

2004-10-21

## The Weekly Challenger : 2004 : 10 : 21

The Weekly Challenger, et al

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# The Weekly Challenger

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25¢

## Walk As One

by Tracie Reddick  
Challenger Correspondent  
ST. PETERSBURG — When it comes to racism, some people can talk the talk.

But can they walk the walk?

If so, they can join walkers who are setting the pace at an event aimed at promoting unity in Tampa Bay communities.

Dubbed, "Walk As One," the walkathon will be held in downtown Tampa's Cotanchobee Park on Nov. 13.

"Tampa Bay is ranked number one for hate crimes," said Donald Taylor, Walk As One program coordinator.

Last year, more than 250 parents, educators and students from Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties, literally took a step against bias, bigotry and racism.

"We're hoping for a 1,000, but realistically, we expect about 600 participants this year," Taylor said.

The event is sponsored by National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), an organization dedicated to promoting respect among all races, religions and cultures through advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

"Walk As One is truly unique," Taylor said.

Walkers are expected to take a stroll along a scenic route that will take them

along the bay over the Davis Islands bridge and end in downtown Tampa.

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m. and the walk will start at 8 a.m. Individuals and teams of five are expected to raise \$75 or more to support NCCJ programs. The first 500 walkers to register will receive anti-discrimination tool kits.

All participants will receive "Walk as One" T-shirts and an array of free items provided by co-sponsors that include, among others, JP Morgan Chase, Publix Supermarkets, Capital Marketing and Melitta USA.

Residents fed up with the illusion of inclusion can now "Walk As One" against racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, xenophobia and discrimination based on physical and mental disabilities.

"If I ever reach a point in my work week where I feel a sense of frustration about the ongoing issues of inclusion, I just look through my fist annual Walk As One scrapbook and feel an overwhelming sense of accomplishment," said Taylor.

"Seeing the faces, smiles and diversity that made Walk as One special, continues to drive me forward in my work."

To register as an individual or team - or for more information about the walk - call (727) 568-9333.

## Domestic Violence: Women Are Not At Fault



Some have criticized Katz for trying to get men to rally around the issue of domestic violence.

by Tracie Reddick  
Challenger Correspondent  
ST. PETERSBURG — Domestic violence - it's a man thing.

Those words are not a slogan on a bumper sticker, but a philosophy Jackson Katz wants society to adopt.

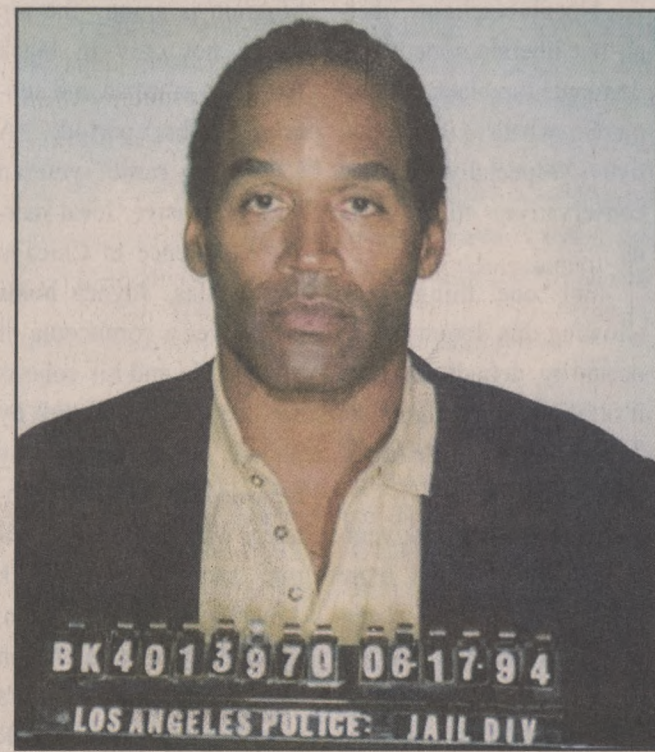
"Historically, the issue of gender violence has been considered a women's issue," said Katz, who was the guest speaker at a domestic violence forum held last week at the Poynter Institute.

Katz told about 200 people gathered at the forum that the word "gender" has become synonymous with women, much like "race" has come to

mean "African American" and "sexual orientation" has become equivalent to "gay."

"It's one of the characteristics of power and privilege. It's the way the dominant group maintains itself," Katz said. "Men in power need to do something about this important issue that impacts every person in this society."

Katz was spurred into action 20 years ago. That's when he founded MVP Strategies. He now serves as director of the organization that provides gender violence prevention training to high school, college and professional athletes, as well as to community groups and the U.S. mili-



As usual, members of the audience were eager to bring up O.J. Simpson - and Kobe Bryant - as athletes whose star status outshined their violent behavior toward women.

tary. Over the past two decades, Katz has been trying to break the silence among men who go along with the macho crowd when they witness violence against women.

"It's a lot easier to blame women rather than the men who put them in that situation," Katz said. "Many men don't speak out about this issue because they don't want to be labeled as wimps or called gay, which is the most ridiculous thing I've heard."

"Caring about abuse and violence does not mean we want to have sex with men. If that reasoning were true, then it must mean heterosexual men don't care

anything about women. It's about character and conscious, it's not about sexual orientation. (The name calling) is a police function that keeps guys silent."

Katz noted that once the statistics are broken down, it becomes clear that their mothers, sisters, aunts or mates could become abuse victims.

For example, 500,000 women are raped annually - half before they are 18. Another three women are murdered each day as a result of domestic violence, he said.

"If they make an emotional connection, they are more likely to have the

**Violence**  
continued on pg. 6

## Is Russ Really For Us?



Critics paint Russ as an "angry, black woman" and said her temperament will make it difficult for her to fit, let alone influence, fellow commissioners.

Name: Sharon Russ  
Marital Status: Single, mother of three  
Age: 43  
Party Affiliation: Republican  
Education: Student at St. Petersburg College  
Favorite book: Bible  
Hobbies: Cooking and studying American History, which includes black history.

by Tracie Reddick  
Challenger Correspondent  
ST. PETERSBURG — "Russ for us."

That's the campaign slogan of Sharon Russ, a Republican who is challenging incumbent Ken Welch, Democrat, for the District 7 seat on the Pinellas County Commission.

But as the race winds down, one question remains up for debate: Who the heck is Sharon Russ?

Russ, 43, grew up in northern Florida and graduated from Marianna High School shortly before schools were integrated. She graduated from Chipola Junior College and is currently enrolled at St. Petersburg College, where she is pursuing a degree in education.

Her hobbies include cooking and studying American history. The youngest of 11 children, Russ draws her strength from her mother, grandmother and her Aunt Clara.

"Looking back, I'd say I was always quite radical," said Russ, whose favorite politicians include Rudy Bradley and Alan Keyes - because they dared to be different. "Once I went to vote with my mother and I asked her why do black people always vote Democrat? Her response led me to believe that she was compelled to vote that way."

Not Russ. Over the past seven years, she has repeatedly switched party affiliations from Democrat to Republican - and at one time joined the Socialist Party.

"I am running as a black Republican in a single-member Democrat district," Russ said. "The way District 7 is drawn makes it very difficult for a black candidate - other than a Democrat to win. I've found that it does not matter whether their is a 'D'

or 'R' behind your name. What matters is what is in your heart. You must have a will to serve people in order to be a good representative."

During debates, she has lobbied for more self-governance in Midtown, improving the quality of education in the county and making health care more accessible to poor residents residing in south St. Petersburg.

"I'm willing to work hard to improve the quality of life for the women and children who live in District 7. I would provide jobs and promote self-esteem in young women. My sincere desire is that every child comes into this world on a level playing field. Today, so many children in District 7 are born with the odds stacked against them. The women are left with the stress of raising too many children and lack an opportunity for a good education. There are no jobs for the young men. My desire is to bring hope to District 7 and build strong family units. Strong families produce strong communities."

In order to do that, Russ must defeat Welch, who she has criticized for getting over on his name-sake. "I raise this question because everyone knows there is a good ol' boy network in Pinellas County it goes way back," Russ said. "(Ken's father) David Welch was, and still is, a major player."

"It is time for change. We must move forward and elect representatives that will have the interest of the people in mind and not their own pockets. These good old boys have stood in the way of the progress of the people of District 7."

**Russ**  
continued on pg. 6

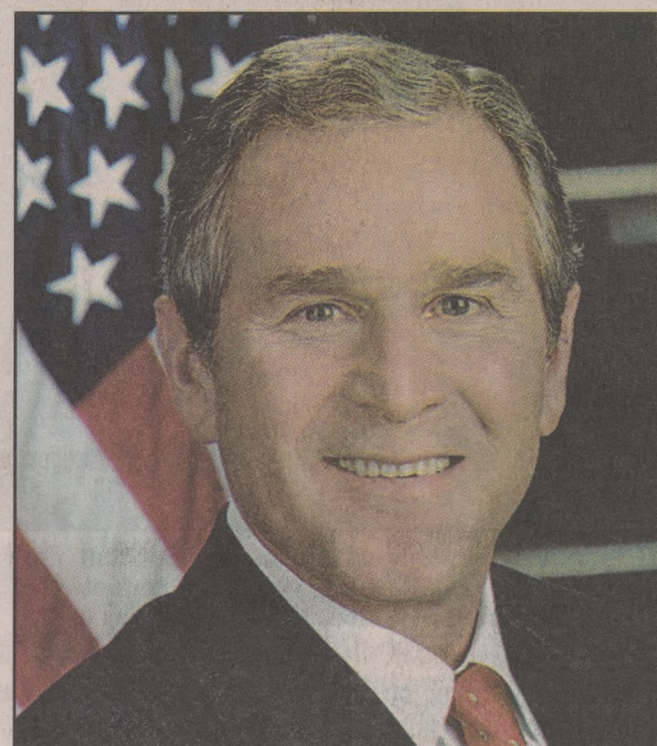
## Bush Rejects BET Offer To Address Black Americans

by Ed Wiley III

BET founder and CEO Robert Johnson appealed to the African American members of the Bush administration to urge the president to reconsider an invitation to speak to black Americans in his own prime-time special on the network.

On Wednesday, administration officials notified BET that the president would not accept Johnson's offer - issued 36 days ago - to address black Americans in a half-hour televised special. Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry accepted the invitation within a few days and, on Oct. 7, used the opportunity to lay out a variety of positions favorable to the black community.

Bush officials said the president's schedule could not accommodate the request but suggested that BET contact him again "after the election," according to a spokesman for the network.



In recent months, Bush officials have bombarded BET with releases and statements touting the president's record in black America.

In an open letter to Secretary of State Colin Powell; National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice; Secretary of Education Rod Paige; Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson; and former Oklahoma Republican Congressman J. C. Watts, a

Bush adviser and friend, Johnson, urged them to "ask the President to reconsider."

"While we have applauded your appointment to such a key role in the Bush Administration, political appointments are not enough when it comes

to communicating the President's plan of action to address issues that African Americans find important," Johnson wrote.

In recent months, Bush officials have bombarded BET with releases and statements touting the president's record in black America. But to decline a rare opportunity to speak directly to African Americans in a prime-time forum with just 12 days left before the election "does not send a very positive signal to African Americans," Johnson said.

"There is little doubt that African American voters have the power to decide the outcome of this election," Johnson continued. "Our invitations to President Bush and Senator Kerry were each candidate's chance to show African Americans that their issues, opinions and their votes really matter."

**Vote Early for the Nov. 2 General Election**



**Dr. Kenneth Bryant,**  
one of the panelists for the  
upcoming African  
American Health  
Forum.  
see page 6

The Weekly Challenger welcomes a new advertiser:  
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# OPINIONS

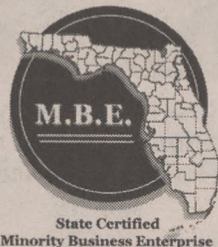
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## The Weekly Challenger Newspaper We Value Diversity. We Value Education. We Value History.

A knowledge of his-  
tory brings a feeling of  
fellowship that runs  
through the ages - be it a

territory, a village, a dis-  
trict, or a nation. To live  
without history is likened  
to living without a form

of memory. To be with-  
out 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 Chal-

lenger is committed to  
featuring articles of all  
ethnic culture for the  
reading enjoyment of

both the young and old  
generations.

## Liberal Dominance Of Black Media Won't Fix Itself

by Michael King

Not all blacks are liber-  
al, but liberals nonetheless  
dominate the black media.

So what's a conserva-  
tive - especially a black  
conservative - to do about  
it?

For one thing, stop  
allowing this dominance to  
occur by default, because  
it's falsely defining black  
America as less conserva-  
tive than it really is.

In a October/Novem-  
ber 2003 Gallup poll, more  
blacks identified them-  
selves as conservative (30  
percent) than liberal (22  
percent). A 1996 Joint  
Center for Political and  
Economic Studies poll sim-  
ilarly found a nearly equal  
distribution among blacks  
who defined themselves as  
conservative, liberal and  
moderate. School choice  
and gay marriage are just  
two of the recent high-pro-  
file splits between black  
America and the liberal  
establishment.

It's obvious there's a  
diversity of political opin-  
ion in the African-Amer-  
ican community, but what  
about the seemingly mono-  
lithically liberal black  
media?

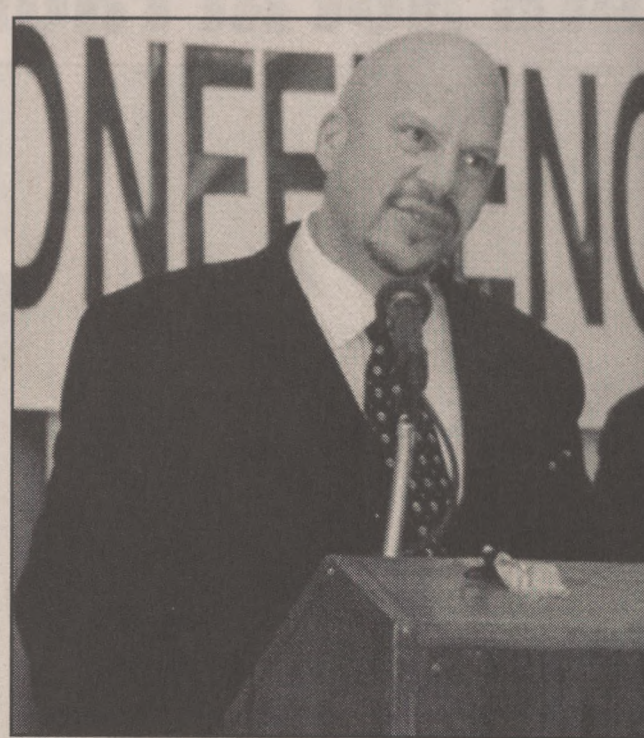
In most major radio  
markets, black radio domi-  
nates the dial. In black  
radio, Tom Joyner rules the

roost. His ABC-distributed  
program is among the top  
draws not only in black  
radio but in urban and sub-  
urban radio, period. A  
long-time radio veteran  
with extensive local-mar-  
ket experience in Chicago  
and Dallas, Joyner holds  
court over a cornucopia of  
topics. He and his cohorts  
are frequently visited by  
phone or in person by  
newsmakers and commen-  
tators who maintain a defi-  
nite sway among black  
Americans. Jesse Jackson,  
Al Sharpton and Julian  
Bond are among Joyner's  
semi-regular guests. NPR  
and PBS talk show host  
Tavis Smiley is a regular  
weekly contributor.

Joyner additionally  
hosts gatherings at Disney  
World, festivals around the  
nation and even an annual  
ocean cruise. He holds  
fundraisers for historically  
black colleges and is an  
outspoken advocate of  
"giving back" to the com-  
munity.

Tom Joyner is an opin-  
ion leader in the black  
media establishment.

His mantra nowadays  
is getting President George  
W. Bush out of office.  
Joyner's program hosted  
several of the Democratic  
presidential candidates, but  
he hasn't had on anyone



Even Tom Joyner may discover there is not only  
room but a necessity for a vigorous political debate  
among black Americans.

from the GOP. While part  
of this can be attributed to  
the current anti-Bush, anti-  
Republican bias of Joyner  
and his compatriots, just as  
much blame lies with the  
Republicans themselves.

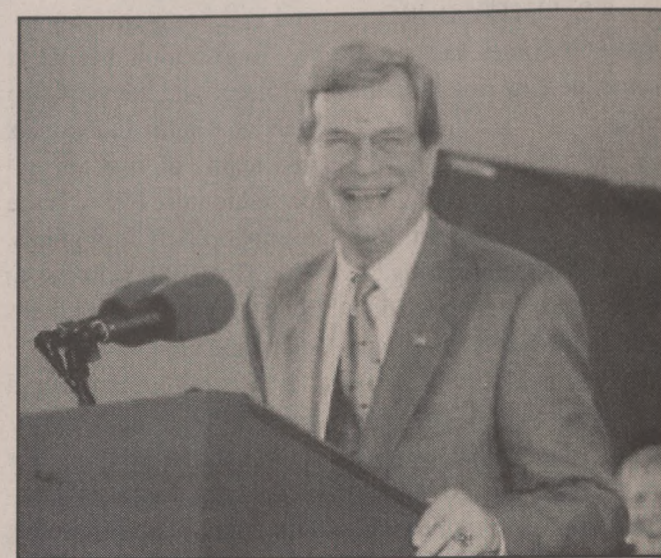
The visible communi-  
cation sources in black  
America - from Joyner and  
Smiley on the radio to BET  
to TV One on television as  
well as publications rang-  
ing from Johnson Pub-  
lishing's *Jet* and *Ebony* to  
Earl Graves' *Black Enter-  
prise* and the local black  
press - are a virtual waste-  
land when it comes to con-  
servative ideas.

Conservative blacks  
from Project 21 often are

represented in press reports  
and with *New Visions Com-  
mentaries*, but why isn't the  
President there? Why  
aren't Condoleezza Rice or  
Colin Powell there? Why  
aren't John Ashcroft or  
Donald Rumsfeld there?

Why was Trent Lott  
only on BET to apologize  
for putting his foot in his  
mouth regarding the late  
Strom Thurmond and not  
to discuss conservative  
proposals to reform Social  
Security, how tougher stan-  
dards and choice can im-  
prove education and how  
tax cuts don't just help the  
rich?

All those individuals  
will readily show up at



Why was Trent Lott only on BET to apologize for  
putting his foot in his mouth regarding the late  
Strom Thurmond and not to discuss conservative  
proposals to reform Social Security, how tougher  
standards and choice can improve education and  
how tax cuts don't just help the rich?

Sean Hannity or Rush  
Limbaugh's bully pulpits.  
That's not a bad thing. It's  
always good to preach to  
the choir.

But always rallying the  
faithful doesn't expand  
one's presence. One cannot  
expand their message un-  
less and until they step out-  
side their comfort zone.

Going on black radio  
may not be easy or com-  
fortable for conservatives  
at first. A wariness exists  
on both sides. As the ice is  
broken - and as black  
America recognizes that  
this is not a matter or a  
means of being used or  
pandered to simply for  
votes or support - both  
sides will begin to open up  
and to discover that a com-

mon ground truly exists.

Even Tom Joyner may  
discover there is not only  
room but a necessity for a  
vigorous political debate  
among black Americans.  
To deny it is to deprive  
black America of some-  
thing it truly deserves. But  
it is something that both he  
needs to be open to as well  
as those pushing conserva-  
tive policies.

Michael King is a mem-  
ber of the National Advisory  
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Note: *New Visions Com-  
mentaries* reflect the views of  
their author, and not neces-  
sarily those of Project 21.

## FAMU Fighting Over Leadership; How Convenient For Election 2004

by Dr. J. Alva Scruggs

FAMU, the only tradi-  
tionally black state uni-  
versity located in Talla-  
hassee, Fla. has been effec-  
tively taken out of the  
equation as a force in  
Election 2004. TV news  
Wednesday, Sept. 28 re-  
ported that The FAMU  
Board of Trustees voted to  
terminate the contract of  
President Fred Gainous as  
of immediately! This will  
effectively sabotage any  
efforts of the university in  
this year's election.

In the US presidential  
Election 2000, FAMU  
played a critical role in the  
process of opposing now  
President G. W. Bush. The  
students lead by FAMU's  
student body president,  
kept up the pressure of  
opposing G. W. by swell-  
ing the ranks of the protest-

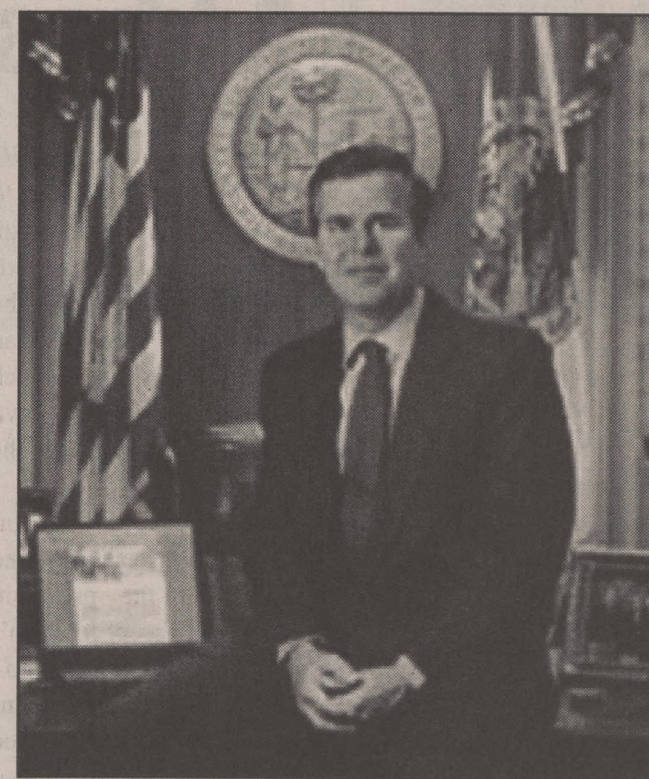


TV news Wednesday, Sept. 28 reported that The  
FAMU Board of Trustees voted to terminate the  
contract of President Fred Gainous as of  
immediately!

ers demonstrating on the  
capital grounds in Talla-  
hassee, Fla. and organizing  
voter registration. As we  
remember, the governor  
became so irritated that he  
cursed the students and  
some of the black Florida

legislators. Jeb Bush was  
even caught on TV throw-  
ing some of the Black rep-  
resentatives out of the State  
Capital Offices!

Election 2004 has  
shaped up to be another  
blockbuster for the presi-



Jeb Bush was even caught on TV throwing some of  
the Black representatives out of the  
State Capital Offices!

dency. There are signs of  
voting misconduct being  
challenged at this very  
moment. On CSPAN, some  
representatives from

Florida were saying that  
there were no blacks disen-  
franchised during Election  
2000. These representa-  
tives were angry that some

citizens who were calling  
in by phone voiced the con-  
cern that this election  
would be a repeat of the  
last election 2000, full of  
mischief and fraud!!

But now that FAMU  
has become preoccupied  
with the matter of leader-  
ship, it has this diversion as  
a deliberate activity to take  
up their time. However, the  
timing is just right for those  
who would like to keep  
FAMU in chaos and in con-  
fusion at this time in partic-  
ular. Yes, how convenient.

Dr. J. Alva Scruggs,  
Chemist, Educator, Professor,  
Writer; Look forward to hear-  
ing from readers!!! jscr-  
5750@aol.com;  
<http://franklyspeaking.info/>

**THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER WELCOMES YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**  
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**DROP OFF YOUR LETTERS AT OUR OFFICE:**  
**2500 M. L. KING ST. S., STE. F, ST. PETERSBURG, FL**



## THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY



**Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer, born, 1911**

- October 21 • George William Gordon, Jamaican national hero, is unfairly arrested and sentenced to death, 1865
- John H. Conyers becomes first African American to enter the US Naval Academy, 1872
- John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie, famed musician, born, 1917
- Earl Lloyd, first NBA Black Assistant Coach and first Black chief scout, becomes the first Black person to play in an NBA game (beating out Charles Cooper and Nat Clifton by a day), 1950
- October 22 • Charles Cooper becomes one of the first Blacks to play in an NBA game (for the Celtics, no less), 1950
- Nat Clifton becomes one of the first Blacks to play in an NBA game, 1950
- The first post office manned by Blacks opens in Atlanta, Ga., 1955
- 225,000 boycott Chicago schools to protest segregation, 1963
- October 23 • The NAACP petitions the United Nations about racial injustices, 1947
- October 24 • 25,000 Black workers strike in New Orleans, 1892
- Langston Hughes' "Mulatto" opens, the first Black-authored play to become a long-run Broadway hit, 1935
- October 25 • Benjamin O. Davis becomes the first Black general in US Army, 1940
- October 26 • Benjamin Banneker, inventor, mathematician and one of the planners of what is now Washington DC, dies, 1806
- Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer, born, 1911
- October 27 • St. Vincent Independence Day
- D.B. Downing, inventor, patents his street letter box, 1891

## Elder Affairs Seeks Volunteers

TAMPA BAY – The Florida Department of Elder Affairs needs counselors to help low-income seniors obtain their prescription drugs free, or almost free. You should have a computer and have Internet access. They provide all training and reimbursement for travel expenses.

Please call the Area Agency on Aging, (727) 570-9696 ext. 237.

## How to Forgive Yourself and Others –

Room for the Spirit, a satellite of the Franciscan Center, will be presenting "How to Forgive Yourself and Others," the second in a series of programs, on Monday, Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., (with lunch) and from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the James B. Sanderlin Family Center, 2335 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg.

Presenters will be Sister Cathy Cahill, O.S.F., and Maureen Connors, Ph.D. Cost for attending: Love Offering.

To register, call (813) 229-2695.

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# SARASOTA / MANATEE AREA

## Community Partnership Celebrated In Grand Opening of North Port Health and Family Service Center

Officials from the City of North Port, Sarasota County and Florida Department of Health along with Congresswoman Katherine Harris and 150 invited guests attended today's official unveiling of the new North Port Health and Family Service Center, 6950 Pan American Drive in North Port.

Sarasota County Health and Human Services Executive Director Bill Little said, "The North Port Health and Family Service Center is tangible evidence of the commitment of a group of resident volunteers and agency representatives known as the North Port Community Health Action Team (CHAT) to respond to the needs and challenges of a growing community." The CHAT provided the impetus for the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice and others to move forward with plans to provide local residents access to quality, affordable health care and social services through this one-stop health and social service center.

Senior Friendship Centers, Inc. partnered with

Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice who provided a \$359,500 grant, covering approximately 50 percent of the purchase price and renovation of a large portion of the 6,879 square foot building into a state-of-the-art health clinic. Other funding organizations include the Florida Department of Health, Sarasota County Government, City of North Port and Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Systems.

The social service agencies which are co-located in the facility have been open to the public since late June when the North Port Family Service Center lost its lease at the North Port Glenallen Elementary School. Services at this new location include: North Port Social Services, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Healthy Start Coalition, Mental Health Community Centers, Sarasota County Technical Institute, Senior Friendship/Friendship at Home, Jobs Etc/Suncoast Workforce Board. Medical staff from the Senior Friendship Centers, Inc. and Sarasota County Health Department has

been providing health and medical services by appointment for all age groups since Monday, Oct. 4.

Among the health services offered are primary and preventive health care (i.e. sick and well care), children's immunizations, dental services, family planning, health education and sexually transmitted disease (STD) treatment and counseling. These services are available Monday 1 - 5 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Services for people over 50 include primary health care, specialty medical consultations, diabetes and blood pressure checks and other health promoting programs. These services are available Monday and Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The central location of the facility makes it an ideal focal point for family and senior services in the North Port area. Local residents have responded with enthusiasm to the availability of affordable health and social services in their community. Officials from Senior Friendship Centers, Inc. and Sarasota County

Health Department hope many families will make the North Port Health and Family Services Center their medical home which improves continuity of care and ultimately results in better health care for area residents. The health clinic is open five days and several early evenings each week. Senior Friendship Centers, Inc. continues to recruit volunteer physicians, nurses, aides and others to help staff the clinic.

Organizations contributing to making this center a reality include: Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice, City of North Port, Sarasota County Government, Sarasota County Health Department, Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Systems, Florida Department of Health, Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP), North Port Community Health Action Team (CHAT) as well as Senior Friendship Centers. For more information or to make an appointment for health services, call (941) 548-0100.

## Colonial Oaks Park Opens Teen Room

Teenagers are known to say, "I'm bored and have nothing to do," but Sarasota County Parks and Recreation is working on a solution through a recently opened Teen Room, equipped with four large televisions, four X-Box game consoles, a variety of video games, video rocker chairs, beanbag chairs, and a couch. A foosball table is also on the way to the site at Colonial Oaks Park, 5320 Colonial Oaks Blvd., Sarasota.

Dorian Mattox, Colonial Oaks Park coordinator, said she immediately saw that little was offered to the teen population when she started work, so she created the concept of a Teen Room to provide an outlet for any young adult, 12-18 years old. The room opened Oct. 2, and is already heading toward 50 participants. Use of the room is free but there are permission and rule forms that must be signed by the parent/guardian and notarized before a teen can use the facility.

"The teens are expected to police themselves and enforce the rules of the room," Mattox said. "They are aware that violators of the rules will be barred from the room. So far the teens really seem to enjoy

the room and have been quite respectful park staff and each other."

Many parents have come to the park to see the room and they think it's great, Mattox said, because their kids have a safe place to hang out. The room is monitored by video in the park office.

Most of the equipment Parks had in inventory, but the foosball table, some beanbag chairs and other materials will cost about \$500, Mattox said. There are soda machines just outside the room and plans for a snack machine inside.

There is also a contest right now to give the room a "cool" name, the winner receiving a video game. Mattox said she hopes to have many more teen activities in the future, based in part on the many suggestions and ideas she solicits from the teens. She said she wants teens to feel the park is for them as much as for anyone else.

The Teen Room is open when the park office is open, Tuesday-Sunday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

For more information about the Teen Room or other programs offered at Colonial Oaks Park, please call Dorian Mattox or Renee Krause at (941) 316-1330.

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Writing Services Provided to Nonprofit Agencies and Churches

ST. PETERSBURG - Most nonprofit agencies do not have an advertising budget.

As a result, they often-times do not have the time - or expertise - to develop media materials that will make them more visible in the community.

It doesn't have to be that way.

Tre'-C can help nonprofit agencies, as well as churches, businesses or individuals, who need writing and graphic design assistance.

Who is Tre'-C?

Tre'-C stands for Tracie Reddick Event Planning and Communications. A graduate of Florida A&M University, Reddick is an award winning journalist with more than a dozen years reporting ex-

perience.

After working in both the media and the nonprofit sector, she developed Tre'-C to fill the marketing gap that exists at local grassroots and nonprofit agencies.

Why? Because she observed many agencies having a difficult time connecting with people who can benefit from their services due to cultural barriers or a lack of community awareness.

Things can change.

Using Afro-centric software, Tre'-C can develop flyers and brochures featuring people that reflect the faces of the clients agencies want to serve. Also, African symbols and patterns can be incorporated into the designs.

Other services include

press releases and media kits, grantwriting, and annual reports that will impress agencies' board of directors and funders. And don't forget to attach the monthly newsletters! They can be provided by Tre'-C, too.

Need a business plan or a 501(c)3 designation? Call Tre'-C, whose reasonable rates include monthly retainers, thus cutting out an agency's need to hire a full-time marketing director.

So, don't loose out on another opportunity to place your agency, church or business in the spotlight. Call Tre'-C today.

For more information, call Tracie Reddick at (727) 906-8927.

## To Know 22nd Street South Is To Know St. Petersburg: The Heart of African American Culture

"A TASTE OF 22ND STREET"  
Saturday, Nov. 6 on the 22nd Street South Corridor  
between 9th and 11th Avenue South  
Great Food, Great Music and Great Entertainment

Park at the St. Petersburg Clay Company and trolley into the "Taste."  
Clay Company is located at 420 - 22nd St. S.  
(Take a trolley tour of the 22nd Street South Corridor!)

## 12 DAYS LEFT Until the Nov. 1 School Choice Application Deadline.

**Still need to apply for school choice?**



**Call or visit a Family  
Education and Information  
Center today!**

1101 Marshall St.,  
Clearwater, FL 33755  
(727) 298-2858  
Fax: (727) 298-2864

3420 Eighth Ave. S  
St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
(727) 552-1595  
Fax: (727) 552-1604

**Other sign-up locations  
are available. For a list  
of sites, call a center or visit  
www.pinellaschoice.org.**

### Incoming Kindergarteners

If your child turns 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2005, you **MUST** register your child for kindergarten and turn in a choice application by Nov. 1, 2004.

Be sure to bring:

- Child's birth certificate
- Proof of residency (such as a utility bill that includes the parent or guardian's name and street address)
- Child's Social Security number (optional)

**NOTE:** For a more detailed list of registration documents, visit [www.pinellaschoice.org](http://www.pinellaschoice.org) or call a center before you go.

**Choice**  
PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

## The Weekly Challenger Welcomes Your Articles and Pictures of Community Interest Events



COME VISIT US!

**TASTE OF  
GULFPORT**

SAT OCT. 23  
NOON TIL 7 PM

...WHERE GULFPORT  
MEETS THE BEACH!

WHERE THE LOCALS BUY... FOR OVER 21 YEARS



# TAMPA BAY AREA

## THIS & THAT



by Mabel Cooper  
(823-6092)

Hi everybody. I hope the past summer was as lovely for you as it was for me. I survived it.

Don't you just love this time of year, readers? The clear, crisp days and

(or should I say) crisp mornings and slightly cool nights. The beautiful autumn colors and the birds flying south for the winter.



### A FAMILY GATHERING

Once again, Ceola Mae Witchard of our town traveled by rail to Washington, D.C. and Maryland to join a gathering with nine of her eleven children, grands and great-grands. The occasion? The graduation ceremony for her daughter, M. Sgt. Veronica Witchard, who graduated from National Louis University with a bachelors degree in business management. Following the graduation, there was a big, simply delicious, succulent barbecued ribs, soul



Ceola Mae Witchard and daughter, M. Sgt. Veronica Witchard

food spread, complete with crabs, lobster-shrimp pasta salad, vegetables and mouthwatering desserts.

The next morning, the family boarded a chartered

bus and toured New York City. They visited Ground Zero, the Statue of Liberty, Madison Square Garden, Canal Street Shopping District, the Apollo Theater and Harlem on this tour.

After the events, Ceola went to a family reunion in Cardele, Ga. after staying in Maryland and D.C. area for five additional weeks. According to Ceola, she had a joyous trip with her kids, daughter-in-laws and grands.

\*\*\*

### HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY

to George Edward who, on Oct. 17, celebrated 87 years on earth. A special day...a special person - and another year to thank God for you! May He bless your life today and always. You didn't fool us, George.

\*\*\*

### WEEKEND VISITORS

Former St. Pete natives, George L. Niblack, his spouse Burnette and his mother, Mary Niblack of Miami, spent the past weekend in town taking care of business. As usual, they spent time with Burn's mother, Rosa Jones of Burlington Towers, another relative and friends. "Burn," as she's called, attended a workshop on real estate investment at the Sand Piper on St. Petersburg Beach, "Ugly House Boot Camp." The Niblack's motored here.

\*\*\*

### MAKING NEWS AGAIN

Frequent traveler Essie Evans, of 28th St. S., jetted to Los Angeles, Calif. to visit her daughter, Regina Rena Davis, in Sherman Oaks, Calif. While there, Essie visited with her sister, Minnie, and spouse, Johnnie, and son, Juan

Patterson, in Semia Valley, Calif.

A special treat for Essie was when she and Minnie were guests on Dr. Phil's Show on TV and toured the Roland Rejin Library in Semia Valley before she returned home. Essie said it was a rewarding trip.

\*\*\*

### ENJOYED A WEEK-END EXCURSION

On Oct. 15, two good friends, Ruth Gallon of Miami and Janie Wells of our town, motored to Madison, Fla. to visit Ruth's family, then on to Destin, Fla. where they toured the beaches, checked out the malls and resorts, then bedded down in the Wingate Hotel for the night.

The next day, they drove from the tourist town to Panama City to go sight-seeing before heading back to Destin, where they ate dinner at the Lucky Star Bar and Grill and enjoyed the live music and entertainment.

On Oct. 17, the ladies drove to Ft. Walton Beach and stayed a couple of hours before heading to Tallahassee to look around. After all of this sight-seeing and looking around, they motored to our town.

As this articles goes to press, they are somewhere taking their ease.

\*\*\*

### SYMPATHY TO

Elsie Taylor in the passing of her beloved Frank Taylor, who died Oct. 14 at home. On a personal note, I will say to you Elsie, "Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal." I know. I've been there.

\*\*\*

Until Next Write Around, STAY LOOSE!

## Celebrating with the Ladies of the Silver Stars

ST. PETERSBURG — The Silver Star Social Club will celebrate with their 20th Annual Ball on Saturday, Oct. 23 at the Bingo Hall, 3615 37th St. S. The president, Mary Parker, would like to extend her thanks to those who have supported the Silver Star Social Club for the last 20 years.



Mary Parker



### The Silver Stars

The Silver Star Social Club was founded in October 1984 by Christine Hayes and Parker, with the through in mind to help the needy. The original assembly met at the home of Parker, 947 20th Ave. S. Attending this assembly

were 13 ladies, including: Parker, Hayes, Annette Parker, Juanita Clark, Laura Safford, Betty Little, Rosalyn Safford, Aletha Shorter, Annie P. Bell, Thelma Jackson, Marguerite Shaw, Alice Bush and Vera Peoples.

The group has helped and donated their time to various organizations and families in the community who have been in need throughout the 20 years they have been in existence.

## Community Input Needed for Health Grant

PINELLAS COUNTY — Pinellas County residents and visitors who are concerned with the chronic diseases of overweight/obesity, diabetes and asthma are encouraged to attend the Nov. 3 meeting of the STEPS to a Healthier Pinellas Consortium from 6-9 p.m. at the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Center, 1344

22nd St. S. in St. Petersburg.

STEPS to a Healthier Pinellas is a multi-million dollar grant designed to lower the occurrence and the associated health care costs relating to obesity, diabetes and asthma by targeting the three contributing behaviors of poor nutrition, lack of physical activ-

ity and tobacco usage. The initial awarding of the five-year grant was September 2003. As the Pinellas County Health Department and its partnering health organizations enter their second grant year, STEPS officials are seeking increased public involvement.



**On November 2nd Please Vote Yes for the Pinellas County School Referendum**

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**We can only close the achievement gap by having caring, competent teachers in our classrooms.**

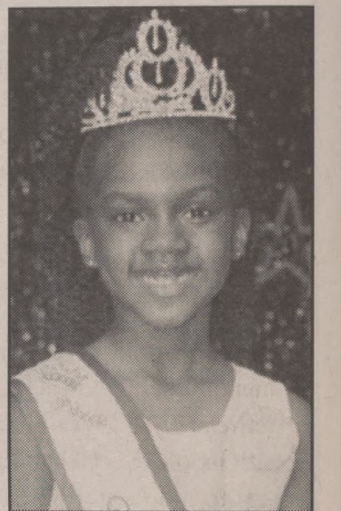
There is a referendum question on this year's general election ballot that represents the community's way of securing the future for Pinellas County.

When passed, this referendum will help recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and maintain the programs and services our children need to become productive citizens.

I urge you to vote yes to pass this referendum. Our children and our teachers are worth the cost.

**Michelle Dennard**  
President  
Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association

**We will never get the best teachers unless we pay them.**



TAMPA BAY — Congratulations to Terrie Mickens, who was recently named Miss Florida American Princess! She will now represent Florida at the National Princess pageant, which will be held on Nov. 27 in Orlando, Fla. This also happens to be her 7th birthday!

She is the daughter of Terrence and Ra-Shawn Mickens, sister to Terrence Mickens II, and granddaughter of Marian Hollinshed.

This is Terrie's first experience in any type of pageant but she looks forward to competing in other pageants because she loves to dress up, travel, and meet new people.

Terrie is a third grader at the Bible-Based Christian Academy, where she maintains a straight A grade point average. She is also active in Club 66 Alpha Chapter, Spanish, instrumental music, and the Bible-Based Kids For Christ choir! She also enjoys reading, dancing, and public speaking!

There were a total of 55 girls in her division and of the 15 finalists, she was the only African-American selected! She is looking forward to representing her family, her school, her community, the state of Florida but also her people in the highest fashion in this awesome endeavor!

American Coed Pageants' motto, "Youth... Pride of the Present, Hope of the Future is well understood and appreciated by those who have been involved in this prestigious program! For the past 17 years, the American Coed Pageant system has awarded over 8 million dollars in scholarships and prizes to deserving young ladies.

## Class Announcement for Fathers!

Electronic Fatherhood features "Parenting for Change" curriculum in a computer lab environment!

PINELLAS COUNTY — Whether you're a father, step-father, grandfather, father figure, or a father-to-be, you are welcome to join a friendly, informative, and male-focused class designed to build and encourage well-rounded dads! Each week at the Sanderlin

Family Center (2335 22nd Ave. S., St. Petersburg), fathers will explore important parent education topics, while at the same time learning and improving basic computer skills! This unique combined curriculum has been made possible through a collaboration

between the James B. Sanderlin Family Center and Family Service Centers, Inc.

Topics include:

- child/home safety and sickness
- communication, power struggles
- emotional involve-

ment

- goals of child behavior, consequences
- effective discipline

Space is limited...reservations are required. Please call (727) 489-5218 by Oct. 23 to enroll.

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Carol Burg  
800.366.6581 x. 6109  
cburg@nl.edu



National-Louis University is accredited by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the Florida Commission for Independent Education.



Jackie Newsom, a student in the NLU Master of Arts in Teaching Program, puts theory into practice. Students develop and teach lessons to their classmates and receive suggestions.

You can make a difference! Apply now to begin in January!

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- B.S. in Management
- B.A. Applied Behavioral Sciences
- Master of Health Services Administration
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## School News

Wednesday, Nov. 17, is the 11th annual Progress Energy Great American Teach-In in Pinellas County Schools. Every year adds more tradition, more excitement, more learning opportunities to the event. The Teach-In has become so eagerly anticipated that volunteers whose work requires travel make a point to schedule vacation time so they are in town for that Wednesday of the week before Thanksgiving.

Despite a driving rain storm that made travel miserable and roads treacherous, more than 5,500 persons participated in the Teach-In last year, making more than 15,500 presentations. Progress Energy Florida has sponsored the event in Pinellas since the inaugural year, providing printed materials, promotional activities and enthusiastic support. Many Progress Energy employees volunteer for the Teach-In, taking with them utility vehicles and information about their work. Some step outside their Progress Energy jobs and tell students about hobbies or other interests.

Since 1994, participants ranging from elementary school students to retirees have given presentations on everything from art to zoology. In those years, a total of 47,471 volunteers gave 108,354 presentations in the more than 140 Pinellas County public schools. They've come in costume, brought their equipment, put on plays, offered potentially life-saving information, showed off their pets, discussed career options, shared precious souvenirs, talked about other parts of the world, brought the past to life, performed a song or dance, cooked delicious meals, stepped down from the pedestal of celebrity to meet students at their level or simply read a story to little ones.

The Teach-In introduces students to career options they might never have considered, hobbies they might never have discovered and activities they might never have experienced. Students learn from professionals, trades people, parents, community members and other students. The annual event enriches the students and the volunteers alike.

In addition to elementary, middle and high schools, there also are dropout-prevention programs, exceptional education schools and secondary schools that would love to have more speakers. Prospective participants unable to attend during traditional school hours might consider the technical education centers or community schools.

Brochures with registration forms are available in all schools and from information services at the administration building in Largo. Go to [www.pinellas.k12.fl.us](http://www.pinellas.k12.fl.us) and click on "Hot News" to find a registration form that you may print, fill out and mail to a school or information services.

Registration forms may be returned to any Pinellas County public school or mailed to Kay Masters, Information Services, Pinellas County Schools, P.O. Box 2942, Largo, FL 33779-2942. The registration deadline is Nov. 10. Those wishing more information may call the Teach-In coordinator at any public school or information services, 588-6297, or e-mail [mastersk@pcsb.org](mailto:mastersk@pcsb.org).

\*\*\*

Time is running out for parents to make school choices for the 2005-06 school year. The application period for choice attendance area schools and countywide magnet, fundamental and high school career academy programs ends in two weeks (Nov. 1). Parents must apply for schools in their choice attendance area if they have a child:

- Entering a Pinellas public school for the first time in August 2005 (including all children entering kindergarten, students new to the district and those reentering Pinellas County Schools).

- Entering grade six or nine who is not eligible for or does not want to use extended grandfathering.

- Applying to a different school in the attendance area (such an application costs the child his or her seat in the current school as well as extended grandfathering).

Students who do not apply by the Nov. 1 deadline will be assigned to a school with space available after all other students have been placed. Parents who wish their children to remain in the current school do not have to apply.

Pinellas County Schools is expected to have 8,000 kindergarten students in August 2005. About 50 percent of that number have registered as of Oct. 14. Parents of the remaining children due to start kindergarten in 2005 are urged to register them immediately and submit a choice attendance area application.

Several satellite registration sites continue to be open 4-8 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays this month. The sites are Blanton, High Point and

Palm Harbor elementaries, Oct. 26, and Bay Point, Eisenhower and Walsingham elementaries, Oct. 27.

A child must be registered before the parent may submit a choice attendance area application or an application for a countywide program. To register, parents should bring the child's birth certificate, the parent's proof of residency, the child's latest report card (for those entering grades 1-12) and the child's Social Security number to a Family Education and Information Center (FEIC) or satellite location.

The FEICs are located at 1101 Marshall St., Clearwater, (727) 298-2858, and 3420 Eighth Ave. S., St. Petersburg, (727) 552-1595. Center hours are (Clearwater) 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and (St. Petersburg) 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday.

There are three ways to apply to choice attendance area schools. Parents may mail, fax or deliver in person a choice or family preference paper application to an FEIC, or apply using the new automated phone (727-501-0871) or Internet (<http://apply.pinellaschoice.org>) application systems. However, parents should be aware that there are some limitations as to who can use the different options.

Families wishing to apply to a countywide magnet, fundamental or high school academy program only can apply (using a worksheet as a guide) by calling the automated phone system at (727) 501-0871. There are no paper applications.

Parents who need additional information on any facet of the choice application process should call an FEIC at (727) 552-1595 or (727) 298-2858 or visit [www.pinellaschoice.org](http://www.pinellaschoice.org).

For more information, contact Andrea Zahn, Choice Plan Communication, (727) 588-5172, cell, (727) 946-4809.

## Congratulations to the October Citizen and Student of the Month!

ST. PETERSBURG — Recently, District Seven Council Member Rene Flowers, along with St. Petersburg City Council, recognized Dr. Marilyn Fudge as Citizen of the Month and Sierra Simmons as the Student of the Month for October 2004.



Dr. Marilyn Fudge

Fudge was born and raised in St. Petersburg and currently serves as one of the supervising physicians at the Bayfront Medical Center Breast (BFMC) and Colposcopy Clinics. Fudge received a bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Florida (UF), a bachelor's in chemistry from the University of South Florida, and her doctorate of medicine from the UF College of Medicine. She finished her residency at BFMC, where she received numerous awards, including the outstanding resident of the year award. She became St. Petersburg's first African-American female doctor, specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

In addition to being a debutante, Sun Goddess and Miss Sigma Gamma Rho, the 1985 graduate of Lakewood High School was a member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society and march-

ing band. Fudge was selected to study in the M-Paths Program at Washington University in St. Louis, attended Boston University School of Medicine's Post-Baccalaureate one-year program and worked as a sixth grade science teacher at 16th Street Junior High School (now John Hopkins M.S.). Fudge is married with three children, and is active at Bethel Community Baptist Church.



Sierra Simmons

The October Student Citizen of the Month, 19-year-old Sierra Simmons, recently won a \$10,000 scholarship from the National Exchange Club. The ACE Award - Accepting the Challenges of Excellence - recognizes students who have succeeded despite tremendous adversity in their lives. After being honored as the local ACE Award recipient in March, Simmons went on to win the state competition in Orlando in May and the national in Dallas in July. She is the first national winner from Florida and will receive the \$10,000 scholarship over two years to help pay for her college education.

During her sophomore year of high school, Simmons faced the death of her mother and father

within eight months and lived alone in her parents' Midtown home during her senior year. To afford the water and electricity bills, she took a job as an after school counselor and reading tutor at the Harbordale YMCA. Simmons participated in a dropout prevention program, improved her grades to A's and B's, made the honor roll for the first time and graduated from St. Petersburg High School in May 2004.

Over the summer, she

completed St. Petersburg College's six-week program of remedial courses to prepare low-income high school graduates for higher education. She is continuing classes at SPC this fall and plans to study criminal justice. With the help of a nonprofit group, Simmons now has an affordable one bedroom apartment that is near to her new job as a research assistant at the St. Petersburg Main Library and within biking distance for

classes at the SPC Gibbs campus.

Monthly since March 2004, St. Petersburg City Council selects and honors a Citizen of the Month and Student Citizen of the Month based on community involvement, leadership and efforts to improve life in our city.

## No County Commissioner has worked harder to bring job opportunities to our community!



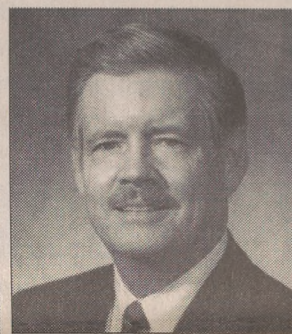
"There is no greater need in our community than creating high paying jobs, improving job training and job placement for our young men and women. No one is working harder on this than Pinellas County Commissioner Bob Stewart. That's why I urge everyone to vote for Bob!"

Cassandra Jackson

"I have known and worked with Bob Stewart for over 30 years. His leadership and experience as an elected official, plus his strong commitment to our community, are the reasons I support his re-election. I ask everyone to vote for Bob Stewart."

Elzo Atwater

Bob Stewart offers proven county-wide experience, a record of accomplishment and a commitment to continue working to improve the quality of life for every citizen of Pinellas County. Re-elect Bob Stewart to the Pinellas County Commission for leadership you can trust!



**Proven County-Wide Leadership**  
**Bob Stewart**  
Pinellas County Commission - District 3

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**[www.SisterStudy.org](http://www.SisterStudy.org)**

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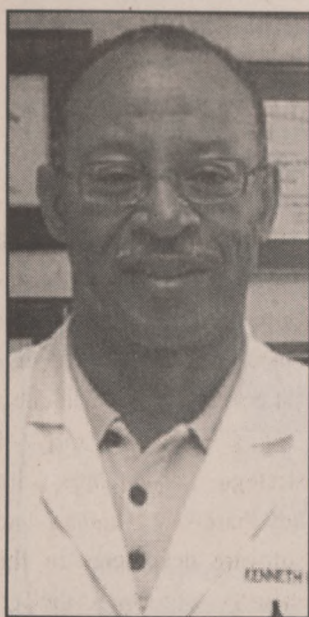
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## African American Health Forum Approaches



"Seventy-five percent of all cancers could be prevented by changing to a healthier lifestyle," said Dr. Kenneth Bryant, urologist at the Suncoast Medical Center who created the concept for the event and made it happen.

by Tracie Reddick

Challenger Correspondent  
ST. PETERSBURG - Bayfront Medical Center is gearing up its annual forum aimed at improving the quality of health among African Americans.

Officials are expecting about 1,000 families and individuals to participate in the seven-year-old event, which will be held on Saturday, November 6 at the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center.

So, they are encouraging families to arrive at 7:30 a.m. to register for the forum, which kicks off at 8 a.m. and concludes at 2 p.m.

Titled, "A Celebration of Health," the forum's "emphasis is on increasing awareness and understanding of health care concerns that are specific to the African American community," said Bayfront Spokeswoman Kanika Jelks-Tomalin.

Sponsored by the Jessie Ball duPont fund, the forum will be held at 1344 22nd St. S. and will

feature health screenings that include, but are not limited to, blood pressure, cholesterol, prostate, vision and blood sugar testing.

"This is a fun, family focused event," said Event Coordinator Angela Rouson. "Parents can bring their children. Grandparents can bring their grandchildren."

People come by bus, car and on foot to take advantage of the free, health screenings. When the forum began, about 100 people showed up. This year, organizers are expecting to attract 10 times that amount.

To what do they owe their success?

"I think there is an increased awareness of the importance of paying attention to and taking control of your health," Rouson said. "People want to know their numbers and if they are at-risk to diseases. This forum is a way for them to receive some basic medical treatment. In many cases, it is long overdue for those lacking health insurance."

Lunch will be provided at the forum, which includes educational activities and entertainment.

Screenings will be provided by the National Black Nurses Association, Office of Minority Health at Pinellas County Health Department, the local chapter of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Pfizer and Drs. Nancy Bryant and Deborah Flanagan.

"Health disparities do exist," Rouson said. "I think this event proves there is a greater need for health care in our community."

For more information about the health fair, call (727) 895-3627.

## Violence

from front page  
courage to speak out," Katz said. "If only a small percentage, with a personal connection to this issue got involved, it would be culturally transforming."

That's why MVP targets athletes. "I know how powerful the sports culture is," Katz said.

As usual, members of the audience were eager to bring up O.J. Simpson - and Kobe Bryant - as athletes whose star status outshined their violent behavior toward women.

"I do not believe anyone should get a pass on abusive behavior just because he's good at something else," said Katz, who put the conversation back into the proper context.

Harping on the stereotype of oversexed black men seeking to rape and murder helpless white women is "a comfortable cliché that prevents us from dealing with reality."

"It's not about any one type," Katz stressed. "Powerful white guys, as well as powerful black guys, get away with that type of behavior."

Therefore, it is up to men to clarify the mixed

messages young boys receive about manhood from the media.

"Our culture teaches boys that being a male means being powerful and dominant and you have to use force to maintain power and control," said Katz, citing movies such as "Rambo" and "The Terminator," as well as television programs such as wrestling, rap music and radio shock jocks such as Howard Stern.

Again, he urged men, particularly ministers, to take a stand against domestic violence.

"They view themselves as moral leaders and they won't even address this issue," Katz said. "They need to be held accountable just like any other leaders."

Some have criticized Katz for trying to get men to rally around the issue of domestic violence. He noted just being pro-women does not make him anti-male.

"Is it male bashing to be honest?" he concluded. "I'm telling the truth and when you reveal the truth, you are a threat to power."

## This Week's 'Best' Photos



"St. Petersburg's black residents were in attendance! On Oct. 19, many African Americans gathered at Progress Energy Park - Al Lang Field for the GOP rally in support of President Bush. Elder Martin Rainey was selected to render the opening prayer and it was a family affair for the Jackson family."

photos by Shedrick Rhodes



## Concert by 'Liquid Jazz' at the Newly Renovated Royal Theater!

ST. PETERSBURG - "Liquid Jazz" will perform at the newly renovated Royal Theater in Midtown St. Petersburg. The concert takes place this Sunday, Oct. 24, from 3-5:30 p.m. The Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association, Inc. and the City of St. Petersburg

will be sponsoring the concert in this special venue. This young group of musicians features Ryan Pate, guitarist; Ian Goodman on drums; Jeff Fairbanks on trombone, John Ward playing flute and saxophone and special guest bassist, Kenny Walker. The

group is noted for presenting original compositions written by group members, as well as, jazz standards.

Admission for jazz club members is \$8, general admission is \$10 and students under 18 are admitted free. For additional information about the concert,

leave a message on voice mail for the Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association, (727) 866-0085. For information about the Royal Theater, contact Tia Murphy, director at (727) 515-8084.

## Hillsborough Branch NAACP to Meet

TAMPA BAY - The Hillsborough County Branch NAACP is holding the October General Membership Meeting on Oct. 21, beginning promptly at 7 p.m. at Covenant Missionary Baptist Church, 4610 Hanna St. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting. The agenda will

include:

- Nominating Committee's Report of Candidates for the position of President. 1st, 2nd, 3rd Vice Presidents, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and up to 24 members of the Executive Committee Members at-large;
- Nominations from the

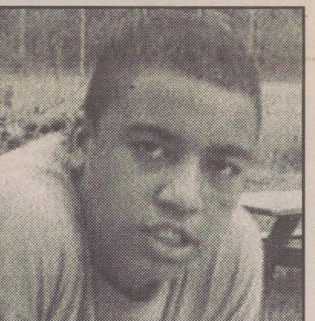
Floor for the above positions

- Election of the Supervisory Election Committee - 5 persons responsible for all duties; pertaining to the Election which is being held Saturday, Nov. 13;
- Review of the Amendments that will be ap-

pearing on the Nov. 2 ballot;

- Update on the GOTV Coalition activities;
- Update on Meeting regarding James and Booker T. Washington Middle Schools.

## Commemoration on the 8th Anniversary of the Death of Tyron Lewis



Tyron Lewis

ST. PETERSBURG - Eight years ago on Oct. 24, 1996, 18 year old Tyron Lewis was shot and killed by St. Petersburg police officer, James Knight. A commemoration event and candlelight vigil will be held this Sunday, Oct. 24 at the Uhuru House, 1245

18th Ave. S. Speakers include Deanne Lewis, the sister of Tyron Lewis; Pearlle McCulloch, grandmother of Marquell McCulloch, who was shot and killed by Sheriff's deputies earlier this year, and Mtundu Dialobe, Chairman of the Anti-

Violence committee.

This effort is the start of an anti-violence campaign in the African community. For more information, please contact the International People's Democratic Uhuru Movement at (727) 502-0575.

## Osceola High Principal Reaches out with Parent Forum

by Tracie Reddick

Challenger Correspondent  
ST. PETERSBURG - Carol Moore is an old-school educator.

She believes parental involvement is vital to the success of students - particularly those of African-American descent. That's why the Osceola High School principal is reaching out to parents in south St. Petersburg.

Moore is hosting a parent summit aimed at helping teens excel in the classroom. The summit will be held from 10 a.m. until noon on Nov. 6 at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S.

"This is the first time we've done anything like this," said Moore. "We're hoping it will become an annual event."

It is also a reflection of the leadership style of Moore, who took over the principal duties at Osceola this school year.

Moore explained the



Administration Team for Osceola High School  
Left to right: Angela McCloud, Brad Finkbinder, Boe Norwood, Helen Gorman, Carol Moore

Enoch summit is actually an offshoot of a school-wide forum that will take place on Oct. 25.

On that date, parents of the 1,981 students enrolled at Osceola are invited to attend a similar parent summit held on the campus at 9751 98th St. N.

Because of the school's distance, Moore wanted to make sure parents without transportation in south Pinellas also had access to the information discussed

at that summit. So, she expanded the event to include a parent summit at Enoch Davis.

"We want to develop a closer partnership with all of our parents," said Moore, a former assistant principal at Boca Ciega High School. "We want to help them by giving them the tools they need to encourage their children to read, improve their study habits and develop a positive attitude toward school."

Tips at the summit will include information on how to prepare for the FCAT, gain the necessary credits needed for graduation and improving grade point averages.

"It's basically teaching parents how to turn their children into successful

high school students," said Moore, who noted a follow-up seminar focusing on financial aid and college admissions will be held later in the school year.

The summit is also an opportunity for busy parents to get to know Osceola administrators and teachers.

"I'm very excited about this event," Moore said. "This is an opportunity for parents to get to see me in a different environment. I really want to develop a partnership that will enable us to work together because I am truly dedicated to making sure their children receive the best education possible at Osceola High School."

For more information about the summit, call Moore at (727) 547-7717.

## CASA and Women of Color Caucus to host Domestic Violence Forum

ST. PETERSBURG--CASA, Community Action Stops Abuse and the FCADV, Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence's Women of Color Caucus will sponsor a forum, "What role would you play to end domestic violence?" on Oct. 29, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S. October is national "Domestic Violence Awareness Month."

There is no cost to attend, but reservations are required. Lunch and child

care are available (child care must be requested in advance). Continuing Education Units (CEU) and Certificate of Completion are available.

The deadline to reserve a seat is Oct. 26 by noon. For more information or to make reservations, please contact Crystal McFadden, (727) 895-4912 ext. 132, cmcfadden@casa.stpete.org or Clarissa Hersey-James, (727) 895-4912 ext. 248, chersey@casa-stpete.org.

## Russ

from front page

For example, Russ contends her opponent voted to give a bond contract to Darryl Rouson, a part of that network.

"I will make sure that all small minority businesses are strengthened," she said. "My opponent stated he stabilized WorkNet. He and his father served on the board. Funds that could have been used to help families not put to adequate use. Incumbents are reelected based on how well they have served their communities. If our leaders do not work for the people, then we must demand change and vote them out."

Russ has been known to throw out comments without backing them up with facts during debates, which has been a point of contention with Welch. Some Russ detractors have even questioned why the unemployed, single-mother of three is vying for the District 7 seat, which pays over \$74,000 annually.

"I am not running for county commissioner because I need a job," retorted Russ. "I am running because I want to serve my community. I will not allow special interest groups to affect my decisions. We need to change the dynamics of the Commission. We must elect officials who deal with the issues that affect District 7: poverty, high birth rates, joblessness and crime."

Some critics said Russ has a cantankerous attitude, which made it difficult for her to build positive relationships while serving as the co-president of the Pinellas Chapter of the National Organization of Women.

Said Russ: "My mother worked as a maid and I questioned the relationship of the black and the white female. I did not want to grow up and feel subservient to anyone. I got involved in politics because of my struggles as a single black woman. I realized black women are marginalized and are at the bottom of the economic ladder and I want to fight to change that. We must strengthen the black family."

Others described Russ as an "angry, black woman" whose temperament will make it difficult for her to fit in, let alone influence fellow commissioners.

"I feel as a strong black woman I will always be labeled," said the single-mother of three "college educated" sons who considers herself a role model for young women. "I cannot and will not allow that to stop me from expressing my views."

"Some people call it an explosive temper, I call it compassion for what I believe in. I will not rubber stamp everything that comes across the Board. I will ask questions, demand accountability and I will fight for the needs of my constituents. For so long, hand-picked blacks have refused to rock the boat because they are afraid it will affect their meal ticket."

Russ supporters argue that it is because of angry, black females that things get done in low-income communities. They characterize Russ as being "unbossed and unbought" - a trait that will shake things up on the commission.

"Sharon has a lot of passion for what she believes in," said Winnie Foster of the Sojourner Truth Center.

Come Nov. 2, voters must decide if Russ, is indeed, for us.

"I am asking for residents vote and compassion," Russ concluded. "My desire is to bring our community together in order to work and build consensus and bridges for the good of our county. I live in District 7 and I can identify with the struggle of the people. I will work to bring opportunity and build a strong economic base for the people of District 7."

"My goal is public safety, education, economic growth and to ensure that the people control their own destiny and not the government. I believe the residents in District 7 should have control over where their community is headed. We must take advantage of the many talented people who live in District 7."

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Life-Changing Moments



by Sonya Y. Young

Remember the day you said, "I do?" Or the day you announced to the world, "It's a boy!" or "It's a girl!?" Those are joyful, life-changing moments. And with them, our priorities change. "Family" takes on a whole new meaning. Life-changing moments may also be quite sobering. The death of a parent or friend, or even an unthinkable tragedy like the one our nation experienced in 2001, compel us to pause and reflect on what's really important in our lives. The answer is always the same - family and friends matter the most.

Providing for your family and the ones you love has always been paramount. The right job, home, neighbor-

hood and school are key decisions for us. Protecting your family financially is also critical. That's why life insurance is so important. It can provide the financial support your family needs when you die.

It also offers peace of mind for you and the ones closest to you. When you die, life insurance can be the means for your family to pursue their hopes and dreams. But did you also know that there's more to life insurance than death protection? Life insurance is also about living. It can enrich your life in many ways.

Depending on the life insurance you choose, you could eliminate outstanding debt, pay off your home

mortgage, add to your retirement income or save for your children's college education. It may also make a dream - like owning a vacation home - come true.

Make life insurance a fundamental part of your family's overall financial picture. You'll help build a more secure future for yourself and those dearest to you. Life insurance's protection and flexibility complements savings accounts, investments or retirement plans you may already have. And, depending on the type of life insurance you choose, your policy value can grow while also offering certain tax advantages.

Of course, life insurance has charges for the protection it provides that vary depending on the type of policy and by company. Benefit limitations may also apply.

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## African American Technology Firm Brings High Tech Solutions to Disaster Recovery Efforts in Florida

by Eva Hervie  
UnityFirst.com

Bredy Network Management Corp. (BNMC), a Massachusetts-based high tech company owned by Eryck Bredy, specializes in network operating systems integration, strategic data and storage management strategies, data services design, enterprise messaging design and solutions, enterprise Internet/Intranet/Extranet platforms, network security and risk management, and high performance servers and workstations.

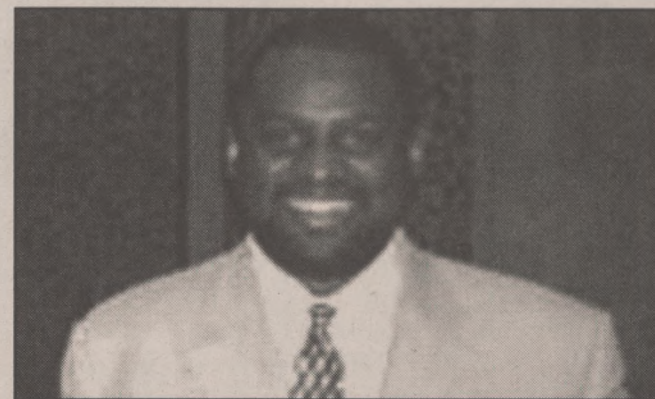
The company's specialty, back-up and disaster recovery, came in handy during the recent hurricanes in Florida, when a national company based in Florida needed to continue operation despite the storm. Thanks to the skill and expertise of BNMC, the Florida-based national company, "Your Money Access," was able to function fully despite the destruction caused by the hurricanes.

While more than 2.4 million people across some 30 counties were affected by Florida's hurricanes and

some \$20 billion in damages were incurred, Bredy Network Management Corp. kept "Your Money Access," up and doing business as usual.

BNMC acted quickly to ensure continued operation for "Your Money Access," a third party payment provider, with services such as ACH processing, electronic funds transfers, bank draft processing, RCK/NSF check recovery and stored-value cards. "Your Money Access" services more than 200 customers nationwide. Thanks to the resources provided by BNMC, "Your Money Access" was able to continue merchant processing through the hurricanes.

"Our concern is making sure that companies are resilient in the event of disasters as well as during the regular course of business," says Bredy. "Business resiliency is the capability of an organization to continue to provide services at any time, regardless of the event or impact. It includes the prioritization of investments in people, processes, technology and facilities based on



Eryck Bredy

different types of events, business risk, and criticality. The process not only focuses on the recovery of the essential functions and systems, but it also emphasizes their recovery within the shortest possible time. In effect, business resiliency is assured by an effective disaster recovery plan."

"I am pleased that the resources we provided for 'Your Money Access' worked well for them," says Bredy. "We want our back-up and disaster recovery solutions to give our clients confidence, no matter what the natural disaster or situation." For more than ten years, Bredy Network Management Corp. has built a reputation for its technological expertise and client-centric, solution oriented strate-

gies.

For-profit and non-profit organizations ranging from private corporations, professional associations, medical development organizations, fundraising offices, and grassroots organizations have benefited from the knowledge and expertise of BNMC's high-level technical staff. "Our technical department is staffed with experienced professionals certified by today's leading information technology firms," says Bredy. "Our technical associates are certified by Microsoft, Novell, Citrix, Checkpoint, and Seagate Software, to name a few."

BNMC offers professional network consulting, managed network support, and systems integration serv-

ices that provide clients with end-to-end solutions specifically designed to meet their operational and technological needs. The company also fosters a diverse array of strategic partnerships with key hardware vendors and software developers in the industry who are dedicated to bringing you the most flexible and effective solutions possible.

BNMC designs, implements, and supports high quality network environments. BNMC also offers Internet mail services, Web site and virtual domain hosting, and dedicated Web servers. Moreover, BNMC is a value-added reseller of high-end servers, and networking hardware and software, which enables BNMC to deliver a complete solution to their clients. Their strategic partners include Microsoft Corp., Veritas Corp., Novell, Inc., Citrix Systems, Inc., NSI Software, Checkpoint Software, Netopia and Symantec.

For more information, call (781) 932-9032 or send an email to: [info@bnmc.net](mailto:info@bnmc.net)



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# STATE NEWS

## Heat's Teen Phenom Says Chance to Team With Shaq is a Dream

by Tim Reynolds  
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — Two weeks after the Miami Heat drafted Dorell Wright, the 18-year-old had the word "Blessed" tattooed down the outside of his right leg.

A few days later, Wright learned he wasn't the only player moving from Los Angeles to South Florida. And the chance to play alongside Shaquille O'Neal has only heightened the teen's excitement for his first NBA season.

"I got put in a great situation, coming to Miami," Wright said. "It's similar here to California. Then Shaq came into my life. He's not one of the best, he is the best player in the NBA right now. It's going to be a good experience for me this year."

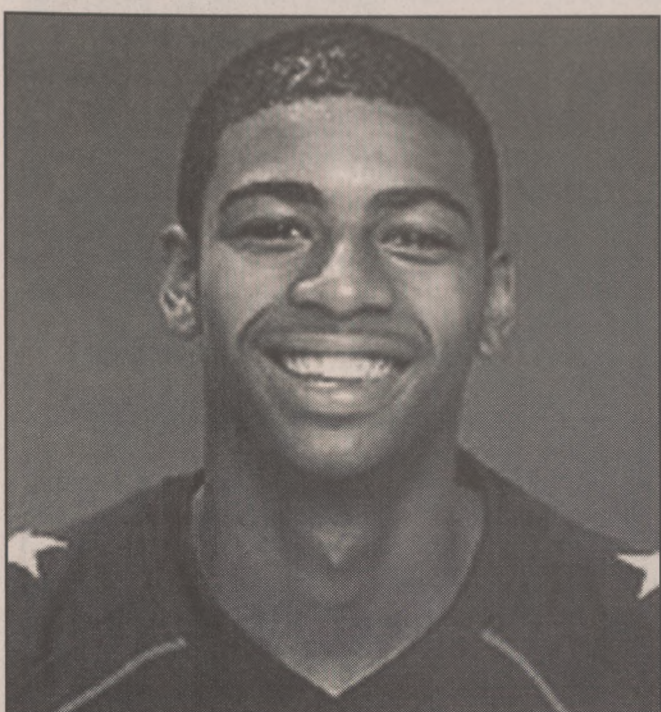
There's no hiding that the 6-foot-7 swingman is still a kid; his face doesn't seem like it's been touched by many razors, he prefers Adam Sandler movies and says pizza is his favorite food.

Yet there's still a mature air about Wright, evidenced by the way he's already tried to endear himself to the Miami community. He's visited shelters in recent weeks, lifting spirits of those whose homes were damaged by Hurricanes Charley and Frances, and volunteered to be a crossing guard outside an elementary school.

On the court, nobody remembers he's still 18. And no player gives Wright more praise than O'Neal.

"That kid can play," O'Neal said. "He'll probably be one of the top players one day. If not this year, maybe next year. He listens, plays hard, plays well and I look forward to helping him become one day one of the greatest players ever to play the game."

Wright, the only high school player ever drafted



Miami Heat Forward Dorell Wright

by the Heat, averaged 29 points and 14 rebounds for Connecticut's South Kent Prep last year and was ranked among the nation's top seniors by several scouting services.

In his lone appearance with the Heat's summer league team, Wright's potential was on full display; in 33 minutes of action, he scored 30 points - 25 coming in the second half. It was only a glorified scrimmage, but he turned heads nonetheless.

Still, Wright has plenty of hurdles to clear before he secures a regular spot in Miami's rotation. Unlike Miami's past two first-round draft picks, Caron Butler and Dwyane Wade, Wright has solid veterans - namely Eddie Jones, Rasual Butler and Wesley Person - ahead of him in the race for playing time.

"We think he'll develop faster rather than slower," Heat coach Stan Van Gundy said. "The thing he's got different than, say, Caron two years ago or Dwyane last year is the people he's got in front of him. It is a little bit tougher road than what our rookies have had the last couple years."

Another challenge for Wright is avoiding the pratfalls that often trap teenage millionaires - especially

those living in the proximity of Miami's trendy South Beach club scene.

Wright signed a \$3.1 million, three-year deal with the Heat, yet is trying to remain grounded. He's brought his best friend out from California to live with him, and keeps in constant contact with his parents. Plus, the experience of living in Connecticut last year sped up his maturation process.

"It's just the same as school, just without all the adult supervision and everyone needing to know where I'm going every five minutes," Wright said. "I'm handling myself well." And the phenom acknowledges that he probably won't enjoy the same preps-to-pros transition that stars like LeBron James and Kevin Garnett before him did. He'll bide his time, with another tattoo to remind him. It's on his arm and says "Push" - an acronym for "Pray until something happens."

"I want to contribute any way I can," Wright said. "If that's stopping the best player on the other team or coming in and hitting a big shot, it doesn't matter to me. I've just got to play my role. I'm here to learn and do whatever I have to do to win a championship."

## Florida Sets New Rule on Touch-Screen Recounts

by Brendan Farrington  
Associated Press Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Florida set new guidelines for recounting touch-screen ballots in close elections, but voter-rights groups said the court-ordered decision doesn't go nearly far enough to ensure a fair election.

Under the new rules, if a recount is needed, election officials must review a printout from each voting machine to count the so-called undervotes, or ballots on which no candidate was chosen. The equipment will be checked for problems if the number doesn't match the undervote totals given by the machine.

If the discrepancy remains, officials will rely on the original machine count.

State law requires a manual recount if the election is decided by less than one-quarter of 1 percent of the vote, as it was in the 2000 contest between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

Secretary of State Glenda Hood had issued a rule barring manual recounts for touch-screen votes, but a judge in August ruled the manual-recount law applies no matter what voting technology is used.

Hood's office released the new recount rules 18 days before the Nov. 2 presidential election. Voter activists complained that their proposal was ignored. A coalition including the American Civil Liberties Union, Florida Common Cause, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the American Way Foundation wanted touch-screen voters to have the option of using a paper ballot. They also wanted to create a process to make sure all votes cast match the number of people who voted, and to have a federal court oversee a recount if one were necessary.

"It seems like every time they have a decision to make, somehow they find a way not to come down on the side of voters or the side of protecting the right to vote," said Howard Simon, executive director for the ACLU in Florida.

More than half of Florida's 9.8 million registered voters are in the 15 counties that use touch-screen machines. The rest use optical scan ballots.

The state did not take up the suggestion of pro-

viding the paper ballot option, saying it didn't make logistical sense. It also did not agree to give up oversight of a recount.

Meanwhile, in West Palm Beach, election officials counted every ballot cast on electronic voting machines in a test postponed by computer trouble last Tuesday.

"This shows we are ready for an election in Palm Beach County," said Theresa LePore, the county's election supervisor.

Critics said the computer trouble shows why a paper trail is needed for



Secretary of State Glenda Hood had issued a rule barring manual recounts for touch-screen votes.

touch-screen machines. They say there is no way to verify touch-screen votes

and question whether undervotes are the result of a deliberate choice by the voter or the machine simply losing the vote.

Also, U.S. District Judge James Lawrence King of Miami urged quick work in a lawsuit against Florida's largest counties over the rejection of more than 10,000 voter registration forms that officials say were improperly filled out.

The lawsuit, filed by a coalition of unions, challenges state rules that let counties disqualify people who provided a signature affirming their eligibility to

vote but failed to list an identification number, such as from a driver's license, or failed to check boxes affirming they were citizens, were mentally competent and were not felons.

The lawsuit alleges the practice disproportionately affects minorities. Nearly 45 percent of the challenged forms in one county, Duval, came from blacks.

Jill Barton in West Palm Beach, Hilary Roke in Miami and Ron Word in Jacksonville contributed to this report.

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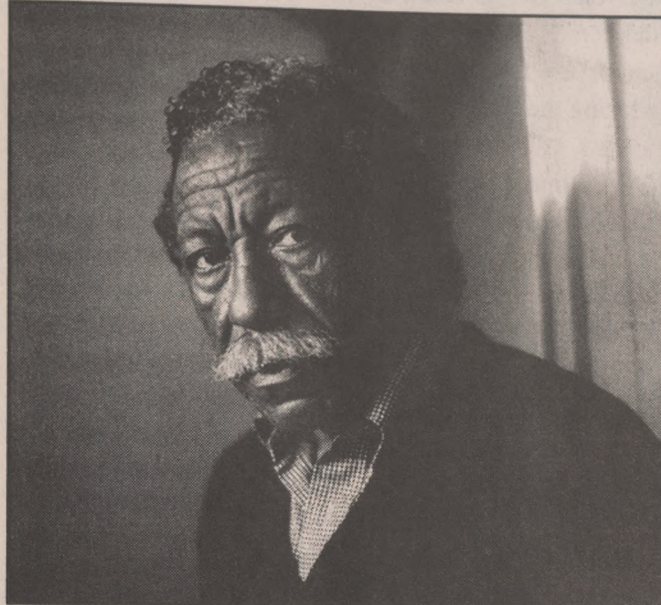
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<p><b>Cap'n Crunch Cereal</b> 13-16 Oz. - All Varieties Limit 6</p> <p><b>2/\$3</b></p> <p>Without PCC Card \$2.98</p>	<p><b>Gain Laundry Detergent</b> 100 Oz. Liquid or 31-40 Load Powder - Limit 4</p> <p><b>3.99</b> ea.</p> <p>Without PCC Card \$5.69 ea.</p>		

<p><b>Everyday Savings</b></p> <p><b>Nabisco Oreo</b> 15-18 Oz. - All Varieties</p> <p><b>1.99</b> ea.</p> <p>Without PCC Card \$5.59 ea.</p>	<p><b>SAVE EVERY DAY</b></p> <p><b>OREO</b></p>
<p><b>Everyday Savings</b></p> <p><b>Lipton Pasta Sides</b> 4-5.8 Oz. - Rice Sides</p> <p><b>99¢</b> ea.</p> <p>Without PCC Card \$1.19 ea.</p>	<p><b>SAVE 20¢ ea.</b></p> <p><b>Lipton Pasta Sides</b></p>



# NATIONAL NEWS

## Gordon Parks Returns to Hero's Welcome in Hometown



Gordon Parks: photographer, composer, filmmaker, writer.



"American Gothic," 1942. Ella Watson, who worked as a government building cleaning woman, was Parks' most famous subject. "She had struggled alone after her mother had died and her father had been killed by a lynch mob," he recalls. "She had gone through high school, married and become pregnant. Her husband was accidentally shot to death two days before the daughter was born. By the time the daughter was eighteen she had given birth to two illegitimate children, dying two weeks after the second child's birth. What's more, the first child had been stricken with paralysis a year before its mother died. Now this woman was bringing up these grandchildren on a salary hardly suitable for one person."

FORT SCOTT, Kan. (AP) — The town that wouldn't let Gordon Parks sit with the white people when he was growing up made it up to him in a big way with a four-day celebration of his life.

In the downtown theater where, as a boy, Parks had to sit in the balcony with other blacks, he ate dinner Saturday next to the governor of Kansas. Down front.

"Gordon, welcome to the front row," Gov. Kathleen Sebelius told the famed photographer to the applause of about 350 people at the Liberty Theater.

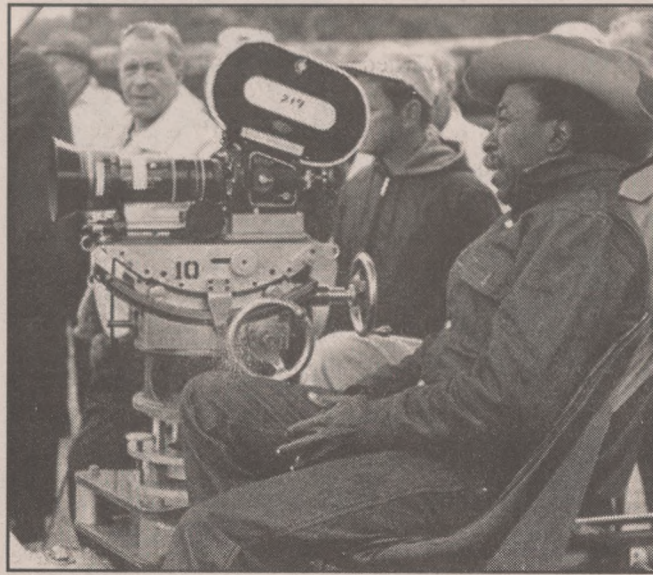
The banquet, held Oct. 9, was the culmination of the town's first Gordon Parks Celebration of Culture and Diversity.

More than 200 people attended four days of lectures, panel discussions, movie screenings and reminiscing. The crowd included about a dozen members of Parks' family who had come from several states and presented a bronze bust of him to the town's Mercy Health Center.

"I have a strange feeling back here," Parks said at the presentation. "I can't explain it. It's a strange mixture of the tragedies and the good things that happened here." It was Parks' first visit to his hometown in more than 20 years.

A gala in his honor ended the celebration Saturday, sponsored by the new Gordon Parks Center for Culture and Diversity at Fort Scott Community College.

The 91-year-old Parks, still recovering from a hernia operation less than a month ago, defied doctors'



Parks filming "The Learning Tree," Fort Scott, Kan. 1968.

photo by Norman E. Tanis



1971's "Shaft," starring Richard Roundtree, was one of Park's most famous films.

determined that I was going to make it in the world," he said.

He certainly did, becoming, among other things, the first black director of a major motion picture, "The Learning Tree," which he shot in Fort Scott in 1968. He also was a staff photographer for *Life* magazine, "Kansan of the Year," a composer and poet.

Being back in Kansas, Parks said, had caused memories to flood back. He recalled how, when he came back to film "The Learning Tree," he mentioned that he was dismayed that his mother and father were buried in a segregated portion of the town's cemetery. A few days later, a representative from the mayor's office offered to exhume his par-

ents and move them into another part of the cemetery. No, thank you, Parks told them.

"I said, My mother would hate that," he said.

Former Fort Scott Mayor Ken Lunt led a volunteer effort in recent years to rehabilitate the part of the cemetery where Parks' parents are buried. He also began a campaign to win back Parks' affection. Within the next three months, the town's Mercy Health Center will have 52 of Parks' photographs, it will become the second-largest permanent exhibit of Parks' work next to the Library of Congress, Lunt said.

The celebration in his honor seemed to further the healing.

"I feel a lot of love here," said Parks.

## Collecting Stories of the Civil Rights Struggle

(NAPSI) — Though she was only in high school, Priscilla Robinson joined her mother on picket lines in front of stores that refused to serve blacks. Filled with apprehension, she marched with sign in hand, braving threats, confrontations and obscenities screamed from passing cars.

The protesters boycotted, picketed and held sit-ins for three years before the stores relented and opened their lunch counters to everyone.

Decades later, Robinson, now 58, has shared her story with the Voices of Civil Rights project, a partnership between AARP and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) created to collect and preserve firsthand accounts of the battle for civil rights by African Americans, His-

panics, Asians, women, people with disabilities and others. The project's website, [www.voicesofcivilrights.org](http://www.voicesofcivilrights.org), not only chronicles the courage and dignity of the people who participated in this historic struggle, it also provides a means for others to tell their stories and documents



The Voices of Civil Rights project was created to collect and preserve first-hand accounts of the battle for civil rights.

Photo courtesy of the AARP

continuing efforts to secure equality for all.

LCCR Executive Director Wade Henderson, whose organization represents more than 180 civil rights groups, calls the site a "tremendous tool for reaching out to the diverse group of Americans with civil rights stories to tell."

Rick Bowers, director of digital media for AARP

publications and originator of the Voices of Civil Rights project, notes that the program will collect and highlight accounts from all civil rights movements, including the struggle to gain equal rights for women and the disabled, among others. The project will donate the stories it collects to the Library of Congress, which will cre-

ate a permanent archive of these compelling records of our nation's history.

Bowers urges everyone to visit [www.voicesofcivilrights.org](http://www.voicesofcivilrights.org), especially if they want to share their own experiences. "We encourage anyone who has a personal recollection to submit his or her story through this user-friendly Web site," he says.

The site features a wealth of interactive and multimedia content. Those who want to tell their stories will find an easy-to-use electronic story submission form.

Since August, a Voices of Civil Rights bus tour has traveled the country, including much of the original route of the Freedom Riders' buses of the 1960s, to collect additional stories.

To follow the tour's progress or to find out where the bus will be, visit [www.voicesofcivilrights.org](http://www.voicesofcivilrights.org), or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (687-2277) and ask for a voices story kit.

Individuals with civil rights memories are encouraged to share their stories at [www.voicesofcivilrights.org](http://www.voicesofcivilrights.org).

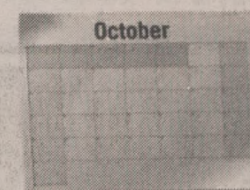
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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Kenyan Environmental Activist Wins Nobel Peace Prize

by Doug Mellgren  
Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Kenyan environmental activist, Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize on Oct. 8 for her work as leader of the Green Belt Movement, which has sought to empower women, better the environment and fight corruption in Africa for almost 30 years.

Maathai, Kenya's deputy environment minister, is the first African woman to win the prize since it was first awarded in 1901. She has been internationally recognized for her struggle for democracy, and gained recent attention for a campaign against land grabbing and rapacious deforestation. The Green Belt Movement has planted more than 30 million trees across Africa.

"We believe that Maathai is a strong voice speaking for the best forces in Africa to promote peace and good living conditions on that continent," the Nobel committee said in its citation.

With a record 194 nominations, the committee had a broad field to choose from and speculation had focused on other candidates.

Maathai, said she, too, was surprised. "I am absolutely overwhelmed and very emotionally charged, really," she told Norwegian state television. "I did not expect this."

It was the first time the prize honored work to pre-

serve the environment.

During the 2001 centennial anniversary of the prize, the committee had said it wanted to wide the scope of the award, including honoring those who worked to improve the environment, as well as contributed to advancing peace worldwide.

"This is the first time environment sets the agenda for the Nobel Peace Prize, and we have added a new dimension to peace. We want to work for a better life environment in Africa," said committee chairman Ole Danbolt Mjoes.

Many observers had speculated that the committee might try to send a message about the U.S.-led war in Iraq, as it did in 2002, when members said the choice of former President Jimmy Carter should be seen as criticism of the Bush administration's move to topple Saddam Hussein.

The choice of the 64-year-old Maathai was a clear answer that the committee eschewed politics this time around.

Morten Hoeglund, a member of Norway's Progress Party, criticized the choice, saying there were more pressing issues such as weapons of mass destruction that the Nobel Committee should have focused on.

"Today we have problems with nuclear arms and technology gone astray. The Nobel Committee should spend more re-



Maathai is the seventh African, and the first African woman, to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

sources on these matters instead," he said.

Indeed, oddsmakers and speculation had pointed to Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency as likely winners.

Last year's award went to Iranian Shirin Ebadi.

Maathai is the seventh African to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Previous winners from the continent include U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who shared the prize with the United Nations in 2001, and Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk from South Africa in 1993.

Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement, or GBM, in 1977 while head of the National Council of Women of Kenya. The group quickly became the largest community-based environmental organization in Africa with a focus on planting trees and empowering women.

Maathai has also been praised for standing up to Kenya's former government, led by President

Daniel arap Moi for 24 years until he stepped down after elections in 2002.

"The environment is very important in the aspects of peace because when we destroy our resources and our resources become scarce, we fight over that," she said, fighting back tears. "I am working to make sure we don't only protect the environment, we also improve governance."

The award, which includes 10 million Swedish kronor (US\$1.3 million, euro1.06 million), is always presented on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of its founder, Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel.

The peace prize is awarded in Oslo, and the other Nobel prizes are presented in the Swedish capital, Stockholm.

"As a country we're greatly honored. This is a great moment in Kenyan history. To us this shows that what Wangari Maathai has been doing here has been recognized. We're very proud of her and she deserves all the credit," government spokesman Alfred Mutua said.

Born in April 1940, Maathai was the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree, getting a degree in biological sciences from Mount St. Scholastica College in Atchison, Kan., in 1964.

She has gained international acclaim for her persistent struggle for democracy, human rights and environmental conservation.

Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said: "We are very happy about this award. She is connecting sustainable development to democracy."

## Haiti Businesses Brace for Losses as Unrest Complicates Aid

by Amy Bracken

Associated Press Writer  
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Some shops and markets remained closed last Tuesday as hulks of torched cars and bonfires of tires smoldered in the street the day after scattered violence paralyzed Haiti's capital and one person was killed in a drive-by shooting.

Port-au-Prince has been beset by gunbattles and beheadings that have killed at least 30 people since a Sept. 30 demonstration marking the 1991 coup that first overthrew President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In February, the former priest fled the country a second time after a three-week revolt led by a street gang and former soldiers.

Weeks later, tensions still are simmering with Aristide supporters demanding his return and an end to the "invasion" by foreign troops. U.S. Marines arrived in Haiti the day Aristide left and handed over to U.N. peacekeepers sent in June to stabilize the country.

Rebels who want the interim government to formally reinstate the army that Aristide disbanded have accused the peacekeepers of doing little to halt the violence and say that they are ready to end it.

On Oct. 11, as mourners gathered for the funeral of five assassinated police officers, gunfire crackled around the capital and businesses shut their doors



Aristide supporters hold a machete and stones during a protest in Port-au-Prince.

AP photo

again.

One man was reportedly shot in the head and killed near the presidential palace.

"There was shooting everywhere," said Lovely Pierre-Louis, 19. "I saw a man walking across that street with a boy, then the shooting came again, and he was on the ground with his head bleeding, and the boy was running."

Messile Sylviani, a 30-year-old beautician, said her salon closed an hour after opening that Monday morning, and she returned home, a block from where the man had been shot.

"Now I'm so scared," she said. "We're all stressed out because we know shooting could start again any time."

At an empty restaurant with a board offering chicken fish and pork, waiter Antoine Joseph, 46, said "I keep thinking if I come, I'll get some money to bring home to my wife and kids. But everyone is afraid to go out."

He said he hasn't had a client since Sept. 29, the day before the demonstration. The headless bodies

of three police officers turned up the same day, and government officials blamed Aristide militants and a new campaign called "Operation Baghdad."

Aristide supporters say the police started the violence, which has plagued businesses and complicated efforts to help flood survivors in the northwestern city of Gonaives.

Tropical Storm Jeanne left some 200,000 homeless people there who are living on rooftops and in the street. Jeanne killed nearly 1,900 people and left another 900 missing with most presumed dead.

CARE suspended emergency food distributions for two days in Gonaives, which is supplied by ship and by road from Port-au-Prince.

"We have enough food to meet needs for only four or five days," said Abby Maxman, Haiti's CARE director.

Unrest in the capital also blocked access to the seaport for several days, cutting off the major route for U.N. World Food Program shipments.

## OBITUARIES

### ST. PETERSBURG RITES



McCORMICK, WILLIE J., 69, died October 4, 2004.

Survivors include one son, Kevin (Carol) McCormick, Colts Neck, N.J.; two daughters, Sohia Cooper and Algje L. (Anthony L.) Brown, both of St. Petersburg; one brother, Monroe McCormick, St. Petersburg; 10 grandchildren, Wong Tyrone, LaToya McCormick, Anthony Brown, Jr., Frank Brown, Evlin McCormick, Jr., Brandy Cooper, Kristen McCormick, Korey McCormick, Kamille McCormick and Keith McCormick; three great grandchildren; and several nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

ROBINSON, MARGIE, died October 13, 2004. Survivors include her son, Curtis Coleman, Jr., St. Petersburg; one grandson, Marquell Coleman; two nieces, Lisa D. (Greg) Boyd and Louvonia (Kenny) Williams; special friends, Lois Jackson and Ella Harris; and several nephews. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

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# RELIGIOUS NEWS

## Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord, praise ye the Lord."  
Psalm 150: 6

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 St. S. this Sunday. We also invite you to all our services in the upcoming week. Our early morning service begins at 7:30 a.m. with praise and thanksgiving filling the sanctuary 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 a.m. Join us as we lift high the name of Jesus in song. The Youth Choir will render songs throughout the day; Come prepared to give God all the glory and praise!

**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:**

- Oct. 24-29 - The 64th session of the Tampa Annual Conference is here. We invite members, friends and family out for a week of exciting services. All churches of the Tampa Conference will once again come together at the St. Petersburg Coliseum hosted by Bethel A.M.E. All services will be held at The Coliseum, 535 Fourth Ave. N. As we approach the end of another conference year, let us give thanks and praise for all that God has done, and look forward to even greater things in Christ. Join us for a dynamic week of worship; keep in mind when God's children unite in one place, in one spirit - what a time, what a time, what a time! Check the schedule for

the week and make plans to come out.

- Sunday, Oct. 24 - Debutante and Masters-Alen Temple A.M.E., Tampa, FL at 6 p.m.

- Monday, Oct. 25 - Women's Missionary Society

- Tuesday, Oct. 26 - Opening Worship Service at 10 a.m. The Rev. Williams of Mt. Zion A.M.E. will preach the opening sermon.

- Wednesday, Oct. 27 - Young People's Division
- Thursday, Oct. 28 - Sons of Allen

- Friday, Oct. 29 - Closing Worship Service is at 10 a.m.

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!

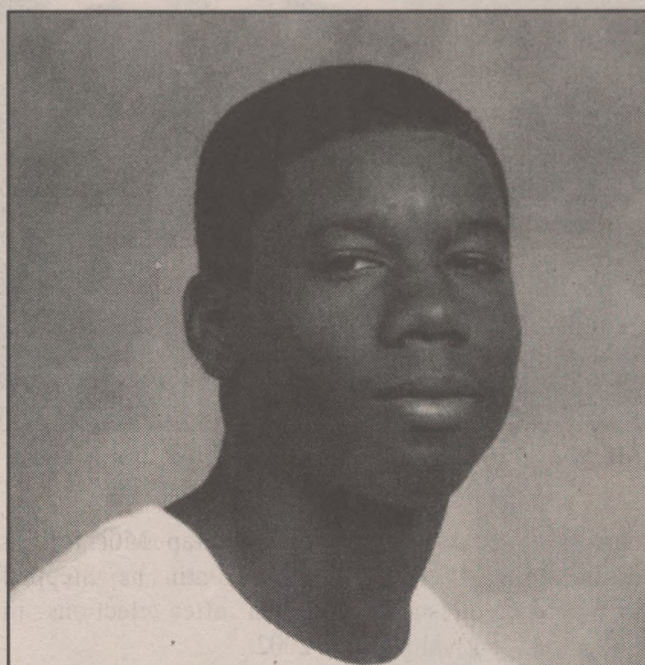
Thought for the week: "Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow"

Be blessed, and have a Jesus-filled week!

## Fourteen Year-Old Minister Jeffery Brinson Delivers His Initial Sermon at Stewart-Isom Episcopal C.M.E. Church

You talk about pivotal moments in a young man's life, at the age of fourteen, Jeffery Brinson faced one that most people can only dream of. There he stood before his pastor (Rev. A. Anthony Robinson, III), the Stewart-Isom church family, a number of longtime ministers of the Gospel, and his family... about to deliver his initial sermon. Among his family were his mother, father, sister, brother, grandmother, great grandmother, uncles, aunts, cousins, god-brothers, and god-sisters.

Brinson is a freshman at Northeast High School where he plays running back on the Jr. Varsity



Jeffery Brinson

Football team. He enjoys reading and listening to various types of music. He has an 11-year-old brother, Jovonte, and a 3-year-old

sister, Dasha.

He was introduced by his best friend, 15-year-old Terry Bryant. Bryant delighted the audience as he

related his dilemma when Jeffery, whom he refers to as his younger brother, suddenly turned his constant "let's go play" to "let's go to church."

Brinson said that he felt the Lord's calling upon his life at the age of seven. Like most ministers, he didn't answer the call to the ministry immediately even though he continued on his Christian journey.

He served as an usher; he sang in the choir; he was one of the star players on the Good Shepard's Basketball Team for the church. He served as the president of the Christian Youth Fellowship and attended Sunday school

every Sunday. It was this past summer at the National Youth Conference in Charlotte, NC that Jeffery finally accepted his call to the ministry.

On Oct. 10, under the watchful eyes of his loving mother, Tangelia Dickens, the pastor turned to Brinson and asked, "Did the Lord call you to preach?" With an affirmative reply, Pastor Robinson relinquished the lectern and ordered him to "Preach the Word!!" Upon that admonishment, Brinson delivered his initial sermon from 1st Corinthians 13: 1-12.

## Solemnity of Servanthood at New Philadelphia

Mid-morning focus of praise and worship at New Philadelphia on Sunday will be "servanthood." Church family will observe with Pastor, his call to Christian ministry 37 years ago. It was on Oct. 24, 1967, Don Gaskin experienced a mystical encounter theologically perceived to be a "call" to "serve." The past 14 years have been as

pastor of New Philadelphia Community Church.

The women's ministry will hold a special meeting on Monday evening at 6:30 to finalize plans for church anniversary observance. All members of this group should be present for this important gathering. This will be the final meeting before pre-anniversary "brunch" event scheduled

for Saturday, Oct. 30.

Church family is also reminded of other ministry meetings scheduled for the coming week. The Trustee Ministry will meet on Monday at 7 p.m. and the CDC will convene on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Members are urged to be present and on time for these important ministry gatherings.

## Mt. Zion P.M.B. Church Youth Ministries to Present OctoberFest

On Saturday, Oct. 30, the Mt. Zion Youth Ministries will present OctoberFest, the youth alternative to the secular celebration of Halloween!

This event will be held from 4-8 p.m. with mime performances, a live DJ, games, arts and crafts,

prizes, food and lots of fun.

There will also be a special concert by gospel rap artist Rachel Washington.

Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church is located at 955 - 20th St. S. in St. Petersburg.

## Friendship Missionary Baptist

Pastor John A. Evans, Sr., the first family and Friendship Missionary Baptist Church prayerfully invite you to attend worship services with us at 3300 31st St. S. each Sunday. We also invite you to all church related functions during the week.

Our first worship service is held at 7:45 a.m. with the Youth Ministry in devotional service along with

the deacons this Sunday. The Youth Choir will render God's songs and serve in ushering. Please come and support our children and youth who seek to serve Jesus Christ for if we do not TRAIN them up in the Lord we will answer to God as their parents. Please come and support our children! The sermon will be rendered by Pastor Evans. A second worship

service is held at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday school service starts at 9:30 a.m. with the assistant or superintendent in charge.

We ask and pray that all registered voters will go out and vote. We have no voice if we don't vote.

Praise God for His mercy endures forever.

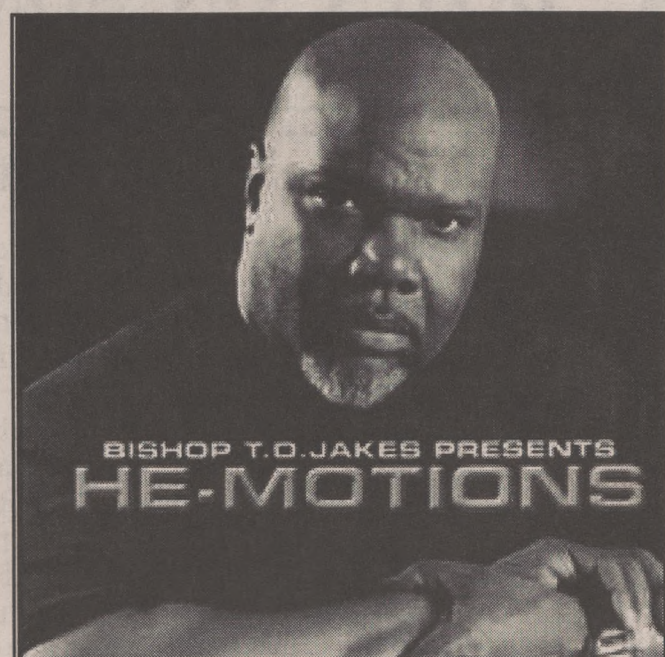
## Micah Stampley, Bishop T. D. Jakes' Protégé and Winner of 2004 Stellar Awards Talent Search, Recording First Album

Live on Oct. 23

With a grand prize win in the 2004 Stellar Awards Gospel Star Search under his belt and three tracks on Bishop T.D. Jakes' "He-Motions" album, Dexterity/EMI recording artist Micah Stampley is poised to soar. Stampley records his debut album, live, on Oct. 23 at Houston's St. Agnes Baptist Church.

It's been an extraordinary journey for Stampley, who grew up the son and grandson of pastors in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "I'm more nervous now than I've ever been," he admits. "There were times when I was poor and homeless - but now I am really blown away. My parents are now proud of what I am doing with my life."

Stampley and his wife, Heidi, wrote 7 out of 10 songs being recorded for "The Songbook of Micah," and the young artist says



the songs are his exploration of redemption, worship and wholeness. Stampley even researched his namesake, the Biblical Micah, and discovered that most of the prophet's messages were delivered via rhythmic poetry - something perhaps close to singing - and that most of the biblical Micah's messages were aimed at

churches doing "ungodly" things, urging them to change their ways. Stampley focuses his messages on Christians who may have lost their way. "The songs on this project cry out for people to return to the reason we were created - solely to worship Him," says Stampley. "I want this to be a reminder that the real soldiers don't compro-

mise."

Lyrical, much of the music on "The Songbook of Micah" pours from the heart and soul of Stampley's personal experiences. He is particularly fervent about the troubling behavior he has witnessed among some of his fellow church musicians and ministers of music. In "At Your Heart's Door" he writes: "So many times we offer God unacceptable sacrifices, thinking in our minds that God understands...He's really tired of this phony worship, we're sending an odor into His nose...Give Him your heart. Let God have control. He'll free you from your sins..." Stampley wrote the lyrics nearly five years ago. "It's so important for musicians to live a

lifestyle of holiness, because whatever's in our spirit will go out into the church," says Stampley. "I have seen musicians and singers out in the church parking lot doing drugs, drinking and then coming right into the church to lead praise and worship."

Stampley has been singing and working in music ministries since age 12, when the Baton Rouge pre-teen was tapped for a solo with the renowned Gospel Soul Children at the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans. After Stampley's stunning performance, former Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards called on Stampley to sing the national anthem at his inauguration. The next year, Stampley's family moved

to the Louisiana town of Natchitoches where Stampley became minister of music at his father's new church - Micah was 13.

In 1994, Stampley moved to Pasadena, California and pursued a career in entertainment - auditioning for acting, modeling and singing jobs. Four years later, he returned to Natchitoches where he met his wife, Heidi, a singer in the Gospel choir that Stampley and his brother founded years before at Northwestern State University. After a brief stint as a musician at Bishop Paul Morton's Greater St. Stephens Full Gospel Baptist Church in New Orleans, Stampley relocated to Houston in 2001. In Texas he accepted a posi-

tion as assistant minister of music at St. Agnes Baptist Church, a move that would change his life.

Marcus Dawson, a producer at Bishop Jakes' Dexterity Music, came to St. Agnes to fill in for Stampley's boss who was ill. When Dawson heard Stampley's voice, the producer was blown away and made a phone call to Bishop Jakes.

After a whirlwind year, winning a national talent search, earning the respect and guidance of Bishop Jakes and others in contemporary Gospel, Stampley stays grounded through his continued work at St. Agnes (he's still assistant minister of music there), his devotion to family - the Stampleys have four chil-

dren, Brandon, Micah, Adam and Mary Elizabeth, and a fifth on the way - and his music. "My wife and I started writing these songs long before I ever had a recording contract," says Stampley. "It's been years that God has been giving us this music."

Mostly, though, he looks forward to finally putting "The Songbook of Micah" out in the world. That it will be a live recording only makes things sweeter. "Recording live, it's my element," says Stampley of the upcoming recording. "Because I'm a praise and worship leader, live recording brings something out of me that I wouldn't normally get in the studio."



## Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University and Florida Holocaust Museum Sponsor "Kristallnacht: Looking Backward, Looking Forward, Looking Inward"

### A Ceremony Of Remembrance

SAINT LEO, FLA. — The Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies (CCJS) at Saint Leo University and the Florida Holocaust Museum will sponsor "Kristallnacht Commemoration: Looking Backward, Looking Forward, Looking Inward," on Monday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. at Kane's Furniture Hall, third floor, Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg, Fla. The service includes reflective comments, candlelight prayer, and songs from the Tampa Bay Children's Choir. Kristallnacht means

"Night of the Broken Glass," and commemorates the night that marks the beginning of the Holocaust. On Nov. 9, 1938, thousands of Jewish businesses and synagogues throughout Europe were vandalized and destroyed by the Nazi regime.

The event is a collaboration between the Florida Holocaust Museum, the Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint Leo University, and the Tampa Bay Children's Choir to promote acceptance and coexistence within the Tampa Bay communities.

The event is free and open, and reservations can be made by calling the museum at (727) 820-0100 at ext. 234. Visit the museum's web site at [www.fhlocauseum.org](http://www.fhlocauseum.org) for more information.

The Florida Holocaust Museum honors the memory of the innocent men, women, and children who suffered or died in the Holocaust. The Museum is dedicated to teaching the inherent worth and dignity of all human life in order to prevent future genocides.

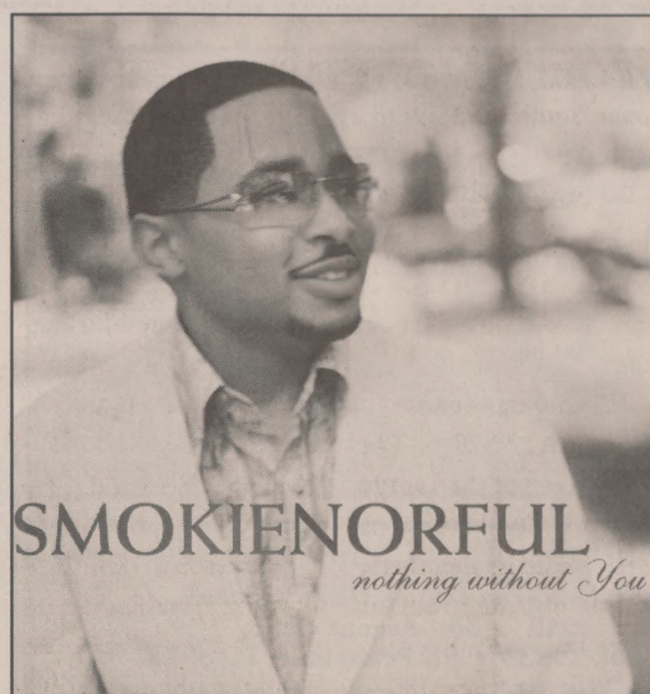
The Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies at Saint

Leo University is a continuing collaboration of the American Jewish Committee and Saint Leo University to promote understanding of Catholic and Jewish traditions through conferences, lectures, and publications. Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee protects the rights and freedom of Jews the world over, combats bigotry and anti-Semitism, and promotes human rights for all.

## Smokie Norful's "Nothing Without You" Debuts At #1

EMI Gospel Music recording artist Smokie Norful dispels the "sophomore jinx" as his second full-length CD, "Nothing Without You" debuts in the #1 position on Billboard's Top Selling Gospel Chart for the week ending Oct. 12. In addition, "Nothing Without You" is also #4 on the Christian Chart, #22 on the R&B Chart and #57 on the Top 200. At the same time, Norful's gold-selling debut, "I Need You Now," released over two years ago, remains #1 on the Gospel Catalog Chart. Norful continues to prove that he is gospel music's leading man.

"Nothing Without You" features soon to be classics handcrafted by Norful along with a host of legendary producers including multiple award winner George Duke, who lends his skills to the cd's title track. Other producers contributing to the project



Smokie Norful

Limited Collector's Edition that includes a live video of the first single "Can't Nobody." The Limited Collector's Edition package comes in a colored jewel box and is further enhanced with a link to [www.smokienorful.com](http://www.smokienorful.com).

Norful is currently on a promotional tour in support of "Nothing Without You," making appearances in cities including New York, Detroit, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Atlanta and his hometown of Chicago. He can also be seen this month on TBN's "Praise The Lord." On the program, Norful will minister, discuss his new cd and also perform selections from the #1 selling album. He will also perform songs from the new CD on "Bobby Jones Gospel" airing Sunday, Nov. 21 at 9 a.m. on BET.

The initial pressing of "Nothing Without You" is a

include, Cedric & Victor Caldwell, Alex "Asaph" Ward, GRAMMY award winners Myron Butler and Tommy Sims, The Underdogs' Antonio Dixon, Percy Bady, Josiah Bell as well as Norful himself.

As the sales numbers demonstrate, the new disc has something for every-

one: from testimonial ballads and urban-inspired grooves to foot-stomping, hand-clapping Sunday morning church. The cd's title track is a ballad inspired by Norful's wife, Carla, written on the occasion of their wedding.

The initial pressing of "Nothing Without You" is a

**None Is Perfect But The Father!**

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Take Your Burdens to the Lord and Leave Them There!

#### Friendship Missionary Baptist

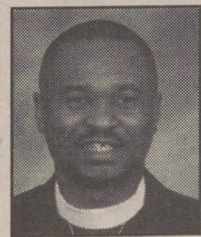
3300 - 31st Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 906-8300



Pastor John A. Evans

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

#### STEWART-ISOM MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



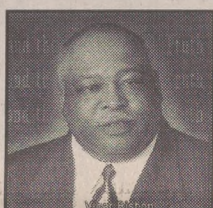
Rev. A. Anthony Robinson III

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"

### EXERCISE DAILY - WALK WITH THE LORD!



James W. Paschal  
Pastor

#### The House of God Pillar and the Ground of Truth

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Fridays - 8:00pm  
Sabbath Day (Saturdays) Prayer - 10:00am  
Sabbath School - 10:30am • Afternoon Worship - 2:00pm  
Come expecting a miracle!

For more information, call 727-550-2521

Home Phone: (727) 866-0643 • email: [jpaschal@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:gwcc@email.com)



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

**Ministry Opportunities:** Dance, Drama, Choir, Praise & Worship, Children, Youth, Men, Women, Step Team, Cheerleading, etc.

Senior Leader, Pastor Linda L. Sesler

Real Love, Real People...  
A Church That Makes A Difference!

#### Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

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

Phone: 894-4311  
[www.mzprogressive.org](http://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](mailto: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

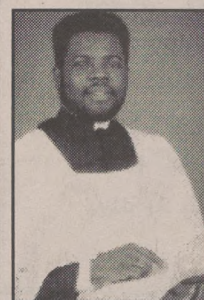
Theme: "Movers of the Christ Purpose"

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

#### Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ

2230 - 22nd Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 894-6764 • (727) 550-0388

Elder William E. Anderson, Pastor



Morning Glory Sunday 9:00 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"

#### FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

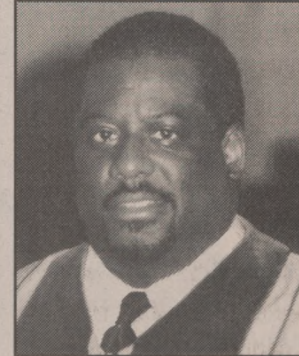
3144 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL  
PHONE: 323-7518

REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

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#### 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.

The church, where everybody is somebody and Christ is all.



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

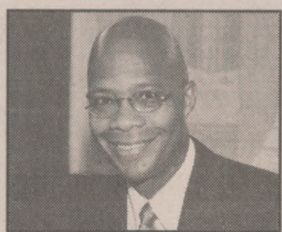
## BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

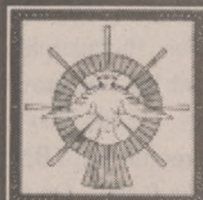
Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240

E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 am • 11:00 am  
 Sunday School 9:30 am  
 Prayer Meeting (Wednesday) 7:00 pm  
 Bible Study 7:30 pm

*"God's House In The City"*

Rev. Rickey L. Houston



## 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.)

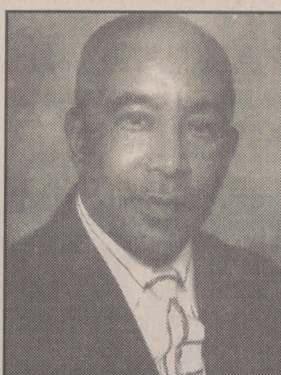
The Reverend Aaron V. Gaskin ..... Associate Pastor  
 Finance Ministry ..... James Robinson  
 Children & Youth Ministry ..... Joyce Robinson  
 Clerk Ministry ..... Wyvonna McGee

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

## CONCORD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

All Worship Services are held at:  
 855 13th Avenue South  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33705  
 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

*"Where Jesus Is Lord"*

## Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

Elder: Tony Smith

M  
F  
W  
B  
C

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

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.  
*The Church Where Everyone Is Welcome*

## 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 9:00 A.M. - Tuesday Prayer  
 9:30 A.M. - Sunday School 7:00 P.M. - Wednesday Bible Study  
 11:00 A.M. - Morning Service

YPWW First and Third Sunday of  
 Each Month after Morning Service

## The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church

*"A New Beginning In Christ"*

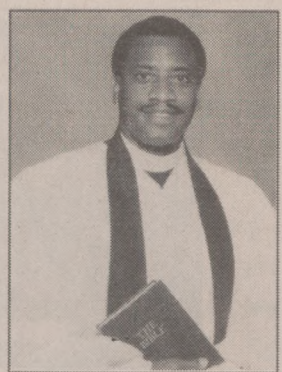
All Worship Services are held at:

4201 Sixth Street South • St. Petersburg, Florida  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14542 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733-4542  
 Phone: 727.895.7700

Scheduled Services - Sunday

Church Education Assembly (Church School) - 8:45 a.m.  
 Prayer Time - 9:30 a.m. Praise & Worship - 9:45 a.m.  
 Worship Service - 10:00 a.m.

Communion - Every First Sunday Bible Study - Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.  
Pastor  
Rev. Inella Paris  
Assistant Pastor*On Christ the solid Rock, I stand - all other ground is sinking sand....*

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 smfaith@tampabay.rr.com

WHEN YOU'RE  
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 GOD IS UP TO  
 SOMETHING!

## 20th Street Church Of Christ

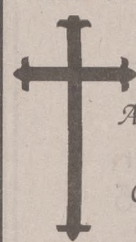
820 20th Street South  
 St. Pete, FL  
 Home: 896-8006



Bro. Robert Smith

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

Ordained Missionary  
 JoAnn Mae Howard  
 Call: 727 895-5239



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 Own Heart...



Spiritually Connected  
 Call for Prayers &  
 Testimonies

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

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

Pastor: Elder B.O. Walker



## City of Refuge Christian Church of Clearwater

3734 - 131st Ave. N., Suite 6, Clearwater, FL 33762  
 Phone: (727) 540-0988 • Fax: (727) 556-0150  
 Email: corecclw@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.

*"A place where you can experience the breath of God that giveth life"*

## NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

2120 - 19th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

(727) 896-5228

Rev. Carlos Senior  
Pastor

Sunday Services:

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

Tuesday Services:

Prayer Service ..... 6:30pm  
 Bible Study ..... 7pm

*Join us as we lift up the name of Jesus*Rev. Clarence Williams,  
Pastor

## GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

email: mchurch1@tampabay.rr.com

Website: www.greatermtzioname.org

Early Morning Worship 7:30 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

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

Bible Study Monday 6:00 p.m.

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

Live Broadcast WRXB (Every Sunday 8:30 a.m.)

Tape Ministry • Bus Ministry

Need a tape of a service or transportation - Dial 894-1393

*"The church with a heart in the heart of the city"*

## Lakeview Presbyterian Church

1310 22nd Avenue South - St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Sunday Worship - 10:30am (Nursery Provided)  
 Sunday School (Adults and Children) - 9:30am  
 Sunday Choir - 9:30am  
 Gospel Choir - Mondays 6pm  
 Bible Study - Wednesdays 6pm  
 Home of Operation Attack



Rev. Todd and Ceska Sutton

*"Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God."*

## 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.

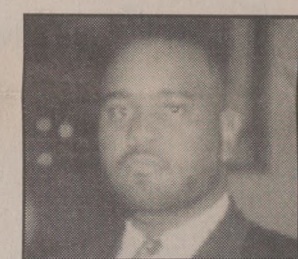
*The church where what God's word teaches is practiced!*

## 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.

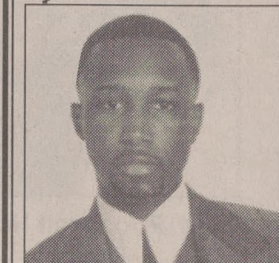


Rev. Brian K. Brown

*"One week from church makes one weak."*

## Greater King David International Church

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



Rev. G. M. Curry

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"*

## 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 &amp; Performing Arts Ministry

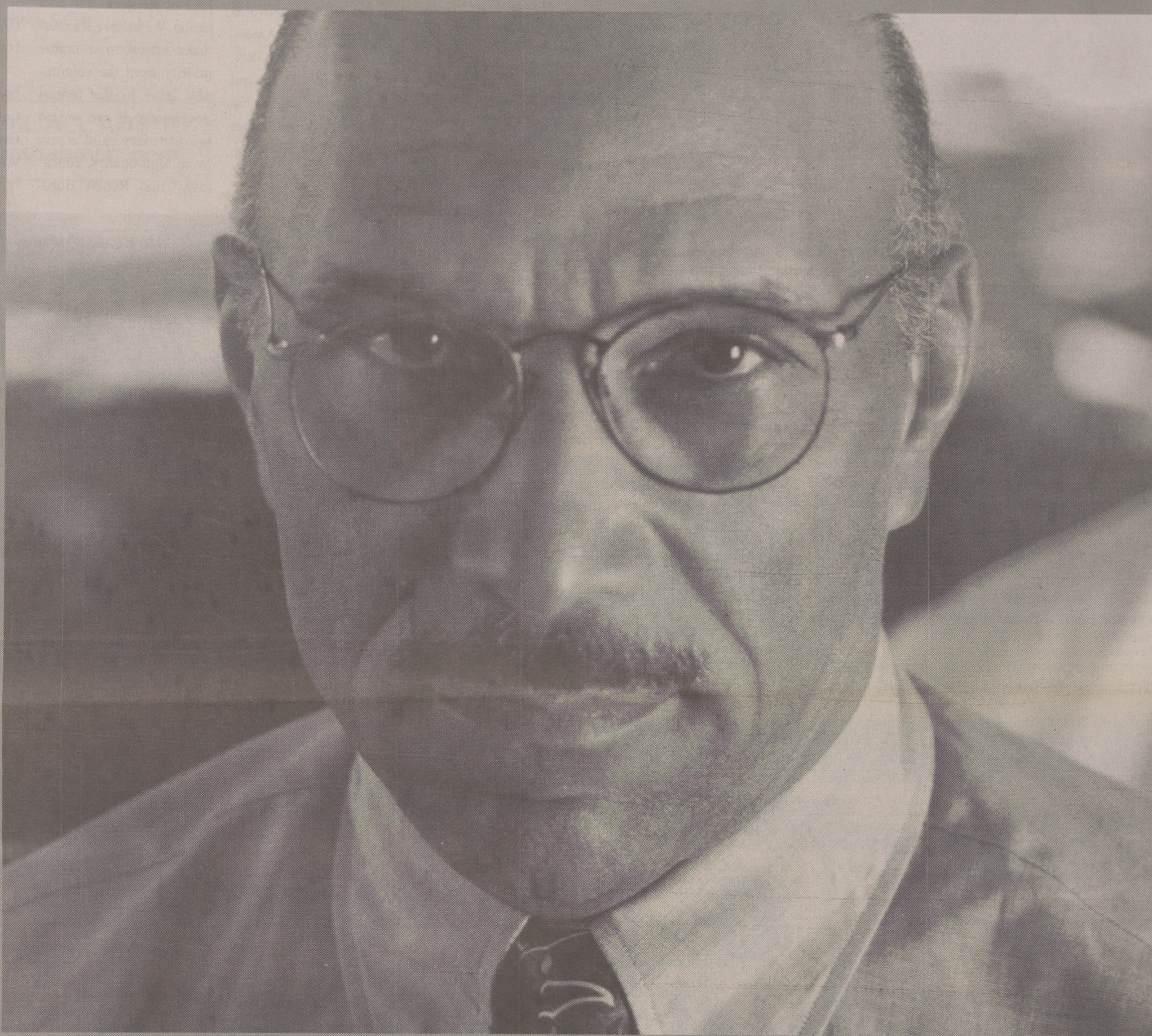
Monday, Wednesday, Saturday  
 6am Prayer

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

DOMINION WORSHIP MINISTRIES  
 4016 - 12th Avenue South  
 St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
 727-321-8574 - dwe.tripod.com



# STILL ANGRY ABOUT FLORIDA? LET THE REPUBLICANS KNOW. VOTE DEMOCRATIC.



During the 2000 Presidential election, Republicans in Florida robbed African Americans of the right to vote by listing legally registered voters as deceased and even as convicted criminals. Coupled with out-of-date voting machines, the Republicans created the biggest voter fraud in American history. This election is your chance to right the wrongs of the past. Vote Democratic and let the Republicans know that American democracy cannot be bought, sold...or stolen again.

**SPECIAL MESSAGE TO FLORIDA VOTERS:  
MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED.  
YOU CAN VOTE NOW.**

For information about your local polling place and rides to the polls, call the Democratic Florida Voting Hotline at 1-800-WIN-FL-04 (1-800-946-3504).

Paid for by the Democratic National Committee, [www.Democrats.org](http://www.Democrats.org). This communication is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.



# EDUCATION

## Ford Announces New Business Plan Competition for Black Colleges and Universities

Ford Motor Company recently announced the Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU) Business Classic competition in Washington, D.C. The national business plan competition is open to over 370,000 students attending 119 HBCU schools across the country.

"Ford continues to recognize a need in the black business community to educate and develop the next generation of black entrepreneurs," said Tony Brown, senior vice president, Global Purchasing, Ford Motor Company. "This competition will empower HBCU students to achieve personal wealth, and its residual effect of building communities through economic development, one of the core goals of Ford Motor Company since its inception."

To enter, individuals or teams of two to five students and a faculty advisor must submit a 10-page business plan via the Ford HBCU Business Classic website at [www.ford.com/go/hbcu](http://www.ford.com/go/hbcu). The plans must be comprised of these main elements: type of business, product or service, pricing considerations, target market and competition, and general operations.



Together at the press conference in Washington, D.C., to announce the Ford HBCU Business Classic national business plan competition for HBCU students are (l-r): Tony Brown, senior vice president, Global Purchasing, Ford Motor Company; Lezli Basketville, president/CEO, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education; HBA Hall of Famer David Bing, chairman, The Bing Group and HBCU Business Classic competition judge; and Barron Harvey, Ph.D., Dean, Howard University School of Business.

photo credit: Ron Ceasar

An advisory panel of SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business" will then judge the plans based on the following judging criteria: overall presentation of the business plan, its viability of a successful and overall benefit to the community. They will narrow the competition down to five semi-final teams that will advance to the finals.

The five finalists will then be judged by a group

of prestigious entrepreneurs which include: Earvin "Magic" Johnson, president of Magic Johnson Enterprises; Dave Bing, Chairman of The Bing Group; George Fraser, bestselling author and president of FraserNet; Earl "Butch" Graves, Jr., president & CEO of Earl G. Graves Publishing Company; Renee Cottrell-Brown, executive vice president Pro-Line International; Linda Johnson

Rice, president of Johnson Publishing and Susan Taylor, editorial director of *Essence* magazine.

The first place team will receive \$35,000 in personal scholarship funds and \$15,000 in funds for their prospective school. The second and third place teams will also receive \$20,000 and \$15,000 in scholarship funds and \$10,000 and \$5,000 in scholarship funds to their prospective schools.

## Making Education a Top Priority

(NAPSM) - Improving America's future starts with its children. That's the reason many teachers, parents and community members are working together to ensure a better public school education for all of the nation's children. Because they believe education is a top priority, they want to make sure their voices are heard by voters, elected officials and the media.

"There are some significant concerns in our communities on issues such as early childhood education, high school graduation rates, the conditions of school facilities, adequate and equitable funding, closing the achievement gap and the impact of the so-called No Child Left Behind Act," said Reg Weaver, president of the National Education Association. "There has never been a more critical time for people to get involved with the issues that impact our public schools."

Weaver says it's important for people to elevate issues that affect America's children and public educa-



tion to the forefront of current policy debate. That's why the National Education Association, MoveOn.org, Campaign for America's Future, ACORN, NAACP Voters Fund, and U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute have joined forces as the National Mobilization for Great Public Schools.

The non-partisan National Mobilization initiative is designed to help get Americans talking about the successes and challenges facing public schools - and the need for citizen action to make education a greater priority at every level of government.

"This is not just about narrow reforms and the lack of resources for education. We believe we must make education a higher priority from the community level to the federal government if we are to provide every child access to a high-quality education," said Robert Boro-

sage, co-director of Campaign for America's Future.

"Schools across the country are attempting to teach kids without textbooks, cutting programs from the arts to physical education and doing it all in decades-old facilities that are badly in need of repair," added Maude Hurd, national president of Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).

To learn how you can become a part of the National Mobilization for Great Public Schools, visit [www.greatpublicschools.org](http://www.greatpublicschools.org).

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### OSD Advocates For You.

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- Works to reform procurement to encourage the pursuit of diversity.
- Boosts the State's anti-discrimination efforts and investigates allegations of discrimination.

### OSD Gets You Connected.

- Streamlined the MBE Certification process by requiring less supporting documentation from the vendor and limiting the approval period to fifteen days.
- Creates business relationships between state agencies and minority-owned businesses.
- Assists minority businesses to acquire working capital loans.
- Strengthens banking relations between minority businesses and capital markets.
- Maintains a directory of vendors.

### OSD Keeps You Connected.

- Hosts an Annual Matchmaker Trade Fair, designed to build relationships between minority businesses, state agencies, non-minority vendors and other decision makers.
- Assists minority business enterprises identify state agencies most likely to purchase the type of good and/or services they provide.

Don't miss the OSD 2004 MatchMaker Trade Fair November 17-19 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. There will be workshops, one-on-one sessions and much more. For more information visit [www.FLmatchmaker.com](http://www.FLmatchmaker.com).

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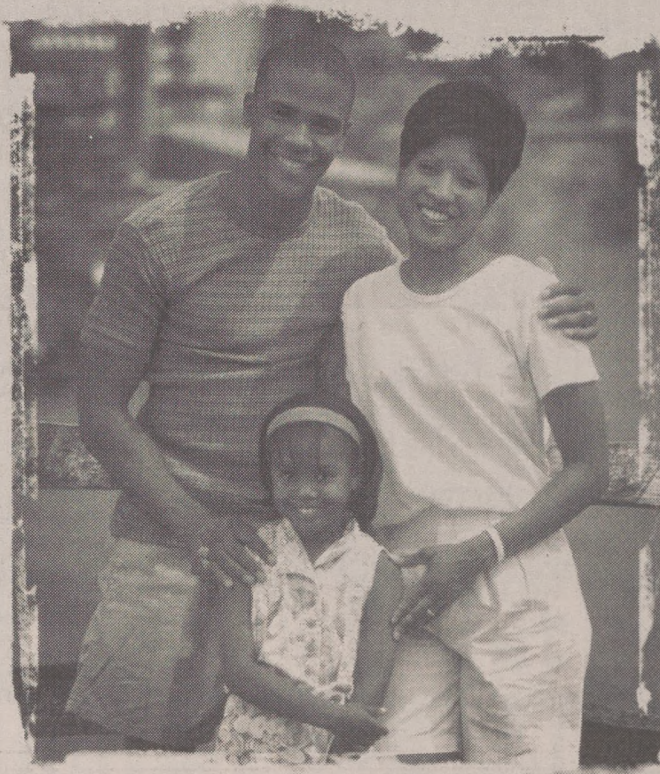
The FDOT is continually offering opportunities to private suppliers in the areas of Construction and Maintenance Services, Commodities, Contractual Services and Professional Services.

For more information, contact FDOT's Minority Business Coordinator at (850) 414-4475 or visit our web site at [www.dot.state.fl.us](http://www.dot.state.fl.us).

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026 798 265



7-3 6-1 4-2

5-8 3-6 1-4

## Your HOROSCOPE

**ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20)** Go after your goals and don't be afraid to ask for assistance. Confusion is apparent and you'll need some sound advice if you want to do the right thing. Rest and relaxation may be required; minor health problems will prevail if you don't watch your diet. You might find that delays will cause setbacks and upset.

**TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)** Quarrels will erupt if you get into philosophical debates with friends. Your best results will come through business trips. You will attract potential lovers, but be sure that they're unattached. You've been a little down and you need a lift.

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21)** You will have good ideas for home improvement projects. Don't be too eager to spend what's left over; more unexpected expenses are evident. Do not yield to children or relatives when they really don't deserve it. You could be drawn to events that concern children.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)** Problems with ear, nose or the throat are likely. A quiet restful day just staying in bed or catching up on reading will be your best bet. Travel will be fun, but expect it to cost you. You'll have problems with authority figures if you don't play by the rules.

**LEO (July 23-Aug 22)** Look into real estate. Look for professional guidance if it will help unite the family. Strengthen your position among your peers. Do not let in-laws upset you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)** Be aggressive and colorful, and you will get your way. Take care of any dealings with government agencies. Be inquisitive about unfamiliar circumstances. You may find yourself interested in more than one person.

**LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)** You will easily charm members of the opposite sex. Be cautious when dealing with foreigners. Partnerships will be successful. Avoid any gossip and be careful that you aren't misinterpreted.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** You will be emotional about your personal life. Don't evade issues or twist the truth around. Difficulties at an emotional level may be likely. Your greatest enjoyment will come through social activities and pleasure trips.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Relationships have not been the best for you lately and it's left you somewhat gun shy. Acknowledge your lover's needs. Don't count on your friends to be loyal when it comes to doing things. You may be in love this week, but who knows what tomorrow may bring.

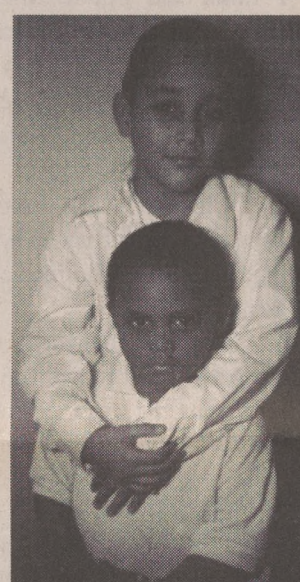
**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan. 20)** You can enjoy the company of others and come in contact with an ideal mate, if you get out and mingle. Your energetic personality will make you the center of attention at social gatherings. You may need a good friend to lean on. Your irritability will lead to family squabbles.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)** Your irritability will lead to family squabbles. You can make major decisions regarding your professional direction. Take care of any medical problems if they've been troubling you. Pamper yourself; the self esteem it brings you will be most gratifying.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)** Change will be required to make your life more harmonious. Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments. You will be able to make favorable changes in your living quarters. Travel or short trips will probably be your best outlet.

**NOTICE OF ACTION  
BEFORE THE FLORIDA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION**  
IN RE: The license to practice Real Estate of: Jack E. Patterson, 2009 West Dekle Avenue, #2, Tampa, Florida 33606. Case No. 2003055376. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation, has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting the Division of Real Estate, 400 W. Robinson St., Suite N-801, Orlando, FL 32801, (407) 481-5632. If no contact has been made by November 11, 2004, the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at an ensuing meeting of the Florida Real Estate Commission in an informal proceeding.

## GOD BLESS AMERICA!



## Children Can't Vote. You Can.

In America...  
Every 52 seconds a Black high school student drops out.  
Every 2 minutes a Black baby is born into poverty.  
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## VOTE NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

CDF's voter registration and education project is non-partisan and does not represent an endorsement of any candidate or political party.

Remember to Take a Child to Vote with You!

The Children's Defense Fund  
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## DIAL 2-1-1

2-1-1 is Pinellas County's only 24-hour program that provides information & referrals on local health/human services, volunteer opportunities, donation referrals, and crisis intervention/problem-solving counseling for individuals. Cell phone users must dial (727) 562-1542.

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**Moderate:** Sensation of hotness with sweating but you can continue with activities.  
**Severe:** Sensation of intense hotness with sweating that prohibits continuation of activities. Also night sweating that results in awakening.

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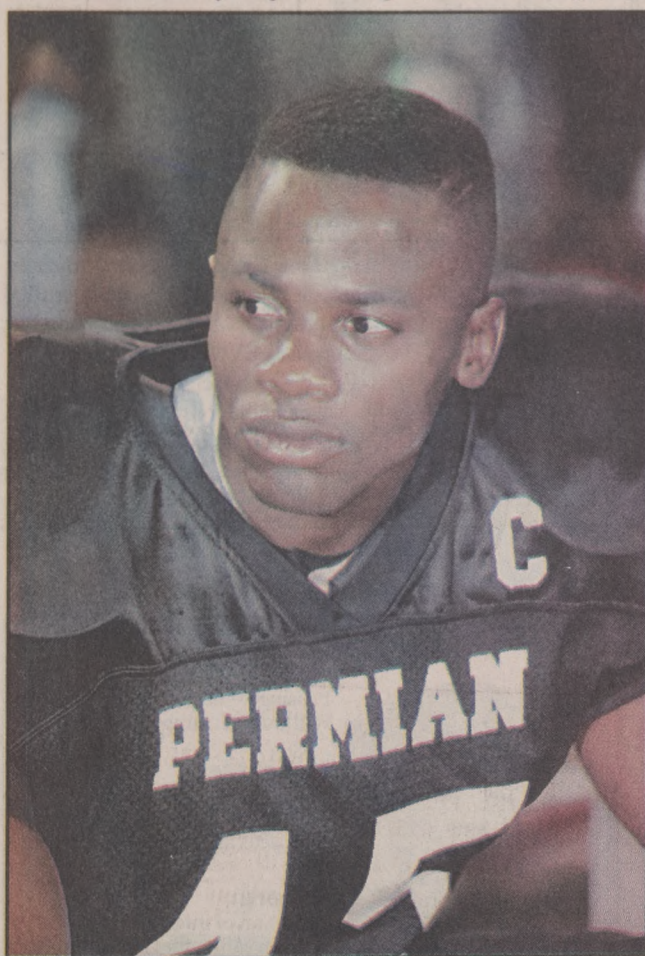
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# IN THE KNOW

## Derek Luke Stars in Friday Night Lights

A true story of a high school football team in Odessa, Texas



Luke stars as Boobie Miles.

Now in theatres, "Friday Night Lights" Derek Luke stars in the true story of Boobie Miles, a high school football player from Odessa, Texas who was the powerful running back for the Permian Panthers. His dream of stardom on the college circuit is jeopardized by a serious knee injury. Luke, the young actor who first came to our attention in title role of "Antwone Fisher," stars along with Oscar winner Billy Bob Thornton as the coach and country-western star, Tim McGraw, in his film debut. Other young stars on the winning football team include Jay Hernandez, Lucas Black, Garrett Hedlund and Lee Thompson Young.

Luke says, "This is a bittersweet story of group of guys who come from various ethnic backgrounds and are modern day warriors who bond together to win. I liked playing Boobie. On one hand, he was the bold, good-looking athlete who got all the girls in high school. Now as an actor, I get to be that guy. However, the sad thing is

there are many guys like Boobie who live and breathe the game. They have no plans for their lives, if they can't play ball. That happened to Boobie and that's the unfortunate thing about it I hope this movie will show young athletes that they have to look beyond the game."

The story has been hailed by Sports Illustrated as one of the top five greatest sports stories of all time. Every Friday from September through December, a dazzling, disorienting glow, visible on the stark horizon for miles around, ignites the blackened sky of Odessa, Texas. Looming over the landscape, Ratliff Stadium, the country's biggest high school football field, overflows with 20,000 spectators.

The crowd's jubilation rises to fever-pitch as the Permian Panthers, Odessa's "boys in black," take to the field like warriors in an ancient coliseum. Once a week during the fall, this town and its dreams are carried on the padded shoulders of these young



A confrontation between teammates.

gridiron heroes, illuminated beneath the autumnal glare of those Friday night lights that serve as a beacon of hope to the townsfolk of this dusty West Texas town. "Friday Night Lights" is the true American story of a group of young athletes, their town and their dreams.

Luke is currently in New Orleans shooting his second film this year for Jerry Bruckheimer, "Glory Road." In this film based on a true story, Luke will play the star basketball player on an all-black team in the 1960's who goes on to beat an all-white undefeated Kentucky team in the NCAA finals.

Handsome and gifted with a winning grin, Luke was relatively unknown except for appearances on the television series "Moesha" and "The King of Queens."

During the casting process for "Antwone Fisher" (2002), Luke's determination and perseverance paid off when he caught the attention of the film's first-time director, Denzel Washington, amongst hundreds of other

young hopefuls. A New Jersey native and former employee at the Sony Pictures gift shop (where he sold candy for five years), Luke auditioned for the role of Antwone Fisher five times over a four-year period before he finally won the starring role that marked his big break into feature films, playing the real-life black sailor who must overcome his rage over the traumas of his youth. The young actor was heaped with critical accolades for his emotional, vulnerable performance.

Luke was next seen starring in "Biker Boyz" (2003) opposite Laurence Fishburne and Kid Rock, playing a rookie African-American motorcycle street racer hoping to dethrone the reigning champ.

Luke also recently starred in the critically acclaimed independent film, "Pieces of April," opposite Katie Holmes and Patricia Clarkson.

Luke was last seen starring opposite Val Kilmer in the David Mamet feature "Spartan" for Warner Bros. Studios.

## The Queen of Movies and Music

NEW YORK (AP) — At 34, Queen Latifah is decades away from receiving a Social Security check.

Still, she already knows what she wants to be doing when she becomes a senior citizen - and rhyming on stage to the hip-hop beat that made her famous isn't one of them.

"I couldn't see me rapping," says Latifah between drags of a cigarette, lounging around her hotel suite. "With acting, I can see me doing that until I'm old and gray. But I couldn't see personally rapping forever and ever."

Which explains why the rap pioneer, who broke into the male-dominated field with hits like "Ladies First" and "U.N.I.T.Y." in the late '80s and early '90s, has downshifted on her new album to a soothing blend of soft jazz, big band, soul and standards.

"I wanted to be able to grow somewhere, and I felt like, when I start making this kind of music, this is really the kind of music I can do for the rest of my life," she says of "The Dana Owens Album," titled after her real name. "I can continue to build on it and get more creative with it. I can sing these songs 'til I'm old and gray."

Latifah is always thinking long-term, which may be why she's been able to morph from successful rapper to sitcom star ("Living Single") to talk show host (the ill-fated "Queen Latifah Show") to one of Hollywood's potential superstars - an Oscar-nominated actress with box-office draw ("Chicago," "Bringing Down the House").

Now she hits the big screen again in the action-comedy flick "Taxi," costarring Jimmy Fallon from "Saturday Night Live" - but it's Latifah who gets top billing.

"It was that combination of critical acclaim of 'Chicago' and this body of work that I brought already to the table and the financial success of 'Bringing Down the House' that at the same time created this little perfect storm of Queen Latifah



Queen Latifah's career continues to evolve.

business," she says.

**'Her instrument is that evolved'**

So far, the flood of projects has included last fall's hit "Scary Movie 3," "Barbershop 2" and the upcoming "Beauty Shop" -- a female spinoff of the "Barbershop" franchise.

It's a gratifying time for the star, who struggled to find the right vehicle for her talents after wowing movie audiences and critics with her explosive turn as Cleo in the 1996 girl-robber flick "Set It Off."

"A lot of the roles were actually on their way already, but it just took time. I think the opportunities have come after the Oscar (nomination)," she says, referring to her 2003 performance as Matron Morton in the musical "Chicago."

"Chicago" not only opened doors for her in acting, but also in the musical arena.

Ron Fair, president of the A&M record label and a producer on the "Dana Owens" album, had long been a fan of Latifah's pipes. "I first became aware of Dana as a singer from her performance of 'Lush Life' in 'Living Out Loud,'" he says of the 1998 movie that featured Latifah as a nightclub singer.

"I was struck by the fact that she was a rapper who could sing that well. It's kind of like somebody who first got their driver's license and their first car is a Ferrari. Her instrument is that evolved that it's a very natural thing."

After that flick, offers came in for Latifah to do a jazz album, including from Fair. But Latifah wasn't ready to let go of her rap persona, even though it's been years since she made a dent on the rap charts.

"I was still rapping and I still wanted to rhyme, so I didn't want to put this album out just yet, because I knew if it became somewhat of a hit, then I would have to have to continue on with it," she says.

Although she insists she can still hang with today's rap crowd artistically, it's a different scene than when she reigned supreme.

"If you wanna curse, you're always going to out-curse me. If you wanna strip, you're always going to get more naked than me," she says. "Consciousness and different things going on in the world and personal experiences, those are the kind of things that I wanted to get more into."

**'As long as it's funny'**

While Latifah isn't willing to compromise herself for her music, there were some critics who felt she did just that in her acting career with last year's blockbuster "Bringing Down the House," co-starring Steve Martin. Although it grossed more than \$130 million, some (including Spike Lee) felt her role as a jive-talking con who shakes up the Martin's whitebread world was stereotypical. "Boondocks" mastermind Aaron McGruder skewered her endlessly in his comic strip, while others questioned her judgment.

Latifah didn't see a reason to apologize - and still doesn't.

"I can't be worried about that. To me, I would rather push the envelope a little bit, go right to the edge, as long as it's funny. If it ain't funny, you can forget about it anyway," she says, comparing herself to comedians like Red Foxx, Whoopi Goldberg and Richard Pryor, who used race in their acts to talk about cultural barriers. "I think there were some over-the-top things in the movie, but I don't think there was anything extremely stereotypical that was that offensive. I'm not trying to make some major political statement," she says.

"It's easy for people outside of what we do to talk about it, but they don't see the real battles that we fight everyday, that we break down stereotypes ... There's really nobody out there that could tell me anything. Because they don't see those battles."

Besides, Latifah adds, as the movie's executive producer, she was able to employ more minorities and become a Hollywood power broker.

As far as her future, she says she would like her next "production" to be a baby and jokes that she's already practicing for it. But ask her about her private life and the fiercely private Latifah makes a "putting on the brakes" signal, letting you know you'll get no farther on that subject.

She'd prefer to put the focus back on her projects, and right now, the one that seems closest to her heart is the "Dana Owens" album. "I just hope that people will be receptive to it and give it a listen," she says. "I hope they'll enjoy it enough to buy it and if they buy enough of them - then I'm going to come out and perform it for them."

**Jim Coats For Sheriff**  
Vote November 2<sup>nd</sup>

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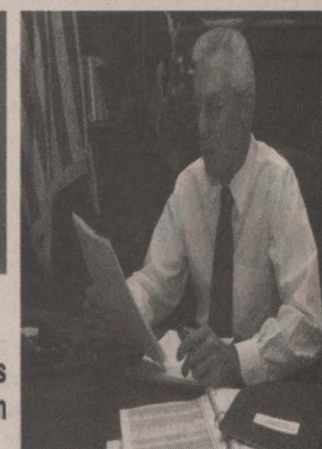
- ✓ Thirty-three years of law enforcement experience at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.
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- ✓ Appointed by the Governor to serve as interim Sheriff in two Florida counties when those sheriffs were under investigation for misconduct.
- ✓ FBI National Academy Graduate.
- ✓ Florida State Certified Law Enforcement Officer, with a BA Degree in Criminal Justice.
- ✓ U.S. Air Force veteran.
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- Pinellas County Council of Firefighters
- State Attorney Bernie McCabe
- The St. Petersburg Times
- Pinellas Realtor Organization
- Tampa Bay Builders Association

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Tom Steck, Chairman, Pinellas County Democratic Executive Committee



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