

## Study Confirms Many Of Us Go Online For No Reason



NEW YORK (AP) — For anyone who needed official word, a new study confirms that many of us — and the majority of young adults — go online for no good reason at all.

The report from the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project found that on any given day, 53 percent of 18 to 29 year-olds go online just to have fun or pass time.

That should explain all those kitten videos.

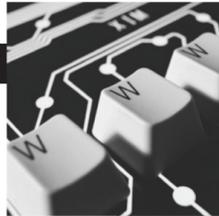
The report finds that the amount of time people spend tooling around on the Web doing nothing corresponds with age. Only 12 percent of people over 65 say they went online the previous day for

no particular reason. Of those aged 50 to 64, the study found 27 percent answered yes to the same question.

In all, 58 percent of all adults said that they use the Internet to pass time or have fun at least occasionally. Of adults who use the Internet, nearly three-quarters surf the Web for no reason.

The survey didn't define "fun," so people could interpret it broadly. For some people, gossip blogs might be fun, for others, they're serious research.

Pew is releasing the study on Friday. The phone survey was conducted from July 25 to Aug. 26 among 2,260 American adults.



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## The Birth Place Reunion Photo Shoot And Christmas Fundraiser

WINTER GARDEN - Local midwife Jennie Joseph is celebrating her 30th year in the birthing business and is planning a commemorative photo shoot of babies that she has delivered over the years. Joseph operates The Birth Place, a birthing center and prenatal clinic in Winter Garden, which has expanded to new premises and will be hosting a Christmas open house, barbecue and fundraiser on Saturday December 17, 2011 at 10 AM.

“It is an incredible honor to participate in the formation of new families”, she states. “My staff and I focus on bringing every mom and baby to full-term, making sure they have the information and support they need to be empowered parents”. She plans to display the photo prominently in the new building and invites all families who have ever been clients over the past 17 years to bring their babies or children and participate. When asked how many babies she has delivered Joseph smiles and shakes her head, “I’ve lost count!” she says.

About The Birth Place  
The Birth Place birthing center provides a service to the local Orlando area community by offering quality maternity care for women, with a focus on family involvement. As owner and Executive Director of The Birth Place (www.thebirthplace.org), a non-profit organization, midwife Jennie Joseph offers prenatal and postpartum exams along with an onsite birthing facility for healthy, low-risk women. British-trained and educated in the early 1980's Joseph has been a Florida resident since 1989. The Birth Place practice continues to grow and has become renowned for healthy outcomes and empowered birth for both mothers and babies in the Central Florida area. Funds are needed to provide continued care for low-income and uninsured women. No pregnant woman that needs care will be turned away.

## Deck The Halls... Chestnuts Roasting...Announcing A New Holiday Tradition For African Americans!

DALLAS, TX - Dallas, TX-based publishing company NetNia Publishing releases 18 new Black Santa Magic Letters anyone can personalize for family and friends. These colorful cultural holiday letters are found at their unique website BlackSantaMagicLetters.com. This site is fast becoming a new tradition because the letters resonate and identify with African-American children and adults alike, offering the perfect addition to your Christmas shopping list.

“Christmas is a magical time of the year for African-Americans. We believe that positive inspirational images of people of color, expressed around the traditional themes of Christmas, create a different kind of memory for children and adults. And -- who doesn't love getting a personal letter from Santa,” asked Jeffrey Bradley, President of BlackSantaMagicLetters.com.

Through the special Internet tool created by Mr. Bradley, anybody can visit BlackSantaMagicLetters.com, answer a few questions and instantly create, print, save, and email a personal, memorable letter right on their computer.

“My nieces live in Georgia and I wanted to do something for them that was a keepsake they would remember forever. I used BlackSantaMagicLetters.com to create the letters I wanted. Then I used the information on the website to have each personalized letter mailed from the North Pole with an authentic postmark,” said Psychiatrist Rennie Marshall.

Christmas is right around the corner ... have you thought about how you'll make it more memorable for

children and adults in your family?

“We've become increasingly passionate about the importance of holidays and how they can create memories that bind African-American families together. What we're doing with the Black Santa letters is an expression of our commitment to

“ Christmas is a magical time of the year for African-Americans. We believe that positive inspirational images of people of color, . . . ”

families,” said creator Jeff Bradley.

BlackSantaMagicLetters.com is a new Christmas tradition—but you can still have the chestnuts roasting on the open fire, just like when you were young.

BlackSantaMagicLetters.com features everything you need to know about African-

American Santa Claus – including letter samples, articles, fun facts, animations, songs, and tips. It is owned and managed by NetNia Publishing, Inc. Visit <http://www.black santamagicletters.com> for more information.



## National Council For Negro Women Greater Orlando Section (NCNWGOS) Announces Membership Drive

Organization seeks members interested in making a positive difference in the Greater Orlando Community

ORLANDO - NCNWGOS announces the launch of its Membership Drive on December 10, 11:30am - 1:30pm at the Orange County Library Hiawasse Branch, 7391 W. Colonial Dr. Orlando, FL 32818. The theme is “Making a positive difference in the community through our pursuit of excellence.” Membership is open to all who attend the event and refreshments will be served.

The National Council of Negro Women was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, as a national organization for all women with a focus of “Unity of Purpose and a Unity of Action.” The Greater Orlando Section was founded in 2008 with the specific mission to advocate activities to aid and promote the plight of women in Orange, Osceola, & Seminole counties by introducing programs focusing on Health, Education, Economic Empowerment, and Youth initiatives.

This year the organization has hosted a variety of events for the public in support of their programs. Signature events this year include the 3rd Annual National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day High Tea & Luncheon; 90-Day Get Fit Challenge; Education Straight Talk Series; Educating Our Youth for Greatness; and Economic Empowerment's Work Your Business Plan among others.

“NCNWGOS provides a multitude of opportunities for service and volunteerism within the Greater Orlando area,” said Donesha Anthony, Chair of Membership. “We look forward to achieving greater heights of success by making a positive difference in the community through our pursuit of excellence.” NCNW offers differing levels of membership beginning with student membership

at \$10 and ranging through life membership packages. All memberships include invitations to and participation in all group activities, and free sub-

scription to the national quarterly print newsletter offering professional advice and tips on health, education, and economic empowerment.

For more information visit [www.ncnwgos.com](http://www.ncnwgos.com).



## Price Of Crude Hits \$100 After Unemployment Rate Falls To 8.6 Percent

TAMPA — The price of crude oil advanced last week to settle Friday at \$100.96 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange—\$4.19 more than the week prior. Positive economic news and concerns over Iran's oil shipments caused oil prices to increase. The Labor Department reported a jump in payrolls of 120,000 as the U.S. unemployment rate fell to a two-year low of 8.6 percent. Consumer confidence also rose for the month of November to 65.8 from 64.1, according to a Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan report.

Concerns that Iran's shipments of oil could be threatened after the European Union tightened sanctions on the OPEC country helped drive oil prices to \$100 a barrel. Iran pumped 3.6 million barrels of oil a day last month and is one of the largest oil producing countries in the world.

“Although oil prices reached \$100 a barrel, retail gasoline prices continue to fall,” said Jessica Brady, AAA spokesperson, The Auto Club Group. “While it's no surprise oil prices rose on the positive economic news, it does not mean we will see a huge surge in gasoline consumption as a result. U.S. stockpiles of oil increased almost 4 million barrels during the last week of November; a sign demand is still relatively weak. Gas prices may stabilize this week as we see whether or not oil prices continue to rise beyond \$100 a barrel or if prices retreat.”

The national average price of regular unleaded gasoline decreased 3 cents from last week for an average of \$3.27 per gallon. Florida's average price of \$3.28 decreased 4 cents from last week and Georgia's average of \$3.19 remained unchanged. Tennessee's average price of \$3.08 also decreased 3 cents from last week, respectively.

### CURRENT AND PAST PRICE AVERAGES

	Regular Unleaded Gasoline	Current	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
<b>National:</b>	\$3.277	\$3.300	\$3.420	\$2.922	
<b>Florida:</b>	\$3.287	\$3.322	\$3.400	\$2.934	
<b>Georgia:</b>	\$3.191	\$3.196	\$3.337	\$2.811	
<b>Tennessee:</b>	\$3.087	\$3.119	\$3.246	\$2.786	

AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report ([fuelgauge.aaa.com](http://fuelgauge.aaa.com)) is updated each day and is the most comprehensive; reflecting actual prices from credit card transactions within the past 24 hours at two-thirds (100,000 stations) of the gasoline stations in the U.S. Its accuracy is unparalleled.

Next Fuel Price Brief: Sunday, December 11, 2011



## Local Author Introduces New Harlequin Romance Trilogy



Local Author Yahrah St. John

ORLANDO — Local author Yahrah St. John announces the release of her novel, *Need You Now*, the first installment of a new romance trilogy by Harlequin, in their Kimani Romance Series.

This greatly anticipated book intertwines an intriguing storyline of a family owned cosmetics and fragrance empire with shared passion between two corporate moguls. *Need You Now* is available for



sale at retail locations, including: Barnes and Noble, Walmart, and Target. The book can also be purchased through [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Enemies in business... When Kayla Adams wants something, she goes after it. But the take-no-prisoners mogul may have met her match in gorgeous alpha male Ethan Graham. The ruthless billionaire takeover king—and Kayla's secret girlhood crush—is hotter than an Atlanta August night. He's also made it clear he's going

to acquire Kayla's beleaguered family enterprise...and will do whatever it takes to get it!

Or partners in love? Ethan plans to own a lot more than Kayla's high-profile company. The glamorous president of Adams Cosmetics drives him wild with desire, but acts indifferent to the playboy's sensual charms. Until they share their first kiss. Then Ethan comes up with an offer the alluring Southern beauty can't refuse. Marry him and they'll merge their divided interests in a passionate takeover that will make them partners in everything...maybe even love.

*Need You Now* is the ninth romance novel authored by St. John. As a highly acclaimed novelist, her credits include four and five-star ratings from Romantic Times Book Reviews, Rawsistaz Reviewers, and Romance in Color. Romantic Times Book Reviews recently

selected St. John's eighth book, *Two To Tango*, as a Reviewer's Choice Award nominee. “This nomination places me in the company of celebrated authors from around the country,” states St. John. The winner will be announced during the 29th Annual Booklovers Convention held in Chicago, April 2012. “I am deeply humbled by this opportunity.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
Yahrah St. John is a published author living in Orlando. She has been prominently featured in the media. As a Chicago native, she is a graduate of Hyde Park Career Academy and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from Northwestern University. To arrange a book signing or speaking engagement, St. John can be contacted at [yahrah@yahrahstjohn.com](mailto:yahrah@yahrahstjohn.com). She is available for interview. Visit the author online at [www.yahrahstjohn.com](http://www.yahrahstjohn.com).