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Farewell To A Great Educator

BY EMMA C. CAVIN  
SPECIAL TO THE  
CHALLENGER

ST. PETERSBURG- From the moment they heard of his death Saturday, friends, neighbors, and school system employees streamed in and out of Lew Williams' home. Yes, they were there to comfort family members and offer their condolences, but they were also there to share and strengthen memories that they could hold onto in the future. Another good man has physically left this earth, but the ideas he presented, the strategies he proposed, the iconoclastic plans he helped to develop will still go far in preparing the children in the Pinellas County School System to



Lew Williams

blossom, thrive, and grow ... positively. For Lew Williams, the children were always a priority.

It is understood by all whose lives he touched that he was child-oriented, a man who thought first

WILLIAMS  
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Education: The Passion Behind The Voice



John Legend

ST. PETERSBURG - His voice is heard around the world and he is recognized as one of the most important artists of the 21st Century. John Legend's star continues to ascend and his music entertains and inspires millions. But the passion

behind the voice is focused on changing the world – and that focus is on the education of children.

Legend is a Grammy award-winning musician who speaks on social change. His topics cover reforming public education in America to eradicating poverty, and he challenges students to make a positive impact in the world. After reading the book “The End of Poverty,” Legend was inspired to visit Ghana to learn more about making life better for others. This is when his

LEGEND  
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Community Spotlight  
By Emma Cavin • Special to the Challenger

Arrie Peterson Favors ‘Mudear’  
Beautician, Mother, Grandmother, Class Leader

ST. PETERSBURG - Arrie Peterson Favors came to St. Petersburg in 1945, about a year and a half after she got married. She was born in Cuthbert, Georgia, the only child of Mabel and Johnny Peterson. The family lived on a farm and grew peanuts, cotton, and corn. They moved to Florida for a number of years, lived in Jacksonville and Daytona Beach, and then moved back to Cuthbert before she completed high school. She graduated from Randolph County Training School in Cuthbert.

Being an only child was not what Mrs. Favors wanted growing



up, so she prayed that she and her husband would have more than one child. Her prayers were answered, for she became the

SPOTLIGHT  
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The Weekly Challenger

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St. Petersburg, Florida

The Rising Tide Not ‘Lifting All Boats’

Economist Tells Why Black Unemployment Goes Up Again While White Rates Go DOWN

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY  
TRICEEDNEYWIRE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - It's been like a roller coaster. In March of last year, the Black unemployment rate hit 16.5 percent, the highest yet in more than a decade. Then, in October this year, it dropped from 16 percent to 15.1 percent, the lowest it's been in two years.

Now, in yet another dramatic turn, the Black unemployment rate for November – in every category – shot back up while the White unemployment rate dropped in every category, according to the latest numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

The overall Black unemployment rate rose from 15.1 percent to 15.5 percent; the Black male rate went from 16.2 percent to 16.5 percent; the Black female rate went from 12.6 percent to 12.9 percent; and the Black youth (ages 16-19) rate went from 37.8-39.6 percent.

Compare that with the overall White unemployment rate that dropped from 8 percent to 7.6 percent; the White male rate from 7.9 percent to 7.3 percent; the White female rate from 7 percent to 6.9 percent; and the White youth rate from 21.8 percent to 21.4 percent.

To stir the pot, the overall employment rate surprisingly fell from 9 percent down to 8.6 percent, delighting the White House where President Obama is fighting for wins in the economy. Yet, his “rising tide lifts all boats” theory doesn't appear to be working in the Black community. Why not?

Some of this had to do with preferences of employers and who they desire to hire first – in other words, race discrimination, says Dr. Roderick Harrison, a fellow at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, who is also founding director of DataBank, an online clearinghouse of data on African-Americans and other ethnic populations.

“It's like there's a cue, a waiting line,” says Harrison in an interview.

“And yes, Blacks are usually further down on that ladder waiting.”

Harris, who is also a senior researcher at Howard University and former chief of racial statistics at the U. S. Census Bureau, said some of it has to do with education. “The unemployment rate is much higher the less the education,” he said. “The unemployment rate for people with college degrees is only something like 4 percent. So, some of it is attributable to differences in education.”

However, he added, “But even when you compare comparably educated Blacks and Whites, yes, the unemployment rate is typically higher for Blacks than it is for Whites and it typically takes longer for unemployed Blacks to find a job than it does Whites so unemployment tends to be longer for Blacks. And that is consistent with some notion that employers prefer Whites - and so long as they're available will hire them first.”

Whatever is the reason, CBC Chairman Emanuel Cleaver (D-Mo.) isn't buying any notions that the specific double-digit economic crisis in the Black community should be simply tolerated.

“The time for bold action on jobs is now,” Cleaver said in a statement released in response to the new jobs numbers. “Unemployment for African Americans rose slightly to 15.5 percent from 15.1 percent, which continues to be a crisis that we must address with tangible solutions. Well over 300 days into the 112th Congress with no action on jobs, the Republican leadership continues to bring forth divisive ideas instead of ensuring that we do our job as legislators and pass a comprehensive jobs bill. Senate Republicans had a chance to demonstrate to the American people that they can protect the interests of the American people, but failed. They blocked consideration of three different jobs bills over the past month.”

Encouraging Congress to pass President Obama's jobs bill,



CBC Chairman Emanuel Cleaver

Cleaver referred to the CBC summer experience of touring hardest hit unemployment areas around the nation.

“Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have seen firsthand the devastating economic conditions of millions of African American families and millions of other American families through our national ‘For the People’ Jobs Initiative,” he said. “CBC members have introduced over fifty job creation bills since the beginning of the 112th Congress, in addition to providing nine job creation recommendations that target the needs of our nation's most vulnerable communities.”

Despite the apparent suffering in communities across the nation, it is clearly partisan politics that has stymied the ability to compromise on a jobs bill that will pass both houses of Congress. House Speaker John Boehner says Republicans have introduced 20 jobs bills that Senate Democrats refuse to consider.

“I call on the President and Democrats in the Senate to take up these bills. Let the Senate speak. Let the American people speak because I believe all 20 of these bills passed the House with bipartisan support and they can pass the United States Senate.”

The problem is, neither side

will budge on issues that undermine their deep philosophical differences.

Obama's \$447 billion jobs plan, rolled out before a joint session of Congress in late summer, includes lower payroll taxes, money for hiring more teachers and infrastructure spending. Democrats believe that educational spending, job training and other programs will help prepare people to get jobs and better-paying jobs.

Republicans are more concerned about where the money will come from to pay for the programs. They accuse Democrats of borrowing and mounting debt in order to fix a broken economy.

Assistant House Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), the highest ranking Black member of Congress, is attempting to use his weight to influence Republicans.

“Last week, I joined Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer in sending a letter to Speaker John Boehner to urge him to work with us in a bipartisan manner to pass major economic legislation by the end of the year,” he also wrote in a statement. “Time is running out for Congress to act on these important matters to help grow our economy and create jobs and opportunities to reinvigorate the American dream.”

FAMU Band Director: I Warned Them About Hazing

TALLAHASSEE - The fired director of Florida A&M's famed “Marching 100” band said he repeatedly warned university leaders over two decades about the dangers of hazing and that he's been made the scapegoat for a band member's death in which the practice is suspected.

Julian White, 71, said he suspended 26 band members for hazing two weeks before drum major Robert Champion's death on Nov. 19. He reported his actions to university administrators, he said.

Hazing has been “rampant on university campuses,” and the suspensions would serve notice it wouldn't be tolerated at A&M, he said.

But instead of being supported, White said, he was

second-guessed, particularly from some parents of band members, and said the punishments were akin to suspending star football players. “And so the band members were apprehensive. ‘Doc, you think we can go without 19 trombone players?’” said White, who replaced “Marching 100” founder William P. Foster as director in 1998. “And other folks. ‘Doc, do you think you can do it without them?’ My comment was, it doesn't matter, I am not going to sacrifice the performance for the principle.”

After A&M's football team lost its annual game against rival Bethune-Cookman, Champion collapsed on a bus parked outside an Orlando hotel. The 26-year-old junior had been vomiting and complained he couldn't breathe

shortly before he became unconscious. When authorities arrived about 9:45 p.m., Champion was unresponsive. He died at a nearby hospital.

Authorities have not released any more details, except to say hazing allegedly played a role.

Less than a week later, White, a tenured professor, was fired by FAMU President James Ammons.

“I walked into his office and he said, ‘Doc, I don't know any other way to put it, this is it for you,’” White recounted. “He said ‘you can resign or you can be terminated.’”

Ammons, meanwhile, met Monday with former Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth, who was named last week to head a task force investigating what led to Champion's



Julian White

death. “If some strong actions had been taken, then Robert Champion may be alive now,” said White, who was asked by the

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The all-new 2012 Prius v

Options shown

# Can a new way of thinking save the world?

Next time you're at the store eyeing those funny looking energy-efficient light bulbs, remember that they drastically cut down on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. It's a greener way of thinking, something that Toyota knows well. From hybrid technology to waste reduction.

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

OPINION

When A Child Kills Himself:  
Bullying And Its Consequences



BY JULIANNE  
MALVEAUX  
TRICEEDNEY-  
WIRE.COM

I hope you watched Extreme Home Makeover on December 2, as I did. For me it was an opportunity of pride, as Bennett student Dominique Walker was featured, with her family, for a trip to Los Angeles, and a home upgrade. Why? Because her family remained in pain because their 11 year old brother killed himself after vicious bullying.

Carl Walker-Hoover was hazed because folks thought he was gay. He was bothered, bullied, and besieged. He tried to talk to folks, but he eventually found out that no one wanted to hear what he had to say. He hung himself at home, and the family avoided his bedroom because they were in pain.

Our pain. The child was bullied and badgered and he couldn't take it. He was like more than 1 in 6 young people who say that bullying is part of their life. Many manage, and many manage by becoming bullies themselves.

Many don't manage. They are left out, dropped out, worn out, pulled out with parents so oblivious to the effect of bullying that they think it is just a childhood thing. A game young people play with each other. Not.

The worst of it is that the Internet compounds what used to be simple schoolyard chatter. Now, young people put rumors and nonsense into cyberspace about each other. And cyberspace doesn't simply whisper, it yells. Young people's reputations are on the line because bullying has taken on an Internet space.

Carl Walker-Hoover, an 11 year old, was "outed" as gay when at 11 he probably was only different. Young people decided to play with him in the worst way, picking at him and on him and around him and through him. One day he awakened and told himself he couldn't take it anymore. Now his life can be our light and his family can be a symbol against bullying.

What is it about us, human beings that allow us to batter each other? Does it make us feel better? Do we grow when others shrink? Do we flourish because

they shrivel? While we pay lots of attention to young people and their bullying, shouldn't we also pay attention to the adult among us, those who thing that we gain because others lose, we rise because others fall, we use our tongues in a way to diminish, not flatter? As I watched the pain of the walker family on Extreme Home Makeover, I realized that perhaps few meant harm, but many contributed to the utter tragedy that family had to manage.

We are all indebted to ABC and the Extreme Makeover team for deciding to help this family. They remind us that pain and passion reverberate. I saw lots of ads following the special, and into the next few days, of young people talking about the effects of bullying. Carl Walker-Hoover's suicide puts a face on bullying and reminds us that there is a possibility of an anti-bullying movement. The ads tell the story, but can the people tell more?

Here's the bottom line. We have all been bullied, one way or another, with a friend or colleague with a vicious, ugly mouth. And because we have all been bullied,

we have all been bullies in our space. Humanity requires us to understand that the behavior we model is behavior that young people replicate. It requires us to understand that everyone can't meet a bully, face to face, eye to eye, and resist the nonsense that can be called hazing.

For whatever reason, Carl Walker-Hoover could not stand up to his bullies. He had enough. He shared how much of enough he had with his suicide. Who knows what he might have been — an author, a scientist, a leader. When he died he was a young black man whose life spread out before him, a life he chose to end because he could not endure bullying. How many more lives will we lose? How can we learn to value every life, and to kick bullying to the curb?

I am so proud that Carl's sister, Dominique, is a Bennett student. We hope to use her knowledge to help us grapple with the many ways we choose to hurt ourselves. She is a survivor of this bullying nonsense, as so many are. She is one of the leaders we have been waiting for!

Interracial Dating: A Problem In Kentucky



BY DR. E. FAYE  
WILLIAMS,  
ESQ.  
TRICEEDNEY  
WIRE.COM

Just in case I should ever find the time for dating, I occasionally check to see which Black men are still dating Black women. After reviewing my list of those dating anybody but Black women, I delete them from my possibilities. While doing my recent review, I ran across an article from Senator Mitch McConnell's state (Kentucky) stating that interracial couples are banned from membership and from participating in certain worship activities in a church called Gulnare Freewill Baptist Church. This was brought on by a White female member bringing her Black fiancé from Zimbabwe to the church.

The church is in Pike County, Kentucky. Now I have never been there and my chances of ever going are not great—so the

church's ruling likely will never affect me directly. Fortunately, there are no basketball teams, football teams, baseball teams or known hangouts for wealthy Black musicians, actors or businessmen who date and marry White women only—so maybe this ruling won't affect a lot of them either. It's the gall of the church folk who think they are too good to associate with the rest of God's children who don't look like them!

According to the church, this dramatic step was taken to "promote greater unity" among its body and the community. I guess that means only one race at a time can have unity. When I read that, I thought that must be what Senator McConnell is promoting when he vows to block everything President Barack Obama does to put the unemployed back to work or to improve lives in any way. Senator McConnell has said his goal is to make President Obama a one term President. That means he would keep millions out of work in

order to reach his goal of putting one man out of work! Since President Obama is promoting things like lower tax bills for the 99 percent — things Senator McConnell's party has supported in the past — at least for the 1 percent!

I have a nephew who is in Afghanistan risking his life to serve the country that people like Senator McConnell, his cohorts and the church folk of a like mind pretend to love. The scary part is that my nephew had to leave his young wife and child behind in Kentucky while he is serving his country.

I know that my nephew's wife has heard about the church that does not welcome people like her son and her. (They could just as well have left off the word "inter-racial" and said "Blacks are not welcome".) Surely my nephew's wife has heard about the Senator McConnell, who is charged with representing the entire state, including her son and her, but

hates the nation's first Black President so much that he would deny my niece (and everybody else) a job by working to turn down the President's American Jobs Act. The only unity I see there is Mr. McConnell's party's unity to block the common good. Surely my nephew's wife does not feel secure or welcome in Kentucky. Isn't it ironic that her husband is away fighting to make our whole country secure for the Gulnare Church folk and for Senator McConnell while they are back here hating on Black people!

Senator McConnell can easily dispel my belief that his actions against President Obama have something to do with the President's race by condemning the church's position. Let us call Senator Mitch McConnell and ask him to condemn the Gulnare church's position on interracial couples as being un-American or forego their tax exempt status. Call him at 202/225-3121 and ask for Senator McConnell's office.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Put Your Grocery Bill On A Diet

STATEPOINT - This year, our holiday feasts will cost more than ever, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Food prices jumped a whopping 4 to 5 percent in 2011 and are expected to continue climbing.

But you can have your fruitcake and eat it, too, without breaking the bank, says Toni House, author of Savvy Shopping: How to Reduce Your Weekly Grocery Bill to \$85 Per Week – or Less! (www.SaveYourMoney.SaveYourFamily.com). A mom with executive-level experience in accounting and the restaurant industry, House pared the monthly grocery bill for her family of four to \$250. And nobody complained.

“It takes savvy shopping,” she says. “Worried about going broke serving big holiday meals? Forget it. You can save on the Christmas trimmings and trim the 2012 household budget with planning, patience and grocery shopping

‘guardrails’ to keep your cart in line.”

House offers these tips:

- Be patient – wait for good deals. Save pricier purchases for double coupon days, and with the holidays coming up, save now so you can splurge a bit on the holiday meal. The more you rush, the less you save.

- Be detail-oriented. There is a lot of fine print involved in being a savvy shopper, from expiration dates to special offers to asterisks. Know exactly when a coupon expires, how much it’s for, how much more it will be worth on double coupon days and whether or not it’s worth the price in the first place.

- Plan ahead. Plan a menu for at least three meals in advance; combined with leftovers; that should give you five days or more of meals, depending on the meal. This puts you in control of your shopping list; and not the other way

around. Instead of always playing catch-up, replacing what you’ve run out of, you buy only when it’s on the menu. Same goes for cereal, yogurt, bananas, fresh herbs and spices, etc.

- Instead of making expensive foods (meat) the centerpiece of each meal, design menus that use the most expensive foods less often. For instance, from now on at least twice a week, try using meat as more of a filler than a main dish. Instead of making spaghetti with meat balls, or sausage, or chicken breasts, make spaghetti with a meat sauce of ground turkey, ground sausage or ground chicken breakfast sausage.

- At the grocery store, buy ONLY what you can eat. That means no paper plates, toilet paper, plastic cups, Army men, toothbrushes, jar candles, greeting cards. Grocery store prices for non-food items are higher than you’ll pay almost anywhere else, so make a

hard-and-fast rule and stick to it.

- Do use coupons, but only for products you need. Let’s say you just bought twice as many hot dog buns as you needed last week and now you’ve run across a two-for-one coupon for ... more hot dog buns? Do you really have room in your freezer for all those buns?

House’s \$85-a-week budget does require tossing out some pricey products your family may have grown accustomed to (brand-name cereals, pre-packaged snack cakes) and changing the way you plan meals. But there are plenty of delicious, often healthier, and less expensive substitutes.

“You are the leader of your family unit, not just at home but at the grocery store,” House says. “Your new quest to become a savvy shopper might meet with some ... resistance ... at first. Take the bull by the horns and lead the family in the right direction.

## WILLIAMS

*continued from front page*

of the children, especially those who seemed to be misguided or in need of special direction and care. Williams saw the good in the children that other adults may have already written off as hopeless. To him, there was no such thing as hopeless, no-good, or incorrigible. He had a special talent, not only for looking into the heart of a child to find the problem, but he was also able to encourage and empower the adults involved to see that goodness and participate in the task of finding solutions for negative or inappropriate behavior. Many times, the solutions brought about life changes for all involved. In other words, he believed in turning children around rather than turning them out. He did not take up for them or excuse inappropriate behavior. Instead, he instilled a feeling of confidence in people with whom he worked-adults and children. Lew Williams helped people to realize that there is value in whatever element each person brings to a situation. Therefore, the issue to be discussed or the problem to be solved did not have to change people to get them to be a part of the solution. Over the years, he worked on each educational level. He was a teacher in the ele-

mentary, middle, and high schools. Later on, he served as a school administrator, area superintendent, and assistant superintendent. He made significant strides in each position and as a board member. As a result, we can expect to continue to feel the impact of his wise counsel as policies are implemented in the future and the tides are turned for more of our children. The school board will name The Early Childhood Initiative after Williams. This initiative will provide after school programs and tutoring to give more children an early start in achieving success.

Williams was soft-spoken, but people leaned in to hear him, because everything he said was definitely of value. He did not talk just to hear his own voice. He spoke when he had something worthwhile to impart. Principal Gwen Anderson, who credits Williams with getting her on the right path when she decided to go into administration, relates the most important lesson she received in her training. “When I met Mr. Williams,” said Anderson, “I was teaching social studies in a middle school. I had the chance to work with him in a summer program. He, Lou Graves, and Vyrle Davis gave me opportunities and experiences to develop leadership skills, but Mr. Williams offered challenges as well. I am policy driven,

but he taught me something that I have never forgotten. Mr. Williams said to me, ‘Gwen, even with policy, you cannot forget the human side, if you really want to succeed in education.’ He had a special gift when it came to dealing with people, and he had a presence. When he walked into a room, he made those already there feel that everything would be alright. Moreover, he made himself available to help school employees, even if it was just to give a listening ear. He was a wonderful man, and we will truly miss him.”

Other people recalled the campaign days; times when they received advice from him; and days that they needed to seek him out to solve a school conflict or problem. Glenn Bailey, Bill Williamson, Watson Haynes, Bill Gray, and others recall the days in his administrative office, on the golf course, on the fishing boat, and at the backyard barbecues. He loved fishing, grilling, and golfing almost as much as he loved his work with children, his friends will readily admit. On the job or in times of leisure, his company and counsel were frequently sought. The smile and reassuring manner calmed many human storms as they were brewing.

Terrell Bethel, a devoted nephew, saw his uncle as a loving, kind-hearted man who was quick

to give the shirt off his back, if he thought someone needed it. “The world is a million times better because he was a part of it. He will be greatly missed,” Bethel said. Bethel’s wife, Chastity, saw Williams as so dimensional that she had no words to fully describe him. According to Chastity Bethel, “He is the reason I am in Pinellas County today.” Terrell Bethel related that, “The steps of a righteous man are ordered by God. Yes, God ordered our uncle, and I am so glad to be a part of his family.”

Born in Damascus, GA on April 6, 1943, Lewis Williams was one of seven children born to Armita Love Williams and Mitch Williams. He grew up in Orlando, FL. Services are scheduled for this weekend. The viewing will be from 3-5 p.m. Friday afternoon at the Lawson Funeral Home. The Wake will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Bethel Community Baptist Church, 2901 -54th Avenue South, and is open to friends and neighbors who want to speak. The Final Services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Institutional Church, 3144 Third Avenue South, and the program will be strictly followed. The Repast will be served at Gibbs High School following the funeral service and interment.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**Saturday, Dec. 10** - COMMUNITY BREAKFAST - St. Petersburg City Councilman Wengay Newton will be the featured speaker at the annual Community Prayer Breakfast at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church. The full-meal, Southern-style breakfast typically attracts over 120 people and is sponsored by the Men’s Brotherhood of St. Augustine’s, 2920 26th Ave. So. in St. Petersburg. “Youth and the Future of St. Petersburg” will be Councilman Newton’s theme for the 9 a.m. event. There will be a Question and Answer session following the presentation.

**Saturday, Dec. 24** – THE GIBBS HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS EVE HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA, St. Petersburg Historic Coliseum, 535 4th Ave. N., 8:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. Annual holiday gala, holiday attire required – no jeans of any kind. Get into the holiday mood this Christmas Eve. For more information, call 727-327-4199.

**Tuesday, Dec. 27** – THE JORDAN PARK PROJECTS NOSTALGIC ASSOCIATION, INC., National Guard Armory, 3601 38th Avenue South, 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. This year’s theme ‘Holiday, Harmony, Scholarship Dance: Celebrating Community Concord. For more information contact: Brenda 727-408-4671 or Victoria 727-866-7946.

**Saturday, Dec. 31** - FIRST NIGHT ST. PETERSBURG COUNTING DOWN TO 2012 – Performers and activities have been announced for the 19th annual First Night St. Petersburg. First Night 2012 will feature Michael Lynche; St. Petersburg’s American Idol, performing with the Tampa Bay Steel Orchestra at The First United Methodist Church, at 7 p.m. and Suite Caroline at 8 p.m., The VodkaNauts at 10:30 on the Main Stage. Other featured acts this year include Jon Shain, The Empty Hats, Rebekah Pulley, and Ronny Elliot. A complete schedule can be found at [www.firstnightstpete.com](http://www.firstnightstpete.com).

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5	2	1	4	6	8	3	7	9
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8	3	5	7	9	4	1	2	6
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3	5	4	2	8	1	9	6	7
9	1	8	6	4	7	2	3	5
2	6	7	5	3	9	8	4	1

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1992	285	123	415	150	132	167	372	2.4
1993	285	184	397	142	114	164	372	2.4
1994	295	5	420	134	131	140	419	2.4
1995	241	117	408	120	122	154	397	2.4

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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Caring for the Soul

BY VIKKI T. GASKIN-BUTLER, M.DIV., PH.D.

On Sunday I spoke with members of our congregation about what I believe is the greatest love story ever told. Simply put, the message of Advent is about God’s love for humankind. I believe Advent is a story that begins and ends with hope. The Apostle Paul reflected on the hope of spending eternity with God. However, he also described an aspect of hope that is grounded in how we deal with suffering. Paradoxically, he stated that we should “boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering” leads to “endurance.” He then stated that “endurance produces character, and character produces hope” (Romans 5: 3 - 4).

Hope can be the result of suffering if we choose it. Suffering in the present is only a portion of our lives. All suffering does not last forever. When we accept that suffering is a part of life, we learn to endure the suffering we must face. Acceptance and

endurance strengthen our character. Hope results from the belief that suffering can be transformed into something good if we allow it – and suffering is not the end of our life story. Whether our suffering ends on this side of eternity, we will enjoy a glorious life on the other side of eternity.

Thus, “hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts” (Romans 5:5). We can endure various trials in our lives because we have the knowledge that our suffering will end at some point. In addition, we can also be assured that no matter what we experience in this lifetime, the love of God supports us. Paul stated, “All things work together for the good of them that love the Lord” (Romans 8:28). Therefore, even our suffering can work for our good. That gives me hope; and I pray that during this Advent season, it also gives you hope.

## Ballots To Be Mailed For Jan. 31 Presidential Preference Primary

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark announces that ballot mailings for the January 31, 2012 Presidential Preference Primary are tentatively scheduled as follows for Pinellas County voters registered with the Republican Party and for voters residing in Clearwater, Kenneth City, Safety Harbor, St. Pete Beach and Tarpon Springs:

Dec. 16 – Mail nearly 1,000 ballots to absent military and overseas voters requested to date. State law requires ballots for absent military and overseas voters to be mailed at least 45 days prior to an election.

Jan. 3 – Mail approximately 108,000 domestic ballots requested to date. State law now requires domestic ballots to be mailed beginning between the 35th and 28th days prior to an election.

Absent military and overseas voters include all active-duty military, their spouses and dependents, currently absent from their places of residence; and civilians who are U.S. citizens residing outside the United States. Domestic voters are civilian voters residing within the United States and active-duty military voters residing in Pinellas County. Florida has closed primaries;

only voters registered with a political party may vote in that party’s primary. There is no Democratic presidential preference primary, because there is only one nominee, President Barack Obama. All registered voters residing in Clearwater, Kenneth City, Safety Harbor, St. Pete Beach and Tarpon Springs may vote in their nonpartisan municipal elections on Jan. 31.

Additional mail ballot requests will be fulfilled daily as received. To request a mail ballot, visit [www.votePinellas.com](http://www.votePinellas.com), call (727) 464-VOTE (464-8683), or email [absentee@votePinellas.com](mailto:absentee@votePinellas.com).

## Boley Centers, Inc. Awarded 1.7 Million Section 811 Grant

ST. PETERSBURG - Boley Centers, Inc. hosted a joint press conference with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) today to announce Boley’s recent award of \$1,787,200 for the development of affordable housing for people with disabilities. This funding from HUD will be used to develop 14 one-bedroom units of permanent, supportive housing for adults who have a mental illness. The land for this development is located at 1401 and 1413 Sunset Point Rd. in Clearwater, Florida. The City of Clearwater has awarded the project \$320,000 of

Neighborhood Stabilization funds to pay for the land and offset construction costs.

Ronald J. Herbert, HUD Tampa Acting Field Office Director, HUD Tampa, presented a ceremonial check to Boley Centers’ CEO, Gary MacMath. “HUD is committed to helping persons with disabilities find a decent, affordable place to live that is close to needed healthcare services and transportation,” said Mr. Herbert. “Supportive housing programs allow us to better serve some of our more vulnerable populations who would otherwise be struggling to

find a safe and decent home of their own.”

Geraldine Lopez, the City of Clearwater’s Director of Economic Development and Housing commented on the difficulty of producing affordable housing, stating, “It’s a team sport.”

In response to this new award, Gary MacMath said, “This is our 15th HUD 811 project bringing our total number of 811 beds to 243 and we are excited to finally build an 811 project up in Clearwater.” To date Boley Centers has received over \$16 million dollars in HUD 811 grants.

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## Saving The Child, Accepting Parental Responsibility

BY REV. WAYNE THOMPSON

ST. PETERSBURG-The care and nurturing of Black children should rests in the hands of their parents, not systems of care. Black children are not born to be raised by the child welfare system, taught by the educational system alone, and disciplined and warehoused by the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems. They have the right to be born to loving and responsible parents who willingly accept the awesome tasks of loving them, providing for them, protecting them, and preparing them for independence into the adult world. The rite of passage for a Black female child is not early parenthood, which contributes toward the onset of the feminization of poverty and all of the struggles that accompany it. The rite of passage for a Black male child is not criminality resulting in early contact with the juvenile justice system, which means when you have that contact; it becomes almost impossible to get out of it. The next step spirals this child into the adult correctional institutions and a life of very little promise and reward. Since the nineties, the premise that the juvenile justice system is based on the rehabilitation of the child and the adult criminal justice system is based on punishment has not been followed. Both correctional systems are based on punishment with a guaranteed failure rate. So who loves, saves, and protects the Black child, who is overly represented in the child welfare system in Pinellas County and nationwide? Is it overextended caseworkers? Is it governmental programs that somehow still manage to do a less than favorable job? The ultimate responsibility for the care of the Black Child should not differ from any other cultural group; the answer is that child’s creator, the parents and the supportive community in which that family lives.

Now how does it happen? It is called parental engagement. The truth is programs are no substitute for devoted parents, even mentors who fall short in some cases. The truth is 10 year old boys should not assume the responsibility for poor choices that mothers and fathers have made with unplanned and unwanted parenthood combined

with the lack of marketable skills and education ; thus, contributing to pressure of the male child to enter an early life of crime. Girls should not be focusing on how to meet their basic needs thereby inviting the higher likelihood of victimizations. The role of a child is to become a healthy adult through love and acceptance, guidance, proper role modeling and not even attempt to assume adult roles prematurely. The role of a child is to learn how to become a morally conscious adult with the education and marketable skills to ensure a life of self-sufficiency. The parents and caring adults in that child’s life assume the role of the ever vigilant caring adults advocating for that child’s healthy development and growth. The other caring adults represent the community, who help to create a supportive and protective environment for that child’s development; the community stands ready to address the barriers to that child’s success. This formula has a proven track record. To abandon what has worked in times when Black America had to endure the greatest adversity and hostility to become a community of indifference, defeatism and classism is a disgrace and a dishonor to African American history, its legacy and their children.

If parents are ready to accept their responsibility, then Black children should not be in need of foster homes and adoptive homes to the extent that they presently are. Engaged parents would not allow their children to be in harm’s way. Translation: Black children would not be at greater risk of exposure to abuse and neglect due to the use of drugs, endangered environments due to domestic violence and/or maltreatment because the parent or parents are undiagnosed for a mental illness or non-compliant with medication for mental illness. Children are protected from the conditions just described because the community cares and is willing to step up again and again through the extended family, churches, and other civic and social groups to lend a hand in the time of critical need. Engaged parents know that their greatest weapons to protect their children is their love, presence, discipline through example and praise along with a community that clearly demonstrates that the child is never alone.

## Imagine: A School Built On Love

ST. PETERSBURG - It goes without saying that academic excellence is an important factor in determining the school the majority of parents with children in the Pinellas County public school system would like to send their children to. With that being said, what are some of the other factors which come into play when a parent is making that all important decision concerning where they would like to enroll their child for school?

“In my opinion, what’s equally important as the academic achievements of a given school is how individual students are treated by the staff and administration,” says Terrence Tomlin, the school’s Marketing & Enrollment Coordinator. “As a parent myself, I understand how important it is for parents to feel certain their child will be treated with decency, love, and respect”, he adds.

Respect is a two way street, and the staff at Imagine understand that in order to get it, you have to give it. Angela Prince, the principal of Imagine School St. Petersburg, sets the tone for her staff by being a leader who rules by love (sometimes the tough variety) and not fear. She firmly believes that there is no

such thing as a bad child; they just make bad choices sometimes. And, she works diligently to help them understand that their choices can have long lasting negative effects on their education and their lives. She is very fair and uniform in how she deals with students, especially those who have been sent to the office for disciplinary reasons. In fact, the threat of being sent to the principal’s office is usually not the deterrent that most parents would expect because Ms. Prince shows such empathy and care when students make mistakes that they often don’t mind being sent to speak with her.

“For me,” says Alison Rhodes, a mother of two students at Imagine, “the measure of how well a school handles disciplinary issues can be seen in the level of compassion used by the staff when dealing with the more difficult students.” There is a significant difference in how a child responds to being disciplined when an adult is yelling at them, or constantly being told what they’re doing wrong versus that same adult taking the time to listen to what’s going on with the student and focusing on what led to a particular behavior, instead

of the behavior itself. “If you take the time to calmly explain to them why the decision they made was a poor one and what they can do differently the next time to avoid a negative situation, you will ultimately get a more positive response that will stick with them for a greater period of time”, adds Talisha Tillis, the school’s behavioral specialist.

Imagine School St Petersburg is a school built on love, respect, and fostering positive character attributes among its students. “We do a lot of hugging around here,” states Mr. Tomlin, “and I think we, as adults, get just as much out of it as the kids do. There’s nothing better than walking through the halls and having kids run up to give you a great hug, or a high five.” It surely makes the tough days more bearable, and the good days that much better.

If you want to reserve a seat for your child for the 2012-2013 school year, ISSP will begin accepting pre-enrollments after the Christmas/New Year’s break. School tours are available on Tuesdays & Thursdays. For more info please contact the school at 727-821-7100 and ask for Mr. Tomlin.

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## HAZING

*continued from front page*

student’s family to speak at Wednesday’s funeral service.

White, who was the lead drum major as a student, said he fears the tragedy could doom the showy high-energy, high-stepping band that has performed at Super Bowls, the

Grammys and presidential inaugurations and in Paris on France’s 200th anniversary.

Since Champion’s death, the school has shuttered the marching band and the rest of the music department’s performances.

Shutting it down was a meaningful decision, White said. The band would have been the

first of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities to perform at Carnegie Hall. “That hurts,” White said.

Hazing has a long history in marching bands, particularly at historically black colleges, where a spot in the band is coveted for its tradition and prominence.



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Explore Volunteer Opportunities At Suncoast Hospice House Bayfront Open House

ST. PETERSBURG- Find out how you can serve as a volunteer at the new Suncoast Hospice House Bayfront at an open house Dec. 20, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Bayfront Medical Center, 701 6th St. S., St. Petersburg.

Drop in any time during the open house to tour the hospice house uniquely located inside the historic hospital. Enjoy refreshments, meet the volunteer staff and learn about daytime and evening volunteer positions, such as being a companion to patients and families or assisting in the office. Registration is not required.

Suncoast Hospice House Bayfront is one of three hospice houses operated by Suncoast Hospice. It's situated in a quieter, beautifully-remodeled hospital wing that looks and feels like home. It accommodates 12 patients, who may move in right from the hospital or be admitted from other places. Suncoast Hospice's care is patient and family-focused, to comfort patients at the end of life and support their families and caregivers.

For information about the open house, call Melissa Moré, 727-523-3442.

## End Of Hurricane Season 2011

Nov. 30 was the last day of the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season. It's time to breathe a big sigh of relief with no storms affecting the Tampa Bay area. Pinellas County Emergency Management has some advice for residents during the off season.

Believe it or not, nonperishable food does have an expiration date. If your food is nearing its expiration date, consider adding it to your family's normal food pantry or donating it to a local food bank where it won't go to waste. Look for sales during the winter and spring to restock your supplies with fresh items.

Use the batteries currently in your survival kit for battery-operated toys and gadgets you will be giving this holiday season. Replace those batteries with fresh ones you can buy during seasonal sales.

When sending those holiday cards update your emergency contact list for friends and family to ensure you have the most up-to-date contact information.

If you don't already own one, now is an excellent time to purchase a weather alert radio. This device gives immediate warning when the National Weather Service office in

## SPOTLIGHT

*continued from front page*

mother of four - 2 boys and 2 girls. Today, she also has 15 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. "God has been good to my family, Mrs. Favors said. Looking at the pictures of her children and grandchildren displayed in a special corner of her dining room, Mrs. Favors talked about the start of her career that she has practiced professionally for more than 50 years.

Unlike many people today, she did not plan to become a beautician. However, what started out as just something she enjoyed doing and had the talent to accomplish soon became her life's work. Her earliest training as a beautician was in her own mother's kitchen on Saturday nights in preparation for church on Sunday. Learning to do hair was easy, so when her girls were old enough to get their hair straightened, she did for them what had been done for her. In her kitchen, she often straightened and curled her daughters' hair as well as the hair of neighbors and friends. Sometimes, she exchanged services - a hairdo for babysitting or mending. Other times, they paid money. One day, a disgruntled neighbor decided to report her to the authorities. Since she was not licensed as a beautician, she was told to report to court. She bundled up the children and took them with her. When she stood before the judge with four children, he read the charge, commended her on her industriousness and dismissed the case.

Since she truly enjoyed doing hair, Mudear, as everyone calls her, went to see Mrs. Mabel Reese, the cosmetology instructor in the vocational program of Gibbs High School. During the day, she had jobs cleaning and doing days work for other families. She took classes at night and took care of meals and laundry for her family as well. "After all, we did not have McDonald's. I cooked full course meals for breakfast, lunch, and dinner," Mudear said.

"Mrs. Reese was a no-nonsense, down to earth instructor who did not allow us to become stressed," she continued. "She helped us to understand that we needed to be calm and complete every step that she taught. She didn't even let us worry about the state boards. 'Happy people will come back, so you need to learn to do what I tell you to do so that you can keep your clients happy. I will send you to take state boards when I see that you can make clients happy,' Mrs. Reese told us. All of her students passed the state board exams when she sent them."

Mudear admits that a positive outlook on life helps to improve the quality of life. In her words, "I am so proud of the way my life has gone. My children surprised me with a birthday party last month. I just celebrated 85 years and all of my body parts are working. I need glasses only to read fine print. I have not had any surgery and no serious illnesses. I am enjoying my life. My family and I are truly blessed. When they were young, I used to take appointments up to 10 and 11 p.m. It was hard, financially, to bring them up, but there have never been any problems. Proverbs 3:6 tells us that in all ways we are to acknowledge God and He will direct our path. I did so back then, and I still do it now. God has been very good to us."

Reading is one of her hobbies, so a biography or autobiography is often a companion. To keep her mind sharp, she does puzzles and reads her bible daily. Now that she works only part-time, she has time for gardening. Growing roses is her favorite task in the yard. She likes all colors and all kinds. A hobby that she enjoys with her children is traveling across the country a couple of times per year. When asked if she enjoyed the Manhattan Casino in its heyday, Mudear talked of dancing on Friday nights, working at the hair salon on Saturdays and going to church with the children on Sundays. On Sunday evenings, she enjoyed Goldie Thompson's gospel singings.

## BLACK HISTORY

"Celebrating Our History Is An Everyday Thing"



The first man to produce a full-length, eight-reel, all-Negro movie, and the first Negro to write and publish a best-selling novel—with a circulation of over 55,000, is dead. He was 67 year old Oscar Micheaux, one of Harlem's most distinguished citizens, who died Easter Monday in Charlotte, North Carolina, after a short illness in that city.

While on a tour of the South during the latter part of March, he became ill in Charlotte, and was hospitalized, but subsequently succumbed. His body was sent to Great Bend, Kansas, last week for burial. He is survived by his widow, Alice Micheaux. They lived at 48 Morningside Drive, and only last month celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Born in Metropolis, IL, January 2, 1884, he claimed two adopted homes—Great Bend and Harlem. Long before his death, he had made distinctive progress as an author, playwright, movie producer, book publisher, and lecturer.

In 1918, Micheaux produced, "Homesteader," the first full-length

## Oscar Micheaux

all-Negro movie. During this phase of his life, he was founder and president of the Micheaux Film Corp., and was credited with producing 44 of the 82 all-Negro pictures made. Micheaux's last movie, "The Betrayal," based on one of his bestselling novels, "The Winds From Nowhere," was released last year. It was one of his most ambitious cinema attempts, and had a Broadway premiere at the Mansfield Theatre, but failed to win public acclaim. Later this movie was shown in local second and third-run houses.

Micheaux said, "I'm tired of reading about the Negro in an inferior position in society. I want to see them in dignified roles. Also, I want to see the white man and the white woman as the villains. I want to see the Negro pictured in books just like he lives.

"But," he added, "if you write that way, the white book publishers won't publish your scripts. So I formed my own book publishing firm and write my own books, and Negroes like them, too, because three of them are best sellers."

The late playwright meant just what he said. In 1948, he wrote and published, "The Masquerade", which was supposed to be an answer to "Strange Fruit," or the opposite picture presented in "Strange Fruit."

The biggest single success of Micheaux, was "The Case of Mrs. Wingate," which he published himself, distributed himself, promoted himself with lectures and tours, and which sold over 55,000 copies.

No other book self-published has equaled, "Wingate." It was published by his own firm, The Book Supply Company located at his home address on Morningside Avenue.

"Wingate" was published in 1945, but his first book success was in 1943 with his novel "Wind From Nowhere." Later books—all novels—by the author-publisher were "The Story of Dorothy Stanfield," and "Masquerade."

The late Oscar Micheaux lived comfortably at all times, and employed several people in his book firm. He made "lots of money" with the novel "Wingate," but lost all or most of it with his ill-fated adventure in 1950, of trying to produce "The Betrayal" movie.

Even though the literary critics were never kind to Micheaux' writing efforts, he was nevertheless a successful author. "Wingate" sold over 53,000 copies; "Wind" about 30,000; "Stanfield" around 25,000; and "Masquerade" a little less than 15,000. If a book sells over 25,000, it is called a best seller, and considered a success. Judged by that standard, even if the late Micheaux had to publish his own books, distribute them, and promote them himself, he was nevertheless a successful author, and also a successful businessman.

## Oakhurst Elementary Recipient Of \$10,000 NFL PLAY 60 Grant

CLEARWATER - On Tuesday, Dec. 6, Oakhurst Elementary received a special visit from Buccaneers Running Back Earnest Graham who presented them with a \$10,000 grant. Oakhurst was selected as one of the schools in the NFL markets to receive the grant for health and wellness programming, along with a visit from an NFL player.

Graham spoke to the students about the importance of good health, and lead the students through 60 minutes of exercise as part of the physical education class and the youth/wellness programming campaign.

To celebrate the start of the 2011 NFL season, fans were encouraged to demonstrate their passion for their favorite NFL teams by planning a unique Back to Football Friday event for their school, all to support youth health and wellness. Schools that entered the Back to Football Friday contest submitted photos of their event and answered brief essay questions.

In addition, Procter & Gamble will honor a P&G Super Parent from Oakhurst who has gone above and beyond in helping children in their school community get active and healthy. The Super Parent will be announced and presented a check for \$1,000 in their name to support Oakhurst's athletic department.

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MARY KAY

PICK OF THE WEEK!

39 5 28

CASH 3

491

500

216

DOG DAYS

6-4	1-7
2-8	8-6
3-5	7-3

## PRAISE 1590 AM WRXB

LIVE HOLIDAY SEASON REMOTE BROADCASTS

WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF RADIO BY ADVERTIZING ON WRXB - 1590AM. THIS SPECIAL PRICE AVAILABLE ONLY FROM NOV 28th THRU JAN 9th

WRXB REMOTE PACKAGE INCLUDES A TWO HOUR LIVE BROADCAST FROM THE SITE OF YOUR BUSINESS, PLUS 25 COMMERCIALS/PROMO's IN THE WEEK LEADING UP TO THE REMOTE BROADCAST AND AN ADDITIONAL 25 COMMERCIALS/PROMO's AFTER THE BROADCAST.

REMOTES ARE 2 HOURS IN LENGTH AND CAN BE BROADCAST MONDAY-FRIDAY BETWEEN 10 AM & 7 PM.

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YOU CAN CONTACT WRXB AT 727-866-1591 or email: ed@wrxb.us

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OFFICE (727) 865-WRXB (1591)

3551 42ND AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE B-106

ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33713



# CHURCH DIRECTORY



Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.  
Senior Pastor

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

Sunday Worship Services .....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study.....Noon - 12:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.  
Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South  
2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services .....10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer .....6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.

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

**First Baptist Institutional Church**  
3144 Third Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Phone: 727-323-7518

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Praise Time 10:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Tuesday Night Live - Prayer Service & Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Come Worship With the First Baptist Family**



REV. DR. WAYNE G. THOMPSON,  
PASTOR

## ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



Rev. Norris L.  
Martin Sr. - Pastor

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”*



Princess Denise Wright  
Radio Host /  
TV Personality

*If you are brokenhearted in spirit, unable to forgive, dealing with issues of love, anger, deception, betrayal, lied and cheated, and kicked to the curb. Tune into this weekly broadcast for an empowering and anointed word thru God’s Radio Angel and messenger.*

- ◆ Need Prayer: Call Matters of the Heart Unity Prayer Line ( Mon-Wed-Fri) 5:30 AM- 6:30 AM (ph# 1-641-715-3200) access code: 135478 ( hit # sign)
- ◆ Sunday Radio Broadcast: WNQM-1300AM ( Nashville, TN. ) 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM Live streaming audio ( [www.wnqm.com](http://www.wnqm.com)) click WNQM
- ◆ Thursday Nights: 9:15 PM - 9:30 PM ( EST) Universal Christian Radio: [www.universalchristianradio.com](http://www.universalchristianradio.com)
- ◆ Saturdays: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM ( EST) Matters of the Heart Radio & Connecting Point Ministries, Pastor Kisha Jordan, Radio Ministry Jackie Mc Gee ( Love, Joy, Peace & Holy Spirit Radio Ministry)

Email: [princessdenise.8818@yahoo.com](mailto:princessdenise.8818@yahoo.com) • 727-289-2475 (bus)  
[www.mattersoftheheartministry.org](http://www.mattersoftheheartministry.org)

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalms 51:10*

## Elim Seventh-Day Adventist Church

*“A place of refreshing & a house of hope”*

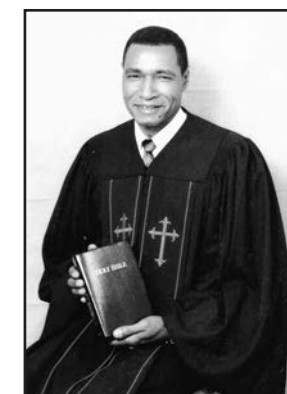
4824 2<sup>ND</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL. 33711

Ph: 727-327-2374; Website: [elimsda.org](http://elimsda.org); e-mail: [elimsda@verizon.net](mailto:elimsda@verizon.net)

Sabbath School (*on Saturdays*) ----- 9:00 am  
Divine Worship (*on Saturdays*) -----11:00 am  
Sabbath Afternoon Study Bible Study ----- 3:30 pm  
Sabbath Afternoon Youth Program ----- 4:30 pm  
Wednesday Evening Prayer Service ----- 7:30 pm  
2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday Morning Prayer ----- 6-7am  
**Food Distribution (Tuesdays)** -----10:am – 12 pm  
Radio Prog: **Sat.10:30a.m. Sun.10:00a.m.** 1590AM WRXB



Pastor Jim R. Davis &  
wife Oweda



Rev. Wallace Elliott Sr. - Pastor

## First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

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

Sunday Worship Services . . . .8:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School . . . . .9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday) . . . . .6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Tuesday) . . . . .7:00 p.m.  
Baptist Training Union (Sunday) . . . . .4:00 p.m.

*“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”*



Pastor Michael T. and  
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth

## GENESIS WORSHIP CENTER CHURCH

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



Elder Cedric L. Williams  
PASTOR

NEW MT. OLIVE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

3001 18th Ave. S. St. Petersburg, Florida 33712  
Church 727-327-9904 Fax 727-322-0409

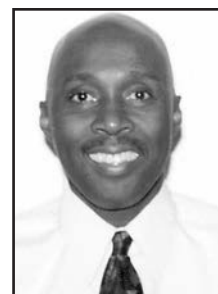
### SERVICE SCHEDULE

Church School **9:30 a.m.** and Morning Worship **11:00a.m.**  
Power hour of Prayer Wednesdays from **noon to 1:00p.m.**  
Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study Wednesdays **7:00p.m.— 8:30p.m.**  
**W.W.E. (Wednesday Worship Explosion)**  
Wednesday after the 1st Sunday monthly

Need a ride? Our Transportation Ministry is available Sundays and Wednesdays

**Growing people with a passion for God's principles**

## Victory Christian Center Church



Claude S. Williams, Pastor

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*

## MOUNT PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Pastor Clark  
Hazley, Sr.

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday General 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.

## 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!*



Pastor Minister Tyrone Ford  
and 1st Lady Kadell Ford

## United for Christ Freewill Baptist Church

4116 34th Street South  
Pinch A Penny Plaza  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33711  
**727-258-4993**

[www.ufcbaptistchurch.org](http://www.ufcbaptistchurch.org)

Wednesday Night Bible Study .....7:00 p.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service .....11:00 a.m.

*Living, Teaching and Preaching the True Gospel  
of Jesus Christ, to Save Lost Souls. Come join in with us.*

## 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



REVEREND DR. MANUEL SYKES

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

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

## Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

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



Dr. John A. Evans,  
Pastor

Sunday .....7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Worship  
Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday .....Noonday Bible Study and  
Bread of Life; 7 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study  
Thursday .....7 p.m. Youth Enrichment - Awana

*“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.



## HAS GOD CHOSEN YOU? SAVED BY GRACE ALONE!

Southside Tabernacle Baptist Church, 3647 18th Ave. S. 327-9711

New Girl Scout Troop forming! Call for information.

**Visit  
Us!**

SSTBC.org (website)  
WRXB (1590 AM) - Sundays, 11 AM  
Sunday Worship - 9:30 AM • Southside Institute of Biblical Studies - Wed. 7:30 PM

Rev. Richard Jackson  
and Rev. Henry Payne  
Co-Pastors

Women’s Growth Institute  
holds Community  
Bible Study (CBS)  
1st & 3rd Saturdays  
Nov. - April 9:30 a.m. - Noon  
*Studying Ephesians*  
Childcare available  
for ages 2-6



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

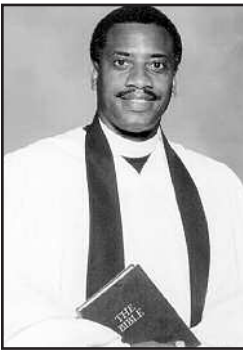
## THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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.  
Saints of Prayer each Monday .....12:00 Noon  
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: Tuesday and Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.  
Pastor

## By The Word of Faith Church Inc.

558 28th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Phone: 727-328-0788 • Fax: 727-328-8460



Bishop Willie C. Sands  
Evangelist Patricia Sands

Service Times and Schedules  
**EVERY TUESDAY-THURSDAY FROM 10 AM - 2 PM**  
**COME AND GET A BAG OF FOOD ONCE A MONTH**  
Wednesday Night 7:00 p.m. Empowerment Service  
3rd and 4th Sunday 9:00 a.m. New Members Class  
Sunday Morning 9:00 Sunday School  
Sunday Morning Service 10:00

Nursery Available and Children Ministry!!!

## 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](mailto:bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com) Web site: [www.bmmbc.org](http://www.bmmbc.org)

Sunday Worship Service.....10:15 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”**

# CHURCH NEWS

## Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

*“Impact the world by equipping believers to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.”*

Attention: Young Adults (18 – 25) our REACH Ministry invites you to join the Tuesday evening bible study weekly at 7 p.m. in the Youth Education Building located at 921 20th St.

The Children and Youth Ministries has a variety of social outlets for ages 6-18. Your child can learn basic Christian values through Scouting. Cub and Boy Scouts meet every Monday at

6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts meet every 1st, 3rd & 5th Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Is your child interested in music? Try our Community Marching Band and Flag Corp under the direction of Mr. Deon Bryant. Contact the church at 894-4311 for more information.

Lunch Time Bible Study each Wednesday at noon. We invite you for an interactive study for just 30 minutes in the main sanctuary. Open to the public.

We invite you, your family

and friends to join us for weekly uplifting and spirit filled worship services every Sunday, at 7:45 a.m. and 10 a.m. Teen Services are held every 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Youth Chapel.

Visit us on the web: [mzprogressive.org](http://mzprogressive.org) and like us on FACEBOOK for other ministry activities and events.

Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, 955 20th St. S. Phone: 727-894-4311. [www.mzprogressive.org](http://www.mzprogressive.org).

## Elim Seventh-Day Adventist Church and School

FREE BIBLE PROPHECY SEMINAR: AMERICA & THE MARK OF THE BEAST

The Elim Seventh-day Adventist Church will be hosting a Bible Prophecy Seminar, Friday, Dec. 9 and Saturday, Dec. 10. There are four sessions: (1) America & the Mark of the Beast – Friday 7 p.m. (2) The Mark of the Beast Experienced – Saturday 11 a.m. (3) The Mark of the Beast Identified – Saturday 2 p.m. (4) The Mark of the Beast Enforced – Saturday 4 p.m.

This event is free to everyone, refreshment will be provided, and free gifts will be available to some who attend. If you have questions about this event, or you live in St. Petersburg and are in need of transportation to the event, please call the church at 727-327-2374, or Pastor Jim Davis at 786-444-0613.

The Elim Seventh-day Adventist Church is located at

4824 2nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL. 33711 (at the corner of 49th Street and 2nd Ave. South).

### RADIO MINISTRY

Tune in to our weekly Radio Broadcasts: (1) This We Believe, which is aired every Saturday Mornings from 10:30-11 and (2) Hope Faith & Truth, which is aired each Sunday Morning from 10-10:30. Both programs can be heard on Praise 1590 AM and 96.5 FM WRXB, or on the Web @ [www.wrx.us](http://www.wrx.us).

If you have questions about any of the programs, or would like to learn more about the Bible, write to Pastor Jim R. Davis, 4824 2nd Ave. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33711.

### ELIM JUNIOR ACADEMY AND DAYCARE CENTER

The Elim Junior Academy and the Elim Child Development Center are still accepting students. Our warm and family friendly environment will provide the assurance

you need to be convinced that Elim is the place for your child. Call 727-327-8651 today and speak with our principal, Mrs. Lawanna McCoy, Ms. Delores Smith, or visit us at 4824 2nd Avenue, South, St. Petersburg, 33711.

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Every Tuesday morning at 10, the Elim Seventh-day Adventist Church distributes free food items to the community. Everyone is welcomed, while the supplies last. No income verification is needed, and no one is turned away while there is food.

### HOT LUNCH

Every Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., a Free Hot Lunch is served to members of the community. This takes place at the Church facility. There are no restrictions as to who may come; the food is free to all who have needs. Please feel free to stop by and have a meal with us!

## St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, its pastor, the Reverend Brian K. Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation, extends to the community at large, its wish 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.

Calendar for the Month of December

Dec. 8 - Church outing to New Jerusalem M. B. Church

(Rev. Troy Adams, Sr. Pastor) for the Progressive Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention of Florida, Inc. for Winter Board Session. Time 7 p.m.

Dec. 10 - Christmas with the Community, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. St Mark Outreach Ministry to the Child’s Park Community. Lots of food, fun and fellowship as we share the true spirit of Christmas.

Dec. 16 - Church Women United meeting at 10 a.m.

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day-Special Church Services at 9:30 a.m.

Dec. 31 - Watch Night Services at St. John M. B. Church beginning at 10 p.m.

Also at St. Mark ...

Sunday School is held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday School starts each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. 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 study the Bible with us and learn “What Baptists Believe.”

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

Young Adult Ministry every Monday from 6:30 p.m. (Bible Study).

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 at 7 p.m.

## First Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

IT’S BACK!! Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, just when you thought you had seen the last of the First Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church religious comedy “Church Folks,” all of the characters are back!!

Come laugh with us and

see the members from the “Glad I Been Redeemed 2nd Tabernacle By The Burning Bush Praise Him On Sunday Baptist Church”, as

Pastor Easy Evermore tries to keep things running smoothly.

The Deaconess Board of First Mt. Zion cordially invites

you to come out and witness this funny presentation Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. The church is located at 1121 22nd St. S., St. Petersburg, FL.

Sister Lucy Ward is president and Reverend Wallace Elliott, Sr. is the pastor.

## PRAYER TOWER COGIC THRIFT STORE

### Grand Re-Opening

**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Starting December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Weekly Hours of Operation**  
**Thursday, Friday & Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**EVERYTHING IS ½ Price for the Grand Re-Opening**



16<sup>th</sup> Street South – St. Petersburg, Florida

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



# STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

## Black Church Leaders, HBCU Presidents Unite To End Hazing After FAMU Death

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY

TALLAHASSEE—Following the death of Robert Champion, the Florida A&M University Drum Major who died Nov. 19, the religious community of Tallahassee, FL has called for community-wide prayer followed by deliberate action against hazing at HBCUs, according to a statement released this week.

The clergy is not only calling for an end to hazing, but has also formed a task force with presidents of historically Black colleges and universities to deal with the issue of hazing through educational workshops during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day celebration in 2012.

“We all grieve and are saddened by the untimely death of this drum major. Also, we will pray to God to strengthen and help the Florida A&M University (FAMU) administration and this community, to seek God’s guidance and wisdom in developing policies and programs to truly and totally eradicate hazing from the culture. Hazing is never acceptable; hazing is illegal, immoral, and irresponsible,” said Dr. R.B. Holmes, pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, in a statement.

Hazing, the practice of physical, emotional and/or psychological abuse is most often attributed to fraternities, sororities and team sports. It is illegal in many instances, but remains an ingrained culture on some college campuses. Parents of the multi-award-winning FAMU Band members say

students have recently complained about the behavior.

The death of Champion has renewed national attention to the possibility that the activity may be more prevalent than the general public knows. Holmes says the community’s goal must remain focused on healing; then educating about the wrongs of the abuse on campuses across the nation.

“This prayer service and our participation is not to finger point, nor investigate, nor legislate, nor to litigate; but to meditate, educate, and activate the power of God to heal this community and bring help and peace and unity in such a time as this,” Holmes stated. “We have come together because hazing is a moral issue and therefore, we must provide spiritual solutions and lend our moral voices to educate students that hazing must cease and be eliminated now and forever.”

Following a community-wide prayer service that was slated for Wednesday, Dec. 7, the release announced that a workshop and worship service will be held on Monday, Jan.16, during the celebration of the legacy and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is set to be held at the Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church, Rev. Terry Price, pastor.

Holmes, former president of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, listed nearly a dozen clergy who will participate in the workshop. He says he has also “appointed a national Historically Black Colleges and University task force to develop a National Anti-Hazing Conference.”



Black Church leaders of Tallahassee, Fla.

The HBCU presidents who will serve as co-chairs on this historic committee are Dr. Larry Rivers, of Fort Valley State University in Georgia; Dr. George Cooper of South Carolina State University who also leads the Council of 1890 Universities, land grant universities comprised of 18 Historically Black Colleges and Universities; Nathaniel Glover of Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida, and Dr. Henry Lewis of Florida Memorial University in Miami.

He says he is also inviting members of the more than 200-publisher National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) to sit on the committee. Holmes, also an NNPA member, is publisher of the Capital Outlook newspaper.

“The purpose of this national task force is to eradicate and eliminate hazing on the campuses of all historically black colleges and universities,” he said in the statement. “We are the pastors of many students, faculty, and staff at FAMU. We love the rich history and heritage of the university. However, we will not sit idly by and allow anyone within or without the university to use this unfortunate incident to weaken the school.”

## Obama Makes Case For Extending Payroll Tax Cuts

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama pressured Republicans in Congress Monday, Dec. 4 to extend a payroll tax cut, saying the economic recovery is “still fragile” and middle class families need the money.

“My message to Congress is this: Keep your word to the American people and don’t raise taxes on them right now. Now’s not the time to slam on the brakes. Now’s the time to step on the gas,” Obama said at the White House. He said despite a decline in the unemployment rate to 8.6 percent in November, “our recovery is still fragile” and the nation’s economy could be hurt by economic turbulence in Europe.

The president has been seeking an extension and expansion to the payroll tax cut that will expire at the end of the year. The White House says taxes on the average family would

increase by \$1,000 if the cuts are not extended.

To make its point, the White House went so far as to put up a countdown clock during spokesman Jay Carney’s briefing to show when middle-class taxes would go up “if Congress doesn’t act.”

Some Republicans in Congress support the extension but the parties have been split on how to pay for it. Obama noted that House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell have expressed support for the extension, adding, “I hope the rest of their Republican colleagues come around.”

Brendan Buck, a Boehner spokesman, said there was widespread support for extending the payroll tax cuts but if “the president wants to make progress he should insist that Senate Democrats remove the job-

killing small business tax hike from their partisan proposal.”

Senate Democrats have rolled out a compromise that would drop Obama’s proposal to award the tax cut to employers, bringing the cost of the plan down.

Obama also said for Congress to end its work this year without extending unemployment insurance would be a “terrible mistake” and leave “1.3 million Americans out in the cold.”

The White House has called for an extension of benefits that can cover up to 99 weeks for the long-term jobless. State unemployment insurance programs guarantees coverage for six months, but Congress approved additional benefits in 2008. Expiration of those payments would mean an average loss of nearly \$300 in weekly income for more than 1 million households in January.

## NAACP Wants New Voting Laws Struck Down

WASHINGTON — The NAACP says it is gathering information on the effect of new state laws that tightened rules on voting in order to make its case to the Justice Department that the laws are discriminatory.

The civil rights organization argues in a report released

Monday that the laws amount to a coordinated, comprehensive assault on minorities’ voting rights as their numbers in the population and at the ballot box have increased. NAACP President Ben Jealous says he met with assistant Attorney General Tom Perez over the

weekend and personally gave Perez a copy of the report.

The NAACP says it will also send the report to other federal agencies, secretaries of state and attorneys general in the 50 states, congressional committees and the United Nations.

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# CHALLENGER SPORTS

## Finally, A Win For Tiger Woods



Tiger Woods

BY DOUG FERGUSON

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) - The birdie putt on the final hole to win. The sweeping fist pump. The red shirt.

It all looked so familiar Sunday afternoon in the Chevron World Challenge, where Tiger Woods ended a drought that once would have seemed inconceivable. He went 749 days and 26 tournaments without winning as he tried to repair his image, his personal life and a golf game that used to be the best in the world.

When the final birdie putt from 6 feet disappeared into the cup, Woods swept his arm across the air, yelled through the din of the gallery and slammed his fist in a celebration that was a long time coming.

He birdied the last two holes for a 3-under 69 and won against an 18-man field at Sherwood Country Club. It was a two-man race against former Masters champion Zach Johnson over the final hour. Even so, winning is all that ever mattered to Woods \_ now perhaps more than ever before.

“Any different?” Woods asked about his win. “It feels great. Kind of hard for me to elaborate beyond that. I know it’s been awhile, but for some reason, it feels like it hasn’t. As far as making the putt and the feeling afterward, I think I was screaming something. But it was just that I won the golf tournament. I pulled it off with one down, two to go.

“To go birdie-birdie is as good as it gets.”

The last time Woods won was Nov. 15, 2009, at the Australian Masters for his 82nd title worldwide, and his seventh win that year, back when winning at least looked routine for him. Twelve days later, Woods crashed his car into a fire hydrant outside his Florida home, and stunning revelations of extramarital affairs soon emerged. It cost him his impeccable image, his marriage and four major sponsors.

He has added three sponsors in the last five months. He showed signs of coming back with nine solid rounds in the wind in Australia, finishing third

at the Australian Open and delivering the clinching point for the Americans in the Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne.

It wasn’t clear if Woods was elated or relieved, whether he felt satisfied or vindicated.

It didn’t really matter to him.

“It just feels awesome, whatever it is,” he said.

A two-shot lead on the back nine had turned into a one-shot deficit as Woods faced a 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole. He thought Johnson’s birdie putt was going in until it stayed just high of the hole. Woods adjusted his line ever so slightly and drained the putt to pull even going to the 18th.

From 158 yards in the middle of the fairway, Woods hit 9-iron that landed on the slope and rolled down to easy birdie range.

If this win felt different than the last one, Woods wasn’t saying.

“They all feel good,” he said. “They’re not easy. People don’t realize how hard it is to win golf tournaments. I’ve gone on streaks where I’ve won golf tournaments in a row, but still ... I don’t think I’ve taken it for granted. And I know because of how hard it is.”

Johnson had done just about everything right on the back nine a tough birdie putt on the 13th to tie for the lead, a spectac-

ular pitch from the putting surface, over a ridge to 4 feet to escape with par, and a 12-foot birdie on the 16th to take the lead.

He had a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th that never had a chance, and stood to the side watching a familiar sight Woods making clutch shots at the end of a tournament to win.

“If the man is healthy, that’s paramount,” Johnson said. “I mean, he’s the most experienced and the best player I’ve ever played with. In every situation, he knows how to execute and win.”

Although those situations have been rare of late, Woods looked as if he had not forgotten how to win. The only other times he has been in contention this year were the Masters and the Australian Open.

“I felt normal, felt very comfortable,” Woods said. “I’ve been here so many times that, you know, I just feel very comfortable being here in this position. Was I nervous? Absolutely. Always nervous in that position. But it’s a comfortable feeling, and I enjoy being in that position. For some reason, it’s kind of a comfort to be in there with a chance to win.”

Woods won the Chevron World Challenge, which he hosts for his foundation, for the fifth time. He finished at 10-under 278 and donated the \$1.2 million to his foundation.

The win moved him from No. 52 to No. 21 in the world ranking, and likely will send expectations soaring for 2012. Woods will not play again until starting next season in Abu Dhabi at the end of January.

There were similar expectations last year, even though Woods blew a four-shot lead in the final round at Sherwood and lost in a playoff to U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell. Woods said that was more smoke and mirrors. He only had one shot back then, and took the lead because he made a bunch of putts.

Is there reason for expectations now?

“I think there’s always expectations,” Woods said. “So be it.”

Johnson closed with a 71 and took home \$650,000 for the holidays. Paul Casey, who opened with a 79, had his third straight round in the 60s to finish alone in third at 5 under.

“Tiger can have a long career,” Casey said when he finished. “We might look back in another 10 years and actually forget about the last couple of years.”

These last two years are starting to feel like a blur for Woods, this year in particular. He never looked as low as he did when he hobbled off the TPC Sawgrass, withdrawing from The Players Championship after a 42 on the front nine because of

leg injuries that ultimately kept him out of competition for three months, including two majors.

Then he missed the cut at the PGA Championship and failed to qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs.

But his peers noticed a difference about the way his game was coming together in Australia, and it appears to be going in only one direction as Woods headed home to Florida.

“Last year I played with him here the first round and I thought, ‘Wow, this guy is back,’” Steve Stricker said. “You could tell this time around, he’s got even more confidence, more game. He feels even better about the direction he’s headed.”

Woods’ tournament has been a good stepping stone for others over the years. The most recent example was Jim Furyk, who won in 2009 and then had his first three-win season the next year and captured the FedEx Cup.

No one ever imagined Woods needing a boost, but that might be the case.

“I don’t think we’re going to see another 2011, if that makes sense,” Furyk said, alluding to Woods failing to reach the FedEx Cup playoffs this year. “If he steadily progresses, keeps getting confidence and moving forward, he’s going to return and be one of the best players in the game again.”



# ENTERTAINMENT

## First Class Graduates From Oprah Winfrey’s School In South Africa

HENLEY-ON-KLIP, South Africa - Mpumi Nobiva was raised by her grandmother in a neighborhood beset by poverty and crime after her mother died of AIDS. Now one of the first to graduate from Oprah Winfrey’s school, she is headed to college in North Carolina.

Winfrey spent \$40 million to give her girls a campus with computer and science labs, a library and a wellness center. None paid tuition. The students are high-achievers, often from communities where schools are struggling to overcome the legacy of apartheid.

And as the South African school year nears its end, all 72 members of the school’s first graduating class have been accepted to universities in South Africa or the United States. More than a dozen have received full scholarships.

Winfrey told her students that when you teach a girl, you teach a nation.

“The first class, my class, will prove that,” said Nobiva, 18, who will study visual and performing arts at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Winfrey will be at the school

for graduation ceremonies in January, school officials said Wednesday as students gathered to reflect on their experiences over the last five years.

The school has drawn sometimes harsh attention because of the celebrity who founded it, and also because of early problems.

Students have been accused of being spoiled. Allegations that a woman employed to care for the girls in their dormitory had instead abused teens were the subject of headlines around the world. The woman was acquitted last year.

Earlier this year, a newborn born to a student at the school was found dead, again drawing international attention.

“Yes, we’ve had bad coverage,” Nobiva said. “But it has certainly made us stronger.”

Winfrey, who has visited her school often, has instilled a sense of purpose. On Wednesday, Nobiva’s classmates - aspiring doctors, accountants, engineers and lawyers - spoke of their plans to serve their communities.

“You can imagine the impact of girls with that insight going out into the universe,” Nobiva said.

### LEGEND

*continued from front page*

philanthropic mission began and when he started The Show Me Campaign in 2007, a campaign calling his fans to help him in his initiative for those who live in Bossaso Village, Somalia.

Since then, Legend has been honored with many awards and recognition for his philanthropic work. Legend has been recognized several times for his activism; among his honors received are the 2010 BET Humanitarian of the Year award, the 2009 CARE Humanitarian Award for Global Change and the 2009 Africare’s Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award.

At 8 p.m., Tuesday evening, Dec. 13, at Progress Energy Center for the Arts at Mahaffey Theater, Grammy Award winning super star Mr. John

Legend will participate in a benefit program for United Way of Tampa Bay. “An Intimate Evening with John Legend”, is an inspiring presentation that brings message of the importance of education to our community. Tickets may be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com, charge by phone at (800) 745-3000, all Ticketmaster outlets or through the Mahaffey Theater box office. The box office is open Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.

The evening event is sponsored by Valpak.com. Valpak.com has been a long standing contributor to the work of United Way of Tampa Bay. Proceeds benefit regional neighborhoods with a special emphasis on educational programs for children and youth. This evening program is a blend of spoken

word and select songs presented by John. He shares his thoughts and words about his life and the importance of education.. Mr. Legend will present a handful of his songs to accentuate the evening. This evening is not to be confused or compared with his touring concerts.

Most recently, John and the band The Roots released Wake Up! (2010), a compilation of music from the 60’s and 70’s all with an underlying theme of awareness, engagement and social consciousness which won two Grammy Awards for Best R&B Album and Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance. The album is highlighted with tracks like “Little Ghetto Boy” by Donny Hathaway and Baby Huey and the Babysitters’ “Hard Times.” Wake Up! also includes John’s original composition “Shine,” which won a Grammy

award for Best R&B Song and is featured in Oscar award winner Davis Guggenheim’s domestic education reform documentary Waiting for Superman.

United Way is a leader in participating, innovating and supporting projects and programs to help make kids ready for school, keeping them in school and assisting them in the quest for graduation. United Way’s “Raise Your Hand for Education” initiative invites all in Tampa Bay to play a role in improving the number of students graduating from high school – by volunteering to be a mentor or tutor, to be an advocate speaking up about educational

For more information visit [www.UnitedWayTampaBay.org/](http://www.UnitedWayTampaBay.org/) legendary on the Internet.

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