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The Weekly Challenger : 2017 : 04 : 06

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2017

The Weekly Challenger

BLACK MEN MUST SELL AS WELL AS BUY OR ELSE REMAIN A BEGGAR RACE.

VOL. 49 NO. 33

APRIL 6 - APRIL 12, 2017

50¢

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(Left)(L-R) Dwayne McCray, Lisa Tywman, Anita Lewis and Jeff Williams
(Right, top) PCUL President & CEO Watson Haynes
(Right, bottom) PCUL Board Chairman Dr. Frank Biafora



Local seamstress opens shop



Tanasha Whiting

BY HOLLY KESTENIS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG –Missing zippers, torn garments... no problem. Local seamstress, Tanasha Whiting has opened up a new shop guaranteed to not only fix all your tailoring needs but even promises to find creative solutions to revitalizing those old outfits.

Tasha's Threads, located at 3110 First Ave. N., Suite #8W, reflects Whiting's nickname, Tasha, and is open for business. Whiting hopes to bring on new customers to add to her existing base and is offering an array of services.

Basic alterations such as hemming, taking in and letting out waist sizes and replacing zippers and buttons is available anytime. But simple alterations are not all you can order.

Whiting boasts she can make just about any kind of alteration needed in order to keep your garments going strong. She's excited about the future of fashion and her ability to create clothing masterpieces, and working with African clothing is her specialty.

"That has been trending for over four years now," she said, "and I don't see that trend ending anytime soon."

Along with African fabrics, Whiting is an expert in every day wear, maxi skirts and the high/low skirt.

"I can pretty much replicate from a picture," she said.

Tasha's Threads doesn't shy away from formal garments either. She's happy to create anything a customer needs, but they are special orders. Primarily she likes to stick with creating skirts, pants, dresses and jackets.

Whiting is excited about the new storefront because until recently she did her business out of her house. But through the power of networking and word of mouth, she discovered that the Pinellas Opportunity Council was offering a grant to help someone start up a

See **SEW**, page 7

Fourth Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award Luncheon

BY RAVEN JOY
SHONEL
Staff Writer

CLEARWATER – Each year the Pinellas County Urban League (PCUL) honors men and women who make a significant impact in the community, and this year was no different. The fourth Annual Whitney M. Young, Jr. Awards Luncheon celebrated those who empower and those who have received empowerment.

Held at Banquet Masters in Clearwater, this year PCUL President & CEO Watson Haynes took over the

Master of Ceremony duties, while Board Chairman Dr. Frank Biafora welcomed the guest and spoke a little bit about the man whom the luncheon is named after.

"While we all come out today to acknowledge the tremendous work of the Urban League and our local heroes, we do it in the spirit of one of America's bravest and often overlooked champion of the civil rights, Whitney Moore Young, Jr."

Young, Jr. was the executive director of the National Urban League from 1961 until his untimely death in 1971.

He was responsible

for turning the National Urban League from a relatively passive civil rights organization into one that aggressively worked for equitable access to socioeconomic opportunity for the historically disenfranchised. Young, Jr. even aided President Johnson during the most critical moments leading up to the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Biafora said Young, Jr. was referred to as a power broker "for his passion and ability to work within the boardrooms of Wall Street and the hallowed halls of Washington D.C."

Deputy Mayor

Kanika Tomalin expressed how important it is for the city to have outstanding partners such as the PCUL. Thanks to their partnership, the city has seen a record number of youths earning income and gaining valuable workplace experience. Together they have served nearly 1,000 young men and women over the past four years and almost 400 last year alone.

Those who have been empowered by the PCUL were all too happy to come up and tell their stories. In helping the

See **AWARD**, page 6

PTC's Public Works program starts April 10

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – From road maintenance to surveying, to water reclamation, public works are an integral part of maintaining a city.

For anyone interested in such a career, Pinellas Technical College (PTC) offers its Public Works program that has 14 career tracks. These include solid waste, wastewater treatment, water distribution, construction, parks and management/supervision, and there are hundreds of jobs available within

those tracks.

"The beautiful part of the Public Works program is that we're a career exploration type program," explained PTC instructor Peter Cavalli. "You get to taste a little bit of all of them."

This includes taking field trips around the county and listening to industry professionals speak about their own experiences in public works. Cavalli, who has been a public works director in the county, said all this helps the students explore options and figure out which direction they wish to take.



Public Works program at PTC offers 14 career tracks.

"Once they figure out where they want to go, they either get a job in their field and continue their education either through an apprenticeship pro-

gram or getting higher level certificates or go through some advanced training," he said. "Or some of them do the training and then

See **PTC**, page 12

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Social and economic situations continue to deteriorate

Letter to the Editor:
The last couple of weeks of trying to get a family of six housing, food and transportation between Pinellas and Seminole Counties have been one of the most eye-opening experiences I have encountered in a very long time within the social service arena.

The saga began after the NAACP received calls from five African-American women advising that they and their children had been kicked out of a CASA domestic violence shelter after 5 p.m. with nowhere to go.

The first struggle was wrapping my head around the fact that the women and their children were placed on the street after five o'clock with no forewarning. One of the families reported that their children faced a threatening situation while waiting outside of the shelter for a friend of the mother to make a second trip to pick the family up because all of them could not get into the vehicle at one time.

For families already having to find refuge in a domestic violence shelter attempting to escape danger only to be victimized again by being put on the street was more than one could wrap their head around given the amount of money that fund social

service programs in two of the wealthiest counties in Florida, so I thought.

While these women called seeking justice out of the inhumane way they felt they had been treated, the two-week ordeal hasn't yielded support for the family that opted to flee to Seminole County in hopes of securing temporary shelter. To my surprise, after exhausting all of the contacts and networks I could muster up, I was told that Central Florida was one of the worst places to be homeless.

The complexity of a solution was compounded threefold as a result of the largest of these families having either mixed gender siblings or multiple siblings.

Several years ago in multiple conversations and public commentary, I warned of a situation in the near future where those dependent on public assistance were going to have a rude awakening. That truth is facing us right now!

The ALICE report released by the United Way of the Suncoast has already talked about the number of families within the Tampa Bay area that barely make it from paycheck to paycheck, and a recent story in the *Tampa Bay Times* talked about the rising cost of



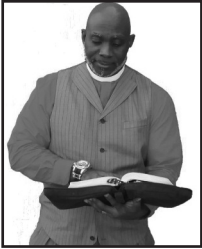
rent in the bay area. That information was supported by my daughter who is a local realtor.

According to Cashmere Parker, a local real estate agent who has a passion for wealth building for black families, an average rental rate for a one bedroom in south St. Petersburg can range from \$850 to \$1,000 a month.

Folks, the chickens have come home to roost. We must recognize that if these social and economic situations continue to deteriorate as they are, we may find it difficult to rebound from potential ruins as a community.

If there were ever a time to put down the weapons against each other and combining our collective strengths toward a strategy for the greater good, that time is now!

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



Breaking the Cycle

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LIVING IN AN AGE OF LIES – Part 3

They end up using the Bible only to stop someone using the Scripture to expose their error; so they are actually trying to silence the truth. Much of the church is so spiritually immature she finds herself unable to distinguish between God's Word of truth and Satan's lies. The very thing Paul was fearful about... "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted— you may well put up with it" (2 Cor. 11:3-4) and how we put up with it today.... flattering the audience with stories of how wealthy they got with this "secret" they found. Tithe for your blessings, give to the TV prophet for the hundredfold, depend on the words they confess. Jesus is more like Santa Claus each day of the year. You can turn to the majority of Christian channels and hear these so called prophets tell you to call in the next few minutes to give money so that your situation can turn around by their speaking the word to God.

1 Cor 13:6 Paul says that love "does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth." (an interesting word, iniquity - adikia - (legal) injustice (properly, the quality, by implication, the act); morally, wrongfulness (of character, life or act). One cannot be walking in the truth if they support those who lie.

The truth comes from the nature of God, it is pure, it is beneficial, it is powerful, and it is written because He loves us. We need to listen carefully to discern that what a person speaks is in fact the truth.

We all know how arrogant politicians can be and so are the TV propheteers that are selling the church a lot of worthless promises in the name of the Lord as a means of gain. We have all heard of junk science, we have junk doctrine, noxious speech that is useless for our spiritual growth. As Jeremiah wrote, "Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit" (Jer. 7:8). They have revisioned the scripture to mean what they want it to mean to benefit themselves. Jude 1:19 "These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit."

These people go by their feelings and

emotions and so they lack real logic and biblical agreement, the Holy Spirit is not with them. This all implemented by men who claim to be spirit filled, anointed, who are prophets and apostles but are actually without the Spirit, who have allowed another spirit to work. How can we tell? The Bible says if they do not speak according to this word they have no light in them (Isa.8:20). In other words they keep the darkness over the people and bring no dawn; not for you, nor themselves.

Exod. 18:21: "Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

Once the church compromised with these teachers it left the door open for them to be welcomed and established, instead of good men of truth that fear God, we have the opposite and have forfeited God's blessing.

The Main media newscasters are on the side of Liberal progressive politicians just like the Christian broadcasters are on the side of word faith teachers. They bring in the money. People are hear few contrary views so it is basically a controlled media. The Christian TV has become an extension for the false teacher's message of money – they have a centralized control, a monopoly on the air waves. They preach an unbiblical pseudo - ponzi scheme called "seed faith." Their teachings for years have moved the church in the wrong direction that affected evangelism, discipleship and tithing and now many are reaping the whirlwind.

The connection of faith to our country is the church, America is reaping the wind because the church is complacent. God asks all to repent, but he is not expecting the citizens to repent but the church, his people.

1 Peter 4:17-18 "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

The Old Testament is an example to us today, that we do not make the same mistakes as individuals or as a nation or church.

Till next week,
God Bless.
Rev. Dr. Robert L. Harrison, PhD

Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program

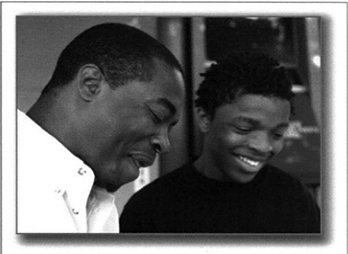
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Miami-Dade: (305) 349-1352 Ext. 301 – 141 NE 3rd Ave, 8th Floor, Miami, 33132
East Pasco: (813) 377-1300, Ext. 3438 – 15000 Citrus Country Drive, Suite 303, Dade City, 33523
West Pasco: (727) 484-3438 – 4440 Grand Blvd, New Port Richey, 34652
Pinellas: (727) 608-2473 – 3420 8th Ave South, St. Petersburg, 33711

Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program



Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Members of the class of 1970 throws 65th birthday bash

ST. PETERSBURG — Last month, class members who graduated from high school in 1970 celebrated their birthdays together with an “All White” 65th birthday bash.

The night of March 17, a meet and greet/house party got underway at Melvin Dandridge’s home. The next night was the birthday bash held at Bascom Chop House in Clearwater and Sunday service took place at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, where Rev. Dr.

John Evans tends his flock. Gibbs High School classes of 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972 and 1975 were all there to help celebrate with their friends, family members and community.

Those who graduated in 1970 were different from previous classes because they were bused to other high schools when integration took place in Pinellas County.

Instead of graduating from Gibbs High School, the designated school for African Americans, these

students ended up all over the area in schools such as Boca Ciega, St. Petersburg, Lakewood and Northeast High Schools.

The 1970 class is special because of the unity and support that they share with each other. Class President Cynthia Starks Jenkins stated that she is “extremely proud of this supportive and awesome class.”

They were all so thankful and blessed to have the opportunity to celebrate this milestone together.





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FARM SHARE, INC. Free Food Distribution event supported by City of St. Petersburg and GTE Federal Credit Union. For questions, contact the City’s Urban Affairs Division at 727-893-7885.



COMMUNITY NEWS

2017 Springfest celebrates the holiday with fun and the true meaning of Easter

BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Next Saturday, April 15, Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church will hold their 2017 Springfest at the Thomas “Jet” Jackson Center Recreation Center, 1000 28th St. S.

This free event filled with fun, food and entertainment will be a good time for the entire family.

Rev. Shawn Thomas is hopeful that Springfest will have a deeper impact that resonates through the community. As the youth pastor of Mt. Zion’s Chil-

dren and Youth Ministry (CYM), he hopes the youth will embrace their three lifestyle messages of being spiritually connected, socially conscious and smart and cultured.

Springfest will feature face painting, arts & crafts, relay races, games, bounce houses, food, and of course, an Easter egg hunt. A DJ will fill the air with music and the award-winning Mt. Zion Drum Line and Color Guard and the dynamic Youth Praise team will perform.

At 5 p.m., the event will culminate with the much-anticipated champion basketball game by friendly

arch rivals Team Murphy, led by Rev. Louis Murphy, and Team Thomas who will battle it out for the trophy and good natured yearlong bragging rights.

And even though these two are adversaries on the court, Rev. Thomas is thankful for the assistance and support he always receives.

“I always want to give great appreciation to Pastor Murphy,” he stated. “He allows me to be creative.”

There are three distinct ministries under the CYM umbrella that provide Biblical instruction, doctrines and helps build a young person’s relationship with

God: Master Pieces (infant to preschool) King’s Young Divine Servants (elementary) and One80 (a progressive teen ministry).

The 2017 Springfest is in partnership with the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department, who provides the use of the rec center for free along with three bounce houses and a donation of 50 to 100 prizes that will be awarded at the Easter egg hunt.

“I appreciate the many that have assisted and worked tirelessly,” Thomas said, noting the invaluable time and effort put in by Michelle Mann,

director of activities, and those in administration, Christina Brown and Carol Stephens.

Rev. Thomas’ face broke into a wide grin when asked how the kids that attend CYM would help with the event.

“Doing everything from everything,” he chuckled.

They have approximately 30 kids that will be up at 6 a.m. to helping pack up all materials needed to bring to the festival site, painting eggs, blowing up balloons readying the area for the relay races.

He feels that events such as these serve as a way to bring people to

Christ.

“We want this to be a fun, safe event to bring the family to,” he said, noting that this event will help the little ones really understand the Easter Holiday and what it’s really about.

CYM has several signature events along with Springfest that includes Octoberfest, a Mother-Son Tag Football Game, Servefest and a yearly mission trip that this year will take the teens to the tropical shores of Belize in the upcoming months.

“We want to bring the word of Jesus Christ outside of the church walls,” finished Rev. Thomas.



2017 SPRINGFEST

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Voice of Empowerment

AWARD, from front page

unemployed and under-employed find work, Haynes gave all the credit to Anita Lewis who heads up the Pinellas Workforce Development Council.

“Anita Lewis is responsible for placing some of the most difficult people whose backgrounds prohibit them from just walking in and getting a job. Some are ex-offenders, some with disabilities,” he said. “She works with these people every day and does it with a smile.”

Dwayne McCray was one of three of her success stories who couldn’t

stop thanking her. He told the crowd that he had gotten into trouble years ago, and even though he went back to school, he could not find a job.

“The first thing she said was ‘give me your resume,’” McCray stated, admitting that he thought it was already perfect.

After Lewis worked her magic, his phone started to ring. He secured a job at Checkers and within five months became a manager. Not only does he work at Checkers, he’s now a chef at the Salvation Army.

“I think the real success story is when you’re able to have a career you love,” he said.

Lisa Tywman is a domestic violence survivor and was referred to the PCUL for help with finding employment. Lewis encouraged her to go back to school, and with her new skills and professional resume, she landed a job with a company in downtown St. Pete.

“She encouraged me and stayed on top of me to stay on track. She was my mentor,” Tywman said.

Jeff Williams got up

that morning at 6 a.m. to drive from Miami to be at the luncheon.

“I’m really grateful to the Urban League for all that they’ve done for me,” Williams said. “When I say help you, oh my God.”

He said once Lewis finishes with you, “you’re talking about polished and in place.”

PCUL’s Career Connection Center program connects those who are in need of work with those who are looking for workers. Local employers frequently reach out to PCUL to assist them with

their employment needs.

Once such employer is Duke Energy, and Coby Glisson can attest to the program. Living from paycheck to paycheck, he’s now a lineman who builds and repairs transformers.

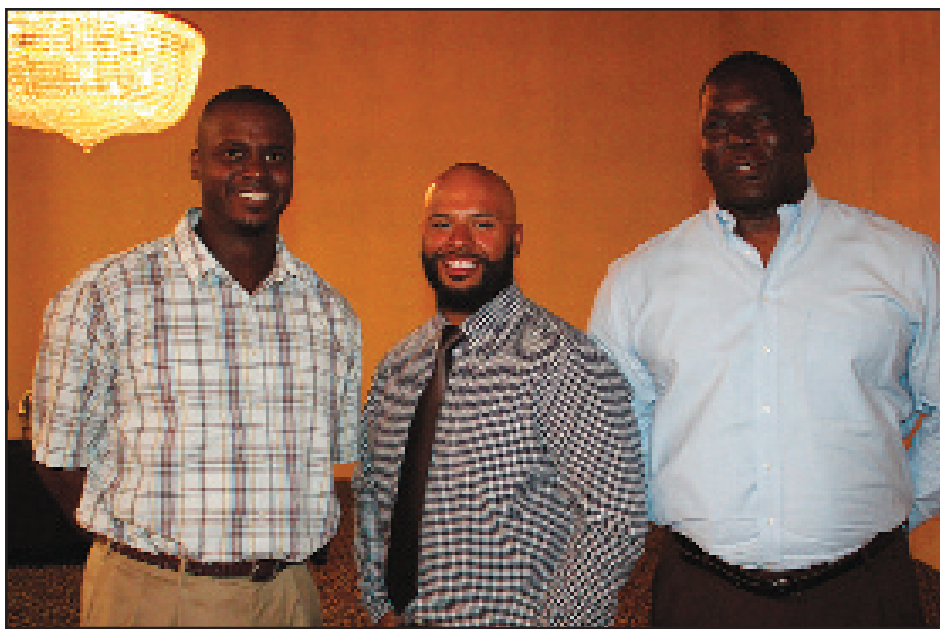
“They gave me a career and a lot of opportunities,” he said, revealing that he’s in the middle of purchasing a home.

Eric Graves also went through the Career Connection Center program. He said he’s working long hours but is thankful to Duke Energy and PCUL for a career.

For those who empower others, Duke Energy’s David Griffin was honored with the Empowerment Award for his efforts in finding minorities in St. Petersburg employment. And although they were only looking to hire five linemen, through Griffin’s hard work, 10 people were hired with the majority being minorities.

Duke Energy’s April Harley received the Diversity Advocate Award.

For more information on PCUL, please log on to ul-pinellas.iamempowered.com.



Eric Graves, Coby Glisson and David Griffin



April Harley



WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

EARTH DAY 2017
Free community event, everyone welcome!

SPC St. Petersburg College

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Games and Giveaways

Job Opportunities

SPC Programs

Music

Free Food

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This course is free to SNAP (food stamps)-eligible parents



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition assistance to people with low income. It can help you buy nutritious foods for a healthier, low-cost diet. For more information, call 1-800-795-3271. This material was funded by 2015's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP. The USDA and the University of Florida IFAS Extension are equal opportunity providers and employers.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Vyrle Davis Student Achievement Awards

BY RENE ROBINSON-
FLOWERS
Contributor

For many years, Ebony Scholars was only a dream until Vyrle Davis made that dream a reality. As a former Alpha Phi Alpha Leadership Program participant and parent of three Ebony Scholars, I felt it was only proper to honor a leader and lover of education just as he honored and loved our students!

Won't you join me, School Board member Rene Flowers, my colleagues, Pinellas County Schools staff and the City of St. Petersburg in recognizing students who have and continue to live up to the demanding educational standards that are befitting of Mr. Davis' memory.

Daniel Sanders Jr., a student attending Gibbs High School in the Pinellas County Center for the Arts, will serve as Master of Ceremony and Drew Johnson hailing from The Boca Ciega High School will serve as the speaker.

Students will be honored from South County elementary, middle and high schools based on the following criteria and selected by the schools' advisor:

1. Must have completed a minimum of 25 community service/volunteer hours
2. A graduating high school senior, with an acceptance letter from an accredited college or university
3. GPA of at least 3.5 (4.0 scale)



4. Must be an African-American student nominated to receive the Inaugural Vyrle Davis Awards

In addition, the selected seniors have been afforded the opportunity to compete for scholarships in the amount of \$500.00. The essay topic is "Standing on the Shoulder of Giants: What does this mean to you as it relates to individuals who have impacted your path/endeavors?"

To apply, you must complete a 500-word essay typed and double spaced. The essays will be reviewed, scored and ranked. The announcement of the winners will occur at the awards celebration.

Scholarships were made available by the generosity of individual staff and board member donations from the Pinellas County Schools Leadership Team, R'Club and the City of St. Petersburg.

You can further support and honor this endeavor by contacting the Pinellas Education Foundation at (727) 588-4816 to purchase a ticket in the amount of \$10.00 to attend. Your ticket purchase covers a full breakfast.

The event will be held at the historic Coliseum, 535 4th Ave. N, Friday, April 8 from 8-10 a.m.

For additional information, please contact School Board Member Rene Flowers at flowersre@pcsb.org

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small business.

"When the opportunity came, I jumped at it," said Whiting who took a lot of classes through St. Petersburg Greenhouse in order to qualify for the grant.

She also prepared a business plan. But even as Whiting went through the process of going through all the criteria to get the grant money, she still didn't see herself moving her business out of the home.

She used the grant money to purchase tools she needed to have a full-blown business. Sewing supplies, fabric, ironing boards and sewing machines.

But her husband, Michael Whiting of Whiting's BBQ, also conducts business out of the house and at times running two businesses simultaneously tended to conflict.

"It didn't always work in my favor," said Whiting, who is celebrating her first month in her new location.

"We're really excited to be there."

With a storefront, Whiting can better schedule her clients, which are guaranteed a professional environment to come to.

"That's been really great to offer them," she said.

Whiting believes the art of sewing has been lost.

"There is a whole generation of women who do not know how to sew buttons on their husband's shirt," she explained. "That's a nice thing to be able to do for your spouse."

She encourages every woman and even men to forget their fears and learn the basics of sewing. She suggests finding a friend who is willing to take them through the process step-by-step.

"You don't have to be a professional seamstress to tack a button on," she said. In fact, light mending can be learned in a matter of minutes.

And with over 13 years'

experience working in marketing, Whiting isn't wasting time putting her business and advertising knowledge to work either. To bring sewing back into the mainstream, she's offering courses.

Adult sewing classes for beginners have started and will be held Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. Classes are also offered on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning at noon.

Students can pay as they go, \$25 a week, or get a discount by paying for the full eight weeks upfront. Classes run an hour and a half and Whiting promises to guide every student through the process.

"I'm honored to pass on something that's been in my family for a very long time," said Whiting. "The sewing machines are made pretty sturdy. You can't break anything."

A graduate of the Pinellas Technical Education Center, now known as

Pinellas Technical College, Whiting learned the tools of her trade in their fashion design program.

"Back in the day, there was a garment making program at the school," she said. "I came to St. Pete specifically for that program."

Whiting believes in upcycling and reuses old, torn clothes turning them into new creations. If she finds holes in her son's jeans, she cuts them at the knees, hems them and creates shorts, thus extending the life of the pants. Clients often bring old pairs of jeans, army fatigues and assorted garments to Whiting who then turns them into dresses or skirts.

"Those are really fun projects," she said. "The fabric kind of tells me what it wants to be."

Whiting showcases her work on social media, pairing her creations with t-shirts and accessories from other local small business



owners. Currently, word of mouth, tags and referrals is her main source of customers.

So, if you have torn garments that need mending, or are looking for a new way to wear some old clothing, stop on by Tasha's Threads, or call at (727) 565-9570.

You can also see some of Whiting's creations via her many social media pages, like Facebook. Just type in Tasha's Threads. She can also be found on Instagram and Pinterest.

And remember, at Tasha's Threads, "If you dream it, we make it."

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HEALTH & BEAUTY

Health risks increase with grocery store distance

BY DR. ARTHUR LABOVITZ
Contributor

ST. PETERSBURG — The long days of summer are around the corner. From extreme heat to rainstorms, this can make running basic errands such as picking up groceries even harder if you are among the thousands of St. Petersburg area residents

who live in a food desert. So what's a food desert? According to the Florida Department of Agriculture, a food desert describes communities where the nearest full-scale grocery store is located at least a mile away from a household in an urban area such as St. Petersburg. In rural communities, that distance stretches to 10 miles.

Most of the neighborhoods located to the south of Central Avenue are designated as a food desert. Across the state of Florida, it is estimated that as many as 2 million people live in food deserts without reliable access to a major grocery store.

While there are a variety of good corner stores and restaurants throughout the community, dis-

tance to a major grocery store can significantly limit access to fruits, vegetables, lean meats and dairy.

Food deserts are especially a burden to low-income communities. Nearly 22 percent of low-income Florida residents also have low food access. In 2015, just more than 26 percent of children receiving support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) were battling or at risk for diet-related diseases.

"Poor access to good nutrition can result in serious health consequences resulting from diets that may lean heavily on fast food, chips, candy and other processed foods," said Dr. Labovitz, president of the American Heart Association Tampa Bay Metro Board and chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences at USF. "From heart disease to diabetes and obesity, without access to healthy food, good health is much more difficult to achieve and maintain."

That is why the American Heart Association is working to advance a healthy corner stores bill in Tallahassee that would reduce the impact of food deserts both locally and across the state.

The bill aims to help small corner store owners located in food deserts acquire the funding and training needed to be able to market and sell a wide selection of healthy foods.

Some corner store owners simply lack the equipment such as refrigeration units to be able to hold and display perishable food items. By providing necessary infrastructure resources, this program is smartly positioned to not only better public health but also provide a boost to local economies.

If passed, this healthy corner stores initiative will create jobs and open new markets for Florida's farmers.

As an added benefit, it may even lower healthcare costs. Presently \$6.7 billion is spent each year in Florida treating obesity-related diseases. Add to that, just over 74 percent of adults in Florida have inadequate fruit and vegetable consumption.

By making it easier to eat healthy regardless of where you live, the American Heart Association is committed to reducing the significant burden of heart disease and stroke.

It's important that lawmakers in Tallahassee hear your opinions on this issue. If you or a family member has been impacted by living in a food desert, consider calling your representative by visiting: <http://bit.ly/FLGovernmentCall>.

Dr. Arthur Labovitz is an Edward C. Wright Professor of Medicine and Chair of the USF Health Department of Cardiovascular Sciences and the American Heart Association Tampa Bay Metro board president.



Repeal and Replace: The effects on Medicare

ST. PETERSBURG – The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Eckerd College announces "Repeal and Replace: The Effects on Medicare" a special public class will be held Thursday, April 13 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Pelican Room at Eckerd College, located at 4200 54th St, St. Petersburg.

Timely and controversial, the presentation will

discuss changes to Medicare now under consideration, how area seniors may be affected by these forces and what can be done in the Tampa Bay region to ensure seniors can properly access the health care they need.

The featured speaker is attorney Julie Carter, Federal Policy Associate at the Medicare Rights Center in Washington, DC, who just completed a

year as a Health and Policy Fellow at the Administration for Community Living. Carter was also a fellow with Justice In Aging, focusing on person-centered planning and Medicaid long-term services and supports.

Questions and interaction from the audience will be encouraged.

"This special event will explore the crucial issue of maintaining effective

health care for seniors," said Monica Kile, OLLI Director. "This is perhaps the greatest social challenge we now face in this decade for Americans of all ages."

This special class is open to the public. The fee is \$10 for both OLLI members and non-members. Registration is required. Call the OLLI office at (727) 864-7600 or go to eckerd.edu/olli/register.

OLLI, a non-profit educational organization, each year provides more than 350 affordable and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes, inter-



est groups, local and international trips and special events at multiple locations for its 1,500 members in Pinellas County.

It's Official ASAP and Francis House Become EPIC



ASAP (AIDS Service Association of Pinellas) and Francis House have officially merged and are now EPIC (Empath Partners in Care). This merger brings together two like-minded, community-based organizations with nearly 60 years of combined experience serving those impacted by HIV and AIDS in the Tampa Bay area. We can now serve more people with more services throughout our community.

EPIC has various locations in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties and will continue uninterrupted services on its ASAP and Francis House Campuses. EPIC provides a wide variety of services, including:

- Free HIV Testing
- Medical Case Management
- Counseling Services & Support Groups
- Food & Personal Needs Pantries
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For more information about the exciting new organization, visit MyEPIC.org





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FAMU NEWS

Look out college, here comes the 500 Role Models

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Members of St. Petersburg’s 5000 Role Models put the finishing touches on a two-month project last month to raise funds to rent a bus that will be taking them on college tours to north Florida starting Friday, April 14.

These young men, who stepped up to the plate over the last couple

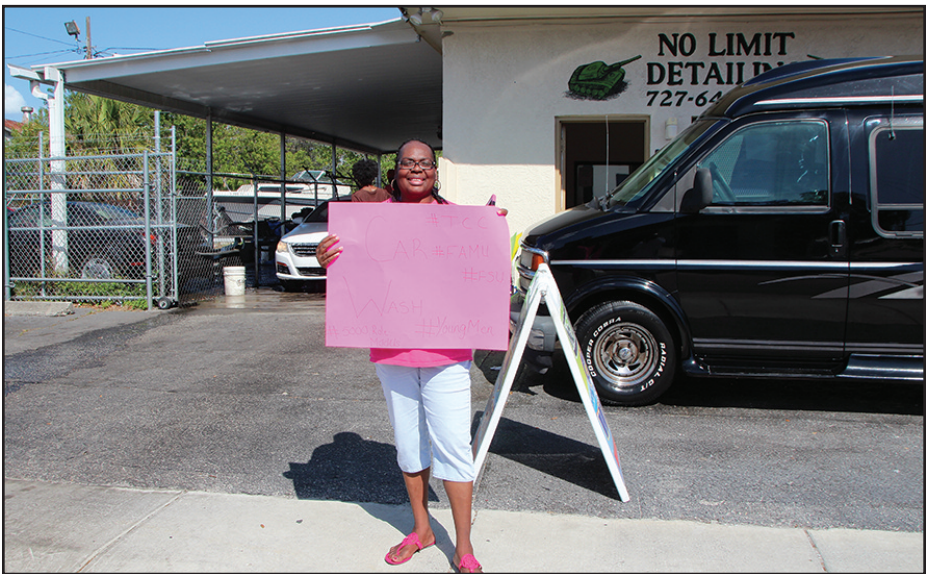
of months, are shining examples of what African-American male high school students are capable of doing under quality leadership, especially leadership from the 5000 Role Models program.

Gibbs High counselor Javarius Green not only spearheaded the project but also rolled his sleeves up to help the young men wash cars every two weeks since Jan. 29 at No Limit Mobile Detailing, 534 Fifth Ave. S.

As of the end of last month, the fundraising effort has resulted in more than \$800 from car washes and online contributions.

Nearly 400 young men will board the bus to north Florida to visit Florida A&M University, Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College.

To reach Frank Drouzas, email fdrouzas@theweekly-challenger.com



2017 Legacy Banquet surpasses fundraising goal for FAMU

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida A&M University Lawson Recreational Center was bursting with pride from 700 patrons who poured into the arena to make history and buoy efforts to raise money for the athletics department.

The 2017 Annual Legacy Banquet rolled out its second event, more than doubling its fundraising commitment by handing over a check for \$225,000 to address the needed renovation of Bragg Memorial Stadium, which requires more than \$450,000 in repairs.

“We are highly appreciative of those we are honoring, the men and women who played a significant part in strengthening, giving and sustaining Florida A&M University. Without them, there would not be a legacy or heritage,” said Rev. Dr. RB Holmes of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, who led the faith-based effort.

The honorees were

serenaded by the Marching 100 and praised by prominent leaders including Congressman Al Lawson, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum and many others.

The honorees:

Former faculty senate presidents Narayan Persaud, Ph.D., & Mary Di-allo, Ph.D.

Former student government association presidents: Monique Gillum, Tonnnette Graham, James Mathews and Larry O. Rivers, Ph.D.

Former nation alumni presidents Tommy Mitchell, Sr. and Carolyn Collin, Ph.D.

Former board of trustee members Rufus Montgomery, and Dr. Spurgeon McWilliams

Avid supporters Eddie Jackson, Elaine Bryant Ph.D. and Stephanie L. Clark

Former Miss FAMU Denise Barrett, Ph.D. and Treniece Seniors

“We want to thank the faith community for their

kind and willing hearts because we wouldn’t be here if it were not for you,” said FAMU Interim President Larry Robinson, Ph.D.

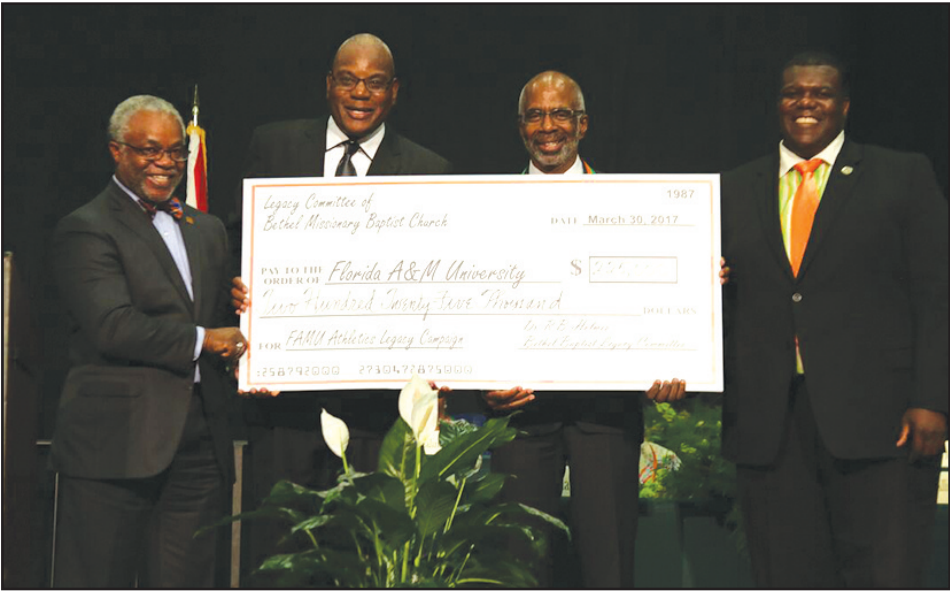
“And to the honorees, you all deserve to be standing where you are. If we could only do more. I can’t say enough about how much we appreciate you.”

Rev. Dr. Julius H. McAllister and his congregation at Bethel AME Church, who both played a prominent role in the success of the event said, “This is a signature moment in the life of FAMU, a university that has given so much to so many persons. Its academic influence shines worldwide.”

“We are making history because we came together to raise \$225,000 and people are still giving. Once we have that giving spirit it tells us that FAMU’s going to be alright,” said Holmes, as he continued to emphasize their generosity and giving spirit.



Rev. Dr. RB Holmes, FAMU Interim President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., and Rev. Dr. Julius McAllister thank honorees during a press conference prior to the Legacy Banquet.



FAMU VP for Advancement George Cotton, Rev. RB Holmes, Interim President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., and Athletic Director Milton Overton proudly hold the Legacy Banquet check for \$225,000.



2017 Honorees of the 2017 Legacy Banquet.



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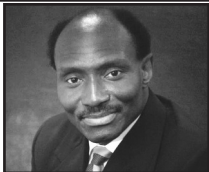
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Baptist Training Union..... 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
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Rev. Brian K. Brown

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Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

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Sunday Worship7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
WednesdayNoonday Wednesday in the Word and Bread of Life
7:00 p.m. Prayer and Wednesday in the Word
7:00 p.m. Youth Enrichment

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.

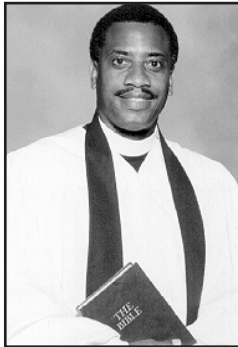
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9:30 a.m. Sunday School (First Sunday Only)
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Pastor Dr. Jerome D. Jordan

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday night Let's Go Deeper Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION SHOW'S ON 2 DIFFERENT NETWORK

Real Talk with Kisha Jordan Monday nights at 10:30 p.m.

on Cable, Roku, all smart phones & on www.preachthewordnetwork.com

Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. Cable, Roku all smart phones & on www.thenownetwork.org

For more info please go to www.kishajordanenterprises.org

CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark MBC

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, its wish that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central core, the belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a lost world hungry and thirsty for the word of God. At St. Mark, we as a body of believers are Christians willing to work and partner in unity, praising God for the awesome gift of His son, Jesus Christ.

Events for April
Apr 8 - Body Builder's Bowling Outing-4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Sunrise Bowling Lanes, located at 6393 9th Street North. This is a time for fun and fellowship.

Apr 14 - Good Friday
PIZZA Ministry Start-up Meeting at Child's Park Recreational Center @ 9:00 a.m. to

participate in "Walk for Jesus" to help spread the word about the upcoming PIZZA Ministry Bible studies in the Park

Apr 16 - Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service @ 7 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Apr 18 - Church Outing- New Jerusalem M.B Church Celebrating Pastor's 11th and Church's 58th Anniversary. Time: 7:30 p.m.

Apr 23 - Children Youth Ministry (CYM) 4th Annual Youth Explosion @ 3:30 p.m. Theme: Praise is what I Do ... No Story, No Glory (Psalm 150:6)

Apr 26-28 - Convening of Congress No. 2 with host church New Mt. Sinai M.B. Church (Rev. Bobby McDonald, Pastor)

Apr 29 - St. Mark 4th Annual Mission Awards Luncheon

Apr 30 - Mission Emphasis Sunday and Operation Love

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: 5:00 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 6:00 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: 7:00 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.



Pastor's Corner

BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY,
SPIRITUAL LEADER
Unity Temple of Truth Church

Call it a Challenge Acts 10:34-44

Whatever manifests in the physical world that appears to be a problem is a really challenge. There are no problems, only challenges awaiting solutions. Calling a physical condition a challenge reminds of the truth that it can be overcome. Naming it as a challenge keeps the physical - fluid instead of permanent. Physical challenges do not come to stay; they come to pass. Sickness and pain were not meant to be chronic and debilitating. Once we get the lesson and the blessing from the physical challenge, then we can release it and let it go.

Seeing disease and discomfort as a challenge keeps us in the awareness of our true identity as children of God. We are not to define ourselves and others based on the physical. We are spiritual beings living in a spiritual universe that is governed by spiritual laws and principles.

Instead of calling people blind, we say

they are visually challenged. Instead of calling people deaf, we say that they have a hearing challenge. Instead of calling people dumb, we say that they have a speech challenge. Instead of calling people handicapped, we say that they have a have physical challenge. Instead of calling people retarded, we say that they have a developmental challenge.

Jesus Christ traveled throughout the regions preaching and teaching about the Kingdom of God (Matthew 4:23). His ministry of the Word was accompanied by miracles, signs and wonders. All manner of sickness and disease were healed because he saw them as challenges that were able to be overcome (Matthew 9:35). Each of us have at least one challenge that we are working with in our lives. Challenges come to remind us just how powerful we really are (1 John 4:4).

Friendship MBC

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO THE CHURCH WHERE WE KNOW "IT'S JUST NICE TO BE NICE" - COME TO THE SHIP AND SEE FOR YOURSELF - Need a place to call home, we're not perfect, all of us have sinned and fallen short, you can come here just as you are, seeking a Word from the Lord, great Teaching (Wednesday In The Word, Noon Day and at 7:00 pm, Also Youth Enrichment, alittle something full of Fun and Spiritual designed just for the children and Preaching is what you desire, well, look no further...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. Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Pastor and the Official Board stand ready to WELCOME YOU.

April at the Ship
TAKE ME TO THE KING

Join US at "The Ship" at the 10:45 am Worship Service, a Real place to be for these Real times.

Saturday, April 8, 2017 - THE EVANGELISM FISHING TRIP HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED, PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS, ALL OTHER INFORMATION ARE THE SAME, PLEASE CHECK THE INFORMATION TABLE FOR YOUR INSTRUCTIONS..

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE - THE ROAD TO CALVARY

PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 9, 2017 AT 6:00 PM - LOCATION: FRIENDSHIP MIS-

SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

WORSHIP LEADER: REV. CLARENCE A. WILLIAMS - PREACHER: REV. ELLIS R. HODGE - CHOIR / USHERS: GREATER MT. ZION A.M.E.

MONDAY: APRIL 10, 2017 AT 7:00 PM - LOCATION: FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

WORSHIP LEADER: REV. ELLIS R. HODGE - PREACHER: DR. JOHN A. EVANS, SR. - CHOIR/USHERS: FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.

TUESDAY: APRIL 11, 2017 AT 7:00 PM - LOCATION: WORD OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP - WORSHIP LEADER: DR. JOHN A. EVANS, SR. - PREACHER: REV. CLARENCE A. WILLIAMS - CHOIR/USHERS: WORD OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP

WEDNESDAY: APRIL 12, 2017 AT 7:00 PM - CONSECRATION AND ANOINTING SERVICES - COLORS: PURPLE - LOCATION: WORD OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP - WORSHIP LEADER: REV. CLARENCE A. WILLIAMS - PREACHER: REV. ELLIS R. HODGE - CHOIR/USHERS: WORD OF LIFE FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY: APRIL 13, 2017 AT 7:00 PM - WASHING OF HANDS - LOCATION: GREATER MT. ZION A.M.E. - WORSHIP LEADER: REV. ELLIS R. HODGE - PREACHER: DR. JOHN A. EVANS, SR. - CHOIR/USHERS: FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017 AT 7:00 PM - GOOD FRIDAY - NIGHT IN WHITE - COMMUNION - COLORS: BLACK AND RED - LOCATION: GREATER MT. ZION A.M.E. - WORSHIP LEADER: DR. JOHN A. EVANS, SR. PREACHER: REV. CLARENCE A. WILLIAMS - CHOIR / USHERS: GREATER MT. ZION A.M.E.

THE GATHERING OF PASTORS - GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP AT NOON

MT. ZION A.M.E. CHURCH, 1045 16TH STREET SOUTH, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

REV. CLARENCE WILLIAMS, HOST, REV. LOUIS MURPHY, REV. ELLIS HODGE, BISHOP PRESTON LEONARD, REV. KEN IRBY, REV. FRANK PETERMAN, REV. J.C. PRITCHETT AND

DR. DORAL PULLEY "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 St. S, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 Church Office: 727-906-8300 E-Mail: fmbc3300@verizon.net

Now "Live Streaming": Visit Our Website: www.fmbctheship.net Visit Our Facebook page Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: www.expericenthethecoast.com

Need a ride to church? Call our Transportation Ministry - (727) 906-8300 - Mon. - Fri. from 9 am - 3 pm.

"Remember and pray for our men and women in uniform as well as our veterans this new year!"

Unity Temple of Truth Church
1011 16th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader

APRIL 9, 2017
5:00 PM
4 PM - Potluck Dinner

THE JOURNEY OF CHRIST

Easter Cantata

A MUSICAL DRAMA PRESENTATION
by The Voices of Truth, Youth of Truth and Friends of Unity
*Love offering to support our music, drama and dance outreach will be taken

THE GATHERING OF GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Pastors
THE MESSAGES. THE MUSIC. THE MIRACULOUS.

APRIL 14 @ NOON
MT. ZION A.M.E. CHURCH • 1045 16TH STREET SOUTH • SAINT PETERSBURG FLORIDA
FREE • LUNCH PROVIDED • OPEN TO PUBLIC
DESIGN - WWW.WILOPRAIZE.NET

COMMUNITY NEWS

Are you looking for a new career?

PTC, from front page

get the job.”
The Public Works Academy is three-pronged, he explained, which includes the 14-week cadet program, the apprenticeship program and the continuing education program, in which students can obtain advanced-level certificates. There is also a dual enrollment program where students can earn credits at the Public Works Academy while still attending high school.
Field trips for students include such location as South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility, Pinellas County Waste-to-

Energy Facility, Clearwater Gas and the Florida Botanical Gardens.
The Public Works cadet program courses at PTC require 450 hours, which includes hands-on work, and students must put together an agenda item before they graduate, Cavalli said.
“They would write that document up, the agenda item,” he stated, “they would learn how to do a spreadsheet to support that agenda item; they would learn how to do a PowerPoint presentation.”
At the end, students will actually have to stand up in front of their peers

and instructors and present a proposal the way a public works manager would.
“We act like city council and we ask them questions as they’re going through and doing their proposal.”
PTC assists with finding the students employment, and over the years the placement rate remains high, fluctuating between about 80 percent and 95 percent. Students age vary as the cadet program has attracted a wide range of people from high school students to people in their 60s.
“Some of the people

that are in our apprenticeship program and continuing education are in their late 60s,” Cavalli said. “Some of them may be engineers and are continuing on and getting those other certifications.”
Cavalli said PTC is considering an on-campus facility management component for students to perform actual maintenance tasks as part of their internship, adding that all that is just one of the 14 tracks of Public Works, which includes stormwater, solid waste, roadway maintenance, surveying and mapping, utilities and so much



more.
How important is an efficient public works system to the community? Without one in place, cities as we know them simply would not exist.
“It’s really the foundation of civilization if you ask me,” Cavalli said.
Cadet program spring session at PTC begins April 10. For more info, visit publicworksacademy.org, or call (727) 893-2500.
To reach Frank Drouzas, email fdrouzas@theweekly-challenger.com



Opportunity Starts Here

www.pcsb.org/myptc

Our mission is to provide students the opportunity to develop national workplace competencies to fill the needs of business and industry.
Vision: To be our community’s first choice for workforce training.

ADMISSIONS

- New classes start five times per year: August, October, January, April and June.
1. Take the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education).
 2. Meet with a counselor to discuss your TABE results, program interests and requirements.
 3. You may visit your program(s) of interest.
 4. Apply for Financial Aid.
 5. Complete registration form, confirm your residency status, and pay for class.

FINANCIAL AID

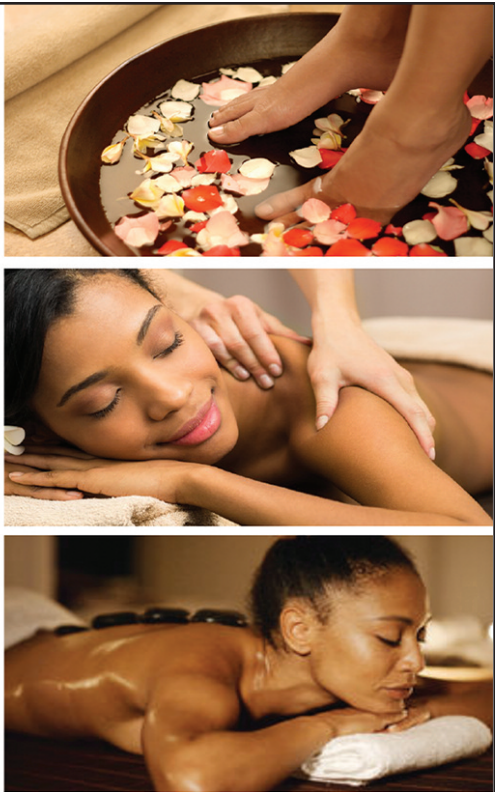
- Financial aid, which consists of Federal and State grants, and scholarships, is available to those who qualify and can help cover the cost of a Pinellas Technical College education.
- To apply for financial aid, complete the application at www.fafsa.gov. The School Codes are 005605 (Clearwater campus) and 013917 (St. Petersburg campus).
- Veterans and other eligible students may use their Veterans (VA) benefits, including the Montgomery GI Bill and Post 9/11 GI Bill, at Pinellas Technical College.
- Pinellas Technical College accepts Florida Prepaid and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

TWO CAMPUS LOCATIONS

Clearwater Campus 6100 154th Ave. N. 727-538-7167	St. Petersburg Campus 901 34 th Street S. 727-893-2500
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Accreditation by: Council on Occupational Education (COE) 7840 Roswell Road, Building 300, Suite 325, Atlanta, Georgia 30350 770-396-3898 or 800-917-2081 and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI), 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033, (404) 679-4500

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