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June 26 - July 2, 2003

25¢

Revitalizing the Jordan Park Community

Homeownership is at the center of the Housing Authority's efforts

by Candace K. Clarke
Challenger Assistant Editor

ST. PETERSBURG -- Construction on new homes in the Jordan Park community began last week as the latest in a series of revitalization efforts for the area. Right now, models are being built in the community to show first-time buyers their prospective homes.

This project is part of the St. Petersburg Housing Authority's \$27-million dollar HOPE VI grant, in which new homes are being offered to first-time buyers. In all, 40 new homes are set to be built in the Jordan Park area. As well, under the Housing Authority's Homeownership Program, up to 100 existing homes will be

available for purchase by first-time owners.

"I just hope people take advantage of it, because it is a good opportunity," said Syl Farrell, communications officer for the Housing Authority. The homes being built are primarily three bedroom, two bathroom layouts, all on a single floor. The models are expected to be completed by the end of September or early October, Farrell said.

For those interested in purchasing a new or existing home, contracts are offered through the Neighborhood Housing Services. Under the program, anyone can apply and Jordan Park residency is not required. The process to becoming a homeowner

includes taking the Housing Services Financial Fitness class, as well as meeting a few criteria. Among them, you must not have purchased a home in the last three years; you must meet the established Hope VI income guidelines, and you must have had no felony record in the last seven years. As of Monday, a total of 11 existing homes had been purchased through the program.

Farrell points out that the rebuilding of Jordan Park is a cooperative effort. "We don't think that there is a stigma attached to it," he said. "Everything being done out there is being done with the approval of the community."

Partners with the

Housing Authority in its HOPE VI grant include the City of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc., Mt. Zion Human Services, Inc., and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Neighborhood Housing Services is located at 1640 Dr. M. L. King St. S. in St. Petersburg. The office number is (727) 821-6897.

For further information regarding the Homeownership Program, contact Syl Farrell at (727) 323-3171, ext. 342 or the St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services at (727) 821-6897.



Building site for the new Jordan Park Homes

photo provided by the St. Petersburg Housing Authority

Welcome to Bull Country



The University of South Florida officially welcomed Robert and Cheryl McCullum to the Tampa Bay area with a reception in their honor on June 19. McCullum is the new head coach for the men's basketball program. USF Athletic Director Lee Roy Selmon picked McCullum, former head coach of Western Michigan University, to run the Bulls' program in April.

photo by Barbara Griffin

National Search on for School Superintendent

by Dianne Speights

Challenger Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG -- The Pinellas County School Board decided last week to go national in its search for a replacement for Superintendent Howard Hinesley, who retires late next year.

Since April, the Concerned Organization for Quality Education for Black Students, a coalition of prominent African-American officials in St. Petersburg have campaigned for a national search in order to find a superintendent with "fresh ideas" and a bolder approach to helping black

students, especially those who are not achieving at their grade level.

The support of the coalition was evident with the "overflow" crowd of community leaders and local citizens who attended the June 17 meeting.

A unanimous decision came after a short public hearing in which most of the speakers were members of St. Petersburg's black community, including the Rev. Louis Murphy, pastor of Mt. Zion Progressive Baptist Church.

"Too many of our children are not graduating. Too many of our children are on the streets and they

are becoming part of the problem because they are not educated," said Murphy, who brought along 60 members of his congregation which added to the nearly 200 African-Americans in attendance at the meeting.

The cost of hiring a search firm and other expenses is estimated at between \$35,000 and \$70,000. The board will discuss the details of its search at a July 28 workshop.

Vyrle Davis, a former school administrator who leads the coalition, said that the group is not pushing for a black candidate.

"We've got some real challenges and we want the best candidate available," Davis said. "We're looking for a superintendent who will level the playing field for all students in the community. Now that the decision has been made to do the national search, we want to be involved in the process, from the beginning to the end."

PLEASE
SUPPORT
THE BLACK
PRESS

Choice Plan Assignments are Underway

ST. PETERSBURG -- Pinellas County Schools, which has begun a new student assignment plan that affects the 2003-04 school year, is urging parents whose students are not assigned to a school yet to fill out an assignment application before school begins on Aug. 5.

A student new to Pinellas County Schools, such as an incoming kindergartener or a new resident, must be assigned to a school. A parent or guardian needs to visit a Family Education and Information Center and provide the required documentation.

Identification includes a birth certificate or other acceptable proof of birth, proof of residency such as a utility bill with the parent or guardian's name and address, the child's Social Security number or a recent report card for a child entering grades first through 12. The child will be assigned to a school in the family's attendance area that has seats available.

Registration is completed at the assigned school by providing a physical exam that is no more than 12 months old and a Florida certificate of immunization and filling out other required paperwork. Elementary school registration begins July 14. Parents should call the assigned school for middle and high school registration dates and procedures.

Parents of students who already have been assigned to a school but have moved to a different residence need to call a Family Education and Information Center to update the child's address. The correct address is needed for transportation planning. If the address is in a different attendance area than the assigned school, the child will need to be assigned to a school in the proper attendance area.

The Choice application period for the 2004-05 school year will be Sept. 1 to Nov. 1. There only will be one application period covering both Choice Plan

attendance area school applications and county-wide program applications (magnet, fundamental and high school academy programs). If the beginning or ending dates fall on a weekend or holiday, the next business day applies. The 2004-05 choice applications must be submitted by parents of students entering Pinellas County Schools for the first time, parents of students entering sixth or ninth grade who are not eligible for extended grandfathering or don't want to use it, and parents who wish their children to attend a different school than the one they already attend.

The Family Education

and Information Centers are located at 1101 Marshall St. in Clearwater, (727) 298-2858, and 3420 Eighth Ave. S in St. Petersburg, (727) 552-1595. They are open Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., through July 24. After that, hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Thursday, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Parents who have questions may contact a Family Education and Information Center or go to www.pinelaschoice.org.

For more information, contact Andrea Zahn, coordinator, Choice Plan communication and marketing, (727) 588-5172.

The Weekly Challenger
congratulates
Dr. Carol Cobb

on the opening of the Sankofa Clinic,
which specializes in internal and
holistic medicine.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Opinions.....	2
Tampa Bay Area.....	3-7
Where Would We Be.....	7
Entertainment.....	8
Woman's World.....	9
Religion.....	10-12
Sports.....	13
North Central/Did You Know?.....	14
State.....	15
Obituaries/International.....	16
Classifieds.....	17
National.....	18

There's A Reason To Read **The Weekly Challenger!**

OPINIONS

From the desk of *The Weekly Challenger* Be in Control of Your Own Destiny

The Weekly Challenger

Cleveland Johnson, Publisher
(1967 - 2001)

Ethel L. Johnson Owner/Publisher
Ylonda Powell Office Manager

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THE BLACK PRESS believes that America can best lead the world from racial antagonism when it accords to every man, regardless of race, creed or color, his human and legal rights. Hating no man, fearing no man... the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all men are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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All news items, advertising copy and related art submitted
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The Gantt Report

by Lucius Gantt

Some of us don't know
what love is. We thought
we did, but we don't.

Love is not what hap-
pens when you see a
brother or sister in a fine
car. The car is rented,
leased or borrowed and the
gas tank is on empty.

Love is not what hap-
pens when you see the
long-haired beauty with
the thick hips at the club.
The hair is a weave and
the hips have padded
drawers.

Love is not what hap-
pens when you see the
brother maxing out in the
FUBU, Tommy and ex-
pensive throwback jerseys
and big chains. The de-
signer clothes are fakes
from the swap meet, the
throwbacks are imitations
from Hong Kong and the
big chain is made from
"fool's gold."

Love takes time!

It takes a long time to

tell if you are in love. Love
has to exist and maintain.
If you love someone or if
someone loves you, love
has to be there in good
times and bad times. Love
has to be there through
thick and thin, richer and
poorer and in sickness and
in health.

Before you can say
you love someone, you
have to know whom you
are talking about. How can
you love someone and
don't know if they love
you? You can't love any-
one when you don't know
their names, how old they
are, who their relatives
are, who their friends are,
where they live, what their
phone number is, what
they like and what they
don't like.

I want to be judged,
admired and loved for who
and what I am. I want you
to love me as much as I
love you. I want all of the
love I deserve and the

In pursuit of the Amer-
ican dream, *The Weekly
Challenger* newspaper
was founded over 37 years
ago with a desire to reach
the African-American
community, covering
news relevant to that sec-
tor. In 1967, Mr. Cleveland
Johnson took on the role
of *The Challenger's*
Publisher, working to
make his dream a reality –
and he did it.

Maintaining that
"Dreams Do Come True,"
Mr. Johnson recognized a
void, knowing the neces-
sity for a new direction.
Short on cash but long on
determination and hard
work, the foundation was
laid for one of the most

successful black enterpris-
es in the Tampa Bay area.
Mr. Johnson's motto was,
"Black people must sell as
well as buy, else remain a
beggar race."

"Be in control of your
own destiny"—that was
Mr. Johnson's philosophy.
In order to reach that level
of freedom, Mr. Johnson
stressed that one must sell,
and even more important-
ly, sell what belongs to
them, in order to be suc-
cessful. "or else become a
beggar race." Anything
less seemed to only serve
an endless cycle of subju-
gation, not only financial-
ly, but emotionally as well.
In order for our communi-
ties to prevail, black-owned

businesses are the key.

Economic freedom
can be realized, as it was
in the past, as it has grown
to be witnessed now. At
the height of the Civil
Rights Era, blacks owned
and operated businesses
such as restaurants, hospi-
tals, schools, trades serv-
ices, markets, and more.
That surge has continued
as we cross over into a
new era, although there is
more to be done.

The National Urban
League has reported that
during the 90s, "African-
American buying power
increased almost 73 per-
cent." In a 1997 U.S. Cen-
sus Bureau report, statis-
tics showed that blacks

spent from .5 – 15% more
money, on average, than
all American consumers
for goods such as food,
clothing, utilities and ap-
pliances. A study by the
National Tour Association
showed that the black fam-
ily earning \$30,000 a year
spends as much as a white
family earning \$50,000.

With so much spend-
ing power, our community
must capitalize. Economic
freedom must be achieved.

The Challenger has
emerged from that dream,
emerging in the African-
American community as
the preferred provider for
advertising among various
interest groups. With a cir-
culation base of about

25,000 around the Bay
Area and Central Florida,
it has become one of the
fastest growing weekly
tabloids in the southeast
region. Loyal employees,
dedication, and devotion
to maintaining high stan-
dards of excellence in
journalism are forces that
keep us in touch with our
community.

The Cleveland John-
son vision is one that still
lives on. His goal: to im-
pact the lives of those
throughout the African-
American community in a
positive way; to dispel the
disparaging images unfair-
ly cast, to celebrate the
power of a hardworking
people. For "Cleve," as he

was known, *The Challen-
ger* became a symbol of
triumph in the face of
adversity.

*The Weekly Challen-
ger* has survived the good
and bad, starting from the
bottom, reaching the top.
Based in the tradition of a
strong philosophy, Mr.
Johnson's dream has been
preserved, and now serves
as an example of what can
be accomplished by reach-
ing for that goal of free-
dom. "There is a reason
to read *The Weekly
Challenger*."

Chair of Congressional Black Caucus Marks "Juneteenth" Anniversary

Washington, D.C. –
U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cum-
mings (D-MD), Chairman
of the Congressional
Black Caucus, marked the
annual anniversary of
"Juneteenth" with the fol-
lowing statement calling
upon all Americans to
reaffirm our national com-
mitment to freedom,
equality and universal eco-
nomic opportunity:

"It was not until the
Emancipation Proclama-
tion on September 22,
1862, that President Lin-
coln declared that Ameri-
cans in bondage within the
states then in rebellion
were entitled to the same
freedom and opportunity
that other Americans justifi-

ably considered to be
their birthright. And it was
not until June 19, 1865, at
the conclusion of a bloody
civil war, that General
Gordon Granger rode into
Galveston, Texas, and is-
sued General Order No. 3
informing slaves in Texas
that they were free.

"Each year on July 4,
African Americans join
Americans of every ethnic
background in honoring
the anniversary of our na-
tion's Declaration of Inde-
pendence.

"We celebrate our
freedom and independence
as Americans because sac-
rifices of men and women
of good will over the cen-
turies have built a founda-

tion of freedom and oppor-
tunity for all humanity.
This is why, each year,
Americans of every race
also celebrate "Juneteenth,"
the June 19 anniver-
sary of the date when the
last slaves in America
were freed.

"June 19 is a holiday
in the State of Texas. For
most Americans, however,
"Juneteenth" is just another
day on which we work
to support our families,
educate our children, pre-
serve our health and exer-
cise our rights as a free
people.

"This year, "June-
teenth" comes at a difficult
and dangerous time for all
Americans - a time when

our civil rights, our politi-
cal rights, and our human
rights to employment at a
living wage and healthcare
during times of need are
threatened. These are
times when all Americans
are called to reaffirm our
national commitment to
freedom, equality and uni-
versal economic opportu-
nity.

"Each generation of
Americans must work to
defend and expand the
freedoms and opportuni-
ties that will be our lasting
legacy to generations yet
unborn. The work of being
a free, self-governing peo-
ple must continue every
day, not just on July 4 or
June 19.

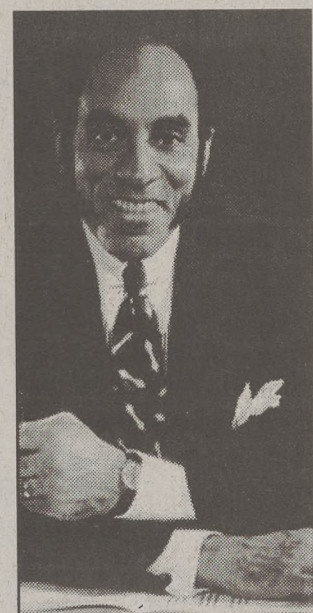
"This is why the Con-
gressional Black Caucus
and Senate Democrats
have invited state, local
and community leaders
from across America to
join them in Washington
on June 26. We will be
conducting an all-day na-
tional summit that will
examine and reaffirm our
commitment to the civil
rights and liberties, educa-
tional and economic op-
portunities, and universal
health care that are the
foundations of freedom for
all Americans.

"We hold these truths
to be self-evident, that all
men are created equal, that
they are endowed by their
Creator with certain un-

alienable Rights, that
among these are Life,
Liberty and the pursuit of
Happiness... [T]o secure
these rights, Governments
are instituted among Men,
deriving their just powers
from the consent of the
governed."

"On June 26, the peo-
ple of America will join
their elected representa-
tives in Washington in un-
ified resolve to affirm
Jefferson's Declaration of
our American political
creed. That, in our view, is
the most fitting way to cel-
ebrate "Juneteenth."

The Case for Newsroom Diversity



Earl G. Graves

by Earl G. Graves

Once again it's open
season on affirmative ac-
tion. The incident that has
sparked the latest round of
rhetoric is the actions of
Jayson Blair, a 27-year-
old black journalist who
was caught in the act of
committing journalistic
fraud at *The New York
Times*. As a result of

Blair's ethical breach, the
paper's two top editors,
Executive Editor Howell
Raines and Managing
Editor Gerald Boyd, the
first African American to
serve as managing editor
for what is considered the
world's most influential
newspaper, stepped down
from their posts. Now
affirmative action oppo-
nents are painting Blair as
the poster boy of diversity
programs run amok and,
in the process, unjustly
tainting the reputations of
minority journalists in
newsrooms and media
outlets nationwide—possi-
bly throughout the globe.
Their comments have
been damaging, divisive,
and quite frankly, ludi-
crous.

First let me state that
Blair's actions are inex-
cusable. Top journalistic
institutions were hood-
winked by a charismatic
con artist who just hap-

pened to be black. At the
foundation of his decep-
tion were solid creden-
tials—attending the Uni-
versity of Maryland and
interning at the *Boston
Globe*—which had far
more to do with his "mis-
takes" being continually
glossed over than the color
of his skin. As a result, he
has given a black eye to
not only the *Times* but also
the media as a whole. He
violated the public trust.
Reporters, columnists, and
editors must uphold the
highest standards of pro-
fessional and ethical be-
havior. Secondly, such fal-
sified, erroneous reports
making it into the pages of
the *Times* demonstrates a
flawed editorial process
and a severe lapse in the
judgment of management.

Blair, however, in no
way represents thousands
of minority journalists
who work diligently day
and night, as well as exer-

cise the highest editorial
standards. Many have put
their lives on the line to
inform the public of local,
national, and international
events, and having em-
ployed a number of these
journalists as freelancers
for *Black Enterprise* mag-
azine, I can say that they
have made immeasurable
contributions. To place
minority journalists under
a professional microscope
because of the actions of a
lone, admittedly disturbed
young man is outrageous.
Was the legitimacy of
white journalists ques-
tioned when Stephen
Glass, formerly of the
New Republic, or Mike
Barnicle, formerly of *The
Boston Globe*, produced
fabricated material? In
fact, Barnicle was reward-
ed with a *Daily News* col-
umn and a radio show.

There is a casualty of
this fiasco. We lose a fine
journalist and editor in the

upper ranks at the *Times*.
Gerald Boyd has spent
more than a quarter cen-
tury building a solid reputa-
tion for top-notch journal-
ism, and has achieved edi-
torial milestones by cover-
ing the White House and
playing a large role in run-
ning the newspaper. Since
becoming the paper's
managing editor in 2001,
he has done much to
expand its coverage and
bring diversity to its
pages. He was a source of
mentorship and inspira-
tion for journalists of all
races. On Friday, when the
editorial page of the *Times*
sung the praises of the
departing Raines, it did
not include a solitary
statement honoring
Boyd's years of contribu-
tion to the paper or the
profession. It took more
than 150 years for an
African American to reach
the pinnacle of newspaper
journalism. If the industry

embraces the anti-diversity
hyperbole, it may be
another century and a half
before a minority occupies
such a position again.

The Jayson Blair
debacle demonstrates the
need for unflinching over-
sight of the editorial pro-
cess and a rock-solid com-
mitment to journalistic
standards. It also places a
spotlight on diversity, and
I, like minority journalists
across the globe, am ex-
tremely concerned about
the fallout. If it is used as
another dagger in the heart
of diversity, it wounds not
only media, which re-
quires an accurate reflec-
tion of all of society's cul-
tures and communities,
but it kills the very thing
that makes our nation
great.

Earl G. Graves serves as
publisher of "Black Enter-
prise" magazine.

Lucius Gantt is the
author of, "I Talked About
the Beast." You can con-
tact him at lbgant@aol
.com

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TO OUR OFFICE LOCATED AT:
2500 DR. M. L. KING ST. SO.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705

TAMPA BAY AREA NEWS

Dianne Speights to Lead NCNW

ST. PETERSBURG — Dianne Speights became president of the National Council of Negro Women's St. Petersburg Metropolitan Chapter during its annual installation ceremony on June 21.

Speights succeeds Mary Clower and will serve a two-year term. She has prepared for the role, serving as president-elect of the chapter for the past two years. Speights has also served as vice president of youth development for 13 years.

Her goals for the local chapter include opening the Fanny Ayer Ponder Council House on a daily basis in order for the community to familiarize itself with, and take advantage of, the organization's programs, she said. Another objective is to recruit younger members.

"We need the enthusiasm and energy of younger



Dianne Speights

African-American women to mesh with the wisdom and experience of our senior members," said Speights, who retired from the Pinellas County School System as an area community involvement coordinator in 1997.

Other officers installed included: Allene Gam-

mage Ahmed, vice president of youth development; Signora Ferris, president-elect; Berniece Stephens, vice president of public relations; Rhonda Jackson, vice president of resources; Barbara Bowden, assistant recording secretary; and Betty Haywood, treasurer.

FAMU and New Philadelphia Community Services Among Those to Host This Weekend's Financial Literacy Workshop

ST. PETERSBURG — New Philadelphia Community Services, Inc. will serve as the Tampa Bay Area CreditSmart™ Program Administrator, and will host its first CreditSmart™ "Train-the-Trainer" Workshop, June 27-28 at the downtown St. Petersburg Hilton Hotel. The workshop will take place from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday, and from 8 a.m. - noon on Saturday. The workshop is free (including meals) and open to the public, however, space is limited and a reservation is required.

Founded by Freddie Mac Mortgage Co. and joined by Florida A & M University (FAMU), as well as the national advocacy group, Consumer Action, CreditSmart™ is an innovative program designed to teach consumers the basics of money management techniques, including creating spending

plans, budgeting, handling credit problems, and basic banking skills. The CreditSmart™ curriculum provides an overview of credit management; insight into how lenders assess credit histories; and the role of credit in achieving financial goals, including homeownership. The curriculum is designed to increase consumers' financial literacy by providing life-long management skills.

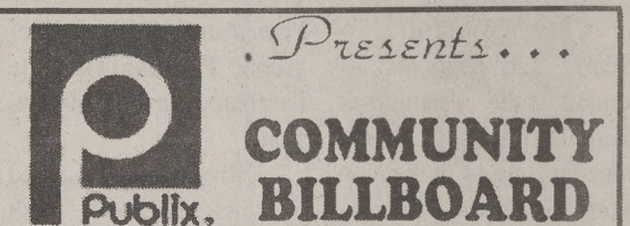
The CreditSmart™ - Tampa Bay "Train-the-Trainer" Workshop aims to equip local participants with the tools needed to be able to offer the CreditSmart™ curriculum to its clients or members. Day one of the workshop will provide an overview of the CreditSmart™ curriculum. Day two will focus on certifying participants who are interested in becoming certified CreditSmart™ trainers. "While it is our

intent to reach as many churches and not-for-profit organizations as possible, trainers who want to offer the curriculum to their clients may also attend the workshop," says Jo Ann Nesbitt, Executive Director.

Representatives from Freddie Mac Mortgage and the Florida A & M University/Consumer Action Group CreditSmart™ Program Office will conduct the training and certify participants who complete the certification process.

For more information on the CreditSmart™ - Tampa Bay "Train-the-Trainer" Workshop or to request a registration form, contact Lorian Williams, Coordinator at (727) 896-4566 or Jo Ann Nesbitt, Executive Director at (727) 321-6302. Requests may also be sent to newphillycdc@aol.com.

The Weekly Challenger thanks Badcock Furniture, the Verizon Foundation, and the Tampa Bay D-Rays for their contributions to the I.M.P.R.E.S.S. program - benefiting the youth of our communities.



• Sunset Dance at the Pier, 800 Second Ave. NE. Today from 5 to 8 p.m. Free, live music featuring local bands. Call (727) 821-6443 for more information.

• AMC Theatres Blood Drive, Sat. through Mon., June 28-30 from 2-8 p.m. at the following locations: Tyrone 6, 6901 22nd Ave. N in St. Petersburg and Tri-City 8, 5140 East Bay Drive in Clearwater. For more information, call (800) 68-BLOOD.

• Equality Florida Family Values Picnic at the The Pier and Spa Beach, 800 Second Ave. NE. Sun., June 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. followed by afternoon entertainment. Picnic lunches are \$10. For more information, call (727) 224-1072.

• Music Fest on the Water at The Pier, 800 Second Ave. NE. Sunday, June 29 from 1 - 4 p.m. Free. Live music by Mele. Call (727) 821-6443.

• The African-American Mental Health Initiative Presents: Children and Parents Coping with Trauma, a free seminar that offers teen and parent workshops. The program takes place on Tuesday, July 1 from 6 - 8 p.m. at John Hopkins Middle School. For more information, contact Janis Ford at (727) 893-9841.

For more information about Community Billboard, call us at (727) 896-2922

NEWS DEADLINE IS 4:00 P.M. MONDAY

Experience an Artsy Day Trip to Sarasota

PINELLAS COUNTY-- On Wednesday, July 2, the City of Clearwater is sponsoring a day trip to Sarasota to experience the "artsy" galleries, museums, shops and restaurants. Join us for this fun day designed for art and culture lovers hosted by

artist Suzanne Ruley. We'll explore St. Armand's Circle and break for lunch so you can eat where you like. The cost is \$20 with a Recreation card or \$30 without. The trip runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., leaving and arriving from Morningside Recreation

Center, 2400 Harn Blvd, Clearwater.

Pre-registration is required, at Morningside Recreation Center. Call Suzanne at (727) 669-1365 ext. 231 for more information.

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First Clearwater Neighborhoods Conference Held

CLEARWATER — Nearly 120 residents attended the inaugural Neighborhoods Conference on June 14 at the new North Greenwood Recreation Complex. This event was a partnership between the Clearwater Neighborhoods Coalition and the Neighborhood Services Division of the City of Clearwater. Vice Mayor Hoyt Hamilton welcomed residents to the morning session, which was geared toward problem solving and team building. Dan Bates from the St.

Petersburg College Regional Policing Institute facilitated the morning session.

Citizens were seated by neighborhood with either a Community Policing Officer or a Code Enforcement Inspector facilitating activities at each table. John Doran, a local lawyer and CPA, spoke about the legal, tax and insurance issues involved in creating a neighborhood association.

The keynote speaker for the afternoon session was Lieutenant Colonel

Tony Schwalm, Special Forces Officer from MacDill Air Force Base. He discussed the significance of neighborhoods and knowing your neighbors as the first line of defense against terrorism in our homeland.

Assistant City Manager Ralph Stone and City Manager Bill Horne concluded the day by urging participants to be aware of the opportunities and challenges that face the City of Clearwater and to get involved in developing solutions.

Barnes & Noble Joins USF St. Petersburg

by Pam Bellis

USF St. Petersburg Media Relations

ST. PETERSBURG — For now, it may be 'the little shop around the corner' but, if the shared vision of Barnes & Noble and USF St. Petersburg comes to fruition, it will soon become St. Petersburg's first and only multi-use "Academic Superstore."

At the Campus Board of Trustees meeting in June, USF St. Petersburg announced a landmark partnership with Barnes & Noble Bookstores that answers immediate needs and holds great promise for the future. Effective July 1, Barnes & Noble is moving into the existing USF St. Petersburg Bookstore located on the ground floor of Coquina Hall.

Artist renderings were unveiled showing Barnes & Noble and USF St. Petersburg's shared vision of building a multi-level parking garage and "Academic Superstore" featuring a two- or three-story bookstore and cyber café. The new facility will provide

vide textbooks and services to students and serve as a gateway to downtown St. Petersburg. The mixed-use facility is planned for the corner of Fifth Avenue South and Third Street South, offering downtown shoppers, workers and residents access to a multitude of merchandise and services.

"In these uncertain economic times, it is encouraging to see the university and Barnes & Noble sharing this vision," said Susan Sietsma, USF St. Petersburg Student Government President. "The projected project will be beneficial to both USF St. Petersburg students and the community. Our campus is rapidly growing and projections are that our student population will double within the next decade, so parking is a serious issue for students. Since the state does not fund student parking, it is up to the university to raise the money to make this vision a reality."

In addition to purchasing the inventory of the

current store, Barnes & Noble will fund a \$60,000 remodeling project of the existing space. The agreement calls for Barnes & Noble to remit between 7% and 9% of its sales to USF St. Petersburg. They will also provide a \$3,000 scholarship annually, convenient remote buyback locations for textbooks, career opportunities for existing bookstore staff and retail student interns, a full-service internet commerce program, and the development of a website with links to professors. The store will house a textbook department, academic and scholarly book department, and a general merchandise department that will carry newspapers, books and items for the general public.

Barnes & Noble currently runs the bookstore at USF Sarasota and in addition to USF St. Petersburg, they will also manage the stores on the Tampa campus and at the Health Sciences Center Bookstore.

Transportation Planning Committee to Hold Public Meeting

PINELLAS COUNTY — The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), in cooperation with local transportation and government agencies, officially initiated the "22nd Avenue North Strategy Plan" on November 1, 2002. The purpose of the study is to develop strategies to improve operating conditions on 22nd Avenue North and surrounding roadway network. The study area extends from 13th Avenue North, on the south to 30th Avenue North on the north; and from Park Street on the west to Dr. M.L. King Jr. Street on the east. See attached Study Area Map.

Concerned citizens, homeowners and business associations, actively participated in two community workshops held on February 25 and April 9. All those in attendance were informed about current characteristics, including the level of congestion, volume of traffic, crash data analysis, public transit, sidewalk inventory and pedestrian and bicycle issues existing in the corridor.

Some highlights of the study indicate that: a) Employers with 100 or more employees are concentrated in the Tyrone area and the sector around 34th Street North. Significant industrial activity is localized in the area between 34th Street North and I-275. b) Although traffic moves at an acceptable rate of speed, still the operation of some segments reveal a poor level of comfort and convenience. Speed and freedom to maneuver are severely restricted during peak-hour periods, particularly on 22nd Avenue North, at I-275, 34th Street North, 66th Street North and on 30th Avenue North at 34th Street North. c) The inter-

sections on 22nd Avenue North, at Dr. M. L. King, Jr. and at 34th Street North, (US 19) were ranked among the ten highest crash rate locations in the corridor. However, average crash rate for the area study appears to be below the average county level. d) An estimated higher number of students walking to, and school enrollment expected to increase in some neighborhood facilities, may contribute to traffic congestion. e) Routes 5 and 22 serving the corridor are experiencing a decrease in the number of passengers served. f) Sidewalks exist on at least one side of approximately 40% of the roads in the study area.

Residents and business

Council of Neighborhood Associations Holds 2003 Leadership Program Graduation



Program graduate Betty Hayward (right), RSVP Director of the Pinellas Opportunity Council and program graduate was congratulated by Bayou Highlands Neighborhood Association President Mary Darling (left).

PINELLAS COUNTY — The Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) of South Pinellas County recently held graduation ceremonies for its CONA Leadership Program participants at the Vinoy Resort Hotel. The graduation ended an eight-week study of community development, government agencies and neighborhood relations within the St. Petersburg area. The keynote speaker, St. Petersburg Police Department Community Awareness Division Manager William Doniel, honored the nearly 50 graduates from local neighborhoods and businesses.

The 2003 graduates

brought a diverse mix of professional, cultural, age group and gender representatives. "The CONA Leadership Program provided an excellent opportunity to meet different neighbors and learn more about my community," says Betty Hayward, RSVP Director of the Pinellas Opportunity Council, Inc. and 2003 program graduate. Other neighborhood and business associations represented in the CONA Leadership Program included: Historic Park Street, Greater Woodlawn, Historic Old Northeast, Snell Isle, Crescent Heights, Jungle Terrace, Coquina Key, Bayou Highlands, 16th St. Business Assoc., Broadwater, Isla Del Sol, Shore Acres, Downtown, Crossroads, Old Southeast, Live Oaks, Jungle Terrace, North Kenwood, Lake Maggiore

Shore, Northeast Park and Winston Park/Cinnamon Lake.

CONA is a not-for-profit corporation that strives to enhance the St. Petersburg area for its residents. The council represents over 50 neighborhood and civic associations throughout the area and works cooperatively with local governments on issues that impact the community's quality of life. CONA started its leadership program 12 years ago, and remains one of the most unique leadership programs in the country by combining leadership training with neighborhood associations.

If you are interested in learning more about CONA and its 2004 Leadership Program, please send your request to P.O. Box 3529, St. Petersburg, FL 33731.

Clearwater Receives Heartsafe Award

CLEARWATER — The Tampa Bay Chapter of the American Heart Association presented the first Heartsafe City Award to the City of Clearwater at the June 19 Commission Meeting.

The award recognizes Clearwater's outstanding service and dedication to saving lives through the American Heart Association's program, Operation Heartbeat. The City has participated by purchasing and strategically placing advanced lifesaving de-

vices called AEDs, automated external defibrillators, to assist in emergency cardiovascular care. The AED devices are located at public facilities throughout the City and have already resulted in several lives being saved, the most recent save occurring March 26 at Clearwater Beach. In addition, the City has supported the effort through fund-raising, providing locations for educational training, and promoting life-saving equipment.



THIS & THAT
(823-6092)

by Mabel Cooper

HI FOLKS!

Happy Birthdate to Ethel Reece! A celebration June 24 marked a small but happy natal day for Ethel who added another year June 24 when she turned "76" years old. Ethel, known to many as "Little Mama," said her daughter, Arlene, and family are planning a small but intimate celebration for family members only.

Dorothy Dunbar of 14th Street and 13th Avenue South is home following a 15-day vacation in Houston, Texas. While there, she witnessed a beautiful wedding ceremony of her nephew who was joined in holy matrimony with a co-worker.

The new bride is a soccer teacher, and he is an educator at the University of Florida. According to Dorothy, a bountiful reception immediately followed the nuptials with family and friends joining in the gaiety. Dorothy returned home June 12.

June 9, David Lockett of 41st Street South spent five days with his family members in Atlanta, Ga., at their 15th family reunion. David said, "The reunion was well attended with family members from 'all over' and was worth his attending." David came home June 24.

Rosa Mae Hicks Jackson has jetted to her Lake-wood Estate digs following a two-month trip of business and pleasure spent in parts of Philadelphia, Penn., N.J., N.Y. and Las Vegas. She spent most of her time in the Bronx and NYC taking care of important business. In her free time, she visited some cousins in Newark, N.J., and Philadelphia, Penn. She bedded down at a cousin's place up in the Bronx and visited old friends she knew while she lived in New York for 54 years. Rose also, with a road buddy, spent time at the Atlantic casinos trying her hand with the "one-armed bandits" and in Las Vegas where lady luck smiled on them.

Rose said she has to jet to New York again in July to finalize her business deals. The former Suncoaster moved to New York in her younger years and moved back home in 1996 following the death

of her son and husband to be with her family members and friends.



Summer Terraine Daniels

ST. PETERSBURG NATIVE GRADUATES

Summer Terraine Daniels graduated with honors from DeVry University Orlando June 20, class of 2003. In 1996 the St. Petersburg native graduated from Kings High School in Tampa. In 2000, she was a graduate student from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in management information systems.

Summer currently is working as a database manager at Industry Data Strategies in Orlando while pursuing her interest in her field. She is the daughter of Veronica Daniels Williams and the late Calton Daniels of Tampa, formerly of our town.

Summer's family, including her grandmother, Reva M. Ross of Lamp-rilla Way S., attended the graduation and are proud, proud, proud of Summer and her outstanding accomplishments. Congrats, Summer. We wish the best for you.

HOLDING HIS OWN

According to a family spokesperson, T.C. Stockton, a retired educator and a man with a bushel of friends, is still holding on. If prayers and concern are any indication, our friend will beat the odds. So, keep on praying for T.C. Keep him in your thoughts, and remember, the Lord is sovereign.

AND NOW, A BIT OF HUMOR

Stop reading if you've heard this:

One morning while making breakfast, a man walked up to his wife and pinched her on her butt and said, "You know, if you firmed this up, we could get rid of your girdle." Well, this was on the edge of intolerable, she thought, and replied with silence. The next morning the man gave his wife a pinch on her breast and said, "You know, if you firmed these up, we could get rid of your bra." This was beyond a silent response, so she rolled over and grabbed him by his "joy stick." With a death grip in place, she said, "You know, if you firmed this up, we would get rid of the postman, the gardener, the pool man and your brother!"

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EBONY SCHOLARS

On The Move

Allen; College: Florida A&M University; Major: Pre-Med/Nursing



Autumn Harrell
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Larry Harrell; College: Florida State University; Major: Medicine

Andrea Dandridge
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Dandridge; College: Florida State University; Major: Pre-Medicine

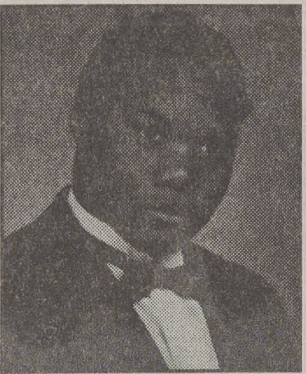


Tikisha McRae
Parent: Ms. Mae Speights McRae; College: Florida State University; Major: Medical Biology/Pediatrics

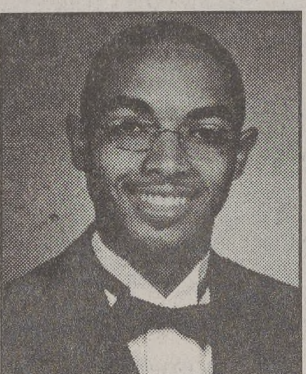


Rachel Young
Parent: Ms. Barbara Young; College: University of South Florida; Major: Public Health

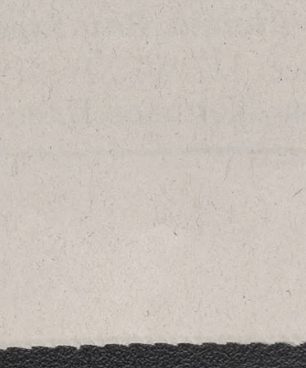
Lakewood High School



Brandon Blue
Parents: Rev. Curtis and Brenda Dennis; College: Florida A&M University; Major: Pre-Med/Pediatrics

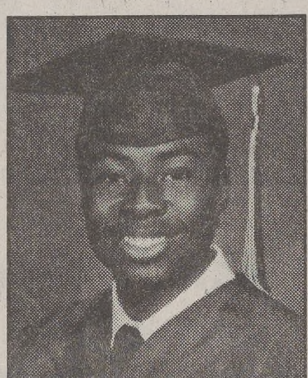


Mark Doyle
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Tony Doyle; College: University of Florida; Major: Pre-Law

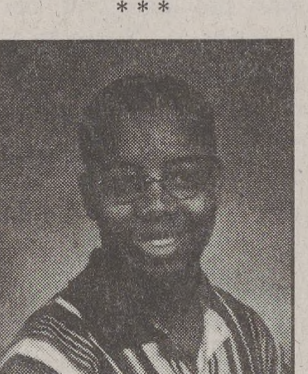


Jamie Carter
Parents: Mr. James Carter and Mrs. Jennifer Carter

Alfred Coleman; College: Atlanta College of Art & Design; Major: Undecided



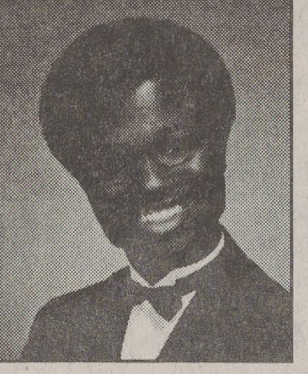
Justin Hires
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. James Hires; College: Clark University; Major: Communications



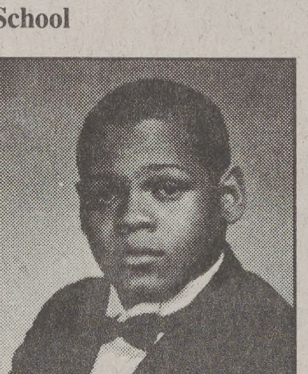
Nicholas Marion
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Marion; College: International Academy of Design & Technology; Major: Art & Fashion Design



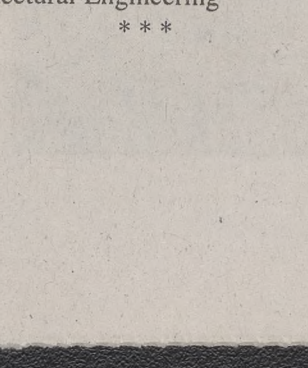
Charlotte Quandt
Parent: Ms. Signa Quandt; College: Eckerd College; Major: Journalism/Pre-Law



Dennis Wright
Parent: Ms. Angela Murray; College: St. Petersburg College; Major: Undecided



Christopher Browne
Parent: Ms. Jacqueline Davis; College: University of Miami; Major: Architectural Engineering



Shakira Coleman
Parents: Mr. and Mrs.



RECOLLECTIONS

by Frances Pinckney

Coping with the Pain of Fibromyalgia

Fibro- means fiber; my- means muscle; algia means pain. Put them all together, and they mean pain in the nonskeletal part of the musculoskeletal system - the muscles, tendons and ligaments.

This is how Miryam Ehrlich Williamson describes Fibromyalgia in her book, "Fibromyalgia, A Comprehensive Approach." She was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia Syndrome (FMS) in 1993 after suffering the symptoms for a long time. After the diagnosis, she was not able to find a book or information about FMS at the library or local book stores. She did find an article about FMS on the internet and was able to glean from the information that she had all of the symptoms - constant muscle aches and pains and many other symptoms of FMS.

She had been to several doctors who didn't have a clue about this disorder. In fact, one doctor seemed to think the problem was all in her head. Finally, she found a female doctor who did know about the symptoms of FMS and agreed to work with her.

I was diagnosed with FMS about three years ago after suffering muscle pain and stiffness. I was hospitalized in May 1994 with severe spasms of pain in my arms and legs. I could not walk for two weeks, and there was no diagnosis for my condition, though many tests were done, including an MRI.

I shall always remember the doctor who ordered a second MRI, and no doubt he remembers me. He was very upset because I refused. I told him in very harsh language that I was in too much pain to be lifted on that table again to get into that ominous cylinder. Once was enough, thank you! I was treated with strong doses

of antibiotics and pain pills and muscle relaxers. After release, I had to go to the hospital daily for antibiotic treatment intravenously. I was walking fairly well with somewhat of a shuffle and was coping with the pain every day.

I went back to work about a month after I was released from the hospital. I took myself off the pain pills, because I thought they would become habit forming. As for the muscle relaxers, they were very effective in relaxing every muscle and my brain. I was living in a fog, in a sort of befuddled state of mind which is in stark conflict with my social work with the elderly.

The logic here is that the "befuddled" is not capable of giving much help to the "befuddled" which, in fact, was the state of mind of some of my clients. So, the befuddled and bewildered social worker stopped taking the muscle relaxers and found an alternative - aspirin, which was very effective for my neck and shoulder pain and stiffness.

The strong antibiotic cleared up the viral/bacteria that was found in my blood. But the pain lingered on, and neither I nor the doctors knew why. I continued to work and cope with the pain. On weekends I would take a pain pill and relaxer.

I walked everywhere - upstairs and downstairs at work. I was elated when I was able to walk around Mirror Lake again. In my mind's eye, the walking would keep me walking - never mind the pain.

After awhile, other symptoms appeared - difficulty getting to sleep and feeling so tired all the time. It became harder to concentrate and focus, and I had numbness and tingling sensations in my hands and feet. Lab tests ruled out Hypoglycemia and dia-

betes.

My doctor (female) was very patient and understanding when I explained my symptoms. She was puzzled about the pain occurring in all four quadrants of my body - left and right sides above the waist and left and right sides below the waist. Lab tests had long before ruled out arthritis.

She referred me to a Rheumatologist Specialist who made the diagnosis of Fibromyalgia. I had not heard of it before. He explained that FMS research has produced several theories on what causes FMS, but as yet the cause remains unknown. Consequently, there is no known cure.

Williamson lists one possible cause of FMS in her book - viral or bacterial infections. I had a light-bulb moment reading that information. My onset of FMS started with that viral infection that lab tests showed during my illness in 1994. One source of information stated that stress has a profound effect on FMS and that "stress causes pain, and the pain of FMS causes stress."

There are conventional and alternative treatments for FMS. I try to avoid the prescription pain medication and muscle relaxers as much as possible. Aspirin and Ibuprofen work fairly well for me. I rely heavily on vitamin therapy. Calcium/Magnesium combined in a capsule helps me to sleep and relax my muscles. Exercise is essential; however, many who suffer FMS fear that exercise might worsen the aches and pains. Not so! Regardless of how achy or tired I feel, exercise makes me feel better. Walking, stretching exercises, Tai Chi and Yoga have improved my flexibility and mobility tremendously.

All too often FMS daunts my spirit, saps my energy, impacts concentration when I'm trying to write. Sometimes the pain and medicine-producing fog just won't let the words come. Covering news events as I did in the past does not come easy anymore. But this quote inspires me: "There seems to be no physical handicap or change of environment that can hold a real writer down." I don't allow FMS to dominate my life!

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I was having bad luck, miserable and it seemed like everything was against me. Just a few visits to Rev. Mother Superior Williams and now I'm doing fine with a good home and good man who loves me.

- Hillary Williams

READER'S CHOICE



by Tangela Murph



From a Mess to a Miracle

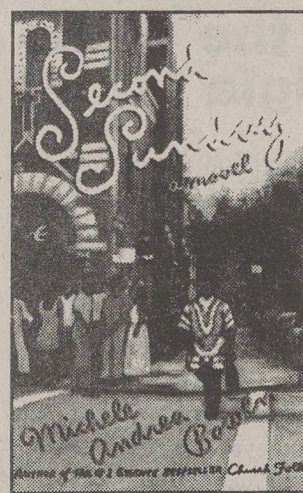
Kimberly Daniels, author of "Against All Odds" and newly-released "Clean House, Strong House" often testifies of God's awesome ability to transform an absolute mess into a magnificent miracle. She boldly yanks the cover from the enemy's camp and exposes his deeds of darkness.

For too long the church has been fearful of confronting the blatant acts of demonic activity, but today God is raising up modern-day John the Baptists who are not afraid to cry out loud and spare not. Her in-your-face ministry of confronting and annihilating the kingdom of darkness while maintaining godly humility has allowed her gift to be continually nurtured by God as a vessel to set the captives free.

As you read the pages of this book, you will be set free from the spirit of fear, intimidation, perversion and other ungodly strongholds that desire to leave you dangling in a holding pattern and to prevent you from being planted on a solid foundation. You will realize that you no longer have to wrestle with demonic forces and accept the cards dealt to you when Satan is the dealer. Remember - you control the game. Though the enemy creates the mess, you have the power to provoke the miracle! "From a Mess to a Miracle" is a powerful reminder that you have been given "power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and all over the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you," (Luke 10:19) when you know who you are in Christ. Though the weapon may form, you have the power to determine how far it can prosper. Through her personal journey, Daniels tells readers how they can be transformed from a mess to a miracle and be totally free to walk in the fullness of God.

Interesting chapters include:

- The Spirit of Poverty
- The Homosexual Issue in the Church
- Discerning of Spirits
- Snake Season
- The Prosperity of Posterity



Second Sunday

Author of number one essence best seller "Church Folk," Bowen introduces her second book, "Second Sunday."

St. Louis, 1975. In Baptist churches, the second Sunday of every month is traditionally a special worship day. An upcoming second Sunday for the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church is the most anticipated in the congregation's history and soon turns into its biggest crisis ever. The church's long-time pastor has died suddenly, and time is running out to find a new one for Gethsemane's 100th anniversary second Sunday. When wealthy, conniving Deacon Cleavon Johnson keeps coming up with one too-good-to-be-true candidate after another and the other deacons are at each other's throats, the women of Gethsemane decide to take matters into their own hands.

Their secret weapon - Sheba Cockran, single mother, disco party girl and disaffected church member, is looking for a good reason to come to church more than twice a year.

Sheba hooks up with the women of Gethsemane and works with them to help expose the potential pastors as the dishonest, slick-talking, no-account opportunists they truly are. This is until Sheba runs head-on into candidate Reverend George Wilson, a man as fiery in love as he is strong in the Lord. And with Deacon Cleavon Johnson's schemes threatening to "drive the church so far into the ground, it will be looking right into the devil's living room," the future of Gethsemane itself is in danger. Sheba, George and the congregation must to dome heaven-inspired maneuvering to save their church, find themselves and reunite all their members in faith and fellowship.

Wise, scandalously funny, compassionate... you will love this book.

NOTE: Meet the author. More info forthcoming, or call us.

These books are available at: Reader's Choice Books & Gift Expressions, 4301 - 34th Street S., Suite 102, (727) 867-3696. Open 7 days a week.

Local Fraternity and Pinellas County Collaborate for Literacy

The Eta Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity joined with the City of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County to start the "Senior Citizen, Learn to Read Program". The Chapter provided the fraternity house, materials and a teacher, Brother Thomas Packer, BS, MS Ed., to ensure the programs success. Begun in November 2002, the program participants recently completed their education sessions, accomplishing reading levels from the 1st to the 5th grade. Plans are underway to expand the program to reach more seniors beginning in September 2003.



The chapter awarded training certificates to (l-r) Mrs. V. Shingles, Mrs. J. Mack and Mrs. S. Bellamy on June 2.

News Briefs

Business Taxes. The University of South Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will host a free, two-hour seminar regarding business taxes at 10 a.m. at the USF Downtown Center, 1101 Channelside Dr., Room 111 in Tampa. Learn what taxes are pertinent to sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations while learning the requirements for filing those taxes. For more information, call (813) 905-5800 or visit: <http://sbdc.usf.edu>.

Chamber Meeting. The Greater Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs/Economic Development Committee will host a meeting for local business owners and residents to meet Pinellas County Commissioner Karen Seel. The focus of the meeting will be issues and concerns about future improvements planned for U.S. Highway 19.

Start a Business. SBDC will host "Steps to Start a Business" from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Mon., June 30 at the USF Downtown Center, 1101 Channelside Dr., Room 111 in Tampa. Cost: \$20. Call (813) 905-5800 or visit: <http://sbdc.usf.edu>.

Mental Health Seminar. St. Petersburg's Weed and Seed Program and the African-American Mental Health Initiative will offer a series of free seminars on mental health topics of interest to the black community. "Parents with Children Coping with Trauma" will be held at 6 p.m. Tues., July 1 at John Hopkins Middle School, 701 16th St. S. Separate

sessions will be held for parents and children. "Relationships Skills for Men and Women" will be presented at 6 p.m., Thurs., July 10 at the James B. Sanderlin Center, 2335 22nd Ave. S. On Aug. 15-16, there will be a two-day mental health forum. For more information, call (727) 893-9841.

Blood Drive. Select Sam's Clubs and Bealls Department Stores are hosting a blood drive on Thurs. and Fri., July 3-4 to help meet patient blood needs over the Independence Holiday. Florida Blood Services bloodmobiles will be on site from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Tues. and Wed., July 1-2 at these Sam's Clubs: 7001 Park Blvd. at Belcher Road, Pinellas Park; 2575 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd. at U.S. 19, Clearwater. Donate blood from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at these Bealls locations: Seville Square, 2830 54th Avenue South and Gateway Market Center, 7899 Ninth Street South, both in St. Petersburg; Seminole Mall, Park Boulevard and 113th Street, Seminole; and Largo Mall, 10500 Ulmerton Road, Largo.

Peak 10 Sponsors Tampa Bay Technology Forum's Second Annual Summer Tech Jam

TAMPA - Today, Peak 10, Inc., the Southeast's leading data center solutions provider, will be sponsoring the Tampa Bay Technology Forum Second Annual Summer Tech Jam. The show will feature six leading local bands competing for Audience Choice and Critics' Choice trophies, starting at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the historic Tampa Theater in downtown Tampa.

"The event promises to be one of a kind," said Michelle Bauer, executive director of the Tampa Bay Technology Forum. "We are pleased to have a sponsor like Peak 10 who supports the Tampa technology industry and who is making a difference by helping TBTF expand our reach in the market and within the community."

All ticket proceeds will be donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay, which administers the Computer-rific Program. Additionally, Peak 10 will have a booth on the mezzanine of the theater and will be raffling off original autographed memorabilia from the popular band,

Hootie and the Blowfish.

"We are always excited to be working with the Tampa Bay Technology Forum. This event offers a rare networking venue and we wanted to do something distinct that people would remember and have a good time with," said Debra Curtiss, vice president and general manager for Peak 10's Tampa Data Center.

The Tampa Theater is located at 711 N. Franklin St., with doors for the Tech Jam opening at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (813) 274-8982.

African-American Parenting Workshops Now Available

ST. PETERSBURG - There is now an opportunity for parents to interact with scholars on African-Americans and education through the Project Parents as Advocates for Students Series (PASS). Project PASS strives to facilitate African-American parent and community involvement in their children's schooling, as well as focus on strategies that promote parent, community, and teacher partnerships to enhance an African-American child's education.

This series is sponsored by the Center for Action Research on Urban Schools and Effective Leadership (Carousel Center) in collaboration with Pinellas County Schools and Coalition for a Safe Drug Free St. Petersburg. For more information, contact the Carousel Center at (813) 974-1424 or

email carouselcenter@tempest.coedu.usf.edu.

Workshop locations include:

July 9 - Stewart-Isom Memorial C.M.E. Church, 1820 Walton St., S. Topic: Effective Education for Culturally Diverse Students

July 23 - Prayer Tower, 1135 37th St. S. Topic: Productive Relationships with your Child's School

August 13 - Mt. Zion Progressive M.B. Church, 955 20th St. S. Topic: What African-American Parents Can do to Reduce the Achievement Gap

All workshops begin at 7 p.m. For transportation, childcare services, and/or disability accommodations, please contact the Carousel Center at least three to five working days before each workshop.

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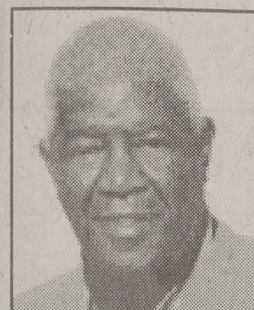
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RAMBLING

"Yesterday has gone, forget it. Today is here, use it. Tomorrow may not come, So don't wait on it."

896-2152

by Charles Howard

ACTIVITY GROUPS

Tom K., a young college student, started forming groups of children and taking them to the zoo, museum or some other type of activity on weekends. Parents paid a fee for each child. This soon became so popular that Tom hired assistants to manage other groups until he had 10 groups going out every weekend, earning a commission from each one. Activity groups are for kids from ages 7-12. A group of 15 kids is best if there is just one supervisor. The fee per child will not cover extras like snacks or souvenirs, unless you plan to include a snack. You should look into local regulations regarding the

transportation of children when money is involved - you may have a license. Plan a series of trips, and advertise these in a brochure which could be distributed at a PTA meeting or sent home with the children.

And now it's that time of the week again when we share newsy tidbits with you about past and present happenings.

GEORGIA TRIP

Victoria (Cookie) Gaskin flew via Delta Airlines on the 5th of June to Atlanta, Ga., a "Christmas gift in June" (trip of Ga.). Mrs. Gaskins' daughter and son-in-law picked her up after her arrival in the Atlanta

airport. The family motored to Maringouin, La., for the going-home services of sister Almeather Fields ("Na-Noon"), who was the grandmother of Dr. Malcolm B. Butler and his wife (Rev. Vikki Gaskin-Butler) and great grandmother of Malcolm Lee Butler. Their stay was for several days. On the 9th, the family motored home to Athens, Ga. En route they toured Baton Rouge, La., and Biloxi, Miss. This was Cookie's first trip to "Mississippi," or as we used to spell it "m, i, crooked letter, crooked letter, i, crooked letter, crooked letter, i, hump back, hump back, i." Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. Cookie's stay was until the 20th of June. While there she toured Athens, including the University of Georgia where her son-in-law, Dr. Malcolm Butler, is professor and also the Samaritan Counseling Center of Northeast Georgia where Dr. Vikki Gaskin Butler is a clinical psychologist. On Father's Day, Cookie attended New Grove Baptist

Church with her family. Dr. James Washington, Jr., is the pastor - a beautiful service. Her grandson, Malcolm Lee, accompanied Grandmother home for his summer stay.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Today, June 26 - Mary "Lady Ice" Allen, Bonita Britten, Mary Ferguson and Tarvin Jones; June 27 through July 2 - Dana Pittman, Laterren Bryant, Sophie Wynn, Ann Warren, Blanche Johnson, Jerry Cox, Reginald Squire, La Tavin Brinson, Kaleb T.E. McClendon, Robin Williams, Ann Simpson, Zamarie Johnson, Sandra Cunningham, Richard Donaldson, Cheri T. Ashwood, Donnie Williams, Sr., Terry Willingham and Jeanette Richardson.

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." (Kahlil Gibran)

UNTIL NEXT WEEK, JUMP TO IT!

Ribbon-Cutting, Family Fun with TASCO

ST. PETERSBURG - Join the celebration as TASCO, the city's recreational program for teens, has a ribbon cutting and dedication for its new offices at the former Hugins-Stengel Clubhouse at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 28. Following the ribbon cutting, the Crescent Lake Neighborhood Association invites you to a fun-filled

event for the whole family on the adjacent ballfield. Activities include inflatable games, a video game gallery, appearances by Driplett and Mr. Sparkle, pottery painting and display of police and fire equipment, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 1320 Fifth Street North.

For more information, call (727) 892-5060.

Get Tested on National HIV Testing Day

ST. PETERSBURG - National HIV Testing Day is June 27. Free, anonymous and confidential HIV testing is available Friday from noon to 7 p.m. at the Maxi Mall Flea Market at 45th Ave. and 34th St. S. Hepatitis screenings and vaccines are also available. Persons who have had unprotected sex or shared needles are strongly en-

couraged to participate. Free t-shirts are given to participants who return for their results. Testing is provided by the Pinellas County Health Department, Operation Hope and the EMPACT Resource Service Center.

For more information about HIV testing, call Lisa Cohen at (727) 824-6900.

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If we go back a couple hundred years, it would have been hard to imagine today's promise. For African-Americans, this country offered very little hope, recognition, and prosperity. However, so much of what we have today is here because of the heroic efforts of African-Americans. This feature is dedicated to their spirit which could not be denied despite very little opportunity. Today, opportunity abounds. Learn about their stories, learn from their determinedness, and be inspired to take advantage of opportunities. We pray the inspiration is contagious.

Marva Collins: A Teaching Maverick



Marva Collins

by Rassi

Challenger Correspondent

A woman with a passion and dedication for education and learning, Marva Collins was born and raised in Atmore, Ala., a town where segregation was the norm in the educational system.

Collins left Alabama to attend Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University) in Atlanta, Ga. After graduation, she returned to Alabama and later moved to Chicago.

Education was always foremost in her mind, so

she set out to make a change in the way learning was initiated and administered. So in the early 70s, having taught in Chicago's public school system for 14 years, and desiring something better for her three children, she decided to found a school of her own.

She opened a school for the challenged on the second floor of her house and named it

Westside Preparatory School, and embarked on teaching those thought "unteachable." She operated the school, now known

as the Marva Collins Preparatory School, out of her home for five years until she could afford her own building.

Her first students were from the neighborhood and her own daughter. At the end of the first full term, her students scored an incredible five grades higher on their standard tests. This in itself brought on nationwide attention.

Many interviews were given, stories written, and accolades awarded to Collins on the work she had done. Where others had

given up on, she taught kids that had learning deficiencies, attention disorders and children long ago discarded as "worthless."

She has appeared on "60 Minutes" not once, but twice, over the past two decades. She was portrayed by actress Cicely Tyson in the CBS drama, "The Marva Collins Story" in 1981. She even turned down President Ronald Reagan's offer to become Secretary of Education in order to continue the development of Westside Preparatory School.

Collins has used her unique methods to train other hundreds of teachers the same ways of initiation into teaching and learning that has made her a maverick in the education field. By making the child more a part of the process and not separate from. This technique inspires the child to be more attentive and focused, thus being able to learn.

Many schools from Florida, Ohio and Alabama have instituted the methods used by Collins to bolster the grades and learning

capabilities of their children.

Of her educational philosophy, Collins once said: "I concentrate in this lifetime on all that I can be. Where is it that Marva Collins needs to go? And that's to make every child a happy child, a lifter of society rather than using excuses, that it's somebody else's fault - and to make good choices. Those are the things I concentrate on... I hope each day that I'm better in the classroom today than I was yesterday."



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ENTERTAINMENT

Memorial Celebrations for the Legendary Nina Simone

Lisa Simone Kelly to memorialize mother's legacy in tribute concerts



Nina Simone

New York, NY-- Legendary artist Nina Simone will be honored and receive an official fanfare by artists, activists and fans from all over the world on Sat., July 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem and on Sat., Aug. 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Agape Church in Culver City, Ca.

Simone died on April 21, at her home in Southern France. As one of the most honest jazz artists to grace the world music landscape, Simone was the heart and voice of the people. She was well known during her music career for boldly and

unapologetically integrating her political views into her stage performances, especially during the civil rights movement of the 60s, in which the battle for equal rights in the U.S. became a centerpiece of her musical and personal life.

But it was her alto voice, with its rich timbre and distinctive interpretation of standards, blues, folk, classical and soul compositions that shot her to prominence. She rendered an eclectic mix of music with precise diction, moody vocals and a powerful vibrato, inspiring generations of artists from Aretha Franklin to India. Arie to newcomer Norah Jones.

Considered one of the finest songwriters and musicians of her day, Simone is a woman whose artistic, civic and civil rights contributions have left an indelible mark on mankind and have set a standard for musicians the world over.

"There's no other purpose, so far as I'm concerned, for us except to reflect the times, the situations around us and the

things we're able to say through our art, the things that millions of people can't say," Simone once said. "I think that's the function of an artist and, of course, those of us who are lucky, leave a legacy so that when we're dead, we also live on."

The Nina Simone Foundation (NSF) was established in May by her daughter, Lisa Simone Kelly. The Nina Simone Foundation is a non-profit organization erected for the preservation and celebration of the music, socio-political contributions and overall legacy of the late artist. NSF is also a philanthropic initiative established to raise money in support of the three, most personal and life-long pursuits of Simone: cancer research and awareness in underserved communities, music education restoration in the public schools and child abuse prevention.

For more information about The Nina Simone Foundation and the official memorials, please call (212) 592-3446 or email: TheNinaSimoneFoundation@yahoo.com.

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The Late Johnnie Taylor's Final Album to be Released

Soul and blues star achieved more than 40 hits on Billboard charts



Johnny Taylor

JACKSON (BLACK PR WIRE) -- Three years after the soul and blues star's premature death, Malaco Records has announced plans to release the final Johnnie Taylor album. Titled "There's No Good in Goodbye," the album contains 15 previously unreleased tracks recorded throughout his 16-year stint at Malaco, including five from the sessions of his 1999 album, "Gotta Get The Groove Back." Extensive liner notes were written by Rob Bowman, author of the award-winning "Soulsville USA: The Story of Stax Records." The release date is July 1.

Taylor, best known for his smash crossover pop hits "Who's Making Love" (Stax) and "Disco Lady" (Columbia), was believed by many to possess one of

the greatest soul voices, in a class with Otis Redding, Sam Cooke and Al Green. Unlike these legendary contemporaries, Taylor spent the vast majority of his career topping strictly the R&B charts, playing for inner city black audiences and commanding top dollar on the blues and soul circuit.

His albums, sold in black mom and pop stores, often reaching #1 on the Billboard Blues Chart, charting a commanding SoundScan lead above names like B.B. King, Little Milton, Delbert McClinton, Susan Tedeschi and Bobby "Blue" Bland. Although virtually unknown outside the black community, it was not uncommon for Taylor to sell more than 500,000 units of an album. As an R&B interpreter, Taylor was without peer - even if he lacked the widespread kudos of pop music critics for not writing his own material. His audience was fiercely loyal to the end.

On May 30, 2000, Taylor's life came to an end as he succumbed to heart failure. His Dallas funeral was a who's who of the "chitlin" circuit - Bobby "Blue" Bland, Little Milton, Bobby Womack, Millie Jackson and Denise LaSalle were among those paying Taylor their last respects as he was carried in a gold-plated \$25,000 coffin to his final resting place in Kansas City.

An Arkansas native, Taylor's career commenced in such gospel outfits as the Soul Stirrers (and the Highway QCs) prior to making his secular debut on Sam Cooke's SAR label. It was upon heading to Memphis and signing to Stax Records that Taylor became not only a star but also the R&B label's top seller with "Who's Making Love" crossing over pop. A move to Columbia bore the

pop hit "Disco Lady" along with several R&B smashes. But in 1982, the initial run of hits dried up. His move to the Jackson-based Malaco records, known throughout the world as "The Last Soul Company," re-connected Taylor with his core audience and his career once again thrived over a series of 12 albums and more than a dozen charting R&B hits.

During his 16 years at Malaco, Taylor consistently recorded extra tracks while making his albums, ensuring that the label and his heirs would be able to assemble a first-rate album of vault jewels. In addition to unissued songs from his final session in 1999, "There's No Good in Goodbye" collects unreleased tracks from six of Taylor's Malaco albums, plus one song, "If You Take Your Love Away," that, although released on his seventh album, appears here with a stripped-down mix that dispenses with strings, horns and background vocals. The tracks were chiefly recorded at two legendary studios - Muscle Shoals Sound Studio and Malaco's own studio.

Annotator Bowman notes that "Tracks that were discarded when Taylor first recorded them would have been automatic A-sides for most of his contemporaries." Malaco executive and executive producer of this volume Wolf Stephenson summed it up best when he mused, "It almost gave me chills to go back and listen to these things and just remember how good this guy could sing. It's just frightening."

Continuing the tradition, Taylor's son, Floyd Taylor, is now a Malaco recording artist. His solo debut, appropriately titled "Legacy," was released in spring 2002.

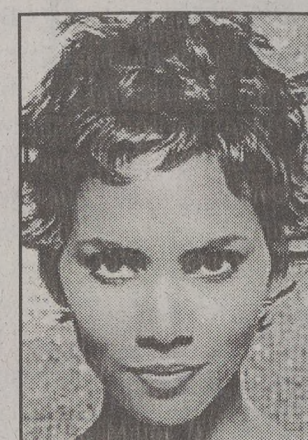
Carlton Burgess, Host of new Gospel Radio Broadcast, plans to 'Reach Higher'

TAMPA-- Excitement fills the air as Tampa Bay Radio Station WTNB 570/910 AM opens the gate for Reaching Higher, a new broadcast that is ready to serve the community. Reaching Higher will be hosted by national gospel artist, Carlton Burgess, a Tampa native. Burgess plans to encourage and strengthen listeners with top gospel hits and empower them with information for good health and wellness of the heart, soul, and mind. The radio broadcast, which first aired on Saturday, June 21, will continue to run every Saturday evening from 5 to 6 p.m. on WTNB 570/910 AM.

Owner of Complete Praise Music Studio, located at 3601 W. Swann Ave. in Tampa, Burgess had an early call on his life. His ministry extends beyond

music, but also reaches out to the homeless and feeding the hungry. Burgess, a former producer and host of the Reaching Higher Radio Broadcast airing in Washington, D.C. metropolitan area is known to many as the "Prince of Praise." Burgess' other credentials run long. In 1995, he was tapped to direct the Million Man March Choir in 1995 on the steps of U.S. Capitol. Burgess also wrote the Grammy award-winning song "I'm Not Afraid of the Darkness," recorded by The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. His two CD recording projects "Lift Up Your Heads" (1998) and most recent "Living Water" (2002) which features the Tampa Bay Praise Workshop Choir have both received top ten radio rotation in major markets.

'Red Hot Halle' Hits Bookshelves



Halle Berry

CHICAGO -- "Red Hot Halle: The Story of an American Best Actress," the unauthorized biography of the Oscar award-winning actress Halle Berry, is hitting the shelves of bookstores nationwide.

"Red Hot Halle" is penned by Kelly Kenyatta, best-selling author of titles on R&B and hip-hop artists Aaliyah, Destiny's Child, Dr. Dre and Eminem.

Says Kenyatta: "The book will give you a feel for Halle the real person, not just a movie star. There's so much good information about the acclaimed actress that we could have easily called the book, 'Encyclopedia Hallica.'"

Kenyatta introduces readers to Berry's "first

love," the boy who caught her eye when she was just an 11-year-old, but kept her interested for many years to come.

Find out how Berry lived the glamorous life as a teenager, dating a famous older man and traveling to London to compete for the Miss World title. And even though she is wealthy, glamorous and famous, Berry is very much like many other women who have dealt with unkind lovers and suffered rejection on a number of occasions.

Kenyatta says Berry's story is inspiring because it tells of her will to learn from her mistakes and keep moving forward.

The 153-page book includes the films of Berry, two dozen exclusive photographs and rarely seen yearbook shots from Berry's high school year.

Retail price for the book is \$14.95. The book can also be purchased at a discounted price on the Web site of its publisher, William H. Kelly Publishing Company, at www.whkellypublishing.com during June and July.

Black Cable Network Brings "The King Of Pop" Michael Jackson and Actor/Comedian Chris Tucker To NCTA

MBC exploring original programming opportunities in Hollywood



MBC Board Member, Alvin James, Michael Jackson, MBC Chairman and CEO Willie Gary, actor Chris Tucker

Chicago-- Legendary music icon Michael Jackson and actor/comedian Chris Tucker appearance surprised many of those attending the 2003 National Cable Telecommunications Association (NCTA) convention. The celebrities were there on behalf of the only 24 hours, African-American owned, family-oriented cable network, Major Broadcasting Cable Network (MBC). Jackson and Tucker are in discussions with MBC to explore opportunities to develop original programming and entertainment properties targeted to urban families in 2004.

Willie Gary, Chairman and CEO, of Major

Broadcasting Cable Network are committed to the development of original programming by aspiring directors, producers, and writer's to showcase their talent on MBC Network.

Also in attendance at the network's booth were MBC principals, Marlon Jackson, Michael Jackson's brother also from the legendary group The Jackson 5; Cecil Fielder, Major League Baseball great and Alvin James, veteran broadcaster. The network also received a special visit from Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. and Bill Campbell, former Atlanta mayor.



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WOMAN'S WORLD

Phi Delta Kappa Donates \$7,000 to Sickle Cell Center at Meharry Medical School

Margaret C. Nelson, national president of Phi Delta Kappa Inc. recently presented \$7,000 to the Meharry Medical School Sickle Cell Center. The Sickle Cell Center is a national project for the organization, and all of the group's chapters made donations that are targeted for research.

Lisa McDonald, director of the center, accepted the check at the Alpha Beta Chapter's Founders' Day Luncheon in Nashville, Tenn., last month. Some 400 members from Nashville and Memphis, along with community leaders and Meharry officials, were in attendance to witness the presentation.



(L-R) Margaret C. Nelson, national president of Phi Delta Kappa; Eleanor Bright, national project chair; Ann Black, Southeast Regional Director; and Lisa McDonald, director of Meharry's Sickle Cell Center.

For a Hip-Hop Novel So Real You Can Taste the Courvosier...

NEW YORK - Nine years after beginning her career interviewing hip hop's elite, author/journalist, Yasmin Shiraz, writes the novel, "Exclusive." The novel details the exploits of an entertainment journalist who is pursuing a relationship with the hottest rapper in the country.

In the world of hip-hop music - a place where money, ambition fame and sex fill the air like raindrops in a thunderstorm - entertainment journalist Tisha Ariel Nikkole believes she can find love. But it's no ordinary love that she is seeking, nor is she looking for an everyday man. Tisha has decided Shout, the hottest rapper in the country, is destined to become her boyfriend...

Shiraz wanted to write



Yasmin Shiraz

a book involving the entertainment industry that was so real that the readers would believe that they could taste the Courvosier

and feel the weight of platinum around their necks. "Exclusive" is one of the first novels of its kind that is written by an actual

insider. "My experience gave me a first hand look into the lifestyle, the business and the characters. And, that is what I believe is gonna hook the readers," states Shiraz.

The novel was "based on my personal interviews with people like Jay-Z, Nas, OutKast, Redman, KRS-One, and P-Diddy," stated Shiraz. "Tisha's character is based on how I handled a lot of my writing escapades for the magazines Mad Rhythms, Black Enterprise, Upscale, Impact and The Electronic Urban Report. And, of course, how my respectable fellow journalists get their work done. She's an incredible person."

"Exclusive" is being released July 2003 by Rolling Hills Press.

Jazz Musician Jeri Brown's Latest Album Features Songs of Healing and Love



Jeri Brown

Vocalist Jeri Brown has amassed impressive kudos for her ability to transcend labels: equally talented in jazz, classical, spiritual and gospel music, she now blends these core strengths, coupled with tinges of pop and R&B, on her ninth Justin Time records release, "Firm Roots."

Brown presents what she calls "one woman's point of view about living during these particular times. It's my statement on life," she said, acknowledging her departure from more jazz standard-driven material. By contrast, "Firm Roots" features the

talents of new composers and familiar pop musicians. "It was time to take a bold step, time to move away from predictable patterns." "Today," she said, "with the upsweep of pop culture, the new millennium, new beginnings and thoughts, and all the tensions in the world, it seemed important to offer a group of songs that were less about me, less about purist jazz, and more about the times."

Produced by Brian Bacchus, who brought multiple Grammy winner Norah Jones and her smash hit "Come Away With Me" to Blue Note, "Firm Roots" is replete with funky rhythms and thought-provoking lyrics, all set in a jazz context. It features Brown's long-time musical friends Avery Sharpe (bass), Wali Muhammad (drums) and Tony Suggs (piano/keyboards), along with Seamus Blake (saxophone/guitar), Andre Martin (percussion), Erich Kory (cello), and Gage Pierre (vocals). Many live

in Canada, as does St. Louis, Missouri-native Brown and travel frequently throughout the world to perform. This worldwide perspective led Brown to the heartfelt themes of "Firm Roots."

Just days after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, Brown was touring Turkey where she was inspired to offer a jazzy treatment of Burt Bacharach's "What The World Needs Now." "I'd never thought of performing that song, especially not as a jazz tune," she recalled. "But I was looking for a way to change the mood of the show, and it was just beautiful, very positive and powerful. A thousand people held hands while I sang that song." Recreating a similar experience a month later on a live Radio France program cemented her conviction that music is a very powerful healing force.

The title, "Firm Roots," pays homage to the up-tempo bebop classic penned by Cedar Walton, which inspired Brown's

treatment of "The Roots of Life." "I felt it as a ballad, felt the message from those lyrics was best served slowed way down." "Love's Free," written for Brown by Sherry Scott, an original member of Earth, Wind and Fire, and Billy Preston's classic "Will It Go Round In Circles," showcase Brown's energetically funky R&B and gospel leanings. "We May Never Pass This Way Again" is a new take on a folksy favorite penned by Seals & Croft. "I've always loved this song and its message about living life now," she says. Likewise, Brown dug out her old 45's to resurrect Stevie Wonder's "With A Child's Heart." "I remembered it as a beautiful song, very motivational, and it still worked." The warmth of the bass and cello duet on "Life Journey" highlights Brown's original lyrics set to Erich Kory's music: "trusting souls can make the difference," she sings, and listeners can't help but feel it's true.

"Sailor of the Year" Sets Sail on New Adventure

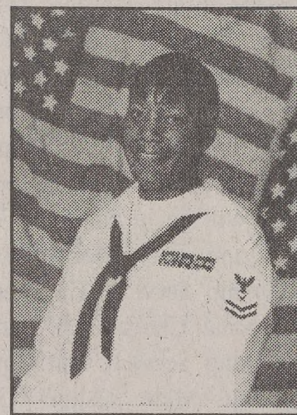
by Amy Pomeroy

Navy Public Affairs

ON BOARD USS MASON - In November 1997, Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton announced plans for the creation of one of the Navy's greatest and most technologically advanced warships.

When the ship was completed in April, St. Petersburg native Pamela Davis set sail on an incredible journey aboard the USS Mason, which also included her being named Junior Sailor of the Year.

"The most interesting aspects of being assigned to the USS Mason are the travel opportunities and seeing the ship being built from the ground up," said Davis, a Petty Officer 2nd Class. "Also being a plank



Pamela Davis

owner and taking part in the planning and training phases of the new ship. (But) my greatest accomplishment on board was being named Junior Sailor of the Year."

As a cryptologic technician on the ship, Davis' primary responsibilities include operating telecommunications systems, networking and information

management. Along with her regular duties, Davis is also responsible for other vital tasks throughout the ship.

"During the pre-commissioning process I trained at various schools and got my in-rate qualification completed to ensure I could help my junior sailors get qualified," she said.

The 1988 graduate of Mainland Senior High School enlisted in October 1990. She is the daughter of Queen Davis of Daytona Beach, Fla. and John Davis of St. Petersburg. She is the third generation in her family to enlist in the Navy. Her father served four years and her grandfather, John T. Davis Sr., served in World War II.

"I joined the military to

travel and to earn money for college," the 32-year-old explained. "I chose the Navy because it offers the best technical schools and education."

Preparing a ship to enter the fleet involves many dedicated hours of work, but the end result leaves sailors with a sense of accomplishment and memories that will last them far beyond their naval careers.

"Coming on board, experiencing sea duty on a new ship and being new to my job was a great challenge, but I believe it's worth it," Davis said. "I've learned that there's a lot of work that goes into building a ship, and for those involved, they deserve a bravo zulu."

National Black MBA Association Names New President

CHICAGO - Following an extensive nationwide search, the National Black MBA Association recently named Jacqueline Adams as the professional organization's new president and chief executive officer. Her credentials as a distinguished broadcast journalist, business executive and entrepreneur singled out Adams as the person most able and best suited to assume the helm of the 6,000-member minority professional organization.

"We were fortunate to find a candidate qualified not only by her academic and leadership credentials, but also by her perspectives gained in the trenches as a business executive and as an Emmy Award-winning national communicator. Her energy and fresh vision will work to guide the National Black MBA Association through the challenges of an uncertain national economy and its effects on our membership," said Alvin Brown, National Black MBA Association Board Chair. Headquartered in Chicago and servicing 39 chapters in the United States and Great Britain, the 33-year old business organization represents the interests of the more than 95,000 African-Americans holding masters in business administration degrees.

"I've spent most of last 30 years as an observer and student of history. As a journalist, I reported on domestic and world events. Now, as president and CEO of the National Black MBA Association, I step into the role of an active participant," Adams stated upon accepting her appointment. "We're living in very troubling times. Far too many

of our members are unemployed or underemployed. Our organization is committed to matching our members' skills with the very real needs of our corporate partners as together, we create the diverse nation and workforce that have long been cherished dreams," Adams added.

Prior to accepting her new position, Adams served as president of J Adams: Strategic Communications, LLC, a New York City-based public relations and public affairs firm engaged by Fortune 1000 companies and a number of high profile non-profit organizations. Earlier she served as a managing director with Clark & Weinstock, a reputation management firm known for developing strategic messages and campaigns for a diverse corporate and political client base.

Adams' stellar career as a broadcaster began in Boston at the CBS News affiliate station, then called WNAC-TV. During her six-year stint there, she was a reporter and anchor and continued to anchor the Weekend News while attending Harvard Business School as a full-time student. After her graduation from Harvard, she moved to Chicago and covered business and economic news for the CBS owned-and-operated station, WBBM-TV. Less than a year later, Adams became a CBS News correspondent, relocated to Washington, D.C., and for 10 years covered political events as well as breaking national and international news stories. During her tenure in Washington, she served as a White House correspon-

dent during the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations.

Later, Adams reported for the full range of CBS broadcasts as a correspondent based in the network's Northeast Bureau located in New York City. Her many broadcast achievements include winning a News and Documentary Emmy Award in 1990 for the 48 Hours broadcast, "The Search for Matthew." Throughout her career, Adams has maintained close ties to the communities in which she has resided. She continues to serve on the board of the 65-year-old Off-the-Record Lecture Series of the Foreign Policy Association and is a trustee for St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y., which granted her an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. She has also been active with the Harvard Business School African-American Alumni Association as well as with the school's women alumnae in New York City.

Adams grew up in Boston, Massachusetts and

attended Girls' Latin School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from Principia College in Elmhurst, Illinois and went on to graduate from Harvard University's Graduate School of Business with a Master in Business Administration degree. Adams' appointment as president and chief executive officer is effective immediately. Her schedule includes a multi-city travel itinerary where she will meet with local chapter leadership as well as with corporate and business school partners to ensure that the Association's initiatives reflect the thinking of all of its constituents. Adams' early plans also include preparation for the Association's upcoming national conference scheduled for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 23-28, where 10,000 attendees are expected.

For more information about the National Black MBA Association, visit the website at: www.nbmbaa.org.

**NEWS
DEADLINE
IS 4:00 P.M.
MONDAY**

OPERATION HOPE
MEDICAL ADVOCACY
SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING
CASE MANAGEMENT
HIV TESTING AND
A FOOD PANTRY IN ADDITION TO
AIDS PREVENTION EDUCATION SERVICES
OPERATION HOPE
861 SIXTH AVENUE SOUTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA
727-822-2437
WWW.OHOP.ORG

OPERATION HOPE
P. PINELLAS

RELIGIOUS NEWS

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

"Come, let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

The New Hope family invites each and every one to come and worship with us.

Sunday School begins at 9 a.m.

A spirit-filled devotion begins at 10:15 a.m. with the deacons in charge. Praises and Worship Service will be provided by the Mass Choir. Our Minister of Music is Minister Tony Young, and our choir

directress is Bobbie Tampa. Our own Minister William Shephard will deliver the Bread of Life.

Come join us, and let's praise the Lord together. You are all welcome.

Weekly events:

- Prayer meeting and Bible Study, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
- Prayer Band, Thursday, 11 a.m.
- Youth Choir rehearsal, Thursday, 6 p.m.
- Mass Choir rehearsal, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Bethel Metropolitan

Bethel Metropolitan invites the community to join us for worship services at 8 a.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Mission Day Service at 11 a.m. The Mass Choir and #2 Ushers will serve. The Mission Day speaker will be our own Marva H. Dennard, who recently added to her list of accomplishments with a Masters Degree in Psychology and Educational Theology.

In our on-going efforts to celebrate our centennial year, the Youth Ministry will be hosting "Children In Praise" Workshop Friday and Saturday, July 18-19. All youth in the community and Tampa Bay area are invited to celebrate 100 Years of God's Favor with us. The seminar will begin on Friday at 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., continuing Saturday, July 19th from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and culminating with a "Children In Praise" concert at 5:30 p.m. Breakfast and Lunch will be served. For additional information please call the church office at (727) 327-0554.

Bethel Metropolitan is a friendly body with a kaleidoscope of ministries for all ages. We invite you to join us in giving a positive Christian Witness.

GOD IS GOOD

Gospel Explosion Ministries

Gospel Explosion Ministries presents Conference 2003. The theme of the conference will be, "Serving the Lord with excellence."

This conference will take place Wednesday, July

9, through Saturday, July 12, at 7:30 p.m. nightly at Royal Community Holiness Church, 1362 - 29th Street South, St. Petersburg.

The conference will be hosted by Temple of

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Joseph Gordon and the Pleasant Grove Church family invite you to worship with them on Sunday, June 29.

The General Home Mission will be in charge of the 7 a.m. Early Morning Worship Service. The Senior Male Chorus will render Song Service, and the Adult Male Usher Board will serve. Deaconess Gladys D. Newton will be the speaker.

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. with Superintendent Deacon Philip Carter presiding.

The Deaconess Board will be in charge of the 10:50 a.m. Mid-Morning Worship Service. The Senior Male Chorus will render Song Service, and the Adult Male Usher Board will serve. Deaconess Mildred Jackson will be the speaker. Also in this service, all senior citizens 60 years plus will be honored, followed by a fellowship dinner for the seniors.

At 3 p.m., Ordination Service for Minister Carlos Senior will be held. Please come out and support all of these services.

The Bible Drill Team will rehearse on Friday, June 27, at 6:30 p.m. Com-

mander Deacon Jim Anderson is requesting all members to please be present to prepare for the Congress which will be held on Saturday, June 28, at the First Baptist Church in Sun City. Parents - please have your child/children at the church by 8:30 a.m. to board the bus to attend the Congress. Sarah Anderson is the supervisor.

Pastor Gordon extends his thanks to the Gospel Chorus and the Adult Male Usher Board for their services last Sunday in Safety Harbor.

Let us continue to pray for all sick, shut-ins and bereaved.

The Outreach Mission Center has free clothing, shoes and non-perishable food for the needy. The center is located at 2500 - 9th Avenue South. Hours are from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For information, phone (727) 322-5350. Sandra Bentley is the director.

Thought for the week: "And unto man He said, behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." (Job 28:28)

May His peace be with you till we meet again.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor John A. Evans, Sr., the official church staff and the entire Friendship Missionary Baptist Church family welcome your presence this Sunday for Worship Service and to all church-related activities and events during the upcoming week.

Services begin at 7:45 a.m. Devotion will be led by the Deacons Ministry. The Voices of Friendship (all choirs) and the fifth Sunday Ushers will serve in both services and Pastor Evans will preach the divine Word of God.

Church School begins at 9:30 a.m. with the superintendent in charge.

A second service is held at 10:45 a.m. opening with Minister of Music John Frazier and the Praise Team.

Today is time for the fifth Sunday Rally. Let us remember our commitment and act responsibly.

Schedule of events: Tuesday, July 1 - 7 p.m., Youth Church Enrichment.

Wednesday, July 2 - Noonday Bible Study; also Wednesday from 12-2 p.m., Bread of Life Ministry serving lunch to all needy in the community; Wednesday night, 7 p.m., Prayer Service, Praise Team, Proclamation, Bible

Prayer Tower COGIC

"Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." (Psalms 150:1,2,6)

Supt. Elder Clarence Welch and the Prayer Tower COGIC church family welcome you with open arms to worship with us at any time. We encourage your continual patronage, love, fellowship and support of our church. Remember that Prayer Tower is the tower of power, so you will be uniquely blessed!

Mission itinerary:

The Pastor's Anniversary is under way July 14-20 at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

Prayer Tower musical gifts!

There is a difference between talents and gifts. The difference is made

clear on three of Prayer Tower's finest musicians and vocalist singles. Minister Ricardo Welch, Clarence Skinner and Iveda Witherspoon all have singles out on Bambam Productions Label, a label owned by Minister Welch and Brother Skinner. The contact number for these items is (727) 323-8588, and the price for the singles are \$5 each. Sister Witherspoon's single is entitled, "If You Need Somebody," and Clarity's new single is entitled, "You're the Only One Who Knows." By purchasing these singles, you will be blessed!

Remember to pray for our sick and shut-in members. Pray and study the Word of God constantly. If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto Me. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

God Knows Best

Our Father knows what's best for us So why should we complain We always want the sunshine. But He knows there must be rain and so He tests us often with sickness and with pain. Not to hurt or punish us, but so that we may gain strength to meet with courage life's troubles, trials and sorrow, knowing there awaits us the joy of God's tomorrow.

THERE IS A FEE FOR PHOTOS NOT TAKEN BY A WEEKLY CHALLENGER PHOTOGRAPHER



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

Morning Worship: 8:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Sunday School - 9:30 A.M.

Wednesday: Prayer Meeting/Bible Study/

AWANA - 7:00 P.M.

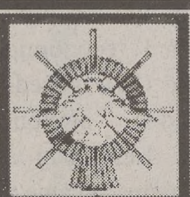
"Church of The Open Door - Centennial Celebration"

1903 "100 Years of God's Favor" 2003

Jesus Is Lord

10th Street Church Of God

207 - 10th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting/
Bible Study 7:15 p.m.
Evening Worship (1st & 3rd Sunday) 6:00 p.m.
International Headquarters, Anderson, Indiana



New Philadelphia Community Church

The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor

2335 - 22nd Avenue South

P.O. Box 15935 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Wisdom School 9:50 AM • Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 PM (Wed.)

Deacon Ministry Deacon Edward Nesbitt
Finance Ministry James Robinson
Children & Youth Ministry Joyce Robinson
Clerk Ministry Wyonna McGee

"A Church With Passion for God and Compassion for People"

FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

3144 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FL
PHONE: 323-7518

REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

COME WORSHIP WITH
THE FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church

2550 9th Avenue S. • St. Petersburg, FL



Rev. Joseph Gordon

Early Morning Worship 7:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 4:30 p.m.
Communion 7:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

"The Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"

Trinity Presbyterian Church, USA

2830 22nd Avenue South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 327-8560 or (727) 322-0810

9:00 AM Prayer Time
9:30 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
12:30 PM After Service Fellowship

Wednesday - 6:30 PM Prayer and Bible Study

You are invited to share spiritual nurturing, preaching of the Gospel and a Christian community for everyone.

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting
Thursday 7 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

"One week from church makes one weak."

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"We're Busy as Bees - But Sweet As Honey"

912 Third Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Phone: 727-822-2089

Church School 9:00 A.M.
New Member Class 9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.



Rev. Roosevelt Hardy
Pastor

New Covenant Baptist Church

3850 Pompano Drive SE, Coquina Key
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Ph: 865-9636

Pastor, Joseph Bobby Reid

Prayer/Praise Service ... 7:30 p.m. Wednesday
Bible Study 8:00 p.m. Wednesday
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship ... 10:00 a.m.

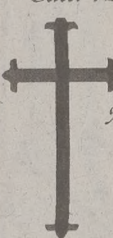
Bible Holiness Church of God in Christ
419 - 5th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 898-3838

The members would like to invite you and your family to worship with us. Our services are:
Tuesday Morning Prayer 9:00am
Wed.-Family Worship 7:00pm
Sunday School 10:00am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:15am
Sunday Evening Worship 7:00pm

Pastor: Elder B.O. Walker



Ordained Missionary
Johnnie Mae Howard
Call: 727 895-5239



A Woman After
God's
Own Heart...



Spiritually Connected
Call for Prayers &
Testimonies

Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

532 33rd Street S. • St. Petersburg, FL

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship ... 6 p.m.
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.
Tuesday Night
General Bible Study
Thursday Night Prayer
Meeting & Teachers Meeting



Rev. Clyde Williams

We welcome you at all times.

All Nations Church of God by Faith

As we embarked on our Youth Day service, we came into the house of God rejoicing in the name of Jesus, for He has done great things for us all. The Youth Praise Team was eager to give God all praise and glory in songs of worship and exaltation. To see our young people get joy out of praising the Lord encourages the rest of us to continue with the Lord.

The spiritual dance group from Mt. Zion was one of our guests and shared a blessing in dance with us from the song, "Who Will Be Ready on That Great Day?" and, of course, it was enjoyed by all. Amen.

Our youth were quite expressive, also, and gave glory to God in various ways. Many came forward and stood in the name of Jesus and spoke from the abundance of their hearts.

S. Blunt spoke from I John 5:1 about getting the victory, and she did a very good job.

S. Ross came forward from Psalm 9:1 speaking about praise - another job well done. Amen! We are blessed with children who are being made ready for the work of the Lord, and we need to allow them more space more often to work.

The Word of God came through our guest speaker

for the day, Elder Deniese Flowers of Troy, Ala. She came with a song "I Don't Know What You Came To Do" and went on to show us that she came to praise the Lord. Talking about guidance and obedience, she encouraged us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and lean not to our own understanding (Proverb 3:5), knowing that our understanding has never and can never surface. "For we are made to be led by the spirit and not the thoughts of man. As we trust in the Lord God, He offers life, and peace shall they add to these."

She went to Romans 12:1-2, telling us to change ourselves by the renewing of our mind through the Word of God by receiving Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, by being led by the spirit, by putting all our trust in Him, by coming into His presence with thanksgiving and praise. She spoke with the assurance of a child of God who knows whose she is. For you, Elder Flowers, we thank God, and thank God. We pray that you continue to walk upright before Him all the days of your life. Amen.

We thank God for the visitors that choose to fellowship with us in the name of Jesus and remind you that our doors are open

to you at all times. Thank you for coming. Another soul was added to the body, and knowing that the love and kindness of God never stops drawing is the highlight of the church.

We all are children of God, and every day can be Youth Day if we look to Him in all we do, all we say and lean not to our own understanding.

Please keep the sick, shut-in, lost, despondent, hungry, thirsty and all the body of Christ in your every prayer, because we know that prayer changes things.

We pray God's richest blessings upon you in the most holy name of Jesus. From the hearts of Pastors J. and J. Williams.

"The Lord is great and is to be highly praised; His greatness is beyond understanding." Psalms 145:3

Every Word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. Proverbs - 30:5

Mt. Zion Progressive

The Mt. Zion SAFE (Substance Abuse Freedom Education) Ministry presents two faith-based educational programs: Recovery Concepts and Christ Centered Recovery. These classes will empower all persons in church leadership and lay persons and those who have a concern to heal our community. You will acquire a working knowledge of the addiction and recovery process. This course will assist with the ability of family and friends to help those suffering from the hardships of drugs and alcohol abuse. Classes will be on Thursday nights at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. All classes are held in the Genesis building. For more information, contact A.J. Murphy, (727) 866-1297.

It's not too late to

enroll in King's Kids Summer Kamp! Kamp started May 27 and will end July 29. Kamp runs from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack is included. Mt. Zion Before & After School Care Program for ages 5-13 is also accepting applications. We offer pick up and drop off to school each morning and afternoon, early pick up on half days, and all day care on most school holidays. For Kamp information, before and after care rates, call Jan Smith, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (727) 894-4311, ext. 402.

The Reading Enhancement Program is closed for the summer. Applications for children/students that are interested in the program will be accepted when school re-opens.

Teachers and volunteers will be needed to assist in areas such as monitoring, preparing for FCAT, one-on-one teaching, picking up supplies and kitchen help. Classes meet every Tuesday and Thursday for ages 8-13 from 6-8 p.m. in the Kings Kids Building.

Updated Pickup Info: The church van will be happy to give you a ride. We pick up Sunday through Thursday. Please try to notify us one day in advance. For regular pick up please leave a message with the church office, (727) 894-4311 ext. 801. For emergency pick up only, call Coa-Coa Rivers at (727) 550-0396, Deacon William Harris at (727) 821-0041 or Brother Peter Smith at (727) 895-9261. Also, we are in need of van drivers.

Dear Father, You Have Given
So Much; Give One Thing
More
- A Grateful Heart. Amen

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

4240 Central Avenue • St. Petersburg, FL 33711 • (813) 328-9412

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CENTRAL	F E L L O W S H I P	Except God build the house they labor in vain that build it. Ps. 127:1
GRACE	CENTER	
SERVICE	Phone	
Sunday School 9:30 - 10:30	(813) 328-9412	
Morning Worship 10:30	NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH AVAILABLE	
Evening Worship 6:30		
Wed. - Pray 7:00		
Bible Study 7:30		

Pastor Leonard Wilson • Phone: 536-1890

St. Joseph Church

2101 - 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg

Sunday Masses Are At:
9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Gospel Choir 9 a.m.
Traditional Choir 11 a.m.

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

505 - 35th Street S. • St. Petersburg, FL • 327-3186
Morning Worship 7:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Mid-Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.
Mid-Week Worship Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Service Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Come join us at the Church where everyone is Welcome!



Rev. Earnest Jones, Pastor

Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

955 - 20th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Phone: 894-4311
www.mzprogressive.org

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service: 8:00 a.m. • 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Prayer Meeting: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Bible Study: 8:00-9:00 p.m.
(Adult and Youth)



Pastor Louis M. Murphy, Sr.

Pentecostal Temple COGIC

Vacation Bible School 2003 was a great success! Excitement filled the air as teachers, assistants, helpers and students gathered to explore God's Word. The theme for this year was "Growing the Fruit of the Spirit" with Galatians 5:22 as the scripture base. Lessons were highlighted each night with edible fruit and fun activities to encourage learning. Students made craft items that will remind them that growing the fruit of the Spirit is a life-long process. In spite of the rainy weather, attendance held steady with at least 60 students each night. Following the class presentations on Friday night, we enjoyed a seafood dinner in the fellowship hall.

We were glad to receive some of the guest participants from Vacation Bible School at our Morning Worship service. The Women in Ministry were in charge of the service and we were blessed from the Word of God. Missionary Kovetta Nel-

son was the speaker of the hour. Her message was taken from John 1:1, 2, 14 and John 14:1-3 with the subject of "Don't Let Trouble Trouble You." She encouraged us to take God at His Word because He is the same God who was in the beginning and has been revealed to us through His Son, Jesus. Because Jesus has already overcome the troubles of the world, we don't have to lose heart when problems arise but we can look to Him to help us through them. Pastor Anderson gave the closing prayer.

The evening was climaxed as the St. Petersburg District COGIC met at Reach The Unreach COGIC for a Musical Extravaganza. District Music President, Missionary Lisa Warren, was the honoree. Musical selections ranged from songs of praise by various choirs, groups or individuals to mime and inspirational dance. We thank God for His many blessings upon us.

GIVE GOD WHAT'S
RIGHT,
NOT WHAT'S LEFT!

Unity Temple Of Truth Church

11 Prescott Street South

Sunday Morning Study.....10:00 AM
Morning Worship.....11:00 AM

Rev. Emily Gillespie, Guest Minister
(The Church Of The Daily Word)

All Nations Church of God By Faith

3000 - 4th Avenue S. • St. Petersburg, FL
327-5926 • 327-2656

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Night Worship 7 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Class 8 p.m.
Friday Tarry Service 8 p.m.

PEACEFUL ZION M.B. CHURCH

2051 - 9th Avenue South,
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Clifford F. Cannedy, Sr., Pastor
(813) 822-2455

Church School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
B.T.U.....5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Evening Bible Class.....7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Rehearsal.....5:30 p.m.
Thursday Prayer & Church School Study.....7:30 p.m.
1st & 2nd Saturdays SR Choir Rehearsal.....11:00 a.m.

Prayer Tower Church Of God In Christ

1135 37th Street South, St. Pete, FL

Elder Clarence Welch, Pastor

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Service 11:30 a.m.
YPMW 5:30 p.m. Sunday Church Service 6:30 p.m. Sunday Night Services 7:30 p.m. Tuesday Services 7:30 p.m.



Friendship Missionary Baptist

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



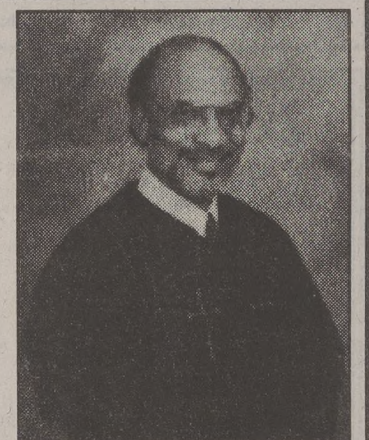
Pastor John A. Evans

Sunday 7:45 AM and 11 AM Worship
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Wednesday Noonday Bible Study and Bread of Life
Thursday Prayer and Bible Study 7 PM also Youth Enrichment Hour

TRAVELER'S REST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2183 - 22nd Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Church Phone: 822-4869
Residence: 824-6021

Mid-Morning Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Prayer/Praise Service (Weds.) 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Donald F. Browne



"WE ARE THE CHURCH WHERE CHRIST IS THE CENTER OF ATTRACTION"

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2120 - 19th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 896-5228

Sunday Services:
Church School 9am
Praise & Worship Services 10:30am
Tuesday Services:
Prayer Service 6:30pm
Bible Study 7pm

Join us as we lift up the name of Jesus

Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ

2230 - 22nd Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712

(727) 894-6764 • (727) 550-0388
Elder William E. Anderson, Pastor



Morning Glory Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:30 a.m.
Community Bible Study Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer Saturday 5:45 a.m.

"A church working together for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom"

Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall mount up with wings as eagles; they run, and not be weary; and they shall walk; and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, under the leadership of Pastor Clarence Williams, invites one and all to worship with us this last Sunday in June.

Service times are 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Pastor Williams will proclaim the spoken Word at both services. The C.W. Special Chorus will be singing and praising the Lord in songs throughout the day. Our Church School begins at 9:30 a.m. We'd love to have you join us.

Our Vintage Adult Bible Study (55 and over) is every Wednesday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 7-8 p.m. is our Hour of Power Praise Service. Come as you are and be blessed.

The Progressive Usher Board is asking all youth to

meet at Lake Vista Park Saturday, June 28, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. for their annual picnic.

The O.L. Nicks Women's Missionary would like you to join us in a fish fry on Friday, June 27, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Women of Power will meet on Saturday, June 28, at 11 a.m.

The YPD Department monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, June 28, after the 11 a.m. service.

***Mark your calendar - Vacation Bible School will be held on Monday, July 7 - Friday, July 11.

You are invited to any of our church activities.

Bible Study is on Monday at 6 p.m.

Sons of Allen Bible Study is Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Thought for the week: "To be spiritually fed, go to church with a good appetite, not a bad attitude."

Be blessed, and have a Jesus-filled week.

Moore's Chapel A.M.E. Church

"The ideas that have lighted our way have been kindness, beauty and truth."

Moore's Chapel A.M.E. Church, Pastor James T. Blount, officers and members cordially invite you to worship with us, "Where the Word of God is changing lives."

Our Early Morning Service begins at 7:45 a.m. and Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m.

The Trustee Board will celebrate their anniversary Sunday, June 29, during our 11 a.m. service. Our speaker will be Rev. T.R. Coverson. Rev. Coverson is an associate minister at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Tampa. We encourage you to come and hear this dynamic speaker.

Our Inspirational

Choir, under the direction of Minister of Music Michael Melvin, will present their annual concert on July 13 at 4 p.m. This choir will present a wide variety of musical selections.

We wish to thank our Brain Bowl teams for the tremendous Christian wisdom and spirit demonstrated during the recent Sunday School Convention held in Tarpon Springs. They exhibited superb Biblical knowledge. Our team consisted of: Tempest Jenkins, William Jones, DePrince Owens, DeVann Owens, Talia Carpenter, Debriona Gearge and Keith George. They received personalized trophies from the church. "What a way to go, team!"

Our Women's Day committee, under the leadership of two dynamic

young ladies, Deidre Forbes and Janet George, are making plans for our celebration which will be held August 14. We wish for them faith, courage and strength as they undertake this task. We pray that their efforts, along with the church members and community cooperation, will be spiritually and financially blessed.

Coming events:

Noon Day Prayer - Wednesday, 12, Fellowship Hall (Annex).

Bible Study - Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Shopping trip "Shop til you drop" - Sawgrass Lake, Ft. Lauderdale, Saturday, July 19, \$35 per person. For more info, contact Keith George, (727) 327-5822.

CreditSmart™ Focus at New Philadelphia

On Friday and Saturday, June 27-28, at the downtown Hilton Hotel, a "CreditSmart™" workshop will be held. CreditSmart™ is an innovative program designed to teach consumers the basics of money management techniques, including creating spending plans, budgeting, handling credit problems, and basic banking skills.

The CreditSmart™ curriculum provides an overview of credit management insight; insight into how lenders assess credit histories; and the role of credit in achieving financial goals; including home

ownership. The curriculum is designed to increase consumer's financial literacy by providing life-long management skills.

This workshop is FREE, however space is limited. Make plans now to have your organization join our local coalition to connect with the national thrust being led by the Rev. Jessie Jackson's Rainbow PUSH Coalition 1000 Church Project. This workshop will equip you with the tools needed to be able to offer the CreditSmart™ curriculum to your clients and/or members.

CreditSmart™ work-

shop is being jointly sponsored by New Philadelphia Community Services, Inc., Florida A&M University, and Freddie Mac and Consumer Action Group. For more information, contact Lorian Williams, coordinator, at (727) 896-4566 or Jo Ann Nesbitt, executive director at (727) 321-6302. To register, contact Jo Ann Nesbitt via telephone or email at joann.nesbitt@verizon.net.

PRAYER HELPS

Lake Maggiore Baptist Church

The mission of the Lake Maggiore Baptist Church is to be a covenant fellowship: worshipping God, equipping the believers, evangelizing the lost, ministering effectively. (Matthew 28:19-20)

We have a community food pantry and clothes closet that is a PRAY Ministry sponsored by Lake Maggiore Baptist Church and Southside Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Upcoming Ministries:

June 27 - Street Ministry

We welcome you to the house of the Lord. Pastor D. Franklin Browne and the entire membership extend to you warm heartfelt greetings as you enter into worship where Christ is the center of attraction.

This fifth Sunday is Missionary Sunday. Our Worship Service times are: 8 a.m., Contemporary Service; 9:30 a.m., Life Development Sunday School; and 11 a.m., Traditional Service.

Pastor Browne will preach at both services. Praise Team will provide the music selections at 8 a.m., and the Konsonant Choir will sing at 11 a.m. Men's Ministry will greet the congregation.

The Southwest District Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship will convene at Bethel Community Baptist Church on Sunday, June 29 at 5 p.m. Members are asked to please support this fellowship.

Weekly activities: Thursday, June 26 - Mid-Day Bible Study, 11 a.m., an in-depth study of the scriptures; and nursing home visitation; Konso-

at 18th Avenue and 9th Street S., across from KFC, from 6-9 p.m.

June 28 - Baptist Men at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Lake Maggiore Baptist Church.

June 29 - 6 p.m., we will go to Friendship Baptist Church for our night service, 4001 - 74th Street N., St. Pete. We will also share the Lord's Supper with our sister church.

July 9 - 6 p.m., Young women's "Garden Group."

July 13 - Hunger

All Nations Church of God by Faith

nant Choir rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Friday, June 27 - Intercessory Prayer Ministry, 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 28 - Praise Team rehearsal, 10 a.m.

Monday, June 20 - Deacon Ministry meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 2 - Prayer meeting, 7-7:30 p.m.; and Adult Bible Stu-

dy, 7:30-8:30 p.m. If you need transportation to worship service or church activities, please contact the church office, (727) 822-4869, the day prior to any scheduled service and no later than 12 p.m. on Saturdays.

If you are seeking church membership, we welcome you to become a part of this growing ministry.

A cooperative Southern Baptist, multi-cultural church where everybody is welcome!

Lake Maggiore Baptist Church

4100 Dr. Martin Luther King Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
727-894-5315 • Fax: 727-894-5315
Email: www.lakemaggiore@yahoo.com

John A. Evans
Minister In Training

Pastor Ronald Fluker and wife, Shana

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Night Disciple Training 6:00 p.m.
Sunday Night Worship 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

A Cooperative Southern Baptist, Multi-Cultural Church, Everyone Welcome!

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
1500 N. Pennsylvania Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33516
Church Phone: 443-1945 Parsonage: 446-6056

Rev. Fleming Tarver, Pastor
Sunday Services

Sunday Service 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.

Weekly Services
Bible Class Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
The church where everybody is somebody and Christ is all.

Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church
900 - 16th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33705

Morning Worship 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Mid-Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Class Wed. 7:00 p.m.

Elder: Tony Smith
Transportation to Church: 727-743-3993 or 727-798-4430
Communion is observed quarterly the first Sunday after every 5th Sunday.
The Church Where Everyone Is Welcome

LIGHTHOUSE CATHEDRAL OF FAITH
309 15th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33704
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Fax: 727-821-9000

Archbishop Willie Bolden, D.D., D.D.
Pastor Glenda Bolden, PH.D., D.D.
Delores Ross, Resident Pastor

Willie & Glenda Bolden

Sunday Morning Prayer 8:00 AM
Sunday School 8:15 AM
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 AM
Intercessory Prayer - Wednesday 6:30 PM
Bible Study - Wednesday 7:30 PM
Intercessory Prayer - Saturday 6:00 PM

"Arise shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." (Isaiah 60:1)

Saint Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church

• Sunday- Church School, 9:45am
• Sunday- Worship Service, 11:00am
• Tuesday- Operation "BIG EAR", 6:00pm- 7:00pm

Spiritual Counseling

• Wednesday- Prayer Meeting & Bible Study, 7:00pm- Until 7:30pm- 7:30pm
• Thursday- Tutoring for K thru 5th, 6:30pm- 7:30pm
• Friday- Great Book Review for Youth, 7:00pm
• Saturday- Young Men's Bible Study, "Teen Word" Each 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month 9:00am- 10:00am

Pastor Keturah D. Pittman

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Sunday Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Church School & Prayer 9 a.m.
Weekly Bible Study Tuesdays 7 p.m.
Ministerial Class Thursdays 6 p.m.

2611 5th. S. • St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Church Phone: (727) 323-3210
Pastor's Office: (727) 895-9591
Rev. Constance D. Samuels - Pastor

Moore's Chapel A.M.E. Church
Rev. James T. Blount - Pastor

Sunday Worship - 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages) - 9:30 a.m.
Noon Day Prayer/Bible Study - Wednesday - 12:00 p.m.
Bible Study - Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.

3037 - Fairfield Avenue south
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712
(727) 321-3545

"Where The Word Is Changing Lives"

20th Street Church Of Christ
820 20th Street South
St. Pete, FL
Home: 896-8006

Bro. Robert Smith

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Christ Gospel Church
2512 22nd Ave. S.
St. Pete, FL 33712
327-0997
Rev. P.D.H. Leonard
Pastor

SUNDAY
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY
Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
Evangelical Service 7:30 p.m.

PRAYER TIMES
Tuesdays, Fridays & Sundays - half an hour before service.

Mondays & Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.
Friday nights at midnight.

RADIO BROADCAST
Sundays 7:45 a.m.

If you would like to come to church and do not have a way, call 327-0997.

The Church Where Everyone Is Welcome

STEWART-ISOM MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1820 Walton Street S., St. Pete, FL 33712
(813) 327-0593
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

"To God Be The Glory"

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

Elder A.P. Conage, Pastor

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

9:00 A.M. - Tuesday Prayer
7:00 P.M. - Tuesday Bible Study
7:30 P.M. - Thursday Pastoral Teaching

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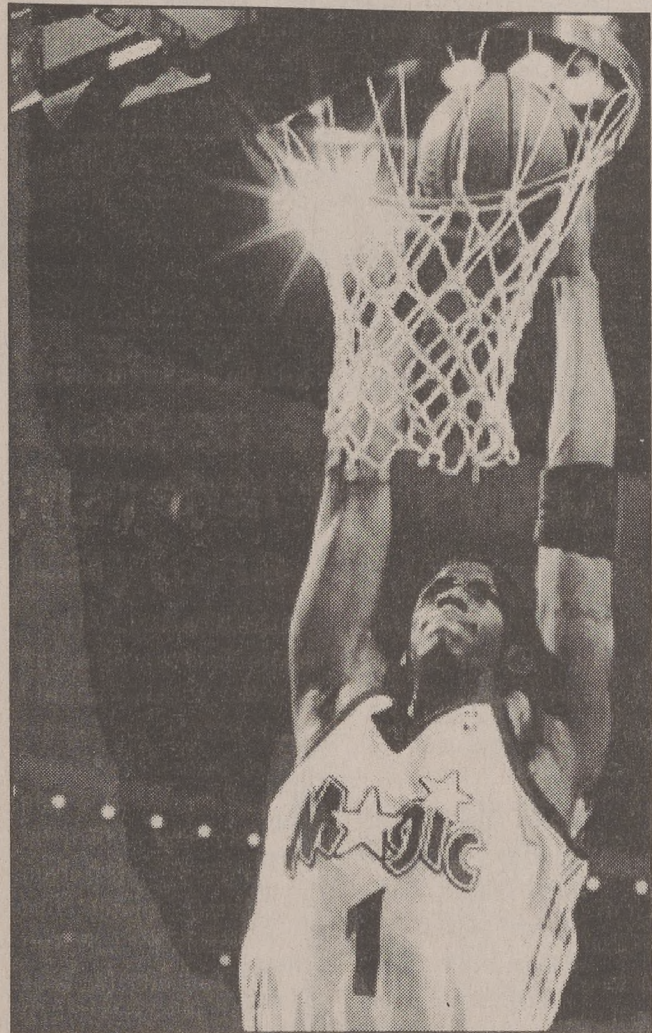
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SPORTS NEWS

Basketball Star Tracy McGrady Visits Germany

NBA's Leading Scorer, "TMAC", opens Adidas EURO abc Camp in Berlin



Tracy McGrady

(Newstream) -- NBA Superstar Tracy "TMAC" McGrady began his off-season with a visit to Germany. He spent the first three days of his trip in Berlin, opening a top European basketball camp, the adidas EURO abc Camp and attending the "Mellowpark Jam," an inner-city event aimed at providing urban Berlin youth with the opportunity to participate in sporting activities. The last two days of his trip were spent in Herzogenaurach, the Headquarters of adidas-Salomon AG.

McGrady was part of the official opening ceremony of the adidas EURO abc Camp. The camp featured top junior players from eight countries and top international coaches from five nations. McGrady was impressed with the level of play at the camp, mentioning the Spanish Junior National Team guard, Sergio Rodriguez, specifically, "Some of these kids have

got game, the point guard from Spain has definitely got a future in this sport." He worked out with the kids during a morning and an afternoon session, being both an active participant and an "unofficial coach." The camp is part of the adidas global basketball camp network, which includes the adidas ABCD Camp in Teaneck, NJ. The ABCD Camp is run by basketball guru Sonny Vaccaro and has been the "coming out" party for NBA stars such as McGrady, Kobe Bryant, Stephon Marbury and Jermaine O'Neal.

After Berlin, McGrady and his group went to the adidas Headquarters in southern Germany. McGrady and adidas CEO, Herbert Hainer, introduced the new T-MAC 3 (will hit retailers on November 1) to the crowd. "It is a great feeling to have your own shoe. Each year I have worked with the adidas design team to make the shoe even better. I can tell you that the T-MAC 3 is

the best one yet," added McGrady. Both the T-MAC 1 (launched in January 2002) and the T-MAC 2 (launched November, 2002) quickly became the number one selling sports shoe in the US.

Then McGrady put on a basketball show for the adidas employees and the media. A three on three tournament took place at the adidas World of Sports complex. The games featured teams led by McGrady, his brother Chance McGrady and Bob Myers of McGrady's management agency, SFX.

It was McGrady's second European trip, both being in connection with adidas, as he was in Paris for the 1998 adidas EURO abc Camp. He also attended the 1999 adidas Asian Streetball Finals in Taipei, Taiwan and the 2000 adidas Asian Streetball Finals in Manila, Philippines.

McGrady and adidas signed a lifetime contract in April, 2002. The deal, which is for the duration of McGrady's basketball career and beyond, is the most significant contract adidas has ever signed with a professional athlete. "This is an unprecedented deal for adidas," stated Erich Stamminger, Member of the Executive Board of adidas-Salomon AG, responsible for Global Marketing. "Tracy is one of the most exciting and respected players in the NBA and we are impressed by his passion both on and off the court." McGrady added, "adidas has always been a company that has supported me, as far back as high school through the ABCD Camp. This is an exciting time in my life and I am happy that adidas has the confidence in me both as a basketball player and as a person to make this long-term commitment."

Saturn's African-American Cyclist Recognized by 'People Magazine'



Rashaan Bahati

Rashaan Bahati, the first African-American cyclist of the decade to be signed to a professional U.S. cycling team, is featured in the "People" magazine's 25 Hottest Bachelors issue, now on stands.

This marks the second time in two months that a member of Team Saturn has appeared in "People" magazine. In April, "People" recounted the inspiring story of Pam Am Games Gold Medalist Ivan Dominguez, who bravely defected from Cuba in 1998 in search of freedom in the U.S. The article led to his appearance on Fox Sports Network's "Best Damn Sports Show Period," which also highlighted Saturn's impact on the sport of cycling.

"Having our athletes featured in 'People' magazine is not only gratifying for all of us at Saturn, but this kind of media exposure helps the efforts of race promoters all across the United States," says Christine Rivers, who runs the Saturn Cycling program for General Motors. Now in its 12th year, Saturn is the longest corporate sponsor in the history of U.S. cycling.

"Cycling is everyone's first sport which can last a lifetime and contribute to a healthy lifestyle," Rivers said. "Professional cycling is all about teamwork and

that is what Saturn is all about," she states.

Both the men's and women's Team Saturn squads are currently ranked number one in the United States, as governed by USA Cycling.

Bahati came to the attention of Team Saturn in 2000 when he was only 17 and won the Junior National Road Racing and National Criterium Championships, in addition to clinching the 2000 National Elite Criterium Championship while still in the junior ranks.

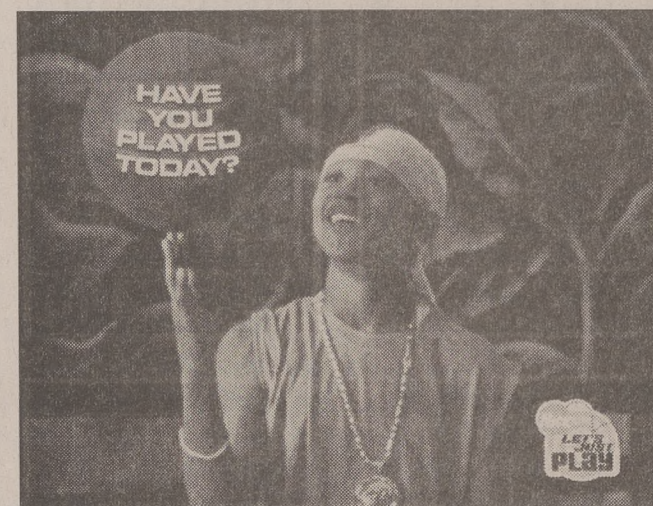
Bahati is proud of his African-American heritage and aspires to be the next "Major" Taylor, the first African-American World Champion cyclist of 1899 who broke countless records. Bahati is a student at Indiana University in Indianapolis, Taylor's hometown. Bahati, who has also been featured in Details magazine, was named by Outdoor magazine as one of the 2003 "New All-Stars."

The Saturn Cycling program continues to provide an excellent means of reaching Saturn customers and potential customers who truly care about issues related to a productive and healthy lifestyle. Saturn has created a program that is beneficial to the Saturn retailer network as well as communities at large.

Through sponsorship of national and local events as well as the pro cycling team and the development team, Saturn Cycling also provides an excellent way to showcase Saturn vehicles. The fleet of decaled Saturns is a visible link between the car company and Saturn Cycling. For more information about Saturn Cycling visit saturn-cycling.com.

Nickelodeon Launches National "Let's Just Play" Campaign to Encourage Active Play for Kids

Tiki Barber, Nick Cannon, Rick Fox, Tony Hawk, Jason Kidd, Russell Simmons, among those to lend support



Lil' Romeo

NEW YORK-- School's out, summer's here, and Nickelodeon is encouraging kids to get out and play. Nickelodeon, the No. 1 kids' entertainment brand and basic cable's top-rated network with kids and adults, launches "Let's Just Play," a national multi-media campaign and grassroots effort to get kids more physically active and encourage more positive, healthy and playful lifestyles. Nickelodeon's "Let's Just Play," in partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America, will employ PSA's, celebrity

endorsements, community events, partnerships and grassroots efforts to reinforce the pure value of play and to challenge community infrastructures to support re-investment in recreational resources for kids.

"Play is the center of everything kids love, and yet, today the combinations of the latch key phenomenon, increased academic pressures, limited community resources and the elimination of after school programs have lead to kids being less active with their leisure time. At Nick, we believe we can affect

change in a positive way for kids," said Cyma Zarghami, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Nickelodeon.

Nickelodeon, which first empowered millions of kids to become volunteers in local communities across the country through its grassroots initiative, "The Big Help," now emboldens a new generation of kids to get active and healthy through "Let's Just Play." Launched on June 16, Nickelodeon has begun airing the first series of PSA's targeted to kids that celebrate the sheer joy of play by suggesting ways for kids to get more physically active. In addition to being a multi-media effort including Nickelodeon on-air, online, and magazines, "Let's Just Play" will have a local community component, "Let's Just Play Across America" events. The campaign will culminate in a nationally televised prime time event this fall on Nickelodeon.

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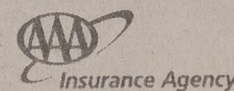
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Warren Sapp to Serve as Grand Marshal for Pepsi 400 Weekend at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH-- Super Bowl champion and Florida native Warren Sapp, one of the finest defensive linemen to ever play in the National Football League and super-model Angie Everhart will add "Grand Marshal" to their list of distinguished accomplishments as both will serve as Grand Marshals for Daytona International Speedway's 4th of July Weekend extravaganza: the NASCAR Winston Cup Series Pepsi 400.

In addition, RCA recording artist Sara Evans, whose single "Born to Fly" propelled her to the top of the Country Music Charts will perform a pre-race concert and will also sing the National Anthem at the Pepsi 400 before a national television audience and

thousands of race fans.

"Having Warren, Angie and Sara as part of our exciting weekend at the 'World Center of Racing' proves once again Daytona and Pepsi are committed to putting on a spectacular show," said Robin Braig, president of the Daytona International Speedway. "We are thrilled to have them on site to help us celebrate our 45th annual event."

Sapp will give the command of "Start Your Engines" at the nationally televised nighttime spectacle, while Everhart will get the race underway by leading the field from the Pontiac Grand Marshal car.

One of the most feared and intimidating figures in the NFL, Sapp has been the point man for arguably the league's most dominant

defense over the past six seasons. The relentless pass rusher has totaled 72 career sacks - second in club history behind Buccaneer lineman Lee Roy Selmon's mark of 78.5. He has been selected to six consecutive Pro Bowls joining Selmon as the only Bucs' linemen to earn repeat nominations to Hawaii.

Everhart, whose lengthy and impressive resume includes supermodel as well as television and film roles, began her modeling career at the age of 16. In addition to her recurring role on the NBC action-drama, "UC: Undercover," the versatile supermodel, who is fluent in French, was cast in the NBC TV miniseries "First To Die."

Born to a rural Missouri family of seven

children, Evans was performing in the family's bluegrass band by the age of 4. In 1997, the release of her debut project, "Three Chords and the Truth," dubbed her a music critics' favorite. An acclaimed songwriter and co-producer, she was the most nominated artist at the 2001 Country Music Association Awards including Female Vocalist of the Year, Album of the Year, Single of the Year, Song of the Year and Video of the Year.

Tickets for the 45th annual Pepsi 400 on Saturday, July 5 and the Winn-Dixie 250 presented by PepsiCo on Friday, July 4 are available online <http://www.daytonainternationalspeedway.com> or by calling 1-800-PIT-SHOP.

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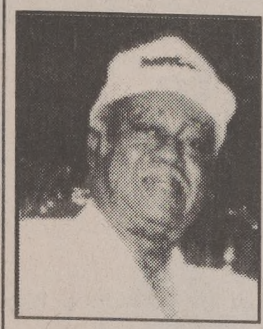
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322-1712

NORTH CENTRAL NEWS



OCALA NEWS

by Jim Thorpe

GREATER HOPEWELL

At Morning Worship on Sunday, June 15, the pastor, brought us a very spiritual sermon. He spoke to the men from Genesis 3rd chapter and the 9th verse, "Where are thou?" The Male Chorus rendered the Song Service which was dedicated to some of our fallen brothers - Lloyd Jones, Kenneth Daves, Alphonso Preston, Eddie McCray, Antony Reed, Sam Lowery, Eugene Swift, Austin Long, Ben Mathis, Deacon Henry Lewis and Deacon Hezekiah Lewis. Minister Jamie Gilmore received the youngest father award, Deacon Hezekiah Lewis the oldest father, and John Billings

received the father of the year.

Mark your calendar!! Sunday, June 29 - 5th Sunday Fellowship, St. Paul at GHMBC; 4 p.m., Annual Calendar Tea.

HOWARD ACADEMY CLASS of 1950

Held their monthly meeting Sunday, June 22, at 4 p.m., at the home of Ozie Lean Green Brown, 1706 S.W. 3rd St. We are planning for our coming together in October 2003. James Thorpe is the president.

ST. JOHN DAY CELEBRATION Queen Victory Lodge #50 was in service with Gain

Lodge #94 in Alachua, Fla., on Sunday, June 22, at 4 p.m. for St. John Day Celebration, along with our sister chapters Virginia Bell #54 and Pride of Mattie.

SECOND BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Ministers, Deacons, Laymen and Youth Congress Auxiliary will convene for the Second Bethlehem Baptist Association, Dr. Fred Maeweathers, Sr., Moderator, to convene with Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in Lowell, Fla., Dr. Thomas A. Blue III, Pastor, now through June 29. Rev. J.H. Strickland is president.

Friday night, June 27, at 7:30 p.m., Reverend Mauricio Farmer and the congregation from Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church will be in charge of program. Rev. Izel James is the alternate.

Saturday, June 28, at 9 a.m., the Quarterly Session of the Association will convene at the Christian Education Center, 1105 NW 4th

St., Ocala, (352) 351-5021. Sunday Morning, June 29, at 9:30 a.m., Sunday School with the local superintendent in charge

11 a.m. - Order of Service - Processional. Sermon: Reverend Joseph H. Strickland. Alternate: Reverend James Pullings

3 p.m. - Sermon: Reverend Gregory Pelham, Sr. Alternate: Rev. Dennis Hagins.

Coming Soon...A Better Day Crusade, July 5 featuring...Biblical preaching, gospel singing, prizes, gifts, health lectures, accommodations for children - a great family outing.

DEFY

DEFY (Drug Education for Youth) is a one year character-building program that reduces risks and strengthens protective factors that scientific research has directly linked to adolescent alcohol and drug abuse, school failure, delinquency, and violence. The program is designed for youths between ages 9-12 because the primary exposure to high-risk behaviors occurs during the middle school years.

DEFY delivers leadership and life skills training by teaching team-building, conflict resolution skills and techniques, age appropriate goal setting, and increasing self confidence.

The camp (Phase I) will be held July 14-18, at St. Paul A.M.E. Church, 822 NW 7th St., 7:30 a.m. - 3

p.m. The following topics are covered in the curriculum: Personal Fitness, Etiquette, Self Esteem, Conflict Resolution, Consequences, Citizenship, Teamwork, Gang Awareness and Goal Setting.

Phase II consists of monthly activities until the completion of the program the following June. Students cannot have previous arrests.

Those interested may call Lynn Cyprian at (352) 369-7102.

MAD DADS AWARDS

MAD DADS of Greater Ocala and its founder Patrick Hadley have been recognized many times for their outstanding service:

- Selected as One of Florida's Finest by the State of Florida
- Volunteer of the Year Commendation from President George Bush
- Volunteer of the Year Commendation from President Bill Clinton
- Distinguished Service Award in Criminal Justice from Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency
- Project Headstart Volunteer Award
- Crime Prevention Award by the Department of Corrections, State of Florida
- Appointed to the Judicial Nominating Commission, 5th Judicial Circuit
- Honored by Essence Image at the 25th Annual Awards Presentation
- Distinguished Service Awards by the Florida Council on Crime and De-

linquency

• Outstanding New Coming Troop Award presented to MAD DADS Troop No. 708

• Outstanding Citizenship by Psi Chi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

• Leadership and Achievement Award by Alpha Phi Chapter

• Outstanding Community Service by A.K.A

• Outstanding Citizenship by Ocala Jaycees

• Outstanding Community Service Involvement by Shades of Beige Club

• Outstanding Service to Marion County Youth by the Social Workers of Marion County

• Service to the Community Award by Shiloh Church

• General Chappie James Memorial Award by Ocala Jaycees

• Award of Excellence by the Florida Parents for Drug Free Youth

• Community Service Awards by Mount Moriah Church

• Entered into Archives of Howard Academy

• Community Service Award by NAACP

• Selected as One of the Best Three Programs in the Nation by the U.S. Department of Justice, Weed and Seed Program

• Selected as Best Program in District 13, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (After School Diversion Program)

Florida's Job Gains Grow; Unemployment Drops to Pre-9/11 Levels

TALLAHASSEE -

Marking the fourteenth straight month of positive job growth, last week Gov. Jeb Bush announced that Florida's employment creation rate increased 1.2 percent during a one-year period ending May 30. Just as impressive, the unemployment rate dropped to its lowest level since September 2001. Additionally, according to the Department of Revenue, Florida sales tax collections were stronger than expected in May 2003, coming in at \$1.438 billion, almost \$31 million above the official state estimate for May sales tax collections.

"The sun shines brighter on Florida's economy every day. These latest numbers are outstanding news for the citizens of our state," said Governor Bush. "We're creating more jobs and fewer Floridians are looking for work. When you compare Florida with other states' economic woes, we should all feel fortunate to live in a state

that continues to lead the nation in job growth."

• According to statistics released today by the Agency for Workforce Innovation, Florida created 86,200 (seasonally adjusted) new jobs from May 2002 to May 2003.

• For the year ending in April 2003, the latest month data from other states is available, Florida continued to rank number one in total employment growth.

• Among the ten most populous states, Florida had the fastest employment growth rate.

• The unemployment rate dropped 0.2 percent from April to 5.1 percent. That is the lowest unemployment rate since the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, and is one percentage point lower than the national rate (6.1 percent).

• The state's unemployment rate has been lower than the national average since March 2002 (15 consecutive months).

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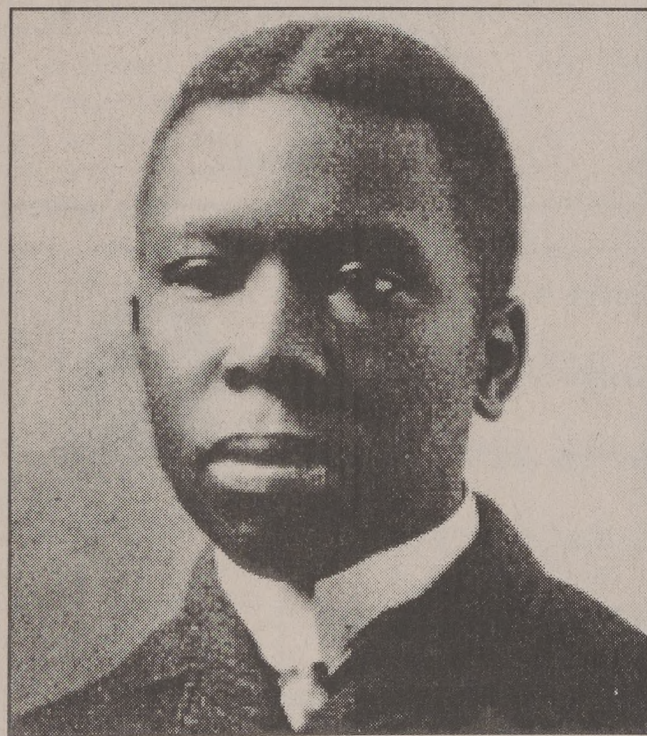
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Paul Laurence Dunbar

• Paul Laurence Dunbar, the first African American to gain national eminence as a poet, was born on June 27, 1872, in Dayton, Ohio to former

slaves.

Although he lived to be only 33 years old, Dunbar was prolific, writing short stories, novels, librettos, plays, songs and essays as

well as the poetry for which he became well known. He was popular with black and white readers of his day, and his works are celebrated today by scholars and school children alike.

Dunbar was known for his use of dialect, but was also an accomplished poet and novelist in standard English. At age 17 he published his own newspaper, the *Dayton Tattler*, an African-American newspaper printed by his high school classmate and friend, Orville Wright of aviation fame. His first book of poems, "Oak and Ivy," was published in 1893. The book contained Dunbar's first dialect poem, "A Banjo Song." Dunbar published numerous books of poetry, novels and music during his career. He died in Dayton on February 6,



James Van Der Zee

1906.

• James Van Der Zee, the African-American photographer whose portraits of black New Yorkers

chronicled the Harlem Renaissance, was born on June 29, 1886. Van Der Zee shot his first photographs as a boy in Lenox, Mass.

By 1906 he had moved with his father and brother to Harlem in New York City, working as a waiter and elevator operator. In 1915 Van Der Zee moved to Newark, N.J., where he had taken a job in a portrait studio, first as a darkroom assistant and then as a portraitist. He returned to Harlem the following year, setting up a portrait studio at a music conservatory that his sister had founded in 1911.

In 1918 Van Der Zee and his second wife, Gynella Greenlee, launched the Guarantee Photo Studio in Harlem. The business boomed during World War I, and the photographs he shot from this period until 1945 have demanded the majority of critical attention. Among his many renowned subjects were

poet Countee Cullen, dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and black-nationalist leader Marcus Garvey.

Van Der Zee worked predominantly in the studio and used a variety of props, including architectural elements, backdrops, and costumes, to achieve the late Victorian and Edwardian visual traditions. Sitters often copied celebrities of the 1920s and '30s in their poses and expressions, however, and Van Der Zee retouched negatives and prints heavily to achieve an aura of glamour.

After World War II, Van Der Zee's fortunes declined with those of Harlem. He made ends meet with occasional commissions and with a photo restoration sideline. By the time his collection of nega-

tives and prints was discovered by a representative of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1967, the Van Der Zees were nearly destitute. In early 1969 his photos were featured as part of the museum's successful "Harlem on My Mind" exhibition, which showcased life during the Harlem Renaissance in a variety of media.

Van Der Zee won increasing attention throughout the 1970s, and from late in that decade until his death in 1983, he photographed many celebrities, promoted his work in shows around the country, and was the subject of books and films. In 1993 a retrospective of his work was held at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

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STATE NEWS

Tuskegee Airmen Award Scholarships



James H. Alexander



Angela M. Baltazar

COCOA BEACH — Three area teenagers each received \$1,000 scholarships from the Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr., Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

The Youth Incentive Awards were presented to James H. Alexander of Rockledge High School; Patrice Thomas of Satellite High School; and Angela M. Baltazar of Glades Central High School in Belle Glade, Fla.

The chapter also awarded \$500 to Joshua C. Riggins of Cocoa Beach High School. The funds

will be used toward Riggins' expenses at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach.

Donald A. Williams, a Tuskegee Airman and chairman of the scholarship program, said applicants must have a 3.2 grade point average or better, and they must be dedicated to a career in aviation, aeronautics or aerospace. The scholarship awards span August 2003 through July 2004 school year.

Additionally, the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. Scholarship Program has awarded two national scholarships

to Mathieu Scott Davis of Winter Springs High School and Marlon Police, of Glade Central High School.

Davis, of Winter Springs, will attend University of Florida. Police, of Belle Glade, will pursue a degree at Florida A&M University. Each year, the national scholarship fund awards \$1,500 grants to 40 or more deserving disadvantaged high school students who have graduated or will graduate in the award year.

The National Scholarship Fund has awarded

over \$850,000 to more than 650 needy students since its inception. The Tuskegee Airmen Inc. established the National Scholarship Fund in 1978 with an initial goal set at \$1 million. The goal was achieved in 1997 and in 2002 the fund balance was about \$1.8 million.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first black military unit in the United States. From June 1944 to April 1945, the airmen flew bomber escort missions, 200 over most of central and southern Europe, without losing a single bomber to the enemy.

DUI Enforcement is the Focus During the 4th of July Holiday

JACKSONVILLE — Law enforcement agencies across Florida are mobilizing during the July 4th holiday period to save lives and get impaired drivers off the roads. From June 27 through July 13, agencies will be conducting additional DUI saturation patrols and checkpoints and assigning more officers to DUI enforcement activities.

The mobilization, called "You Drink & Drive. You Lose.," is part of a national effort to reduce the number of deaths and injuries from impaired

driving. The two-week mobilization will be supported by a broadcast advertising campaign, and it is based on a national model, which shows that high visibility enforcement plus advertising the message equals more people complying with the law.

The national effort to combat impaired driving comes in response to rising fatalities in the U.S. the past few years. In Florida, alcohol-related fatalities have increased in each of the last three years. In 2001, 1,000 people were killed in alcohol-related

crashes. This equals about one-third of all of the traffic fatalities for that year. Even more startling is the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimation that only one arrest is made for every 772 DUI occurrences.

The "You Drink & Drive. You Lose." mobilization is an effort to prevent impaired people from getting behind the wheel, said Chip Monts, Coordinator of Safe and Sober, the Florida Department of Transportation program which oversees the mobi-

lization. "The name of the mobilization, 'You Drink & Drive. You Lose.,' says it pretty clearly," he said. "If you are caught driving impaired, you lose your license; you lose money; you lose time at work and with your family, and you could lose your life or the life of a loved one. And during this mobilization, there will be so many special enforcement patrols in place, the odds are high that if you do choose to drive impaired, you will not get away with it. You will lose."

FBI Report Shows Crime in Florida on the Decline

Data shows volume of reported index crimes in state below national average

TALLAHASSEE — Gov. Jeb Bush recently expressed optimism about a preliminary crime statistics report released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the year 2002. Data reported is based upon the seven Index Crimes: the four violent crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault; and the three non-violent crimes of burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. The report shows that in the United States the overall volume of these crimes decreased 0.2 percent. In Florida, the volume of reported Index Crimes decreased six times as much as the national rate, falling 1.2 percent in the same time period.

"I'm pleased to see crime dropping in the United States as a whole, making the nation safer for our citizens and visitors," said Gov. Bush. "In Florida, we have seen an even greater decrease in crime, thanks to the dedicated efforts of more than 40,000 law enforcement officers and strong deterrents passed since 1999, including 10-20-Life, 3-Strikes, and other tougher criminal penalties. Our focus on reducing violent crime by properly punishing criminal behavior is working, as evidenced by our 2002 crime rate, which was the lowest seen in Florida in 30 years."

Violent crime in Florida declined 26 percent more significantly than in the nation as a whole. Florida's violent crime declined 1.9 percent, compared with a 1.4 percent decline in violent crime in the nation. Property crime declined more steeply in Florida as well, as the FBI reports no change in the volume of non-violent crime, while non-violent crime dropped 1.1 percent in Florida.

"The preliminary data from the FBI indicates there are fewer crimes being committed nationally. Florida has also experienced a decline in crime volume as revealed in our annual crime report," said FDLE Commissioner Tim

Moore.

"This good news is a combination of many factors, including the good work of the men and women in uniform who work to keep our streets safe everyday. We hope to see this trend continue when the FBI's final report is released later this year."

Law enforcement agencies in every region of the country reported decreases in violent crime, while non-violent crime trends varied by region. In six of the seven crime categories, Florida reported a greater decrease or smaller increase than the nation as a whole.

Rate data for crime in the United States will not

be available until the FBI releases its full report in the fall. In Florida, the crime rate has decreased over the past decade, going down 3.3 percent last year alone.

The FBI preliminary release includes reported crime data for cities with a population greater than 100,000. The report includes statistics from 13 of Florida's largest cities.

For additional information, you can access the FBI report at www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm. For detailed data on Florida's reported crime, see the Florida Department of Law Enforcement web site at www.fdle.state.fl.us.

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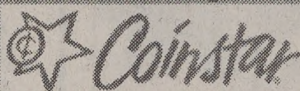
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ancestors Lost in the Middle Passage Recalled in Annual Ceremony



by William Farrington

NEW YORK — On June 14, hundreds gathered in white robes and traditional attire to mark the annual Tribute to the Middle Passage and the

ancestors lost in slaving ships, at Coney Island, a New York City Atlantic-facing beach.

Coney Island is one of many sites where ceremonies to honor the mil-

lions lost over a period of several hundred years take place annually. Artists and speakers representing the width and breadth of the diaspora contributed words and music to the spirit of

the day.

A procession led by drummers to the water's edge climaxed with the offering of flowers to the spirits of the departed.

Radio Show Finds Love for Ethiopians with AIDS

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) — An Ethiopian radio show for people with HIV has started a match-making and dating service, which already is proving very popular.

Founded to fight the stigma of AIDS and the isolation of people with the

virus, the radio show "Yebakal" ("That's Enough") airs three times a week and attracts an estimated 3 million listeners.

In addition to discussions, songs, dramas, and general letters, "Yebakal" now features a match-making segment in which lis-

teners who write in can have their romantic requests read out anonymously on air.

Security guard Mesfin, 34, told the BBC that he is now engaged to be married to a woman that he met through "Yebakal." "I was very happy when I met

her," he said. "It was in fact like a dream, I was very delighted because she was just like me."

"Yebakal" is funded by the non-government organization Action Aid Ethiopia.

Mugabe Mocks Imprisoned Opposition Leader Charged with Treason

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) — As Zimbabwe's opposition leader prepared to enter his second week in prison last week, awaiting bail on treason charges, President Robert Mugabe accused him of acting on behalf of western leaders and denounced him as "a hopeless and pathetic puppet."

Morgan Tsvangirai was arrested nearly three weeks

ago after he and his opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party organized a wave of strikes and protests that were aimed to be a "final push" to oust Mugabe from power.

The MDC — along with many African heads of state and international governments and organizations — wants Mugabe to step down, blaming him for

Zimbabwe's high and rising unemployment, its economic crisis, its 260 percent inflation rate and criticizing his policy of encouraging black war veterans to seize white-owned farms.

Tsvangirai is already facing other treason charges relating to his alleged involvement in a 2002 assassination attempt on Mugabe. In Zimbabwe treason can be punished

with the death penalty, which is often used in prisons: four men were recently hanged for murder. Nonetheless, Tsvangirai — whose legal team includes George Bizos, who once defended Nelson Mandela — still seems confident that the MDC will win out in the end.

World's Oldest Human Remains Show Humans Evolved in Africa

(IRIN) — The world's oldest human remains, discovered by Ethiopian and American archeologists, may finally solve the puzzle of the origins of man, scientists said last week.

Unearthed in a remote region of Ethiopia, the 160,000-year-old fossils strongly support the theory that Africa was the cradle of humanity, the scientists said.

"This is the definitive answer to whether humans evolved from Africa," ar-

cheologist Dr. Berhane Asfaw told a news conference in Addis Ababa. "We are waiting to be proved wrong," he said.

Scientists say the three near-complete skulls — one a child's — are the best-preserved remains and are between 30,000 and 60,000 years older than previous finds. They are almost five times older than those found in Europe and are thought to be the oldest-ever direct predecessors of humans. Until now, the ear-

liest fossils of homo sapiens found in Africa had been dated to about 100,000 years and were less complete and missing bones.

"Ethiopia is the Garden of Eden," Asfaw said, as he unveiled one of the skulls from the archaeological dig. "The whole history of human evolution is here."

The most famous remains found in Ethiopia, was Lucy — a three and a half million-year-old complete skeleton that was dis-

covered in 1974. Archaeologists working in the country have also discovered a skeleton dating back 5.8 million years.

The latest finds have been named "Idaltu," meaning "elder."

The scientists say that Idaltu has almost identical features to modern humans. He has a slightly larger head and brain than modern humans, but the scientists do not believe he was brighter.

UNICEF Launches Girls' Education Initiative in Western and Central Africa

NEW YORK — As a number of countries in Western and Central Africa struggle to achieve their development goals, UNICEF is calling on donors and governments in the region to assign greater weight to the role of education and to invest far more in the education of girls.

"Hopes of improving education in this part of

Africa have been shattered by a devastating set of social and economic ills, coupled with internal conflicts in several countries," said Carol Bellamy, UNICEF's Executive Director. "As a result, so too are the hopes of any sustainable development. Educating girls is a proven way to revive these hopes."

Bellamy was in Burki-

na Faso on June 24 to launch an initiative aiming to give more girls access to a quality education in Western and Central Africa. The effort to get and keep girls in school in the region is undermined in several countries by acute poverty, ongoing conflict and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The regional launch is

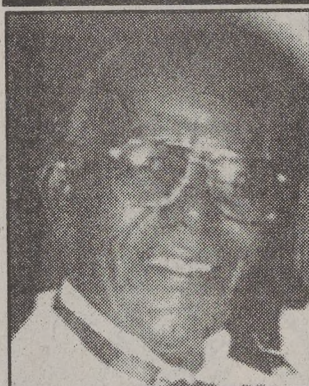
part of UNICEF's "25 by 2005," a global initiative to accelerate progress on getting more girls into school in 25 countries by the year 2005. UNICEF is working closely with these countries to help them achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reaching gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2005.

The Weekly Challenger thanks Badcock Furniture, the Verizon Foundation, and the Tampa Bay D-Rays for their contributions benefiting students at John Hopkins Middle, Gibbs High, Boca Ciega High, St. Petersburg High, and Academy Prep.

NEWS DEADLINE IS 4 P.M. MONDAY

OBITUARIES

ST. PETERSBURG RITES



STARLING, ROBERT "DUDE", SR., 78, died June 14, 2003. Survivors include his wife, Mary Louise; three sons, Robert, Jr., and Walter Starling, both of St. Petersburg, and

Earl Starling, Madison, AL; four daughters, Mary Shirley, Patricia Jones, Margaret Fussell and Beatrice Starling, all of St. Petersburg; one brother, James Sales, Reddick; two



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sisters, Alma Grooms and Tootsie Clyde, both of St. Petersburg; 31 grandchildren; 35 great grandchildren; and several nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

WILLIAMS, GLADYS VIRGINIA, 81, died June 22, 2003. Survivors include one niece, Helen J. (John J.) Drake, Bloomington, IN; one grand niece, Ojetta



Silas, Providence, RI; two nephews, James Williams, Orlando, and Val Williams, Detroit, MI; one grand nephew, Jeff Drake,

Bloomington, IN; five great grand nieces, Avia Silas, Solana Silas, Siria Silas, all of Hyattsville, MD, and Olivia and Ojetta Silas, both of Jonesboro, GA; one great nephew, Devan Silas, Jonesboro, GA; one Goddaughter, Gerri Starks; and several other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

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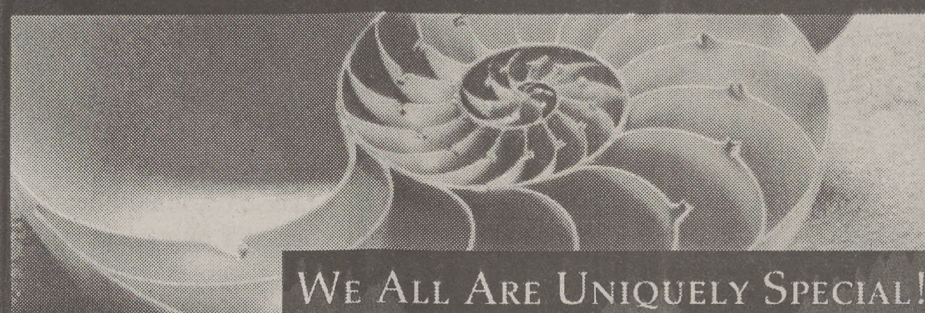
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Your HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20) Enjoy taking courses or lecturing others. Favors will be offered readily. Join humanitarian groups and let your leadership ability take over. Trips, educational pursuits, or projects that could lead to new outlooks should be on your agenda.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21) You may be tired of working for someone else. A residential move may be necessary to get a better job. Don't vacillate about asking for assistance if you need it. If you've been really busy, try to schedule some time to spend with loved ones.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't let your partner put you down. Don't allow someone to do a job that was designated specifically for you. You can handle situations that require contact with institutions or large corporations. Don't make promises that you can't possibly keep.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your creative imagination will help you in coming up with unique ideas. Passion is inevitable and commitments can be made during the heat of the night. Instant romance could be yours if you go out with friends. You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Try to mix business with pleasure while traveling. Find out all the facts before you jump to conclusions. Don't get involved in idle chatter that will hurt your position. You can make a huge difference to children if you are able to put yourself in their shoes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) Talk to those in a position of power about your intentions. You will be ready to jump on anyone who gets in the way of your progress this week. Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. Dead end projects could come to a finish.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) Accomplishment is yours if you direct yourself accordingly. Your lover will be annoyed with your participation. Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. Real estate investments will be profitable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't let opposition from those envious of your talents daunt your progress. Go out with close friends who understand your situation and your needs. You will meet new romantic partners through the company you keep. It won't take much to upset your lover.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You may find your mate somewhat perturbed. Residential moves will be in your best interest. You can get into self awareness groups or look into physical enhancement programs. You can make money if you get involved in real estate deals.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan. 20) Travel will be favorable. Opportunities to show your worth will enhance your reputation and bring possible advancement. You will do well with clients this week. If you have treated them equitably, you might be able to count on their loyalty.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Your mate may be distressed if you refuse to make a commitment. There is not much you can do to alleviate the problem, but consider putting some extra work into your house. You will find it easy finalizing personal papers if you make an effort. Arguments will flare up if you get backed into an emotional corner.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You may be overreacting to personal problems. You will enjoy travel and getting together with peers. Help elders with their concerns. Your unique contribution to the organization will enhance your reputation.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Chicago-Area Management Superstar's Achievements Highlighted at the Fourth Annual Ray Kroc Awards Gala

OAK BROOK, IL — Yancy Hicks was recently honored for his outstanding achievements at the McDonald's Fourth Annual Ray Kroc Awards Gala on May 28, at the Ritz Carlton in Naples, Fla. Selected from thousands of restaurant managers, Hicks will join 130 of his fellow recipients who embody operational and managerial excellence.

Named after McDonald's corporate founder Ray Kroc, this prestigious award is given to the company's top one percent of U.S. restaurant managers. The award recognizes managers who are most successful in achieving superior results in the selected areas of performance and reinforcement of McDonald's commitment to people and business building.

"This award is about recognizing and thanking McDonald's best and



Mike Roberts, President, McDonald's USA (second from right) recognized McDonald's Ray Kroc winners Yancy Hicks (far left) from Matteson, Ill., Marsha McNeese (second from left) from Tomball, Texas, and Ingrid Rodriguez (far right).

brightest managers in our system for the critical role they play in delivering an outstanding customer experience," said Mike Roberts, president of McDonald's USA. "They truly exemplify the qualities that Ray Kroc believed in."

For more than 20

years, Hicks has provided exemplary service to McDonald's. "The thing I enjoy most about working at McDonald's is the opportunity to work for a company where I can always grow and meet so many different people," Hicks said. "Each day is a new

challenge."

This year's Ray Kroc Award winners will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Naples, \$2,500 cash, and a Ray Kroc Award trophy and pin. Winners also receive further recognition at a McDonald's managers' convention in June.

Honoring a Trailblazer

Atlanta's first African-American mayor passes

by Candace K. Clarke
Challenger Assistant Editor

After collapsing at the Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C., Maynard Jackson, Jr., the first African-American mayor of Atlanta, Ga., died Monday of a heart attack. He was 65.

From a young age, Jackson exemplified the qualities of a leader. Born in Dallas, Texas, in 1938, Jackson graduated at 18 from Morehouse College, later earning a law degree from North Carolina Central University. Growing up, Jackson was influenced by the likes of his father, the Rev. Maynard H. Jackson, Sr., pastor to one of Atlanta's most prominent churches, and grandfather John Wesley Dobbs, one of Atlanta's prominent



Maynard Jackson

black segregation-era leaders.

Elected in 1973 at the age of 35, Jackson became the city's youngest mayor. Jackson served two consecutive terms as mayor, then served a third term from 1989 with 80 percent of the vote. His efforts as the mayor of the largest Southern city were remarkable.

Jackson's leadership proved vital during the

1979-81 period, a time when an onslaught of African-American targeted homicides gripped the city. Under Jackson's tenure, Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport was built, an airport now known as one of the busiest in the country. He advocated affirmative action programs for his city, requiring partnerships with minority businesses for contracting services and also pressing for the hiring of minority lawyers for the city's top firms. In his role, Jackson launched a successful bid to bring the 1996 Olympics to the city.

After leaving his mayoral position, Jackson opened his own investment firm, Jackson Securities. Over the last few years, Jackson battled health issues, including heart surgery in

1992 to clear blocked arteries, and problems with diabetes. At 6 foot 3, Jackson's weight had soared to 300 pounds in the past.

"Maynard was also a great husband, father, leader, and friend," remarked U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. "Maynard's dedication to public service is commendable and his leadership will be sorely missed. He served his country with dignity and honor. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and many friends." "His legacy will not be forgotten," added Cummings.

Jackson is survived by two daughters and a son.

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