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SOCIAL STUDIES: ISSUES, GOVERNMENT, POLITICS, HISTORY

The homeless struggle Rising costs. Fewer housing options. Less help. It's a scenario that sparks fears of a spike in Florida's homeless population. [2/18/07]

Lobbying Under Disguise To make their voices louder in Washington, corporations and trade associations pay "watchdog" groups and columnists to spread their messages. But readers and viewers aren't told. [12/11/06]

Republican vs. Republican: A cellular division Mutiny. Blackmail. Adorable children. The drama behind the bill to expand federal funding for stem cell research. It's a story of how Washington works.

Capitalist China China's capitalist revolution is about more than cheap goods and labor. A tantalizing promise of wealth has created a freewheeling spirit and eager entrepreneurs. A special three-part series. [9/18/05]

Remembering WWII For six long years, 1939-'45, few people could escape the effects of a world at war. A generation was tested as perhaps none had been tested before. The impact would be felt for decades. This year, the 60th anniversary of the war's end, we look back to pay tribute to those involved and to learn from its enduring lessons. [8/28/05]

Following Francisco In 1983, a young man left Mexico in search of a better life in "El Norte." He found it in Clearwater. Twenty years later, thousands from his region have found it too, enriching people at both ends of the journey." [4/25/04]

The last full measure of devotion Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith went to Iraq vowing to bring his men home alive. It would take everything he had to give. He found himself leading 16 GIs in a firefight against 100 enemy soldiers. Smith's actions that day have earned him a nomination for the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for bravery. [1/25/04]

The Deuces In the decades of segregation in St. Petersburg, black residents made their own world on 22nd Street S -- The Deuces. The street was famous, then forlorn and finally, just forgotten. Where has it been and where might it be going? [6/28/02]

Portraits in black history The photographs in this series were made in the middle of the last century by the Burgert Brothers commercial photography studio in Tampa. The Burgerts were white, but their photographs provide a varied record of African-American life during the days of segregation. [11/19/02]

SCIENCE, WEATHER, ENVIRONMENT

Vanishing wetlands Florida has more wetlands than any other state but Alaska. They stop floods, clean up water pollution, and replenish drinking supplies. Yet despite government promises they are disappearing. [12/17/06]

The Grouper Catch It's getting harder to get the gulf's signature fish on your plate. The long-liners and the little guy face off in the politics of overfishing. That grouper sandwich you ordered? Well, it might not be. [8/6/06]

A day in the life of Fort DeSoto Park Stephen Leatherman, better known as "Dr. Beach," last month put Fort DeSoto Park's North Beach at the top of his annual list of America's best beaches. See Don Morris' sketches transform into video. [6/3/05]

A pipeline to promise, or a pipeline to peril The United States is betting the future of energy lies in the hard-to-reach Caspian Sea. With the \$3.6 billion pipeline about to open it remains to be seen if the investment will show a return. [5/15/05]

2006 Hurricane Guide

Toxic indifference In 1991, two Hernando County employees sounded the alarm: The county's public works compound was an environmental time bomb. [4/9/06]

In Their Eyes: Stories of Hurricane Katrina Photos brought home the suffering caused when Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Gulf Coast. Let our photographers tell the story as they saw it. [10/6/05]

Hurricane Wilma Coverage from the Times [9/21/05]

Hurricane Rita Coverage from the Times [9/21/05]

Hurricane Katrina Coverage from the Times [9/1/05]

Diagnosis diabetes Nearly 13-million are diagnosed. More than 5-million more have it and don't know it. The number of Americans now diagnosed with diabetes is about 13-million, nearly double what it was in 1990. [4/18/04]

Tamiami Trail Ambition and sweat tamed the Everglades just enough to bring modern life to Tampa and Miami. Now, 75 years later, we speed along a road where civilization runs wild as the alligator. [4/20/03]

After the Storm: Hurricane Andrew 10 years later The storm Hurricane Andrew touched the lives of thousands of people in South Florida. Ten 10 years later, the effects can still be felt. [8/18/02]

Painful reminders Scars from run-ins with boat propellers are now being used to track and identify Florida's manatees. [5/5/02]

Stevenson Creek's Struggle with Man -- As cities grow, the lakes, streams and creeks they surround suffer. Chances are, the issues that created the Stevenson Creek mess are the same issues that affect a creek near you. [3/10/02]

Good clean fun? Summertime, and the swimming's easy, but keeping up a pool isn't. In Hillsborough County, Florida, more than 50 pools flunked five or more inspections. Check the pool in your neighborhood by accessing the St. Petersburg Times interactive database, part of a special report on Hillsborough's pools. [7/25/03]

Too much exposure?

Floridians especially should be aware of the health risks associated with prolonged sun exposure; damage done to the skin is cumulative. Sunscreen provides some protection, but it might not be enough. So before you head to the beach, take time to learn the basics of sun protection. [6/29/03]

EDUCATION, FAMILIES and STUDENT LIFE

Ninth or never

For 40,000 kids in Florida every year, ninth grade is where it all falls apart. No other grade offers such an honest view into what schools are really like, and by extension, so brutally forces us to confront the flip side: How we raise our kids. [12/10/06]

Home schooling: It's not what you think

Yearbook, drama lessons, field trips, even classes at public school. Homeschooling gets a new look from a generation craving more time with their kids. [6/26/05]

Achievement Gap: Reading, writing, race

Years of lagging performance have taken a toll on black students. Now educators struggle to close the gap. [5/16/04]

The invisible men Black male students have the most trouble navigating the education system. Few are making it through to college. [4/17/05]

Life at the Edge of Everything Four Times staffers spent months shadowing a handful of Tampa seventh-graders. They went to the kids' slumber parties, hung out at their homes, witnessed all the mini-dramas of growing up. Along the way, they gained access into a secret world normally hidden from parents. [5/18/03]

Journal of an F year The state gave 64 schools in Florida an F grade last year, among them Shaw Elementary in a high-poverty area of Tampa. While politicians and academics debate school grading, the people at Shaw lived it. How one school battled the worst label in Florida [8/24/03]

INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

Korea: The Forgotten War

On the 50th anniversary of the war's end, we look at why and how the war was waged and the effect it had on the United States, on our communities and on many of the tens of thousands Korean War veterans who live in the Tampa Bay area. [7/20/03]

Return to the Killing Fields Palm Harbor resident Sophie Stagg returned to the homeland she had not seen since she was a child. In a two-part series, we tell the story of her efforts to help Cambodia's struggling people. [10/8/00]

Una Vida Mejor: A better life A handful of women from a windblown village in Mexico set out for a better life - una vida mejor -on the back roads of the new world economy. [5/9/99]

BUSINESS, ECONOMICS

Housing prices: Bay's home boom suddenly bellyup

Year to year, overall housing prices in the Tampa Bay area still show small increases. But don't be fooled. With interactive maps[11/19/06]

The Insurance crisis

The cost of homeowners insurance in Florida has become prohibitive. Here is an archive of the Times' ongoing coverage of the issue. [10/6/06]

Deal me in

Enterprise Florida is a public-private partnership that helps determine where incentive money gets spent to create jobs in the state. Sometimes, board members' companies reap the benefits. [8/27/06]

Risky business

Incentives - good or bad business: The state uses millions in tax dollars to help certain companies create jobs. But does that strategy pay off for taxpayers? [4/10/05]

LAW and CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Dim view from a crowded jail

How bad is the Pinellas County Jail's overcrowding? A Times reporter spends 48 hours there to see for himself. [1/14/07]

The innocence defence In January 2003, Rudolph Holton walked away from death row. This is why he spent 16 years there: Tampa police never pursued a suspect accused of raping the murder victim. A jailhouse snitch said Holton confessed, though later he said he made it up to get a break in his own case. The prosecutor told the jury a hair found on the victim was Holton's, but he couldn't prove it. The judge refused to wait for a key defense witness. To set Holton free, it would take a lawyer who was too young and too reckless to know what she was up against. [6/6/03]

Murder at locker 02-069 The story of one of America's first school shooters, a brilliant loner, and what he has become in the 23 years since. It's also a story of what we have become. [2/11/01]

The Valessa Robinson Case A Tampa teenager is going on trial, accused of killing her mother. What happened in this case in which so little seems to make sense? [4/9/00]

U.S. vs. Them Since President Richard Nixon declared the "war on drugs" 30 years ago, the United States has vowed that no ground will be surrendered in its efforts to crush the \$400-billion-a-year global industry in illicit drugs. A three-part series by Times senior correspondent Susan Taylor Martin. [7/29/01]

The Rev. Henry Lyons saga The leader of the National Baptist Convention (NBC), America's largest black Baptist church group, saw his troubles begin in July 1997 with arson at a home he is alleged to own with a woman other than his wife. From the beginning, the St. Petersburg Times has reported on the Lyons case, which is chronicled in this comprehensive archive of stories. [6/8/97 -- 9/28/02]

Under 12, Under Arrest A two-part series examines what may be Florida's next big challenge in juvenile crime: Grade school kids in the system. [12/17/00]

Angels & Demons (1998 Pulitzer Winner) On June 4, 1989, the bodies of Jo, Michelle and Christe were found floating in Tampa Bay. This is the story of the murders and their aftermath, a story of a handful of people who kept faith amid the unthinkable. [10/26 -- 11/9/97]

SOCIAL ISSUES

09-11-01: One year later

Sept. 11, 2001 was the New Day of Infamy, when foreign terrorism was unleashed on American soil. The Times Online presents a retrospective of 9/11 and a look to the future, using some of the materials published in the St. Petersburg Times and others from the Associated Press. [9/01/02]

Alone Together: A year in the life of an Alzheimer's support group -- Sometimes love isn't enough. [6/9/02]

The American Way A 1999 visual report on kids and guns in Tampa Bay from the photographers of the St. Petersburg Times. [6/13/99]

To Serve & Collect In the Tampa Bay area, hundreds of police officers and firefighters have retired on taxpayer-supported disability pensions after they were injured on the job. The Times spent six months investigating public safety employees who collect disability pensions that often are far more lucrative than most they could get in the private sector. [3/31/96]

Seminole Gambling: A Trail of Millions -- A three-part series published in 1997 on the Seminole Tribe in Florida and their casino operations. [12/19/97]

POLITICS

Reports from a region in conflict

Times staff reports from the Middle East. [1/5/03]

Inside Saudi Arabia: A five part series The Sept. 11 attacks -- involving 15 Saudi citizens -- underscore stresses in a society struggling with change. [6/21/02]

Lost Votes The St. Petersburg Times and several other media organizations analyzed 175,010 Florida ballots that were cast but not counted during the 2000 presidential election. Here are the results of and reaction to that analysis. [11/12/01]

Election 2000 -- After the most legally contentious election in America, George W. Bush became the 43rd president of the United States, but not before Florida was thrust onto the world stage -- warts and all. A comprehensive look at the election and how the Times covered it.

THE ARTS

Chihuly Across Florida: Masterworks in Glass

Dale Chihuly, the most famous glass artist in the world, brings his extravagant, flamboyant sculptures and installations to the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, Jan. 18 through May 30. The galleries and gardens are filled with examples of Chihuly's most celebrated work including the monumental sculptures built from hundreds of pieces of individually blown glass. [1/11/04]

Monet's London: virtual tour

Times art critic Lennie Bennett narrates the tour, which explores the artwork on display and explains why 19th-century London was such an inspiration to artists around the world. [2/1/05]

SPORTS and ADVENTURE

Dungy is a champion. Amen. Tony Dungy got his Super Bowl title after 11 seasons as a head coach. He was fired in 2001, just one season before the Bucs won Super Bowl XXXVII. But Dungy said it was worth the wait. [2/4/07]

Against the wind and tide Six paddlers embark on a 156 mile kayak trek on Florida's Indian River Lagoon. [1/16/07]

LOCAL STORIES

Hiccups heard round the world

Jennifer Mee, a 15-year-old St. Petersburg girl, has been living with hiccups for three weeks. She has seen doctors and tried "cures." Nothing has worked.

Brooksville: 150 Years

The Times talked to some longtime Brooksville residents to mark the town's 150th anniversary. This is their story, in their words. [10/13/06]

Epiphany 1906 -2006

Tarpon Springs' 100th annual Epiphany celebration, commemorating the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan. This year's celebration was highlighted by the Diving for the Cross, presided over by His All Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church. [1/6/06]

Mama, I'm a big girl now

Imagine the thrill of suddenly getting the one thing you have always wanted most in life. It happened to Michelle Dowdy, who graduated straight from high school to the New York stage. But was she ready? A six-part series. [12/4/05]

The hard road Inside the Jennifer Porter hit-and-run case. A five-part series. [10/13/05]

A killer within

Times staffer Barry Bradley inspired countless readers with frank insightful stories about his battle with lung cancer.

Mary and Jim to the end

Before Jim Morrison became famous with the Doors, he and Mary Werbelow were soul mates. In the never-ending procession of Morrison biographies, she is mentioned briefly but never quoted. Google her, and not a single photo appears. She has never spoken publicly about their three years together - until now. [9/25/05]

United by Faith

About 50 Muslim families come for opportunity and liberty. In the wake of 9/11, they find themselves forced to reach out from their community in an uncertain time. [5/16/04]

Terri Schiavo: A long, public death

Before the prayer warriors massed outside her window, before gavels pounded in six courts, before the Vatican issued a statement, before the president signed a midnight law and the Supreme Court turned its head, Terri Schiavo was an ordinary girl. [11/13/02 -- 4/20/05]

A husband for Vibha

Arranged marriage has been a cultural tradition for generations of Indians, including the family of USF student Vibha Dhawan. But what happens when a modern woman agrees to an ancient ritual?" [12/19/04]

A message from Roger

Standing on Clearwater's Pier 60, a little boy put a note in a bottle: "To whoever finds this, please write me a letter and let me know." Nineteen years went by. Roger, we got your note. [7/10/03]

Sense of Community What are the ties that bind? What is the sense of community in south Pinellas? You are invited to read about all these areas that make up southern Pinellas County's neighborhoods. [70101]

A closer look at special reports by the St. Petersburg Times

The St. Petersburg Times launched its presence on the World Wide Web in March 1995 with a virtual tour of the Treasures of the Czars, an exhibition that was on tour then at the Florida International Museum in St. Petersburg. In the years since, we have posted on this site many other Web projects that have an enduring appeal, among them our Pulitzer prize-winning reportage, series journalism and other specials.

African-Americans in Florida: Day one and Day two -- Three months after the presidential election, black voters in Florida don't accept the result and blame the state for rejecting their votes. [2/18/01]

The Ballad of the Country Doctor & Singing Out Proud-- Two stories on the African-American experience in country music. [4/23/00]

He wanted you to know -- Bryan Curtis started smoking at 13, never thinking that 20 years later it would kill him. In his last weeks, he set out with a message for young people. [6/15/99]

Her Picture in My Wallet -- One soldier's story of love, war and the things in life worth waiting for. [1/14/01]

The wrong they could not bury -- When the great Storm of 1928 swept hundreds of African-Americans in South Florida to their deaths, many were buried in an unmarked ditch in West Palm Beach. One man now leads the struggle to remember them. [2/25/01]

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