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# The Weekly Challenger

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VOL. 48 NO. 51

AUGUST 11 - AUGUST 17, 2016

50¢



## SPECIAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL EDITION



### MBSK initiative moving forward



Ken Irby and Leah McRae

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Last month's Childs Park Neighborhood Association monthly meeting featured a community conversation with two city officials addressing the education gap between black students and their white counterparts and keeping black and brown children out of jail.

Director of Education and Community Engagement Leah McRae and Director of Community Intervention Kenneth Irby stopped by to address issues and give updates on the plans the city have for helping at-risk youths off the street and in school.

Recognizing the need to address education on a city level, Mayor Rick Kriseman responded to the *Tampa Bay Times*'s "Failure Factories" series by hiring Leah McRae last Oct.

Since then, she has worked with students, families, faculty, as well as community groups and leaders to advocate on behalf of St. Petersburg's public schools. She also serves as a liaison with the Pinellas County School Board and other governmental bodies influencing education policy.

See **KEEPERS**, page 2



Successes Unlimited sponsored the second annual Battle of the DJs event along with the SPPD, Pin. Co. Sheriff's Office, Duke Energy and anonymous donors.

## Preventing crime in the black community

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The skies were gray and rain threatened, but Theresa "Momma Tee" Lassiter was so busy pulling off the second Battle of the DJs: How to Prevent Crime in the Black Community event to even think about it.

Zippering around on her motorized scooter at Campbell Park Recreation Center, Lassiter found time to stop and hug a group of girls who

thanked her for the event, which included entertainment, food, music prizes, school supplies and information on how to make our streets safer.

"I believe that if we get the community working towards uniting with the police and the police uniting with the community, then it will start a conversation, a friendship, a relationship and a lot of this crime will stop," said Momma Tee.

In the thick of it

every day, she knows you need to start with the younger generation to turn hearts and minds around.

"They keep trying to make decisions about these young people and what we need, but they don't ask us. I prefer to ask them," she said.

And ask them she did. Kids were asked to give their opinions on how to prevent crime in the black community by either writing an essay or creating a poster. The information from the

children is then sifted through and issues will be addressed by the proper authorities.

For instance, an essay last year led to a corner store being busted for double charging people for food. The little girl who wrote it was upset that the prices were so high that her parents had to steal to buy food for the family.

Sponsored by Successes Unlimited Women & Youth Business Center, Inc., in

See **CRIME**, pages 10

### Maximo is on the rise



LaKisha Falana

BY LAURA MULROONEY  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — It's back to school and Maximo Elementary is on the rise.

Since becoming a Transformation Zone two years ago, Maximo Elementary has increased its school assessment by two letter grades.

Principal LaKisha Falana, who is beginning her third year as principal at Maximo, believes that since they have begun to empower the students, the success of the school has been of their own doing.

Yes, new curriculum has been implemented and new behavioral plans have been established, but Falana is certain that by putting further responsibility on the students, they've taken ownership and have invested their educational equity into growing and improving the school.

"They've built a belief in what they're doing," said Falana.

This year's focus will be on increased academic rigor and family/community involvement. "We welcome you," said Falana.

In the past parent participation in social events has been extraordinary according to Falana, but she would like to see more involvement on the academic side.

Academic events will become more student centered this year, student led conferences are on the agenda. The conferences will be an additional opportunity for parents to see their children on stage and in the limelight, while demonstrating to their parents and fellow students what they are expected to

See **MAXIMO**, page 7

## Welcome back students

The start of the school year is an exciting time of renewal and optimism for the year ahead. I want to welcome back students, families, mentors and community organizations whose partnership makes academic success possible at each school.

During the 2015-2016 school year, schools located within the City of St. Petersburg saw increased student performance, improved school letter grades and were

awarded local, state and national honors. Even with the more rigorous Florida Standards Assessment, eight schools in St. Petersburg earned an A grade. The number of F schools dropped from seven to two district wide.

Three of the five Scale Up for Success schools (Campbell Park, Fairmount Park, Lakewood, Maximo and Melrose Elementary schools) saw improvement in letter grades. At Maximo Elementary, the school grade im-

proved from an F to a C. Fairmount Park and Lakewood Elementary schools improved from an F to a D.

All five schools saw increases in proficiency rates on the Florida Standards Assessment, and a majority saw proficiency rates increase on every test in every grade level.

Throughout the past year, Pinellas County Schools has taken major steps to improve the learning environment by working to reduce discipline disparities and provide alternatives



Dr. Michael A. Grego

to suspensions for all students. We have worked diligently to increase restorative methods that better support

See **LETTER**, page 3

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Donald Trump: Too thirsty to be president

Dear Editor:

Eight years ago people cried because their departed love ones were not present to witness the election of President Barack Obama. This year another glass ceiling could be broken if America chooses the most qualified candidate over the most unqualified one.

Senator, secretary of state and former First Lady Hillary Clinton has been in the public spotlight for almost 40 years. Donald Trump has been a successful businessman who has made money and even supported the Clintons in the past. They both are unpopular for major presidential candidates.

“Crooked Hillary” is what Trump calls Clinton. How does Clinton’s email affect your everyday life? Trump invited the Russians to hack the emails of American officials, yet he claims she violated nation security.

Trump’s suggestion or joke is questionably a form of treason. How could a person who wants to lead the free world encourage a government run by an ex-KGB officer to hack emails of any American?

Can we call him “Traitor Trump or Donny Treason?” The Republican candidate loves to dummy down complex problems into schoolyard chants. Look at way he has talked about: women, POW and the disabled.

Look how Trump has handled the parents of fallen hero Captain Humayan Khan. True, the Khans did call out Trump at the DNC because Trump had been defaming and scapegoating Muslims Americans from the very start of his campaign. The Republicans brought out the family of Benghazi victims to blame Clinton but

then cried foul when Captain Khan’s parents appeared.

Trump, forever the bully, attacked a grieving mother because she stood silent while her husband spoke. Just like Hillary said, would you want a guy so easily baited by tweets and critics with his hands on nuclear weapons? All Trump had to do was acknowledge Captain Khan’s sacrifice and move on; instead, he upset many other Gold Star Families for Peace by comparing his business loses to the loss of loved ones in battle.

Compare Trumps’ handling of the Khan affair with the quiet strength of people like Tony Dungy, who was recently inducted into the Football Hall of Fame. Trump lovers call quiet strength and calm restraint low energy and weak. I think Dungy is more qualified to be president than Trump! That is crazy you say? He is a football coach! What is Trump? Which one would you most want your child to emulate?

Trump is too thirsty to be president. He is so self-adsorbed that he told a Christian audience he had a problem admitting mistakes. He questioned the wisdom and legitimacy of President Obama and praised Vladimir Putin. The Trump people even managed to get the anti-Russian platform out of the Republican convention. The GOP calls Obama’s response to Russian aggression weak in the Ukraine, while nominating a man who would be a Putin puppet.

Double standard, much? Offensives that would sink other people are overlooked when Trump does it. He says, “Let’s make America great again.” What that means to many is “let’s make America hate



again.”

Trump is playing on the fears and disappointments of many people who feel left behind in a slow economy. President Obama brought to justice a terrorist that the Bush administration couldn’t seem to find; yet, Trump said Obama is weak. ISIS wants Trump to win!

Trump’s candidacy has encouraged racism because he refuses to admit there is a systemic race problem in America. A Republican in the White House along with a Republican Congress and a Conservative Supreme will spell endless unrest in a country that has way too many guns.

When Clinton left the White House in 2000, there was a surplus and no wars. Eight years later there was a historic recession and military quagmires in Afghanistan and Iraq. Trump, the reality television star, has not ruled out the use nukes in Mideast. He has also given a wink and nod to Putin by saying that some in NATO might lose protection if they have not paid up.

This is not just a choice between two people who don’t turn you on. We’re not talking about football teams. If this reality star messes up his lines we may all get fired. The Donald Trump Show is no longer a comedy.

*Rivers Cleveland*

## Opportunities for black and brown youths

From **KEEPERS**, page 1

Irby’s position was created after seven young men lost their lives to gun violence in the final weeks of 2015. Working in community outreach for 33 years, his job now calls for him to create and coordinate solutions so that our city’s youth will not fall prey to the dangers in the street.

“I want full disclosure on the front end, on the topside... I don’t have a million dollars,” said Irby, referencing the monies Mayor Kriseman allocated to address the problems of gun violence.

In 2014, President Obama introduced his campaign My Brother’s Keeper, a public-private partnership of the United States Federal Government to promote intervention by civic leaders in the lives of young men of color to address their unique challenges and to promote racial justice.

St. Petersburg took President Obama’s campaign and expanded it to include young women in addition to young men, ages 12-24 in their program My Brother’s and Sister’s Keepers (MBSK).

“When we talked about developing the program, we didn’t want it to be a top down solution. In order for it to be sustainable, it needs to come from the community. It needs to be a grassroots effort. Everyone needs to have input into what solutions will look like,” said McRae.

Explaining the inner workings of the new program, she said they have formed three committees: education, entrepreneurship and workforce readiness and role models and mentors.

“Those committees are charged with building programs that will address opportunity gaps with black and brown young men and women in St. Pete,” she said.

Heading up these committees will be Erik Smith with mentoring and role models, Gypsy Gallardo leading the workforce readiness

Williams at St. Petersburg College will oversee education.

“They will be calling on members of the community like you to come together and meet with them and talk with them and have discussions about what are the solutions to the problems that exists in our community,” she said.

Irby gave an update on the “Not My Son” summer campaign, which is a grassroots community outreach marketing campaign and intervention effort to assist African-American male youth and young adults (12-24 years of age).

Falling under the umbrella of MBSK, each Friday officials and concerned citizens canvass a targeted area going door-to-door in the community to spread awareness of the problems and how to prevent them. The campaign runs through the end of Aug.

“One of the things that everybody in this room has to come to terms with is that we have to get out of our comfort zones and make connections,” said Irby. “To build stronger communities we have to build better relationships.”

Citing statistics, Irby said that one in two black boys in America is likely to be from a single parent home, and one in four Hispanic boys. He said young men growing up without male guidance is one of the reason they are not learning conflict resolution, which leads to violence.

As a product of growing up in a single-parent family, he knows the value of having a coach, a deacon or a school-teacher step in and offer guidance. He said this program offers resources from the city, the police department, the parks and recreation department and educational sources.

Under the MBSK initiative, a program called Crossroads Cohort of Champions was also created. They are looking for 100 young, black men in

the community between the ages of 12-24 who are not already in a program or receiving resources.

Their needs will be assessed; whether it is getting them certifications to move on to another career, providing them with workforce readiness skills or entrepreneurial opportunities, this program will cover it all. Participants will also be provided with role models.

The program will not just offer intervention into their lives, but also resources for their families.

“That’s a big challenge. We keep working with kids and then sending them back into contaminated environments thinking: ‘Well, they’re going to go back and their mamas will help them,’ but we need to help mama; we need to help their siblings,” said Irby, who mentioned that the mayor and deputy mayor have embraced this strategy.

Irby said they are assessing current programs and if they are not performing, they will be cut.

“Dollars are precious,” he said. “We can’t keep doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.”

They both stressed that these programs must be sustainable across administrations.

“...we need to make sure that the city, with the support of folks like yourself, is invested and committed to a long-term strategy,” said Irby. “The city didn’t get here overnight. This has been a long-term period of neglect and lack of resources.”

The next Not My Son canvassing activity will be this Friday, Aug. 12 at 7pm. People will gather at Unity of Midtown Church, 511 Prescott Street S, and spread out into the Campbell Park neighborhood. For more info, contact Rev. Doral R. Pulley at [UnityofMidtown1957@gmail.com](mailto:UnityofMidtown1957@gmail.com) or log on to [stpete.org/mbsk](http://stpete.org/mbsk).

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Renewed optimism for the year ahead

From **LETTER** page 1

student success. The result? We had the fewest number of students suspended in many years. Suspensions for the 2015-2016 school year decreased by 37.1 percent from the prior year, and the number of individual students suspended decreased by 25.3 percent. This includes a 19 percent reduction of referrals and a 13.2 percent decrease in out-of-school suspensions issued to African American students. In the upcoming school year, Pinellas County Schools will offer alternative placement centers as an alternative to suspension for students. While at the centers, students will receive

classroom instruction, assistance with course work and are given strategies to be successful when they return to their school.

In the year ahead, Pinellas County Schools will increase the use of restorative practices to better meet the needs of students. These practices focus on relationship building with students and working with them to prevent infractions before they rise to the level of a referral. Restorative practices also help establish a reintegration plan when students return from suspension or an alternative center. Pinellas is at the forefront among large districts focused on restora-

tive practices.

Educators know students cannot learn if they are not in the classroom. As superintendent of Pinellas County Schools, I remain committed to finding alternative and effective ways to manage behavior issues at our schools. As we do our part to keep students learning every day, I ask that you pay special attention to attendance this year. Every day counts, and we ask parents to help make sure absences are limited. Please don't let your child stay home unless your child is truly sick. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves.

Pinellas County values the input of our families. This school year, every elementary school student in the county will have some form of physical activity each day. This is something families have advocated for. There is an important link between physical activity and greater academic success.

Pinellas County continues to expand and grow programs that challenge our students and prepare them for success. Last month, Mildred Helms Elementary and John Hopkins and Largo middle schools were notified of their acceptance as International Baccalaureate (IB) Candidate Schools. At

the elementary and middle school level, IB is a whole-school model, not a school within a school program. This means that all students who go to the schools will have exposure to the IB curriculum.

During the 2016-2017 school year the district will also expand a personalized learning initiative called Pinellas Innovates. Personalized learning enables students to take ownership of their learning and helps them develop deep connections with each other, their teachers and other adults. Pinellas Innovates will transform what the district is doing in schools on a daily basis. Instruction will move be-

yond a one-size-fits-all approach and learning will be paced to each student's individual needs.

As we begin this new school year, I encourage our families to attend their child's back-to-school night and remain an active partner with their school in the year ahead. I encourage businesses and community organizations to remain active in volunteering and mentorship. Our schools are stronger and our student's achieve more when we work together as a community.

*Michael A. Grego,*  
*Ed.D.*

*Superintendent*

[illegible]



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Oh baby, baby

**BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON**  
*Staff Writer*

ST. PETERSBURG — Amid lavender and pink balloons, glorious floral decorations, and over 60 well-wishers, a fairytale baby shower was given for Jessica and Trayon Harris Saturday, July 30 at the home of Vel Thompson, Jessica's mother.

Jessica attended Lake-wood High School and Florida A & M University where she met her future husband Trayon. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal

justice with a minor in sociology, while Trayvon obtained a bachelor's in business with a minor in political science.

This fall the happy couple is expecting their first child together, Blake I. Harris.

Baby gifts of every description and type tumbled from an oversized heirloom bassinet and onto the surrounding area. Buffet tables positioned both inside and around the pool held favorites such as shrimp and grits, deviled eggs, pulled pork, spaghetti salad, Jamaican rice with chicken and

shrimp, meatballs, designer cupcakes and fruit trays. A six-layer signature cake bulging with mixed berries and glazed vanilla was created by Jessica's aunt Joan Reed.

The occasion was not only a welcome celebration for the expected baby, but an opportunity for friends and family to share and reminisce about their personal memories of Jessica. There was a poignant moment when Jessica thanked everyone and paid homage to the memories of her dad, the late Dr. Robert Swain, community dentist and civil rights ac-

tivist and her maternal grandmother, the late Henrietta Thompson.

"I miss them both so much," Jessica said softly as tears started to fall.

She explained that her grandmother was the griot of the family and told each new mother how she thought the baby's personality or characteristics was going to develop. Sadly, her newborn would sadly not be part of that long-standing family tradition.

Little Blake's legacy also includes her maternal great-grandfather, Copperknee Thompson, who played baseball in the late

1930s for the Cincinnati Clowns and early 1940s for the Kansas City Monarchs. He played with Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige and Jackie Robinson as a utility player, which meant he could play all positions.

The entire family is ecstatic about the impending birth due later this year. The look of euphoria on new grandmother Vel's face is evident as she anxiously awaits the arrival of her first grandchild. Blake will be part of a blended family as she has an older sister, Anila, who has already claimed her right as the older sister referring

to Blake as "my baby sister."

To show their appreciation for the love and support the young couple received, Vel and her husband, Tony Howard, gave a bounty of favors to their guests that included Myya Powell, Ann McDowell, Gwen Reese, Vernell Carroll, Anila Harris, Irene Pridden, Dr. T. Williams, Sharon Dunbar, Dharvett and Anthony Barwick, Shawna Swain, Kimberly Williams, Terry and Bre'onna Edwards.

Ms. Blake I. Harris is expected to make her debut in mid-October.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## BCU’s 48th annual National Convention was a success

DAYTONA — The National Alumni Association of Bethune-Cookman University, Inc. held its 48th Annual National Convention on the campus of Bethune Cookman University (BCU) on Daytona Beach in June. The theme of the convention was “Returning to the Old Landmark,” and was hosted by the mother chapter, Volusia County.

There were numerous highlights of this year’s convention, specifically the president’s State of the University’s Luncheon, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Breakfast with Lee Ryant, class of 1972 as keynote speaker and music provided by the Thomas D. Demps Alumni Concert Choral.

Then there was the Ms. Alumni Coronation at which time Linda Swain from the St. Petersburg Chapter was crowned Ms. Maroon for the 2016-17 year. Thanks to the financial support of the people in this area, this is the first time in the history of the St. Petersburg/Pinellas County Chapter to have had a contestant make the Ms. Alumni court for two consecutive years.

Gwendolyn “Gwen” Anderson, president of the St. Petersburg/Pinellas Chapter was the recipient of the Edward Rodriguez Award by the National Alumni Association of Bethune Cookman University, Inc. for outstanding service to developing the local chapter and the national alumni association.

Additionally, there was a motorized tour of the campus with an opportunity to make stops along the way and enter the new dormitories

and other buildings. Many conventioners were heard saying: “This is a great convention,” “When are we coming back to Daytona?” “It is alright to go to other cities in Florida, but there is no place like home.”

The campus was just breathtaking with colorful landscaping and the beautiful new buildings to compliment the old and historic buildings. This tour was a memorable part of the convention, especially for those who had not visited the campus for some years. Many were mesmerized by the growth of the university, and to think it was all started with a vision of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, five little girls and \$1.50!

On Saturday evening, the National Alumni Association of Bethune Cookman University, Inc., Volusia Chapter sponsored and honored graduates in education for their years of service at an Alumni Golden Awards Gala. The attire was semi-formal and formal and the attendees were dressed in shades of gold as they dined and danced the evening away.

The St. Petersburg/Pinellas County Chapter had six members honored during the gala with a cumulative total of over 200 years of service to the young people in our public school system. The honorees in order of years of service:

- Mrs. Arthurene “Art” Williams – 38 years of service
- Mrs. Gwendolyn “Gwen” Anderson – 37 years of service
- Ms. Helen D. Davis – 35 years of service
- Mr. Alvin Porter – 33 years of service



Mrs. Daphne Porter – 32 years of service  
Johnny Welch – 31 years of service

The convention closed with a spirit-filled church service, which was held in the historic Heyn’s Chapel on the campus of BCU. The message for the service was brought by Rev. Obbie Burns from the Atlanta Chapter and music was provided by Vanessa Lloyd, Mrs. Alumni 2016-17 from the Volusia County Chapter.

Next year’s convention will be held in Miami from June 21-25 with the theme of “Living the Legacy – A Red Carpet Affair.” Mark your calendar and make plans to attend if possible.

The St. Petersburg/Pinellas County Chapter welcomes new members and those wanting to return. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month starting in September and ends in June with an end of the year social/dinner.

Meetings are held at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please contact President Gwen Anderson at (727) 867-1664 or e-mail her at bcgrad74@gmail.com

## GPPCA helping schools in their area

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — As the staff at Maximo Elementary was busy preparing for the start of a new school year in five days, the Greater Pinellas Point Civic Association (GPPCA) burst into their staff meeting, stopping the speaker in mid-sentence, to hand over a check for \$550.

“We were always thinking about doing something at the beginning the school and this year we did,” said Tom Lally, secretary of GPPCA.

Lally said they thought about a backpack giveaway but someone suggested donating money to an area school instead. They motion passed for \$500, but as word spread the group collected \$1,100.

GPPCA members decided to split the monies collected between Maximo and Lakewood Elementary. Many of the children who live in the Pinellas Point area attend these two schools.

Lally would like to see other neighborhood associations, residents and business owners donate their time, talent and treasure to struggling schools all over St. Pete.

Since this went over so well, they have de-



Principal LaKisha Falana from Maximo Elementary was excited to receive the surprise donation.



Principal Johnnie Crawford said he would have smiled larger if he had read the dollar amount on the check before taking the photo.

cided to continue making donations. Lally said he will be contacting Maximo’s and Lakewood’s community liaisons and find out what other needs they may have.

“I want to get the message out and get more people involved,” he said. BB&T, Tyrone Frame

and Mirror and anonymous residents along with member of GPPCA made the donations possible.

“Thank you so much on behalf of Maximo Elementary and my babies,” said Principal LaKisha Falana of Maximo Elementary.

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## PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 30, 2016

### 3 WAYS TO VOTE

- ☒ **Vote By Mail – All voters are eligible to vote by mail**
  - Request a mail ballot at [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com) or call 727-464-VOTE (8683)
  - Ballots can be returned by mail or dropped off at any drop-off location
  - Drop-off location days and times vary - check locations at [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com)

- ☒ **Vote Early – Vote at any Pinellas County Elections Office**
  - Early Voting is available: Saturday, August 20 – Sunday, August 28
  - Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Saturday-Sunday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
  - Bring your photo and signature ID to avoid delays

Locations –  
County Courthouse, 315 Court St., Room 117, Clearwater, FL 33756  
Election Service Center, 13001 Starkey Rd. (Starkey Lakes Corporate Center), Largo, FL 33773  
County Building, 501 1st Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701

- ☒ **Vote on Election Day – Voters are required to vote in the precinct where they live**
  - Polls are Open 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  - To find Election Day precinct and polling place information, visit [VotePinellas.com](http://VotePinellas.com) or call 727-464-VOTE (8683)
  - Bring your photo and signature ID to avoid delays

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Remember Lincoln Cemetery

“Remember the Titans” was a 2000 American sports film produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and directed by Boaz Yakin. The movie starred Denzel Washington as a new coach charged with leading a racially diverse football team in Alexandria, Va.

The film touched on some very serious social issues such as racism and discrimination in and on the football field. In one scene where Coach Boone, portrayed by Washington, had the boys practice in a graveyard, he told them to “listen to the souls of the dead.”

Legal Redress committee chair Brian Battaglia utilized this epic story to lay the case to the Gulfport City Council to approve a resolution, memorializing their commitment to do all within their authority to support the preservation of the Lin-

coln Cemetery’s history and its maintenance.

Battaglia eloquently supported his case, mentioning some of those who fought for this country and others who have been giants in the struggle for social justice in St. Petersburg. It is from those who are gone before us that we must keep their memories alive. It is from the dead that our children understand a sense of who they are.

Battaglia’s presentation was anchored by support from Councilmember Yolanda Roman who presented a very detailed history of one of the greats buried at the cemetery, Elder Jordan. Jordan was a former slave turned businessman who gave the City of St. Petersburg the land that Jordan Park now sits on.

Other support came from Congressman David Jolly, who made a presentation to the council

pledging his full support of the Lincoln resolution. Former Councilmember Wengay Newton came to show his support and State Representatives Kathleen Peters and Daryl Rouson offered their written support.

Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch, however, brought the support of the Lincoln Cemetery home by recommending \$90,000 of the BP oil money is spent towards the restoration and preservation of the historic site.

Two day later, the Commission approved the \$90,000 during their work session. They still have to have a final vote on the project allocations (staff is gathering additional information on some of the projects), but Welch foresees no issues.

*Maria L. Scruggs  
President, NAACP St. Pete Branch*



Pastor Basha Jordan, Jr., grandson of Elder Jordan, at his family’s grave site in the Lincoln Cemetery.

## St. Pete teens share their vision for the future of the Tropicana site

ST. PETERSBURG — An important component of any successful master plan initiative is to ensure comprehensive outreach to all potentially impacted stakeholders on the intended development or project – no matter how young those stakeholders may be.

Last Tuesday, August 3 at the Thomas “Jet” Jackson Recreation Center, the HKS consultant team, which was hired by the City of St. Pete to conduct the Tropicana site redevelopment master plan, met with perhaps some of the future Tropicana Field project’s most important stakeholders – a group of more than 50 teens!

The enthusiasm exhibited by the teens was refreshing. More importantly the level of engagement and honest feedback from the collective group was invaluable to this important initiative.

Bottom line, they all understood the historical significance of the site as well as the future impact of the “Trop” to their community. These teens were not shy about sharing their vision for the future of the Tropicana Field site – with or without the baseball stadium.

Popular themes included diverse options for places to eat, shop as well as retail and recreational options that cater to all ages and price ranges. There was a strong consensus for entertainment features such as water and theme parks, skating, movie



theatres, bowling and other such options.

Several teens also indicated their appreciation for the historical story and struggles from both sides of a highway that seems to divide much more than St. Pete’s real estate. They seem to recognize this redevelopment as an opportunity to honor the history while bridging the gap to all areas of the city.

“It’s very clear these kids are starving to have somewhere they can go and just be – kids!” said Randy Morton, principal architect at HKS Urban Design Group.

There was no doubt the consultants happily got more than they bargained for. It was inspiring and impressive to witness how much these young kids care about their community and want to see it succeed, especially considering the impact of this redevelopment initiative on its most important stakeholders – the future St. Pete leaders of tomorrow!

Rounding out the public outreach session

was Nikki Gaskin-Capehart, director of Urban Affairs for the City of St. Petersburg, who closed the meeting by reminding the teens how valuable their feedback and input was to the Tropicana redevelopment effort but also to other important current initiatives the city is considering for surrounding communities. The feedback received, related or unrelated to Tropicana Field, is very relevant to the future of St. Pete’s youth and the greater community at-large.

The next community meeting about the Tropicana Field site will be held Monday, Aug. 22 at the USFSP University Student Center, 200 6th Ave. S. The meeting will start promptly at 6:30 p.m., and you can expect to see early conceptual ideas reflecting community input obtained at recent meetings.

For more information or to RSVP, please call 1-800-317-8449 or email [tropicanafield@gartholutions.com](mailto:tropicanafield@gartholutions.com).

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Looking for parent participation

From **MAXIMO**, page 1

know on a quarterly basis.

Falana and her family community navigator will also put home visits into effect, a plan that she has seen work in other communities. Working with Kalei Davis, School Board of Pinellas County transformation team member and Lakewood Elementary, teams will visit each child and parent in their homes.

The intent will be to strengthen partnerships and reduce any discomfort or perceived intimidation from the school by parents. Falana is insistent on building good parental involvement by asking, "What would you like from us?"

Parents will be called in advance to set a time and date for each home visit.

Parental involvement comes in all forms to include agreeing to home visits, email correspondence, teleconferences and even providing their children with the appropriate uniform and materials needed to be successful in the classroom.

In Falana's first year, behavior fractions decreased by over 50 percent. After implementing

a school wide behavior plan for all classrooms and grade levels, infractions decreased by 20 percent the following year.

The new plan uses common language and provides consistency throughout the school and focuses on positive reinforcement. Each student will be expected to know how he or she needs to behave no matter the environment or staff member.

Positive changes in staff occurred over the summer. Maximo gained 18 new family members to include 12 veteran teachers, two new teachers, a new assistant principal and new behavior, media and PT specialists.

New math curriculum, Eureka Math, from Great Minds, which strives to connect math to the real world through logical progression and in ways that take the fear out of math and build student confidence will be implemented for the first time this year, in addition to a new attendance achievement program.

Falana is a Pinellas County native and a product of the Pinellas County Public School system. She taught in the class-

room for eight years, was an assistant principal for five and is entering her sixth year as a principal.

She admits that being the principal at Maximo Elementary has been a humbling experience. "Being charged this task has not been an easy one, you have to be a team player, you have to have that support," said Falana. "It's been humbling and an honor to be able to make a positive change."

The last three years at Maximo have taught Falana that "no matter where you come from, no matter your life experiences you can succeed. It doesn't matter how you start or finish, success is obtainable."

"Maximo Elementary is on the rise! We are a learning institution that provides quality instruction to all of our children. Even greater things are to come, we truly believe in our vision of 100 percent student success," ensured Falana.

Back-to-school night and Open House will be held Thursday, Sept. 1 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Maximo Elementary School, 4850 31st St S, St. Petersburg.

## Maximo Elementary LaKisha Falana

**Education:** Lakisha Falana attended district elementary, middle and high schools, graduating from Largo High. She began her employment with the district in 1998 and has worked as a classroom teacher at Anona Elementary and an assistant principal at Ridgecrest Elementary. Before taking the reigns at Maximo Elementary, she was the principal at Tarpon Springs Elementary. Falana earned a bachelor's degree in Education from Florida State University and a master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida.

**Address:** 4850 31st St. S, St. Petersburg

**Phone number:** (727) 893-2191

**School hours:** 8:05-3:35 a.m.

**Website:** [www.pcsb.org/maximo-es](http://www.pcsb.org/maximo-es)

**Open House:**  
Thursday, Sept. 1, 6-7:30 p.m.

## AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATES OF 1976 WILL HOST CLASS REUNION

The African American Graduates of 1976 will celebrate their 40th Class Reunion, August 12 - 14.

Meet and Greet, August 12th,  
Celebration of 40 years,  
August 13th and Praise and  
Worship Service, August 14th.

All South Pinellas County high school graduates of 1976 are requested to register immediately if they have not already done so. An invitation is also extended to the Classes of 1975 and 1977 to be a part of the celebration.

For additional information, please visit  
[www.3dsbouncers.net/grad\\_page\\_3.html](http://www.3dsbouncers.net/grad_page_3.html)  
or contact Dana Barnes at (850) 933-3357,

Peggy Crawford at (727) 259-9975,  
Verdell Mondy (727) 420-6486 or Rosalyn Seals (727) 678-2176  
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## St. Mark held 5th annual Back-to-School Bash

ST. PETERSBURG — Last Wednesday, St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Brian K. Brown and with the support of its membership, sponsored its fifth annual Back-to-School Bash (BTSB) for the families and children in the Childs Park Community.

The BTSB became an outreach ministry to the community in which the church is located, 1301 37th St. S, beginning in 2012. St. Mark viewed the event as an opportunity to help meet the needs of families with school aged children. This means ensuring that they are outfitted with the school supplies needed to aid in their academic success.

This year's event saw more than 400 over-all participants at the park. In addition to the nearly 300 backpacks filled with school



supplies being distributed, there were free haircuts, free food, arts and crafts, two performances by the St. Mark JOY Mime Troup, moonwalks and games for all in attendance.

With so many schools failing within our community, it is St. Mark's goal to make sure that they are equipped to work from the very first day of the school year. Educator Khana Riley-Rebman was on hand to encourage the children with a message to "be positive" as

they return to school, and Rev. Brown used the occasion as an opportunity to share a brief gospel message with the participants.

The BTSB is one of many community-based projects sponsored by St. Mark throughout the year. The mission of the church is to identify the needs of the Child's Park community and to assist in every way that they can by sharing the love of Jesus and bringing hope, help and healing to those in the community.

## Student Police Cadet Program

BY FRANK DROUZAS  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The Student Police Cadet Program is offering an excellent path to a career in law enforcement for local high school students.

The program was launched last year with Lakewood High School and was available to its students only, but starting this school year it will be expanded to also allow students from Gibbs, St. Pete and Northeast High Schools as well.

Students participating will have the opportunity to take dual enrollment courses at the St. Petersburg College Allstate campus, which include some of the core courses of the Criminal Justice program such as Intro to Criminal Justice, Research Methods and Crime and Delinquency. They also have the opportunity to take a college level composition course.

The two-year program is available to juniors and seniors who

have a 3.0 grade point average or higher, though individual cases can be reviewed, said Michael Hughes, chair of law enforcement programs at the St. Petersburg College Allstate campus.

Hughes agreed that one of the initial aims of the program was to expose a greater number of young African Americans to a career in law enforcement from an educational perspective, but was quick to add that it is open to everyone.

"But we're not speaking to just African Americans," he said, "we're speaking to all students regardless of their gender or ethnic background."

Last fall there were six students in the program, but Hughes said that when representatives visited the area schools in recent months to talk about the program, there was been a high student turnout. If this enthusiasm is any indication, he expects a greater number of enrollees for this fall.

**Benefits**  
• After two years in the program, these students will have partially completed (12 credits) the required minimum of 30 college credit hours in order to be eligible for hire as a Police Cadet to attend the Police Academy.

• They can continue to work as a part time civilian with the Police Department until they complete the required college credits. Students would be able to gain experience as they explore law enforcement as a career. As a part-time employee with the St. Petersburg Police Department, they would have direct contact with officers.

• If hired as a Police Cadet, St. Petersburg Police pays for all academy tuition, as well as a salary of \$18.65 per hour. After successfully graduating from the academy, sworn officers receive entry-level salary of \$45,381.

For more information, students and parents should contact their guidance counselors.

## Goodwill employment workshops

ST. PETERSBURG — Goodwill Job Connection is offering regular employment workshops on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 3 p.m. at the St. Petersburg Main Library, 3745 Ninth Ave. N. Call (727) 893-7724 to reserve a seat. The workshops are free and open to the public. Topics and workshop dates for August and September:

**Job Seeking Techniques:** Monday, Aug. 22 at 3 p.m. Learn about the hidden job market and explore ways to find those job openings that are rarely posted.

**Overcoming Barriers:** Monday, Sept. 12 at 3 p.m. Learn how to overcome barriers of a criminal history

when seeking employment.

**Resume Development Class:** Monday, Sept. 26 at 3 p.m. Learn how to create your own resume. 3-4 p.m. class; 4-5 p.m. open resume lab for personalized help.

The St. Petersburg Library System is pleased to offer this service in partnership with Goodwill Job Connection, and as a part of its Community Development Initiative, a method to enhance the provision of resources, services, and programs focused on the Education, Economy, Ecology, Equity, Efficiency and Engagement of our community.

For more information, call the Main Library at 727-

893-7724.

**About Goodwill Industries-Suncoast**

*Goodwill Industries-Suncoast is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to help people achieve their full potential through the dignity and power of work. The organization's donated goods retail operation helps support its human services in 10 counties in West Central Florida including employment services, training centers for people with disabilities, affordable apartment communities for seniors and people with disabilities, and community corrections programs. For more information, visit [www.goodwill-suncoast.org](http://www.goodwill-suncoast.org).*



St. Petersburg Police Chief Anthony Holloway speaking to potential recruits last year at Lakewood High School.



## PARENT PLEDGE

I pledge to send my child to school every day. I know every day counts, and missing just 1 or 2 days a month can impact my child's school success. I also know good attendance is an indicator of future success, such as reading on grade level and graduating high school.

## ATTENDANCE TIPS

- Know the attendance policy for your child's school and keep it handy.
- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he or she is truly sick.
- Develop back-up plans for getting your child to school. Call on a neighbor, family member or another parent.
- Avoid scheduling appointments for your child or taking family vacations when school is in session.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Learning from the younger generations

From **CRIME**, page 1

which Momma Tee is the founder and CEO, the non-profit organizes different events throughout the community. One such event is Lawfest, where for the last 12 years dozens of lawyers throughout Pinellas County are on hand to provide free, brief legal consultations to individuals in need of legal assistance in almost every area of the law.

But Saturday was about listening to the people who live the reality of unsafe streets, of homelessness and of raising children in this environment.

"This is about education," she said. "It's about love, fellowship and having a good time. Making all of us a little bit more conscious and thinking more about what we can do."

Not one to mince words, Momma Tee told Police Chief Anthony Holloway that he needed to meet the people where they are, and he listened.

Every month Momma Tee and the chief meet in a location of her choosing to

discuss what needs to be done to help people become self-sustaining citizens.

"From there we forged a partnership and a friendship, and I thank God for the favor and everything, he is open minded," said Momma Tee.

She tells him stories such as one day when she was passing out flyers for an event and stopped to talk to two young men on the street corner selling drugs. They both told her they started selling drugs as a way to feed their siblings. Now both have graduated to full-time dealers.

"These young folks are not being opened up to the different opportunities they feel other people are, so they do what they have to do to survive," she said.

She said as she rides down 16th Street and 22nd Street, she wonders where the promised economic develop is. When a community is thriving economically, the crime rate plummets.

"The city will have to

find a way to stop putting everything downtown and on Central Avenue," she stated. I've been living here 60 years and I'm still looking for economic development in my house."

But one listening ear she has in Chief Holloway. "It's great for a police department to hear from the kids of what we can do to prevent crimes in the black community," said Holloway. From looking at the posters, it tells me that we need to communicate more and get more programs for these kids. It teaches me a lot."

The chief said in their monthly meetings they discuss how to prevent crime, how to educate the youth and how the police department can communicate better.

"We're talking to the kids more; we weren't doing that," expressed Holloway.

He meets with many community leaders monthly to get the pulse on the streets of different communities and the prob-

lems that are specialized to their areas.

"It gives me a chance to figure out not one area but the whole city," he said. "I go throughout the community and find out what we can do better. And believe it or not, everyone almost has the same goal—getting the communication out."

The chief praises his Park, Walk and Talk program for getting his officers out of the squad cars and into the neighborhoods.

"We should be a part of the community. Not just making arrests," he said. And he puts his money where his mouth is.

Recently Holloway got a call from Momma Tee to help a young mother not get evicted from Citrus Groove Apartment for fighting with another tenant. He parked his car, walked into the apartment's leasing office and talked to the management, which stopped two evictions that would have been devastating to both tenants

and their children.

With four children and pregnant with her fifth, Chanel Lambert and her children would have been homeless if Holloway had not stepped in.

"I got into a physical altercation with another tenant...we both were in the wrong," Lambert stated.

Lambert said she was defending herself, but the property management did not care. She and the other woman both received eviction notices.

To make matters worse, Lambert has an autistic child who needs therapy weekly.

"What the hell was I going to do? I called my neighbors, my mom, my church," she said.

One of her neighbors called Momma Tee, and Momma Tee got on the phone to Chief Holloway.

"They came out here and helped me. They didn't take sides because both of us were in the wrong," said Lambert. "All I have to do is community service, get mentoring and

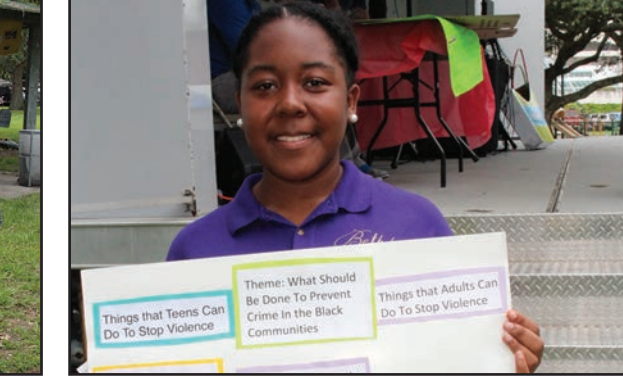
I'll be OK."

Holloway makes sure that he and his police department knows the community in which they serve.

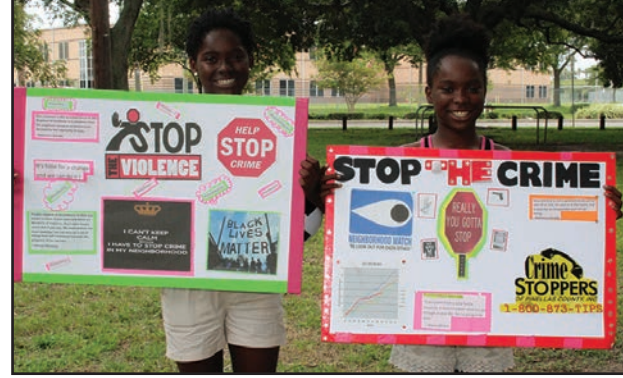
Before cadets hit the road, they are taught how to shoot, how to make arrest and how to interact and communicate. After the field training program, each cadet must speak with a diversity panel and discuss what they've learn thus far. After a year on the road they come back and sit with another panel made up of people from all walks of life and discuss what they've learned on the street.

Many of the cadets could be seen volunteering their time on Saturday. They showed up at 8 a.m. and didn't leave until they were told.

The winning posters are on display at the police department, and for a complete list of essay and poster winners, log on to TheWeeklyChallenger.com.



Chanel Lambert and son, Samaur'J Smith



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**ToiletRebateOffice@stpete.org**

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## African American moments in rock and roll history, part 3

BY FRANK DROUZAS  
Staff Writer

### Michael Jackson rocks out with "Beat It"

From his time as the young singing sibling of the bubble-gummy R & B group the Jackson 5 in the late 1960s through his solo efforts in the 1970s which culminated in the 1979 disco-funk-soul album "Off the Wall," Michael Jackson never showed much interest in letting his talents tackle rock songs.

But all this change with the release of his monster 1982 record "Thriller," which featured the guitar-propelled, bona fide rocker "Beat It."

Since the song is about gang violence it begins with ominous-sounding notes before kicking into wicked drum break followed by one of the most danceable guitar riffs in history. Spitting out the verses in breathless fashion ("They'll kick you, then they beat you, then they'll tell you it's fair") while letting his vocals soar during the super-catchy chorus, Jackson showed that his voice could hold its own in an arena rock setting where scorching guitars and thunderous drums ruled the roost. With "Beat It" he not only copped the Grammy Award for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance but also took home the Grammy for Record of Year.

In the music video—which was just as memorable as the song itself—Jackson breaks up a rumble between two gangs before leading them through a synchronized dance routine. This may sound over-the-top ridiculous but M.J. not only pulls it off but deserves props for using real-life members of rival gangs Bloods and Crips as extras in the shoot, where a push could've led to a shove which could have led to a switchblade or two springing out...

The blistering six-string solo in the middle of the song is served up by none other than guitar god Eddie Van Halen, and the rocking single earned a spot on Rolling Stone magazine's 100 Greatest Guitar Songs of All Time. With its unrelenting energy and muscular guitar riffs, "Beat It" helped drive "Thriller" on its way to becoming the best-selling

album in history.

### Screamin' Jay Hawkins opens his spell book

Possibly the king of campy theatrics, Jalacy Hawkins, known better to most of us as Screamin' Jay, had a heavy hand in writing the (spell) book on shock rock.



Hawkins initially recorded "I Put a Spell On You" as a straightforward blues song, but when he re-recorded it for Okeh Records in 1956, it seemed to take on a life of its own as it sounded far more, well, demented. "I put a spell on you/Because you're mine," Hawkins madly howls, later warning the target of his witchcraft, "I don't care if you don't want me/I'm yours right now." Unleashing primal yells between the lyrics, he sings/screams his way through the record. Though a catchy tune and a good seller, some stores and radio stations around the country banned the song, apparently deeming it was just too weird.

But the real fun came when Hawkins performed the song. As a gimmick to promote the song on various TV performances, Hawkins would sometimes rise out of a coffin amidst smoke and fog to perform the tune. Often he'd wield a staff crowned with a human skull in one hand and a tambourine in the other, and with his wild-eyed, wild man delivery, he impishly jumped and shook all over the stage, looking like a bona fide witch doctor who had somehow wandered into a television studio.

Long capes, tusks in his nose and bursts of smoke out of nowhere were all part and parcel of Hawkins' performance of this tune. Chortling,

snorting and more than once speaking (well, singing) in tongues, Hawkins convinced viewers that there was an even money chance that the man on the stage was possessed. Or just a nutcase.

This brand of spooky-themed showmanship opened a new avenue in rock performance and in the coming decades, the horror show shtick of such performers as Alice Cooper, the Cramps and Screaming Lord Sutch owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Hawkins. After "I Put a Spell on You" was first released, a host of acts have covered it including Creedence Clearwater Revival, Nina Simone and Marilyn Manson—no stranger to harnessing the power of shock value in rock and roll.



### Booker T. & the M.G.s cut "Green Onions"

A racially integrated band—which was a relative rarity in 1960s America, Booker T. & the M.G.s was the house band for legendary Memphis soul music label Stax Records. Though they backed such worthy performers as Wilson Pickett and Otis Redding, they also recorded their own originals in between sessions but their standout single has to be the soulful instrumental "Green Onions."

Hypnotic in its simplicity, it is driven by a 2/4 beat and propelled by a catchy Hammond organ groove written and played by a 17-year-old Booker T. Jones. Since they had already laid down a track called "Behave Yourself" that they wanted to release as a single, the band needed a B-side to accompany it.

"One of the tunes I had been playing on piano we tried on the Hammond organ," Jones said, "so that the record would have organ on both sides and that turned out to be 'Green Onions.'"

The day after the band recorded it, guitarist Steve Cropper handed it over to his DJ friend Reuben Washington at Memphis radio station WLOK. Sufficiently wowed by the record's unique sound after hearing only part of it during off-air time, Washington promptly played it on the air, several times in a row. The phone lines lit up in the town's enthusiastic response, and the band decided to make "Green Onions" the A-

side in subsequent pressings of the single. It peaked at number three on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1962 and nabbed the top spot of the R & B singles chart.

The instrumental also proved popular in dance clubs in Britain, where members of the subculture "mod" scene—with their penchant for American jazz and soul—lovingly embraced the song. Reasserting its popularity during a mod revival in the late 1970s, "Green Onions" cracked the top ten in the UK charts.

Developers of the unique Stax sound, Booker T. & the M.G.s were one of the most admired and imitated musicians of their era, and with "Green Onions" they served up their most flavorful hit.

and "The Joshua Tree" in the 1980s; they had pretty much become the biggest act in the solar system. In 1988 the band decided to soak up the Americana and inspiration of legendary Sun Studio, in Memphis, Tenn. by recording some tracks there for their upcoming record "Rattle and Hum."

For "When Love Comes to Town," easily one of the album's strongest songs, they employed the gravelly growl and nimble string-plucking fingers of Mr. King, who had recorded at Sun in his youth and had been performing in Memphis for years. With its runaway train energy, this spirited song about the redemptive power of love features a dual guitar attack while King and U2's lead singer Bono trade fervent vocals with a passion bordering on frenzy. Oh, and if you can sit completely still while listening to this song then someone should shove a mirror under your nose ASAP to see if you're able to fog the thing.

Though drummer Larry Mullen, Jr. and bassist Adam Clayton supply the driving rhythm and guitarist The Edge and Bono are at the top



### B.B. King brings love to town

Kicking off with a machine gun blast of drums, "When Love Comes to Town"—the electrifying 1989 single by Irish band U2 and bluesman B.B. King—nailed down the sound of a sublime blues rocker and proved to be one of the best collaborative efforts of the decade.

From the Mississippi Delta, you had a self-taught guitarist born on a cotton plantation with 40 years of recording and performing under his belt. Riley B. King had played juke joints and clubs of all sizes before recording such hits as "The Thrill Is Gone" and "Every Day I Have the Blues" on his path to eventual royalty status, earning the moniker "King of the Blues." With his free-flowing style of play and string-bending innovations, he was one of the most influential blues guitarist ever.

From Dublin, Ireland, you had four lads who started as a socially conscious rock band in the late 1970s and following the megaton success of such landmark releases as "The Unforgettable Fire"

of their game here, it is King's generous helping of tasty guitar licks and his one-of-a-kind throaty yowl that infused the song with a bluesy flavor and made it so memorable. Released as a single in spring 1989 complete with a music video, it helped to win King many new loyal subjects in the rock and roll sphere.

In the following years King would join U2 onstage to perform the song, which reached the top ten on the Billboard Alternative music chart. During a performance in Australia, Bono paid his own homage to King as he changed one of the lyrics by singing: "As B.B. played guitar, my life turned around!"

### Peggy Jones meets Bo Diddley

Harlem, N.Y., summer of 1956.

A young woman has just performed with her doo-wop group, the Bop Chords, at the Apollo Theater. Bo Diddley, one of rock's rising stars, happened to be there that same night and was impressed with the sight of a girl with a guitar—eyebrow-raising in itself, in

those days. Their chance meeting would change not only the life of young Peggy Jones, but female musicians everywhere.

"I ran into him on the outside when he was taking a break," Jones said. "I had a guitar with me...and he wanted to know, did I play, and I said, 'Yeah...why?!'"

Drawn to music at a young age, Jones purchased her first guitar at 15. Her ambition was to attend a little music school by the name of Julliard College to study classical music theory, but after Diddley met her and invited her to join his band, she decided to alter her path. In signing on with Diddley's band, she smashed the mold by becoming the first female guitarist to be hired by a major recording act.

Jones—who came to be known as Lady Bo—learned the unique tunings Diddley's songs demanded and became adept in performing the "Bo Diddley beat" in unison with Diddley. The confident lady strummer handled her instrument with pluck and attitude as she often traded lead and rhythm guitar roles with Diddley seamlessly onstage. Offstage, she worked closely with him to develop new sounds for the band, and in employing a variety of effects and innovations with her electric guitar broke through the then-male-dominated world of rock. She played with Diddley during his most fruitful stretch, involved with such standout songs as "Roadrunner," "Bo Diddley's a Gunslinger," "Hey! Bo Diddley!" and showcased her lively guitar style on the beautiful instrumental "Aztec."

A bandleader in her own right, Jones even maintained her own career throughout her stint with Diddley, which included writing songs and fronting her own band, the Jewels. Though she left Diddley in 1962 to concentrate on the Jewels, which had become one of the top draws in the East Coast club scene, she reunited with him in 1970, bringing her own band with her and played with him until the early 1990s. In helping to anchor the Bo Diddley sound, Jones firmly nailed down her place in rock history and considered by some to be the "Mother of Rock and Roll."



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# CHURCH DIRECTORY



955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 894-4311  
Email: [info@mzprogressive.org](mailto:info@mzprogressive.org)  
Website: [www.mzprogressive.org](http://www.mzprogressive.org)

**Sunday Worship Services**.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.  
**Sunday School**.....9:00 a.m.  
**Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study** .....Noon - 12:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday Prayer Service** .....6:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday Bible Study** .....6:30 p.m.

**Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South**  
**2nd & 4th Sunday Worship Services** .....10:00 a.m.  
**Wednesday Prayer** .....6:00 p.m.  
**Bible Study** .....6:30 p.m.

**Mission Statement:**  
*Impact the world by equipping believers  
to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.*



Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.  
Senior Pastor

**First Baptist Institutional Church**  
3144 Third Avenue South,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Phone: 727-323-7518

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Praise Time 10:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Tuesday Night Live -  
Prayer Service & Bible Study 7 p.m.

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REV. DR. WAYNE G. THOMPSON,  
PASTOR

**BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240  
E-mail: [bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com) Web site: [www.bmmbc.org](http://www.bmmbc.org)

Sunday Worship Service .....10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School .....9:00 a.m.  
Teen Summit (Wednesday) .....7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Wednesday) .....7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,  
Pastor

**“God’s House To The City”**



Rev. Wallace Elliott  
Sr. - Pastor

**First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
1121 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 327-8708

Sunday Worship Services 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Meeting (Tuesday) .....6:00 p.m.  
Bible Study (Tuesday) .....7:00 p.m.  
Baptist Training Union (Sunday) .4:00 p.m.

**“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”**



Rev. Dr. Doral R. Pulley  
Spiritual Leader



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**WEEKLY SERVICES**

<b>Sundays</b> 9:00 am Old Testament Survey 9:45 am Meditation and Devotions 10:00 am Morning Worship	<b>Tuesdays</b> 6:30 pm New Testament Survey & Youth Ministry	<b>Thursdays</b> 6:30 pm Prayer & Healing Service
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**Queen Street Church of God in Christ**  
**Elder Willie Williamson, Pastor**  
First Lady, Patricia Williamson  
1732 9th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
727-896-4356

**SERVICES**

Sunday	Sunday School – 9:30 a.m. A. M. Service – 11 a.m.
Tuesday	Morning Prayer – 9 to 10 a.m.
Wednesday	YPWW Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.



**MOUNT PILGRIM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4000 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
Telephone: 727-321-7375



**Pastor Clark Hazley, Sr.**

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

“God’s People Return to the Word of God”  
Service Schedule  
**SUNDAY**  
Sunday School 8:45-10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Communion - 1st Sunday of each month  
New Members Orientation - Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**  
Tutoring offered Tuesday & Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Bible Study 11:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
Youth Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**Victory Christian Center Church**  
3012 18th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33712  
(727) 321-0911  
[www.Victorychristiancenterchurch.org](http://www.Victorychristiancenterchurch.org)

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

**Pastor Claude Williams**

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




**GENESIS WORSHIP CENTER CHURCH**  
1601 49th Street South  
Gulfport, FL 33707  
727.898.5571  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



Pastor Michael T. and  
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth

**Friendship Missionary Baptist Church**  
3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
(727) 906-8300 [www.fmbctheship.org](http://www.fmbctheship.org)




Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

**WORSHIP EXPERIENCES**

Sunday Worship	.....7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School	.....9:30 a.m.
Wednesday	.....Noonday Bible Study and Bread of Life 7 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study
Thursday	.....7 p.m. Youth Enrichment - Awana

*Our Mission: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is a family of believers in Christ, reaching out to the world, preaching the gospel to the unsaved and teaching the saved to serve by demonstrating the Love of Christ.*

**20th Street Church Of Christ**  
825 20th Street South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
Home: 896-8006



Bro. Robert Smith


Sunday Morning Worship	.....7:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Class	.....9:20 a.m.
Sunday Morning Second Worship	.....10:40 a.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday	.....7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class	.....7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Class	.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class	.....7:00 p.m.

**BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**2901 - 54th Avenue South**  
**St. Petersburg, FL. 33712**  
**(727) 866-2567**

**SERVICES**  
**Sunday School:**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday Worship Service:**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Bible Study: Wednesdays**  
**at 6:30 p.m.**



Rev. Manuel Sykes



**Pastor’s Corner**  
BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY,  
SPIRITUAL LEADER  
Unity of Midtown

## I AM Truth

Scripture – “And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free (John 8:32).”

Denial – “I let go of all lies, deceit and dishonesty.”

Affirmation – “I AM a person of integrity.”

I AM is the Absolute Truth. Absolute Truth manifests as the enduring principles from scripture that remain consistent from generation to generation yielding positive results. Absolute Truth is revealed through spiritual laws that govern the universe and apply to all people such as sowing and reaping which is also known as

the law of reciprocity or karma (Galatians 6:7). Absolute Truth is also demonstrated through universal ideas and values that transcend religious and denominational beliefs.

Absolute Truth does not need to be believed or accepted, it just is. Everyone knows Absolute Truth when they hear it or see it because it resonates on a deep spiritual level that is beyond words or explanations.

I AM is truth. I AM is the Spirit of truth that leads us and guides us into all truth each and every day (John 16:13). I AM is the truth that

warns us and shows us things to come. I AM is the revelation of truth to a particular person. I AM is the application of the truth that we know in a specific situation.

Because I AM is truth, it is important for us to live in authenticity and operate in integrity. I AM is truth; therefore, it is imperative that we speak the truth in love knowing that it makes us and everyone else free (Ephesians 4:15, John 8:32).

Reflection Question – How can you manifest more of the truth that you are?

## St. Mark MBC

Continuing with Our Pre 85th Anniversary Services

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, its pastor, the Reverend Brian K. Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation, extends to the community at large, an invitation to join us for our second pre-anniversary service on Sunday, August 14, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. The guest church helping us to continue our anniversary celebration is the New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Lakeland, FL where the Reverend Dr. Kendrix Gardner is Pastor. Our Anniversary theme is: “Growing in Grace for 85 Years, Faith, Love, and Service”.

Events for August

Aug 14 - 2nd Pre-Anniversary Celebration Service with Pastor Kendrix Gardner and

the New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Lakeland, Florida in charge at 3:30 p.m.

Aug 20 - Body Builders Activity- Tailgate Party! (Buccaneers vs Jaguars) beginning at 5:30 p.m. with games inside and outside for lots of fun, fellowship and food.

Aug 21 - New Member Right Hand of Fellowship during morning worship

Ministry Photos for 85th Anniversary Booklet immediately after morning worship services

Church Outing: Mt. Pilgrim M. B. Church beginning at 4 p.m.

Sunday school held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday school starts each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to come out and join us.

Young Adult Ministry (YAMS) Every Sunday: 9:30

a.m.

Baptist Training Union is each Sunday: 5 p.m. Members and the general public are invited to come out to study the Bible with us, and learn “What Baptists Believe”.

Children and Youth Ministry Meetings are held every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Children in the community are welcomed to join us.

Mime/Praise Dance Rehearsal on Sundays: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Sunday School Teachers’ Meeting is held every Tuesday: 7 p.m.

Senior Hour of Power Bible Study is held every Wednesday: 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study every Wednesday evening: 7:00 p.m.

Children Youth Ministry Bible Study 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month: 7:30 p.m.



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL  
(727) 321-6631 • [www.stmarkch.org](http://www.stmarkch.org)

### Schedule of Services

**Church School** ..... 9:30 a.m.  
**Morning Worship** ..... 10:45 a.m.  
**Baptist Training Union**..... 5:00 p.m.  
**Prayer Meeting and Bible Study**  
**Wednesday 7:00 p.m.**



Rev. Brian K. Brown

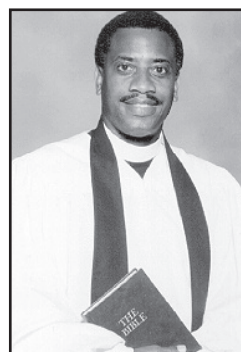
## THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
9:00 a.m. Breakfast (First Sunday only)  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (First Sunday Only)  
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. / Devotion 10:15 a.m.  
Praise & Worship 10:20 a.m. / Worship Services 10:30 a.m.  
Saints of Prayer - Monday 12:00 noon  
Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.  
Adult Choir Rehearsals - Thursday 6:30 p.m.

*Van service is available by calling: (727) 327-0015*

**THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:**  
**3940 - 18th AVE. S., St. Petersburg, Florida**  
**Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021**  
**Email: [rojmbc@knology.net](mailto:rojmbc@knology.net)**  
**Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.  
Pastor

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### Without Walls International Church

Senior Pastor, Randy White  
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Thursdays and 7:00pm  
4414 N. Grady Ave Tampa, FL 33614  
[www.withoutwalls.org](http://www.withoutwalls.org) 813-879-HOPE

# CHURCH NEWS

## Friendship MBC

INVITATION SUNDAY AT THE SHIP - The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, which is often referred to as "THE SHIP", will hold their regular Worship Sunday Services at 7:45 am, 10:45 am and Sunday Church School at 9:30 am. "WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD" NOON DAY FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 1:00 PM (THE BEST ONE HOUR OF YOUR DAY) AND "PRAYER & WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD" ALONG WITH "YOUTH ENRICHMENT" AT 7:00 PM - THE COMMUNITY IS WELCOMED TO JOIN US - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF OUR "WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD" STUDIES IN GOD'S WORD. The public is welcome to attend Sunday Services anytime - you will find that all services place great emphasis on our Savior Jesus Christ and His loving atonement for all mankind. The Pastor, Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Official Family and the entire Church Family extend to you a cordial invitation to join "THE SHIP" in fellowship.

August is a Busy Month at the Ship  
FLORIDA GENERAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC., 2016

### CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

AUG. 8-12, 2016 - WYNDHAM ORLANDO RESORT, 8001 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, ORLANDO, FL 32819 - (407) 351-2420

Sun., Aug. 21 at 4 pm - We will worship with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Dr. Deborah Greene, Pastor, 2321 Hartford St. South, St. Petersburg. Pastor is asking that the Adult Mass Choir, Male Chorus, Praise Team and 3rd Sunday Ushers Ministry to Serve and members be in attendance.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS CELEBRATION INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

Aug. 15-17 at 7 pm - ANNUAL PRAYER WEEK All members are encouraged to attend.

Aug. 18-20 - Family and Friends Choir Reunion Workshop (REGISTRATION FOR WORKSHOP, LOCATED IN THE ATRIUM) - FACILITATORS: Dr. K. Bernard Parrott, Mt. Zion Progressive, St. Petersburg, Min. Isaac Ruffin of Tampa, Bro. Eland Wilson, Minister of Music of Friendship and other special guess.

Reunion Musical Concert on Sat., Aug. 20 at 7 pm - The Commu-

nity is invited to attend.

Sun., Aug. 21 - 7:45 - 10:45 am - FAMILY AND FRIENDS CELEBRATION - DR. MARION JOHNSON, MT. MORIAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, GARY, INDIANA will bring the Word for the Family and Friends Day Culmination.

Aug. 22-24 - 7 pm - REVIVAL 2016, Dr. Marion Johnson, Gary Indiana.

AUG. 30 - ELECTION DAY - DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

"THE SHIP" won't sail without YOU! For additional information on any of the announcements, please contact us by the following methods: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church 3300 31st Street South St. Petersburg, 33712 Church Office: (727) 906-8300 E-Mail: [fmbc3300@verizon.net](mailto:fmbc3300@verizon.net)

NOW "LIVE STREAMING": Visit Our Website: [www.fmbcship.net](http://www.fmbcship.net) Visit Our FACEBOOK PAGE Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: [www.expericencehcoast.com](http://www.expericencehcoast.com)

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? Call our Transportation Ministry - (727) 906-8300 - MONDAY - FRI. FROM 9 AM - 3 PM.

## First Mt. Zion MBC

First Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist church family would like to cordially invite you to join us as we kick off our Unity Day activities.

On Sunday, August 14 at 4:00 pm, the Unity Day committee will present "Great

Men of the Bible".

Come out and witness this program which will feature twelve men of God from local churches in the St. Petersburg area as they portray characters such as Moses, Job, Matthew, Peter,

and others. This will be a spiritual treat that you do not want to miss.

First Mt. Zion is located at 1121 22nd Street South. Reverend Wallace Elliott, Sr. is pastor.

## August 2016 Spiritual Leader's 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

August 7-August 14

**Dr. Doral R. Pulley**  
Spiritual Leader

**Reverend  
Kenny Irby**  
Pastor Bethel  
AME Church

**Pastor Alex  
Thomas**  
Victory Kingdom  
Worship Center

WEEKLY SERVICES				
<b>Sundays</b>	8:45am	Old Testament Survey	<b>Tuesdays</b>	
	9:45am	Meditation, Devotions & Youth Ministry		<b>Thursdays</b>
	10:00am	Morning Service		
		6:30pm	New Testament Survey	
		6:30pm	Prayer & Healing Service	

511 Prescott St. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
[www.UnityOfMidtown.org](http://www.UnityOfMidtown.org)

# August 2016 Spiritual Leader's 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON  
AUGUST 14 | 4:00 PM**  
**Pastor Alex Thomas**  
Minister  
Victory Kingdom Worship Center

**Dr. Doral R. Pulley**  
Spiritual Leader

**"Let's G.R.O.W. Together!"**

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

<b>Sundays</b>	8:45 am	Old Testament	<b>Tuesdays</b>	
	9:45 am	Devotion @ Youth of Unity		<b>Thursdays</b>
	10:00 am	Morning Service		
		6:30 pm	New Testament	
		6:30 pm	Prayer & Healing Service	

511 Prescott Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712 | (727) 898-2457  
[unityofmidtown.org](http://unityofmidtown.org) | [unityofmidtown1957@gmail.com](mailto:unityofmidtown1957@gmail.com)

## THE MIGHTY SONS OF ZION 57<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Sunday, August 14th, 2015 5:00 PM**  
**New Jerusalem MBC 1715 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. • St. Petersburg, FL**

*The Mighty Sons of Zion*

**Still Striving**

**Unity**

**The Spiritual Magnifiers**

**SPECIAL GUEST**

**Tommy Ellisons**  
Legendary Singing Stars  
of Brooklyn New York

**Pooh & The Inspirations**  
Tampa Fl

**Rev. Fleming Tarver &  
The Original FI Spiritualaires**

**DONATION \$15.00 IN ADVANCE & \$20.00 @ THE DOOR**  
**Tickets will be sold at Looking Good Mensware-1201 34th St. South**  
or from any member of The Mighty Sons of Zion or the  
Tws ministry or by calling 727-644-1635 or 727-864-2228  
"Be There"





# Darryl Rouson

## Real Solutions.

## Proven Results.

“I’m proud to be supported by leaders in our community that know I have what it takes to represent us in Tallahassee.”  
–**Darryl Rouson**

**Tampa Bay Times:**

“Rouson has the experience and track record to represent voters on both sides of Tampa Bay, and his ability to work with members of both political parties would be an asset in the Senate. In the Democratic primary for Florida Senate District 19, the *Tampa Bay Times* recommends **Darryl Rouson**.”



**Mayor Rick Kriseman:**

“As Mayor, when St. Petersburg has legislative and budget priorities Darryl Rouson is my go-to legislator. He gets things done.”

### Darryl Rouson is also supported by:



**School Board  
Member  
René Flowers**



**Pinellas County  
Commissioner  
Ken Welch**



**St. Petersburg  
City Council  
Chairwoman  
Amy Foster**



**St. Petersburg City  
Councilwoman  
Darden Rice**



**St. Petersburg City  
Councilwoman  
Lisa Wheeler-  
Bowman**



**St. Petersburg  
City Councilman  
Steve Kornell**



**St. Petersburg  
City Councilman  
Karl Nurse**



**Gulfport Mayor  
Sam Henderson**



**Gulfport City  
Councilwoman  
Yolanda Roman**

Vote Democrat Darryl Rouson  
on **August 30th**

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by  
Darryl Rouson, Democrat, for the Florida Senate, District 19

**Darryl  
Rouson**  
for STATE SENATE DISTRICT 19