose what happened in the locker room at the press conference and you didn't dare discuss what went on in the board room with any and everybody.

If you did put your business in the street, you were said to be uncivilized, uncultured or just pail old uncouth.

Nowadays, any time someone disagrees with you, gets angry with you or becomes disenchanted with you, they blast their ill feelings all over the internet!

I think it is so stupid for people to copy everyone on every internet message they write. Good, positive and helpful information should be spread around everywhere but hatred, envy, jealousy, blame and other negative ill-will are never things that need to

be posted on Yahoo, Google, Twitter, Facebook and MySpace.

The Constitution guarantees us all Freedom of Speech but once you say something with your mouth that's the end of it. What is said on the Internet stays there forever.

More often than not, feuding couples get back together, corporate enemies do business with each other again and teammates hit the field or court together after mending fences, so to speak.

But, to me, it will be very difficult to continue to befriend someone that felt it was necessary to spread Internet lies about me all over the world.

I'm not saying that I can't be corrected via an Internet message. I can even be straightened or chastised in an Internet manner; however, when friends, family and business partners are copied on messages that should have been only between the author and reader, I'm going to have a problem.

If you want to curse me, curse me. If you want to hurt me, hurt me. When you start writing slanderous and scandalous e-mails that hurt the feelings of my family and friends you are treading on dangerous ground!

The Internet is a safe haven for cowards. Whether it's business or personal, never write or post anything on the Internet that you are afraid to say face to face. (Be a Lucius Gantt friend on Facebook or buy his book "Beast Too: Dead Man Writing" and contact Lucius at [www.allworldconsultants.net](http://www.allworldconsultants.net))

# Local Pastor To Minister At Mega Church In South Florida

The Rev. Frank W. Peterman Jr. of The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church was invited by the Bishop Victor Curry to speak at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church and St. Ruth Baptist Church in Miami. Rev. Peterman is married to former June Kicklighter and they have four children; Winston, Sydnee, Jordan and Taffrey.

Rev. Peterman was called to the ministry July 29, 1995 and was ordained while working under the guidance of Reverend Dr. Manuel Sykes, Pastor of Bethel Community Baptist Church. Then the Reverend Frank Peterman was led to New Beginnings Church at the site of Covenant Presbyterian Church,

4201 6th St. S. to assist then the pastor Reverend Dr. Alvin Moore.

When Reverend Dr. Alvin Moore was called to minister at Mt. Gilboa Missionary Baptist Church in Bartow, Florida, the New Beginnings members asked Reverend Frank W. Peterman to assume the pastorate of the church with his mother the late Reverend Peggy M. Peterman as the assistant pastor. Reverend Frank W. Peterman was installed as the pastor, February 2, 2003 and the name of the New Beginnings church was changed to The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church located at 3940 18th Ave. S.

The Rock of Jesus

Missionary Baptist Church will be worshipping at two sites. St. Ruth Missionary Baptist Church, home church of Pastor Peterman's grandparents where Bishop Victor Curry is pastor and the New Birth Baptist Church - Cathedral of Faith International mega-church, where Bishop Victor Curry is also the pastor, in Miami. The dates of these fellowships are Saturday, August 29, to Monday, August 31. The cost breakdown is as follow: Round trip fare - \$53.00 and the hotel for two nights is \$138.00. Total trip cost: single - \$191.00, Couples - \$244.00. For more information call (727) 698-2926 or Church office at (727) 327-0015.

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# CHURCH NEWS

## Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church "God's House in the City" under the leadership of our soldier of the cross, and drum major for justice, Dr Rickey L. Houston, extend an invitation to the community to join us as we communicate Gods' Word at 10:00 a.m. worship service Sunday, Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and Bible Study and Teen Summit Wednesday evening, at 7:00. We also encourage the community to make use of our

Prayer Line, (727-321-9645) Bethel Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church is committed to a Christ-centered, People-centered, Team-centered and Bible-based ministry; with priorities focused on Love, Forgiveness, Unity, Peace and Growth. We celebrate in worship, we care for one another, we cultivate the fullest spiritual life possible both individually and corporately; and we communicate God's truth at every

opportunity. Living out these priorities results in a kaleidoscope of ministries at Bethel Metropolitan for all ages and interests.

Applications are being taken for Pathfinders Summer Camp June 8-Aug. 14. Camp hours are 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, for ages 5-12 years. There is limited space. For additional information contact Joyce Hurst at 727-328-2409.

## Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

"Impact the World by Equipping Believers to Reach the Lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ"  
FREEDOM'S DREAM REALIZED  
The Mt. Zion Progressive MBC family extends an invitation to join us in prayer, praise, and worship with First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg. This spiritual fellowship is a reunion

of cultures as we glorify the word of God. Please join us Sunday, July 5 at 10 a.m. at First Baptist Church of St. Petersburg, 1900 Gandy Blvd.  
MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY  
Join us for Mid-Week Devotion Noon to 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the sanctuary. Other mid-week services in the sanctuary include:

Wednesday evening Prayer Meeting 6-6:30 p.m. and Bible Study from 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
SUNDAY SERVICES  
Worship Services at 7:45 a.m. and 10 a.m., and Sunday School at 9 a.m.  
Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church is located at 955 20th St. S.; Ph. 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 study and worship with us whenever our doors are open. See the ad for times of worship.  
MIDWEEK P.U.S.H.  
(Prayer + Understanding = Spiritual Healing)

Prayer Service and Bible Study are held Wednesday evenings. Prayer begins at 6:30 and Bible Study begins at 7:30. You are invited to study the Word of God with us. The Adult classes for the 3rd quarter will complete the study in Proverbs. Youth Bible Study: "What's Up With The Word"  
UPCOMING EVENTS  
"GO TELL IT"

(For further information, call 727-896-5228)  
July 13 - 17 WCBA Congress of Christian Ed., First Baptist of College Hill, Tampa  
July 18 Annual Church Picnic, Lake Vista Recreation and Park, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
"When you put your cares in God's hands, He puts His peace in your heart."

## Prayer Tower COGIC

"Pastor Clarence Welch Celebrates 45th Pastoral Anniversary"  
Mother Cora Savage, Coordinator for the Pastoral Anniversary, and the Prayer Tower Family will be celebrating their Pastor's 45th Pastoral Anniversary beginning July 7. Our theme for this year is "There Is A Higher Height and Deeper Depth". Pastor Welch is an exemplary pastor and has been a blessing not only to his members but the community at large. Those of you who know and love Pastor Welch, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate with us during this glorious

celebration.  
Tuesday, July 7 - Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church, Elder Rickey Houston, Pastor, 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, July 12 - East Lake COGIC, Elder Willie Matheney, Tarpon Springs, 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 15th - Pentecostal Temple COGIC, Elder William Anderson, Pastor, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, July 16 - Bible Way COGIC, Elder Sylvester Reeves Sr., Pastor, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, July 17 - Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church, Bishop Raymond T. Baker, Pastor, 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, July 19 - Queen Street

COGIC, Supt. Anthony Conage, Pastor, 11:30 a.m.  
Come one, come all and let us give honor to the Man of God for the service that he has given to his Church Family and Community at large.  
His advice to Pastors is "All you need is to be faithful to God and he will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory!"  
If you have further questions regarding the service, please contact Mother Cora Savage at 898-0043 or Sis. Darlina Herring at 418-5908 or [darlinaherring@gmail.com](mailto:darlinaherring@gmail.com).

## St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of its dynamic, spirited, man of God, the Reverend Brian K. 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, praising God for His awesome gift, His son Jesus Christ.  
Upcoming Events for July 2009  
July 3-4 4th of July Holiday  
July 6-10 Vacation Bible School: "The Jesus Chronicles"  
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 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 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.  
Sunday School Teachers' Meeting is held every Tuesday at 7 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.  
St. Mark After School Tutoring Ministry: Open to all elementary

school age children ever Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:30-6 p.m. Homework help and reading tutors available.  
DESTINATION GRADUATION: Wednesdays - 6-7:30 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 classes for elementary students, Monday (6-8 p.m.), Tuesday and Thursday (5-6 p.m.) and Wednesday (5-6 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m.) evenings.

Church News due by 4:00 p.m. on Monday of each week.

## SummerFest '09 Raised Funds And Awareness

An enthusiastic crowd met Saturday, June 20, at Bethel Community Baptist Church to enjoy SummerFest '09. Friends and neighbors joined together to support the "Save Our Children" Program in an effort to raise funds for a community basketball court to be built at the church. Although the weather was hot, the group enjoyed a wonderful gathering of gospel performers

and local vendors for the day-long event.  
The "Save Our Children" Program is an outreach inner-city effort designed to provide meaningful programs stressing education, athletics and spiritual growth to the youth in our community. The League of Faith Coalition hosted SummerFest '09 to promote community awareness of the basketball project. The

SummerFest event offered a great opportunity to share a fun-filled day of family entertainment and support a worthwhile community endeavor geared at making our neighborhoods a safer place. If you would like more information on how you can participate in the "Save Our Children" Program or make a donation, please contact Sam Martin at (727) 434-3718.



# ENTERTAINMENT



*Rick Gee's*  
**JAZZ JAMM**

## Jazz Jamm Concert Series Ends 4th Season On An Upbeat

Lest anyone think that the music of “JAZZ” is on a downward spiral, know that last Friday night’s final concert of the Jazz Jamm Concert season proved beyond a shadow of a doubt... “Jazz is alive and well!”

Jazz enthusiasts anxious to see and hear the Josel, Valentino & Friends in concert, arrived en masse from as far away as Ft. Myers, Myakka City, Ocala, Tierra Verde and Sarasota. In fact, several corporations such as Charger Enterprises, Inc. and Suds MaMa, just to name a few had reserved tables far in advance of the show. Former St. Petersburg Cultural Affairs Manager Ann Wykell and husband Sheldon, along with the past five times plus president of The Jazz Club of Sarasota Jerry Roucher and wife Nancy were in the house. In other words ladies and gentlemen, the Bayview Room was packed to capacity. Unfortunately, approximately thirty late comers had to be turned away at the door due to Fire Department regulations.

Those fans in attendance were entertained well-beyond their wildest expectations. In fact, one guest was overheard saying to a friend “I would have paid double the \$20 ticket price to be here this evening. Next season, I’m coming to every concert.” Indeed, the gentleman was not alone in his opinion. Many compliments were heard as to the outstanding performances presented by the musicians.

Usually when writing jazz concert reviews, I mention the names of tunes and how they were performed; whether slowly as in a ballad, or upbeat in a more jazzy type tune. However, because of the competence of musicians performing at this out of the ordinary concert, I’ll list a few, but my review will mainly consist of the background of the musicians. My thoughts are, regardless of the name of the tunes, you will be able to imagine in your own mind just how they must have been played. Many of the tunes were familiar tunes to jazz devotees such as “Oleo”, “Ain’t No Sunshine”, “Europa”, and “Chameleon.”

At the beginning of the concert the emcee introduced some of the band members and provided snippets of their backgrounds. Playing together in an exceptionally talented rhythm section was Sam Martinez on bass guitar and Jesse Romero on drums. Martinez performs as a sideman for many bands in the Tampa Bay area. He is a former music student under the well-known music instructor Jeff Berlin. Martinez is popularly known for his



Valentino and Friends perform June 26

incredible sense of musicality, evident regardless of the style of music he is playing. Romero who keeps perfect time on drums and percussion is another highly regarded musician in the Tampa Bay area. Romero has performed off and on with Valentino for several years, and is considered to possess a special groove and charisma that unquestionably lights up any stage.

Friday night was indeed a special musical evening for the attending guests. They were pleasantly surprised by the talent of 14-year old violinist, Katelynn Rehnke. She defines herself as not only a performer, but also as a composer and studio musician for various artists in the area. Katelynn is the twin daughter of the show’s sponsors Dr. & Mrs. Robert D. Rehnke. Adding to Katelynn’s delight, in the audience were her grandparents Katie and Clinton Rehnke, her aunt Gail Benjamin, an uncle Bob Wilder, and her twin sister, guitarist Shelby who shares the spotlight on their debut CD album “What’s Up?”

Continuing with the group’s makeup, Jose’s sister Christina Valerie Ruiz, on vocals, also performed. Christina is presently a student at USF, and states that her inspiration comes by such vocal greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Christina Aguilera, Alicia Keys, and gospel recording artist Kim Burrell. A highlight of the evening, and to everyone’s delight, up and coming vocalist Chantel, who happened to be in the audience, sat in on a couple of tunes with the group. Unfortunately, Jose’s father Tito Ruiz, bassist and minor percussionist was unable to perform, since he chose to administer the sound system on this very special evening.

Due to lack of space, I’ll conclude with the background of the two major performers of the evening, 20 - year old Jose Valentino, flute and saxophones: winner of the 2009 International Gasperilla Film Festival for writing the score of “Improv Island”, Best Documentary award; 2009

Downbeat Magazine award winner: Best Classical Soloist, Best Blues/Pop/Rock Soloist on flute, saxophone and bass; 2009 Miyazawa Flutes endorsement; 2009 graduate of USF; former Yamaha Flutes “Young Performing Artist” award; two CD albums “Flute On Fire” and “All About You”; former Downbeat Magazine award winner: Outstanding Soloist for Jazz Saxophone and Flute.

Along side of Josel, with absolutely outstanding musical ability was 15 - year old Antonio “Tony” Madruga performing on keyboards. This young man caused many discussions later in the evening, as to what criteria are used in determining a prodigy. Several jazz buffs having the conversation agreed that it was outright impossible for someone so young to have learned what and how Tony was playing with all of the nuances, tones and shades, in so few years. Tony has performed as a featured artist at Carnegie Hall. He has toured around the world with Latin jazz great Paquito D’Rivera. This year he was the recipient of the 2009 Essentially Ellington Best Soloist award presented by jazz great Wynton Marsalis. Recently, Tony has had the opportunity to perform with some of jazz’s best musicians, including Arturo O’Farrow, Danilo Perez and Branford Marsalis. He has been described as “A young kid with the soul of Oscar Peterson.” Both he and Josel, will perform with eleven times Grammy Award winner Paquito D’Rivera at the 2009 Tanglewood Jazz Festival.

Based on the quality of the musicians, no wonder the concert was sold-out!

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 website at: rickgeesjazzjamm.com or email me at JazzJamm@aolcom. 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

## BLACK HISTORY

“Celebrating Our History Is An Everyday Thing”

Source: Wikipedia Free Library

### Edward Bullins

Ed Bullins (born July 2, 1935 in Philadelphia) is an African-American playwright. He is known for writing plays such as “In the Wine Tine” and “Goin A Buffalo.” He was also the minister of culture for the Black Panther Movement. A majority of Bullin’s work is seen as useful and relevant to Black America. In addition, he has won numerous awards: several Obies, fellowships for playwriting, and New York Drama Critic Awards for playwriting. Bullins is considered by some to be one of the most celebrated playwrights to come from the Black Arts Movement.

Ed Bullins was born July 2, 1935 in Philadelphia, PA. As a child he attended predominantly white schools and got involved with gangs. He attended Franklin High School and got involved with gangs and was in accident where he was stabbed. Shortly thereafter, he quit high school and joined the navy. During this period he won a boxing championship and started reading. He returned to Philadelphia and enrolled in night school. He stayed until 1958 when he went to Los Angeles leaving behind a marriage and kids. After receiving his G.E.D. in L.A., he enrolled in Los Angeles City College and he began writing short stories for the Citadel, a magazine he created. In 1964, Bullins went to San Francisco and joined the creative writing program at San Francisco State College. This is where he first started writing plays. His first was “How Do You Do” and afterwards two more immediately followed, “Clara’s Ole Man” and “Dialect Determinism.”

After seeing Amiri Baraka’s “Dutchman,” Bullins felt that Baraka’s artistic purpose validated his own. He joined Black House, Baraka’s Group. Black House included Sonia Sanchez, Huey Newton, Marvin X, and others. The Black House were supporters of the Black Arts Movement and strongly believed in Protest Theatre. The Black Panthers used Black House as a San Francisco’s base, which allowed Bullins to be

briefly the Minister of Culture for the Black Panther Party. The Black House experienced a schism in beliefs between members who saw art as a weapon and were for joining with whites for political means and others who saw art as cultural nationalism and didn’t want to work with whites. Bullins was a part of the second group and as a result he ended up leaving.

Robert Macbeth read Bullins plays and asked him to join the New Lafayette Players. The New Lafayette Players were a newly formed group located in Harlem. Their first production was Ron Milner’s “Who’s Got His Own.” The theatre was destroyed and they relocated to the American Place Theatre where the performed three plays by Ed Bullins. The plays as a whole was called “Electronic Nigger” and later changed to “Three Plays by Ed Bullins” to accommodate ranges in audience. The three plays “The Electronic Nigger” and “Others A Son,” “Come Home” and “Clara’s Ole Man” earned Bullins a Vernon Rice Desk Award for 1968. Bullins stayed with the Lafayette Players until they ended due to funding issues in 1972. But, during his stay ten of plays were produced with the Players including “In the Wine Tine” and “Goin A Buffalo.” Bullin’s most ambitious playwriting undertaking was his twentieth-century play cycle, a proposed cycle of twenty plays that represents African-American experiences showing issues of race relations, but also problems and issues that arise in the lives of everyday African-Americans. Although some of his non-cycle plays seem to fit this ideology including “Goin a Buffalo” and “Clara’s Ole Man”

After, the ending of the Lafayette Players, Bullins and his now third wife, Trixie Warner Bullins and children remained in New York living in the Bronx. In 1973 he was a in-residence playwright for the American Place Theatre. From 1975-1983, he was on staff at the New York Shakespeare Festival at the



Public Theatre Writers’ Unit. During that time Bullins wrote two children’s plays “I am Lucy Terry” and “The Mystery of Phyllis Wheatley.” He, also, wrote books for two musicals “Sepia Star” and “Storyville.” Bullins latest work is Harlem Diva and was set to be performed in 2006. He went back to school again and received a bachelor’s degree in English and Playwriting from Antioch University in San Francisco. In 1995, he became a professor at Northeastern University. Now, he is a distinguished Artist-in-Residence at Northeastern University in Boston.

In addition to Bullins many plays, he also tried his hand in other forms of writing such as short stories and novels. He wrote The Hungered One and The Reluctant Rapist. The latter features a sort of twin or alter ego of Bullins named Steve Benson, who is featured in many of Bullin’s works. In the novel, Bullin’s writes the world prepares a black man for a single kill: treachery to his brothers.

Ed Bullins has received numerous awards for playwriting. He received an Obie Award for distinguished playwriting and the Black Arts Alliance Award for The Fabulous Miss Marie and In the New England Winter. For the Taking of Miss Janie Bullins received the Obie Award for distinguished playwriting and the New York Drama Critics Award. In 1971 and 1976, Bullins won the Guggenheim Fellowship for playwriting. In 1975, he won the Drama Desk-Vernon Rice Award, two more Obies, two Guggenheim fellowships, four Rockefeller Foundation playwriting grants, and two National Endowment for the Arts playwriting grants.

PICK OF THE WEEK!

**42 13 50**

**CASH 3**

**952**

**145**

**663**

**DOG DAYS**

**1-6 6-4**

**3-8 2-5**

**7-3 8-1**

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**We Welcome Your Letters To The Editor**



# CHALLENGER SPORTS

## Return To NFL Isn't The Main Thrust Of Vick's New Bankruptcy Plan



**Michael Vick**  
NORFOLK, Va. (AP) - Michael Vick's revised bankruptcy plan would funnel more of his future pay to his creditors and ensure that they receive a portion of his earnings even if the suspended quarterback doesn't return to the NFL.

Vick attorney Paul Campsen outlined the highlights of the new plan, which was still being drafted, at a status hearing Tuesday. Campsen assured U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Frank J. Santoro that he will have no trouble filing the document by Thursday's deadline.

Santoro rejected Vick's first Chapter 11 plan in April, saying it wasn't feasible. Among Santoro's concerns was that the plan heavily depended on Vick returning to the NFL and that the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback was trying to hang on to too many assets. Vick's first bankruptcy plan would have allowed him to keep the first

\$750,000 of his annual salary, and he also intended to keep two houses and several cars.

Under the new plan, 10 percent of the first \$750,000 that Vick earns would go to creditors, and he has agreed to liquidate a house that's under construction in Virginia. If Vick doesn't return to the NFL, the new plan would give creditors a portion of whatever he earns from a lower-paying job.

Vick's prospects for playing in the NFL again rest with league commissioner Roger Goodell, who has said he will review the matter after the quarterback completes his 23-month federal sentence for operating a dogfighting ring.

Vick, who is finishing his sentence on home confinement in Hampton, is scheduled to be released from federal custody July 20. He didn't attend Tuesday's hearing, which came one day after he began a new job with the Boys and Girls Clubs. He had been earning \$10 an hour in a construction job since leaving the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., in May.

Steven S. Kast, chief executive officer of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula, said Vick will work with children in health and

fitness programs for a few weeks.

"We were disappointed by some of his recent actions and decisions, but believe he has learned from these experiences, and is now conscious of his obligations and responsibilities as a prominent sports figure that impacts and influences our kids," Kast said in a written statement.

Vick's legal troubles wrecked his finances as well as his reputation. Once the NFL's highest-paid player, Vick filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in July 2008, listing assets of \$16 million and liabilities of \$20.4 million.

Under Vick's bankruptcy plan, creditors would receive a percentage of any income above \$750,000 per year, and their cut has increased under the revisions. The sliding-scale percentages would be increased as follows:

»\$750,000 to \$2.5 million in earnings, from 20 percent under the old plan to 25 percent under the new one.

»\$2.5 million to \$10 million, from 25 percent to 30 percent.

»Over \$10 million, from 33 percent to 40 percent.

Ross Reeves, attorney for a committee representing Vick's

unsecured creditors, said the committee supports the plan.

"The committee's view has been that these numbers are based on Vick being highly incentivized not only to re-enter the NFL but to stick with it," Reeves said.

Campsen said Vick also will liquidate his \$2 million home under construction in Suffolk. Santoro suggested in April that Vick sell one of his two Virginia homes. The Hampton home is assessed at \$748,100, according to city tax records.

The revised plan also will settle a dispute between Vick and his former agent, Joel Enterprises Inc. Joel won a \$4.6 million judgment against Vick in a breach-of-contract case and had been fighting to collect before the quarterback's unsecured creditors are paid. Campsen said Joel will now receive \$6 million but will be treated as an unsecured creditor, being paid a little at a time.

Santoro also approved the sale of two bass boats and three larger fishing boats owned by Vick.

A confirmation hearing on Vick's new plan is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 27.

## Guillen Least Popular In SI Poll



**Ozzie Guillen**  
CLEVELAND, OH (AP) - Chicago White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen doesn't mind being unpopular among players who don't play for him.

"In sports you've got to be the bad boy. Remember Billy Martin?" Guillen said Tuesday about placing second in a players poll to the Cubs' Lou Piniella as the manager for which players would least like to play.

In an upcoming issue of

Sports Illustrated, 26 percent of major leaguers polled voted for the combustible Piniella, followed by Guillen at 21 percent. St. Louis' Tony LaRussa was next at 10 percent, followed by the Los Angeles Dodgers' Joe Torre and Cleveland's Eric Wedge at four percent apiece.

"Tony was No. 3 and he's won a couple titles," said Guillen, who guided the White Sox to a World Series win in 2005 in his second year in Chicago. "Looks like players picked old-school guys. Maybe they don't like old school, don't like to be told what to do.

"It doesn't bother me. If 59 percent of my players say they like me, that's good enough for me."

## Indians CF Sizemore To Play With Soreness

CLEVELAND (AP) The Indians' trainer says center fielder Grady Sizemore may need postseason surgery on his inflamed left elbow.

Trainer Lonnie Soloff said "there's a high index of suspicion" that Sizemore will need an operation at some point. Soloff said Sizemore will have to play with soreness in his elbow for the remainder of the season.

Sizemore recently missed three weeks with inflammation

in his elbow, an injury that has bothered him since spring training.

A .279 career hitter, Cleveland's former leadoff man is batting .236 with 10 homers and 39 RBIs in 55 games. He's been dropped to No. 2 in the order.

Since returning from the disabled list June 23, Sizemore is batting .250 with one homer and eight RBIs in six games.

## Bobcats To Explore Possibility Of Adding All-Star Guard Allen Iverson



**Allen Iverson**  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - The Charlotte Bobcats have an owner who's losing millions and looking to sell. They've struggled to move tickets, win games and become relevant in a town that used to adore the NBA.

Allen Iverson could change that. Pair the polarizing guard with coach Larry Brown again and they wouldn't just be talking about games in Charlotte, they'd be talking about practice, too.

Whether Iverson is reunited with his former adversary-turned-buddy Brown is Charlotte's most intriguing storyline as the NBA's free agency period opens Wednesday.

Iverson is a 34-year-old free agent, far removed from his NBA MVP days and certainly about to be paid much less than the nearly \$22 million he made last season, when he was traded from Denver to Detroit.

Seven years after Iverson's famous "We're talking about practice!" rant directed at Brown

when they were in Philadelphia, the two have made up. Iverson was spotted in Charlotte in May, when Brown said he'd have no problems coaching him again and Iverson's agent indicated his client would be open to playing for the Bobcats.

Leon Rose declined further comment on Tuesday, but he's expected to talk to the Bobcats as the free agency negotiating period starts Wednesday.

"Even though there are things that went on during our careers, the work he did was phenomenal," Brown said recently. "He wants to win, he competes every night, he plays hurt."

Brown did question whether the Bobcats, who have never won more than 35 games in a season, would be a good fit for a player seeking to win an NBA title before retiring. But Rose said his client would have no qualms coming to Charlotte.

The Bobcats were the lowest-scoring team in the NBA last season, but Iverson's role here would be uncertain.

The Bobcats have depth in the backcourt. They drafted shooting guard Gerald Henderson with the 12th pick to back up Raja Bell. D.J. Augustin is expected to again back up point guard Raymond Felton.

Charlotte last week gave Felton a one-year, \$5.5 million qualifying offer to make him a restricted free agent and plan to sign him to a long-term deal this summer.

"I don't see any situation where he will not be with this team," managing partner Michael Jordan said. "Granted, we've got a lot of business decisions to make and a lot of negotiations ahead. But I anticipate us keeping and signing Raymond Felton, without a doubt."

Under that scenario, Iverson would likely have to take on a lesser role, something he resisted in Detroit last season.

It's also uncertain if the two sides could agree on a contract. The Bobcats, who are over the salary cap, will probably not offer more than a midlevel exception of about \$5.6 million for a free agent.

Management has been told by owner Bob Johnson, who has slashed non-basketball payroll and is exploring selling the team, not to exceed the luxury tax threshold of about \$70 million.

"I don't think it's fair for us to get anywhere close to the luxury tax numbers," general manager Rod Higgins said. "We're just trying to get to the

playoffs. We're not there yet, so it's going to be hard pressed for us to go to ownership and say we want to go to the tax level."

The Bobcats' biggest need is the frontcourt. Injury-prone power forward Sean May becomes an unrestricted free agent Wednesday after Charlotte declined to give him a one-year qualifying offer of \$3.7 million.

The Bobcats could still try to re-sign May for less, and they must address Boris Diaw's backup because veteran Juwan Howard is also a free agent. Rasheed Wallace and Antonio McDyess, both of whom have played for Brown, are available.

Charlotte has big money tied up in reserve big men Nazr Mohammed (\$13.2 million owed over the next two seasons) and DeSagana Diop (\$19.4 million over three years), but didn't make a draft-week trade to clear cap space to be a major player in free agency.

But with Cleveland, Orlando, Atlanta and Washington all making recent deals, the Bobcats may have a tough time becoming a playoff team in an improved Eastern Conference next season if they don't make a move or two to upgrade offensively.

option to return for the final year of his contract.

When healthy, Boozer has been the Jazz's top scorer and rebounder and helped lead Utah to three straight playoff appearances. He's been an All-Star twice and was a member of last year's U.S. Olympic gold medal team, but injuries have taken him out for large chunks of three of his five seasons in Utah.

Boozer has averaged 19 points and 10 rebounds since Utah signed him away from the Cleveland Cavaliers as a restricted free agent five years ago, but has only played in 276 of a possible 410 with the Jazz. He was limited to 37 games last season, due largely to an injury that required surgery on his left knee in January.

## Boozer Exercises Player Option

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Carlos Boozer has reconsidered free agency, or at least put it off a year.

Boozer let the Utah Jazz know Tuesday that he will stay with the team for the final year of his contract rather than opting out and becoming a free agent which he once said he intended to do.

Boozer backed off his original statement and said when

the season ended he wanted to consider all of his options.

He chose not to chance an iffy free agent market for more money and possibly a long-term deal, taking the \$12.7 million he's guaranteed next season from the Jazz.

Boozer took until the final day to reach a decision.

Utah was still waiting Tuesday to hear from center Mehmet Okur, who also had the





# STATE NEWS

## Beat the Heat And Only Use State-Licensed Contractors

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida summer is in full swing, and it is hot! Many Florida consumers will be adding swimming pools and tuning up their air conditioning units to help beat the heat this summer. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation is reminding consumers when making changes or improvements to their homes to use state-licensed contractors.

“In the rush to stay cool this summer, remember to check your pool and AC contactors license and references before signing a contract and work begins,” said DBPR Secretary Charles W. Drago. “Then go to MyFloridaLicense.com to ensure your contractor’s license is in good standing.”

Unlicensed contracting

threatens the financial and personal safety of consumers, leaving them with little to no recourse. State-licensed pool and air conditioning professionals are also impacted by unlicensed activity. Unlicensed individuals often underbid licensed professionals, but they usually do not carry workers’ compensation or liability insurance, posing an increased threat to consumers and cutting out licensed professionals.

DBPR executes a three-tiered approach to combat unlicensed activity through education, prevention and enforcement. Here are some tips to help consumers protect themselves against unlicensed activity: Always ask to see the State of Florida license. Note the license number and verify that

the license is current and in good standing. To check a license, call 850-487-1395 or visit MyFloridaLicense.com.

Ask for references and check each one. Do not pay cash and be cautious of writing checks made payable to individuals, especially when dealing with a company. Get everything in writing, including a detailed description of the work to be completed, a completion date and the total cost.

The department’s mission is to license efficiently and regulate fairly. The department licenses more than one million businesses and professionals ranging from real estate agents, veterinarians, and accountants to contractors and cosmetologists.

For more information, visit MyFloridaLicense.com.

## Florida Colleges Lead The Nation In Graduation

TALLAHASSEE – Florida’s public two-year colleges lead the nation in graduation and progression rates, according to a recent release of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) 2009 Fact Book. The Fact Book, one of the nation’s leading sources of comparative higher education data, annually summarizes and reports key higher education data for each of the Region’s 16-member states.

“This report confirms our college’s ongoing commitment to excellence and student success as we meet the challenges of the 21st century,” said Education Commissioner Dr. Eric J. Smith. “Our colleges have long supported the state’s mission of preparing every student to face the challenges of our current global workplace, and this national recognition

will only strengthen that drive.”

The Florida College System’s three-year college graduation rate of 30 percent is nearly double the southern region’s average of 16 percent, and the highest among all 16 SREB member states. Florida’s average also greatly exceeds the national average of 20 percent. These rates are inclusive of full-time freshmen who first enrolled in public two-year colleges to pursue an associate’s degree or vocational certificate.

Florida’s College System is also touted for leading the region in three-year student progression rates. This measure tracks full-time freshmen enrolled in degree or certificate programs who graduated, were still enrolled, or who transferred to another college within three years. At 59 percent, the state’s progression rate is the highest in

the region, and 12 percentage points above the SREB state average. This reflects a 14-point increase in student success rates since 1999.

The Southern Regional Education Board is an Atlanta-based organization to help leaders in education and government work cooperatively to advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region. Florida is a member of the SREB, among 15 other states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

To view the 2009 Fact Book, visit <http://www.sreb.org/Main/EdData/FactBook/2009StateReports/Florida09.pdf>.

## Bilingual Statewide 511 Phone System Launched

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has launched its new, bilingual statewide 511 Traveler Information System. The new statewide Florida 511 system replaces the regional 511 phone systems. Now, travelers are able to call 511 anywhere in the state and hear the same voice and call menu options. FDOT also launched the new statewide FL511.com Web site replacing regional 511 Web sites. FL511.com features the same detailed traffic and travel information as the 511 phone call in addition to camera views and links to airports, seaports and transit agencies. Users can register for My Florida 511 personalized

services to receive traffic alerts via a phone call, e-mail and/or text message. Travelers can customize their alerts by choosing the time of day, day of week and type or severity of incidents. Users can also program customized routes to hear travel information on their routes first when calling 511.

Florida’s 511 phone and Web system gives real-time traffic reports on Florida interstate highways; toll roads, including Florida’s Turnpike, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority roads and Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority roads; and other major metropolitan roadways. The statewide system provides information on roadway condi-

tions such as commuter travel times, construction, lane closures, crashes, congestion and severe weather affecting traffic. Travelers can access traffic, transit times, airports seaports or request information for a specific roadway, city or county. The system is also updated with public alerts, including AMBER, Silver and Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) alerts.

A call to 511 is free; however normal cell phone minute and/or text message charges apply. 511 is a safety resource, and FDOT encourages travelers to call 511 or visit FL511.com to learn about roadway conditions before getting on the road.

We wanted our counselors to get a better understanding of the young black male so that we can get down to the source of the issue and help in solving the problem.”

According to Williams, this workshop had a diversity component that all school counselors should have in their educational background.

## FAMU

*continued from front page*

The workshop also featured segments on financing the educational experience and understanding the culturally different student. FAMU President James H. Ammons was also on hand for a working lunch.

Shirl Williams, the director

of student services for the School Board of Jackson County and FAMU alumna, was on hand at the workshop. She brought eight of Jackson County’s counselors with her.

“I wanted them to see firsthand just what the school had to offer,” she said. “Studies show that only 16 percent of black males were passing the FCAT.

# NATIONAL NEWS

## Children Living With Hunger In North Carolina

BY YASMINE REGESTER

(NNPA) - One in four children lives on the brink of hunger in North Carolina. Three and a half million children in America, ages five and under, are food insecure. These are just some of the statistics recently released in a report by Feeding America, a network of churches and community organizations striving to change this problem. Locally, The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina is a member of the Feeding America network and works throughout 18 counties in NC to address this problem.

“We really need to spread awareness and increase knowledge about this issue. There is hunger right here in our community,” said Daisy Rodriguez, Child Hunger Director of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina. Second Harvest is a major distributor of donated food and grocery products in the region, collecting and distributing products to more than 390 nonprofit partner agencies that annually feed thousands of people in need.

According to the report,

North Carolina is one of the states with the highest rates of food insecure children under the age of 18. Almost 20 percent of these youth fewer than 18 are food insecure.

The state also ranks second with the highest rates of food insecure children under five years of age. In this age group the number jumps to 24.1 percent.

Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of Feeding America, said, “We know that a child who is hungry and cannot learn becomes a man or woman who cannot earn.”

Rodriguez points out that many children are food insecure from the time they are born until they are of school age, which is the most crucial part of childhood development.

“The numbers are quite alarming,” she said.

The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club located at Westend Ministries of High Point is one organization which receives the majority of its food supplies from the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina. The Boys and Girls Club operates a meal program called Kids Café, where

they serve healthy meals to children who are in need.

“It provides a nourishing meal three times a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday – for many children living below the poverty level. “Sometimes these meals and the meals served at schools are the only nourishing meals they receive,” stated Judy Mendenhall, director of Kids Café at Westend Ministries. Mendenhall says the numbers increase once school is out. In the summer the program will feed 35 to 50 children a day. The first Kids Café opened in 1989 in Savannah Georgia and has spread to over 1,700 established Kids Cafés in operation today. There is also a Kids Café in operation at the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club at Ray Warren Homes in Greensboro.

Escarra said, “The startling fact that so many very young children in this country do not have adequate nutrition necessary to grow and develop into healthy adults is heartbreaking. It is all the more tragic when one considers that it is also entirely preventable.”

## Investigation: Health Insurers Defrauded Consumers Of Billions

BY BRIAN STIMSON

PORTLAND (NNPA) - As the debate over health care reform heats up in Washington, a report released June 24 could make a major blow to private insurance companies’ credibility.

A series of private lawsuits and government-lead investigations revealed that in every region of the United States, private insurers have been under-paying valid claims – defrauding consumers of billions of dollars.

The report, released by the Senate Commerce Committee staff, reveals that about 100 million Americans who paid for “out-of-network” coverage were denied valid claims.

“Consumers turn to their health insurer for help and clarity and they don’t get it,” said Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Chair John D. Rockefeller, D-W.Va., during a hearing Wednesday afternoon. “They think they’ve paid for protection against the risk of high health care expenses, but the insurance companies have figured out a way out of providing the protection they deserve.” The hearing featured three health policy experts, one of whom is a former senior executive in charge of corporate communication for health insurance giant Cigna. Wendell Potter now publicly talks about the need to reform a corrupt industry.

In the report, investigators found that health insurance companies used a soon-to-be defunct company called Ingenix, Inc. to set “usual and customary” prices for medical services. The prices were neither usual nor customary.

Although the company portrayed itself as an independent actor, they were actually a wholly owned subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group and regularly used information and

data from the very insurance companies who subscribed to their data services.

The discussion is likely to have an effect on the debate around national health care reform. On June 24, Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire met with President Obama to discuss reports gathered from health care forums held in April.

“We are a country living in fear,” Gregoire said. “Many families – even those with health insurance – are fearful of a painful diagnosis, knowing that even with insurance, they’re savings might be depleted in order to receive quality care.”

Health insurers are trying to gain congressional support against Obama’s public health option plan, which they say would undercut their profits as the public moved to a more affordable, transparent health plan.

During the hearing convened by Sen. Rockefeller, testimony centered on deceptive insurance industry practices that help bankrupt millions of families every year.

“Think about the consumer with \$100,000 in medical care for breast cancer or the consumer whose bills total \$80,000 for a heart attack,” he said. “When insurance companies fail to meet their obligation to these people, it literally becomes an issue of life and death, financially or otherwise. Consumers can’t make real choices, because the insurance company doesn’t use standard language or definition. I would say on purpose.” Potter, the former Cigna executive, said for-profit companies regularly engaged in practices that damaged the health of the people they were supposed to be protecting.

“Remember, the top priority of for-profit companies is to drive up the value of their stock,” he said. “For-profit companies must

prove that they made more profit than the previous quarter and that the premiums going toward medical costs are falling. Insurers routinely dump policy holders who are less profitable or when they get sick.”

He said the practices have been largely responsible for the drop in small businesses offering coverage to employees. He said insurance companies regularly dump small businesses whose policy claims exceed profit expectations.

“This practice is known in the industry as purging,” he said. Nancy Metcalf, senior program editor for Consumer Reports, said one of the biggest problems today is the “high deductible” plan. She and others at the hearing referred to these plans as “fake insurance” because they often don’t cover the very things – such as a catastrophic medical treatment – that the plans purport to cover. And when a policy targets healthy young people and excludes certain coverage, it can often end with a policy holder going bankrupt and unable to find any medical coverage at all.


“You can’t foresee (medical conditions),” he said. “They don’t realize what can happen. Next year, they could get MS, and their drug costs \$2,000 a month. And they’re shocked when their insurance company won’t cover it.”

The widespread practice of not covering preexisting conditions is also a practice that generates a large amount of income for insurers and their Wall Street investors. Potter said the practice was morally abominable.

“Where is the logic and humanity of not covering preexisting conditions in our society,” he said. “My children have asthma. It wasn’t anything they had control over, but their policies won’t cover any pulmonary conditions they might have. Where is the logic in that?”




# CHURCH DIRECTORY



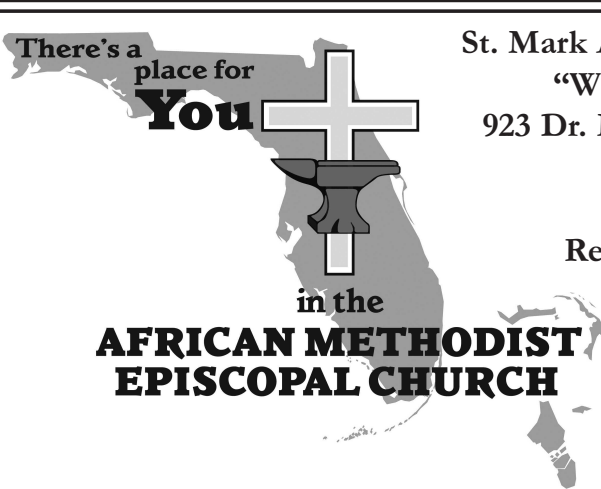
**955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712**  
**(727) 894-4311**  
Email: [mzpmbc@gte.net](mailto:mzpmbc@gte.net)  
Website: [www.mzprogressive.org](http://www.mzprogressive.org)

**Worship Services .....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.**  
**Prayer Service (Wed) .....6:00 p.m.**  
**Bible Study (Wed) .....6:30 p.m.**

**Mission Statement:**  
*Impact the world by equipping believers  
to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*



**Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.**  
Senior Pastor



**St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
**"Where Everybody is Somebody"**  
**923 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street South**  
**Saint Petersburg, FL 33701**  
**Phone: (727) 823-6666**  
**Rev. Keturah D. Pittman, Pastor**


**Weekly Schedule**  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Early Morning Worship Service...11:00 a.m.  
Monday Prayer & Praise .....6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.  
Friday Youth Activities.....6:30 p.m.

**ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**3200 Fifth Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712**  
**(727) 327-1373**

**Early Morning Worship .....7:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.**  
**Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting .....7:00 p.m.**  
**Friday Prayer Meeting .....11:00 a.m.**

**"Raising A Standard For God's People In God's Church"**



**Rev. Norris L. Martin Sr. - Pastor**



**NEW HOPE**  
Missionary Baptist Church  
"One Body, One Spirit, One Hope"

2120 19th St. So. St. Petersburg FL 33712  
(727) 896-5228  
[www.spreadinghopeonline.org](http://www.spreadinghopeonline.org)

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



**Rev. Carlos L. Senior,**  
Pastor



**GENESIS WORSHIP CENTER CHURCH**

1818 29th Avenue North  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
727.898.5571  
Sunday Worship  
11:30 a.m.

**Pastor Michael T. and**  
**Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth**

**BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**


OUR PURPOSE IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM AND PROMOTION OF THE SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE OF OUR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY

**SERVICES**  
**SUNDAY: 8:00AM AND 10:00AM**  
**WEDNESDAY: 7:00PM**

2901 54TH AVE. SOUTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712  
**(727) 866-2567**



**REVEREND DR. MANUEL SYKES**



**Victory Christian Center Church**

3012 18th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33712  
(727) 321-0911  
[www.victorychristiancenterchurch.com](http://www.victorychristiancenterchurch.com)

**Schedule of Services**  
Sunday Worship\*  
10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study\* -7:00 p.m.  
Friday Prayer -7:00 p.m.  
Intercessory Prayer - 9:00 a.m.  
(except Wednesdays)

Victory Christian Center is a Word of Faith Church. For more information about the other services and ministries at Victory Christian Center, please call (727) 321-0911  
\*Nursery and Youth Services Available



**Queen Street**  
**Church Of God In Christ**  
1732 9th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
**(727) 896-4356**

**Elder A.P. Conage, Pastor**

8:00 A.M. - Sunday Service  
9:30 A.M. - Sunday School  
11:00 A.M. - Morning Service

9:00 A.M. - Tuesday Prayer  
7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Bible Study

**YOUR CHURCH**  
**SHOULD BE HERE!**  
**Call 727-896-2922**


**Saint John Primitive Baptist Church**

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

Church address: 1002 Palmetto Street, Clearwater, FL 33755  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1235, Clearwater, FL 33755  
Church Phone: (727) 443-1861 • Fax: (727) 443-0431  
Email: [sjpbct@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:sjpbct@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 School.....9:45 a.m.  
Mid-Morning .....11:00 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 Service .....11:00 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.**

**Unity**  
Temple of Truth Church  
511 Prescott Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Tel: 727-898-2457 Fax: 727-895-6898  
[unitytempleoftruth@msn.com](mailto: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"

**Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday General Worship .....11:00 a.m.**  
**Communion .....First Sunday**  
**Sunday New Member Orientation.....9:30 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Prayer Meeting.....7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Bible Study.....7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Youth Bible Study .....7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Tutoring .....6:00 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.



**Pastor Clark Hazley, Sr.**





**Trinity Presbyterian Church**

2830 22nd Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712  
**727-327-8590**  
Email: [trinityp@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:trinityp@tampabay.rr.com)  
[pastorwoods07@yahoo.com](mailto: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

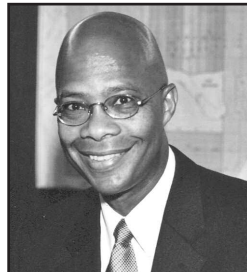
## BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240

E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Web site: www.bmmbc.org

Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:00 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”*

## Friendship

### Missionary Baptist Church

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

www.fmbctheship.org

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



Dr. John A. Evans,  
Pastor

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

## 20th Street Church Of Christ

825 20th Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Home: 896-8006



Bro. Robert Smith

Sunday Morning Worship .....7:45 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:20 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Second Worship.....10:40 a.m.  
Ladies Bible Class Monday.....7:00 p.m.  
Monday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Morning Bible Class .....10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 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.



## BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

912 3RD AVENUE NORTH- ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705  
(727) 822-2089

BETHEL1894@KNOLOGY.NET

BREAKFAST MINISTRY.....SUNDAY 8:00 A.M.  
CHURCH SCHOOL .....9:00 A.M.  
MORNING WORSHIP.....10:30 A.M.  
BIBLE STUDY.....TUESDAY 7:00 P.M.  
YOUTH CHURCH ..... MON & WED 5:30 P.M.

*“THERE’S A PLACE FOR YOU IN THE AME CHURCH”*



REVEREND DAVID L.  
AND DOROTHY  
CONNELLY

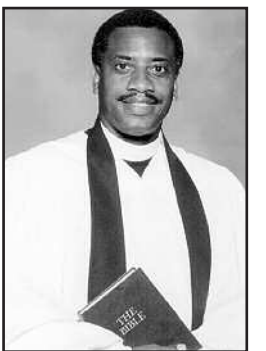
## THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

## THE CROSSING POINT

### International Foursquare Church



along with Rev. Sarah H. Edwards, Sr. Pastor and her husband, Minister Edgar Edwards  
**Welcomes You**

to study the Word of God, so that you may be approved by God as one of His Workers  
**Faith - Family - and Unity in the Community  
via Christ Jesus is celebrated**

2311 16th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Sundays 10:45 a.m. ....Morning Worship  
Sunday 6:30 p.m. ....“Who Then Do Men Say You Are” Women’s Bible Study  
Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.....Midweek Bible Study  
*“Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever” -Hebrews 13:8*



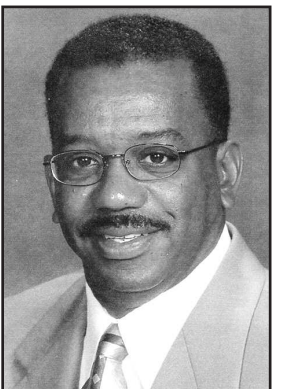
## McCabe United Methodist Church

2800 26th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Phone: 727-867-5287 • Fax: 727-906-9808

*A Discipleship Making Community*

Sunday Worship Services .....10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Children Church .....10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School .....8:50 a.m.  
Bible Study (Wednesday) .....6:30 p.m.  
Senior Fellowship (2nd Wednesday) . . . 12:30 p.m.



Rev. I. James Mitchell,  
Senior Pastor

## 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 Worship .....7:30 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Vintage Bible Study .....11:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
Wednesday Bible Study .....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service .....7:00 p.m.

## UNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*“Let All Things Be Done  
With Charity”*



Reverend  
Nathaniel H. Drayton

Sunday Morning Worship .....8:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting .....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

**Services held at House of Praise and Blessing**

3100 1st Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33709  
(727) 916-0311



## New Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church

3001 18th Avenue South • Saint Petersburg, Florida 33712  
Phone: (727) 327-9904 • Fax: (727) 322-0409

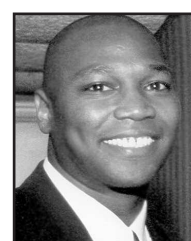
Church School - 9:30 A.M. • Morning Worship - 11:00 A.M.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.

Worship Service Every Thursday Night after the First Sunday, at 7:00 P.M.

## 10th Street Church Of God

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



Rev. Ronald L. Bell  
Pastor

Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Evening Prayer .....6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.

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





Heart of Dixie  
Southern Whiskey  
Barbecue Marinated  
Top Sirloin

**Grilling** is a great all-American tradition. For generations, family and friends have gathered around the grill to celebrate summer in the good ol' USA.

This year, treat your taste buds to a little road trip of flavor without ever having to leave your backyard. Just fire up the grill and serve a big, juicy steak that's one of America's regional food favorites. Whether it's a spicy Southwestern-style Rib Eye steak, a Heart of Dixie Whiskey Barbecue Top Sirloin, or a Buffalo New York Strip, you can enjoy the steaks that make America great night after night.

To help you grill the perfect all-American steak every time, Omaha Steaks offers these tips:

1. Clean your grill and preheat on high.
2. Lightly oil the steak before you put it on the grill. This helps the searing process and prevents sticking.
3. Always season the steak before grilling.
4. Sear the outside of the steak when grilling for the ultimate in flavor and juiciness.
5. Use tongs or a spatula to turn your steak on the grill. Using a fork can damage the meat.
6. Cover your grill as much as possible during the grilling process. This helps to lock in the grilled flavor and will help prevent flare-ups.
7. Keep a spray bottle with water handy to douse any unexpected flare-ups.
8. Use the 50/40 grilling method for even cooking: grill for 60 percent of the time on the first side, and then grill the remaining 40 percent of the time after you turn the steak.
9. Place your grilled steak on a clean plate. Never place cooked steaks on the plate you used to transport the raw steaks to the grill without thoroughly washing the plate first.
10. Allow your steaks to rest for five minutes between cooking and eating to retain moisture and juiciness.

For a free "Great Grilling Guide and Cookbook" from Omaha Steaks, filled with more mouth-watering ways to enjoy great steaks and gourmet foods, call 1-800-228-9055 or visit [www.OmahaSteaks.com](http://www.OmahaSteaks.com).

# United Steaks of AMERICA

**Southwestern Rib Eye Steak With Chile Butter**  
Serves 4

- 4 tablespoons salted butter, softened at room temperature
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon canned chipotle in adobo sauce, pureed
- 1 tablespoon garlic, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 4 Omaha Steaks Rib Eye Steaks, thawed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste

Place butter in a mixer or mixing bowl and whip until smooth and creamy.

Add Worcestershire sauce, chipotle in adobo sauce, garlic and chili powder. Mix well and reserve chile butter.

Preheat grill on high.

Rub steaks with olive oil on each side and generously season with salt and pepper.

Grill steaks to the desired doneness, while searing the outside.

Place a dollop of chile butter on steaks just prior to taking off the grill.

**Heart of Dixie Southern Whiskey Barbecue Marinated Top Sirloin**  
Serves 4

- 1 1/2 cups barbecue sauce
- 1 1/2 cups whiskey
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 4 Omaha Steaks Top Sirloin Steaks, thawed

Combine all ingredients, except steaks, in a bowl and mix well.

Reserve 1 cup of marinade and set aside.

Place steaks in a gallon resealable bag.

Pour marinade over steaks and place in refrigerator to marinate for 24 to 48 hours.

Preheat grill.

Place steaks on grill, discarding marinade.

Grill steaks to desired doneness while basting with reserved marinade.

**Midwest Rubbed Filet Mignon**  
Serves 4

- 4 tablespoons butter, softened at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons Tabasco
- 1/4 cup Roquefort cheese crumbles
- 1 tablespoon chives, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 4 Omaha Steaks Strip Loin Steaks, thawed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste

Place butter in a mixer or mixing bowl and whip until smooth and creamy.

Add Tabasco, cheese, chives and garlic. Mix well and reserve Buffalo Butter.

Preheat grill on high.

Rub steaks with olive oil on each side and generously season with salt and pepper.

Grill steaks to the desired doneness while searing the outside.

Place a dollop of Buffalo Butter on the steaks just prior to taking off the grill.



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- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
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