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Giving with 'A Precious Touch'



L-R: Verrita Walters, CASA; Teresa Evans, Friendship M.B.C.; Tammy Moore, Owner; Nikki Miller, Amsouth Bank; Esi Mathis, Pastor of Harvest Time Intl. Church

photo by B.L. Photo

St. Petersburg. "I felt it was something that would really benefit our women."

Walters was right. Sounds of gospel music filled the air, as beauticians literally waited on the women's hands and feet.

"A lot of women out there are being battered," said Pamela Jones, a prep girl at the salon. "We wanted them to know that there are people out here that cares about them."

The day consisted of massages, facials, and shampoo and styles - grooming procedures that normally cost salon patrons between \$30 and \$50.

"It's nice of them to take time out of their day to do this when they could be making money," said Mary Jane, a CASA participant whose full name is not being used to protect her identity.

That's true, Moore said, but her reason for organizing the affair means more than money. She explained her sister - who passed away last year - was

Salon

continued on pg. 5

by Tracie Reddick

Challenger Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG - As the warm water poured over Diamond's head, she closed her eyes, kicked up her heels and let out a soothing sigh of relief.

"This is something I haven't been able to do in a long time," said Diamond,

who was one of five formerly battered women who were treated to a "Day of Pampering" at the Precious Touch Hair Salon in St. Petersburg.

Tammy Moore - the owner of the salon - came up with the idea of creating a daylong event catering to the needs of domestic violence victims after participating in a similar event in Tampa. She approached Verrita Walters and the rest is history.

"I was thrilled to be a part of this event," said Walters, an adult advocate at Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA), a domestic violence center in

St. Petersburg. "I was thrilled to be a part of this event," said Walters, an adult advocate at Community Action Stops Abuse (CASA), a domestic violence center in

State to Investigate Finances at Florida A&M University



FAMU President
Fred Gainous

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) - The board that oversees the state's higher education will investigate the finances of Florida A&M University, where the school's books are off by \$1.8 million.

The finances of the historically black university had drawn the state's attention before the Board of Governors decided to investigate. Earlier this month, Florida Chief Financial Officer Tom Gallagher cut off pay to the school's president and 18 top administrators until they turned over crucial financial records that were six weeks late. The pay was reinstated after the paperwork was received Nov. 18.

The school has been troubled by a series of financial problems, including late financial aid payments to students, questionable spending by a former employee, theft charges against two other

employees and sloppy business practices that might have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, the St. Petersburg Times reported.

"All of this has been a tremendous blow to the university," said Jim Corbin, chairman of the school's board of trustees. "I don't think there's any excuse for it. We ought to be able to handle it like every other school."

The state is also auditing Florida A&M, where about 13,000 students attend the nation's largest single-campus historically black institution.

President Fred Gainous, who took over last year, ordered a review

of the budgets after discovering the accounting problems.

The review found that the construction budget was off by more than \$3 million, the school didn't bill the federal government for \$3 million spent from a grant program and about \$1.5 million in surplus funds from last year had to be used to pay contractors who had never been paid.

Earlier this year, two former employees were charged with stealing diverting more than \$21,000 from a dozen financial aid checks to themselves.

The school also failed

FAMU

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Live Your Best Life



L-R: Tiwana Robinson, Cheryl Bradbury, Melernea Mosely, Angel Span

help them live their best life.

The day began with pampering. Volunteers greeted the girls and directed them to a tile bathroom in the Enoch Davis Center. As they entered, Mary Kay representatives rubbed a walnut shell-based cream into their hands and the corners of the girl's mouths curled upward. Next came hand cleanser and moisturizer accompanied by giggles from the girls.

A party atmosphere awaited the girls in a balloon festooned room where they breakfasted on juice, fruit, muffins and bagels.

However, the messages

for the day had serious intent. All of the girls were adjudicated through the juvenile justice system and are participants in day programs as an alternative to prison. Jimmy Davis, the Program Manager for Pinellas Marine Institute said participants also came from New Port Marine Institute, Tampa Marine Institute, Gulfcoast Marine Institute, Southwest Florida Marine Institute, and Boley Centers, where the girls attend classes.

Day programs are cheaper than either residential programs or prison. Plus this program has a high success rate with only

22 percent recidivism compared to 55 percent average. However, every year the program fights for its life in the legislature because the state cuts more from prevention and puts it into prisons. There is money. It has to be allocated, Davis said. This seminar resulted after the girls asked him for something for them because the boys had basketball, soccer and fishing tournaments.

The idea behind the seminar titled, "Live Your Best Life," was to help these girls make better choices in their lives. It was organized and hosted by a group of women inspired by Oprah Winfrey's recent visit to Tampa Bay. The women formed a group called Optimizing Prosperity Among the Lives of Sisters (OPALS). By sisters they mean all girls and women said event planner Tiwana Robinson.

Robinson and fellow OPALS Cheryl Bradbury, Melernea Mosely and Angel Span also used space in the James Weldon Johnson Library for the event.

State Rep. Leslie Life continued on pg. 4

Prison Term Over, Minister Who Took \$4 Million Quickly Returns to the Pulpit



Rev. Henry J. Lyons

LAKELAND (AP) - The Rev. Henry J. Lyons walked out of prison Sunday morning and headed directly back to the pulpit, telling worshippers he had erred but that time behind bars helped renew his faith.

Lyons served nearly five years on grand theft and racketeering charges for using his former role as president of the National Baptist Convention to steal millions of dollars to finance his lavish lifestyle.

The scheme fell apart after Lyons' wife set a fire at a home he had secretly bought with his mistress.

"I have suffered God's rod of correction," Lyons, 61, told the crowd crammed into First Baptist Institutional Church. "I stand here today to tell you I truly, truly, repented of my sins."

During the service, about two dozen ministers gathered around Lyons for

Pulpit

continued on pg. 9

Man Dies While in Cincinnati Police Custody



Nathaniel Jones

CINCINNATI (AP) - A 41-year-old man who struggled with police officers in a restaurant parking lot died shortly after they used chemical spray and nightsticks to subdue him Sunday morning, police officials said.

The officers, who repeatedly used nightsticks on Nathaniel Jones, properly used force in trying to

control him, police Lt. Col. Richard Janke said. Jones died at University Hospital.

Two officers responding to a call of a man acting strange got into a struggle with Jones after he took a swing at one of them, police said. It took six officers to get the 400-pound man to the ground and handcuffed, officials said.

After he had been restrained, officers realized something was wrong and called firefighters for help, Lt. Kurt Byrd said.

The two officers who first responded received cuts and scrapes.

Police
continued on pg. 15

THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER NOTICES

Correction: 11/26/03 Edition - Miss Black Universe, Karley Wright's, name was misspelled.

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**SEE SPECIAL CHRISTMAS
ADVERTISING RATES ON PAGE 16!**

**See Special AIDS Report
on page 6!**

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

OPINIONS

The Weekly Challenger

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All news items, advertising copy and related art submitted
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Life at the Bottom Created by Those on Top

by Darryn "Dutch" Martin
A New Visions Commentary

Ever wonder why the poor are poor?

Many believe there's a conspiracy to keep blacks in the underclass. And there may actually be something to it. The identity of those who are behind it and their justification, however, might surprise you.

Dr. Theodore Dalrymple examines the British underclass in his book *Life at the Bottom: The Worldview the Makes the Underclass*. From his years as a psychiatrist treating the poor in a slum hospital and a prison, he describes the world of underclass existence as one wracked with crime, senseless vio-

lence, drug abuse, poverty, illegitimacy, nihilism and a total - and sometimes scary - refusal to accept even a shred of responsibility.

In a blisteringly candid collection of essays, Dalrymple observes the decadence and debauchery of the British underclass with eyes wide open. It leaves the reader both shaken and stirred. His observations, in my opinion, mirrors our own communities and poses important questions for us here in America.

Something that struck me in Dalrymple's research is a description of why men who physically abuse live-in girlfriends or common-law wives attempt suicide. He cites three reasons:

- So the abused will call an ambulance rather

than the police.

- It's emotional blackmail that warns her he might kill himself if she leaves.

- By making themselves a victim of their own abusive behavior and in need of treatment they can dodge responsibility.

It doesn't help that battered women, in most cases, don't leave abusive men and forgive and forget after the man sheds a few tears and "promises" to never do it again.

Again, who is to blame? Dalrymple says England's liberal intelligentsia compounds the underclass way of life by supporting it. He notes: "The intellectual's struggle to deny the obvious is never more desperate than

when reality is unpleasant and at variance with his preconceptions and when full acknowledgement of it would undermine the foundations of his intellectual worldview."

Why do the liberal elitists turn a blind eye to the pathology of the underclass? Dalrymple suggests a few reasons:

- Outright denial ("It's not so much that crime is increasing as people's willingness or ability to report it.")

- Overly broad historical comparisons ("Violence and vulgarity have always been a part of modern British life.")

- Admission of the obvious, but denial of its moral significance ("Vulgarity is liberty from un-

healthy and psychological-deforming inhibition... [and] those who oppose it are elitist killjoys.")

These liberals are also quick to blame the "elitist, bourgeois, upper-class British establishment" for the underclass, not the sociopathic behaviors that created them. These "learned people" instead celebrate the self-destruction as a rebellious self-expressiveness against "uppity" British high society.

Here in America, the liberal Great Society programs created by the Johnson White House reward the destruction of the family and essentially addict the poor to welfare like it was crack cocaine. When reformers suggest that able-bodied, unemployed

public housing residents should perform community service in exchange for their housing, it's the liberal elites who join the chorus comparing this simple and logical measure to slavery. Rather than promoting behavior encouraging productivity and civility, the elites seem willing to perpetuate the problem.

Whether it's England or here in America, it's a prime example of what I call liberal-elitist guilt. Left-leaning intellectuals who don't want to appear racist or close-minded view behavior that they would condemn in their own families as "understandable" when exhibited by minorities, immigrants or poor whites. Excusing such behavior makes them believe

they are showing solidarity with the disadvantaged, placating their own sense of moral superiority.

The assumption of personal responsibility for one's actions and choices never seems to enter into the equation.

Commenting on the usefulness of Dalrymple's book, Stanford University's Thomas Sowell says: "The fact that the setting is a white underclass community in Britain may enable some people to see and acknowledge a pattern of self-destruction that they may be reluctant to acknowledge in America, for fear of being considered racist."

I couldn't agree more.
Darryn "Dutch" Martin
is a member of the National

Advisory Council of the African-American leadership network Project 21. Comments may be sent to Project21@nationalcenter.org.

**THE
WEEKLY
CHALLENGER
WELCOMES
YOUR
LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR
AS WELL AS
YOUR
ARTICLES OF
COMMUNITY
EVENTS.**

A Living Memorial to Cleveland Johnson

"Black People Must Sell As Well As Buy, Else Remain A Beggar Race"

In pursuit of the American 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 sector. 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 necessity 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 enterprises 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 importantly, sell what belongs to them, in order to be successful. "or else become a beggar race." Anything less seemed to only serve an endless cycle of subjugation, not only financially, but emotionally as well. In order for our community 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, hospitals, schools, trade services, 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 percent." In a 1997 U.S. Cen-

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

With so much spending 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 circulation 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 standards of excellence in journalism are forces that keep us in touch with our community.

The Cleveland Johnson vision is one that still lives on. His goal: to impact the lives of those throughout the African-American community in a positive way; to dispel the disparaging images unfairly cast, to cel-

brate the power of a hard-working people. For "Cleve," as he was known, *The Challenger* became a symbol of triumph in the face of adversity.

The Weekly Challenger 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 reaching for that goal of freedom. "There is a reason to read *The Weekly Challenger*."

Thanks Dad

by Kimberley Jane Wilson
A New Visions Commentary

I noticed him first. We were on our way to church when a boy of two, maybe three, appeared in front of us. Before I could wonder about his mother, he saw my husband. With a shriek of "Da!", he ran up and clung to his legs.

While my husband tried to peel the child off, I looked for the mother. She showed up a few seconds later. She apologized, and told us the last time her son - now wailing - had seen his father he'd been wearing a blue suit like my husband's.

This might have been funny, but the cries of the child, the unhappy look on the mother's very young

face and her shabby clothes eclipsed any humor. As she disappeared around the corner, we wondered how long the child's father had been out of their lives.

Out of wedlock births in the black community have soared to over 70 percent. More than at any other time since Emancipation, black children are living in homes without a father present. Black men are accused of being the sole cause of this situation, but I think that's unfair. A new report, "Charting

Parenthood: A Statistical Portrait of Fathers and Mothers in America," from the non-partisan Child Trends notes that 64 percent of the black women who were asked if one parent was as good as two

responded "yes."

It's an unavoidable law of the universe that sex is not love. An American child born of loveless sex is legally entitled to a support check, but no court can make a reluctant father love or even remotely care for that child. The loss of a real dad is huge. I know.

My father died at age 42 when I was only 13. At his funeral, well-meaning people told me I'd get over my grief. They were wrong. I miss him just as bitterly now as I did then. He wasn't rich, powerful or famous, but he was the kind of man you don't forget. Cleveland Lindsay gave me an appreciation for literature when I was very young. His sense of humor and love of history, art,

music and animals are still with me.

Probably without even thinking about it, he formed my first ideas of what a man was supposed to be: smart, funny and kind. Unlike many fathers at the time, he deliberately made himself known to both my teachers and friends. Both groups understood I had two strong-minded parents at home who were passionately concerned and who weren't going to take any foolishness.

A child needs that.

Vicious and degrading images of black women - along with the constant praise of street thugs and pimps - are mainstays in rap, movies and, truthfully, the whole Hip Hop culture.

Without a responsible father figure to counteract this filth, it's easy for a child to absorb twisted ideas.

We usually don't say enough positive things about black fathers. I want to say thank you to all the black fathers who take their roles seriously. This is for the men who never fail to attend their child's sporting events, whether they have talent or not. It's for those who lay down the law with their daughter's boyfriend on the first date. And it's for all the young fathers who aren't ashamed to hug and kiss their kids in public.

I've met black men who work two, and even three, jobs to support their families without complaint or boasting. I've met men

who faithfully pay child support knowing full well that most of the money goes to their ex-wives' hair, nails and social lives. I also know countless black men who light up and can't suppress a smile when asked about their children and who have lost everything fighting for the legal right to see them. And then there are those doing the best they can raising children from their spouses' previous relationships.

Society gives the committed black father little attention and less credit, but all these men are heroes.

Kimberley Jane Wilson is a member of the National Advisory Council of the African-American leadership network Project 21 and a freelance writer in Northern Virginia. Comments may be sent to Project21@nationalcenter.org.

The Gantt Report

by Lucius Gantt

It's all right to "Get Low" with Lil John and The Eastside Boys but you also need to Rise Up and continue the black struggle for equal rights and justice!

If you have a son or daughter or a grandchild and they are older than twelve-years-old and younger than forty, this column is for them.

The disrespect, apathy and irresponsibility demonstrated by many of our African-American youth makes me sick!

But I don't blame the children. I blame the par-

ents! Why? I blame parents because we haven't told our children how important it is to resist, how important it is to fight and how important it is to win. Our children don't know the meaning or the value of freedom. They think success is spinning rims or over-priced jewelry.

If you don't have equal rights and justice, you don't have anything! If you don't have equal rights and justice you will never have Peace in America or in the world.

Instead of pushing our children to go forward, we

have allowed them to go backwards.

They would rather be high than free. They would rather be sharp than be knowledgeable. They would rather be a daddy than a father. They would rather be a street woman than a housewife.

Our young people don't even know that all of the struggles around the world are being fought by young people. The Russian Revolution had young people involved and fighting. The French Revolution had young people. The Cuban Revolution had young peo-

ple and the American Revolution had just as many young people fighting as any other revolution.

Who do you think is fighting in Iraq? Who is in Afghanistan and other parts of the world? Who is fighting in Africa? You guessed it, children, teenagers and college aged kids!

The Civil Rights struggles of the past were waged in large part by young people and so should the struggles of today.

Young people sat in, young people marched, young people boycotted and young people were

beaten and killed. Malcolm X wasn't old. Martin Luther King Junior was only 35 when he was assassinated.

Angela Davis was not old, nor were Rap Brown, Huey Newton, Fred Hampton, Andrew Young, George Jackson and others.

Young people had a great impact on the end of apartheid in South Africa. Young people are even involved in the American Indian Movement.

Our young people need to wise up and stand up! You don't have any power. You don't have any control. You don't have much land.

And, the way you are going, you don't have much of a future.

What ever our children want to be, they should be something for the people. They should learn to love each other and care about each other. Black youth need to support each other and defend each other.

African-American youth need direction. If you can't get it from mama and daddy, holler at me!

Contact Lucius Gantt at lbgantt@aol.com. His book, "I Talked About the Beast," is now available at bookstores nationwide.

SARASOTA / MANATEE AREA NEWS

Investigators: Pilot Error Caused 21-Year-Old's Crash in Manatee

PALMETTO (AP) — A pilot who died in a propeller plane that crashed after carrying a banner memorializing a teen over a high school graduation ceremony did not maintain enough airspeed, federal investigators said.

Brian Joseph Mason, 21, had just dropped off the banner on June 6, 2002, when his Cessna 172 crashed into a field in northern Manatee County,

just south of the Hillsborough County line.

Mason, who moved from Burnsville, Minn., to St. Petersburg to work for Florida Aerial Advertising was the only person on the plane.

The National Transportation Safety Board probable-cause report did not say how fast the plane was traveling when it crashed. But no evidence of engine failure was

found, said Phil Powell, an air safety investigator with the NTSB's Atlanta office.

Mason's employer William F. Bruckner Jr., had suggested that an ultralight aircraft had interfered with the plane. But investigators looking into Bruckner's theory found no radar data showing other aircraft in the area, Powell said.

Director of Communications Appointed for Sarasota County

Sarasota County Administrator James Ley announces Larry Allen has joined the county as Director of Communications. Allen is responsible for external and internal communications, public relations and outreach, as well as communications initiatives for the Board of County Commissioners.

"Mr. Allen's extensive experience with communications and public relations will be a strong addition to Sarasota County's public awareness efforts," Ley said. "The county

looks forward to the fresh perspective and new ideas he brings to issues that are important in communications with the citizens of the county."

Allen has more than 30 years experience in public relations, communications and journalism. He is an experienced communications director with an extensive background in communications strategy and planning, public information and educational programs.

Before coming to Sarasota County, he previously

worked for the advertising and public relations firm of Baskerville/Swirls/Ward in Sarasota, the *News-Journal* in Daytona Beach, as communications director for the March of Dimes national office, and in the Washington and New York offices of a nationwide public relations agency. Allen holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Journalism from Indiana University and Northwestern University.

Three Artists Chosen As Finalists for North Sarasota Library Public Art Commission

The North Sarasota Public Library Project Jury has selected three artists as finalists for the public art commission at the new library under construction at the intersection of Newtown Boulevard and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way in the Newtown area of Sarasota.

The commission will be awarded under the 10-year-old Sarasota County Arts in Public Places Program.

After reviewing slides from 59 artists who responded to the "Call to Artists," the project jury on Nov. 21 narrowed the field to three finalists: Roberto L. Delgado of Los Angeles; Napoleon Jones-Henderson of Roxbury, Mass.; and Evelyn Rosenberg of Albuquerque, N.M. The "Call to Artists" flier announcing the commission was sent to about 2,500 artists and galleries from across the nation, and also appeared on the Web sites of Sarasota County Government and the Sarasota County Arts Council.

All three artists have numerous public art commissions to their credit. Delgado specializes in mixed-media public art design, fabrication and installation, particularly murals made of acrylic or

tile. He has a master's degree in fine arts from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and has been awarded Fulbright teaching and research fellowships.

Jones-Henderson often uses enamel on copper to create his artworks. He is executive director of the Research Institute of African and African Diaspora Arts Inc. in Roxbury, Mass., and an adjunct artist critic and lecturer at the Vermont College of Norwich University, Montpelier, Vt. He attended the Sorbonne in Paris, and has a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Art Institute of Chicago.

Rosenberg developed "detonography," a technique to make metal sculptures using plastic explosives, according to her resume. She has a master's degree in fine arts (printmaking and painting) from the University of New Mexico, and has taught fine arts at several colleges. She also previously owned her own printing studio.

The three finalists are scheduled to make a site visit to Sarasota on Jan. 16, 2004. After the site visit, the finalists will be asked to develop site-specific proposals for presentation to the project jury, which is

composed of county staff, a representative of the architectural firm and volunteers from the community.

The project jury is looking for artwork proposals that incorporate a surface wall treatment. The site of the artwork will be a 34-foot-high tower, which will be a focal point of the new library. Designed as a multicultural center for the community, the 25,000-square-foot library is expected to be completed next summer. The approximately 5-acre library site is on the northwest corner of the intersection of Newtown Boulevard and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, across from the Newtown Estates Park and Recreation Center.

The \$53,250 commission includes design, artist's expenses, materials, construction, lighting and installation of the artwork. Under the Arts in Public Places Program, one percent of eligible construction funds (up to \$300,000) for government buildings is set aside for the purchase or commission of artwork.

This will be the seventh piece of artwork to be purchased or commissioned for county buildings under the program, which is administered by the Public Works Business

Community Update Wins Crystal Award

SARASOTA — "The Community Update," Capital Improvement Program (CIP) publication of Sarasota County Public Works won third place in the annual Crystal Awards presented by the Florida Government Communicators Association (FGCA).

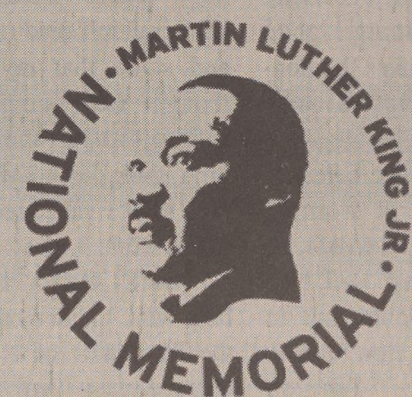
The awards were presented at FGCA's annual conference held Nov. 12-14 at the Radisson Lido Beach Resort and hosted

by Sarasota County. The award category was for external publications.

The Community Update is a quarterly publication available in the two County Administration Centers, at public meetings and through the County Commissioners. It covers construction projects including utilities, roads and sidewalks and buildings such as the recently-rehabilitated Venice Train Depot.

Center. For more information about the program, call Public Works at (941) 861-0951.

We Welcome Your News of Interest to the Community, as Well As Accompanying Pictures of Timely Events



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Nutcracker in the Park Performance

The 6th annual production of Nutcracker in the Park will be on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. in North Straub Park. Admission is free for blanket seating, and \$5 for grandstand seating. There will be a designated lawn chair area. The Ballet Society under the Artistic Di-

rection of Sean Musselman will produce this holiday classic.

North Straub Park is located at Beach Drive at Fourth Avenue NE, St. Petersburg downtown waterfront. Please contact The Ballet Society at (727) 827-3828 for more information.

Fighting Medicare and Medicaid Error

What can you do to fight Medicare and Medicaid error, waste and abuse? Plenty!

Treat your Medicare or Medicaid number just like a bank account number. Always read and ask for a copy of everything you sign.

Get involved with the Senior Medicare and Medicaid Patrol Project. This project is designed to recruit and train senior volunteers who, in turn, educate seniors and their com-

munities about how to review their Medicare and Medicaid accounts and report any suspected error, waste or abuse.

Volunteer to make a difference! Help make Medicare and Medicaid last a lifetime. In Hillsborough, call (800) 336-2226 or (813) 740-3888; in Pasco, (800) 861-8111; in Pinellas, (727) 217-8111; and in Sarasota, (866) 505-4888.

Presentations are now available at no cost.

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Helping Those in Need

by Tracie Reddick
Challenger Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG — Need help for the holidays? If so, assistance is just a phone call away.

There are a number of agencies in Pinellas County that provide services ranging from free toys for tots to a meal complete with turkey and all the trimmings. Most of them require a prescreening process and all of them are free of charge. The deadline on some of the events are approaching, so residents in need of help must act quickly.

Listed below is a list of agencies that are once again spreading cheer this holiday season:

Jewish Holiday Assistance
Gulf Coast Community Care, 1404 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, (727) 538-7150. Eligibility: Anyone

Christmas On-Site Meals:
The following agencies provide meals on Christmas day. Call for specific times.

Beacon House, 2151 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, (727) 823-5780
St. Vincent De Paul, 725 Arlington Avenue North, St. Petersburg, (727) 821-3446

The following agencies

will provide meals on Christmas Eve:

Salvation Army, 310 - 14th Avenue South, (727) 822-4954

People That Love, 817 Fifth Avenue North, St. Petersburg
St. Petersburg City Mission, Trinity Lutheran, 401 Fifth Street North, St. Petersburg

Christmas Meals on Wheels
Neighborly Senior Services, 13650 Stonybrook Drive, Clearwater, (727) 573-9444, ext. 219
Eligibility: Current clients receiving Meals on Wheels services.

Christmas Baskets
St. Vincent De Paul, (727) 825-0725. Deadline: Dec. 10. Eligibility: Anyone in need of help. Call to schedule a home visit appointment.

We Help, 863 Third Avenue North, (727) 823-3471
Deadline: Dec. 17

Eligibility: All families must go through an interview process. Please call to schedule an appointment.

Christmas Toys and gifts:
Christmas Toy Shop, 1655 16th Street South, St. Petersburg, (727) 898-3962. Eligibility: Families with children ages 0-12

and who are receiving serves from DCF.

Toys for Tots, (727) 410-4696

Eligibility: Families with children 0-17. Sign up date begins December 20th.

People That Love, 817 Fifth Avenue North, (727) 525-4789

Eligibility: All children accompanied by a parent or legal guardian will receive a new or used toy. Call for a specific distribution date.

Salvation Army, 1400 Fourth Street South, (727) 822-4954

Eligibility: Families receiving no assistance from DCF. Must provide verification of address. Sign-up dates ends Dec. 11

St. Vincent De Paul, Adopt-a-family, (727) 825-0725

Eligibility: Low income families who want to be adopted. Must call to schedule a home visit. Provides gifts for parents and children (0-17). Sign-up deadline ends Dec. 15.

Day Star, Adopt-a-family, (727) 825-0442

Eligibility: Low income families who want to be adopted. Call ASAP to register. Provides gifts for parents and children (0-17) who are trying to make ends meet.

READ THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER ON THE WORLD-WIDE WEB:
WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

TAMPA BAY AREA NEWS



RECOLLECTIONS

by Frances Pinckney

A Tribute to Teachers

I bought "teacher angel pins" for my grandson, Dallan's, teachers at Yvonne Reed Christian School: Mrs. Reed-Clayton, owner and kindergarten teacher, Ms. Forte, second grade teacher, and Ms. "J." (Johnson). They have been kind, understanding and patient in working with Dallan's parents and grandparents in keeping him on task and focused on the plan and course of study at this school.

We are keeping ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder) at bay - not allowing it to become a barrier to this very active, high-energy boy's learning and maintaining good grades. He makes the honor roll and is a good reader and speller. Behavior is another matter, but behavior modification is working fairly well on all fronts.

Mark Twain said, "To be good is noble, but to teach others how to be good is nobler..." I reckon these teachers fit the bill of nobility for teaching "goodness" at Yvonne Reed Christian School as a priority. Add that to trying to captivate and inform young minds and maintain an overall good learning environment at school with good coordination of parental supervision of homework. These are dedicated teachers like I had during my early childhood education.

In my mind's eye, Edythe Gaines was the consummate teacher. She was my teacher in fifth through eighth grade. I'd planned to take her an angel pin on Thanksgiving, but my plans to visit family in Tallahassee were cancelled. My sister, Paulette, called me recently to tell me that she'd seen Mrs. Gaines at a neighborhood association meeting after all of these years! I planned to interview her, but instead, I shall pay tribute to her in fond remembrance.

Mrs. Gaines, with the long curly hair and a smile so wide that it made her eyes squinch up, was both tender and tough - a combination that she balanced and never wavered. When she came to our little country school, actually the Missionary Baptist Church (our little school was destroyed by a hurricane a few years before she came), she just made herself right at home at our humble learning facility including the outhouse.

Mrs. Gaines was not just a city girl putting on airs among country folks. She was not a prima donna. She rolled up her sleeves and enlisted - rather demanded - the help of all the students to get

the building cleaned up, yard and all. She made sure that the pews were set up orderly for church services on the first and third Sunday.

She made a fire in the old heater on cold frosty mornings. We kept a good supply of oak and pine wood to keep the fire going. She made a hot lunch on a little oil stove. We loved the hot dogs and beans and the oranges and apples she bought for us.

I think she was surprised - maybe shocked - that so many of the students didn't know their birth dates, and some of the parents weren't much help. There were some who couldn't read or write and some that my mom thought were simply too trifling to teach their children their birthdates and, "for God's sake, record it in the Bible."

Well, Mama had to help Mrs. Gaines out with the birthdates of children that she knew were born in the same year of her 12 children. I shall always remember the birthdate of one of my cousins who shall remain nameless. He was born the same year and month as I, but Mama didn't know the exact date, so Mrs. Gaines made up a date and gave him an hour or two to learn it.

Evidently, that was not enough time, because the poor boy kept getting stuck on the date of the month. Tender teacher turned tough - took out the ruler, and after a few sharp whacks with that little straight strip of wood, he learned his birthdate - could talk it or sing it. To this day when my siblings or I happen to write a letter on Sept. 22, we always indicate in parentheses that it's this cousin's birthday.

Her curriculum included arithmetic, history, geography, English literature, world history and current events. She taught grades first through eight. I still recite the multiplication tables in sing-song fashion as I did in the fifth grade. The ruler was a deterrent in missing one while reciting them to her.

I loved the poems we had to learn, "The House with Nobody in It," by Joyce Kilmer and "America for Me," by Henry Van Dyke. "...But, oh, to take your hand my dear and ramble for a day in the friendly western woodland where nature has her way..." Mrs. Gaines did indeed take me by my hand and guided me into a wonderful world of learning, cultivation of my mind and added a little polish to my "country self."

I recall an incident in which my best friend had her first period. Her step-

mother had told her nothing to prepare her. Mrs. Gaines took her to the toilet and explained it to her and helped her to clean herself up. The next day she brought the items of necessity, and I, who knew something about it but too young to have my period, was impressed. She got permission from the girl's parents to take her home a couple of weekends, and I'm sure that they had the mother/daughter talk about periods and pregnancies that her mother wasn't capable of doing.

She took me to the hairdresser for the first time. I recall the beautician being very talented but very tactless. I had very thick coarse hair. She took one look at it and said, "This hair hasn't been combed since Adam was in Egypt." Her exact words. After she finished straightening it, she complimented me on how black it was and how well it held a curl.

Discipline was measured out according to behavior. I followed the rules pretty much and did not talk back. I don't recall being spanked or whacked with the ruler. However, she did make me stand on one leg in the corner for whispering to my girlfriend during class. Standing on one leg is a yoga pose for balance which I do very well in my yoga class for seniors.

"...So it is with teachings of youth, which make impression on the mind and heart that are to last forever." Mrs. Edythe Gaines made indelible impressions on me with her teaching. She inspired me and prepared me to go on to high school and hold my own among those who'd gotten an early start in a more advanced curriculum.

I pay tribute to this dedicated teacher. I laud her, applaud her and extend to her a heartfelt "Thank You."

SunTrust Bank Re-Opens Lakewood Branch



L-R: Linda Jordan, Jennie DeJesus, Debbie Finley, Corinne Brown, Felicia Lewis and Amy Eldridge

ST. PETERSBURG - Recently, SunTrust Bank's Lakewood office, located at 4142 Sixth St. S., held an open house. The event served as a chance to see the freshly remodeled branch building, as well as to introduce the new branch manager, Corinne Brown, and her staff members, to clients and the community.

In attendance at the open house were several banking officers, including: City President Roy Binger; Business Banker Leigha Epler; Business Banking Relationship Manager Rhonda Hermann; Investment Rate Specialist Dan Walsh, and Mortgage Representative Marjorie Burdine. State Representative Frank Peterman Jr., of District 55 was also a participant.

Life

from front page

State Rep. Leslie Waters was one of many successful women role models for the day. She gave the opening remarks and provided the girls with a list of goals. Waters told the girls there are things they need to achieve to ensure open doors for their future that allow them to make choices in life.

"If you don't get your high school or GED forget it, you'll be flipping hamburgers for the rest of your

life. Get an education get a job, get involved, volunteer and give back to the community," Waters said.

Waters gave the girls a take-home, open book test on government with instructions to mail it back to her when they finish and keep in touch.

The girls walked next door to the library where Mary Kay sales director Renee Garcia and her associates, Doris Leonardo, Heidi Clemens and Brandi Williams had provided makeup samples on pink

and white mirrored trays for the girls. Garcia delivered life lessons along with etiquette lesson on hygiene and manners amid games, laughter and an informative fashion show.

A tray of objects for hygiene and makeup were displayed for 30 seconds and then girls had to write down the objects with prizes for those whose memories were best. A good memory is important in life, but "not cheating on a game is all about who you are, it's integrity," said Garcia.

Several girls served as models for fashions that Garcia had purchased on sale at Target and were examples of clothes that could be worn to work or on job interviews. Garcia told the girls that people make judgments based on exterior appearance and behavior so they needed to present a good image to ensure better opportunities. It's all about being comfortable, which comes from inside and starts with a smile, Garcia said. "You can pull anything off with a smile."

Surveying the room of girls with radiant smiles on their faces Davis stated that these girls simply had not had enough role models in life.

"But, if you look here you've got a roomful of role models, positive. There is definitely a need you can't look out here at all these young ladies and tell me they should be behind bars. You can't tell me that these girls need to be behind bars," Davis said. But with the looming



THIS & THAT

(823-6092)

by Mabel Cooper

ALOHA!!

Five well-known residents of our town recently returned via American Airlines from a magnificent seven-day stay at the Embassy Vacation Resort in Kauai, Hawaii.

The residents - Flossie Boyd, Lewis and Dorothy Bryant and Ralph and Deloris Graves - had a wonderful time touring the Garden Island, a true Pacific gem, from its mountain ridges and lush rain forests to its spectacular beaches and red landscape.

The amicable residents are from our town. This sounds like a rewarding trip.

OH!!! OH!!! IT WAS A DINNER TO REMEMBER

Thanksgiving dinner at Wade and Lessie T. Stotts, 18th Ave. and 25th St. S., is always considered a high point on my list of enjoyable things to do. Thanksgiving, Nov. 27, was no exception. From mid-afternoon until all the goodies were gone, those dear people hosting, Lessie T. and Wade Stotts, Lessie T. and Fred Camble, their sister, Jean Spikes, and a cousin, Almeta and Rufus Thompson, created a palatable spread as usual, and we will always remember it. They really deserve some kind of medal for catering excellence.

Most of us know the idea of a smorgasbord table is to take a small portion of each item or dish. Dinner guests at that groaning table evidently didn't know or didn't want

to know or didn't care to know this. Family members made up of all age groups devoured heapings of succulent baked turkey with very tasty dressing, gravy and cranberry sauce. Talk about grillin', chillin' and thrillin'. Roast beef, baked ham, chitlings, cry, fluffy rice and candied yams. We enjoyed the tender, savory taste of green beans, collard greens, corn pudding and black-eye peas. Iced tea and sodas and all kinds of cakes and pies and other gourmet delicacies which (as someone once said) pleased this scribe enormously.

In addition to the spread, the hostess went all out making everybody feel most welcome, including the local family members, enjoying out of towners. Motoring to the enjoyable dinner were: Lessie, Bessie and Jean's mother, Mary Thomas from Greenville, Fla., her two sons, Colonel Dwayne Thomas who is stationed with the U.S. Army in Ft. Meade, Md., and Steven Thomas from Newport News, Va., also, Lessie's daughter, Karen Peete and hubby Radell, with daughters, Nicole and Shanelle from Hampton, Va.

The feast was a resounding success.

A SURPRISE, I KNOW

Birthday wishes to Mildred Surry whose natal day was Nov. 30. Better late than never, right?

UNTIL NEXT WRITE AROUND, STAY LOOSE!

prospect of more state budget cuts "it's in the hands of the governor whether our program survives."

The employees of Associated Marine Institute Foundation are so touched by the boys and girls who come through the program that there is 100 percent employee participation in contributing to the fund to help kids who graduate from the program with college tuition.

After a lesson on table etiquette by Robinson, lunch was served at the Enoch Davis Center, catered by the Texas Cattle Company - at a discounted rate. The girls were given wooden clothes pins that they could lose if caught in a breach of table manners.

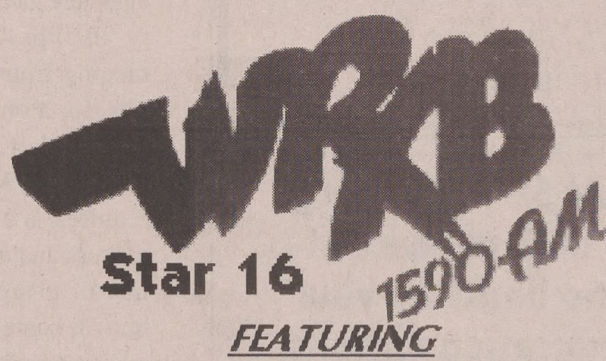
Several girls strolled among the tables strewn with red rose petals casually engaging adult volunteers in conversation that resulted in volunteers speaking with their mouths full, a definite no-no. Other adults were caught dining sans their napkin in their laps to the delight of the girls.

After lunch the girls burned off energy dancing to music between the tables and then settled down for a motivational speech from OPAL Cheryl Bradbury, a sales representative for Merck Pharmaceuticals.

The OPALS disclosed that they each came from the same sort of homes that the girls did. Their message was the girls could overcome their obstacles and succeed too. As the girls listened quietly many picked up the rose petals strewn on the white paper table clothes and pressed the cool thick leaves to their cheeks, foreheads, chins and noses.

The girls received a bag of goodies from the Mary Kay volunteers. OPALS gave each girl a long stem red rose as a parting gift and announced plans to make the seminar an annual event.

Holding her rose as she walked to the door, one beaming girl said, "This is great."



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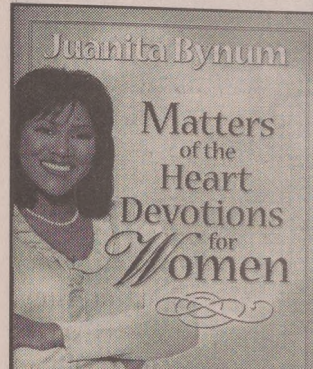
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BOOK REVIEW

by Tangelia Murph



MATTERS OF THE HEART DEVOTIONS FOR WOMEN

Adapted from her best-selling book *Matters of the Heart*, Juanita Bynum's new devotional encourages readers to be sure they are not living under the rule of the old heart but are experiencing the new heart that God promises to his children.

While confessing she was "converted" to Christ earlier in life, Bynum later came to believe that she was operating from a "works" orientation. She was convinced that she needed to ask God to give her a new heart. In these

devotions, she encourages readers to examine their own hearts to be sure they are in right relationship with God and are not being controlled by the carnal mind.

She urges believers to renew their minds and care for their new hearts through deliverance, repentance from habitual sin and maintaining spiritual disciplines. Otherwise, she asserts, ultimately Satan will come and replace the new heart with an evil one.

Juanita Bynum explains that if you do not purify your heart, the very thing that you once enjoyed with your old heart will ambush you and eventually destroy you.

God wants to do a complete transformation from the inside out. He has already provided a donor for this vital procedure. The heart that rested inside Jesus is available for transplant into your life.

Readers, you will benefit as you dig a little deeper and explore the heart/mind connection and see why this key to intimacy with God is so vital to a healthy, satisfying and effective life.

Available at: Reader's Choice Books and Gift Expressions, 4301 34th Street South, Suite 102, St. Petersburg, outside store front at the Maxi-Mall; down the sidewalk from the produce store, open seven days a week, (727) 867-3696.



TYLER PERRY'S "MADEA'S CLASS REUNION"

From homelessness to sheer bliss.

Thirty-four-year-old playwright, director, producer and actor Tyler Perry is truly riding high within the span of only four years. He has gone from being

out on the streets to selling out theaters wherever he goes, with not only one show, but four shows successfully touring the nation and making a change in theater history.

The New Orleans native has had a stellar year and is showing no signs of letting up. Perry's fourth stage play is *Madea's Class Reunion*. Mabel "Madea" Simmons has decided to "go on head an' go" to her 50th class reunion. That is of course, if she can manage to stay one step ahead of the cops long enough to get there! Join Madea, Brown and the unforgettable Dr. Willie Leroy as they get "caught up" in the emotional trials and hilarious antics of many other memorable guests during their stay at the fabulous Pandora Hotel. If you want to laugh, laugh, laugh like you have never done before, then you must see all of Tyler Perry's stage plays: The extremely popular 'Diary of a Mad Black Woman,' 'Madea's Family Reunion,' 'I Can Do Bad All By Myself,' and newly released 'Madea's Class Reunion.' Guaranteed to get your laugh on!!

Salon from front page

a victim of domestic violence and had sought refuge at local shelters.

"I wanted to do something to honor her memory," Moore said.

"She had some deep, down violence in her life," Tammy's mother Mary Moore said of her deceased daughter. "That's why this project is so special. I feel humbled and honored to be able to do this for other women."

The women were treated to a catered lunch that included a menu of Popeye's Chicken and sandwiches from Chili's Restaurant. Other sponsors included Winn Dixie, Krispy Kreme Donuts, St. Pete Donut House, and Kash N Karry.

AmSouth Bank held a clothing drive that netted a new wardrobe for the women and their children.

"It's important to help them rebuild blocks of their self-esteem," said Nikki Miller, an AmSouth representative. "Getting a new hairdo and wardrobe is the first step toward them saying I'm Ok and I deserve better."

After nourishing their bodies, it was time for the women to take care of their souls.

The women gathered at the Harvest Time International Church located next door to the salon and received a spiritual pep talk from Therese Evans, the human resource director of Cardinal Health.

"Today, it's all about you," Evans told the women. "Now that you look beautiful on the outside, it's time to work on your insides."

Evans told the women not to dwell on their past, but to focus on their future. "We all fall down. But, the beauty and the grace of it all is that we have the ability to get back up again."

Moore is going to make sure other battered women receive the same message of hope. She plans to host a "Day of Pampering" every six months. The next one will be held a few days before Mother's Day.

"I want to be a servant of God," Moore concluded. "It has always been a life-long dream of mine to give back and serve."

Tammy Moore would also like to extend a special thanks to the patrons of A Precious Touch Salon for the generous donations of clothing.

Midtown Technology Center Hosts Half-Day Café

ST. PETERSBURG — The Midtown Technology Center recently celebrated its first event of the year, the Half Day Café, with the theme "a place to feed your body and mind." The event, a huge success, focused on building family strengths by encouraging family literacy skills. More than 150 people were in attendance.

The event showcased eight workstations, set up to feature programs such as Creative Computers, Graphing Goodies, Make and Take for Your Home, It's All About the Benjamins, Make and Play Games, Friendship Quilt, Games Galore, and Pumpkins and Popcorn. Participants were given a menu and were required to visit at least five of the eight workstations to enter the drawing for door prizes and food. The finale was Final Jeopardy.

Family reading time was also a point of interest. Brenda Nelson, the Midtown Center's program

manager, read books to families who stopped at the Friendship Quilt. The St. Petersburg Times provided newspapers all who were in attendance. Free books provided by the Even Start Program were given to participants who turned in their complete evaluation.

Sponsors for the Midtown Half Day Café included: Midtown Technology Center, *The St. Petersburg Times*, Lakewood Community School, Pinellas Education Foundation, People Matter, Inc., Pinellas County Schools, Even Start, Youth Build, Front Porch Community Office, Title One, NAACP, Scholarship for Adult Vocational Education (S.A.V.E.), and Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.).

For more information, stop by and visit the NAACP headquarters located at 1501 16th St. S., or call Brenda Nelson, program manager, at (727) 898-3310.

Read The Weekly Challenger on the web:
www.theweeklychallenger.com

New Front Porch Office Hours

The Front Porch St. Petersburg Community Office located at 1523 16th Street South has new office hours. The new

hours are as follows: Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

TAMPA-- Elementary schools throughout the School District of Hillsborough County will be holding information meet-

ings now through May 11, for parents with students entering kindergarten in August 2004.


The round-ups, which

began Dec. 2, include information on enrollment requirements, such as proof of residence and immunization records, as

well as schedules. Faculty and staff will be present to answer parents' questions and help them become familiar with their school.

For more information, get details about upcoming parents should call their child's school directly to


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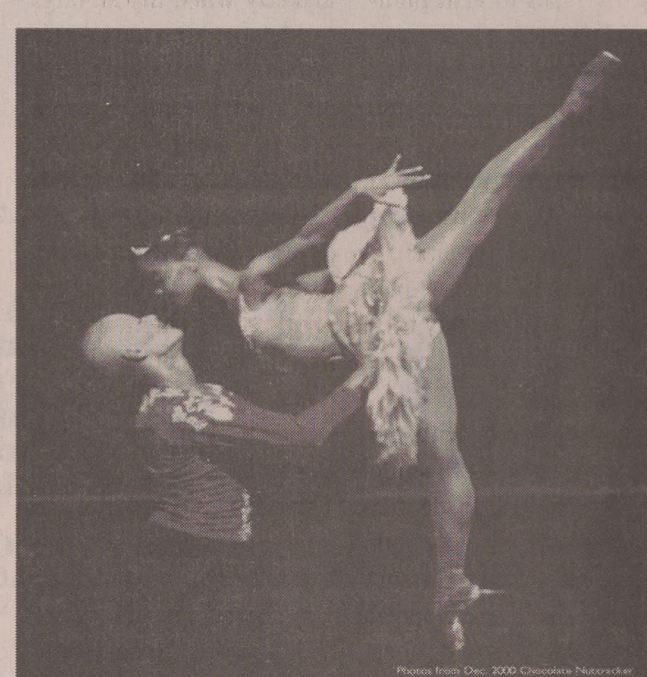


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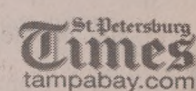
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AIDS REPORT

A Quarter of People Tested for AIDS Don't Collect the Results

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) - About 25 percent of people who go for an HIV test never return to find out the result, says the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. A separate survey, released by Witeck-Combs Communications and Harris Interactive in the run up to World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, found that whites and heterosexuals are least likely to take HIV tests in the first instance.

Across America the U.S., 58 percent of African Americans and 45 percent of Hispanics said they had taken at least one HIV test, found the survey.

The most likely to be tested, however, were so-called GLBT adults (gay,

lesbian, bisexual and transgender), 65 percent of whom have been tested once or more.

Although the three groups have a disproportionately high infection rate, members of other groups are still vulnerable and should be tested, say experts. Only 41 percent of heterosexual adults have been tested for HIV.

According to the survey, the most common reason people cited for not being tested is a belief that they are not at risk.

A United Nations report last week estimated that around the world 46 million people have HIV/AIDS. As many as one million of them are Americans.

Catholic Groups Call on Bishops to Accept Condom Use

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) - More than 20 Catholic organizations this month called on bishops to reject Vatican doctrine and accept condoms as a method for fighting AIDS, according to a report in *The New York Times*.

The Catholic Church forbids the use of condoms, even between husband and wife when one is infected with HIV/AIDS.

Yet, ironically, the Church is one of the world's biggest AIDS-care groups, providing about a quarter of all non-governmental assistance to AIDS

victims worldwide.

Despite the Church's ruling, however, the Times reports that some Catholics in Latin America are advocating condom use to fight AIDS.

In the Guatemalan town of Coatepeque, the Maryknoll sisters run an AIDS clinic, which includes educating schoolchildren and prostitutes on how condoms prevent HIV infection.

"Certainly, God does not want us to kill each other," said Marlene Condon, a worker at the clinic. "You've got to do something."

AIDS Third Biggest Killer of 25-44 Yr. Old African Americans

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) - African-Americans are being hit hardest by HIV/AIDS in the US with most infections and most deaths from the virus, finds a new survey.

More than half the new HIV infections in America during the past three years

were among African-Americans, found the 29-state study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It also listed AIDS as the third biggest killer of African-Americans aged 25 to 44.

Over all, new HIV diagnoses increased 5.1 percent between 1999 and

MTV Gives Mandela's AIDS-Day Concert Free to World TV Networks



by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) - To promote World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, MTV allowed TV and radio stations around the world show for free a concert organized by Nelson Mandela's AIDS awareness group that featured ex-Beatle Paul McCartney, Beyonce, U2's Bono.

The concert - which was taped Nov. 29 in Cape Town, South Africa - was a joint event organized by Mandela's 46664 group and MTV's Staying Alive campaign. (46664 was

Mandela's prison number while serving time on Robbin Island for his anti-apartheid activities)

MTV estimated that the free broadcast rights allowed up to two billion people around the world to watch or listen to the event.

More than 50 broadcasters signed up. They included the BBC World Service (worldwide audience: 150 million), America's Infinity Broadcasting radio stations; the UK's Channel Four; Germany's ZDF; Hong Kong's ATV; and South Africa's SABC.

High School Blocks AIDS Brochures

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) - A Kentucky high school ordered brochures containing safe-sex information for gay and lesbian teenagers to be removed from a school health fair.

Teachers at Scott County High School, Georgetown, reportedly ordered members of AIDS Volunteers Inc (AVI) not to display four brochures: "Young and Gay: Protect Yourself," "Lesbians and HIV: Are You at Risk?" "Safer Sex, Better Too," and "Safer Sex Can Be Fun."

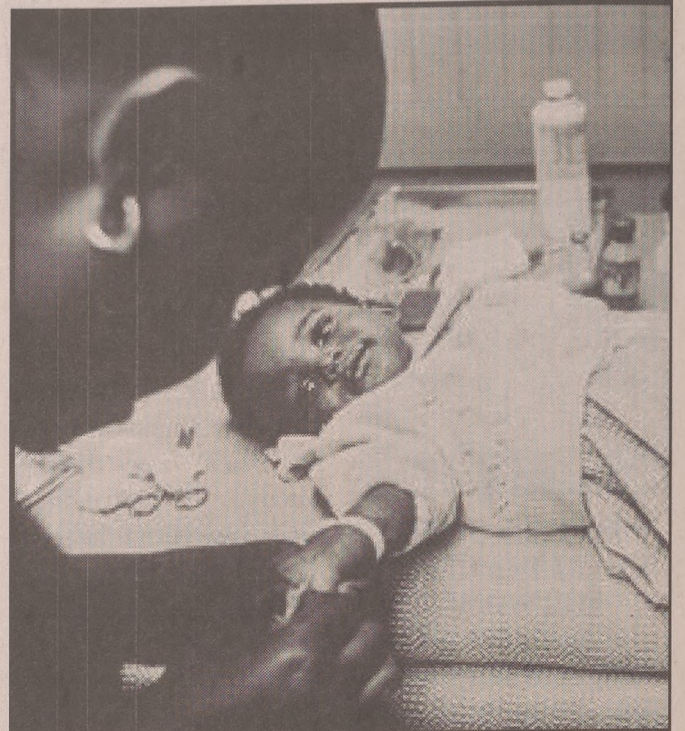
They were also told they couldn't display any

material written for gay and lesbian teens, any information about homosexual acts or any material containing the rainbow Gay Pride logo, AVI's executive director Cathy Cox was quoted as saying in the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Safe-sex information for heterosexuals was allowed to stay.

Principal Doug Southworth is reported as saying he doesn't think schools should supply information promoting sex or safe sex. "I don't want us to be seen as promoting sex in any fashion."

In U.S., Fewer Babies Born with AIDS



by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) - In the past decade, the number of babies born in the US with HIV dropped by more than 80 percent, says a study by the Center for Disease Control.

An infected mother can pass on HIV to her child during pregnancy, labor or, after the child is born, through breast feeding.

Medical experts say that this mother-child transmission can usually

be prevented by drug therapy during and after the birth.

Promotion of this drug treatment is thought to be the reason why America's infant infection rate dropped from 1,760 cases in 1991 to just 280 in 2000. But elsewhere, particularly in developing countries, the rates are much higher. The World Health Organization estimates that last year about 800,000 infants around the world became infected with AIDS.

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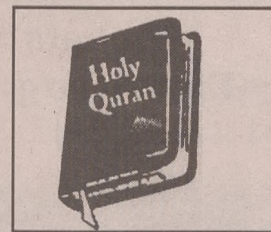
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

More Than 100 Prisoners to be Released from U.S. Custody in Guantanamo

by Frank Griffiths

Associated Press Writer
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — More than 100 prisoners will be released from U.S. custody at the detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and more will follow, military officials said.

It wasn't clear if the men and boys to be transferred from Guantanamo would face further detention or prosecution in their own countries. The first of two new transfers is scheduled for the end of December, and the other in January, the official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The official did not say where the prisoners would be sent and a military spokeswoman declined last Sunday to provide details about future transfers from the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"We do expect there will be other transfers but because of operational procedures, I can't talk about any details," Lt. Col. Pamela Hart said. "We only talk about detainee movements after an operation is complete."

The military official

who spoke on condition of anonymity said that one of the boys who would be transferred shot and killed a special operations soldier in Afghanistan, where a U.S.-led coalition ousted the Taliban regime in late 2001 and 11,500 American troops remain.

The military official did not provide details about the incident, including the boy's age, name or where or when the alleged shooting occurred. But he said that the boy apparently pretended to be dead, then opened fire on the American.

The official did not know why the boy was being released from U.S. custody, but the military has said previously that the main purpose of the detention mission is intelligence gathering.

Last Sunday, a Canadian citizen returned home after being released in October from Guantanamo. Abdulhaman Khadr was captured in Afghanistan and held as an "enemy combatant" by U.S. authorities for nine months, he told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

Khadr, the son of a sus-

pected al-Qaida financier, said U.S. authorities refused to return him to Canada and instead flew him to Afghanistan.

After his release, Khadr went to Iran and then Turkey before arriving late last week in Bosnia, he told CBC.

At the Canadian Embassy in Sarajevo, Khadr, who did not have a passport, was given a special permit to return to Canada, he told CBC. He was accompanied on his return to Toronto by a Canadian consular official.

The United States holds about 660 prisoners from 44 countries at the base in eastern Cuba but the government declines to provide a breakdown of their citizenship, ages or the reasons they are being held.

The government has not charged them or given them access to lawyers.

The United States has released 88 of the prisoners since the government began holding suspects at the base in Cuba in January 2002.

Gen. Geoffrey Miller, the official in charge of the detention mission, said last

Wednesday that the three youngest boys at the jail, who range from 13 to 15 would be transferred soon, but he did not give a date.

Before their capture by U.S. forces in Afghanistan, some of the youths held at the base were sexually abused; and they have received therapy at Guantanamo, the official said. The boys are kept separate from the adult population at the jail.

Separately, Britain and the United States are negotiating a deal to send nine British detainees back home.

Clive Stafford Smith, a U.S.-based British human rights lawyer, told *The Observer*, a British newspaper, that two of the nine British detainees, Asif Iqbal and Shafiq Rasul, were likely to be released and not charged with a crime while the other seven would serve sentences in British jails after pleading guilty to unspecified charges in the United States.

The British Foreign Office declined to confirm the report and said that discussions with U.S. officials were continuing.

Colin Powell Visits N. Africa, Tunisian Group Says He's Unwelcome

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) — American Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived in Tunisia last Tuesday to begin a whistlestop tour to north Africa; but human rights groups from that country have said he is not welcome.

"We do not welcome ... Colin Powell here because the US is occupying Iraq and continuing its support to Israel to kill Palestin-

ians," said Mokhtar Trifi, chairman of the Tunisia's only independent rights group, the Tunisian Human Rights League.

"This is the opinion of all human rights groups and democratic parties in Tunisia," he said at a meeting called by five opposition parties and civic groups to discuss US policy in the area.

Washington officials said that Powell's two-day

trip to Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco is intended to gain support for the US-led so-called War on Terror. They also said that the trip aimed to encourage Arab countries to become democracies.

Trifi and others speaking at the meeting suspect that America is actually trying undermine Muslim resistance to US domination in the Arab world, according to a Reuters

report.

As Arabs we need democracy, but we do not need the American version of democracy, which comes on top of army tanks [as is happening in] Iraq, where U.S. occupying troops kill Iraqis without discrimination."

The Tunisian government is a supporter of America's War on Terror.

African Religious Leaders Slam Bush's Broken AIDS Promises

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) — Religious leaders from around Africa have written to U.S. President George Bush to criticize what they call his "unfulfilled commitments" to fighting AIDS.

Eighty-five inter-faith leaders co-signed the letter, which accused Bush of trying to wriggle out of his \$15 billion pledge to fight AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean, made in his State of the Union address

earlier this year.

"President Bush only asked the Congress for \$2 billion of the \$15 billion he announced last January for the fight against AIDS and other infectious diseases," the letter said. "The Senate added \$400 million to that."

The group also said that the AIDS epidemic and the huge national debts of poor nations were "linked scourges." In their letter, they called for

Bush's 2005 budget request to include \$5 billion to combat AIDS and "complete debt cancellation for impoverished nations."

African nations alone spent more than \$9 billion on debt repayment in 2001, the latest year for which accurate figures are published, says the Jubilee USA Network. This is much more than the \$2.4 billion Congress has allowed for AIDS work.

Some of the signatories

staged a vigil outside the U.S. Treasury Department in Washington last Monday, World AIDS Day.

Others spoke to reporters at a press conference.

"This is the issue Jesus talked so much about," said Rev. James Wallis of Call to Renewal, a coalition of religious groups working to fight poverty. "As you have done to the least of them, so you have done to me."

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Haitian Government Promises Legal Action Over Video Game

by Michael Norton

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — An American video game that encourages players to kill Haitians has outraged the Haitian government, which said last Saturday, would pursue legal action.

New York-based Rockstar Games Inc. makes "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City," a game where an ex-convict is hired to recover stolen drug money in the streets of Miami. In his pursuit, he faces police officers and gangsters from Cuba and Haiti.

As the drama increases and the ex-convict wields a machete, knife, gun and baseball bat, the game urges players to "kill the Haitians" and "kill the Cubans."

"This racist game is psychologically extremely dangerous, and is an incitement to genocide," said government spokesman Mario Dupuy.

The game, which sells for about \$40-50, has been called a "game that dehumanizes all groups of people" by the Minneapolis-based National Institute on Media and the Family. The game has reportedly brought \$260 million in sales.

Haitian-Americans and elected officials gathered in New York in recent days to protest the game.

Henry Frank, executive director of the Haitian Centers Council in Brooklyn, called the game violent and racist and accused

Rockstar of manufacturing a controversial product to boost sales. The group is also considering filing a lawsuit against the company.

Sen. Carl Andrews, D-Brooklyn, said he would propose a bill to ban the game.

A spokesman for Rockstar's parent company, Take 2 Interactive Software Inc., said in a statement that no harm was intended. "We empathize with the concerns of the Haitian community and we are giving serious consideration to them," said the spokesman, Jim Ankner. "There was no intention to offend any ethnic group."

A \$246 million lawsuit against Rockstar and its parent company has already been filed by the families of two people shot by teenagers in Tennessee. Retailer Wal-Mart and marketer Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc., are also named in the lawsuit.

Aaron Hamel, 45, was killed and Kimberly Bede,

19, was seriously wounded when their cars were hit June 25 by .22-caliber bullets while driving outside of Knoxville, Tenn.

Stepbrothers William Buckner, 16, and Joshua Buckner, 14, were sentenced in August to an indefinite term after pleading guilty to reckless homicide, endangerment and assault.

The boys told investigators they got the rifles from a locked room in their home and decided to randomly shoot at tractor-trailer rigs, just like in the video game "Grand Theft Auto III."

Judge Orders Release of Two Imprisoned Business Leaders in Haiti

by Michael Norton

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A judge ordered the release of two business leaders arrested during an opposition rally more than two weeks ago, saying there were no grounds to hold them.

David Apaid and Charles Henry Baker were released from the national penitentiary to the chants of "Victory, victory" from a crowd of supporters.

Judge Joassaint Saint Clair ordered their release but they were briefly returned to their cells pending approval from deputy

government prosecutor Riquet Brutus.

The pair were detained Nov. 14 when partisans of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide disrupted a rally by a civil society coalition, known as "the 184," who wanted to present proposals for sweeping changes in Haiti.

The rally ended with police firing tear gas into the crowd. No Aristide partisans were arrested, while 25 coalition members were detained when police found three handguns in a vehicle owned by Baker.

Apaid and Baker were jailed while the others were

released.

The gun permits had expired; but, since police have not renewed any permits since May, they remained valid, their lawyers said.

Last week, the Organization of American States condemned the detentions, saying they were illegal and appeared "politically-motivated."

Apaid is the nephew of

Andy Apaid Jr., leader of "the 184," that includes business associations, woman's and human rights groups, labor, peasant and student unions.

The arrests have provoked a storm of criticism.

"The government is persecuting the 184 group," said their lawyer, Port-au-Prince Bar Association President Rigaud Duplan, who said there were "no

legal grounds to keep them in prison."

Government spokesman Mario Dupuy, who called the Nov. 14 rally "a provocation," said the executive had no role to play in the case.

Tensions have grown in Haiti since flawed 2000 legislative elections that the opposition charged were rigged.



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STATE NEWS

FAMU

from front pg.

The school also failed to follow standard business practices such as balancing the books each month, according to the Times report. In addition, a federal grant was used for unap-

proved expenses, including travel to London and Paris for the former grant director.

Internal investigations also show the school planned to overspend for leased space and contracted twice for the same consulting work, according to the

report.

State leaders have known about the school's problems, but never fully dealt with them, said Steve Uhlfelder, a member of the Board of Governors.

"I'm not sure we were always tough enough because we were afraid of

criticism. We walked on eggshells with Florida A&M University," he said. "But I don't think this is excusable at any university. It's just not acceptable. It's beyond comprehension."

problem paying it."

Lyons said he hopes to meet with convention members in January, but has no plans to seek any leadership positions.

"I would love to go back to being a pastor, but I understand if I don't. I did an awful lot of counseling while in prison, so that is a possibility."

He is currently working for the Coney Funeral Home, which was part of his work release plan with the prison.

Former Governor Bob Martinez Speaks at Saint Leo University

SAINT LEO, Fla. — Bob Martinez, former governor of Florida and mayor of Tampa, will address the Saint Leo University community today at 11:30 a.m. at Selby Auditorium. Martinez will share his experience as Florida's 40th governor and former drug czar in President George H.W. Bush's Cabinet. The event is free and open to the public. Saint Leo is located at 33701 State Road 52, four miles east of Interstate 75 (exit 285), just north of Tampa.

Originally from Tam-

pa's West Latin community, Martinez was the governor of Florida from 1987 to 1991, the state's second Republican governor in the 20th century, and the state's first Hispanic governor. He also served as the Mayor of Tampa. Martinez currently is the managing director of Carlton Fields' Government Consulting, a firm offering government affairs services to private industry and public entities.

His professional and civic activities include director and past chairman

of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, University of Tampa trustee, honorary director of Lowry Park Zoo, and chair for the Tampa Bay History Center Development Committee. He holds his bachelor's degree from the University of Tampa and his master's degree from the University of Illinois in labor and industrial relations. He has re-

ceived recognition for his contribution to Florida and the Tampa area, including Bob Martinez Middle School (2003), Tampa Bay Marketing Excellence Award (2001), Ben Franklin Distinguished Leadership Award (2001), Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame (2000), and is the recipient of six honorary doctoral degrees (1987-1999).

Pulpit

from front pg.

a restoration ceremony. An old robe - signifying the sins of the past - was removed from him, and a new robe wrapped around him.

"Christianity is about forgiveness, about love. It's about assisting someone who has fallen," said the Rev. Alex Harper Sr., pastor of First Baptist.

Lyons' fall came after

Ex-CEO Gets Five Years in Fraud Scheme Targeting Blacks

MIAMI (AP) — A former securities company CEO who pleaded guilty in a pyramid scheme to fleece \$31 million from primarily black victims was sentenced last Monday to five years in federal prison.

Anthony Blissett, president and chief executive of the defunct A.B. Financing and Investments Inc., pleaded guilty in September to one charge of conspiracy to commit securities fraud.

The sentence by U.S. District Judge Federico A. Moreno was the maximum

allowed. The prison time is to be followed by three years of supervised release.

The Securities and Exchange Commission estimates 2,000 people in Florida and the Caribbean invested a minimum of \$10,000 each in the Miami-based company. Accounts in the five-year-old company were frozen in July.

Unsophisticated investors were told they could get annual returns as high as 30 percent in real estate, securities, commodities, discounted bank notes and trade finance instruments

that the company said were previously offered to only whites and select blacks, SEC investigators said.

Blissett was accused of paying returns to old investors with money from new investors in a classic Ponzi scheme. The company made some investments, but its securities trading alone lost nearly \$2.5 million and the company had only \$314,000 cash by the end of 2001.

Blissett represented to investors that investing with ABFI involved "no risk," and that their funds

would be "guaranteed" and "insured," U.S. Attorney Marcos Daniel Jimenez said last week.

ABFI boasted about having \$36 million in assets when it had a negative net worth of more than \$27 million and had lost \$5 million in 2000 and \$7 million in 2001, prosecutors said.

Alma Carney, 59, from Fort Lauderdale and her aunt were two of the investors.

"We were just suckers," Carney said in September. "It was all the money I had."

Statewide Survey Finds Strong Support for University Funding

More than 80 percent of Floridians oppose cutting the budgets of public universities, even when faced with lower-than-expected state revenues, according to a poll released recently by the State University Presidents Association.

Conducted by the Florida Center for Public Policy and Leadership at the University of North Florida (UNF), the poll found strong support for higher education and widespread concern among residents that inadequate state funding could jeopardize the quality of programs and access to universities. The survey showed that universities have greater public support than public safety and transportation when it comes to spending taxpayers' dollars.

The survey found that nearly 70 percent of Floridians are somewhat or very concerned that their child or another member of their family will not have access to higher education in the next 20 years. Likewise, about 54 percent said it would not be possible for state government to reduce the amount of money that universities receive without lowering the quality of education.

The Florida Center's Public Opinion Research Laboratory contacted more than 1,000 Floridians in

October for the survey, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent with a 95 percent confidence level.

"We need to give credit to the citizens of Florida who clearly recognize that failing to properly fund higher education in our state could have disastrous effects on its future," said John Hitt, chair of the State University Presidents Association and president of the University of Central Florida. "Florida's 11 public universities provide an educated work force, research that benefits the public and a strong economic impact on Florida."

More than six out of 10 residents supported the state spending at least as much as the U.S. per-student average on higher education. Per-student funding in Florida is 16 percent lower than it was four years ago and less than what it was in the 1980s. In 2002, Florida's adjusted per-student spending was \$5,169 for universities compared with a national per-student average of \$6,262. Last year, the State University System budget was cut by \$40 million, student growth was not funded and new construction projects were severely curtailed.

UNF President John Delaney said the survey illustrates the importance Floridians place on higher

education.

"I believe it sends a strong message to the Legislature that voters believe an adequately funded public university system is vital to Florida's future," he said.

Despite recent budget cuts, the survey found that 73 percent of Floridians rate the quality of the state's universities as good or excellent. Nearly 68 percent say the state's public universities offer a good value for the money.

Six of 10 Floridians supported more spending on public colleges and universities. By contrast, only 47 percent advocated more spending on public safety such as police and prisons and only 42 percent advocated more spending on roads and highways. The only area that received stronger support for more spending was primary and secondary schools, which was supported by 77 percent of respondents.

The survey found that three-quarters of the state's residents believe universities are very important to creating a well-trained work force in Florida, while nearly 85 percent

said they were very important to enhancing research and technology. The majority of residents polled also said universities were very important to enhancing the quality of life, bringing federal grants and contracts into the state, keeping young people in Florida and creating a sense of pride in the state.

The statewide poll is part of the Quality and Access information campaign launched by Florida's 11 public universities earlier last month. The campaign is designed to raise the general public's awareness of the funding challenges faced by Florida's universities.

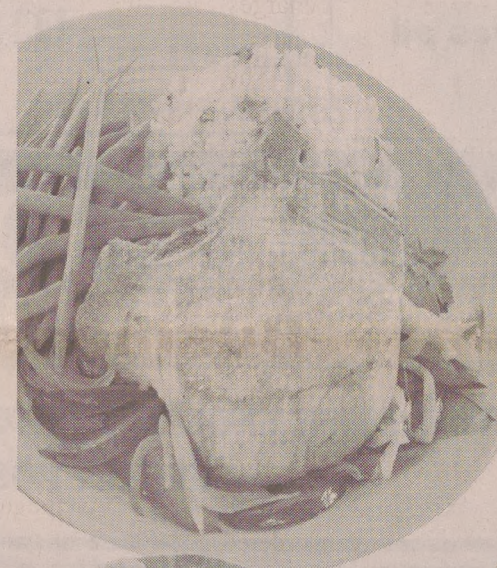
The full results of the poll can be found on the campaign's web site at www.qualityandaccess.org or on the web site of the Florida Center at www.unf.edu/thefloridacenter.

The Public Opinion Research Lab at the Florida Center serves as a resource for public policymakers, faculty researchers, government agencies, non-profit agencies, businesses and students at Florida's universities.

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

Advent Emphasis at New Philadelphia

Second Sunday of Advent season will be worship focus at New Philadelphia. Church family will observe this sacred season with lighting of second candle in Advent and placement of the symbolic wreath. Holy Communion will be served and Pastor will offer proclamation for Advent. Members are urged to be present and prompt.

Christian commenda-

tions are in order for Women's Ministry and their superb Christian effort in coordinating this year's church anniversary observance. Mid-morning worship service throughout November was both joyous and spiritually inspiring. The worship booklet for the month was filled with information which provided a historical listing of ministry activities during church's thirteen year his-

tory.

Anniversary souvenir booklets will be given out at Sunday's mid-morning worship. These program mementoes will also be issued to the many businesses, families, and individuals, who purchased space for advertisement, and convey congratulations to the New Philadelphia Church family's 13 years of "togetherness!"

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

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Pastor Carlos L. Senior along with the New Hope Family invite each and everyone to come worship with us. We are the church of the open door. Sunday school starts at 9 a.m. with Sister Brenda Adams in charge. Parents bring your children and yourselves to learn more about the God we serve. A spirit filled devotion begins at 10:15 a.m. with the Deacons of New Hope in charge. Holy

Communion and Baptism will take place at our 10:30 a.m. service. The Mass Choir will render song and praise service under the tutelage of Minister Tony Young assisted by Brother Vernard McKinney. Sister Bobbie Tampa will direct. The Bread of Life will be served by Pastor Senior. Please come and join us.

Pastor Senior along with the New Hope family would like to extend a hearty "Thank You" to all who attended and con-

tributed to the successful culmination of our Installation Services.

Weekly Events:
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Band Thursday 11 a.m.

Mass Choir Rehearsal Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events:
Christmas Program Sunday, Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m.

Watch Night Services Wednesday, Dec. 31 (Time to be announced)

The Lord looks down from heaven, He sees all the sons of men. - Psalm 33

Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

Cub Scout Parent Breakfast and Registration, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m., Dec. 20. Anyone wanting to volunteer and have fun, come out to MZPMBC. Please meet with us in the fellowship hall.

Lakewood / Junior Spartan Awards Night, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m. Awards will be given to cheerleaders and football players in our community.

Mt. Zion will be having its annual Christmas Program Dec. 21, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. All are cordially invited to come worship with us. Bring the family and a friend.

Calling all experienced Drummers!!! We need you for two big performances; Sunday, Jan. 18 and Monday, Jan. 19. Please call Everard Harris, (727) 866-1034 for details.

Mt. Zion's Youth Ministry needs volunteers for Wednesday Nights, please call Bro. Troy

Gidron at, (727) 864-3550 for further details.

Calling all RN'S, CNA'S and LPN'S. The Wellness Ministry is organizing the component of the Nurses Guild to their Ministry. Please contact Sister Carolyn Swanson, (727) 825-6692 or fill out a form located in the Church foyer.

Mt. Zion Before & After School Care Program for ages 5-13 is also accepting applications. We offer pick up & drop off to school each morning & afternoon, early pick up on half days, and all day care most school holidays. For before and aftercare rates, call Jan Smith, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., (727) 894-4311, ext. 402.

The Reading Enhancement Program - applications for children/students that are interested in the program are being accepted. Teachers and volunteers

are 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, 6 p.m. - 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, or Brother Peter Smith, (727) 895-9261. WE ARE IN NEED OF VAN DRIVERS.

In observance of the Christmas Holidays, the administrative offices will be closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 2.

Pleasant Grove M.B. Church



L-R; Deputy Mayor Goliath Davis, Rev. Joseph Gordon, Councilwoman Rene Flowers

A retirement dinner was given on behalf of Pastor Emeritus Rev. Joseph Gordon on Nov. 8 at the St. Petersburg Country Club. This lovely affair was attended by many members of Pleasant Grove and friends.

The key to the city was also presented to Rev. Gordon by Deputy Mayor of Midtown Goliath Davis and City Councilwoman Rene Flowers. Pastor Evans of Friendship and Pastor Jones of Galilee gave inspiring words on the program, and Pastor Wayne

Thompson of First Baptist gave the message.

The committee members who worked to make this event successful were Marion Williams, Thelma Ferguson, Kay Curry, Beth Davis, Gladys Davis, Monica McIntosh and Ida Abner.

Rev. Gordon was pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church for 45 years, where the membership has grown from 25 members to over 2000.

PRAYER HELPS

Forget not the Lord and His many blessings!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Greater Light AME Zion Church



1400 9th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 823-3611

TuesdayBible Study 7 p.m.
FridayEvangelistic Service 7 p.m.

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

Pastor Dr. Henry Jones

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

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

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP
CENTRAL

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Except God build the
house they labor in
vain that build it.
Ps. 127:1

GRACE



CENTER

SERVICE
Sunday School
9:30 - 10:30
Morning Worship 10:30
Evening Worship 6:30
Wed. - Pray 7:00
Bible Study 7:30

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Phone
(813) 328-9412
NURSERY AND
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH
AVAILABLE

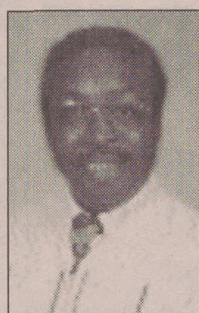
Pastor Leonard Wilson • Phone: 536-1890

Emmanuel Christian Fellowship Inc.

3501 37th. St. So. • St. Pete, FL 33711
Church: 867-4144

Pastor: Elder Franklin Evans
Co-Pastor: Sis. Rebecca L. Evans
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.
Bible Study (Monday) 7:00 p.m.
Youth Bible Study (Tuesday) 6:30 p.m.
Prayer (Wednesday) 6:30 p.m.
Prayer (Tues. & Thurs.) 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Prayer (Sat.) 6:00 a.m.

"All Are Welcome" • "Bring A Friend"



Moore's Chapel AME 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"

WHEN LIFE KNOCKS YOU TO YOUR KNEES, YOU'RE IN THE PERFECT POSITION TO PRAY!

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
Weds.-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
Johannie Mae Howard
Call: 727 895-5239



A Woman After
God's
Own Heart...



Spiritually Connected
Call for Prayers &
Testimonies

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

YPWW First and Third Sunday of
Each Month after Morning Service



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.

Good Samaritan Baptist Church

1820 - 18th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712
Ph: (727) 821-3265



The Rev. Larry Williams,
Pastor

The congregation would like to invite you and your family to worship with us. Come as you are!

Sunday Service8:45 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

"The Church of Love, Healing and Restoration"

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."

GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

919 - 20th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Early Morning Worship 7:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

All Male Bible Study Weds. 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Bible Study Monday 6:00 p.m.
Vintage Bible Study Wednesday 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Live Broadcast WRXB (Every Sunday 8:30 a.m.)
Tape Ministry • Bus Ministry

Need a tape of a service or transportation - Dial 894-1393
("The church with a heart in the heart of the city")



Rev. Clarence Williams,
Pastor

Travelers' Rest Missionary Baptist Church

The Pastoral staff and congregation extend heartfelt greetings of welcome to all visitors. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him." (Romans 15:13)

Worship Times:
8 a.m. Contemporary
9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Traditional Ministry of the Word will be preached by Pastor Browne at both services. The Praise Team will provide music ministry at the 8 a.m. and Konsonant Choir at 11 a.m. Holy Communion will be served at both services.

The Konsonant Choir under the direction of Sister Helen William Edwards will have a musical program on Friday,

Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. Guest choirs and soloists will highlight this blessed event.

The Church family is reminded of our fellowship on Wednesday, Dec. 10 with the Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate their church's 51st Anniversary.

Weekly Activities:
Thursday, Dec. 4: 11 a.m. Mid-Day Bible Study and Nursing Home

Visitation, 7 p.m. Konsonant Choir Rehearsal
Friday, Dec. 5: 6 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal; 7 p.m. Konsonant Choir Musical Program

Saturday, Dec. 6: 9 a.m. Men's Ministry Breakfast Meeting; 10 a.m. Deaconess Ministry Meeting

Monday, Dec. 8: 5:30

p.m. Youth Choir Rehearsal/Bible Study
Tuesday, Dec. 9: 7 p.m. Trustee Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 10: 7 p.m. Worship with Gethsemane

We welcome you to fellowship with us during any of our worship services or programs. For additional information, contact the church office at (727) 822-4869.

School Information: If you filled out paperwork at the school service center for Fundamental or Magnet Schools for 2004, you have until Dec. 10 to accept or go on a waiting list.

Have a Blessed Week!!!

Brooksville: Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

Pastor Lowery, officers, and the Elizabeth Black Missionary Society would like to thank everyone who came out to share in our service on Nov. 30. After the Church School which began at 9:15 a.m., Supt. Calvin Lawson informed the members that we would enjoy a brief repast of hot chocolate and donuts before the beginning of the worship service at 11 a.m.

The service on the 5th Sunday of November this year marked the beginning of the Advent Season. The first Advent candle was lit on this Sunday, and additionally on the next three Sundays a candle will be lit, leading up to Christmas Eve, when in addition to the other four candles, the last candle, known as "The Christ Candle," will be lit. You will read more about our Christmas Eve candlelight service in the following weeks.

At our 11 a.m. worship service, Sis. Lucille Byam,

Vice President of the Missionary Society, did a beautiful job of presiding over the service. In addition to Sis. Erma Willis from Lakeland, who did the invocation, Sis. Jernice Martin, Sis. Ruby Fletcher, Sis. Beulah Lawson, the mass choir accompanied by Sis. Cook, Minister of Music, and the youth usher board who were beautifully attired in new royal blue outfits, all assisted Sis. Byam in making sure that everything ran smoothly.

The Advent portion of the service and lighting of the first candle (the "candle of hope") was done by our Christian Education Director, Sis. Nadine Lowery, assisted by Sis. Jacqueline Mack, who did the meditation, and her daughter, Cailah, who was asked to light the first candle. Each succeeding Sunday of Advent, a family will assist in the lighting of the Advent candles, and the meditations.

Then, we were blessed to have with us, the Rev.

Roy Bailey from New York, who delivered a spirit-filled message taken from Ezekiel 37:1-2; subject, "Do You See What I See?" The Rev. Bailey was visiting with his in-laws, Bro. Nathaniel, and Sis. Vera Chester, along with the rest of their family.

Remember, you are welcome to visit our church at any time. You will find the Holy Spirit waiting for you here. This week, our bible study and Love Feast will be on Thursday, Dec. 4, beginning at 6 p.m. Next Sunday, Dec. 7 at the 11 a.m. worship service, we will have the lighting of the second candle of Advent.

Holy Communion will be celebrated after the sermon by our Pastor Lowery.

Call for further information (353)796-1955 or Pastor Lowery at (727)866-0126.

Have a Blessed week, and my God continue to smile on you and your families. Remember always that LOVE MAKES THE

Pentecostal Temple C.O.G.I.C.

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." (Psalm 107:1)

The prevailing word for this holiday season is that we ought to give thanks to God for His many, many blessings. In spite of, regardless of and in the face of unfavorable and challenging circumstances, God is still GOOD. Daily we receive new mercies and benefits that give us a reason to be thankful (Lamentations 3:22, 23; Psalm 68:19). An "attitude of gratitude" will keep us from murmuring, complaining and discouragement.

Deacon Sam Holcombe, Jr. addressed the congregation on the 5th Sunday on behalf of the Pastor's Aide Ministry. He spoke to us from Genesis 21:10 with the thought of "Addressing a Mistake." The true blessings of God come to us when we wait patiently on His method and His timing. Whenever we try to "help God out,"

we will always find ourselves out of His perfect will and making mistakes that will cause us much grief and pain. However, if we will acknowledge our mistakes and seek His forgiveness, He will forgive us and fulfill His plans for our lives even if it means doing it by way of a miracle.

Pastor Anderson reminded us that we have all, at one time or another, made some terrible mistakes and suffered the consequences. But God is ever merciful when we turn to Him; He remains faithful and longs to bless us.

The ladies of Pentecostal Temple will be having a Super Sidewalk Sale this Saturday, Dec. 6 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. In addition to the fine array of clothes and household items, there will be items for holiday gift giving. Grilled chicken, soft drinks and water will also be available for a small donation.

GOD ANSWERS KNEE MAIL

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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.



Rev. Clyde Williams

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
Tuesday 7 PM Youth Church Enrichment
Wednesday Noonday Bible Study and Bread of Life
7 PM Prayer and Bible Study

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.

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



Rev. Roosevelt Hardy
Pastor

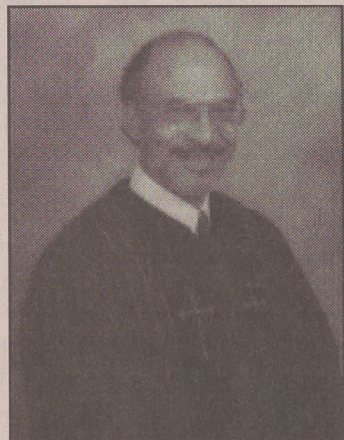
Church School 9:00 A.M.
New Member Class 9:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Prayer / Bible Study Tuesday 7:00 PM.
Youth Bible Study Thursday 6:00 PM.

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 (Wed.)

Rev. Donald F. Browne



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

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)



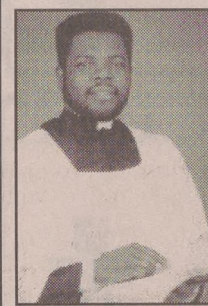
Pastor Louis M. Murphy, Sr.

Pentecostal Temple 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"

FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

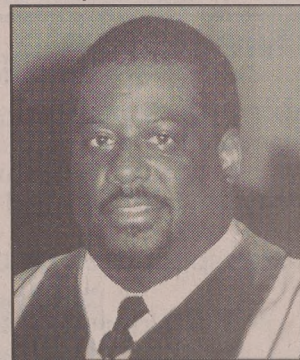
3144 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FL
PHONE: 323-7518

REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

COME WORSHIP WITH
THE FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY



Are you doing what God wants you to do?
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816 E. Genesee St.
Tampa, FL 33603



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

Friendship M.B. Church

The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church family, under the leadership of Pastor John A. Evans, Sr., welcomes your presence worship service this Sunday for worship service and to all church-related activities and events during the week.

Services begin at 7:45 a.m. Devotion is led by the Deacons Ministry, the Voices of Friendship (all choirs) will sing songs of praise, the ushers will greet you and Pastor Evans will preach the divine Word of God.

Church School com-

mences 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. Holy Communion will be served at both the 7:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services.

Congratulations, Pastor Evans, on your newly-elected position as second vice moderator of the West Coast Baptist District Association. We know you will serve well. Praise the Lord.

The Brotherhood/-

Men's Ministry is now taking donations in preparation for our annual Christmas Toy Ministry. For additional information, please see Brother Nelms, Deacon Wesley or Brother Crum. The toy boxes and sign-up sheets are in the Atrium. Our support is important for this ministry to be successful again this year, as well as the Angel Tree. Rushon Gillette is the county coordinator and Lillie Jackson is the church coordinator.

Schedule of events:
Tuesday, Dec. 9 - 7 p.m., Youth Church Enrichment, and all Youth Ministries - please plan to attend.
Wednesday, Dec. 10 - Noonday Bible Study; also from 12-2 p.m., Bread of Life Ministry serving lunch

to all needy in the community; 7 p.m., Prayer Service, Praise Team, Proclamation - Bible Study.

Applicants wanted: The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is accepting resumes for an organist. If you are interested or know of someone, please contact the church office at (727) 906-8300 or the Minister of Music John Frazier at (727) 866-1172.

Let us continue to keep all of our sick and shut-in members lifted up in prayer and love, as well as the bereaved families. Bereaved families are: the Clark family in the passing of Shepherd Clark and Minister Mack Harvey and Lorene Tate who lost their mother, Mary Harvey.

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church



L-R (seated): Helen Protho, Mittie Pound, lillian Coon, Bertha Williams, Elmer Lockhart, Jr., Elizabeth Lockhart, Vivian T. Harmon, Mission President. (standing): Alferdia Kinsey, Ruthie Mayes, Laura Johnson, Minister Diane Harrell, Deacon Ruben Mayes, Vinnie Hurst, Agnes Howard, Morer Bolds, Fashay Hurst

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church invites you to join us on Sunday for our 8 and 11 a.m. Worship Services, and Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.;

Wednesday evening at 6:30 for Prayer Service, and 7 for Bible study. The #1 Ushers and Inspirational Choir will serve.

On Sunday Dec. 7 dur-

ing the 11 a.m. service our church family and friends will observe Holy Family Communion and Memorial Service. These annual events are held to bring

families together in worship and praise, and to remember those members who have had their Homegoing in 2003.

The Missionary Society of Bethel is vigorously carrying out plans for their "Evening In White" on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. We welcome your presence to share with us in this reverent service of praise.

Bethel Metropolitan is a friendly family in Christ striving to give a positive Christian witness for 100 years. Our doors are always open to travelers of this Christian journey.



The Alumni Singers

Robert Anders, Director

present

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 14, 2003

4:00 p.m. • at

McCabe United Methodist Church

2800 - 26th Ave. S.

St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

(727) 867-5287

Freewill Offering

For information, please call:
(727) 867-9445 or (727) 323-7004

**WHEN LIFE KNOCKS YOU TO
YOUR KNEES, YOU'RE
IN THE PERFECT
POSITION TO PRAY!**

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 Ministry of

PRAY sponsored by Lake Maggiore and Southside Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Upcoming Ministries: ICE Team meets the last three Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in fellowship Hall, this is a door to door outreach Ministry.

Dec. 10 - Lottie Moon Mission Study at 7 p.m.,

International Missions Study of the Balkans; That all Peoples May Know Him: Follow God's Purpose

Dec. 12 - Family Christmas Dinner at 7 p.m.

Dec. 21 - Christmas Cantata at 11 a.m. Service

Dec. 24 - Vesper Service at 7 p.m.

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve Service at 10 p.m.

Jan. 11 - Deacon Ordination service of Cleveland Gardner at 6 p.m. guest Pastor Cooley & Friendship

Jan. 18 - Trial Sermon for John A. Evans at 11 a.m.

**The Family That Prays
Together Stays Together**

CHURCH DIRECTORY

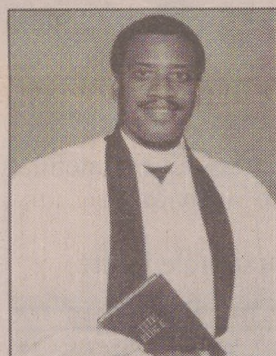
The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church

"A New Beginning In Christ"

All Worship Services are held at:
Covenant Presbyterian Church
4201 Sixth Street South • St. Petersburg, Florida
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14542 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733-4542
Phone: 727.895.7700

Scheduled Services - Sunday
Church Education Assembly (Church School) - 8:45 a.m.
Prayer Time - 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.
Communion - Every First Sunday Bible Study - Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

On Christ the solid Rock, I stand - all other ground is sinking sand....



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor
Rev. Peggy M. Peterman
Assistant Pastor

Jesus Saves

Earth Mission Miracle Temple Of Deliverance

"The Church Where The Anointing Makes The Difference"



Cultural Arts Programs After School
Mon., Wed., Friday - 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Free Registration
For more information, contact
Deborah R. Green, Executive Director,
at: (727) 821-9472

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 Ave. • St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Church Phone: (727) 323-3210
Pastor's Office: (727) 895-9591

Bus ministry provided for all services • Your presence is welcomed

**Prayer is a tremendous
force. It can heal a
broken body...repair a
severed relationship...or
restore a joy that has
been lost**

Trinity Presbyterian Church, USA

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

9:00 AMPrayer Time
9:30 AMSunday School
11:00 AMWorship
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.



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)

Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

900 - 16th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33705

Morning Worship.....8:00 a.m.
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Mid-Morning Worship11:00 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

All Nations Church of God By Faith

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



Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship11 a.m.
Night Worship7 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Class8 p.m.
Friday Tarry Service8 p.m.
Saturday Sabbath School11 a.m.

Rev. Johnnie Lee Williams, Pastor

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

505 - 35th Street S. • St. Petersburg, FL • 327-3186
Morning Worship7:45 a.m.
Sunday School9:15 a.m.
Mid-Morning Worship10:50 a.m.
Baptist Training Union5:00 p.m.
Mid-Week WorshipWednesday 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer ServiceThursday 7:30 p.m.

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Rev. Earnest Jones,
Pastor

10th Street Church Of God

207 - 10th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting/
Bible Study7:15 p.m.
Evening Worship (1st & 3rd Sunday)6:00 p.m.

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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.
YPWW 5:30 p.m. Sunday
Church Service 6:30 p.m. Sunday
Night Services 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday Services 7:30 p.m.



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Phillipians 3:14 "I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"



Rev. A. Anthony Robinson III

New Philadelphia Community Church

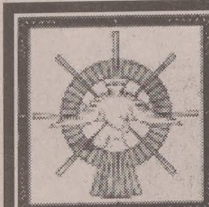
The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor

2335 - 22nd Avenue South
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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 Wyvonnica McGee

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



BUSINESS/FINANCIAL TIPS

Tips on Financial First Aid

(NAPSM) – Well managed, consumer credit can offer convenience and contribute toward financial stability. Mismanaged, it can create a number of problems.

According to experts you may be heading toward financial hot water if you are:

- Having difficulty making even minimum payments on what you owe;
- Making payments late; or
- Finding that more cash is going out than coming in.

America's Community Bankers suggests contacting your lender at the first sign of financial difficulty. There are a number of ways a lender can help put your financial house in order, such as:

- Modified loan terms;
- Limited partial payments;
- Debt consolidation loans; and
- Financial counseling.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.america-communitybankers.com.

It's a good idea to contact your lender at the first sign of financial difficulty.



Market Street Mortgage Creates Three-Year Partnership with St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services

ST. PETERSBURG – Market Street Mortgage announced that it has formed a three year partnership with St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services to offer loans to first-time home buyers who successfully complete a homebuyer education program sponsored by the local non-profit agency.

The first-time homebuyer program incorporates a full cycle of services including: home purchasing assistance, financial fitness, referrals to mortgage lenders, secondary finance assistance and assistance with construction loans. Graduates of the program must attend and complete more than eight hours of homebuyer education classes and programs.

"We look forward to providing our lending services to program graduates," said Jerry Cobbe, Vice President and Branch Man-

ager for Market Street Mortgage. "We hope to make the dream of homeownership a reality for them."

St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services' programs are offered to all potential first-time homebuyers regardless of income level. The non-profit agency has administered the program for more 10 years.

Market Street Mortgage will join other lenders who will receive referrals from St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services' first-time homebuyer program. Every tenth program graduate will be referred to Market Street Mortgage as a loan candidate.

"This partnership will open the doors of homeownership to many in St. Petersburg," said St. Petersburg Housing Services Director Askia Aquil. "Homebuyers

in the city will truly benefit from our partnership with one of the country's major lenders."

Market Street Mortgage® is among the nation's leading retail originators of residential mortgage loans. In 2002, Market Street originated \$2.5 billion in mortgage loans. During the first six months of 2003, the company's mortgage volume was \$1.6 billion. As one of the nation's largest originators of FHA loans, Market Street currently has 56 field offices serving homebuyers, homebuilders and realtors in 39 states. Founded in 1986, the company has headquarters in Clearwater, Fla., and is a wholly owned subsidiary of NetBank® (Nasdaq: NTBK; www.netbank.com), the country's first commercially successful Internet bank.

St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services

is a 23-year-old nonprofit community housing development organization dedicated to revitalizing neighborhoods by promoting homeownership. Last year St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services helped 86 first-time homebuyers realize their dream of homeownership by providing them with counseling, financial fitness training, homebuyer education and other related services. St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services is a member of the National NeighborWorks® network, consisting of 250 affiliate members throughout the U.S.

Consumers seeking more information about St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services' programs can call (727) 821-7457.

It Pays to Know the Rules of Money

(NAPSM) – The more you know about the basic rules of money, the easier it may be to own a home, finance an education, secure a retirement or get the best deals on credit. What's the best place to learn the basics? Ask the experts.

Here are some tips from a program called Money Rules—an initiative run by America's Community Bankers to help minority families build better financial futures.

• When shopping for a credit card you should evaluate all fees, as well as the introductory and regular interest rate.

• If you only make minimum payments on your credit card, you may never pay off the debt. Set up a payment calendar and work toward paying off your balance.

• Write down how



much you spend every week. This will help you develop a budget, and also identify ways to cut expenses and save money.

• Pay your bills on time and in full, if possible. If you mail your bills, you should do this at least five business days before they

are due. This will help you avoid expensive and unnecessary late fees and other charges.

• Ideally, you should save some percentage (e.g., five percent) of your annual income for retirement, but no amount of savings is too small and it's never too

late-or too early-to begin.

• When applying for a mortgage loan, many minority families find that credit rating and overall debt are just as important as household income.

• A checking account with your local community bank may help you save money by avoiding costly check cashing firms, and also by making it easier for you to itemize and budget.

• Being denied credit for no apparent reason or having routine financial statements stop arriving in a timely manner may mean you're an identity theft victim.

For more tips, visit the website site www.AmericasCommunityBankers.com.

It pays to set up a payment schedule for your bills and stick to it.

Big Tax Break for Small Businesses

(NAPSI) – Small business owners who have spent a lifetime building a company and are approaching retirement or just wish to diversify should consider an underutilized provision of federal tax code that allows them to plan for succession, reward loyal employees and avoid capital gains taxes.

Employee Stock Ownership Plans - or ESOPs - are typically thought to only benefit employees. In reality the benefits are just as great for business owners who either cannot or do not wish to sell, merge or take their companies public. ESOPs allow business owners to:

- Liquefy part or all of their ownership without selling to a competitor;
- Defer payments of capital gains taxes;
- Maintain control of their business;

- Establish fair market value for the company;
- Enhance employee productivity; and
- Establish an incentive-based retirement program for employees.

More than 250,000 small businesses in America qualify for ESOPs. Major corporations like Procter & Gamble and privately held companies with as few as 10 employees and \$3 million in annual sales-if profitable-are candidates

for the program.

For a free pamphlet titled "ESOP Pros and Cons" from Menke & Associates, call 1-800-347-8357.

Employee Stock Ownership Plans, or ESOPs, not only benefit employees they're great for employers, too.

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OBITUARIES

Today I need to be still and let God love me.

God's love is my strength,
God's love is my protection.

God's love is my light in the midst of any darkness.
God's love is the fulfillment of every hunger, every thirst.

God's love is my source and my supply.

God's love, ever present, is the only thing I need, want or seek today.
For in the presence of God's love, all is well in my life and in my soul.

Today I need to be still and let God love me.

As I speak these words, as I think these words, they take on the presence of the Holy Spirit to become the circumstances of this day in my life.

Let it be so!
And so it is!

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WHAT'S
RIGHT, NOT
WHAT'S
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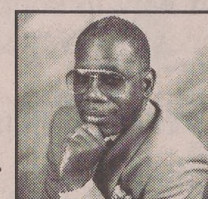
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NATIONAL NEWS

Minister Says Opposition to Church Project is Race-Related

EUCLID, Ohio (AP) — The minister of a Baptist church looking to build a housing development says some critics don't want a predominantly black church moving into a city with a rising black population.

"We are not building a ghetto - these are nice homes," said the Rev. Rodney Maiden, of Providence Missionary Baptist Church. "We're not coming out there to make Euclid a bad city."

The expanding church

wants to move from an inner-city neighborhood in Cleveland to neighboring Euclid, where it hopes to build a sanctuary with seating for up to 2,100 and as many as 110 houses, most restricted to buyers 55 and older.

The City Council is expected to vote Jan. 5 on whether to approve a zoning change for the plan in this working-class community alongside Lake Erie.

In the 1970s, the federal government temporarily froze grants amid charges

that Euclid hadn't adequately promoted fair housing.

The city has experienced a surge in its black population, now about 30 percent. Three years ago, Mayor Paul Oyaski put forth a set of "Principles for the 21st Century," which pledged support for diversity.

The Rev. Gary Henderson, the black pastor of Euclid's predominantly white East Shore United Methodist Church, said he also suspects that racial

bias was behind opposition to the project.

But Councilwoman Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, former executive director of Euclid Community Concerns, a group devoted to improving race relations, said the main issue is the best use of the land.

She prefers to keep the property for industry. "I don't believe it's a racial issue at all," Gail said. "I think it's more of an economic issue."

Atlanta Journalist Dead at 80

ATLANTA (AP) — During a long career as a photojournalist for the *Atlanta Daily World* and other black publications, Harmon Perry, who died recently, documented Atlanta history.

"His photos captured most of the significant historical events in Atlanta's African-American community," said historian Skip Mason, archivist at Morehouse College.

Perry, 80, of Atlanta, died Nov. 23 of heart failure at Roswell Nursing &

Rehabilitation Center.

It was as a writer that Perry made Atlanta history. In 1968, the *Atlanta Journal* hired Perry to become its first black reporter.

"It was a big deal," said Peter Scott of Decatur, who was hired a year later as the *Journal's* second black reporter. "Hiring Perry was something of a coup for the *Journal*. It helped the paper gain more credibility in the black community, where Perry's name was very familiar."

Added Mason: "He

broke ground in his field of endeavor like Jackie Robinson did in his."

Perry's first assignment at the *Journal* was to cover the funeral of Martin Luther King, Jr., in April 1968. He was part of a six-reporter *Journal* team that in 1968 wrote an award-winning series of stories that examined racial problems between blacks and whites. He also won four Georgia Press Association awards for his work.

In 1973, Perry left the *Journal* - where he was

strictly a writer - to give himself more time for photography, said his daughter, Phyllis Alesia Perry of Atlanta.

Perry sold his photos to such outlets as *The Associated Press*, the *Atlanta Inquirer* and *Jet* magazine, where he was local bureau chief from 1973 to 1981.

Survivors include another daughter, Phillippa Maffett of Atlanta; two grandsons and a great-grandson.

Scholarship Money Now Available from AAA Travel

It's that time of year when high school students begin researching and submitting college applications, and exploring career options to pursue while attending college. It also means applying for scholarships, grants and loans to help fund the rising costs of their college experience.

AAA Travel and the Hogan Family Foundation are offering scholarships totaling \$156,000 through the second annual AAA Travel High School Challenge, a national contest designed to heighten travel and geographic literacy and create awareness of job op-

portunities in the travel and tourism industries.

The Travel Challenge is open to all U.S. students in grades 9-12, ages 13-18, throughout all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Students can enroll for the contest at any time between now and January 21, 2004 at www.aaa.com/TravelChallenge. As an added bonus, all students who register for the exam prior to December 31 and go on to complete it will be entered into a random drawing for a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond.

For your convenience, I've attached a camera-ready file with detailed

information about the AAA Travel High School Challenge and how students can apply for scholarship money. We welcome you to share this valuable information with your readers.

For more information, visit www.aaa.com/TravelChallenge.

Police

from front pg.

were thrown around like rag dolls," said Roger Webster, president of the police union.

The coroner's office will determine the cause of death. The six officers have been placed on administrative leave while the death is investigated, based on department policy.



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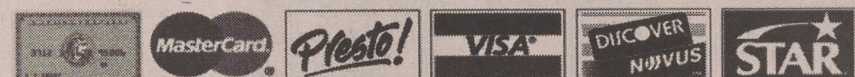
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NOTICE OF ACTION
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IN RE: The license to practice Real Estate of: Lee Health, P.O.
Box 340129, Tampa, Florida 33694. Case No. 200182915. The
Department of Business and Professional Regulation, has filed
and Administrative Complaint against you a copy of which can
be obtained by contacting the Division of Real Estate, 400 W.
Robinson St., Suite N-801, Orlando Florida 32801, (407) 481-
5632. If no contact has been made by December 25, 2003, the
matter will be presented at an ensuing meeting before the
Department of Business and Professional Regulation's
Secretary's designee in an informal proceeding.



**PICK OF THE
WEEK!**

10-15-27

28-38-48

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DAYS**

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

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Court Administration, Rm. 219, West Pasco Judicial Center,
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Your HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20) Take the time to help those less for-
tunate. Your involvement with groups will raise your self
esteem. Be sure to keep communication open with those you live
with. You may need a good friend to lean on.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21) Don't believe everything you hear.
People you live with will not be terribly happy with you regard-
less of what you do this week. Travel for business purposes may
bring the highest returns. Romantic opportunities will flourish
through travel or communication.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Don't overspend on entertainment,
on children, or make poor investments. Invite friends in for a
visit. Your mate will enjoy helping out. Be sure to think twice
before you say something that might hurt your partner's feelings.
CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't let relatives make demands
of you. Avoid conflicts with in-laws or other family members.
Spend time getting to know each other. You can make personal
changes that will enhance your appearance and bring you greater
popularity.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) You will do extremely well if you get
involved in competitive activities this week. Your best results
will come through business trips. Financial investments that deal
with joint money can be extremely prosperous. Don't be too
eager to spend money that you really don't have.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) Try to make amends by planning a
nice dinner for two. Empty promises will cause confusion. You
could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric
individuals. Your emotions are soaring and if you don't get your
way, look out world.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) Secret activity is evident. Be careful
of disclosing personal information. You can expect opposition at
work. Don't let your competition be privy to information that
could be in criminating. Take some time out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Compromise if you have to, to
avoid verbal battles. Your need to be in a leadership position will
help you surpass any rivals you might encounter. Try to be tol-
erant of the moods of those around you. There might be one who
is quite willing to take the credit for your work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Children may be difficult to
deal with. Don't get involved in uncertain financial ventures. You
need to concentrate on the areas where you can make a differ-
ence. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of. You
should avoid getting involved in the personal problems of col-
leagues.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan. 20) Go directly to the source if
you want to know exactly what's been going on. Older family
members may try to make demands that are impossible for you
to handle. Dig deep, ferret out any hidden concerns be fore you
sign your life away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Travel may be confusing. You'll
find it easy to deal with government agencies or large institu-
tions. New projects may lead you into a dead end. Don't push
your mate if you want to keep this union going.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You must take care not to over exert
yourself if involved in sports. Your love will not be willing to lis-
ten to your criticism. Try not to donate to organizations if you
can hardly afford to take care of yourself. You will back yourself
into a corner if you are baited and your stubbornness will only
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"There's a Reason to Sell *The Weekly Challenger*"

The Weekly Challenger

2500 Dr. M.L. King Street,
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

**SUBSCRIPTION:
\$30 Annually by Mail**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Is this a renewal? ____ If so, who is your carrier? _____



Make checks payable to:

The Weekly Challenger

The Weekly Challenger

"There's A Reason To Read The Weekly Challenger"

www.theweeklychallenger.com

ph:(727) 896-2922 • fax: (727) 823-2568 • email: tchallen@tampabay.rr.com

2003 HOLIDAY EDITION

Edition Date: December 18, 2003

Are you looking to advertise special holiday rates for your business?
Or send special season's greetings to your loved ones?

Be a part of The Weekly Challenger's annual Holiday Issue, published for over 21 years and filled with recipes and heart-warming holiday stories. It is a must-read, fully supported by the faith-based and community service organizations in the Tampa Bay area, particularly the African-American market. We are now offering opportunities for both businesses and families alike to be a part of our special issue!

Why Advertise with us?

Why is this market so desirable? Well, for one, according to recent Census data, when it comes to household income, African-Americans right here in Pinellas County had the highest increase (24%) compared to any other ethnicity. African-Americans are also one of the fastest growing population segments in Pinellas County. As this holiday season approaches, take the opportunity to advertise with us!

Send a Greeting to Loved Ones...

Get in the spirit of the season! Take the opportunity to wish your loved ones the best this holiday season, courtesy of The Weekly Challenger. Publish greetings, as well as family and individual photos to let them know how you feel!



Merry Christmas
Mom & Dad



Happy Holiday To
My Husband



Merry Christmas
Grandma



Happy Holidays
Aunt Mary



Merry Christmas Mom



Merry Christmas From
Daddy's Little Girl



Best Wishes To The
Robinson Family

Holiday Issue Specifications (Tabloid Size)

*Copy and ad space deadline: December 14, 2003

** All submissions must be pre-paid

AD SIZE	COLUMN SIZE	PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS	COST
Business Card	2 x 2	3.25" x 2"	\$25
Eighth Page	3 x 3	5" x 2"	\$75
Quarter Page	3 x 6	5" x 6"	\$150
Half Page	6 x 6	10.25" x 6"	\$275
Full Page	6 x 12	10.25" x 12"	\$550
Premium Page Positions			
Page 3	6 x 12	10.25" x 12"	\$650
Front Cover or Inside Front Page	6 x 12	10.25" x 12"	\$687.50
Back Page Cover	6 x 12	10.25" x 12"	\$725

Color

1 color: \$100, 2 colors: \$125, Process color: \$175

Sign up now! Spaces are limited!