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VOLUME 40 NUMBER 31

APRIL 3 - APRIL 9, 2008

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

Sigmas' Annual Women's History Month Celebration



Chapter Basileus Soro Kim Taylor

BY LILLIE MCGARRAH
SPECIAL TO THE CHALLENGER

ST. PETERSBURG - St. Petersburg's Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., launched its Fourth Celebration of Women's History Month in mid March at the Carillon Hilton on Lake Carillon Way in St. Petersburg with a Footprint Service Awards Brunch. An event of this caliber gives the sorority the opportunity to showcase its motto, "Greater Service, Greater Progress" by recognizing and honoring local women who have given of themselves to make the world a better place through all womankind.

Mistress of ceremonies for the morning was none other

than the beautiful, multi-talented, award-winning Ginger Gadsden, WTSP Morning Anchor for Tampa Bay 10, whose record of achievement in the field of Journalism is noteworthy. Soror Jayda Rainey provided music for the occasion. Soror Dr. Delceda Walker presented an inspirational invocation that set the tone for the morning, while Soror Kim Taylor, Chapter Basileus extended greetings and warm welcomes to all in attendance. A talented dance group from Tampa called, "Miracles in Motion Eurhythmics" entertained the audience prior to the delicious brunch.

SIGMA

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Another Day Of Infamy: MLK Jr. Assassinated April 4, 1968

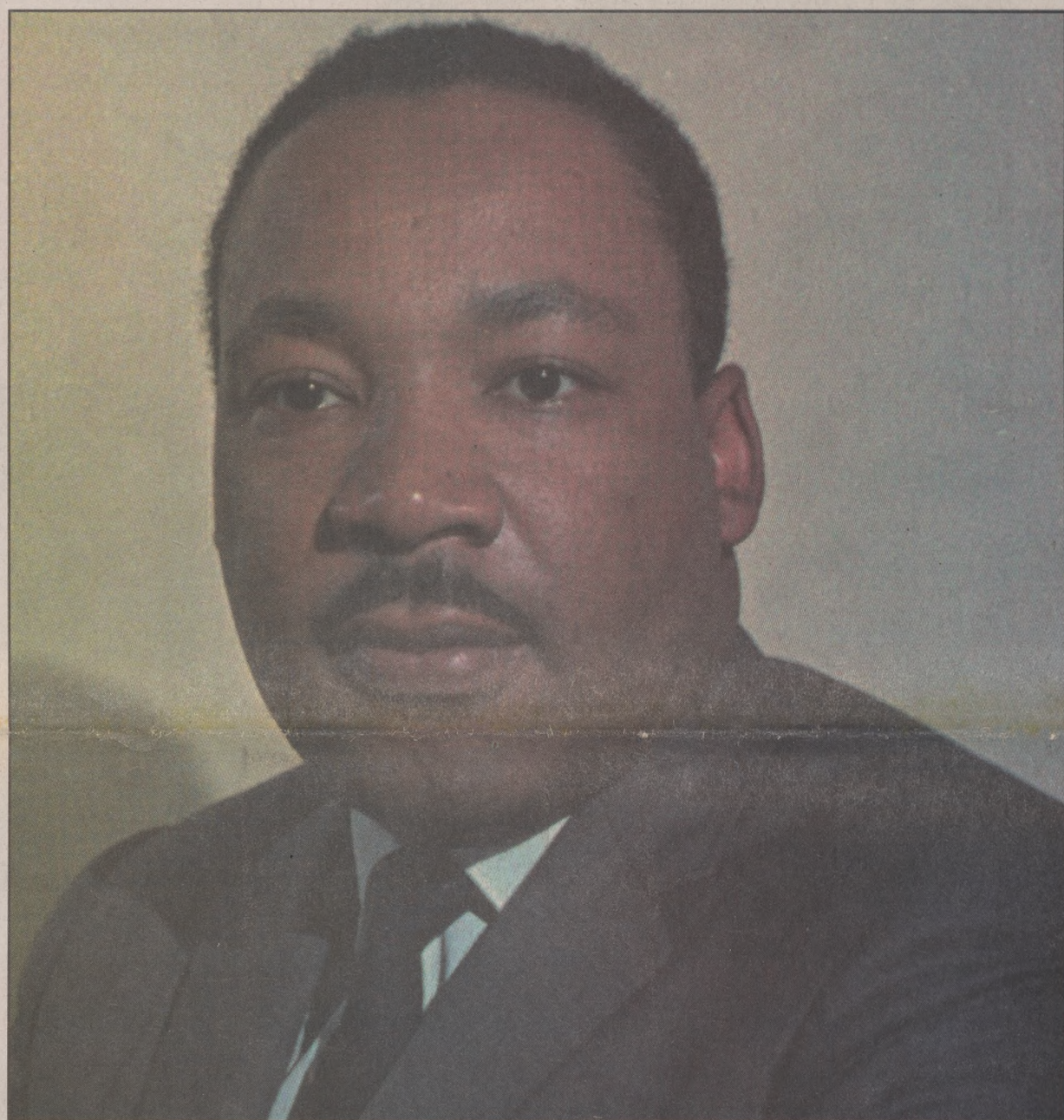
BY DR. CLINT WILSON
NNPA

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A little more than a quarter century earlier, a somber President Franklin D. Roosevelt had proclaimed the day of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor "a day that will live in infamy" in the hearts of Americans. But to a generation of African-Americans April 4 was tragic because Martin Luther King Jr. - the nonviolent civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner - was assassinated as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis motel.

People would forever recall where they were and what they were doing when they heard the horrible news: Martin Luther King Jr. was dead. And while the "mainstream" news media brought their newspaper columns and on-air resources to bear on one of history's biggest stories, the nation's black citizens in their grief instinctively turned to their own press for some sense of perspective, explanation and emotional expression. For in a real sense, King belonged to them and his death was a personal and tragic loss. They needed the Black Press to tell them the story.

This week, on the 40th anniversary of the King assassination let us observe how the Chicago Defender answered the call in the immediate aftermath of the assassination before more accurate details concerning the triggerman became known.

KING MURDERED!
MEMPHIS - He lived a life of



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

nonviolent protest to injustice, but was killed in the most violent way possible. Dr. Martin Luther King, whose peaceful efforts to win equality for black Americans won him world renown, was shot down by an unknown white man as he was preparing to meet the greatest challenge of his civil

rights career.

Earlier in the week Dr. King had vowed to stage a peaceful demonstration in support of black garbage collectors, who had gone out on strike for a bigger piece of the economic pie in the Mississippi River metropolis. But the plan was abruptly halted when a well-dressed

white man shot Dr. King as he sat in a car outside the hotel that had become headquarters in the Memphis effort. The Memphis plan had been Dr. King's primary challenge over the past week. The violence that marred the march last Thursday had put

MLK

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Angela Bassett Gets Hollywood Star

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Angela Bassett has had good days - becoming a mother to twins, winning a Golden Globe, being nominated for an Academy Award. Then there was Thursday.

"Do you ever have one of those days? I woke up and the sun wasn't really shining but then it burst through the clouds and it was glorious. Hallelujah!" Bassett exclaimed to the crowd at the ceremony for the 2,358th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Bassett, 49, was joined by husband Courtney B. Vance, their children and guests Forest Whitaker, Laurence Fishburne and Rick Fox, her co-star in the new film "Meet the Browns,"

out Friday.

Fishburne, who starred alongside Bassett in 1993's "What's Love Got to Do With It," highlighted Bassett's resilience in the industry. She landed an Oscar nomination for the role portraying Tina Turner triumphing over abuse.

"You get a lot of no's in this business and you have to have that desire and determination which is what Angela has," Fishburne said.

Whitaker gushed that Bassett was "a powerful artist, a beautiful person, a mother, a wife, a friend who illuminates my life."

Born in New York City and raised in St. Petersburg, Fla., Bassett snagged bachelor's and master's degrees from Yale before starting her career in



Angela Bassett

theater and then moving on to film.

Her film credits include 1998's "How Stella Got Her Groove Back."

At the ceremony, she recalled moving to Los Angeles

from New York in 1988.

"I meant to stay six months but I stayed. Today my cup runneth over!" Bassett said. "I am crying now, I cried yesterday and the day before. ... This day is so, so special to me."

Peck and Wilson Celebrate Debut of "St. Petersburg's Historic African American Neighborhoods"



On Saturday, March 29 a capacity crowd gathered at Halslem's Book Store for the latest copy of Peck and Wilson's publication of "St. Petersburg's Historic African American Neighborhoods."



Photos courtesy of Kelley Collier

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SIGMA

continued from front page

Gladys McNeil, Immediate Past Basileus and Soror of the Year 2007 introduced the Keynote speaker, Soror Bridget Heller, daughter of Shirley and Bill Puller. Heller is the global president of Johnson and Johnson Consumer Companies Baby and Wound Care Franchises with a consistent track record of leadership and outstanding business performance internationally. She is a graduate of Kellogg Graduate School of Management and Northwestern University in Illinois. She resides in Princeton, N.J. with her husband and two daughters.

Heller connected to the audience by citing experiences in the St. Petersburg African community that laid the framework for her success. Her positive role models, parents, teachers, neighbors, friends, church members and peers touched her childhood and motivated her to succeed. Throughout her speech, she challenged and encouraged women to persevere, extend themselves, render service, maintain a positive outlook, reach out and touch others, accept obstacles only as temporary roadblocks, "never give up on their dreams" and to always remember the hands that lifted them. The aroma of success was most evident throughout the morning as the honorees were recognized.

Soror Thelma Davis presented awards for the evening. Honorees were recognized in the following categories



Photo courtesy of Lillie McGarrah

Sorors of Sigma

with Footprint Service Awards: Community Service: Gwendolyn Feazell, Inez McRae, Elzora Motley, Barbara Norris and Sami Scott; Education Awards: Joan Bell Andrews, Mildred Kennedy and Sandra Patterson; Health Service Awards: Catherine Crumb, Sandra Grovesnor and Kim Williams; Law Enforcement Award: Cynthia Davis; Religion

Awards: Temple Hayes, Mary Parris and Charlene Sanders; Scholarships Awards: Rodricka Riley, Amber Allen and Ashley Elliott; and the Community Service (Monetary) Awards: Dr. Carter G. Woodson Museum, Bridging the Achievement Gap Program (Largo), Mercy Keepers Service Organization and Harbordale YMCA.

A Post Humous Award in

Education and Community Service was also presented in memory of Alma Brown Frazier, veteran educator and community advocate by Soror Lillie McGarrah to Mrs. Frazier's daughter, Kimberly Frazier Leggett. The Our Sherone honoree, which represents many walks of life and encourages others to stay afloat, was presented to Marlene Smith.

Scores of friends and family members joined the sorors in recognizing that American women of every race, class and ethnic background have played a unique role in this culture by serving as leaders in the forefront of every major progressive and social change in this nation to secure the blessings of "liberty for ourselves and our posterity."

Smiles were in abundance as sorors were presented gratuities, words of appreciation and closure. Smiles continued as attendees walked out into the morning light recognizing that "this is the day that the Lord hath made."

Sigma gratitude for everyone's support is endless. A million thanks.

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

There Is Hope For Living With MS



BY LARRY LUCAS
NNPA COLUMNIST

Every week, 200 people learn they have multiple sclerosis, or MS. For many, the diagnosis brings uncertainty and fear. "When the neurologist said those words, 'You have MS,' it hit me like a brick. I thought the diagnosis was a death sentence," said television host Montel Williams about his experience with MS.

As we have recognized Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month in March, it's important to dispel myths and show that multiple sclerosis patients and their families know there is hope for living with this disease. For example, most people with MS have a normal or near-normal life expectancy. What's more, the majority of people with MS do not become severely disabled.

But first, what is multiple sclerosis? According to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, MS is a chronic, unpredictable neurological disease that affects the central nervous system. There are four phases of the

disease; most common is the "relapsing-remitting" phase where patients experience flare-ups followed by recovery periods. The National Institutes of Health report that many investigators believe MS to be a disease in which the body, through its immune system, launches a defensive attack against its own nerve tissues. Why the body attacks itself in this way is still unknown.

MS is difficult to diagnose because symptoms can be as unpredictable as the weather, and highly variable. Some people go years without noticeable symptoms, most noticing them between ages 20 and 40. Multiple sclerosis affects twice as many women as men, according to the Mayo Clinic. Although African-Americans are half as likely as Caucasians to develop multiple sclerosis, research from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society shows that the disease affects African-Americans more aggressively than their counterparts.

While there is no cure for MS, there are now FDA-approved med-

ications that have been shown to "modify" or slow down the underlying cause of MS. More good news is on the horizon. According to a new survey of America's pharmaceutical research companies, there are currently 547 new medicines in development to treat a variety of neurological disorders, including MS. This includes 46 treatments for multiple sclerosis, including a potential vaccine in development that is designed to specifically target T-cells that contain disease-specific proteins. The cells can damage the sheath that protects the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, resulting in multiple sclerosis.

For those who need help affording their prescription medicines, including those needed to manage MS and other neurological disorders, there are programs that can help. The Partnership for Prescription Assistance (1-888-4PPA-NOW or www.pparx.org), a national program sponsored by America's pharmaceutical research companies, provides a single point of access to information on more than 475 patient

assistance programs. More than 2,500 brand-name and generic prescription medicines are available through the participating programs. So far, the program has already helped more than 4.5 million people in need nationwide.

In addition to medicines, there are certain lifestyle choices that may help patients better manage MS. Physical and occupational therapy can help build strength and teach patients how to use tools that can assist in everyday tasks, all of which helps preserve independence. Many patients also find that extreme heat worsens symptoms, so they take extra care when using a sauna or taking a hot bath. Counseling is also important for patients facing a multiple sclerosis diagnosis, who might find strength and understanding by talking to a professional therapist or even just by talking to other patients. It's natural for patients who suffer from any disease, including MS, to feel sad, angry or confused. Reaching out to friends, family and others in the MS community can help.

Talking Strategy As Obama Gets Closer



BY RON WALTERS
NNPA COLUMNIST

With the Obama Campaign so close to winning the Democratic nomination, strategy means virtually everything when the course is peppered with thorny problems that must be handled correctly. So, let me throw a few ideas out that might smooth the way.

First I want to acknowledge the fact that Barack Obama's campaign played a masterful hand in confronting the problem of the re-vote in Florida and Michigan by doing absolutely nothing. My fear was that it would yield to the proposal in Florida for an election re-vote or a mail-in balloting scenario just to appear to be fair to the delegates.

Similarly in Michigan, the proposal to re-schedule a vote found Hillary Clinton in the state criticizing the Obama campaign for duplicity in not joining with them, in effect, to cut it's own throat.

In the end, the Obama campaign did not come to the table and both proposals crashed and burned, leaving only the option of seating both delegations, but

dividing them equally so as not to affect the existing distribution of delegates.

Second, assume that the video showing the Rev. Jeremiah Wright preaching will continue, since it will not be eliminated by the marvelous speech that Obama made in his defense, because the media obsession will remain and it will be regurgitated by either Hillary Clinton or John McCain.

Just check the snide reference of Bill Clinton that it would be wonderful to have "two people who love the country" like Hillary and John McCain running, as an example. So, there must be an offensive move found to take the venom from the Rev. Wright by elevating his life in a manner that exposes a positive parallel narrative that competes with it. This cannot be done, however, by the Obama campaign, in my judgment, but by those in the religious community who understand the Rev. Wright's contribution better than others.

Third, the Obama campaign desperately needs to craft a powerful populist message to accompany the speech on race, showing that poor blacks and poor whites have more in common in

practical terms than they do differences. That would enrich the substance of the challenge to move beyond race (racism) that was contained in his speech to achieve higher economic common ground. So, Obama should go into the Pennsylvania blue-collar ghettos, but also into North Carolina and beyond with a theory and a program to challenge age-old cross-racial resentments part of which is founded on economic disadvantage.

Fourth, the campaign should refer repeatedly to the double standard in the media that does not repeatedly air the fact Sen. John McCain sought the endorsement of the Rev. John Hagee of Texas who has called the Catholic Church "the great whore" and "a false cult system." Video clips of his sermons exist at www.jhm.org/ME2/Default.asp, but none of these statements have been shown. Neither has the major media shown the video of the Rev. Rod Parsely of Ohio, who McCain once referred to as a "spiritual guide" and who referred to Islam as an "anti-Christ religion" and Europe as a "Godless pit" on video clips distributed on YouTube. McCain has not been dogged by

the media to separate himself from or to repudiate these individuals or to explain his relationships.

Fifth, the campaign should project to the Super delegates the notion that moving forward into the general election campaign, one of the most salient facts in their selection of a nominee should be the viability of each campaign's capacity to raise and utilize money. As of the last quarter, the Clinton campaign has raised 30 million, but has only \$3 million on hand and \$8 million in debts. By comparison, the Obama campaign raised \$50 million and has \$31 million on hand and virtually no debt. This means that Obama is in a better position to compete the rest of the way and to raise funds rather easily for a general election contest, while the difficulty the Clinton campaign has had with both raising money and spending it wisely should be alarming. Which one would you choose?

The recent news that Obama's passport file has been breached by contract workers tells us that someone is using every means at their disposal to craft an opposition strategy against him, so his must be top notch.

More about that later.

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Ethel L. Johnson Publisher/CEO
L. Dianne Speights ... General/Advertising Manager
Robin Simmons Office Manager
Shikara Edwards-Dodson Editor
Lorrie Bellinger Art Director
Antoine Demmings Graphic Artist
Shirley Morgan ... Senior Advertising Sales Associate

The Weekly Challenger Office:

2500 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street South
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(727) 896-2922

Fax (727) 823-2568

Email:

generalmanager@theweeklychallenger.com

www.theweeklychallenger.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

New Poll Reveals Florida Voters' Strongly Support Increasing Cigarette Tax

Voters Want \$1 Increase to Lower Smoking Rates, Generate Revenue for Health Care

ST. PETERSBURG - Seventy-nine percent of Florida voters favored a \$1 per pack cigarette tax increase to reduce tobacco use, according to a new poll conducted on behalf of the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association and the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Sen. Ted Deutch (D - Delray Beach), Rep. Jim Waldman (D-Coconut Creek), and sponsors of legislation aimed at increasing the tax, were joined by Former Senate and House Republican Leader Curtis Kiser to announce Florida voter's support.

"As a Republican, I can't help but bristle at the \$595 tax burden on an average Florida household as a result of tobacco's health toll," said Curtis Kiser, representing the American Cancer Society on the cigarette tax issue. "While taxes are usually hard for anyone to stomach, the people have made it very clear that increasing this tax is the right thing to do."

A statewide survey of 600 registered voters conducted in March 2008 indicated that eight out of 10 voters support a \$1 increase to the cigarette tax increase. The surveyed voters also responded favorably to having the additional net revenue of \$1.1 billion from a tax increase go to fund health care in the state. Additional survey results found:

More than seven out of 10 voters felt the current cigarette tax of 34 cents was too low, with 43 percent stating it was much too low.

More than 60 percent of respondents said they were more likely to support a politician who was in favor of increasing the cigarette excise tax.

Seventy-eight percent of Floridians were very concerned about smoking and tobacco use among young people in Florida, with 52 percent very concerned.

"Raising the cigarette tax is necessary to align Florida with the rest of the nation, and to reduce smoking as a whole. We can utilize this in concert with other strategies, such as the smoking cessation programs run by the Department of Health, as a tool to reduce the consumption of tobacco," said Dr. William Gower Jr., president of the American Heart Association Greater Southeast Affiliate. "We at the American Heart understand what a health threat smoking is and the cost burden to the state. This tax increase can only benefit us."

Numerous studies show that increasing the cigarette excise tax is the most effective method of reducing smoking among youth and adults. Overall, studies indicated that for every 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes, overall consumption is

reduced by three to five percent in adults, with an even greater impact on youth smoking (a reduction of seven percent).

Florida's current cigarette tax is 33.9-cents, the sixth lowest in the nation, and has not increased since 1990. Florida sells more cigarettes than any other state in the nation, nearly 1.3 billion packs in 2006 alone. In Florida, total annual health costs directly caused by smoking equal \$6.32 billion, with an additional \$6.47 billion in lost productivity. Of this astronomical amount, \$1.25 billion is incurred through the taxpayer-funded Medicaid program, leaving the vast majority of non-smoking taxpayers footing a bill for someone else's deadly habit. According to the Revenue Estimating Conference, the \$1 per pack increase would generate roughly \$1.1 billion in new net revenue for Florida.

Senator Deutch is sponsoring Senate Bill 2790 and Representative Waldman is sponsoring House Bill 299 in support of increasing the cigarette tax. The Florida Cigarette Tax Public Opinion Poll was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies in March 2008. The poll was based on a random sample of 600 likely voters, with the margin of error at ± 4.0 percent.

The State's Budgeting Woes To Have A Major Impact On Substance Abuse Treatment

Operation PAR may have to close four programs, lay-off over 100 employees and eliminate services to roughly 2,000 clients if the Florida Department of Corrections recommendation to eliminate all \$37 million of existing funding for substance abuse programs is accepted by the Florida Legislature. Should this budget cut happen, it will have far reaching repercussions devastating some individual treatment providers by as much as \$3.1 million alone. This will directly impact over 250 individuals currently receiving treatment at Operation PAR and thousands

more throughout the county and state treatment systems.

This Florida Department of Corrections budget reduction is an attempt to cut 10 percent from the Department's \$3.2 billion budget and will greatly impact Pinellas County's Adult Drug Court Program and its treatment providers since funding for the majority of substance abuse treatment is provided by the Florida Department of Corrections.

According to Florida Department of Correction representatives, anticipated reductions in the Legislative Budget for fiscal

year 2008-2009 will significantly impact the department's ability to provide contracted substance abuse residential and outpatient services for offenders during FY 08-09. Therefore, last week when Corrections Secretary Walter McNeil appeared before a Senate committee, and the question was posed to cut 10 percent of the agency's 3.2 billion budget, McNeil reluctantly suggested cutting 36 million for prisoners, probationers and those in Drug Court.

Chief Executive Officer Nancy Hamilton said, "This result is an impact on public safety."

NOTICE OF SOLICITATION OF APPLICANTS FOR APPOINTMENT TO CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

Notice is hereby given that the City of St. Petersburg is soliciting applications from qualified interested parties to fill the vacancy on City Council, District 6, which term expires January 2, 2010. The application period shall be from:

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 through Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Applications must be submitted to and received by the office of the City Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 16, 2008. Applications received after that date will not be accepted. Applicants must submit the following as part of their application: Personal Resume, Application and Affidavit for Councilmember (form is available in the office of the City Clerk, 175 Fifth Street North), and a cover letter stating their reasons for interest in the appointment and summarizing their qualifications for the position. Once appointed, the new Council Member must file the required Financial Disclosure Statements.

A Public Forum has been scheduled to be held on Monday, April 21, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall, 175 Fifth Street North, to provide the public an opportunity to meet and ask questions of all applicants.

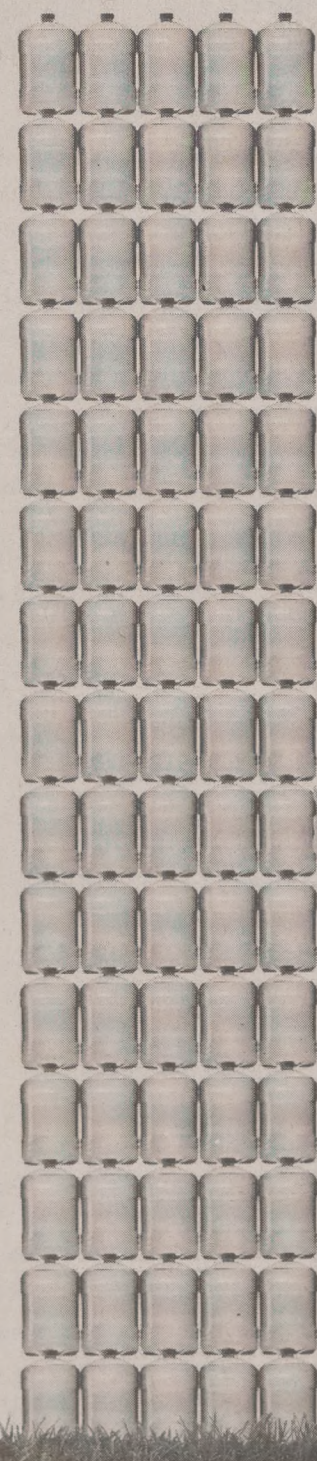
At the Special Session of City Council to be held on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 4:00 p.m., in Council Chamber, City Hall, 175 Fifth Street North, Council will interview the applicants who will be heard in alphabetical order. Each applicant will be provided three minutes to summarize his/her qualifications and reasons for seeking appointment. The newly appointed Council Member will be administered the Oath of Office at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting to be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in Council Chamber, City Hall.

If you are a person with a disability who needs an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, please contact the City Clerk's Office, (727) 893-7448, or call our TDD number, 892-5259, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting and we will provide that accommodation for you.

Eva Andujar, City Clerk

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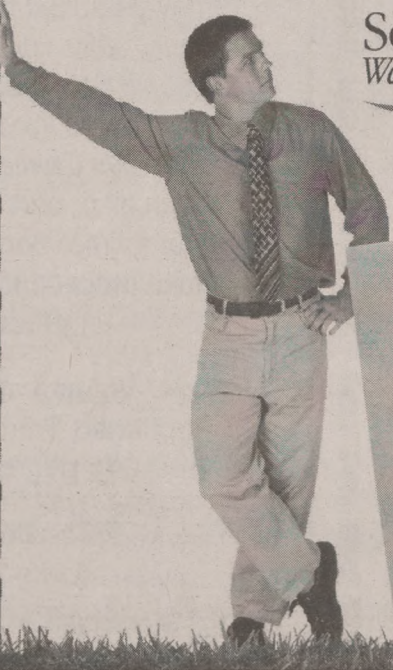
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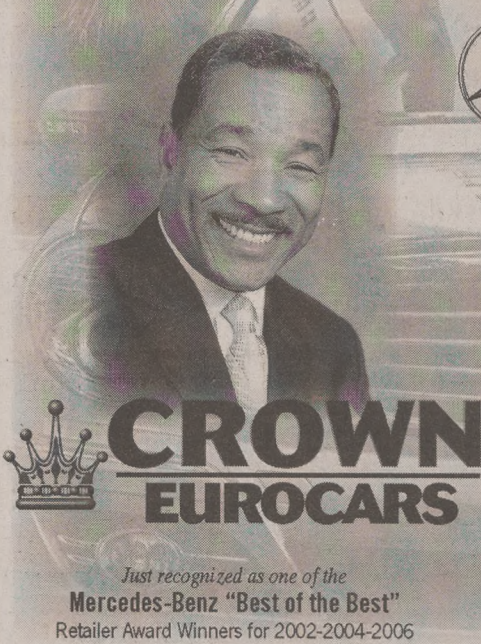
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COMMUNITY NEWS

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April 3 to 12 - Festival of States, downtown St. Petersburg. The South's largest springtime celebration offering great concerts, day and night parades, Kidsfest, Harvey's 5k Run & Wellness Expo, motorcycle show, and much more. www.festivalofstates.com or 727-321-9888.

Thursday, April 3 - Festival of States - Illuminated Night Parade and Fireworks. Downtown to the waterfront. 7 p.m. Fabulous floats light up the night sky and music enchants the evening. Dancing and beads galore. Fireworks following the end of the parade viewable around the downtown waterfront.

Friday, April 4 - Fast Friday - Get Downtown, Central Ave. between 2nd St. and 3rd St. 5:30 to 10 p.m. Festive street party with live jazz music and vendors. Bands to be announced. Breakfast Optimist Club. Free. 727-393-3597.

Friday, April 4 - St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Courts, 559 Mirror Lake Dr. N. 7 to 11 p.m. A hip twist on an old game. Equipment provided. Free. www.stpeteshuffle.com or 727-867-7228.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 4 to 6 - Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. Downtown waterfront. 8 a.m. to dusk. IndyCar, IndyPro and LeMans series auto racing of an international field of elite race car drivers compete on a challenging 14-turn race circuit throughout the streets around the waterfront and on a runway of the Albert Whitted Airport reaching speeds in excess of 170 mph. www.gpstpete.com or 727-824-7223.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 4 to 6 - Porsche On Parade. South Straub Park, 9 a.m. to dusk. Exotic display of Porsche automobiles. Free. 727-823-2555.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 4 to 6 - ARTSPRING, South Pasadena City Hall, 7047 Sunset Drive S. Fri. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sun. noon to 2:30 p.m. 22nd annual artist exhibit. 727-347-4171.

Saturday, April 5 - 2008 Recycle Regatta, North Shore Beach, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. An educational event to encourage citizens to reduce, reuse and recycle. Participants compete non-motorized vessels constructed from recycled materials in the water. www.pinellascounty.org/utilities or 727-464-3896.

Saturday, April 5 - Saturday Art Market, Williams Park. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fine arts and fine crafts show and sale. Free. 727-898-6061.

Saturday, April 5 - Saturday Market at Gas Plant Antiques and Fergs, Central Ave. and 13th St N. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring local artists, gifts, live music, fresh produce and much more. Free. 727-895-0368.

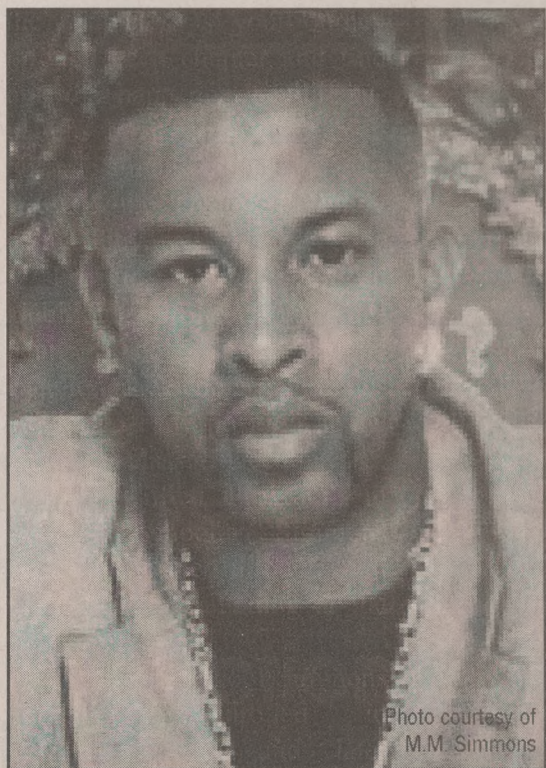
Saturday, April 5 - Grand Prix Festivities at BayWalk, BayWalk courtyard, 2nd Ave. N. and 2nd St. N. Music from noon to 10 p.m., Sunsetters, Butch Ryan, Al Foreman, Acquiesce. From 2 to 4 p.m. Visit The Budweiser Clydesdale. Free. www.yourbaywalk.com

Saturday, April 5 - Sounds of Saturday. The Pier, 800 2nd Ave. N.E. 1 to 4 p.m. "On Que Players" and "Carlos Bertonatti", Acoustical Pop and Hip-Hop artist. Listen and dance to outdoor music. Lots of family fun, face painting and a character from Fritz Bros. One Man Circus. Free. www.stpetepier.com or 727-631-6443.

Sunday, April 6 - Music Fest on the Water. The Pier, 800 2nd Ave. N.E. 1 to 4 p.m. "Soul Scape" Enjoy easy listening music in the Waterside Courtyard. Family fun with face painting. Free. www.stpetepier.com or 727-631-6443.

Tuesday, April 8 - Tampa Bay Rays - Home Opener, Tropicana Field. The Rays host the Seattle Mariners as they kick off an eight-game home stand and a three-game series with Seattle. 888-FAN-RAYS or www.raysbaseball.com.

Freddie Simmons Of St. Petersburg Is Newest Author To The Hip-Hop Fiction Game



Freddie Simmons

On March 31, Burgstyle Publishing releases "Ghetto Résumé," author Freddie Simmons' first novel. Simmons, 33, is one of the newest authors to the hip-hop fiction game and is a native of St. Petersburg.

Urban literature is becoming popular in the hip-hop community. Although a lot of urban novels tend to all sound the same, "Ghetto Résumé" offers diversity. In addition to being written by a former street hustler himself, "Ghetto Résumé" captures the emotions and struggles that minorities go through growing up in the ghetto.

This exciting page turning thriller captures you from the first page, as Simmons transforms you into the character and literally walks you through the streets of southside St. Petersburg. You will grow with the character as you journey through each chapter and find out what happens when dire situations forces a bright teen to become a man before he is ever allowed the chance to enjoy being a boy.

Freddie Simmons is an ambitious, self-driven, entrepreneur. Since grade school, he excelled as a scholar and maintained a steady position at the top of his class. Placed in E. L. P. "The Gifted Program" in middle school, Simmons smoothly coasted through high school, later graduating at the top of his class.

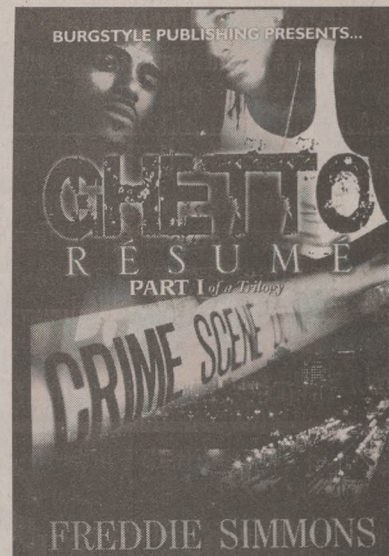
After high school Simmons immediately enrolled in technical school and later explored different careers. It was after working several different jobs that Simmons decided that punching a time

clock wasn't for him and concluded that becoming an entrepreneur was his destiny.

By age 24 Simmons was at the peak of his game and prevailed as CEO of Burgstyle Records, home of one of Tampa Bay's hottest rap groups, "The Luciano Family," where Simmons himself was also a member. Working as a one man company, Simmons set-up a recording studio, and in 1999 the group traveled from city to city

promoting their album, energetically performing their hits, wooing fans, while their musical collection played in rotation at clubs and on radio stations. While Simmons was in negotiation with several different distributors tragedy struck.

In 2001 Simmons was indicted on charges of drug conspiracy and later sentenced to a Federal Correctional facility. But that didn't stop Simmons. His ambition to succeed and go-



Ghetto Resume

getter mentality kept him buried in numerous books: studying real estate, finances, business management, and marketing. Simmons enrolled himself in college, where he is currently working on his degree in business management.

"Ghetto Résumé" released on March 31, launched nationally and is available at local community stores and Web sites: www.burgstylepublishing.com and Amazon.com. Orders can also be mailed to Burgstyle Publishing, P. O. Box 13047, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-3047.

Hospice Of The Florida Suncoast To Train Individuals As Caregivers For Adults

CLEARWATER - The Florida Department of Elder Affairs has awarded The Hospice of the Florida Suncoast a new grant to start the senior companion training program. The first training will be April 14 - 17, at The

Hospice's community service center, 5771 Roosevelt, Blvd., Clearwater. At this time, we seek individuals interested in being trained to provide companion and homemaker services to frail, elderly residents of Pinellas County

who are geographically or socially isolated.

The goal is to improve quality of life and enable individuals to remain in their homes in lieu of moving to a care facility. Participants who successfully complete the

training will be eligible for paid positions with local service providers.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact the career center, at (727) 523-4100.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Latest Book By Tampa Bay Author Is A Triple Award Winner

In the brief period since its release in October, "The Writer Within You," the latest book by Tampa Bay author Charles Jacobs has been designated one of the Best Books of 2007 by USA BookNews and received a Gold Medal as a Best Business Book of 2007 in the Axiom awards program.

ForeWord Magazine announced last week that the book was one of the finalists from which medalists would be selected and announced at the forthcoming Book Expo in Los

Angeles.

Subtitled "A Step-by-Step Guide to Writing and Publishing in Your Retirement Years," the book has consistently received five star ratings in reviews on the three major dot-com booksellers. It is currently in its second printing.

Jacobs, whose background includes top positions on newspapers and magazines on both coasts, began actively freelancing after his retirement. He has published more than 750 articles in periodicals throughout the

United States and Canada.

A survey by the Gallup Organization reports that 81 percent of mature American adults long to write a book. Jacobs was determined to make that task more achievable by preparing a comprehensive overview of the basics they need to get started.

"The Writer Within You" is available through bookstores or can be purchased on the author's Web site, www.retirement-writing.com.

Pinellas County Supervisor Of Elections Deborah Clark Announces Early Voting Starts April 7 For April 15 Special General Election

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Deborah Clark announces that early voting for the April 15 Special General Election for State House District 55 begins at 8 a.m. on Monday, April 7.

Early voting will be held April 7 through 12 for this special election, as scheduled by the Division of Elections. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Early voting is available at all Supervisor of Elections offices: Election Service Center

Starkey Lakes Corporate Center, 13001 Starkey Rd., Largo, 33773
Pinellas County Courthouse
315 Court St., Room 117,
Clearwater, 33756; County
Building, 501 First Ave. N., St.
Petersburg, 33701

All registered voters are eligible to vote by mail. To request a ballot by phone, call (727) 464-6788. The deadline to request that a ballot be mailed to you is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9. Voters may pick up ballots through Election Day. Ballots must be returned to any Supervisor of

Elections office by 7 p.m. on Election Day and cannot be accepted at polling places.

To avoid delays and extra paperwork, voters should bring picture and signature identification to the polls. Anyone without valid ID can vote a provisional ballot. A canvassing board will later determine the validity of any provisional ballots. For detailed early voting or mail ballot information, or to view a sample ballot, go to www.voteinellas.com or call (727) 464-6108.

Professional Women's Organization Partners With St. Petersburg College To Build Scholarship Housing For Women Students

ST. PETERSBURG - The Education Foundation of the Florida Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs Inc. will partner with St. Petersburg College and the St. Petersburg College Foundation to build a house for deserving female students.

It will be the first time the college, which has no dorms, has joined with a partner to provide residential housing.

The building will house 16 women who cannot afford the burden of paying both tuition and housing. While the exact location has not yet been determined, the building is expected to be located close to either SPC's St. Petersburg/ Gibbs campus or its Downtown Center. A search for a suitable site is now under way.

"We are very excited about the prospect of being able to provide quality housing for women students who can't afford the cost of housing while going to school," said Susan Reiter, SPC's director of Facilities Planning & Institutional Services. "This will be the first housing that SPC has been able to provide to students since the college was founded in 1927. We're delighted to be able to partner in this project with the Education Foundation of the Florida Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs."

Since the site has not yet been selected, a completion date for the home has not been determined. The Education Foundation and the college aim to have the first residents ready to move in sometime in 2009.

The Education Foundation of the Florida Federation of BPW Clubs Inc. began its mission to provide college housing for deserving women

in 1965 with its first venture at Florida State University in Tallahassee. That first facility offered housing to 21 women who possessed outstanding academic records and who demonstrated financial need.

From that beginning more than 40 years ago, the Education Foundation of the Florida Federation of BPW Clubs Inc., has worked toward its goal of providing a "scholarship house" to serve female students at every state-supported college and university in Florida. The women experience a cooperative living/learning environment. Students living in the scholarship houses pay nominal charges for housing and share such living expenses as food, housekeeping and utilities.

In addition, students in the Education Foundation scholarship houses have opportunities to meet members of local supporting BPW clubs. These members, who are business executives, entrepreneurs or consultants, provide mentoring and networking opportunities to the student residents. In the past, the students' association with the women has resulted in internships and employment after graduation.

"We recognized many years ago that there are many women in Florida who could excel in college if they simply had a good, safe, affordable place to live on or near campus," said Education Foundation president, Christine Weigle, who is also a member of one of St. Petersburg's two BPW local organizations. "It has been the dream of our members to provide that assistance in a true women-helping-women spirit."

Over the years, almost all money for construction has

come from within the membership of the BPW clubs that support the Education Foundation, Weigle noted. Part of that fund raising effort involves a tradition known as "Hawg Callin'." At each regular meeting, BPW groups pass around a piggy bank to which individuals contribute money toward the scholarship houses. At the Education Foundation's annual conference, members enthusiastically surrender their organization's piggy banks when the conference chairwoman "calls in the hawgs."

The Education Foundation has also specified that the SPC scholarship house be built according to environmentally friendly or "green" standards and be accessible to individuals at all levels of physical ability, fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The St. Petersburg College Foundation, which raises money to help make a college education possible for those who need financial assistance, also is partnering to help make the house a reality. SPC Foundation Director Paul Hanna said the house would be a major step toward higher education for deserving women.

"The foundation is delighted to be able to partner with BPW and to help make this house a reality," Hanna said.

The SPC residential house will be the fourth such facility to be funded and built by the Education Foundation of the Florida Federation of BPW Clubs Inc. Besides the original house in Tallahassee, there are residences at the University of Central Florida in Orlando and at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

****OFFICIAL****

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

I, Kurt S. Browning, Secretary of State of the State of Florida, do hereby give notice that a GENERAL ELECTION will be held in PINELLAS County, State of Florida, on the FOURTH day of NOVEMBER, 2008, A.D., to fill or retain the following offices:

- President and Vice-President
- Representative in Congress: Districts 9, 10 and 11
- State Attorney: Judicial Circuit 6
- Public Defender: Judicial Circuit 6
- State Senator: Districts 11 and 13
- State Representative: Districts 45, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 and 55
- Supreme Court: Retention of One Justice
- Second District Court of Appeal: Retention of Four Judges
- Circuit Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit: Groups 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 21, 25, 26, 28, 33, 35, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43 and 44
- Clerk of the Circuit Court
- Sheriff
- Property Appraiser
- Tax Collector
- Supervisor of Elections
- County Court Judge: Groups 3, 10, 14 and 15
- School Board: Districts 1, 4 and 5
- County Commissioner: Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7
- East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District: Seats 1, 3 and 5
- Eastlake Oaks Community Development District: Seats 4 and 5
- Lealman Special Fire Control District: Seats 1, 3 and 5
- Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District: Seats 1, 3, 4 and 5
- Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District: Districts 1, 2 and 5

Spring Etiquette Camp

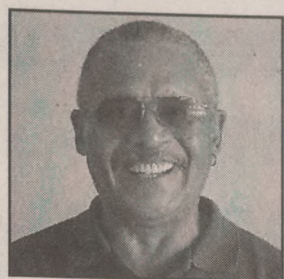
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Spring Etiquette Camp includes a mid-week practice lunch to prepare for the multi-course formal graduation luncheon dining tutorial teaching the 65 table manners and American and Continental dining styles. The camp also includes a workbook, 15 hours of etiquette instruction and activities in the areas of social and business etiquette, and an award of completion. This is a fun-filled interactive class.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Rick Gee's
JAZZ JAMM

Sassy and Devine

Last week on March 27, Sam McGhee from Newark, N.J. called to talk music with me; specifically "JAZZ." Sam and I go back to the early 1940's. We met, when we were summer campers at Camp Downingtown, Downingtown, Penn. Sam who is now retired, serves as a board member of the largest and most popular jazz radio station in the New York/New Jersey/Connecticut Metropolitan area, WBGO 88.5 FM.

After the usual "how ya doing blah, blah, blah", Sam asked if I knew who was born on this day. I didn't know until he said "The Devine One" which would be the one and only "Sassy Sarah Vaughn." Nevertheless, I may not have known it was her birthday, but I certainly knew that she was the biggest and most important star ever to come out of Newark, N.J. I guess, next to her would have to be fellow Newarker Ike Quebec, tenor saxophonist considered to have been a key figure in the shift from swing to bebop. Sam and I must have chatted about "Sassy Sarah" for a good hour or so. I even mentioned to him that I would write a brief article about her in my weekly jazz column.

How about you, St. Petersburg jazz fans? Could you have answered Sam's question? Do you remember "The Devine One" or as some called her "Sassy Sarah?" Sarah spelled it as "Sassie," eventually folks began to refer to her just as "Sass." My oh my!

What a beautiful sounding voice she possessed. I hesitate to refer to her as a "jazz" vocalist, even though many jazz writers do, but Sarah avoided classifying herself as such. Her life was one of much excitement and fanfare. I can recall a time during my college years 1952 -

1956 at Howard University that Sarah was considered to be the "jazz vocalist." In fact, one of my best friends Clyde "Pumpkin" Golden Jr. at Howard University, became one of Sarah's closest friends later on.

Sarah was born March 27, 1924 and as a life-long smoker, died from lung cancer at the age of 66 on April 3, 1990. Her childhood was spent in Newark, N.J. There she attended public schools and since she came from a deeply religious family, they were all very active in the New Mount Zion Baptist Church. Sarah started learning the piano at about the age of six or seven. She often sang in the church choir and would play piano for the rehearsals and church services. They say that Sarah was into popular music on records and the radio early in life. In fact, I remember one of the programs that she is credited with listening to, "The Make Believe Ballroom," a musical program that played in my parents household six evenings a week from Monday through Saturday. I imagine that's where I picked up my own love of music. Plus, during this time, Newark had an extremely active live music scene and it was common place on a school afternoon to see students playing "hooky" from school sitting in the Adams Theater, downtown Newark, listening to a live jazz band on tour.

The exact date is uncertain, however, biographies indicate that Sarah entered an amateur talent contest at New York's famous Apollo Theater. She sang the tune "Body and Soul" and won. It is said that famous musician Earl "Fatha" Hines was there that evening and hired her on the spot. In 1944, she accepted the invitation of Billy Eckstein to join his new band.



Sarah Vaughn

Eckstein had left the Hines Band earlier in 1943 to form his own big band with Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, Kenny Dorham, Art Blakey, Lucky Thompson, Gene Ammons, Dexter Gordon, and many others. Joining the Eckstein organization provided Sarah the opportunity to develop her musicianship with the aspiring jazz figures in this era of jazz. Can you imagine what that band would sound like today? Off the hook!

I have lots more to share with you about this dynamic, talented three time Grammy Award winner and National Endowment for the Arts honor recipient of the highest honor in jazz, the NEA Jazz Masters Award. Stay tuned by picking up a copy of next week's Weekly Challenger. Until then...

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 Web site 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.

Alvin Ailey Exhibition Opens At Library On May 8



Alvin Ailey

On March 30, 1958, Alvin Ailey's new company of seven dancers performed for the first time in New York City. Fifty years later, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for more than 21 million people in 48 states and in 71 countries on six continents. The Library of Congress commemorates the troupe's golden anniversary with the exhibition, "Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater: 50 Years as Cultural Ambassador to the World."

The exhibition, which opens on May 8 and remains on view through Sept. 6, is showcased in the foyer of the Performing Arts Reading Room, LM 113, of the James Madison Building, 101 Independence Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C.

Alvin Ailey (1931-1989) founded AAADT to carry out his vision of a company dedicated to enriching the heritage of American modern dance, as well as safeguarding the uniqueness of the African-

American cultural experience. Since its founding, the company has grown into a large multi-racial dance company and one of the most respected and popular modern dance organizations in the world.

The exhibition, featuring material from the Library's Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation Archive and selected items from the Lester Horton Dance Theater Collection, offers a window into Ailey's roots at the Los Angeles-based Lester Horton Dance Theater, his repertory of 79 choreographic works, the development of his dance company and the continuation of the Ailey legacy under the leadership of Judith Jamison. The exhibition draws on an extensive collection of photographs and includes images of works by some of the 70 choreographers who have created dances for AAADT, as well as extraordinary examples of Ailey's most beloved creations, including "Blues Suite," "Revelations" and "Cry." The exhibition also features a short film presentation that provides insight into the history and development of AAADT.

The Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation Archive was obtained by the Library in 2006 and contains photographs, films, videotapes, performance programs, correspondence and other written materials relating to the choreographer's life and career, the development of the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation and materials that highlight Jamison's contributions as an Ailey dancer and artistic director of AAADT after Ailey's death.

Following its closing on Sept. 6, the exhibition will travel to the Library of Congress/Ira Gershwin Gallery at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress seeks to further human understanding and wisdom by providing access to knowledge through its

magnificent collections, which bring to bear the world's knowledge in almost all of the world's languages and America's private sector intellectual and cultural creativity in almost all formats. Many of the Library's resources may also be accessed through the Library's Web site at www.loc.gov.



Ailey II performing at the Belleaire Music Festival, Highmount, NY



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\$3.00 Glass of Wine
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HOT DJ DANCE MIX 8 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Cover Charge \$8.00 after 9 p.m.

SATURDAY - SALSA
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LATINO DJ DANCE MIX to 2 a.m.
Cover Charge \$5.00

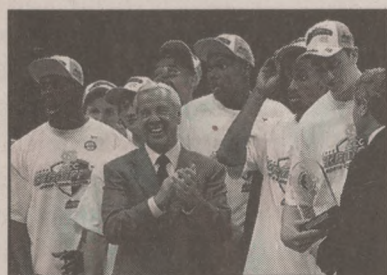
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CHALLENGER SPORTS

Five Years After Roy Williams Left Kansas, Jayhawks Get Their Shot



Roy Williams and players

BY DOUG TUCKER

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) - Tucked snugly into a 100-year-old building in the middle of this college town's bustling commercial district is a place where hair is cut and a statement is made.

Packed with sketches, portraits and memorabilia, the Downtown Barbershop is a Lawrence landmark and a virtual shrine to Kansas athletics.

Want to see a picture of the first game played in Allen Fieldhouse? Just take a look there on the wall. Wondering what football helmets were like in the 1950s? There's one right there.

Need to go to the bathroom? Then walk over ancient wooden flooring past the row of rickety old stadium seats and do your business in the Roy Room.

A couple of feet from the toilet seat is where Roy Williams' sketch hangs. It was moved there in 2003, the day Williams left for North Carolina and went, in a

matter of minutes, from being beloved in this basketball-crazed community to being reviled.

"We figured if Roy had stuck around, they would have named a building after him," said John Amyx, owner of the Downtown Barbershop. "So we decided to name a room after him. That seemed to be the best place to see his picture, too."

Do not be fooled by statements leading up to Saturday's Final Four clash between Kansas and North Carolina that Jayhawks fans have let bygones be bygones.

Some have, to be sure. But feelings still run strong among many Kansas faithful who felt abandoned, embittered and betrayed when Williams climbed aboard that private jet five years ago and flew away without even saying goodbye.

What made it hurt so bad was that only three years earlier, he had turned down his alma mater and vowed his everlasting allegiance. Thousands of relieved fans gathered in the football stadium that night to watch the news conference live on the video board. They still remember the famous quote — spoken in that familiar North Carolina drawl that once charmed but now grates on so many Midwestern ears "I'm stayin'."

"It's not so much that he left. Coaches change jobs all the time," said Chris Debacker, a second-year law student. "It's the way he did it. You can't blame him for wanting to go home and coach his alma mater. But he said he was staying, and then it felt like he betrayed us. That's why so many people are still upset with him."

Kansas fans who so love their basketball had reason to love Roy Williams and the Roy Williams era. He was personable and likable and from 1989-2003, his teams went 418-101 for a spectacular winning percentage of 80.5. They made four trips to the Final Four, twice advancing to the title game. They won nine conference championships.

He was probably the most popular man in the state.

"Everybody loved him," said Jerry Nerverve, who owns the Red Lyon Tavern just up the street. "When Roy would walk down this sidewalk and wave at you, you just felt great."

Now the moment Kansas fans have hungered five years for is at hand. It'll be Bill Self's Jayhawks vs. Williams' Tar Heels on Saturday in the Final Four. For five years, every time the NCAA bracket was announced, Kansans have hurriedly looked to see when they might meet up with ol' Roy.

Until now, it never happened.

With apologies to Mark Mangino's highly successful football program, this will be bigger, much bigger, than January's Orange Bowl victory over Virginia Tech.

"This is as big as it gets in athletics," said Monte Johnson, a wealthy Kansas alum who played on the Wilt Chamberlain teams in the 1950s.

Johnson was also the athletic director who hired Larry Brown as coach in 1983. He always was, and is to this day, one of Williams' most loyal Kansas friends.

"We should all be grateful to Roy for the 15 magnificent years Roy gave us," Johnson said.

He reflects the view of some, but probably not most, Kansas fans.

"I want Roy to have success in every game he plays except when he plays against us," Johnson said. "I know there are a lot of people who would feel different. We do have some people who will never forgive Roy for leaving, and for the way he did it. Maybe those people don't know all the facts, all that was going on at the time."

"But then, people don't always seek the facts before they get emotionally involved."

Finally In The Final Four, Memphis Hoping The Trip Quiets Critics



Derrick Rose

BY JAIME ARON

HOUSTON (AP) - John Calipari was sitting at a table alongside his players, savoring the joy on their faces as they talked about making the Final Four. Then he noticed a television next to the podium and the images going out from this news conference.

Realizing that Chris Douglas-Roberts was wearing his South Regional champion hat backward, Calipari went over and told him to turn the cap around. Derrick Rose noticed and did the same.

Now that his guys have finally broken through, Calipari doesn't want to give critics anything else to use against them.

"I get disappointed when these young people are judged by how they wear a hat, they are judged by a tattoo," Calipari said. "These young men that I'm coaching have unbelievable hearts, they are so unselfish. ... They are intelligent and they are great kids."

Darn good basketball players, too.

With Rose giving plenty of highlight-reel fodder and Douglas-Roberts leading in scoring as usual, the Tigers routed the Texas Longhorns 85-67 Sunday in a game that was rarely even that close.

Mighty Memphis' size, speed and athleticism overwhelmed Texas so much that Longhorns swingman Damion James said, "That was an NBA lineup."

The rout extended into the stands as the few thousand blue-clad folks cheering for the Tigers managed to drown out the 25,000 or so in burnt orange. They managed a noticeable wail of "Final Four!" and later chanted "One more year!" when Rose was selected the regional MVP.

There's a lot more to holler about, too.

The Tigers tied the NCAA Division I record for wins in a season, with their only loss coming to a team ranked No. 2 at the time. They've been first, second or third in the poll all season.

Note to UCLA, which will play Memphis on Saturday: The Tigers have run over the NCAA field with as much ease as they did the Conference USA crowd. They led wire-to-wire in two of the four games and have yet to trail in a second half. They're

winning by an average of 15.75 points.

They even seem to have cured their free-throw woes. After making 75 percent against Michigan State, Memphis nailed 83 percent against Texas.

"I'm not sure if we'll get the respect we deserve, but if we don't, it doesn't matter," Douglas-Robert said. "It's four teams left now."

Memphis has only been to the Final Four once previously, with Keith Lee leading the way in 1985. But that trip was vacated according to the NCAA record book because of rules violations. Ditto for the only other time John Calipari coached a team to the Final Four, UMass in 1996.

The Tigers have been close to getting back, losing in the regional finals the past two years. The difference this year is Rose.

The kid from Chicago who wears No. 23 even plays with a Michael Jordanesque flair — driving, dishing and dunking, going above the rim for rebounds and flying around to block shots. And that was just in the first half. The only time Texas (31-7) slowed Rose was when he got popped on the gash above his right eye and needed new tape and glue job.

Calipari even compared Rose to Tiger Woods. Actually, Calipari brought it up last weekend, when he passed along an article about Woods to Rose, telling him, "This is who I believe you can be, physically, skill-wise."

"He's got to improve, got to get on the range a little bit and get that stroke right, but he also has the mental capacity and the mental toughness and the intelligence to be unique and special. And it sets him apart," Calipari said.

"He's been that way since we got him, so it's nothing I've done with him. He just has a will to win. It may be with a defensive stop. It may be with a rebound that he nicked his head on the rim as he went to get it. It may be out-running the entire field when he started behind everybody. It may be a steal, a dive, a tip out of nowhere, and then again it may be a drive, baseline and dunk on their team."

Led by sophomore point guard D.J. Augustin, Texas won the most games in school history and two more tournament games than they did with Durant. And if Augustin doesn't turn pro, the Longhorns could have all five starters back next year.

"You know, we didn't want our road to end right here," guard Justin Mason said, "but we're going to work hard like we did last summer and we'll be back and get ready for next year."

NFL Owners Unanimously Approve 50 Percent Sale Of Dolphins



BY BARRY WILNER

PALM BEACH (AP) - NFL owners unanimously approved Wayne Huizenga's sale of 50 percent of the Miami Dolphins to Stephen Ross on Monday at the league meetings.

Huizenga will remain as managing partner of the club for the near future, setting no

timetable for when Ross will take over. Ross is spending about \$550 million for his share of the team and will have options to buy up to 95 percent of the Dolphins.

"This is a bittersweet moment for us," Huizenga said, "but we'll be staying on a little longer. I am pleased that when my time comes to turn it over, that Steve will be a great owner."

Huizenga bought 15 percent of the Dolphins and 50 percent of the stadium from team founder Joe Robbie's family in 1990, then became sole owner in 1994. Total cost of those purchases was \$168 million.

"Wayne has built a great franchise," Ross said. "I believe in letting a football man run the football operation and not meddling with him."

That likely means new executive vice president of football operations Bill Parcells won't need to worry about any changes in the chain of command. The 70-year-old Huizenga has been a hands-off owner and Ross seems to be of the same mind.

"Steve and I think alike," Huizenga said. "We think about the fans and we think about winning. It's not about the money."

Miami had the worst season in franchise history, going 1-15, with only a home win over Baltimore in Game 14 preventing a winless record. Huizenga cleaned house and turned over the football operations to the well-traveled but usually successful Parcells.

Ross, who has homes in New York and Palm Beach, ranked 68th last year on Forbes' list of richest Americans with a net worth of \$4.5 billion. In 1990, he was part of a group that tried to bring baseball to Miami before Huizenga became founding owner of the Florida Marlins.

Santana Wins Debut With Mets, Down Florida 7-2



Johan Santana

BY TIM REYNOLDS

MIAMI (AP) - Johan Santana and one big inning were all the New York Mets needed.

Santana struck out eight in seven dominant innings, David Wright hit a three-run double and New York opened its season with a 7-2 win Monday over the Florida Marlins.

If only the Mets had Santana last September, when they blew a seven-game lead in the NL East with 17 games left. The collapse became complete when the Marlins scored seven times off Tom Glavine in the first inning on the season's final day.

Santana — who was traded

to the Mets from Minnesota this winter and wound up signing a \$137.5 million, six-year contract with New York didn't need much help in his anticipated debut.

The two-time Cy Young winner struck out Hanley Ramirez to begin the game and Matt Treanor to end his outing. Santana (1-0) allowed three hits.

Wright and Carlos Beltran each doubled twice for the Mets. Jose Reyes added two hits for New York, which has now won 30 of its last 39 openers.

The Mets took command with their biggest inning on an opening day, scoring six runs in the fourth against Mark Hendrickson (0-1).

Beltran led off the inning with a double and Angel Pagan, Mets newcomer Ryan Church and Reyes hit RBI singles. A walk to Luis Castillo loaded the bases for Wright, who began the game with a career .462 average in that situation.

No surprise, then, that his

liner rolled all the way to the left-center field wall, giving the Mets a 6-0 lead. The Mets' previous biggest burst in an opener was five runs in the seventh inning in a win over the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field on April 5, 1979.

The Mets batted around for so long, they might've thrown Santana off his rhythm.

Santana retired the first nine Marlins he faced, then went 28 minutes without throwing a pitch while his teammates kept piling up runs.

Ramirez drew a leadoff walk and, two outs later, Josh Willingham homered to left field.

Santana set down seven of the next nine batters, striking out five. When he walked off the field after the seventh, the decidedly pro-Mets crowd of 38,308 at Dolphin Stadium gave him a long cheer.

With Santana out of the game, Florida tried to rally in the eighth, putting runners on second and third with two outs. Jorge

Sosa, the third Mets pitcher of the inning, came on and struck out Willingham.

Marlon Anderson singled and eventually scored from second after Matt Lindstrom's wild pitch in the ninth to give the Mets a 7-2 lead.

Notes: Florida has lost 11 of 12 at home against the Mets since Sept. 11, 2006. ... Treanor, making his first opening day start, threw out Reyes — who stole 78 bases last year — at second to end the sixth. Treanor easily caught Wright trying to steal third in the seventh. ... Making his 18th straight opening-day start, a streak that began two years before the Marlins began play, Florida right fielder Luis Gonzalez was 1-for-4. Florida honored "Mr. Marlin," retired OF Jeff Conine, as part of the pregame ceremonies. "I wore five other uniforms, but I want to say that I always considered myself a Florida Marlin," Conine told the crowd.

NBA TRIVIA OF THE WEEK

What team holds the NBA record for the fewest points allowed in a season?

Hint: Were once named the Tri-City Blackhawks.

Last Week's Answer: Wilt Chamberlain (220)

See Sports Page Next Week For The Answer!!

STATE NEWS

Governor Crist Promotes Health Care And Energy Legislation



Governor Charlie Crist

WEST PALM BEACH — Governor Charlie Crist today visited West Palm Beach to learn more about how St. Mary's Medical Center is providing health care to uninsured Floridians. He also joined Palm Beach County commissioners Burt Aaronson, Robert Kanjian and Karen Marcus to announce Palm Tran's plans to increase energy efficiency and use of alternative energy. Congressmen Tim Mahoney and Ron Klein also attended the event.

"Florida's more than 3.8 million individuals without health insurance often rely on emergency rooms for their health care," Governor Crist said. "While great hospitals like St. Mary's Medical Center have generously stepped forward to provide the care that is needed, it is time we seek the solutions that will ease some of the burden and provide better care for our people."

During his visit to Palm

Beach County, Gov. Crist discussed his health care and energy priorities for the 2008 Legislative Session. He has proposed strategies for negotiating in the free market to provide affordable health insurance for uninsured Floridians. He has also proposed a climate, energy and economic development package that will stimulate the production and use of renewable and alternative energy and move Florida away from its dependence on foreign oil.

St. Mary's trauma center has become a hospital of choice for many patients, including those with very serious needs and many times without the ability to pay. It provides more care for uninsured individuals than it ever has in the past.

Palm Tran, Palm Beach County's public transportation agency, announced plans to install a nitrogen inflation system, which will be used to fill tires on Palm Tran's buses and is expected to increase fuel efficiency. Since January 2008, buses have been using bio-diesel, a clean burning alternative fuel produced from naturally grown resources that are blended with diesel fuel.

"Florida is well on the way to having the greenest state government in the nation," Governor Crist said. "I applaud Palm Beach County's leadership for taking action and joining businesses and other local governments throughout Florida who are recognizing there is gold in green."

Jessica Lunsford's Father Says He Won't Sue Sheriff

INVERNESS (AP) — Jessica Lunsford's father says he won't sue the central Florida sheriff who led the investigation into the little girl's disappearance and slaying three years ago.

Mark Lunsford had notified Citrus County Sheriff Jeff Dawsey that he planned to sue him and his agency for bungling the investigation. The 9-year-old was snatched from her room, raped and buried alive by convicted sex offender John Couey.

Lunsford has criticized the sheriff's office for initially focusing on his family after Jessica disappeared and failing



Mark Lunsford speaks in 2005

to search the nearby house where Couey took her.

But after meeting with Dawsey on Friday, Lunsford said he's decided not to sue

after all. The two agreed to work together to enhance training for police dealing with cases of missing children.

Legislature Makes Formal Apology For Slavery

BY BRENT KALLESTAD

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Legislature formally apologized Wednesday for its long support of slavery in a resolution calling for reconciliation.

Senators approved the resolution at their morning session after hearing some of the history detailing the treatment endured by slaves in the 19th century and the reluctance of politicians in the last century to recognize the intolerance and mistreatment of blacks. The House passed the resolution later a few hours later.

"It is important that the Legislature express profound regret for the shameful chapter in this state's history," the resolution reads.

Legislators in Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia have recently issued formal apologies for slavery, and New Jersey became the first northern state to apologize in January.

Sen. Arthenia Joyner, who

was jailed for civil disobedience in 1963 after protesting racial inequalities, cried as details of the cruel treatment experienced by blacks were read.

"It was painful to hear ... I wanted to scream," said Joyner, D-Tampa. "I know how incensed I got in the '60s just because I couldn't go to a movie. That was nothing compared to what my forefathers had to go through."

Florida enacted its first slave laws in the 1820s as a territory, and early political leaders in the state were some of the most vigorous defenders of slavery.

That included Florida Gov. Gen. Richard Keith Call. In a portion of an 1861 letter that was read on the Senate floor Wednesday, Call described a black man as "an animal in the form of a man, possessing the greatest physical power, and the greatest capacity for labor and endurance ... a wild barbarian, to be tamed and civilized by the discipline of slavery."

In the 1850s, at a time when Florida's population was around 111,000, 44 percent of the population were slaves. After the Civil War, Florida's Constitution of 1868 guaranteed blacks the right to vote and abolished slavery in the state, but inequities remained.

Former Gov. LeRoy Collins is largely credited as the politician who fought segregation and promoted more opportunity for blacks in Florida in the late 1950s. Collins was among the first New South politicians who fought for racial justice, but was never again elected to political office after serving his final term as governor.

Rep. Joe Gibbons, who serves as the legislative black caucus chairman, noted the irony of many of the portraits hanging in the Capitol.

"The very people we honor with portraits ... are the very people who fought to perpetuate an oppressive movement," said Gibbons, D-Hallandale Beach.

A Little Less Light: Florida Lawmaker Wants To End Daylight Saving Time

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — One Florida lawmaker wants to end the annual rites of springing forward and falling back.

State Sen. Bill Posey wants the state to stop using daylight saving time.

If approved, Florida would become the third state to shun daylight savings, which was used during both world wars and Congress ultimately made a law in 1966.

States can opt out, and two — Hawaii and Arizona — have rejected all that clock changing. Indiana rejected the concept for years, but finally adopted

daylight saving time in 2006.

Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas also shun daylight savings.

Posey's bill received a 4-1 vote in a Senate committee on Thursday. It faces two other committee votes before it could be considered by the full state Senate.

He argued about all the annoyances the time change creates: having to change watches and clocks, work accidents going up during the spring and summer, and the

"unnecessary jet lag."

"The whole body gets out of its equilibrium," Posey, R-Rockledge, told fellow senators.

But Sen. Jim King doesn't approve of nixing daylight saving time. Without it, he reasoned, the Sunshine State would be without some of its precious daylight.

"The other side is the elongated lighted time in the summer months, which is when we entertain most of our visitors," said King, R-Jacksonville, who voted against the measure. "It's a plus that it doesn't get dark until late."

Florida Unemployment Remained Steady In February At 3-Year High

TALLAHASSEE — (AP) Florida's jobless rate remained unchanged at 4.6 percent last month, keeping it at a three-year high.

While the state's unemployment in February remained lower than the national rate of 4.8 percent, it's still the highest it has been here since October 2004, the Agency for Workforce Development said Friday.

About 422,000 Florida residents out of a labor force of 9.2 million were out of work last month.

The downturn in the housing market is the biggest problem. The construction industry has lost 77,400 jobs since last February, a 12.3 percent decline. The disappearance of construction work accounted for 72 percent of job

losses in the state, the agency said.

Flagler County in northeast Florida had the state's highest unemployment rate at 7.4 percent, mostly because of the housing downturn.

Rural Liberty County in the Panhandle had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.9 percent.



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NATIONAL NEWS

JACKSON TO STEP DOWN AS HUD SECRETARY

Helping families keep their homes and transforming public housing underscore Jackson's seven-year tenure at HUD

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson announced today he will be stepping down as the nation's chief housing officer. Jackson will conclude his government service as the nation's 13th HUD Secretary on April 18.

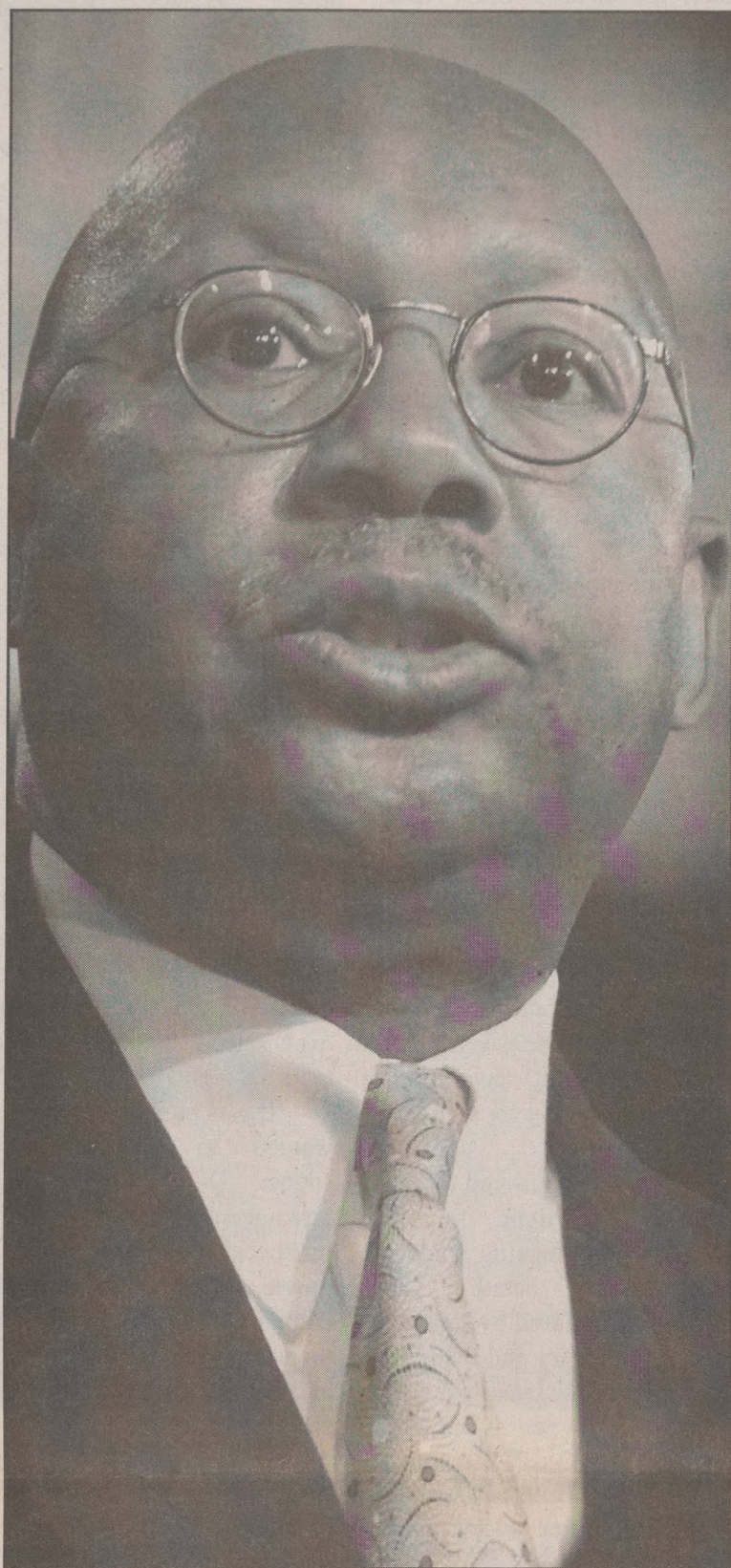
"During my time here, I have sought to make America a better place to live, work and raise a family," said Jackson, who served as deputy secretary and then secretary. "I take great pride in working alongside some of the most dedicated civil servants in America. The hardworking people at HUD make a difference in the lives of thousands of Americans daily."

With a strong background and expertise in housing and community development, Jackson oversaw HUD's \$37 billion budget and 9,200 employees. Under the secretary's leadership, the Department established groundbreaking solutions to:

- Help families keep their homes and revitalize the Federal Housing Administration.
- Transform public housing.
- Increase and preserve affordable housing.
- Help rebuild the battered Gulf Coast following the 2005 hurricanes.
- Increase minority homeownership.
- Reduce chronic homelessness.

To help families keep their homes, Jackson oversaw internal changes at HUD's Federal Housing Administration that led to a revival of FHA and the opportunity for more homeowners to obtain safer, more affordable mortgages. Applications for home loans insured by FHA are at a four-year high. The creation of FHASecure, which Jackson implemented in September 2007, has helped more than 130,000 families refinance their exotic subprime loans. Jackson also led the Bush Administration's efforts on Capitol Hill to further modernize the FHA and helped assemble a private-sector group called the HOPE NOW Alliance that is helping struggling homeowners. Further, funding for housing counseling has increased 150 percent since 2001 for HUD's 2,300 approved counseling agencies. Today, more than 75 million Americans are homeowners, including 3.5 million minority homeowners since 2002.

Secretary Jackson oversaw a national movement to redevelop public housing around the country into better, affordable and safer mixed income communities. This historic transformation is successfully taking place in some of the nation's largest cities, including Chicago, New Orleans, Atlanta, and Charlotte. Jackson is a passionate advocate for ensuring low-income families have the opportunity to live in socially and economically integrated environments where their children can play safely and families can thrive. The secretary is a former member of the National Commission



U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson

on Severely Distressed Public Housing and the head of three public housing agencies.

Jackson also fought for those most in need, including the homeless, elderly and disabled, and families displaced by the 2005 hurricanes. For the first time ever, HUD reported a nearly 12 percent decrease in the number of chronically homeless people living on the nation's streets between 2005 and 2006. With approximately \$10 billion in record funding since 2001, Jackson strongly supported the housing and service needs of the homeless in local communities.

HUD has allocated nearly \$20 billion in federal funds as part of the largest housing recovery program in U.S. history to help states and local communities rebuild the Gulf Coast. Over 2,000 HUD-owned homes and more than 76,000 HUD-assisted or HUD-insured multi-family properties have been repaired since the hurricanes. Jackson has also led the Administration's efforts to provide 28,000 families with disaster housing vouchers and to take over the Federal Emergency Management Agency's apartment rental program for another 40,000 families. Working with local resident leaders and city officials in New Orleans, HUD has also put in place a comprehensive plan for turning blighted public housing into safe, mixed-income neighborhoods.

To increase and persevere affordable housing, Secretary

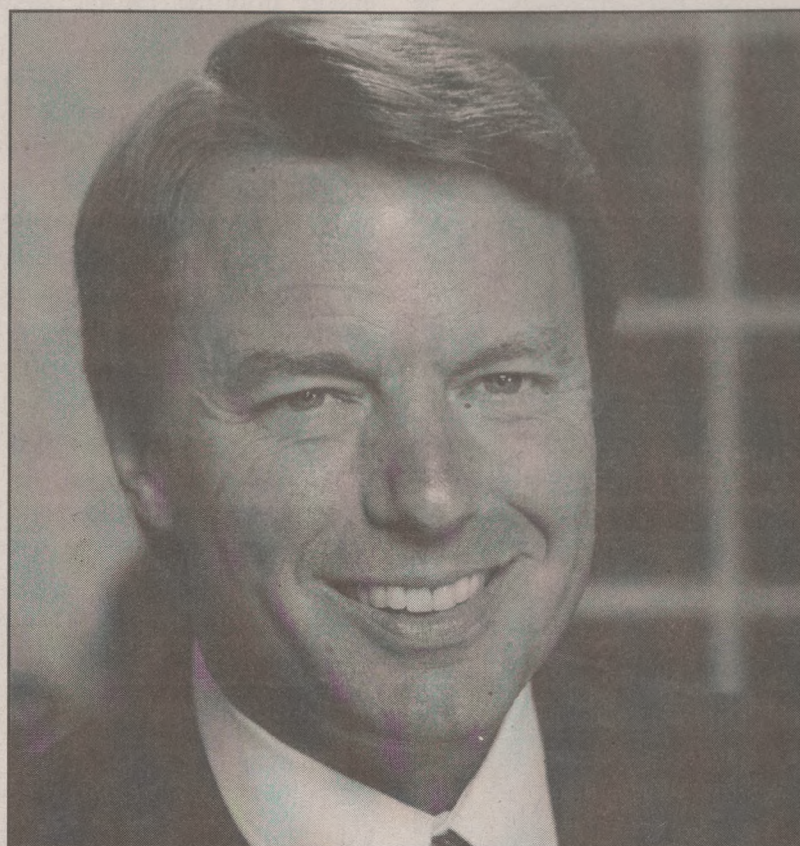
Jackson has called on local communities to reduce or eliminate barriers that drive up the cost of housing. To date, more than 175 local communities and organizations are participating in HUD's National Call to Action for Affordable Housing Through Regulatory Reform, which was implemented in 2007. HUD's HOME program, the largest Federal block grant program for affordable housing, continues to receive more funding and has helped build 820,000 more affordable housing units since 1992.

Finally, by implementing the president's Management Agenda at HUD, Jackson put in motion a reform plan to ensure taxpayers dollars are spent wisely and well. As a result, HUD was removed from the Government Accountability's "High-Risk" list last year. This marked the first time in 13 years no HUD programs were on the list.

"There comes a time when one must attend more diligently to personal and family matters. Now is such a time for me," Jackson added.

Secretary Jackson first joined the Bush Administration in June of 2001 as HUD's deputy secretary and chief operating officer. He was unanimously confirmed as the nation's 13th Secretary of HUD by the Senate on March 31, 2004. He is the only HUD secretary to run a public housing agency and serve as chairman of a redevelopment authority.

Edwards Praises Both Clinton, Obama In First Political Speech, But Declines To Endorse



Former Senator John Edwards

BY MIKE BAKER

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. (AP) - Former Sen. John Edwards, in his first public speech since dropping his White House bid two months ago, praised Democratic rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama on Saturday, but declined to endorse either candidate.

"I have a very high opinion of both of them," Edwards said at the Young Democrats of North

Carolina convention. "We would be blessed as a nation to have either one of them as president."

Both Obama and Clinton have repeatedly lobbied Edwards for his endorsement, flying into Chapel Hill to meet with him privately and touting his accomplishments on the campaign trail. Before leaving the race, Edwards won a promise from both Clinton and Obama to make ending poverty central to their ongoing presidential campaigns.

Saturday, Edwards pointed out the historical nature of both of their campaigns and said both were better suited in carrying forward his campaign platform than Republican nominee-in-waiting John McCain.

"We are blessed, first, to have an extraordinarily talented African-American who could be the next president of the United States," Edwards said. "There's no way to contest the fact that he's inspired this country."

"And Senator Clinton, who has served America for so long and so well, and has shown so much strength and leadership, has really forged an extraordinarily historic campaign as a woman for the nomination and for the presidency."

Pressed by reporters to detail any endorsement plans, Edwards declined to even say if he would endorse a candidate before North Carolina's May 6 primary.

"When I have something to say, I'll let you know," he said.

Though the Young Democrats convention focused primarily on state races, both Obama and Clinton sent surrogates to represent them. Newark, N.J., Mayor Cory Booker gave a speech on behalf of the Illinois senator while Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, was scheduled to make an appearance later Saturday.

Black Writers Conference Honors Princeton Writer Cornel West

BY CLARE TRAPASSO

NEW YORK (AP) - Prominent writer, hip-hop artist and Ivy-League professor Cornel West is being honored by The Ninth National Black Writers Conference in Brooklyn.

Dr. West, who has published 17 books, edited 13 more and played a small role in the two Matrix movie sequels, is receiving the W. E. B. Du Bois award Saturday.

"We're giving it to him because of the work he's done

promoting social justice, global peace and harmony," said Dr. Brenda Green, director of The National Black Writers Conference. "He's raised national awareness of the importance of talking about race and democracy."

The 55-year-old Princeton University professor is well-known for his books "Race Matters," which explores racism in America, and "Democracy Matters," which focuses on democracy in America and the Middle East.

He has also released three spoken-word and hip-hop recordings.

"He speaks to the fact that we live in a society constructed by race and if we choose to ignore it it's not going to go away," Green said. "Black writers have an impact on the world."

More than 1,500 students, writers and academics are expected to attend the three-day National Black Writers Conference, which opened Friday.

MLK continued from front page

a shadow over his ability to pursue his mission of finding equality nonviolently. Police issued a bulletin for a young white man who darted out of a building across the street from the hotel. There were reports that police - and civilian cars - were pursuing and firing upon a car carrying three white men that sped out of the city. Police also hustled two young white men into the police station.

It was not immediately known if there was any connection with King's death. "I and all citizens of Memphis deeply regret the murder today of Dr. Martin Luther King," said Police Chief Frank Holloman. King was rushed to the hospital emergency room with a bullet wound in the neck.

Mayor Henry Loeb immediately reinstated the dusk to dawn curfew in the city for fear King's slaying would spark street violence. Police cordoned off a

five block area around the Lorraine Hotel, where King was shot.

The Rev. Andrew Young, King's top lieutenant, said the Nobel Peace Prize winner was standing on the balcony outside his room when he fell with a wound in the neck. Young said he and other aides were in the room at the time.

Paul Hess, assistant administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital said, "At 7 p.m. (CST) Dr. Martin Luther King expired in the emergency room as a result of a gunshot wound in the neck." Other details will have to come from the coroner's office.

In Atlanta, Mayor Ivan Allen rushed to King's home and drove his wife to the airport. She was in the terminal awaiting a flight to Memphis when she was told her husband was dead.

King returned to Memphis Wednesday to try to prove he could lead a massive march peacefully. He was at the head of the march last Thursday that erupted into violence that left one dead and 62 injured. His critics immediately stepped up

attacks on his planned "Poor People's campaign" on Washington this month, claiming he could not keep the massive demonstration from turning to violence. King's aides said he felt he had to lead another demonstration here - and keep it nonviolent - to prove them wrong.

The march - with 6,000 persons, many of them labor leaders and union men - was planned for Monday. King had vowed to defy a Federal Court injunction banning the march if he could not get the judge to lift it.

King died in the same emergency room where James Meredith was rushed in June, 1965, after he was shot down in an ambush a few miles south of here at Hernando, Miss. Meredith, however, was not seriously injured.

King was the first major civil rights leader to be slain since the ambush killing of Medgar Evers outside his home in Jackson, Miss., in 1962. (Chicago Defender, April 5, 1968.)

OBITUARIES

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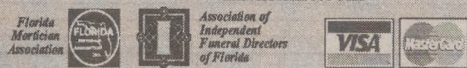
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Mabel T. Cooper

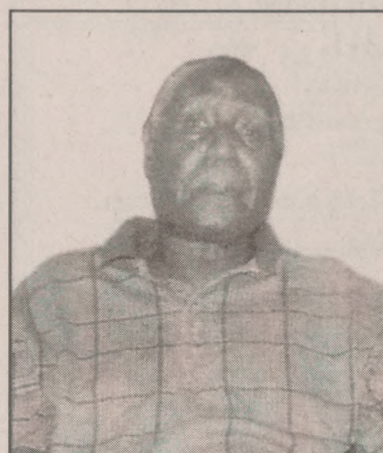
Mabel T. Cooper was born to the late Ream and Liller Thompson in Quitman, Georgia on August 24, 1918. She departed this life on March 16, 2008.

She leaves to cherish her memories: sister, Helen Woodard (Willie) of St. Petersburg; daughter-in-law, Peggy Cooper, Snellville, GA; granddaughters, Annette Strotts Simmons (Carlisle) Syracuse, NY, Sylvia Renee Morton (Gary) Waldor, MD, Sandy Black, Debbie Greer (Nigel), Doreen Cooper, Snellville, GA, Candace Baker (Jarrod), Springfield, NJ; sixteen great-grandchildren, nine great-great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousin, other relatives and friends.

CREAL FUNERAL HOME



Photo of ibs



Johnny C. Jones

Johnny C. Jones was born to the late Aretha Mack Johnson in Barney, Georgia on October 11, 1929. He departed this life on March 17, 2008.

He leaves to cherish his memories: three daughters, Raynetta Mobley and Linda Jones, St. Petersburg, Nadine Dixon, Houston, Texas; three sons, Jeffrey Smith, Johnny (Cynthia) Jones and Lorenzo (Linda) Jones, all of St. Petersburg; sister, Debra J. Woodard of St. Petersburg; fourteen grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law, and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

SMITH FUNERAL HOME

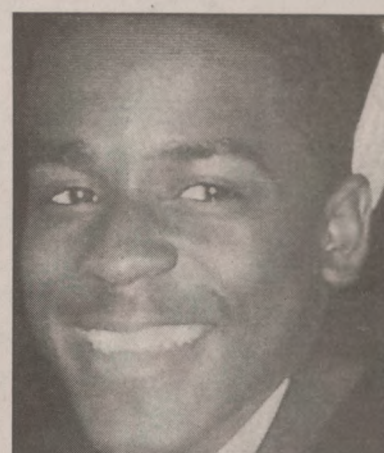
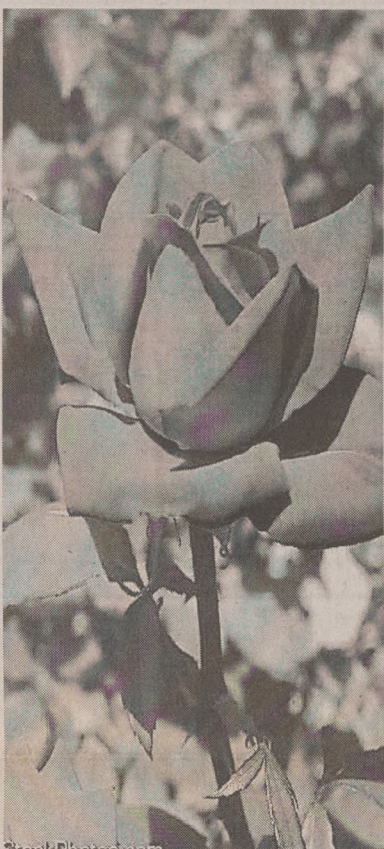


Beverly Nixon

Beverly Nixon was born to Lela M. Nixon in Ithaca, NY on January 12, 1954. She departed this life on March 22, 2008.

She leaves to cherish her memories: son, Joseph A. Nixon (Tiffany); mother, Lela M. Nixon; sister, Patricia Baxter; brother, David Baxter; granddaughter, Jahnisie A. Nixon; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

CREAL FUNERAL HOME



Levaud Landers

Levaud Landers was born to Latroun Landers Sr. and the late Page Sowell in St. Petersburg on November 27, 1989. He departed this life on Sunday, March 16, 2008.

He leaves to cherish his memories: father, Latroun Landers Sr.; grandmother, Linda Sowell; six brothers, Darrius, Latroun Jr., Keith, Jodoir, Sirtiez and Shamonnd; seven sisters, Ebony, Laronda, Destiny, Ronsha, Shantell, Kendra and Zaire; and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and caring friends.

CREAL FUNERAL HOME



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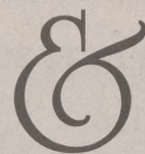
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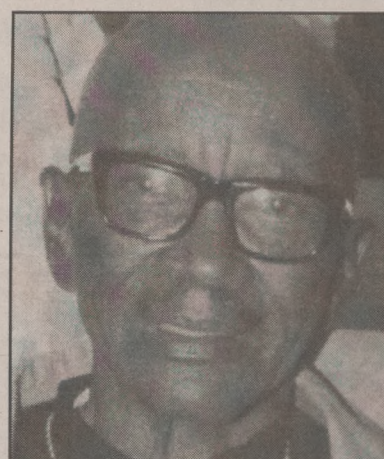
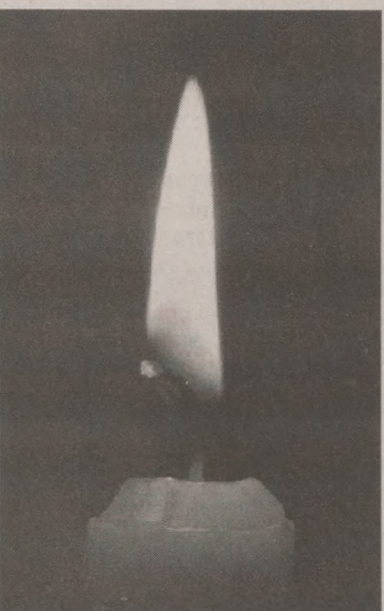


Louise Butler

Louise Butler was born to the late Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Edmonds Gilmore in High Springs, FL on February 14, 1924. She departed this life on Wednesday, March 19, 2008.

She leaves to cherish her memories: three daughters, Barbara Butler Williams of St. Petersburg, Louise Butler West (Williams Jr.) of Westminster, CO and Arletta Butler Isard (Fredrick) of Simpsonville, SC; one daughter-in-law, four grandsons, one great-granddaughter; and a multitude of other relatives, loyal friends and neighbors.

SMITH FUNERAL HOME



Jake Hampton

Jake Hampton was born to the late Ike and Virginia Hampton in Perry, FL on March 26, 1917. He departed this life Wednesday March 26, 2008.

He leaves to cherish his memories: wife, Beatrice Hampton; three son, Douglas Hampton, Arthur Lee Hampton, both of St. Petersburg and Jake Hampton (Beatrice) of Anaheim, CA; three daughters, Linda Daniels (James) of St. Petersburg, Virginia Foster of Los Angeles, CA and Annett Simon (Bobby) of St. Petersburg; fifteen grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren; five sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law; and a host of nieces and nephews.

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Edna Matt

CHURCH DIRECTORY



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



Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
Senior Pastor

Worship Services7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 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.

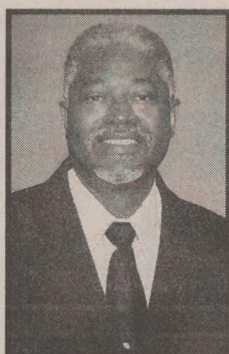
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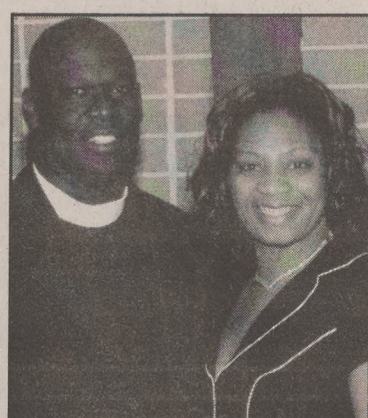
Rev. Norris L.
Martin Sr. - Pastor

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.

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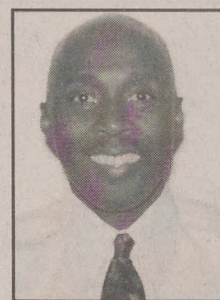
GENESIS WORSHIP CENTER CHURCH

1818 29th Avenue North
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727.898.5571
Sunday Worship
11:30 a.m.

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Victory Christian Center Church

3012 18th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33712
(727) 321-0911
www.victorychristiancenterchurch.com



Claude S. Williams, Pastor

Schedule of Services
Sunday Worship*
10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study* -7:00 p.m.
Friday Prayer -7:00 p.m.
Intercessory Prayer - 9:00 a.m.
(except Wednesdays)

Victory Christian Center is a Word of Faith Church. For more information about the other services and ministries at Victory Christian Center, please call (727) 321-0911

*Nursery and Youth Services Available



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

YPWW First and Third Sunday of each month after Morning Service



Pastor Maceo and
Tamika McGriff

WALKING IN THE PROMISED VISION



4682 40th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
(727) 686-9356
www.abundant-harvest.org

**Sunday
Morning Worship
10:30 a.m.
Wednesday
Bible Study
7:00 p.m.**

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"Walking In The Promised Vision"



New Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church

"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 Morning8:00 a.m.
Church School9:45 a.m.
Mid-Morning11:00 a.m.
Mid-week Family Night Bible Study7:00 p.m.

Theme: "Movers of the Christ Purpose"

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



Elder Benjamin
Adams, Jr.,
Senior Pastor

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Could Be Here!!**



Alfonso Woods,
Pastor

Trinity Presbyterian Church

2830 22nd Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

727-327-8590

Email: trinityp@tampabay.rr.com
pastorwoods07@yahoo.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship - 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study - Wednesday - 6:30 p.m.
Holy Communion Every First Sunday

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

"Grace and Peace Be Unto You from the Old
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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

Radio Broadcast: WRXB @ 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Transportation Service is Available by calling: 727/463-1120

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Lady Danita B. Bryant

First Baptist Institutional Church

3144 Third Avenue South
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Phone: 323-7518

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

Come Worship With
the First Baptist Family



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Sunday School Enrichment9:10 am
Sunday Service.....10:00 am
Monday-Corporate Prayer6:00 & 7:30
Wednesday-Corporate Prayer6:00am
Wednesday Bible Study
and Family Training Hr.....7:30 pm
Sunday- Corporate Prayer6:00 am



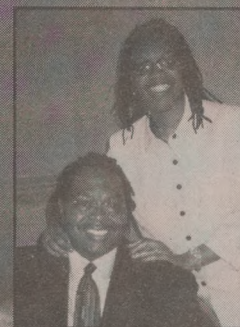
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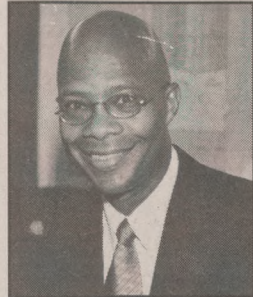
CHURCH DIRECTORY

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 School9:00 a.m.
Teen Summit (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday).....7:00 p.m.

"God's House In The City"



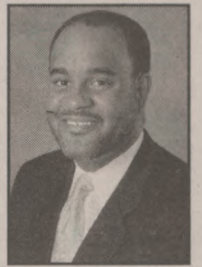
Rev. Rickey L. Houston
Pastor

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

GREATER MT. ZION AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

919 - 20th Street S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
email: info@greatermtnzioname.org
Website: www.greatermtnzioname.org



Rev. Clarence Williams,
Pastor

Early Morning Worship7:30 a.m.
Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Vintage Bible Study11:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service7:00 p.m.

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www.fmbctheship.org



Dr. John A. Evans,
Pastor

Sunday7:45 A.M. and 11 A.M. Worship
Sunday School9:30 A.M.
WednesdayNoonday Bible Study and
Bread of Life; 7 P.M. Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday7 P.M. Youth Enrichment

"Serving and Saving"
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"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 School9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study.....7:30 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

M
F
W
B
C



Sunday Morning Service 8:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:30 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
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Home: 896-8006



Bro. Robert Smith

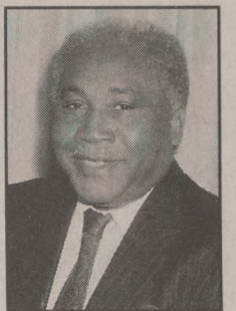
Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship10:30 a.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday7:00 p.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.

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.



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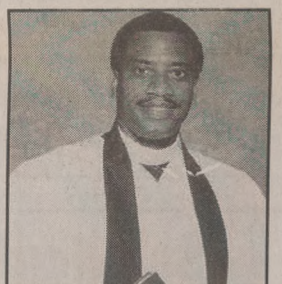
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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:
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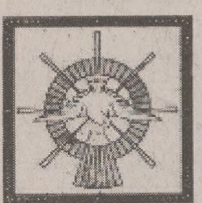


Rev. Frank W.
Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

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. GaskinAssociate Pastor
The Reverend Dr. Vikki T. Gaskin-ButlerAssociate Pastor
Finance MinistryJames Robinson
Children & Youth MinistryJoyce Robinson
Clerk MinistryWyvonna 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"

BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

OUR PURPOSE IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF GOD'S KINGDOM AND
PROMOTION OF THE SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
WELFARE OF OUR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY



REVEREND DR. MANUEL SYKES

SERVICES
SUNDAY: 8:00AM AND 10:00AM
WEDNESDAY: 7:00PM

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4000 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711 Phone: (727) 321-7375
"Returning God's People to the Word of God"



Pastor Clark
Hazley, Sr.

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday General Worship11:00 a.m.
CommunionFirst Sunday
Sunday New Member Orientation9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday Youth Bible Study7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday Tutoring6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Mission Statement

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our faith. We the people of God returning to God's Word, proclaiming, God's Will in provoking His love among one another.

REVEALING TRUTH MINISTRIES

ST. PETE Beach

203 73RD AVENUE | ST PETE BEACH, FL 33706 | 727.367.1900

Sunday
Corporate Prayer 10:30 am
Worship Service 11:00 am

Thursday
Corporate Prayer 6:30 pm
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Saturday
Corporate Prayer 9:00 am

Children's Church Available

PASTOR BILL JESSIE
Revealing Truth Ministries
St. Pete Beach, FL

PASTOR GREG POWE
Pastor & Founder of Revealing Truth Ministries

www.revealingtruth.org

CHURCH NEWS

New Philadelphia Community Church

"First Holy Communion in Eastertide"

The church family of New Philadelphia will observe first Holy Communion "in Eastertide on Sunday during midmorning worship. Services will begin with Wisdom School at 10:30 for adults and 11:00 for children.

For second Sunday after Easter, post-resurrection will be continued focus of sermon proclamation. The Reverend Aaron V. Gaskin will be morning messenger.

Deacon James Bolden will give ministry in music.

The Reverend Dr. Vikki T. Gaskin-Butler will serve as worship leader.

Deacons and Deaconesses will prepare and serve ordinance of Holy Communion.

Members are urged to be prompt in attending worship services.

Christian commendations are conveyed to New Philadelphia Community Services Inc., for the recent fundraising event held on Saturday, March 29, at The Hospice Center. A nostalgic return to "yesteryear" through music and dress of that era, was celebrated. This jubilation of commemoration was done around communal dancing to "tunes" from the 60's. A feast was enjoyed as "dee-jays" played "oldies-but-goodies" songs of the past. Both church family and friends were present. The evening climax was a soul-stirring harmonica solo by "Ricky" Williams.

Mt. Pilgram Missionary Baptist Church

"A SALUTE OF LOVE AND APPRECIATION"

For

**Your Gospel Radio Angel
Elder Al Baldwin**

Sunday, April 20, 2008

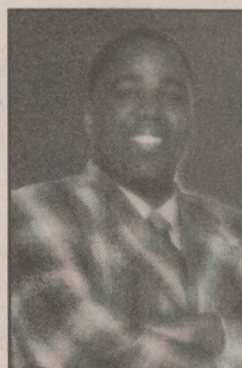
Time: 4:00 p.m. (Open Door Program)

At

**MT. PILGRAM M.B. CHURCH
40000 5TH AVE. S. ST. PETERSBURG, FL**

Featuring: The Harmony Winds (Tampa, FL), The Mighty Sons of Zion (St. Petersburg, FL), Rev. Tarver & The Original Florida Spiritualaires (St. Petersburg, FL) and Victory Travelers (Chicago, IL)

For Additional Information Contact: 727-564-6530



Elder Al Baldwin

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

"ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE"

Reverend Carlos L. Senior • Pastor Theme: "Crossing Over"

Our Esteemed Pastor, Reverend Carlos L. Senior and the New Hope Church family invite you to worship with us on Sunday morning. Our services for the day include:

- Early Morning Service 7:45 a.m.
- Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (Classes for all ages)
- Mid-Morning Service 10:30 a.m.

MIDWEEK P.U.S.H. (Prayer, Understanding, & Spiritual Healing)

Prayer Service and Bible Study are held on Wednesday evenings. Prayer Service begins at 6:30 and Bible Study begins at 7:30. Won't you join us?

Prayer Band is held on Thursday mornings at 11:00. We invite you to join us as we pray for the needs of the people throughout the world. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 7 - 11 FLORIDA GENERAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, Jacksonville, Fla.

April 12 Prayer Breakfast Youth Ministry 9:00

April 13 Church Engagement: BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, Sarasota, Fla., 4:00 p.m.

April 21 - 23 SPRING HOPE INSTITUTE 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Classes for all ages!

April 26 Breast Cancer Awareness 10:00 a.m. - noon

April 26 - 27 YOUTH MINISTRY

WEEKEND Featuring: FLAME

April 26 Concert 7:00 p.m.

April 27 Youth Day 10:30 a.m.

April 27 Church Engagement: ST. JOHN PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH Clearwater, Fla. 4:00 p.m.

"Jesus is standing at the door of your heart — welcome Him in!"

Mt. Zion AME Church

Mount Up At Mt. Zion

"I was glad when they said unto me; Let us go into the house of the Lord." *Psalm 122:1*

Pastor Clarence A. Williams and the Mt. Zion church family welcome all visitors and friends to worship service this first Sunday in April. We encourage your presence and participation. Our doors are always open and there's a special place for YOU at Zion.

Our early morning worship begins at 7:30 a.m., there we let go and let God be God. The Inspirational Choir will render song service throughout the day. Church School will commence at 9:30 a.m.; we invite family's to come study the Word of God as we seek to grow spiritually together. Our contemporary worship service is at 11:00 a.m. The spirit is always high; Pastor Williams will deliver the gospel message with power and conviction. Holy Communion will be administered at both services. Come join us for a time of revival, restoration and renewal through the Word of God.

WEEKLY MINISTRIES:

In need of a mid-week lift? Then stop by Zion for a day of ministry.

- Wednesday - Vintage Bible Study, 11:00 a.m., Bible Study, 6:00 p.m., Hour of Power, 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 7th - F.A.S.T. / Annual Nehemiah Assembly - 7:00 p.m., First Baptist Church of Indian Rocks, 12685 Ulmert Rd., Largo, Fla.
- April 12th - Youth Workshop / "Lifestyle Management" 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Young people 9th grade and up.
- April 20-23rd - St. Petersburg District Revival - St. Stephens AME Church, Bradenton, Fla., Sunday night service at 6:00 p.m.

Mount Zion is on the move; get on board as we Mount up at Mount Zion!

Thought for the week: "Love covers a multitude of sin"

Be blessed and have a Jesus filled week.

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church



ST. MARK HONORS FAMILY OF THE YEAR
Odell and Agnes Rogers Family

L/R Front- Alma Scott, Odell Rogers, Agnes Rogers, Ruthie Richardson
Back Row- Dorothy Gilliam, Pastor Brian K. Brown, Beatrice Cummings

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, extends to the community at large, its wishes that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central theme, a belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a world hungering for and thirsting after the enlightened word of God. At St. Mark, we are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for His awesome gift, His son Jesus Christ.

St. Mark Offers ...

Sunday School is held for both children and adults of all ages.

Sunday School starts each Sunday morning at 9:30.

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 Baptist Believe."

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church under the leadership of our soldier of the cross, and drum major for justice, Dr. Rickey L. Houston, extend an invitation to the community to join us as we communicate God's Word at 10:00 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and Bible Study and Teen Summit on Wednesday evening, at 7:00.

We also encourage the community to make use of our Prayer Line: 321-9645

Bethel Metropolitan is committed to a Christ-centered People-centered, Team-centered and Bible-based ministry, with priorities focused on Love, Forgiveness, Unity, Peace and Growth. We celebrate in worship ... we care for one another ... we cultivate the fullest spiritual life possible both individually and corporately ... and we communicate God's truth at every opportunity. Living out these priorities results in a kaleidoscope of ministries at Bethel Metropolitan. For all ages and interests, there are special events and service opportunities happening regularly.

Spring Revival

April 21-23, 2008 • 7:00 Nightly

Evangelist: Reverend Marvin Lamon Scott

Second Shiloh MBC, Sanford, Fla.

GOOD NEWS!

Your Church News

Can Be Placed Here!

**Contact The Weekly Challenger to learn
how your church's special events and weekly
schedules can be placed in this space.**

Don't miss this opportunity!!

BLACK HISTORY

"Celebrating Our History Is An Everyday Thing"

Maya Angelou At 80: Life Is Still An Adventure

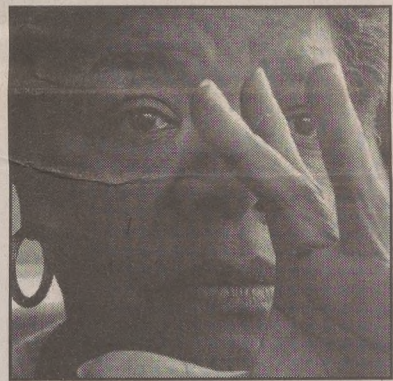
BY HILLEL ITALIE

NEW YORK (AP) - It takes just seconds to leave behind this muted Harlem side street and enter the parlor of Maya Angelou's brownstone, a step as bright and quick as a black and white film dissolving into Technicolor.

Plump sofas and armchairs in bursts of green and blue and red and yellow form a ring on spotless hardwood floors. Toward the rear, like a shy, well-dressed prodigy, a baby grand piano looks shined to stage perfection. By the piano, stained glass doors open to a red dining area centered by a mahogany table as big and round as the voice of Angelou herself.

Still close to her youthful height of 6 feet, the author-poet-dancer-singer-activist is ready to celebrate her 80th birthday, feeling, she says, like she's 60, wearing a dark blouse and slacks, sipping apple juice, singing hymns, reciting Latin, whispering, laughing, crying, missing lost friends or planning to make new ones.

"I don't know how long I'm going to live, but I still see my life as an adventure," says Angelou, who divides her time between New York and a house in Winston-Salem, N.C.



She has filled six volumes of memoirs with her wild, tragic, unstoppable story: growing up with segregation as a child and motherhood at 17; strip clubs and brothels to nightclubs and Broadway; the assassinations of her friends Malcolm X and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.; a classic memoir, Hallmark cards and the adoration of Oprah Winfrey.

Wealthy and famous beyond even her admittedly immodest

dreams, she is no closer to settling down than she was decades ago. She is working on a new book, a collection of nonfiction pieces; travels the country giving speeches for which she earns thousands of dollars; and plans to spend part of the year studying at the Missouri-based Unity Church, which advocates healing through prayer.

"About three years ago, I was in Miami and my son (Guy) was having his 10th operation on his spine. I felt really done in by the work I was doing, people who had expected things of me," says Angelou, who then recalled a Unity church service she attended in Miami.

"The preacher came out — a young black man, mostly a white church — and he came out and said, 'I have only one question to ask, and that is, 'Why have you decided to limit God?'" And I thought, 'That's exactly what I've been doing.' So then he asked me to speak, and I got up and said, 'Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you.' And I said it about 50 times, until the audience began saying it with me, 'Thank you, THANK YOU!'"

"I got back in the car, when I was being driven back to the house I had taken, and I said, 'On my 80th birthday I will go into a kind of religious school and study.' I don't want to become a preacher, but I want to see if there's another way, a more direct



way into the soul's search."

She has written that when the road ahead is blocked, and the one behind cut off, then a new path must be created. Angelou's life does not follow a straight, flat line, but takes detour upon detour, an ascending circle that covers

rich and poor, city and country, art and commerce, shock and sentiment, Malcolm X and the good people of Hallmark Cards Inc.

"(When) I was about 12, I guess, I read the statement, 'I am a human being. Nothing human can be alien to me.' The statement is so complex, so simple," she says, quoting the Roman playwright Terence.

"Homo sum: humani nil a me alienum puto." I have been internalizing that all my life. So if Kobe Abe of Japan thinks a great thought, if Federico Garcia Lorca, or Carlos Santana writes a great line of music or a great poem, Balzac and Wole Soyinka ... ALL of it is mine. And I take it all!"

Angelou was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, Mo., on April 4, 1928. She was raised in Stamps, Ark., and San Francisco, moving back and forth between her parents and her grandmother. She was smart and fresh to the point of danger, packed off by her family to California after sassing a white store clerk in Arkansas. Other times, she didn't speak at all: at age 7, she was raped by her mother's boyfriend and didn't speak for years. She learned by reading, and listening.

"I loved the poetry that was sung in the black church: 'Go down Moses, way down in Egypt's land,'" she says. "It just seemed to me the most wonderful way of talking. And 'Deep River.' Ooh! Even now it can catch me. And then I started reading, really reading, at about seven and a half, because a woman in my town took me to the library, a black



school library. ... And I read every book, even if I didn't understand it."

At age 9, she was writing poetry. By 17, she was a single mother. In her early 20s, she danced at a strip joint, ran a brothel, was married, then divorced. By her mid-20s, she was performing at the Purple Onion in San Francisco, where she shared billing with another future star, Phyllis Diller.

"I had never met anybody in the world like her," says Diller, still a close friend. "She was brilliant, talented, tall, and she had this great talent for dancing and singing. She had this very special, resonant voice. It had a certain quality. With Sinatra, he would sing one note and you knew who it was. It's a recognizable sound, and she had that, too."

Renamed Maya Angelou for the stage, she toured in the Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" and Jean Genet's "The Blacks," danced with Alvin Ailey, worked as a coordinator for the Southern Christian Leadership Council and lived for years in Egypt and Ghana, where she befriended Malcolm X and remained close to him until his assassination, in 1965.



Maya Angelou

Three years later, she was helping King organize the Poor People's March in Memphis, Tenn., where the civil rights leader was slain on Angelou's 40th birthday.

"Every year, on that day, Coretta and I would send each other flowers," Angelou said of King's widow, Coretta Scott King, who died in 2006.

Little known outside the the-



atrical world in her 20s and 30s, she became a best-selling author in her early 40s. Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," published in 1970, has sold millions of copies and become a standard, if controversial, coming-of-age story, taught throughout the country.

The book might not have happened if James Baldwin hadn't persuaded Angelou, still grieving over King's death, to attend a party at Jules Feiffer's house.

"There were a number of writers at the party, good talkers," recalls Bob Loomis, her longtime editor at Random House and the man who helped push her to write the book.

Judy Feiffer, Jules' wife, called me and said she had met the most remarkable woman and that she had told wonderful stories and more than held her own with people known to be raconteurs and entertainers. And she said, 'You ought to get her to write a book.'"

Alice Walker, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, says she

found Angelou's book "incredibly powerful and marvelous in its capacity to move people to share her experiences." Walker's daughter, memoirist Rebecca Walker, remembered reading Angelou in seventh grade and said "Caged Bird" helped her find her voice and make her "own way in the world, come what may."

Angelou's memoir also has been attacked, for seemingly opposite reasons. In a 1999 essay in Harper's, author Francine Prose criticized "Caged Bird" as



"manipulative" melodrama. Meanwhile, Angelou's passages about her rape and teen pregnancy have made it a perennial on the American Library Association's list of works that draw complaints from parents and educators.

"I thought that it was a mild book. There's no profanity," Angelou says. "It speaks about surviving, and it really doesn't make ogres of many people. I was shocked to find there were people who really wanted it banned, and I still believe people who are against the book have never read the book."

She has written five other memoirs and mastered several languages. She has published several volumes of poems, advice books and children's stories. She has written music, plays and screenplays, received an Emmy nomination for her acting in

"Roots," and still has a passion for dance, the art she considers closest to poetry.

"The only things I ever really loved were writing and dancing, and at 800 I will still be dancing. I'll still think in terms of the long leg and extension, relevés, and still love it," she says. "The line of the dancer. If you watch Baryshnikov, and you see that line, that's what the poet tries for. The poet tries for the line, the balance."

She has evolved from outcast to bohemian to celebrity to institution. In 1993, the poem she read at former President Clinton's first inauguration, "On the Pulse of the Morning," was a million-selling sensation. She is a mentor



to Winfrey, who will throw a party for her 80th birthday. Since 2002, she has been composing verse for Hallmark, calling it — however commercial — part of her mission as "the people's poet."

"My intent is to see a person read 30 pages of the book of mine, or five poems, before he knows he's reading. I like him to just get in there," she says.

"So in order to do that, I have to take these things, words. ... Everybody in the world uses them, from morning until night. Words. You have to take some nouns and pronouns and adjectives and adverbs, ball them together and throw them against the wall and let them bounce."

"I've got to do it."



Take Dining-In Outside



There's just something special about dining outdoors. Maybe it's the fresh air and natural light, or maybe it's just because it's something out of the ordinary, but we seem to slow down a little; to savor the company and the food a little more. Plus the nice thing is you don't have to go any further than your own backyard to make any meal special.

The Setting

If you don't already have an outdoor table, take some card tables or even your dining room table outside. Cover it with a pretty tablecloth or bright bed sheet, then dress the table as casually or as formally as you like. Fresh flowers make a simple and elegant centerpiece. Put votive candles in jars to keep the flames protected from the wind.

The Menu

Simple recipes and fresh flavors are key. Grilled chicken or turkey with a chili lime glaze is a tasty entrée with a little garlic kick. Try a refreshing citrus fruit bowl. Chunks of bright, fresh fruit bathed in a mild, sweet syrup complement the zesty meat. Desserts are a must! No-bake chocolate scotcheroos have layers of chocolate, butterscotch and peanut butter and are a sure hit with kids.

Chili Lime Glaze

Makes one cup / Prep Time: 5 minutes /
Cook Time: 5 minutes

- 1/2 cup Karo Light Corn Syrup
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons lime juice

Mix corn syrup, soy sauce, olive oil, chili powder and garlic together in small saucepan.

Heat over medium heat. Boil 1 minute. Stir in lime juice.

Brush on meats while grilling or broiling. Reserve some glaze to drizzle over cooked meat.

Serving Suggestion: Garnish with fresh cilantro and thin slices of fresh lime. For extra heat, add a dash of hot sauce or a pinch of Spice Islands Ground Chipotle Chile.

Recipe Tip: Can also be used as a marinade.

Nutrition Information per Serving (Serving Size: 2 tablespoons): Calories: 35, Total Fat: 0g, Saturated Fat: 0g, Cholesterol: 0mg, Sodium: 270mg, Carbohydrates: 9g, Dietary Fiber: 0g, Sugars: 3g, Protein: 0g



Chocolate Scotcheroos

Makes two dozen bars / Prep Time: 20 minutes
Cook Time: 10 minutes / Cool Time: 45 minutes

- 1 cup Karo Light Corn Syrup
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 6 cups crispy rice cereal
- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup butterscotch chips

Cook corn syrup and sugar in large pan over medium heat, stirring to dissolve sugar. Bring mixture to boil. Remove from heat. Stir in peanut butter; mix well. Add cereal; stir until evenly coated.

Pour into greased 13x9-inch pan; pat into place.

Melt chocolate and butterscotch chips together in saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly. Spread over cereal.

Cool at least 45 minutes, or until firm. Cut into bars.

Nutrition Information per Serving (Serving Size: 1/24th recipe): Calories: 230, Total Fat: 10g, Saturated Fat: 4g, Cholesterol: 0mg, Sodium: 130mg, Carbohydrates: 36g, Dietary Fiber: 1g, Sugars: 22g, Protein: 4g

Citrus Fruit Bowl

Makes 6 to 8 servings / Prep Time: 15 min.

- 1/2 cup Karo Light Corn Syrup
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/8 teaspoon anise extract (optional)
- 1 small pineapple, peeled, cored, and cut into bite-sized chunks

- 2 medium grapefruit, peeled and cut into bite-sized pieces
 - 2 large oranges, peeled and cut into bite-sized pieces
 - 4 tangerines, peeled and cut into bite-sized pieces
 - 1 cup seedless red or green grapes
- Mix corn syrup, sugar, lemon juice and

anise extract together in small bowl until sugar dissolves. Set aside. Combine pineapple, grapefruit, oranges, tangerines and grapes in serving bowl. Pour syrup over fruit; toss to combine. Chill, covered, at least 30 minutes.

Nutrition Information per Serving (Serving Size: 1/8th recipe): Calories: 180, Total Fat: 0g, Saturated Fat: 0g, Cholesterol: 0mg, Sodium: 15mg, Carbohydrates: 47g, Dietary Fiber: 3g, Sugars: 28g, Protein: 1g



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