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# The Weekly Challenger

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## Celebrating The 20th Anniversary Dr. M.L. King Drum Major For Justice Awards Banquet



Dr. E.E. Cleveland

ST. PETERSBURG — Dr. E.E. Cleveland will be the keynote speaker at the Dr. Martin Luther King Drum Major for Justice Banquet, which is sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the MLK Holiday and Legacy Association, Inc. The event takes place on Friday, Jan. 14, at the downtown St. Petersburg Hilton Hotel, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Cleveland has been a pioneer in the advancements of Civil Rights and worked with Dr. King and Dr. Ralph Abernathy in the Poor Peoples' Campaign in providing critical medical and needed supplies for Resurrection City. Overall, Cleveland has spent over

23 years at the World Headquarters of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Washington, D.C. He has over 58 years of service to the gospel ministry. He has conducted over 60 public campaigns in evangelism and trained over 1100 other ministers worldwide, baptizing over 16,000 converts. He helped establish the MLK Interfaith Ecumenical Service and MLK Street in St. Pete.

Adding to his many honors, Cleveland was the first preacher to receive the distinguished MLK Legacy of the Dreamer Award by the Dr. M.L. King Alabama Legacy Association. He has also published over 15 books, including "Mine Eyes Have Seen," "Free At Last" and his autobiography, "Let the Church Roll On."

If interested in attending this event, please RSVP to the SCLC, P.O. Box 12732, St. Petersburg, FL 33733. Tickets are \$25 each and are available at the Enoch Davis Center, (727) 893-7134, or at the SCLC (727) 327-0085.

**Be sure to look for next week's special MLK edition of The Weekly Challenger!**

## WEEKLY CHALLENGER NOTICES

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## Shirley Chisholm, First Black Woman Elected To U.S. Congress And Who Sought Presidency In 1972, Dies At 80

by Coralie Carlson

Associated Press Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Shirley Chisholm, an advocate for minority rights who became the first black woman elected to Congress and later the first black person to seek a major party's nomination for the U.S. presidency, has died. She was 80.

Chisholm, who took her seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1969, was a riveting speaker who often criticized Congress as being too clubby and unresponsive. An outspoken champion of women and minorities during seven terms in the House, she also was a staunch critic of the Vietnam War.

Details of her death on Saturday were not immediately available.

Chisholm ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972, a campaign that was viewed as more symbolic than practical. She won 152 delegates before withdrawing from the race.

"I ran for the Presidency, despite hopeless odds, to demonstrate the sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo," Chisholm said in her book "The Good Fight." "The next time a



In this undated photo provided by Shola Lynch, Shirley Chisholm is shown on the set of "Chisholm '72 Unbought & Unbossed," Lynch's documentary about Chisholm's 1972 run for president. Chisholm, an advocate for minority rights who became the first black woman elected to Congress and later the first black person to seek a major party's nomination for the U.S. presidency, died Saturday, Jan. 1 at the age of 80.

AP Photo/Sandi Sissel

woman runs, or a black, a Jew or anyone from a group that the country is 'not ready' to elect to its highest office, I believe that he or she will be taken seriously from the start."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson called her a "woman of great courage."

"She was an activist and she never stopped fighting," Jackson told The Associated Press from Ohio. "She refused to accept the ordinary, and she had high expectations for herself and all people around her."

Newly elected, she was

assigned to the House Agriculture Committee, which she felt was irrelevant to her urban constituency. In an unheard of move, she demanded reassignment and got switched to the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Not long afterward she voted for Hale Boggs, who was white, over John Conyers, who was black, for majority leader. Boggs rewarded her with a place on the prized Education and Labor Committee and she was its third ranking member when she left.

"My greatest political

asset, which professional politicians fear, is my mouth, out of which come all kinds of things one shouldn't always discuss for reasons of political expediency," she told voters.

During her failed presidential bid, Chisholm went to the hospital to visit George Wallace, her rival candidate and ideological opposite, after he had been shot — an act that appalled her followers.

"He said, 'What are you people going to say?' I said: 'I know what they're going to say. But I wouldn't want what happened to you to happen to anyone.' He cried and cried," she recalled.

In her book, "Unbought and Unbossed," she recounted the campaign that brought her to Congress and wrote of her concerns about that body:

"Our representative democracy is not working because the Congress that is supposed to represent the voters does not respond to their needs. I believe the chief reason for this is that it is ruled by a small group of old men."

**Chisholm**  
continued on pg. 8

## Cummings Finishes Term As Chairman Of The Congressional Black Caucus



In 2003, Cummings backed presidential candidate Howard Dean. "I think the caucus' profile has definitely been raised," said Cummings in a recent interview. "I want people to know what the caucus is."



Congressman Watt speaks at the opening of the Rams Common dormitory at Winston-Salem State University. He is slated to replace Cummings as the new head of the CBC.

by Brian Witte

Associated Press Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Rep. Elijah Cummings was wrapping up his two-year tenure as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, but it's hard to tell by the way he works the phones.

He isn't slowing down in his efforts to bring the caucus more publicity.

"Excuse me," he says, setting down one phone with a reporter on the other end of the line and picking up a second phone to talk to another journalist.

"I think you guys miss stories about us," he tells the other newsmen in a polite but rousing son-of-a-preacher voice, ticking off several stories the journalist's news organization has reported about the CBC while indicating the media outlet should provide more coverage of the caucus.

Cummings, who won his fifth congressional term representing Baltimore in November, is confident more people have learned about the caucus during his time as chairman. But he's still working to make the CBC better known.

"I think the caucus' profile has definitely been raised," the Democrat said in a recent interview. "I want people to know what the caucus is."

Rep. Mel Watt, a North Carolina Democrat who will replace Cummings as chairman, has noticed the difference. He said he hopes to continue building on a communications network Cummings has maintained.

"He's done regular messaging to that network on behalf of the CBC, and I think his tenure has been

among the best we've ever had," Watt said. "It's going to be hard follow him and keep it going in that direction."

A prime example of Cummings' hard-charging, explore-every-option push to put the CBC in the national spotlight came in September 2003, when he sought to hold a debate by Democratic presidential candidates at Morgan State University, a historically black institution in Baltimore.

At first, Cummings proposed four debates that the CBC would sponsor "to energize the African-American community" for the 2004 election. Then, in negotiations with Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe, he agreed to have the caucus sponsor just one of six official DNC debates and to hold it in Detroit.

But Cummings then found a way to create a second CBC debate by bringing the candidates to Baltimore. He teamed up with an unexpected ally, Fox News Channel Chairman and CEO Roger Ailes, after running into him at a dinner in Washington and asking him for his help. Fox News Channel carried the debate live from the Morgan State campus.

"I think it was very important for the caucus," Cummings said of the debate. "It really put us out there."

The caucus has grown during his chairmanship. The CBC has more than tripled in size since its founding in 1969, when it had 13 members. Next

**Cummings**  
continued on pg. 9

## Local Civil Rights Play Opens, Examining American Hate Crimes

ST. PETERSBURG — Alabama-born playwright Hubert Grissom's "BAP-BOMB" premieres Jan. 14 at the Suncoast Theater in St. Petersburg. "BAP-BOMB" examines the deep origin of American hate crimes, focusing on the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., which killed four young African-American girls, and completes a trilogy of plays with civil rights themes by Grissom. The play's title is taken from the FBI's code name for the KKK bombing of the church.

"BAPBOMB" explores the mindset that perpetrated the bombing and the intentions of those who obscured or destroyed evidence after the fact.

The play is set in 1988. It was a time when hate crimes were again exploding as African-American church in the South were



The 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., is a civil rights landmark because of the tragic bombing that killed four young girls in 1963. It is part of the focus of Grissom's new play.

mysteriously burned and abortion doctors and gays were assaulted and even killed by individuals whose dangerously skewed indignation was transformed into violence, recalling the civil rights struggles and tragedies 25 years before. It was also in 1988 that federal and state prosecutors re-opened the case of the 16th Street Baptist

Church, vowing to find justice and reconciliation, and the juxtaposition of these simultaneous events provides some of the play's conflict.

The playwright was born in Cullman, Ala., and was a student at Birmingham-Southern College at the time of the bombing and graduated from Duke Law School in 1967. In the

mid-70s, at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, Grissom studied under award-winning writer Jesse Hill Ford, author of "The Liberation of Lord Byron Jones." Grissom's other civil rights plays are "WEDGES," a look at racial tolerance and populism under "Big Jim" Folsom, former governor of Alabama, and "Waterin' Hole," a portrayal of racial justice during a violent railroad strike in the 1950s.

"BAPBOMB" is directed by Trevor Keller and opens Jan. 14 at the Suncoast Theatre, 3000 24th St. S., St. Petersburg. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The play runs through Feb. 6, 2005. Tickets are \$16 with \$1 going to a local charity. For tickets, call the box office at (727) 456-0500.

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# OPINIONS

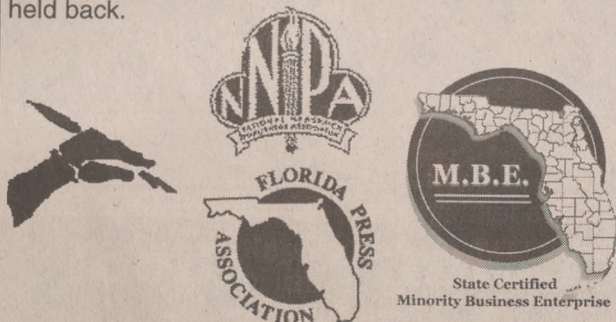
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## The Weekly Challenger Newspaper We Value Diversity. We Value Education. We Value History.

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

a territory, a village, a  
district, or a nation. To  
live without history is  
likened to living with-

out a form of memory.  
To be without history  
is to live without roots  
or a past, with the

present having no real  
foundation, and very  
little meaning for the  
future.

The *Weekly Chal-*  
*lenger* is committed to  
featuring articles of all  
ethnic culture for the

reading enjoyment of  
both the young and old  
generations.

## Step Up To The Plate (Part I of a series)

by Sean Lewis

Afro-Americans are  
living in a new era, times  
have changed and so have  
our oppressors. Our past  
leaders envisioned the true  
American dream. They  
envisioned a country that  
would truly be the land of  
opportunity for every indi-  
vidual, no matter the race.  
As they envisioned this  
new America, many steps  
were taken to deter the  
Afro-American race from  
spawning into the race of  
people that we were proph-  
esied to become.

Since our ancestors' arrival  
into this country, Afro-  
Americans have been on  
a treacherous journey. This  
journey has evolved over  
400 years, and has been  
very turbulent from the  
start. An unaccountable  
amount of our ancestors  
died on the opening days of  
our campaign, and many  
more died in the trenches  
of American soil.

Many of our past lead-  
ers were only allowed to

basically enlighten their  
race with the birth of their  
vision. Our leaders of the  
past were great men and  
women, and a majority of  
them were extracted from  
their people before they  
could implement any type  
of strategy to fulfill their  
visions. They left our race  
with a glimpse of their  
visions and a legacy that  
will never leave the hearts  
of the Afro-American race.

Our fallen leaders were  
tormented and crucified,  
because they would not  
submit themselves to the  
clutches of an unequal  
American society. They  
were killed because they  
refused to accept the back  
door policies that America  
employed concerning  
Afro-Americans as a  
whole. Many of our past  
leaders were extracted  
from us solely because they  
wanted to create their own  
place here in America - a  
place in which many of  
their fathers and mothers  
built with their blood,

sweat and tears.

In our present times,  
Afro-Americans are faced  
with a new dilemma.  
Amongst the opposition of  
our oppressors, Afro-  
Americans are stricken  
with our own stagnation.  
We are in a stationary state,  
satisfied with the glimpse  
of the Promise Land that  
our forefathers envisioned.  
The question that this new  
generation must ask itself  
and answer, will inevitably  
be the key to the position of  
our race in the future. This  
question must be handled  
in order for each and every  
Afro-American to become  
awaken and open their eyes  
to the heavily disguised  
plot that our oppressors  
have unraveled right in our  
own faces. The question is,  
"Are we as a race ready to  
transcend our people (not  
only here, but across the  
world) and can we unite  
within our own borders to  
combat our foe as one unit,  
with the focus necessary to  
bring our race out of the

back porch of the American  
social realm?

Has this current gener-  
ation of Afro-Americans  
lost their vision, or have we  
as a people become content  
with the false sense of  
equality that circulates  
throughout every aspect of  
life here in America?  
Today, Afro-Americans  
have fallen short of the  
expectations of our forefa-  
thers. As it seems, the aspi-  
rations of our forefathers  
died at the same time as our  
forefathers. Our oppressors  
have successfully killed the  
dreams and aspirations of a  
race of people that, at one  
time, were at the climax of  
change here in America.

The Afro-American  
race has evolved through  
these different stages here  
in America. We have risen  
out of slavery, advanced  
from the once crude segre-  
gation of this country and  
we have currently unfolded  
into stagnation. The false  
sense of equality that our  
oppressors here in America

have sprayed throughout  
this land, has left us in a  
state of complacency and  
dependence. Our current  
position in America has  
and still is robbing our peo-  
ple of their ambitions. We  
are being pick-pocketed of  
the same ambitions that our  
ancestors carried in the  
front pockets of their  
everyday lives. Currently,  
we have been duped to  
believe that the financial  
growth of a few of our  
brethren is a major step  
towards true racial and eco-  
nomical equality.

America has success-  
fully calmed the masses of  
its Afro-American citizens,  
by displaying a hoax of  
pure racial equality. We  
must awaken and confront  
the true situation of our  
race in this country. As a  
whole, we must come to  
the realization that the  
minority group of our  
brethren (the few that have  
been fortunate to advance  
their social and financial  
status) are the doormen for

our race. The fact stands  
that Afro-Americans still  
exist as the secondary citi-  
zens of this country. While  
the successful minority  
group thrives and lives the  
so-called American dream,  
the core of our race is still  
struggling each and every  
day just to keep their heads  
above water. The majority  
of our race is at an all-time  
low economically, and  
until this matter is  
addressed by each member  
of our race, we will never  
solve this dilemma.

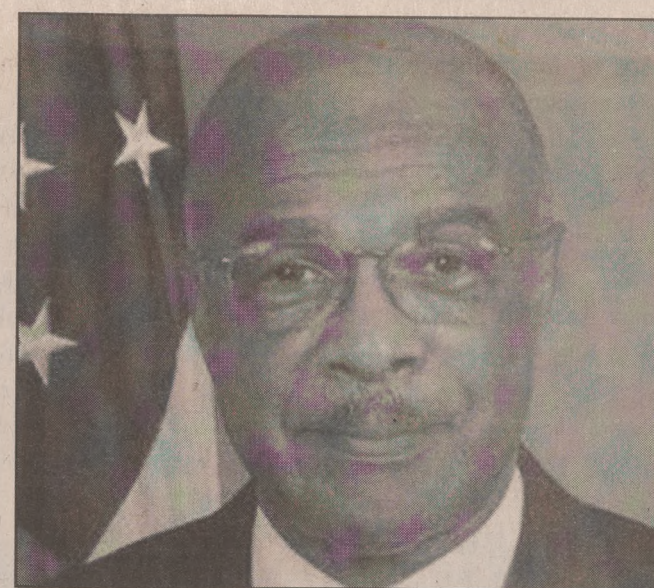
Afro-Americans must  
realize that just as our  
nation is constantly evol-  
ving, so do our oppressors.  
America no longer exists  
by or exhibits open acts of  
racism. One must under-  
stand that even with racism  
existing in the closet, it is  
still a thriving vessel in  
every realm of America's  
social chain. Jim Crowe is  
still alive, and he is silently  
creeping through the loop-  
holes that society has left  
open for him to thrive.

## The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

by Bernice Powell Jackson

Even as the federal  
government has sought to  
increase the funds for Iraq  
by some \$70 billion over  
the already approved \$200  
billion, it is seeking to cut  
federal government schol-  
arships, called Pell grants,  
for the neediest American  
college students. If the U.S.  
Department of Education  
decides to update the tax  
tables it uses to analyze  
student financial need,  
nearly 100,000 students  
may be cut off altogether  
from their Pell grants and  
another 1.2 million could  
receive smaller grants.

This action could save  
the federal government  
about \$300 million a year.  
Rod Paige, Secretary of  
Education, admitted that  
such cuts may mean that  
"untold numbers of current  
students may need to drop  
out temporarily." Said one  
college administrator, "It  
appears they're trying to  
balance the budget on the



With the cuts that administration is going to put  
on Pell grants, even Secretary of Education Rod  
Paige admitted that "untold numbers of current  
students may need to drop out temporarily."

backs of the most needy  
students." Another stated,  
"The first thing they (these  
students) will say is 'I will  
go to the Army because I  
can't afford college,'  
adding, 'That's not fair.'"

Many of the students  
who receive Pell grants  
have already maxed out  
their student loans, and the

Pell grants are part of a  
patchwork quilt of funds  
which allow them to attend  
college. While families  
earning less than \$25,000 a  
year may not see cuts in  
Pell grant funds, families  
earning between \$35,000  
and \$40,000 are most like-  
ly to lose funding.

Pell grants are also

important for the colleges  
and universities, especially  
the smaller, underfunded  
institutions such as the his-  
torically black colleges and  
universities. At the same  
time that financial aid for  
needy students is being cut,  
estimates are that college  
tuition has increased  
between 10-14% at public  
four-year colleges for the  
current year, while tuition  
at private colleges has  
increased about 6%. Thirty  
years ago these Pell grants  
covered 84% of the tuition  
that poor students paid at  
four year public colleges.  
Today, they cover only  
39%.

Pell grants have fallen  
victim to budget realities  
such as the growing  
defense spending in the  
federal budget and a  
decrease in revenue due to  
the tax cuts for the wealth-  
iest Americans. Moreover,  
the administration is plac-  
ing much of its education  
funds in the No Child Left  
Behind program, which  
requires extensive student  
testing.

When the 3,000 page,  
\$400 billion catch-all  
omnibus appropriations  
bill was passed by  
Congress last month, it  
included all kinds of so-  
called "pork" funding for  
house projects in districts  
of members of Congress  
such as \$5 million for the  
Strom Thurmond Fitness  
Center. But the omnibus  
bill left out an amendment  
which had suspended the  
new formula for families  
receiving Pell grants and  
which gave the go-ahead to  
the Department of  
Education to re-calculate  
aid for Pell grant students.

One Senator, Jon Corzine  
(D-NJ), called this a "back-  
door attempt to cut funding  
from the Pell grant pro-  
gram."

Cutting the funds  
which currently help the  
nation's poorest students  
attend college is bad public  
policy and a bad invest-  
ment in the future. It is es-  
timated that the cost of the  
wars in Iraq and  
Afghanistan could have  
already funded 7,268,647  
four year scholarships at  
public universities. Already  
there are more African  
American men in prison  
than in college. A nation  
that chooses to invest in  
higher education for all stu-  
dents will get engineers,  
doctors, teachers and scien-  
tists. A nation that chooses  
to invest in war and in pris-  
ons will get warriors and  
prisoners.

Bernice Powell Jackson  
is the executive minister of the  
Justice and Witness Ministries  
of the United Church of Christ  
and serves as one of the five  
officers of the denomination.  
She has been an activist on  
behalf of civil rights, women's  
rights and human rights  
issues around the world for  
more than a quarter of a cen-  
tury.

## Some Post-Election Advice For Liberals

by Murdock "Doc" Gibbs

A New Visions  
Commentary

As I listen to the self-  
examination, recrimination  
and Monday morning quar-  
terbacking among liberals  
over their sound defeat in  
Election 2004, I have a few  
suggestions. It's not a guar-  
antee for success, but at  
least they won't be per-  
ceived as so out of step  
with the heartland.

Here are some things the  
liberals should do to recon-  
nect with America:

- Stand for something  
that people can sink their  
teeth into. Something, that

is besides "Conservatives  
are all wrong - we can do  
better." Tell us how. And  
try not to sound so elitist  
when you tell us.

- Promote candidates  
who truly relate to the  
heartland and the South. A  
polite description of lib-  
erals right now might be  
"snobs." To Southerners  
such as myself, it seems  
that "Y'all think y'all better  
than us." And let me tell  
you, that donkey won't fly.

- Need more black  
votes? Why not start by  
urging the pro-choice wing  
of your following to quit  
pushing for the abortion of

so many black babies. It  
sometimes seems Planned  
Parenthood is as prevalent  
in urban black neighbor-  
hoods as drug stores. Black  
folk are giving them  
nearly 40 percent of their  
abortion business, and 78  
percent of Planned Parent-  
hood's clinics are located in  
minority communities.

At the risk of losing  
some of the screaming fe-  
minists, consider becoming  
a party of life and not a  
party of death, selfishness  
and special interests. If  
you care for the "little peo-  
ple," don't let that exclude  
the little unborn babies - or,

as in the case of partial-  
birth abortion, the pre-  
born. There's a disconnect  
here that bothers people in  
the heartland.

- Remember that "G-  
O-D" is not a four-letter  
word. But, then again, the  
fact that it's not might be  
why it's not used by the  
most strident Bush critics  
and lampooners. At least  
try to sound like "God-  
fearing," patriotic Ameri-  
cans.

Early in the 2004 pri-  
mary season, a questioner  
at a Howard Dean townhall  
meeting decried the vi-  
cious, mean-spirited liberal

campaign against the Pre-  
sident, imploring Dean and  
the others to follow the bib-  
lical injunction to "love  
your neighbor." Dean re-  
sponded, "George Bush is  
not my neighbor." Con-  
gressman Charlie Rangel  
(D-NY) said much the  
same on Sean Hannity's  
show when he insisted the  
President "is not my com-  
mander-in-chief." Regular  
folks will not warm to a  
movement with such bitter  
sound bites.

- Give voters better  
heroes. When one thinks  
of family values, national  
security, tolerance and fair

play, filmmaker Michael  
Moore does not come to  
mind. Or Whoopi Gold-  
berg. Or Al Franken. Or a  
host of other addle-brained  
Hollywood types who mix  
their caustic humor with  
venomous and obscene re-  
ferences to the President.

- Accept defeat with  
class and stop acting like  
whiney brats.

Another thing, just  
MOVE ON!

Murdock "Doc" Gibbs, a  
member of Project 21's na-  
tional advisory council, is an  
entertainer and freelance writ-  
er. Comments may be sent to  
Projnationalcenter.org.

THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER WELCOMES YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. PLEASE E-MAIL TO: WCEDITOR@TAMPABAY.RR.COM



# SARASOTA / MANATEE AREA

## Sarasota Calendar Of Events

**EZ Clicks computer class** set to log on at **Jacaranda Library**  
 What's happening  
 • EZ Clicks computer class with Carl Rigney  
 When is it happening  
 • 11 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 18  
 Where is it happening  
 • Jacaranda Public Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice  
 Why is it happening  
 • Carl Rigney is back with his popular class that makes computer learning easy and fun.  
 Action for public to take  
 • No registration required but space is limited  
 Contact for public  
 • Jerry Falgowski, (941) 861-1270, or send an email to jfalowski@sc.gov.net  
**History Center Steps Up To The Plate With Baseball Exhibit 'Play Ball!'**  
 What's happening  
 • "Play Ball! America's Pastime in Sarasota Coun-

ty," an exhibit about the history of baseball in the county

When is it happening  
 • Saturday, Jan. 22 through Friday, May 27

• 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday  
 • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday (except holiday weekends)

• Opening reception for public and special guests: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 21

Where is it happening  
 • Sarasota County

History Center, 701 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota

Why is it happening  
 • To celebrate the rich history of baseball in Sarasota County. The exhibit will feature memorabilia and photographs of the teams that trained in Payne Park, including the New York Giants, Indianapolis Indians, Boston Red Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago White Sox. "Play Ball!" also looks at other people and places in the county's baseball experi-

ence, including John "Buck" O'Neil, who spent his youth in Sarasota and was a star in the Negro Leagues; and Twin Lakes Park, which began as the Kansas City Baseball Academy.

Action for public to take

• Visit the Sarasota County History Center and enjoy the exhibit.

Contacts for public  
 • Lorrie Muldowney, (941) 861-1183, Ann Shank, (941) 861-1187

## Jazz Club Of Sarasota's January Jazz At Two Concert Series

The Jazz Club of Sarasota announces its Jazz at the Two in the Bayfront Room concerts. This series of afternoon concerts are held from 2 - 4 p.m. on Fridays in the Bayfront Community Center, 803 N. Tamiami Trail. Admission is \$3 for Jazz Club members; \$6 for non-members. Seating is limited to 200.

• Jan. 7: **Duncan Lamont Quartet:** British tenor saxophone player Duncan Lamont will highlight this afternoon of great music.

• Jan. 14: **Lillette Jenkins Trio:** Talented local pianist Lillette Jenkins will tickle the ivories and funny bone with her lively performance.

• Jan. 21: **Harold**

**"Bubba" Thurston Memorial Concert:** A musical tribute to Sarasota resident Bubba Thurston and his jazz guitar legacy.

• Jan. 28: **Charlie Dee Quartet**

For additional information about the Jazz Club of Sarasota and its events, visit the website at [www.jazzclubsarasota.com](http://www.jazzclubsarasota.com) or call (941) 366-1552.

# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## A New Year, A New You

Begin 2005 with a burst of good health! Start this year right by making a commitment to a healthy heart. Proper eating habits and moderate physical activity can help prevent diabetes and obesity, two major risk factors for heart disease.

Opportunities for better health are everywhere! Pinellas County has several recreational facilities and fitness programs for people of all ages. Some of these programs are even

free or discounted. Dial 2-1-1 to locate nutrition/exercise programs in your area.

2-1-1 is a free three-digit phone number providing a critical connection between individuals and families in need to the appropriate community-based organizations and government agencies. From a cell phone, dial (727) 562-1542. Visit our online database at [www.211tampabay.org](http://www.211tampabay.org).

## Later Evening Bus Service Added

CLEARWATER — In response to passenger demand, the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) will be adding additional evening trips on selected routes beginning Jan. 9. Riders on the most heavily used routes, the 14, 18, 19, 52, 59 and 60, will see service added, Monday through Friday.

In addition, the Route 68, which operates with a trolley vehicle and travels between John's Pass and Tyrone Mall via Bay Pines, will have extended evening trips on Friday and Saturday to provide later connections to the Suncoast Beach Trolley. The Route 15, that provides service between Gulfport, Central Plaza and downtown St. Petersburg, will also feature an earlier morning run.

Several other routes

have also been adjusted to provide better service. New timetables are available now at Williams Park, Central Plaza Terminal, and Park Street Terminal Customer Service Centers, or through the Schedules-By-Mail Program (call the InfoLine at 530-9911 to learn more); they will be available on the website on the evening of Friday, Jan. 7.

PSTA is the public transit provider for Pinellas County carrying approximately 10 million riders per year on over 45 bus and trolley routes, with a fleet of over 175 vehicles. For specific information about these service improvements or schedules and fares, passengers should call the PSTA InfoLine at (727) 530-9911, or visit [www.PSTA.net](http://www.PSTA.net).

## Pinellas County Business Development Center Seminars: January 2005

The Pinellas County Business Development Center offers business training, counseling, referrals and resources at no cost. Seminars, held at the

Center, fill quickly and advanced registration is required. For more information about classes, or to speak with a business counselor, contact the Pi-

nellas County Business Development Center at (727) 453-7200 or email [businesshelp@siliconbay.org](mailto:businesshelp@siliconbay.org).

## Columbia Law School Professor To Discuss The Crises Of International Respect At USF St. Petersburg

ST. PETERSBURG — Columbia Law School Professor, George P. Fletcher, PhD, will speak at USF St. Petersburg about the seeming decline of mutual respect in international affairs during a guest lecture Jan. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Campus Activities Center.

"The presidential campaign ended this year without any serious discussion of international law," Fletcher, the Cordozo Profes-

sor of Jurisprudence said. "It appears that the candidates and the American public no longer care about these values."

During the lecture, "Crises of Respect in International Affairs," Fletcher will explain the critical role of respect, especially within the international legal order. He will identify several ways that post-Sept. 11 U.S. politics indicate and have actually

encouraged a breakdown of respect.

"To explain why this has happened we must understand the critical role of respect in all legal relationships, and in particular, within the international legal order. To respect others we must acknowledge their equality with us, and all decisions must be based on public and objective evidence," Fletcher said.

Fletcher is a leading

## Pinellas County School News In Brief

The next meeting of the Pinellas County School Board will be Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 10 a.m. in the conference hall of the administration building, 301 Fourth St. SW, Largo. Citizens may speak about any item on the agenda not involving a hearing on employee discipline by registering before the item is introduced. Presentations from the audience regarding items not on the agenda may be made at the end of the meeting. For

more information, contact Ron Stone, associate superintendent for human resources and public affairs at (727) 588-6273.

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The state's approval of Pinellas County Schools' request to delay the FCAT by one week requires that the end of the third nine-week grading period be adjusted by two school days. The calendar adjustments are as follows:

• Third-quarter exam dates for 4x4 high schools

will be Wednesday, March 2, and Thursday, March 3.

• The first day of the fourth nine-week grading period for all 4x4 secondary schools will be Friday, March 4.

• Report cards for the third nine-week grading period will be distributed Tuesday, March 15, as originally scheduled.

For more information, contact Susan Bailey, director, high school education at (727) 588-6480.

expert on international criminal law, the jurisprudence of war and biblical jurisprudence. He has written eight books and has published more than a hundred articles on criminal law, comparative law, torts and jurisprudence.

This lecture is free and open to the public and is sponsored by Hugh LaFollette, the USF St. Peters-

burg Cole Chair in Ethics. LaFollette specializes in ethics and political philosophy and coordinates a variety of workshops and lectures throughout the year.

For more information about the lecture, contact LaFollette, at (727) 553-4820 or [hhl@stpt.usf.edu](mailto:hhl@stpt.usf.edu).

## KINFOLKS News

Organization Will Tackle Teen Pregnancy Issues through ALLEGANY Grant

ST. PETERSBURG - KINFOLKS recently received a \$4,000 grant from the Allegany Foundation to create a platform for adolescent boys and girls to discuss issues surrounding teenage pregnancy.

Their conversations will result in a publication written by teens and for teens about the subject.

It will tout advice from teenage mothers and fathers about the pitfalls of raising children at such a young age, as well as comments from teens telling why they choose to abstain from sex.

In addition, the publication will cite the latest statistics on both a local

and national level regarding teen pregnancy and the rise of sexually transmitted diseases among adolescents.

After-school programs and activities aimed at keeping keeps occupied in a positive fashion will also be listed.

**KINFOLKS Hosts Open House For Residents Seeking A Job In 2005**

Resolved to find a job in the coming year?

Then stop by KINFOLKS, which operates a satellite One-Stop Worknet facility out of the Bradley-Davis Building at 1735

Martin Luther King Street South, Ste. 132.

The program will begin accepting clients on Monday, Jan. 10, who are in need of employment services or lifeskills training.

Ex-offenders, low-income residents and those with limited English proficiency are urged to take advantage of the job services.

An Open House will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 21 for those in the community who would like to learn more about KINFOLKS, as well as

Bridges and Westcare, two drug treatment programs housed at the Bradley-Davis Building.

Case managers are invited to attend a workshop on January 20th at 10 a.m. aimed at informing them about the job service program and how it can help their clients.

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

## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS. IGNORE THEM AND THEY'LL GO AWAY.

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## NEWS DEADLINE Is 4 P.M. MONDAY

I can dance I can coach

how can you keep a kid off drugs?

The truth is, a little of your time can make a lifetime of difference. Because kids with something to do are less likely to do drugs. You can help. For more information on drug prevention programs in your community, call or visit:

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# TAMPA BAY AREA

## THIS & THAT



by Mabel Cooper  
(823-6092)

### HAPPY NEW YEAR, MY READERS!

My This 'n That column is back on target this week. It fell by the wayside last week around because of personal happenings beyond my control. The world is always changing and as it changes, so do we.

About here is where I feel that you should know that the holiday season is just over and while many of us enjoyed it, it was not so for everyone, because death, sickness, disappointments and heartaches did not take a holiday, and many suffered and cried. To them, we hope their pains would be short-lived and extend best wishes for the future. We also extend best wishes to those fortunate enough to enjoy the season and hope for their continued success.

My heart is bursting with gratitude for all you beautiful people who read my column weekly. There is no greater satisfaction than to serve and all I ask of you is that you call me or mail your news to me. I will do my best with your cooperation.

### THE WRITE LOOK INTO '05

It's hard to believe, yet the calendar confirms that we are at the beginning of a new year. Memories of holiday festivities are lingering in the minds of many and visually apparent in the physical contour of those overindulged.

It was almost impossible to refuse the delectable dishes offered by each gracious hostess or host during the numerous rounds of pop calls made, Christmas parties, dances and delightful at-home affairs. Honestly now, don't you appreciate everything getting back to normal? After the gallon of rich eggnog consumed, the horrible dawn hours you've been keeping and the constant going on a social merry-go-round you've been engaged in? We do!

You know that you love that pot of soul food you indulged in, following that fancy turkey and trimmings throughout the holidays - enough to make you a vegetarian for the rest of your life?

In a crisis-orientated world, Christmas and New Year are a consoling pause in the march of time. As long as there is breath to breathe, this writer will be

awed by the beauty, the pomp, and the pageantry of the trapping used to dress this period. It is a small wonder that it brings out the best in most of us, strong enough to override the worst in some of us.

### YULETIDE VISITORS AND HAPPENINGS During The Past Festive Holidays, They Visited

James and Cherrie Smith of New York City enjoyed seven elegant by day in our town and comfort by night at the 15th Street South home of Cherrie's parents, George and Ada Edwards. In addition to being treated eloquently, the visitors went sight-seeing of lighted homes, visited BayWalk and dined at our own 'Po Folks' Restaurant, before heading home on New Year's Eve. They were traveling by Delta.

### HAD A PURR-FECT VISIT

For the past two holiday weeks, 'Yours Truly' enjoyed having Annette T. St. HS Simmons, my oldest granddaughter, as my houseguest. She arrived in town Dec. 22 from Syracuse, NY. My granddaughter is looking better every day. It must run in the family.

The St. Pete native enjoyed being home for the holidays. She hadn't spent them here in 39 years. While here, she spent time with her other grandmother, Theresa Stotts, a Jordan Park resident, and other relatives.

Annette was the best gift Ole St. Nick could have brought me. After a most enjoyable visit, she bid us Adieu Jan. 3 as she headed home to the ice and snow. I miss her already.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE ANNUAL CELEBRATION

We tested our party endurance skills by attending a New Year's Eve celebration party at the Lake Maggiore abode of Agnes and Otis Baker. The Bakers entertained family and friends, where good food, conversation, homemade wine and a charming hostess plus music and dancing made it a rather warm and enjoyable New Year's Eve.

Among adults ringing out the old year and welcoming the New Year together were: Theresa G. Stotts, Ricky and Fredricka Shelton, Alex

and Jemeaka Baker, Henry McClendon, Theresa A. Stotts Simmons of Syracuse, NY and Constance Bennett, along with plenty of jolly, dancing kids who witnessed the countdown. It was a happy, swinging party that we will remember for a long, long time.

### HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Bridget Norris spent the jolly holidays with her mother, Barbara Norris of Second Avenue South. As usual, she and her mother spent the time doing things together, but most of all, just being together.

St. Petersburg's own jazzman, Rick Gee, entertained visiting family and friends over the Christmas holidays. Swinging jazz music accompanied by vocal sounds of joy could be heard coming from Rick's lovely home in Pinellas Point last Tuesday evening. Enjoying their visit with Rick were his cousin Marlene and her husband Tom Gray from Lakeland. Cousins Sally Johnson, Louise Higgins and Katherine James from the Poconos, New York, Newark and Linden, New Jersey respectively also enjoyed the hospitality of cousin Rick Gee. Coming in from Farmville, Va. was cousin Janet and her husband Bob Gwatney. Joining them from just a few miles away, the Gwatney's daughter Robin Harris of Clearwater was also on the scene. A surprise of the evening was the unexpected visit of cousin Ronald Trent from Somerset, New Jersey who just happened to decide to catch the train on down for the grand holiday gathering.

Also participating in the family holiday festivities were some of Rick's friends from St. Petersburg. Enjoying great jazz and indulging in fabulous cuisine prepared by the host were good friends Yvonne Alsup, Amers and Selma Ayers, Tom and Nobie Packer, Van and Beverly Duck, Chris and Mary Robinson, Rev. Bobby Yarbrough, and Dorothy Hill. As the evening came to an end, everyone left with the promise of gathering again in 2005.

### CONGRATULATIONS

to Larry Donell Woodard and his devoted wife, Linda of 13th Avenue South, who will have been married 22 years Jan. 9. Congrats to you both. May you live to celebrate 22 more.

\*\*\*

### JOY

A Happy New Year chock full of happy times to all my readers and friends. Serving you has made me happy!

Until New Write Around, STAY LOOSE!

## The Palladium and Al Downing Jazz Tampa Bay Jazz Association Present Piano Sensation Kenny Drew, Jr.



The gifted pianist, Kenny Drew Jr.

TAMPA BAY - The Palladium Theater and the Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association are presenting the extraordinary Kenny Drew Jr. Trio at The Palladium Theater in downtown St. Petersburg on Saturday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.

Drew Jr. is an exceptional pianist educated and gifted in both jazz and classical music. He has played at many of the major jazz clubs throughout the world

The Blue Note and The Village Gate in New York, The Jazz Showcase in Chicago, One Step Down in D.C. and many others. He has performed with other great jazz musicians, including Stanley

Turrentine, Slide Hampton and the Jazz Masters, the Mingus Big Band, and Frank Morgan.

Drew has ten albums to his credit as a leader and has numerous recordings as a sideman. He has performed at musical festivals worldwide, as well as, appeared on jazz cruises including the Queen Elizabeth 2 Jazz Cruise.

Whether appearing in a group or solo, playing classical music or jazz, Drew is an accomplished musician and a talent not to be missed.

Playing with Drew will be Tom Carabasi on drums. Also, a recording artist, Tom's groove transports the group to a place that pulls the audience right into a very special musical experience.

Richard Drexler on bass completes this trio and brings to the group his own special talent as an arranger and musician with recordings to his credit.

Drew and his two sidemen, Carabasi and Drexler are a trio you don't want to

miss! Admission at the door is \$25 for general, \$20 for seniors and jazz club members, and \$15 for students and children. There is a \$5.00 discount on all pre-sale tickets. Tickets for the performance may be purchased through the PALLADIUM box office 727-822-3590 or on-line at <http://www.palladiumtheater.com>.

The Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association, Inc. was founded in 1989 by Tampa Bay's jazz legend, pianist Al Downing. The Jazz Club's focus is to promote and encourage through live jazz performances, the appreciation and understanding of America's original art form. In addition, the Club's efforts to "Keep Jazz Alive" continue to be strengthened by its Music Education Scholarship Program for youths interested in jazz, and it's policy of informing the public of local area live jazz events.

## Tampa High School Suffers Fourth Death In 20 Months

TAMPA (AP) - A local high school is reeling from its fourth death in 20 months - and its second in one week - after a basketball player was gunned down during a fight.

T.R. Robinson High School freshman Johnathon Simmons, 15, was fatally shot on Dec. 28 when a fight broke out at a Bradenton block party. The shooting came just two days after Vanderbilt running back Kwane Doster, a former Robinson football

star, was fatally shot while riding in a car in Tampa's Ybor City neighborhood.

In April 2003, the 1,250-student school also lost Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Aviles, 18, a former class president who was killed in Iraq. And the school's principal, Kevin McCarthy, 39, died suddenly of a heart attack Nov. 16, 2003.

"Everybody at Robinson is kind of shaking their heads," said Simmons' homeroom teacher, varsity

basketball coach Steve Smith Jr. "Man, this is unbelievable, the amount of death the school and community has had to endure in the last couple of years. There's been a lot of tragedy in our school."

Bradenton police issued a warrant for a 17-year-old they believe is involved in Simmons' shooting. They did not provide a motive or any other information about the suspect.

## Suspect In Death Of Vanderbilt Football Player Surrenders

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) - A man charged with killing a Vanderbilt football player turned himself in on Dec. 31, police said.

Rodney "Roscoe" Roman was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Kwane Doster, a running back with Vanderbilt, and two counts of attempted murder, Tampa police spokesman Joe Durkin said.

Roman was accompanied by his lawyer, Daniel Castillo, when he surrendered at the Hillsborough County jail, Durkin said.

"My client is not the person they are looking for," Castillo told *The Tampa Tribune*. "They got the wrong guy."

Doster was shot to death Sunday after his friends got in a dispute with three other men about whose car was better, Durkin said.

Police said Roman, who is in his late 20s, fired the shot that killed Doster and was the driver of the

car that pulled up alongside the vehicle Doster was riding in Sunday.

Roman's lawyer did not immediately return a message last Friday seeking comment.

Doster was the first Vanderbilt player recognized as the Southeastern Conference Freshman of the Year in 2002 after setting a team record of 798 rushing yards.

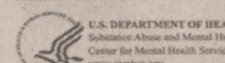
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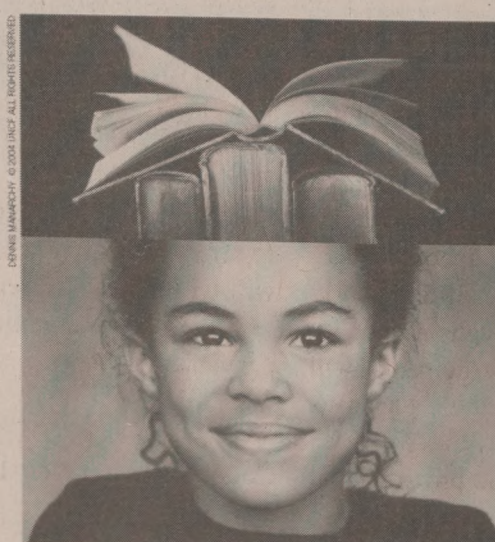
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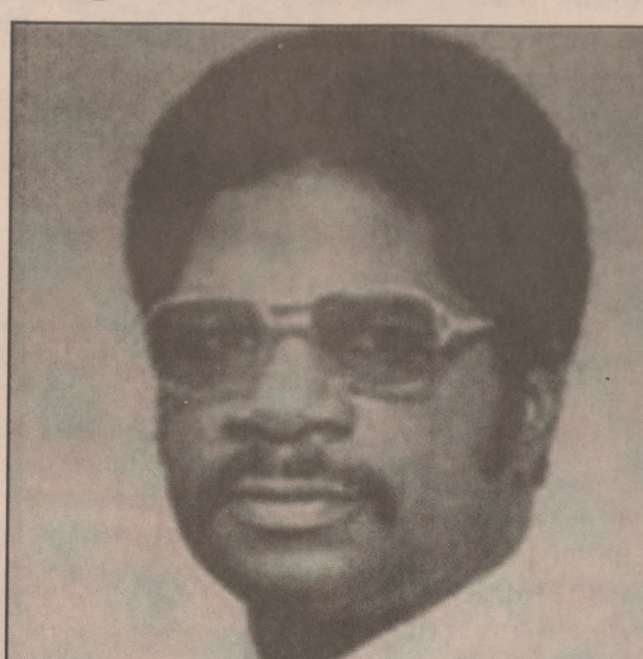
## From The Pages Of The St. Petersburg NAACP



Attorney Darryl Rouson was reinstalled as the new NAACP president. This is his third term serving unopposed.



Past NAACP Presidents include Dr. Ralph Wimbish, who led a boycott and legal action against Webb's City to force the store to serve African Americans at the lunch counter, and Attorney Morris Milton, who worked tirelessly to further the political influence of African Americans.



by Linda Hardaway  
Watkins  
NAACP Secretary

From the earliest years of its existence, to the reorganization in 1933, the St. Petersburg Branch of the NAACP has been blessed with a strong, fearless group of Black citizens who were determined to have equalization of citizenship and human rights. Therefore, it was no surprise that this city was one first in Florida to organize a Branch with Noah W. Griffin as its first President. It was under Mr. Griffin's leadership that the fight for equalization of teacher salaries, teacher materials and tenure began. It was also a time for unfair Black/White court procedures, a fight which continued during each administration.

Other past Presidents from 1933 until the pres-

ent: the Rev. John W. Carter, J.A. Whitehurst, the Rev. Grant McCrary, F.A. Dunn (also served many years as Chairman of the Legal Redress Committee), the Rev. O.M. McAdams, the Rev. J.J. Fennell, Dr. Ralph Wimbish, Attorney I.W. Williams, Roy Holmes and Attorney Morris Milton, who served the Branch nine years. Under his leadership, many suits were filed in the courts and completed, the last being that of Single Member Districts for the State of Florida. The State has complied, and the results afforded many Blacks the opportunity to run and become elected to the House of Representatives and the first Black woman Senator. Mrs. Garnell Jenkins the first female to serve as President of the Branch for 22 years.

Men in the past had

served diligently, but females such as O.B. McLin (first Secretary), Mrs. Fannie ponder, Mrs. Anderson (the first NAACP Queen), Mrs. Gussie Randolph, Mrs. Charlie Mae Grogan and Mrs. Manior, to name a few, have always been in the forefront in the struggle. The young people then, now adults were Tim Johnson, Major Benton, Meline Levin, L.D. Brown and Katie Lou Postell.

This brings us to the new president, Attorney Darryl Ervin Rouson serving his third term unopposed.

Each of us can become a viable part of the present by becoming actively involved in the St. Petersburg Branch in 2005.

The new officers of the Branch were installed, Saturday, Jan. 1st Greater Mt. Zion AME, Pastor

Clarence Williams extended a heartfelt welcome and the Mass choir rendered the music.

Pastor Ricky Houston of Bethel Metropolitan delivered the address for the Installation of new officers and the Emancipation Proclamation. He challenged the officers to deliver more than speeches to the community, to continue to serve all people in the community. The accomplishments have been many and the challenge is even greater for 2005-2006.

President Rouson was sworn in with: 1st Vice President, Trenia Cox, 2nd Vice President, Harry Harvey, 3rd Vice President, Norman Brow, Secretary, Linda Hardaway Watkins, Assistant Secretary, Juliette Wanke, Treasurer, Brenda Conyers-Nelson the executive committee.

President Rouson challenged the officers and board to get ready to do more in 2005 and be ready to demonstrate to the community and the corporate community we will not tolerate being excluded from the board rooms. The latest victory, Dr. Reggie Ligon being placed on the board of directors of Freedom Bank. The NAACP St. Petersburg branch will meet with Mayor Baker and others in the city to address areas of inclusion.

The branch's first general membership meeting will be held at New Philadelphia Community Church, Rev. Don Gaskin, Pastor, on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.

The community is invited to this open forum meeting. The ACTSO Department of the NAACP will be the highlight for this meeting. Please be in attendance. For information contact the branch at (727) 898-3310.

## The Real 'Coach Carter' To Speak At USF For MLK Celebration

TAMPA – Famed high school basketball coach Ken Carter will be the featured speaker for the University of South Florida's Martin Luther King Jr. celebration Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. The speech will be in the Special Events Center and is free and open to the public.

Carter is the subject of the upcoming film "Coach Carter," starring Samuel L. Jackson and scheduled for release Jan. 14. The film chronicles Carter's experience as head basketball coach at Richmond High School where students were failing both on and off the court. In two years he led the team to the California state play-offs, but when the players broke a contract of academic achievement, Carter made the bold move to lock the undefeated team out of the gym until grades improved.

USF is also sponsoring an advanced screening of "Coach Carter" on Jan. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Special

Events Center. Admission is free and open to the public, however, student groups will be accepting donations for the American Red Cross tsunami relief efforts.

Carter's personal philosophy, "Average is just not good enough. Period!" shines through in his lessons of accountability, integrity, teamwork and leadership.

The film screening and Carter's lecture are some of the many activities planned for a two-week celebration of King's legacy. USF students join hundreds more Tampa residents in a day of service throughout the Bay area on Jan. 15, at 8:30 a.m., and at the annual City of Tampa MLK Parade on Jan. 17 at 12 p.m. Campus activities include a candlelight vigil Jan. 18, at 7 p.m., in the Phyllis P. Marshall Center Ballroom as well as other festivals and lectures. For a detailed schedule of MLK events at USF, visit [ctr.usf.edu/multicultural2/](http://ctr.usf.edu/multicultural2/).

## All Are Invited To The 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service

ST. PETERSBURG – Congregations United for Community Action (CUCA), on behalf of the St. Petersburg Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee, is organizing a Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service. The service takes place on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 4 p.m.

at the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg (719 Arlington Ave. N). The Rev. Curtiss Long, pastor of New Faith Free Methodist Church and co-chair of CUCA, will give the commemorative address, recalling early struggles in the Civil Rights movement and the perti-

nence of Dr. King's message today. Top winners of the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. essay contest sponsored by the Commemorative Committee will read their essays.

All are invited to attend the ecumenical service that will include representatives from Protestant,

Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and Bahai congregations, among others. The service is expected to last about an hour, with refreshments following. Parking is on the north and south sides of the church, and on surrounding streets.

## Pinellas County Announces Redevelopment Draft Plan Summit

PINELLAS COUNTY – The dates have been set for Pinellas County's Redevelopment Draft Plan Summit. On Feb. 1-3, citizens, local government representatives, business people and community leaders will come together to discuss plans for redevelopment in Pinellas County.

This will be the third redevelopment summit hosted by the Pinellas Planning Council and Pinellas County's Board of County Commissioners. This year's event will feature four half-day workshops throughout Pinellas County. Participants will build on the consensus reached at the previous summits and provide input

for the final redevelopment plan.

Sessions are scheduled as follows:

• Feb. 1, 1 - 5 p.m., at Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater

• Feb. 2, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., at USF St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg

• Feb. 2, 6 - 9 p.m., at Largo Cultural Center, Largo

• Feb. 3, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m., at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church Hall, Tarpon

The content presented at each of these workshops will be identical. To register for the workshop most convenient for you, visit [www.siliconbay.org/registration](http://www.siliconbay.org/registration) or phone Pinellas County Economic De-

velopment at (727) 464-7332. To learn more about redevelopment in Pinellas County visit [www.siliconbay.org/redevelopment](http://www.siliconbay.org/redevelopment).

### Redevelopment Background

Over time, geography and population growth have combined to produce an unavoidable effect: developable vacant land is diminishing throughout Pinellas County. Within the next few years, the county will reach buildout, in which nearly 100 percent of the greenfields will be gone. This includes a diminishing supply of land for new homes, businesses, roads, and other needs.

By definition, redevelopment is a process in which older structures are

rehabilitated or replaced, and new, sometimes different uses replace the old ones. Successful redevelopment projects include older downtowns renewed with townhomes and shops, obsolete malls reborn as open-air shopping centers, and updated beach communities. To keep the local economy thriving, Pinellas County has embarked on a unique redevelopment strategy that includes facilitating new construction projects, updating, and renovating older commercial/industrial buildings for a variety of mixed-use, residential and commercial projects.

Well, there goes your resolution to stop lying about your age.

Here's to another year of bluffing your age and getting away with it. Happy New Year from Olay Total Effects. Visit [Olay.com](http://Olay.com) for a free sample.

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## Kid's CORNER

### Making the Grade

by Jared Houston

It's fun to participate in sports, especially if you're good at them. But it's not a piece of cake maintaining good grades at the same time.

In my busy schedule, I devote time to both school and sports. I don't care what anyone says — it's difficult to do both. It is, however, very possible to accomplish as long as you're focused.

Anybody who knows me knows that I love sports

but don't play around when it comes to schoolwork. I'm very aware that people can succeed in life without playing sports but can't succeed without a good education. You can still make a lot of money if you're not a professional athlete.

Yet sports bring a lot of enjoyment to life. I play football for the Lakewood Jr. Spartans Varsity Mites. During the week we have practice from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. The actual games

are scheduled on Saturday afternoons. It's tough to squeeze in all of my homework and studying, especially when I'm tired from long school days and great, but exhausting exercise from football. But I manage to do it, and usually make straight A's on my report card.

If you want to keep playing sports, it's important to juggle the homework responsibilities. You get a sense of satisfaction, and kudos from your parents and peers, if you're able to balance your sports and grades. You are truly gifted if you can play sports and do well in school, too.

Jared Houston is a 7th grader at Academy Prep in St. Petersburg.

## Pinellas County Installs Elected Constitutional Officers

PINELLAS COUNTY — Re-elected and newly elected county officials took the oath of office on Dec. 28 to begin four-year terms in service to the citizens of Pinellas County. Family members, staff and friends packed the Commissioners Assembly Room in the County Courthouse to attend the ceremony.

The officials are known as constitutional officers, because their positions were created in the Florida Constitution.

The following officials took the oath of office: Tax Collector Diane Nelson, Chief Judge David Demers officiating; Clerk of the Circuit Court Ken Burke, Judge Irene Sullivan offici-



Ken Burke takes oath of office as the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

ating; Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark, Judge Patrick Caddell officiating; and Property Appraiser Jim Smith, Judge Catherine Harlan officiating.

Jim Coats was sworn in as Pinellas County Sheriff in a separate ceremony on Dec. 27 in Court-

room D of the County Courthouse with Judge Ray Gross officiating.

Nelson, Clark and Smith ran unopposed in their bids for re-election in November. Burke and Coats are beginning first terms in their respective offices.

## Radio Station WMNF Hosts Annual Book and Record Sale

TAMPA BAY — On Saturday, Jan. 15, WMNF 88.5 will offer their seventh Annual Book and Record Sale, at the Cuban

Club Cantina, 2010 Avenida República de Cuba in Ybor City. Open to the public, the sale starts at 9:30 a.m. and is expected

to run until about 4 p.m. The purpose of the sale is to raise funds for WMNF, a noncommercial, nonprofit community radio station.

Thousands of books, CDs, vinyl albums, DVDs, VHS, and working audio equipment, donated by WMNF listeners, will be

available at yard-sale prices. New this year: Breakfast will be served by The Pancake Man for those in line!

## Public Health, Epidemiology and Prevention

Volume 5, Number 7

# PEP Talk

January 2005

A publication of the

## Pinellas County Health Department

### Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

## Regular Exams Can Help Prevent Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer takes years to develop and grow. This cancer does not form suddenly. First, some cells begin to change from normal to precancer and then to cancer. This can take a number of years although sometimes it happens more quickly.

Cervical cancer was once one of the most common causes of cancer death for American women. But, since 1955 the number of deaths from cervical cancer has declined significantly. The main reason for this change is the use of the Papanicolaou (Pap) test to find cervical cancer early.

While it's true that cervical cancer has been reduced in the U.S., there are still nearly 4,000 deaths from cervical cancer every year. In Florida, 730 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed this year. Most of these women do not get regular Pap tests which can detect most early signs of cervical cancer. In fact, according to the American Cancer Society, more than 60% of women diagnosed with cervical cancer have never had a Pap test.

Up to 99 percent of cervical cancer cases are linked to the human papilloma virus (HPV), a sexually transmitted infection. There is a test to detect HPV. While most women infected with HPV will not develop cervical cancer, doctors urge women to be aware of this important risk factor, and to get Pap tests regularly.

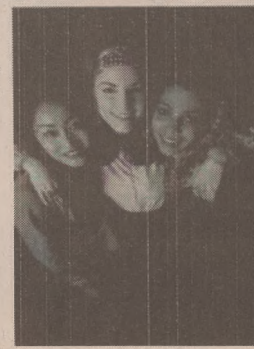


### Other Risk Factors Include:

- ◆ Increasing age
- ◆ No prior Pap smear screening
- ◆ Multiple sexual partners, or high-risk male partners
- ◆ First intercourse at an early age
- ◆ Sexually transmitted diseases
- ◆ Smoking
- ◆ Using non-barrier birth control methods

### Regular Exams are Essential

Some women think that they do not need pelvic exams or Pap tests once they have stopped having children. This is not true. The pelvic exam may help spot diseases of the female organs. However, it won't find cancer of the cervix at an early stage. To do that, the Pap test is needed.



The Pap test is often done just before the pelvic exam. The doctor will remove cells from the cervix by gently brushing or scraping with a special device. The cells are sent to a lab to be examined under a microscope for abnormal changes.

The American Cancer Society recommends that all women should begin having the Pap test about three years after they start having sex (vaginal intercourse) but no later than 21 years of age. The test should be done every year if the regular Pap test is used, or every two to three years if the newer liquid-based Pap test is used. Either test is okay.

Beginning at age 30, women who have had three normal test results in a row may get the test every two to three years.

Check with your doctor. Women who have certain risk factors (HIV infection, weakened immune system) should have a Pap test every year and should possibly be screened for HPV. Check with your doctor for more information regarding risk factors.

Women 70 years or older who have had three or more normal tests in a row (and no abnormal tests in the last 10 years) may choose to stop having the test. Women who have had cervical cancer or who have other risk factors should keep on having the test as long as they are in good health.

Women who have had a total hysterectomy (removal of the uterus and cervix) for reasons other than having cancer or a precancerous lesion may also choose to stop having the test.

The Pinellas County Health Department has a FREE Breast & Cervical Cancer Screening Program for women who have low income and are 50 to 64 years of age. This program includes breast and pelvic exam, Pap test, and mammogram. Call us at (727) 824-6917 for info or to make an appointment.



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NEW February 2005 Wal-Mart Superstore, 3501 34th Street S.

## ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!!

Do you have a few hours each week you would like to share? St. Petersburg College, Midtown Campus located in the St. Petersburg Housing Authority's Center for Achievement on the corner of 22nd Street and 10th Avenue South is in need of volunteer tutors in:

Reading  
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Biology  
Mathematics  
Elementary Algebra  
Intermediate Algebra  
College Algebra  
Receptionists are also needed!

Hours are flexible Monday – Thursday from 9:30am – 8:30pm and Friday 9:30am – 4:00pm

Enjoy volunteer benefits including access to athletic facility and library privileges, bookstore discounts and access to college-sponsored events.

Give a few hours each week and become an important part of your community college.

Call St. Petersburg College, Special Services at (727) 341-4303.



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## Classes Now Available At The Business Assistance Center

ST. PETERSBURG — The St. Petersburg Business Assistance Center (BAC) offers business training and counseling sessions to assist evolving and existing small businesses with business assistance. Our services are free unless indicated. All sessions are conducted at 33 Sixth St. S, Suite 301.

Below is the schedule for January 2005:

The BAC will be closed Monday, Jan. 17, 2005 in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

Monday through Friday, the Business Resource Center is available. The Business Resource Center is located within the Business Assistance Center. It has personal computers equipped with business software and Internet access, graphic workstations, CD-ROM technology, interactive videos, and an extensive business reference library; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"Business Assessments" by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). SCORE's Business Assessment Program analyses how well a business is planned, financed, structured, organized, controlled, and managed. Following the assessment, the business will receive a written report for each of the 16 areas examined with recommendations for improving the problem areas identified in the assessment. To schedule an assessment or for more information, call (727) 893-7146.

"Business Mentoring" by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). Long-term, one-on-one assistance to business owners. For more information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 3, 24

• "10 Steps to Small Business Success" workshop by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) - A step-by-step

approach to starting a small business designed to increase the possibility of success; 6 to 8 p.m. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 4

• "Effective Business Use of Your Computer" workshop sponsored by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) - Learn how computers can enhance your business; 6 to 8 p.m. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 4, 6-7, 11, 13-14, 18, 20-21, 25, 27-28

• "Business Counseling" sessions by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) - A one-on-one meeting with a business counselor to assess your steps and plan for business startup or expansion; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 27

• "Business Loan Counseling and Assistance" sessions by Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corp.

Discuss your plans to finance your business and receive help to identify conventional and non-conventional loan sources; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (727) 826-5785.

### Jan. 5

• "Steps to Start a Business" workshop by USF Small Business Development Center. Find out if your business idea is feasible, how to market your business, why you need a business plan, where to get the money to start your business, licenses needed, etc.; 6 to 8 p.m. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26

• "Business Counseling" sessions by USF Small Business Development Center - A one-on-one meeting with a business

counselor to assess your steps and plan for business startup or expansion; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 6, 11, 13

• "Business Loan Counseling and Assistance" sessions by Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corp.

Discuss your plans to finance your business and receive help to identify conventional and non-conventional loan sources; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (727) 826-5785.

### Jan. 11

• "How to Make Your Business Thrive Not Just Survive, Part 1" workshop by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)

The first of a two-part workshop on a systematic approach to solving business problems; 6 to 8 p.m. Attendees are required to attend both workshops. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 12

• "How to Write a Business Plan" workshop by USF Small Business Development Center

Learn how to develop and implement a successful business plan; 6 to 8 p.m. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 13

• "How to Do Business with Pinellas County" workshop by Pinellas County Purchasing Department

Learn about becoming an approved vendor, locating bid opportunities and placement on bid lists; 1 to 3 p.m. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 18

• "Food Manager Certification" workshop by the Florida Division of Hotels and Restaurants

A review of the Food Manager Certification Program and the requirements for the exam. The cost for the workshop is free to businesses registered with the Division of Hotels and Restaurants, and \$10 for non-registered businesses; 9 a.m. to 12 noon. To register for the workshop, or for further information, call (800) 704-1076.

• "How to Make Your Business Thrive Not Just Survive, Part 2" workshop by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)

The second of a two-part workshop on a systematic approach to solving business problems; 6 to 8 p.m. Attendees are required to attend both workshops. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 19

• "What Lenders Look for in a Loan Application" workshop by Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corp.

Learn how lenders make small business loan decisions; 6 to 8 p.m. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 25

• "Planning for Your Business" workshop by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) Gain an understanding of the planning phase of business management and accepted methods for preparing a business plan; 6 to 8 p.m. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

### Jan. 27

• "SBA Programs and Services-Access to Capital" workshop by the U.S. Small Business Administration

An overview of the U.S. Small Business Administration's loan programs and resources; 6 to 8 p.m. To register or for further information, call (727) 893-7146.

## Urban Bush Women To Perform In Ferguson Hall

TAMPA — Brooklyn-based performance ensemble Urban Bush Women comes to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center's Ferguson Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m.

Founded in 1984 by choreographer Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, Urban Bush Women ensemble members combine their formal dance training with a wide range of vocal, theater and performance techniques. Their work is frequently based on personal stories and women's lore, and is drawn from African traditions. The members of Urban Bush Women are dedicated to exploring art as a catalyst for social change, creative expression and spiritual renewal.

Dance magazine describes the company's programs as "heart-wrenching, soul-searching works that communicate the ecstasy and agony of the human condition."

Urban Bush Women received the 1992 New York Dance and Performance Award, the 1994 Capezio Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance and the 1998 Doris Duke Award for New Work from the American Dance Festival.

Urban Bush Women is presented annually in its home base of New York City and tours extensively each year. In addition to major United States ven-



ues, the company has performed at such prestigious festivals as Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the New Haven International Festival of Art and Ideas and the National Black Arts Festival. The company has also performed at international venues in Switzerland, England, France, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Mozambique, Portugal, Singapore, Hong Kong, Finland, Austria, the Netherlands and Israel.

Zollar received her Masters of Fine Arts in Dance from Florida State University and has created nearly 40 dances, served as artist in residence at major institutions across the

nation and received numerous citations, grants, commissions and awards for her innovative choreographic work. In addition to more than 30 works for Urban Bush Women, Zollar has created works for Ballet Arizona, Philadanco, the University of Maryland and the University of Florida.

As part of its mission and outreach effort, Urban Bush Women presents annual workshops, lecture demonstrations, performances and long-term residencies at the community level. In 1997, they established a Summer Dance Institute in partnership with Florida State Uni-

versity.

Urban Bush Women plays in Ferguson Hall on Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$19.50 and \$32.50. Tickets may be purchased by calling 813.229.STAR (7827) or 800.955.1045 outside Tampa Bay, in person at The Center Ticket Office or online at TBPAC.ORG. For groups of 12 or more, call (813) 222-1016 or (813) 222-1018. For more information about the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center and its upcoming events, please visit the center's website at TBPAC.ORG.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Focuses On National Mentoring Month

by Susan Rolston

January is National Mentoring Month, a perfect time to make a New Year's Resolution to call Big Brothers Big Sisters and volunteer to mentor a child. It's unfair that in this great community of ours too many children — simply by virtue of their birth — do not have an equal chance in life. In Pinellas County more than 38% of our children live at or below the poverty level, many being raised by a single parent or grandparent trying to make ends meet. Our mission is to help these children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one mentor relationships. Not surprising is that the Big's life is enriched as a result of the mentor relationship.

The full meaning of the work of Big Brothers Big Sisters was highlighted nationwide in 2004, with the Centennial Celebration of the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the country. Locally, the impact of our life-changing mission was demonstrated again and again in the stories of matches made years — even decades — ago, which created friendships that thrive today. Families came forward to recognize the Big that had made such a difference in the life of their child, and Littles, who became Bigs themselves because of the impact a Big had on them. The nation's

oldest Little, 86 year old Victor, resides in Pasco County. He recalls getting in trouble as a young boy being raised by a frail mother and no father. A neighbor took the initiative to contact Big Brothers Big Sisters on his behalf. The rest of the story, told by this retired military officer, is how his life was changed forever by a volunteer Big Brother he'll never forget. Big Brothers Big Sisters has been around for 100 years because our programs work; an independent study conducted by Public/Private Ventures confirms that our programs help children improve school performance and behavior, keep them off drugs and alcohol and out

of the juvenile justice system. In the January 2004 edition of *Forbes Magazine*, Big Brothers Big Sisters was rated one of the top ten organizations to invest your charitable contributions in. It's measurable, it's quantifiable and it's good for kids.

Right now there are more than 149 children waiting for a Big Brother, Big Sister or Big Couple to bring this kind of positive change, as well as some magic to their lives. There is a serious fault line that has opened up and children are falling through; we must close the gap. This is Big Brothers Big Sisters; this is what we do every day with our dedicated professional staff. It's the

reciprocal influences on one another that are artfully created through mentoring relationships. Mentoring a child is at the heart of American character; a deep seated commitment to extend beyond ourselves to make this community healthier by investing in its children.

Please call your local Big Brothers Big Sisters office today, or visit our web site at [www.bbbspc.org](http://www.bbbspc.org); join us as we embark on our second century of service enriching the lives of children through one-to-one mentoring relationships.

Susan Rolston serves as CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Pinellas County.

"She's a very successful black woman."

Together we can stamp out prejudice. It only takes one voice to make a difference. Find yours at [www.freedomcenter.org](http://www.freedomcenter.org)



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- How to effectively communicate with your teen about sex
- Signs of Drug/Alcohol and Violence (gangs) Prevention

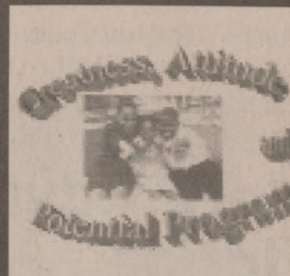
### Where:

**Clearwater:** YMCA of the High Point Branch, N. Greenwood Aquatic and Recreation Center  
**Largo:** Middle School  
**St. Petersburg:** Campbell and Child's Park Recreation Center, Salvation Army and James B. Sanderlin Center  
**Tarpon:** CAP (Citizen Alliance for Progress) Center, Union Academy

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# STATE NEWS

## Jeb Bush: Hurricanes Pale Next To Tsunami



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, left, talks with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, as Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, the American President's brother, looks on after their meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 5 in Jakarta, Indonesia. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, several days into a tour of areas ravaged by an earthquake-spawned tsunami, was still talking like a man in shock Wednesday after flying over a muddy brown moonscape of hundreds of flattened palm trees and shattered houses.

AP Photo/Suzanne Plunkett

by Joseph Coleman  
Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said Tuesday that his experience in last year's hurricanes help him assess the damage in Asia's tsunami catastrophe, but that the American disaster paled in comparison to the Asian one.

Bush, who arrived in Thailand on Monday night with Secretary of State Colin Powell to tour devastated areas here and in Indonesia, said the death and destruction across southern Asia was on an awesome scale.

"We had nothing compared to that," Bush told The Associated Press at Bangkok's Don Muang air force base. "When you have 150,000 people who died over 11 countries, that goes way beyond what anybody's experienced in

our own country."

Bush joined Powell in meetings with Thai officials before heading to the resort island of Phuket, which was ravaged by the Dec. 26 tsunami that wiped out coastal communities across southern Asia.

The Florida governor said he was in the region at the request of his brother, President Bush. While the governor said he brought some natural disaster experience following the four hurricanes that hit his state last year, he said he also wanted to demonstrate the president's heartfelt commitment to the recovery effort.

"I will give him my observations," said Bush, who plans to return to Washington on Thursday before an international donors conference in Jakarta, Indonesia. "What I'll tell him ... is that the United



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, right, accompanied by Indonesian Welfare Minister Alwi Shihab, center, and Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, background, walks towards a U.S. Navy Seahawk helicopter at Banda Aceh airport in Aceh province, Indonesia, to inspect the tsunami-ravaged area Wednesday, Jan. 5.

AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko

States' response has been very impressive. It's been quick, and it's been the kind that the American people would want for a tragedy like this."

While the United States was initially accused of reacting too slowly, Washington has now pledged \$350 million to help with the relief effort, and the U.S. military is mounting one of its largest missions in Asia since the Vietnam War to rescue survivors and bring food and other supplies to devastated areas.

Despite the difference in scale, Florida's and Thailand's disasters have similarities, said Bush.

Both suffered environmental damage, and Bush said he could offer some assessment of beach erosion and damage to mangroves and coral reefs and how to restore tourism.

"One of the elements that we've learned is economic development, (the need) to jump start the economy quickly," he said. "It looks as though the Thai experience is really quite similar to Florida in the sense that they rely on tourism a lot."

In Phuket, Bush expressed condolences to tsunami victims and thanked relief workers and the consular corps, calling them "true heroes ... working 24 hours a day without asking anything in return, acting on their sense of compassion."

On behalf of the president, first lady and all Americans, he said the United States will stand "with the leaders of this region and people of this region to provide support not only for the relief and the recovery, but on a long-term basis."

## Endowed Scholarship Established In Honor Of Rev. Rogers P. Fair

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The legacy of Rogers P. Fair will live on at Bethune-Cookman College through an endowed scholarship established by his widow, Agnes Fair.

"This scholarship means a lot to me in the fact that his life will be continued through helping others," Mrs. Fair said. "Bethune-Cookman College meant everything to him. He may have graduated from Clark [College, now Clark-Atlanta University] but Bethune-Cookman was his heart."

Handpicked by Bethune-Cookman College founder Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune to be the first College chaplain, Rev. Fair

served as the campus' spiritual advisor for 47 years until his retirement in 1994. His tenure was among the longest in the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Fair, who passed away in March 2004, came to Daytona Beach in 1947 after the Methodist Church transferred him from South Carolina to serve as pastor of Stewart Memorial Church and Bethune-Cookman College.

He was listed in "Who's Who Among American Clergymen 1973-89," received more than 200 citations and honors throughout his career, including a 1991 award by the Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministries

of the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church for Rare and Most Distinguished Service to Christian Higher Education and Campus Ministries.

"After church and family, his goal was to direct as many people as possible to Jesus Christ," said Dr. James Huger, a member of the College's Associate Board of Trustees. "Believe it or not, he was successful. He will live on in their lives as a shining example of one who tried to help his fellow man."

He is still held in high regard by the Bethune-Cookman College family. "In all my years here, I never once saw him angry," said campus pho-

tographer John Reeves. "He would walk into a room and the place would simply light up thanks to his smile and his voice."

The scholarship is earmarked for students planning to enter the ministry.

"Bethune-Cookman College is better for the service of Rogers P. Fair and this scholarship will both preserve his memory and service to mankind," said College President Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed. "I extend my gratitude to Mrs. Fair for making this possible and keeping alive the vibrant memories of a remarkable human being."

## More Adult Flu Vaccine Shots Available In Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Eight thousand additional doses of adult flu vaccine have arrived in Florida from California, state health officials announced Monday.

State Health Secretary John Agwunobi also said Monday that additional shipments of flu vaccine

are expected on an ongoing basis, but that officials are continuing to recommend that only high-risk people or those who live with people in high-risk groups should get flu shots.

The high risk adults who should get vaccinated include those with chronic health conditions, people

over 65, pregnant women, nursing home residents, health care workers, and those who care for an infant.

Officials also recommend that children aged 6 months to 35 months also be vaccinated.

Flu vaccine is less available this year follow-

ing the removal in October of 48 million doses of adult vaccine from the U.S. market after a major British supplier had a problem with bacterial contamination.

So far, state flu cases have been light, but Florida's flu season is just starting, Agwunobi said.

## Chisholm from front page

Born Shirley St. Hill in New York City, on Nov. 30, 1924, she was the eldest of four daughters of Caribbean immigrants.

She began her professional career as a nursery school teacher, eventually becoming director of a day

care center, and later serving as an educational consultant with the city's child care department. She became active in local Democratic politics and ran successfully for the state Assembly in 1964.

After leaving Congress, Chisholm was named to the Purington Chair at Mount Holyoke

College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, where she taught for four years. In later years she was a sought-after speaker on the lecture circuit.

Chisholm was married twice. Her 1949 marriage to Conrad Chisholm ended in divorce in February, 1977. Later that year she wed Arthur Hardwick, Jr.,

who died in 1986. She had no children.

Once discussing what her legacy might be, Shirley Chisholm commented, "I'd like them to say that Shirley Chisholm had guts. That's how I'd like to be remembered."

## B-CC President Speaks At Jackie Robinson Ballpark Renovation Groundbreaking



Bethune-Cookman College President Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed gives remarks at Tuesday's groundbreaking ceremony for renovations at Jackie Robinson Ballpark.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — As a ninth-grade student attending an NAACP convention, Bethune-Cookman College President Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed met baseball legend Jackie Robinson.

"He asked us what are our goals for education," Dr. Reed recalled at Tuesday's groundbreaking ceremonies for renovations at Daytona Beach's Jackie Robinson Ballpark. "I will never forget that moment." Representing the role of Bethune-Cookman College and College Founder Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune's in Robinson's ascent to the Major Leagues, Dr. Reed was one of six speakers on a crisp, cool morning at the ballpark where Robinson played his first spring train-

ing game March 17, 1946.

Dr. Bethune provided accommodations for Robinson and his family when they arrived in Daytona Beach in 1946. Daytona Beach was the only Florida city that allowed Robinson to play, thanks in part to Dr. Bethune's influence and political clout.

Dr. Reed stated that Dr. Bethune recognized the importance of Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier. After a year in the minor leagues, Robinson did that in 1947 with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

"She saw something great in Jackie Robinson," Dr. Reed said of Dr. Bethune. "She opened doors in the days of Jim Crow and made it possible."



Reed participated in the ceremonial groundbreaking.



The Bethune-Cookman College baseball team with Sharon Robinson.

Bethune-Cookman College presented an honorary degree to Robinson in 1953. The Wildcat baseball team, who have won six consecutive Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championships, play their home games at the ballpark renamed in Robinson's honor in 1990.

Athletic Director Lynn Thompson, Head Baseball

Coach Meryvl Melendez and several members of the baseball team also attended the ceremony, which included remarks from Sharon Robinson, Jackie's daughter and Vice President of Educational Programming for Major League Baseball.

## Two-Thirds Of Florida's Provisional Ballots Rejected

TALLAHASSEE — Nearly two-thirds of provisional ballots cast on Election Day in Florida weren't counted, mostly because the people casting them weren't registered to vote, state officials said Monday.

Preliminary figures, culled by the state from county elections officials, showed that of 27,742 provisional ballots cast, 9,915 were counted and 17,827 were rejected. The number could be revised but isn't likely to change dramatically.

The federal Help America Vote Act, or HAVA, passed in response to the troubles encountered

in the 2000 presidential election, required the distribution of provisional ballots even if people don't appear to be registered.

The ballots are held until officials determine whether they people were entitled to vote. If they should have been allowed to vote, the ballots count. If not, they are thrown out.

Court rulings last year held that voters must vote in their correct precincts in Florida. In most cases, people who showed up at the wrong precincts were directed to the correct ones, said Jenny Nash, a spokeswoman for the Florida Department of State, which oversees elections.

"The majority of the ones that were rejected were because the people were not registered to vote," Nash said.

An analysis by the Tallahassee Democrat, which polled counties about rejected provisional ballots, found that slightly more than 7 percent were tossed because voters had been purged from the rolls either because they hadn't voted in several years or were found to be ex-felons.

State law requires county election officials to drop voters if they haven't voted in the last two federal elections. They're also told to purge convicted felons whose voting rights

have not been restored.

Relatively few provisional ballots were cast in Florida compared to other states. In Florida, they accounted for three-tenths of a percent of the 7.5 million votes cast.

A provisional ballot is placed in an envelope to keep the vote secret and inside a second envelope with the voter's identifying information. County canvassing boards researched the voter's status to decide if the person was eligible to vote. If someone was deemed ineligible, the envelope was never opened.

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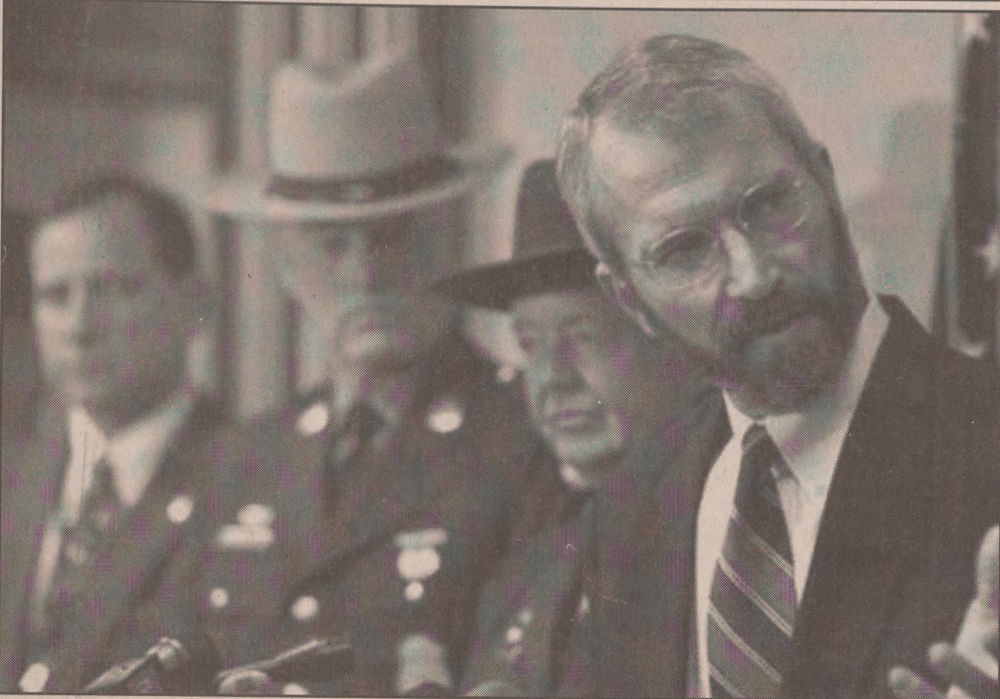
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# NATIONAL NEWS

## Five Suspects Indicted in Md. Arson Spree

Race had been considered a possible motive



by Gretchen Parker  
Associated Press Writer  
GREENBELT, Md. — Five men accused of setting fire to homes under construction in an upscale development outside Washington have been indicted on federal charges, prosecutors said Monday.

The Dec. 6 fires destroyed 10 houses and damaged 16 others in the Hunters Brooke develop-

ment. Damage was estimated at \$10 million.

Interim U.S. Attorney Allen Loucks said a grand jury had indicted Aaron Speed, 21; Patrick Walsh, 20; Jeremy Parady, 20; Michael Everhart, 20; and Roy McCann, 22. All were charged with arson, conspiracy to commit arson, and aiding and abetting the arsons.

Loucks didn't rule out

the possibility that other arrests could be made. The indictment alleges that the five suspects conspired with each other "and with other persons known and unknown to the grand jury."

His declaration included no information about the possible motives, including whether the fires were hate crimes.

Speed was a security

guard at the development and Parady was a volunteer firefighter. Walsh has been described as the ringleader of the group, members of a street racing club known variously as the Family and the Unseen Cavaliers.

Investigators had said they believe the fires were set primarily to gain notoriety for the group although they have looked at other possible motives including revenge - Speed allegedly believed the company did not show concern after the death last year of his infant son. They also looked into race as a possible motive, since many of the families buying homes in the development are black while those arrested are white. Loucks wouldn't comment on the status of a sixth suspect arrested last month, Michael Gilbert, or whether he is cooperating with investigators.

Just one of the houses was occupied at the time of the arsons; it was not significantly damaged and the family was able to return home by around mid-December.

Loucks announced the indictments hours after he was sworn in as interim prosecutor, taking the place of Thomas DiBiagio, who resigned last month to join a Washington law firm. Loucks has been an assistant U.S. attorney since 1994 and will serve as interim U.S. attorney for 120 days or until a replacement is found.

## Cummings from front page

year, the caucus will have 43 members, including 42 House lawmakers and incoming Democratic senator Barack Obama of Illinois, a change Cummings describes as "very, very significant," because those lawmakers represent about 30 million constituents.

But his chairmanship hasn't been without difficulties. The caucus was frequently at odds with the Bush administration.

Bush met with the caucus in his first month in office, but then went more than two years without a meeting. Cummings protested the dearth of meetings by turning down an invitation to the White House in July 2003 after

the president's trip to Africa. Cummings laughs when he recalls running into Bush not long afterward at a conference of the National Urban League. The president, the congressman recalls, asked him: "Why did you dis me, man?"

Cummings described the caucus' relationship with the White House as "very difficult." Yet, Cummings is quick to point out it has been rewarding "because we were able to eke out some victories."

Watt said Cummings has led the caucus diplomatically at a time when the White House is occupied by a Republican president.

"Elijah could have gone out there and kind of gone ballistic on the president and basically blown

up any future possibilities of building a relationship, and he's been careful not to do that," Watt said. "I think he leaves an atmosphere and a climate and an environment that if the president is willing to meet with us and build the relationship, we'd have something to work with."

Cummings, who is the third congressman from Maryland's 7th District to chair the CBC, worked hard to hold joint news conferences with other congressional groups, such as the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

"You must form coalitions with others," he said. Cummings said the caucus has had to focus on "more of a defensive strategy," in trying to maintain funding

for historically black colleges, promoting affirmative action and getting more aid to Africa.

Cummings said he believes he has helped lead the caucus as a "conscience of the Congress" by taking up hot-button issues and giving voice to views that aren't popular with the Bush administration. He cited caucus meetings shown on C-SPAN that regularly generated interest among white as well as black viewers. Speaking out about prescription drugs, joblessness and the war in Iraq and promoting Head Start resonated with people throughout the nation, he said.

"Our message is one that went to the center of peoples' lives," Cummings said.

## Mom Of Jackson Accuser 'Tricked' Paper

LOS ANGELES - The mother of a boy accusing Michael Jackson of child molestation tricked a weekly newspaper into running a story seeking donations for her son's cancer treatments, according to a TV show devoted to the legal woes of stars.

In 2000, the woman told a reporter for the *Mid Valley News*, a community newspaper that serves Southern California's suburban San Gabriel Valley, that her son was battling cancer and the editor agreed to print a story, *Celebrity Justice* reported Monday.

The medical bills, however, were fully covered by an insurance policy held by the boy's father through his employer and



Pop star Michael Jackson waves after greeting several hundred children that were invited guests at his Neverland Ranch home on Dec. 17, 2004. His trial date is set for Jan. 31.

union, according to the TV show.

AP/Mark J. Terrill  
"My readers were used. My staff was used. It's sick-

ening," *Mid Valley News* Editor Connie Keenan told *Celebrity Justice*.

An attorney for the accuser's mother, Michael Manning, did not immediately return a call from The Associated Press late Monday.

After learning of the charges against Jackson in 2003, Keenan said she sent a copy of the newspaper story to Jackson's former attorney, Mark Geragos. She also said she was recently contacted by his defense team.

Jackson, 46, has pleaded not guilty to charges of molesting a boy, conspiracy and administering an intoxicating agent, alcohol, to his alleged victim. His trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 31.

## Nearly 1,000 Turn Out To Honor Black Elected To Congress

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Although Gwen Moore would not be officially sworn in until Tuesday in Washington as the first black from Wisconsin elected to Congress, nearly 1,000 supporters turned out for an unofficial ceremony in Milwaukee.

"This is the true investiture here; not on the 4th," she told a standing-

room-only crowd Sunday at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee hotel.

Moore, who has served in the Wisconsin Legislature for 12 years, recited the oath of Congress to state Supreme Court Justice Louis Butler as her sister, Jacqueline Allen of Milwaukee, held a Bible that had belonged to their deceased mother.

Gov. Jim Doyle, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker, former Wisconsin Secretary of State Vel Phillips and Milwaukee Common Council President Willie Hines Jr. spoke at the gathering.

Only a few supporters and relatives will travel to

Washington for the formal swearing-in because members of the House of Representatives are limited to just two invitations for that ceremony, Moore's sister, Brenda Moore, said.

Gwen Moore defeated a political newcomer, attorney Gerald Boyle Jr., in the November election, winning 70 percent of the vote.

## The CBC Salutes American Heroine Shirley Chisholm

WASHINGTON, DC — On Monday, Jan. 3 U.S. Representative Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, issued the following statement in remembrance of former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who died on Saturday at the age of 80.

"Our country has lost a civil rights icon who made extraordinary contributions to American history.

"As a member of Congress from 1968 until 1983, Shirley Chisholm was a trailblazer who exemplified servant leadership.

"In 1972, Congresswoman Chisholm became the first African American woman to be a candidate for the nomination of the Democratic Party for the office of President of the United States.

"As a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, she was a driving force behind the Caucus' mission to serve as the 'Conscience of the



Democrat congresswoman Shirley Chisholm of New York takes her oath of office, on in this Jan. 3, 1969 file photo in Washington, D.C., as the first black woman to serve in the House of Representatives. Administering the oath in this re-enactment of the swearing-in ceremony is Speaker John McCormack.

Congress', and to fight to include women, children, African Americans and all people of color in the public policy debate that so deeply affects their lives.

"Throughout her career, she exhibited remarkable political skills, and remained steadfast on the issues in which she believed.

"She worked tirelessly to protect programs that

Congress, she introduced legislation to establish publicly supported daycare centers and to extend unemployment insurance to domestic workers.

"Even after holding office, she continued her fight for equal rights by establishing the National Political Congress of Black Women.

"Congresswoman Chisholm was a pioneer in public service who, through courage and wisdom, brought honesty and integrity to the legislative process.

"As we honor Congresswoman Chisholm's legacy, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to remain true to her vision of creating an America that affords equality and justice to all of its citizens.

"We extend our sincere condolences to the Chisholm family."



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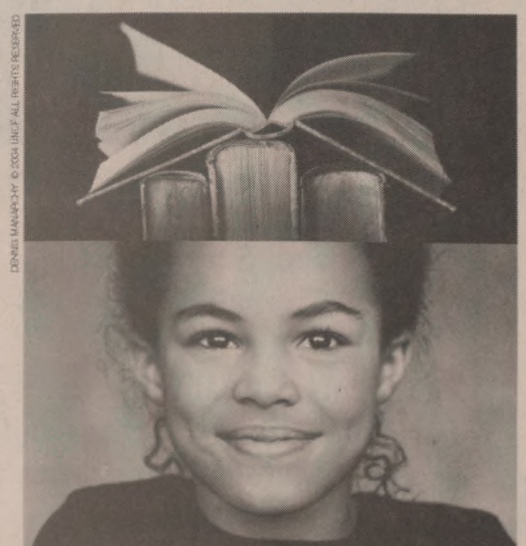
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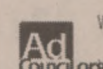
**THE SILVER STARS** will be having their 1st celebration of 2005 as they come together as one with love, faith, understanding and most of all thanking God for another year. Please join the Stars **"STEPPING INTO 2005"** on Saturday, January 8th @ The Bingo Hall located at 3615 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg from 8:30 pm until. You may contact any member for additional details or call Mary Parker, Pres. @ 821-5192.

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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Amid Protests, Haitian Leaders Celebrate 201st Independence Anniversary In Flood-Stricken Town



Haitians crowd at the front of the cathedral as Government members attend mass in celebration of Haiti's 201st anniversary of independence in Gonaives, Haiti Saturday, Jan. 1.

by Amy Bracken

Associated Press Writer

GONAIVES, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's leaders marked the country's 201st anniversary of independence Saturday while protesters demanded more help in this flood-ravaged city where political tensions still linger almost a year after a revolt that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In the northern city of Gonaives where the country's declaration of independence from slave-holding France was signed Jan. 1, 1804, Interim President

Boniface Alexandre urged Haitians to help pave the way for "free, honest, transparent and democratic elections" this year.

"Haiti had 200 years of suffering, division and hatred," Alexandre said from a balcony at city hall, addressing a restless crowd of about 200. "In 2005, we must not make our ancestors ashamed. We must all understand the problem is in us."

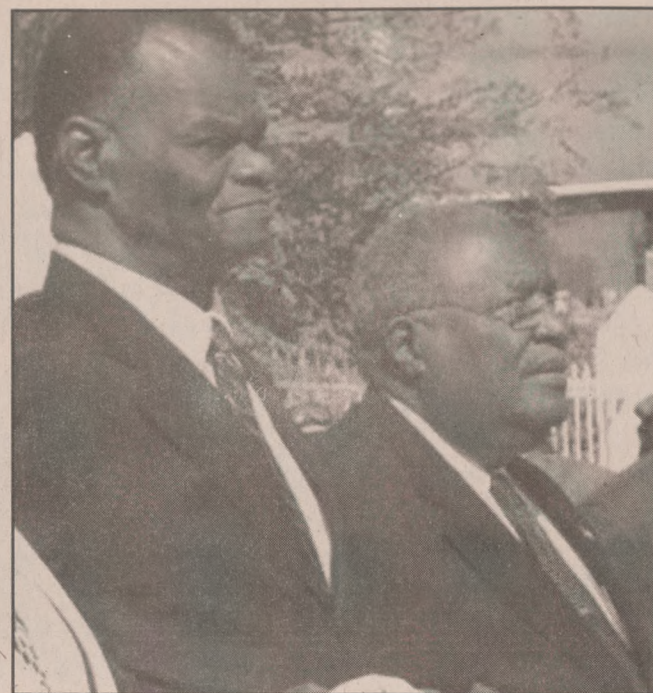
The crowd heckled Gonaives Mayor Calixte Valentin when he introduced Alexandre and other speakers, shouting "get

AP Photos/Ariana Cubillos

out!" Valentin told The Associated Press he was considering resigning, saying he was frustrated about not having enough funds to meet people's demands. He did not elaborate.

Earlier, Alexandre and Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue listened to a church sermon while about 200 protesters gathered outside the cathedral. Some demanded the U.S.-backed government deliver on promises made in October to rebuild the battered city.

Hundreds are still homeless from September



Interim Haitian President Boniface Alexandre, left, holding the national flag, and Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue listen to the national anthem during the celebration of the 201st anniversary of Haiti's independence in Gonaives, Haiti.

floods that killed at least 2,000 people and left another 900 missing and presumed dead. Piles of dried mud still block roads, agriculture is in ruins and half the city's schools have yet to reopen.

"We're tired of the lies," said Barthélemy Dieu-Fils, a teacher. "They said there's money coming, but we don't see any money ... We can't live like this."

Last year, bloody clashes between police and protesters in Gonaives and the capital of Port-au-Prince ruined Aristide's lavish bicentennial tribute

to Haiti's independence as the world's first black republic. South African President Thabo Mbeki was among the few dignitaries who didn't cancel his appearance but left Gonaives prematurely amid security threats.

A month later in February, anti-Aristide gangs attacked the Gonaives police station, killing officers and joining with former soldiers to launch a rebellion that drove Haiti's first democratically elected leader into exile.

## Mandela Plans Second AIDS Benefit Concert



"46664 South Africa will build on the success of our truly memorable concert in Cape Town last year," said Mandela.

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) — Following the success of his first "46664" AIDS-benefit concert in South Africa last year, Nelson Mandela has announced that he is

preparing for a second concert in March 2005.

"46664 South Africa will build on the success of our truly memorable concert in Cape Town last year," said Mandela.

"It will serve to support the efforts of the Nelson Mandela [AIDS awareness] Foundation and to show the world that South Africa is really addressing this most vital issue," he added.

The rock group Queen will headline the forthcoming concert, named for Mandela's Robben Island jail cell number, 46664. Other international music acts are expected to be announced soon.

At the 2003 concert, performers such as U.S. hip hop star Beyonce Knowles and pop star Bono sang to more than 30,000 people.

South Africa has more people with HIV/AIDS than any other country on earth, and the number of HIV/AIDS-related deaths continues to rise.

## Pioneering Editor Of South Africa's 'Drum' Magazine Dies, Aged 78

by Gabriel Packard

(IPS/GIN) — A pioneering editor of South Africa's *Drum* magazine, an apartheid-era publication written and photographed by blacks, has died of a heart attack aged 78.

Anthony Sampson, a white British national, also published 20 books includ-

ing a best-selling biography of Nelson Mandela, who he met as a young man and remained friends with throughout his life.

After editing the *Drum*, Sampson went on to work for a string of international publications including the *Observer* of London, and U.S.-based

*Newsweek* magazine.

He maintained strong links with South Africa, however, which was the subject of several of his books and from 1996 he was a member of South Africa's Independent Newspapers' international advisory board.

# OBITUARIES

## ST. PETERSBURG RITES



BUTLER, ELIZA-BETH, 81, died December 22, 2004. Survivors include two sons, Ethen (Debbie) Butler, Jr., Columbus, Ohio, and Phillip (Yolanda) Butler, St. Petersburg; three daughters, Margaret (Robert)

Butler, Marchellar (Allen) Riggins and Geraldine (Emanuel) Dixon, all of St. Petersburg; five grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, other relatives and

friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

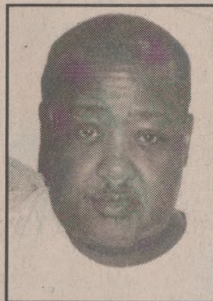
EVANS, JULIA MAE COPPETT, 85, died December 25, 2004. Survivors include three daughters, Ruby (Ray)



Goffer, Dorothy (Willie) Harmon and Regenia (Hermon) Williams, all of St. Petersburg; three sons, Robert (Carrie) Evans, St. Petersburg, Willie (Betty) Evans, Clearwater, and Jimmy (Emma) Evans, Copperas Cove, Texas; four adopted children, Rosa Lee Flournoy, Louisville, Ga.,



Gladys (John) Hester, Atlanta, Ga., Eula Mae Grant, West Palm Beach, and Clifford Jordan, Augusta, Ga.; 20 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; six great great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends., Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



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# RELIGIOUS NEWS

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

"Be wise, trust God in 2005."

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we thank God and embark on another year, let us be mindful of the many, many blessings God has bestowed upon us and praise God for His wonderful grace and mercy unto all.

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 or just at any time during the month. Join us at 7:30 a.m. for our early morning service as we give praise and thanksgiving to God for His love shown toward us.

Followed by Church School 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 and have a good time in the

Lord. The Male Chorus will minister in song throughout the day. Pastor the Word of God. Make a new start. Come join us in worship at Zion as we begin anew giving glory to God!

### Other ministries include:

- Monday - Bible Study, 6 p.m.

- Wednesday - Early morning prayer 6:30 a.m.; Vintage Bible Study, 11 a.m.; join us for our new services: Hour of Prayer, 6 p.m.; Hour of Power, 7 p.m. If you're in need of a mid-week lift, join us for two power-packed hours. Your heart will be encouraged and your spirit revived and renewed!

### Upcoming events:

- Saturday, Jan. 8 - Women of Power meeting at 2 p.m.

- Monday, Jan. 10 - Trustee Board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Let's all get involved in our upcoming "80th Church Anniversary" scheduled for Feb. 20.

Several events will lead up to that celebration. We'll enjoy an "Old Fashion Sunday Service" on Sunday, Jan. 23. Come out in your bonnet and overalls. We want to go back in history to the days of old. The "Super Bowl Tea" will follow on Saturday, Feb. 5. Join us in a good time as we put a push on for the "2005 Champions." You don't want to miss the culminating worship services. Our speakers are on fire, and we are anticipating a glorious time in the Lord. Get ready, get involved, and be a part of this great celebration.

Looking for a church home? We extend an invitation to you to join us. We as a church share the love of God, and the Holy Spirit reigns. We'd love to have you!

Thought for the week: "Little is much when GOD is in it."

Be blessed, and have a Jesus-filled week!

## Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

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

First worship service begins at 7:45 a.m. with the Deacons Ministry and the Male Chorus will sing and the Second Sunday Ushers will serve. Pastor John A. Evans, Sr. will render the message from God.

A second worship experience is held at 10:30 a.m. There are plenty of seats available. Come and share the Word of God with us!!!!

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. with the superintendent rendering the devotion.

Tuesday, Jan. 4 - Youth Enrichment Hour resumed with alternate Tuesday for choir and usher rehearsal.

Wednesday, Jan. 5 - Bread of Life and Noon Day Bible Study resumed

with Minister Blanche Reedy rendering the lessons on Purpose-Driven Life - 40 Days of Purpose. Come see what the Lord requires of you as a soul winner this year. Wednesday evening Praise and Worship were rendered by the Praise Team, and Pastor Evans, Sr. rendered the lesson for the New Year's beginning (When the Enemy Strikes).

We are embarking upon a huge task and are asking ALL MEMBERS of Friendship to become disciples this year and recruit at least one soul back to Jesus Christ!!!!

Once again, thank all of the ministerial staff, youth workers and other personnel at Friendship for all of their exuberant efforts in 2004. In 2005, we are going to arrive alive at the gates of hell for Jesus Christ and take back every soul that Satan has stolen!!!!!!

## Epiphany Observed at New Philadelphia

The church family will celebrate personhood of Jesus and His bodily manifestation to early disciples and other followers and believers. Jesus' ministries of teaching, preaching, and healing, will be focus of mid-morning sermon proclamation. Members are urged to be prompt in worship attendance.

"At-Home" Bible Study takes place on

Monday at 7 p.m. This innovative ministry is for sick and/or shut-in members who cannot attend mid-week study sessions. The present study emphasis is on "Spiritual Gifts." Persons interested in this ministry should contact pastor.

Mid-week Bible Study is collectively involved in reading and discussing book entitled, "The Pur-

pose Driven Life." Members will meet on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and discuss salient points of this book. Presently, each person involved will read and reflect on a "chapter-a-day" for 40 days, commencing Jan. 1 - Feb. 9. For additional information on these study sessions, contact any member of Christian Education ministry.

## Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church extends an invitation to join us in the celebration, cultivation and communication of His Word. The doors of God's House in the city are open for both 8 and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and Prayer Meeting and Bible Study on Wednesday at 7

and 7:30 p.m., respectively.

Our monthly Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, Jan. 8 at 8:30 a.m. Join us for breakfast and fellowship.

The Scholarship Ministry of Bethel invites you to attend their Scholarship Banquet Saturday, Jan. 8 at 6 p.m. Please call the church office at (727) 327-

0554 for ticket information.

Bethel Metropolitan Youth Ministry encourages the youth of the community to join them each Wednesday at 7 p.m. for Teen Summit. The age for this youth-oriented ministry is five to 18 years.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

# The Stellar Gospel Music Awards Celebrates 20 Years Of Gospel Music At Its Best



Top (left to right): Co-host and Trailblazer Award recipient Donnie McClurkin; co-host Yolanda Adams; and co-host Stellar Awards nominee Tonex. Bottom (left to right): Stellar Awards presenter and performer Kirk Franklin; James Cleveland Award recipient Richard Smallwood; and Stellar Legends Award recipient Dr. Bobby Jones.

HOUSTON — The Stellar Awards, the longest running gospel music award show in broadcast television history, celebrates its 20th anniversary on Saturday, Jan. 15. Houston's favorite daughter Yolanda Adams, along with gospel sensations Donnie McClurkin and Tonex will co-host this year's televised awards show taping at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.

This year's bronze anniversary celebration will include many special guests, performances and tributes from some of

gospel music's brightest stars. Some of the presenters tapped for the 2005 awards show include legendary recording artist Roberta Flack, contemporary artist Lalah Hathaway, Mom & Pop Winans, Shirley Caesar and actor Dule Hill of NBC's "West Wing," to name a few.

A special segment chronicling highlights of the previous 19 years of the Stellar Gospel Music Awards is planned. Some of gospel music's top traditional and contemporary talent will be on hand in spiritual tandem with the world of entertainment to

celebrate gospel music's finest. The all-star line-up of performers includes Kirk Franklin, CeCe Winans, Marvin Sapp, Fred Hammond, Dottie Peoples, the Hawkins Family, Bishop Paul S. Morton and Latin gospel artist Martha Munizzi who is nominated for New Artist of the Year. More confirmed talent to be announced at a later date.

The Trailblazer Award (previously known as the Hall of Fame Award) will be presented to Donnie McClurkin for his unique talent as a performer, writer and producer of gospel

music, for career record sales, concerts and as a role model for young people entering the gospel music field.

The prestigious James Cleveland Award will be presented to Richard Smallwood an artist who has made a major impact in the development and advancement of gospel music. Dr. Bobby Jones will receive the Legends Award for his enormous contributions to the gospel music industry and dedication in bringing the gospel music community together.

Leading the pack this year with six nominations

each are CeCe Winans, The Williams Brothers and Fred Hammond who are in the running for the most prestigious award in gospel music. Bishop Paul S. Morton and Tonex garnered five nominations each while Israel Houghton & New Breed followed with four nominations.

Stellar Awards founder and executive producer Don Jackson says, "We are proud to have brought to America and to other countries around the world, some of the finest talent in gospel music history over the years of the Stellar Gospel Music Awards.



Top (left to right): Stellar Awards nominees Fred Hammond and CeCe Winans; Middle (left to right): Stellar Awards nominees Israel Houghton and Dottie Peoples; Bottom (left to right): Stellar Awards presented Pastor Shirley Caesar and Stellar Awards nominee Bishop Paul S. Morton.

This show is now an institution and has proven to be the barometer for excellence in the gospel field."

The Stellar Gospel Music Awards is executive-produced by Chicago-based Central City Productions' Don Jackson and

produced by Barbara Wilson. Jennifer Jackson is the executive in charge of production and Erma Gray Davis is the President and Chief Operations Officer of Central City Productions.

Tickets are available through TicketMasterVisit

www.stellarawards.com for continuous updates.

The 20th Annual Stellar Gospel Music Awards Show will air in national television syndication from Jan. 22 to Feb. 20. Please check local listings for dates and times.



# Records Show \$1 Billion To Faith-Based Groups

by Laura Meckler

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In New Haven, Conn., AIDS counselors don't hesitate to stop and pray anytime someone needs a boost. In Charleston, S.C., Crisis Ministries provides shelter and meals for the homeless and the hungry. Both are on a White House list of "faith-based organizations" that together received more than \$1 billion in federal grants in 2003.

Four West Virginia groups received federal funding. They were:

- The Partnership of African American Churches in Institute, \$15,000

- Cabell-Huntington Coalition for the Homeless in Huntington, \$211,811

- Religious Coalition for Community Renewal in Charleston, \$217,539

- HOPE Community Development Corporation in Charleston, \$350,000

When it comes to religion, the groups' philosophies are quite different.

The Connecticut AIDS program doesn't hesitate to incorporate religion into its program. But in South Carolina, Crisis Ministries doesn't consider itself religious at all.

"Someone has obviously designated us a faith-based organization, but we don't recognize ourselves as that," said Stacey Denaux, executive director of Crisis Ministries.

Hers was one of many groups with entirely secu-

lar missions that were surprised to find their names on a list of faith-based groups provided to The Associated Press by the White House.

Other grant recipients are overtly religious, offering social service programs that the government may have deemed too religious to receive money before President Bush launched his "faith-based initiative."

Visitors to TMM Family Services in Tucson, Ariz., which received \$25,000 for housing counseling, are greeted by a picture of Jesus and quotes from the Bible.

"We believe that people being connected to the faith of their choice is important to them having a productive life," said Don Strauch, an ordained minister and executive director of the group, which offers a variety of social services. "Just because we take government money doesn't mean we back down on that philosophy."

All told, religious-oriented groups were awarded \$1.17 billion in 2003. That is about 8 percent of the \$14.5 billion spent on social programs that qualify for faith-based grants in five federal departments. White House officials expect the total to grow.

The list of 2003 grant recipients provided to AP is the first detailed tally of the dollars behind this "faith-based initiative."

Elected with strong support of religious conservatives, Bush came to of-

fice promising to open government's checkbook to religious groups that provide social services. Often, Bush says, religious groups do a better job serving the poor than do government agencies.

Civil libertarians fear the government will wind up paying for worship, eroding the constitutional separation between church and state.

Jim Towey, who directs the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, said the administration has been clear that "government money is not to fund religious activities."

"This is a culture change in the way government provides social services," he said. "There's always going to be a very delicate balance."

In the past, government has refrained from giving money directly to religious groups, but it has required they set up independent, secular organizations to get taxpayer dollars. Bush tried to get Congress to change that. Congress refused, so he unilaterally put many of his changes into effect.

The White House also hosted several conferences explaining the relaxed rules and put out a book listing programs participants might want to apply for.

"We feel much more at ease," said Louis Wonderly, past president of the Luther House Foundation of Southern Chester County, Pa. The group was awarded \$10.3 million to build an

apartment building for low-income older people.

"We won't have to say, 'Oh my goodness, is it terrible to have a cross hanging on a bulletin board?'" Wonderly said.

It is unclear how much religion is too much religion when government money is involved. The courts have issued mixed rulings. The administration says a group getting federal money can sponsor worship and other religious activities so long as they are separated by time and location from activities paid by the government.

In New Haven, Conn., Women in Search of Health Education and Spirituality got almost \$500,000 to help AIDS patients who are just out of drug treatment. Each session begins with a daily affirmation, where each participant chooses something to read, religious or secular.

The program's director, Patricia Lafayette, said a spiritual connection is emphasized. "Generally, that's the key to recovery," she said.

"We pray anytime someone asks," added Joyce Poole, director of the AIDS Interfaith Network, which sponsors the program. "Some clients walk in and say they need a prayer and a hug and we stop whatever we're doing for them."

At the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., Life Connections got more than \$50,000 to help inmates who are about to be

freed and who volunteer to participate and pick one of six religious programs to follow. Activities include a two-week spiritual retreat and six weeks of intense religious study.

White House aides declined to say whether those particular programs were appropriate.

The grants on the White House list were not specifically targeted to religious organizations. Rather, the list includes all groups believed to be faith-based that won competitive federal grants open to all applicants.

Specifically, it includes recipients of competitive grants administered by five federal departments: Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Education, Labor and Justice. Not included are the billions sent to the states for distribution.

An AP analysis of the \$1.17 billion and nearly 150 interviews in 30 states with grant recipients found:

Many are well-established, large social service providers that have received federal money for decades. More than 80 percent of recipients at HHS had received federal money before. At HUD, the figure was 93 percent.

Two programs account for half of the \$1.17 billion total: A HUD program known as Section 202 that builds housing for low-income poor people and Head Start, a large pre-school program for poor

children. Both are dominated by longtime grant recipients able to handle large amounts of money - not the small church groups sometimes evoked by the White House.

Many organizations insist they do not belong on a list of faith-based organizations, even though they may have religious roots. White House officials said the list included groups that had identified themselves as faith-based and groups that officials thought were religious, based on their names.

More common: groups with a religious perspective that steer clear of proselytization.

"We intentionally avoid references to God and His works in our educational material so that no one will feel intimidated or avoid our services because they're of a different religion," said Sue Ortiz, a home ownership counselor at Inner City Christian Federation in Grand Rapids, Mich., which got \$65,000 in 2003 and \$150,000 in 2004.

But religion inspires their work, she said: "We do what we do because of God's love."

No Jesus,  
No Peace.

KNOW  
JESUS,  
KNOW  
PEACE!

## New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Catching the vision

The New Hope family invites each and everyone to come worship with us. We invite everyone to come catch the vision that our pastor has for us in the year 2005.

Sunday School begins at 9 a.m. We have good spirit-filled teachers righty dividing the Word of truth. Parents - bring your children and yourselves. Come and learn about this good God who has brought us this far because of His love for us.

Devotion begins at 10:15 a.m. with our deacons in charge. The Male Chorus will lead us in praise and worship song service. Minister Tony Young is minister of music, accompanied by Vernard McKenny and Michael McKenny. Our percussionist is Marcus Childs. The Bread of Life will be served by our dynamic pas-

tor, the Rev. Carlos L. Senior. You are invited to all services at New Hope.

We hope to see you there! The address is 2120 - 19th St. S. If you are in need of transportation to church, please call the church office at (727) 896-5228 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Weekly events:  
• Tuesday - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study- 6:30 p.m.

• Thursday - Prayer Band - 11 a.m.

Upcoming events:  
• Jan. 8, 6 p.m., Rock of Jesus M. B. Church, Pastor's Anniversary Banquet, Pastor Carlos L. Senior, guest speaker.

• Jan. 16, 4 p.m., New Hope will worship with Mt. Tabor M. B. Church, Tampa, the Rev. T.D. Leonard, pastor

**When Life  
Knocks You  
to Your  
Knees,  
You're in the  
Perfect  
Position to  
Pray!**

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Genesis Worship Center Church

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



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

**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!*



### GOOD SAMARITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Reverend Larry R. Williams, Sr.

Sunday School ..... 8:00 a.m.  
Worship Service ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, Prayer Meeting . 6:30-7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, Bible Study . . . 7:00-8:00 p.m.

### Saint John Primitive Baptist Church

Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr., Senior Pastor

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



Elder Benjamin Adams, Jr.,  
Senior Pastor

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

Theme: "Movers of the Christ Purpose"  
Edifying the Church; Evangelizing the Community (Acts 1:4-8)

### Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

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

Phone: 894-4311  
www.mzprogressive.org

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

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



Pastor Louis M.  
Murphy, Sr.

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

930 - 18th Street South • St.  
Petersburg, FL 33712  
(Near Tropicana Field)



James W. Paschal  
Pastor

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

### BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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



Rev. Roosevelt Hardy  
Pastor

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



# 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



Rev. Rickey L. Houston

"God's House In The City"



## New Philadelphia Community Church

The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor

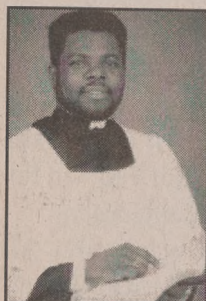
3940 - 18th Avenue South  
P.O. Box 15935 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733  
Wisdom School 9:50 AM • Morning Worship 10:30 AM  
Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 PM (Wed.)

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"

## 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"

## 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

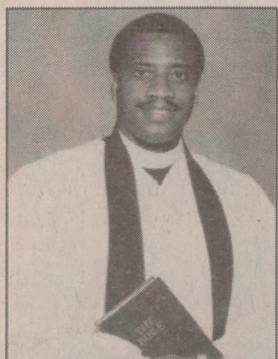
## The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church

"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 6:30 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....

## FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

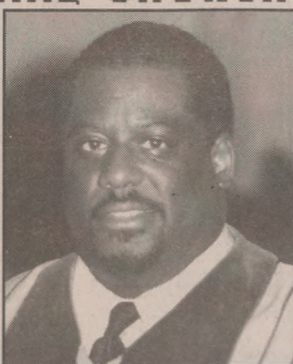
3144 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL  
PHONE: 323-7518

REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

COME WORSHIP WITH  
THE FIRST BAPTIST FAMILY



**VISIT YOUR  
HOUSE OF  
WORSHIP THIS  
WEEK, WHERE  
THE "SON"  
ALWAYS  
SHINES!**

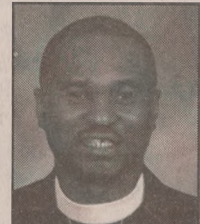
## STEWART-ISOM MEMORIAL

## CHRISTIAN

## METHODIST

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



Rev. A. Anthony Robinson III

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"

## Friendship Missionary Baptist

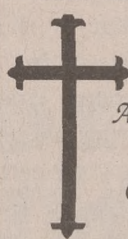
3300 - 31st Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 906-8300



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

Ordained Missionary  
Johannie Mae Howard  
Call: 727 895-5239



A Woman After  
God's  
Own Heart...



Spiritually Connected  
Call for Prayers &  
Testimonies

## 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.

## NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Rev. Carlos Senior  
Pastor

Join us as we lift up the name of Jesus

### Sunday Services:

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

### Tuesday Services:

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

## GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

919 - 20th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
email: mchurch1@tampabay.rr.com  
Website: www.greatermztioname.org



Rev. Clarence Williams,  
Pastor

Early Morning Worship ..... 7:30 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Monday - Bible Study ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
Vintage Bible Study ..... 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
Prayer Service ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Mid-Week Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
All Male Bible Study, Thursday ..... 6:30 p.m.

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

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

"The Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"

Rev. G. M. Curry

## DOMINION WORSHIP MINISTRIES

"Come Take Dominion Over Your Life Now"

### Sunday

8am, 10am Morning Worship  
1st & 3rd Sunday  
5pm Evening Celebration

### Monday

Noonday Prayer  
7pm Hour of Power Prayer

### Wednesday

Noonday Prayer  
5:30-9:30pm  
"Inside the Family"

### Thursday

Worship & 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

**Your Church Ad Could Be  
Here Working For You!  
Email Your Ad to:  
smfaith@tampabay.rr.com**

**PRAYER HELPS!**



## SPORTS

## Dunn Leads Falcons To Top Of NFL Rushing



Atlanta Falcons' Warrick Dunn runs through a hole in the Seattle Seahawks line for a 25 yard gain during the second quarter in Seattle, Sunday, Jan. 2.

by Charles Odum  
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA - Jim Mora says Warrick Dunn's latest 1,000-yard season was a surprise even to the Atlanta Falcons.

"He ran for 1,100 yards and really, if you look at his season, they kind of 'sneaked up on you,'" Mora said Tuesday. "They kind of sneaked up on me. I don't know, it just seemed like it was a quiet 1,100 yards."

Dunn says he has heard that a lot in his eight-year NFL career, even though he now has three 1,000-yard seasons and has topped the 900-yard mark two other times.

"When I have a 100-yard game and have a great game, it's not talked about, but when you have other backs who have been out there a lot and have been expected to do it, they're more glorified," Dunn said. "As long as the people around me know, I'm good. But it's frustrating at times."

Dunn started all 16 games for the first time in his career and set career highs with nine touchdowns rushing and 265 carries. His 1,106 yards rushing fell just below his personal-best 1,133 with Tampa Bay in 2000.

Every year, Dunn says he has to convince more doubters that even though he's only 5-foot-9 and 180 pounds, he is at his best when he has 20 or more carries.

Similarly, Dunn says year after year it seems to surprise some people that he's at least as effective when running between tackles as when he has the ball in more open space.

But Dunn says after a slow start this season, when he was still recovering from a 2003 foot injury, he is at the top of his game for the playoffs.

Dunn added his message for Mora for the playoffs is simple: He wants the ball.

"I'm not tired, you're not going to wear me out," Dunn said. "Just give it to me and I'm going to make it happen."

The Falcons, the No. 2 playoff seed in the NFC, led the NFL in rushing,

(AP Photo/John Froschauer) setting franchise records with 2,672 yards and 5.1 yards per carry.

Dunn needed three 100-yard games in the last four weeks to pass quarterback Michael Vick (902 yards rushing) for the team's rushing lead. Running back T.J. Duckett added 509 yards and eight touchdowns.

"A running back always wants a running back to lead the team in rushing," Dunn said. "A guy like Mike gets a lot of yards because he's going to scramble. Those plays are not always designed."

Vick's 7.5 yards per carry led the Falcons, and Mora says he knows that without the unusual talents of the quarterback, Atlanta would not have led the league in rushing.

"But you know what? It counts," Mora said. "It counts. So we'll take it. I think it's pretty neat."

Although Dunn says he wants to be a workhorse back, he wasn't able to accept the heavy load of carries earlier this season. His 2003 season ended in Week 12 with torn ligaments in his left foot. He was averaging a career-best 5.4 yards per carry before the injury and says he has only recently returned to that peak form.

"It was just a matter of getting into football shape," he said. "I've been able to really get into football shape. They ask me if I feel OK. I am great. This is how I felt before I got injured last year."

Dunn's overall average of 4.2 yards per carry includes an average of 4.5 yards since the start of November.

Mora said the West Coast offense is perfect for Dunn and Duckett.

"I do think it fits a guy like Warrick and T.J., really to a T," Mora said. "It's 'Here we go and boom, hit it down the field.' I think the misimpression people have about Warrick ... is that because of his size, he's an outside runner. But he's not. He's so good between the tackles because he can find that crease and he can hit it quickly. I think that's why he's so effective."

## Southern Makes Pete Richardson Division I-AA's Highest Paid Coach

Agreement Also Marks the Largest Coaching Contract in HBCU History

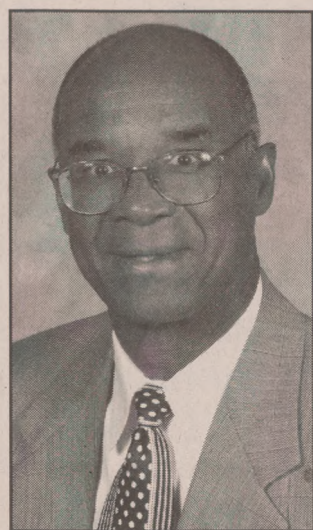
OAKLAND, Calif. (PRNewswire) - African-American-owned New Vision Sports Properties' client, Southern University has agreed to terms with football coach Pete Richardson, making him the highest paid coach in Division I-AA and the highest paid coach in the history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Per the contract, Richardson receives \$200,000 per year, plus incentives worth up to \$40,000, for the next three seasons. The incentives are based on awards, championships and graduation rates.

"I'm very excited to continue my relationship with Southern," says the 59-year-old Richardson. "I received security from the school and security for my family. Now I can move forward and build my program."

In 12 seasons at Southern, Richardson has captured four HBCU national titles and five Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) titles. Richardson is 105-38 (73.4 percent) at Southern and 147-51-1 (74.1 percent) in 17 seasons as a head coach. He has never had a losing season.

This past season, Richardson guided an injury-plagued Jaguar squad to an 8-4 record en route to winning the SWAC's Western Division crown before falling 40-35 to Alabama State in the SWAC Championship Game on Dec. 11 in Birmingham, Ala. The Jaguars are 25-6 in their last 31 games. "It's a great day for the Jaguar Nation," Southern Athletic Director Floyd Kerr says. "Coach Richardson has been one of the most successful coach-



Coach Pete Richardson

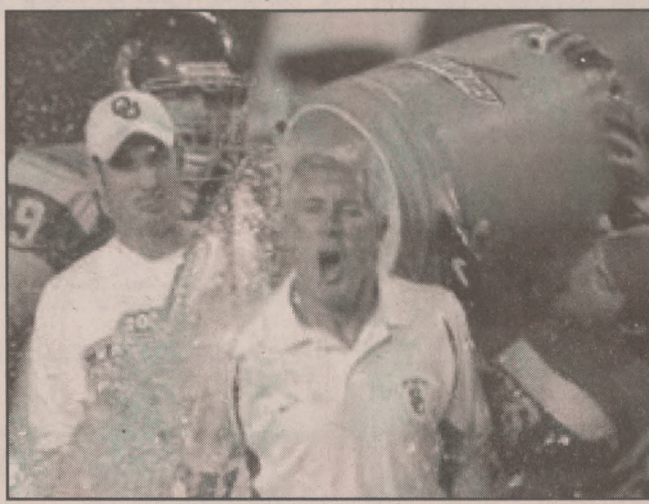
es in our institution's history. Both sides are pleased with this partnership. It means stability in the program. We have our coach in place and we have a newborn commitment to facilities. It is all part of making Jaguar athletics successful."

As part of Southern's commitment to its athletic programs, the university will create a state-of-the-art 40,000-square-foot sports complex in the North End Zone of A.W. Mumford Stadium slated for construction in March 2005.

Southern also plans to add 5,000 new seats to enclose the North End Zone and to resurface the track surrounding the football field. Other improvements include creating a 10,000-15,000-square-foot clubhouse adjacent to Lee-Hines baseball stadium, which has already begun construction. In a separate naming rights project, Southern will construct a practice compound that will be utilized by all team sports as well as students involved in intramural athletic programs.

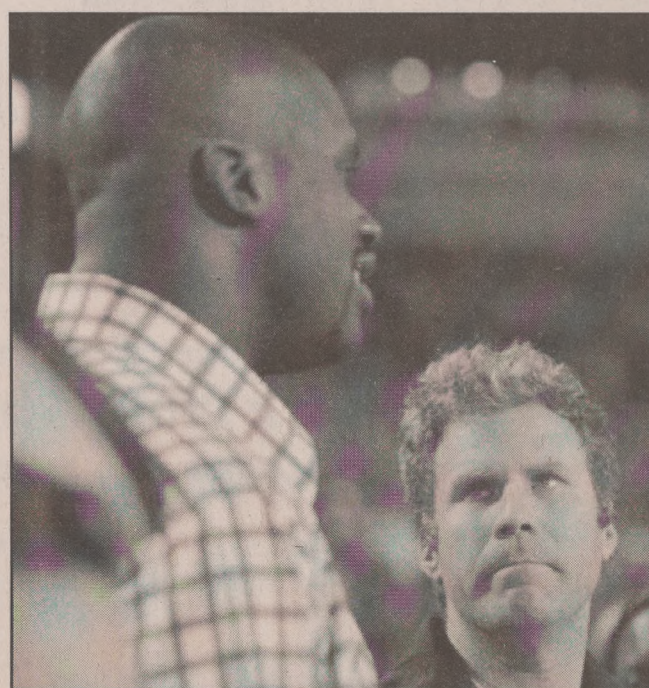
For more information on Southern athletics, please log onto [www.jag.sports.net](http://www.jag.sports.net).

## USC No. 1 From Start To Finish In AP Poll



Southern Cal head coach Pete Carroll gets drenched by water by his players following a decisive win over Oklahoma for the National Championship during the Orange Bowl at Pro Player Stadium in Miami on Tuesday, Jan. 4. USC defeated Oklahoma 55-19.

(AP Photo/Sue Ogricki)



Comedian/Actor Will Ferrell, right, looks up to Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal during the Orange Bowl game between Oklahoma and Southern Cal in Miami.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

by Ralph D. Russo  
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI - Southern California went back-to-back and wire-to-wire.

The Trojans became the second team to start and finish the season No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25, receiving all but three first-place votes early Wednesday to easily outdistance Auburn.

On the strength of a resounding 55-19 victory over Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl, USC (13-0) became the first team since Nebraska in 1994-95 to win back-to-back AP titles.

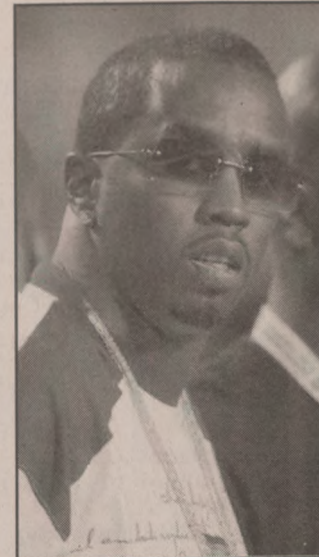
"We are now unanimously No. 1," Orange Bowl MVP Matt Leinart said right after the game.

Not quite, but good enough.



Southern Cal's LenDale White does a Heisman pose with the crystal football trophy after defeating Oklahoma 55-19.

(AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)



Entertainer Sean Puffy Combs watches the Orange Bowl from the sideline.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

USC received 62 first-place votes and 1,622 points. Auburn got the other first-place votes and 1,559 points.

"It's probably hard for you to imagine, but we took this thing in stride, step by step as we went through," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "We didn't talk about national championship very much, the players probably did some."

The Sooners (12-1) finished third, ahead of unbeaten Utah (12-0) and Texas (11-1).

Auburn (13-0) finished its perfect season Monday night with a 16-13 victory over Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl.

Tigers coach Tommy Tuberville and his team practically pleaded with poll voters to give his team a championship, but to no avail.

The Trojans' 36-point rout was the third largest margin in a 1 vs. 2 matchup.

USC joins Florida

State in 1999 as the only teams to go wire-to-wire since the AP started a pre-season poll in 1950. The Trojans are also the 10th preseason No. 1 to win the national championship.

The Trojans' fifth AP title ties them with Miami for the fourth most.

Louisville was No. 6, followed by Georgia, Iowa, California and Virginia Tech.

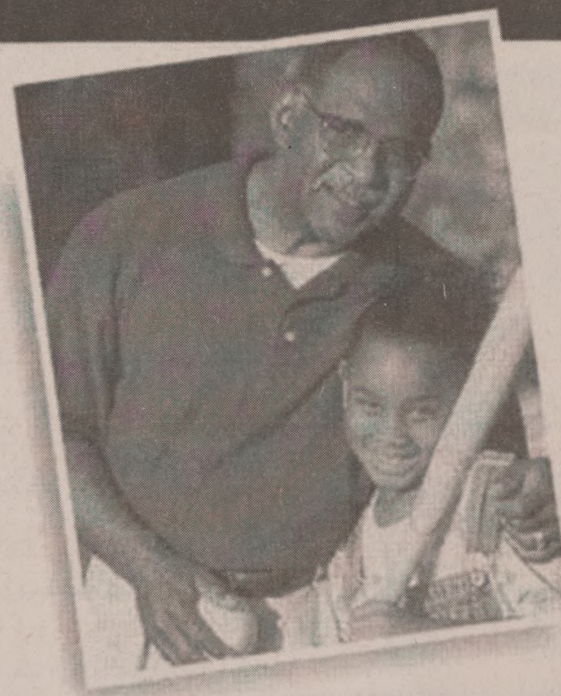
Miami was 11th and for the first time since 1982, no team from Florida ended the season ranked among the nation's top five.

Florida State (9-3) finished ranked 15th and Florida (7-5) ended the season unranked.

Boise State's first loss of the season to Louisville in the Liberty Bowl dropped the Broncos two spots to No. 12.

Navy made it into the rankings for the first time since 1979 at No. 24. Fresno State also joined the poll at 22.

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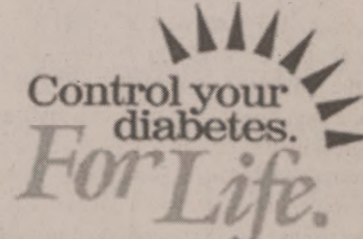
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The Phellas County Housing Authority's  
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ing PCHA's Public Housing development(s) of  
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- French Villas at 6835 54th Ave. N., St.  
Petersburg  
(1 & 3 bedroom units) - 544-7272
- Lakeside Terrace at 4200 62nd Avenue N.,  
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(1 & 2 bedroom units)
- Magnolia Gardens (ALF) at 3800 62nd  
Avenue N., Pinellas Park - 489-6440  
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## Your HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** (Mar. 21-April 20) A new image can be the result if you change your look. Your contributions will be valued and helpful. Use your quick wit to win points and friends. You need a change of pace.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21-May 21) Don't make promises. Invite friends over. Changes could be overwhelming. You will have a problem sorting out your true feelings when it comes to your relationship.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21) Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. Try to be reasonable. Your partner may push buttons that infuriate you. Uncertainties regarding relatives will make situations uncomfortable if you attend a family function.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22) You should get involved in competitive sports this week. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation. Your ideas may be good, but they aren't necessarily right for everyone. Your outgoing nature might work against you this week.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug 22) You can make gains if you work in conjunction with others. Children may pose a problem if they don't like suggestions. You can make extra money. Rewards will be yours if you put in the overtime required. You have more than enough on your plate already.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) Make changes that will heighten your appeal. You can expect insincere gestures of friendliness this week. Disruptions may set you back, but you're strong, and in the end the choices you make will be favorable. Don't avoid your true feelings.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) You can make positive changes in your home. Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. You're in the mood to get out and visit friends. You can benefit financially if you put money or maintenance into your living quarters.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You may meet that special person if you attend fundraising functions. Try to have patience and refrain from being judgmental. Be prepared to step into the lime-light if you wish to promote your ambitions. Opportunities for new and exciting relationships will be yours if you get out and join groups.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your tendency to overreact could get you into trouble. You can enhance your reputation by making contributions to worthwhile causes. Too much too fast will be the attitude surrounding your home environment. Money may slip through your fingers.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan. 20) It's time to get yourself back on track. Older relatives may be a burden. Problems with colleagues are likely. Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Prove your worth; concentrate on getting the job done and steer clear of office politics and gossip. Refrain from using the highway as a racetrack. This is a great day to mingle with people you would like to impress. Don't make mountains out of molehills if you want to avoid conflict.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You are best to keep hard feelings to yourself. Try to ease any disappointment by making amends. You may find yourself in an emotional fix if you interfere in other people's problems. Get promises in writing or you will be disappointed.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

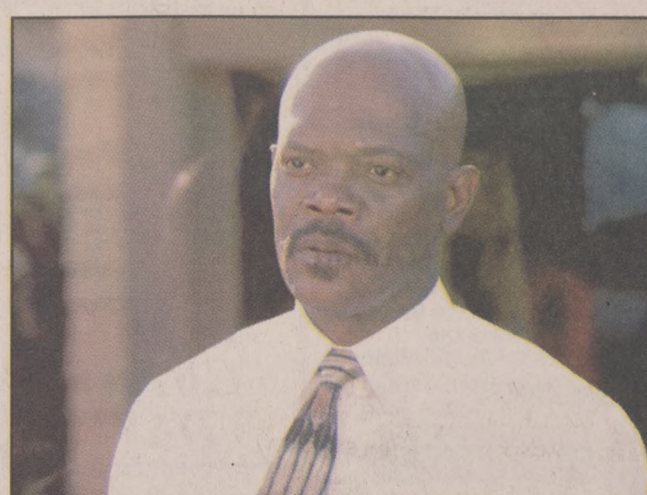
## Scenes From 'Blues Fest': B.B. King Thrills The Crowd With His Legendary Sound



photos by Rassi

TAMPA — Legendary Blues man B.B. King was at the USF Sun Dome on Thursday, Dec. 30, with a lineup of great artists for the B.B. King Blues Fest. Although the show started at 7 p.m., King didn't take the stage until around 11. He was worth the wait!

## Singing Sensation Ashanti Makes Film Debut In 'Coach Carter' Starring Samuel L. Jackson



Samuel L. Jackson stars in "Coach Carter."

Multi-platinum recording artist Ashanti makes her big screen debut in Coach Carter, starring Hollywood heavyweight Samuel L. Jackson. Inspired by a true story of courage and conviction, Coach Carter opens nationwide Jan. 14 from Paramount Pictures. The film also stars Robert Ri'Chard, Debbie Morgan, Rob Brown, Rick Gonzalez, Antwon Tanner and Nana Gbewonyo.

Ashanti holds her own among the strong cast of men, giving an impressive performance in her first feature film role. Fans of her outstanding music career will be more than pleased to see that Ashanti continues to grow as a formidable talent. She plays Kyra, girlfriend of Kenyon

(Rob Brown), who has a promising future in basketball. He wants to play basketball, keep his grades up and move on to college, however Kyra and he have a real life situation to deal with. They wrestle with her pregnancy and how it will change their future.

"I've read so many scripts and I just wanted to make sure I chose the right one. Coach Carter felt right. It was dealing with issues that are very common and it's not written in a conventional way," explains Ashanti.

Brown says, "Kenyon has the confidence to fulfill and live his dream, and he is slammed with a the reality of a baby and a wife. He has to decide what is he going to do. How can he take care of not only him-



Ashanti plays Kyra, a girlfriend of one of the basketball players in the movie.

self, but two others, as well? We spend time learning about these two people and dealing with their problem. It was a challenging role," says Brown. Filmgoers remember Brown, who made a big splash in Finding Forrester, his debut film in 2000 starring opposite Sean Connery.

Coach Carter is an inspirational account of a controversial high school basketball coach, Ken Carter, played by Jackson, in Richmond, California who received both high praise and staunch criticism when he made national news in 1999 for benching his entire undefeated basketball team for poor academic performance. Parents as well as school officials were outraged -

basketball for these kids appeared to be their only hope of escape from the impoverished Richmond streets to attain a better life for themselves. Carter who had himself attended Richmond High, had literally been in those boys shoes, he still held the school's records for scoring, assists and steals after 30 years.

Carter wanted them all to have the option of attending college, giving them the ability to fulfill their dreams, hopes and destiny. To do this they were going to need more than basketball skills, they needed to learn self-respect, discipline and commitment to make the grades.

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