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The Weekly Challenger

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The Little Hometown Soldiers On A Mission



These Little Hometown Soldiers want to operate out of the heart of Midtown.

by Rick Gee

Challenger correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG — In the heart of Midtown St. Petersburg, on the corner of 22nd Street and 15th Avenue South, there sits an old dilapidated building. It's not much to look at, but the pigeons certainly enjoy it, because they flock there by the dozens, and I would imagine at night that the rodents have a field day.

As we have heard many times before: "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." And, so it is, because Elaine Hopkins, a resident of our community, and about sixteen children called "Little Hometown Soldiers" both see the beauty of the building, located at 2198 - 15th Ave. ...albeit, a renovated and completely furnished building. However, at the present time, the vision that they have is but a dream. Nevertheless, they and their staunch supporters do believe that "dreams can come true."

Their story is one in which books are written and movies are made about. A seed was planted only a few years ago in 2003, while Hopkins was visiting friends. Out of a concerned but interesting conversation they were having, an idea was born. The talk evolved around the "War Against Terror-

ism" in Iraq. During the conversation and while watching the news with her friends, it was noticed that several children who were present were also watching, as soldiers in the news at nearby MacDill Air Force Base were being deployed. The children observed, in some instances, that both mom and dad were being deployed into the war zone.

As the conversation continued, a spontaneous idea was born: "Why not let the children whose parents and loved one's going into the war zone, know that they have a friend here?" Realizing all may not be in the same position, Hopkins says, "We wanted to at least encourage them to be strong while their loved ones or parents are away," thus, the birth of the "Little Hometown Soldiers."

It was decided that they would deal mainly with children between the ages of 5 and 12 since, that's the age children get lost in the shuffle. Soon afterwards, a mission statement was put together. It reads as follows: "Understanding the necessity and loyalty of the men and women who serve in the United States Armed

Soldiers
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Verizon Gets Bishop Academy Wired Up



"By providing this technology, we are closing the 'digital divide' and ensuring these children will graduate with 21st century skills that will give them equal access to good jobs in the future," said Bishop Academy principal Marva Dennard.



One of the students, budding scientist James Lattimore III, enjoys the new computer set-up at Bishop.

ST. PETERSBURG — Eleven-year old James Lattimore III is a budding scientist who wants to know more about the weather patterns that make tropical storms develop into hurricanes. He's looking forward to tracking storms every day in his classroom and reading about weather science.

This is just one of the many possible uses the Internet will have for the students at Bishop Academy Christian School, located in Childs Park at 3940 - 18th Ave. S. The school, which lives by the slogan, "No child left behind," accepts students on MacKay and Florida PRIDE scholarships for grades K-12.

"Soon the teachers can go to Web sites to supplement their lesson plans," said Dr. Marva Dennard, principal. "Verizon employee volunteers plan to wire four classrooms and a computer lab," she said before the project began. Previously the school had one



Debi Micklitch, who serves in the Internal Telecommunications department with Verizon, tested hard drives and monitors for the best, most efficient combinations.

computer with Internet access for email. "This is a really big thing for a small school like we are."

About a dozen Verizon employees drilled holes through concrete walls, extended computer wiring and checked to see that each computer connects to the Net. Supplies were donated; lunch was provided.

"Some students are

from low income or from foster homes, don't have access to computers and have not been taught how to use them," Dennard explained. "By providing this technology, we are closing the 'digital divide' and ensuring these children will graduate with 21st century skills that will give them equal access to good jobs in the future."

Once the hurricane sea-

son is over in November, what will James want to study next? "After weather, my next favorite subject is space," he explained excitedly. With the help of volunteers, James' dream will become a reality when school resumes in August.

For more information about Bishop Academy,

Bishop
continued on pg. 16

Confronting That Difficult Teen Issue

by Tracie Reddick

Challenger correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG — Don't think your child has questions about sex? Think again!

Your baby is growing up and he/she has questions - and they need answers. Thanks to the Allegany Franciscan Ministries, help is available in discussing the s-word with your child through a new teen pregnancy prevention manual.

Dubbed Lil' Mama, the teen pregnancy prevention manual is not meant to encourage teens to have sex, but to curb their curiosity. It is intended to be used as a tool for parents to talk to their teens about a topic they are already hearing about in their music, watching at the movies or reading in magazines.

"I think the reason parents don't talk to their children about sex is because they think they will have a lot of kids running around the house with different daddies," notes 15-year-old Mercedes Miller of the Enoch Davis Center. Not talking about the birds and the bees does not mean teens won't engage in sex.

Although teen pregnancy rates have declined, about one million girls still get pregnant each year, according to teen pregnancy statistics. In Pinellas County, an average of 52 to 62 out of 1,000 teenage



Dr. Fairst Hill, founder and CEO of Youth on the Move USA, Inc., served as the keynote speaker at a recent summit addressing the problems of teen sex and drugs. The program was hosted by the Community Action Coalition, and was their Fourth Annual Community Youth Summit.

photo by Pius Nyamora



Teens learn about abstinence from sex and drugs through the GAPP (Greatness, Attitude and Potential) program, run by Director Andree Sunnerville. They regularly have summit meetings to address such topics.

photo by Rassi

girls become pregnant - out of 1,000. What makes a girl want to have a baby before she

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VP Felton Headed For FCCAA Hall Of Fame



Willie Felton, Jr.

ST. PETERSBURG — SPC's Willie Felton, Jr., a vice president of Educational and Student Services, is one of 14 inductees who will enter the Florida Community College Activities Association's Hall of Fame in November.

The announcement came from Charles Smith, executive secretary of the FCCAA in Tallahassee, who said the induction and presentation of plaques

will take place Nov. 18 in Tampa in conjunction with the annual convention of the Florida Association of Community Colleges.

Felton will follow President Carl M. Kuttler Jr. into the FCCAA Hall of Fame by two years.

He has been with the college since 1981 when he joined the faculty to teach Accounting, Business

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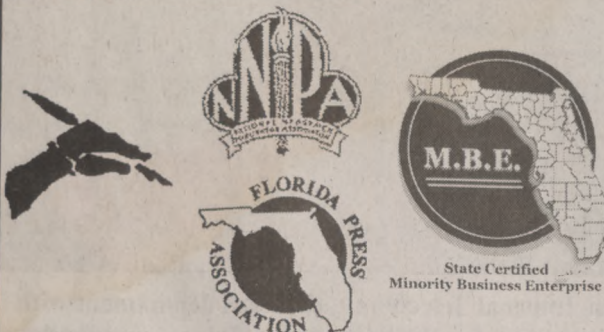
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The Weekly Challenger Newspaper

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

A knowledge of history brings a feeling of fellowship that runs through the ages - be it a territory, a village, a district, or a nation. To live without history is likened to living without a form of memory. To be without history is to live without roots or a past, with the present having no real foundation, and very little meaning for the future.

The *Weekly Challenger* is committed to featuring articles of all ethnic culture for the reading enjoyment of both the young and old generations.

Supreme Court Nominee Is Highly Questionable On Women's Rights



Lorraine Cole

by Lorraine Cole, Ph.D.

President Bush missed three important opportunities in his nomination of John G. Roberts Jr. to the Supreme Court. First, he could have sought to expand the diversity of the

Supreme Court to be more reflective of the country. We are more diverse as a nation today than at any other point in history. Secondly, he could have sought to maintain the gender balance of the Court. With the retirement of Sandra Day O'Connor, the Supreme Court has lost 50 percent of its female representation. But, thirdly and most disturbingly, the President missed an opportunity to select a candidate who would inspire confidence among all Americans that individual rights and personal freedom would be protected.

As president and CEO of the Black Women's Health Imperative, I ex-

press grave concerns about Roberts. Throughout his career, Roberts has consistently supported and promoted a legislative agenda that placed the rights of women and minority groups in jeopardy. As Sandra Day O'Connor's replacement, Roberts would cast the deciding vote on countless matters of individual rights, many of which could disproportionately impact Black women. O'Connor had been the swing vote, often in a 5-to-4 split, on issues like birth control, abortion, affirmative action, family and medical leave, health care, disability rights, Title IX equal educational opportunity and privacy

rights.

Roberts' record is thin, but highly questionable on issues of women's health, safety and privacy. However, his opposition to Roe v. Wade is clear. In an amicus brief (Rust v. Sullivan) that he authored as Deputy Solicitor General, in which Roe was not even at issue, he stated: "Roe was wrongly decided and should be overruled." This raises very serious concerns about his ability to be a fair, independent-minded Supreme Court Justice.

Decisions about women's lives should be made by women. And, decisions about women's health should be between a woman and her doctor, not the

government. John G. Roberts Jr. is apparently out of the mainstream of America on these issues. If this is true and he is confirmed to a lifetime appointment on the Supreme Court, the privacy of every woman's sexual health and reproductive rights, as well as access to critical health services, would be threatened for decades to come.

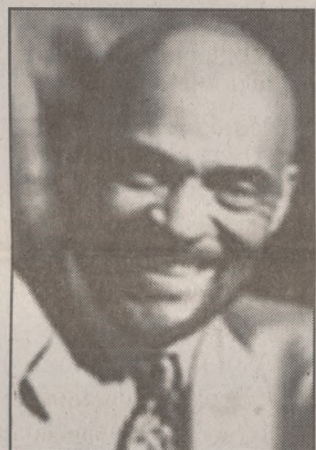
And, once we start down that road, who knows what could be next?

The Senate has an important duty in front of them. They need to ask the important questions of this nominee and Roberts has an obligation to answer. The White House obviously knows his views. But,

the Supreme Court doesn't belong to this President. It belongs to the American people and we deserve to know Roberts' answers.

Lorraine Cole, Ph.D. is president and CEO of The Black Women's Health Imperative. Black Women's Health Imperative is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit education, advocacy, research and leadership development organization that focuses on health issues that disproportionately affect Black women. It is the only national organization devoted solely to ensuring optimum health for Black women across their life span - physically, mentally and spiritually. For more details, please visit www.BlackWomensHealth.org.

Bush's Black Voter Court Shakes Democrats



Earl Ofari Hutchinson

by Earl Ofari Hutchinson
BlackNews.com Columnist

Republican National Committee chair Ken Mehlman told the recent NAACP convention that he'd pull out all stops to woo black voters to the GOP tent. A few hundred miles away his boss was busy touting his program for jobs, minority business, and homeownership at the Indianapolis Black Expo. Bush and Mehlman got a listen at both places, and they should have. Blacks have gotten precious little in return for their blind loyalty to the Democratic Party. The black poor are more numerous. They live in crime and violence plagued neighborhoods.

Their children attend miserably failing public schools. Public services in their communities are abominable.

Increased black GOP voter support will give blacks greater leverage in the Republican Party to promote their interests. That in turn will force the Democrats to fight harder for those interests. The GOP has reshaped the black agenda to challenge the agenda of black Democrats and mainstream civil rights groups.

But Bush and Mehlman's black voter 'onslaught' has nothing to do with political altruism. The GOP is playing for national and state dominance for years to come and even the most marginal bump up in the black vote for the party in key battleground states would assure that dominance. There are slight rumblings of a shift. The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington D.C. based black political research institute, found that between 2000 and 2004 the percent of blacks that registered Democrat dropped 11

percent. One in three young (under age 35) blacks said they were independents. The percent of blacks registered as Republican tripled. The not insignificant Republican increase and the Democratic slide among blacks have had major political consequences.

In Florida, a record black vote turnout in Democratic precincts in 2000 nearly tipped the election to Al Gore. In 2004 it was exactly the reverse. A tepid black Democratic turnout, combined with the 13 percent of the black votes Bush received, which was double what he got in 2000, helped him win Florida outright and avoid a repeat of the election debacle of 2000. Republican gains among blacks were even more dramatic in Ohio. Bush garnered nearly 20 percent of the black vote there. To put that in perspective, if Bush had gotten the same proportion of the black vote in the state in 2004 as he did in 2000, his margin of victory over Democratic presidential contender John Kerry would have narrowed from 118,000 votes to 25,000

votes. Given the large number of provisional ballots filed in Ohio, the Democrats almost certainly would have challenged the election certification. It would have been Florida 2000 all over again.

GOP gains among black voters are no accident and are not due to happenstance. In August 2000, embattled GOP strategist Karl Rove told Washington Post national political writer Tom Edsall that the Republicans must reject "the use of such issues as affirmative action, and 'welfare queens' that past GOP candidates had employed in a calculated bid to polarize the electorate and put together a predominantly white majority." Mehlman repeated a variation on the line at the NAACP convention when he tendered his and the GOP's mea culpa for snubbing blacks in past years.

Bush and Mehlman aim to bury the sorry episode in Republican history when it blatantly pandered to racists and states righters, ultra conservative kooks and loonies, and hopelessly alienated black

voters. Their strategy is to resurrect the part of its past in which Republicans championed black rights. The difference this time is that Republicans have radically redefined the fight for black rights. It's not for affirmative action, and more entitlement and welfare programs. It's pro-business, and homeownership, pro-Social Security privatization, and pro traditional family values. That appeals to young, upwardly mobile blacks.

The rare times that Republicans have made any real effort to attract blacks, put money into a black Republican candidate's campaign and delivered on their promise to pump more resources into health care, education, minority business, and education programs, they've dented the Democrat's lock on the black vote and even managed to win a few key state offices, most notably in Maryland and Ohio. In 2006, a slew of high profile blacks will bid for Senate and governor seats in Pennsylvania and Ohio, two perennial crucial battleground states.

The spectacular emergence of the black evangelicals as a potent political force also has been a boon to the GOP, and a nightmare for Democrats. If Republicans play their anti-gay marriage, and anti-abortion cards right, and Bush delivers on his African AIDS funding initiative, they'll get even more black evangelical votes in the 2006 elections.

The fear and loathing many blacks still have of Bush's policies for now guarantee the Democrats a winning hand in the hard fought game for black voters. But Republicans think they can do something that was unthinkable a scant four years, and that's break the Democrat's stranglehold on the black vote. Bush and Mehlman may be on to something.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is columnist for *BlackNews.com*, a leading political analyst and social issues commentator. He is also the author of *The Crisis in Black and Black* (Middle Passage Press).

Unfinished Business...

by Bernice Powell Jackson

Many Americans know nothing about our nation's horrible history of lynching. They don't know that thousands of Americans died by being hung on a tree by a mob of vigilantes, often Klansmen in their white hoods. They don't know that not only were they hung, but many of them were castrated, some were also burned alive. They don't know that men, women and children were all lynched. They don't know that in many towns lynchings were considered a kind of free entertainment, where women and children looked on, sometimes spreading blankets and bringing lunch. They don't know that there were

photos taken at lynchings, which were then sold as postcards and mailed to their friends.

Ninety-one year old James Cameron is one American who knows intimately about lynching. He is one of the few lynching victims who survived. One summer night in 1930, as he laid in the Marion County, Indiana jail, the 16 year-old Cameron heard a mob break through the brick wall, shouting "nigger, nigger." They had already lynched two black men right in the courthouse square. They put a noose over his neck, but then he heard someone shout out, "that boy had nothing to do with any raping or killing." Miraculously, the mob

relented and Cameron was freed. He was convicted as an accessory in the murder of a white man and the rape of a white woman, but after serving four years in prison, he was pardoned by the governor. Two years ago the city of Marion apologized.

Recently, James Cameron came to the U.S. Capitol, built partly by slave labor, to be present for the apology given by the U.S. Senate for never passing the legislation which would have made lynching illegal. Seven U.S. presidents sent legislation to the Senate to end lynching, but Southern senators filibustered the legislation and it was never passed. Cameron was joined by relatives of Emmett

Till, the 15 year-old who was brutally murdered in Mississippi for allegedly whistling at a white woman and by relatives of others who had been lynched. Some of those lynched were accused of raping white women, but actually were black businessmen who were becoming too successful or who had argued when they felt they were being treated unfairly or those who tried to register themselves or other blacks to vote.

The apology was engineered by Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, who admits that apologies in a vacuum are not enough, but also says, "This won't correct all the wrongs that continue, but it will urge us

all to tell the truth about what happened."

The United States has never apologized for slavery and this is Congress' first apology for any injustice done to African Americans. President Clinton did apologize for the government's role in the Tuskegee medical experiment on nearly 400 black men who were left untreated for syphilis so that government physicians could study its effects. Nearly twenty years ago, Congress did apologize for the treatment of Japanese Americans who were imprisoned in internment camps during World War II and paid each person \$20,000.

The nation must take steps that are more than

words in order to make whole those families and communities whose loved ones were brutally killed and whose deaths remained unspoken stories for so long. Only then will the words be meaningful. Only then will we be able to close this chapter of American history.

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

MIDTOWN NEWS

PROJECT ACCESS



by Tracie Reddick
(727) 209-1317

Ex-Offender Asks Employers To Look Past Her Criminal Record

ST. PETERSBURG - When you are on the outside looking in, it is easy to talk about how tough is for ex-offenders to get a job once they've committed a crime.

So I won't.

Instead, I'll let someone who is actually going through the struggle discuss how difficult it is to do the right thing after taking a wrong turn in life.

Meet Donyale Calvin. She stopped by my office two weeks ago seeking employment.

And while the names may change, Donyale's story is basically the same as a lot of young adults who want to work, but have a hard time obtaining employment due to their criminal records.

While most folks in their late 20s and early 30s are enthused about their future, most ex-offenders feel a sense of hopelessness.

After chatting with Donyale, it was evident that, if given the chance, she could make a positive mark in this world.

She was eager to give *The Weekly Challenger* readers a sense of the daily struggles ex-offenders experience while trying to get a job. It is her hope readers will support rather than scrutinize a friend, a relative - or even a stranger - who is seeking redemption after breaking the law.

Below is her story - in her own words:

Hi, my name is Donyale Calvin and I'm a 30-year-old, female ex-offender. The reason for me writing this article is to enlighten people about the problems we, as ex-offenders have in terms of getting back into the work scene.

When a criminal completes his or her sentence and is released, they can take one of two paths: They can revert to their lawless ways; or they can become indistinguishable from most Americans by working at an honest job, paying their taxes, respecting the rights of their neighbors and staying out of trouble.

Yeah, most people would choose option two. But, that's much easier said than done when you look at it from our point of view, us, being the ex-offenders.

There are a lot of

places that say they will give ex-offenders a second chance. But, when you get out there, it's a whole different scenario.

I've never been to prison. I've only been in the county jail for a total of six months. Yet, I have been turned away from so many jobs in the last three months until it almost makes me - and I'm sure others in my shoes - want to go back to our old ways.

I just thank the Lord that I have the will power to continue to look for work despite the rejection I've received. I also have a good support system to keep me in check (my fiancée and my family).

Who's to say if the employers quit being scared of us and give someone a chance, they may see it's not that bad after all. Besides, you can't judge the whole barrel by looking at one bad apple.

Donyale is so right. Plus, it cost taxpayers less money to employ ex-offenders than it does to lock them up.

It would be nice if more companies in Pinellas County would become "second chance" employers and give Donyale and other ex-offenders an opportunity to earn an honest living.

They made a mistake and have paid their debt to society - now all they need is an opportunity to prove their worth.

If you have a job for Donyale or other ex-offenders - both male and female - enrolled in Project ACCESS, please give me a call at (727) 209-1317.

If you are an ex-offender seeking employment, stop by one of two Project ACCESS locations operated by KINFOLKS. They are: The Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Avenue South, on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays or the Davis-Bradley Center, 1735 Dr. Martin Luther King St. S., Room 132, on Tuesday and Thursdays. The program is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at both sites.

Project ACCESS is funded through Worknet Pinellas and operates under the guidance of Catholic Charities. The program helps ex-offenders, low-income residents and people with limited English skills obtain employment.

Extreme Makeover: Dollhouse Edition - St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Local youth groups and businesses decorate dollhouses to draw awareness to SPNHS's twenty-five years of work in the community

ST. PETERSBURG - St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services (SPNHS) has been building dreams and transforming lives for the past 25 years. Through its assistance to existing homeowners, homebuyer education and financial fitness courses, the group has been "making over" blighted communities in the Bay Area by offering decent, affordable housing options for families with moderate incomes.

Adapting a concept from a popular reality TV series, SPNHS celebrated its silver anniversary by inviting the Bay Area to participate in "Extreme Makeover: Dollhouse Edition." The contest pit both businesses and nonprofit organizations against each other in a dollhouse design competition. The groups were competing for first, second and third prizes for their theme-based dollhouse renditions, and all proceeds benefit SPNHS and nine other nonprofit organizations. The dollhouses were displayed at a preview party on July 27 at Orange Blossom Catering. This family friendly event is free for children; adult tickets are \$25.

"There is a strong link between what children role play and what they aspire to," said Askia Aquil, executive director of St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services. "When little girls play with dollhouses, they are imagining what their lives will be like. Boys build castles of mud and sand. Every child dreams of homeownership. They become grownups who want to fulfill those childhood wishes."

Ana Meares, board member at A Brighter Day for Tampa Bay, agrees. "I think you'll find very few adults who'll say 'I don't want to have a home of my own,'" said Meares. Her group chose "Kid's Dream House" as the theme for their dollhouse, which reflects a homeless child's wish for a place to come home to.

Contestants were

given simple instructions: Turn a pre-constructed dollhouse into a custom home any doll would be proud to call home. Prize winners will be determined by the total number of votes received for each dollhouse design, which were displayed at a special preview party on July 27. Anyone in the community could cast votes for their favorite dollhouse. Each vote costs \$1, and voters could cast as many votes as they like by dropping their donation into the box attached to the house they like best.

"It's all about homes," said Paula Blanda, licensed sales producer for AllState Insurance (Flannigan & Associates). Their doll dwelling depicts a mother and her two children preparing for hurricane season. By getting involved, Allstate hopes to educate people about hurricane preparedness. The funds from the sale of their house will go to the Boys & Girls Club of the Suncoast, Inc., where Blanda serves on the board.

The Midtown area Boys and Girls Clubs is right down the street from SPNHS. "SPNHS is doing so much to rebuild the Midtown community," said Blanda. We service many of the same families, and they do a lot of work with the children who come to our club."

Patients at the Boley Center for Behavior Healthcare worked on their dollhouse during art class. They spent more than three months turning the prefabricated house into a pink and yellow storybook heaven based on their theme, "And they lived Happily Ever After."

In the Boley dollhouse, the Big Bad Wolf scares Little Red Riding Hood, who drops her basket of chocolate chip cookies at the foot of Grandma's bed. Downstairs, Snow White serves breakfast to the seven dwarfs, while Rumpelstiltskin watches the woodcutter's daughter spin stacks of hay into gold. Jack climbs a

beanstalk on the side of the house while the goose lays golden eggs on the rooftop. Cinderella's carriage has just pulled up in the circle drive to take her to the ball. Miniature storybooks fill every room.

"We had so much fun working on the dollhouse," said Lori Moulder, Recovery Supervisor at the Boley Center. The students began by associating words with the theme of homeownership. They chose the word "living," and then brainstormed and voted on the theme.

"The more we worked on it, the more imaginative the group became," said Moulder.

"People really were very creative about how they approached this," said Aquil. "It's unbelievable; the things that the groups have come up with."

In 1985, SPNHS was chartered by NeighborWorks America and joined the NeighborWorks network, a national network of organizations that share resources to build communities and revitalize neighborhoods through homeownership initiatives.

"Through NeighborWorks, we have been able to expand our programs and services in ways that would not have been possible otherwise," said Aquil. "The NeighborWorks network allows us to help even more families obtain their dreams of homeownership."

To see the dollhouses, join SPNHS for their preview party on July 27, or view the dollhouse entries on public display at one of three locations:

- Aug. 5-7, St. Petersburg Times Home Improvement Expo at Tropical Field
- Aug. 19-21, Lowe's Home Improvement Store-11101 Ulmerton Rd. Largo
- Sept. 2-5, Tampa Home Show at the Tampa Convention Center

For further information, contact the St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Authority at (727) 323-3171.

Urban League Hosts Literacy Event

ST. PETERSBURG - On July 30, the Urban League's Read and Rise activity will be held at The Circle of Children Day

Care Center, 530 31st St. S. The event will take place from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Center Director is

Sarah Thompson. For more information about this program and the Circle of Children, please call (727) 321-6354.

The Midtown Technology Center Opens

ST. PETERSBURG - The Midtown Technology Center will reopen Aug. 1, for all students seeking to obtain their GED. The center is located in the

Headquarters of the St. Petersburg Branch NAACP, 1501 6th St. S. The center will offer the following schedule: Monday thru Friday day classes

from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; evening classes are offered from 4 - 7 p.m.

For information, please contact at (727) 896-8024.

Soldiers from front page

Forces, the mission of Little Hometown Soldiers is to reach out and encourage kids between the ages of five and twelve years of age, to be strong, proud and courageous when their parents and loved ones are away serving the country."

Now, Hopkins and the Little Hometown Soldiers have embarked on another worthy mission. A mission, they hope will help Bay Area teenagers learn about television production, and related activities. Hopkins' practical experience covers radio and television, recording studio work, and home renovations. This experience puts her in good stead to accomplish this new objective. As a non-profit company, Hopkins' organization is seeking financial support of about \$250,000. Hopefully, support will be coming from the private sector, city and state, and citizens in the community. She believes that the community will see the benefit

of the program that's planned, which will have a positive affect on children between the ages of 13 and 17.

Financial support received will be used to put the building into operational shape. A new roof is required, as well as the inside needs to be gutted and completed renovated. In addition, a lot of work as to be done on the outside of the building, such as the parking lot area. Then, once the building has been completed, equipment will be needed which, the children will use in radio and television programming. Hopkins realizes there's a lot of work to be done, and she intends to keep her sleeves rolled up. However, she also knows that the exhaustive and extensive work put into this new project is well worth it. Once the program is in operation, she is trusting that it will provide constructive direction for teenage children in the community. The \$250,000 price tag at first thought

seems to be a lot of money, but that's a very small price to pay, if it keeps drug and alcohol problems at bay, out of the lives of our children.

There's no doubt about it! The community could surely use more individuals like Elaine Hopkins, and the Little Hometown Soldiers. It seems that the building project Hopkins has undertaken will benefit the community with returns that will far outweigh the risk. Working together and lending support to one another in a financial, physical and moral way will only strengthen our community.

Additional information can be obtained by calling Elaine Hopkins at (727) 327-5992 or from the Internet by going to the website: www.LittleHometownSoldiers.org. Or, you may send donations to: Little Hometown Soldiers, P.O. Box 10402 St. Petersburg, FL 33733. Direct financial donations can be made at any of the Mercantile Bank branches in the Tampa Bay area.



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Announcement



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Available to women, men & children over 12 with no dental insurance.

Dali's 'Emancipation of the Imagination'

by Blanche Ganey

Challenger Correspondent

ST. PETERSBURG — The Salvador Dali Museum, 1000 Third St. S., was filled with the sounds of excited children Tuesday night as the children from Campbell, Frank Pierce and Wildwood recreation centers learned about the likes of Salvador Dali, under the theme: the "Emancipation of the Imagination."

The Dali Museum Youth Summer Art Workshops employed local professional artist Rebecca Skelton to provide free art

instruction to the three St. Petersburg recreation centers. The goal of the program is to provide local children positive and essential lessons through art and cultural accessibility to the Museum's collection and extensive programming. "This program gave the children at my center the opportunity to see themselves as potential artists. Some even said they enjoyed the art class almost as much as football," said Campbell Park manager Verline Moore. The children's work that they created during the five weeks of

the workshop was displayed in the museum the night of the event for all to enjoy.

Currently in its ninth year, the 2005 workshops were generously sponsored by AMERIGROUP. Ronnie McCullough, Marketing Manager for AMERIGROUP, sent out thanks to Don Gilmore CEO of AMERIGROUP for supporting this effort. He also thanked Yvonne Marrulier, strategic planning and development specialist at the museum, as well as other staff for making it all happen.

"The partnership with

the museum to sponsor these 45 children is a great undertaking because who knows maybe the next Dali is sitting among us," said McCullough.

"If you look real hard at Dali's paintings, you can see different things," said 10-year-old Briana Turner of Campbell Park, who was one of the aspiring artists of the evening.

The children watched attentively as Peter Tush, Curator of Education for the museum, explained how to look for the matador that Dali disguised so cleverly as "Venus" in one of his paintings.

Edyth Adams, mother of 10-year-old Kiant Davis, said she enjoyed the tour of the museum be-

cause her son and the other kids were so interested in what Tush was saying about the paintings.

Each of the children in the program received a year's membership allowing themselves and a guest into the museum, a tee-shirt and a poster. The membership was an important part of the gift package to the children, so that they could come back and bring other family members, explained Tush.

The night ended with spectacular food. There were plates of beautiful pinwheels, succulent shrimp, hearty sandwiches and desserts that beckoned from across the room thanks to volunteer Robert Colasanti.

Don't Miss Out On These Events!

• July 29 - 22ND ST. MAIN STREET SEA-FOOD FESTIVAL: FLAVOR AND VARIETY

22nd St. S., between Ninth and 11th Ave. 5 to 9 p.m. Enjoy steamed crabs; lobster and/or shrimp;

fried, smoked or grilled fish of all kinds; jambalaya; and seafood gumbo. (727) 322-8129.

• July 30 - BACK TO SCHOOL LUAU

South Branch Library, 2300 Roy Hanna Drive S.

(aka 62nd Ave. S.) 2 to 5 p.m. Celebrate the end of summer vacation with food, music and games for kids ages 6 to 12 and their parents. (727) 893-7244.

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TAMPA BAY AREA NEWS

THIS & THAT



by Mabel Cooper
(823-6092)

23 PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd (that's relationship)

I shall not want (that's supply)

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures (that's rest)

He leadeth me beside the still waters (that's refreshment!)

He restoreth my soul (that's healing!)

He leadeth me in the path of righteousness for His name sake (that's purpose!)

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (that's testing!)

I will fear no evil (that's protection)

For Thou art with me (that's faithfulness!)

Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me (that's discipline!)

Thy preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies (that's hope!)

Thou anointest my head with oil (that's consecration!)

My cup runneth over (that's abundance)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life (that's a blessing!)

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord (that's security!)

Forever (that's eternity!)

Face it, the Lord loves you!

AND NOW A BIT OF LAUGHTER OLD AGE IS HELL

The body gets stiff, you get cramps in legs, corns on your feet as big as a hen egg, gas on your stomach, elimination is poor, take Exlax at night, and then you're not sure.

You soak in the tub or your body will smell. It's like I say folks, old age is hell.

Your teeth start decay-

ing. Your eyesight is poor, hair falling out all over the floor.

Sex life is short. It's a thing of the past. Don't kid yourself friend, even that doesn't last. Can't go to parties, don't dance anymore, just to put it mildly, you're a heck of a bore.

Liquor is out, can't take a chance. Your bladder is weak; might pee in your pants. Nothing to plan for, nothing to expect. Just the mailman comes, with your Social Security check.

Now be sure your affairs are in order, and your will is made out right, or on your way to the graveyard, there will be a heck of a fight.

You feel pretty good, you look fairly well. Thank God you're alive, because... Old Age is Hell!

NO-HITTER

I was sitting behind an enthusiastic mom at a Little League game. Her boy was pitching for the opposing team, and she cheered as he threw wild pitch after wild pitch.

The poor kid walked every batter. It was only the first inning, and the score was 14-0. Then one batter finally smacked the ball. "Oh, no," the mom wailed, "There goes his no-hitter."

A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WISH

To Eugene and Charisse T. McGrew, who celebrated their sixth anniversary over the past weekend at the Westend Resort in Orlando.

A wish that this anniversary will bring to both of you, a lot of happy memories of dreams you've made come true!

And may all your tomorrows bring you continued happiness!

Until Next Write Around,
STAY LOOSE!

A Surprise Birthday Celebration For Marion Powell



ST. PETERSBURG – Surprise, surprise, surprise! Yes, that is truly was it was on Friday, June 24, 2005, at 7 p.m. at the Orange Blossom Catering, 220—Fourth St. N. Family and friends surprised Marion Powell with a 70th birthday celebration. Marion thought she was on her way to hear her grandson, The Rev. Robert Vinson, Jr., speak at an event at one of the local hotels, but a fake telephone call changed all of that when Rev. Vinson was told of the last minute change in location. When the doors opened, Marion was escorted into the room by her grandson, Rev. Vinson, Sr., and his wife, Tiffani, and their two children, Teniyah and Robbie, III, and was greeted by over one hundred family members and friends, as they all yelled out, "SURPRISE."

Wow! Her family really got this one over on her, and she was pleasantly surprised.

Her children, Robert Vinson, Sr., Alberta Johnson, Diane Vinson-Roberson, and Brenda Nelson, honored their mother with lots of love and appreciation, as well as her sister, Maxine Anderson, and brother, Rev. Clifford Cannedy, Sr. and his wife. Her sons-in-law, SM Johnson, Michael Roberson, and James Nelson, grandchildren, great children, nephews, nieces, and other family members and friends showered Marion with honor and love.

The theme for this celebration was "A Virtuous Woman," and based on all the expressions of love given by family and friends, Marion is nothing but a virtuous woman: mother, grandmother, great-grand-

mother, sister, auntie, and friend.

Robert Vinson, Sr., Marion's eldest son, served as the evening's master of ceremonies.

The program included: words of welcome extended by Brenda Nelson. Scripture, Proverbs 31, was read by Rev. Clifford Cannedy, Sr., Invocation and the Blessing by Rev. Robert Vinson, Jr. Rev. and Mrs. Ed Nesbitt delivered a heart touching love song, and dedicated it to "Mom" Marion, which was followed by special recognition and presentation of a wrist corsage by Marion's eldest daughter, Alberta Johnson. A gospel rendition of "The Lord's Prayer" was sung by Shirley J. Thornton.

A scrumptious dinner was prepared and served by Orange Blossom staff, and enjoyed by everyone.

Gloria Howard, Marion's niece sang "God Has Smiled On Me," followed by a liturgical dance by another niece, Porsha Henry, as well as Brittany Miles. The grands and great-grands expressed their love by a lovely presentation of "Who is M.A.R.I.O.N.?", narrated by Patrick Woody, the eldest grandchild, followed by expressions of love by family and friends. Everyone sang Happy Birthday, and was served birthday cake. Marion extended words of appreciation. The program concluded with closing prayer by the Rev. Robert Vinson, Jr. Then the party began with fellowship and dancing!

Our special thanks to Joe Washington, musician, Allene Gammage, photographer, Robert Pryor, videographer, and Johnny Harris, DJ.



Housing Finance Authority Offers Down Payment Assistance Loan Program

PINELLAS COUNTY – As housing prices escalated in recent years, the Housing Finance Authority (HFA) of Pinellas County helped 117 families buy their first homes in less than 60 days. What's even better news? There are funds left in the program for more families to use toward down payments on

their first homes. HFA officials are reminding citizens that the agency is committed to keeping affordable housing available to Pinellas County residents. Since its creation by the Board of Pinellas County Commissioners in 1982 the HFA has issued more than \$1 billion in bonds to help

area families own their own homes.

One of HFA's best options at this time is the Home Key 2nd program, a down payment assistance loan program that provides first-time homebuyers the option of borrowing up to 8% of the first mortgage for a down payment and closing costs.

To qualify as a first-time homebuyer, an individual cannot have owned a home in the last three years and must plan to live in the home. There are also income and purchase price limits that must be met depending on the program.

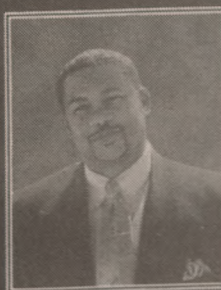
Anyone planning to use the Home Key Plus program (for first mort-

gages) must also attend an educational class to help prepare for the home-buying process. The class provides information about realtors, mortgages, monthly expenses, home maintenance and even how to avoid foreclosure once you own a home.

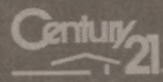
There are other special programs offered by the

HFA to benefit teachers, health care workers, police officers and firefighters.

The HFA serves first-time homebuyers in Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties. First-time homebuyers may call the HFA at (800) 806-5154 for more information.



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Teens

from front page

becomes a lady? "I think some girls want to have babies because they don't want to have protected sex. They think if they have a baby, the boy will stay with them," explains Diane Gaines, a 14-year-old at the Campell Park Recreation Center.

Unfortunately, many girls learn sex does not equal love after they give birth. About 40,000 teen girls drop out of school each year because they are pregnant.

However, nowadays, having a baby is not the only thing teens who engage in sex need to worry about. Consider this:

- Nationally, 3 million teens - about 1 in 4 - acquire an STD each year.

- In a single act of unprotected sex with an infected person, a teenage woman has a one percent risk of acquiring HIV, a 30 percent risk of getting genital herpes and a 50 percent chance of contracting gonorrhea.

- Teen have higher rates of gonorrhea than sexually active men and women aged 20 to 44.

Korie Davis, 18, has an explanation as to why the STD rates are high among teenage males.

"I think a lot of young males engage in sex because they want to know what it feels like and a lot of older women are willing

to teach them," said Davis, 18, who attends the Child's Park Recreation Center. "That's why I think a lot of us are getting diseases. These old ladies that have been doing it for a long time are infecting us with their germs."

The bottom line is, not having sex is the best protection against STDs, HIV and unplanned pregnancies. Fortunately, there is a program in Pinellas County that is helping many young men and women see the value in maintaining their virginity.

It is called the Greatness, Attitude and Potential Program (GAPP). Founded in 2001, the program is housed in key locations in Tarpon Springs, Clearwater, Largo and St. Petersburg.

Since its inception, 500 teens have attended the two, 24-week sessions offered throughout the school year and another 10-week summer session.

"When boys engage in sex, it's considered a natural rite of passage," said GAPP Director Andree Sunnerville. "When girls do it, they are considered fast. Regardless of the label, the truth of the matter is neither are equipped to deal with the consequences at such a young age."

"That is why I was adamant about creating a program aimed at helping teens, particularly African American youth, maintain

their virginity. Through GAPP, my goal is to educate youth about sexual consequences and the impact of having multiple partners." GAPP has had a profound impact upon Santana Bautard. The 18-year-old joined the program because she was bored and looking for something to do.

"I never looked at it as a learning experience," she said. "But it was! The program teaches you a lot about STDs and it helped me a lot self-esteem wise. I took the virginity pledge and I am committed to those principles. I have goals - and having a baby before I am married and settled down with my husband is not one of them."

Bautard talks in detail about her experience with GAPP in the manual, which is filled with tips for both teens and parents. It also includes an article from Elihu Brayboy, Pinellas County Health Department's Violence Prevention Director, titled: "Are you man enough to have sex" and Carrie Hepburn of the Healthy Start Program talks about the county's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Partnership.

The manual has been distributed in key locations such as the Enoch Davis Center, Sanderlin Center, local churches, recreation facilities and clinics. Call (727) 209-1317 if you have not seen the publication and would like to get one.

Boxing Champion Antonio Tarver, Attorney Darryl Rouson, Rev. Louis Murphy Star In 'The Exonerated'

ST. PETERSBURG - The World's Light Heavyweight Boxing Champion Antonio Tarver has agreed to star in two performances with beloved stage and screen legend Sandy Duncan of the startling true life drama "The Exonerated," by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen. This Tampa-area premiere is presented by American Stage, Tampa Bay's best professional theatre.

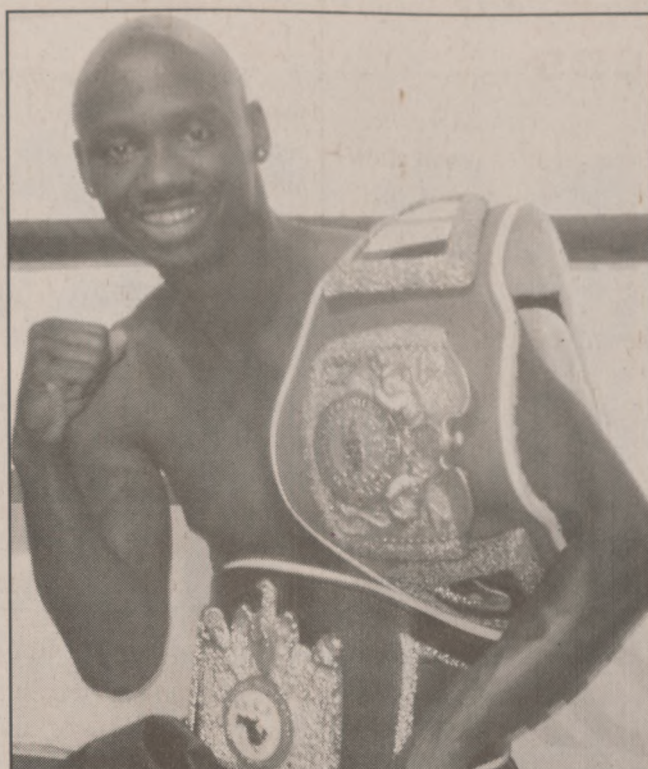
Tarver, a Tampa native, plans to become a professional actor once his impressive championship winning boxing career comes to an end. This will be his acting debut.

Tarver recently took back his light heavyweight championship by defeating Glenn Johnson. He has amassed an impressive career, beating Roy Jones, Jr., Montell Griffith and winning a bronze medal at the 1996 Olympics.

Other local celebrities performing in "The Exonerated" include: the Rev. Louis Murphy from Mount Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church; Attorney Darryl Rouson, president of the St. Petersburg chapter of the NAACP; Attorney Diane Bailey; and St. Petersburg native and New York actress Monica Raymund.

Called the "number one play of the year" by *The New York Times*, "The Exonerated" is the award-winning docu-drama that tells the true stories of six individuals (four from Florida) who were wrongly convicted of capital crimes, only to be set free from death row after long terms of imprisonment. Dr. Joy Brown from WABC said, "Don't Miss it! It will rock your view of the world, justice, and the American way."

This season-ending special event will take



Boxer Antonio Tarver



the Rev. Louis Murphy of Mount Zion Progressive

place on July 30 and 31. There will be a VIP reception with Tarver, Duncan and the cast at 6:30 p.m. with a performance at 8 p.m. The second performance will be July 31 at 3 p.m. Both performances will be followed by a special talk back with the cast.

An Emmy and Golden Globe nominated actress, as well as a Grammy Award winning singer, Duncan is famous for her Broadway performances in Peter Pan, Chicago and

The King and I and her starring roles in the hit television programs "Roots," "The Sandy Duncan Show" and "The Hogan Family."

"We are very excited to have the opportunity to locally premiere this incredible drama with such an amazing cast, made up of both well known actors and famous individuals with ties to the Tampa Bay area," said Todd Olson, the theatre's producing artistic director.

All performances will be at the Binger Theater at Eckerd College, 4200 54th Ave. S., St. Petersburg. This special event is sponsored by Steve and Sonia Raymund and co-sponsored by Baytech Label.

For tickets information, call the American Stage Box Office at (727) 823-PLAY, or go to American Stage is a not-for-profit professional theatre founded in 1977. The company's mission is to reflect and celebrate the hearts and minds of people of its community through the art of exceptional live theatre. The mission and vision are achieved through a three-part pledge: to entertain, to educate and to enlighten.

One-Day Expo Provides Information And Training For Breast Cancer 3-Day

TAMPA BAY - On Sunday, Aug. 7, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort (1160 Gulf Blvd., Clearwater Beach), there will be a One-Day Expo provides information and training for residents interested in participating in or volunteering for the Breast Cancer 3-Day.

The Tampa Breast Cancer 3-Day Expo is a fun, informative and inspiring opportunity for walkers, crew members, volunteers and others interested in joining the fight against breast cancer to learn more about the Breast Cancer 3-Day. Everyone is invited to attend the Expo, which will kick off the exciting trek leading up to the Tampa Breast Cancer 3-Day (www.The3Day.org) - a three-day, 60-mile walk to battle breast cancer taking place Oct. 7-9.

The Breast Cancer 3-Day is a life-changing event for women and men

who want to make a personal difference in the fight against breast cancer. 3-Day participants commit to fundraising, training and dedicating an entire weekend to the cause. The Expo is an opportunity to register, meet 3-Day coaches, join or form a team, attend informative workshops, learn about gear, and hear more about the beneficiaries of the 3-Day.

Taking place in 12 cities nationwide, the 3-Day will raise millions for breast cancer research and patient support programs. Net proceeds from the Breast Cancer 3-Day benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation to fund breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment programs, as well as the National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund, to provide an endowment for breast cancer initiatives.

For more information, please visit www.The3Day.org.

Felton

from front page

ness Mathematics and Finance. Earlier, he had been an occupational specialist, business education teacher and guidance counselor, and worked at Northeast High School and Tomlinson Vocational Center.

A Gibbs High School graduate, Felton studied at St. Petersburg Junior College, City College of New York and the University of South Florida, where he received his B.A. degree in Finance and his master's in Counseling Education. He also completed postgraduate coursework in administration and supervision.

From his early years at SPC to the present, he has worked continually to enhance student possibilities and potential. He helped develop a model program, Project Success, for the retention of minority and disadvantaged students. Its chief accomplishments included the development of orientation and survival skills classes that since have been expanded collegewide; an increase in the rate and number of minority students retained; and development of a model program of mentorship involving faculty and staff.

While serving as program director for Business Technologies at Clearwater Campus, Felton initiated a formal teaching improvement program modeled on the Harvard Laboratory School videotaping concept, and developed a program integrating the use of computers into the traditional lecture/discussion mode of instruction.

His current responsibilities include formulation and management of the student activities budget collegewide; and articulation with public schools and other two- and four-year colleges and universities.

He also coordinated a program, Project REGIS (Registration Enhancements to Guide Improved Services), to migrate the college's legacy student registration and record system into a database environment. This significantly improved the acquisition and processing of student information, and provided for expansion of services such as remote and telephone-based registration, online inquiry, independent inquiry by students, and management information for decision-making.

In addition, he serves as SPC's articulation officer and is chairman of the Pinellas Educational Articulation Committee, a collaborative group with representatives from the college, the Pinellas School Board and the University of South Florida.

From 1994 to 1996, he served as statewide chairman of the Council of Student Affairs (chief Student Affairs officers), which is under the Florida Board of Community Colleges. Other affiliations include the National Council on Student Development and the National Council of Instructional Affairs.

Among those who'll enter the Hall of Fame with Felton are Robert Judson, former president of Pasco-Hernando Community College, and Sandra Holliman, former women's volleyball coach at Manatee Community College.

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- Emily Green Balch
1946 Nobel Peace Laureate



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HEALTH

Pinellas County Expands Mobile Medical Care To Uninsured Citizens

PINELLAS COUNTY — Beginning this month, Pinellas County's uninsured residents will have greater access to medical care. An additional team of medical personnel and social workers will make evening and weekend rounds on the county's Mobile Medical Unit to neighborhood centers and other sites. Physicals and health screenings are among the services being offered to adults and children who have no private medical insurance and are not eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, or medical benefits through the Veteran's Administration.

A partnership between

the Pinellas County Human Services Department and the Pinellas County Health Department makes the expanded service possible. The Human Services Department operates the Mobile Medical Unit and provides social workers to staff the unit and the Health Department provides the medical personnel.

Since 1988, the Pinellas County Human Services Department has provided primary medical care and other related services aboard the Mobile Medical Unit to homeless residents several days a week. The addition of evening and weekend

shifts to provide services to the uninsured will allow the mobile unit to be more fully used while providing much needed medical care to the county's underserved residents.

The expansion of Mobile Medical Unit services is made possible through federal funds received from the Bureau of Primary Health Care, as well as support from the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

For more information or a schedule, contact the Mobile Medical office at (727) 582-7577 or (727) 582-7545, or visit www.pinellascounty.org.

Hormones May Not Let Women Skip Menopause

by Lindsey Tanner

CHICAGO (AP) — Judy Smith says she had five blissful years without hot flashes while participating in a landmark study of hormone supplements. But then she quit taking them after results showed the pills could cause more harm than good.

The symptoms returned for Smith — and many other participants in a new survey, suggesting that the pills might postpone but not prevent menopausal symptoms.

"You can't necessarily expect to just skip that stage" by taking hormones, said Dr. Judith Ockene of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, the survey's lead author.

The survey, which recently appeared in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" (Jama), also found that menopause symptoms can last longer than many women thought. More than one-third of women who reported symptoms after stopping the study pills were in their 60s and 70s — at least 10 years older than

the average age of menopause.

Researchers conducting the Women's Health Initiative study said in July 2002 that oestrogen-progestin pills sold as Prempro could increase risks for heart attacks, breast cancer and strokes.

Hormone supplements once were prescribed for millions of women for menopausal symptom relief and other ageing ills. Use plummeted after the Women's Health Initiative released its results.

The long-standing belief has been that symptoms subside a few years after women have their last period and that taking hormones might help women avoid symptoms, although strong scientific evidence about the duration has been lacking, Ockene said. Researchers, she said, "would have assumed that five and a half years, which is the average length in this study, would have been enough time to see them not return."

Smith, of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, said she started having menopausal

symptoms at age 49. Her hot flashes disappeared during the study.

"Within a month they were back again. Not quite so bad, but I still wake up at night with a good one," Smith, 73, said recently.

The original study involved 16,600 women aged 50 to 79 who were given Prempro or fake pills for up to about eight years. Smith was among 8,405 WHI participants surveyed by mail eight to 10 months after the study was halted.

Overall, 21 percent of Prempro users reported moderate to severe menopause symptoms afterward, compared with about five percent of women who'd taken fake pills. Ockene said those results suggest that many women on fake pills might have gone through natural menopause during the study, while for those on Prempro, the pills might have merely postponed the process. Also, not all women experience troublesome symptoms during menopause.

The study doesn't address what happens when women stop taking hormones gradually, and a "Jama" editorial says tapering the results might help alleviate symptoms.

Dr. Laura Corio, an obstetrician-gynecologist at New York's Mount Sinai Medical Centre, said the study confirms what she sees in patients who stop hormones — but doesn't provide answers for those who want to know how long symptoms will last.

"I wish it was so clear cut. It really isn't," said Corio, who was not involved in the study.

Summer Camps Inspire Children Living With Sickle Cell Disease

"Summer is the best time of the year because I get to go to camp and have lots of fun with my friends and the counselors," Capria Rogers, a camper at Camp Crescent for the past five years.

(NAPSM) — Young adults commonly experience feelings of fear and anxiety at the prospect of becoming independent and taking on new responsibilities. For those who suffer from sickle cell disease, a potentially fatal blood disorder that affects approximately 72,000 people nationwide, those feelings are often compounded by the possibility of being ill for the rest of their lives. For many, side effects of the disease, such as episodes of severe pain and numerous physical limitations, often prevent them from having fun and enjoying summer activities with their friends.

Fortunately, there are more than sixteen summer camps around the country tailored to meet the physical and emotional needs of children with sickle cell disease that present a temporary refuge where having fun, meeting new friends and learning how to manage their disease are at the top of the agenda. Each summer, camp counselors, volunteers and medical staff provide 24-hour support, allowing children to discover new personal strengths and capabilities and learn the importance of taking responsibility for their condition.

"While having fun at camp is one of our primary goals, it is also very important that these children learn how to manage sickle cell disease, which may include blood transfusions and how to best avoid complications of the disease,"

said Michael DeBaun, MD, MPH Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Biostatistics and Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine and St. Louis Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO, and member of the Gateway Sickle Cell Disease Association board, an organization that provides funding for sickle cell disease educational programs, including summer camps, in St. Louis, MO.

Blood transfusions, necessary for some patients with sickle cell disease, are one important aspect of disease management. Regularly scheduled blood transfusions increase the number of normal red blood cells in circulation, which in turn helps to reduce episodes of pain, risk of stroke and other complications caused by sickle cell disease. How-

ever, regular blood transfusions can result in a condition known as iron overload.

"Iron overload is a life-threatening condition which can result from necessary blood transfusions," said Dr. DeBaun. "It is critical that children with sickle cell disease who receive frequent blood transfusions are screened for iron overload and, if present, are treated with iron chelation therapy. Without treatment iron overload can have debilitating effects such as damage to the heart and liver."

While the prospect of living with sickle cell disease can be difficult to accept for patients and their families, with proper medical care and treatment, people with the condition are able to live relatively comfortable, productive lives — making routine med-

ical care critical. These camps reinforce the importance of proper medical care and offer hope to children with sickle cell disease.

"I love being at summer camp with my friends and not having to worry about being left out of activities or feeling different," said Capria Rogers, who has been attending Camp Crescent in St. Louis, Mo. for five years. "Summer is the best time of the year because I get to go to camp and have lots of fun with my friends and the counselors."

To find out more information about sickle cell disease, iron overload and summer camps for children with special medical needs around the country, please visit www.toomuchiron.com/camp.

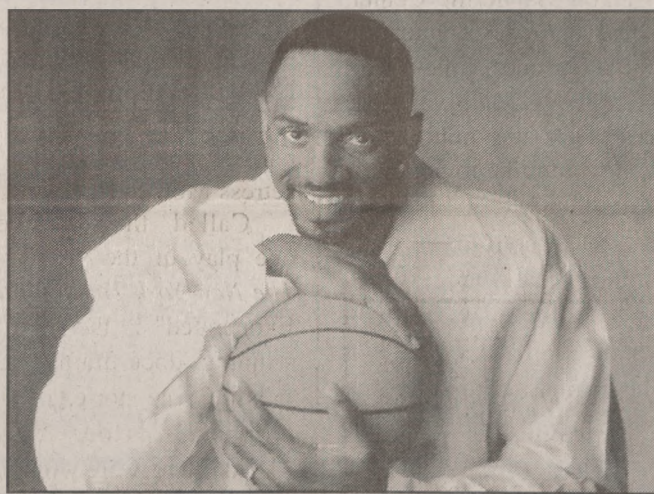
Basketball Star Alonzo Mourning Spreads The Word About Kidney Disease

Mourning Will Visit U.S. Clinics to Educate About Early Warning Signs

BRIDGEWATER, N.J.—Basketball star Alonzo Mourning has overcome tremendous obstacles to become an all-star on and off the court. He was diagnosed with kidney disease in 2000, and had a kidney transplant in 2003. Since then, Mourning has made a triumphant return to the National Basketball Association (NBA), and now he will visit clinics throughout the United States with *Rebound from Anemia*, a program designed to provide information about chronic kidney disease and its signs and symptoms to the millions of people with the condition and those at risk.

Chronic kidney disease is a progressive condition in which the kidneys are unable to function effectively. Many people, including Mourning before his diagnosis, do not realize that they have chronic kidney disease, or are at risk for developing it, until they have reached advanced stages of the condition. This is significant, because more than 20 million Americans — or one in nine adults — are estimated to have chronic kidney disease, and another 20 million are at increased risk. Through *Rebound from Anemia*, Mourning hopes to motivate people to take action by evaluating if they are at risk for chronic kidney disease and by identifying common signs and symptoms often associated with the condition. One such sign, anemia, or low concentrations of oxygen-carrying red blood cells, is an early, yet often overlooked signal of chronic kidney disease.

"Before my diagnosis, I had no idea that I was at risk for kidney disease, or that fatigue or tiredness associated with anemia is a warning symptom for the



Alonzo Mourning

condition. If I had known more about the risk factors for chronic kidney disease and its symptoms, I could have worked with my doctor and received treatment earlier, which may have

slowed my disease progression," said Mourning. "Take my advice — if you're at risk for chronic kidney disease and have symptoms of anemia, speak to your doctor."

People at risk for chronic kidney disease include those who suffer from diabetes, high blood pressure, or both, and those who have a family history of kidney disease or who are over the age of 65. Chronic kidney disease also is more common among African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asians, Pacific Islanders and American Indians. It is particularly important for those at risk for chronic kidney disease to be aware of the signs and symptoms of anemia, such as fatigue or tiredness, dizziness or shortness of breath.

"Recognition of anemia may lead to an earlier

discovery of chronic kidney disease, which can lead to earlier treatment and better health outcomes," said Robert Provenzano, M.D., F.A.C.P., chair of the Division of Nephrology, Department of Internal Medicine, St. John Hospital and Medical Center, Detroit, Mich. "This makes it critical that patients discuss symptoms of anemia with their doctors."

Rebound from Anemia is sponsored by Ortho Biotech Products, L.P., marketer of PROCIT® (Epoetin alfa).

For more information about kidney disease and anemia, please visit www.KidneyResource.com.

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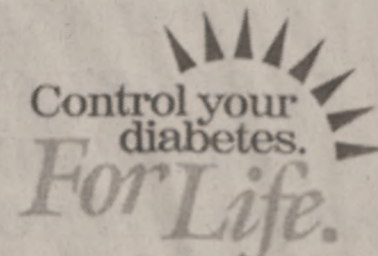
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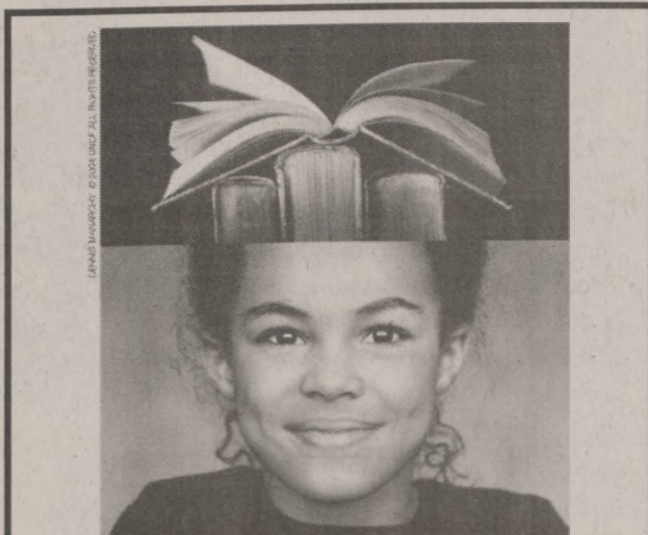


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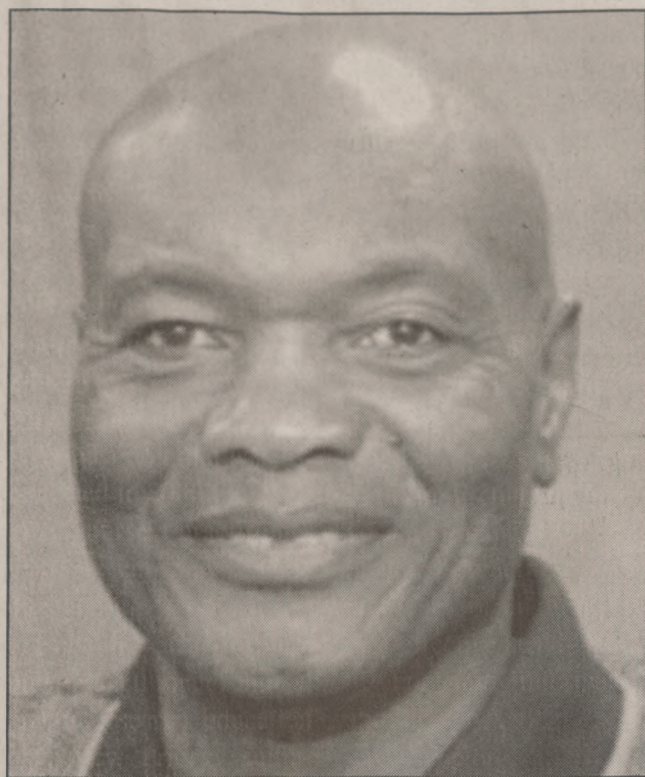


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STATE NEWS

Former FAMU Football Coach Billy Joe Files Lawsuit



Billy Joe, who coached for 11 seasons with the Rattlers, feels he was unfairly fired.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Former Florida A&M football coach Billy Joe has filed a public-records lawsuit against the school, seeking access to documents that could explain why he was fired last month.

"Coach Joe has the right to know what evidence the university used to justify terminating him," his attorney, David K. Miller, said in the suit filed Friday in Leon County Court.

Joe - who was 86-46 in 11 seasons at the historically black college - and two assistants were fired June 14 by the school, which cited NCAA rules violations in recruiting and eligibility as reasons the coaches were dismissed.

Florida A&M has since hired former Denver Broncos defensive tackle Rubin Carter as its football coach.

School officials could not be reached Saturday; the school typically declines comment on all pending litigation.

Carter is taking over a program in the midst of a school-wide funding crisis and an NCAA investigation into hundreds of rules violations throughout the athletics program.

The football program's problems began when it attempted to jump from Division I-AA to Division I-A. The move was aborted and the school finished 3-8 last year playing as an I-AA independent. It will return to the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference this season.

FAMU was stripped of MEAC championships from 2000 and 2001 after an investigation showed 196 NCAA rules violations throughout its athletics program.

FAMU Employee Receives Nursing Fellow

TALLAHASSEE — Debra A. Allan Danforth, instructor of Health Assessment in the School of Nursing and Adult Nurse Practitioner for the Florida A&M University American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) was accepted as a nursing Fellow on June 19 at the Annual AANP National Conference in Fort Lauderdale.

The Fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (FAANP) program was established in 2000 to recognize nurse practitioner leaders who have made outstanding contributions to health care through nurse practitioner clinical practice, research, education or policy. Priority initiatives of FAANP are the

development of leadership and mentorship programs for nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner students.

The AANP was founded in 1985 and is the largest, full-service national professional organization for nurse practitioner of all specialties. With more than 19,500 individual members and 106 group members, AANP represents the interests of approximately 90,000 practitioners around the country.

AANP continually advocates for the active role of nurse practitioners as providers of high-quality, cost-effective health care. For more information about AANP, visit www.aanp.org.

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Cookman Softball Team Honored



The City of Daytona Beach honored the NCAA regional champion softball team Wednesday night by officially proclaiming the week of July 17-23, "Bethune-Cookman College Lady Wildcats Week." Daytona Beach Mayor Yvonne Scarlett-Golden, a B-CC alumnus, is shown with Head Coach Laura Watten and members of the team with the proclamation.

Sales Tax Holiday Draws Bargain-Hunters

by Travis Reed

Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Kunta and Shanetha Grant clutched school supply lists and wandered aisles packed with notebooks, backpacks and pens Saturday in search of bargains.

The Melbourne couple shopped at Target for three children, ages 12, 11 and 7, on the first day of perhaps the best time of year for that - the nine-day state sales tax holiday estimated to save consumers \$31.3 million statewide.

"I feel like it helps," said Shanetha Grant, who estimated she and her husband spent \$500 to get their children ready for school.

Plenty of other Florida residents turned out Saturday to buy clothing, shoes and books priced at \$50 or less, and back-to-school items costing up to \$10 that are exempt from the state's 6 percent sales tax through the end of the month.

Similar holidays were popular when offered from 1998 through 2001, but unavailable during tough budget years in 2002 and 2003.

Gov. Jeb Bush appeared Saturday at the Bealls Department Store in Wesley Chapel, about 25 miles north of Tampa, telling customers to "shop 'til you drop."

"All Floridians should take advantage of this great opportunity to save money," Bush said.

Among the crowd of shoppers in Wesley Chapel was Michael Korta, 33, a restaurant company manager shopping for his four boys.

"It's very important to my family - we look forward to it," said Korta, who was holding his youngest child, 10-month-old Samuel, while his three other sons looked for backpacks and tennis shoes.

Stores trumpeted the tax break with entryway signs and concurrent discounts.

At the J.C. Penney in Orlando Fashion Square mall, Eddie and Liz Davidson browsed printed T-shirts with their daughter Shannon, who's entering eighth grade.

"We'll be out every evening this week," Liz Davidson said.

The Orlando couple estimates they save about \$65-\$70 shopping during the tax holiday for Shannon and their high school son. They don't buy everything for the entire year then, but enough to get a good start, they said.

On Shannon's list were new pairs of tattered jeans that have again rotated into fashion. However, sales and tax breaks or not, her

parents weren't interested.

"We can tear them up ourselves," Liz joked.

Still, the break won't help with everything. An algebraic calculator is on Shannon's school list - and it won't be covered because the item costs more than \$100.

J.C. Penney, which runs an annual clearance to coincide with the holiday, was packed with other shoppers in search of clothes up to 60 percent off. The store stays open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the event - an hour earlier and later than typical.

"It's almost like another Christmas for us," said Latoya Jackson, manager of women's accessories and shoes. She said the store would move twice as much merchandise as usual for a Saturday.

Kim Wilkes, an Orlando high school teacher, was shopping for school supplies for her two sons, ages 6 and 3, at Target. As the family looked at backpacks, Wilkes said she hadn't always bought supplies during the break - but may start.

She also planned to pick up some extra supplies to donate to one of her sons' cash-strapped schools.

The holiday, she said, "could make a difference."

Florida Slow To Rebuild After Hurricanes - Labor Shortage Blamed

by Bill Kaczor

Associated Press Writer

GULF BREEZE, Fla. (AP) — Robert Ferguson is resigned to a long wait before his home, destroyed by Hurricane Ivan, can be rebuilt - if it's rebuilt at all. The contractor delivered some material, then took some back. The rest was destroyed by Tropical Storm Arlene last month before any work began. Frustrated, Ferguson fired the contractor and has no immediate plans to hire another.

"It's too crazy right now," the 42-year-old police officer said. "It doesn't take a genius to figure out that they don't have the work force or the materials."

Contractors, however, mostly blame a labor shortage rather than materials for holding up the repair and replacement of the tens of thousands of buildings damaged or destroyed by five Florida hurricanes over the past 12 months.

Last year's four storms destroyed or damaged 700,000 homes, apartments and other housing units statewide, causing more than \$19 billion in insured damage, according to state, federal and insurance industry figures. Hurricane Dennis, which struck the Panhandle July 10, will add to that total, perhaps \$1 billion or more.

Ferguson lives in a trailer borrowed from a relative because Dennis destroyed the one he received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency after Ivan struck last September. It sits on the empty lot where his house once stood along Santa Rosa Sound in this Pensacola suburb.

"I got so fed up I canceled with my contractor," Ferguson said. "I kind of lost faith in anything they were telling me - labor and materials and a whole bunch of other excuses."

He now may sell the waterfront lot if "someone comes across with the right money" and find a new home inland. In the mean-

time, he's ready to stay in the trailer indefinitely.

Former Air Force pilot Frits Forrer, who has written books about flying and his World War II childhood in Nazi-occupied Holland, knew he never would rebuild when Ivan destroyed his Gulf Breeze home.

"I used to be a builder and took one look and I figured it would take three to four years of aggravation, and we didn't need it at our age," said Forrer, 74. Forrer and his wife, Katey, 81, now live on a 51-foot boat tied to the dock of an empty lot where a friend's home once stood. The friend plans to rebuild, but still is in court fighting with his insurance company.

Ivan destroyed or severely damaged every home on the block where the boat is docked, which has canals on both sides of the street. Ten months later, not one has been repaired or rebuilt although construction has begun on one replacement home.

"When 10,000 homes get damaged in a hurry, where are you going to get 10,000 additional crews?" Forrer asked. "It's a logistical impossibility."

While there's now an adequate supply of most materials, cement remains the big exception, said Pensacola contractor Dan Gilmore, president of the Florida Home Builders Association. He said the shortage is delaying some projects by two months or more and blamed a U.S. embargo on Mexican cement.

Gilmore said the labor shortage is affecting the entire state but is most acute in the western Panhandle, where "Dennis probably didn't help any."

The construction in-

dustry was in a labor crunch even before the hurricanes, said David Peaden, executive director of the Home Builders Association of West Florida. He said there's an estimated shortage of 250,000 construction workers across the nation.

Florida builders are encouraging schools to teach construction trades and form Future Builders of America chapters, but those are long-term solutions.

"It's very difficult to find quality help, sometimes any help at all," said Taff Berrian, who runs a small construction company in Pensacola. He said he has lost his electrical, plumbing and drywall subcontractors since the hurricanes because they can earn more by working for bigger companies or directly for homeowners.

Berrian is doing hurricane repair and reconstruction only to help certain customers mostly because he cannot find workers although dealing with insurance companies is another difficulty.

"We turned away hundreds" of hurricane victims, he said. "There's no way in the world we can begin to help them. If I had a crew of 20 drywallers we could keep them slammed every single day of the week."

Many homeowners are dealing with the shortage by doing their own repairs. That includes Berrian, who has his Ivan-damaged home about two-thirds repaired.

"I'm like the cobbler - the cobbler's kids have no shoes," Berrian said. "I work on my house when I can, which is not very often."



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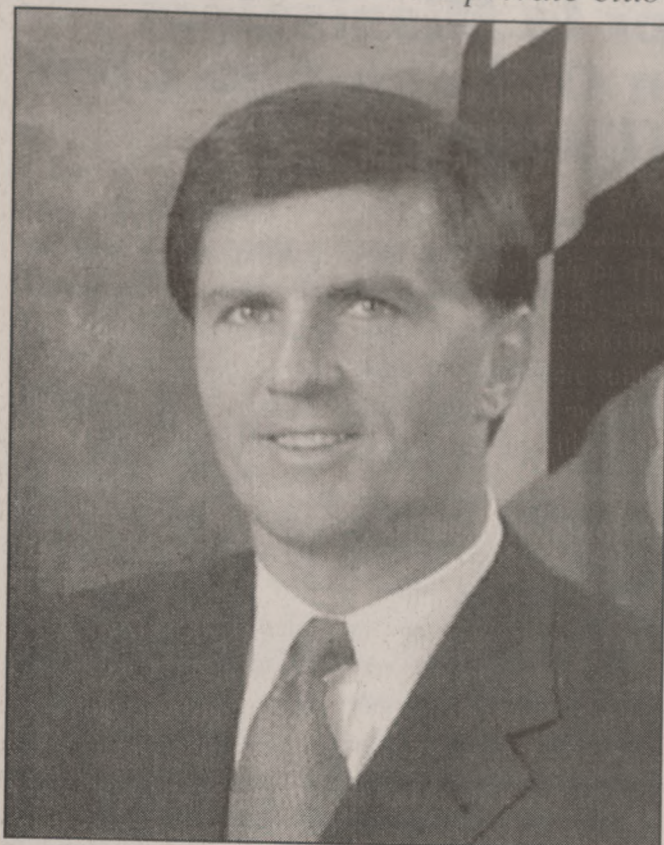
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NATIONAL NEWS

Md. Gov. Says He'll Examine Country Clubs

Robert Ehrlich under fire for holding an event at an all white private club



Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich raised over \$100,000 in fundraising at a country club that prohibits black membership.

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Gov. Robert Ehrlich said he would examine private clubs' membership policies when he schedules future fundraisers and encourage a country club where he held a recent event to integrate its membership.

During an appearance last Tuesday on cable television station NewsChannel 8, Ehrlich said he agreed with Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, the first black to hold statewide office in Maryland, that the Elkridge Club in Baltimore should accept black members.

"Mike has also said,

"Look, we're about opportunity; we're about opening up opportunity," Ehrlich said. "He would encourage the club obviously to welcome African-American members. That's the same answer I had given. That's quite obvious."

"Clearly, we'll look at it in the future," he said. "It's a good lesson."

The club has declined to answer questions about its policies. Several members told *The (Baltimore) Sun* that while blacks are welcomed as guests and there is no policy banning them from membership,

the club has never had a black member in its 127-year history.

Ehrlich is expected to run for a second term next year, and his campaign said he collected about \$100,000 at a fundraiser at the club last month. Initially, he had said the club's membership policies were none of his business.

Derek Walker, spokesman for the Maryland Democratic Party, said that the governor was engaging in "defensive, cat-and-mouse game-playing that is meant to confuse the public."

But the governor said Democratic fundraisers have been held at the club, and at least one Democrat, Baltimore County Executive James T. Smith, has acknowledged a supporter had sponsored such a gathering.

Steele told *The Associated Press* he didn't know much about the club's membership and did not care "because I don't play golf. It's not an issue with me." But later, he said his initial response was "a little more flippant than it should have been" and he understands the anger of blacks and other minorities about the club's membership record.

From Far And Wide, Pro Athletes Flock To Atlanta

by Jonathan Landrum, Jr.
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP)—Willie Anderson attended the 1996 Atlanta Olympics before his rookie season with the Cincinnati Bengals, intending it to be nothing more than a long vacation.

Instead, he found a new home.

"It was booming," recalled Anderson, a native of neighboring Alabama. "Everybody was talking about how Atlanta was going to have so many opportunities. A lot of young entrepreneurs were bred here. The cost of living was great."

"Plus," he added, "when I was 20 years old, this was the place to party." Countless pro athletes, many of them hailing from somewhere else, have put down roots in Atlanta. They don't even have to play for one of the home teams to find a reason to stay.

Many were initially struck by the vibrant nightlife and warm climate, then found an affordable city that features the world's busiest airport and an impressive number of black-owned businesses.

"I would say Atlanta is the mecca for athletes," said Philadelphia Eagles receiver Terrell Owens, who has a home in the suburbs.

Anderson opened a Fatburger restaurant in the city's upscale Buckhead district earlier this year. He's also expanding into

real estate; his company, Think Big Investments, is developing a downtown apartment building.

Owens is trying to profit from Atlanta's thriving R&B and hip-hop scene with his own recording studio. No, the five-time Pro Bowler isn't getting behind the mike. But his business, Dirty South Studios, is a place where artists can lay down their own tracks.

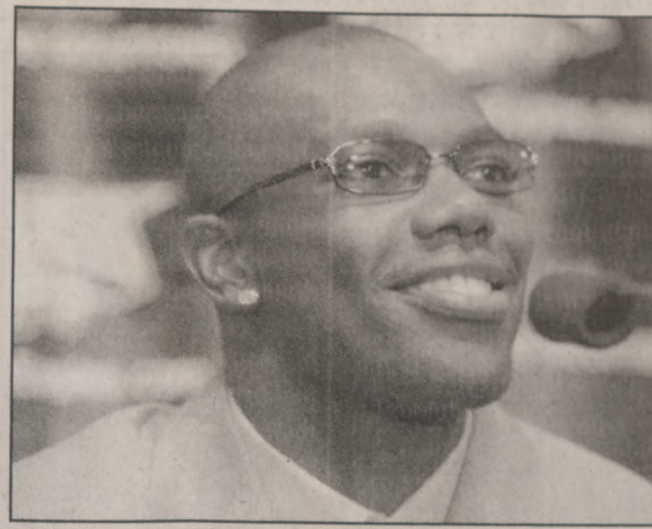
"This is an ideal spot to have a studio," said Owens, who grew up in Alexander City, Ala. "With the music traffic down here, it's a chance for a business like this to succeed."

It's tough to keep count of the number of athletes, mostly NBA and NFL players, who live in Atlanta. But they can be spotted regularly throughout the city.

From the NBA, there's Philadelphia's Chris Webber, Cleveland's Eric Snow and Portland's Derek Anderson. The NFL contingent includes Oakland's Charles Woodson, New England's Rodney Harrison, Buffalo's Takeo Spikes and Carlos Emmons of the New York Giants.

"It wasn't anything planned," Emmons said. "I came out to visit and in the next couple of days, I was trying to find an apartment."

Pittsburgh Steelers receiver Hines Ward, who grew up in suburban Atlanta and played college football at Georgia, be-



Eagles receiver and budding R&B entrepreneur Terrell Owens is just one of the pro athletes that calls Atlanta home. His business, Dirty South Studios, is a place where artists can lay down their own tracks.

lieved the trend started in the mid-'90s when the city's annual Freaknik festival was in its heyday. Held on the city's downtown streets, the event was initially for local black college students but developed into a spring-break destination that attracted more than 200,000 partygoers from across the country.

Eventually, massive traffic jams led city officials to shut things down, but the impact is still being felt.

"I remember Freaknik growing up and then seeing different athletes end up living here," Ward said.

Others came for different reasons. Former Atlanta Hawks center Dikembe Mutombo said plenty of current and former teammates have visited his lavish mansion - and decided to relocate after hearing the price.

"They were surprised by the costs," Mutombo

said. "Eric Snow lives here now. Mark Jackson, who just retired, is coming. Even Allen Iverson asked about relocating here in the future."

In Atlanta, a million-dollar home can feature seven bedrooms, five-and-a-half baths, a full basement and a spacious lawn. The cheaper costs are possible because the city's growth is unrestrained by towering mountains, major rivers or nearby oceans.

About 90 percent of the 4 million-plus metro residents live in the suburbs, some more than 50 miles from downtown, which leads to daunting rush-hour drives to and from the city. Pollution from all those cars is another concern.

But that hasn't stopped the influx of wealthy athletes.

After buying a home, many of them call Tyrone Hill, a 14-year NBA veteran who started Aall Star

Landscaping. His company recently planted the grounds of the \$4 million estate of New Orleans Saints lineman Wayne Gandy, who requested palm trees in his front yard. "With the weather being so consistent, we're able to work nine months out of the year," Hill said. "It's not too many other places you can do that."

While Atlanta has been plagued by white flight to the suburbs, it still managed to cultivate a reputation for racial tolerance, largely by avoiding most of the ugliness that plagued other Southern cities during the civil rights movement. Last year, *Black Enterprise* magazine ranked Atlanta as the No. 1 city for blacks to live, work and play.

"That's why I love Atlanta," Anderson said. "It opens the doors for blacks. We all are doing what it takes to be successful ... no matter the color."

Owens is impressed with the city's laid-back approach to its sporting celebrities - whether they're from Atlanta, play in Atlanta or just decided to live in Atlanta.

"I don't feel more or less than a Michael Vick or Dominique Wilkins or Dale Murphy or Hank Aaron," Owens said. "People aren't star-struck with us outsiders. You can fit in here, and that's phenomenal."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Malnourished Children Cling To Life In Niger

MARADI, Niger (AP) — Nasseiba Ali is the face of hunger in Niger. The 20-month-old girl weighs just 12 pounds, and her eyes are clouded at night, one of the symptoms of her chronic malnourishment.

Nasseiba may survive because her grandmother was able to get her to a feeding center. But aid groups despair that so many other children are dying because the world was slow to respond.

"I thought we would not make it safely," Nasseiba's grandmother, Haoua Adamou, said in Hausa through an inter-

preter after walking several hours with the baby on her back to the emergency feeding center at Maradi, some 400 miles east of the capital, Niamey.

She sat Saturday fanning flies from Nasseiba's face.

The aid agency Oxfam warned last week that about 3.6 million people, about a third of them children, face starvation in this West African nation devastated by locusts and drought. The U.N.'s humanitarian agency estimates some 800,000 children under 5 are suffering from hunger, including 150,000 faced with severe



The U.N.'s humanitarian agency estimates some 800,000 children under 5 are suffering from hunger, including 150,000 faced with severe malnutrition.

malnutrition.

The warnings have been coming for months. The United Nations first appealed for assistance in

November and got almost no response. Another appeal for \$16 million in March generated about \$1 million. The latest appeal on May 25 for \$30 million has received about \$10 million.

Donations jumped dramatically in the last week because of increased media attention and TV images of starving children. U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland said Friday. Egeland estimated that thousands of children are dying in Niger.

Nasseiba dozed fitfully in the intensive care tent of the emergency center erected by Doctors Without Borders in Maradi, where 55 other chronically malnourished children were receiving care. Her mother,

who is three months pregnant, and her father stayed behind to work their farm to coax something from the dry soil come the October harvest.

Nasseiba tried several times to pull out the tiny feeding tube securely taped to her forehead and running down into her nose. She found sleep after several meager mouthfuls of enriched formula and what looked like a long, cold stare, sign of her troubled vision that leaves her blind at night.

Just a few steps from the critically sick, another ward sheltered children who have almost recovered.

Two-year-old Tselaha weighed just 13 pounds and will need days to reach her target weight of 16 pounds before being declared cured.

Tselaha, barely able to stand on wobbly legs, happily munched a ready-to-eat, highly nutritious peanut butter mixture. Tselaha wore a red bracelet, signaling doctors had decided to admit her.

Nearby, 40 women carrying children waited for them to be weighed and for doctors to decide which ones would get red brace-

lets and which ones would get orange or yellow bracelets signifying that they, while malnourished, were well enough to be sent home with supplies of flour and cooking oil.

Outside the center, new tents are being set up to ease the burden on the already stretched facility, where nurses work round the clock to diagnose the 300 hungry children who come daily from surrounding villages.

A 16-ton shipment of oil, sugar and nutritional paste arrived in Maradi from France on Thursday, and several more shipments were scheduled.

But the need is great and growing in this desert nation of 11.3 million regularly ranked among the world's least developed. When the first appeal was made, only \$1 per day, per person would have helped solve the food crisis, the U.N. has said. Now that the situation has worsened and people are weaker, \$80 will be needed per person.

"It's the worst I've seen," said Hassan Balla, a primary school teacher in Tarna. "What is happening is really ugly. I've seen people eat leaves ... live like animals."

South Africa's Millionaires On The Rise

by Karah Woodward

(GIN) — More South Africans are claiming membership in the coveted millionaire class of South African society.

The number of millionaires in South Africa has risen 48 percent in three years from 25,000 in 2002 to 37,000 in 2005. The most recent increase of 8,000 occurred in the last 12 months alone.

Citing a strong rand, property value increases and black economic empowerment, the country can claim more than half of Africa's 75,000 millionaires whose combined wealth is \$700-billion, according to the 2005 World Wealth Report prepared by Merrill Lynch and the IT/consulting firm Capgemini.

The increase in the ultra-rich has been noted by South African real

estate companies, retailers of luxury cars and private bankers - all of whom have experienced growth in their client bases.

South Africa's real estate market outperformed 23 countries and its growth in the super-rich is comparable only to Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore.

One source of new millionaires has been the national LOTTO which made 34 South Africans - with a combined wealth of R450 million (US\$67 million) - instantly wealthy since 2000.

Even with this growth of new wealth that experts do not expect to slow anytime soon, 40 percent of South Africa's workforce is unemployed. Private and municipal labor disputes are frequent where the per capita income is \$3,480 according to U.S. State Department statistics.

"All progress is precarious, and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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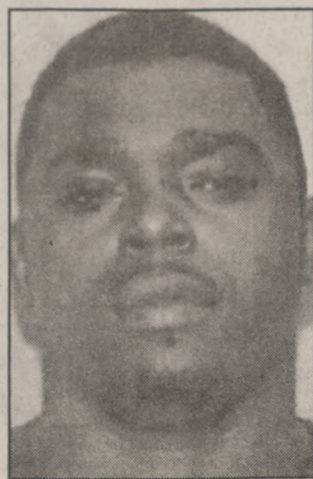
Obituaries of residents, former residents and seasonal visitors are published without charge. They may include the person's age and surviving close relatives. This information is obtained from the funeral home. Photographs to accompany obituaries are welcome. For information, call (727) 896-2922 before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

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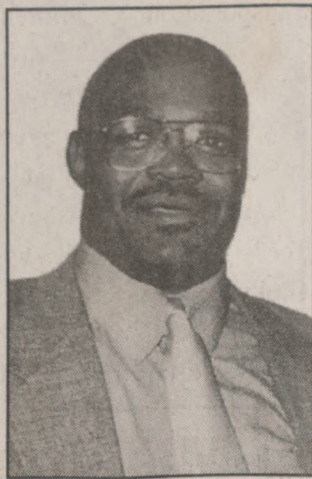
LOVE, ANNIE T., 79, died July 10, 2005. Survivors include one son, Benjamin (Alida) Simmons; one daughter, Sharon Love; one granddaughter, Lydia Gewer; one grandson, Kayin Simmons; one brother, Charlie Brown; two great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

PERRY, LEO EDWARD, JR., 29, died July 18, 2005. Survivors include his parents, Leo Edward Perry, Sr., and Patricia Ann Holley; two



sons, Leo Edward Perry III and Lekendrick Benjamin; four daughters, Leosha Perry, Precious Benjamin, Caliah Thomas and Jacquanda Perry; one brother, Yaroo Small; five sisters, Nijia Small, Cladelia Perry, Tamica Massey, Erika Perry and Achantis Perry; 12 aunts; six uncles; two great uncles; and several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Smith Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

REMBERT, HERBERT ANDRE, 50, died July 16, 2005. Survivors include his wife, Kristina Rembert; four children, Carnetta, Jermaine, Terrell and Andre; four



grandchildren, Javier, JaKira, JaKayla and Rayshon; his father, Alfred Rembert; his grandmothers, Ladion Hammons and Inez Berry; four brothers, Anthony, Steve, Jerlard and Alfred; three sisters, Larnette, Derfla and Shanice; seven uncles, Murry Paxton, Herbert Rembert, Mike Rembert, Rufus Hammons, Gary Hammons, Kenneth Hammons and Leon Grant, Sr.; three aunts, Catherine Reddick, Lois Chislom and Yvonne Grant-Howlett; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.



WESTON, JESSICA ELAINE PRICE, 40, died July 8, 2005. Survivors include her children, Kelvin Weston, Jr. and Jasmine Weston; her father, James Price; her stepmother, Oradall; three sisters, Carolyn Frazier, Deborah (Chenzira) Frazier and Beverly Renee Price-Berrien; two brothers, James Price, Jr. and Michael Price; a devoted aunt, Joann Wilson; five step sisters; one step-brother; and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. McRae Funeral Home, St. Petersburg.

Federal Prosecutor In Mississippi Renews Investigation Of Long-Ago Civil Rights Killings

by Shelia Byrd

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)

In 1964, FBI agents assigned to the biggest civil rights investigation of their time were searching for three missing voter-registration volunteers when the remains of two young black men were pulled from the murky Mississippi River.

At the time, the FBI was more interested in finding the three civil rights workers. And this being Mississippi in the 1960s - when a white man could kill a black man and get away with it - the investigation into the other deaths did not get far.

Four decades later, a federal prosecutor in Mississippi is renewing the investigation into the two all-but-forgotten killings. U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton said the time is right to pursue justice.

The investigation is part of a larger effort by prosecutors in the Deep South to punish crimes committed long ago during the civil rights era.

Last month, a former Ku Klux Klansman was convicted in Mississippi in the slayings of the three civil rights workers. James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were ambushed by carloads of Klansmen, beaten, shot and buried in a red-clay dam in a crime that focused the nation's attention on the struggle for racial equality in the South.

Some of the old cases that were recently prosecuted "have heightened the awareness of what's gone on in the past. Maybe the climate is different today" compared with a few years ago, Lampton said.

Forty-one years ago, searchers were looking for Goodman, Schwerner and Chaney when a fisherman nearby found the lower part of a man's body near Tallulah, La., and notified

the FBI. The remains of another man were found a day later.

Investigators checked the pockets of the first victim and identified him as Charles Eddie Moore, an Alcorn A&M College student. The other man was identified as Henry Hezekiah Dee, a sawmill worker.

The two black 19-year-olds had been tied to a tree near Meadville on May 2, 1964, and beaten mercilessly, authorities said. The bodies were then chained to a jeep engine block and thrown into the river, according to FBI documents.

In November 1964, two reputed Klansmen were arrested by the state of Mississippi - and one of them confessed to involvement, according to the FBI - but the murder charges were later dropped. Moore's brother, Thomas Moore of Colorado Springs, Colo., said he believes both of those men are still alive.

"They seemed to have had strong evidence linking these two Klansmen to these abductions, including the confession. The fact that they were not prosecuted at the time shows the lack of real interest in the part of the state," said Penny Weaver, who grew up in Mississippi during the 1960s and is now a spokeswoman for the Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate groups.

"There was no commitment to justice for black people by officials in Mississippi. We have the names of dozens of other black people who were killed by white people during that time and whose stories have never gotten

any attention."

She added: "If they hadn't been searching for Goodman, Schwerner and Chaney, and two of those three were white, they wouldn't have found these bodies."

According to a 2000 story in the Clarion-Ledger of Jackson, an FBI informant told investigators in 1964 that the killings were prompted by a false rumor that black Muslims were arming themselves for an insurrection. But The New York Times reported in 1966 that one of the suspects told authorities the black men were killed because one of them had peeped through a window at the white man's wife.

Lampton has also reopened the investigation into the 1967 car-bombing death of a black man named Wharlest Jackson. Jackson was killed as he drove home after being promoted to what was regarded a "whites-only" job at an Armstrong Tire and Rubber Co. plant in Natchez.

Jackson was treasurer of the local NAACP. Many of the workers at Armstrong Tire were suspected Klan members. No one was ever arrested.

As for the other case, Thomas Moore was away in the military when his brother disappeared. He said his mother made him promise not to hunt down the men responsible for his younger brother's death.

"After Charles was brutalized, she asked me to stay in the Army because she wanted to know I would have safety. She was afraid I was going out and get involved and eventually get killed," he said. "I had to swallow my pride, but I made her that promise."

He said he decided to push harder for justice after he was approached for interviews by David Ridgen, a documentary filmmaker for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

Thomas Moore and Ridgen traveled across Mississippi together for two weeks in early July, interviewing people, hoping to jog someone's memory.

"Every day has been a triumph. Thomas has been getting new information that he has delivered to Dunn Lampton," Ridgen said.

Thomas Moore said they were told that both men arrested in the case are still alive, but Lampton could not establish their whereabouts.

According to FBI documents and newspaper accounts, Edwards confessed involvement in 1964, saying the young men were beaten but left alive in the woods. In later years, he denied ever admitting to any involvement.

Calls by The Associated Press to a number listed for Charles M. Edwards in Meadville were not returned. There was no listing for James Ford Seale.

Lampton said he would meet with state and local prosecutors in the coming weeks to determine how much evidence still exists, given the possibility that some witnesses have died over the years. He said he may offer immunity to people who have information.

Ollie Mae Allen, 62, of Chicago said a conviction in the slaying of her brother, Henry Dee, would bring some relief to the family.

"That was a murder they didn't have to do," she said.

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always blue*

*Flower-strewn pathways
all our lives through;*

*God hath not promised sun
without rain,*

*Joy without sorrow, peace
without pain.*

*But God hath promised strength
for the day,*

*Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love...*

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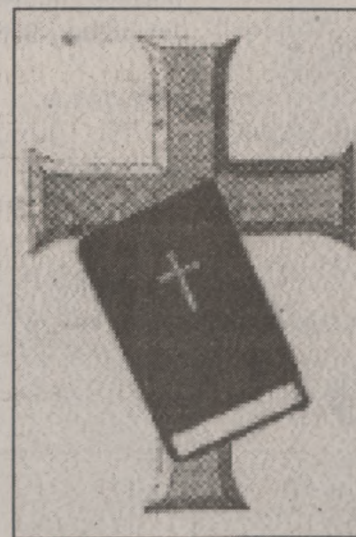
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RELIGIOUS NEWS

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5

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

Pastor Clarence A. Williams and the Mt. Zion Church family cordially invite you to attend worship services with us at 919 - 20th St. S. this Sunday. We also invite you to all our services in the upcoming week.

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

Our Church School commences at 9:30 a.m.

We encourage you to join us as we collectively learn more of the Word of God together.

Our contemporary worship service is at 11 a.m. Join us as we lift high the name of Jesus in song. The CW Mass Choir will minister in song throughout the day. Pastor Williams will proclaim the Word of God. Come, anticipating a blessing.

As we prepare for another school year, let us be mindful of our children and keep them in prayer. May this year bring much peace, safety and success to one and all. As we start this new journey, let us retain an attitude of gratitude. Giving honor first to the

most high God for His many benefits and also to those around us that help us along the way. Let's share the greatest gift of all - that is love! Take time to invite someone to church. It might change his or her life.

Other ministries include:

• **Monday** - Bible Study, 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** - Early morning prayer 6:30 a.m.; Vintage Bible Study, 11 a.m.; Prayer Service, 6 p.m. Mid-week service, 7 p.m. If you're in need of a lift, join us for an hour packed with power. Your heart will be encouraged and your spirit revived and renewed!

• **Thursday** - Men's Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Upcoming events:

• **July 29, Back to School Night, 8 p.m.**

• **July 31, WMS Red Hat Sunday, 11 a.m.**

• **July 31, District Worship Service, Mt. Olive, Rubonia.**

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: *"Remember, man loves you because of, God loves you in spite of."*

Be blessed, and have a Jesus-filled week!

Plans To Provide Tutorial Help At Philadelphia

In memory of Barbara Bolden, New Philadelphia will partner with Success Unlimited to provide tutorial assistance during school year. This collaborative effort will utilize volunteer services of retired educators to assist children presently enrolled in school. Parents will be expected

where possible, to provide transportation. Children participating should bring textbooks and any other instructional materials given at school. Interested persons should contact "Mama Tee" Lassiter or Pastor Gaskin.

Members of church family are urged to attend

mid-week Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. Present focus of study is prayer. Wisdom School is now being held at 10:30 until 11:30 each Sunday morning. Christian commendations are conveyed to those persons presently attending one or both of these study sessions.

Mission Sunday will be observed during mid-morning worship. Members are reminded to wear Mission T-shirts to service this Sunday. Pastor's focus will be ministry of prayer and its importance to individual holiness. Church family is expected to be present on Sunday.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Dr. Evans, Sr., first family and Friendship Missionary Baptist Church prayerfully invite you to worship experience with us at 330 - 31st St. S. We also invite you to all other church-related functions during the week. Come and taste and see that the Lord is good to all of those of His that obey!!

First worship service begins at 7:45 a.m. with the deacons rendering devotion and the Fellowship Choir singing and the 5th Sunday Ushers serving. Dr. Evans, Sr. will render the message unless otherwise noted.

A second service is held at 11 a.m. due to our fellowship between 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. Come sup with us and the Lord and find out what He wills for you to do in the Kingdom of God!!

Sunday School begins promptly with general assembly at 9:30 a.m. and classes commence at 9:45 a.m.!! Bring your children,

bring your family, your husband, your wife and taste the goodness the Lord wills to give to you and your family for eternity!!

There will be no GIMS Training or Youth Enrichment Hour until Aug. 30. Please enjoy the rest of your summer break!!

Children go back to school Aug. 3. Help a child prepare for school - buy a backpack, bookbag and fill it with school supplies. There is no excuse not to help someone else's child. The NO SALES TAX HOLIDAY IS THRU JULY 31!

Thursday, July 28 - choir rehearsal. Come sing unto the Lord and bless His name forever!! We need you in the choir!! For details about what choirs rehearse, please contact John Frazier at (727) 867-1172 or contact the church office at (727) 906-8300, Mon.-Fri. between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. or visit us at www.fmbctheship.org.

We are in preparation for the pastor's 8th Anniversary at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Come out if you wish to help give a prophet of God double honor for the things He has done through God's divine guidance for His Kingdom to come and His family!! The chairpersons for this momentous occasion of celebration are our own Mr. and Mrs. Ernest and Larnetta Peterson. This will be held in November of this year. Watch this spot for more details!!

We are preparing for our annual revival. We really can have revival any day of the week. However, church revival renewal time is close at hand. This year again, we will have one of our own, Dr. (Pastor) Andrew Thomas out of Lugoff, S.C. break the bread of life with us down by the river side!! Come and be blessed!! Come and find Jesus there waiting to come into your house and

sup with you!!

We wish to give our sincerest and deepest sympathies to Dr. Evans and his family for the passing of his nephew last week. Our hearts and prayers of peace and comfort are with you and all of yours! We wish to express sincere condolences for all others who have lost loved ones at all this past year thus far. But GOD NEVER MAKES A MISTAKE!!! Are you ready for God!!!!?

There are many other events and activities going on at Friendship, where a stranger meets a friend and sinners find there GOD!! Please check our bulletins and/or the website for more information at Serve the Lord with Gladness for it is He that gives you power to have the power to serve Him!! Give Him some of your time. After all He gave His life for you!! Have a God-encountered week!

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church extends an invitation to join us in the celebration, cultivation and communication of His Word. The doors of God's House in the city swinging on welcome hinges are

open for both the 8 and 11 a.m. services on Sunday, Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., Bible Study and Teen Summit on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

The Women's Ministry of Bethel is finalizing plans

for their annual conference to be held on Saturday, Aug. 20 at Eckerd College Continuing Education Center from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The keynote speaker is Shirley J. Thornton. Other presenters will be Evangelist Aya-

kao Watkins, Sharon Thurman-Reeves and Deborah York-Carter.

Pre-registration deadline is Aug. 5. There will also be on-site registration. For additional information, call the church office.

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of its dynamic, spirited, man of God, the Rev. Brian Kenneth Brown, its official staff of deacons and trustees and the entire congregation of St. Mark extends to the community at large its wishes that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central theme a belief that we are a haven of hope, help and healing for a world hungering for and thirsting after the enlightened Word of God. At St. Mark, we are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for His awesome gift, His son Jesus Christ. Our prayer for our community is that you would join us in fellowship as we worship and praise the true and the living God.

From the pastor's

desk: Abraham's Life of Faith:

In the Old Testament, a person's relationship with God was seen by the degree of separation in that person's life. This separation is exhibited in the life of Abraham by his separation from his country and his family. When we think of separation today, we do not mean to be literally separated from those family members who do not have a personal relationship with God, but to be separated mentally and morally from their viewpoints. This is what Jesus was referring to in Luke 14:26.

Living a life of faith means never knowing where you are being led. But it does mean loving and knowing the one who is leading. It is literally a life of faith, not of understanding and reason - a life of knowing Him who calls us to go. Faith rooted in the

life of a person, and one of the biggest traps we fall into, is the belief that if we have faith, God will surely lead us to success in the world.

The final stage in the life of faith is the attainment of character, and we encounter many changes in the process. We feel the presence of God around us when we pray, yet we are momentarily changed. We tend to keep going back to our everyday ways and the glory vanishes. A life of faith, then is not a life of one glorious mountaintop experience after another, like soaring on eagles' wings, but it is a life of day-in and day-out consistency, a life of not fainting (Isaiah 40:31).

Events for July:
July 27-30 - Meeting of Congress No. 2 (an auxiliary of the South Florida Progressive Baptist Association) in Palmetto, Fla. Nightly services Wednes-

day through Friday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. John Institutional where the Rev. Fred Brown is the pastor.

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.).

Mt. Zion Progressive M.B. Church

Mt. Zion's Outreach Ministry presents: "Bring Your Family and Friends to Church," Sunday, July 31. Come worship with us, and bring the entire family and all your friends!

Crown Financial Ministry - For more information on handling your finances according to the Word of God, please call Deacon Joe Mitchell at (727) 867-0922 for enrollment into the next class.

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 at 7 p.m. at the Youth House, 1022 - 20th St. S. If you or someone you know has an addiction, please contact Minister Keith Murphy.

Before and aftercare registration has begun for 5-12 year olds. To get an application, call Jan Smith at (727) 894-4311, ext. 401. Transportation will be

available but limited. Deadline for registration is July 31.

Our Reading and Math Enhancement Program is in desperate need of volunteers. We will continue recruiting volunteers during the month of July. Interested parties please call (727) 823-4085, ext. 808 and leave a message.

Mt. Zion Human Services, Inc. provides after school training and tutoring services for youth ages 14-18 through the Youth Opportunity Center. The pro-

gram assists in 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.

Mt. Zion Progressive M.B. Church is located at 955 - 20th St. S. The Rev. Louis M. Murphy, Sr. is pastor. Contact www.mzprogressive.org, or the church office, (727) 894-4311 or send an email to: mzpmc@gte.net.

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

"United as one body, by one spirit, in one hope."

Pastor Carlos Senior

and the New Hope Church family invites you to worship with us on Sunday morning.

Our morning begins with Sunday School at 9 a.m. Bring the entire family! Dynamic teachers are

waiting to share with you the Word of God. We praise God for his abundant blessings!

Praise and worship will begin at 10:30 a.m. All choirs will sing combined for the fifth Sunday service. Our music team consists of Minister Tony Young as minister of music, accompanied by the father and son duo, Vernard and Michael McKenny. Marcus Childs serves as percussionist and Bobbie Tampa as directress. The Bread of Life will be

served by the Rev. Dozier, associate minister.

Please join us on Tuesdays for Prayer Meeting/Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. We will also be delighted to have you join us on Thursday morning for Prayer Band beginning at 11 a.m.

Upcoming events:

• J. L. Fennell Scholars - Back-to-School Community Health Fair, July 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

• Pastor's Advocates Fellowship Hour - July 31, 4-6 p.m.

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

Pastor William E. Anderson and the congregation of Pentecostal Temple invite the community to be a part of their Back-to-School Youth Explosion 2005. This event will kick-off on Sunday, July 31 at 5 p.m. Various youth and groups from around the city will give high praise to God through song, inspirational dance, mime and rap.

The theme for this year is: "Let's Get Krunk for Christ!" During the session on Sunday, the new principal of John Hopkins Middle School, Maureen Thornton will be introduced to the community. Along with the Pentecostal Temple Church family and the Thornton family, members of the Pinellas County School Board and the St. Petersburg City Council will be on hand for congratulatory moments.

Youth Explosion 2005 will continue Monday, Aug. 1 through Wednesday, Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. nightly. Teen rap sessions will include discussion topics such as: Handling Peer Pressure, Gettin' My Praise On, Girl Talk and Man to Man. Guest facilitators will be the dynamic husband and wife team of Pastor Okoye Morgan and Elder Kay Morgan. They are well known in the St. Petersburg community and serve as the youth pastors at St. John Cathedral in Tampa. A message of salvation will also be presented each night with a call to dedication and commitment to Christ.

Giveaway prizes will include t-shirts, CDs, tickets to Disney World's Night of Joy, a girl's and boy's bicycle and school supplies. Come one, come all and "Let's Get Krunk for Christ!"

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Gospel Phenom Najiyah Joins Lineup For Mega Fest In Atlanta

Grade-school gospel powerhouse Najiyah has her sights set on a hot, hot summer recording debut and a series of performances that include Bishop T.D. Jakes' Mega Fest in Atlanta on Aug. 3. On July 11, she gave a stunning performance at WRKS' KISS-FM Musical Tribute to Luther Vandross at the famed Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem.

Najiyah's performance was phenomenal! She received a standing ovation and rave reviews from all the participants at the musical tribute including the Rev. Dr. Calvin Butts, Cissy Houston, Freddie Jackson, Erykah Badu, Meli'sa Morgan, Vivian Green and members of Luther Vandross' family.

Various members of the press were present including Ethan Sacks and Leo Standora of the New York Daily News who wrote, "As 12-year-old gospel singer Najiyah - the pint-size sixth-grader with a big-time voice - belted out 'His Eyes Is on the Sparrow,' the crowd bolted to its feet, clapping, singing and swaying to the music." The Rhythm & Spirit recording artist's first single, "Watchin' Over Me," hit airwaves in June; her debut album, "It's Just Me," is in stores on Sept.



Nona Hendryx protégé, Najiyah, prepares for the release of her debut album, "It's Just Me."

27.

In addition to her Mega Fest performance, Najiyah taped three songs on the television program, "I Gospel" on the Inspiration Network and she joined BET star Bobby Jones for his recent annual Gospel Retreat in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. where she performed on the youth and hip hop day. On June 28 she performed at the Edwin Hawkins Music & Arts Seminar. And in early June, she shared the spotlight with the legendary Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin at the 22nd Annual McDonald's Gospel Fest.

Some of Najiyah's promotional efforts for the album have included church visits in various markets. Most recent visits

included Greater Allen Cathedral in Jamaica, Queens and City of Refuge, Bishop Noel Jones' Church in Los Angeles.

The seeds for Najiyah's professional recording career began in 2003 when, during an audition, her phenomenal voice caught the attention of legendary soul/rockers Nona Hendryx. Hendryx knew right away that the Harlem schoolgirl was something special. In 2004, when she and partner Bobby Banks founded Rhythmbank Entertainment, an indie record label, they signed Najiyah as their first act.

Najiyah's debut album, "It's Just Me," features the youngster's effortless, soaring vocals on iconic gospel tunes such as "Oh How I

Love Jesus" and "His Eye Is On The Sparrow," as well as contemporary gospel like the powerful "Through The Storm," a duet with R&B diva Jennifer Holliday; the wildly popular "Stand," made famous by gospel superstar Donnie McClurkin; and the album title song, "It's OK, It's Just Me," written by Darius Brooks. The album's 12 tracks were executive produced by Hendryx and an assortment of veteran producers including Darius Brooks, Eve Nelson, Michael McElroy, Joe Joubert, Darren Lighty, Eddie F. Marc S. McKinney a.k.a Ramone.

Najiyah's recording career is just beginning, but she's hardly an inexperienced performer. She brought her parents to tears when, she began singing along with the radio at age two, and by age five was bringing the congregation at Harlem's United House of Prayer to their feet.

By the time she was six, she'd made three appearances on the stage of the famed Apollo Theater. By age nine, Najiyah had an agent and was making the rounds of auditions for splashy Broadway productions like "The Lion King" and "Hairspray."

Award-Winning CeCe Winans Finds New Release With 'Purified'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -

In follow-up to her RIAA Gold-certified "Throne Room" CD, the award-winning CeCe Winans returns on Sept. 13 with her greatly anticipated seventh solo project, "Purified." Produced by Keith Thomas, Tommy Simms, Mario Winans and Andy Selby, this is the first pop project between Winans' Pure-Springs Label, INO Records, Sony UrbanMusic and Epic Records.

With "Purified," Winans combines the transformative power of gospel music with heart-stopping pop, street-smart R&B and infectious dance-floor rhythms to create her most compelling set of songs to date. Truly inspired in every sense of the word, this album is a celebration of the heart, the soul and the spirit.

Finding the beauty of God's well of inspiration in both the sacred and the secular, CeCe Winans seamlessly segues from R&B to pop to deeply felt gospel fervor, even adding street-savvy raps to tracks like "Pray," the album's hook-dappled first single (Billboard Gospel charts' Hot Shot Debut and Greatest Gainer at No. 24 its first week out), co-penned and produced by her hit-making nephew Mario Winans (Destiny's Child, Frankie J, Mary J. Blige, R. Kelly, Wendy Williams, New



CeCe Winans

Edition) and "A Place Like This," featuring the rap duo Grits.

With eight of the album's thirteen tracks authored by CeCe, "Purified" is also perhaps her most personal and candid album yet with tracks like "Always Sisters," "I Promise" and "All That I Need" providing revelatory glimpses into the heart, as well as the soul, of the artist. "All That I Need" will be serviced to Christian AC and Mainstream AC radio this month.

With songs like "Mama's Kitchen" and "Pray," CeCe seems destined to light up the nation's R&B airwaves with her signature blend of pop-soul-gospel. From the lush string arrangement of "You Will" to the up-tempo Latin-flavored "Let Everything," the songs transcend musical boundaries and trends, connecting directly to the heart

Soul Gospel Album in 1995, CeCe's next solo outing, 1998's "Everlasting Love," became the nation's #1 Top Gospel Album, a feat repeated with 1999's "Alabaster Box" and 2004's "Throne Room," both certified gold.

She took home a Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album Grammy in 1991 for "Different Lifestyles," as CeCe & BeBe Winans. Other Grammy wins for CeCe Winans include Best Gospel Performance, Female (1989 for "Don't Cry") and Best Soul Gospel Performance, Female (1987 for "For Always").

In addition to her six Grammy Awards, 19 Dove Awards, three Soul Train Awards, Five Stellar Awards, and three image and Billboard Music Awards, Winans has performed on "Oprah," "The Today Show," "Good Morning America," "The Tonight Show," "Regis & Kathie Lee" and many more.

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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

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Bible Study



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Pastor Johnny L. Williams, Jr. 3403 N. 34th Street
bishopwilliamsstampa@hotmail.com Tampa, FL 33605



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Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.



Rev. Clyde Williams

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General Bible Study
Thursday Night Prayer
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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



Rev. Rickey L. Houston

"God's House In The City"



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

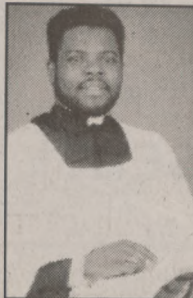
The Reverend Aaron V. Gaskin Associate Pastor
Finance Ministry James Robinson
Children & Youth Ministry Joyce Robinson
Clerk Ministry Wyvonna McGee

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

Elder William E. Anderson, Pastor



Morning Glory Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Community Bible Study Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
Prayer & Bible Study Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer Saturday 5:45 a.m.

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Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

Elder: Tony Smith

M
F
W
B
C



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

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

Communion is observed quarterly the first Sunday after every 5th Sunday.
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Queen Street

Church Of God In Christ

1732 9th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712
(727) 896-4356

Elder A.P. Conage, Pastor

8:00 A.M. - Sunday Service 9:00 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

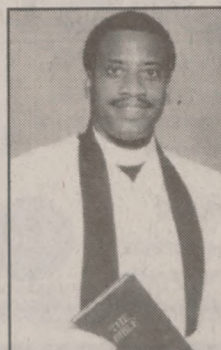
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Church School.....9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Devotion: 10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Praise and Worship: 10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study each Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m.
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10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

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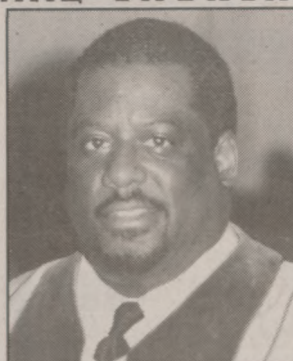
3144 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FL
PHONE: 323-7518

REV. WAYNE G. THOMPSON, PASTOR

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP - 11:00 A.M.

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L. P. Davis Memorial Baptist Church



2700 5th Ave. So., St.
Petersburg, Fla.

Rev. Darrel Davis, Sr.
Pastor

Sunday School.....9:30am
Morning Worship.....11:00am
Evening Service.....6:00pm
Prayer Meeting, Bible Study
Wednesday.....7:30pm
727-327-2009

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CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Rev. A. Anthony Robinson III

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

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship: 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study: Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

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prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"

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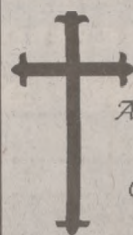
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Ladies Bible Class Monday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

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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Pastor

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email: mchurch1@tampabay.rr.com
Website: www.greatermtzioname.org

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
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Sunday Worship - 10:30am (Nursery Provided)
Sunday School (Adults and Children) - 9:30am
Sunday Choir - 9:30am
Gospel Choir - Mondays 6pm
Bible Study - Wednesdays 6pm
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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 a.m.

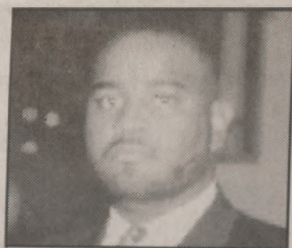
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Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Thursday 9:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

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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.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Tampa no later than 1:30 p.m. on the indicated Bid Date(s) for the following Project(s):

CONTRACT NO.: 5-C-44 PROJECT: PW6203; Tampa Police Department Headquarters - Chiller and Cooling Tower Improvements - Rehab. BID DATE: August 23, 2005 ESTIMATE: \$780,000 DEPOSIT: \$50 SCOPE: The project provides for demolition of chillers, cooling tower, related equipment and devices, controls, electrical components, piping, structural framing and screen, exhaust fan and ductwork; providing installation of Owner supplied chillers, pumps, controls and VFDs; providing piping, valves, ductwork and devices; providing patching of walls, ceilings, floors and roofing; providing cleaning and painting; providing structural steel chiller platform with handrail and walkway; providing mechanical and electrical modifications. PRE-BID CONFERENCE: Tuesday, August 9, 2005, 2:00 P.M. TECHNICAL QUESTIONS: Fax: 813/274-8080.

Bids will be opened in the 4th Floor Conference Room, Tampa Municipal Office Building, 306 E. Jackson Street, Tampa, Florida 33602. Pre-Bid Conference is held at the same location. Plans and Specifications for this work may be examined at the Department of Public Works, 306 E. Jackson Street, 4th Floor North, Tampa, Florida 33602. Copies may be obtained upon payment of the refundable deposit indicated for each set. Deposits are refunded if documents are returned in good condition within 15 days after bid opening. Deposits should be in the form of separate checks for each project. Copies of Standard Contract Terms and Provisions (a part of the Contract Documents, but not reprinted in the Specifications) are available upon request. Mailing is available for an additional charge of \$10 per set. Check should be made payable to the City of Tampa. Subcontracting opportunities may exist for City certified Women/Minority Business Enterprises (W/MBEs). A copy of the current W/MBE directory may be obtained at www.tampabay.com. Phone (813) 274-8456 for assistance.

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Rick Gee's Jazz Jamm And The Palladium's 'Cabaret Jam Session' A Huge Success!



ST. PETERSBURG-- More than 100 jazz fans and musicians packed The Stavros Great Room at the Palladium last Thursday night. All were enjoying a buffet dinner of red beans, rice and chicken, and the first in a series of jazz concerts and jam sessions presented by the Palladium Theater and *Weekly Challenger* correspondent Rick Gee (Rick Gee's Jazz Jamm).

The Jeremy Carter Quartet entertained the audience in concert followed by a presentation of the "Spoken Word" by poets Pedro Jarquin and Jeffrey James. Later in the program, more than 15 jazz musicians sat in on the jam session, including former Duke Ellington bassist and local resident John Lamb. The second series event is scheduled for Aug. 18 featuring the trio of popular jazz guitarist Nate Najjar.

The Palladium Theatre is located at 253 Fifth Ave. N. For more information, please call (727) 822-3590.

photos by Rassi

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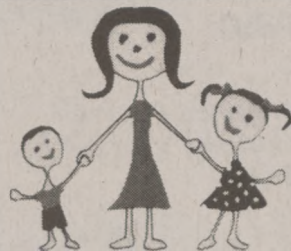
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from front page



"Mama" Pat Daniels, a Verizon service representative, helped out by cleaning keyboards and mousepads.



David Miller, who provides on-line support for Verizon, helps pull wire to set up the new technology.



Service representatives Heather Philyor and Dana Williams were also a great help!

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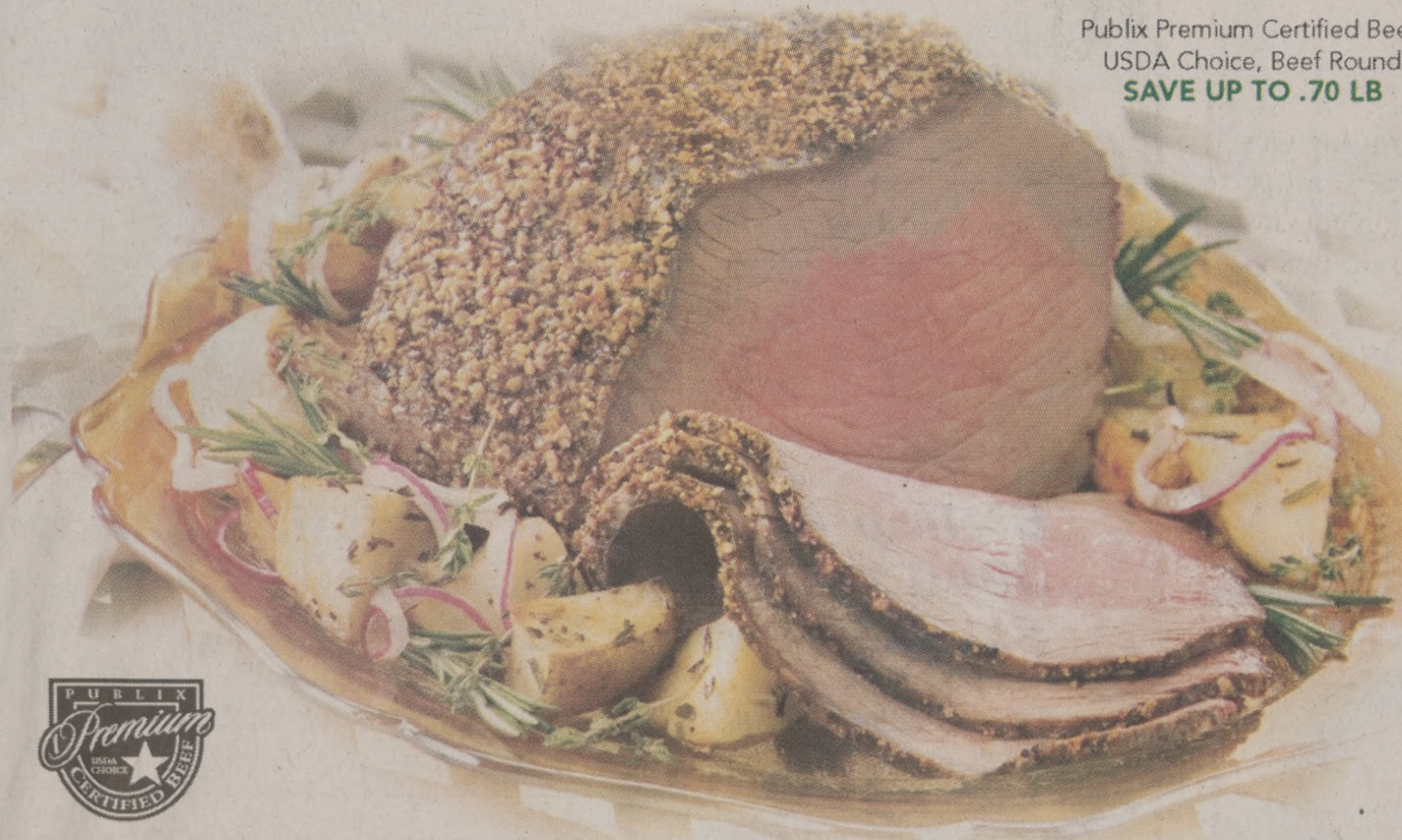
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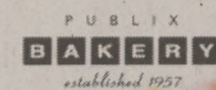
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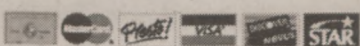
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