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VOLUME 37 NUMBER 1

September 9 - 15, 2004

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Clinton Bypass Surgery Successful



Before surgery, Clinton reportedly had been in good physical condition, having lost several pounds in recent months, Clinton's friends told reporters, and in recent weeks, Clinton has been touting the virtues of the South Beach Diet.

Former President Bill Clinton is recovering and doing well after five hours of successful quadruple heart bypass surgery, according to doctors at New York's Columbian-Presbyterian Hospital.

Clinton likely would have had a "substantial heart attack" in the near future without an operation, doctors said, noting that about 90 percent of his coronary arteries were blocked. Clinton began experiencing symptoms of heart problems a few months ago when he started to experience shortness of breath and suffered some chest pain after physical activity.

The condition apparently deteriorated a few days ago when he suffered those symptoms after resting, and he was taken to the hospital last Friday, according to published reports. The operation had been delayed until Monday to allow blood thinners to take effect, reducing the risk of bleeding during surgery.

The operation involved opening the chest and creating new vessels to the heart, to replace the clogged ones, using veins taken from the leg.

Heart disease is serious in that it is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. The mortality rate from bypass surgery is generally low, about 10 percent. Generally, people requiring bypass surgery also suffer from other physical ailments, which affects mortality.

Clinton, 58, a Democrat who served eight years in the White House from 1993 until 2001, is known for his love of fast food. He is expected to remain in the hospital for four or five days and should make a full recovery within two to three months, doctors said. More than 45,000 sent messages of well wishes to Clinton, including tens of thousands of emails sent to the Website of his presidential library.

Before surgery, Clinton reportedly had been in good physical condition, having lost several pounds in recent months, Clinton's friends told reporters, and in recent weeks, Clinton has been touting the virtues of the South Beach Diet.

His wife, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter, Chelsea Clinton, were at the hospital.

Hurricane Frances' Wrath



Jessie Bethune and Hasheem McClellan are out looking for loaves of bread at the Albertsons grocery store on 54th Avenue South.

by Linda Young

Challenger Correspondent
ST. PETERSBURG

After the rain stopped and the winds died down, people ventured out of the sheltered spaces where they had waited impatiently for Hurricane Frances to come and go.

Some people ventured out for sensible things such as bread while others simply wanted to have fun.

But thanks to the destruction that Frances left behind, driving around town on Labor Day was a white-knuckle experience. Some streets had water covering one or more lanes. That was the situation on Dr. M. L. King Street South between Lake Maggiore and the fire station in both directions. On Fourth Street South, after northbound drivers passed the Salvation Army they found themselves dodging nearly uprooted trees that leaned into the right traffic lane.

However, a worse problem was the hazard at intersections with many traffic lights out. Despite the fact that most people treated intersections as a four-way stop, some drivers barreled through them without even slowing down.

Not everyone was driving, though. Many were on foot, whether running errands or simply having fun.

Four people having fun were 11-year-old Fred Williams, nine-year-old Deandre Jenkins, 11-year-old Omar Miley and 10-year-old Taz Gordon. Glad that the storm was over, they ventured out a few blocks from their respective homes and entertained themselves by dancing along 16th Street South to music coming from someone's nearby boom box. They admitted to being afraid while Frances raged outside their homes.

"I thought I was going to die," Gordon said adding that a tree fell on his roof and "cracked it."

"There's trees all over our yard," said Miley.

While Jenkins and Miley still had electricity and could play video games, the storm wreaked havoc on their television recep-



11-year-old Fred Williams, nine-year-old Deandre Jenkins, 11-year-old Omar Miley and 10-year-old Taz Gordon are busy inspecting the Red's Snak Shak sign that Hurricane Frances tore down.



Hurricane Frances' fierce winds tore down this palm tree on the grassy lot next to Smith's Funeral Home on 18th Avenue South.

tion.

"We just have one channel on our TV," Jenkins said.

Williams and Gordon were among the thousands of residents without electricity. "The only thing in our house is water," Gordon said.

The youngsters took their time examining the large wooden sign for Red's Snak Shak on 16th Street South that was lying flat on the ground. They discussed the broken connection to the concrete base. They all agreed that, although they didn't know for sure what knocked the sign down, it was probably Frances.

"We blame Frances for doing all the damage," 11-year-old Williams said including the "trees and stuff, and people can get hurt."

Few people were hurt, but the storm brought many trees down. Some blocked sidewalks, driveways, alleys or streets while others fell harmlessly. That included a large palm tree prostrate on the grassy lot next to the funeral home on 18th Avenue South, with a shallow indentation of dark



A home on 20th Avenue Southeast is surrounded by broken tree branches.

Telling Their Stories Of The Past

Local residents recall Pinellas County Schools' desegregation



Alicia Sands was a school teacher who was moved from an all-black classroom when desegregation began.



One of the Heritage Village exhibits includes a display board of black life in early Pinellas County.

photos by Sherrick Rhodes

by Candace K. Clarke
Challenger Assistant Editor

"There were terrible riots at Boca Ciega," recalled Blanche Saunders Ganey. Looking directly into the camera, she calmly recalled the worst times of racial tension at her high school during 1971, the year that Pinellas County began integrating its public schools.

"The whole time I was out there," she says, "there were just a lot of kids running wild...sticks and bottles...cars vandalized." The school was regularly put on lockdown, she adds.

Ganey was just one of the people who came forward to volunteer their stories for Heritage Village's 50th Anniversary commemoration of Brown v. the Board of Education. Located at 11909 125th St. N. in Largo. The event began its opening day on Aug. 28, offering to videotape Pinellas County residents who experienced school desegregation as a way of preserving the past.

Taking a walk around Heritage Village, the main building features two exhibits, "Stony the Road: Desegregating America's Schools" and "Brown v. the Board of Education 50 Years Later: The Long and

Winding Road." "Stony the Road" is a traveling exhibit produced by the Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia; "Brown vs. the Board of Education" was produced locally by the Pinellas County African American History Museum.

These displays will run through Oct. 10, as a part of the commemoration. Other events hosted by Heritage Village include special weekend tours, debates and panel discussions, says Ellen Babb, the historian and marketing coordinator.

From the literature to the displays, everything recalls the intensity and inspiration that arose from the progressive improvement of civil rights for blacks, starting with Brown v. the Board's 1954 decision to desegregate the schools.

Towards the entrance reads the lines of James Weldon Johnson's famous "National Negro Anthem": "Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod/ Felt in the days when hope unborn had died..." Each photograph along the wall tells a story of struggle and

Stories
continued on pg. 5

What is grandfathering?
see page 7

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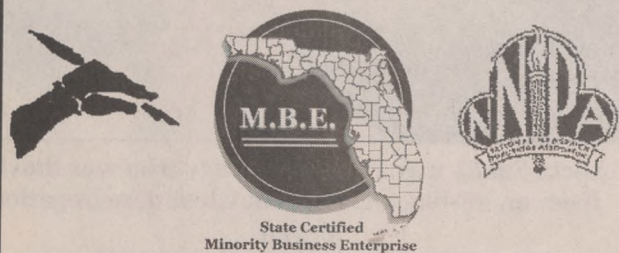
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The Weekly Challenger Newspaper

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

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

The Gantt Report

by Lucius Gantt

Not too long ago I told you that the election of the President was not the most important voting issue in the African-American community. I said it then and I'll say it now. America's satanic State Attorneys must be voted against and driven out of office.

The greatest enemy to Black progress is America's judicial system. Can I prove it? Yes!

The State Attorneys, prosecutors, police and others in the system don't always do what is right. Most of the time, they do what they want to. If they want you in jail, they put you in jail. If they want you to go free, they let you walk.

I don't care where you live, if you live in America you know somebody who is in jail or in the legal sys-

tem who should not be. You also know somebody white who has a daughter who abuses drugs or abuses prescription narcotics or smokes crack cocaine who has never and will never spend a night in a jail cell.

I want to talk about how our Black youth are being put in jail for so-called crimes that whites are not even arrested for. But first I want to talk about a recent bout I had with the law and why I'm still unshackled.

Not too long ago, I was arrested in Tallahassee for "Felony Assault" on a law enforcement officer and accused of attempted murder. A policeman testified in open court that I beat him so bad that he had to have neurosurgery. After my arrest and after the officer swore under oath that I beat him, the local State

Attorney refused to prosecute me. Seems to me someone lied under oath. Either the officer lied about the beating or I lied about not beating the lying devil. Why wasn't the officer or I prosecuted by the State Attorney? No one was prosecuted because State Attorneys don't do what is right or what the statutes call for, they do what they want and arrest whom they want to.

Now, to me, it seems that state attorneys are prosecuting Black youth in an attempt to rid our community of its future. Our best and brightest are thrown in jail for positive tests for marijuana when refer smoking is "legal" in the National Basketball Association. College athletes get high all of the time. How do I know? I've seen them. I know their

drug dealers. You tell me, when has a college athlete been sentenced to jail for failing a drug test? Never! That won't even happen in Hollywood!

State Attorneys first exaggerate the charges on Black youth. If it's petty theft, they say it is grand theft. If it is trespassing, they say it is burglary. If it is drug use, they say it is drug trafficking. They call the child's mother and threaten her with giving her baby a very long prison term. Then they get the child to plead out to a crime he didn't commit and give him a lengthy probation period. After that, they say the child violated probation and try again for a long jail term, a very long prison term. You should know that prosecutors and probation officers can violate you merely because

they don't like you. You can be violated for being late to a meeting, for crossing paths was a former felon, by being around second-hand smoke and all kinds of crazy things.

No child who is a first offender should have his or her life ruined and labeled a felon because of any event where there was no violence, no restitution, no repeat offenses, no property damage and no victim who has alleged that a specific crime was committed.

But it happens every day. If there is a state attorney that wants to be a hero, arrest me on some false charges and prosecute me and see what happens! Let's see who can ruin whose career!

How long will the Florida Bar close its eyes to prosecutorial misconduct? How long will the Bar

allow lawyers to lie on our Black youth?

If people in America want to know how to make revolutionaries, you do have to look to Iraq. You can look right here where you are. If young Black people feel there is no justice, white people will have no peace. If Black youth continue to go to jail for things that white kids are sent home for, this country will go up in flames again and again. If you are going to arrest Black youth, not for selling drugs, not for smoking drugs but for failing marijuana tests, then you should arrest everyone for such a violation. If you did, you wouldn't have enough athletes to field a college sports team anywhere in the country.

Contact Lucius at
theganttreport@comcast.net

Kerry and Vietnam

by Lou Frey

Let me try and sort out Kerry and the Vietnam issue. First, what are the facts? One, there is a hole in the McCain-Feingold legislation allowing interest groups to run attack ads. Two, both sides are using this loophole to run negative ads. Three, the Democrats to date have outspent the Republicans in this area. Four, Kerry over the years has voted against additional money for many defense programs such as the B-1, B-2 F-15 and F-16. His 1984 campaign defense position paper called for the cancellation of the Mx missile, the B-1 bomber and Star Wars defense initiative. In 1994, he wanted to trim \$43 billion from the defense, intelligence and science budget. This was defeated by a 75 to 20 vote in the Senate. Kerry also served eight years on the Senate Intelligence Committee during which time he voted on three occasions to cut the intelligence budget and never once voted to increase it. Five, John Kerry served honorably for over four months in Vietnam and was awarded five medals including the bronze star and three purple hearts.

Now to opinion. The Kerry campaign knew early on that Bush would be strong in the defense area, despite the fact that he did not serve in Vietnam and his service in the National Guard has been questioned. The campaign recognized that Kerry's record on defense was subject to legitimate attacks by Bush by just pointing to his Senate



John Kerry takes cover

voting record. Kerry needed to offset his voting record with his Vietnam service. Hence, the emphasis on the Rambo-type image of a young Lieutenant steering his Swift Boat, day after day, in and out of harms way. The convention re-emphasized his Vietnam service with his arrival by boat and his dramatic entrance statement to the convention that he was John Kerry and was "reporting for duty".

It was not Bush but Kerry who has made Vietnam the key to his campaign. However, by doing so he opened up his record to deep scrutiny. Unfortunately for Kerry, there are some statements and incidents that appear to be

problems. At least one of his purple hearts seems questionable. He has stirred up many Vietnam veterans who are replaying a statement Kerry made years ago in front of a Congressional Committee. He said, in part, that he "denounced 'those who wear the uniform' as terrorist-like rapists and assassins who 'cut off heads, taped wires...to human genitals and turned up the power, cut off limbs, shot at civilians, razed villages, shot cattle and dogs for fun, poisoned food stocks' ...and said he 'committed the same kinds of atrocities as thousands of others'. He made these charges under oath. Kerry says today that he would have framed

some of what he said in 1971 differently."

Kerry has violated one of the two "Frey Rules of Politics": If you have to explain, you are in trouble. This issue has hurt. Kerry and Bush were tied 46/46 with veterans after the convention. Now a recent poll shows that Bush is ahead with veterans by margin of 55/37. Nearly half the people in the country now know about this issue and that number will climb. Kerry (or his surrogates) now have ads out attacking the Swift Boat group. He has some Swift Boat sailors explaining and praising his conduct. *The Washington Post* and *New York Times* has rallied to Kerry's defense. Many of these ads

and reports attack those criticizing Kerry, and do not address the basic question as to what is the truth. Kerry seems to have learned from the Clinton White House. If someone attacked President Clinton, they ignored the issue and destroyed the messenger.

This Vietnam issue is a self-inflicted wound. Kerry made it one of the keys to the campaign. We have had candidates with a successful military background run for the President, such as General Grant and General Eisenhower. It is hard to believe that a Lieutenant in the Navy would use his four months of military service as one of the keys to his election as President. He is on the

by Tim Kelly

defensive and Iraq, for the time being, is in the background. This issue will not go away. Kerry's emphasis on Vietnam could be as much of an error in political judgment as allowing Michael Dukakis to drive around in a tank. As one of my family members said, they are not sure of the truth as there are so many conflicting statements flying back and forth, but it does make one wonder.

Lou Frey, Jr., Member of Congress (FL '69-'79); Past President, Former Members of Congress; Partner, Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor and Reed, P.A., Orlando, Florida. E-Mail: lou.frey@lowndes-law.com

SARASOTA / MANATEE AREA

Post-Storm Health and Safety Reminders

Prevent Injury and Illness

After the storm, the risk of injury and illness from careless or improper use of power saws, generators and grills increases. Emergency Management officials remind residents to be conscious of their limitations and be mindful of their environment to prevent exhaustion, carbon monoxide poisoning and heat-related illnesses.

Residents are reminded not to use gas-powered generators or pressure washers indoors, not even in the garage. Also, do not burn charcoal or gas grills inside a house, garage, vehicle, tent or fireplace to reduce risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless and colorless gas

that can cause shortness of breath, chest pains in those with heart disease, confusion, weakness and lack of coordination, blurred vision, loss of consciousness and even death. Those experiencing any symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are advised to open doors or windows, turn off gas appliances and go outside. If the symptoms are severe or persist, call 9-1-1.

Prevent Heat-Related Illness

Heat exhaustion, dehydration and other heat-related problems may occur if the power is out for extended periods. Residents are reminded to pace themselves and take frequent breaks and remember that exertion and being out-

doors increases the need for fluids. Drink water and sports drinks to quickly replace fluids lost through sweating. Avoid alcoholic beverages and carbonated beverages since these may increase dehydration. To prevent heat-related illnesses, stay in cool or shaded areas when possible and wear lightweight clothing.

Signs of dehydration include heavy sweating, pale skin, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting and fainting. Heat stroke can cause death. Seek medical attention if symptoms are severe and the affected person has heart problems or high blood pressure. In the meantime, help the affected person to cool off.

Cooling measures that may be effective include the following: Cool, nonalcoholic beverages, as directed by your physician, rest, cool shower, bath or sponge bath and an air-conditioned environment.

Food Safety

Food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more and has an unusual odor, color or texture and is no longer cool to the touch is considered unsafe. Public health officials say, "When in doubt, throw it out." Public Health officials remind residents to wash hands often with soap and clean water. Rub hands together vigorously for 20 seconds, the time it takes to sing the happy birthday song or for children to say their A-B-

Cs.

Stray Animals and Wildlife

Animals that were displaced by the storm also pose a threat. Even domestic animals may become easily startled and even vicious or violent. People may see more snakes, alligators, possums, raccoons and rats. Residents should not approach wildlife or stray animals especially if they are acting erratically. If an animal wanders on your property and appears injured, call Sarasota County Animal Services at (941) 861-9500, otherwise let it escape.

Tetanus Reminder

If you sustain a wound or deep cut that concerns you, seek medical attention. Medical attention is

required to determine if a tetanus booster is needed. People who have not had a cut or wound do not require tetanus vaccination regardless of their exposure to flood waters. Residents who sustain lacerations and/or puncture wounds and have not had a tetanus vaccination within the past 10 years require a tetanus booster. If you have a serious wound, get medical attention. A tetanus booster may be needed if you haven't had one within five years.

For more post-storm information, watch Sarasota County government Access Sarasota TV-19 on Comcast Cable, log on to the county's Website: www.scgov.net or call (941) 861-INFO (4636).

Coastal Cleanup Volunteers Wanted

Keep Sarasota County Beautiful will host the 19th Annual International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 18, from 8 a.m. to noon (rain date Sept. 25). The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest one-day volunteer effort on behalf of the marine environment. Volunteers of all ages will join with others around the world on this special day dedicated to cleaning up our coastlines and waterways.

Trash bags, latex gloves and data cards for logging debris items will

be provided. After the event, volunteers will receive thank you gifts as they return data cards to their site captain.

In 2003 more than 1,687 volunteers from Sarasota County participated in the cleanup collecting over 14,945 pounds of marine debris. Volunteers also found entangled animals, emphasizing the danger that marine debris plays in the coastal environment.

Call (941) 861-6767 to register your group and cleanup location.

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20%	\$199	70%	\$1,795
30%	\$407	80%	\$2,155
40%	\$539	90%	\$3,299
50%	\$725	100%	\$4,165



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HOME VISITS

There Is A Reason To Read The Weekly Challenger!

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

AARP Volunteer Available to Speak on New Medicare Drug Benefit and Other Changes in Medicare

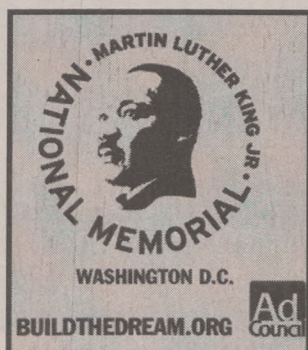
In order to help Pinellas County Medicare beneficiaries understand changes to Medicare, AARP Florida has trained speakers who can give presentations about Medicare changes that could affect you. Group leaders who want to schedule a presentation for a future meeting may arrange a speaker by calling AARP Florida toll-free at 1-866-595-7678.

Ron and Barbara Getz, Fred and Pat Hammesfahr, Lois Herron, and Tom and Gilda Simpson were selected as trainees so that they could be local resources and spokespersons on the myriad changes to Medicare that will be implemented over the next several years, including the new voluntary drug benefit. Presentations focus on the details of the new changes, as well as what AARP would still like to see improved in the program.

"We all have a stake in the future of Medicare," they said. "Seniors have said for years that

Medicare needs to cover prescription drugs, and now we have a meaningful step in that direction. It's important that Medicare beneficiaries know whether they would benefit from the new drug benefit. As older Floridians, and as the parents and grandparents of today's workers, we know how important it is to serve the health needs of tomorrow's beneficiaries."

"It is obvious that modifications must be made to bring the systems into long-term balance," they said. "AARP believes those changes should not fundamentally alter the current system nor undermine the principles that have led to their success and popularity."



WASHINGTON D.C.
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'Cooking Light' on The Move Hits the Nation's Highways

The Mobile Magazine of Food and Fitness Comes to Florida, Toting Free Samples, Recipe Cards, Sweepstakes, and More

TAMPA - *Cooking Light* is "On The Move," rolling into Florida with a truckload of free recipe cards, great value coupons, product samples, sweepstakes giveaways and the healthy living message of the nation's largest food and fitness magazine. This year, *Cooking Light* On The Move launches its 12th annual tour, a cross-country trek visiting supermarkets and venues in more than 70 cities over an eight-month period.

Area residents are welcome aboard this mobile magazine where *Cooking Light* representatives will be available to answer questions. In addition to the free samples, visitors can choose from over 250 recipe cards and hundreds of coupons, as well as brochures on healthy eating and living. Outside the vehicle, visitors will get a taste of the *Cooking Light* lifestyle with an array of free products to sample. This year's tour is brought to you courtesy of our sponsors: Mrs. Dash and Molly McButter, Canola-Info, Kellogg's Smart Start, Litehouse Dressings, Dips and Sauces, LUNA,

Melissa's, Morningstar Farms, Northland 100% Juice Cranberry Blends, Prilosec OTC, Ronzoni Healthy Harvest Pasta, Smucker's, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Inc., Ziploc Brand Containers and California Raisin Board.

Come enter to win an all-inclusive, seven-day spa vacation sponsored by Wyndham Resorts, a gourmet fruit basket sponsored by Melissa's, a \$750 grocery store gift certificate from Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and a George Foreman Grill from Morningstar Farms.

Publix will host *Cooking Light On The Move* while the tour is in the Florida area. The Tour is free and open to the public.

"On The Move" tour hours are 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at the following Tampa locations:

- Thursday and Friday, Sept. 9 and 10, Publix Supermarket, 10019 W. Hillsborough Ave.
- Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 and 12, Publix Supermarket, 12026 Anderson Road.

Projects with Industry Employability Showcase

Abilities of Florida, an affiliate of ServiceSource, Projects With Industry Program in Clearwater presents an Employability Showcase. Not just another Job Fair, a total employability package, presenting jobs, resume review, together with Career Empowerment.

The Showcase will be held on Monday, Sept. 20 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Union Academy Family Center (auditorium), 401 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Tarpon Springs.

The Science Center is Seeking Volunteer Help

ST. PETERSBURG - The Science Center of Pinellas County is looking for gift shop volunteers to fill store orders one week-day per week from 10:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. The Science Center is located at 7701 - 22nd Ave. N.

There is a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available to suit individual interests, skills and time availability. It is not necessary to have a background in science, or any other specific skill for that matter! The only requirement for Science Center volunteers is that they just have to be willing to have fun and make friends.

The Science Center is a unique learning environment for children and adults that offers hands-on educational activities to promote the understanding of science.

For more information, please call Sue Allen at (727) 384-0027.

Free Total Cholesterol Screening

PINELLAS COUNTY - From Sept. 17 - 18, CholestCheck Health Screening Services will hold a free total cholesterol screening at a local Kmart (4501 66th St. N., St.

Petersburg). From 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., the community is invited to get this testing done. For more information, call CholestCheck at (800) 713-3301.

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BERNIE MAC

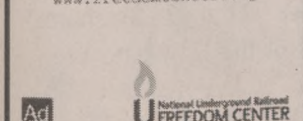
Mr. 3000

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TAMPA BAY AREA

THIS & THAT



by Mabel Cooper
(823-6092)

GOOD RIDANCE, FRANCES!

My goodness! Hurricane Frances pelted Pinellas County with stinging rains and gusty winds Sunday, toppling trees and forcing thousands of residents to spend a long, soggy day indoors. The rain continued through the night and well into Monday.

What was supposed to be a carefree Labor Day weekend felt like one long dreary day. All the cook-outs I was invited to were postponed, and cook-ins were never started. Once the power went out, nobody could watch TV, so a lot of residents did like I did, went to bed.

According to Murphy's Law:

Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.

There is never time to do it right, but there is always time to do it over.

And, last but not least, never argue with a fool - people might not know the difference.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior citizens are the biggest carriers of 'AIDS.' Hearing AIDS, Band-AIDS, RollAIDS, Walking AIDS, MedicaIDS, and Government AIDS.



IN MEMORIAM Gary R. Cooper

Aug. 15, 1937-Sept. 9, 2000
As life goes on without you and the days have turned into years, it holds so many memories and a million silent tears.

Remembering you is easy, I do it every day. Missing you is the heart-break that never goes away. When days are dark and friends are few, Dear Son, how I think of you.

Friends are friends if they are true, Gary, I lost my best friend, when I lost you. There will always be a hallowed place in my heart. We all still love and miss you.

Your Mother,
Mabel Cooper

In Loving Memory of My Husband and Our Children's Father,
Gary R. Cooper

If we could have one lifetime wish, a wish that would come true;
We would pray to God with all our hearts for yes-

terday and you.

A thousand words can't bring you back, we know because we've tried, and neither will a thousand tears, we know because we've cried. God gave us strength to bear this and courage to take the blow; But how deep it hurts to lose you, is all we'll ever know.

*Forever loved and still sadly missed,
Your wife Peggy Cooper,
daughters, grands, cousins, in-laws and friends,
Snellville, Georgia*

LIVE AND LEARN (by Altamese Hamilton)

The following is a copy of an article that appeared in print in the *Florida Dollar Stretcher Weekly Guide* (free Black Press paper) in its Aug. 12-15, 2004 edition. It serves Hillsborough County and surrounding areas.

The writer, a retired educator in Tampa's school system and a cousin of the late Rufus Thompson of our town, with her kind heart and uniquely creative talents, left his family with



L-R: Rufus and Keith Thompson

these beautiful memories: *Rufus Thompson Was One of a Few Good Men* Fortunately, Others Are Filling His Shoes

On Saturday, Rufus Thompson was funeralized. It was a beautiful memorial tribute to the plain and simple life that he had lived. Having known him all of my life, I tried to think of one distinguishing characteristic worthy of note. I could not. His whole life had been a resounding testimony to the goodness of this man. Somehow, nearly eighty years had been neatly compressed into one day of honor.

He made his parents proud when he graduated from the local high school. He made his country proud when he honorably served in the Marine Corps. He made his family proud when he worked for more than three decades and retired from his chosen profession. His brother's daughter spoke of how he became surrogate father to her and her siblings when their own father died. The

minister accurately described him when he called him one of a few good men.

His loving wife of more than forty years was a willing witness to his devotion to home and family. The funeral program bore a touching tribute from his granddaughter as she recalled the close and loving relationship they shared. His daughter, in the midst of her grief, had planned a truly fitting homegoing for her dad.

After the burial, we returned to their home where friends had provided food for the body as well as the soul. For me, it was like a family reunion. I was delighted to be with three generations of cousins to whom I felt a strong sense of kinship. My great-grandmother had worked hard to insure that Mitchell descendants on both sides of Tampa Bay never forgot their roots and their relations. I had to thank cousin Rufus for this wonderful opportunity to reunite.

I also had a chance to see the emergence of another good man. David Boozie is married to cousin Rufus' daughter. Realizing that his in-laws were in declining health, he had moved his family into their home in order to provide care and comfort. I watched with pride as he cared for and comforted his mother-in-law, as well as his family. He managed her transport with a great degree of compassion and ease, moving her person and her wheelchair with grace and facility.

He was a gracious host, paying special attention to senior family members. One such person was my father. He summoned the help of a few other good men and together they conveyed this two hundred pound wheelchair-bound body from a lower to an upper level. And when he was ready to leave, they repeated the process without having to be asked. David, I concluded, had learned a lot from his wife's dad.

As I observed David in action, I was reminded of another good man. Peter Rogers, by profession, is an honorable man. He is a judge. Life's circumstances catapulted him into the role of enabler for his mother-in-law. He rose to the occasion with deliberateness and dignity. During a recent family gather, I noted how he provided transport for her, her walker, and her wheelchair. A proud woman, she bragged that he was now in charge of her, and she really appreciated him.

Two stellar acts of kindness were indelibly imprinted in my mind. When my father sought to visit his sister (Peter's mother-in-law), there was an impediment of several steps that he and his wheelchair could not traverse. Peter wouldn't hear of an impossibility, so he pulled the chair up the steps with Dad in tow. I was so amazed at the swiftness of his feat that I never had a

chance to warn him to be careful.

On the very next day, as the deacons sought to remove the two wheelchair-bound siblings from a church that had no handicapped access, I looked and Peter was supporting his mother-in-law on his knee until her turn arrived. And she looked both comfortable and serene as she patiently watched and waited.

What I find most comforting about these good men is that although Rufus has finished his course, David and Peter are newcomers. Both are caring, strong, and sensitive men who do not hesitate to take charge and respond when needed. Were I to categorize them, I would estimate that David is thirty-something, and Peter is fifty-something. Yet they, along with cousin Rufus, are all classic examples that good men are ageless. Their deeds immortalize them.

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St. Pete College Professor Releases New Book



Charles D. Shorter, Jr.

ST. PETERSBURG — Charles D. Shorter, Jr., Professor Emeritus at St. Petersburg College, will sign and discuss his recently published book, "Brain Builders Crossword Puzzles: A Compendium of Educational Crosswords for Enjoyable Vocabulary Enrichment," on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 1-4 p.m. at the Lake Vista Community Center, 1401 62nd Ave. S.

Shorter is one of only a few Black American

Crossword Puzzle creators in the United States. He has designed crossword puzzles for more than three decades, which have been published in newspapers and utilized on college campuses.

This historic book release celebration is sponsored by First Degree Publishing and is free and open to the public.

For more information, call (404) 286-6837.

Volunteers Needed to Mentor at School for the Deaf

PINELLAS COUNTY — One hour per week is all it takes to make a BIG difference in the life of a child. Big Brothers Big Sisters' school-based mentoring program matches Big Brothers and Big Sisters at local elementary schools to provide students with a positive adult role model. The focus in on schoolwork, having fun and forming a lasting friendship.

Big Brothers Big Sister of Pinellas County has recently partnered with Blossom Montessori School for the Deaf in Clearwater. Blossom provides a focused and positive environment for deaf and hard of hearing children, hearing siblings and children of deaf adults.

There are many students at this school who could benefit from a one-on-one mentoring relation-

ship with a caring adult volunteer. We are looking for volunteers who are fluent in American Sign Language or have other experiences working with this population.

"These students can greatly benefit from a positive adult mentor," said Jean Kingsbury, BBS director of school-based programs. "We are hoping to develop our relationship with Blossom Montessori to reach this previously unserved group of students. This is a great opportunity for all."

If you are interested in giving one hour per week to make a BIG difference in the life of a child at Blossom Montessori School, please contact Jean Kingsbury at (727) 518-8860 or jean@bbb-spc.org.

Literacy Fair Promises Books, Storytelling, Games for Children and Families

ST. PETERSBURG — Happy Workers Children's Center, celebrating 75 years of continuous quality child care and early childhood education, will hold a free "Day in the Neighborhood" Family Literacy Fair on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event, co-sponsored by Verizon Florida, Inc., Kiwanis Club of St.

Petersburg, and Happy Workers, will be held on the Center's campus, located at the intersection of Ninth Avenue and 19th Street South in St. Petersburg. Three early education centers for children will also take part in the fair.

"This family event is an outgrowth of the Center's vision statement 'to assist families in estab-

lishing the foundation for their children to have successful lifelong learning experiences," says Executive Director Virginia Irving.

"Family members reading together help young children learn to love reading and love being read to and foster pre-reading and pre-writing skills so necessary and critical in preparing preschoolers to enter kindergarten," Irving states.

In addition to free children's books to be distributed, the Saturday celebration will feature story-

tellers, games, pony rides, balloon sculpture, popcorn and other refreshments.

Founded in 1929, Happy Workers Children's Center is a non-profit organization providing child care and education on a sliding fee scale, for up to 180 children from two months to five years of age.

For more information on programs and services of the Center or on the "Day in the Neighborhood" Family Literacy Fair, call the Center at (727) 894-5337 or visit the Website www.happyworkers.org.

Presentation Examines the Themes of American Manhood and Violence Against Women

ST. PETERSBURG — Sponsored by the Domestic Violence Task Forces of Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties, Jackson Katz, founder of Mentors in Violence Prevention, will host "More Than A Few Good Men." Held on Sept. 13, at The Poynter Institute for Media Studies, 801 Third St. S. Admission is free and open to the public, but you must RSVP.

The presentation will examine several issues, including:

- What is it about the lives of American boys and men that makes some of them prone to violence, date rape, and other crimes against women?
- Why is it when concerned citizens gather to discuss sexual assault and domestic violence, there is a lack of male participation?
- How are the conflicts between individual men and women linked to larger social forces?

Katz's presentation is being promoted as a provocative, multi-media presentation that will draw on racially and ethnically diverse images from mainstream media. He will illuminate the connection between sports, television, Hollywood film, and music videos and the cultural norm of violent masculinity. He will also discuss his pioneering gender violence prevention work with young men and women in schools, colleges, the military and in various sports settings.



Jackson Katz

To RSVP to this event, please contact Barbara Ellis of the Domestic Violence Task Force at (727) 892-5090.

Stories

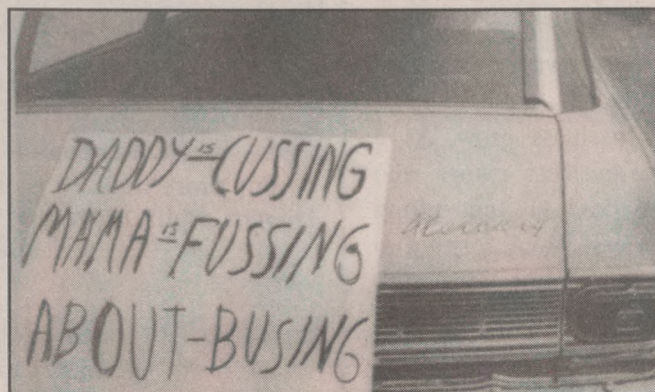
from front page triumph, an eye-opening experience for those too young to know what the times were like.

For Pinellas County, it wasn't until 1971 that the school board adopted a countywide desegregation program, ordering that no more than 30% of the students be black. As one of the displays explains, Dixie Hollins was one of those schools that became a hotbed of racial tension, spurred by its use of the Confederate flag as a symbol of pride. It was in that first year that a group known as Parents and Students for Dixie Hollins formed, organizing motorcades to "restore equal rights to whites by brandishing the Rebel flag and harassing black interlopers."

The exhibits that decorate the museum tell the whole story. Despite the ugliness of the times, the strength of the County's black leaders emerged. The museum's walls are covered memories of the past, pictures of figures influential in Pinellas County's history, such as Talmadge Rutledge, Dr. Joseph Carwise and James Sanderlin. It was Rutledge who, as president of the Clearwater NAACP and a self-described activist, led the fight against the county's segregation rules. Carwise's museum profile highlights his role as the director of pupil assignments for Pinellas County



Author and exhibit organizer Sandra Rooks proudly displays one of her books on the history of blacks in St. Petersburg.



From the "Stony the Road" exhibit.

Schools in 1972. And finally, Sanderlin, who has a center and elementary school on 22nd Avenue South named in his honor, became the county's first African-American judge in 1972, and later went on to Florida's 2nd District Court of Appeal.

Sandra Rooks, director of the Pinellas County African American History Museum, and author of the Black America series of books, "St. Petersburg, Florida," and "Clearwater," helped to organize the exhibit. For the opening, her guest is Alicia Sands Roberts, who tours the exhibit wide-eyed and smiling. She's also there to tell her story before the cam-

era. Roberts really has a story to tell, says Rooks.

Due to the desegregation, Roberts, a retired veteran of the Pinellas County School system, was shuffled around as an elementary school teacher. She recalls being at the all-black Chase Memorial Elementary School, and all of a sudden being told that things were going to change. "We're closing the school next week," the superintendent told me. By Monday morning, I was to start working at Tarpon Springs Elementary," she says.

"We had to get everything out of (Chase) before we left," Roberts adds, recalling the classrooms

that had been so prettily decorated in anticipation of the new school year. "The dump truck came, and I asked them, 'What are you here for, what are you doing?' They told me they were there to get the books."

"That dump truck came and they got all the books - new or old," she says, shaking her head. "I was just so mad, I didn't know what to do."

On opening day, Lori Breece Krout also recalls her own memories, as she surveys the exhibit's remarkable images, walking around before stopping in front of her own photographs. Glancing down, she looks at a picture of herself as a smiling kindergartner, playing with her friends in the schoolyard. Krout was just one of two white children who integrated Palmetto Elementary School in 1966.

For Krout, who stayed at Palmetto until the sixth grade, there were no problems at all with racial tension. "You basically don't see color as a young child, unless someone has taught you to do that," she says. She was determined to participate in the Heritage Village exhibit, noting: "I had such a good experience at (Palmetto) and I wanted to tell the story that I was welcomed."

For more information, contact Heritage Village at (727) 582-2123, or visit the Heritage Village Website at www.pinellascounty.org/Heritage.

Urban League Hosts 20th Crime Prevention Run and Festival

ST. PETERSBURG — The Pinellas County Urban League's Black-on-Black Crime Prevention Program will host its 20th Annual Crime Prevention Run and Festival in the Park on Saturday, Sept. 18. This event will be held in Campbell Park, 601 - 14th St. S., (just south of Tropicana Field). Registration for the 3.5 mile run starts promptly

at 9 a.m. The run will begin at 10 a.m. from Campbell Park and finish there. The route will be secured by volunteer law enforcement officers and will pass through neighborhoods surrounding the park.

The first 1,000 participants to register will receive a free commemorative T-shirt which rein-

forces the theme of the event, "Run Crime out of the Black Community." Trophies will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in four different categories. We are looking for participants to be a part of the runners for this crime prevention run. You can run, walk or skate. The family fun festival in Campbell Park will begin

immediately following the run and will include free refreshments and entertainment. This is a family event that will have something for all ages, so bring the entire family.

Please contact Lendel Bright, Statewide Coordinator of the League's Black-on-Black Crime Prevention Program at (727) 327-2081, ext. 258.

RSVP and Goodwill Honor Heroes of September 11th

One generation passes heroic story to another

PINELLAS COUNTY — Pinellas County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is partnering with Goodwill Industries-Suncoast's BookWorks program to honor heroes on the third anniversary of Sept. 11. Through this effort, RSVP volunteers will read to more than 400 children, ages 2 to 4, in Head Start centers throughout Pinellas County on Sept. 10, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. They will read the same book, "When Teddy Grows Up," about a teddy bear growing up and working in different careers such as an astronaut, fireman and more. The volunteers will connect the story to heroism, emphasizing the importance of remembering and thanking all types of heroes. After reading the story, the volunteers will give each child his or her very own BookWorks

book. "We wanted to do something special to remember those lost on Sept. 11, 2001, and thought the best way to do that would be to spend time with our future - children," said Betty Hayward, director of RSVP. "Goodwill's BookWorks program is an excellent way for our seniors to share the importance of recognizing heroes on a day when so many heroes served our country."

Established in 1971, RSVP is part of a national organization called Senior Corps, and connects people 55 years or older to the needs of their community by referring volunteers to non-profit organizations and government agencies. Currently, RSVP has more than 1,200 senior volunteers serving more than 140 organizations in Pinellas County, including Good-

will. For more information about RSVP, call (727) 327-8690, ext. 22, or visit the RSVP Website at www.poc-inc.org.

An early childhood literacy program, Goodwill's BookWorks reaches out to pre-school children whose home environment may not include books and reading. Volunteers read to groups

of children and after the story time, each child is given a personalized book to take home. Because early childhood literacy is linked to later employability, BookWorks supports Goodwill-Suncoast's mission of helping people achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work.

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BOOK REVIEW

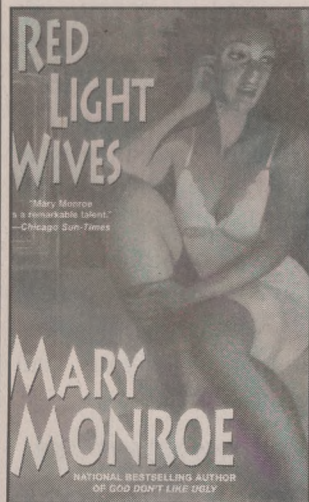


by Tangelia Murph

Meet the Author / Book Signing

Saturday, Sept. 11 • 3-5 p.m.

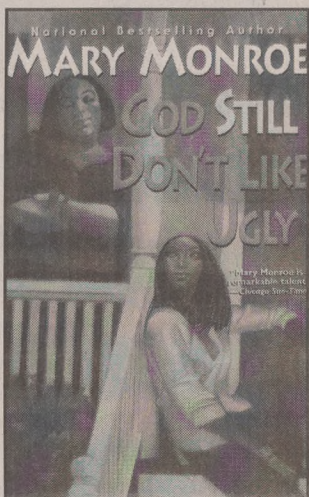
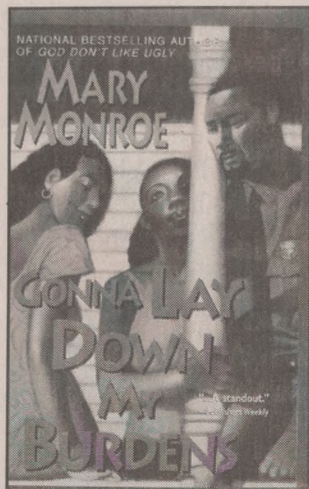
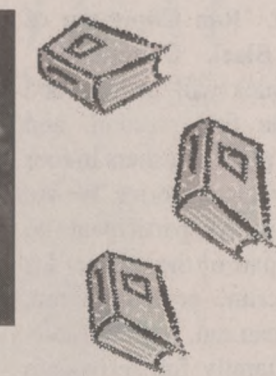
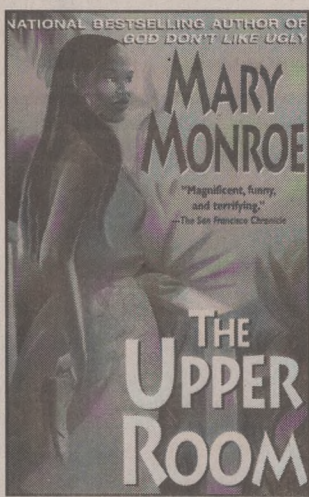
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Capitalize with Minority Enterprise Development Week

by Tracie Reddick
Challenger Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG — If you've never heard of MEDWeek, then it's understandable to confuse it with an organization targeting medical professionals.

But, if you really want to know what's up, then you better ask somebody like Yolanda Cowart.

"MEDWeek is an avenue to develop your business skills, gather pertinent information to build your business base and is an excellent opportunity for networking to expand your business reach," said Cowart, a Business Assistance Specialist for the Pinellas County Economic Development Office.

MEDWeek stands for Minority Enterprise Development Week and is a chance for minority business owners across the

country to showcase their worth.

This year's theme is titled, "Forward to the Future: The Minority Business Enterprise - A National Priority."

The four-day affair kicks off locally on Sept. 13 with a reception sponsored by Sol Davis Printing and Nu Jack Construction. Held at the Tampa Convention Center, the 21-year-old event will feature an array of seminars covering issues such as bonding, employment law, construction law and the credit process.

In an attempt to spread the wealth to minority businesses, event organizers are touting topics on how to do business with both the government and private sector.

Also, local purchasing agents will be given a tour

of selected minority-owned business on both sides of Tampa Bay.

"Economic Development does not occur in isolation," said Frances Wimberly, President of the Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation. "Partnerships create the energy and direction necessary to help the American economy realize its full productive and competitive potential."

During MEDWeek, there will be matchmaking opportunities for small, minority-owned business who want to pair up with larger corporations that can help them grow financially.

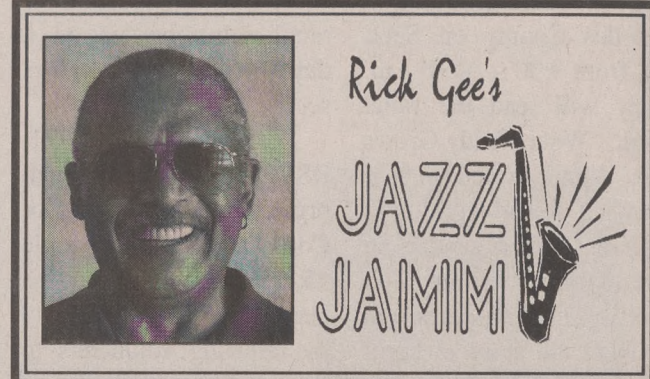
In addition, the event allows business owners to network with each other over breakfast or chat and chew with corporate leaders during lunch. Booths will be set up so that vendors can

showcase their goods and services to potential buyers.

"Our country is moving towards a network of small businesses," said Erni Moore, the past president of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Black Data Processors Association.

"MEDWeek is a great way for a new minority business owner to meet the people who can help his or her business grow. As a new business owner who provides IT consulting services, I look forward to making connections with the people of influence who can help my business become successful!"

For more information, call Yolanda Cowart at (727) 453-7200 or log on to www.tampabaymedweek.org.



Nate Najar Quartet at the Rare Olive

On a recent Sunday afternoon, a fortunate audience gathered at the concert space of the Rare Olive in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg (300 Central Avenue) to hear in concert an up and coming youthful jazz guitarist Nate Najar. Accompanying Najar was Al Secen, on vibraphone, Stephen Bucholtz on drums, and Steve Boisen, bass. Once again, the Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association (ADTBJA) brought a breath of musical fresh air to the City of St. Petersburg.

The repertoire of the jazz group consisted of tunes that they played in a laid back fashion, subtle and quiet. I especially enjoyed their rendition of Antonio Carlos Jobins' very popular "Quiet Nights." It was played as I

imagine Jobin intended it to be played ... soft and sultry. Another familiar and popular standard tune, "Days of Wine and Roses" was played with a pensive, yet melodic flare. Najars' slow meticulous phrasing captured the sadness of the tune. Secens' melodious vibraphone was subtle, but very much present and noticeable.

This is a group that can swing when it wants to. Unfortunately, only a couple of tunes caught me and the audience patting our feet, such as "Bluesology," "A Closer Walk With Thee," and "Cherry Drop," an original tune. These pieces represented the other side of the young Najar, his swinging, harmonic and fiery side one may not be accustomed to or, perhaps, even expect. It's always a challenge when a band recreates a standard with integrity and does it classic justice. One could easily tell that the group came totally prepared and had been well rehearsed. They played relaxed, well-composed and sophisticated musical arrangements. With players



such as these four in town, the future of jazz in St. Petersburg seems hopeful indeed.

Najar has been busy putting together tunes for his second CD, "The Cool Sounds of Nate Najar" which was just recently released. Not only has he performed at Blues Alley and at the House of Blues in Washington, D.C. but, will be on this year's Clearwater Jazz Holiday lineup. This popular free event will be held Oct. 14 - 17 at Coachman Park, Clearwater featuring headliners Rick Braun (Oct. 14), Branford Marsalis and his band (Oct. 15), the Neville Brothers (Oct. 16), and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy (Oct. 17).

More great jazz sponsored by the Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association is coming our way. On Sept. 12, ADTBJA will present in concert The Liquid Jazz Band that will perform at the newly renovated Royal Theatre, 22nd Street, South.

Recently elected ADTBJA Concert Committee Chairman Henry Ashwood promises to bring exciting

jazz and a ton of new jazz groups to the area. Another recently elected ADTBJA Board Member Reed 'Naham' Myles will be working side-by-side with Ashwood in ADTBJA efforts to provide Tampa Bay jazz fans with quality entertainment and to "Keep Jazz Alive." Myles comes to St. Petersburg from the "Windy City" of Chicago. Like Ashwood, Myles is also a jazz musician and has many years' experience in concert jazz promotion and playing.

The Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association encourages young and old alike to become a member of the association. Parties interested in becoming a jazz club member or volunteer may obtain additional information by calling: (727) 866-0085.

Jazz fans - do you have any feedback? I would like to hear from YOU! Mail your letters to Rick Gee's Jazz Jamm, c/o The Weekly Challenger, 2500 ML King St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY



For more than 20 years, Thoms "Hit Man" Hearn, right, represented Detroit with six world titles.

- September 9 • Sarah Mapps Douglass, abolitionist, born, 1806
- John Gregg Fee, Kentucky abolitionist and founder of Berea College, born, 1816
- John R Lynch presides over Republican National Convention, 1884
- Richard Wright, author of *Native Son* and *Black Boy*, born, 1908
- Carter G Woodson, the father of Black history, founds the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, 1915
- Billy Preston, singer and musician, born, 1946
- President Eisenhower passes the first civil rights bill to pass Congress since reconstruction, 1957
- Arthur Ashe becomes first Black U.S. men's Singles Tennis Champion, 1968
- September 10 • John R Lynch, first Black speaker at a Republican National Convention, born, 1847
- September 11 • "Duke" Ellington wins Spingarn Medal for his musical achievements, 1959
- Serena Williams becomes the first African American woman to win the USA Open since Althea Gibson, 1999
- September 12 • Jackie Robinson, first Black baseball player in the major leagues, named National League Rookie of the Year, 1947
- September 13 • The first major conspiracy between Black slaves and indentured servants occurs in Gloucester County, Virginia, 1663
- Louis Latimer patents an electric lamp with a carbon filament, 1881
- Alain L Locke, philosopher and first Black Rhodes Scholar, born, 1886
- September 14 • Constance Baker Motley, US Cabinet member, born, 1921
- President Franklin D Roosevelt signs Selective Service Act, allowing Blacks to enter all branches of the US Military Service, 1940
- September 15 • First National Negro Convention held in Philadelphia, PA, 1830
- Paul Robeson, actor and activist, portrays Othello for the 296th time at New York City's Shubert Theater, 1943
- Thomas "Hit Man" Hearn becomes the first Black man to win boxing titles in five different weight classes, 1987

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EDUCATION

Apollo Theater Foundation Joins Supportmusic.Com Initiative to Keep Music in Schools



"Too often music programs are the first to be sacrificed when schools face budget cuts," said Jonelle Prococo, president and CEO of the Apollo Theater Foundation.

NEW YORK, NY — The Apollo Theater Foundation, Inc., a not for profit organization dedicated to the preservation and development of the historic theater, has joined the Music Education Coalition in its massive initiative to help parents and educators appeal to school boards and other decision-makers to keep music in schools.

"Too often music programs are the first to be sacrificed when schools face budget cuts," said Jonelle Prococo, President and CEO of the Apollo Theater Foundation. "In light of many studies proving that music education leads to better performance in math, science, and on SAT and other standardized tests, we need to fight back on every level when school music programs are threatened. SupportMusic.com provides the information needed to act intelligently and effectively."

WWW.SupportMusic.com is the source of infor-

mation for the largest initiative ever in support of school music programs. Dedicated to inspiring action to support music education in the United States, the initiative offers resources empowering parents to act locally. The initiative was launched by the Music Education Coalition, an entity formed by NAMM, the International Music Products Association and MENC, the National Association for Music Education.

Because of the positive impact of music education, the federal government named music a "core academic subject" alongside reading, writing and arithmetic in the No Child Left Behind Act (the controlling Federal education legislation). At the same time thousands of school boards across the country are implementing unprecedented and massive budget cutbacks.

Parents and other interested community members know from experience that music is all too often the first to be sacrificed. And even at current levels, about 60% of the children in school (grades K-12) may be deprived of a meaningful education in music. It is critical for parents and educators to know how to fight back and restore and maintain school music programs. www.SupportMusic.com provides the resources needed to keep music in schools.

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Frequently Asked Questions About School Choice

What is a choice attendance area school?

A choice attendance area school is a school within your attendance area. There are four elementary attendance areas, three middle school areas and one high school attendance area. Students may apply to any school in their attendance area.

How can I find out my attendance area?

Parents may view the maps in the School Choice Information Guide or visit www.pinellaschoice.org. If you are unsure call a Family Education and Information Center (FEIC).

What is grandfathering?

Once a child has been assigned to a school, he or she is "grandfathered" there or is allowed to stay at that school through the highest grade.

What is extended grandfathering?

Extended grandfathering allows students who were in a public school on or before June 6, 2001 to stay on track to attend the same middle and high schools they would have attended under the old "zoning" system. Students who have moved after June 6, 2001 are no longer eligible. Also, students are no longer eligible if they leave the public school system or their zoned school, or if they fail to complete the highest grade in magnet or fundamental school program.

Who has to apply for a choice school for the 2005-06 school year?

Parents must turn in an application for a choice school between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1, 2004 if their child:

1. Is entering kindergarten, coming to a public school for the first time or is returning to the district.
2. Is entering grade 6 or 9 next year and is not eligible for or does not want to use extended grandfathering.
3. Wants to apply for a different area school next year.

What if my child already is in a Pinellas public school and I want him to stay there next year?

If you are happy with your child's school do

nothing. Your child will automatically be assigned to the same school next year. The district will not be sending you any notification.

How do I apply for a choice attendance area school?

Beginning Sept. 1, there will be three ways to apply, however, not everyone can use each option. The student must be registered with the district before they can apply.

1. At the Family Education and Information Centers (FEIC) - A choice application form can be delivered, mailed or faxed to an FEIC. The application form is printed in the School Choice Information Guide which will be available at schools, FEICs and at the Sept. 11 Magnet/Choice Information Fair. Beginning Sept. 1, parents also may print a copy from the Internet at www.pinellaschoice.org. If you want to use the family preference, the family preference form is the only way you can apply.

2. On the telephone - Available only for families who are not using a family preference or whose children do not require special services such as exceptional student education (ESE) or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

3. On the Internet - Available only to parents of current 5th and 8th grade public school students who do not want to use a family preference. Parents of 5th and 8th grade public school students will be mailed a letter containing a pin number to be used for Internet application.

For more information, click on "How to apply" on the left navigation menu on the choice website.

My child requires exceptional student education (ESE) or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services. How do I make school choices?

Parents are encouraged to select schools that offer these services. Refer to the school legend boxes printed in the School Choice Information Guide.

My child is entering kindergarten next year. What do I need to do?

If you plan to send

your child to a public school in 2005-06, you first must get your child registered with the choice website at one of two Family Education and Information Centers and then apply for choice attendance area schools before the Nov. 1 deadline. Click on the "new student registration" section on the choice website for required documents. You also may apply by phone to countywide magnet or fundamental programs. If you accept a seat in a countywide program, your application for a choice school will not be processed.

Is there an advantage to applying early?

No. All applications for choice schools and countywide programs received during the Sept. 1-Nov. 1 application period will be given equal consideration. Parents are encouraged not to wait until the last minute and allow time to research schools.

What happens if a family that needs to apply does not turn in a choice application by the Nov. 1 deadline?

The district will assign their child to a school that has space available.

What is a countywide magnet program?

Magnet programs offer a wide range of opportunities with very specialized curriculum in areas such as science, technology, art or medicine. Some magnet programs have eligibility criteria. Eligible students living across the county may apply. There are four elementary magnet programs, two middle school programs and 10 high school programs.

What is a countywide fundamental school?

Fundamental schools emphasize a "back to basics" structure, student responsibility, homework and mandatory parental involvement. Students living across the county may apply. There are five fundamental elementary schools and two fundamental middle schools. Transportation to fundamental schools is not provided by the school district.

What is a countywide career academy?

A career academy is a high school program that organizes academic

coursework around an industry or occupational theme (e.g. agriscience, automotive, construction graphic arts, international business). Students fulfill college entrance requirements in addition to learning work-related skills.

How do I apply to a countywide magnet, fundamental or career academy program?

Beginning Sept. 1, the only way to apply is by using the automated phone system. There are no paper applications. Parents should follow instructions on the application worksheets which will be available at the FEIC, at the schools that house the programs, at the Sept. 11 Magnet/Choice Information Fair and on the magnet website www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/Magnet. You may apply to as many countywide programs as you want and they do not have to be in priority order. Assignments to countywide programs are done through a computer random selection process. Parents must call back into the phone system during the Dec. 1-Dec. 10 acceptance period to find out the status of their child's application.

Do some countywide programs have eligibility criteria?

Yes, some middle school and all high school magnet programs have eligibility criteria. Paperwork for these programs must be turned in to the program office at the school by the Nov. 2 or the application will be voided. Eligibility criteria can be found in program brochures or on the magnet website at www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/Magnet.

Is there a difference between the family preference for choice schools and the sibling priority for countywide magnet or fundamental programs?

Yes. For choice attendance area schools, students who live at the same address are given a priority to attend the same school during the computer match process. For countywide programs, siblings are defined differently - the students must share a parent or legal guardian - in order to be given priority to get into the same magnet or fundamental school. (The

student also must meet admissions criteria.) Policies for countywide programs are being revised. For the latest information, visit www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/Magnet.

Will students lose their seat at their current school if they apply for a countywide, magnet, fundamental or career academy program?

No. They will not lose their current seat just by applying. However, if they accept an invitation to a countywide program during the Dec. 1 to Dec. 10 acceptance period, they will give up their seat in the current school for the 2005-06 school year.

What happens if a student leaves a countywide magnet, fundamental or high school academy program?

Students who leave a countywide program during the school year will be immediately assigned to a choice attendance area school that has seats available by the FEIC. Students who do not complete the countywide program are not eligible for extended grandfathering when they move to middle or high school.

My child is currently enrolled in a countywide magnet, fundamental or academy program. What happens if I apply to a choice attendance area school?

Your child will lose the seat in the countywide program and forfeits extended grandfathering to a middle or high school.

Will an elementary school student in a countywide magnet or fundamental program be able to continue on to attend a similar countywide middle school program?

Yes. The rules have not changed. However, the family still must apply for the middle school level, accept a program invitation by phone, and meet any eligibility requirements.

What if my child is in private school or is homeschooled?

If you want your child to attend a Pinellas public school in 2005-06, your first step is to register the child at Family Education and Information Center. You need to apply for a choice school or a county-

wide magnet, fundamental or academy program by Nov. 1, 2004. In the event your child is not invited into a countywide program, you also should apply to a choice school in your attendance area.

What if my child is assigned to a choice school that is not my first- or second-choice school?

If you do not receive one of your top two choices, your child will be placed on a waiting list for both schools. School vacancies would be filled from the waiting list only if the school is not over capacity.

Is it possible that I won't get any of the five choice schools that I select?

Yes, it is possible. If your child is not assigned to one of your five choices, the FEIC will make a school assignment. Your child also will be placed on a waiting list for your first- and second-choice schools.

Is there an appeals process?

Yes. If you feel like that your child's school assignment was not made according to the established procedures in the Choice Plan, you have the right to appeal the assignment. See page 2 of the School Choice Information Guide for more information.

What other school choice options are available to students?

Charter schools also are available. Parents interested in this option should contact the charter school directly about application procedures. Applications to these schools are not part of the choice computer match process.

How can I learn more about schools?

School information can be found at the FEIC, in the School Choice Information Guide, in school brochures and on the website at www.pinellaschoice.org. Parents also are encouraged to visit school campuses by attending school tours. Dates and times are listed in this guide and on the website. Many school representatives also will be available Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Magnet/Choice Information Fair at Pinellas Park High School.

Back to School

PINELLAS COUNTY - More than 10,000 educators are expected to attend Pinellas County Schools' Sept. 10 "Back to School" event at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Howard Hinesley, who is retiring as superintendent Oct. 29, will say farewell to the school sys-

tem's instructional and administrative staff.

Dr. Clayton Wilcox, the district's new superintendent, will be introduced. Hinesley has been Pinellas County Schools' superintendent for 14 years and has the longest tenure of any superintendent in an urban district in the nation. The event also will



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Dr. Clayton Wilcox, the district's new superintendent, will be introduced.

include a training session, "Effective Schooling," presented by nationally known educator, Dr. Robert Marzano. The Pinellas

Education Foundation is sponsoring the program.

For more information, contact Marlyn Dennison, (727) 588-6312.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS A HEALTH CONCERN

By Dr. Mary Harris

What does a woman who shows up in a local emergency room with a broken jaw have in common with a ten year old boy who's never allowed outside to play? Both are victims of domestic violence. The woman manifests classic evidence of end-stage abuse. The child's withdrawal is a sign of an earlier stage-abuse by isolation. These examples illustrate the many faces and phases of domestic violence. African American men, women and children are just as likely as other ethnic groups to be affected by domestic violence since the phenomenon spans race, class and nationality.

What is domestic violence?

Understanding what domestic violence is and its phases may help to break the cycle. A short, broad definition is "any behavior by one or more persons that violates or compromises the safety of other persons living in the same household". To imagine that all domestic violence begins and ends with physical contact is incorrect. Although physical violence, even death, are often tragic outcomes, domestic violence can begin with subtle emotional abuse in the form of isolation and neglect. Verbal abuse may be next in the form of harsh language intended to threaten, demean or embarrass. A next stage may be violent outbursts resulting in the destruction of property. Finally violence is directed toward an individual in the form of pushes, slaps, shoves, punches or worse.

Why do people abuse their loved ones?

Research shows that abusers often model behavior they've observed or experienced in childhood. Regardless of social class or education, most of us imitate what we see our first teachers - our parents - do. So the children of abusive parents often grow into abusive partners and parents themselves-therby continuing the cycle of abuse. Of course other factors like mental illness, substance abuse, and periods of high stress or crisis may also come into play as triggers of domestic violence.

Don't make excuses

As stated earlier, domestic violence is learned behavior. The good news is it can be unlearned with proper intervention. But until intervention occurs, it's important to remember that it's never appropriate to use abusive behaviors such as verbal or physical violence as a way to express anger, control or threaten or manipulate another person. Watch for early stage warning signs that could escalate.

If you are a batterer, STOP. If you are a victim, SEEK HELP for yourself and for the batterer. The best action a victim can take is calling 911 or a domestic abuse hotline in your area and/or TO LEAVE your home with your children if at all possible. Although this step sounds dramatic, it could save your life by offering YOU the protection of a shelter or family and friends until your batterer can be apprehended by police. By tolerating abuse-especially in the presence of children, victims and potential victims risk injury or death and place their children at risk for repeating the cycle of violence once they become adults. An excellent online resource for more information is www.medlineplus.gov. And always remember to visit www.journeytowellness.com for important news about your health.

Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Cards - Which One Should You Pick?

The new Medicare law that was signed into law in December 2003 makes major changes to the nation's health insurance program for people age 65+ and some persons with disabilities. The most important part of the law is a new benefit to help people in Medicare with their prescription drug costs. This assistance will go into effect in two stages. The first stage begins in May 2004 when you can sign up for a discount card to help with some drug costs. This is a temporary program that phases out when the second stage of assistance, a Medicare drug benefit, goes into effect on January 1, 2006. Once this begins, the discount cards will no longer be used.

Discount cards with a Medicare-approved seal will save you about 10-15% on your total prescription drug costs. Medicare will contract with private companies to offer these cards. The cost for a card will be no more than \$30. This card is optional - you do not have to get a discount card if you don't want one.

However, if you decide to get a Medicare-approved discount card from a private company, you may pay less for your prescription drugs than you do now. Discounts will vary by card, and each plan will be slightly different. For example, some cards can only be used at certain pharmacies.

With many different cards available, and different discounts offered for different drugs on each card, how do you decide which card is the right one for you?

Start by making a list of the medicines you currently take, and include how much you pay each month for each prescription drug. Then, as you learn more about the different Medicare-approved discount drug cards that are available in your area, find out which cards offer the best discounts on the drugs you need.

Here are some important facts for you to consider:

- You can only get one Medicare discount drug card at a time.

- If you already have a different discount card, you can keep that card. You can also get a Medicare discount card. Use whichever one gives you the best deal.

- If you are in a Medicare+Choice plan, your plan may decide to offer a Medicare discount drug card. If it does, you can only choose that card. If your Medicare+Choice plan does not offer a discount drug card, you can choose any available Medicare discount drug card.

- If you are in a state Medicaid program with drug coverage, you will not be able to get the discount card.

- If you have drug coverage through an employer or former employer, you may not need the discount card.

- If you have a Medigap plan with drug coverage, you may get lower prices using the card. The card should not affect your drug coverage.

Special help for those with low incomes:

If you have a low income, you can get additional help. If your income is less than about \$12,000 a year for one person, or \$16,000 for a married couple, you may get up to \$600 to help pay for prescription drugs in 2004 and again in 2005. Also, you will not have to pay a fee for your discount card. While you have money on your card, you will have to pay a low copay (5%-10%) each time you use it. If you use up the \$600, the card can still be used for discounts.

If your drugs are already covered by Medicaid, you can not get the discount card. If you have drug coverage from an employer or the federal government, you cannot get the special low income features of the discount

card.

Medicare-approved discount drug cards may be able to save you money on the medicines you need. Each card is different, and will provide different discounts on different drugs. It's important to figure out which discount card will provide the most savings for you. Before choosing your Medicare-approved discount drug card, shop around to see which card best meets your needs.

Need more information?

Medicare will give you more information as the benefits start. Medicare has a web site (www.medicare.gov) and a toll-free telephone number (800-MEDICARE or 800-633-4227 or TTY 877-486-2408). For those who prefer to get help in person, there are counseling programs that can provide direct assistance.

AARP also has a web site (www.aarp.org) and a phone number (888-OUR-AARP or 888-687-2277) to give you information to help you understand your Medicare and prescription drug choices.

Childhood Obesity and the African American Community

Childhood obesity is a complex problem with no easy solutions. This trend is increasing at alarming rates with 15.3 percent of children nationally considered obese according to the American Obesity Association. For minority communities in the United States childhood obesity statistics are particularly alarming. It is a crisis that requires developing solutions at the local level that reflect the unique needs of each community.

The Coalition for a Healthy and Active America (CHAA) is a grassroots organization active in Florida. CHAA members believe the most effective way to address childhood obesity is by partnering community leaders, parents, schools and students to craft reasonable and responsible solutions. There is no silver bullet when it comes to keeping our kids fit, but by empowering communities to craft a balanced approach to childhood obesity that includes a renewed commitment to physical fitness and expanded nutrition education we can immediately help put our kids on the right track.

The Pediatric Nutri-

tion Surveillance System (PedNSS), a program-based analysis of the US Department of Health and Human Services, shows that African American boys rank second only to Hispanic boys in their prevalence for obesity, 13.4 percent to 17.7 percent respectively. Further, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control statistics suggest African American females are 50 percent more likely to be overweight than their white counterparts.

Statistics such as these understandably are serious concern for African Americans. While childhood obesity is a public health issue for all Americans, the health complications associated with being overweight - such as diabetes and high blood pressure - are already more common in the African American community.

CHAA's mission is to promote the critical role increased physical activity and expanded nutrition education play in combating childhood obesity.

For more information on how you can get involved, please visit www.chaousa.org.

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There's No Better Time to Learn More About How to Take Medications the Right Way

As we get older, our bodies change the way they process medicines. We also tend to take more medications as we age. Both factors increase the likelihood of unwanted or possibly harmful drug interactions -

particularly if we misuse these drugs, even accidentally.

Guard against any potential problems:

- Talk with your doctor, pharmacist or other health professionals about

all the medications you take.

- Always read and follow the directions on your medications.

- Take your medications for the entire time that they are prescribed.

- Don't mix your medications with alcohol.

- Notify your health professionals immediately of any unexpected side effects.

Take charge of your health by being informed

so that the best days of your life can be the ones you're living right now.

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STATE NEWS

B-CC Classes Begin With President Outlining Major Initiatives

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — On the first day of class of her new administration, Bethune-Cookman College President Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed announced her plans to establish an International Institute for Civic Participation and Social Responsibility and her "Vision Validators" fundraising plan at a press conference in the Mary McLeod Bethune Performing Arts Center on Aug. 30.

"The Institute will be a place for the nation's African American leadership to come to vision, to plan, to analyze, to set public policy and to assess the needs of the community to provide feedback to society," Reed said. As part of the Institute, Reed plans to conduct national forums to implement change. Bethune-Cookman College students and others from around the world will have



At a recent press conference, Dr. Reed spoke of a new sense of vision for B-CC.

the opportunity to study issues such as literacy, equity and citizenship as well as earn a degree in civic participation and social responsibility.

"This will enable our students to understand service learning and its way," Reed says. "It reconnects us to the legacy of Dr. Bethune and also takes us into the future."

"Vision Validators" is an ambitious plan calls for seeking ten million alumni and friends of the College

to contribute a minimum of \$10 per month during the year-long Centennial celebration as well as larger "gifts from the heart" to help secure the goals Reed has for the College, including:

- Facilitating an effective learning community.
- Become a top liberal arts institution in the region and nation.
- Increase the endowment and fundraising.
- Increase Continuing Education opportunities of

excellence.

"We have a long and distinguished history and a promising future," Reed said. "We are seeking friends and alumni who wish to invest in the vision of our founder Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune to insure that the vision will live on through the leadership and service of the College for generations to come."

Reed announced that the plan has begun with two major gifts: a \$50,000 donation from Lucille O'Neal's Odessa Chambliss Quality of Life Fund earmarked for endowed scholarships for the College's School of Nursing and another gift of \$25,000 for endowed scholarships from a member of the College's Board of Trustees, O'Neal, the mother of NBA superstar Shaquille O'Neal, graduated from Bethune-Cookman College last year.

FAMU Radio Station Earns High Ranking

TALLAHASSEE, — The Princeton Review, which ranks the nation's colleges and universities, has ranked Florida A&M University college radio station WANM (FM) 90.5 among the nation's best. WANM was rated second nationally behind Emerson College, of Boston, Massachusetts, as a Great College Radio Station. FAMU's radio station was the only one from a Historically Black College or Univer-

sity to make the list.

WANM general manager Keith Miles said, "This is a tribute to an outstanding staff, a great journalism program, and more importantly FAMU students who keep us fresh by supporting us."

Last year WANM was rated the 13th best college radio station by the Princeton Review. Program Director Gregg Bishop was elated by the news. Bishop said, "We have worked

hard to create a radio station that the entire Tallahassee and FAMU community can be proud of. We're constantly listening to our audience and attempting to stay on the cutting edge."

The Princeton Review rates the best 357 colleges in the nation by creating 64 rankings lists, organized into 9 categories, based on student feedback. The nine categories include: academics; administration; demographics; politics;

schools by types; parties; quality of life; extracurricular and social. In 1997 Florida A&M received the distinction of being the Princeton Review's "College of the Year."

FAMU journalism dean Jim Hawkins said the honor is the kind of recognition the program needs and deserves. "This award serves as another indication of the quality of work being done in our program."

Study Seeks Black Women in Florida Whose Sisters Had Breast Cancer

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. — A new study looking at sisters of women with breast cancer is now actively recruiting African-American women in Florida. The study, conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), part of the National Institutes of Health, is designed to determine environmental and genetic causes of breast cancer. It will be expanded nationally later this year, but currently includes statewide recruitment in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

The study will eventually require 50,000 women volunteers nationwide, ages 35 to 74, including women of all races, who

have not had breast cancer but who have a sister who was diagnosed with breast cancer. Sisters of women with breast cancer are known to be at greater risk of the disease than other women. Dale Sandler, Ph.D., chief of the Epidemiology Branch at NIEHS, said, "Volunteers will complete several questionnaires and provide a sample of their blood, urine, toenails and household dust. With that, we will be able to look at the contributions of lifestyle, occupational and environmental exposures, and genes to breast cancer risk." The

study, she added, will follow sisters for 10 years or more and compare those who develop breast cancer during that time to those who do not.

Volunteers in the Sister Study will help researchers identify factors that influence the development of breast cancer, including race and ethnicity. Although white women tend to develop breast cancer at higher rates, black women are more likely to die of the disease.

"Throughout my sister's fight with breast cancer, we all prayed and prayed for healing and a

swift recovery," said Dottie Sterling, a Sister Study volunteer. "Now my sister Wish has been a breast cancer survivor for more than 13 years, and I could not be more proud. I see joining the Sister Study as my tribute to her strength and her faith. The Sister Study will make a difference in all our lives."

To volunteer or learn more about the Sister Study, go to the Web site www.sisterstudy.org or call toll free 1-877-4SISTER (877-474-7837).

Juvenile Justice Fires Miami-Dade County Jail Official

MIAMI (AP) — Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Anthony Schembri has fired the superintendent of the Miami-Dade Regional Juvenile Detention Center, saying he failed to bring about the necessary changes at the facility where a 17-year-old died last year.

Willie Carl Westley, a 30-year corrections veteran who was appointed to the post in April, was recently fired after a review showed the detention center did not meet the department's minimum standards in five of

10 areas.

"This performance is totally unacceptable," Schembri said in a statement. "This center has had ample time to straighten out these issues. I have no choice but to take immediate action to ensure the continued safety of the youths in our care."

The detention center has been under scrutiny since June 2003 when 17-year-old Omar Paisley died of a burst appendix that went untreated for three days.

His death prompted

dramatic reforms at the department and the departure of nearly two dozen agency employees, including former Secretary Bill Bankhead. Nurses Gaile Loperfido and Dianne Demeritte have been charged with manslaughter and third-degree murder.

A recent review found the facility had security problems, fire safety violations, and workers failed to properly document inmates' mental health history and adequately store medication.

"The well being of the

youth in our care is my first priority," Schembri said. "If the current management cannot ensure that, they will not be part of our team"

Schembri appointed Regional Director Walt Davis to oversee detention center until a permanent replacement is found. A team of experts was also appointed to work full-time with the detention center and help make needed reforms, he said.

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NATIONAL NEWS

U.S. Stamp to Honor Little Rock Nine

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — One of the tentative designs for the 37-cent commemorative postage stamps for 2005 will feature the 1957 Central High School desegregation crisis, a U.S. Postal Service official says.

The stamp will be part of a 10-stamp collection paying tribute to the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century. The collection, titled "To Form A More Perfect Union," includes a stamp titled "1957-Little Rock Nine." It depicts nine children, accompanied by two adults, standing in a line outside

the school, according to Cynthia Pettis-Puryear, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Postal Service Stamp Services Division.

In 1957, nine Black students were barred from the school even though the U.S. Supreme Court had ordered integration. The following year, legislation backed by Gov. Orval Faubus closed the public high schools for the year. They were reopened and integrated in the 1959 school year.

The 2005 stamps will be formally unveiled in November.



One of the "Little Rock Nine" braves a jeering crowd.

photo credit: Will Counts

Teens Plead Guilty in Cross-Burning Case

COVINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Two teenagers accused of burning a cross in the front yard of a black family have pleaded guilty in federal court.

Matthew Scudder, 18, of Hebron and James Foster, 19, of Independence pleaded guilty on Sept. 2, to violating the family's civil rights, intimidating

the family and to aiding and abetting a juvenile involved in the crime.

The two face up to 10 years in prison at sentencing, scheduled for Dec. 16.

On July 2, the northern Kentucky family found a 3-foot-tall charred cross in its front yard in Burlington. The next morning, the windows were broken out of a

family car.

The family moved out of Boone County after the incident.

Federal prosecutors said Scudder and Foster conspired to intimidate the family. They said Scudder and the juvenile burned the cross and threw bricks at the car's windows. The teens wore white hoods and

shouted racial slurs as they targeted the family, the FBI said.

The case was prosecuted in federal court because the teens would have faced misdemeanor charges and could have been sentenced to only one year in jail.

College to Move Controversial Exhibit Indoors; Artist Threatens to Cancel Show

Exhibit features a mock lynching of the Confederate flag

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP) — Citing security concerns, Gettysburg College has decided to move a controversial art exhibit — including the mock lynching of a Confederate flag — indoors.

The decision outraged Florida artist John Sims, who said he would refuse to attend the opening of the exhibit, "The Recoloration Proclamation: The Gettysburg Redress," or consider pulling it altogether.

Sims plan to hold the mock hanging on a 13-foot-high gallows outside

Schmucker Art Gallery had triggered a campaign to cancel the show. In response, the college said it would move the exhibit indoors to reduce the security threat.

Sims said there is a "pretty high" likelihood he would cancel the exhibit.

"They can't have their cake and eat it, too. John Sims is not supporting the fork for that," he said. "They're going to have to get their fingers sticky."

Sims describes his work as an examination of the power of symbols. In

his case, passion about the flag has generated dozens of e-mail and phone complaints to the school, the borough and the artist himself.

Websites devoted to the flag buzzed with outrage over the planned mock lynching and the local chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans obtained permission for a protest vigil on National Park Service property that borders campus.

Besides the flag, Sims' show is to include jazz-style alternative recordings

of "Dixie," Sims' rewriting of the Gettysburg Address and a speech on nationalism and dissent in contemporary art by Harvard University professor Gwendolyn DuBois Shaw.

Sims, a black man who once displayed colorized Confederate flags at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Florida, has said Gettysburg is "the perfect place" to launch a project he describes as "a battle of symbols."

Gettysburg was the location of a storied 1863 battle that swung the tide of the Civil War.

Wilberforce University Giving Honorary Degree to Lou Rawls

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Grammy-winning singer Lou Rawls, who has helped raise more than \$200 million for the United Negro College Fund during a quarter-century, was awarded an honorary doctorate from one of the nation's oldest black universities.

Wilberforce University recently honored Rawls for his "lifelong service to the education of historically disadvantaged populations." The presentation will be made to Rawls during a concert performance at nearby Frazee Pavilion in Kettering, Oh.

"Although I never went



Entertainer Lou Rawls

to college, I've been extremely fortunate to receive a number of honorary doctorates. It always gives me a feeling of accomplishment to know

that I've been able to help others," Rawls said.

Rawls, whose 70-plus albums include hits like "Love Is A Hurtin' Thing," "Dead End Street," "A Natural Man" and "You'll Never Find Another Love Like Mine," launched the annual United Negro College Fund telethon in 1980.

It has raised more than \$200 million over the years.

"A woman recently came up to me and said, 'Thank you. You made my grandson the first college grad in our family.' This honor makes me realize that I am continuing to be

successful in my endeavors to give something back. That makes it all worth it," Rawls said.

Wilberforce University President Floyd H. Flake praised the singer-humanitarian.

"Lou Rawls is responsible for more funds and resources for historically black colleges and universities than anyone alive. Lou has carried out his mission for African-American higher education with untiring passion and he is owed an inestimable debt of gratitude," Flake said.

Jackson Admits to Child Payoffs

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson, saying he must respond to "untruths and sensationalism," says he'd never harm a child, but admitted reaching financial settlements with people to avoid the embarrassment of going to court. Jackson's statement was issued on Sept. 3 just hours before the scheduled broadcast of a TV report alleging he paid \$2 million US to the son of an employee at his Neverland Ranch in 1990 to avoid a child-molestation accusation.

The statement made no direct mention of the report but began with the words: "It is unfortunate that, yet again, I must respond to untruths and sensationalism."

Jackson, 46, is fighting charges he molested a boy in 2003.

The entertainer, who is



Michael Jackson

free on \$3 million bail, has pleaded not guilty to committing a lewd act upon a child, administering an intoxicating agent and conspiring to commit child abduction, false imprisonment and extortion.

He is scheduled to face trial Jan. 31.

Jackson admitted he has made financial settlements in the past to avoid litigation but added: "I would never harm a child." "Years ago, I settled with certain individuals because I was concerned about my family and the media scrutiny that would have

ensued if I fought the matter in court," he said.

"These people wanted to exploit my concern for children by threatening to destroy what I believe in and what I do. I have been a vulnerable target for those who want money."

Jackson was being investigated by Santa Barbara authorities in 1993 when he reached a settlement with his accuser, paying him a sum reported at \$15 million to \$20 million.

The televised report claims in 1990 Jackson allegedly made the \$2 million payment to the son of an employee at his Neverland Ranch.

The boy was not the same one Jackson settled with in 1993, the report said.

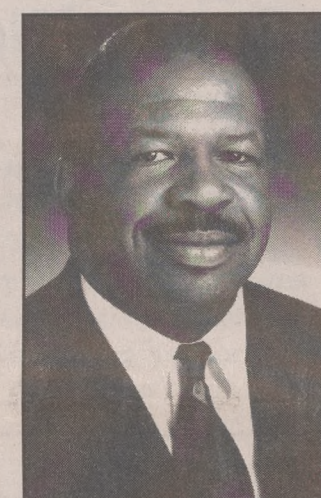
The August Employment Report; Once Again, Job Growth Falls Short of Economic Forecast

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, issued the following statement on the U.S. Labor Department's August employment report:

"For almost four years, America's workers have struggled to stay afloat in an economy that continues to give them a sense of false hope. One month, the economy may show faint signs of recovery, and the next month, the economic picture is once again bleak and unforgiving."

"The U.S. Labor Department released its August employment numbers. Although these numbers reveal that some individuals have found work, they also show that millions of Americans are still standing in the unemployment lines wondering 'when will the hard times get any better?'"

"According to the U.S. Labor Department, during the month of August, the



U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus

U.S. economy created a marginal 144,000 new jobs. While this number is an increase from the anemic 32,000 jobs created in June, it is not nearly enough to provide for the 8 million Americans who are currently unemployed.

"Additionally, in August, as in previous months, the number of jobs created is drastically below the 900,000 jobs our economy must create each month if the employment picture is to recover to the point where it was when President Bush took

office four years ago.

"Moreover, the national unemployment rate has remained essentially unchanged at 5.4%. The African American unemployment rate remains in the double digits at 10.4%, and the Hispanic American unemployment rate has increased to 7%."

"(On Sept. 2), President Bush stood before the American people and declared that he was ready to lead our nation for four more years."

"At this critical time in our nation's history, we must ask ourselves, 'can America's workers survive another four years of President George Walker Bush?'"

"Since President Bush took office in 2001, the U.S. economy has shed 1 million jobs, and the jobs that have been created are paying lower wages. Increasingly, families cannot afford the rising cost of health insurance, home mortgages and college tuition."

"(Recently), the U.S.

Census Bureau reported that 36 million Americans were living in poverty in 2003, and 45 million were without health insurance. Furthermore, President Bush's new overtime regulations have reduced the earning potential of approximately six million workers."

"America's workers deserve a chance to earn a living wage. They deserve the opportunity to provide a decent standard of living for themselves and their families. However, they will never get that chance under the misguided leadership of President Bush."

"We cannot place our nation back on the path of prosperity with four more years of fiscal mismanagement, irresponsible tax cuts and deficit spending."

"The choice is clear. If we want our economic picture to change, our leadership in the White House and Congress must also change. America can and must do better."



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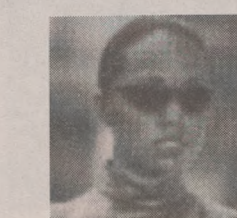
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Woman Says Kids Left in Nigeria Are Angry

by Pam Easton

Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — The adoptive mother of seven children found malnourished at a Nigerian orphanage has said the youngsters could be lying about claims of physical and emotional abuse because they were upset about their ordeal.

"If somebody put me in an orphanage and starved me and subjected me to no sleep - sleep deprivation and food deprivation are two forms of torture - I wouldn't want to see that person either," Mercury Denise Liggins, 47, said at a hearing where she was ordered to pay monthly child support. "And I would say anything to keep from going back."

Liggins' children, ranging in age from 8 to 17, were discovered a month ago at the Nigerian orphanage by an American missionary. The children, some of them suffering from typhoid and malaria, told the missionary they were from Houston and wanted to go home. The church's pastor told two U.S. congressmen and arrangements were made to return them to Texas.

Since their return, the



Mercury Liggins leaves court with her lawyer, Michael Delaney, in Houston Thursday, Sept. 2. Liggins, the adoptive mother of seven children found malnourished in a Nigerian orphanage last month, was ordered to pay \$1,480 monthly in child support while the children remain in the state's care.

AP Photo / Michael Stravato

children have alleged years of severe emotional and physical abuse, according to Child Protective Services.

Liggins said her only mistake was trusting her brother-in-law to care for the children in Nigeria while she took a job with Halliburton subsidiary KBR to work in Iraq. The relative took the money, causing the children to be kicked out of their boarding school and put in the squalid orphanage, she said.

"I never dumped my children," Liggins said. "My children were left

been sort of a rebel and sort of the leader of the other children, actually plotted ... to take them to this orphanage in an effort to leave Nigeria," he alleged.

The children's attorney, Terry Lea Elizondo, denied that account, saying the children were surprised when Nigerian officials showed up at their uncle's home and took them to the orphanage. The oldest child is "not a rebel at all," Elizondo said.

"She is a person, who at age 16, had to become responsible for the care of six younger siblings," she said, accusing Liggins of trying to shift blame and evade responsibility "for the mess she's created."

Judge Sherry Van Pelt ordered Liggins to pay \$1,480 a month while the children remain in state custody.

with someone who I thought was responsible. I am praying that I get them back."

Liggins' attorney, Michael Delaney, charged that it "wasn't accidental" the children ended up in an orphanage.

"We have some evidence that the oldest girl, who is 17 and had always



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Bahamas Surveys Frances' Damage

FREEPORT, Bahamas (AP) — Bahamians emerged last Sunday from 48 hours of roaring winds and severe flooding to witness the destruction left by Hurricane Frances: wrecked homes and collapsed roofs, yards littered with mangled trees.

The hurricane left at least two people dead and one missing, and officials said they feared the death toll could rise. The northern island of Grand Bahama appeared particularly hard-hit, with several neighborhoods flooded, fallen trees blocking roads and severed power lines hidden amid debris.

Violent winds destroyed a wall at Gary Roberts' home, where waters rushed in shoulder-deep, ruining furniture and mattresses.

"At least we're alive," said Roberts, a 22-year-old who took shelter during the storm with relatives. His wife, Ronique, said a car floated across their yard during the hurricane, which stalled over Grand Bahama Island and caused widespread damage.

It remained unclear how many homes were flooded in the Bahamas, but officials said they estimated that scores, perhaps



Ronique Roberts stands in front of her hurricane-damaged house in the seaside neighborhood of Queen's Cove in Freeport, Bahamas.

Photo by Andres Leighton / AP

hundreds, of homes were damaged on Grand Bahama Island alone.

One man was found dead on the western end of Grand Bahama, police Superintendent Basil Rahming said. Police believe the man was trying to swim to safety. Another man was electrocuted while trying to fill a generator with diesel fuel as the storm raged.

Police said they feared a third man in his 80s was likely killed in his wooden house when it collapsed last Saturday near the western tip of Grand Bahama. His body had yet to be found.

At least five people on the island sustained minor injuries during the storm, from a toddler who had her face cut by a piece of flying glass to a man who hurt himself trying to cut a tree in his yard, said Sharon

Williams, the administrator of Rand Memorial Hospital.

Heavy winds shattered glass windows at the Crowne Plaza Resort in Freeport, including lobby windows stretching from floor to ceiling.

Hooneymooner Curt Crites, 29, of Olympia, Wash., took cover with his wife in a hallway on the hotel's ninth floor after the windows in their room shattered. "You're thinking about what to do to keep yourself from dying," Crites said.

The hurricane pummeled Florida with heavy winds and rain Sunday that knocked out power to 4 million people, ripped up roofs and uprooted trees. Power remained out in spots across the Bahamas, including Freeport, the Bahamas' second-largest

commercial center, where the brunt of the storm hit with sustained winds of up to 105 mph.

More than 1,000 people rode out the storm in shelters.

Parts of the Grand Bahama airport remained flooded, and electricity was out on the island of 50,000 people.

Police said about a dozen businesses reported break-ins, and some residents said they feared looting. "I'm just getting whatever I can, whatever I can salvage before someone else does," said Bill McGomigal, a 37-year-old originally from Cleveland who pulled a pontoon boat from under the twisted remnants of his metal garage door.

Joan Niell, a 52-year-old Briton who has lived in the Bahamas for years, said she hired someone to watch her home and guard against looters because glass doors were blown out and the roof caved in.

Many said the damage was more widespread than in Hurricane Floyd in 1999. "We never had one like this," said John Barr, 52, a liquor store owner whose furniture was soaked by floodwaters.

OBITUARIES

ST. PETERSBURG RITES



BRYANT, GUY LEE, 51, died August 29, 2004. Survivors include his mother, Eva Bryant, St. Petersburg; four daughters, Trece Bryant, Tampa, Rose Brown and Clarinda Young, both of Orlando, and Monica Ward, Albany, Ga.; three sons, Gregory Bryant, Orlando, Tyson Bryant, Marianna, Fla., and Malcom R. Green, St. Petersburg; three sisters, Sandra Bryant Bray, Annette Battle and Trece McKay, all of St. Petersburg; eight brothers, Dwight Bryant, James Alvin Bryant, Bobby Bryant, Gerald "Frank" Bryant, Craig Bryant, Johnny Harper, all of St. Petersburg, William Charles Bryant and Calvin Bryant, both of Marianna, Fla.; eight grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

DAVIS, OZELLA JENK-



JENKINS, 51, died August 25, 2004. Survivors include four sons, Ernest B. Jenkins, Linton G. (Sabrina) Jenkins, Ronnie L. Jones, Jr. and Lenard D. Jenkins, all of St. Petersburg; four daughters, Christina (Jeff) Davis, Tammie (Nina) Davis, Shemeika (Antonio) Hamilton and Danyell Howard, all of St. Petersburg; four brothers, Charles (Vickie) Jenkins, Immokalee, Bernard (Dorothy) Jenkins, Alphonso (Julia) Jenkins and Larry Jenkins, all of St. Petersburg; seven sisters, Ida Jenkins Kelly, Gwendolyn (Mathis) Jenkins Roberts, Jacquelyn (George) Jenkins Flemmings, Ardessa (Dwane) Jenkins Smith, Albertha (Ricards) Jenkins Bryant, Sheila Jenkins and Jennetta Williams, all of St. Petersburg; 11 grandchildren; a lifetime friend, Maretha Williams; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

DAVIS, TRAVELLA M., 24, died August 23, 2004. Survivors include her mother, Corinthia G. Evans, St. Petersburg; her father, Ricky R.

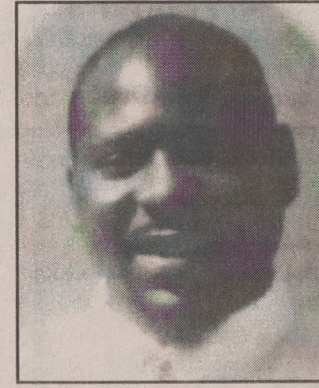


DAVIS, St. Petersburg; one brother, Ricky R. Davis II; one sister, Sheena A. Davis; one half sister, Quetrell Gray, St. Petersburg; a companion, Apollo "Paco" Martin; and several Godchildren, God grandparents, Godbrothers, God sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, great aunts, great uncles, other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

JACKSON, DOROTHEA



Y., 96, died recently. Survivors include two nieces, Elena Lawrence and Nanette Littlejohn; three grand nieces, Michelle Lawrence-Jackson, Denise Miller and Nichole Lawrence; one grand nephew, Russell Lawrence; three great grand nephews, Jason, Dominique and Miguel; special friends, Marion Howell and son John; and several other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



McELROY, JOHN AN-TWON, SR., 30, died August 27, 2004. Survivors include his wife, Tequila Oliver-McElroy; his father, John (Deborah) Walker, Sr.; two children, Yohnika and Yohn McElroy, Jr.; five sisters, Tia, Tycia, Rebecca, Janet Faye Walker and Tabitha Lee; four brothers, John Alex, Jr., Joseph, Tremain and Alonzo "Skeet" Walker; his maternal grandparents, George and Maggie McElroy;

and several aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

SCOTT, MARVETTA McDONALD, 50, died August 27, 2004. Survivors include her husband, Willie E. Scott, St. Petersburg; her children, Marcus R. Byrd, St. Petersburg, Ebonie M. Thomas, Atlanta, Ga., Tiffany Scott, Jameka Scott, both of St. Petersburg, Andre Scott, Tampa, and Amber Crawley,



Covington, Ga.; her grandchildren, Marquetta Byrd, Alexis Byrd, Ebonie M. Byrd, Taylor Scott and Jalen Scott, all of St. Petersburg; her parents, Rev.

James (LeCora) McDonald, Sr.; her sisters, Terry Edwards, St. Petersburg, Yvonne Malone and Ann McDonald, both of Gainesville; her brothers, James C. McDonald, Jr., Bobby McDonald and Earl McDonald, St. Petersburg; and several nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

"Bless the Lord O my soul and all that is within me, Bless his Holy Name"

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Clarence A. Williams and the Mt. Zion church family cordially invite you to attend worship services with us at 919-20th Street South. We also invite you to all our services in the upcoming week. Our early morning service begins at 7:30 am with the Praise Team setting the tone, as we prepare our hearts and minds for Worship. Our Church School commences at 9:30 a.m., we encourage you to join us as we collectively learn more of the Word of God together. Our Contemporary worship Service is at 11:00am. Join us for a hallelujah good time in the Lord. The Inspirational Choir will provide ministry in song through out the day. Pastor Williams will proclaim the Word at both services. Come and be blessed as we feast on the Word of God. We give thanks to god for his mercy and grace during the time of storm.

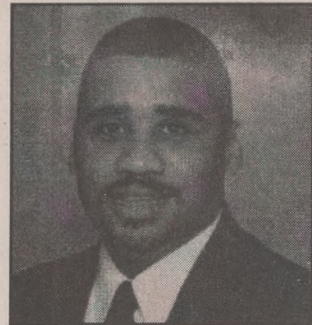
Other ministries include:

- Monday - Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday - Early morning prayer 6:30 a.m.; Vintage Bible Study, 11 a.m.; Men's Bible Study, 6 p.m.

Upcoming events:
Get Ready, Get Ready, Get Ready...The Train Is Here!! Join us in our "Harvest Day Celebrations" this Friday evening. We extend an open invitation to everyone, all roads lead to the the Renaissance Vinoy for our "Evening of Elegance" at 6:00 p.m., enjoy a good meal and Zion's Production of "The Glory Train". The cast will have you in laughter from beginning to end. Come for a glance of the all the characters you may meet in your daily walk of life. If you're looking for fine dining, good fun and great fellowship you'll want to be on board at the Vinoy. Zion is full of talent and you don't want to miss this train. Let's load up at the Vinoy. Hope to see you there!

The culmination of our "Harvest Day Celebrations" will be two spirit-filled Worship services, on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 7:30 and 11 am. We anticipate a glorious time

of praise and worship all day long. Our speakers are Rev. Dwayne Craig of McCabe United Methodist Church at 7:30am and Rev. Joemack Jenkins of Antioch House of Prayer at 11:00 am. You don't want to miss either of this power packed messengers. Make plans to join us for a high time in the Lord.



Rev. Dwayne J. Craig

The Rev. Dwayne J. Craig was born in Jacksonville, Fla. where he attended local elementary and high schools. He is the proud father of Naomi Taylor Craig, 5 years old, from a previous marriage, and the son of Herman Craig and Cynthia Craig Rawls.

Pastor Craig graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethune-Cookman College in 1993 where he majored in Religion/Philosophy and minored in Literature. He received a Master of Divinity from Duke University in 1996. He is presently a candidate for a Master of Theology degree from Duke University School of Divinity.

Since June 2002, Rev. Craig has served as the beloved pastor at McCabe United Methodist Church, where he is known as a spirit-filled and dynamic messenger of God.



Rev. and Mrs. Joemack Jenkins

The Rev. Joemack Jenkins was born June 17, 1990 in St. Petersburg, Fla. He is the son of John and Betty Jenkins, the youngest of seven children.

Pastor Jenkins graduated from Northeast High School in 1998 and attended Merced College in Merced, Calif., and also St. Petersburg College here in the city.

He is currently employed by the City of St. Petersburg. He is happily

married to Jackie Jenkins and is the father of four children.

In 1998, he was saved by the Grace and Mercy of God and called to preach the Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ in the year 2000, as pastor of Antioch House of Prayer, after being released by the Rev. Earnest Jones of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church.

Looking for a church home, we extend an invitation to you to join us.

We as a church share The Love of God; We'd Love To Have You!

Thought for the week: "God is good all the time, and all the time God is good"

Be blessed, and have a Jesus-filled week!

GOD IS THE ONLY ONE IN A POSITION TO LOOK DOWN ON SOMEONE

SAINT JOHN PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr., Senior Pastor
1002 Palmetto Street, Clearwater, FL 33755
(727) 443-1861 • FAX (727) 443-0431

VISION OF THE HOUSE CONFERENCE

October 2 & 3, 2004
October 2, 2004 - 9am - 1pm
October 3, 2004 - 8am & 11am worship services
Facilitator: Brother Terry Nance
Author of the book, God's Armorbearer I&II
Registration Fee: \$35.00

Conference Site:
North Greenwood Aquatic Center
900 MLK Ave. No., Clearwater, FL 33755
(727) 462-6276
A complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served.
A special edition for children during conference times.
For more information, contact the church at (727) 443-1861 or email: SJPBC@tampabay.rr.com



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- Casino Trips
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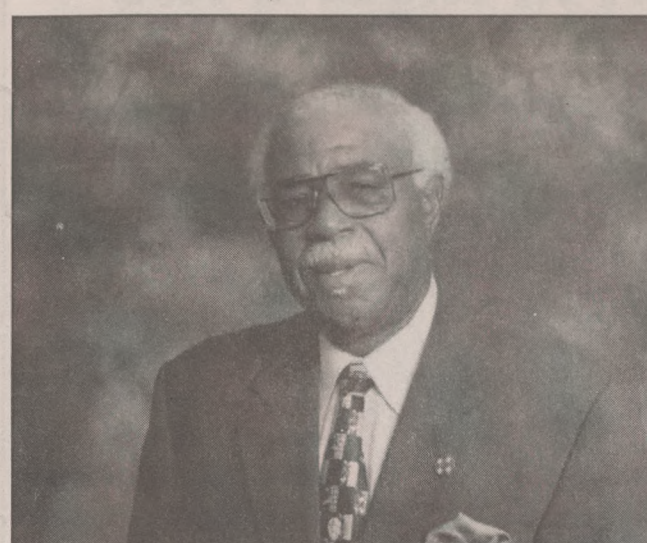
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FAX: 727-522-5548

Stewart-Isom Memorial C.M.E. —

The Rev. Carlos Senior, the young, home-grown, sprit-filled pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist church blessed the Stewart-Isom Memorial C.M.E. Church with the kick-off sermon for their Winning Souls for Christ Crusade. He was accompanied by his choir, his ushers, and what looked like his entire congregation. What a spirit-filled adventure that was!

Now, Stewart-Isom is going way back and taking a page out of Tampa's Trinity C.M.E.'s book. They have a tag-team preaching match going on with two seasoned preachers, two former presiding elders (Two!), Elder Cornelius Bryant Sr. of St. Petersburg, Florida and Elder H.C. Wilkes of Smiths, Alabama. They have a cumulative amount of approximately 100 years in the ministry.

This dynamic duo will be in charge of the revival commencing at 6:45 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20 through Friday, Sept. 24. If you have never been



Elder Cornelius Bryant



Elder H. C. Wilkes

blessed by this tag-team then you do not want to miss this revival.

Churches throughout the city and the district have agreed to come over with their choirs and us-

ers in order to take part in the service. Stewart-Isom has taken great pleasure in asking the entire community to worship with them each night.

Trinity United Church

The Reverend Karen G. Thompson, senior pastor at New Hope United Church of Christ in DeLand, Fla. will be the special guest minister at Trinity United Church, 1150 49th St. N. on



The Rev. Karen G. Thompson

Sunday, Sept. 12 during the 10 a.m. worship service. The Rev. Thompson is the first black female senior pastor in the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ.

New Hope United Church of Christ in DeLand is a significant new-church start project of the Florida Conference and Rev. Thompson has both the dynamic personality and energetic vision for growth for this exciting project.

She has a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and has served on pastoral staffs of Orange Grove Missionary Baptist Church in North Carolina and with the

Church-in-the-Gardens Community Congregational Church in New York City. She has had wide experience planning and implementing programs for women and children prior to answering the call into ministry. Trinity Church is delighted to welcome her to lead our worship and share her challenging story of ministry. At Trinity, we stress that whoever and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. Rev. Thompson is a trainer for the United Church's "God is Still Speaking" identity initiative and brings a young, refreshing perspective to contemporary ministry. Everyone's welcome.

Church and Academy Extol Mercy of God

The recent hurricane and its aftermath, again shows the mercy of God towards undeserving sinners purely because of His grace and mercy. New Philadelphia Community Church and Bishop Academy II Christian School jointly extol the mercies of God in sparing church, school, and community, from any calamities during hurricane's passage through the area.

It is "Round-Up" time at New Philadelphia! The women's ministry has been involved in contacting previous members of church family. On Sunday, a special invitation is extended members who were involved in the life of the church at one time. Purpose of this gathering is to ascertain membership status and present affiliation of these past members.

Mid-morning worship will be led by women's ministry. Members past and present will be recognized. Voluntary and spontaneous offerings of praise will be expressed by members willing to do so. Sermon proclamation will be offered by the Rev. Aaron V. Gaskin, Associate Pastor. Church family will also welcome return of pastor as he continues to heal from recent surgery.

At conclusion of worship service, a reception will be held in church's fellowship hall to informally "Chew and Chat" with visiting and/or returning members. All members of hospitality ministry should contact Louise Flemming in order to complete menu planning for this event. Dress for Sunday is plaid shirt, jeans, or any casual clothes.

Queen Street Church Of God in Christ

The Queen Street Church of God in Christ will be having their annual Women's Day on Sept. 12, at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. The speakers for this occasion will be Sister Pamela M. Simmons of the Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ and Missionary Queen Mitchell of The

College Hill Church of God in Christ. All are cordially invited to come and be blessed with the presence of God. There will be dinner served after the morning services. For further information you can contact Mother Betty Keys at (727) 896-3744.

The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Frank Peterman, officers, and members of The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church extend an invitation to the entire community to share in their Revival Services beginning Monday, Sept. 13 - Wednesday, Sept. 15. All services will begin at 7 p.m. The Revivalist Rev. Donell Peterman, pastor,

Josiah Ministries, Silver Springs, Maryland.

This is an open door service. Come one, come all and let's have a hallelujah good time in the name of the Lord.

The church is located at 4201 Sixth St. S., where the Rev. Frank Peterman is pastor.

Metro Center

Metropolitan Charities, Inc., a non-profit organization, under the direction of its Board of Directors and agency leadership through its strong financial stability opened the doors to the Metro Center. The Metro Center is a community center for all people in Pinellas County regardless of sexual orientation and age. Metro Center is located at 3170 Trd Ave. N., St. Petersburg.

Metropolitan Charities, Inc. has been a leader in quality HIV services for over 12 years in Pinellas County. Over the past 12 years the agency has systematically built relationships and created the foundation to successfully expand services. Six years ago the agency acquired a

Thrift Store in downtown St. Petersburg. Four years ago they opened HIV Case Management offices in Hillsborough County. In 2001 Metropolitan Charities began providing mental health services to the community on a sliding fee scale and free to those infected with HIV.

There will be an Open House at the Metro Center next month. Mr. Santini reports that there are offices still available at the Metro Center for rent by other health and social service agencies that share Metropolitan Charities vision. There are traditional and non-traditional rental agreements available. Please contact Joe Santini at 727-321-3854 for more information.

Church Musician Needed
Salary Negotiable
Please call: (727) 898-9407

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Defense of Traditional Marriage Spreading Across the Map

by Allie Martin

(AgapePress) — A group of young adults is touring the nation encouraging people to vote in favor of traditional marriage state amendments in the upcoming election.

Voters in almost a dozen states will have the opportunity this fall to decide if they want to amend their state constitutions to protect marriage as the union as a man and a woman. Eight members of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property, or TFP, are touring five of those states — Kentucky, Mississippi, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. They are holding informational rallies in downtown areas, handing out flyers and discussing traditional marriage with people on the street.

TFP spokesman John Ritchie says they are dis-

covering that many people are not familiar with state amendments on the issue. "That's a positive thing when we're able to speak to people who don't know and to let them know that there will be an amendment, that they have a chance to vote 'yes' and make a difference," he says, "because at that point every vote counts."

Not everyone is happy to see the TFP representatives. According to Ritchie, the reaction was less than favorable when they visited the University of Louisville last week. He says some people there were upset with what his group was doing.

"We were on the public sidewalk [and] they called the police," he recalls, "and the police verified that everything we were doing was legal and peaceful."

Ritchie reports his group stayed, but later encour-

tered more resistance. "Some of the university officials called the police again, and they actually came out to where we were. They came out of their offices and they tried to stop us."

The TFP is a Catholic organization headquartered in Pennsylvania. The group's five-state tour continues through next week.

The Battle in Connecticut

Meanwhile, pro-family groups in Connecticut — the ninth state to enter the battle for homosexual "marriage" — are trying to uphold that state's marriage laws. The Family Institute of Connecticut (FIC) has filed a motion to intervene in a civil lawsuit brought by seven same-sex couples after they were denied their "right" to receive marriage licenses by the state.

Vince McCarthy, an attorney with the American



Voters in almost a dozen states will have the opportunity this fall to decide if they want to amend their state constitutions to protect marriage as the union as a man and a woman.

Center for Law and Justice, is representing the FIC.

"We are opposed to [same-sex marriage], both at the ACLJ and the Family Institute of Connecticut, for a number of reasons," the attorney says. "But most importantly, we're opposed to it because we feel it's bad for children."

The seven couples who brought the suit claim their constitutional rights were violated. But McCarthy says the case is not about constitutional rights.

"They're claiming it's about constitutional rights, but we don't believe there's any constitutional right for members of the same-sex to get married," McCarthy says. "Traditional marriage, which is one man-one woman, has been traced all the way back to Hammurabi's Code, which was [written] 4,000 years ago — and this is how we have built our culture, how we've

passed on our cultural values to our children."

The ACLJ attorney says the battle over marriage in Connecticut highlights the need for a Federal Marriage Amendment.

Dobson in So. Dakota

Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family Action took his election-year defense of traditional marriage to a recent Christian music festival in South Dakota. Dobson told the crowd of 50,000 at the Lifelight Christian Festival that America is suffering a "moral meltdown" because un-elected judges are legalizing homosexual "marriage."

"There is what's called a 'civil war of values,'" he said. "We're divided as a nation — and everything that we find in the Scripture, all those principles, all those ideas, are being challenged. The institution of the family — and especially the defi-

nition of marriage — is in the crosshairs."

The well-known family advocate also told the crowd in Sioux Falls they can outvote the "MTV crowd." Christian music fans, he said, should not only register and vote, they need to do one more thing as well: pray.

"We're at a crossroads," Dobson said. "We're in the midst of a moral meltdown in this country, and we are tipping one way or the other — and whichever direction we go right now will determine the world for you and your future and your families."

Dobson said it is essential this year to vote for candidates who uphold what he called "the Christian principles on which this country is based."

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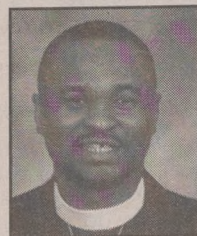
3300 - 31st Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300



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

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Rev. A. Anthony Robinson III

1820 Walton Street S., St.
Pete, FL 33712
(813) 327-0593

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study: Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

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

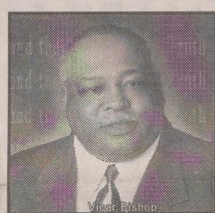


St. John Missionary Baptist Church

1500 N. Pennsylvania Ave.
Clearwater, Florida 33516
Church Phone: 443-1945
Parsonage: 446-6056
Rev. Fleming Tarver, Pastor
Sunday Services

Sunday Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Baptist Training Union: 5:00 p.m.
Weekly Services
Bible Class Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study,
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
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Home Phone: (727) 866-0643 • email: jpaschal@verizon.net

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Rev. Roosevelt Hardy
Pastor

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

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

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

Genesis Worship Center Church

1818 29th Avenue No., St. Petersburg 33713
(727) 898-5571 • Fax: (727) 898-5581 • gwcc@email.com



Sunday School 10:00am
Sunday Celebration Service 11:30am
New Converts Class, Wed. 7:00pm
Home Cell Services, Thurs. 7:00pm

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955 - 20th Street South
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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.

Saint John Primitive Baptist Church

Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr., Senior Pastor

Church address: 1002 Palmetto Street, Clearwater, FL 33755
Mailing address: P.O. Box 1235, Clearwater, FL 33755
Church Phone: (727) 443-1861 • Fax: (727) 443-0431
Email: sjpbcc@tampabay.rr.com
Radio dial: 1340 AM 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Radio internet: tantalk 1340.com



Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr.,
Senior Pastor

Scheduled Services: Early Morning - 8:00 am
Church School - 9:45 am
Mid-Morning - 11:00 am
Mid-week Family Night Bible Study - 7:00 pm

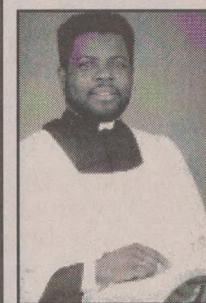
Theme: "Movers of the Christ Purpose"

Edifying the Church; Evangelizing the Community (Acts 1:4-8)

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Elder William E. Anderson, Pastor



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

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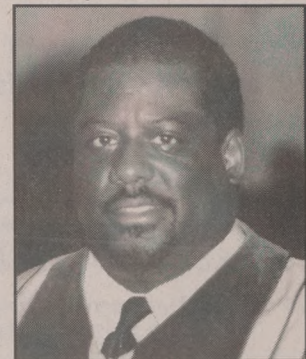
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REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

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MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY



New Philadelphia Community Church

The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor
3940 - 18th Avenue South
P.O. Box 15935 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733
Wisdom School 9:50 AM • Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 PM (Wed.)

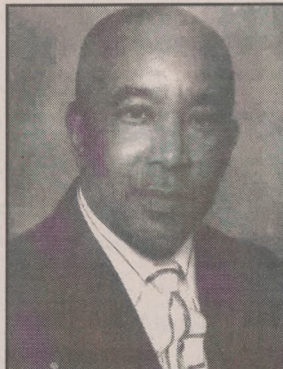
The Reverend Aaron V. Gaskin Associate Pastor
Finance Ministry James Robinson
Children & Youth Ministry Joyce Robinson
Clerk Ministry Wyvonna McGee
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All Worship Services are held at:
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Phone: (727) 244-0831
or 244-0832

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Experience 10:50 a.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

In All thy Ways Acknowledge Him and He
shall direct thy path. (Proverbs 3:6)



Rev. Willie D. Miller
Pastor

The New Latter Day Deliverance Ministries, Inc.



800 49th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33707
(727) 322-0113 • Alt: (727) 642-9839
Toll Free: (866) 890-1400

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday Night Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday Night Prayer 7:30 p.m.
Friday Night Praise Service 7:30 p.m.

Pastors
Elder Leon Lavelle Thomas
Pastor Vivian Powell Thomas

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Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

M
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B
C



900 - 16th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33705
Office (727) 895-4900 • Fax (727) 895-4990
Pastor (727) 89-2119

Sunday Morning Service 8:00 a.m. • Sunday Mid-Morning 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Nite Prayer Meeting, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Communion is observed quarterly the first Sunday after every 5th Sunday.
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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. - Wednesday Bible Study

YPWW First and Third Sunday of
Each Month after Morning Service

Trinity Presbyterian Church, USA

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

9:00 AM Prayer Time
9:30 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
12:30 PM After Service Fellowship
Wednesday - 6:30 PM Prayer and Bible Study

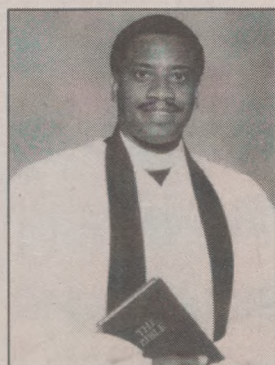
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Phone: 727.895.7700

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.



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

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

WHEN YOU'RE
DOWN TO
NOTHING,
GOD IS UP TO
SOMETHING!

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

Sunday Worship Services:
8:00 and 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School - 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday: Prayer
Meeting/Bible Study
7:00 P.M.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston

"Church of The Open Door"

20th Street Church Of Christ

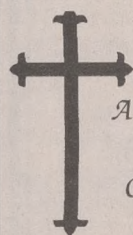
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St. Pete, FL
Home: 896-8006



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.

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Weds.-Family Worship 7:00pm
Sunday School 10:00am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:15am
Sunday Evening Worship 7:00pm

Pastor: Elder B.O. Walker



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Christian Church of Clearwater
3734 - 131st Ave. N., Suite 6, Clearwater, FL 33762
Phone: (727) 540-0988 • Fax: (727) 556-0150
Email: corccclw@yahoo.com



Pastor Jerome and
Kisha Jordan

Sunday School 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Morning Glory 10:45-11:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:15 p.m.

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God that giveth life"

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Rev. Carlos Senior
Pastor

Join us as we lift up the name of Jesus

Sunday Services:

Church School 9am
Praise & Worship Service 10:30am

Tuesday Services:

Prayer Service 6:30pm
Bible Study 7pm



Rev. Clarence Williams,
Pastor

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919 - 20th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712

email: mchurch1@tampabay.rr.com

Website: www.gretermtnzioname.org

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

All Male Bible Study Weds. 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study Monday 6:00 p.m.

Vintage Bible Study Wednesday 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon

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Sunday School (Adults and Children) - 9:30am

Sunday Choir - 9:30am

Gospel Choir - Mondays 6pm

Bible Study - Wednesdays 6pm

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10th Street Church Of God

207 - 10th Street North • St. Petersburg, FL 33705

(727) 898-9407



Rev. Ronald L. Bell, Pastor

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

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

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.

Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Thursday 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

"One week from church makes one weak."

Greater King David International Church

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

Early Morning Worship 7:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.

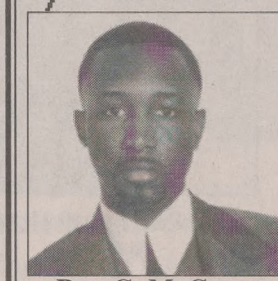
Baptist Training Union 4:30 p.m.

Communion 7:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.

"The Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"



Rev. G. M. Curry

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church

505 - 35th Street S. • St. Petersburg, FL • 327-3186

Morning Worship 7:45 a.m.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Mid-Morning Worship 10:50 a.m.

Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.

Mid-Week Worship Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study/Prayer Service Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Come join us at the Church where everyone is Welcome!



Rev. Earnest Jones,
Pastor

DOMINION WORSHIP MINISTRIES

"Come Take Dominion Over Your Life Now"

Sunday

8am, 11am Morning Worship
9:45am Church School
5pm Celebration

Monday

Noonday Prayer
7pm Hour of Power Prayer

Wednesday

Noonday Prayer
6-8pm Kid's Club
6:30pm Ministerial Training
7:30-8:45pm Bible Study

Thursday

Worship & Performing Arts Ministry

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
6am Prayer



Pastor & Lady Doyle P. Scott, Sr.
Partners in Ministry

DOMINION WORSHIP MINISTRIES

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St. Petersburg, FL 33711

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Operation PAR - Self-Sufficiency
Project
727-893-5438**

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Pinellas County Housing Authority (PCHA) is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to develop and submit a 5-Year Agency Plan of its fiscal years 2005 - 2009. This "Plan" describes the PCHA's basic mission of serving the need of low-income Pinellas County residents and the short and long-term goals and objectives to accomplish this mission.

The PCHA is further required to update this plan on an annual basis. The PCHA has prepared an updated draft of the original 5-year Plan and upcoming fiscal year 2005 for submission to HUD by October 15, 2004. Drafts of these plans will be available for public inspection and written comment 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM from September 1, 2004 until September 28, 2004 Monday - Friday, at:

Pinellas County Housing Authority
The Dean S. Robinson Administrative Bldg.,
11479 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33778

This notice further announces that a public hearing will be held at the following location to discuss prior public comments to the above-referenced Draft Plans and receive any additional comments:

Pinellas County Housing Authority
The Dean S. Robinson Administrative Bldg.,
11479 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33778
at 8:30 AM on September 29, 2004

Direct any questions concerning this process to Ms. Glenda Blasko at 727-443-7684, ext. 3017.

Pinellas County Housing Authority
Pinellas County Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity
Housing Provider



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FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ONTO nifl.gov/partnershipforreading

Your HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20) You should put in some extra hours developing that creative idea you have. Moneymaking opportunities will surface. Children might be on your mind. Don't hesitate to make special plans just for two. Family trips or projects should be on your mind.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21) You could experience delays in shipments or mail, and should be careful while traveling. Don't let your emotions take over. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. Don't make large purchases or investments.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Things aren't as they appear. Get involved in activities that will be fun for the whole family. Check your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. Don't hesitate to sign up for lectures or seminars that will enlighten you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Don't be too quick to blame others for your bad mood. You can meet someone who will become very dear to you if you get out and socialize. Be sure to take care of any minor ailments. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Changes at home will be necessary. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive and possibly hurtful. You have been stagnating for some time now and you need a change of pace. Sudden changes regarding your domestic scene are probable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) Be careful that you don't overextend yourself. Problems with fire, gas, or oil may cause disruptions and annoyances. You can't make things better if you don't know what to fix. Problems with females you live or work with will try your patience and cause temper flare ups.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) You'll find you're detail oriented this week. Difficulties at an emotional level may be likely. Rather than making a scene, communicate quietly about the way you feel. You must use discretion when talking to others. Gambling should not be an option.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Residential moves will be hectic and may be unsatisfactory. Any renovation or decorating to your home should include the whole family. Don't be critical or overly opinionated with dislikes; it could cause disapproval and unwanted opposition. Use your quick wit to win points and friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Any renovation or decorating to your home should include the whole family. You may have to explain your actions to your family. If you can't get away, make plans to do something special with friends or relatives. Try to be precise in your communications.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan. 20) Don't get involved in other people's private doings. You mustn't take on other people's responsibilities or you may find yourself irritable and exhausted. If they're really interested, they'll wait. Secret affairs may only cause complications in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) You may want to stay in the background this week. Accept the inevitable. Things are looking good for you, so open your eyes and get to it. It's time you let your true feelings out.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Don't let someone take the credit for a job you did. Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation. You will attract members of the opposite sex readily. Sports, physical fitness programs, exercise in general will make you feel better and show some pretty quick results.

HOTLINE NUMBERS

The Runaway Hotline:
800-RUNAWAY (786-2929)

Family Resources

Counseling:

(727) 384-8336

or **(727) 449-8336**

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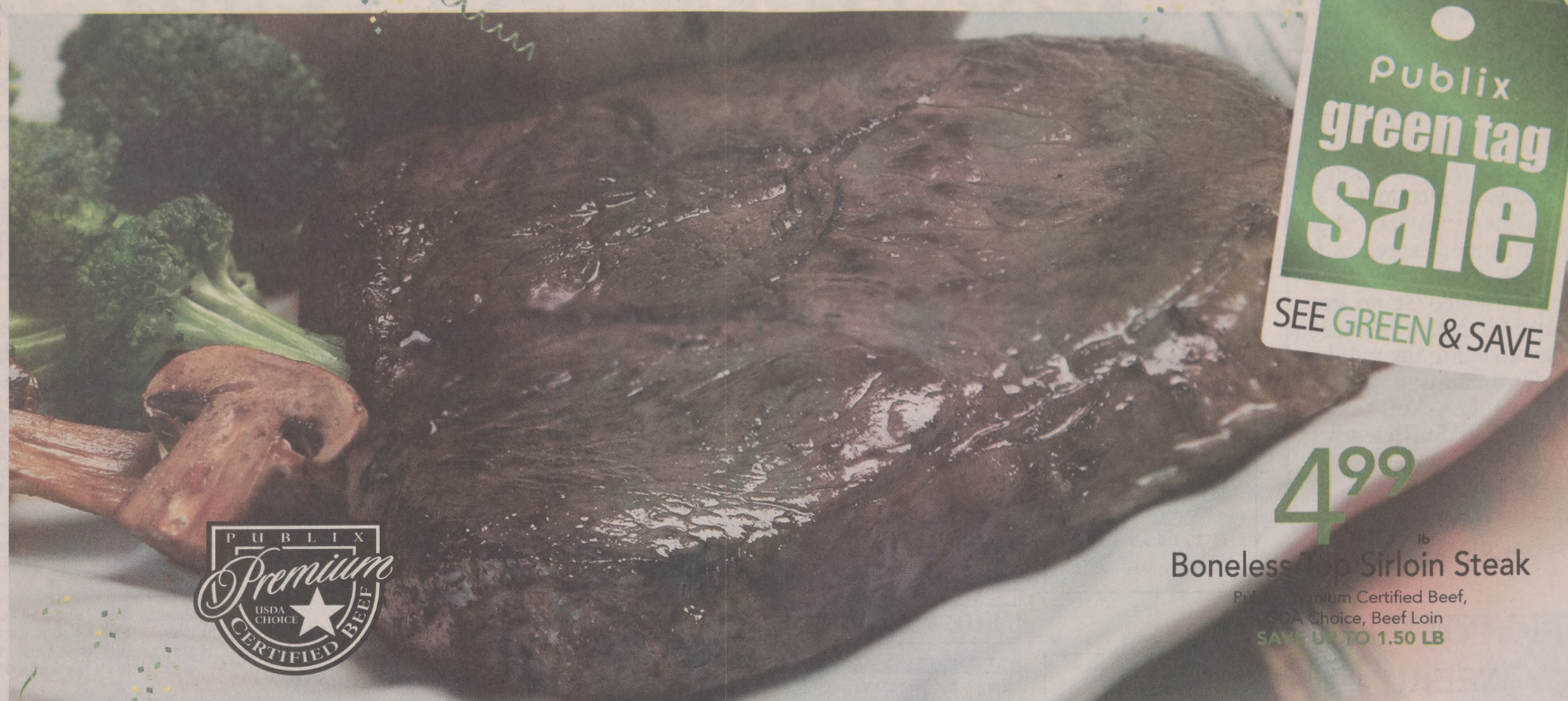
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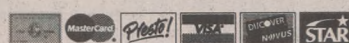
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