WOMEN HONORED DURING WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Harram Court No. 96, Daughters of Isis, Daughter Bertha L. Baker, Illustrious Commandress, recognized “Women In The Community” at an event at Allen Temple AME Church. The guest speaker for the afternoon was Mrs. Carrie Williams. Featured program participants included Apolonia Villanueva and the New Dawn Restoration Praise Team. Special presentations were made to: Joanna Tokley, Court’s Community Person of the Year; Gail Williams, Court’s Daughter of the Year; and Helen Bell, Outgoing Commandress. In attendance from left to right: Betty Baker, Deborah Williams, Tanya Bachelor, Cicilia Frett, Apolonia Villanueva, Bertha Baker, Missionary Carrie Williams, Doris Scott, Delores Whitehead, Helen Bell, Bettye Johnson and Gail Williams. (Photo by Lomax McIntyre)
Police Tentatively Identify Remains As Missing Family

BY IRIS B. HOLTEN
Sentinel City Editor

Last Friday an anthropologist tentatively identified human remains found in a canal in the Everglades as a mother and her two children. Earlier in the week, Broward County Sheriff’s Office divers discovered a Dodge Caravan containing the bodies during a routine training exercise.

Family Reported Missing Mrs. Nelta Jacques, who was 6 months pregnant, left for Haiti on May 26th and returned on June 1st. She left her two daughters, Johanna St. Louis, 7, and Juanita Jacques, 5, with family in Fort Lauderdale.

On the night of June 2, 1999, Mrs. Jacques and her daughters left Fort Lauderdale returning to Tampa, but never arrived. They were traveling in a green, 1996 Dodge Caravan with FL license plate ET027G. The vehicle was registered to both Mrs. Jacques and her husband, Jean Jacques.

Her family learned that she and the girls were missing after her father called to make sure they had arrived safely.

Mrs. Jacques and her children were reported as missing persons to the Tampa Police Department. Their disappearance remained a mystery for 10 years until the van was discovered in the canal.

Tentative Identification According to police, an anthropologist, Dr. Heather Walsh-Haney, of Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, and her staff examined the remains to determine the size, race, stature, and sex of the occupants. Police have determined that the remains are those of one adult, two young children, and a fetus.

Identification belonging to Nelta Jacques was found in a purse in the van. The van was still locked at the time of its discovery. The headlights, windshield wipers and ignition switches were all in the on position when the van was recovered.

Living relatives of Ms. Jacques provided DNA to confirm the tentative identification. DNA confirmation could take weeks or months. However, there was no evidence of trauma to the remains and the deaths have been ruled as accidental.

The investigation is continuing, police said.

Volunteers Needed To Help Mentor Juveniles

BY LEON B. CREWS
Sentinel Staff Writer

According to AmericCorps Vista, few people know that Florida ranks the highest in having 17 year olds serving time in adult prisons. A national volunteer program is trying to stop that trend.

Cathy Smith, a Vista Volunteer Coordinator, works closely with the state’s Department of Juvenile Justice, and understands the need for this kind of program.

“The reason many teenagers become repeat offenders is because they use intervention programs for them after they are released from committed programs. We are tasked with building a sustaining volunteer program to help these teenagers.”

Smith said they are recruiting mentors who can work with residential commitment facilities and other commitment programs that will work with the juveniles when they get out of detention centers.

“We want to make sure they get jobs, training, transportation, counseling, and other services they need to not become repeat offenders.”

Smith said their focus is on 12 to 15 year olds before they get into the adult population.

“As anyone interested in becoming a volunteer will be interviewed on their skills and interests. We’re looking to recruit volunteers with diverse backgrounds. We require background screenings and finger printing of all volunteers.”

Smith said when the juveniles come out on conditional release their treatment needs have already been assessed.

Entry into the programs through Vista is voluntary and must be initiated by the kids or their parents/guardian.

“I will address any community group to tell them about Vista,” said Smith.

“The program has been up and running since 1986, and has been very successful in keeping teenagers out of the adult system.”

Smith covers the Hillsborough County area. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can reach her at (813) 781-0101, or (256) 303-4690.
HABSE To Sponsor Talent Showcase Extravaganza

BY IRIS B. HOLTON Sentinel City Editor

On Friday, April 23rd, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Hillsborough Alliance of Black School Educators (HABSE) will sponsor a Talent Showcase Extravaganza. The event will take place at the University Area Community Center Complex, 14013 North 22nd Street.

The purpose of the talent showcase, which is entitled "Hillsborough Educators Got Talent," is to raise funds for the organization's annual scholarship program. Employees representing more than 20 schools throughout Hillsborough County will participate in the event.

Funds raised from the event will benefit the HABSE Scholarship Program. Each year, deserving African American seniors who plan to continue their education are chosen as recipients of the scholarships. The students are selected from the high schools in the Hillsborough County Public School District.

We have 820 students we have invited for the scholarship presentation. This year 120 students will be recognized and medallions will be given to them to recognize their academic achievement. Approximately 25 students will receive scholarships," Ms. Rhonda Harris, President of HABSE, said.

For information about the talent showcase contact Ms. Rhonda Harris, at (813) 660-2785; Ms. Mary Dance, (813) 484-4045; or Ms. Karen Fletcher at (813) 468-0268. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Entire Department Eliminated At WorkForce Alliance

JAMES BLOUNT
Vice President Of Service Support
BY IRIS B. HOLTON Sentinel City Editor

In February Renee Benton Gilmore, CEO of Tampa Bay Workforce resigned amid controversy over excessive expenditures. Last week, Shantae Gilmer, a manager, was fired, and an entire department of the organization was eliminated, ending the employment of five people. Ms. Gilmer was allegedly fired because she failed to disclose her affiliation with Expanding Visions, Inc. Ms. Gilmer and her husband, Dwight Gilmer, were listed on the company's state records. The records were later revised to show David Wright as the sole officer of the company.

Workforce reportedly awarded a contract to the company last summer. The company provided job training to teenagers.

When the Sentinel inquired if rumors of the elimination of an entire department were true, James Blount, Vice President of Service Support, responded by email.

"In continuing our commitment to operate Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance more effectively and efficiently, the department of Human Resources (HR) has been reorganized and eliminated. The services provided by individuals in the HR department are now directly provided by ADP Total Source professional employer organization at the current service level.

"The employees affected by the elimination of the HR department are Anthony VanDeWall, Human Resources Manager; Deborah Fenner, Human Resources Generalist; Kina Vasileva, Human Resources Assistant; Lexi Thomas, Human Resources Assistant; and Sandra Casseaux, Customer Service Representative.

Local Gospel Artist Performs In National Contest

BY LEON B. CREWS
Sentinel Staff Writer

Local Gospel singer, La Trel Maloy, returned from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania last week after competing in the nationally recognized Sunday's Best Concert.

Maloy said it was cold, but he enjoyed the experience. He was second runner-up in the competition.

"My plans are to return in May to meet with the mayor of Philadelphia to be a part of a reality show they're releasing.

"My partner, Leonard Burks, and I will be a part of that project and it will involve all of the biggest names in Gospel music."

Maloy said he's also completing a movie that is scheduled to be released soon.

"I'm happy to say that I've managed to stay quite busy."

Burks said he wants to better serve God and be more spiritual.

"My mission is to save souls and let people know God is real."

"I'm attending an acting school in Hollywood, California, and they have an impressive track record."

Maloy said the journey hasn't been easy, but nothing will stop him from pursuing his goals.

"I've got God on my side. Leonard and I want to reach out to local Gospel talent and help them get to where they need to be for auditions and appearances. We want to make sure they are able to reach their goals and even appear on popular shows like American Idol or at the Atlanta Gospel Fest."

Leonard Burks (left) and La Trel Maloy.

"The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself"
Enough Is Enough

It seems, many of our children have lost their minds. From Miami to Jacksonville, to St. Petersburg and Tampa, youth-oriented stabbings and gun violence have flooded front pages and consumed midday and nightly newscasts.

Is it the programs they watch on television? Is it the Internet? Is it the food they eat? Many have asked the same questions. However, such legislation should also require all school children to be taught anger management and how to resolve interpersonal conflicts.

Why are we concerned? Though it sells papers, we get tired of writing stories of such violence.

Another View

Sounds Familiar To You?

Think with me to the final months of Barack Obama’s Presidential campaign. I ask you, do these sounds familiar to you? Obama can’t get support from white men, Obama does not have support from older white women, rural voters don’t support Obama, or Obama is losing support from Hispanic voters.

How about independent voters moving away from Obama, factory workers aren’t high on Obama, unions are lukewarm in support of Obama, Obama trails in polls among gun owners, truck drivers don’t support Obama and why can’t he get above 50% in the polls? Do you remember any of these things?

Pundits, political strategists and political experts did their best to make America familiar to us. Independence no longer support President Obama, unions are lukewarm with him, that only Blacks and young people supported Barack Obama for President. Well, if that is true then there must be more Blacks and young voters in America than all the other voters combined in America.

I say that because when the votes were counted, Barack Obama won the Presidency of the United States of America by a sizeable margin.

Another question – have you listened to the gossip of the pundit’s, the political strategists, the political experts and the polls? They are on their same old game.

Independents no longer support President Obama, unions have associated with him, his democratic base is angry at him, Obama has made the economy worse, he has divided the country, in Visalia Village barely escape death in a drive-by shooting.

There may be light at the end of the tunnel. Florida Legislators passed a bill requiring all school children to be taught about how to avoid domestic abuse. The rationale is elementary. Many teenage assailants are the products of abuse by family members or loved ones. However, such legislation should also require all students to be taught anger management and how to resolve interpersonal conflicts.

Why are we concerned? Though it sells papers, we get tired of writing stories and publishing obituaries about murder victims who haven’t even reached their 18th birthday. So, say, “Let the violence end, now!”

Offshore Oil Drilling: Just Say ‘No’

Mention offshore oil drilling, and a nightmare assaults the mind. Images of birds soaked in oil, dead fish bloated with black goo, covering what were once pristine beaches. Mention offshore drilling and a picture of the S.S. Valdese comes to mind with the millions of gallons of crude oil it vomited back into the seas of Alaska. Indeed, when it comes to oil accidents and the destruction of the environment, saying “I’m sorry” is simply not enough.

Therefore, the Sentinel continues not to support offshore oil drilling for the state of Florida. First of all, the amount of oil deaths would not even begin to meet America’s needs, and the few jobs oil drilling brings would not be available, any time soon.

Secondly and most importantly, risking our beloved state’s wildlife, ecological systems, sea shores and beaches to oil spills and leaks from underwater pipes is tantamount to economic suicide for our tourism industry.

Finally, money and resources would be better served and spent developing renewable energy sources. Otherwise, 20 years will lapse before Americans can see oil prices drop by off-shore oil-drilling.

Black American Insight

By Joanna Takley

Early History Of Black Farmers In America

Because I grew up on a farm and watched how Black farmers in our area dropped out of the farming industry one by one, I was ecstatic to read where President Barack Obama’s administration had agreed in February to allocate 1.5 billion dollars to compensate Black farmers.

Throughout our history, the Department of Agriculture and its forerunners have contributed to the decline of Black farmers in America. Thus, in reviewing the history of Black farmers you will find that Blacks have struggled since 1862 through the present day to acquire and maintain farmland.

Black farming history began in 1865 when Union Army generals subdivided plantation farms previously owned by Confederates into small farm settlements for former slaves.

In 1865, newly freed slaves on the South Carolina and Florida coasts enjoyed the brief “40 acres and a mule” given to them by General William T. Sherman by Field Order 15 before the order was reversed by President Andrew Johnson.

During that same year, the Freedman’s Bureau, which was organized to provide relocation, education and medical services to newly freed slaves and white Southerners who were displaced during the Civil War, allocated 45 million acres of land in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Florida for ownership by settlers. Many Blacks used that homestead opportunity to purchase land. Most Black farmers gained land through their relationships with white planters as sharecroppers, white tenant farmers. Others worked in the steel and turpentine industries to save money to buy farmland.

During the late 1800’s, Black churches served a coordinating role in facilitating crop production and price agreements strategies for Black farmers. This support "enabled the farmers to withstand political pressure to sell their crops cheaply." However, Jim Crow laws, no voting rights or access to legal or political recourse and oppressive farm operating contracts, "enrolled Black farmers and sharecroppers with less compensation." Many tenant and sharecropper fa-miles fell victim to persistent debt by financing their farms and home furnishings through "loans secured by liens on their crops."

In spite of these challenges, by 1910, there were 216,972 Black farmers. That number had grown to nearly one million Black farmers with an ownership of nearly 15 million acres of land by 1920. Next week, examine how that number fell to less than 18,000 farms and ownership of less than 3 million acres of farmland today, another economic tragedy for Blacks. Harkabee!
**HOROSCOPES**

Today’s Birthday — Expect the coming year to allow for more imaginative activities. It’s possible to go down a side track where you apply faulty logic. More likely, you’ll allow for whimsical brainstorming and then sort through ideas to identify what works and what doesn’t.

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** — Group interactions prove profitable when you state your feelings early and then sit back and listen. Body language speaks volumes. Pay attention.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** — You find yourself in the comfort zone today. Advertisements suggest clever ways to turn ideas into cash.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** — The stars align for people you haven’t seen for a long time. Share their joy, and bring a memento home with you. Leave them with your blessings.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** — A close friend or partner does exactly the right thing to make you comfortable. Accept help today and be thankful. Gather strength and recuperate.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** — A personal relationship benefits from an active imagination. This is no time to depend on practical measures. Instead, make an extravagant speech or gesture.


**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — Pull out all the stops to inject glamour into an otherwise dull experience. Bring souvenirs and memories for the scrapbook at home.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Somebody is a bit depressed today. You can help by suggesting a variety of activities to get out of the house and do something physical.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — Think carefully before pulling out your wallet. The money’s there, but is this really how you want to spend it? Reconsider your priorities.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Take a break from stress. Walking outdoors could really hit the spot. So would a relaxed meal shared with interesting company.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Use all of your powers to make yourself look like the person you most want to be. Appearance matters today. Dress for success.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** — Get up early if you have to in order to meditate in solitude. You need the balance this brings, as today is filled with interesting people and possibilities.

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**SOAPS OPERA SPOILERS**

**ALL MY CHILDREN** - Greenlee wafts the truth; JR’s setting Annie up for a fall; David will protect Greenlee at any cost. Erica prevents Greenlee from talking to Kendall; Colby leaves Liza with an ultimatum; Adam remembers happy times with Brooke. What will Greenlee find when snooping in Erica’s office? Brooke lays down the law to Adam; Colby has doubts about JR’s plan.

**AS THE WORLD TURNS** - Frannie returns to celebrate Bob and Kim’s anniversary. Reprising the role of Frannie is Oscar-nominated film star Julianne Moore, who appeared on the show from 1985-88. Jack shows Carly his romantic side; Gabriel meditates in solitude. You need the balance this brings, as today is filled with interesting people and possibilities.

**BETTY** - Donna pleads with Eric to change his mind about letting Stephanie stay with them; Bill comforts Donna; Bridget asks Aggie for a second chance at friendship. Donna confesses to Brooke and Katie that fears are real. Thorne tries to convince Eric to reunite with Stephanie; Thorne credits Bo with saving Eric to change his mind about letting Stephanie stay with them; Bill comforts Donna; Bridget asks Aggie for a second chance at friendship.

**CROSSWINDS** - Rafe McAvoy and Kirk Montgomery will continue their long-running conflict. Rafe gets a call from Hope’s new boss, who threatens to fire him if he doesn’t stop his drug use. Kirk, who has been trying to help Rafe overcome his addiction, is shocked when Rafe’s new boss arrives on his doorstep and demands to see him.

**DAYBREAK** - At the Garvin’s Party were: Irene Furgason, Martha Ravannah, Doris C. Moore and Dorothy McDoineee.

**DAYTIME DIVAS** - Olivia Reiner will return to All My Children as Emma, the mother of Michael. Olivia recently appeared in the film "The Descendants." Emma will be eager to learn more about her son, who is currently away at boarding school. Emma will also be introduced to her new family, including Michael’s father, David, and his wife, Susan.

**GENERAL HOSPITAL** - Sonny orders Jason to kill Ethan; Johnny has a surprising suggestion for Olivia; Will and Sami have an emotional confrontation. Will Grover continues his campaign for Jackie M. called "Cabana." Owen voices his disapproval of the campaign's tactics.

**THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL** - Donna surprises Stefano with new information; Nicole reunites with Chloe; EJ becomes closer to Sami; Nicole shows up at the Kiriakis mansion and asks for a job; Rafe is furious when he learns Benny has been released; Vivica A. Fox will play Vivica A. Fox; Jillian Bell will play Jillian Bell.

**THE BEAUTIFUL** - Donna pleads with Eric to change his mind about letting Stephanie stay with them; Bill comforts Donna; Bridget asks Aggie for a second chance at friendship. Donna confesses to Brooke and Katie that fears are real. Thorne tries to convince Eric to reunite with Stephanie; Thorne credits Bo with saving Eric to change his mind about letting Stephanie stay with them; Bill comforts Donna; Bridget asks Aggie for a second chance at friendship.

**THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS** - Kevin receives an intriguing clue; Lauren meets her tormentors. Lauren disappears; Ashley reconnects with Faith. Lily shares her diagnosis with Mac; Lauren and Juan realize they are trapped together.

**ATTENDING A CHURCH EVENT** - Attending a church event were: Sharon Thompson and Tonyata, and Michele Crum.

**ATTENDING THE STATE FAMU ALUMNI MEETING** - Attending the State FAMU Alumni Meeting were Francine Locker and Dorothy B. Reed.

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**HOROSCOPES**

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Magic happens. You’re surprised by how willingly everyone comes together to create what you need. Success blossoms.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** — Get up early if you have to in order to meditate in solitude. You need the balance this brings, as today is filled with interesting people and possibilities.
Birthday Greetings

Maurissa (10), Maurinia (4), MAURANDA (3), MAURSHANNA (11) And DOMINIQUE (13)

Happy 3rd birthday to our baby sister.

To: Carl, happy birthday sweetheart.
From, your wife, Theresa.

Happy Birthday

Maurissa (10), Maurinia (4), MAURANDA (3), MAURSHANNA (11) And DOMINIQUE (13)

Happy 3rd birthday to our baby sister.

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World's Strongest Mom

TREACEE And YANA

 Doesn't make any sense my mommy's so bad! Why does everybody want Ms. Treacee so bad? Happy birthday, momma.

Love, your 1st lady, Miss Yana.

Best Lady

Maurissa (10), Maurinia (4), MAURANDA (3), MAURSHANNA (11) And DOMINIQUE (13)

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Best Lady

Maurissa (10), Maurinia (4), MAURANDA (3), MAURSHANNA (11) And DOMINIQUE (13)

Happy 3rd birthday to our baby sister.

Local

More Than 1,000 Attended 2 Showings Of 'Church Mess'

More than 1,000 attended the 2 showings of 'Church Mess' at USF's Oval Theatre. A talented cast performed the urban gospel play.

The play told about the messy people in the church - the down low choir director, who has played and directed almost every church in the city; the gossipy church mother that refuses to cut off her mustache; the church secretary who's in love with her pastor, who is not interested in her; and the gay member who ends the play by changing his lifestyle and giving his life to Christ.

Rev. Chad Cooper, who played the role of the pastor, is a playwright, actor and producer of "Family Mess." He had a rewarding message for everyone at the conclusion of the play during altar call. Hundreds flocked to the front.

As they came, songstress Alicia Robinson-Cooper sang soulful gospel songs. She has recorded with national gospel artist, John P. Kee.

Other cast members were:

Lil Round, a former American Idol participant; Sentinel photographer/writer, Julia Jackson, who was a member of the Praise Team in 2 roles; Harold, minister of music for St. John Progressive, played in the band; William Sanders of Unlimited Gospel Expression and his assistant, Juanita, who coordinated many meetings with churches in the Bay Area. (Article/Photos By Julia Jackson)

Volunteer Juanita Jacobs assisted with the shows in Tampa and in Lakeland.

The President of Spirit Magazine, Jordan Anglin and Vice President, Jonathan Anglin, Jr.

From Peace Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. and Mrs. Albert (Willma) Gallmon, Pastor, and Lawana and Kenneth Forward.

Representing Big John's Bar-B-Q, promoter and sponsor of the play: Beth and Danielle Majors and Amy Gipson.
Attention all Former Head Start Parents, Children and Staff

Come join the Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start Alumni Association

Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 6:30 pm
Head Start Administrative Offices
3639 W. Waters Ave., Suite 500
Tampa, FL 33614

For more information, contact
Cynthia Williams at (813) 272-5140 ext.3141
Organization To Honor Local Pastor

BY Gwendolyn Hayes
Sentinel Editor

The Women Of Zion International, Inc. is planning for its 11th Annual Mighty Women Of God Conference, and 15th Annual Banquet And Testimonial Pageant. The event will be taking place on April 23rd and 24th at the Clarion Hotel in the Banquet Hall. This year's theme is "A New Beginning," based on Acts 1:20-26.

According to Reverend Pauline L. Cole, CEO of the organization, the group will salute Dr. Ala Faye Nelson Vickers at this year's event. Dr. Vickers is the Senior Pastor and Founder of Holy Outreach For Christ House of Prayer Assembly, Inc. Early Nelson, Sr. joined in ministry with the Shellman family to spread the gospel and sing. In 1995, Bishop Nelson passed away and Pastor Nelson was left to lead the flock. Later, she would marry for a second time to Lester Vickers, Sr. He later passed away.

Dr. Vickers is the Overseer and Presiding Prelate over 5 churches - Tampa, Plant City, North and South Carolina and Germany. The Fellowship Conference meets in a different location annually. She travels extensively carrying the Word. Her Doctorate of Theology is from Rainbow School of Ministry, and she has a Doctorate in Pastoral Counseling from Blessed Hope Bible College.

Dr. Nelson will be saluted on Friday night in a special service. The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Loretta Kearney, Pastor of Jesus Is Lord Church.

For more information on the conference, see weekly ads in the Sentinel, call (813) 237-1350, email wozi@netzero.com, or check the webpage, www.women-of-zion-international.org.

Brenda McIntyre and Linda Leavell were also in attendance at this service.

Reverend Jeremiah Wright
In Town For Revival

The Reverend Jeremiah Wright was in Tampa a few weeks ago conducting a revival at the Potter's House, where Rev. Patricia Hauser is the pastor. Rev. Wright lectured on Black History facts and the culture of Blacks as well as the connection to our ancestors from Africa. Shown in this photo are: Jerri Wright, Wayner Wright, Rev. Pat Hauser and Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Jr. (Photo by Lomax McIntyre)

HART CEO Addresses
Community At Abe Brown Ministries

HART CEO David Armijo takes a question from a resident.

HART CEO David Armijo took the agency's message to the HEART of Tampa. He met with residents who live near Abe Brown Ministries on 29th Street in East Tampa on Friday, March 26.

Armijo shared HART's plans for extended bus service. Rapid Transit and the proposed light rail system.

Some of their concerns include: the need to extend bus service in New Tampa, expand bus service from East Tampa to the airport, provide more shelters and seating at bus stops in the area and residents wanted information about job opportunities for their community during HART's expansion.

A number of HART's staff was on hand to answer questions during and after the event.

Armijo plans to continue his outreach efforts in both East and West Tampa over the next several months. Several HART Board Members have committed to joining him.
Tampa Native Goes Abroad
For International Studies

Briana Huggins, a Tampa native and graduate of King High School IB Program, and current student at Florida International University, Miami, had an opportunity to take her international studies to another level.

To maximize her learning experience, Briana applied for and was accepted into the Washington Semester Program hosted by American University, Washington, D.C. The program offered a chance to take advanced courses in international business and trade, meet with experts, including a weekend program in New York to visit the New York Stock Exchange, Federal Reserve Bank and a 3-week study abroad in China.

While in Washington, Ms. Huggins lived on Capitol Hill, experienced the legislative process, visited the Capitol and attended Congressional hearings on Foreign Relations and International Business and Finance. Her parents are Thomas and Belinda Gail Huggins. James Ransom is her godfather. She grew up as a member of Cathedral of Faith Church, Bishop James H. Howell, Pastor.

Briana was also selected to work as a legal intern for the Federal Trade Commission.

Briana describes the trip to China as a most memorable event. The trip included a tour of Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. She has also had the opportunity to study and travel to Bangkok, Thailand and Spain.

Briana will graduate this month with a Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business and Finance. Her parents are Thomas and Belinda Gail Huggins. James Ransom is her godfather.

She is asking inmates to write letters of support for members of NARC to carry with them.

She is asking those who are incarcerated to commit to having their rights restored upon their release. The inmates are also being asked to have at least one family member to agree to vote in their absence to change laws that affect felons and rights restoration.

For more information about NARC contact Ms. Williams at P.O. Box 172102, Tampa, FL 33679, or (813) 905-7991. They can also send an e-mail to www.100000felonsmarch@gmail.com.

Symbolic Felons March Sends Message

Working as the spokesperson for the National Association of Reformers Citizens (NARC), Ms. Joanna Williams hopes to bring national attention to the plight of felons.

The organization is staging a symbolic “Million Felons March” on Tuesday, April 13th in Tallahassee. Ms. Williams is asking inmates to write letters of support for members of NARC to carry with them.

Middleton Class Of 1970

The Middleton High Class of 1970 will meet Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at Palm River Library, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Marvin Butts is the contact person, or email middletonclassof1970@verizon.net.
Florida Is Only State With 3 Teens Serving Life

Inmate Facing Life Recalls Losses

IAN MANUEL
BY IRIS B. HOLTON
Sentinel City Editor

Nearly 20 years ago, a 12-year-old was arrested and charged with several serious crimes. The Hillsborough State Attorney's Office decided that his crimes were so egregious that he should be tried as an adult.

In 1990, Ian Manuel, a Tampa native, was arrested in connection with an armed robbery where a woman was shot. She survived the injury. Manuel was convicted of armed robbery with a deadly weapon and attempted first-degree murder. He was sentenced to two life sentences on April 11, 1991.

Manuel said he listened to the advice of counsel and entered a guilty plea, thinking that he would receive no more than 15 years in prison. However, what he didn't know at the time, that two of the charges carried automatic life sentences without parole.

On Monday, March 29th, Manuel celebrated his 33rd birthday behind bars, just as he has for the past 20 years. Since being incarcerated, he has attempted suicide several times. He has lived in solitary confinement for more than a decade.

He also learned of the deaths of all of his close relatives. His mother, Ms. Peggy Manuel, died in 1996. Five years after he went to prison. His father, Jimmie Reese, died in 2005. His only brother, Sean Manuel, died last year of heart failure.

For his birthday, Manuel wrote a poem entitled, "I Wish." The words reflect the things he has missed since his incarceration.

"I wish my mama Peggey was still living; I wish this is the year I get out of prison; I wish my brother Sean was still alive and that my dad Jimmie had never died; I wish my Aunt Punktin could still smile and my Grandma Linda was still around; I wish my Grandma Bettey was still breathing and screaming, "Happy Birthday.""

"Every season I wish someone I knew would come to see me; show up out of the blue to intrigue me; I wish myself a Happy Birthday because there's no one left to do it for me."

Manuel is currently housed at the Sarasota County Correctional Institution. Anyone wishing to contact him can write to: Ian Manuel, #516907, 5850 East Milton Road, Milton, FL 32583.

U.S. Supreme Court To Decide Case

In many ways, the stories of Joe Harris Sullivan and Ian Manuel have similarities.

Both Sullivan and Manuel are African American males, who were given life sentences before reaching their respective 14th birthdays.

In November 2009, Sullivan's case was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in Joe Harris Sullivan vs. Florida. Attorney Bryan Stevenson argued the sentence was cruel and unusual punishment. The court has not rendered a verdict yet.

In the petition, Attorney Stevenson said, "Joe Sullivan was 13 years of age when he was arrested with two older boys, one 15, and one 17, charged with sexual assault, ultimately convicted, and sentenced to life without parole."

"Joe is one of only two children this age who have ever been sentenced to life without parole for a non-homicide and no child has received this sentence for non-homicide in the last 18 years."

If the court agrees with Attorney Stevenson, the ruling could have an affect on Manuel's case.

In May 1989, 13-year-old Joe Harris Sullivan and two older boys are accused of breaking into a Pensacola home and fled with jewelry and coins. Later that day, the teenagers returned to the home and a 72-year-old woman was brutally raped. After a trial that lasted 8 hours, a jury convicted Sullivan of the crime in 35 minutes. He was sentenced to life without parole.

Sullivan, who has been diagnosed progressive form of multiple sclerosis and is confined to a wheelchair is currently in housed at the Reception and Medical Center at Lake Butler Correctional Institution.

Children Given Life Sentences

Although the law supports the sentencing, it is still rare for a child to be sentenced to a life sentence, especially when the victim does not die.

Last month, Jose Guadalupe Walle, now 15, became the third Florida teenager to receive a life sentence for a non-homicidal crime. He was sentenced for two rapes.

Ms. Julie Ann Holt, Hillsborough County Public Defender said many laws have passed that enhance the punishment for crimes.

"A person does not think at the age of 12 like he would at age 25. But, in Florida, once a child is placed in adult court, there are no special rules for that child," Ms. Holt said.

Head Start/ Early Head Start
Now Accepting Applications

Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start is a proud recipient of Federal Stimulus Funds for program expansion to serve 400 additional infants, toddlers, children and expectant mothers.

If you may be eligible for this program if you:

- Are employed at least 25 hours per week or enrolled in school/job training full time
- Are homeless
- Are a military family
- Receive public assistance (SSI, TANF or Subsidized Child Care)
- Meet the Federal Poverty Guidelines for income
- Have a child who has been diagnosed with an impairment affecting the child's ability to learn

Additionally, eligibility for Head Start program:

- Have a child who was 3 years old before September 1, 2009

Additionally, eligibility for Early Head Start program:

- Have a child between 6 weeks and 23 months

Additionally, eligibility for Expectant Parent Program:

- Are a pregnant mother in her 1st or 2nd trimester.

Hillsborough County Head Start/Early Head Start is a federally funded program, operated by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners Department of Children's Services. Funds for a two-year expansion effort (2009/2010 - 2010/2011) are provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Hillsborough County Head Start is funded by the State of Florida, Metropolitan Planning and Tampa Metropolitan YMCA to provide these expanded services. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this agency does not discriminate based on disability.
Faith Evans Facing $360,000 Tax Debt

Faith Evans is the latest celebrity added to the growing list of people with tax problems. The former first lady of Bad Boy Records is facing a total of $360,000 in back taxes owed to the government.

The money owed stems from liens filed against Evans in Los Angeles, New York and New Jersey.

According to The Detroit Press and public records, the IRS filed a $36,360 lien in New York.

Before that the IRS filed a $19,821 lien against her on Feb. 16 with the Los Angeles County Recorder of Deeds for her home.

There is also a previous infraction for $204,000 filed against her by the state of New Jersey.

Evans was also named in a million dollar lawsuit for breach of contract earlier this year.

Kashi Entertainment LLC and Dro-Entertainment Inc. filed the lawsuit against Evans and the estate of the late Christopher B.I.G. Wallace for not providing footage as promised of the rap legend.

Erykah Badu Charged Over Nude Video Shoot

"Why Did I Get Married Too" was Perry's second-biggest debut, behind last year's "Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail" with $41 million. Liongates, which has distributed all nine of Perry's movies, has thought that might come higher around $25 million for the weekend.

"Every time we do one of his movies, I wake up on Saturday and think, why do I always underestimate him?" said David Spitz, head of distribution for Liongates. "He's unbelievable. He knows his audience.

9. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," $5.5M.
10. "Shutter Island," $146.5M.

Never Underestimate Tyler Perry

DALLAS - Neo soul singer Erykah Badu faces a disorderly conduct charge for her nude music video shoot in downtown Dallas. Dealey Plaza, officials announced Friday.

Badu, a Dallas native, performed a walking striptease in front of tourists and pedestrians during the March 13 shoot for Badu's "Window Seat" music video. The performance ended with a nude Badu acting out receiving a fatal gunshot at the head at the spot where President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

Sgt. Warren Mitchell said Friday the decision to cite Badu for disorderly conduct - a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $500 - came after witness Ida Espinosa, 32, of Vernon, offered a sworn statement to police Thursday. Espinosa declined to comment.

Mitchell said Badu can either fight the charge or pay the fine. He said a citation would be mailed to the singer.

Merkerson Leaving 'Law & Order'

The 57-year-old Merkerson is an Emmy winner for HBO's 2005 film "Lockdown." And, early in her career, played Reba the Mail Lady on "Pee-Wee's Playhouse.

As Merkerson prepares to depart "Law & Order," the show awaits news of whether it will be back. A renewal for next season would make it TV's longest running drama. It currently ties "Gunsmoke" of a generation ago.

NEW YORK - S. Epatha Merkerson, the senior member of the "Law & Order" cast, is leaving after the show's current 20th season.

Merkerson, who joined the NBC drama in 1993 as New York Police Lt. Anita Van Buren, has decided to exit after 17 years.

The senior member of the "Law & Order" cast, is leaving after the show's current 20th season.

Howard Stern, Jamie Foxx Start Sirius Feud

LOS ANGELES - There's a Sirius rivalry brewing between two of the on-air radio network's biggest stars.

Howard Stern went after Jamie Foxx earlier this week after he made "Foxhole" crew member workouts criticizing the shock jock and co-host Robin Quivers for comments they made about Jay-Z and "Precious" star Gabourey Sidibe.

"The crew started in with me. I'm not... gonna sit here and take it and listen to some bull... --", Stern said on his show.

"And quite frankly, I'm going to end it now, because you know what, I get a lot more stuff on

Jamie, which isn't a lot of fun."

The radio host then questioned the "Valentine's Day" star's sexuality.

Earlier, Foxx's "Foxhole" crew went after Stern and Quivers in response to Stern's controversial comments about Sidibe's weight.

"She has a lot in common with 'Precious,' she was overweight, she was once black," one crew member said of Quivers.

"I hope that this feud gets us more. Howard hasn't really made a big splash in a long time," Foxx said.

Howard Stern, Jamie Foxx Start Sirius Feud

NEW YORK - Janet Jackson unleashes her anger in an over-the-top, dramatic and staggering way in the latest Tyler Perry film, "Why Did I Get Married Too?" But Jackson, who portrays a self-help psychologist in a struggling marriage, explains that she's expressed herself that way in real life, too.

"One time I did," she said.

"Not to that extent... I've thrown one thing."

"It's very therapeutic, I was able to release in such a way," Jackson continued.

"It's good. It seemed to me that you had rehearsed it before in your own life," Perry added.

Perry says Jackson used personal experiences to fuel the pain her character attempts to hide in the film.

Jackson's portrayal seems personal and heartfelt in the scene during which the singer-actress was Perry's biggest ever in the film.

But Jackson's brother, Michael Jackson Jr. directed the film.

Jackson says she preferred to leave the film.

While real-life couples may learn from the dysfunctional pairing in the film, Jackson and Perry aren't interested in giving out marriage advice.

"Never been married," Perry says pointing to himself, then pointing to Jackson, "Twice divorced. You want to ask us?

"Yeah, not a good thing," Jackson adds.

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8/30 - 9/1 - Atlantic City - Bally's Casino - (2 Nights) Receive $45 Free Play / 3/$10 Food Coupons 1 Night in Charleston, SC & 1 Night in Myrtle Beach, Receive Breakfast Each Morning $350 Per Person

8/30 - 9/1 - Atlantic City - Bally's Casino - (3 Nights) Receive $45 Free Play / 3/$10 Food Coupons 1 Night in Charleston, SC & 1 Night in Myrtle Beach, Receive Breakfast Each Morning $430 Per Person

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Don't Expect Tiger's Wife To Attend Masters

Tiger Hits The Links For Some Masters Practice

AUGUSTA, GA — Tiger Woods walked onto the first tee Monday to awkward silence from about 500 fans who gradually warmed up to him as he began a practice round at the Masters with Fred Couples.

"Welcome back, Tiger," came the occasional shout from the gallery.

Woods turned to acknowledge the fans with a nod and a smile — something he rarely did before a sex scandal made him the subject of so much ridicule.

It was his first time playing before a gallery since Nov. 15 at the Australian Masters and its sellout crowd in Melbourne. "Winning Woods" came from behind on the final day to win the 82nd time in his career.

Woods teed off at about 8 a.m. right as the gates to Augusta National opened. The crowd increased with every hole, and it included some familiar faces — Masters chairman Billy Payne was among those watching.

A helicopter circled the course without flying over-head.

Woods hooked his opening tee shot toward the ninth fairway and hit another. He walked briskly, chatting with Couples as fans lining the fairway took pictures of every step. Also getting plenty of attention was his swing coach Hank Haney, who posed for a half-dozen pictures behind the third tee.

Cowboys Release Flozell Adams, Ken Hamlin

years after both signed long-term contracts.

Adams was coming off his 12th season and was the longest-tenured player on the team, having started 176 of his 182 games for Dallas. All of his Pro Bowl selections came between 2003-08.

Hamlin was a Pro Bowl pick in 2007, his first season in Dallas after spending the first four years of his career in Seattle.

Adams and Hamlin both signed six-year deals through 2013 before the 2008 season. Adams could have been a free agent then, but never hit the market before signing his US (Canadian) $43-million deal with the Cowboys, who drafted him in the second round out of Michigan State in 1998.

Support The Florida Sentinel Advertisers

Runner Caster Semenya Still Not Allowed To Race

South African runner Caster Semenya is still facing troubles from her gender testing scandal.

As previously reported the International Association of Athletics Federation sent the 19-year-old for gender testing to determine if she was truly born a woman after she unexpectedly won an 800-meter competition.

There has been speculation that the test results have been given and are being withheld from the public but the IAAF maintains that final results will not be expected until June.

Unfortunately for Semenya, she’s facing opposition at the events. When that she appeared at a meet in Stellenbosch, South Africa, the organizers would not let her participate.

Before that, Semenya was denied participation at the national championships in Durban, South Africa, and the 13th IAAF World Indoor Championships in March.

Eagles Trade McNabb To Redskins

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb is changing uniforms and staying in the NFC East.

The Philadelphia Eagles traded McNabb to the Washington Redskins for a pair of draft picks Sunday night. The Eagles will receive a second-round pick (37th overall) in this year's draft and either a third- or fourth-round pick next year.

"Donovan McNabb was more than a franchise quarterback for this team," Eagles chairman Jeffrey Lurie said. "He truly embodied all of the attributes of a great quarterback and of a great person. He has been an excellent representative of this organization and the entire National Football League both on and off the field. I look forward to honoring him as one of the greatest Eagles of all-time and hopefully see him enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton one day.

San Diego running back Darren Sproles isn't big, but his paycheck last year was.

And will be next year, too.

Sproles, the diminutive situational back and return specialist, reportedly signed his restricted free-agent tender Friday, guaranteeing the fifth-year pro a one-year salary of $7.28 million in 2010.

The 5-foot-6, 185-pound Sproles was tagged as the Chargers' franchise player in '09 and pulled down a one-year salary of $6.62, a figure equal to the average of the five highest-paid running backs in the league last season.

Sproles Inks 1-Year, $72M Deal

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Wade's Wife Responds To Custody Petition

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade's estranged wife has responded to the Miami Heat star's petition for sole custody of the couple's two children, saying the filings are retaliation to her asking for an order of protection last month.

Wade filed for custody of the boys, ages 8 and 2, earlier this week. He also asked a Chicago court that his wife Siohvaughn be psychologically evaluated.

The couple separated in August 2007. Their divorce trial is scheduled to begin in June.

"Our client believes that these various papers were filed as retaliation for her legitimate claims filed March 10, 2010 in the Domestic Relations Court in a Petition for Order of Protection regarding the abuse by Mr. Wade dating back to 2006," Eunice Ward, an attorney in the Chicago firm representing Siohvaughn Wade, said.

Siohvaughn Wade has previously alleged that her husband abandoned his children, that they were frightened to be around him, and that he was "guilty of extreme and repeated mental cruelty" toward her.

Hopkins Settles Score With Jones Jr.

LAS VEGAS — Bernard Hopkins collapsed to his knees in his dressing room, drained from a brutal fight and exhausted by the end of his 17-year wait for revenge against Roy Jones Jr.

Two of their generation's greatest boxers just might have ended their careers together in a Las Vegas hospital Saturday night, but only Hopkins earned the right to leave with a victory.

Hopkins won a grueling unanimous decision in his long-delayed rematch with Jones, emphatically avenging his loss in the famed champions' first bout in 1995.

Although both fighters often appeared to be shadows of their former selves, the 45-year-old Hopkins (55-5-1, 32 KOs) dominated nearly every round of a light heavyweight fight filled with wily veteran tactics and fueled by obvious mutual dislike.

Hopkins punctuated his dominance with a stirring rebound from the 41-year-old Jones' punch behind his head and the ensuing in-ring fracas late in the sixth round at the Mandalay Bay Events Center. Hopkins was hit behind the head twice and below the belt at least once during the bout, leaving him with spots before his eyes in the final rounds.

Lakers Sign Bryant To 3-Year Extension

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant signed a three-year contract extension Friday worth nearly $90 million that will keep him with the Los Angeles Lakers through the 2013-14 season.

The deal will begin after next season. Bryant is making $23 million this season and is due to earn $24.8 million next season.

"It's very rare to have a player play his entire career in one city, so I'm very excited," he said after the Lakers beat Utah 106-98.

Bryant could earn $27.4 million in 2011-12, $30.2 million the following season and more than $32 million in his final year, when he would be 38.

Asked if it would be his last contract, Bryant replied, "I doubt it, but it's possible."

Florida Woman Wants Charges Against Holmes

MIAMI — A Florida woman who sued Pittsburgh Steeler receiver Santonio Holmes over an alleged assault now wants to press charges, police said Friday.

Anshonae Mills, 21, filed a lawsuit March 24 claiming Holmes grabbed her face and threw a glass at her March 7 in an Orlando nightclub, cutting her above the eye. In the lawsuit, she said Holmes and a police officer intimidated her so she wouldn't press charges.

Mills changed her mind, and the case has been reopened, Orlando police Sgt. Barbara Jones said.

Jones did not release more information about the investigation.

BEAUTY UNLIMITED

A brand new face comes to the Beauty Unlimited crew this week. Vander is a 20-year-old Pisces that stands 5'7" and enjoys listening to Jennifer Nicole Lee and Beyonce. Jander says her hobbies are reading, painting, writing poems and taking pictures. In the future, she wants to continue going to school to become a registered nurse and broaden her modeling portfolio.

Jander's philosophy of life is: "Life is what you make of it and never regret anything in your past because it makes you who you are today." Jander said the man in her life must be honest, mannerable, romantic, loyal, god-fearing, spontaneous, and ready to try new things. Congratulations to Jander was this week's Beauty Unlimited feature.

If you're interested in being in the Beauty Unlimited or Spotlight, please send your information and photo, including a contact number to: johnson-offsentinel.com.
**Local**

**Toddler Falls From Balcony**

At 11:40 a.m., Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputies reported that they received a call that a child had fallen from a second-floor balcony at the Fredericksburg Apartments, 13142 22nd Street. They received a call from City Fire personnel who had already arrived at the apartments.

Deputies learned that Autumn Butler, 18 months, had slipped through a concrete column on the balcony and fell to 10 to 15 feet, landing on the trunk of a vehicle.

The child was taken to Tampa General Hospital and is reported to be in good condition with non-life-threatening injuries. The child was in the custody of the grandmother, Alberta Jackson, 56, at the time of the incident.

Deputies reported that Jackson was distracted by the phone when the child slipped away from her. Jackson lives with the child.

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**Crime**

**Mother, Son Charged After Vehicle Stop**

On Saturday night, Tampa Police report that a vehicle was pulled over by an officer at 109 Street and 30th Street for driving without lights and for failure to yield when exiting from a private drive.

When the officer made contact with the vehicle’s driver, Marcell Jones, 19, they reported he didn’t have a driver’s license. They said the unburned smell of marijuana was coming from within the vehicle.

The officers removed Jones from the vehicle and arrested him for driving with a suspended license and not having a valid driver’s license.

A front seat passenger, Diana Potter, 45, Jones’s mother, were removed from the vehicle and charged with marijuana possession.

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**National**

**19-Year-Old Receives 15 Years For Raping Grandmother—TWICE**

A 19-Year-Old boy from Detroit, Michigan has been arrested and is being sentenced to 15 years after an assault on his grandmother.

Sadly, the assault was sexual and she passed away, which she said has happened more than once.

What makes matters worse is the fact that her grandson, actually, too many to make her aware that she didn’t even know.

Inside of Potter’s purse, police said they found a black bag containing two large bags with cocaine, and four dime bags with cocaine. Police report also inside the black bag was a large amount of dime bags that were unused, as well as nail clippers with cocaine residue.

A total of 17 grams of cocaine was found.

The vehicle was seized and Potter was charged with possession of cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute and possession of drug paraphernalia. Jones was issued a citation and released on his own recognizance.

Police later searched Potter’s residence and found another 6 grams of marijuana.

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**40 People Shot In Chicago In 50 Hours**

Violence in Chicago is continuing to escalate now that police report that as many as 40 people were shot, some fatally within 50 hours.

The ongoing violence, which has been blamed on a rise in Chicago temperatures, is becoming so bad that police report a boy being shot in the head just blocks away from a live police press conference.

---

President Obama Declares He’s ‘Black’ On Census Form

White House officials are confirming reports that President Obama has filed out his U.S. Census form and declared that he was Black.

When filling out his Census form, Obama checked the box saying that he was “Black, African American or Negro” — a term on the census in case older Black people still refer to themselves as such.

There was speculation whether the President, born of a Kenyan father and white mother, would check white, check both black and white, or some other race. The Census forms do not have a category for biracial or mixed race people.

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**Florida Sentinel-Bulletin**
Victim Dead, Suspect Critical After Shooting

Complex, 10213 Palermo Circle. Deputies reported that it appeared Mike Daniels, 20, along with two others were inside an apartment when two suspects knocked on the door and entered. There were shots fired that struck Daniels and one of the suspects, identified as Michael Crossno, 20.

Daniels was pronounced dead at the scene and Crossno was hospitalized and is listed in critical condition.

At 10:49 p.m., Friday, deputies responded to a shooting at The Estates Apartment

Foot. He jumped a fence and entered a pond where he was spotted by a Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office helicopter. The helicopter observed the suspect running towards apartment buildings in the area. A perimeter was set up by troopers and deputies.

According to reports, Benjamin Baxter, 23, entered an apartment and refused to leave, allegedly threatening the family. Witnesses were able to lead troopers and deputies to the apartment where they were able to gain entrance and arrest Baxter.

Baxter is on supervised release status from the Department of Corrections. He was charged with burglary, kidnapping, false imprisonment of a child under the age of 13, fleeing and eluding law enforcement officers, and as a habitual traffic offender.

LEWIS HARRIS

A joint investigation is being conducted by the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office and the St. Petersburg Police Department into a kidnapping and attempted murder case that began in Pinellas County, came to Hillsborough County, then ended in St. Petersburg where the victim was found with serious, but not life threatening stab wounds.

According to police, at 6:30 p.m. on March 31, 2010, Sohil Merchant, 27, was lured to a location to the Highpoint area of Pinellas County where he was kidnapped by two armed suspects. Investigators indicated there were illegal drug overtones to this case.

Police said the two suspects tied up and beat Merchant, put him in his vehicle, and drove him to Hillsborough County.

Merchant testified a friend in Hillsborough County during the ordeal and asked the friend to get him a large sum of money, police said. The friend became suspicious and called the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Deputies notified the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office.

Deputies spoke with the suspects, identified as Lewis Harris, 31, reportedly got out of the vehicle somewhere in Hillsborough County, but was located by Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, but the second suspect drove away with Merchant tied up in the trunk to St. Pete, police said.

The second suspect stopped the vehicle near 5th Avenue, North and 38th Street, North where he allegedly stabbed Merchant several times, leaving him at that location before driving away in his vehicle.

Last Thursday, St. Petersburg Police responded to the 3800 block of 5th Avenue, North on a citizen’s call of a person tied up and bleeding. When police arrived they found Merchant with stab wounds. He was transported to a local hospital.

Police later found Merchant’s vehicle abandoned and it was impounded.

Harris was interviewed by deputies who later charged him with kidnapping, and being a felon in possession of a handgun. No information was released on the second suspect.

Person Of Interest In Shooting Turns Himself In

At 5:43 p.m., Thursday, Antonio Steadman, 25, contacted detectives with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office and said he was turning himself in. He arrived at the Orient Road Jail with his attorney and was booked on violation of probation charges.

Steadman was being sought by authorities as a person of interest after four teenagers were shot in Progress Village last Thursday. A witness identified Steadman as being the occupant of one of the vehicles involved in the shootings.

On June 11, 2008, Steadman was put on probation for 18 months on marijuana, controlled substance, and cocaine possession charges.

According to arrest records, Steadman was arrested twice in 2005, once for presenting a false statement of insurance and later for possession of marijuana and driving with a suspended license.

On January 26, 2006, Steadman was arrested for driving with a suspended license and as a Black male wearing all red, was hospitalized and is listed in critical condition.

On Friday, a Florida Highway Patrol trooper attempted to stop a motorcycle for running a stop sign on SR 618 (Crosstown Expressway) at the entrance ramp to I-75. The driver of the motorcycle fled on foot. He jumped a fence and entered a pond where he was spotted by a Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office helicopter. The helicopter observed the suspect running towards apartment buildings in the area. A perimeter was set up by troopers and deputies.

According to reports, Ben­jamin Baxter, 23, entered an apartment and refused to leave, allegedly threatening the family. Witnesses were able to lead troopers and deputies to the apartment where they were able to gain entrance and arrest Baxter.

Baxter is on supervised release status from the Department of Corrections. He was charged with burglary, kidnapping, false imprisonment of a child under the age of 13, fleeing and eluding law enforcement officers, and as a habitual traffic offender.

On March 26, 2010, Tampa Police reported that Terrance Hamerter, 26, and his brother, Terrrel Hamerter, 24, were victims of a home invasion and double-shooting.

Police reported that one of the brothers was being home around 3 a.m. Both walked outside and noticed a car and two men dressed in black standing outside.

Terrance and Terrrel ran back inside the home followed by the two men. Once inside, police said the suspects fired several shots, striking Terrance in the leg and Terrrel was shot three times in the head and chest.

1 Of 2 Men Shot During Home Invasion In Coma

On March 26, 2010, Tampa Police reported that Terrance Hamerter, 26, and his brother, Terrrel Hamerter, 24, were victims of a home invasion and double-shooting.

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Lakeland Man Gets Life For Revenge Murders

LAKELAND – On March 21, 2008, Jessica Upton, 18, and Audre Barnes, 29, were found dead in their apartment at the Willow Glen Place Apartments. Both had been shot in the head.

Monique Anderson, 18, was arrested and charged in the double homicide, and police reported he had a short relationship with Upton.

On Friday, Anderson, facing the death penalty, was given a life sentence.

According to Lakeland Police, Anderson had gone to the apartment and found Upton and Barnes in bed. He then shot them both with a sawed-off shotgun.

Police said before Anderson allegedly carried out the murders, he called Upton’s roommate and told her he was in their apartment and planning violence. When the roommate ended her conversation with Anderson, police said she called 9-1-1. By the time police arrived, Upton and Barnes had already been shot.

Police also reported that Anderson had what was believed to be the murder weapon on him when he was found a few blocks from the crime scene. Police said he threatened to kill himself, but was taken into custody without incident.
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

INVITATION TO BID

The SCHOOL BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, Florida, seeks sealed bids from qualified bidders for several heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) renovation projects. Project scopes provide for renovation and replacement of existing HVAC systems and equipment, with project costs in the ranges listed below. Separate bid documents will be issued for each project, and separate bid responses are required.

Qualified firms can submit bids to the Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCP) Procurement Department on the 3rd Floor of the Raymond O. Shefflin School Administrative Center, 901 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33602. Bid opening will be held at the times indicated below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Engineer</th>
<th>Construction Cost Range</th>
<th>Bids Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young Middle/Washington Elementary</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering Solutions, Inc.</td>
<td>$200,000 to $700,000</td>
<td>3:00 p.m. May 5, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrel Middle</td>
<td>ASR Engineering, Inc.</td>
<td>$1,800,000 to $4,200,000</td>
<td>3:00 p.m. May 5, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Elementary</td>
<td>Advanced Systems Engineering, Inc.</td>
<td>$1,400,000 to $3,500,000</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. May 5, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart Middle</td>
<td>Mates Professional Engineering, Inc.</td>
<td>$1,900,000 to $4,500,000</td>
<td>3:00 p.m. May 5, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tampa palms Elementary</td>
<td>Lyle Engineering Group, Inc.</td>
<td>$2,200,000 to $5,500,000</td>
<td>3:00 p.m. May 4, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yates Elementary</td>
<td>Fonley Engineering, Inc.</td>
<td>$1,600,000 to $3,700,000</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. May 5, 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HCP will host a non-mandatory pre-bid conference at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 31, 2010 in the Board Auditorium of the School Administrative Center. Subsequently, prospective bidders will be afforded an opportunity for site visits according to schedules indicated in the respective bid documents.

The bid documents include specific bid submission requirements. HCPS maintains general requirements applicable to all construction-related bids on the HCPS website at http://168.254.1.35/documents/standards/index.htm.

Bidders must submit a bid security equal to 5% of the bid with each bid. Bids over $100,000 must include the costs of required surety bonds. The successful bidder must also provide evidence of required insurance prior to proceeding with the work. Bond and insurance requirements are detailed in HCPS standard contract available on the HCPS web site.

Bidders are subject to the HCPS Small Business Encouragement Program, as described in the bid documents.

Bidders may obtain up to two (2) complete sets of bid documents in PDF format on CD at no cost from the respective engineers identified in the table above.

HCPS reserves the right to award the bid to the lowest and/or most responsible bidder, to waive any informality or irregularity in any bid, or to reject any and all bids received.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

MARYELLEN ELIA
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

---

NOTICE OF ACTION

BEFORE THE FLORIDA CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LICENSING BOARD

IN RE: The Practice Of Contracting

Steven Jay Koehnenlin dba A.R.E.A.E.I. Air Conditioning
8500 Bicncher Rd.
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

CASE NO.: 200804709
LICENSE NO.: C161355a

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation has filed an Administrative Complaint against you, a copy of which may be obtained by contacting, Jamie Duran, Service of Process Unit, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, 1404 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2206, (850) 488-0062.

If no contact has been made by you concerning the above by April 27, 2010 the matter of the Administrative Complaint will be presented at a hearing pursuant to 120.57(2), F.S. before the Florida Construction Industry Licensing Board.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the individual or agency sending notice not later than seven days prior to the proceeding at the address given on notice. Telephone: (850) 257-6397; 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (V), via Florida Relay Service.
Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held by the Land Use Hearing Officer pursuant to Hillsborough County Land Development Code, beginning at 9:00 A.M., April 23, 2010, at the Board Room, 2nd Floor of the County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, to hear the following requests:

Copies of the applications, department reports and legal descriptions are available for public inspection in a master file maintained by the Planning and Growth Management Department and in the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. All interested persons wishing to submit testimony or other evidence in this matter must submit same to the Hearing Master at the public hearing before him/her. The decision of the Land Use Hearing Officer will be filed with the Clerk within fifteen (15) working days after the conclusion of the public hearing.

ANY PERSON WHO MIGHT WISH TO APPEAL ANY DECISION OR RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE LAND USE HEARING OFFICER OR THE GOVERNING BODY REGARDING ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THE FORTHCOMING PUBLIC HEARING OR MEETING IS HEREBY ADVISED THAT THEY WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THEY MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE AS IT WILL INCLUDE THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH SUCH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

Additional information concerning these requests may be obtained by calling the Planning and Growth Management Department at (813) 275-2000.

VARIANCE REQUESTS

Petition VAR 10-0903-LU, James E. Lynch requesting a Variance to allow one and one-half stories, the height of the building and setback requirements for property located at 16320 Livingstone Ave., zoned ASC-1.

Petition VAR 10-0317-GU, Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC requesting a Variance to setback requirements for property located at 9851 US 41 E., zoned RES-6/OC-20.

Petition VAR 10-0343-EL, Tampa Bay Hotels, LLC requesting a Variance to parking requirements for property located at 4506 Oak Fair Blvd., zoned PD.

Petition VAR 10-0358-BR, Olga J. Ortiz requesting a Variance to setback and to allow for an accessory dwelling on legal non-conforming lot for property located at 2006 Carmella Dr., zoned ASC-1.

Petition VAR 10-0375-KO, Noel & Amanda Fernandez requesting a Variance to setback requirements for property located at 17102 Whitley Rd., zoned ASC-1.

Petition VAR 10-0379-AP, Mary Beth & Richard Sultenfuss requesting a Sign Variance for property located at 6520 Richies Way, zoned PD.

Petition VAR 10-0380-NWH, Jennifer A. & John Perez requesting a Variance to setback requirements for property located at 10713 Ashford Oaks Dr., zoned PD.

Petition VAR 10-0383-BR, Carmen M. Smith requesting a Variance to fence height & setback requirements for property located at 909 Oak Howell Pl., zoned ASC-1.

Petition VAR 10-0386-TNC, Nelson Gonzalez & Yuselis Garcia requesting a Variance to fence height & setback requirements for property located at 5325 Barry Ln., zoned M.

Petition VAR 10-0389-PR, Mauricio Cuellar Domínguez requesting a Variance to setback requirements for property located at 2519 S. 50th St., zoned RDC-12 & CN.

Petition VAR 10-0390-USF, Clayborn J. & Donna K. Miller requesting a Variance to the setback requirements for property located at 2309 Towery Trl, zoned RSC-6.

Petition VAR 10-0396-Th, I-4 Land Holding Co. requesting a Sign Variance for property located at 6190 Lazy Days Blvd., zoned PD.

Petition VAR 10-0401-EGL, Double E Land Company, LLC requesting a Sign Variance for property located at 5815 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., zoned CD.

Petition VAR 10-0415-PR, Raul Alonso Hernandez & Otilia Laz requesting a Variance to the setback requirements for property located at 1510 Margaret St., zoned RSC-6.

Petition VAR 10-0421-WH, Fitzroy C. & Gwendolyn Creighton requesting a Variance to fence height for property located at 7440 E. Hillsborough Ave., zoned ASC-1.

Petition VAR 10-0433-RV, 6312 South 78th Street LLC requesting a Variance to the easement requirements for property located at 17928 Livingstone Ave., zoned ASC-1.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

RFP-4527CG

VOICE OVER IP TELEPHONE SYSTEM

The Hillsborough Transit Authority (HART) will be accepting proposals for the materials, equipment and labor necessary to install a Voice Over IP Telephone system.

The PROPOSAL documents will be available for download from HART's website at www.gohart.org after 11:00 A.M. on, TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010. The documents will be located under the Business Opportunities section. All inquiries pertaining to the specifications or any questions in reference to the proposal must be directed to: Daniel Marti, Purchasing Agent, Hillsborough Transit Authority, 4305 Whirley Rd., Tampa, Florida 33602, (813) 449-4658 or e-mail at marti@gohart.org.

Additional deadlines and requirements are provided within the BID posted on HART's website. It is the responsibility of the bidders to review the documents posted in their entirety.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

INVITATION TO BID

The SCHOOL BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, Florida, seeks sealed bids from qualified bidders for two roof replacement projects. Project scopes provide for roof replacement of selected buildings at each of the schools. Separate bid documents will be issued for each project, and separate bid responses are required.

Projects Estimated Construction Cost Bids Due

Mann Middle $1,800,000-$7,000,000 April 20, 2010

Mango Robinson Elementary $300,000-$700,000 April 21, 2010

and Turkey Creek Middle

Qualified firms can submit bids to the Hillsborough County Public Schools (HCPS) Procurement Department on the 3rd Floor of the Raymond O. Shelton School Administrative Center, 901 East Kennedy Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33602, until bid opening at 3:00 p.m. on the dates indicated above.

HCPS will host a non-mandatory pre-bid conference for the Mann project at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 7, 2010, Mann Middle School, 409 East Jersey Avenue, Brandon, Florida 33510. The non-mandatory pre-bid conference for the Mango, Robinson, and Turkey Creek project is at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2010, Turkey Creek Middle School, 5005 South Turkey Creek Road, Plant City, Florida 33567, followed by a tour of the remaining two job sites. Attendees must sign in and present a photo ID to gain access to the conference.

The bid documents include specific bid submission requirements. HCPS maintains general requirements applicable to all projects. Project scopes provide for roof replacement of selected buildings at each of the schools. Separate bid documents will be available on the website. The documents will be located at http://168.254.1.35/documents/standards/index.htm.

Bidders must submit a separate bid bond equal to 5% of the bid with their bid. Bids over $100,000 must include the costs of required insurance requirements are detailed in HCPS standard contract held by the Land Use Hearing Officer.

HCPS reserves the right to award the bid to the lowest and/or best bid.

Please Contact: Devette @ 813-231-2100

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Hillsborough County will receive sealed bids and/or proposals for the following, until the stated date and time when they will be publicly opened.

APRIL 30, 2010 — 2:00 P.M.

ITB-P-0138-0-2010/JM TRAFFIC CONES, BARRICADES, AND ACCESSORIES

Information on these and other Requests for Bids, along with Bid/Proposal results may be accessed at www.hillsboroug.hcounty.org/procurementservices. This is a Hillsborough County Governmental Purchasing Council Bid.

Minority and women owned firms will be afforded a full opportunity to participate in these matters and will not be subject to discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color or national origin.

Questions regarding the above projects may be directed to Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners, Department of Procurement Services, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 18th Fl., County Center, Tampa Florida, 33602, (813) 272-5790, during regular business hours.
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**Tampa Park Apartment, Inc.**
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- Tampa, Florida 33605
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