



# **PORTFOLIO**

## **2011 THRU 1987**

**PCARA**  
Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association

**Leroy E. Williams**  
◆ Founder / President  
◆ Playwright, Producer, Director & Actor

**850.293.5345**  
Email: [willroy85@aol.com](mailto:willroy85@aol.com)  
P.O. Box 768 Pensacola, FL 32591-0768

**PCARA consistently provides a quality of service unsurpassed in our dedication to aid and encourage the safe and full development of youth, believing that giving of one's self to others will advance the well-being of man, our community and world.**



**Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association**

**P.O. BOX 768  
PENSACOLA, FL 32591-0768  
www.pcaraonline.com  
(850) 293-5345**

The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association (**PCARA, a Non-Profit Association**) has been in existence since June of 1987. It was formed to assist in the prevention of illegal drug use, pregnancy, and violence among the youth throughout the Pensacola community. **PCARA** is a community-based organization composed entirely of volunteers.

The objectives of the association are:

\* To provide youth with social and academic skills (while sharing experiences) which will enable them to successfully resist illegal drug use, teen-pregnancy, and violence.

\* To safeguard children against risk factors through increasing the protective factors:

- A. Positive social bonding
- B. Commitments to school and family
- C. Development of life skills

We provide a structured learning environment for students to gain skills through fun and non-judgmental activities that include: acting, singing, dancing, boxing, weight lifting and aerobics. Once a week, **PCARA** volunteers present workshops, bring in speakers, hold "rap sessions" that address illegal drug use, teen-pregnancy and violence prevention. Education, self-awareness and cultural diversity are also emphasized. **PCARA** requires each student member to maintain a grade no lower than a "C+" average. However, tutoring sessions are available for those who fall below a "C+" average.

As a Non-Profit Association, **PCARA** depends solely on funds generated by donations and special fund-raisers.

**PCARA** performs and sponsors the following annual events:

<i>Theatrical Plays and Skits</i>	<i>Leadership Retreats</i>	<i>Recreational Retreats</i>
<i>Youth Extravaganza</i>	<i>Family Days</i>	<i>Banquets</i>
<i>Gospel Concerts</i>	<i>Pool Parties</i>	<i>Thanksgiving and Christmas Drive</i>
<i>Black History Programs</i>	<i>Field Trips</i>	<i>Basketball and Softball Tournaments</i>
<i>Dances and Parties</i>	<i>Self Defense Classes</i>	
<i>Non-Violence and Drug Free Day (The Big Cookout)</i>		
<i>Community Networking and Getting Involved Funfest (CNAGI Funfest)</i>		
<i>A Walk and A Motorcade For a Non-Violent and Drug Free Community</i>		

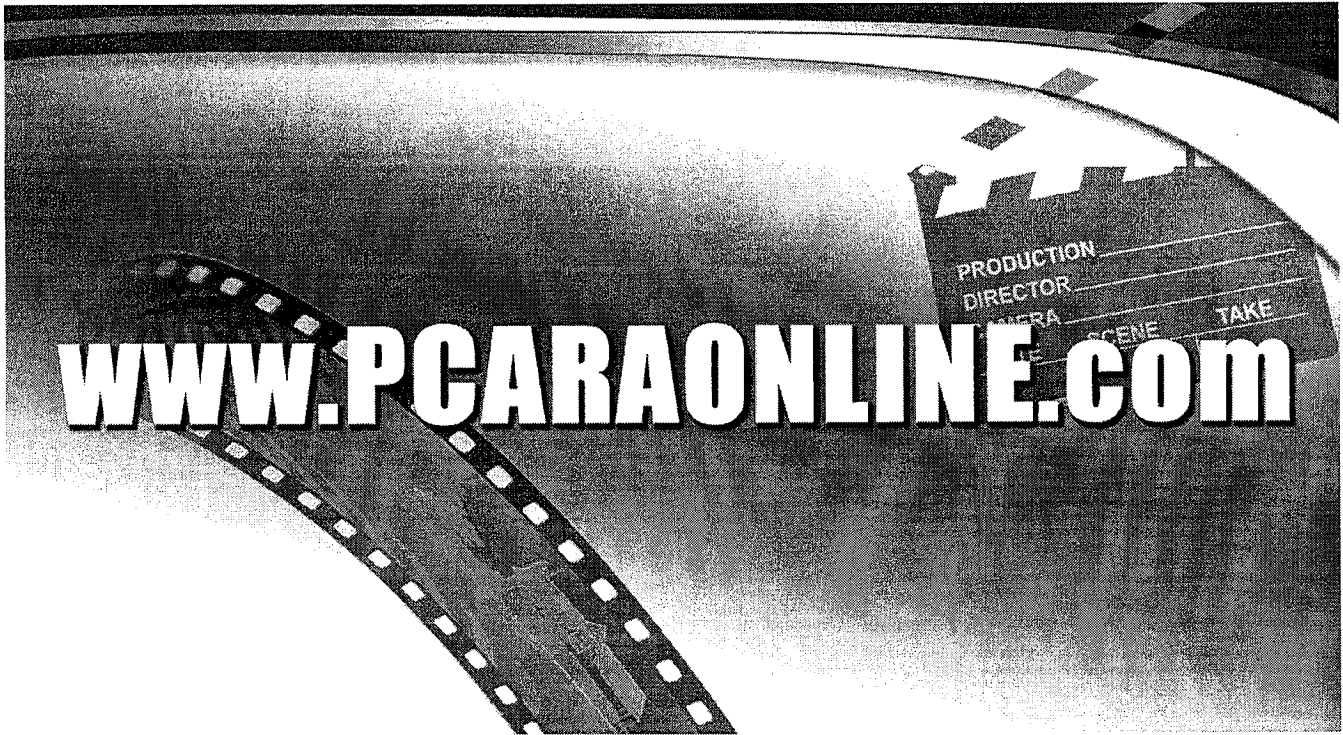
#### **Membership/Notice of Meetings**

If you or your child would like to become a member, please call 293-5345 or visit [www.pcaraonline.com](http://www.pcaraonline.com). Meetings are held every Tuesday at Pensacola Junior College Student Center, 1000 College Blvd. We meet from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

**PCARA** consistently provides a quality of service unsurpassed in our dedication to aid and encourage the safe and full development of youth, believing that giving of one's self to others will advance the well-being of man, our community and world.



# 2011



# Coast Life

Pensacola News Journal • PNJ.COM

SECTION E / PAGE 1

Sunday, January 2, 2011

## Happy New Year

### Area residents share their hopes for 2011

Troy Moon

tmoon@pnj.com

**W**e've had better. We want better. Yes, 2010 is on its way out and good riddance to it. Sure, there were signs of promise locally — work began on the Community Maritime Park, Palafox Street is alive and — dare we say it — even hip these days. Pensacola's first strong mayor was elected.

But most will remember 2010 for the agony, not ecstasy: the BP oil spring in April that damaged our coast and our economy, high unemployment rates, a recession that brought the blues to many and the violent crimes and murders that

have shocked a city.

Though there is apprehension and uncertainty all around us, many locals are ready to make a stand in 2011. We can let the future come to us. Or we can help shape our own future.

Here's how some area residents see 2011. Here are their hopes for the year. Their concerns. Their goals. Their desires. And their plans.

#### Leroy Williams

■ Age: 47.

■ Founder and director of the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association.



Williams

to in terms of growth and changing

“I think things are looking up. I'm hoping the construction of the Community Maritime Park gives the community something to cling

lives. Things like that will encourage our young people to stay in the area because there will be more job opportunities and entertainment for them.

I'm also hoping we find a way to help eliminate the shootings and violence that have taken place in the community. It's been a bad year for us in terms of crime and violence.”

Williams said his group, which produces original theater productions, hopes to get more involved in the community this year. The group has a production at the Saenger Theatre in February titled “God's Promises,” but Williams said he hopes to get his organization into the neighborhoods as well.

He said the group will work with local law enforcement agencies in 2011 to help initiate art projects in at-risk neighborhoods.

“We're going to get out in the community and come up with projects in neighborhoods known to be more violent. We want to show them another way.”

We have to help. Our attitudes matter. We need to speak up for the area. Tell your friends up north, that's what I do. If we act positive, we can help bring about more positive things. I'm so tired of the negative, hearing about all these murders and killings. We need to make our own good news. People need to realize what a great place this is to live in. The beach and the sunshine — we already have what so many others want.”



**IN ADVANCES** Pensacola's Gatlin wins 100-meter dash. **SPORTS**

**SEE THE BEST**

See which local business came in tops. **IN WEEK**



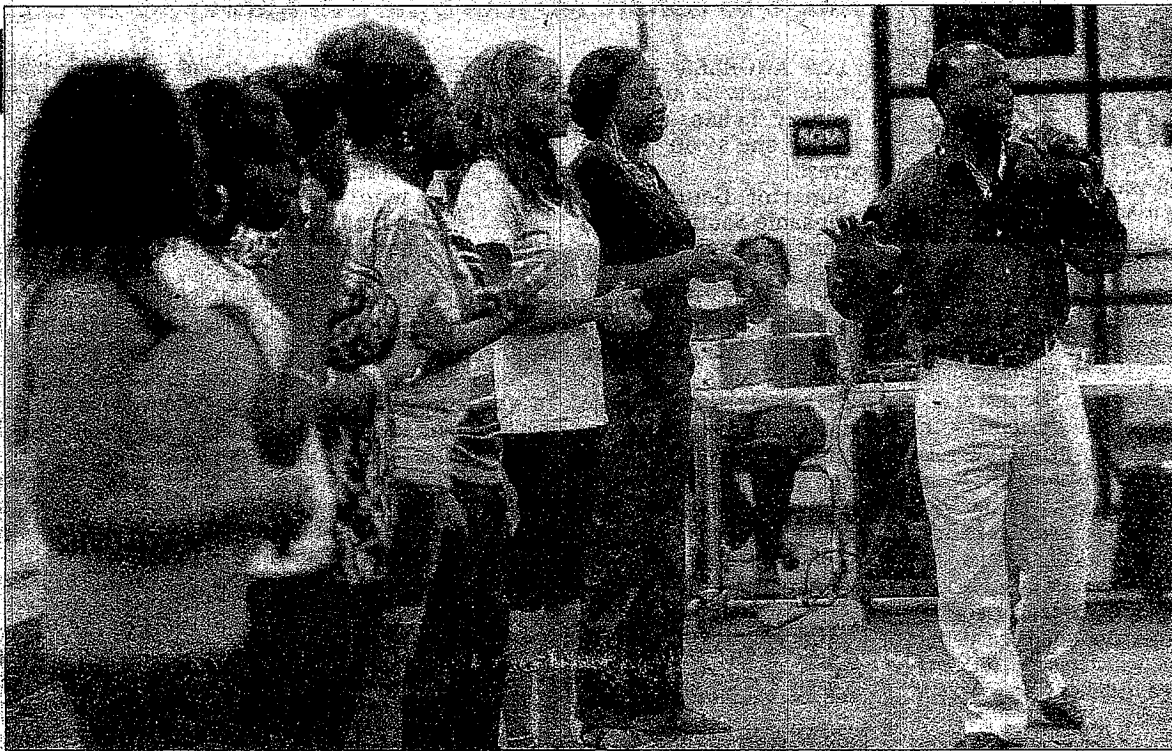
# PENSACOLA News Journal

A GANNETT COMPANY

FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2011



## 11TH ANNUAL YOUTH GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA



### LEROY WILLIAMS

» **Position:** Founder and director of the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association

» **Age:** 47

» **Hometown:** Pensacola

» **Family:** Wife, Treneshia Williams. Four children, ages 30 to 14

» **Education:** Escambia High School, class of 1982. Associate degree, industrial technology, Pensacola State College

» **Occupation:** Ascend Performance Materials employee in the receiving department

» **Church:** Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church

» **Hobbies:** Modeling, boxing, writing. He recently modeled at a benefit for autism services. And he writes often, citing Langston Hughes, who pioneered the literary art form known as jazz poetry, and Paul Laurence Dunbar, one of the first black poets to gain national recognition in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Leroy Williams, 47, right, conducts auditions for his 11th annual Youth Gospel Extravaganza recently at Pensacola State College. Williams founded the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association nearly 25 years ago. KATIE KING/KKING@PNJ.COM

# God's word in the spotlight

Arts group founder sought an alternative to violence, the streets

**Troy Moon**  
tmoon@pnj.com

In Leroy Williams' dance- and music-filled world, the spotlight is always on.

Not just when you hit the stage.

### WANT TO GO?

The Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association song-and-dance heavy Youth Gospel Extravaganza takes place 6 p.m. Saturday at the Pensacola High School auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door.

### MORE PHOTOS AT PNJ.COM

critic to please. So don't wait to hit the stage to shine, Williams told a group of young performers. Be at

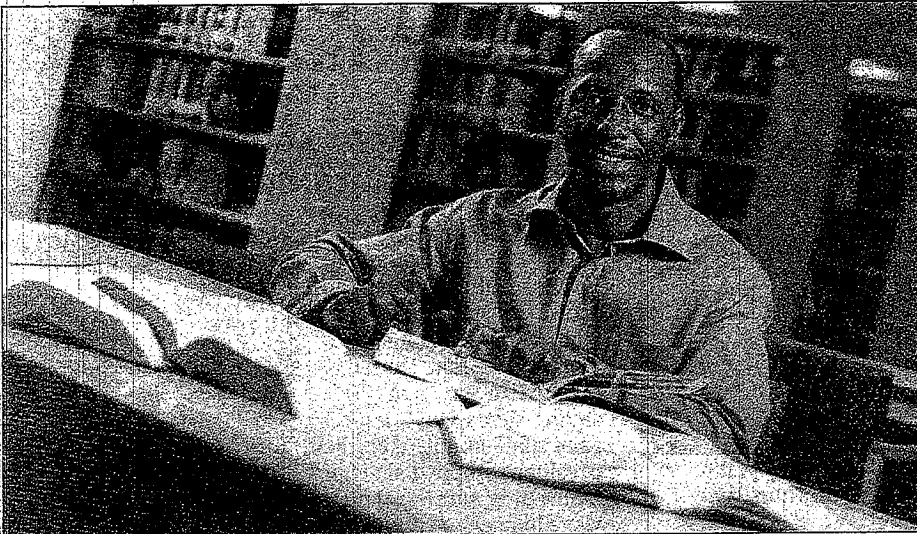
awaited their turn on the rehearsal stage at Pensacola State College. "We're doing this for God and the spirit of excellence. So there's no way to go but up."

Williams, 47, is the founder and director of the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, a nonprofit group formed in 1987 that is dedicated to keeping kids away from drugs, violence and other societal ills by providing

BELOW: The PCARA Faith Dancers audition for the 11th annual Youth Gospel

## LOCAL

## NATION



Leroy Williams, local playwright and founder of the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, is photographed at the Edward M. Chadbourne Library at Pensacola State College on Thursday. BEN TWINGLEY/BTWINGLEY@PNJ.COM

## Williams

Continued from 1A

Williams and also holds picnics and nonviolence rallies throughout the year. Since the group began, more than 1,000 young people have performed in his plays and productions.

For the past five weeks, Williams and a group of about 200 young people have been practicing for PCARA's biggest annual event, the song- and dance-heavy Youth Gospel Extravaganza. It takes place at 6 p.m. Saturday at Pensacola High School.

"It gets better and better every year," Williams told his group of performers before rehearsal started. "Let me get a little country with you — it gets better and better every year."

A few youngsters in the crowd giggled when Williams adopted the slight country accent. Williams long has felt comfortable playing roles, writing roles and commanding a stage.

Or a boxing ring.

### From ring to stage

Williams started out as a boxer in local gyms. In fact, PCARA originally began as a boxing club for young people, but Williams wanted to reach more children who needed a place to escape to

and a performing arts group was born.

Since then, Williams has written 26 gospel-themed plays, usually using humor to convey a strong, positive message.

Hundreds of youngsters, including his own four children, have performed in his plays and musical productions throughout the years.

"I was 11 or 12 when I started praise dancing for PCARA," said Lakesha Williams, 26, whose 8-year-old daughter, Jayla, will dance in this year's Extravaganza. "It gave me, and other young people, something to do instead of just hanging out on the street corner."

Lakesha Williams — no relation to Leroy Williams — recently earned her degree in computer information systems from the University of West Florida. She credits PCARA with inspiring her to reach her potential.

"Performing gives you confidence to do things you might not think you're capable of," she said. "Dancing alone gets you out of that shell."

Others agreed.

Kina Baldwin, 21, has been dancing with PCARA since 2005.

"It gives so many young people hope and courage," she said. "So many don't get it from their parents. (Williams) gives them hope."

more and admitted to still harboring a passion for boxing as well as writing and modeling.

In 2005, his gospel stage play "The Boogie Woogie Preacher," in which Williams himself played the title role, was chosen as Play of the Year at the American Gospel Music Awards.

"Ever year God has blessed me with a play to write," he said. "God has blessed me with a talent, and I want to use that talent to help others."

Those who work with young people in the community know Williams has improved numerous lives.

"He gives young people a chance to shine, to be stars," said Phyllis Long, as she watched a half dozen young dancers whom she instructs rehearse on their own in a hallway at PSC before hitting the larger rehearsal stage. "There is talent that is discovered here. So without him and his organization, there would have been so much talent that would be hidden."

And that's Williams' goal. To help young people realize their potential.

"My major goal is to make sure that at the end of the day, that lives are changed," he said. "I want these young people to know, that with God, anything is possible."

# PCARA 11th Annual Youth Gospel Extravaganza

Pensacola High School Auditorium

Saturday, June 25, 2011

6:00 P.M.

**LEROY WILLIAMS,**  
HOST,  
Founder/President of  
PCARA



**MALLORY STUDER,**  
CO-HOST,  
Marketing, Studer Group



Byrd



Jayla & Malachi  
Williams



Anointed & Appointed  
Praise Warriors



Sweet Redemption



Allegra Duran



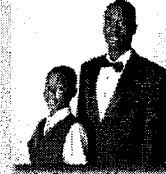
Autumn &  
Anjelica Hill



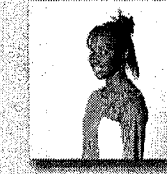
Stephen Phillips



Vaneshia Blackmon



"J" Brothers  
(Minstrels of Praise)



BreYonna Williams



Dajionae  
Hetherington



Sherria Johnson



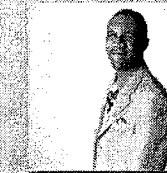
Morning Glory  
ZHPBC



Alana Bankston



Dev'on Irvin



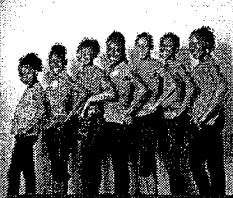
Donovan  
Gabriel Robinson



Jakierra Thomas



Edify



True Believers of Praise



Silence

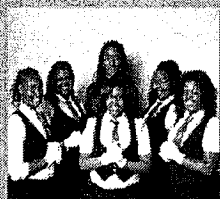


Inspirational  
Dancers

**Acts not Shown:**  
**Kanisha Dukes**  
**Atmosphere Setter**  
**Ashly Crumel**



PCARA Faith Dancers



Sisters and Brother  
with Visions



The Doves of ZHPBC



Retro-Active



Young Cess



Terry Womack

*In Loving Memory.*



Gwen Appelquist May  
1924-2011  
Special Thanks To:



Latoya Shine



Cardarius  
Blackmon

Pensacola State College, Studer Group, Pensacola High School, All Participants, & YOU

Happy  
Valentine's Day

# THE PENSACOLA VOICE

SERVING THE WEST GATE TO THE SUNSHINE STATE

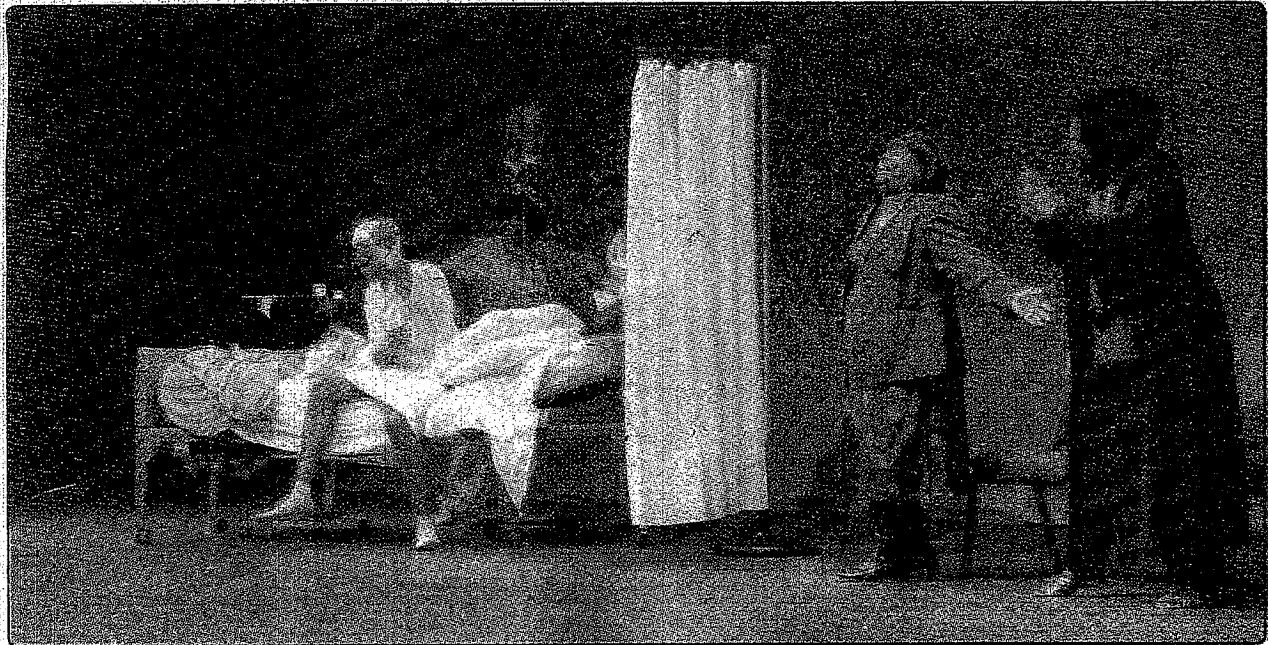
U.S. Religious Freedom Post  
oser to Being Filled pg.3

Blacks' Involvement In Egyptian  
Demonstrations pg.4

Contradictions and Hypo  
U.S. Policy in the Middle

Feb. 10 - Feb. 16, 2011

## God's Promises Opens at The Saenger Theater



Scenes from God's Promises "Its a Miracle"

If ever you wanted to laugh and cry and just "feel the spirit" then Saturday evening God's Promises was the place to be. With a number of scenes and various acts, God's Promises featured such

guests as recording artist Luther Barnes, Pastor Greg Burns of New Dimensions Christian Church, Pastor Michael Thompson of Greater Union Baptist Church, Pastor Lutimothy May of

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, and Pastor Bernard Yates of Zion Hope Primitive Baptist Church.

Continues on Community Page (5)



# COMMUNITY

Feb. 10 - Feb. 16, 2011

## God's Promises Opens at The Saenger Theater

The play's constant thread was about the ups and Downs of Life. Each scene represented some aspect of being beat up, distressed and just plain sick and dying. However, in God's Promises the play shows how God fulfill His promises if you have faith. A little missing girl is found, a cancerous man is cured, a HIV patient finds she is negative and a young lady who didn't believe God helped her found He was there all along.

It also showed that what you sow, you will surely reap-as in the case where the 'drunk man' who smoked drugs was shot and killed by the drug dealer. As a consequence, the drug dealer was arrested.

God's Promises was a delight and should it ever comes back take a moment to go and see it.





# 2010



**Teen Sex**

Survey: Teenage boys lie about sex, 3B

# LIFE

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Find more news and publish your own at pnj.com.

Send tips to [life@pnj.com](mailto:life@pnj.com)

Saturday, January 30, 2010



Photos by Ben Twingley/btwingley@pnj.com

Leroy Williams, founder and president of the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, is photographed with the rest of the cast from "Thank God It's Sunday! The Remix" on Thursday at Pensacola High School where they are rehearsing.

# Meet the neighbors

Gospel stage play offers humorous look at close-knit community

Rebecca Ross  
[rross@pnj.com](mailto:rross@pnj.com)

**S**ister Maggie Bell is the queen of the block.

A strong Christian lady, she oversees her small kingdom, and a host of colorful characters, from her front porch.

"She knows everybody's business," said Anita Johnson, 52, of Pensacola. "But she's a good-hearted woman who would give you the shirt off her back."

For some, Bell is a familiar face. The outspoken character, played by Johnson, starred in the Pensacola Community Arts & Recreation Association's 2002 gospel stage play, "Thank God It's Sunday!"

Because of the production's popularity, Sister Maggie Bell and her neighbors are headed back to the porch in "Thank

**Want to go?**

■ **WHAT:** "Thank God It's Sunday! The Remix."

■ **WHEN:** 4 and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6.

■ **WHERE:** Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Place.

■ **COST:** Tickets are \$22 in advance; \$24 day of show (additional fees may apply). Special, buy one seat, get one seat 50 percent off. Available at the Saenger box office, all Ticketmaster outlets, online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

■ **DETAILS:** 595-3880, or visit [www.pcaronline.com](http://www.pcaronline.com).



Elizabeth Marie Ellard, left, and Anita Ann Johnson rehearse for "Thank God It's Sunday! The Remix."

God It's Sunday! The Remix." Performances are scheduled for 4 and 7:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Saenger Theatre.

On a recent weeknight, the large cast gathered at Pensacola High School to rehearse. Chatter filled the auditorium

as members teased one another and fussed with costumes.

See PLAY, 3B

LIFE

'THANK GOD IT'S SUNDAY! THE REMIX' COMING TO SAENGER, 1B

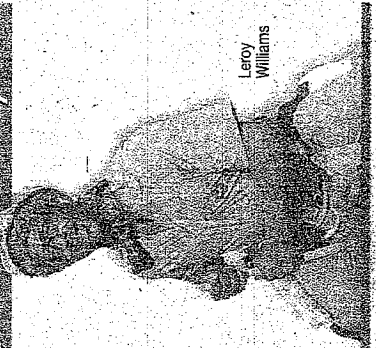
BOBBY JOHNS

New coach takes helm at Milton High.

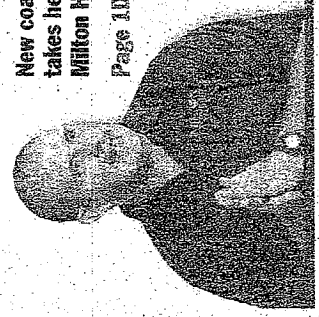
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# PENSACOLA News Journal

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2010



Leroy Williams



Photos by Ben Twingley/btwingley@pnj.com

Tonya Clark, left, and Ronald Mixon rehearse for the upcoming Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association's production of "Thank God It's Sunday! The Remix."

## Play

FROM 1B



Williams

Leroy Williams, who wrote the play, flitted from group to group, jangling in his tool-covered Maintenance

Man outfit. "Y'all are a hot mess," he told the cast, laughing. "Don't let anyone tell you different."

Like Sister Maggie Bell, Williams is a familiar face in the community.

He is the founder of PCARA, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing uplifting local entertainment and offering young people alternatives to drugs and violence. The energetic Pensacola resident also writes, produces, directs and acts in his productions, including "The Boogie Woogie Preacher," which won "Best Play of the Year" at the American Gospel Music Awards in 2005.

"Thank God It's Sunday! The Remix" offers his trademark mix of humor and positivity.

"For this production, I went in and revised it," Williams said. "I added some new characters and



Charisse Charles and Thomas Mitchell, front, and Anita Ann Johnson rehearse at Pensacola High School.

scenarios. It's a very funny production, but it has an uplifting message."

At the rehearsal, it was 13-year-old Elizabeth Ellard's hair that needed uplifting.

"It's supposed to stand straight up, but it's not working," said Ellard, pointing at the pigtail that drooped over her forehead. "Maybe it's the weather."

The bubbly Bellview Middle School student plays Angela, a gossiping young neighbor, in the production.

"She's very happy-go-lucky," said Ellard, of her character. "She doesn't mean to cause trouble, but it just happens around

her." Longtime PCARA member Charisse Charles, 47, said that Williams' characters are much like "people you know from your own neighborhood."

"You see every type of person," she explained. "They're all part of the neighborhood."

Her character Annie Mae reminds Charles of herself in attitude, if not wardrobe.

"She's a strong woman. She speaks her mind, which is like me," Charles said, smiling. "But you would not see me out in these big curlers and bedroom shoes. No way."

# LOCAL

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SECTION C / PAGE 1

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Pensacola News Journal

Find more news and publish your own at [pnj.com](http://pnj.com).

Sunday, February 7, 2010

## 'THANK GOD IT'S SUNDAY!'



Bruce Graner/bgraner@pnj.com

Deacon Phillip (John Warren) and Sister Maggie Bell (Anita Johnson) strike up a relationship in "Thank God It's Sunday! The Remix" on Saturday at the Saenger Theatre.

**ONLINE**

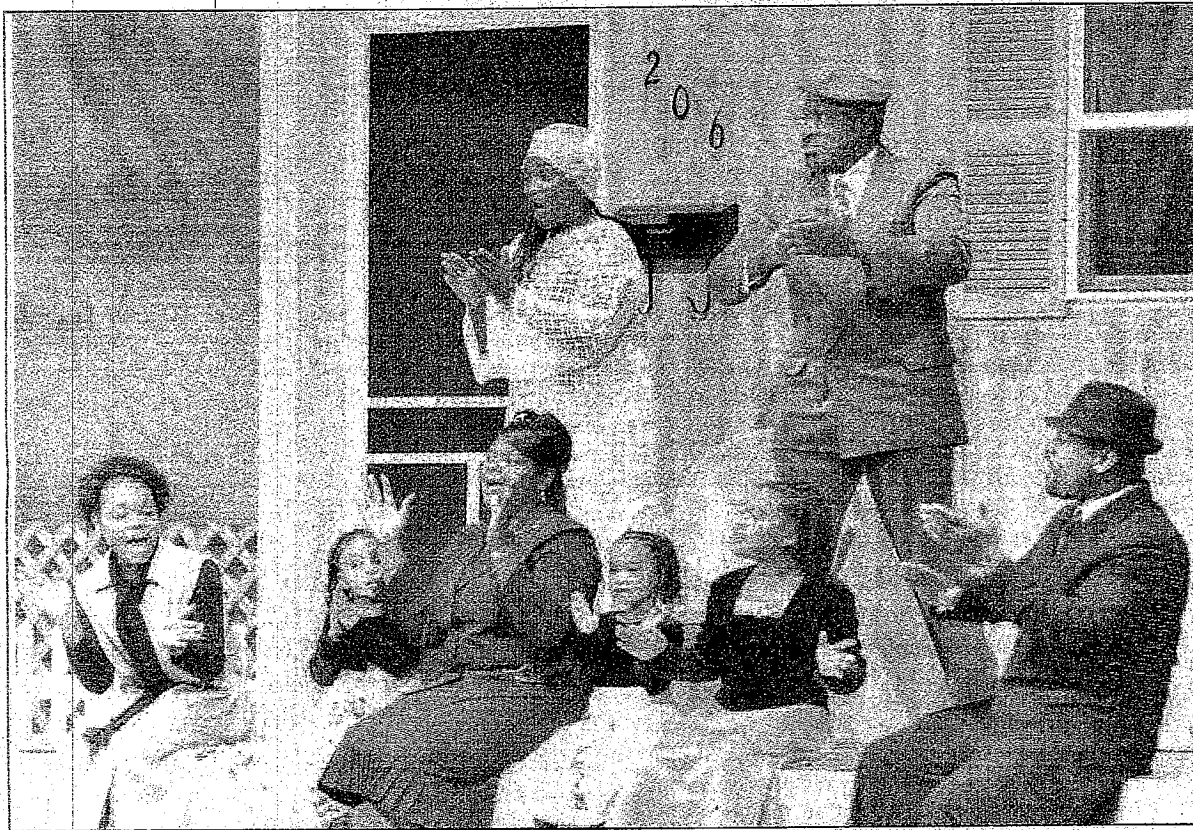
Visit [pnj.com](http://pnj.com) for more photos.

# The Independent Voice

WTTB is!

WTTB is set to open to the community at the new location at 1200 Langley time sponsor-Tri-City Chamber of Commerce (www.gcaacc.net) Companies have to offer the

## 'Thank God It's Sunday! The Remix' a big hit on Saturday



PCARA Productions remixed their hit gospel stage play "Thank God It's Sunday!" and turned it into an even bigger hit on Saturday, February 6th at the Pensacola Saenger Theater. Just when you thought it couldn't get any funnier, director and writer Leroy Williams, did it again. "Thank God It's Sunday! The Remix" depicts one Christian-Hearted lady who lives for each Sunday, so she can get her praise and shout on with the Lord, eat a good Sunday dinner, sit on her front porch in her rocking chair and enjoy a peaceful afternoon without all the drama she has to put up with during the week. The DVD goes on sale early March. To pre-order, call (850) 293-5345. Above: are scenes from the play.

AVAILABLE ON DVD!

PCARA Productions Presents LIVE!

# It's **GOD** Thank **SUNDAY!**

The Nation's Funniest Gospel Comedy Stage Play



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# 10th ANNUAL YOUTH GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA

Featuring:  
Pensacola's Most Talented Youth & Young Adults



Leroy Williams  
Founder/President & Playwright,  
of PCARA Productions



TAMARA JOHNSON



DAJONAE  
HETHERINGTON



DESTINI SPEARS



BRE'YONNA  
WILLIAMS



DOMINIQUE & TANISHA  
WESTMORE



KIMIKA WELLS



NAMELESS GENERATION



LARRIONIQUE  
WASHINGTON



SHERRIA JOHNSON



ANOINTED PRAISE



NEW 'G'



JERELL BLACKMON



SBWV



T.C. - 3:16



P.I.M.  
POETRY IN MOTION



PCARA FAITH DANCERS



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES  
PRAISE DANCERS



JAYLA WILLIAMS



MJJ PRAISE DANCERS

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH

PENSACOLA SAENGER THEATRE @ 6:00 P.M.

\$10.00 GENERAL ADMISSION

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS FROM LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN BOOK STORE,  
SAENGER THEATRE BOX OFFICE AND ONLINE AT [WWW.PENSACOLASAENGER.COM](http://WWW.PENSACOLASAENGER.COM)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL LEROY WILLIAMS AT 293-5345

PERFORMERS NOT PICTURED:

CHRISTIAN DUKES, JONATHON GAINES, KINA BALDWIN,  
DESTINY THOMAS & KANISHA DUKES, ZONE 3, AKEM NAJEE LANIER, FWFBDA PRAISE DANCERS



pnj.com

## Community cookout promotes nonviolence, freedom from drugs

Sean Dugas • sdugas@pnj.com • October 8, 2010

After more than a dozen murders this year in Escambia County, including an unsolved September double homicide, Leroy Williams believes his mission to the community is more important than ever.

"I want to bring businesses and residents concerned about the violence in our community together to say, 'Enough is enough,'" he said. "Lately, our community has been plagued with so much violence like never before; it has really got out of control."

Williams, the founder of the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, spoke this week about what he called the "escalating violence" in Escambia County and how PCARA is fighting back.

PCARA is a grassroots organization of volunteers that has been involved in community outreach for more than 23 years, Williams said.

For more than a decade, PCARA has hosted a community-wide cookout to unite people through a love of God, community involvement and a respect for others, regardless of differences, Williams said.

The PCARA and the Pensacola Parks and Recreation department joined this year for the 17th annual Big Community Cookout to support PCARA's quest for a nonviolence and drug-free community.

This year organizers anticipate 4,000 people will visit the cookout, scheduled to begin at noon Saturday at the Fricker Community Center, 900 North F Street. Last year, more than 3,200 people attended.

Prior to the event, PCARA will target areas where gang violence and drug use are believed to be more prevalent and encourage area residents to attend the cookout, Williams said. Those areas include the Montclair, Brownsville and Warrington neighborhoods, he said.

"Those are the areas that have higher violent crime, and those are the people we need to reach out to," Williams said.

Escambia County Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Ted Roy said PCARA and similar groups are important for the community because they often act as a liaison between the community and law enforcement.

"Hopefully, (the cookout) gives victims of a violent crime a chance to see there are people willing to help and trying to make a difference," Roy said.

Want to go?

-- What: 17th annual Big Community Cookout for a nonviolent and drug-free community.

-- Where: Fricker Community Center, 900 N. F St.

-- When: Cookout begins at noon Saturday.

-- Details: For more information, visit [www.pcaraonline.com](http://www.pcaraonline.com) or call Leroy Williams at 293-5345.

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# Pride hits home

## Events focus on community improvement

**Rebecca Ross**  
[ross@pnj.com](mailto:ross@pnj.com)

It was a day of education and neighborly embraces.

On Saturday, two events shared the same goal of improving the community. All it took was a handful of speakers, free food and a few friendly hugs.



Strader

The day kicked off with Pathways for Change's Community Awareness Expo at the Hadji Shrine Temple on West Nine Mile Road.

The nonprofit treatment program's expo focused on crime prevention, and narcotics and alcohol abuse. Attendees explored outdoor exhibits and visited more than a dozen indoor booths, including Mothers Against Drunk Driving, FavorHouse and the Community Drug and Alcohol Council.

Kathy Strader, event organizer, was pleased to see so many families in attendance. Early intervention and public awareness are vital for a better community, she said.

"As an admissions specialist and court liaison, I see the devastating effects of drug and alcohol abuse," Strader



Chris Wigent/Pensacola News Journal

Romeo Jones, 7, tries to catch a balloon Saturday at the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association Cookout.

### ONLINE

More photos of the events online at [pnj.com](http://pnj.com)

said. "People don't realize that it begins, for so many, in childhood."

Pensacola resident Andrea

See PRIDE, 6C

### Learn more

Learn about upcoming Pensacola Arts and Recreational Association events online at [www.pcaraonline.com](http://www.pcaraonline.com) or call Leroy Williams at 293-5345.

## Pride

### FROM IC

Johnson thought the expo was a good experience for William, her 5-year-old son.

"It's important to start teaching them about these things at a young age," she said, watching him flip through an educational coloring book. "I believe in positive reinforcement."

Escambia County Sheriff David Morgan, a guest speaker, encouraged parents to return to core values and be more involved in their children's lives.

"I can't hire enough deputies, build enough jails or start enough programs to stop crime," he told the crowd. "What will take back our community and

streets is parenting."

On the other side of town, it was food and music that paved the way for progress.

Presented by the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association, the 17th annual Big Community Cookout drew about 3,000 to the Fricker Community Center on North F Street.

Leroy Williams, PCARA founder, offered hugs and hearty greetings to every person he passed. He smiled at the sight of attendees munching free hot dogs and waiting their turn on the outdoor stage.

"This is about uniting people through God and through love," he said. "A lot of kids don't even hear the word 'love' at home, so we've got to make a difference."



Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association

# 2009



# Boogie Woogie Preacher is back in PCARA production

Leroy Williams is president of the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association (PCARA), an organization



**Andy Metzger**  
Front Row

he found-ed in 1987 to assist in the prevention of illegal drug use, program-cy and violence among youth through-out the Pensacola community. Composed entirely of volunteers, PCARA sponsors a wide variety of events and activities, among them gospel stage plays written, produced and directed by Williams. Williams' latest creation, "The Congregation in Full Effect! Featuring the

Boogie Woogie Preacher & Possel," will have two performances Saturday at the Saenger Theatre.

Watching a run-through of this lively show, I was impressed not only with the joy Williams derives from both directing and performing, but also with the almost magical ability he has to infuse his cast with that same joy.

When cast members hit the stage in any scene they were alive with energy and enthusiasm for this message-based show. Williams' writing style is highly presentational, often employing an exaggeration-for-emphasis technique that grabs your attention.

"The Congregation in Full Effect!" opens on a purely serious note with a scene depicting seven different prisoners each telling his or her tale of woe,

but each also owning the fact that a different path would have led to a different result. There is powerful emotion in the actors as they portray hard-bitten souls longing for a second chance to get it right.

From this dramatic opening, we move to a series of scenes set in a church environment that are loaded with song, dance and humor, but that never lose sight of what

"The Congregation in Full Effect!" is really about. The action revolves around an upcoming service that will feature a "praise dance" competition between the youth dance team, who are well practiced, and some older would-be dancers who need a little work.

There is excellent comic posturing as various members of the congregation step forward to proclaim their messages and

sometimes confront one another. Williams' writing emphasizes the fact that it's frequently he or she who proclaims the loudest that knows the least.

Williams is decidedly over-the-top as the Boogie Woogie Preacher, but always with a playful gleam in his eye, and his song-and-dance persona is like a cross between Little Richard and WC Hammer.

Several cast members rival Williams' energy. Dominique Howard is outrageous and unpredictable as the naive Deacon West. Jennifer Randolph is haughty, hilarious and ever-so-easily-offended as Sister Desnee. Shawana B. Jackson is outstanding in voice and body language as an elderly congregation member named Sister Smith. Charisse Charles generates multiple laughs as the combative

Sister Della-Jee, who is ready to fight right now, and Charlene Quinney is almost as intimidating as Sister Priscilla.

I heard some fine voices in the rehearsal, including Carolyn Cannada, Tawada English, Ronald Mixon, Quinney and Randolph.

The setting for Act II of "The Congregation in Full Effect!" is the church service at which the dance competition will unfold. The prisoners we met early on are also present as part of the church's "prison ministry." The dancing in this scene, both that intended as the competition and that intended to depict a congregation so joyful they just have to dance, is executed with great

excubance by the cast. "The Congregation in Full Effect!" definitely generates humor and fun,

## GO!

**WHAT:** "The Congregation in Full Effect!"  
Featuring the Boogie Woogie Preacher & Possel!

**WHEN:** 4 and 7:30 pm Saturday

**WHERE:** Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Place.  
**TICKETS:** \$24 in advance, \$26 day of show.

**DETAILS:** 293-5345

but the play and the dedicated cast Williams has assembled never lose sight of why they are doing it.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at Lifeway Christian Store, 1654 Airport Blvd.; Odds & Ends Fashion, 2620 North E. St.; Arlene Williams Bar-B-Q, 3420 Mobile Highway; the Saenger Theatre box office; and all Ticketmaster locations.

# out

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Pensacola News Journal

March 27-April 2, 2009

## 'The Congregation in Full Effect!'

4 and 7:30 p.m., Saturday. Featuring the Boogie Woogie Preacher & Possee, this outrageous comedy stage play hopes to make you laugh, cry and testify all at the same time. The stage play was written, produced and directed by Leroy Williams. For more details, read today's "Front Row" column on page 4. Tickets: \$24 in advance; \$26 the day of the show. Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palatka Place, 595-3880, or visit [www.pcaronline.com](http://www.pcaronline.com).



Leroy Williams, center, as the Boogie Woogie Preacher, reacts with his posse to the flatulence of Deacon Elmore (foreground right), played by Capri Rudolph, in "The Congregation in Full Effect!"

Bruce Graner/bgraner@pnj.com

AL

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News and publish your own at [pnj.com](http://pnj.com).

Sunday, March 29, 2009

**United HOME CARE SERVICE**  
of Northwest Florida, LLC

- We Meet or Beat Any Competitor
- 24 Hour Sitters/Companions
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Photos by Bruce Graner/bgraner@pnj.com

# High spirits hit the Saenger



**ABOVE:** Leroy Williams, center, as the Boogie Woogie Preacher shows his "posse" how it's done as they practice for a praise dance competition against younger church members. The scene is part of the PCARA production of "The Congregation in Full Effect! Featuring The Boogie Woogie Preacher & Posse!"

**LEFT:** Members of the Boogie Woogie Preacher's "posse" practice their praise dance moves.

## ONLINE

Visit [pnj.com](http://pnj.com) for more photos from Saturday's production.



Available On DVD!

PCARA Productions Presents

A Spiritually Up-lifting, Gospel Stage Play LIVE!

The  
**CONGREGATION**  
In Full Effect!

featuring

The Boogie Woogie Preacher & Posse!

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Pensacola News Journal

Find more news and publish your own at [pnj.com](http://pnj.com).

Sunday, October 11, 2009

## PCARA COMMUNITY COOKOUT



Gary McCracken/gmccracken@pnj.com

The MJJ Praise Dancers perform on stage at the Pensacola Community Arts and Recreation Association Big Community Cookout. The 16th annual event at McGee Field featured food and gospel entertainment as it worked to fight violence and drug abuse in the community.

**ONLINE:** See more photos from the event online at [pnj.com](http://pnj.com)