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The Weekly Challenger

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25¢

New Grant Helps Campbell Park TEETH Team Clean Things Up



by Tracie Reddick
Challenger correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG – Rodney Bennett doesn't wear a tutu, but you could call him a tooth fairy.

Armed with a \$75,000 budget, he is spreading the word about good dental hygiene through a program called Teaching Everyone the Elements for Teeth to be Healthy, or simply put, TEETH.

"We're going to blanket the community with information," said Bennett, the director of TEETH, which is operated through the Campbell Park Neighborhood Association and funded by the Florida Department of Health. The grant is part of the health department's "Closing the Gap" initiative, which is aimed at reducing racial disparities in health care.

"We're the only pro-

gram in this region to receive this grant," Bennett said.

Educating the community about brushing and flossing is like, well, pulling teeth. It's difficult to get people to break the habit of drinking hot coffee or tea or sipping down sodas.

"If you smoke and drink hot liquids, you are in big trouble," warned Sheilah Butler, a TEETH team member who recently conducted a workshop at the Sojourner Truth Center. She told participants the combination of the smoke and steam basically seals plaque on the teeth, thus causing stains and tooth decay.

"Soda mixes with the bacteria in your mouth and

TEETH
continued on pg. 5

Jesse Jackson In St. Petersburg



by Candace K. Clarke
Challenger Editor

ST. PETERSBURG – Tuesday afternoon, the Rev. Jesse Jackson was in

photos by Rassi
town to meet with Pinellas County Schools Superintendent Clayton Wilcox regarding the handcuffing of five-year-old Ja'eisha

Scott at Fairmount Elementary. A press conference had already been held outside of All Children's Hospital, in which Jackson, head of the Rainbow Push Coalition, denounced the rough handling of Scott and urged the school system to come up with better solutions. Inside of All Children's, six-year-old E'Traveon Johnson, who was hit by a car while mysteriously running out of Fairmount, continues to fight for his life. He remains in a coma.

Around 4 p.m., Jackson was scheduled for an informal meeting at Atwater's Cafeteria off of 22nd Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King Street South – an effort spearheaded by St. Petersburg branch NAACP leader Darryl Rousson, and attended by Ja'eisha, her mother Inga Akins and their lawyer C.K. Hoffler. Shortly after

their meal, the mood changed as a sudden traffic accident occurred right in front of Atwater's. An African American driver, heading west on 22nd Avenue sped through a red light; the result was a four-car accident. Witnesses say the driver of the speeding car jumped out of his car to escape before collapsing down the street.

It didn't take long for bystanders to quickly gather. Curious onlookers lined the streets as traffic was redirected and sirens blared, with emergency vehicles bringing traffic to a standstill. Dr. Gustave Victor, who co-owns Deanie's Beauty Salon a few blocks away, was there on the scene. An old friend of Jackson's, they both prayed for the victims of the four-car incident, in which several people were carried away on stretchers, and one man had to be pried out of

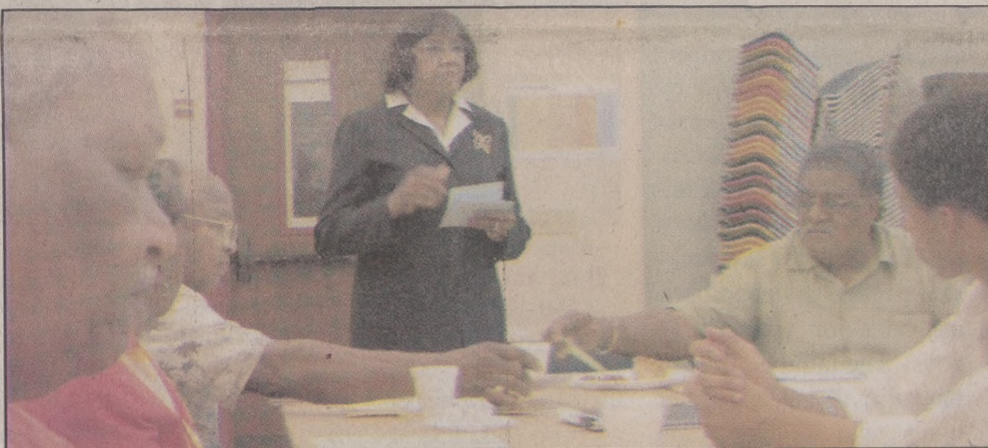


his vehicle.

"We had just finished our meal when we saw the tail end of the accident...."

Jesse
continued on pg. 6

Deconstructing Unitary Status



by Linda Young

Challenger correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG – Since 1971, the Pinellas County School District has operated under a court order that ordered the schools to desegregate, among other things.

That's the rub. Those other things – mostly left undone – may cost the School Board the ability to shed the court order in two years. For the past two years, *Weekly Challenger* readers have followed the actions of a group called Concerned Organizations for Quality Education for Black (COQEB'S). At their May 4 monthly meeting, they

heard from guest speaker and School Board Member Mary Brown.

The group had asked Brown to report on the unitary status of the schools.

Brown spoke about many things. She addressed the problems of children lacking pre-K and kindergarten readiness in reading and math skills, lacking good thinking and planning skills, and lacking adequate vocabulary.

"These are things that contribute to our children not being successful," Brown said. "They can't catch up unless we do something. She stated that too many children operate on an achievement level of

one or two.

The schools test students and grade them on achievement with five possible levels in the grades before the FCAT is given, with a level one being lowest and the child operating below grade level. Level 3 is grade level and a child below that generally fails the FCAT.

In many parts of her speech, Brown spoke about some of what the group calls the "green factors." These are issues that satisfy unitary status that the court ordered to be resolved before the order is lifted. However, she did not give any details as to what the district has done to elimi-

nate those issues.

For example, she noted that while there were too many black children in special education, there were not enough in honors, and merit classes, performing arts or magnet programs. Part of the solution was that students "need to be energized, and desire to learn," Brown said. Part of the problem is "more black children are coming to school very, very angry and we need to deal with that," so students can learn because "they have got to be able to take care of themselves when they leave 12th grade."

Another green factor is to increase the percentage of black teachers to match the percentage of black students. Progress on that requirement was among the items to be included in the Superintendent's annual reports that have been overdue since 1999. Currently, the percentage of black teachers has hovered at nearly 9 percent while there are 18 percent black students.

There was a brief question and answer period after her speech, then COQEB co-chair Vyrle Davis asked member Adelle Jemison to summarize.

"What I didn't hear is what use is being made of court documents that this

Status
continued on pg. 6

Bright Futures Scholarships Still An Untapped Source For African Americans



Lottery Secretary Rebecca Dirden Mattingly hopes that more African-American students will take advantage of the Bright Futures Scholarship. Too many minorities are unaware of this opportunity, she says.

by Candace K. Clarke
Challenger Editor

TAMPA BAY – "Parents fail to make themselves aware of what is going on," states Florida Weems.

She knows a lot about deadlines and missed opportunities and the excuses – "and they are not

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**Check out our new real estate section
in the Classifieds!**

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OPINIONS

The Weekly Challenger

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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.

Uncalled For And Unnecessary

by Sean J. Lewis

The Afro-American community in Florida became recipients of another bombshell that sent shock waves across the country when a five-year-old girl was shown on national television being handcuffed in an elementary school classroom, because of a temper tantrum that she displayed. What is it with the State of Florida and our children, that our children are continuously dealt with as misfits and humiliated? There seems to be some sort of trend that is presently unfolding between Afro-American children and the law enforcement agencies that are supposed to protect and serve.

Being placed in handcuffs is one of the most humiliating situations that an adult could be placed in amongst their peers. Imagine the extent of being a five-year-old child and the

negative effects that will surely surface throughout this child's life. The terror and panic that entered the mind of a mere child placed in handcuffs is very sympathetic, especially considering the fact that she is not held accountable for her actions. Even portraying a five-year-old child as if she was considered to be a danger to herself and others is disturbing. The same law enforcement officers that are trained to apprehend murderers, rapists, drug dealers and drug addicts on a daily basis, handled a five-year-old girl in an elementary school as if she was a terrorist in an airport. Police officers are supposed to be trained to handle situations and use the least amount of force as possible.

How can a police officer justify subduing a child (who weighs no more than 50 pounds) with handcuffs,

when they routinely verbally diffuse domestic, violent situations in order to peacefully subdue an adult. Furthermore, what can be said about a teacher who cannot keep control in the classroom. One must understand that in today's society, disciplining children is a rather awkward topic. But how can a professional who makes a living guiding and enlightening the minds of children, become bewildered by the actions of a five-year-old girl who has yet to learn how to vent her emotions in a more positive way? The fact that a five-year-old became so aggressive that no adult present on the school grounds could pacify her is sad.

This situation openly displays the mentalities of those whom are placed in charge of the development of the Afro-American youth. Law enforcement

officials often send police officers into the classrooms across America in order to establish a relationship between the police and the youth of this country. They attempt to send our children the message that police officers are their friends and that they can be trusted. The incident that unfolded at that school will be very interesting as it unfolds. More than likely, the actions of the police officers will be justified and the Florida Legislature will pass a law that will determine how a child is to be handled in situations like this.

While the family of this child attempts to soothe her and the city officials of St. Petersburg attempt to find a solution to the enigma that faces them, the media is having a field day portraying a five-year-old Afro-American child as a misfit and a rogue. The

message that was sent across the nation (at the expense of a child), is that our children are uncontrollable and can only be contained by being handcuffed and placed in a corner. The media has given the world the illusion that our children are emotionally unstable and will inevitably find themselves in the clutches of the unequal American judicial system. If this child had blonde hair and blue eyes, would she have still been placed in handcuffs and further humiliated on the evening news across the country.

Afro-American parents must begin to instill discipline in their children. Placing a child in handcuffs is truly an error of judgement, but so is sending our children out in the world unprepared. The actions of children always reflect back to their parents, just as the actions of indi-

vidual Afro-American adults reflect upon the whole race. There is no way to justify treating a mere child as an average criminal, but this situation could have been avoided. We must prepare our children, at an early age, on how to handle themselves out in the world. Kids will be kids, but as it seems, being a child of color opens the door for almost anything. We have recently seen a child killed by police in California, shot with a taser in South Florida, and now handcuffed on national television at an elementary school in St. Petersburg. The big question is, "What would the next step have been if the police officers were not successful with the handcuffs?"

Comments may be sent to: Sean Lewis, 1318 E. Maxwell St., Pensacola, FL 32503.

Five Suggestions For Michael Jackson

by Kimberley Jane Wilson

*A New Visions
Commentary*

While shopping recently, I ended up in one of those boxy, warehouse-like stores with a dreaded common dressing room. Four women of different races, ages, shapes and sizes pretended not to notice each other. Suddenly, we heard Michael Jackson's voice coming from the loud speakers singing "I'll Be There." Some of us paused to listen. "What a shame," one of the women said when the song was over.

That remark melted the ice, and we were soon talking about Michael. One of the women staunchly defended him but conceded that his behavior during the last ten years made him look suspicious. Another said Michael was a victim of a conspiracy - an idea the rest of us rejected. After the conversation, we

went our separate ways.

Michael Jackson the celebrity has been reduced to a joke, but Michael Jackson the man is in a world of trouble. California Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville ruled that past allegations could be introduced in his child molestation trial. Witnesses have testified that they saw Jackson engage in inappropriate behavior with young boys. The family of one of the witnesses, a former maid who said Jackson touched her son in a lewd manner, already received a \$2 million settlement.

According to defense lawyer Thomas Mesereau, the witnesses are simply liars with grudges against his client. But the prosecution says Jackson has a pattern of grooming and preying on vulnerable boys with weak families. He allegedly lulled parents into complacency while luring



Pop star Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse, Monday, May 9 in Santa Maria, Calif. for defense testimony in Jackson's trial on charges of child molestation.

AP Photo/Michael A. Mariani

their sons into his trap.

The oddness of the accuser's family and other witnesses play in Jackson's favor. For instance, if he came to your house and asked if he could play with your son for the weekend, what would you say? "Go jump in a boiling lake," would be my response. That the parents of Jackson's young accuser and the families of the boys apparently didn't have similar reactions is bizarre.

What will the jury believe? Will Michael Jackson go to prison or will he moonwalk right out of that courtroom? My hunch is that, unless the forensic evidence against him resonates with the jurors, Jackson will go free. But you can expect to see him in a courtroom and on tabloid covers again unless he makes five drastic changes:

- Leave the little boys alone. Forever. Maybe you

really do mean well. Maybe you're just being charitable. You may even be the victim of a conspiracy, but that's not how it seems. To the average person, you look like a predator on the prowl.

- Get rid of Neverland. Sell it. Donate it. Better yet, burn it to the ground. It's the site of a number of disgusting alleged criminal acts. Even if you are truly innocent, why hang on to what has now become an extremely expensive source of bad publicity?

- Speaking of publicity, avoid it for the next decade. Forget about resurrecting your career right now. Musical taste has passed you by, and no one except the hardest of your hardcore fans would buy your new album anyway.

- Find yourself a wise priest, pastor or some kind of mental health practitioner to talk to. You're over 40

now, Mike, and it's time to grow up. If your current behavior really has to do with childhood issues, you need to seek help.

- If you ignore the previous four suggestions, heed this one: get on the next plane to France. Artists are revered in that country. Roman Polanski lives a very pleasant life there, as did Ira Einhorn - the hippie "Unicorn Killer" - before he was finally extradited to the United States.

Michael Jackson can't go back to his old life. The rumors and watchful eyes are not going away. He must either change for good, or buy a one-way ticket out of here.

Kimberley Jane Wilson is a member of the national advisory council of the black leadership network Project 21. Comments may be sent to: Project21@nationalcenter.org.

The Poor Deserve More Than Reimports

by Council Nedd II and Leslie O. Anderson

*A New Visions
Commentary*

In the Bible, the Book of Proverbs has a passage which reads, "a good person knows the rights of the poor, but the wicked cannot understand such things." The Gospel of St. Matthew talks about society's obligation to the "the least of those among us." If we are to judge our country by our government's treatment of the poor, what would it say if we flooded urban pharmacies with potentially dangerous imported prescription drugs?

There's nothing keeping a person from going to a pharmacy to get a prescription filled. Often, there is even a generic alternative that costs significantly less for those who have trouble affording

name-brand medicines. Now, there are some in Congress and at the state level seeking a third alternative - imported or reimported prescription drugs. These drugs are cheaper because they come from other countries that often do not have our stringent quality and safety standards.

Some lawmakers believe U.S. consumers should have access to prescription drugs manufactured for use or produced in other countries. Such importation raises safety concerns due to the impossibility of identifying whether they were mishandled, tampered with or even counterfeited. This is because the drugs would have been outside the control of our government's Food and Drug Administration.

Many people have al-

ready experienced a small dose of what could happen under government-sponsored drug importation. Consider the differences between drug stores found in the suburbs as compared to their urban counterparts. The shelves of the urban stores usually have barer shelves, dirtier floors and surlier personnel than the ones in more affluent neighborhoods outside of cities.

Cynics might say these stores are a reflection of their communities. However, it's more accurate to say these urban stores look the way they do because the owners can get away with it. These dilapidated pharmacies can't be what people want, can they? No, but they exist because people in these neighborhoods do not feel empowered enough to insist on - and

thus marshal - the appropriate authority to receive appropriate levels of service.

As it has been throughout the whole of history, the wealthy tend to be able to purchase the best products while the poor get what they can afford. In the British Commonwealth, where government-run health insurance is granted to all, the poor are last in line for non-emergency care and surgeries. This is because the more well-to-do also have private insurance to supplement the coverage already provided by the state.

As in the book "Animal Farm," everyone is equal, but some are more equal than others.

Will the poor have a choice in the matter of drug importation, or will some perfunctory education pro-

gram be employed to ease the collective consciences of the importation overseers? Supporters of prescription drug importation admit their goal is no panacea. They will even say there is a safety risk, but dismiss the concern because people are already skirting the law and individually importing foreign drugs.

If someone buys drugs while on a trip or from a site on the Internet, it's between them, the postal inspector and the Drug Enforcement Administration. But if government gets involved in the purchase and distribution of potentially dangerous drugs, who determines which pharmacies will sell these questionable drugs? These imports will most likely end up either at drug stores in poor urban neigh-

borhoods or sold by mail order to unsuspecting Medicaid and Medicare patients.

Tampering with the nation's drug importation laws is not good public policy or an effective way to address the real problem of a lack of prescription drug coverage for the poor.

Government has an obligation of stewardship, and providing the underserved with potentially dangerous pharmaceuticals is the worst sort of stewardship.

Council Nedd II is a member of the black leadership network Project 21 and the executive director of the Alliance for Health Education and Development. Dr. Leslie O. Anderson is director of community, health and inner city ministries emeritus for the Northern California Conference of Seventh-Day-Adventists. Comments may be sent to Project21@nationalcenter.org.

SARASOTA / MANATEE AREA

VoIP/Broadband 911 Service May Not Work In Emergencies

SARASOTA COUNTY - Consumers who are considering buying Internet-based telephone services such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), should be aware that not all these services provide access to the 911 emergency network. When an Internet-based telephone service does provide 911 service, it may not be the full service many residents are accustomed to receiving via wire line telephones.

VoIP allows users to make telephone calls using a broadband Internet connection instead of a regular (or analog) phone line, but unlike wire line telephones, they do not always automatically show emergency service providers the caller's location. It is a feature that allows emergency personnel to find the location if the caller is not able to provide an address. Anyone considering an

Internet-based telephone should ensure that they can dial 911 from their VoIP phone, that it goes to the correct 911 call center, and that the call center receives complete location information.

"If you are considering a telephone service that does not include traditional 911 service, you should ask yourself how members of your household, including children, visitors and babysitters will call for help in an emergency," said Bill Stevens, 911 Coordinator for Sarasota County. "Don't forget they will have to know your address and be able to communicate it to emergency personnel."

For more information, call the Sarasota County Call Center at (941) 861-5000, visit the county Web site: www.scgov.net, keyword "voip."

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'One Mo' Time' To End WBTT Season



From L to R: Phyllis Banks, Jnana Wilson, Charles Lattimore, Mia Bankston

SARASOTA - As the final show of its season Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (WBTT) will be presenting "One Mo' Time." This New Orleans jazz musical with songs including "Darktown Strutters Ball," "After You've Gone" and "One Mo' Time" keeps audience bopping along! Its sound can be best described as a mix of soul, country and R&B.

"One Mo' Time" had a three year run Off-Broadway in 1979, then transferred to Broadway and was revived to acclaim in the 2002 Broadway Season. Audiences "rocked the rafters and danced in the aisles" to thrilling dancing on-stage of old-time 1920's Black Vaudeville featuring sizzling renditions of the Charleston, the Black Bottom and the Cakewalk, "A Hot Time in the Old Town

Tonight" best describes what audiences experience. Astutely mixing known and lesser known songs "One Mo' Time" is a hybrid of musical theater that includes such standards as "Dark Town Strutters Ball," "Tiger Rag," "The Bluesy He's Funny That Way" and "After You've Gone" as well as some less well known numbers. WBTT is delighted to finally bring the show to delight

SHINE Health Insurance Program To Be Offered At Jacaranda Library

SARASOTA COUNTY - SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) and Jacaranda Library partnership program is now offering services. Interested people can meet at the Frances T. Bourne

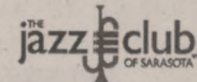
Jacaranda Public Library, Conference Room, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice from 9 a.m. to noon, on May 10 and May 24.

A certified SHINE volunteer will be available to

assist with health insurance questions and concerns.

No reservations are required, space is limited. For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at (941) 861-5000.

Jazz Club Re-Schedules Sea-Going "Jazz On The Water" For May 14



SARASOTA - Jazz on the Water, a four-hour musical excursion on Sarasota Bay, casts off on Saturday, May 14, sponsored by the Jazz Club of Sarasota. The popular four hour excursion had to be re-scheduled from May 1 due to rough weather. The fun begins when the Seafood Shack

Showboat, an old-time paddlewheeler, casts off at noon from Cortez Village. Bill Buchman's Art of Jazz All-Stars and the Jeremy Carter Jazz Quintet will play on the two decks until the boat returns at 4 p.m.

Ticket availability is limited and the event usually sells out. Tickets at

\$25 are available at the Jazz Club office, 330 S. Pineapple Ave., Suite 111, Sarasota. The ticket fee covers the cost of the cruise and the music. The Seafood Shack will have food and beverages available. For further information, call (941) 366-1552.

Sarasota audiences and to leave them singing "One Mo' Time."

The Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe's "One Mo' Time" runs May 26 - June 4 at the Gompertz

Theatre (1247 1st Street, Sarasota). The show times include: Eves. 7:30 p.m., Thurs. - Sat., May 26 - 28; Tues. - Sat., May 31, April 1-4; Matinees 3 p.m., Sat. and Sun., May 28 and 29;

tickets \$23 (student and group rates available. For tickets and information, call the Backlot Ticket Line at (941) 363-9300.

MIDTOWN NEWS

Abandoned Shopping Carts Create A Problem For Midtown

by Donald Wolf

Neighborhood News Bureau

ST. PETERSBURG - They gather in parking lots and on street corners. Some have names, others don't. Some are covered by rust; others are still brand new. Regardless of their condition, the abandoned grocery carts of Midtown are a big problem.

Residents complain because the carts litter their neighborhoods. City employees have to spend time picking them up. Community police officers try to deal with the issue. Each plays a different role but all agree that the abandoned carts create a nuisance.

They also create a large expense for the stores that lose them.

"I'd say that we lose about 15 to 20 carts per day," said Kevin Lane, the manager at Winn Dixie on Third Avenue South and Dr. Martin Luther King Street. He said each cart costs about \$250 to replace. "We don't lose them permanently, but we can be that many short. I couldn't even tell you how many we lose on a given week."

Carlyle Hogan, an employee in the city's sanitation department, said that picking up the carts can be difficult.

"Sometimes I'll see someone with everything they own in a cart. It's like they have a one-bedroom apartment tied to a cart," Hogan said. "And that makes it hard."

Homeless people use



Neighborhood News Bureau photo by Donald Wolf

the carts to carry all of their possessions. Residents without cars use them to transport their groceries home. Other folks just use the carts because they are convenient.

George Kajtsa, public information officer for the St. Petersburg Police Department, said community police officers can only do so much to deal with the problem.

"If we see someone using a cart, we ask them to return it immediately," Kajtsa said. "If we were to address this with all of our officers, that's all we would be doing."

In instances where the carts are abandoned, Kajtsa said that the officers call the store and ask that the carts be picked up. The officers can't pick them up, because the carts are too big to fit into police cruisers.

The carts are one of their main issues, Kajtsa

said, but little can be done to penalize people who take them. Theft of the carts is only a misdemeanor, since most are worth less than \$300. If the thief is arrested, he or she would probably spend the night in jail or pay a fine. But Kajtsa believes that arresting or fining individuals wouldn't solve the problem.

"It is the stores' responsibility," he said. Some stores should take more of an active role in trying to retrieve their own carts, he said. Others are taking clear steps to slow the trend.

"Some stores have different security systems in place," Kajtsa said. "Some stores use carts that have locking devices." These devices lock the wheels once they reach the limits of the parking lot. Kajtsa said that these limits, or "invisible fences," result in the carts staying in their

designated lots.

But not all stores have these devices. Instead, they rely on the traditional method of cart retrieval: They hire employees to gather carts and to respond to telephone calls reporting abandoned carts. Sometimes the carts are found miles away.

The Winn Dixie in Midtown is still waiting for its security technology to arrive. Until then, the store will continue to have employees who have the specific job of retrieving the carts. There is one employee at the store every day, working different hours to maximize the retrieval of the stolen carts, said Lane, the Winn Dixie manager.

The cart problem has a direct impact on the store's budget, he said.

"The loss of carts is definitely taken into consideration," Lane said regarding the store's budget. "That's a lot of money."

Lane said that he is not aware of which type of locking system will be used and that he is not too familiar with every type. But he feels anything would be an improvement.

"The first few days of the month are the hardest to deal with," Lane said. "At that time, we can lose up to 50 carts. That's a lot considering we only have about 60 or so in the store."

The carts that are not retrieved or returned are left throughout the city. Sanitation Department employees allot time to pick up and drive the carts to a designated location: 20th Avenue North and 28th Street.

Hogan is one of the employees who do this, along with his primary job of cleaning the city streets. "I have to pick them up every day," Hogan said of the carts. "Many citizens and business owners get tired of looking at them. They are an eyesore."

Once picked up, any of the carts that are still usable and identifiable are set aside. The owners of those carts are sent letters advising them to pick up their carts. Any carts not picked up or too damaged to use are then discarded. Hogan estimates that somewhere between 50 and 80 carts are thrown away per month.

He spends at least four hours a week picking up carts, usually in response to complaints by businesses or residents, he said. And, he thinks the problem is worsening, because the stores rely more on the city instead of picking the carts

up on their own.

"I could go through an area and pick up all of them," Hogan said. "And I'll come back later and there will be more there the next day."

Donald Wolf is a reporter for the Neighborhood News Bureau, a program of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Piano Recital At Enoch Davis Center

ST. PETERSBURG - On Saturday, May 14, from 2 - 4 p.m., sixteen talented students of Studio One Piano School will showcase their talents at a Piano Recital to be held at Enoch Davis Center, 1111 - 18th Ave. S. This is one event not to be missed!

The students have been

studying under the tutelage of James E. Bolden, instructor.

Refreshments will be served. This event is FREE and open to the public, who are encouraged to attend. Seating will be limited, so an early arrival time is encouraged.

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TAMPA BAY AREA

THIS & THAT



by Mabel Cooper
(823-6092)

PRUNES

Nine ways to kill an organization:

1. Join and let everyone know you are a member, but don't go to meetings.

2. If you do attend, always go late. The others will either wait, or stop the meeting while someone fills you in on what has happened.

3. Don't be an officer. It's much easier to sit back and criticize someone else: Let them catch the guff.

4. Don't offer an opinion at the meetings. Let someone else do the speaking, later have a lot to say about what you really think and what was done wrong.

5. Join; get all the benefits you can, but don't pay your dues. At least not on time. Sending out overdue notices gives the secretary or treasurer something to do. Besides, this gives you another opportunity to criticize the committee and tell how it should have been done.

6. Never stand up for the organization. Be negative about it to friends and business acquaintances. This keeps membership exclusive.

7. Cultivate a feeling of hostility towards anyone who offers suggestions or new things to do. Convince yourself that you are smarter and wealthier than he or she. Your attitude will help destroy many good ideas or projects.

8. Always make excuses for not doing something. The weather is a good one - too hot, too cold, too wet or too dry, too good or too bad. Work or business is another - too busy or not busy enough.

9. If you aren't asked to be an officer or to serve on a committee, complain bitterly about the cliques who are running the organization. Never, never volunteer your services. You've got it made if you follow my instructions.

HAPPY BIRTHDATE TO

Beatrice Donaldson, who turned '86' on May 11th - from your family and friends who love you!

And Bea, on your natal day, I am wishing you a chance to relax, time to laugh, and all the simple pleasures you most enjoy.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The Literacy Council of St. Petersburg held its annual meeting and dinner at the Enoch Davis Center, May 7. Tutor James E. "Pudgie" Elliot, chairman of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity's "Assault On Literacy" program, attended the affair. The Rev. Louis M. Murphy, Sr., pastor of Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, spoke to the tutors and students on the theme, "You Can Do It!" Educator Dr. Alexis Zubrod spoke on "Test-Taking Success." Student awards were presented along with a complimentary dinner.

ANNUAL BANQUET

The 369th Veteran Association and Auxiliary, Inc., Florida District National Vice-President James E. "Pudgie" Elliott, III and Florida District President Jack Highsmith announced their annual banquet to remember the greatest generation of African-Americans on Saturday, May 14, 2 p.m., at the Dolphin Beach Resort, St. Petersburg Beach.

The guest speaker will be LTC William A. Sanders, Chief Field Operation Division, United States Special Command, McDill AFB, Florida.

For information and tickets, call James E. "Pudgie" Elliott, III at (727) 458-9825.

AND NOW THIS

When it comes to boiling water, I asked a father (of the cloth), "How do you make Holy Water?" He went on to explain, "We don't make our Holy Water, but what do you do to make Holy Water?" "Well," I said, "You put a pot of water on the stove and boil the 'hell' out of it."

P.S. - When it comes to boiling water, I am a culinary genius.

STAY LOOSE!

How To 'Blitz Build' A Habitat Home



Sarah Miller (left) receives the keys to her new Habitat for Humanity home.



St. Petersburg city councilman James Bennett receives a tool apron in recognition of his work on the blitz build.

ST. PETERSBURG -

Pinellas Habitat for Humanity's first "Blitz Build," the 130 in 130 Blitz Build culminated on Saturday, April 30, with a noon-time dedication ceremony. Scheduled to speak at the ceremony were representatives from house sponsors Publix Super Markets Charities and Cox Target Media/Valpak and from the City of St. Petersburg, who donated the land for the house, at located off of 10 Street and Melrose Avenue in south St. Pete. Sarah Miller and her two children were the happy recipients!

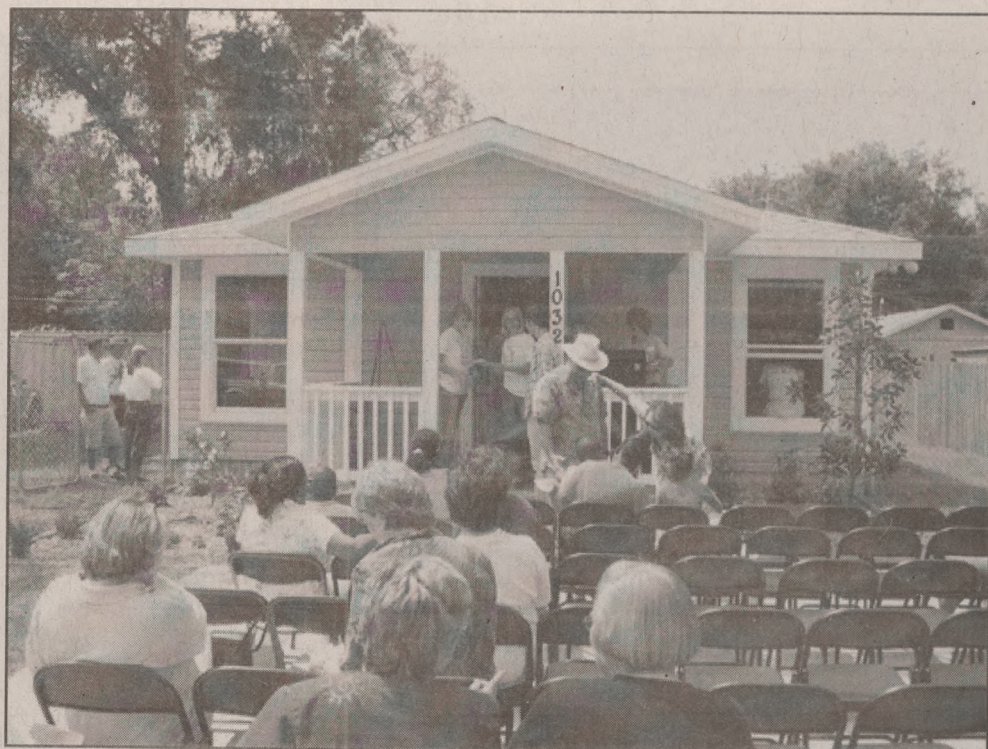
The name for this build against time is derived from the fact that this is the 130th housing start for Pinellas Habitat and that the house is constructed in 13 ten-hour work days, or 130 hours.

Pinellas Habitat for Humanity has constructed 119 homes since it began building in 1985. Volunteers and the future homeowners construct the homes, which are sold at no profit and financed with a no-interest loan. The mortgage monies are used to build even more homes, making each donation to Habitat a perpetual legacy to the community. Habitat believes that home ownership contributes to family stability, leading in turn to community stability.

For more information about Pinellas Habitat for



The house - just 13 days before the dedication.



The completed house.

Humanity, contact (727) 536-4755 or consult the website at www.phfh.org.

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THERE IS A REASON TO READ THE WEEKLY CHALLENGER!

RECOLLECTIONS



by Frances Pinckney

A Celebrity Client

"We seldom hear of a celebrated person without a catalogue of some of his weaknesses and infirmities."

When I was assigned the protective service case of Dr. Paul Chatelier, the famed research scientist and creator of Chatelier Plant food, the list was long of his weaknesses and infirmities. He was falling frequently, not eating properly and having difficulty getting along with the home health aides; he accused them of taking things, specifically ice cream. His mental capacity was questioned, although he'd been declared competent by the courts just six months earlier when a protective service counselor petitioned the courts to determine the client's mental capacity.

I was given a directive to petition the court to evaluate Dr. Chatelier yet again to determine competency. I agreed that his body physically had deteriorated and he was prone to stumble and fall sometimes, but the carpet cushioned his fall and so far no bones were broken. He needed some assistance in doing activities of daily living. The provider agency was pushing for guardianship and nursing home placement. I however, did not feel that guardianship or placement was appropriate. The frailness of his physical body was evident, but his mental sharpness was impressive, and he was receptive to services.

During my 21 years of doing social work with the State of Florida, I never

allowed anyone to push me into doing a guardianship. Taking away someone's rights is serious business and far too many guardians let greed take over and find themselves in deep trouble with the law.

I worked this case about six months and insisted that he get adequate service, which would enable him to stay in his home. I enjoyed looking at news clippings about his work and listening to stories about his childhood.

Chatelier said that the mood of his childhood memory had shifted and his memory as a young adult was active and flexible but old age crept in and deposited a bit of rust on his chain of thought. Chatelier made it his business to use his experience in scientific research to eradicate the dust and rust from his mind, memory needed a boost. The boost was Dexedrine. He said he'd experimented with Dexedrine and used it for years and his doctor prescribed it for him.

I was asked to call the doctor and get his opinion on Chatelier taking this medication on a daily basis. The doctor said Chatelier was taking the medication long before he became his doctor. He said that Chatelier was strongly convinced that Dexedrine enhanced his memory. The doctor concluded that Chatelier was very sharp and mentally alert and he would continue to prescribe Dexedrine for him.

I worked the case for six months and when I closed it, Dr. Paul Chatelier was still living at home. His wife had been in a nursing home for a few years and when he was ready he accepted placement at the nursing home with his wife.

I recently found an empty medicine bottle in one of my brief cases. The date on the bottle is March 27, 1989: "Dexedrine 5mg tabs take one 2x daily." This souvenir of my celebrity client was in my briefcase for 16 years.

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Over One Hundred Students Honored For Academic Excellence —

PINELLAS COUNTY

— "Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Future" was the theme for the recently held 20th Annual Joseph Carwise Student Achievement Awards Program and Brunch. Hundreds of elementary, middle and high school students from northern Pinellas County were honored at the ceremony, held on Saturday, April 30 at the Harborview Center in Clearwater. Among the audience were parents, relatives, teachers, administrators and School Board members — all of whom gave a standing ovation for excellence in education to these deserving students. Approximately 150 students received awards, and 12 graduating seniors received multiple scholarships.

The keynote speaker for the occasion was Aneisha Pretto, who has a wonderful success story of her own. Pretto was introduced by Danielle Townsel of Semiole High, as Courtney Vinson of Clearwater served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Pretto is a graduate of Dunedin High, and was the first African American valedictorian for northern Pinellas County. She is a graduate of the University



Jabez McCray Mitchell, multiple scholarship recipient

of Florida, where she earned her B.A. in French Studies, as well as Communications Sciences and Disorders. Pretto was also recognized nationally by the American Speech Language and Hearing Association as a Minority Student Leader and by the U.S. Department of Education as a Fullbright Fellow. She received a Master's from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), and is currently pursuing doctoral studies in Speech/Language Pathology at the University of North Carolina.

During her speech, Pretto challenged the students to continue to persevere, and to walk with



Keynote speaker Aneisha Pretto



Student honoree and parents with committee member on right

integrity as students of truth. She also encouraged the audience to stay focused on their goals, never give up on their dreams,

and to take advantage of every opportunity. Acknowledge Christ, and he will direct you on your path, she said. You are not

called to be perfect, she added, but to perfect what God has given you.

High school honor students presented awards to



Speaker's family members with Mildred Reed, principal of Dunedin High in background



Speaker and Coordinator Ed Baldwin

the honorees. Presenting to the elementary students were: Shae Young, Shannon Wynn, and Ashley McCullough. The middle

school presenters were Tevin Watkins and Serena Sealy. High school awards were presented by Janae Freeman, Aaron Anderson

and Alexis Henry. All recipients received a "Success" trophy.

Coordinating the Superintendent's Minority Advisory Committee are Oscar Robinson, Area I Superintendent, and Edward Baldwin, Director of School Operations for Area 3. Members of the committee include professionals, student representatives, parents and community volunteers. A special thanks goes out to the supporters of this education endeavor throughout its twenty years of showcasing "what's right with our youth."

Futures from front page

ate this year from Gibbs High School.

Weems has spent the last year assisting Vyrle Davis with the organization, urging parents not to miss deadlines, and to make sure they have the correct information for their child's profile for *The Weekly Challenger*. Nearly every week for the last several months, she has been carrying an overflowing attaché case stuffed full of Ebony Scholars material into the *Challenger* offices, submitting the names of program participants. After a year, she's worn out from the phone calls and reminders and the follow ups.

"We fail as parents to follow through with the deadlines on a lot of scholarship opportunities," she continues. "We're basically the people that our children count on to make sure that things are done. A lot of times, parents tell their children, 'You need to fol-

low up on this,' which is okay, but they also need to follow up with their children to make sure what they told them to get done is getting done."

Besides the Ebony Scholars award, Florida's son Phillip will also receive a Bright Futures Scholarship, which will help pay for 75% of his tuition to Florida State University in the fall.

He is just one of a record few minorities to receive this merit-based opportunity. Eight years after it was established, African American students still fall short when it comes to applying for and receiving Florida Bright Futures Scholarships.

Locally, only 1,991 African-American students have been awarded in the Tampa Bay area, since the Department of Education began recording the statistics in 1999. Only 624 scholarships have gone to African Americans in Pinellas County.

According to informa-

tion from the Florida Lottery, approximately 220,000 students received the scholarships since the program's inception. They report that close to 19,000 of the recipients have been African American - that's a little less than 9 percent.

"I know there are a lot of African American students out there right now who have high GPA's, who are planning to take those college entrance exams, or have taken them and achieved the high score, but they are unaware of this scholarship," stated Rebecca Mattingly, the secretary of the Lottery.

The Florida Lottery established the merit-based Bright Futures Scholarships in 1997. The proceeds from Lottery sales go to fund public education — Bright Futures Scholarships is one component of where those dollars go. In the Tampa Bay area, more than \$2 billion of the Lottery dollars have gone towards education. Other funded programs include

school district enhancement funds and the Classrooms First Program for new construction, major repair, or maintenance of education facilities.

"I don't know why the numbers are so low in the African American community," continued Mattingly, who also happens to be the first African-American female to hold her position. "It's such a hugely popular scholarship and it's well funded - we've funded over 220,000 since the lottery began," she stated.

"To the greatest extent possible, we have this information about the Bright Futures scholarship on our Website (www.flalottery.com, education link). We've got brochures all kinds of interesting tools to inform people. The main thing is to make sure that people know about it and how and when to apply," she added.

Funded strictly through the sale of lottery tickets, the Florida legislature and the Department of Educa-

tion determine what amount of that revenue goes towards the scholarship.

Among the criteria: Awardees must have a minimum 3.0 weighted GPA to receive at least 75% coverage of tuition and fees.

The Bright Futures Scholarship program consists of three award categories:

- Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award,
- Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award, and
- Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) award.

Recipients of the FAS award receive the equivalent of 100% of the cost of tuition and fees at a Florida public postsecondary institution, plus \$600 per year, prorated by term, for college-related expenses.

Recipients of the FMS and the GSV awards receive the equivalent of 75% of the cost of tuition and fees at a public postsecondary institution. Eligible institutions include Florida public state universities,

community colleges, and technical schools, and eligible private colleges, universities, and technical schools that meet licensure, accreditation, and operation standards.

Further eligibility for these scholarships is based on SAT scores, community service involvement and credit from college prep courses.

"African American students need to know about the scholarship by talking with their guidance counselors as soon as you get into high school," emphasized Mattingly. "You have to get in there and apply right in the beginning of your senior year."

For more information about the Bright Futures, visit the Department of Education's website at <http://www.myfloridaleducation.com/brfuture>.

Free Kids Day At The History Museum

ST. PETERSBURG — Saturday, May 14 will be "Kids Having Fun with History" day at the St. Petersburg Museum of History. Kids 12 and under are invited to visit the Museum and take part in the fun. There will be contests and craft activities, and refreshments. The award-winning displays from the Pinellas County Schools History Fair will be exhibited, and St. Petersburg Girl Scout Troop # 218 will preview

the oral history project that they have been working on at the Museum for the past several months. This is also the weekend of Pier Fest with many other attractions being offered at the Pier.

The program is free to kids under 12. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The St. Petersburg Museum of History is located at 335 Second Ave. NE on the Pier approach. Call (727) 894-1052 for more information.

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Teeth from front page

causes plaque to form on your teeth," explained Butler, who has more than three decades of health care experience under her belt. Her presentation is part of the free workshops the TEETH team is offering to community, civic and church groups. At the end of the presentation, participants receive goodie bags filled with tooth brushes, mouth wash, dental floss and educational pamphlets.

Also, their mission is to host community health fairs such as the one the group is gearing up for at the Campbell Park Recreational Center on June 4.

TEETH members also are setting up dental workshops for medical doctors, who will receive educational credit for attending a course conducted by health department officials. The goal of the class is to help doctors make a correlation between rotting teeth and chronic illness.

"Doctors basically tell

patients to open their mouths and say, 'ahhh,'" Bennett said. "They forget about everything else except the throat."

Bennett said the class will help doctors make dental referrals when they examine a "2-year-old with black teeth and gums." There is a critical need for dental awareness in Front Porch neighborhoods targeted under the grant. The Johnny Ruth Clarke Health Center is the only place offering dental services to residents - but it's not avail-

able on a daily basis.

"There aren't any private dentists in our immediate area and that's a huge problem," said Bennett, who is trying to recruit dentists to set up shop in south St. Petersburg.

If the TEETH grant is renewed, Bennett said he will have a \$150,000 budget next year and he plans to purchase a van equipped with state of the art equipment. "We will be able to go out into the community and reach people who don't have dental insurance," he

said. "They will be able to get their teeth pulled right in the van. It will address all types of dental needs - except braces and dentures."

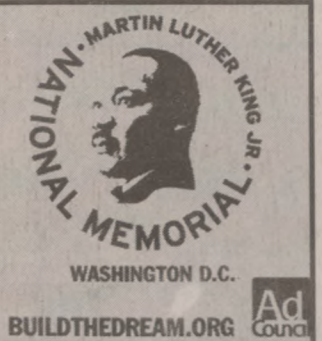
Adults also will be targeted under the grant next year. Right now, it is slated to serve 300 youth, aged 6 to 15, in need of basic dental care. Over the next six

month, the program will offer free sealants and dental screenings to children whose parents don't have dental insurance. "If their families don't have a car, we can pick them up," Bennett concluded.

For more information about the TEETH program call Bennett at (727) 823-3501.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."

- The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Seminar Pushes Parents To Focus On The FCAT



Vyrle Davis

by Linda Young

Challenger correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG — Power to the parents was the idea of a workshop that began with an explanation of their role when it comes to the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT), and ended with some of them singing and dancing.

The first half of the fast-paced evening was the FCAT presentation by Sharon Wilson, the assistant principal of Walsingham Elementary School. A motivational presentation by Fairest Hill, Ph.D., an author and the CEO of Youth on the Move, followed.

Co-sponsors were the Community Action Coalition and Concerned Organizations for Quality Education for Black Students at the May 5 event held in space donated by St. Petersburg College at their Allstate Center campus.

Wilson said part of a parent's role in understanding the FCAT begins with communicating with the school. Most information that parents need comes home in their child's backpack and she told them to check it. She also said it was important for them to come into the schools instead of speaking on the telephone for scheduled parent-teacher conferences. That way they see their child's work as the teacher discusses it.

She gave a fast-paced presentation on the FCAT complete with handouts that included FCAT booklets that parents should receive, and if they need more the schools have them. She also explained that parents could help their children improve simple test-taking skills that will help them score well. She gave a parent's checklist to help them assist their child through school.

• Is your child being challenged at his or her school?

• Has your child's school given and explained

your child's grades and test results?

• Have you asked your child's teacher if your child is on grade level in reading and math?

Grade level is indicated by one of the achievement level scores of 1-to-5 with levels 1 and 2 being below grade level, 3 being at grade level and 4 and 5 being above grade level.

• Have you asked for a specific list of skills your child needs to learn?

If you ask each August, you will not have a bad surprise in May.

• Is your child on track for graduation?

Ask each year at least.

• Is your child on track for being prepared for college?

Even if they have no plans for college, leave all their options open or they have none.

Author of the book, "Yes You Can Win-The ABC's of Success," Hill emphasized the importance of both parents and teachers in the life of a child. His presentation included singing, dancing, details from his life and words of encouragement, motivation and support.

"I'm here because of my mom and Mrs. Williams, my fifth-grade teacher," Hills said.

He was born in Detroit and raised in a public housing project. When he entered school, he was functionally illiterate and placed in special education. Williams told him "focus little Fairest," Hill said.

"The power of your words" can help a child. He said, "Because of a teacher," he graduated from high school with honors, then earned a college degree and completed a Ph.D.

One key to parents helping their children achieve is motivating them to aim high.

"I made it because of a good mother who believed in me," Hill said.

He said his mother, Tessie Hill, would drive her



Jett Packer, Sharon Wilson (assistant principal of Walsingham Elementary), Watson Haynes, City Council woman Rene Flowers and Farris Till.

children through the upscale neighborhood of Bloomfield Hills and told them they could live in houses that nice someday if they worked hard. He displayed a picture of the beautiful seven-bedroom home he owns in Tampa.

His special education teacher did more than ask him to focus on his reading and studies. He said one day Williams asked, "little Fairest, what do you want to be when you grow up?" Hill said that despite being unable to pronounce or spell the word, he answered "a businessman." She bought him a briefcase and defying constant teasing he carried that briefcase every day from the ghetto to the school.

You might call him "Fearless Fairest," and he gave the adults a real-time lesson in the importance of being fearless themselves to help children achieve.

Hill asked participants to come up and sing along with him. Lacking volunteers, he called on people. When they refused and fear showed on their faces he gently chastised them. Directing them to look into the faces of the children reacting to adults being afraid to come up and sing



he asked what message they thought that children learned when they saw adults afraid to tackle a task.

The result was that five adults overcame their fear for the sake of the children in the room watching.

At the end of his presentation Hill said, "They don't have to do drugs, they can stay in school," and he invited the audience to sing along to the song, "Remember What Your Mama Said."

Parent Lynette Green had attended an FCAT seminar before. She and her son Yirnis Patterson, is a sixth-grade student at Thurgood-Marshall Elementary, were waiting for the results of his FCAT. They enjoyed the event and learned a few things.

Green enjoyed Hill's presentation and was glad that her son was there. "He might not think that I'm so hard on him," she said. "I think my son has a better outlook on the direction I'm trying to steer him."

And what does her son really think now?

"Your parents are telling you stuff that you need to know. They're not trying to be destructive, they're trying to help you," Patterson said.

Fearless and poised, Kyesha Robinson, a sophomore at the University of Florida, and daughter of City Council Member Rene Flowers, served as mistress of ceremonies

'Arts Alive' Offers Free Museum Admission To Several Locations

ST. PETERSBURG — St. Petersburg's already hot arts scene gets even hotter on Saturday, May 21 with "Arts Alive 2005." During this one day event, admission is free for Pinellas and Hillsborough county residents (ID required) to five downtown museums and two popular visitor attractions, with special activities throughout the day and transportation aboard the Looper downtown trolley.

"Our museums and arts centers invite everyone to visit and enjoy. Gather up the family and plan a day in the best downtown in Florida - our downtown. Its easy, fun and - for one day only - it's free," said Ann Wykell, the city's manager of cultural affairs.

Participating museums include the Dali Museum, Florida Holocaust Museum, Great Explorations, Museum of Fine Arts and the Museum of History. Also free are Sunken Gardens and the Pier Aquarium. In addition, more than two dozen art galleries throughout downtown are open, including Florida Craftsmen and the Arts Center - which offer Arts Alive discounts on merchandise purchased in their gift shops.

Throughout the day, there will be drawings for prizes at each location. Top off the evening with two-for-one tickets to the Florida Orchestra at the Mahaffey Theater, featuring Mahler's "Symphony No. 4."

Most Arts Alive venues are connected by the Looper downtown trolley (25 cents per ride) from 10 a.m. to midnight. Parking is available at BayWalk (\$1 for the first four hours), The Pier (\$3) or other lots and on-street parking spaces that are readily available downtown.

All arts stops are ADA accessible. Accommodations available include sign language interpreters at museums and galleries, captioned videos at the Dali Museum, audio tours at the Florida Holocaust Museum and large print guides at the Museum of Fine Arts.

For a complete list of accessible services, and more information about Arts Alive 2005, visit www.stpete.org/art-saliva2005.htm.

"It's a great time to come out and rediscover cultural gems we have in downtown St. Petersburg," Wykell said.

Status from front page

district is operating under," Jemison said. She noted that in the 1998 court order, the district had made promises to solve many of those issues because they existed then. The fact that the issues themselves, rather than their solutions, were still being discussed indicated to her "those court documents are a façade," Jemison said.

She reminded Brown that the district had already recognized that these problems existed and said they would do something about it. "What they said they would then, they haven't done it. It has to be dealt with," Jemison said of the stipulated court order.

When Jemison advised Brown to take the problem of educating black children "off the shelf" and find the pieces necessary to do that, the audience of more than 60 people responded with loud applause.

COQEB co-chair Watson Haynes said that the court order was only going away if the plaintiff is satisfied. "We are plaintiffs and most of us aren't satisfied."

Jim Madden, director of unitary status, had promised the group that they would receive the superintendent's annual report on what the district had done to increase black student achievement, equalizing student discipline and equalizing student assignments into classes and programs and activities. Those annual reports have been overdue since 1999.

Haynes said that Madden had given the group the same books they had received before, which was not an annual report from the superintendent and didn't contain the information on achievement and discipline required by the court.

One member said that there was no real information that the School Board was acting in good faith under the court order because the group has asked "the district for annual reports" since 1999 under the court order detailing progress reports. The superintendent has never made a report," Jim Gibbons said.

Davis told Brown that he was going to put her "on the spot," and reminded her that in five years he had yet to hear unitary status discussed at a board meeting.

He mentioned that he has read in the newspaper that the district was planning for 2006. They are "in for a rude awakening, we're not satisfied," Davis said and told Brown that he thought it was "about time you bring to the table a discussion of unitary status. Bring it to the Board that everything is not all peach and cream."

When the *Challenger* asked if she expected

COQEB to allow the district to emerge from court supervision if the Board fails to meet the requirements, Brown replied that COQEB would have to decide if they accepted the Boards' planning process to resolve the issues.

"We know what the issues are and we just have to plan how to meet those issues," Brown said.

Jemison told the *Challenger* that she would read the copy of the bound booklet that Madden just gave the group to satisfy the court requirement for the Superintendent's annual report. Titled "Plan to Improve Student Achievement," the book carries a 1999 publication date and is a copy of the same book the district has given the group every time they requested the court ordered annual report, Jemison said.

Jemison said after she re-reads the 1999 book that she expects to report that the information on unitary status is not there. Although the 1998 court order stipulated that the school superintendent was required to issue an annual report on unitary status beginning in 1999, neither the former Superintendent, Howard Hinesly, or his successor, Clayton Wilcox, has done so.

The group meets next on June 1 at the James Weldon Johnson Branch Library at 9:30 a.m.

Jesse from front page

police chase turned bad," Rouson told *The Weekly Challenger*. "Being the minister that he is, Jesse went out to pray and see if he could assist in any way." While the driver had ran out to escape, he left the passenger injured in the vehicle pretty shook up," recalled Rouson. "Jesse stood there praying and comforting the victim."

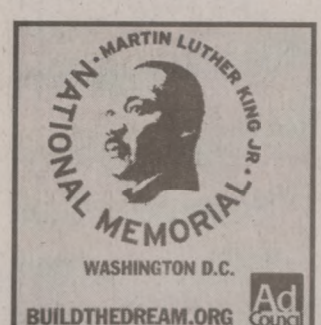
The accident occurred as the driver was stopped for a traffic infraction and tried to get away, stated George Kajtsa, public in-

formation officer for the St. Petersburg Police Department. Because there were no serious injuries, it was just considered to be a minor traffic accident, he added.

"Some people might try and blame the cops for this latest incident, but that's a double edged sword," stated Rouson. "Law-abiding, good people in our community want the cops here to do their job. In the course of their being professional, they are also human, and mistakes do happen. Did the police cause innocent motorists to be placed in jeopardy? One

would argue that if you are being chased by the police, you should stop," he added.

"Some in our community are always blaming the police, and I believe that sometimes that blame is misplaced. I know I'm going to take some heat for this, but there is some truth to it," said Rouson.

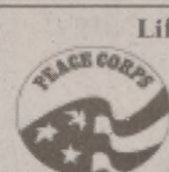


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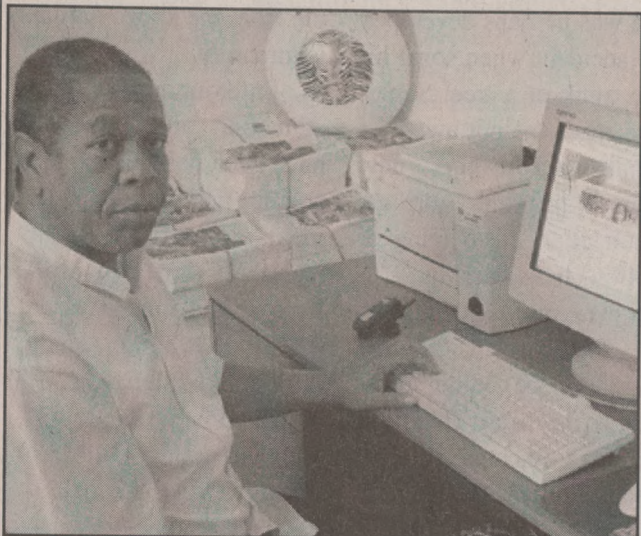
We Welcome Your Articles and Pictures of Community Interest

PROJECT ACCESS



by Tracie Reddick
(727) 209-1317

Ex-Felons Have Chance To Ease Transition With Project ACCESS



Theo Foster, who holds several degrees, is a Project ACCESS participant seeking employment.

ACCESS is a new program funded by WorkNet Pinellas, and co-sponsored by the Weekly Challenger. The aim is to help ex-offenders and others find employment.

PINELLAS COUNTY - They are both male and female. Some of them are old, but most are young.

They are white and black, but an increasing number of Hispanics and Asians are joining their ranks.

Who are they? Ex-offenders.

Each year, thousands of ex-offenders are released from prison and back into communities throughout the Tampa Bay area.

Although they are sincere about not wanting to end up back behind bars, the reality is, many of them do.

Why? Because they have a difficult time finding a job.

Like everyone else, they need to earn money to take care of life's basic necessities: food, shelter, clothing and transportation.

However, few employ-

ers are willing to look past their records.

Frustrated by the lack of opportunities available to them, they believe they have no other choice except to break the law in order to survive.

Its not an excuse. It's a fact.

They need options - and access to employment to help them productive members of society.

This column is aimed at profiling ex-offenders in the Project ACCESS program operated by KINFOLKS.

Many of these men and women are talented individuals seeking redemption from the bad choices they made in their lives. Some have skills ranging from CNAs to computer technicians. Others are seeking work as housekeepers or truck drivers.

All of them are motivated and eager to work.

Hiring an ex-offender does have tax benefits.

Employers seeking to fill jobs are urged to give the ex-offenders profiled in this column a chance.

Theophilus E. Foster

has turned his life around and is serious about finding work.

Affectionately known as Theo, Foster is a native of St. Petersburg and a 1972 graduate of Gibbs Senior High School. He attended Bethune Cookman-College and was a member of the Marching Wildcats Band and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

He put his studies on hold after his mother became ill and returned to St. Pete to help care for her.

Foster later relocated to Dallas, Texas, where he worked at E-Systems as a computer technologist. While living in Texas, Mr. Foster earned a Bachelors of Science Degree from Austin University and completed 24 hours toward his Masters Degree in Public Administration at the University of Houston.

He returned to St. Petersburg after his father became ill and worked in the city's Waste Water Management Department, where he received numerous certifications and licenses in the area of Waste Water Management, including The Florida Water and Pollution Controls Operators Association/Storm Water licenses B and C, OSHA Compliance Officer/General/Industrial Certifications.

Also, he completed the University of Florida's Waste Water Plant Operators Class C license/certification and he has a CDL license Class B Hazardous Materials Tanker Passenger endorsements.

"I am a hard worker and a dedicated and loyal employee," said Foster, a father of three daughters. "I am seeking employment in an area where my education, experience and expertise can reach their fullest potential."

Employers interested in scheduling an interview with Mr. Foster or who want to list jobs available within their companies are urged to call Tracie Reddick at (727) 209-1317.

In the meantime, if you are an ex-offender seeking employment assistance, visit Project ACCESS at 1735 Martin Luther King Street South, Room 132.

Worship, Praise, And Service

ST. PETERSBURG—

On Saturday, May 7, at 8:30 a.m., members of the St. Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. sponsored their Sixth Annual Prayer Breakfast. The Del-tas, resplendent in red hats and red and white attire welcomed guests at the beautiful ballroom of the St. Petersburg Hilton Hotel.

The mistress of ceremony Ayakao Watkins of Victory Christian Center, began the program (Empowering our Community through Worship, Praise, and Service) with quotes from the Book of Acts. Chapter President Sharon Wilson welcomed the 300 plus guests. First Vice President Joan Harris gave the occasion and Reverend John Evans, Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church read the scripture. Psalm 100 was used by Apostle Clarice Pennington to begin the invocation.

St. Petersburg City Councilman Ernest Williams (District six) requested prayer for our city officials in his greetings. Leverage Roberts of Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ and Delteen Lakeisha Timmons (Pinellas Center for the Arts, Gibbs High School) respectively, thrilled the guests with musical renditions of "I Vow to Praise You" and "I Need You Now".

Guest musician Keith Flournoy played throughout the event. Dr. Paulette Walker, Immediate Past Southern Regional Director of the sorority and member of the Tampa Alumnae Chapter of



Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. introduced the speaker (her long-time friend) Reverend Leatrice A. Williams. Reverend Williams is Associate Pastor of Greater Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Florida.

The Rev. Williams rocked the house with a solo "Somebody Here Needs a Blessing, Encouragement, Deliverance, a Savior." She stressed her belief that "We need each other to be fit for survival." Hesakiah Walker's lyrics "I need you, you need me, we are all a part of God's body" were cited to illustrate that belief. She continued by explaining the idea that most of us are in some sort of prison; either physical, financial, or societal: and that children



should be talked to continuously, and taught respect, values, and the work ethic. Finally, the audience was invited to join in singing Walker's song. The scholarship recipients were introduced by the chairperson of the Prayer Breakfast Committee Armetha Williams. The recipients are Cheryl M. Cross (Pinellas Center for the Arts, Gibbs High School), Conchita Diaz (Boca Ciega High School), Michael L. King III (Lakewood High School), Chrysteen N. Williams (Program of Culture Studies, Lakewood High School), and Djulerie Zephair (Osceola High School).

Awards were also presented to Reverend Williams, Dr. Walker,

Lillie Collins-Philogene, Sandra Fletcher, Deloris Graves, Anita Lewis, Deana Mobley, Clarice Pennington, Barbara Shorter, Dorothy Taylor, and Yvonne Williams. Proceeds from this event are used to award scholarships each year to local high school seniors.



photos by Rassi

Commissioner Welch Seeks to Unify St. Petersburg Community

Letter to Sheriff Addresses Use of Lethal Force

PINELLAS COUNTY - Pinellas County Commissioner Kenneth T. Welch expressed concern about the Sunday night disturbance in the Childs Park area and asked citizens to find peaceful ways to express their dissatisfaction with recent controversial incidents.

In a May 10 letter to Sheriff Jim Coats, the commissioner pledged strong support for the sheriff, offering his help in reviewing the lethal force policy for the county and making

those policies known to the community.

"As we have discussed and agree, it is vitally important that law enforcement continues to meet the highest standards of professionalism and accountability in the dispatch of difficult responsibilities," wrote Welch. "The fatal shootings of Marquell McCullough and Jarrell Walker raise community concerns regarding the use of lethal force, particularly in the case of an unarmed suspect or where there is an

opportunity to de-escalate the confrontation."

Welch, a native of St. Petersburg, said he has a strong commitment to the community and would like to see it unified.

"Working together with community and elected leaders, we can and will overcome the issues that threaten the peace of our neighborhoods and the prosperity of our community. Our commitment to positive change in the Midtown community remains steadfast."

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NAACP Sends Community Message

by Linda Hardaway
Watkins

St. Petersburg NAACP
Branch Secretary

ST. PETERSBURG - The St. Petersburg NAACP issues the challenge to you the community to join us as we address the following issues:

- Boycott of Purple Haze
- Investigation of the shooting of 19-year old Jarrell S. Walker
- Promotion of Unity Status and closing the achievement gap in the Pinellas School System
- Reclaiming our youth
- Establishment of a minority's contractor association

All of these efforts need community support. There are three ways you can help:

- Become a member of the St. Petersburg Branch NAACP
- Attend the 72nd Annual Freedom Fund Award Banquet to support local efforts (June 4, 2005)
- Volunteering

The branch needs volunteers to carry out the strategies to address the above efforts. We are also issuing a call out to all local ministers and organization leaders of the businesses we feel are bringing death and destruction to African American families in St. Petersburg (BADD to the BONE and Purple Haze).

We need tutors and counselors for youth who are acquiring their GED via Midtown Technology Center. Volunteers are also needed to serve on the fol-

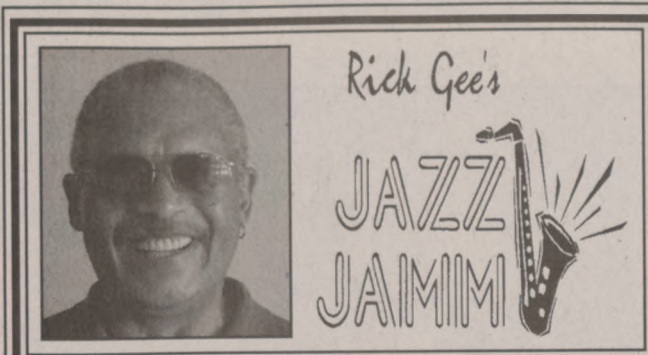
lowing committees: religion, education, health and political action.

We need you now in order to build the quality of life that African Americans are due in this community and ensure equal protection and of the law, and African American residents to enjoy the respect and decency of all other Americans.

Join us and support the branch. Please contact the NAACP at (727) 898-3310.

This "Call to-Action" is an "Equal Opportunity" appeal for social activism and voluntarism. Change is not free and it requires energy and commitment.

DON'T TALK ABOUT IT!! BE ABOUT IT!!!



Rick Gee's Jazz Jamm - The History of Jazz - Part III

Hopefully, the articles that I've been writing about "Jazz History" have started you to thinking about "back in the day." Remember the wind-up Victrola and the RCA Corporation logo picturing a dog with his head tilted and his ear close to the megaphone? Along side of the picture was the popular slogan that went along with it ... "His Master's voice." How about the 78 vinyl records that would break if you dropped them? Or perhaps, you remember how easy it was to scratch a 78 record. Oh yea! Remember the needles that you had to change to play the 78's about every 10 record plays, or so. Those were the days! Back then, we were all listening and dancing to the music of the day...Jazz and Blues, white and black, color didn't matter, everyone loved jazz, every one played jazz.

An excerpt from the book "JAZZ - A History of America's Music" written by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns states the following: "It is America's music - born out of a million American negotiations: between having and not having; between happy and sad, country and city; between black and white and men and women; between the old Africa and the Old Europe - which could only have happened in an entirely New World."

It is an improvisational art, making itself up as it goes along - just like the country that gave it birth. It rewards individual expression but demands selfless collaboration. It is forever changing but nearly always rooted in the blues. It has a rich tradition and its own rules, but it is brand-new every night. It is about just making a living and taking terrible risks, losing everything and finding love, making things simple and dressing to the nines. It has enjoyed huge popularity and survived hard times, but it has always reflected Americans - all Americans - at their best."

"Jazz," the drummer Art Blakey liked to say,

"washes away the dust of everyday life. Above all, it swings."

For those of you who read *The History of Jazz - Part II*, you will recall the mention of Congo Square. That is where the city fathers permitted slaves to dance and sing for a few hours on Sundays. It was here that the slaves took advantage of being able to express their frustrations and pain by celebrating for a short time during the day by employing an extraordinary and passionate ritual of music and dance.

By the 1830's, this Sunday afternoon happening had become popular attraction. On a regular basis, many residents of the city came to see and listen to the slaves play their music and dance. It most likely seemed to them that this was how it must have been in Africa. However, this was not so. Having to undergo in many instances, inhumane conditions and other atrocities, the slaves continuously improvised what they saw and heard every day, and molded it into a music of their own.

America's first international concert hall favorite, Maurice Marreau Gottschalk thrilled audiences with the sounds that echoed what he had heard in Congo Square. His 1851 composition "The Banjo" hinted at things to come a half century later. The banjo was originally an African instrument. Because it was loud and could be carried around easily, many traveling minstrels used it when playing their ragged, syncopated style. This is what set the foundation for the West African and European music mix, which we call "Jazz."

But it first led to Ragtime (ragged time), a musical strand in the DNA of jazz. Music that Gottschalk produced from his impressions of what he had heard in Congo Square strongly affected Scott Joplin, a young African-American composer some fifty years later. Joplin, an itinerant Texas pianist had worked his way up through the

logging camps of Mississippi and Arkansas to arrive in Missouri in 1894. His famous 'Maple Leaf Rag' was published five years later. Ragtime was like a tree branch stemming from Gottschalk's music and Joplin played it better than any other of his counterparts. It was a technique of piano playing that had developed from the formal structures of marching music.

Mostly black pianists played ragtime. The main places of employment for these musicians were in the brothels of America's major cities. The popularity of this new type of music called Ragtime was great and it flourished in the Midwest. It then began to spread throughout the rest of the country. When Ragtime came into New Orleans, as the music of the day, it had considerable influence on the musicians who shaped Jazz. The seeds that had been planted in Congo Square had begun its growth in Missouri and returned to New Orleans ready to spread and grow strong.

Understandably, no one person can be said to have originated Jazz. However, at the beginning of the century when jazz began to take on its first discernible form, one man stood out, cornet player Charles 'Buddy' Bolden (1877 - 1931). Considered to have been the first jazz great by many Jazz Historians, King "Buddy" Bolden was truly the music's first authentic legend. One legend has it that the sound of his cornet could be heard 10 miles away, across the bayou, on the still night air. This fabled cornet player adapted ragtime rhythms for his band, which was comprised of himself, a trombonist, two clarinetists, guitar and bass. Nevertheless, though Bolden was a great musician, he was not the only one to start to explore the complexities of collective improvisation.

Outstanding musicians considered peers of Bolden all claim a part of creating this new music. Players like cornet maestro Joe 'King' Oliver, clarinet players Johnny Dodds and Jimmie Noone. Also, included in this group of jazz originators were the extremely popular soprano saxophonist Sidney Bechet, cornetists Freddie Keppard and Louis Armstrong. One can add to this group of innovators, musicians such as trombonist Kid Ory, and pianist Jelly Roll Morton (who claimed to have invented jazz in 1902), all played their part in creating the vocabulary of the new music that we now call JAZZ!

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

Midwives Make A Difference: Workshop Marks Tribute

by Tracie Reddick

Challenger Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG - In the movie *Gone With the Wind*, actress Butterfly McQueen proclaims: "I don't know nothin' 'bout birthin' no babies."

Truth is, black women know plenty about childbirth and an upcoming conference plans to extol the legacy of those who served as midwives during slavery and beyond the segregation era.

"A lot of people have no idea of the important role these women played in African-American births before integration," said community activist Gwendolyn Reese. "We want to educate people and debunk the myths surrounding midwives."

The lesson starts with a two-day conference sponsored by the Federal Healthy Start Project. It kicks off May 20th with an array of workshops that begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m.

At 6 p.m., at the Royal Theater, there will be a reception and tribute to local Black midwives, past and present.

On Saturday, May 21, there will be a half-day conference featuring the film, "Bringin' in Da Spirit," the director, Rhonda Hayes, and a panel of midwives and doulas to share information and answer questions regarding the services they provide. The conferences will be held at Bethel Community Baptist Church, 2901 54th Avenue South.

"We're very proud to be able to honor the midwives of Pinellas County," Reese said.

Family members of the midwives identified will be invited to the tribute and will receive a token of appreciation commemorating the invaluable service provided to the community by their relatives.

"I don't want to leave anyone out," Reese said. Right now, ten midwives have been identified through the project. They include: Mary E. Brown, Georgia Brown, Roxanna Donaldson, Lyder Gass, Sally Givens, Phyllis Bradwell, Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Carry, and Mrs. Wideman.

"I don't have the first names of some of the women," Reese said. "Back



Gwen Reese wants to debunk the myths about midwives.

then, you didn't refer to women by their first names. It was always Mrs. so and so."

Donaldson delivered Deputy Mayor Goliath Davis, Gass, the grandmother of Rev. Keturah Pittman, delivered Reese, Mrs. Carry delivered Paul Barco, Sr., and Mrs. Wideman delivered educators Alphonso, Lester and Donald Campbell.

Dr. Robert Swain, one of our pioneer dentist, was delivered by Mrs. Bennett and Georgia Brown ushered her granddaughter, author and historian Rosalie Peck into this world.

All of the women represent an overlooked chapter of black history. Their lineage extend back to slavery, when midwives were traditionally called upon to care for pregnant women.

Acquiring skills from direct experience - rather than academic learning - midwives learned their trade from their grandmothers and mothers or from other older midwives in the community who were sensitive to cultural rituals surrounding childbirth.

They were so skilled that obstetricians in the Deep South used to regard them as competition and backed state laws to forbid them to practice in or out of hospitals, thus making it fairly easy to get rid of them because they didn't have any formal support.

By the 1960s, many black families were able to deliver babies in hospitals for the first time and many young black women no longer had a reason to use - or learn - from the aging midwives, whose practices faded into history.

Until now. The recep-

tion is a way to honor their legacy, which is captured in Haye's film, "Bringin' in Da' Spirit: History of the African American Midwife."

"The film is just incredible," said Reese, noting Haynes will be a featured guest at the reception. "I saw the film last year and I don't think there was a dry eye in the audience. It took an entire year to get her down here and to build a conference around her."

During the women's movement of the 1970s, there was a shift in the midwife experience. Today, the midwives are registered nurses who are typically utilized by white women.

Reese wants to increase awareness about midwifery in the black community and preserve the rich heritage and vital role of the midwife in American history. The reception will honor the ten midwives of the past and highlight five women of African descent who are currently practicing in Pinellas County. They are: Aissa Scott, Jaida Taylor-Herring, Sharon Turpin, Sandy Alexander and Zerica Whittingham.

"As a community, we don't know a lot about these women," Reese concluded. "They do an excellent job at delivering babies. The personal care they provide is centered on you and on making each birth experience a positive one."

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call Gwen Reese at (727) 896-5669.

Historic: SPC Wins State Baseball Championship

ST. PETERSBURG - St. Petersburg College rightshander Todd Redmond threw his second shutout in four days to give the Titans their first state junior college baseball title Tuesday at Osceola County Stadium in Kissimmee, the spring home of the Houston Astros.

Redmond went the distance, scattering eight hits and blanking the Panther's Chipola Community College 3-0. Friday, in SPC's opener against Miami-Dade College, the result was identical.

State junior college baseball teams have been

competing at the state level for 47 seasons. In 2000 the Titans made it to the championship game before falling 7-6.

In the tournament for the eighth consecutive year under Coach Dave Pano, the Titans scored single runs in the second, third and fourth innings.

Left fielder Steve Padlock had two singles and drove in a run, and Willie Hernandez had a home run for the winners. The third run scored on a fielder's choice. In an earlier tournament game against Chipola, a home run by Padlock won it in the 14th

inning. St. Petersburg, which advanced through the Suncoast Conference playoffs to get to state, was the tournament's only undefeated team.

Redmond, a graduate of St. Petersburg's Northside Christian School, has signed with the University of Tampa for next season. But he is eligible to be drafted again in June if the Pittsburgh Pirates, who drafted him a year ago, don't sign him by the end of May.

THE ART OF LIVIN'



by Norman E. Jones II
(727) 895 - 4126

The Art Of Livin' - Part II

Mass communications among the natives of Nubia was perhaps developed, by accident when some hit the trunk of a tree. Someone who was not aware of what caused this new sound became curious. Soon after, the beating of hollow trees was used to get everyone's attention.

Today, we can describe this type of communication as the drum. This form of communication has not changed its effectiveness in ten thousand years. The tree was used then as the radio is used today.

The beating on the trees provided warning of various dangers in the immediate area. By being the very first form of mass communication, it is no wonder that the drum is currently one of the most used instruments in the world.

Upon their arrival in America, Negroes were forced to replace drum communications with made up words. In most instances, they were forbidden to speak to each other in their native tongue. Of the many hardships they had to face, communication was - and still is - the most severe. Currently, African-Americans have difficulty with verbal communications.

In Nubia, the ability to persuade other people was the basis of a successful conversation. Generally, the person with the most words got his message across. It was probably the form of advertisement. At present, the most effective form of persuasion is by word of mouth.

When the wonders of nature were exposed to the initial natives of the Nubian communities, they were identified as resources for use in sustaining their livelihood.

Fishing was a selective process and they were eaten for nourishment. Trees provided shelter from the sun. The moon was used for light to capture animals at night. Even the earth was instrumental in the tedious progressive development of these humans, and was commonly used as a resting-place.

Many of the current beliefs about the sky can

be attributed to the combined thoughts of the people from the above African community.

Entertainment, sports, education and enterprise have been perhaps the best accomplishments in the identity of African-Americans. All were part of the lives of the inhabitants of the first communities in Africa. Traditional dances of the village people dazzle the imagination of many people today. Several of those occasions identified the cultural development of the different communities in Africa.

The educational process of Blacks in America can best be described as unacceptable in most circles. The reason for this, of course, is the lack of identifiable factors that describe their African heritage and their American culture.

Business for the native African was defined as the condition in which a person enjoyed his livelihood. In America, when Negroes were allowed to partake in the free enterprise system, many became successful and wealthy. However, currently, this ethnic group is experiencing an economic bondage that exceeds the human bondage of slavery. At least everyone had a job!

In the communities of Africa, each person had a responsibility. Their natural job and source of employment was the duty or manner in which they contributed to the community. The entire community depended on each person to do his duty. A standard of living was established based on each individual's responsibility.

The death of the natives in Nubia came as a result of their living conditions. Most enjoyed happy lives after the experience of this new life was identified. Blacks in this country have suffered treacherous and senseless death from the hands of white and other blacks.

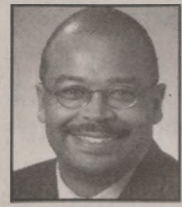
The death of African-Americans in America is usually explained as "The Will of God."

Norman E. Jones can be reached at normanjones@aol.com.

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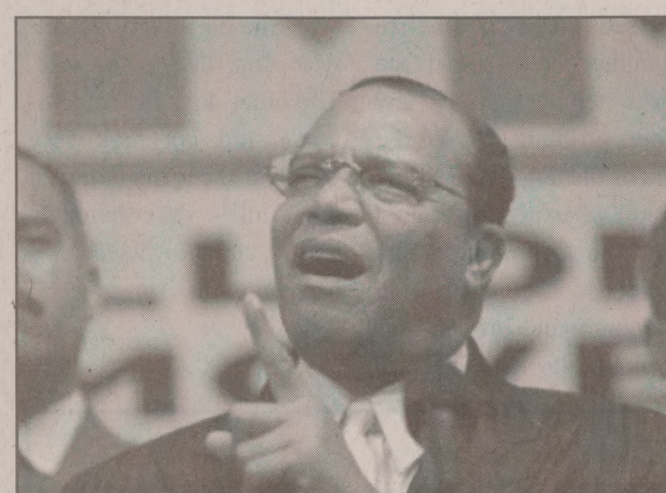
NATIONAL NEWS

Farrakhan Plans New March On Anniversary Of Million Man March



Nation of Islam leader Rev. Louis Farrakhan, center, talks with former Washington Mayor, and current City Councilman Marion Barry, left, and Rev. Al Sharpton at the National Press Club in Washington, Monday, May 2, 2005 during a news conference to announce the Millions More Movement, set for Washington Oct. 14-16, 2005. The event will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March.

AP Photo/Susan Walsh



The controversial Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, has been criticized by the Anti-Defamation League in the past for being a racist and anti-Semite. They have urged black leaders to boycott the march.

by Devlin Barrett

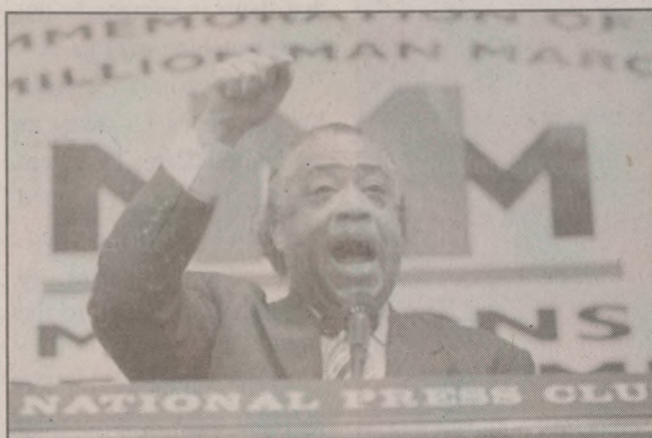
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — On May 2, black leaders called for a rally in Washington this fall to mark the tenth anniversary of the Million Man March, this time including women.

Separately, the Anti-Defamation League criticized the lead role of organizer Louis Farrakhan. Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, appeared with former presidential candidates Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton to announce the Millions More Movement in October.

It is billed as a more inclusive successor to the Million Man March, encouraging women and gays to attend.

Farrakhan, who has been accused of making anti-Semitic remarks in the past, issued a broad invitation that also took aim at the wealthy, his critics, and both political parties.

"Millions More means we're reaching for the millions who carry the rich on their backs," he said. He also used the sort of provocative language that has prompted past criticism.



The Rev. Al Sharpton helped to announce the new march efforts. He briefly alluded to the sometimes chilly relations among the three black leaders but said they were working together to make the event a success and to end disparities between black and white Americans.



The original Million Man March was held on October 16, 1995 in Washington, DC., under the theme of "unity, atonement and brotherhood."

AP Photo/Susan Walsh

"If anybody deserves to strap a bomb on themselves and give pain for the pain we have suffered, it is we. But none of us would kill," he said.

The Anti-Defamation League, which has long criticized Farrakhan, urged other black leaders to separate their cause from him.

"When will someone in the African-American community stand up and say that the Million Man March had a positive message but the pied piper is a racist and anti-Semite?" said ADL director Abraham Foxman.

Sharpton alluded briefly to the sometimes chilly relations among the three black leaders but said they were working together to make the event a success and to end disparities between black and white Americans.

"We don't come to argue today about who said what, who did what. Our family is in crisis," said Sharpton.

Organizers are promoting a Day of Absence from work and school on Friday, Oct. 14, followed by a march in Washington on the 15th, and religious services the next day.

"All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem."
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

'Precious Doe' Identified 4 Years After Discovery Of Body



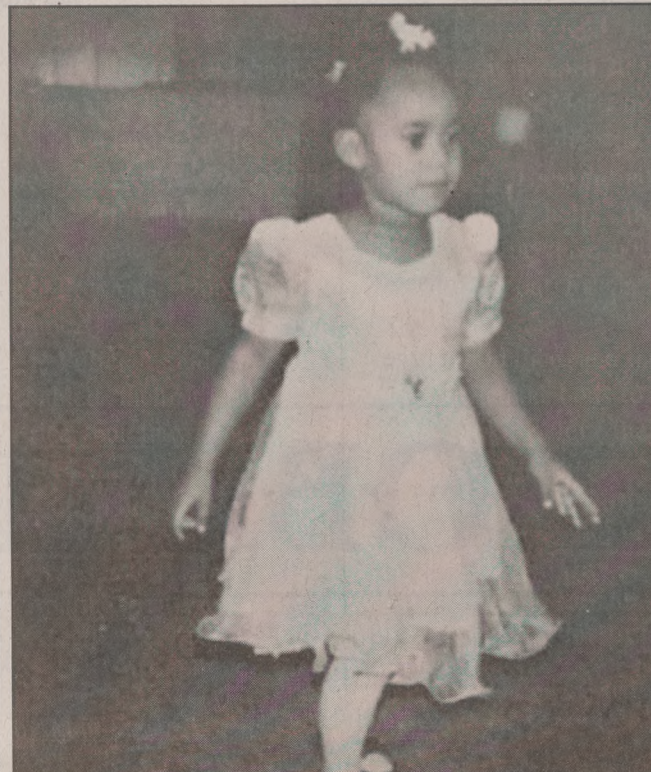
Michelle Johnson leaves the Muskogee Courthouse, in Muskogee, Okla., Friday, May 6. Johnson waived extradition to Missouri on second degree murder charges in the death of the child known as Precious Doe, who was recently identified as Johnson's daughter, Erica Green. The child's headless body was found along a road in Kansas City in 2001.

AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki



This undated photo provided by the Muskogee County Sheriff's Department shows Harrell Johnson of Muskogee, Okla. Johnson was charged Thursday, May 5, with murder and endangering the welfare of a child in the death of 3-year-old Erica Michelle Maria Green whose headless body was found in Kansas City April 28, 2001. Investigators named her Precious Doe as they sought the identification.

AP Photo/ Muskogee County Sheriff's Department



This undated photo provided by the Muskogee, Okla., police department, shows Precious Doe, a little girl whose headless body was found along a road in Kansas City, four years ago. On Thursday, May 5, police identified the girl as Erica Michelle Marie Green, arrested her mother on murder charges and pronounced the sad mystery solved.

AP Photo/Muskogee Police Department

by Matt Sedensky

Associated Press Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — For four years, she was known only as Precious Doe, a little girl whose headless body was found along a road. On Thursday, police identified the girl, arrested her mother and stepfather on murder charges, and pronounced the sad mystery solved.

The girl with big brown eyes and neat cornrows in her hair was identified as Erica Michelle Marie Green, just shy of 4 when she was found.

Her mother, Michelle M. Johnson, 30, and stepfather Harrell Johnson, 25, were charged with murder and endangering the welfare of a child.

Police said Harrell Johnson admitted that under the influence of alcohol and the hallucinogenic drug PCP, he became angry with Erica when she refused to go to bed, grabbed her, kicked her and threw her to the ground, leaving her unconscious. After she died, he said he used hedge clippers to sever her head.

Both suspects were being held in Oklahoma, where they live.

"We have closure," Police Chief James Corwin said. "The little girl that we've known for four years as Precious Doe has a name."

Police said a tip enabled them to identify Erica, but they would not

elaborate. The girl's body was found near an intersection on April 28, 2001. Days later, her head was found nearby, wrapped in a trash bag.

In the months after she became known as Precious Doe, hundreds attended candlelight vigils, volunteered to answer witness hot lines and passed out fliers with an artist's rendering of the girl. The FBI took blood samples from family members of missing black girls, and the case was featured on television's "America's Most Wanted."

A makeshift memorial of poems, teddy bears and flowers was eventually replaced by a permanent memorial in a park near where her body was found. On Thursday morning, among flowers and balloons, a handwritten sign announced the news: "My Name Is Erica Michelle Maria Green."

Authorities said the little girl was killed in Kansas City, where the family had been staying with a friend. According to court papers, Harrell Johnson beat the girl one night in April 2001 and the couple left her unconscious on the floor for two days. They did not seek medical help, the mother said, because both had warrants out for their arrest.

The child died, and the couple carried the body to a church parking lot, then

through the woods, where the stepfather cut the girl's head with hedge clippers, police said.

The break in the case apparently came after community activist Alonzo Washington, who has long championed efforts to find out who the little girl was, placed another advertisement seeking leads in a local paper.

"There's something about it that just bothers me that a child could be thrown away and people forget about it," said Washington, who has worked to raise awareness of missing black children.

Washington said a grandfather of one of the individuals involved in the case came forward, talking with him and detectives last weekend. He said the source, who had spoken to police before on the case, sent photographs of the child as well as hair samples from the child and the mother.

Police and prosecutors refused to confirm specifics, or identify the source. Washington declined to be more specific.

A photo displayed by police during a news conference, showing the girl with a slight smile and adornments in her braided hair, may have been a picture of the wrong child. Oklahoma police saw the picture and said it appeared to be one of the girl's cousins.

Michelle Johnson was being held on \$500,000 bail in her hometown of Muskogee, Okla., and will be brought to Kansas City as soon as possible, prosecutor Michael Sanders said.

The prosecutor asked that her husband be held without bail and that the couple be extradited to Kansas City as soon as possible.

Oklahoma records show Michelle Johnson has convictions for theft and forgery. The stepfather, being held in jail on unrelated charges, has convictions for several offenses, including assault with a dangerous weapon and possessing a sawed-off shotgun.

In Kansas City, police closed off the street in front of the run-down home where authorities said Johnson and her husband had been staying at the time of the killing.

People who long had been transfixed by the case welcomed news of the arrests.

Billy Stegall, a retired post office worker and Army sergeant, discovered Erica's head in 2001 and has gone back to the site regularly to pray.

"This is a day I have been looking for," he said. "I just asked the Lord to say who she is so she could be at peace, because she wasn't at peace and I wasn't at peace."

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

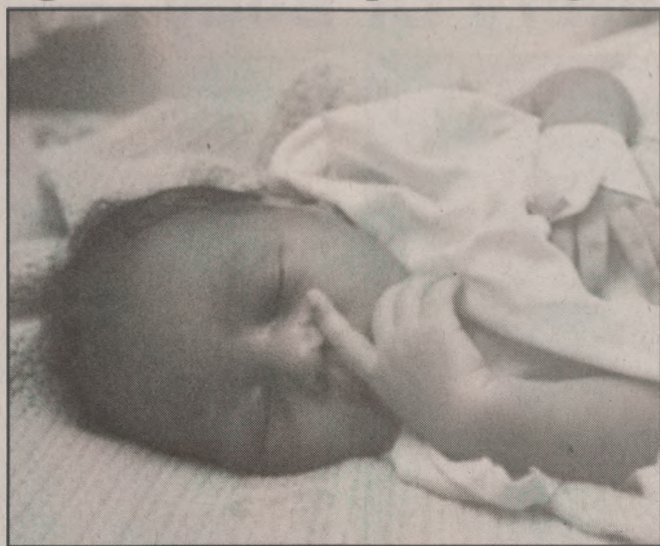
Kenyans Eager To Adopt Baby Found With Puppies

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Offers to adopt a newborn girl found among a litter of puppies after being abandoned are pouring in to the Kenyan hospital where she is being treated, and the stray dog credited with her rescue has a home and a name — "Mkombozi" or "Savior."

As police searched for the infant's mother, a government spokesman expressed some skepticism Tuesday about the story of the dog's role in saving the child, dubbed "Angel" by hospital workers, and said authorities were investigating.

Mary Adhiambo, a resident of the compound where the dog lives, said Mkombozi apparently found the baby Friday wrapped in a plastic bag in the nearby Ngong Forest.

The dog reportedly dragged the baby across a busy road and through some barbed wire to a shed in the poor Nairobi neighborhood where puppies



The 3.3 kilogram (7.28 pounds) infant not even bruised by the dog that retrieved her Friday, as she sleeps at Kenyatta National hospital where she is being treated Monday, May 9. A nursing dog foraging for food retrieved the abandoned baby girl in a forest and carried the infant to its litter of puppies in Kenya, witnesses said Monday. The stray dog carried the infant across a busy road and a barbed wire fence in a low-income neighborhood bordering the Ngong Forests in the capital, Nairobi.

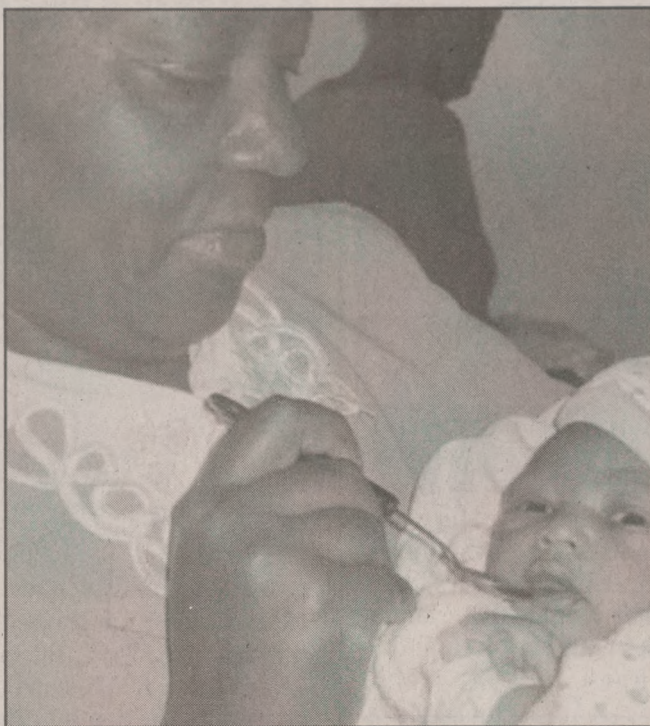
AP Photo/Khalil Senosi

borhood where puppies from two stray dogs were sheltering.

"I saw a dog carrying a baby wrapped in a black dirty cloth as it crossed the road," witness Stephen Thoya was quoted by the independent Daily Nation

newspaper as saying. "I was shocked at first, and when I tried to get a closer look, the dog ran through the fence and disappeared along a dirt road."

The infant was discovered after two children alerted adults that they



Jennifer Mwangi, a nurse holds the baby named Angel at the Kenyatta National Hospital, Wednesday, May 11. Offers to adopt the newborn baby poured at the hospital.

AP Photo

heard the sound of a baby crying near their wooden and corrugated-iron shack. Residents found the baby lying next to the dog and her own pup.

Government spokesman Alfred Mutua said authorities were investigat-

ing the rescue story.

"This is a very interesting development and the government is looking into it because if it happened the way it has been relayed, it is one of those amazing things that happens in life that defies human explana-

tion," he said. "It indicates that there is somebody out there watching over us."

Well-wishers from Kenya and as far away as the United States have sent e-mails to The Associated Press and called the country's main hospital to inquire about adopting the child.

"The publicity on the way the baby was rescued has sparked a lot of public interest in helping her," said Hannah Gakuo of Kenyatta National Hospital, where the child is being treated for exposure and an infection in her umbilical cord.

"People have been calling the hospital, asking about the possibility of adopting her," Gakuo told the AP.

Officials in the government's Children Department were not immediately available to comment on Angel's fate or the widespread problem of abandoned babies in Kenya,

where poverty and failed relationships are frequently to blame. Kenya's weak law enforcement and poor social security system mean most people who abandon their babies are never caught.

The stray dog that saved the child also was being cared for Tuesday, a day after its last surviving puppy died for unknown reasons, said Jean Gilchrist of the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals.

Animal welfare officials named the dog "Mkombozi," or "Savior," and gave it its first bath and de-worming.

"She looks a bit depressed so we'd like to examine her to see if she has a temperature or any other problem," Gilchrist said of the dog. "She wasn't happy when we all poured into the compound. She decided to leave, but kids in the compound brought her back for the bath because

she was full of ticks."

Felix Omondi, 11, and his family, who live in the compound, have taken the dog in.

The dog, a tan short-haired mixed breed who was heavy with milk from nursing, was possibly trying to care for the child because most of her puppies had died, Gilchrist said.

"She reckoned it was a young animal and possibly wanted to bring it up," Gilchrist said. "It is something to do with the canine-human bond."

"Other dogs might have just left her there to die. She's obviously a very special dog," Gilchrist added.

"She is a very street-wise dog, that is for sure. The other dogs in the compound did not look very well, but she is the fattest of them all — she obviously knows how to look after herself."

OBITUARIES

Obituaries of residents, former residents and seasonal visitors are published without charge. They may include the person's age and surviving close relatives. This information is obtained from the funeral home. Photographs to accompany obituaries are welcome. For information, call (727) 896-2922 before 1 p.m. Monday & Tuesday. Email all information to: wceditor@tampabay.rr.com.

ST. PETERSBURG RITES



BAKER, GEORGE WASHINGTON, 55, died April 28, 2005. Survivors include his wife, Mamie Newkirk Baker; two sons, Derrick Baker and Anthony Baker; one daughter, Vondolyn Baker; two brothers, Phil (Carolyn) Baker and Michael (Bertha) Baker; two sisters, Patricia Miles (Wayne) Morris and Gloria Baker; seven grandchildren; two uncles; five aunts; one great uncle; two adopted children, Dashawna S. Walker and Charez Middleton; his special friends, David Reeves, Thomas Walker, Gene Crawford, Timothy Dudley

and Alfred Beechum; and several nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins and friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

BROWN-GILSTRAP, CARRIE, 75, died April 15, 2005. Survivors include one daughter, Brenda Gilstrap; three sons, Henry (Loretta) Gilstrap, Alphonso (Vernetter) Gilstrap and Gary (Venita) Gilstrap; one brother, Charlie Brown; one sister, Annie T. Love; 10 grandchildren, Donna Doyle, Darryl Gilstrap, Shauna McCallister, Felicia Lewis, Lutricia Foster, Alphonso Gilstrap, Jr., Sonje Gilstrap, LaWanda Gilstrap, Andrew Gilstrap and Shelly Odom, Jr.; nine great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

FELDER, JULIA, 82, died recently. Survivors include her sister, Betty Little; and several other relatives and friends. McRae



Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



HOOKE, SARA WEBSTER, 72, died April 28, 2005. Survivors include one son, Framz; one daughter, Andrea; three brothers, Willie Webster, Hugh Webster and Joseph Webster; seven grandchildren; and several other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

JACKSON, JOHNNY D., JR., died May 4, 2005. Survivors include his par-

ents, Lisa Whittye and Johnny Jackson; three sisters, Tracey Jackson, Tywanda Campbell and LaToya Pierce; and is maternal grandmother, Estella Sanders. Zion Hill Mortuary, St. Petersburg.



JONES, KENNETH SR., 52, died April 24, 2005. Survivors include one son, Kenneth Jones, Jr.; his caretakers, Harold (Mary) Burroughs; two sisters, Lula (Sam) Harris and Carrie Jones McCray; five brothers, Spencer (Crystal) Jones, Lawrence (Chloris) Jones, Adolph (Mary) Jones, Nelson Jones, Jr., and Rudolph (Sheena) Jones; one granddaughter,

Desiree Silver; and several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



LEONARD, ELIZABETH WATERS, 83, died recently. Survivors include her husband, Benjamin Leonard; two daughters, Carol Jenkins and Sonya Leonard; three grandchildren, Dana Doren, Richele Jenkins and Kia Perry; one sister, Hazel (George) Warren; four brothers, Essie Slyke, James (Dorene) Lenard, Charles Leonard and Joseph (Jacqueline) Leonard; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives. McRae Funeral Home, St.

Petersburg.

ROBINSON, WINFRED ANDRE, 46, died April 23, 2005. Survivors include his wife, Marisa Allen Robinson; four daughters, Marquetta, Andrea, Quannisha and Marisa Robinson; seven brothers, Hendri Robinson, Vincent Green, Ben (Sandra) Harrell, Jr., Russell (Antonette) Robinson, Kenneth, Anthony (Bubba) and Darren (Ashley) Harrell; five sisters, Emily (Kenneth) Boone, Sherries Green, Jacqueline McGee, Michell Harrell and Lynn (Xavier) Johnson; nine grandchildren, Arquita, Donte, Dontrall, Jonathan, Danajha, Daquez, Destiny, Ta'niya and Carl; and several nieces, nephews, cousins

and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



WALKER, JARRELL S., 19, died April 12, 2005. Survivors include his parents, Wanda Walker and James Jones; his stepmother, Jeanette Jones; one son, Kamau Adams Walker; five brothers, Omar (Dell) Walker, Oran Walker, Orin Walker, Jerel Walker and Jeremy Jones; two sisters, Chabrier Walker and LaQuita Sutton; his great grandmother, Addie Jones;

his maternal grandparents, Jimmie and Vassie Walker; two nephews; two nephews; four uncles; four aunts; a special friend, Horace Smiley; and several cousins, other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

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RELIGIOUS NEWS

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

"Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust."

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Pastor Clarence A. Williams and the Mt. Zion Church family cordially invite you to attend worship services with us at 919 - 20th St. S. We also invite you to all our services in the upcoming week. Join us in worship as we give praise and honor to God our creator and maker.

Our early morning service begins at 7:30 a.m. with praise and thanksgiving filling the sanctuary as we prepare our hearts and

minds for service.

Our Church School commences at 9:30 a.m. We encourage you to join us as we collectively learn more of the Word of God together.

Our contemporary worship service is at 11 a.m. Join us as we lift high the name of Jesus in song. The Male Chorus will provide ministry in song throughout the day. Pastor Williams will minister the Word of God at both services. Come, be blessed!

Other ministries include:

• Monday - Bible

Study, 6 p.m.

• Wednesday - Early morning prayer 6:30 a.m.; Vintage Bible Study, 11 a.m.; 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 a power-packed hour. Your heart will be encouraged and your spirit revived.

Upcoming events:

• May 14 - Sons of Allen Prayer Breakfast, 9 a.m.

• May 16 - Church Conference, 7:30 p.m.

• May 21 - Leadership Training Seminar at the Holiday Inn Select, 3535

Ulmerton Road, 8 a.m.- 3 p.m.

• June 4 - Church School Workshop.

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: **"God is looking for obedience, not just good intentions."**

Be blessed, and have a Jesus-filled week!

Power Of Pentecost Proclaimed At Philadelphia

Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated at New Philadelphia during mid-morning service. Children and youth will lead church family in praise and worship. The Rev. Aaron Gaskin will provide proclamation. Members are urged to be present and prompt on Sunday.

Church family is reminded of clean-up day on Saturday. Members will meet on site of church property at noon and commence cleaning inside and outside of residence.

Supplies and equipment will be provided. For more information, contact Pastor. Praise-in-the-Park will take place Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. Marquee will

present spontaneous praise, prayer, and evangelistic services at Williams Park in downtown St. Petersburg. This service of ministry is free and open to the public.

Pentecostal Church Of God In Christ

Pentecostal Temple was glad to welcome many guests and visitors. Our Youth Department was in charge of the service on Mother's Day. Well wishes were offered to all of the mothers and ladies present. The congregation was blessed along with the mothers as they were with the reading of several poems by our youth, inspired by song and dance by the P.T. Angels of Life and presented with beautiful roses.

Missionary Evelyn Foster presided and acknowledged also that many ladies are not "birth moms" but have stepped into the role and help to care for youth in the church, their families and communities.

Pastor William Anderson preached an anointed message from 2 Kings 4:1-37 using the subject "All Things Are Possible If You Believe." He pointed out that it is a good thing to be known as a "man of God." God could have worked in this situation through any of the steps taken to revive the Son, but He chose to work through the "man of God" which was also the avenue of blessing for the Son's existence. A praying woman will know what to do in times of distress; her faith in the midst of unfavorable circumstances will cause her to declare that "it is well."

Faith is based on knowing what God said and what He has done and believing in it unwaveringly. Even when a situation is dead (unresponsive to prayer and good works), God is able to restore life into the matter and bring joy to those involved.

Prayer was offered by Elder Terence Merritt, and the congregation encouraged each other with words of victory - "it is well!"

St. Mark M.B. Church

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of its illustrious pastor, the Rev. Brian K. Brown, its official staff and the entire family of St. Mark extends to the community at large its wishes that God's richest blessings will be bestowed upon them. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central mission a belief that we are a haven of hope, help and healing for a world hungering for the enlightened Word of God.

Sermon Review May 1:

Title of Sermon: Can God Trust You: Whose Tithe is it?

Scripture Reference: Leviticus 27: 30 and Deuteronomy 14: 22.

Leviticus 27:30 states: a tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to

Him as holy. Deuteronomy 14:22 states you must set aside a tithe of your crops-one tenth of all the crops you harvest each year. This tithe is to be brought to the place the Lord our God chooses for his name to be honored. As believers, we have a mistaken notion of tithing. We believe if we give our ten percent, we are off the hook. In actuality, all we have belongs to the Lord. Our tithe should be an expression of joy and love and thanksgiving; a response to God's blessings which stirs further blessings from God. The Lord uses the tithe to:

(1) Cultivate worship of him; teach us to have proper respect of him. We are to cultivate an attitude of worship and praise.

(2) Compensation of those doing the work of ministry, those who give themselves to ministry full time. We have to under-

stand that it takes money to do ministry.

(3) Create the means to do greater ministry, ministering to those in need of hope, help and healing.

As believers, we are asked to tear a page out of God's book and act as he acts. He takes the tithe to help everyone except himself. God takes the little, the least and does so much. God asks for one tenth; we have so much but are we willing to freely give back what God has so graciously given to us?

Upcoming events for May:

• May 14 - Women's Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. (Public Invited).

• May 22 - Spring Variety Concert.

• May 23 - PIZZA Ministry.

• May 24 - Church Outing: First Baptist Institutional, 7:30 p.m.

• May 25-28 - Con-

gress #2 (Host Church - Southside Tabernacle).

• May 29 - Mission Emphasis Sunday.

As part of our ongoing ministry, we invite the public to join us in worship and fellowship during our weekly worship services, which include:

• Early morning worship (First Sunday Only), 7 a.m.

• Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

• Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

• Baptist Training Union, 5 p.m.

Other weekly services include Children and Youth Ministry meetings (Mondays at 6 p.m.); Sunday School Teachers' Meeting (Tuesdays at 7 p.m.); Senior Hour of Power Bible Study (Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.) and Prayer Meeting and Bible Study (Thursdays at 7 p.m.).

Pastor Resigns After Political Spat

Ousted congregants say he mixed politics and religion

WAYNESVILLE, N.C. (AP) - A Baptist preacher accused of running out nine congregants who disagreed with his Republican politics resigned Tuesday, two days after calling the issue "a great misunderstanding."

Speaking from the pulpit during a meeting at East Waynesville Baptist Church, the Rev. Chan Chandler told church members that it would "cause more hurt for me and my family" if he stayed.

"I am resigning with gratitude in my heart for all of you, particularly those of you who love me and my family," Chandler said, adding that the dispute was rooted in his strong feelings about abortion.

Chandler's attorney, John Pavey, Jr., said the pastor has not apologized for anything he said and would continue to speak out against abortion. He said the dispute inside the church had nothing to do with politics, a contention echoed Tuesday by Chandler's supporters.

"I don't believe he preached politics," church member Rhonda Trantham said. "I don't believe any-



The Rev. Chan Chandler, left, along with his wife Melody, arrive at the East Waynesville Baptist Church Tuesday, May 10, in Waynesville, N.C. Chandler, 33, has come under fire after members of his church claim he led a charge to kick them out of the congregation because they refused to support President Bush, resigned during a meeting at the church..

AP Photo/Alan Marler

one should tell a preacher not to preach what's in the Bible."

But some congregants of the 100-member church in western North Carolina have said Chandler endorsed President Bush from the pulpit during last year's presidential campaign and said that anyone who planned to vote for Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry needed to "repent or resign."

The church members said he continued to preach

about politics after Bush won re-election, culminating with a church gathering last week in which the nine members said they were voted out.

At Sunday's service, the 33-year-old Chandler said the flap over the church members' dismissal was "a great misunderstanding" and he tried to welcome them back.

"No one has ever been voted from the membership of this church due to an individual's support or lack

of support for a political party or candidate," he said in a statement.

Blount Osborne, chairman of the church's elected deacons, said there was no warning Chandler would resign and the church had no severance agreement with him.

"That was surprising, him leaving as quick as he did. I didn't figure he'd walk that way," Osborne said.

Several church members said they agreed with Chandler on issues like abortion, but objected to him making those issues explicitly political in the church.

"I think everyone in there agrees with him on the issues. Politics was the problem," Carolyn Gaddy said.

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

The Pastor's Appreciation Ministry cordially invites you to Pastor Louis M. Murphy Sr.'s Sixth Anniversary celebration. Please come and be a part of our month-long celebration. The guest speaker for this Sunday's 7:45 a.m. service will be the Rev. Joseph Gordon, pastor emeritus, Greater King David Int'l Church.

The 10 a.m., anniversary observance speaker will be Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, senior pastor emeritus of the Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, N.Y. The Rev. Taylor will be doing a book signing after the 10 a.m. service.

Sunday, May 22, the speaker will be the Rev. Melvin Dawson, Cathedral of Praise, Miami, Fla.

Boy Scouts will meet every Monday at 7 p.m. on the third floor. New scouts are welcome. Contact Scoutmaster Ellis at (727) 864-3727.

C.A.R.E. Ministry (Choosing Addiction Recovery Efforts), will meet every Tuesday 7 p.m. at the Youth House located at 1022 - 20th St. S. If you or someone you know has an addiction, please contact Minister Keith Murphy, (727) 894-4311, ext. 800.

Summer Camp runs May 23-July 22, 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Registration has begun for ages 5yrs.-13yrs. Sign up now while there are still spaces available. Some exciting events are planned for the summer - field trips and much more. For more info re-

garding breakfast, lunch, snack and applications for registration, call Jan Smith or Donna Johnson, (727) 894-4311, ext. 401.

Mt. Zion Human Services, Inc. provides after school training and tutoring services for youth ages 14-18 through the Youth Opportunity Center. The program offers an opportunity to improve your grades, on-line practice for the FCAT, ACT/SAT prep, earn your high school diploma, earn your GED, and earn an opportunity to be selected to win a free computer. For further information, please contact George B. Smith, (727) 894-4311, ext. 302.

Immediate Opening

for

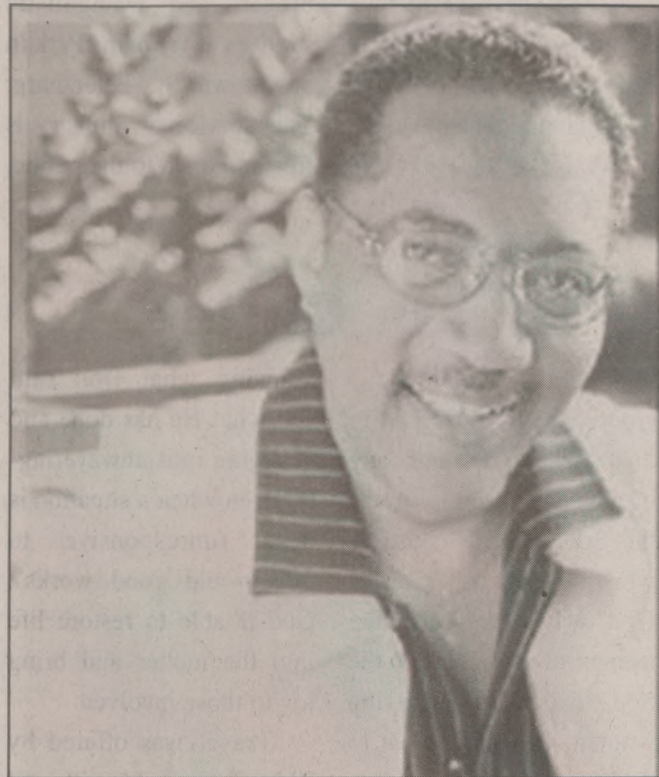
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- Some knowledge of hymns and anthems
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The Bobby Jones International Gospel Industry Retreat Convenes Again In Florida



Bobby Jones

The Bobby Jones New Artist, Christian International Gospel Mime', Christian Comedians, Hip-Hop Gospel, Gospel Artist Managers, Promoters, Public Relations and Media, Christian Songwriters, and Christian Instrumentalist.

The return of the new artist showcases and the presentation of today's leading recording artist will be the focus of the musical presentations. The youth day will be highlighted with the students from the state of Florida's High Schools for the Performing Arts and Hip-Hop Gospel presentations. Sunday's kickoff will also include top leaders from the state of Florida along with local city officials.

This three-day Industry affair will definitely be a must for any Christian and Gospel Music supporter in the world.

For more information, please visit www.bobbyjonesgospel.com.

UPN's Flex Alexander And Wife, R&B Sensation Shanice Wilson, Host 'A Song 4 U: A Concert Of Hope'

Gospel music's brightest stars take the stage for one night only to support the tsunami relief efforts



Flex Alexander and Shanice Wilson

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Executive producer Tionne Williams united a host of gospel recording stars to support the Tsunami relief efforts with "A Song 4 U: A Concert of Hope" Friday, May 6, at the City of Refuge in Gardena, Calif.

The event - hosted by UPN's Flex Alexander (star of UPN's "One On One" and VH1's "Man In The Mirror") and wife R&B Sensation Shanice Wilson (nominated for a Grammy as Best R & B Female Vocalist in her own country and awarded the Golden

Lion Award as Best International Artist in Germany) - was outstanding.

The multi-award-winning lineup captured performances by Kim Burrell, Donald Lawrence, Karen Clark-Sheared, Kierra "Kiki" Sheared, Tonex, Hezekiah Walker, Dorinda Clark-Cole, Ricky Dillard, Ted & Sheri, Fons, Tim Bishop Brown, BJ Stanton, and newcomer Patrice Wilson.

In addition, heavy weight gospel artist Daryl Coley was honored with the 2005 "Melody Hu-

manitarian" award for his outstanding career achievements in entertainment and contributions to our society.

"After the devastating Tsunami that ravaged South East Asia earlier this year, many benefit concerts popped up to raise money for rebuilding. This concert is the latest," said Williams. "A Song 4 U was not created just to entertain but to send a message of love and hope throughout the nation."

L.A.'s finest radio personalities Aundrea Russell and Cliff Winston of KJLH

and Niele Anderson of 100.3 The Beat, and Christian comedian Broderick Rice donated their time to assist in introducing artists and entertaining the crowd.

A portion of the proceeds from "A Song 4U: A Concert of Hope" were donated to the American Red Cross Tsunami Disaster Relief Fund.

Sponsors include Tulut Entertainment, Elizabeth Mothershed-Trilogy Financial Services, and A-Comfort Limousine.

Gospel Artists Unite Against Music Industry Dealings

WASHINGTON DC — A coalition of gospel artists, songwriters, industry officials and church leaders recently announced the formation of the Gospel Artists Progressive (Gap) Movement, a new alliance that has pledged to raise awareness of shady music-industry business practices.

The group aims to educate gospel artists about recording contracts, copyrights, publishing rights and other financial business issues that have emerged recently as the genre's popularity has risen.

Gospel music - which annually accounts for more than \$1 billion in record sales in the U.S. only and close to 10 percent of all music types sold - has only a handful of superstars among the more than 1,000 recording acts and performing groups.

"I earnestly support the mission of the Gap Movement," said the group's chairman, the Rev. Robert Lowe, pastor of the 4,000 member Mount Moriah AME Church in Cambria Heights, N.Y. and former gospel music artist himself.

"It's long overdue that we seek to bring more equity for all persons involved in this industry," said Lowe who also owns and operates a small gospel label, Mt. Moriah Records.

Other members of the Gap board include: Brenda

Culpepper, former president and owner of PepperCo Records, Dean Rev. Jerry Streets, dean and chaplain at Yale University, School, Hall of Fame performer Dr. Bobby Jones and superstars James Hall and Grammy-nominated Twinkie Clark of the Clark Sisters.

"I just want artists to be knowledgeable about their rights," Clark said.

The gospel music industry is dominated by the Verity Records' label, a subsidiary of Sony BMG. Industry insiders and along with members of the Gap Movement are closely monitoring the outcome of new lawsuit, filed April 1st by entertainment attorney James. L. Walker, alleging Verity and its agents used intimidation and coercion to defraud artists of their fair and rightful compensation.

"This is big business, given the impact of gospel music in our society and culture," Streets added. "It is imperative that we protect our artists and empower them," he said.

The Gap Movement is calling for a gospel music business summit to be held this August where the group will also petition for the establishment of an artists, musicians and songwriters benefits system that would offer healthcare, retirement and pro bono legal services.

**WHEN LIFE KNOCKS YOU TO YOUR KNEES,
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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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.



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)

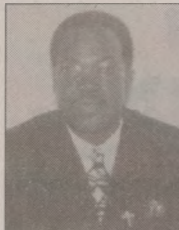


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Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.
Tuesday Night
General Bible Study
Thursday Night Prayer
Meeting & Teachers Meeting



Rev. Clyde Williams

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REV. JIMMIE B. KEEL, PASTOR

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Phone: 727-822-2089

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

CHURCH DIRECTORY

BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240
E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com

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

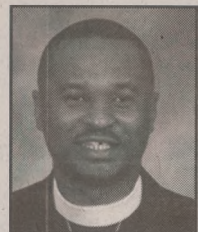


"God's House In The City"

Rev. Rickey L. Houston

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NOTHING,
GOD IS UP TO
SOMETHING!**

STEWART-ISOM MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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"

GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Rev. Clarence Williams, Pastor

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

Early Morning Worship 7:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
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.

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The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor

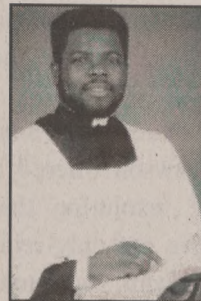
3940 - 18th Avenue South
P.O. Box 15935 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733
Wisdom School 9:50 AM • Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 PM (Wed.)

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

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Elder: Tony Smith

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

Friendship Missionary Baptist

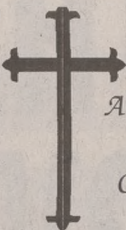
3300 - 31st Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300



Pastor John A. Evans

Sunday 7:45 AM and
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Sunday School 9:30 AM
Tuesday 7 PM Youth Church Enrichment
Wednesday Noonday Bible Study and
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7 PM Prayer and Bible Study

Ordained Missionary
Johnnie Mae Howard
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10th Street Church Of God

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

(727) 898-9407



Rev. Ronald L. Bell, Pastor

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

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

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Thursday 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.

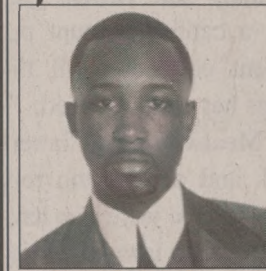


Rev. Brian K. Brown

"One week from church makes one weak."

Greater King David International Church

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



Rev. G. M. Curry

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

"The Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"

DOMINION WORSHIP MINISTRIES

"Come Take Dominion Over Your Life Now"

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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 - dwc.tripod.com

The Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church

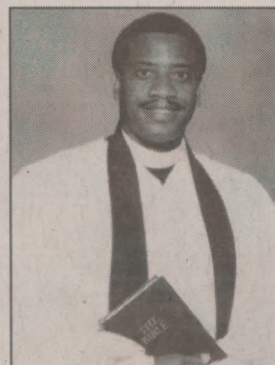
"A New Beginning In Christ"

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) 867-6307

Scheduled Services - Sunday

Church Education Assembly (Church School) - 8:15 a.m.
Devotion by Deacons - 8:45 a.m. Praise & Worship - 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service - 9:15 a.m.
Communion - Every First Sunday Bible Study - Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

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

FIRST BAPTIST INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

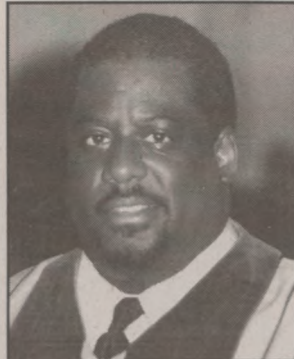
3144 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FL
PHONE: 323-7518

REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

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MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

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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

Sunday Services:

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

Tuesday Services:

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

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STATE NEWS

FAMU Leader Allays Concerns Of Financial Troubles, Grants

by Coralie Carlson

Associated Press Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Last Thursday, Florida A&M University's leader rebutted reports that the school's financial troubles were jeopardizing its federal grants, and said the university's books would be in the black within six weeks.

Interim President Castell Bryant, who took over in January, said she expected to resolve all issues with the National Science Foundation within 30 days.

In an April 27 letter, the foundation threatened to terminate all its federal grants to the historically black school if it didn't solve its financial problems within two months. All grants recommended for approval were put on hold, the St. Petersburg Times



Interim President Castell Bryant expects to resolve the financial issues within six weeks.

reported.

Bryant said the school has a comprehensive financial plan that the foundation wasn't aware of when it sent the letter.

The plan was approved by its board of trustees, the

Board of Governors and the state auditor, Bryant said.

The National Science Foundation didn't immediately return a phone call Thursday seeking comment.

Bryant said she would

make sure other agencies that issue grants know about the school's plan to recover financially.

"I want them to know that we are facing our problems head on and we're addressing them," Bryant said.

A recent private audit of the school's finances identified \$23 million in discrepancies. In response, Bryant has enforced a spending moratorium on cell-phone, travel and other routine expenses.

She said the financial problems would be fixed within six weeks.

"Bottom line - we will be in the black in the end of the fiscal year," Bryant said. "I am determined to do it and I think we're going to make it."

Ousted Broward Elections Chief To Sue Gov. Bush Over Removal

by Adrian Sainz

Associated Press Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Former Broward County elections supervisor Miriam Oliphant said last Wednesday she will sue Gov. Jeb Bush in federal court for millions of dollars, claiming that her race was a factor in his decision to remove her from office amid allegations of negligence and a botched 2002 primary.

"My civil rights have been violated and my constitutional rights have been violated by the state of Florida," Oliphant said.

Oliphant and her attorney, Ellis Rubin, announced the lawsuit one day after the state Senate voted 32-7 along racial lines to uphold Bush's 2003 decision to suspend Oliphant, who is black.

Oliphant's supporters in the Senate argued that she was singled out even though white election supervisors in other counties also made mistakes in the 2002 election.

"Yes, there are racial overtones to this whole matter and we intend to bring those before a federal judge," Rubin told reporters. He said the lawsuit would seek millions of dollars in damages but did not



Former Broward County elections supervisor Miriam Oliphant announces Wednesday, May 4, in Miami, that she will sue Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in federal court, claiming that her race was a factor in his decision to remove her from office amid allegations of negligence and a botched 2002 primary.

AP Photo/Alan Diaz

specify an exact amount.

Rubin said the lawsuit will argue that Oliphant was selectively prosecuted, and her right to due process were violated. It will be filed in Miami federal court and name Bush and the state as defendants, Rubin said.

Bush spokesman Jacob DiPietro said such a lawsuit would be "without merit" and noted that the governor's decision was "af-

firmed in an overwhelming and bipartisan manner" by the Senate.

A report by Special Master Steve Kahn, released in January after a trial in the Senate, found that Oliphant was guilty of "grave and frequent neglect, gross ignorance of official duties and gross carelessness" while in office.

Kahn said it was not about race, noting that

Bush replaced Oliphant with another black female Democrat - Brenda Snipes, a former school administrator who served as an interim elections supervisor until she was elected to the post in 2004.

Oliphant ran a deficit of more than \$936,000 and lost 268 absentee ballots in the 2002 primary that were later found in a filing cabinet, the report said. In addition, 23 polling places in Broward County opened late in 2002 and 32 closed early.

Oliphant, who lost a bid for re-election in last year's Democratic primary, has argued that underfunding by the Broward County Commission and sabotage by subordinates caused the problems in 2002.

Last Tuesday, Sen. Mandy Dawson offered a substitute resolution that would have not only reinstated Oliphant, but exonerated her of the charges and awarded her backpay and attorney's fees. But Dawson withdrew the amendment after more than an hour of debate and several impromptu meetings of senators.

Families On Medicaid Still Wondering, Worrying About Changes

by David Royse

Associated Press Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Karen Clatterbuck has two children with epilepsy and relies on the Medicaid program to pay for the drugs they need.

"Our son fights for his life every time he has a seizure," she said recently during one of her visits to the Capitol, where lawmakers last week voted to allow Gov. Jeb Bush to push forward with a plan to change the nearly 40-year-old health care safety net.

But the drugs and other medical treatments Clatterbuck's 9-year-old daughter Annie and 7-year-old son Howie are expensive and aren't covered by private insurance. She doesn't know if an overhauled Medicaid program will continue to pick up the slack.

"This country prides itself in being a leader in medical technology," said Clatterbuck, who lives in Ormond-By-The-Sea. "Why would we not use it?"

Exactly what changes may be coming for Clatterbuck and the other 2.2 million middle-class disabled and elderly, pregnant women, and poor people who rely on Medicaid to cover their health care aren't clear yet.

The Bush administration is negotiating with Washington, which pays nearly \$6 out of every \$10 spent on Medicaid in Florida, to overhaul the program. In the final hours of the legislative session last Friday night, lawmakers agreed on a basic outline for what changes Bush can attempt - although the federal government will have the final say on much of the plan.

The legislation, aimed in large part at getting a grip on the system's ballooning costs, calls for starting cautiously with test programs in Broward

County and a few counties around Jacksonville. Then, with legislative approval, it could go statewide.

The plan, which still hasn't been revealed in detail, would shift Medicaid patients into managed care networks, such as health maintenance organizations. That's different from the current system, where patients seek out and get the care they think they need from a doctor or hospital. The doctor or hospital is then reimbursed by Medicaid.

The idea behind the managed care networks is partly to get a grip on people's care - make them healthier through better preventive care, for example, or get them in the habit of regularly seeing a primary care doctor rather than seeking treatment at a hospital. Ideally, it would save money in the long run and be better for patients.

It's an experiment that really has already begun. About half of Medicaid patients are already in HMOs, and boosters say their care has proven to be better and that the program's saved money.

But under the current system, doctors and hospitals are reimbursed for whatever treatment they provide, although there are limits on what Medicaid will pay. The new system would be like insurance plan - the government would pay a fixed amount annually per patient, based on risk, to the HMO or provider network. The HMO would then decide what treatments each person needs.

Advocates and opponents in the Legislature - particularly in the counties that will test the program first - say they're worried that networks that choose to participate won't cover the treatments people really need. And rural lawmakers worry there won't be any networks signing up to

take patients in remote areas.

There are several unanswered questions - and advocates say it's not even certain whether any drastic changes will occur.

"It's not a done deal," Karen Woodall, an advocate for low-income people, said Sunday. Whatever the Agency for Health Care Administration eventually asks Washington to allow them to do still must be reviewed, and ultimately approved by the Legislature.

But there are big questions about how some elements will work and the answers are unknown. For example, Clatterbuck is concerned about whether privately run HMOs getting a capped amount per patient can cover all the drugs her children need.

Meanwhile, Clatterbuck and others who rely on Medicaid were also having to watch lawmakers debate what to do about drug coverage in the upcoming budget year, a separate matter from the planned overhaul.

Lawmakers voted last week to allow the state health care agency to require pharmaceutical companies to give rebates to get their products on a "preferred list" of drugs Medicaid patients can use. The number of each type of drug - such as blood pressure or anti-psychotic medications - that will be covered will be decided by a committee later. Patients would still be able to get drugs that aren't on the list if they get prior approval from the agency.

Another question: Will the overhauled program require networks to allow certain drugs? For example, would an HIV-AIDS patient's doctor be able to persuade an HMO to cover a long list of drugs his patient is currently getting in Medicaid?

"I don't think they

know yet how that's going to work," said Woodall. "The whole thing's kind of scary."

The Legislature also agreed quietly this year to shift 77,000 people out of Medicaid, because much of their care - particularly prescription drugs - will be picked up by the federal Medicare program starting Jan. 1 under a change to that system.

A few advocates and some lawmakers, however, warned that not all services covered by Medicaid will be picked up by Medicare - transportation for the disabled, for example.

"We're going to be throwing a bunch of people under the bus," Sen. Nan Rich, D-Weston, said earlier this week about that change, which received almost no public attention.

Initially, the larger changes won't save money, backers acknowledge - they actually require additional state spending. But Bush and others have insisted that they'll eventually bring spending under control and will ultimately make things better for patients.

Bush said earlier this year that cost isn't the only big problem with Medicaid - arguing the program doesn't offer good service to many.

Every day, Bush said, more doctors decide that low fees for their services and restrictions on what they can do "just aren't worth the trouble."

"We must transform it completely so the number one consideration is patient well-being," he said.

But Clatterbuck said the changes are being driven without enough thought to how families like hers will deal with them, and that it is about money.

"It's all about the almighty dollar and I'm really tired of hearing that," she said.

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www.flalottery.com

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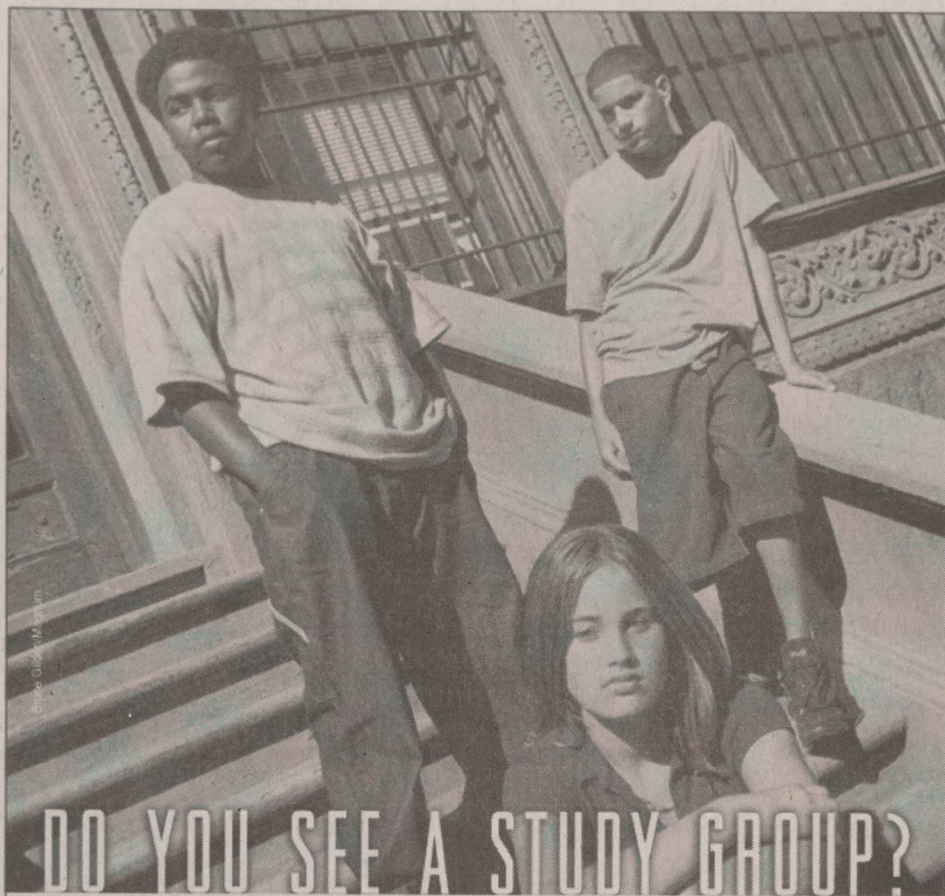
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Is your family stressed due to a family member abusing drugs or alcohol? If so, Operation PAR provides substance abuse and mental health treatment services for adults and children. In some cases treatment services are provided at no cost. Services are confidential. Prevention services are also available to the public.

**For more information,
Contact Gerald Syrkett
Operation PAR - Self-Sufficiency
Project
727-893-5438**

**PLEASE EMAIL ALL ADS TO:
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WEEK!**

7-8-21

38-40-48

CASH 3

214 593 788

601

940 312 571



2-3 4-1 7-6

4-8 2-6 8-5

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City of St. Petersburg Fire Department

Firefighter/Emt

\$31,260-\$48,879

CLOSE: June 9, 2005

Candidates must also possess and maintain both Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Certificates as issued by the State of Florida. Must also be in possession of a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid State of Florida Class "D" driver's license at time of appointment. Please refer to our website for additional details: <http://www.stpete.org/firepay.htm>. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

City of St. Petersburg Fire Department

Firefighter/Paramedic

\$36,889-\$57,677

CLOSE: NO CLOSING DATE

Candidates must also possess and maintain Firefighter and Paramedic Certificates as issued by the State of Florida. Must also be in possession of a valid driver's license at time of application and a valid State of Florida Class "D" driver's license at time of appointment. Please refer to our website for additional details: <http://www.stpete.org/firepay.htm>. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Police Officer

\$36,212 - \$54,707

CLOSE: NO CLOSING DATE

Must be a high school graduate or possess a GED certificate. We require sixty (60) college hours however, applicants with thirty (30) college credit hours are eligible to apply. Must be at least 19, and meet all other criteria of the current "Selection Standards for Police Officer Positions" as set forth by the City of St. Petersburg. Applications will be received in the Employment Office, One Fourth Street North, 4th Floor, Monday - Friday between 8AM-4:30PM. Please refer to our website for additional details: <http://www.stpete.org/police>. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?
SEND YOUR CLASSIFIED AD TO:
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REAL ESTATE LISTINGS SECTION

Your HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20) Invite friends over. Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. You can learn from those who have had similar experiences. Don't argue with family.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21) Red tape could be impossible to clear up this week. Your knowledge and good sense will help more than you think. Alienation may be the result of a misunderstanding. You are best to avoid joint ventures, and whatever you do, don't lend to friends or relatives.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Look into physical activities that will help get rid of some of that tension you may be feeling. Accept the inevitable. Travel opportunities look positive, but be cautious while driving. You will be moody and react poorly to issues concerning your mate.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Your partner could also use some time alone with you. Control those desires to cast your fate to the wind. Listen to the problems of others and offer suggestions where possible. You could find yourself caught in a one sided relationship.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Focus your efforts on details, and keep to yourself in order to finish your work. Try to be honest when dealing with your mate. Property investments should payoff. Try to include friends and relatives in your activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) Deal with in-laws this week. Acknowledge your lover's needs. Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes. Passion will be your only answer.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. Much can be accomplished if you compromise. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Be careful not to take on other people's problems. You may find yourself in a financial bind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You need to do something energetic and different. Use your innovative mind to surprise youngsters. You can make amends by taking them somewhere special. Rather than making a scene, communicate quietly about the way you feel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position. Channel your efforts into achieving your goals. This could be a difficult day to deal with co-workers. You will be ready to jump on anyone who gets in the way of your progress this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Take action. Balance is required if you want stability. A need to be in love may fool you. Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 20) You will inspire confidence in others. Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy don't make for a favorable time. Join groups of a humanitarian nature. You will have additional discipline that will aid you in your objectives.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Don't confide in anyone for the time being. Be discreet and don't present your ideas until you're certain that they're foolproof. When the work is done, they may serve you for a change.

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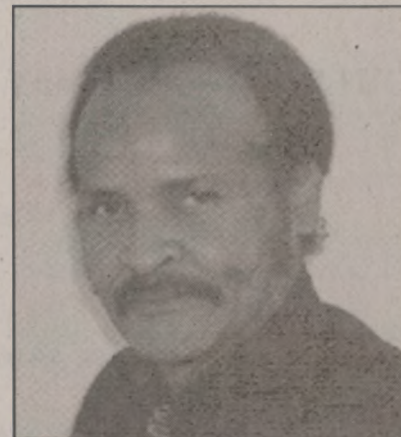
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EBONY SCHOLARS ON THE MOVE

Ebony Scholars Luncheon Caps Off Great Year Of Achievement



photos by Rassi

PINELLAS COUNTY — On Saturday, May 7, the Ebony Scholars program held their annual luncheon, recognizing 31 well-deserving senior high school students and awarding them with scholarships!

The Ebony Scholars program is the brainchild of Vyrle Davis, a retired Area Superintendent of the Pinellas County Schools system, and a man who continues to be a tireless educator. Davis was motivated to honor African-American students for their scholastic and community achievements, and to challenge them to pursue all opportunities to excel. Out of this, the Ebony Scholars Committee was formed in 1992.

The Ebony Scholars program is comprised of high achieving juniors and seniors who have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Participants attend monthly meetings with several chosen role models to discuss topics such as: career choices, college opportunities, college scholarships, social etiquette and drugs and alcohol.

Members must also complete an eight-week Toastmasters International Youth Leadership Program, which is geared towards improving communication and leadership skills. Interested parents can find out more about the Ebony Scholars program by calling Vyrle Davis at (727) 327-2027.

The ceremony, which kicked off at 11 a.m. at Banquet Masters in Pinellas Park, brought in parents, friends and family from all over the county to celebrate the hard work of these students. With Dr. Juanita Fountain presiding, St. Petersburg native Carlmon Jones served as the keynote speaker for the event. Jones is a former Ebony Scholar who graduated from Osceola High in 1995 (in the top 10% of his class), graduated Cum Laude with a degree in

Business Management from North Carolina Central University, and now serves as Assistant Principal at Dixie Hollins High School.

Graduating Ebony Scholars included: Deserae Anderson (Lakewood High), Jonathan Boozy (Gibbs High), Natalie Bryant (Shorecrest Prep), Ramona Brayboy (St. Petersburg Catholic High), Brian Caruthers (Lakewood High), Joseph Kevin Chaney III (Lakewood High School Center for Advanced Technology), Justin Clarke (Gibbs High), Rodrick Coleman (Lakewood High), Jason Conage — Pough (Lakewood High School Center for Advanced Technology), Jerrod Douse (St. Petersburg High), Bobbi Gaines (Gibbs High), Kiayis Hinton (Lakewood High), Kennetra Irby (St. Petersburg High), Michelle Jackson (St. Petersburg High), Michael King (Lakewood High), Wayne Lord Jr. (Lakewood High), Sharice Madison (Gibbs High), Justin Miller (Boca Ciega High Center for Wellness), Safiya Miller (St. Petersburg High International Baccalaureate Program), Louis Murphy Jr. (Lakewood High), Yusef Nash (Gibbs High), Michelle Newton (Gibbs High), Sierra Poyau (Boca Ciega High), LaQuail Powell (Gibbs High), Andrew Reid (Lakewood High), Rodericka Riely (St. Petersburg High), Joia Saylor (Lakewood High), Antoine Seay (Lakewood High), Z'Kera Sims (Boca Ciega High Center for Wellness), Bristie Stephens (Lakewood High), Phillip Weems (Gibbs High Pinellas County Center for the Arts).

It has been a great opportunity to recognize these standout achievers over the last few months. We here at *The Weekly Challenger* wish all the Ebony Scholars good luck in their endeavors!



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