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VOLUME 39 NUMBER 43

JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2007

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

Chocolate City Melting As D.C. 'Exodus' Sparks

BY: NISA ISLAM
MUHAMMAD

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NNPA) - By the year 2020, if demographers' predictions are correct, the nation's capital will no longer be a "Chocolate City," but more of a melting pot of cultures with no one group as the majority, according to U.S. Census Reports released last month.

D.C.'s Black population is declining, while the White and Asian population is increasing.

"The demographics shift means Washington likely will cease to be majority Black by 2020, said Robert E. Lang, director of the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech.

He told The Washington Post, "It will wind up more like a Los Angeles or a New York, with no clear majority."

Why are Blacks leaving in record numbers?

"We can't afford to live here," said long time resident Ronnie Mitchell. "Look at the housing costs, we have to leave. I love D.C. but it costs too much to live here. I can get more for my money in Prince Georges County."

Experts agree that the lack of affordable housing and

gentrification have contributed to the exodus.

"What you see are Whites moving into the city because they are able to afford the pricey housing in all these areas that are gentrifying and becoming much more middle and upper-middle class," said William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution to the Associated Press.

Not in my neighborhood.

The change in population is right in line with D.C.'s new 20-year revitalization plans, which include decreasing the hundreds of licensed liquor, beer and wine establishments located throughout the city.

The Washington Afro American reported that many longtime residents believe the plan has been designed to accommodate the wave of Whites who have recently settled in the District from areas not plagued by an overabundance of liquor stores.

"That may be one view," explained 8A Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Anthony Muhammad, "As the city's population changes, White people don't want liquor stores on every corner as they are in the Black

CHOCOLATE CITY
continued on page A7

Guardian Ad Litem Needed

A thousand children in Pinellas County need someone to be their voice in the courtroom and to advocate for them in the child welfare system. The Guardian ad Litem program hopes that could be you.

The next training to become certified will begin July 10th, and will be held at the Criminal Justice Center in Clearwater.

As a Guardian ad Litem, you advocate for abused, abandoned or neglected children and teens in the family courts and the child welfare system.

The average time needed is six to eight hours a month.

As a child's advocate, a Guardian ad Litem becomes familiar with the child's case and makes recommendations to the court to help ensure the child has a safe, caring and stable environment.

Guardians receive ongoing assistance to help them make a positive difference in the lives of children. To volunteer and arrange to attend a brief orientation, call 464-6528. For information and an application go to www.guardianadlitem6.org.

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2000 Teens Attend First "Fit For Life Teen Summit"



Photo by E.K. Odom

Keynote Speaker Ian Hill

BY: ERSULA KNOX ODOM
EDITOR

The talented saxophonist, B.K. Jackson entertained the crowd of approximately 2000 teenagers as they filed into the Mahaffey Theater on Thursday June 21 for the first countywide "Fit For Life Teen Summit 2007" hosted by TASCO Teen Programs/St Petersburg Recreation.

This event united teens from cities and organizations throughout Pinellas County for a special day of information, motivation, and entertainment. The theme, "My Body, My

Life", was designed to encourage teenagers to consider decisions about healthy lifestyles to promote a healthy future.

The program began with an impressive welcoming committee: Clarence Scott (Master of Ceremonies), Erin McMahon sang the national anthem, City of St. Petersburg Executive Teen Council led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, Major Rick Baker ordered up "Another great day in St. Petersburg," ending with greetings from Mike Vail (Sweetbay Supermarket) and Bill Protz (Catalina Marketing).

Ian Hill commanded attention when he

spoke to a young person's dream. Mr Hill asked, "Who in here has a dream?" Takira, from Lakewood high school, had the courage to quickly raise her hand and state her dream. She said she wanted to be a choreographer and dancer. Mr. Hill told the audience, "You never know who may be speaking to you from the stage." He then turned to Takira and rewarded her for her courage.

TEENS

continued on pg. B1

ACS Charity Gala Is A Success



Liane Jackson, Pricilla Burney, Ronald Davis, Mary Jones, Dalia Dangerfield and husband Shaka

BY: JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON
CHALLENGER CORRESPONDENT

The Minority Development Committee (MDC) of the American Cancer Society's (ACS) Pinellas Unit held another successful Charity Gala at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on June 22nd. Nearly 300 guests enjoyed the 18th Annual event.

The celebration is a salute to the MDC's tireless work as champions of the fight against cancer in the African American community. In addition, the committee uses the Gala celebration as a purveyor of information and education regarding cancer prevention and treatment options.

One of the most poignant moments of the affair was the testimony given by three local cancer survivors: Reverend James Butler, Assistant Pastor of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church; Reverend Manuel Sykes, Pastor of Bethel Community Baptist Church and Linda Hardaway-Watkins, Supervisor-Head Teller at Am South Bank. Each one spoke about their heroic battles with cancer and their deep spiritual faith, as well as gave advice on living healthier lifestyles and being an advocate for your own health. "Don't treat the symptoms, find the cause", said Rev. Sykes, "Be an advocate for yourself. Recognize your own mortality. After all I've been through I still have my joy."

The entire evening was a stunning success. The program was opened with special remarks and introductions by local attorney John R. Richardson. Serving as Master and Mistress of Ceremonies were Reginald Roundtree, WTSP Channel 10 News Anchor, and Liane Jackson, WTVT Channel 13 News Reporter. Musical selections were performed by Hattie Robinson, Barbara Cox and Vernard McKinney. On hand to give greetings were Earnest Williams, St. Petersburg City Councilman, District 6; Kenneth T. Welch, Pinellas County Commissioner, District 7, and Karen Kent, Director of Patient Care Services, Bayfront Medical Center Oncology Unit.

During his greetings, Scott Kistler, Vice Chairman of the ACS Pinellas Unit's Operating Board said, "The committee's event

GALA

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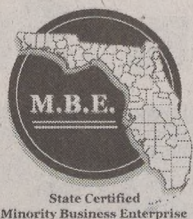
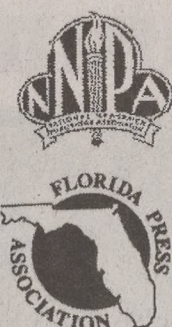
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Ethel L. Johnson Publisher
Wanda Johnson President
L. Dianne Speights . . . General/Advertising Manager
Robin Simmons Circulation Manager
Rosalie Peck Executive Editor
Ersula Knox Odom Editor
Cindy Rubin Art Director

The Weekly Challenger Office:

2500 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 896-2922
Fax (727) 823-2568
email: tchallen@tampabay.rr.com
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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.
- To know the events of our past (can help us) to know what future events can be.
- The *Weekly Challenger* is committed to featuring articles of all ethnic cultures for the reading enjoyment of both the young and old generations.

OPINION

Medicare Overpayments To Private Insurers Are Hazardous To Children's Health



BY: MARIAN
WRIGHT
EDELMAN

As Congress considers the renewal of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) over the next few weeks and months, we are pushing legislators to cover all nine million uninsured children.

However, Congressional leaders are only attempting to come up with enough funds to cover some of the children who are already eligible for SCHIP but are not enrolled. We at CDF urge members of Congress to set their sights on the goal of providing a national health care safety net this year for all children in the richest nation on earth.

House and Senate Budget Committees have agreed on resolutions to allocate \$50 billion in new funds for child health coverage over the next five years if the money can be found to pay for it. Now is the time your voice is needed to insist they find at least that amount. Our research indicates that even if Congress commits this additional \$50 billion to SCHIP, millions of uninsured children will be left behind.

One potential funding source that could yield about \$54 billion is the elimination of government overpayments to insurance companies through Medicare Advantage programs. Insurance companies have profiteered from overpayments that were originally intended to save money and provide better care for seniors.

A portion of these expensive overpayments has gone to insurance company profits, marketing, and administrative costs rather than to additional benefits to seniors. These

overpayments have resulted in higher premium costs for seniors participating in traditional Medicare, and they have diminished Medicare's ability to provide future benefits to all seniors.

In addition, they will cost taxpayers more than \$50 billion over the next five years. They also constitute a back door attempt to privatize Medicare.

If overpayments are eliminated, as the Congressional Medicare Payment Advisory Commission recommends, the savings should be used to address the national crisis of children's health care—a crisis that is getting worse because SCHIP is drastically underfunded to serve even those children who are currently eligible for coverage. This crisis affects real children. There are countless chronically ill children whose lives and futures are in great peril because they are uninsured.

Not surprisingly, the insurance industry is lobbying heavily to prevent the elimination of overpayments. One argument they and others have used is that minority and low-income seniors rely disproportionately on Medicare Advantage plans.

A study by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has refuted this claim with research showing that the minority percentage of Medicare Advantage enrollees is no higher than the minority percentage of all Medicare beneficiaries.

Actually, the burden of being uninsured falls heavily upon children of color—one in eight Black children and one in five Latino children is uninsured. Non-white youngsters make up more than five million of the nine million uninsured children.

Minority children are at higher risk than White children of having unmet health, mental health, and dental care needs. They are less likely to get immunized. And Black infants are

more than twice as likely as White infants to die before their first birthday.

Good governance requires our political leaders to make smart and moral choices. Do we want Medicare funds to be diverted toward profits for insurance companies? Wouldn't a better use of those dollars be to guarantee comprehensive health coverage for all children and pregnant women?

The United States provides health care to all senior citizens through Medicare. Children, who are the least expensive and most cost-effective group to cover, need and deserve a similar national health safety net. Should children have to wait until they are 65 to be insured?

I don't think so. Virtually all industrialized democracies provide health care to all of their children. We certainly don't lag behind other nations in the brain power or the economic resources needed to do that. What we lack is the commitment and political will.

Insurance companies can contribute huge amounts of money to Congressional campaigns to preserve Medicare Advantage overpayments. Since children are too young to vote and cannot pay powerful lobbyists, your voice must speak for them. You must demand that your senators and representatives put children's health before corporate profits. Congress should commit to protecting America's children and not lining the pockets of insurance companies.

For more information, please go to www.childrensdefense.org/healthychild.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

African-Americans Are Number One For Several Urban Crises



BY: REVEREND
JESSE L.
JACKSON, SR.

On the basketball court, where the rules are known, the goals are the same height at both ends, and the playing field is level, African-Americans once again showed play "above the rim." Tim Duncan led the San Antonio Spurs to the championship, for the fourth time in nine years. Only 22 years old, LeBron James carried his team past the Detroit Pistons. And Tony Parker walked away with the MVP trophy for the finals.

Once again, an African-American ballplayer finishes No. 1. Unfortunately, though, that's not the only No. 1 ranking we have to think about. As Dr. Ron Walters of the University of Maryland recently reminded me, in a list he sent me headed "No. 1 Statistics of the Black Condition," African-Americans have some other No. 1's we should deal with:

- No. 1 in the poverty rate
- No. 1 in the rate of incarceration
- No. 1 in victims of homicide
- No. 1 in victims of hate crimes
- No. 1 in mortgage-denial rates
- No. 1 in obesity and diabetes rates
- No. 1 in teachers in neighborhood classrooms with less than three years experience
- No. 1 in receiving the death sentence
- No. 1 in the unemployment line
- No. 1 in suspensions and expulsion;
- No. 2 in percentage of Americans who do not have health care

According to the Schott Report, seven of ten black youth are dropping out of high school in major cities like Chicago, New York and Miami.

There are about 20 Democrats and Republicans actively running for President in 2008, with a couple more in the wings — yet urban policy has been a "no-show" at the debates. For shame.

With jobs and capital flowing out, guns and drugs flowing in, dropout rates going up, hope dropping, we have a crisis situation in black America, especially among young black males. This is not a new crisis, since the Kerner Report identified "two Americas, separate but unequal" almost four decades ago — but it is shameful that it remains an unsolved crisis.

And moving into some realm way beyond shameful, Katrina remains an open wound on the body politic of America.

The Republican candidates wallow in the whitewashed myth of Ronald Reagan, whom African-Americans remember as the man who opposed the

Civil Rights Act of 1964, backed South African apartheid till the bitter end, and opened his general election campaign against Jimmy Carter in 1980 by visiting the Neshoba County fair to talk about states' rights.

That's the same county in Mississippi where Goodman, Schwerner and Chaney were murdered during Freedom Summer. Reagan's symbolism was raw and ugly, and as clear as bigotry can be. Now he's the mythological mentor for a dozen GOP wannabes. They've abandoned George W. Bush, concluding that his Custer-like determination to "stay the course" in Iraq will leave massive Bush and Cheney millstones around their necks. They want to go back to Reagan instead — but not the real Reagan, the sanitized, whitewashed version.

Meanwhile, on the Democratic side, where is the candidate with an urban policy? John Edwards launched his campaign in New Orleans in an attempt to make poverty a serious subject for the campaign, but the media wants to talk about his haircuts more than his poverty plans. When Dennis Kucinich brought up fair trade in the last debate, the media moderators quickly changed the subject. And notice the lack of serious response when Barack Obama brought up the "quiet riots" in our cities.

Where is the prison reform agenda? Who is brave enough to take on the prison-industrial complex, which spends more per inmate than is spent per public school student? Who will challenge our failed, wasteful and unfair drug policies, which have led to so many young African-Americans in jail? Who will restore the right to vote of felons, to help them become full citizens again, and register our high school seniors as they graduate? Who will call for full employment, for summer jobs for our youth, and public service jobs for those not-so-youthful? Who will challenge assault weapons and the arms trade? Who will treat Africa like a partner, at long last?

Who has the vision to set a public policy agenda for an America that is becoming more diverse, more multicultural with each passing year? Within a generation, the Democratic Party is likely to be a majority-minority party.

Which candidate will set out the long-term vision that reflects that future? And which of the media outlets will actually take that agenda seriously? Twenty years ago, I called for bold leadership and a new direction. Aren't we overdue for both?

In July, we approach the 40th anniversaries of the 1967 riots in Newark and Detroit. It's time to go beyond anecdotes, stereotypes and idle opinion, and seriously revisit the Kerner Report and examine today's "two Americas." There is an unbroken line of despair that leads from those riots to our too-often-ignored, too-often-incarcerated, too-often-feared urban children of today. America is still No. 1 in too many areas of pain. With an open race, and so many candidates, isn't it time for a new vision for urban America?

LOCAL NEWS

Brayboy Graduates Temple University, School Of Medicine



BY: ELIHU BRAYBOY

Lynae Brayboy Attended Holy Name School of Jesus Catholic School(now closed) in Gulfport, FL from first through eighth. She graduated at the top of her class of 1994 and proclaimed she wanted to become a doctor. Today, Lynae is a graduate of Temple University, School of Medicine, class of 2007. Lynae will specialize in obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN), beginning her internship at Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, PA, which is just outside of the city of Philadelphia.

Lynae is no stranger to achieving significant accomplishments. She graduated from Keswick Christian High School in St. Petersburg, FL with a 4.25 GPA. She later attended FAMU as a distinguished scholar awardee with all expenses paid and earned a B.S. degree in biology and become FAMU's first graduate to receive the coveted Fulbright Award. With this award, Lynae did medical research studies at the University of Mali, in the Republic of Mali, West Africa. The research involved study of the impact malaria has upon the unborn child. The following year, Lynae returned to the United States after being accepted by Temple University, School of Medicine. Lynae is the daughter of Elihu and Carolyn Brayboy.

Lynae Brayboy receives diploma from the president of Temple University, School of Medicine

'Most Severely Wounded' Soldier In Iraq Endures In Tampa

operationimpact.ms.northropgrumman.com



Briseno family shown with Jay (center) at the award ceremony. Family members pictured from left to right are Jay's mom, Eva Marie, sisters, Sherilyn and Malerie, father, Joseph, Sr., brother-in-law, Ferdie, and young niece Christiana.

BY: MARILYNN MARCHIONE

TAMPA (AP) — He lies flat, unseeing eyes fixed on the ceiling, tubes and machines feeding him, breathing for him, keeping him alive. He cannot walk or talk, but he can grimace and cry. And he is fully aware of what has happened to him.

Four years ago almost to this day, Joseph Briseno Jr. was shot in the back of the head at point-blank range in a Baghdad marketplace. His spinal cord was shattered, and cardiac arrests stole his vision and damaged his brain.

He is one of the most severely injured soldiers, some think the most injured soldier, to survive.

"Three things you would not want to be: blind, head injury, and paralyzed from the neck down. That's tough," said Dr. Steven Scott, head of the Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center at the Tampa VA Medical Center, where Briseno has twice been hospitalized for extensive care. In recent days, Briseno was hospitalized yet again, this time at the Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center.

As a high schooler, Briseno liked the Discovery Channel and CSI, and wanted to be a forensic scientist or investigator. He was 20 years old, attending George Mason University, when he was called up from the reserves and sent to war.

After he was shot, he was flown to Kuwait and then to a military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. His parents and two sisters rushed to his side.

"They told us, 'Prepare for his service.' That's how bad he was," said his father, Joseph Briseno Sr., a retired career Army man.

But he survived. From Germany, he went to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., then to McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va. In December 2003, he went

home, to Manassas Park, Va., where his parents, Joseph Sr. and Eva, quit their jobs to care for him.

"All our savings, all our money, was just emptied ... the 401(k)s, everything," said Joseph Briseno, who took a new job a year and a half ago to make ends meet.

Various charities, especially Rebuilding Together, raised money to renovate their basement, supply a backup generator for the medical equipment, and install a lift so they can hoist "Jay," as they call him, into a chair and bathe him in a handicapped accessible bathroom.

"If you asked me this from the very beginning, if we can handle it, I wouldn't lie to you. I would say no, that there is no way. There's no way that we're going to learn all these things. But my wife and I, we learned everything. We are the respiratory technician, we are the physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists ... his wound care nurse," Joseph Briseno said.

"It's a lot of work and it's hard, and some days are harder than the other days. But we don't take this as a burden for us because he's our son. We will do everything for him."

The family has help from VA-provided nurses, but not around the clock. Jay's mother and father often do overnight duty, making sure their son is turned every four hours so he does not develop bedsores, which can become infected and threaten his life. If they do not turn him and keep him on schedule, he does not sleep well and becomes agitated.

At the Tampa VA, a nurse taught Jay Briseno to swallow his saliva — a big step that allowed him to have some pureed foods instead of just tube-feeding. He has not been able to handle any solid food, though — his injuries are too profound.

More recently, the Tampa staff tried to wean him from the respirator. This involved painstaking therapy to strengthen his diaphragm by placing weights on his belly and gradually increasing the air pressure on the machine to try to create resistance and muscle strength. So far, it hasn't worked.

He has had other trials: surgeries, procedures and medications for bladder problems, high blood pressure, the opening for his breathing tube, dead tissue on his tongue — even an ingrown toenail. The latest is the bone disease, osteoporosis.

He can respond to questions by grunting or grimacing, and occasionally can say "mom" or "go," but not consistently. He often opens his mouth.

"We believe he is very frustrated because he wants to say something. Those are the hardest times for us, especially when he's sick or not feeling well. He just lays there. We don't know what's wrong with him," Joseph Briseno said.

They pray that he will continue to improve, not get worse. And they hope to move to Tampa, where they believe their son can get the best care.

"We always have hope. One day at a time — that's the way we live our lives," the elder Briseno said. "We're so lucky to have him. He was a very good son from the very beginning. God gave Jay to us and he's a blessing to us."

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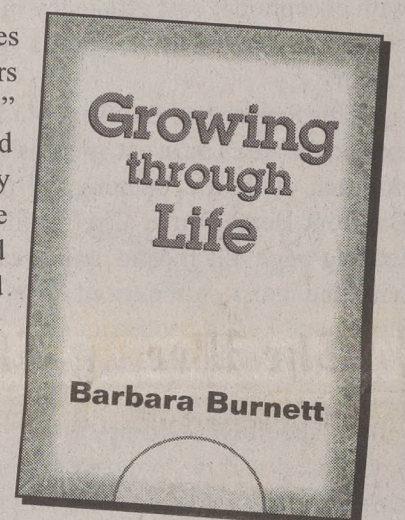
In *Growing through Life*, Barbara Burnett presents a collection of memorable experiences, thoughts, and advice from her many years of living. Readers are given a glimpse into the life of this kind and loving woman as she shares stories from her childhood years in Georgia and also includes entertaining and instructive chapters on relationships, religion, success, and life in general.

Barbara Burnett, now a resident of Miami, Florida, was born the fourth daughter of thirteen children in southeast Georgia during the Depression. A cosmetologist by trade, the author works part time and enjoys reading, writing, and teaching Sunday school in her spare time. *Growing through Life* is Ms. Burnett's first published book.

"I have attempted to enhance or make a better life for someone who has not experienced the things that I have," writes Barbara Burnett in the introduction to *Growing through Life*, a collection of memorable experiences, thoughts, and advice from the author's many years of living. Starting with her childhood years in Georgia and moving on to her involvement in Sunday school her close friends, and her lifelong affection for her family, readers are given a glimpse into the life of a kind and loving woman.

Growing through Life includes entertaining and instructive chapters dealing with "Relationships," "How to Achieve a Long and Successful Life," "Noteworthy Statements & One Sentence Sermons," "Good Advice," and "Chuckles, Chuckles, and Chuckles." Readers of all ages will find much to enjoy in this consistently rewarding volume.

Barbara Burnett is the sister of
Ethel Johnson, Publisher,
The Weekly Challenger



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To learn more about Power To End Stroke,
call (727) 563-8087
or visit strokeassociation.org.



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Pinellas Buses Increase Runs

Who: Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
What: Increasing bus service
When: 6/24/07
Where: Throughout Pinellas County and to downtown Tampa
Why: To improve bay area bus service

Beginning this Sunday, PSTA will make it easier for bay area residents to "Dump the Pump" and save on gasoline costs thanks to some significant increases in service along some of the most popular routes!

Three of PSTA's busiest routes (59, 60 & 74) will now be running every 20 minutes during rush hour, while riders along PSTA's popular Route 4 will be able to catch a bus every 15 minutes during rush hour.

PSTA Director of Planning, William Steele says, "We've seen big increases in ridership on the routes where buses run every 20 minutes or less. People are much more willing to use transit if they know they'll only have to wait 15-20 minutes." In fact over the past five years ridership on PSTA has grown more than 20%.

More service to Tampa

PSTA will also be adding an additional mid-day trip to Route 300X, which runs from the Ulmerton Road Park N Ride facility, just east of Starkey Rd, to HART's Marion Transit Center in downtown Tampa.

Bayfront Wins Award For Quality Heart Care



Sue Brody

ST. PETERSBURG - Bayfront Medical Center has earned the 2007 Premier Award for Quality for open-heart surgery in the area of coronary artery bypass graft. Bayfront is one of only six hospitals in the United States to receive this award.

"Winning this award reinforces Bayfront Medical Center's commitment to providing our patients with top quality heart care," said Sue Brody, President and Chief Executive Officer.

To achieve this status, Bayfront demonstrated a combination of the highest level of quality care with exceptional cost efficiency in this area, when compared to other hospitals throughout the country.

This September, Bayfront Medical Center will expand the area's most comprehensive cardiovascular program with the opening of the freestanding Bayfront Heart Center. This facility will integrate leading-edge diagnostic and treatment services with the most experienced team of physicians, nurses and health professionals.

In 2006, Bayfront completed a state-of-the-art surgical expansion that includes two operating suites specially equipped for adult cardiac procedures and a brand-new cardiac intensive care unit with private rooms offering one-to-one patient care.

Hospitals that submitted data to Premier's Perspective database, the most comprehensive clinical, financial and operational comparative database in the nation, between October 2005 and September 2006 were eligible to receive the 2007 Premier Award for Quality. The Premier Award for Quality is based on quality and cost data regularly submitted to Premier for reporting and benchmarking purposes. The award is distinguished by its consideration of performance-based criteria, including clinical quality outcomes, clinical process indicators and resource utilization outcomes.

For more than 100 years, Bayfront Medical Center - a 502-bed, not-for-profit, teaching hospital - has responded to the healthcare needs of West Coast residents. Pinellas County's only trauma center, Bayfront is also home to Bayflite - the largest hospital-based flight program in the Southeastern United States.

Bayfront has received numerous national accolades, including: CareScience Select Practice National Quality Leader in the category of cardiac bypass surgery; the Gold Seal of Approval for stroke care from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations; accreditation from the National Society of Chest Pain Centers; and Working Mother magazine's "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" for nine years. For more information on Bayfront, visit www.bayfront.org

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budgeting, setting and reaching goals and how to access community resources and much more.

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For further information contact: Kerri Pedersen, Coordinator Parent Aide Program (727) 5443900 x 168.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Friday, June 29 - St. Pete Shuffle. St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Courts, 559 Mirror Lake Dr. N. 7 to 11 p.m. A hip twist on an old game with music and art. Free. www.stpeteshuffle.com or 727-867-7228.

Saturday, June 30 - Open House Celebration at Central Oak Park Fire Station #6. 4825 9th Avenue North, 9 a.m. to noon. Ring the 100 year old bell, meet firefighters, get close to the fire trucks and tour the station. Free. 727-893-7218.

Saturday, June 30 - St. Pete Pride Promenade and Street Festival. Central Ave. between 22nd & 28th St. Promenade 10 a.m. to noon, street festival 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Annual festival and parade celebrates diversity and raises awareness of GLBT communities. Free. www.stpetepride.com. or 727-365-0544.

Saturday, June 30 & Sunday, July 1 - Artwalk at BayWalk. 2nd Ave. & 2nd St. N. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Show and sale of work by local artists. www.baywalkstpete.com or 727-384-6000.

Wednesday, July 4 - Fourth of July @ the Pier. The Pier, 800 2nd Ave. N.E. Noon to 9 p.m. Fantastic family event featuring face painting, Fritzzy Brothers One Man Circus Entertainers, music by the Cool Daddies and Rhythm Method plus interactive music video The Dance Heads. Free, nominal charges for some activities. www.stpetepier.com or 727-821-6443.

Wednesday, July 4 - The City of St. Petersburg July 4th Celebration. North Straub Park, Bayshore Dr. & 5th Ave. N.E. 4 p.m. Family activities, food concessions and fun throughout the day. WFUS broadcasts patriotic music to accompany the fireworks display scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. (or between 8:30 and 10 p.m. as weather mandates). Tune to WFUS 103.5 FM for the latest update on weather and fireworks information. No rain date. Free. 727-893-7441.

Wednesday, July 4 - Fourth of July Bash. BayWalk, 2nd Ave. & 2nd St. N. 4 p.m. Entertainment, stilt walkers and much more in celebration of Independence Day. Free. www.baywalkstpete.com or 727-384-6000.

Wednesday, July 4 - The First Annual 4th of July Community Band Concert. Mahaffey Theater, 400 1st St. S. 7 p.m. Enjoy music from the Flori Mezzo Summer Wind Ensemble. Performing: Souza and Herbert plus works by Bernstein, Copland and more. Blanket seating, refreshments available. Following the concert view the City of St. Petersburg fireworks display

over the waterfront (weather permitting). Free. www.mahaffeytheater.com or 727-892-5767.

Friday, July 6 - Get Downtown. Central Ave. from 2nd to 3rd St. 5:30 to 10 p.m. Live music and festive street party. Free. 727-393-3597.

Saturday, July 7 - Plant City Bike Fest. Downtown Plant City will be biker-central, as thousands of bikers and motorcycle fans gather for the monthly Plant City Bike Fest. Attendees will enjoy food and games, and see thousands of motorcycles on display. More than 70 vendors will be on-hand with a wide array of products to choose from. The event is free to attend from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and it takes place over about an eight-square-block area by McCall Park and the Plant City Train Depot, 102 N. Palmer Street. Free parking is available on the surrounding streets. For more information, contact the Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce at 813-754-3707 or log on to www.plantcity.org.

Thursday July 12 to Sunday July 15 - Tampa Bay Devil Rays vs. New York Yankees. Tropicana Field, One Tropicana Dr. www.devilrays.com or 888-FAN-RAYS.

Sunday July 15 - Back to School Care Fair. Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center, 1310 22nd Ave. S. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Prepares 2,500 at risk children for the upcoming school year providing free immunizations, medical exams, vision and dental screenings and a backpack filled with supplies. 727-895-5018.

Tuesday, July 17 to Thursday, July 19 - Tampa Bay Devil Rays vs. Los Angeles Angels. Tropicana Field, One Tropicana Dr. www.devilrays.com or 888-FAN-RAYS.

Saturday, July 21 - Strawberry Classic Car Show. Cars and trucks from 1982 and before - antiques, customs, classics and hotrods - will gather in and around McCall Park, 100 N. Collins Street in downtown Plant City, for the monthly Strawberry Classic Car Show from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided and spectators will be able to visit specialty shops and restaurants, all open late for the event. Attendees also have the opportunity to visit vendors and crafters to see and purchase the latest in hotrod and automotive accessories. Admission and registration are free; free parking is available on surrounding streets. For more information, contact the Greater Plant City Chamber of Commerce at 813-754-3707 or log on to www.plantcity.org.

Summer Grilling Safety

You've got your flag, lawn chairs, and hot dog, but don't forget to include grilling safety on your Independence Day checklist. Barbeques are a common part of many summer gatherings, but fires can be too if you're not careful. Keep the following safety tips in mind to ensure your summer kick-off barbeque is not memorable for all the wrong reasons.

- * Position the grill away from the home and the overhanging eaves, as well as tree branches.
- * Keep the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- * Create a three-foot safety zone around the grill to keep children and pets away.
- * Use long-handled grilling tools to give yourself plenty of distance from heat and flames.
- * Periodically clean the grill to avoid grease and fat buildup that could ignite.
- * For charcoal grills, make sure you use the

proper starter fluid and do not add more once the coals have been ignited.

* For gas grills, check the propane cylinder hose for leaks (apply a soap and water and look for bubbles)

* If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.

* Always use equipment that is marked by an independent testing laboratory and follow manufacturer's instructions. Propane cylinders made after April 2002 have overfill protection devices (they are the triangular shaped hand wheel).

* No matter which grill you choose- propane, natural gas, or charcoal- only use it outdoors. If used inside, or in enclosed spaces such as tents, they pose a fire hazard and the risk of exposing people to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation. Happy safe grilling!

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GALA

continued from front page

stresses early detection and prevention. Prevention is very important, and the changes made today can last us a lifetime."

Additional event highlights included door prize giveaways announced by Gala MDC members Pearl McCall and Molly George and an awards presentation given by Bay News 9 Reporter Dalia Dangerfield. Bayfront Medical Center received an award for longtime corporate sponsorship and Ronald Davis for his outstanding contributions to the MDC's mission. Program appearances were also made by Reverend Prentiss Davis, Pastor of Unity Temple of Truth, and Reverend Gwendolyn Williams, Associate Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Mary S. Jones, MDC Chairwoman, extends a heartfelt thanks to the community, program participants,

patrons, businesses, donors, Committee members, and especially to Dr. and Mrs. Frederick D. Terry who are 10-year members of the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. 2007 Charity Gala committee leaders assisting Jones include: Chair Ponsina Rimes, Vice Chair Mildred Sawyer, Inez Ford, Rosena Ashwood and Barbara Bethel.

Cancer is still a prevalent enemy in the African American community. The word cancer itself can evoke fear, panic and desperation. Even with today's medical advances cancer still claims a staggering amount of lives each year, and although the statistics for African-Americans diagnosed with cancer have improved, it still affects more African Americans each year than any other racial or ethnic group according to the ACS. With statistics like these, kudos to the MDC for continuing to bring such a grand and worthy affair to the community.

Barbara Scott contributed to this article.

NCNW St. Petersburg To Charter New Community-Based Youth Section

ST. PETERSBURG – Throughout history NCNW St. Petersburg has been characterized by a commitment to community-based and collaborative services for adolescent at-risk youth, by giving attention to the urgency, complexity and ever-changing nature of the needs presented by at-risk youth; and by a recognition of the value and dignity of young people and belief in their capacity to become healthy, creative adults.

In the fall of 2007, Dr. Dorothy Height will charter a new community-based youth program for the St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section. The program will offer adolescent girls relevant tools for life and focus on preparing youth for leadership roles. In the program youth will be given an opportunity to develop cultural pride, a strong sense of self, resiliency and social skills, thus empowering them to make positive choices for their futures and to prepare them to lead others.

Program eligibility is middle and high school girls. For application

parents or youth can contact Signora Farris, president elect, at 727-327-3154 or the NCNW Office at 727-896-6556.

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) is a council of national African American women's organizations and community-based sections. Founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, the NCNW mission is to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities. NCNW fulfills this purpose through research, advocacy, national, and community-based services and programs on issues of health, education, and economic empowerment in the United States and Africa. The local section was organized in 1942 by Fannye A. Ponder. The organization meets the 3rd Saturday in each month at 9:30 a.m. September-June. For membership information or application contact Rhonda Jackson at 727-894-6045 or visit www.ncnw.org.

Stepping Up The Pace



Arielle Spencer

Alliece Spencer

BY: JILLIAN METZ
CHALLENGER CORRESPONDENT

On June 2, twins Arielle and Alliece Spencer of Valrico, 17, donned caps and gowns and proudly accepted their diplomas from PACE Private School in Tampa, an achievement that seemed impossible due to their previously wavering academics.

Over 5 five years ago, Gaetana Spencer, divorced mother of three, began to search for educational alternatives because her twin daughters struggled to pass their classes and failed fifth grade in their public elementary school.

After visiting PACE Private School in Tampa, Gaetana learned about Step Up For Students Scholarships, which are available to help low-income parents send their children to private school, or an out-of-district public school. Gaetana eagerly applied and upon receiving the scholarship, which are locally distributed by Florida P.R.I.D.E, Arielle and Alliece began at PACE Private School.

"I can still remember my first day," Arielle recalled. "I was initially very shy, but by the end of the day I felt like I had been there forever. Everyone was very nice and

friendly."

Gaetana noticed vast changes in her daughters' grades, self-esteem and motivation the first year they attended PACE. As a result of the encouragement they received from their teachers, Arielle and Alliece began to believe in their own abilities, and both girls were on the honor roll by the end of that first year.

"The teachers were able to spend time and provide step-by-step math instructions, so I was able to better understand it," Arielle said. "I grew more confident in my abilities as a student and it showed through my honor-roll grades."

The Spencer girls excelled at PACE Private School for five years on the Step Up For Students Scholarship and will now pursue a higher education and explore career opportunities in the real world – a part of their life that they are now better equipped for thanks to the education and guidance they received at PACE.

"I really enjoy science, so I am hoping to pursue a career in forensic science at University of South Florida," Alliece said. "This career path would be very interesting to me and science is one of my strong areas."

Arielle and Alliece look forward to continuing their education at a local university, which will be determined by scholarships they are awarded.

"I want to continue my education in childcare at Hillsborough Community College, but that I am exploring all of my options right now," Arielle said. "I plan to get my license for child development and become a teacher."

Over 5,000 new scholarships are currently available for the Fall 2007 school year. Don't delay. Join nearly 17,000 students on scholarships that can be used at over 900 private K-12 schools in Florida. For more information, please visit www.stepupforstudents.com or call (866) 739-1197.

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USF Appoints New Dean For Florida Mental Health Institute



Junius J. Gonzales,
M.D., M.B.A.

sectors, having worked across multiple disciplines to integrate science, practice and policy in the field of mental and behavioral health. He has held significant leadership positions at Abt Associates and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) as well as teaching and clinical positions at George Washington University and Georgetown University.

The son of Peruvian parents, Dr. Gonzales is a first-generation college graduate who has won several significant awards and has received funding from multiple funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH). His area of expertise expands beyond mental health and includes issues of general health, science and technology.

"I believe that Dr. Gonzales's cross training in science and administration, experience in public and private settings, and translational approach make him the right person to lead FMHI to the next level of excellence," said Renu Khator, USF Provost and Senior Vice President.

Dr. Gonzales, a sought-after speaker and conference participant, has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed articles, invited chapters and abstracts on topics ranging from substance abuse, to the depressed mentally ill and the improvement of patient safety.

"I am thrilled with the opportunity to provide vision and leadership to not only expand FMHI's successes, but to contribute to the University of South Florida in new and innovative ways across its

multi-faceted mission of research, education, training and evaluation," said Dr. Gonzales. "My passion is to improve the lives of those touched by behavioral health problems by trying to truly understand what they need and what they face day to day. I have infused my career with multi-faceted ways to use science and research as vehicles to close the gaps between what we know and what we do. I cannot think of a better place than FMHI which has a mission so perfectly aligned with my past choices and experiences and my future vision."

Dr. Gonzales holds an M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.B.A. from the University of Maryland and an A.B. from Brown University.

"I would like to express my gratitude to interim dean Dr. Robert Friedman, who is not only a scholar of international repute but is also a wonderful person to work with," added Provost Khator. "He has provided solid leadership to the Institute during this time of transition and has been a valuable member of my leadership team."

Dr. Gonzales is a Trustee of Beacon College in Leesburg, Florida, a director and vice chair of the board of directors for Neighbors' Consejo in Washington, D.C., a member of the Center for Health and Human Services at Beacon College and a member of the board of the Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia. He also holds memberships in The Metropolitan Club of Washington, D.C. and The Penn Club of New York. Dr. Gonzales has been the treasurer of the Brown University Club of Washington since 2000. He is a former Advisory Board Member of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children.

The University of South Florida is one of the nation's top 63 public research universities and one of 76 community engaged universities as designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. USF was awarded more than \$310 million in research contracts and grants in 2006. The University offers 217 degree programs at the undergraduate, graduate, specialty and doctoral levels, including the doctor of medicine. The University has a \$1.6 billion annual budget, an annual economic impact of \$3.2 billion, and serves 44,038 students on campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland. USF is a member of the Big East Athletic Conference.



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STATE NEWS

Governor Crist Signs Bills To Establish Pilot Program For Random Steroid Testing Of High School Athletes

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist recently signed House Bill 461 establishing a pilot program that provides for random steroid testing of high school athletes participating in interscholastic football, baseball, and weightlifting. The Governor also signed House Bill 463 making student records relating to steroid drug tests confidential.

"We have a responsibility to teach our children about the serious health risks as well as the legal penalties associated with steroid use," said Governor Crist. "By creating awareness among athletes, parents, coaches and school administrators early, we can help prevent serious health problems and drug abuse later on."

House Bill 461 requires the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) to establish a random anabolic steroid testing program for the 2007-2008 school year. Up to one percent of high school student athletes will be tested. Involvement in the pilot program is a prerequisite for all schools to be members of the FHSAA, both public

and private.

House Bill 463 creates a public records exemption, making students' records relating to anabolic steroid drug tests confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The bill also provides an exemption from public meeting requirements when the exempt records are discussed or presented.

"This program is part of our overall commitment to ensuring Florida's students receive a world-class education and that they leave our schools equipped with the knowledge to face the challenges and opportunities of adulthood," said Governor Crist. "I am hopeful that through this legislation we will limit the number of high school students struggling with steroid use."

Bill sponsor Representative Marcelo Llorente (R-Miami) attended the bill signing along with Coach Ricky Ardley, athletic director of Rickards High School in Tallahassee, and three student athletes

In Florida, Family Caregiving Estimated Value \$17.5 Billion AARP: Nationwide Caregiving Valued at \$350 Billion



TALLAHASSEE – Millions of family caregivers provide billions of dollars worth of care to loved ones each year according to a new AARP study released today. AARP estimates the economic value of family caregiving at \$350 billion in 2006 – comparable to the annual U.S. sales of Wal-Mart. In Florida alone, the value of caregivers' contributions was estimated at \$17.5 billion.

"Family caregivers are the unsung heroes of long-term care in our state," said AARP Florida State Director Lori Parham. "While too many are unaware of the care they provide, caregivers' contributions can delay or even prevent more costly nursing home care. That is important not only to provide high-quality care for seniors, but it can also be important in making wise use of scarce public resources, like Medicaid dollars."

Most family caregivers are women who are employed full or part-time and nearly one-fifth of all U.S. workers are caregivers (19 percent). As family caregivers are forced to take time off and work partial days to care for their loved ones, they face lower wages, reduced job security, and loss of employment benefits like health insurance, lower retirement savings and Social Security earnings. These losses come at a difficult time when income and benefits are critical for the caregiver and their family. U.S. businesses also feel the impact; productivity losses associated with caregiving are estimated as high as \$33 billion a year.

The AARP Public Policy Institute study, "Valuing the Invaluable: A New Look at the Economic Value of Family Caregiving," shows that of those with the most intense level of caregiving responsibility, 92 percent report major changes in their working patterns – 83 percent arrive late, leave early or take time off during the day; 41 percent report taking a leave of absence; and 37 percent report going from full-time to part-

time to adjust for their caregiving responsibilities. Additionally, the caregivers' own health is often at risk as they are more likely to suffer chronic health conditions and incur medical debt than non-caregivers.

The study shows that, without Florida caregivers, the state's taxpayers would face staggering expenditures. For example, in the 2007-2008 state fiscal year, the state of Florida plans to spend about \$16 billion in state and federal dollars on Medicaid for people of all ages. Florida caregivers provided \$17.5 billion in care during 2006. Nationally, caregivers contribute an estimated \$350 billion in care, roughly equal to the annual U.S. sales of Wal-Mart, or the total federal annual expenditure on Medicare.

AARP's study notes that the No. 1 reason why residents enter long-term resident nursing facilities is caregiver burnout.

By supporting families in caregiving roles, Florida can not only improve the lives of Floridians 50+ and help support families but also help businesses and taxpayers, the study shows, Parham said. AARP is launching a multi-year campaign to improve long-term care in Florida in 2008 by helping families plan early for long-term care, find critical information, seek out high-quality care options, get some financial support, and preserve their ability to choose how and where their loved ones receive care, Parham said.

While AARP Florida works to improve long-term care, the 2.8-million-strong association will be closely watching state efforts to use managed-care organizations, such as HMOs, to deliver long-term care financed by Medicaid. The plan, strongly opposed in its initial form by AARP, is known as Florida Senior Care (FSC). This plan would have required some seniors to receive long-term care services financed by Medicaid through a managed care company, such as an HMO. Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) received federal approval to proceed with pilots in counties in the Panhandle and Orlando, but needed final authorization to implement the program. In the 2007 legislative session, acting in response to concerns raised by AARP and other organizations working for seniors, lawmakers provided for two voluntary pilot programs to test managed long-term care in Orlando and Miami. Unlike earlier plans, these pilot programs are to be truly voluntary in nature, rather than mandatory or "opt-out". AARP will continue to work to protect families' choice.

New "Shop and Compare Insurance Rates" Web Site



TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist has announced the launch of "Shop and Compare Rates," a Web site that assists consumers comparing homeowners insurance rates throughout Florida. In Miami, the Governor ceremonially signed legislation to continue insurance reforms by freezing Citizens Property Insurance rates and implementing additional measures to help stabilize the insurance market.

"Many Florida homeowners find it difficult and frustrating to compare the cost of homeowners insurance," said Governor Crist. "This site is a valuable tool and serves as starting point to help Floridians find the insurance policy best suited to their needs."

"Shop and Compare Rates" is an interactive tool available online at www.ShopAndCompareRates.com. The program assists consumers with comparing homeowners insurance rates in all 67 Florida counties. By clicking on each county, a consumer will see a pop-up window with a representative sample of companies and rates for insuring a typical Florida home. The list of insurers is sorted from the lowest to highest cost and provides a link to the company's contact information.

Commissioner Kevin McCarty of the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation joined Governor Crist in Tallahassee for the announcement and ceremonial bill signing and provided a demonstration of the "Shop and Compare Rates" Web site.

"As a result of the leadership of Governor Crist and the Florida Legislature, the insurance market is becoming more competitive," said Commissioner McCarty. "We hope this new interactive, online feature will provide Floridians the information they need to obtain the best coverage for their homes."

Citizens Property Insurance Reforms

Senate Bill 2498 freezes Citizens Property Insurance Corporation rates until January 1, 2009, and makes affordable property insurance available to more people by allowing Floridians to purchase Citizens coverage if the cost of private insurance would be 15 percent more than a comparable Citizens policy. The bill also increases transparency by requiring Florida subsidiaries to report the parent company's profits.

"This legislation is another important step in the right direction for Florida's homeowners," said Governor Crist. "I am grateful to the members of the Florida Legislature for renewing their commitment to providing broad-based, meaningful and comprehensive insurance reform for the people of Florida."

In Miami, Governor Crist ceremonially signed the insurance-reform legislation at the home of Rafael & Susanna Rodriguez. The Rodriguezes are an elderly couple whose roof was damaged in Hurricane Katrina. Initially, the couple filed a claim with their insurance company and repaired some of the damage, but certain areas of the roof are still leaking.

The Rodriguezes only recently learned of the possibility of filing a supplemental claim to cover the cost of fully repairing their roof. Additionally, they are worried about the rising cost of homeowners insurance impacting their ability to have a secure retirement. The recently signed legislation will help the Rodriguezes by creating coverage options as well as stability in the Florida insurance marketplace.

"Thanks to the great work of the Florida Legislature, Rafael and Susanna can be secure in their retirement," said Governor Crist. "They can rest assured that if private insurers do not offer affordable coverage, then Citizens will."

Governor Crist signed Senate Bill 2498 into law on June 11, 2007. The Governor was joined at the ceremonial bill signing in Miami by bill sponsors Senator Rudy Garcia (R-Hialeah) and Representative Julio Robaina (R-Miami).

Bronson Files Lawsuit Against Company For Violating "Do Not Call" Law

TALLAHASSEE – Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles H. Bronson has announced that he has taken legal action against a Broward County company for violating Florida's "Do Not Call" law.

A lawsuit filed in Brevard County Circuit Court alleges that Travel Partners USA LLC, a Fort Lauderdale travel agency, made at least 15 calls to Florida residents on the state's "Do Not Call" list since January 2006. In addition, the lawsuit alleges that the company played a recorded message during a number of the unsolicited sales calls, which is a separate violation of state law.

"This company has repeatedly called consumers on the 'Do Not Call' list, intruding on their privacy despite the fact that the citizens went to the effort to get their phone numbers placed on the list," Bronson said. "The message is that this activity will not be tolerated."

The legal action seeks an injunction prohibiting Travel Partners from making any future calls to residents on the list and fines of up to \$10,000 for each of the calls it made to prohibited phone numbers.

Bronson's department has collected or obtained judgments of more than \$1.5 million against companies that have called residents on the list, and several such legal actions are pending in courts throughout the state.

The Commissioner encourages Floridians to join the program, which prohibits most commercial telemarketers from calling numbers on the list. For more information about the program, consumers can call the department's toll-free hotline at 1-800-HELPFLA (1-800-435-7352) or visit the Division of Consumer Services web site at <http://www.800helpfla.com>.

Did You Know?

Written records about life in Florida began with the arrival of the Spanish explorer and adventurer Juan Ponce de León in 1513. Sometime between April 2 and April 8, Ponce de León waded ashore on the northeast coast of Florida, possibly near present-day St. Augustine. He called the area la Florida, in honor of Pascua florida ("feast of the flowers"), Spain's Eastertide celebration. Other Europeans may have reached Florida earlier, but no firm evidence of such achievement has been found.

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PICK OF THE WEEK!

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DOG DAYS



1-8 3-5 2-7

4-6 3-2 8-3

NATIONAL NEWS

CHOCOLATE CITY

continued from front page

neighborhood. They vote and make political contributions to make sure they have the influence to get what they want...

Another view is the fact that the city doesn't want to be held liable for the health consequences that come with alcohol consumption. The tobacco industry has been sued because of cigarettes. The alcohol industry can't be far behind."

Muhammad added, "The city has allowed establishments to prosper in the Black community that cause death and destruction. We have convenience stores that sell beer and wine in the middle of neighborhoods with schools. That's not safe for our children."

According to the Washington Afro American, in one subsection of the plan entitled, "Zoning Changes to Reduce Land Use Conflicts Zones" there will be a comprehensive rewriting of zoning regulations.

The amendment will "more effectively control the uses which are permitted as a matter-of-right in commercial zones; avoid the excessive concentration of particular uses with the potential

for adverse effects such as convenience stores, fast food establishments, and licensed liquor establishments; and consider performance standards to reduce potential conflicts between incompatible uses."

Says Muhammad, "In more affluent neighborhoods liquor stores are hidden, not allowed to run negative ads and not everywhere you look. The children and community are respected. But for years it seemed the government had so little respect for the majority of its residents, which were Black."

He continues, "Now that things are changing, finally the mindset of the government is changing along with it. We've protested for years to close liquor stores down and improve our community. This shows the power of people who vote, give money and use their influence to make their community what they want it to be."

The Council adopted the recent 2006 revised comprehensive plan in December 2006 and has forwarded it to the National Capital Planning Commission and to the District Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives for their review. The revised plan becomes effective upon completion of federal review.

Kentucky School District Looks To Move Minorities Into Gifted Programs

LEXINGTON, KY (AP) — A central Kentucky school district is drawing up plans for a pilot program aimed at moving more minority students into gifted and talented programs.

The program, being studied by the Fayette County school district, would place 20 African-American boys, based on a preschool test, in a special kindergarten class with a rigorous curriculum that will focus on critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

Under the plan, the students would remain together through the second grade, when they would be tested for placement in the district's gifted and talented program. The class could be taught all three years by a teacher from the gifted and talented program who would work with an assistant instructor and a speech pathologist.

The Fayette County school board is expected to vote in July on a preliminary plan in July, although which of the district's 33 elementary schools would house the program this fall has not been decided.

"You find that African-American males constitute the bottom of all the content areas statewide," said Vince Mattox, director of community and government relations for the district. "That's the group we've got to accelerate in order to close the achievement gap. That's one of the most pronounced groups."

The achievement gap constitutes learning disparities separating minority, special-needs and low-income students from their peers.

In Fayette County, 41 percent of African-American boys in the third grade had the highest scores in the reading portion of the state's standardized testing system last year, Mattox said.

By comparison, 79 percent of white boys had proficient or distinguished scores. In math, 35 percent of African-American boys scored proficient or distinguished, compared with 68

percent of white boys.

The program is among several being tried nationally to address the achievement gap problem, said Kati Haycock, president of Education Trust, a national organization that focuses on issues related to the achievement gap.

"It's not like we're doing so well by these kids in any other settings," she said.

While it is a good idea to have an all-male class, girls should not be left out, said Leonard Sax, founder and executive director of the National Association for Single Sex Public Education.

Sax said data show that girls disengage from typically male-dominated subjects including math and science by the third grade.

"I'm very uneasy with a school doing this for boys but not girls," he said. "I'm concerned that they are just looking at the test scores. But the state doesn't test kids' interest in physics or algebra."

Freddie Brown, executive director of the YMCA Black Achievers program, is excited the program will offer rigorous instruction, but he also has concerns.

"Students need to learn in a heterogeneous environment," he said. "If it gets too homogeneous, when the environment changes, I don't know how much of an effect that will have on them. My worry is, what would happen in their third-grade year?"

The program isn't segregationist, rather it is aimed at helping an underachieving group that needs help, said Arnold Gaither, who leads the One Community, One Voice initiative.

"Would they prefer to have these students continue to fail?" asked Gaither. "To the critics, they need to offer up a better plan because, so far, the plans that have been used haven't worked."

Maya Soetoro-Ng, Obama's Sister Delivers Message At Hawaiian Rally

HONOLULU (AP) — Sen. Barack Obama told voters in Hawaii on Sunday that a failure of leadership was preventing the nation from meeting its many challenges from war to a broken health care system.

The Democratic presidential candidate, who was born in Honolulu and graduated from Punahou School, delivered the words in a letter his half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, read to some 125 people at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church.

"What's stopped us from meeting them is not the absence of sensible plans, it's the smallness of our politics and a failure of leadership," Obama said in the message. "It's a Washington that says 'you're on your own' when Americans need a helping hand."

The senator from Illinois was campaigning in Texas on Sunday, speaking at an event that drew about 1,000 people in San Antonio.

Christopher Pittman, a 26-year-old black Army sergeant from Whiteville, N.C. who recently returned from his second tour of duty in Iraq, attended the Honolulu gathering with his wife Elizabeth and 4-year-old son to hear what Obama had to say.

"I just want to know, if he's running for president, what he will do to meet the needs of all Americans," the chemical operations specialist said.

Pittman said he heard enough to commit his support for Obama.

The rally celebrated the history of Juneteenth, or the June 19, 1865 date when the last slaves in America were freed, with a look to the future, said Bettye Jo Harris, one of the event's organizers.

Willie Bennermon, a Chester, S.C., native who moved to Hawaii in 1970, said he felt the same hope in Obama's candidacy that he felt



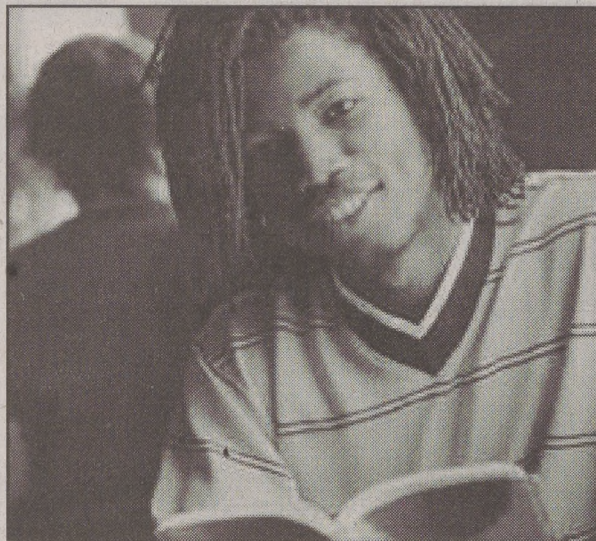
Obama's half-sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng

when John F. Kennedy ran for president.

"I liked Kennedy and Clinton, and I think (Obama) is the best outlook for the future," said Bennermon, who is black. "He has a new perspective that looks forward, and he has the charisma of JFK, which is why people are drawn to him."

Independent filmmakers Miles Jackson and Steve Okino filmed the rally for a one-hour documentary they are producing about blacks in Hawaii. The project has the working title, "We've come this far on faith."

Black College Enrollment In South Rate Passes Milestone



BY: JUSTIN POPE

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — For the first time ever in the South, blacks are as well represented on college campuses as they are in the region's population as a whole — something not yet true of the country overall.

The milestone is noted in a new fact book to be released Monday by the Southern Regional Education Board, a nonprofit organization that promotes education.

In the 16 states measured, the number of blacks enrolled in colleges has risen by more than half over the last decade. They now make 21 percent of college students and 19 percent of the overall population.

The number represents progress but it also has to be seen in context. A major contributing factor is the South's rapidly growing Hispanic population, which has reduced the proportion of the population that is black, and thereby made the milestone easier to reach mathematically.

And educators also stressed that the number should not obscure the persistent achievements gaps affecting blacks both in the South and nationally. In particular, black enrollment rates for college-age students, while improving, still lag well behind those of whites, as do the graduation rates of black college students.

With a college degree now almost a prerequisite for high-paying jobs, those achievement gaps pose an economic threat — and the South will be on the cutting edge of that. In

2005 about 61 percent of public high school graduates in the South were white, the education board said, but by 2018 that figure is expected to be 45 percent.

"We've made tremendous progress, don't get me wrong," board President Dave Spence said. But, he added, unless achievement gaps narrow, "we're going to be in trouble. We already are in trouble, but we'll be in more trouble seven or eight years down the road."

The latest report may not reflect precisely what many consider the South, because the 16 states it covers also include border states Kentucky, Delaware, West Virginia and Maryland.

Still, the report reflects the reality that many more Southern blacks are enrolling in college. In those states, about 1.1 million black students were enrolled in college in the fall of 2005, 52 percent more than a decade earlier.

The increase has come largely at new and expanding public, traditionally white universities and two-year colleges rather than at historically black colleges, which for many years shouldered nearly all the burden of higher education for Southern blacks. Many of those schools still exist, but their share of black enrollment in the region has slipped from 26 percent to 19 percent over the last decade.

"We've removed a lot of the barriers and accepted that we will have to provide higher levels of learning support in the short-term," said Erroll Davis, who oversees the 33 institutions in the University System of Georgia, noting minority students arrive on campus with lower levels of college preparedness on average.

Overall, blacks represent 31.4 percent of all Georgia college students, about 1 percent higher than the proportion in the overall population. The proportion of blacks in the state university system is about 24 percent — higher than a decade ago but still below the population as a whole.

The analysis, which applies only to four-year colleges, found six-year graduation rates of 40 percent for blacks, 46 percent for Hispanics, and 56 percent for whites.

Nationally, the rate is 41 percent for blacks, 44 percent for Hispanics and 60 percent for whites.

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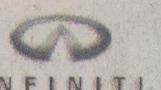


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SAVE OUR CHILDREN & SAVE OUR COUNTRY

TEENS

continued from front page

He is personally going to assist her in reaching her dreams. Starting with connecting her with mentors, including his wife who is a professional dancer.

Mr. Hill's motto is "Let them be kids". He rewards young people such as Takira because there was always an adult willing to give him inspiration and assistance as he found his way. He believes everyone has talents and abilities that will develop with just a little belief and

support.

Ian Hill is the president of The Changing Point, which works to help improve the lives of individuals, neighborhoods and communities all across North America. He has been recognized as "Humanitarian of the Year" by the National Council for Community and Justice for his commitment to change in the community, The Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, The Nevada School Counselors Association and the Truckee Meadows Human Services Association. Ian was also named, "Child Advocate of the Year" by the Stand For Children organization and "Youth Advocate of

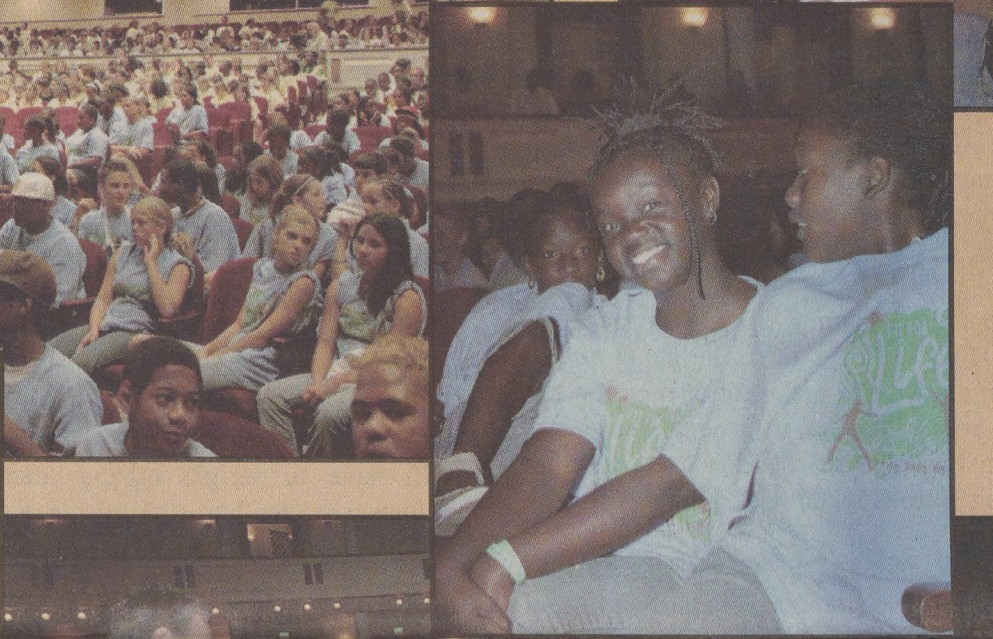
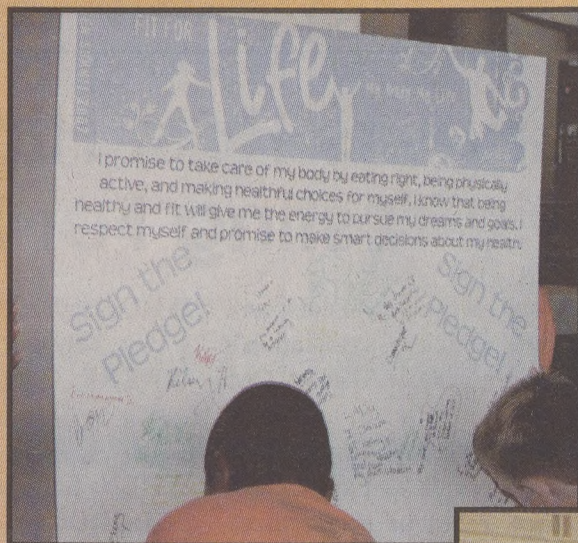
the Year by the NAACP.

Throughout the day, breakout sessions were held including: Lifestyle Family Fitness with interactive group fitness demonstrations and personal training clinics; Maximum Velocity: Big Tobacco Exposed! (A session on big tobacco company's marketing tricks); Kids Bite Back, a national campaign that empowers and educates teens on the "Big Fat (fast food, soft drink and junk food) Industries". A "Vendor Village" of over 50 healthy lifestyle displays just for teens provided lots of information and giveaways.

While the teens enjoyed their Sweetbay

provided lunch, the exciting Everyone's Youth United band and dancers put on a real crowd pleasing performance. Also available were giant Fitness Pledge Cards, an interactive games area, and an interview booth where they could record their thoughts.

"Fit For Life Teen Summit 2007" was sponsored by Sweetbay Supermarket, Lifestyle Family Fitness, Catalina Marketing, S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco), STEPS to a Healthier Florida, Crown Honda Automotive, Pepsi, Juvenile Welfare Board, Tangent Media and TeenVillage.org.



YPWW Convention Teaches About Not Compromising



BY: KHANA RILEY
CHALLENGER CORRESPONDENT

ST. PETERSBURG – On June 18th over ten districts gathered at Prayer Tower Church of God in Christ for the Eastern Florida Jurisdictional 52nd Annual Youth Congress where youth attended a five-day Young People Willing Workers convention to discuss the theme: "Youth for Christ: No Compromise- No Regret" Proverbs 3:6.

Youth from all over Florida took encouragement from the daily discussions where topics ranged from: Not compromising yourself, tithing, the black presence in the Bible,

financial planning, and abstinence.

Jakephra Louise said that her motivation and most enjoyable moment of the convention was, "...being around saved youth and having a chance to receive spiritual elevation." She said, "Making God her foundation and remembering that God is 'the keeper' and the foundation is the word" is what she will take away from her time here.

Danielle Carson, looked forward to, "the discussions, being around young saved youth as well, and the activities that are taking place on this Saturday. This year the activities range from sports and spiritual challenges, to oratorical contests, choir, and a Bible Bowl. Last year I was also the Queen of YPWW and so this year I have to turn my crown over. One thing that I will take away from this experience would be to not allow myself to get in compromising situations. I need to choose my friends wisely, because you are the company you keep, and I need to know that my friends aren't going to put me in those types of situations." This convention and the speaker that took place Wednesday night, Elder Florence, made me

realize a lot about not compromising myself"

Ronald Carter said that he came to volunteer and to receive spiritual development in his classes and also to learn how to make the right choices and not do things that he would regret later."

According to Mr. Clifford Durden, the convention coordinator, "The youth are the church of today but also the church of tomorrow, we want them to leave here with a good foundation", and with the testimonies of these youth, there's no doubt that his vision will be achieved. He elaborated that, "it's important for the youth to leave with the spirit of God with them, I believe that we are providing them the right training".

Mrs. Durden takes pride in the fact that the youth are involved in a lot of activity and discussion planning. The youth council provides the voice for the youth and offers suggestions as to which topics would be beneficial and what activities would be interesting. "I think it's important we provide an opportunity for everyone to be involved, especially ones that are spiritual, academic and physical."

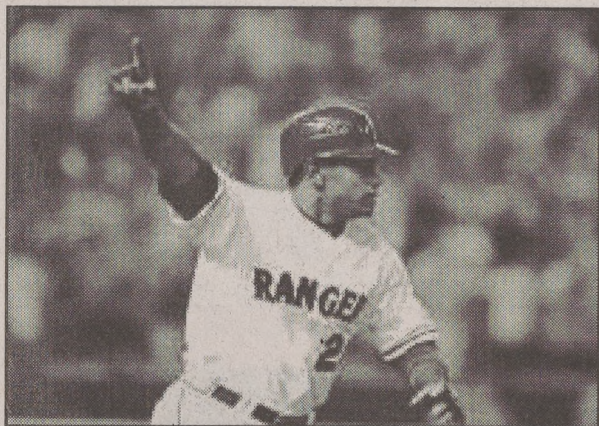
The committee of the convention had high hopes for the convention and in talking to them, it seems that those expectations were exceeded. The host pastor, Elder Clarence Welch, expressed his joy in what this convention has accomplished. "People need to see that our youth aren't just out there fighting and getting into trouble, they really are trying to make something of themselves."

With talk of future plans by the committee, there is no doubt that the future YPWW Congress will be just as rewarding.



SPORTS NEWS

Sosa Deserves Fame, Not Shame



Sammy Sosa

BY: JIM REEVES

ARLINGTON (NNPA) -- He was just a scrawny little kid, 16 years old with big eyes and this smile that made people smile along with him, whether they wanted to or not.

He was hungry, which is probably why he was always at the front of the line to do everything. Eat. Hit. Run. Throw. There was no getting away from him.

Look up from the clipboard or the stopwatch, and there he was again, smiling, emanating this force field of almost palpable energy.

It was in the winter of 1985 when Sandy Johnson first saw Sammy Sosa in Santo Domingo, down in the Dominican Republic. Omar Minaya had found Sosa and signed him for the Rangers for next to nothing.

Johnson, who was the Rangers' scouting director at the time, had seen hundreds of kids just like him. Except... there was something different about Sammy. Something special.

"Of all the guys there, he stood out," said Johnson, now vice president of scouting for the Mets, where Minaya is general manager. "He was in the front of the line for everything -- running, throwing, hitting. His energy was so amazing."

"He was a poor kid, but it was obvious he had tremendous strength in his hands for a little guy. He wanted to kill the ball. When he ran the 60, he ran all out. He laid everything on the line. He had a mission."

No one, not even Sammy, could dream big enough to understand how big that mission was more than two decades ago. Only now, with the perspective of time and 600 home runs, can we grasp the enormity of it.

"Did I think he'd someday hit 600 home runs?" Johnson said. "I wish I was that smart. But he was a talented kid, and he was so determined."

In any sane world, the one we used to know, Sosa's future ticket to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown already would be stamped, the plaque all but ordered. But this isn't that world anymore. I wish it was.

And so the questions come again, now that Sosa has hit his 600th home run, as they will periodically until his name finally appears on the Hall of Fame ballot.

Will Sosa be elected, or will he, like Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire before him, forever be stained by having played in the steroids era? How will I vote? The honest answer is, I don't know yet. I'm still trying to figure all this out.

But I do think Sosa has a far better chance than Bonds or McGwire, and because of that, I present for your contemplation five reasons why he should be elected to the Hall of Fame.

1. Sheer numbers

Considering that he's on a pace to hit about 25 home runs this season, Sosa will finish the year with, say, 614 homers. If he can average 25 a year for the next three years -- not a given by any means, but certainly possible -- he'll be closing in on 700 home runs. He will have sailed past Willie Mays and be fourth on the list, with Babe's 714 in sight.

2. The smile (instead of a snarl)

Sammy loves life and it shows. It's hard not to like him when he flashes that huge smile, taps his chest and points to the sky. Sammy's personality will be a huge positive in his favor.

3. Lack of evidence against him

He's never failed a drug test, never admitted steroids use to a grand jury (that we know of) and nobody's written a book documenting his use of drugs. He's guilty of growing a lot bigger muscles and of once using a corked bat. Voters will have to weigh whether that's enough evidence to keep him out of the Hall.

4. 1998

Sure, we look back on that "magical" year with skepticism now, and rightly so, but there's no question that Sosa and McGwire captured the hearts and attention of a nation and revitalized baseball. And while McGwire won the home run race with 70 to Sosa's 66, it was Sammy who was the National League MVP.

5. He's learned from his mistakes

Sosa wore out his welcome in Chicago by forgetting his roots and acting like a prima donna. He has come back to baseball humbled and not at all intent on making himself the center of attention. He doesn't like the steroids questions, clearly, but he does his best to deflect or answer them.

Tampa Hosts National Gymnastics Championship

The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Age Group National Gymnastics Championship takes place July 4-8, 2007 at the Tampa Convention Center, located at 333 S. Franklin St. Competition begins July 5. More than 1,500 athletes from across the country are expected to compete. The City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department is hosting the event.

On Wednesday, July 4, noon-3 p.m., all gymnasts and their families are invited to the 2007 Age Group Nationals Parade of Champions

-- rain or shine -- while local krewes throw beads. Radio Disney's Fun Squad will kick-off the festivities following the parade.

The Florida Sports Foundation has awarded a \$14,000 grant to aid organizers in staging the AAU Age Group National Gymnastics Championships in Tampa.

For more information, please contact Tampa Parks and Recreation Gym and Dance at 813-231-5273.

Buccaneers Host High School Athletic Testing For First Time

WHAT: The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will host the Florida Athletic Coaches Association's National Athletic Testing System Test at One Buccaneer Place, the team's state-of-the-art headquarters that opened in 2006. High school football players' speed, strength and agility will be measured through a series of standardized athletic tests. The players and their parents will also have the opportunity to participate in a Princeton Review seminar to prepare for the SAT, ACT and college admissions.

The NATS program provides athletic and academic support to young football players. Nationwide, 459 colleges from all 50 states use the NATS database for initial player evaluations. This is the first year NATS has tested in Florida; tests were also held in Davie on June 15 and will take place in Panama City Beach on July 14.

WHO: High school football players graduating between 2008 and 2011

WHERE: One Buccaneer Place, 3302 W Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33607

WHEN: Saturday, June 30, 2007

SCHEDULE: 7:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Athletic Testing Session A

12:30 p.m. 5 p.m.
Athletic Testing Session B

12:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m.
Princeton Review Seminar for Session A Participants

11:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Princeton Review Seminar for Session B Participants

Black College Baseball.com Announces Its 2007 Award Winners And Elite Teams

BY OFF THE BASN SPORTS WIRE,

PIKESVILLE, MD (NNPA) -- BlackCollegeBaseball.com has released its fourth Black College Baseball Awards. Candidates were taken from the nineteen Division-I programs which included the MEAC, SWAC, and Independent programs Chicago State and Savannah State University.

The 2007 Coach Of The Year is Bethune-Cookman's head coach Mervyl Melendez. He has earned the award for the second straight year and continues to run the tables on MEAC opponents.

During the regular season, Bethune only lost one conference game and has a two year conference record of 31-1. As a player for Bethune-Cookman and as a coach, Melendez has won nine MEAC titles.

BCB's Player Of The Year award goes to Prairie View A&M shortstop Michael Richard. This is the second straight year the award went to a dominating SWAC shortstop.

Before being drafted in the 11th round in the 2007 MLB draft by Oakland, Richard was named SWAC Player of the Year and Most Outstanding hitter. He also accounted for almost 15% of Prairie View's run scored.

Pitcher Of The Year honors go to Norfolk State hurler Luke Foss. Foss finished the season

with a 10-2 record and an amazing 2.28 ERA. Some of his notable wins this season were against Savannah State, Villanova and Seton Hall. Foss was also named to the 2007 American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) All-East Region second team.

For the men and women behind the scenes that usually receive no recognition, SIDs and their baseball contacts are the ones that get the information out.

Bryan Harvey of Bethune-Cookman stayed busy sending press releases and game notes on his 2007 BCB Champion Wildcats. Bryan also helps Wildcat fans stay in touch with their team during games by using Gametracker and by keeping the Wildcat website fresh and current.

The Black College Baseball Elite Teams are comprised of athletes from the Independents, Mid-Continent, MEAC, and SWAC conferences. Bethune-Cookman and Prairie View landed four players on the squad.

Alcorn State was next with three on the Elite Team followed by Norfolk State, North Carolina A&T and Jackson State at two apiece.

The remaining schools had one representative on the BCB Elite Team: Alabama State, Delaware State, Florida A&M, Maryland Eastern Shore, Mississippi Valley, Savannah State, and Southern.

Buccaneers Sign Jackson

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers today announced that they have signed S. Tanard Jackson. Terms were not disclosed. In addition, the team released FB Jon Goldsberry, WR Efre Hill, TE C.J. Leak and CB Chaz Williams.

Jackson was a fourth-round pick (106th overall) of the Buccaneers in the 2007 NFL Draft. He was a three-year starter at Syracuse, seeing action primarily at cornerback in the defensive backfield. He played in 45 career games with 34 starts, totaling 165 tackles, five interceptions, 2.5 sacks, 8.5 tackles for loss and 14 passes defended.

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Tampa Team Vies For Spot In Copa Tecate Semi-Finals

WHITE PLAINS, NY - After months of league play among approximately 2,800 teams nationwide, the top six groups boasting the best amateur soccer players on the East Coast will go head-to-head for a chance to advance to the Copa Tecate national championship. Copa Tecate, the largest Hispanic amateur soccer tournament, sponsored by Alka-Seltzer, began in February with local league play and continues this weekend with inter-regional matches kicking off in Atlanta.

"Copa Tecate is committed to finding the most skilled adult players in order to make this the most prestigious amateur tournament in the nation," said Carlos Boughton, Tecate brand manager. "We are confident the teams participating this weekend will prove to be highly-skilled, energetic opponents and we encourage the local community to join us as we celebrate an exciting weekend of soccer."

The Atlanta Copa Tecate inter-regional finals

are scheduled to take place June 30 at the Silverback Stadium. During the weekend festivities, six teams will compete for the opportunity to travel to the semi-finals in Fresno, Calif. with the goal of advancing to the championship. In addition to claiming the title of "Best Hispanic Amateur Soccer Team in the Nation," the tournament champion will take home \$15,000 in cash and prizes. Additional prizes include \$7,500 for second place, \$5,000 for third place, and \$2,500 for fourth place.

The six teams that have advanced to the inter-regional finals include:

Tierra Caliente from Atlanta
Zula from Raleigh
Corinto from New York
Inter from New Jersey
Meredienne from Chicago
Toluca from Tampa

ENTERTAINMENT

Morgan Freeman: The Evan Almighty Interview



Steve Carell and Morgan Freeman

BY: KAM WILLIAMS

Born on June 1, 1937 in Memphis, Tennessee, Morgan Freeman is keeping extraordinarily busy for an academy Award-winner who has recently turned 70. The peripatetic septuagenarian has numerous upcoming films on the docket, including the three being released later this year, *The Feast of Love*, *The Last Full Measure*, and *Gone, Baby, Gone*, a murder mystery which will mark Ben Affleck's directorial debut.

In 2008, he'll be co-starring with Jack Nicholson in *The Bucket List*, a Rob Reiner road comedy about a couple of terminally-ill patients who make a break from the cancer ward. In *Wanted*, he'll play an assassin in an action adventure along with Angelina Jolie and Common.

In *The Dark Knight*, a sequel to *Batman Begins* slated for a blockbuster release next summer, he'll rejoin an ensemble cast comprised of Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Heath Ledger, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Eric Roberts, Aaron Eckhart and Gary Oldman. And he's already attached to rendezvous with Rama, an adaptation of the sci-fi best seller by Arthur C. Clarke. Here, he talks a bit about his current flick, *Evan Almighty*, where he's reprising his role as God.

KW: Did you have any second thoughts about agreeing to play God?

MF: I got the feeling a long time ago, that eventually someone was going to come up to me and say, "We want you to play this role." I wondered, "What am I going to do?" If it was a straight role, I wouldn't do it, pure and simple.

KW: Do you enjoy working with Tom Shadyac as a director?

MF: My coming back to it has everything to do with the filmmaker. I really like Tom's head... the way he thinks... what he thinks... what he does... and what he's attempting to say. I want to say the same thing, so we usually wind up on the same page.

KW: How would you describe his directorial style?

MF: I'm not that keen on being directed. If you give me a part, I gotta assume that you think I'll do it, rather than be a conduit. However, Tom has a way of infusing his direction with... he's like, "Try it for me." It's like, "Okay, I'm going to do you a favor." Also, generally, he's on. He knows exactly what he sees and what he wants, which is very helpful. Playing this role, I might have a tendency to get too serious. So, one of his constant reminders to me was, "Just keep it light," which was really right.

KW: What's the significance of God's inspiring random acts of kindness in this picture?

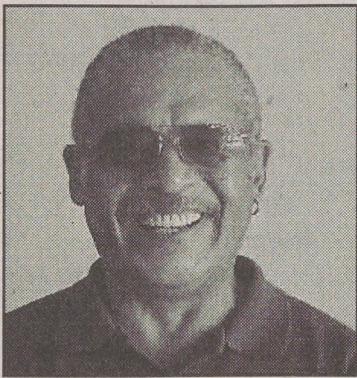
MF: The idea is that a random act of kindness will lead to another and another and an exponential spreading. It's like, I will do something good for you, and because of that, your belief in human generosity and interaction grows. So, you may not do anything for me... you may never even see me again, but you'll be more than willing to perform an act of kindness for someone else, if you see a need. And that just keeps moving.

KW: How was it co-starring opposite Steve Carell?

MF: He's a professional. By professional, I mean not only is he good at his craft, but he's dedicated to it. And he himself is a terrific human being. I find that's very prevalent in this business. Most of the people I worked with, 99.999% of them are just that... terrific people... lovely to work with.

KW: You seem as enthusiastic as ever about acting.

MF: I always have a great time working. I so enjoy doing it. People say, "You're going to work." And I think, "No, the work is in looking for work." After you get it, you're just going to play. So, these are situations where I'm just having a great time, and hoping that everybody around me is having just as wonderful a time.



Rick Gee's JAZZ JAMM

Annual Juneteenth Family Festival Includes Jazz!



Gerald Veasley

It wasn't until I was a student at Howard University that the word "Juneteenth" was added to my vocabulary. My education of Juneteenth was provided by classmates who came from Texas. It was explained to me that Juneteenth was celebrated every year in their (Texas) hometown(s). I learned that although Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation in September 1862, it wasn't until June 19, 1865 that slaves in Galveston, Texas were told that they were free. How terrible! It took two and a half

years for slaves in Texas to learn that they were free.

Juneteenth is a celebration of that "June 19th," date. It is a time for the African-American community to support one another, to pray, and to bring family members together. Juneteenth also places emphasis on education and achievement, and is the oldest nationally celebrated remembrance of the ending of slavery in the United States.

Thus, I wasn't too much in the fog, when I was contacted about the Annual Juneteenth Family Festival by Faye Dowdell. Dowdell served as this year's Juneteenth Coordinator. She is also president and treasurer of Juneteenth of St. Petersburg, Inc., the organization that spearheaded the event which was co-sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg. Dowdell informed me that on June 16th, the Festival would be held in Campbell Park, Midtown - St. Petersburg. In addition to a multitude of activities, such as a gospel extravaganza, health screenings, arts and crafts, book reading, and crime prevention, it also included a free concert at Turner Football Field. Featured at the free concert would be bassist Gerald Veasley and his Smooth Jazz Band. Along with celebrating Juneteenth, Dowdell was interested in my hearing "The Veasley Band." Although, I am not interested in smooth jazz, I attended the concert...and, I must admit, I'm glad I did.

Veasley, who hails from Philadelphia, brought some of that Philadelphia "funk" with him. He and his band had the audience clapping our hands and tapping our feet during the entire concert. In

fact, believe it or not, I even tried a couple of dance steps I used to do back in the '60's. But, my feeble attempt to bring back yesterdays was brought to a screeching halt, when I noticed some young folks staring at me and chuckling. Nevertheless, one could tell that the group has been together for sometime because their playing was "tight". Even though, the tunes were out of the smooth jazz genre, I could definitely hear a "straight-ahead" jazz overtone. Later, I learned that during his musical studies, Veasley had been "knee-deep" into the music of "straight-ahead" jazz musicians such as, Miles Davis, Wes Montgomery, and Charlie Mingus. No wonder there were jazz overtones to his music. Veasley's experience includes playing with former jazz great Grover Washington, and touring with one of my favorite straight-ahead jazz keyboard players Joe Zawinul, the co-founder of the incredible jazz group "Weather Report."

CD recordings to Veasley's credit are "Velvet - Gerald Veasley", "Gerald Veasley On The Fast Track", "Love Letters," and his most recent CD recording "Gerald Veasley at the Jazz Base." After the concert, Veasley was kind enough to give his new No. #1 fan (me) copies of his "Jazz Base" and "On the Fast Track" CD's. I've been playing them every day since June 16. If you get the opportunity to listen to these discs and hear the beat that the Veasley Band conjures up, you'll understand why I've been listening to them so much. Veasley's group is bound to strike the "Mother Lode" any day now. Their music is catchy, in that it is the type of music that makes you want to dance. When they play ballads, it's as if they're playing them just for you and your significant other. All in all, a Veasley Band CD should be in your "party" CD collection.

Remember to "Keep Jazz Alive" by "Supporting Live Jazz!"

Jazz fans - do you have any feedback? I would like to hear from YOU! You may visit my website at: rickgeesjazzjamm.com or email me at JazzJamm@aol.com. You may also mail your letters to Rick Gee's Jazz Jamm, c/o The Weekly Challenger, 2500 ML King St., S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

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in concert

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A portion of the proceeds go to: The Suncoast Blues Society's Diamond Teeth Mary Really Got the Blues Fund - to help local musicians in time of need, and Lighthouse of Pinellas, serving the needs of the blind and the visually impaired of Pinellas County.

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FREE ADMISSION

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Friday, July 20, 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$20
Saturday, July 21, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$20
Sunday, July 22, 2 p.m. matinee, \$5-\$20

► American Stage Summer Camp
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Additional Parking at Synovus Bank 333 3rd St. N.

OBITUARIES



**Juanita Green
Palmer**

Born on July 16, 1982 in St. Petersburg. Summer A. Maxwell departed this life on June 13, 2007.

Those left to cherish her memories include her mother and stepfather, Julia and Gary Carlson of St. Petersburg; Father, Ed Maxwell of Brooksville, FL; maternal grandmother, Pecola Harris of Sarasota, FL; three aunts, two uncles a host of cousins, other loving relatives and friends.

SMITH FUNERAL HOME



Photo courtesy of iband.com



**LaShonda Renee
McKinnes**

Born on August 11, 1981 in Homestead, FL to Evelyn Lewis and the late James Earl Atkins. Lashonda Renee McKinnes departed this life on June 10, 2007.

Those left to cherish her memories include three daughters, De'Jhana McKinnes, Raquel Hooks and Ashonna Hooks, all of Clearwater, FL; two mothers, Albertha McKinnes of St. Petersburg and Evelyn Lewis of Mobile, AL; six sisters, Youlanda Thompson, Maurice Mack (Dwayne), Kim Brown (Joseph), Francheska Arthur, all of St. Petersburg, Regina McKinnes of Clearwater, FL and Mariquiqua Lewis of Mobile, AL; two brothers, James Earl Atkins, III of Mobile, AL and Lee Roy Lewis of Homestead, FL; significant other, Davon (Marquell) Nelson of Clearwater, FL; four nieces, four nephews, aunts, uncles, godfather and a host of other relatives and loving friends.

SMITH FUNERAL HOME

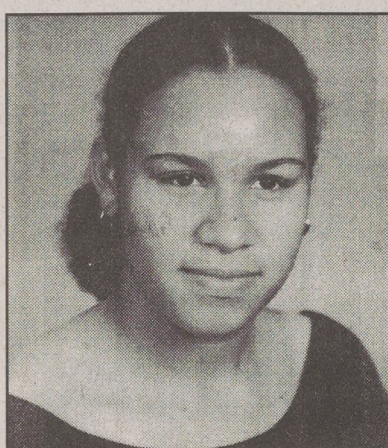


**Mother Viola
Armstrong**

Born in Winder, Georgia to the late Mr. Willie Harris and Mrs. Louise Harris. Mother Viola Armstrong departed this life on June 17, 2007.

Those left to cherish her memories include two sons, Mr. Alex Armstrong and Mr. Willie James Armstrong, both of St. Petersburg; a devoted daughter, Mrs. Minnie Louise Ealy (Robbie), of St. Petersburg; one brother, Rev. Willie James Harris of St. Petersburg; nine grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Mrs. Lena Howard; and a host of other relatives and friends.

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**Summer A.
Maxwell**

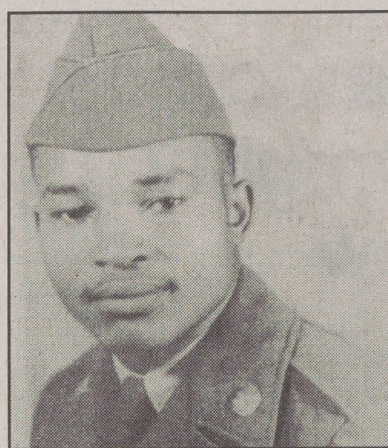
Born on July 13, 1932 in Wacissa, FL to the late John Green and Hattie McCall Green. Juanita Green Palmer departed this life on Friday, June 15, 2007.

Those left to cherish her memories include one son, Herman Bentley, of St. Petersburg; one brother, Captain Hall, of St. Petersburg; three sisters, Eloise Green of St. Petersburg, Elizabeth Huggins and Gussie Hightower, both of Wacissa, FL; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and loving friends.

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Photo courtesy of iband.com

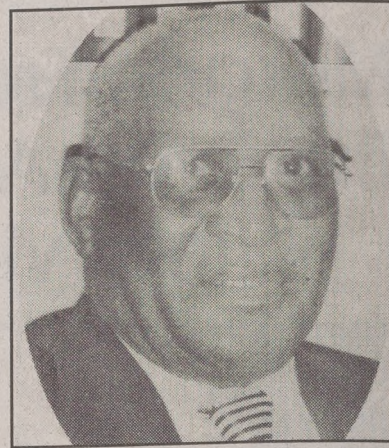


**Charles Shepard
Cummings**

Born on March 26, 1929 in St. Petersburg, to the late William C. and Margaret A. Cummings. Charles Shepard Cummings departed this life on Saturday, June 16, 2007.

Those left to cherish his memories include two sisters, Constance Bradley (Nathaniel Sr.) of Aurora, CO and Barbara Moore of St. Petersburg; five brothers, James (Shirley) of Des Moines, WA, Benjamin (Lerine) Of Lawrenceville, GA, Paul E. (Delores) of Lakeland, FL, Theodore and Joseph D. (Gladys), both of St. Petersburg; adopted brother, Rev. Alvin Miller (Esther) of St. Petersburg; aunt, Vinetta Faulkner of Louis, MO; a loving and devoted companion, Jeanno D. Edmonds; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

CREAL FUNERAL HOME



**Deacon
Joseph Macon**

Born on February 7, 1933, in Camilla, GA to the late Willie B. and Katie Mae Macon. Deacon Joseph Macon "Papa Joe" departed this life on June 18, 2007.

Those left to cherish his memories include a loving and devoted wife, Sister Mattie Macon; one daughter, Shirley Mobley (Roman) of Augusta, GA; two sons, Bobby Macon of St. Petersburg and Willie L. King (Jacalyn) of Ocala, FL; three brothers, Willie B. Macon, Gurley Macon and Major Macon (Sylvia), all of St. Petersburg; three sisters, Katie Lou Anderson (Lucious), Carrie Thompson (Lenard) and Viola Brown, all of St. Petersburg; nine grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and special friends.

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I Heard The Angel Say

I thought I saw your face today,
in the sparkle of the morning sun.
And then I heard the angel say,
"Their work on earth is done."

I thought I heard your voice today,
then laugh your hearty laugh.
And then I heard the angel say,
"There's peace dear one at last."

I thought I felt your touch today,
in the breeze that rustled by.
And then I heard the angel say,
"The spirit never dies."

I thought I saw my broken heart,
in the crescent of the moon.
And then I heard the angel say,
"The Lord is coming soon."

I thought that you had left me,
for the stars so far above.
And then I heard the angel say,
"They left you with their love."

I thought that I would miss you so,
and never find my way.
And then I heard the angel say,
"They're with you every day."
"The sun, the wind, the moon, the
stars, will forever be around,
reminding you of the love you shared,
and the peace they've finally found."

Bobbi Davis

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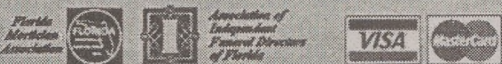
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CHURCH NEWS

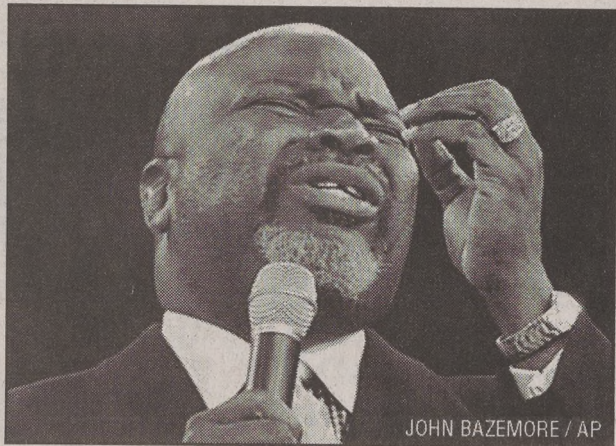
CHURCH EVENTS LISTING

"School of Wisdom" July 2 – 6, 2007

Evening Services will be held at
Lakewood United Methodist Church,
5995 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
@ 7:00 p.m. each night; the public is welcome!

The theme for the year is:
Excellence in Life and Ministry, Manifested
Through Character, Conduct and Commitment.
Ministry leaders are encouraged
to come learn to do what they have been
called to do with an Excellent Spirit!
Guest Speakers are Dr. Grainger and
JoAnn Browning of Ebenezer
A.M.E. Church – Fort Washington, MD.
You are welcome to visit
www.gotellit.org for more information.

Finally, Thursday evening will be the
consecration and installation of
Elder Michael T. Culbreth as Pastor of
Genesis Worship Center Church.
He will take the reigns and continue the vision
of our beloved Apostle, Linda L. Sesler (1953-2006).
We will pray a powerful, victorious release for the
Culbreth family.



Bishop T. D. (Thomas Dexter) Jakes (born June 9, 1957 in South Charleston, West Virginia) is an American televangelist. He currently is the pastor of The Potter's House, a primarily African-American non-denominational megachurch in Dallas, Texas. His views on God and water baptism is Oneness Pentecostal.

His church services and evangelistic sermons are broadcast on The Potter's House, which airs on the Trinity Broadcasting Network. He also airs on The Word Network. Other aspects of Jakes' ministry include an annual revival called "MegaFest" (which draws more than 100,000 people during that period of time), an annual women's conference called "Woman Thou Art Loosed", and gospel music recordings.

He founded The Potter's House in 1996, with about 50 families that had relocated with him from his former congregation, Greater Emmanuel Temple of Faith in Cross Lanes, West Virginia. By December 2002, it had 28,000 members. Both Jakes and his Potter's House church are unrelated to the Potter's House Christian Fellowship, a Pentecostal denomination founded in Arizona in 1970.

The movie Woman Thou Art Loosed is based on Jakes' novel of the same name.

For the 2006 PBS program African American Lives, Jakes had his DNA analyzed; his Y chromosome showed that he is descended from the Igbo people of what is now Nigeria. According to his family history, it was also suggested that he was descended from the Igbo people through his paternal grandmother.

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of its dynamic, spirited, man of God, the Reverend Brian Kenneth Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation of St. Mark, extend 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.

Calendar for June

June 25-29 St. Mark M.B.C. Vacation Bible School nightly
6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Theme: Graduate to Great ...The Jesus Way!

Upcoming for July

July 4 Independence Day – Church Office Closed
July 6 Monthly Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
July 16-20 State Convention convening in Tampa, Florida

St. Mark Offers ...

Sunday School is held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday School starts each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to come out and join us.

Baptist Training Union is each Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Members and the general public are invited to come out and study the Bible with us and learn "What Baptists Believe".

Children and Youth Ministry Meetings are held every Monday at 6:00 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting is held every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Senior Hour of Power Bible Study is held every Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

St. Mark Tutoring Ministry: Closed until start of 2007-2008 School Year

St. Mark Technology Lab: Summer Hours: the St. Mark Computer Lab will be open and available for use on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday mornings hours are 10:00 a.m. on June 14 and 28 only. Wednesday hours are suspended until August. The lab is available for St. Mark members as well for members of the community. We invite you to come learn basic information about how to use a computer and how to use Word or Excel software to complete letters, reports or projects. Volunteers are needed who can assist with questions about Microsoft applications, internet and email during lab hours.

NEW HOPE M.B. CHURCH "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope"

Reverend Carlos L. Senior, Pastor

The New Hope family invites you to worship with us on Sunday morning. Our morning begins at 7:45 with Early Morning Service. Sunday school begins at 9:00 with classes available for all ages! Bring the entire family to learn more about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Worship continues at 10:30 with the Disciples of Hope leading the congregation in praise. The Music team consists of Michael McKenny, Vernard McKenny, Marcus Childs, and Corey Givens. The Bread of Life will be served by our Esteemed Pastor, Reverend Carlos L. Senior. We will be delighted to have you worship with us!

MIDWEEK P.U.S.H.

(Prayer, Understanding & Spiritual Healing)

Bible Study (Adult and Youth) is held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. Bring the entire family to learn more about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Prayer Band is held on Thursday mornings at 11:00.

"Effectual, fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much."

Come let's praise God together.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4

Church Office is closed

July 8

Church Engagement: Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church
Reverend Ronald Gibson, Pastor

July 9-13

New Hope will host the West Coast Baptist Association
Congress of Christian Education

July 14 Annual Church Picnic

July 29

"Sunday 5th Power"
Pastor's Advocates Fellowship Hour

"Forgiving means listening and addressing the real issue."

Union Members Can Opt Out Of Dues Based On Religious Beliefs

COLUMBUS, OHIO (AP) – An employee whose religious beliefs conflict with the political positions of their labor union cannot be forced to pay dues, a federal judge ruled.

U.S. District Judge Gregory Frost's ruling broadens the category of employees who may opt out of unions because of religious beliefs beyond Seventh-day Adventists and Mennonites.

A Roman Catholic teacher who refused to pay dues to the National Education Association, claiming its views on abortion conflict with her own, sued the State Employment Relations Board after the panel ruled against her claim for a religious exemption.

Carol Katter, a teacher in St. Marys in western Ohio, said the union supports abortion rights and she does not. "I was not going to give 1 cent to those causes," she told The Columbus Dispatch for a story Tuesday.

The National Right to Work Foundation, which opposes mandatory union membership, funded Katter's legal fight.

In his ruling Thursday, Frost struck down the Ohio law that held only members of religions that "historically held

conscientious objections" to union membership could opt out. The judge said anyone with demonstrated religious beliefs should be exempt from paying dues to unions whose positions they find objectionable.

The law discriminated among religions by recognizing the Seventh-day Adventist and Mennonite objections to joining unions while denying the same right to others, the judge said.

In deciding Katter's case, the State Employment Relations Board was following the state law that defined religious exemptions more narrowly, executive director Arthur Marziale Jr. said.

He said board officials were consulting with their attorneys on whether to appeal the judge's ruling, which also said employees who opt out of unions will have to pay the equivalent of their dues to a qualified non-religious charity. They still will be entitled to the protections of the union, such as collective bargaining.

Rhythm and Praise Emerging Onto Houston's Urban Music Scene



Alkendria

Houston, TX (BlackNews.com) - In 2005, Houston exploded onto the rap scene and captured the national spotlight. Artists including Mike Jones, Slim Thug, Chamillionaire, Bun B of UGK and Paul Wall enjoyed great commercial success. The pendulum however, appears to be swinging in the opposite direction and it is not just Houston that has a problem.

The rap market has been bearish for the last several years in terms of CD sales and the pace is accelerating, as we cross the halfway mark for the year. In 2006, rap sales were down 21% from 2005 and 27% from 2004. Thus far in 2007, rap sales are down 33% from 2006. There are arguably several contributing factors;

however it's the partial results of a recent poll released by SOHH.com that offers some compelling insight. Of those that participated in the survey, 69% said they are not inspired by many of the albums. While rap may be taking blows in the rings corner with its back against the ropes, there is an exciting new genre of urban music emerging and inspiration is at its core

Rhythm and Praise or R&P as it has been termed, is the energetic and uplifting form of Gospel music that has the sound and appeal of the mainstream, but offers in addition, an inspiring message of faith and hope by way of the Good News. It replaces the blues in R&B with praise,

hence R&P.

Houston is again at the helm and appears to be preparing for takeoff. This time the field is being led by a host of faith-filled female vocalists including, Grammy nominated Shei Atkins, stellar award winner Kim Burrell, Nikki Ross who currently sings with Kirk Franklin and Southern Gospelity Records recording artist, Alkendria.

Alkendria is a spirited singer and talented songwriter from Collins, Mississippi. To fulfill her passion and aspirations of writing and recording professionally, she ultimately had to overcome many personal setbacks early on. Although the issues of life temporarily

stalled her ambitions, she credits her faith in Christ and pure tenacity for helping her reach the turning point in her life and career. After relocating to Houston, TX in 2001, the landscape changed in her favor.

Rap music incidentally, opened the initial doors of opportunity for the passionate songstress. After signing to Southern Gospelity Records in 2002, Alkendria belted out powerful hooks for the labels rap artists and projects. Her persistence and patience paid off and she is now preparing her inaugural R&P release appropriately titled, "Thank You". The CD will be available Tuesday, July 3rd.

"Pastor Clarence Welch Celebrates His 43rd Pastoral Anniversary."

Mother Cora Savage, Coordinator for the Pastoral Anniversary and the Prayer-Tower Family will be celebrating their Pastor's 43rd Pastoral Anniversary beginning July 12-16, 2007. Pastor Welch is an exemplary pastor, a man of character and integrity, who has been a blessing to many within the community.

Pastor Welch attended Pinellas County Schools and graduated from Gibbs High School in 1948. He furthered his education by attending Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana and received a Bachelor of Science Degree with a Major in Biology, furthering his undergraduate studies to receive a Minor in Chemistry from Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, FL. He completed graduate studies at New York State University, Oneonta, New York with a degree in Earth Science.

Pastor Welch served his country as a member of the United States Army in the Korean War.

Pastor Welch retired in 1986 after teaching Science for 29 1/2 years for the Pinellas County School System.

Upon retiring, he became actively involved within the community. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Pinellas County Urban League; Board of Directors of the YMCA of Greater St. Petersburg for 16 years; Social Services Allocation Committee, St. Petersburg City of St. Petersburg; Board of Directors for the IMA (InterMinisterial Alliance) & CUCA.

Pastor Welch was elected to the Hospice of the Florida Suncoast's Board of Directors in 1989. Presently, he serves as Chairman, and has long championed the vision for the comprehensive community service center to serve patients, families and communities throughout St. Petersburg and South Pinellas County. The Hospice secured this dream by acquiring property at 1st Avenue South and 31st Street South, St. Petersburg. Today, we all witnessed the reality of our honoree's vision.

Pastor Welch was chosen as the 2004 Liberty Bell recipient by the St. Petersburg American Bar Association. He is actively involved with Concerned Citizens for Quality Education for Black Students; member of AAVREC (African American Voter Research and Education Committee); member of IMA.

Pastor Welch is the son of the late Mr. Flagmon & Mrs. Gussie Welch. He is a devoted husband, father, & grandfather. He and his bride of 52 years are the parents of 2 children, Sharon & Ricardo (Ricky).

Pastor Welch is a child of the Sovereign King. He loves God and the people of God everywhere.

Those of you who know and love Pastor Welch, we take this opportunity to invite you to participate with us during t his glorious celebration:



The services are 7:30 nightly:
Wednesday, July 11- Pentecostal Temple COGIC
 Elder William Anderson, Pastor
Thursday, July 12 - Bible Way COGIC
 Elder Sylvester Reeves, Pastor
Friday, July 13 - Macedonia Freewell Baptist Church
 Bishop Raymond T. Baker, Pastor
Sunday, July 15 @11:30- Queen Street COGIC
 Supt. Anthony Conage, Pastor
Sunday, July 15 @4:00 - East Lake COGIC
 Supt Willie Matheney, Pastor

Come one, come all and let us give honor to the Man of God for the service that he has given to his Church Family and community. His advice to other Pastors is "All you need is to be faithful to God and he will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory!"

CHURCH DIRECTORY

mt. Zion
 Progressive Missionary
 Baptist Church



Rev. Louis M. Murphy, Sr.
 Senior Pastor

955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
 (727) 894-4311
 Email: mzpmbc@gte.net
 Website: www.mzprogressive.org

Worship Services.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
 Prayer Service (Wed).....6:00 p.m.
 Bible Study (Wed).....6:30 p.m.

Mission Statement:
*Impact the world by equipping believers
 to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

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912 3RD AVENUE NORTH- ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705
 (727) 822-2089
BETHEL1894@KNOLOGY.NET

BREAKFAST MINISTRY.....SUNDAY 8:00 A.M.
 CHURCH SCHOOL9:00 A.M.
 MORNING WORSHIP.....10:30 A.M.
 BIBLE STUDY.....TUESDAY 7:00 P.M.
 YOUTH CHURCH MON & WED 5:30 P.M.



REVEREND & MRS.
 JIMMIE B. KEEL

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ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



Rev. Norris L.
 Martin, Sr. - Pastor

3200 Fifth Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
 (727) 327-1373

Early Morning Worship7:30 a.m.
 Sunday School9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting7:00 p.m.
 Friday Prayer Meeting11:00 a.m.

"Raising A Standard For God's People In God's Church"



Pastor Maceo and
 Tamika McGriff

WALKING IN THE PROMISED VISION

Abundant Harvest
 Worship Center

4682 40th Avenue North
 St. Petersburg, FL 33714
 (727) 374-1864
www.abundant-harvest.org

Sunday
 Morning Worship
 10:45 a.m.
 Feed The Homeless
 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday
 Bible Study
 7:00 p.m.

Log on:
www.travelwiththechurch.com
 (to book your travel engagements)

"Walking In The Promised Vision"



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"A Peculiar People Persuaded to Perform His Purpose"

3001 18th Avenue South • Saint Petersburg, Florida 33712
 Phone: (727) 327-9904 • Fax: (727) 322-0409

Church School - 9:30 AM • Morning Worship - 11:00 AM
 Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 7:00PM

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 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 Radio internet: tantalk 1340.com

Scheduled Services:
 Early Morning - 8:00 a.m.
 Church School - 9:45 a.m.
 Mid-Morning - 11:00 a.m.
 Mid-week Family Night Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

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



Elder Benjamin
 Adams, Jr.,
 Senior Pastor

Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church

532-33rd Street South • St. Petersburg, FL



Rev. Clyde
 Williams

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship 6 p.m.
 Baptist Training Union 5 p.m.

Tuesday Night
 General Bible Study
 Thursday Night Prayer Meeting & Teachers Meeting
We welcome you at all times

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Tel: 727-898-2457 Fax: 727-895-6898
unitytempleoftruth@msn.com

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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 Service 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Teen Summit (Wednesday) 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday) 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston
Pastor

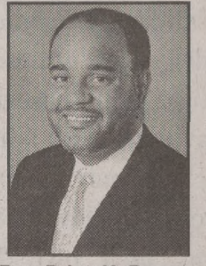
"God's House In The City"

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL
(727) 321-6631 • www.stmarkch.org

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Baptist Training Union 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Thursday 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

"Creating a Haven of Hope, Help, and Healing for Christ"

Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ

2230 - 22nd Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 894-6764 • (727) 865-1520



Elder William
E. Anderson,
Pastor

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

"A church working together for the upbuilding of God's kingdom"

Friendship

Missionary Baptist Church

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

Sunday.....7:45 A.M. and 11 A.M. Worship
Sunday School.....9:30 A.M.
Wednesday.....Noonday Bible Study and
Bread of Life; 7 P.M. Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday.....7 P.M. Youth Enrichment

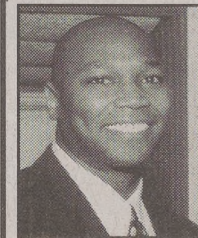


Dr. John A. Evans,
Pastor

*"Serving and Saving
"Helping and
Healing"
"Inspiring and
Instructing"
"Praying and
Praising"*

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 Study7:30 p.m.

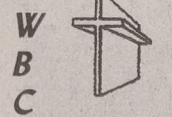
The church where what God's word teaches is practiced!

Macedonia Freewill Baptist Church

900 - 16th Avenue South • St. Petersburg, Florida 33705

Office (727) 895-4900 • Fax (727) 895-4990

Bishop Raymond T. Baker, Pastor



Sunday Morning Service 8:00 a.m.

Sunday Mid-Morning 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Communion is observed every first Sunday

The Church Where Everyone is Welcome

20th Street Church Of Christ

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



Bro. Robert Smith

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

PRAYER TOWER CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Elder Clarence Welch, Pastor
Elder Carson Skinner, Assistant Pastor
1137 37th Street South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 321-0670



Services
Sunday Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.
A.M. Service - 11:30 a.m.
YPWW (1st & 3rd Sunday) - 5:30 p.m.
P.M. Service (1st & 3rd Sunday) - 6:30 p.m.
P.M. Service (2nd & 4th Sunday) - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday Morning Prayer - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study (for all ages) - 7:30 p.m.



Queen Street Church Of God In Christ

1732 9th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712

(727) 896-4356

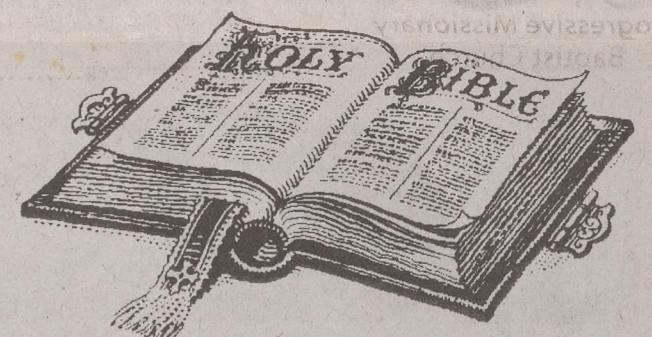
Elder A.P. Conage, Pastor

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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New Philadelphia Community Church

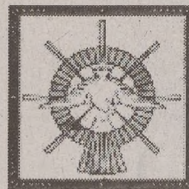
The Reverend Don A. Gaskin, Pastor

P.O. Box 15935 • St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Wisdom School 9:50 A.M.

Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.

Bible Study Fellowship 6:30 P.M. (Wed.)



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

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

NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

www.spreadinghopeonline.org



Rev. Carlos Senior,
Pastor

Sunday Services:

Church School 9:00 a.m.
Praise & Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Services:

Midweek P.U.S.H.
(Prayer Meeting/Bible Study) 7:00 p.m.

"One Body, One Spirit, One Hope"

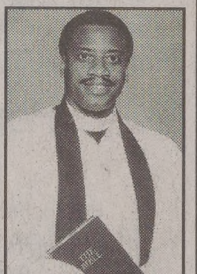
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Church School: 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Devotion: 10:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.
Praise and Worship: 10:20 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study each Tuesday: 6:30 p.m.

Van service is available by calling:
(727) 327-0015

THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:
3940 - 18th AVENUE SOUTH
St. Petersburg, Florida

Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021
Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



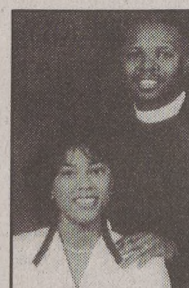
Rev. Frank W.
Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

THE OLD LANDMARK CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

Superintendent Mitchell L. Bryant, Pastor
4201 - 6th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Phone: 727/898-8616 • Fax: 727/502-9843

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Supt. Mitchell L. Bryant
and Lady Danita B. Bryant

Schedule of Services

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.
Noon Day Prayer - Daily at 12 noon

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Ebenezer New Testament Church of God

"Winning Souls and Making Disciples"

3931 Central Avenue, St Petersburg Florida 33713
(727) 321-8989

Ebenezerntcog@yahoo.com
www.ebenezerntcog.org

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Divine Worship 11:15 a.m.
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.
School of Leaders 7:00 p.m.
Youth Nite 7:00 p.m.
Harvest Crusade 7:00 p.m.



Pastors:
Bishop Ed Nelson &
Rev. Sharon Nelson

THE NEW LATTER DAY DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES, INC.

3900 5th AVENUE NORTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FL
PHONE: (727) 642-9839

WORSHIP SERVICES:

TUESDAY NIGHT @ 7:30 p.m. - BIBLE STUDY
FRIDAY NIGHT @ 7:30 p.m. - PRAISE & WORSHIP
SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 10:00 a.m.
SUNDAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION @ 11:30 a.m.



Pastor Vivian
Powell-Thomas

First Baptist Institutional Church

3144 Third Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL
Phone: 323-7518

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

Come Worship With
the First Baptist Family



REV. WAYNE G.
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DOMINION WORSHIP MINISTRIES

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Sunday Worship Services
8 a.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m.
9:10 a.m. - Righteous Rap

Monday
7:00 p.m. - Corporate Prayer
Monday, Wednesday,
Saturday
6:00 a.m. - Corporate Prayer

Wednesday Bible Study
12 noon, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday
7:00 p.m. - Music & the Arts

4016 - 12th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33711
(727) 321-8574



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

Whether you're soaking up rays, visiting in the shade or playing lawn games, make the most of summer with memorable outdoor gatherings. Easy, breezy meals help you make the most of summer.

"Summer grilling is as much about enjoying the company of family and friends as it is about the great food you serve," said Pam Kohn, Wal-Mart senior vice president of grocery. "We've seen a trend toward combining 'take and bake' or 'heat and eat' selections with delicious homemade recipes to create a memorable menu that provides plenty of time to enjoy your guests."

These recipes provide a new, flavorful twist on traditional summer favorites. And you'll be a grill star by offering 1/2-pound Black Angus beef burgers, brats, chicken breasts and/or the ever-popular hot dog. And don't forget the toppings. Your guests will enjoy creating their own "gourmet" sandwiches loaded with their favorites — relish, onion, mustard, ketchup, fresh tomatoes, lettuce, barbeque sauce, mayo, pickles, cheese, slaw and sauerkraut.

Perfect mates for a grilling menu include a hearty Antipasto With Pasta salad — easy to make ahead. All-American Strawberry Shortcake with seasonal berries is the standout dessert. Make your own shortcake or pick one up at your favorite Supercenter bakery.

Additional recipes and tips are available at www.walmart.com by clicking on In Stores Now/Ideas Center/Food & Recipes.

Delicious 4th of July Recipes



Antipasto With Pasta

Serves 6

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Chill time: 30 minutes

- 1/2 (16-ounce) package fusilli pasta, uncooked
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 6 tablespoons Great Value olive oil, divided
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh basil
- 2 tablespoons capers
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 6 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced
- 1/2 pound sliced hard salami or prosciutto, cut into thin strips
- 1 (15-ounce) can garbanzo beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 (14-ounce) jar pepperoncini peppers, drained
- 1 (12-ounce) jar roasted red peppers, drained
- 1/3 cup pitted black olives
- Focaccia bread (optional)

1. Prepare pasta according to package directions; drain and let cool. Add vinegar and 2 tablespoons oil. Cover and refrigerate.
2. Meanwhile, whisk together remaining 4 tablespoons oil, basil, capers, and garlic; set aside. Combine fresh mozzarella, salami, beans, peppers and olives in large bowl. Drizzle with reserved oil mixture, tossing well. Cover and refrigerate at least 30 minutes.
3. Arrange pasta and vegetable mixture on large serving platter. Serve cold with focaccia bread, if desired.



Strawberry Shortcake

Serves 8

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 30 minutes

Chill time: 1 hour

- 1 cup Pillsbury BEST Self-Rising Flour
- 2 1/2 cups sugar, divided
- 1 cup milk
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
- 3 cups whipping cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 cups sliced fresh strawberries

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease 13x9x2-inch baking pan; set aside.
2. In medium mixing bowl combine flour and 1 1/2 cups sugar. Stir in milk, eggs, and vanilla just until combined. Spread batter into prepared pan.
3. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until wooden toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack.
4. Meanwhile, in large mixing bowl combine whipping cream and 1 cup sugar. Beat with electric mixer on medium to high speed until stiff peaks form.
5. Cut cake into 16 squares. Split each square, horizontally, into 2 layers. Spoon some whipped cream and strawberries over bottom layer. Replace top layer. Top with remaining whipped cream and strawberries. Place shortcakes on large serving platter. Cover and chill up to 1 hour before serving.

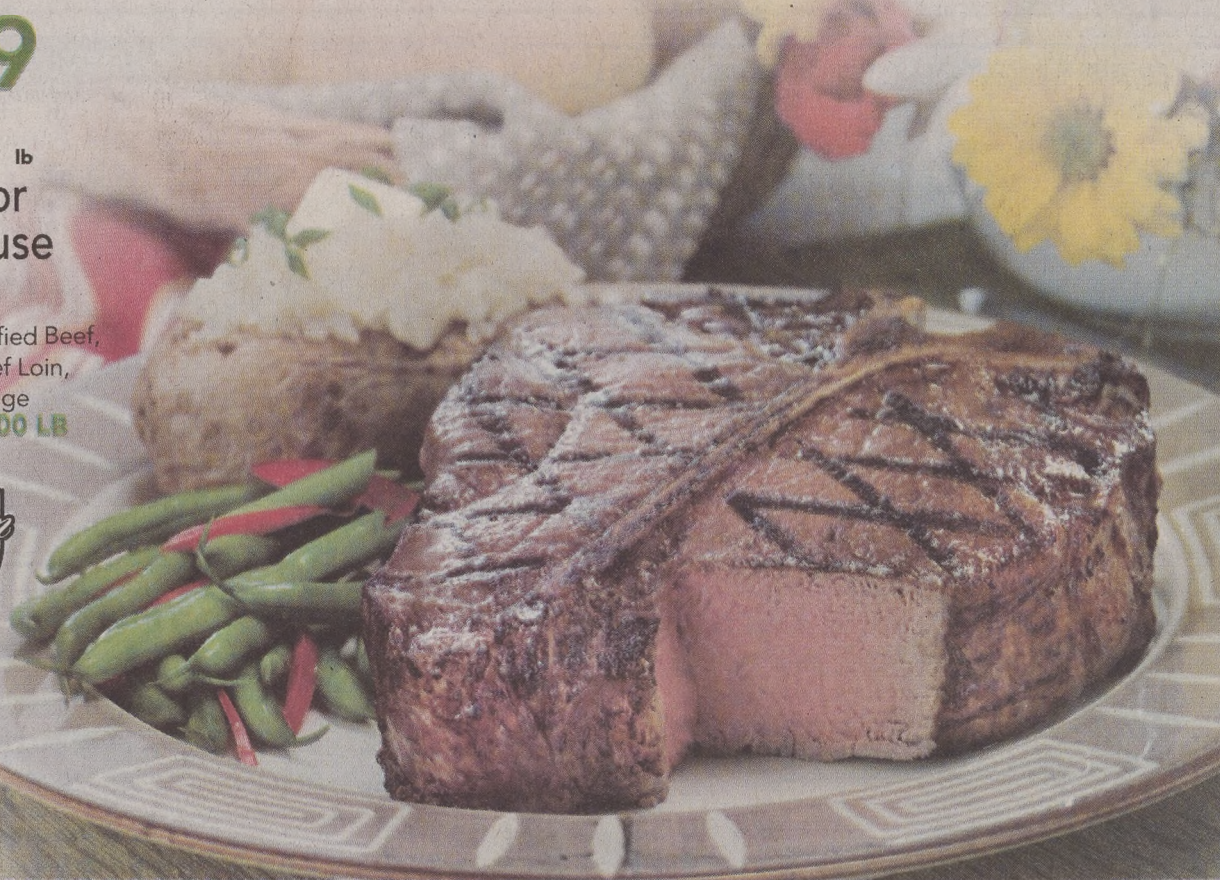


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Any Size Package
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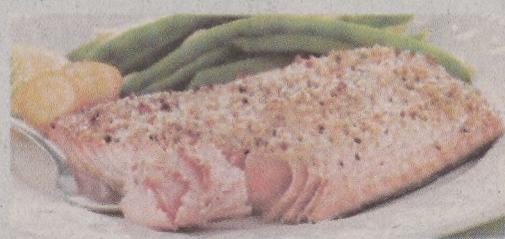
Georgia Sweet Corn **12¢ 3.00**
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All American Pie, Choice of Flaky Double Crust or Dutch Apple
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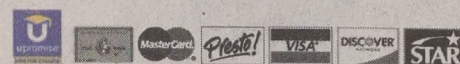
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