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The Weekly Challenger

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

VOL. 50 NO. 6

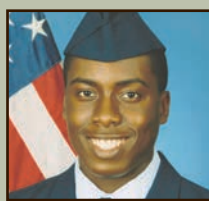
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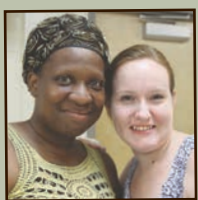
IN THIS WEEK



PAGE 2
COMMUNITY NEWS
It stinks in the sink



PAGE 4
COMMUNITY NEWS
Gibbs graduate completes basic training



PAGE 7
COMMUNITY NEWS
Compassion for all

INDEX

COMMUNITY

NEWS

PAGES

2 - 9

CHURCH

NEWS

PAGES 10 - 11



8 53619 00471 2



In a strong mayor government, the mayor does not vote; therefore the fate of the Manhattan Casino is in the hands of city council.

Manhattan Casino decision coming soon

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – In the Sept. 14 city council meeting, both sides fighting for the Manhattan Casino, the Callaloo Group and the Manhattan Casino Legacy Collaborative, got a chance to plead their cases and persuade council to see it their way.

City Development Administrator Alan DeLisle explained that in October of 2016 the city issued a Request for Proposal for the reuse of the vacant Manhattan Casino. The mayor rejected both proposals. On April 13 of this year, the city received an unsolicited proposal from the Callaloo Group. A notice that the city received an unsolicited proposal and a 45-day request for other submissions was issued.

Four proposals were submitted but only two met most of the

fundamental, foundational criteria originally established in the October 2016 RFP – the Callaloo Group and the Manhattan Casino Legacy Collaborative.

“The Callaloo Group proposal, however, was the only one of the four that included capital and the financial backing required to implement and sustain the project and begin operation immediately,” said DeLisle.

Former Bucs wide receiver and Callaloo Group member Vincent Jackson have plans on opening a Floribbean restaurant/commissary that will hire around 25 people. They’ve also proposed to design a program in conjunction with Pinellas Technical College that will promote managerial and franchise opportunities.

Jackson said they did feasibility studies and worked closely with the city, local constituents and leaders throughout the community to come up with their numbers and made sure they were realistic and obtainable.

Jackson said he understands people are emotionally attached to the Manhattan; therefore, their vision includes community involvement.

“We’ve been asking for them to support us, to join us,” said Jackson. “Come in, we want you to come around, we want your input. Yes, we have a very, very viable plan that we’ve executed, put a lot of time and investment into and we’re gonna be fine, we’re gonna operate with or without you, but everybody has the same goal. Everybody is emotionally involved because

See **CASINO**, page 12

For the record



Goliath Davis

BY GOLIATH J. DAVIS, III,
PH.D
Contributor

As many of you know, I worked as former Mayor Rick Baker’s Deputy Mayor for Midtown Economic Development. Baker is currently seeking another term and as a member of his campaign team, I am deeply disappointed by what appears to be a divisive, win at any cost strategy by the Kriseman campaign.

The falsehoods and misrepresentations by Kriseman’s campaign ghost writers and other campaign associates are alarming. The campaign insists on making a non-partisan race partisan, and willfully distorts Baker’s record. The campaign’s emphasis on partisan politics represents a divisive act of desperation that harms the entire city.

Mayor Baker’s campaign reflects his love and passion for the entire City of St. Petersburg, a proven record of working with democrats and republicans, and a continued commitment to building a Seamless City. The political leaders the next mayor interfaces with will be republican, democrat and other. Kriseman’s inability to work with diverse elected officials will only impede his ability to resolve many of the problems he and his administration have created.

An article by School Board member Rene Flowers contains a number of distortions I would like to address. The article ignores the impact of term limits on an elected official’s ability to complete a course of work.

For the Midtown initiative, we adopted the tag line “Continuing the Progress.” It acknowledged improvements by the Fischer administration as we implemented plans to build upon them and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors.

Some initiatives started during

See **RECORD**, page 3

BTAG’s dynamic duo retiring

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL
Staff Writer

LARGO – Every year, the Bridging the Achievement Gap (BTAG) program holds a banquet in August to highlight the successes of the program and the students they serve, and this year was no different. Founders James and Gwen Feazell proudly announced that since the birth of the program in 2003, 2,120 students have been served.

What was different this year was the mood of the room, for it was announced that the Feazells are retiring...for the second time. The program will now be administered by the Greater Ridgecrest YMCA.

Rotating students from Largo, Seminole, Osceola, Pinellas Park, Clearwater, Dunedin,



L-R, Ken Welch, Gwen and James Feazell and Pat Gerard

Tarpon Springs, Gibbs and Countryside High Schools, 1,592 students have graduated with high school diplomas, 512 are attending college or a university, 407 have graduated from college, 17

are attending graduate schools, 10 have earned graduate degrees, 117 have attended technical school and 51 are enjoying military careers.

See **BTAG**, page 6

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COMMUNITY NEWS

It stinks in the sink

Dear editor:
The corrupt city government of St. Petersburg, mainly current Mayor Rick Kriseman, should be the one to pay to fix and upgrade their sewer system. He should also consider not penalizing the residents of St. Pete because of bad negotiation skills and other jurisdictions that refuse to fix their sewer systems.
There are seven satellite (wholesale sewer customers) communities whose sewers flow into the St. Petersburg sewer system. These customers have “interlocal” signed agreements with the City of St. Petersburg.
Similar to the City of St. Petersburg, Gulfport and St. Pete Beach (SPB) are under Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Sewer consent orders. The St. Petersburg sewage infrastructures haven’t been worked on since the 1970s and through big money development and gentrification of the black community, Kriseman, Baker and all of the other failed administrations have

failed to maintain or upgrade this system.
To add insult to injury, SPB and Gulfport sewer inflow and infiltration (I&I) problems are exacerbating the St Petersburg sewer leaks at the Northwest sewer treatment plant (SPB) or Southwest sewer treatment plant (Gulfport). The FDEP hasn’t required maintenance of sewer systems in Pinellas County.
When Rick Baker occupied the mayor’s seat in City Hall, he signed a binding sewer agreement with the City of St. Pete Beach allowing them to pump their sewage into St. Petersburg, an already suffering sewage system. This contract allegedly can never be reopened, however, this city government is trying to make residents pay for infrastructure improvements that corruption and SPB’s unmaintained sewer system has caused.
A mayor who is genuinely concerned with the interests of the people would allocate serious resources towards rebuilding the sewage systems

throughout St. Petersburg, including re-opening and modernizing the Albert Whitted sewage plant that was only closed to begin with because of the real estate developer lobby’s influence in City Hall.
The workers within Water Resources should also be empowered to exert authority over the functioning of their departments, a key platform point espoused by the candidates Akile Anai and Jesse Nevel who ran for city council and mayor in the August primary election.
They would also hold themselves responsible for putting their residents in harm’s way by dumping sewage into the drinking water of the people, which is a huge human health risk, especially when much of this was avoidable.
A mayor in the interest of the people would not have made the black community the first resort when it came to dumping sewage. They would not continue to build more high-rises and condomini-

ums, straining the infrastructure even further.
They would not give leniency to cities like SPB, whose government should be paying their share for the mess they have made.
In the midst of making bad deals at the expense of the people of St. Petersburg, city council approved the reduction of cost to treat SPB sewage last year.
Going forward, critical infrastructure, including sewers, may not be fundable for low-lying areas subject to sea level rise.
Saltwater seeping into sewer lines in low-lying areas due to sea level rise will become a larger factor in future St. Petersburg spills. SPB has zero sewer capacity now, so their planned high-rise development will create more sewage leaks at St Petersburg’s northwest sewer treatment plant. Big developers should be required to pay an infrastructure tax so that no development comes at the expense of our public health and the environment. Beyond that, a moratorium

on high-rises sounds like a good plan.
Mayor Kriseman and former Mayor Baker are definitely to blame for the enormous past sewer spills and future spills, in part because they have not provided oversight of sewage flowing into the St Petersburg system that increases the probability of spills.
Is it fair that St Petersburg’s black community receives the brunt of poor oversight? Should residents be subject to sewage in the streets and their houses?
Communities United for Reparations and Economic Development (CURED) is a new grassroots movement, built off the campaigns to elect Akile and Jesse, that is building a precinct-based organization to influence public policy and run candidates for office on a genuinely progressive platform of unity through reparations.
I joined CURED because I see a need to end big money in politics. All it has done is corrupt city government and put the



Anne Hirsch

people at risk. It’s time for a healthy infrastructure for St. Pete residents, and I believe that starts with putting social justice and reparations for the oppressed black community of St. Petersburg at the center so that we can begin solving all of our issues on the local level, including the sewage system.
When I turn on the faucet in my home, I have to hold my breath for a moment to air out the smell. It stinks in the sink and big money is to blame.
Anne Hirsch

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believes that America can

best lead the world from racial antagonism when it accords to every man, regardless of race, creed or color, his human and legal rights. Hating no man, fearing no man... the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all men are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



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COMMUNITY NEWS



Visionary Brief

by Keisha Bell, Esq.

Read. Write? Vote!, Part 2

Remember when it was illegal for slaves to write? Reading and drawing were tolerated, but writing was disallowed.

Black’s Law Dictionary defines “slave” as one who has no freedom of action, but whose person and services are wholly under the control of another.

Could it be that others continue to think of you as a slave? (One could argue that some think of Colin Kaepernick as a slave, as well as Jemele Hill. Why not you too?)

Wait!
Do you self-identify as a slave?

South Carolina was first to pass laws prohibiting slave education in 1740, making it illegal to teach slaves to write. Its violation carried a financial penalty for the teacher.

Plantation owners feared slave revolts and desperately aimed to restrict slaves’ ability to communicate with one another. Keeping slaves ignorant was necessary for plantation owners who did not want them to be free or question their authority. Examples to maintain control were as follows:

In 1831, Delaware passed a law that prevented the meeting of a dozen or more blacks late at night;

In 1833, Alabama enacted a law that prohibited any assembly of blacks unless five slave owners were present or an African-American preacher had previously been licensed by an approved denomination;

In 1836, North Carolina, a state that previously allowed free African-American and white children to attend schools together, passed a law that strictly prohibited the public education of all African-Americans; and

In 1841, the Mississippi state legislature passed a law that required all free African-Americans to leave its state.

As is known, these laws were in addition to other cruel and unusual punishments used during those times intended to instill fear in slaves and free African Americans so they would not “get out of line.”

Question: Do you fear the consequence of “not acting right” in racially sensitive situations in present-day America?

In 1956, Septima Poinsette Clark was hired as the full-time director of workshops by the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee. An educator and a civil rights activist, Clark was determined to turn sharecroppers and African-Americans who were un-

schooled into potential voters via the compressed week’s workshop she developed. Clark was a woman with vision.

After being terminated from employment in South Carolina for refusing to leave the NAACP, Clark found an opportunity that welcomed her talents. By standing by her convictions, she was able to fulfill a greater purpose. Clark could have given up, but instead, she persevered.

At Highlander Folk School, Clark was able to again teach literacy courses. This time, however, she did so with the help of her cousin, Bernice Robinson. The two of them were able to expand the lessons to include teaching more students how to complete driver’s license exams, voter registration forms, Sears mail-order forms, and how to sign checks.

Clark’s curriculum evolved into the creation of “Citizenship School.” Citizenship School educated blacks in literacy, state government, and election procedures. It was a response to legislation in Southern states which required literacy and interpretation of various portions of the United States Constitution in order to be allowed to register to vote.

In 1961, Citizenship School was adopted by the Southern Christian Leadership Council. Soon thereafter, it spread throughout the South. It is believed that Citizenship School trained over 10,000 citizenship school teachers, taught more than 25,000 people, and before 1969 enabled about 700,000 African Americans to become registered voters. Notably, Rosa Parks was one of Clark’s students.

Clark’s life experiences — her failures and successes — prepared her to create Citizenship School. As a result, African Americans were taught how to act collectively and protest against racism.

The School served as a way to empower black communities through self-pride, cultural-pride, and via understanding one’s own citizenship rights. It helped countless blacks push for the right to vote. In addition, it developed leaders across the nation who would help push the civil rights movement even after 1964.

A woman with vision, who endured struggle, and was granted an opportunity — Clark reminds us to use every life experience as preparation for our greater purpose to serve others. Understand your power. Read, write, and vote!



In the 1950s, Clark was invited to lead integrated summer workshops at the Highlander Folk School.

She is here
“Why is SHE here,” he asked.

Do you know the feeling of being unwelcomed because you are the “wrong” color, gender, socio-economic bracket, nationality, sexual orientation, age, faith, etc. - even when you bring a wealth of valuables and are willing to openly share?

Clark had treasures to contribute to an African-American civil rights organization for the betterment of black people. Her work was no secret.

She developed literacy classes and Citizenship Schools that were instrumental in the development of civil rights’ leaders, as well as, the drive for voting and civil rights for African-Americans. She became known as the “Grandmother of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States.”

Although Clark’s Citizenship Schools were seen as an illustration of support to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Clark experienced sexism from both Dr. King and Reverend Ralph Abernathy, co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). According to Clark, on a number of occasions, Rev. Abernathy wanted to know why she was on the SCLC’s Executive Board.

As follows, Dr. King would routinely respond by saying, “She was the one who proposed this citizenship education which is bringing to us not only money but a lot of people who will register and vote.”

Of course, Rev. Abernathy knew of Clark’s benefactions to the Civil Rights Movement, yet he continued to struggle accepting her as his peer. Why was he reluctant?

Rev. Abernathy was well aware of the injustices done to African-Americans. After all, he was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement. He helped to create the Montgomery Improvement Association that was influential to the Montgomery bus boycott.

Knowing that both black men and women were subject to racial atrocities,



Septima Poinsette Clark

how could someone (especially someone) who personally experienced discrimination struggle with the idea of black women sitting at leadership tables, spaces where strategies are crafted which overcome such exploits?

[Note: Clark’s Citizenship Schools are an example of an empowerment strategy for developing civil rights leaders.]

The sacrifices and contributions of African-American women in Black America’s freedom fight are well documented. Still, however, there are some who continue to prefer that she is neither seen nor heard.

Defying all odds, she is here. She is both seen and heard.

Sexism continues to affect black women. According to Clark, the unequal treatment of women was, “one of the greatest weaknesses of the Civil Rights Movement.” The saga continues.

Keisha Bell is an attorney, author, and public servant.
www.emergingfree.com

For the record

RECORD , from front page

ing Baker’s administration were not completed due to term limits; i.e. the acquisition of the Merriweather property where Grady McCall operated his restaurant and the former Sydney Harden Grocery Store property, current home of the Creole Café. Yet, Rene criticizes Baker for running out of time.

Baker’s position on flying flags over City Hall has been distorted by Flowers, and she never mentions all requests were not honored by Kriseman. She praises Kriseman for flying the Carter G. Woodson Museum’s flag during Black History Month but fails to acknowledge the recent acquisition of the Woodson Museum would not have been possible if not for Mayor Baker’s foundational work with the St. Petersburg Housing Authority. I am sure Midtown residents would prefer access to a grocery store over having a flag flown over City Hall.

Baker’s commitment to diversity is solid and has been reflected in employment, economic development, personnel promotions and historical affirmations. Baker was the first mayor to ask the Midtown community for their definition of economic development as well as their indices of success. He appointed the first

African-American assistant fire chief and elevated Clarence Scott to the position of Parks director. He named the current Dell Holmes Park in honor of the city’s first African-American parks director and hired Dwight Wilson, the first African-American assistant director of Water Resources. Kriseman fired Wilson and the Scotts.

The first official city recognition and celebration of the 12 courageous African-American police officers responsible for the integration of the St. Petersburg Police Department occurred during the Baker administration along with the naming of the sanitation compound for civil rights activist Joseph Savage, leader of the garbage strike that improved working conditions and benefits for sanitation workers in our city.

In the face of criticism and advice to the contrary, Mayor Baker was the first elected mayor in the city’s recent history to make education a cornerstone of his campaign and administration.

He appointed the first cabinet administrator for education and enacted the Mayor’s Mentors and More initiative. City personnel mentored students, business partners were recruited and assigned to our schools, teachers and

principals were supported, the Top Apple Program was instituted and private funds were raised to secure four-year college scholarships for 1,000 free and reduced lunch school children. Student performance and school grades improved in part because of these efforts.

St. Petersburg College was recruited to bring its brand to the 22nd Street Corridor and it successfully moved from a small building on the west side of the corridor to the Achievement Center (east side of 22nd Street) and subsequently to its current location. However, due to term limits, Mayor Baker was out of office when construction began on the Midtown campus.

The Midtown Economic Development initiative was asset based with an emphasis on preserving Midtown’s historical structures—the Train Station, Manhattan Casino, Royal Theatre (Boys and Girls Club), Mercy Hospital (Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center) and Jordan Elementary School (Head Start). The restorations also provided jobs and other opportunities for Midtown residents.

Baker worked with existing tenants of some structures and found tenants for the vacant ones. Unlike the current admin-

istration, we partnered with African American non-profits and property owners. Urban Development Solutions (Larry Newsome, Senator Darryl Rouson, Rev. Louis Murphy) worked with us to secure Sylvia’s for the Manhattan Casino. Again, due to term limits, the project was subsequently completed during Mayor Foster’s administration.

In response to the community’s requests, Mayor Rick Baker brought a library, two grocery stores, the Childs Park YMCA, a bank and a full service post office to Midtown, along with jobs and a Job Corps center. Mayor Baker partnered again with Urban Development Solutions for the grocery store and African-American property owners Felton, Wooten, Felton for the post office.

Contrary to Flower’s assertion, the current full service post office in Midtown was originally a postal carrier facility. Midtown residents were not allowed in the building. They could not buy stamps, mail a letter, secure a post office box or access amenities other residents of our city were afforded at post offices in their communities.

In the event, mail was misrouted or not delivered to Midtown residents, they were directed to appear at

a window outside the facility and brave the elements to claim their mail and/or packages. The Baker administration’s complaints about residents standing in the rain and sun to retrieve mail prompted the postal service to erect an awning. The image was reminiscent of the Jim Crow era. Attempts to correct the situation started with the postmaster in St. Pete, then Tampa and Memphis. It ended at the White House with a Republican president.

Mayor Baker provided the funds necessary for the build out of Midtown’s full service postal facility and I am sure building owners Felton, Wooten and Felton will acknowledge the facility renovations and the fact it was not a full service post office prior to Mayor Baker’s intervention.

Another issue of paramount importance to the Midtown community addressed by Mayor Baker was health care. He partnered with the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center, St. Petersburg College, the University of Florida Dental School, Florida A&M School of Pharmacy and Bayfront Medical Center for an array of medical services ranging from healthy eating to dentistry and patient care. Congressman Bill Young worked with Mayor Baker

and the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Health Center administrators to secure the necessary funding.

Midtown voters in the recent primary election perceived their lives improved significantly during the Baker Administration and voted accordingly. Midtown knows Baker and despite Kriseman’s attempts to make his party affiliation an issue, Mayor Baker’s commitment to Midtown carried the day.

Voters recognized Baker’s leadership during that period of historic change, and change, not party was the operative word in the primary election. The Midtown vote is the greatest testament to why our mayoral elections are non-partisan. Voters understand leadership, commitment, compassion, and competence are the true keys to effectiveness, and these qualities explain why Baker is embraced in Midtown and Kriseman is not.

The current mayor, Rick Kriseman, is a Democrat who ignores the community, oversees the loss of basic services and presides over community gentrification. Yet, he insists Midtown and surrounding communities should vote for him simply because of his party affiliation.

I don’t think so — “Kriseman Gotta Go!”

COMMUNITY NEWS

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Recent Gibbs graduate completes basic training

SAN ANTONIO, TX – Airman First Class Anthony B. Stokes, Jr. has had a very productive summer. He graduated in May from the Gibbs High School BETA Program and now he's completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force in San Antonio, Texas.

A1C Stokes completed an intensive eight-week military training program that included military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

He also earned four college credits towards an Associate's Degree in Applied Science and will further his education through the community college of the Air Force.

A1C Stokes will not soon forget 2017. He enlisted in the Air Force in April, graduated from high school in May, celebrated his 18th birthday in June and in July he left to begin his career in the U.S. Air Force. His parents, Anthony and Tracie Stokes, could not be more proud of their baby boy.



Anthony B. Stokes, Jr.

Clergy leader endorses Kriseman for Mayor

I, Rev. Dr. Deborah R. Green, President & C.E.O. of Earth Mission Ministries, Inc., lend my full support and I officially endorse Mayor Rick Kriseman to serve a second term as Mayor of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Mayor Kriseman has served with diligence, commitment, progression, intelligence and integrity. I have observed him and his Cabinet move throughout the city- on the scene of every set, as it relates to moving St. Petersburg into the 21st century.

Our City has not just arrived in the 21st century, however we currently display a variety of programs seeking to enhance and address the social ills of our community, tackling community safety, enhancing employment opportunities and exposing our youth to the rich, bountiful and eclectic culture that we are. Now more than ever, St. Petersburg boasts an economic edge that allows a holistic experience of the beauty of our natural habitat.

Mayor Rick Kriseman states: "I am honored to have the support of Rev. Dr. Deborah R. Green. Her commitment to the youth in our community is evident in her work with Earth Mission. I look forward to the opportunities we can create together for our youth in St. Pete."

Re-electing Rick Kriseman will continue to expand and create an environment that is inviting and culturally sensitive to the ever growing populous that is St. Petersburg. His leadership will continue to serve as a catalyst in a city that offers economic development partnerships, social investments and financial growth.

I encourage all citizens of St. Petersburg to VOTE for the continuation of progress and forward mobility - that vote is with Rick Kriseman.



Rev. Dr. Deborah R. Green

Storm debris pickup

ST. PETERSBURG - Storm debris pickup is underway in St. Pete and residents can now find an approximate schedule online at StPeteRecovers.com. The schedule will be updated once daily.

The process will take several weeks. Residents who wish to have their debris disposed of prior to their curbside pickup date can bring their debris to one of the City's five brush sites. Locations and hours can be found at stpete.org/brushsites. Additionally, residents may also place




small amounts of brush and debris into the black solid waste containers.

After completing a first pickup pass, city crews will complete a second pass. If debris is not completely picked up or improperly

organized the first time around, residents will have another opportunity to have debris picked up.

For more information on storm recovery, visit StPeteRecovers.com.



Join us for a special Lunch & Learn during Infant Mortality Awareness Month (September). Healthy Start, a program at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and the Tampa Bay HealthCare Collaborative will present a screening and discussion of The Raising of America: DNA Is Not Destiny.


This event will provide an opportunity to discuss how early experiences get under the skin, altering which genes get switched on and which stay off with possible lifetime consequences.


Raising of America explores how a strong start for all of our children can lead to a healthier, stronger, and more equitable America. **This event is free to attend. Lunch will be provided. Registration is required.** Register to attend: www.HopkinsAllChildrens.org/LunchandLearn

Wednesday, September 27th from 11:30am-1:00pm
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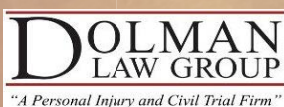
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COMMUNITY NEWS



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DOG DAYS



3-2
2-3

6-1
4-6

7-4
8-5

‘Praise the Lord. I am ready to travel!’

BTAG , from front page

For 14 years, BTAG has brought together parents, teachers and the community in an effort to close the academic achievement gap between culturally diverse students in Pinellas County Schools.

The Feazells assembled a team of current and retired educators, volunteers and financial contributors to offer quality tutoring and reliable transportation. BTAG developed a systematic concept of using “the 4 Rs”—Relationship, Relevance, Rigor, Result—to ensure that their students succeed by meeting academic and social expectations.

The room was filled with teachers, school board members, elected officials all there to celebrate the successes of BTAG.

“When you look at the Feazell family, you’re seeing a positive family. You’re seeing what happens when there’s leadership from the top,” said Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch. “It’s not the school board’s job to raise our children; law enforcement can’t fix the problem; the schools can’t fix the problems. We have to educate and mentor our children. Set role models for our children. That’s the only way it’s going to turn around.”

Commissioners Welch and Pat Gerard presented Mr. Feazell the key to the county for 50 years of service to youths in Pinellas County.

And if anyone deserves praise for a lifetime of service, it’s Mr. Feazell. In 1967 he started off as a

tutor and as a youth director with the Community Service Foundation. He worked for Pinellas Opportunity Council in an anti-poverty program, the Youth Core and Comprehensive Employment Training, the Educational Functional Literacy Program, was once the director of the Ridgecrest Free Clinic, and of course, was a dynamic teacher.

Mr. Feazell started a baseball league, was involved in youth football, coached basketball teams and even won championships.

While working as a minority recruiter for Pinellas County Schools in 2002, Mr. Feazell heard the dismal report that then-Superintendent Howard Hinesley gave that 57 percent of African-Americans high school students were failing the FCAT.

“He wanted to talk to me about an idea he had,” said former Largo High Principal Barbara Thornton.

Frustrated about student progress, Thornton said Mr. Feazell came up with a comprehensive plan that wasn’t just another tutoring program. He wanted to involve the village: the church, school, family, community, the students.

Thornton, Edward Hobson, Jim Dyson, Eckerd Family Foundation and the Pinellas County School system all got on board and BTAG opened its door for the 2003-04 school year.

Thornton thanked Pastor Willie McClendon of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church for not only opening his doors and letting the program use the facility but also providing the church vans for transportation “not to mention the moral and spiritual support he gave,” said Thornton.

The program would not have been a success without funds from the school board, educators volunteering their time, parents making sure their children attended the program and the students putting in the hard work.

BTAG was such a success with helping students pass the FCAT and graduate from high school, they added SAT and ACT prep work and advisors to help students through the maze of applying for college.

Rev. Hobson, senior vice president of Young Life Organization and one of the key players in helping BTAG get off the ground, was the keynote speaker. He encouraged the crowd to get involved with their community and not be stifled by failure.

He gave an example of the unsuccessful cleaning franchise he once owned. Hobson doesn’t consider it a failure because he learned about business, etiquette and what to do and not to do. If not for his stint in the office cleaning business, “I probably would not be a senior vice president...”

“Even if you know you’re going to make mistakes, still do something,” Hobson said. “Our schools need you, our communities need you. It’s too many of us sitting around doing nothing.”

Former BTAG student Kadara Williams thanked the Feazells for putting their time into her and helping her get in St. Petersburg College. Former BTAG parent Maria Price thanked the program for using her children as encouragers for other students.

“I thank BTAG for picking the kids up, providing a snack, providing a safe place and being a loving support system,” said Price.

The 2017-18 school year will see new leadership with the program, and Director of Greater Ridgecrest YMCA Brad Barnes is up for the challenge.

“When I walked into the room tonight, I had about eight people come up to me and say, ‘man you’ve got some big shoes to fill.’ I don’t because you don’t fill the shoes of a legend. All you can do is hope that someday you can make them proud and that’s my goal.”

The Feazells thanked everyone related to the program from the kitchen committee to the transportation supervisors to all the tutors, administrators and the program participants.

“The time has come now to close the final curtain for us as the founder and co-founder of our BTAG program,” said Mrs. Gwen. “Praise the Lord. I am ready to travel.”

Congratulations for 14 successful years with BTAG and 50 years of being a community servant.



Pastor Willie McClendon



Jim Dyson



Rev. Edward Hobson



Kadara Williams



Maria Price



Brad Barnes



Dr. Michael Grego and Barbara Thornton



Deputy Ural Darling



COMMUNITY NEWS

Compassion for all

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG -The Childs Park Recreation Center hosted one of several community events around the city that provided assistance to residents who experienced electrical outages, property damage and food loss during and after Hurricane Irma's destructive visit to the Bay area.

"My concern was that there were so many people new to Pinellas County and that the folks wouldn't respond to the call to evacuate," said Pinellas County Commissioner Kenneth Welch at the Childs Park "We Got You" community relief and support event on Sept. 15.

Volunteer Paulita Folb coordinated activities

in one of the center's rooms where volunteers collected relief goods.

"Today, a lot of people came out and donated a ton of stuff for people who were still being affected by Hurricane Irma," said Folb. "Yes, the community donated and the community volunteered to distribute. Most of the donations are from just regular citizens from Childs Park."

While the boxed goods were being handed out in one room, fresh meals were being served in another. The meals were prepared by Childs Park residents and volunteers from around the city.

Volunteer Wanda Stewart from the Old Southeast neighborhood some five miles east of Childs Park

took a break from serving fresh fruit cups to talk about her experience with the storm.

"I was hesitant as to what to do," said Stewart. "Friends said, 'We'll pay for you to fly out,' and family members said 'we'll pay for you to get to Orlando and get a hotel room.' But something kept telling me no."

Since Stewart has a child with medical needs, she rode the storm out at John Hopkins Middle School, which was a designated special needs shelter. Although there were a few problems and people had to move out of the gym and into classrooms, her stay was pleasant and accommodating.

"It was much more a matter of hunkering down in

my house and making sure that I was okay, my family was okay and my cats were okay," said Shannon Love, one of the volunteers at the Childs Park community relief site. "We had a tree that hit the garage, but luckily there was no damage."

Gallerie 909 owner Carla Bristol grasped the reality of what was to come, but she, like many residents, decided to stay put and not panic.

"My goal was to make sure I'm prepared; have gas in the car, have food, have battery-powered light sources, and then to secure myself in a safe location-not necessarily to leave town but to keep watching the news as it played out," said Bristol.

Irma's fury was no comparison to the Tarpon

Springs hurricane that touched down as a category three in the Tampa Bay area October 25, 1921, leaving behind eight dead and an estimated \$10 million in damage (equivalent to \$840 million in 2016).

According to local folklore, Tocobaga Indian mounds have provided a spiritual shield from catastrophic storms like the ones that struck the area in the 1920s.

Bristol shared her belief that she's "one of those fools who believe that we are on some sort of sacred grounds here" because she has not seen a direct hit in the 21 years that she has lived in the area.

After Irma passed and done its share of damage,

Bristol got together with citizens such as Childs Park Neighborhood Association President Bro. John Muhammad, the leadership at Childs Park Recreation Center and local community service organizations and agreed on a place where residents in the area could come to get food, water and other life-sustaining essentials as they recover from the storm.

This Friday from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Childs Park Recreation Center, 4301 13th Ave. S, Feeding Tampa Bay will be handing out food and supplies to residents in need. For more information, visit feedingtampabay.org/irma-relief.

To reach Allen Buchanan, email abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com



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Largo

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Petersburg’s black poverty rate falls again, reaches all-time low

BY GYPSY C. GALLARDO
CEO, The 2020 Plan

ST. PETERSBURG – On Sept. 14, the U.S. Census released its newest data on poverty in St. Pete. Again this year, the federal agency registered a rapid decline in African Americans in poverty, pacing well ahead of non-blacks in the city, and blacks elsewhere in Florida.

Last September, the Tampa Bay Times reported a sharp drop in Pinellas County’s black poverty rate in 2015, per a Census release that month. Follow-up analysis showed African Americans in St. Petersburg leading the trend with an 8.5 point reduction in their poverty rate, down from 35percent in 2014 to 26 percent in 2015.

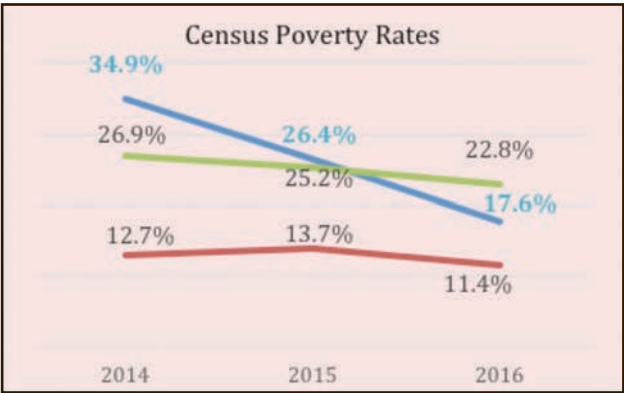
The rate fell to 18 percent in 2016, according to figures published last week by the feds, which is the lowest black poverty rate on record for the city’s black community.



Census officials are 90 percent certain that the number of African Americans in poverty in St. Petersburg fell below 13,251 by the end of 2016. The most aggressive reduction was among families with children.

Census reports also show blacks continuing to outpace non-blacks in the city and blacks across Florida. This September’s data show a 17 point drop in black poverty in St. Pete since 2014, versus a 1 point drop for non-blacks here and a 4 point drop for

blacks statewide. dozens of outlets helping



African Americans’ pace of progress made a big dent in St. Petersburg’s overall poverty rate. It fell from 18 percent in 2014 to 13 percent in 2016. It also marks a major shift in the face of poverty. African Americans were nearly half of the city’s poor in 2014. New numbers say they were less than a third of the poor in 2016.

Analysts credit the two-year poverty trend to three major drivers: one, a sustained rebound of the local job market; two, a surge in college enroll-

the poor cope with emergency needs such as food and evictions.

Since then, the community has seen 10-fold growth in programs explicitly designed to help people exit poverty. Much of it stems from efforts tied to the 2020 Plan. It launched in 2014 with 100 partners supporting the goal to reduce poverty by 30 percent by 2020 in south St. Petersburg where 74 percent of the poor are black.

The 2020 team raised funding for a half-dozen new programs. Eleven funders have so far invested in the push to give more families a path out of poverty. The City of St. Pete is the largest investor to date, not counting Duke Energy’s \$1 million investment via the United Way Suncoast last year.

Other funding came from Allegany Franciscan Ministries, United Way Suncoast, CareerEdge Funders Collaborative, the Rays, Bon Secours, Florida Blue Foundation, and the 2020 Fund. Seed grants came from Smith & Associates, Impact Pinellas and Catholic Charities.

Agencies revving up services include Pinellas Opportunity Council, with five new poverty-exit programs since 2014; Pinellas County Urban League, which added two programs; and Pinellas Ex-Of-

fender Re-Entry Coalition, with a new office on 16th Street that offers several new work-related programs.

In addition to this cohort of poverty-exit programs, other initiatives sprouted up to help people across the income spectrum to grow their earnings (from people-in-poverty to low-and-moderate income people who fall below “living wage” quality of life).

The St. Pete Chamber and Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corp. tag-teamed over the past year to support 72 African American entrepreneurs to launch or grow firms through inten-

for city workers increased the pay of 70 employees, many of them south St. Pete residents. R’Club Childcare – the county’s largest preschool provider – raised its minimum to \$10.10.

Local 2020 leaders are preparing a request to the Census to help pinpoint poverty changes for south St. Petersburg. Currently, data for census tracts aggregate poverty over five years, making it difficult to track yearly changes.

In the meantime, the 2020 team continues to pursue funding for poverty-exit programs next year. The most current group working to exit poverty are 20 parents en-

programs to qualify for better paying jobs.

“We all owe thanks to the employers and agencies pitching in to reduce poverty faster,” says Cory Adler, Executive Director of the 2020 Plan. “They are doing the hands-on work of helping people enter new jobs and earn pay raises that start their journey to exit poverty.”

The 2020 team has recruited over 30 local employers to the vision of increasing community employment and earnings.

For more info on the 2020 Plan: Cory Adler, Ex. Dir. The 2020 Plan 7 2 7 - 7 4 2 - 1 7 5 7 Coryadler.2020@gmail.com

Partial List: Programs Accelerating Poverty Reduction in St. Pete

Lead Organization	Poverty-Exit & Partner Programs	New Since 2014
United Way Suncoast	Campbell Park initiative	✓
City of St. Petersburg	CRA Workforce Development Programs	✓
City of St. Petersburg	Cohort of Champions	✓
Pinellas Opportunity Council	2020 Healthcare Career Ladder	✓
Pinellas Opportunity Council	Family Development PLUS	✓
Pinellas Opportunity Council	Family Development	✓
Pinellas Opportunity Council	Getting Ahead	✓
Pinellas Opportunity Council	2020 Family Wrap Around	✓
Pinellas Opportunity Council	2020 Bon Secours Career Ladder	✓
Pinellas County Urban League	S.T.E.P.	✓
St. Petersburg College	PITCH Program	✓
St. Petersburg College	WOW Program^	✓
Pinellas County Urban League	High Fidelity Wrap Around	✓
Pinellas Ex-Offender Re-Entry Coalition	Stars Strive & Multiple Programs	✓
Pinellas County	Family Housing Assistance program	✓
University of South Florida St. Pete	Figuring it Out for the Child (FIOC)^	✓
Pinellas County Urban League	Career Connection Center	✓
Lead Organization	Income Growth Programs	New Since 2014
Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corp.	Multiple programs**	✓
St. Petersburg Area Chamber	Community Bus. Dev. Initiative	✓
St. Petersburg Greenhouse	Multiple programs	✓

sive training and seed capital. Thanks to the Foundation for a Healthy St. Pete, the programs offered stipends of \$2,500 to \$3,000 for entrepreneurs completing action plans.

Added to this, some employers have raised their minimum wage, boosting the pay of about 200 people since 2014. Mayor Rick Kriseman’s hike to a \$12.50 minimum

rolled in the Urban League Success Training & Empowerment Program (STEP). They will finish a six-month training and coaching series in December. The project is funded by the City of St. Petersburg.

A few have already secured higher paying jobs since starting STEP in July. Many are still completing job skill training

SOURCE: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex and Age, 1-year Estimates, 2014, 2015, & 2016, for City of St. Petersburg and multiple geographies

	US	FL	Orlando	Tampa	Miami	Jacksonville	Pinellas County*	St. Petersburg
Poverty rate changes	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN OTHER							
From 2014 to 2016	-3.1%	-4.1%	+1.6%	-4.5%	-0.5%	-7.3%	+1.8%	-17.3% -1.3%

THE ‘BURG

OTES

Visit www.TheBurgVotes.com as your central information station about the black vote in St. Petersburg's Nov. 7 General Election by the Power Broker Magazine, The Weekly Challenger Newspaper & partners.

COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Pete's finest: Ayesha Doyle

ATLANTA – St. Petersburg native Ayesha Doyle was recognized by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter with an Unsung Heroine Award for Philanthropy throughout the community.

Doyle, the daughter of Willie and Tonya Kittles Doyle, moved to Atlanta and earned a bachelor's of arts degree from Clark Atlanta University and a Master of Science degree in Human Resources Management from Troy University. She has over 18 years of human resource experience across a broad spectrum of industries in both the public and private sectors.

With a heart for service, Doyle loves volunteering throughout the Atlanta Metropolitan area. She is a trustee with the Atlanta Chapter

of The Awesome Foundation, which provides monthly grants to groups, individuals and small non-profit organizations that support the sciences, arts, education and civic engagement.

Doyle is a volunteer reading mentor with Everybody Wins! Atlanta and is on the Atlanta Advisory Board for WINGS for Kids, an afterschool program that assists low-income students experience high quality and effective social and emotional learning.

She is a member and serves as a provisional advisor of the Junior League of Atlanta, volunteers with the United Way of Greater Atlanta, is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and recently started a group known as the "Queens with Heart," which is an avenue to empower



Ayesha Doyle

women to change the world by being bold thinkers through philanthropy, leadership, beauty, health, finances, sisterhood, travel, fashion and fun.

The most humbling volunteer experience was her 2005 church mission trip to Nairobi, Kenya. We salute the success of one of St. Pete's own. Congratulations from *The Weekly Challenger*!

The comedic rise of Lynnette Hardy

BY JOYCE NANETTE JOHNSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – "I've always secretly wanted to be a comedienne," chuckled Lynnette Hardy. "That's my way of helping people, to make them laugh."

Hardy has become a comedic staple at many local events and functions for more than 20. She has mixed her humorous but "clean" interpretations of life and experiences and woven them into a comedy act that she has performed throughout the community.

She's been that voice on the mike for many of the annual Unity Temple of Truth Church bus trips to the Zora Neale Hurston Festival, making people chuckle as they make their way to Eatonville.

Hardy was the comedienne who had the masses cracking up at the rededication ceremony of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum, where you could hear "she ain't lying or 'you tell em girl'" as she delivered punch lines.

Hardy is now pondering the next step in her comedic journey and is considering performing on the local comedy club circuit.

"I was always a cut up in school," Hardy laughed.

However, her family tree consisted of educators and community activists who placed the utmost value on education. Her family included educators that helped to shape and mold the edu-

cational foundation for many black students.

Her mother Bennye T. James, née Milton, taught at Davis, Perkins and Blanton Elementary schools before moving to Citrus County and becoming a principal at Crystal River Primary School. Her father Ralph James taught at Gibbs and Dunedin High Schools, her aunt Bertha James was a teacher and her aunt Ella Mary Holme was a principal.

On top of all those educators, her grandfather, Chester L. James Sr., was instrumental in transforming and revitalizing the former area of St. Petersburg called Methodist Town. For his actions, the community of Jamestown was named for him.

"People used to put teacher's kids on pedestals but I wanted to be regular," explained Hardy.

After graduating from Gibbs High School, she earned a degree in Sociology Corrections from Florida A&M University and later enlisted in the U.S. Navy. She retired from Horizon Coordination as a Medicaid Waiver Support Coordinator.

Always in the back of her mind were the memories of her family gatherings and the jokes that were told.

"I'm happy that I had a family that provided me with the inspiration to be funny," she shared.

Hardy prides herself on being a clean comic. There is no profanity or explicit sexual content in her act; although, she slyly hints at or creates in-



Lynnette Hardy

Job interviewer: Why did you leave your last job?

Lynnette: Because of something my boss said.

Job interviewer: It says here you were fired.

Lynnette: That's the one thing he said.

nuendos. She never drags her audience to the gutter; it's up to them to take the plunge, and they usually do.

"A lot of audiences want you to be clean because you're a woman," explained Hardy. "If a man gets up and tells a joke he can be as nasty as he wants to be. I think people look at women differently, but I think you can tell jokes without being vulgar. I don't think you have to use a lot of profanity to be funny."

Hardy said a comedian must know their audience. She touts never having a crowd she couldn't make laugh.

"When I get that first really good laugh, I feel I've got them now. The more people laugh, the more energy I get."

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Sunday School9:00 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”



UNITY TEMPLE OF TRUTH CHURCH
EST. 1957
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511 Prescott Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 898-2457 • unitytruth1957@gmail.com
WWW.UNITYTRUTH.COM

Dr. Doral R. Pulley
Spiritual Leader

WEEKLY SERVICES


Sundays: 8:45 am Christian Education 9:45 am Meditations & Devotions 10:00 am Morning Worship (Children’s Church Available)	Tuesdays: 6:30 pm Bible Study Thursday: 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.





UNITY TEMPLE OF TRUTH CHURCH
EST. 1957
Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader

PEACE IN THE MIDST
“I-AM peace in the midst of all matters!”

UNITY WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

11:30 am – 12:00 Meditation 12-1 pm Prayer Service 1:00-1:30 pm Prayer Requests	6:30-7:00 pm Meditation 7-8 pm Prayer Service 8:00-8:30 pm Prayer Requests
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DRUM MAGIC

“The Rhythms of Life”
With Jana Broder & Maria Watson

2 HOUR DRUMMING & DISCUSSION WORKSHOP
Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 10 am
Continental Breakfast from 9am to 9:45am
Drums will be provided - Sign up NOW!
<http://www.drummagic.net/photo-gallery>
All are Welcome!

\$10 DONATION

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Rev. Catherine & James Brooks Fellowship Hall | 511 Prescott Street South | St. Petersburg, FL 33712
WWW.UNITYTRUTH.ORG | 727.898.2457

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



Pastor
Claude Williams

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)

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



Pastor Michael T. and
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth

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

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



Rev. Manuel Sykes

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



Bro. Robert Smith

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

Sunday Bible Class (All Ages)8:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship9:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Class10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.

YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE!
Contact:
www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com

YOUR CHURCH AD COULD BE HERE
Contact: 727-896-2922

CHURCH DIRECTORY

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL
(727) 321-6631 • 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

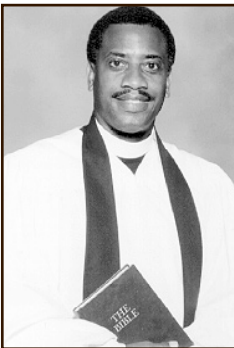
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

**YOUR
CHURCH AD COULD
BE HERE**

Call: 727-896-2922

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300 www.fmbctheship.net
Email: fmbc3300@verizon.net



Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

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.

CHURCH NEWS

Friendship MBC

Consider this your Official Boarding Pass. Where, Dr. John A. Evans, Sr., Pastor/Captain and First Lady Teresa L. Evans (have a heart for the people), the Official Family and Members welcome you aboard the SS Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (THE SHIP), we trust that your time with us, first as an honored visitor/guest and if the Lord says so, become a part of our Church Family. We set sail every Wednesday starting our with our Bread of Life Ministry at 11:00 am, followed by Wednesday in the Word (the Learning Arm of our church) at 12:00 noon and again at 7:00 pm. We drop our Anchor until Sundays, where we set sail again with our Early Morning Worship Service at 7:45 am, Church Sunday School (the Teaching Arm of our faith) begins at 9:30 pm and finally our Mid Morning Worship Service at 10:45 am. All are Welcomed to use this Boarding Pass to experience the "It's just nice to be nice" church. Don't sit out church, God has Blessed us to much, we owe Him at least a Thank You.

"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, FL 33712- Church Office: (727) 906-8300 - E-Mail: fmbc3300@verizon.net - NOW "LIVE STREAMING": Visit US - Website: www.fmbctheship.net - FACEBOOK-Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, St. Pete - WCBDA Website: www.experiencecoast.com

TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE - Call the Church at (727) 906-8300 - Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

October at the Ship - Mark Your Calendar

Keep praying and donate - Texas & Virgin Islands
We as a West Coast and Na-

tional Baptist affiliated church has been ask to secure in addition to our Prayers & Financial support: Water, hygiene items, pampers & nonperishable items in order to help our Brothers and Sisters in Texas & the US Virgin Island who has suffered such a great lost. Pastor is also asking the Ministries Wives, Matrons, Senior Mission & Laymen Ministries to serve as Coordinators of this

Project. However, All Departments & Ministries are asked to start today soliciting and securing the aforementioned items.

REVIVAL - REVIVAL - REVIVAL

Sept. 27-29 at 7 pm - The Holy Christian Church, Bishop Lewis Sherman, Annual Revival. Pastor Evans is asking the entire Music and Ushers Ministries to serve nightly. Wed. - Youth Choir & Youth Ushers; Thursday - Adult Mass Choir & First Sunday Ushers; Fri. - (Holy Communion) Deacons, Deaconess, Male Chorus & 2nd Sunday Ushers Ministries: Theme: Trouble, Revival & Salvation (Psalm 138:7).

Mon., Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 7 pm - 20/40 Planning Meeting. The Chairs Dea. Ernest & Sis. Larnetta Peterson and Min. Keith & Sis. Carolyn Riggins are asking all Committee Members and interested Members to please be present and on time, much to be finalized.

Wednesday Night Live - Oct. 4, Pastor is asking that the Adult Choir, Male Chorus and First Sunday Ushers to serve. The Love fellowship Dinner will be sponsored by the Tribe of Dan (October Birth month) and the Nurses Guild. Members born in the Month of October, please contact your Captains asap: Bro. Ron & Sis. Lisa Crum, Sis. Sandra Miller and Sis. Erma Scantling. The community is always welcomed, Communion will be served following the Worship Ex-

perience.

Sat., Oct. 7, from 10 am until Noon, 33 Men's Series - Men and Boys 16 and older will begin, the Community and all Churches are invited, encouraged and welcomed to attend. Registration Form will be located on the Resource Table in the Atrium.

Sun., Oct. 8 at 4 pm - St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Brian K. Brown, Pastor, 1301 37th St. S, Pastor Evans is asking the Adult Mass Choir, the Male Chorus and 2nd Sunday Ushers to serve. Pastor Evans is looking forward to seeing all of the Ship at St. Mark.

Fourth Quarter Leadership Conference - Mon., Oct. 9 at 7 pm. ALL Ministry Leaders are expected to be in attendance and on time.

Church Conference - Oct. 13 at 7 pm. ALL Officers and Members are expected to be in attendance and on time. Don't get information second handed, attend and get your own information.

Sun., Oct. 15 at 3 pm - Adult Choir & Third Sunday Ushers to serve as we fellowship with Pastor Troy Adams, and the New Jerusalem MBC, 1717 18th Ave. S, Pastor is looking forward to seeing all members of the Ship at this Worship Experience.

West Coast Baptist District Association

Second Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, your Host Church and Rev. Marvin Scott, Your Host Pastor for the upcoming Annual Session of the West Coast Baptist District Association - Nov. 8-11 - please contact Sis. Terricka Bradwell - Springhill Suites Orlando North/Sanford, 201 N. Towne Rd., Sanford, FL 32771, (407) 995-1000. Book under "WCBA" 20 suites (with 1 King or 2 Queens). Room Rate \$105.00/per night plus tax (Unless you bring your Church Tax Exemption). Deadline to Book your room is Oct. 15, 2017.

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 in September
Sept 30 - South Florida

Progressive Baptist Association Senior Women's Missions Brunch: 10:00 a.m. at St. Mark M. B. Church. Theme: Strong Refuge (Psalms 71: 7). Speaker, Sister Bennie Smith of Macedonia M.B. Church in Safety Harbor, FL.

Events in October
Oct 3-7 - South Florida Progressive Baptist Association 102nd Annual Session. Reverend Brian K. Brown, Moderator. For more information visit: www.sofla16.com

Oct 28 - Y.A.M.S. (Young Adult Ministry) presents its Annual Fall Festival from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. as an alternative to Halloween. More details to come.

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.

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

St. Mark Tutoring Program: Tutoring every Monday and Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting: held every Tuesday: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

114 Years standing on God's promises

ST. PETERSBURG — Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church will be celebrating their 114th church anniversary. The Women of Grace Ministry is honored and blessed to chair

this special milestone. We are inviting Bethel family and friends to take part in the scheduled activities for the month of September.

Psalms 84:11 "For the Lord God is a sun and

shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly."

Sept. 26-28, 7:15 P.M. Church Revival



Pastor's Corner

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

Balance through Stretching - Mark 3:5

God is calling all of us to live holistically healthy, balanced and well-rounded lives. Our bodies were created in symmetry. Our brains have a left and right side. We have a left and right side of our bodies. Many of our external organs come in pairs: eyes, ears, nostrils, arms, legs, hands and feet. Some of our internal organs also come in pairs, such as our lungs and liver. Several parts of our body, including our mouths and chest, are large enough to divide into left and right sides. Regarding these, we obtain spiritual messages and principles from natural occurrences (I Corinthians 15:46).

The symmetry of our body is a clear message that God is calling for balance in our lives and our world. Too much of anything is not good for us, because when we are excessive in participating in any activity, we are out of balance. Eating and drinking too much of something is also an indication that we are out of alignment. Feeling like we can't live without a particular person or substance is a warning sign to center ourselves again in the presence of God.

Stretching is important part of physical fitness. Before we begin any physical exercise, it is important for us to stretch. There are several benefits of stretching. Stretching improves our performance in physical activities. It also decreases our risk of injuries and help our joints move through their full range of motion. It also enables our muscles to work most effectively.

While in the temple, Jesus Christ saw a man who had a withered hand. One hand was whole and the other was experiencing a challenge. Jesus Christ encouraged the man to stretch forth the hand that was considered impaired. Jesus Christ brought attention to the man's physical challenge so that he could release the shame that accompanied it. As the man stretched, he was healed and his hand became whole like the other. He was now in alignment and was able to live his life in balance. God is giving each of us the opportunity to stretch so that we too can be balanced in our health and in every other area of our lives.

Unity TEMPLE OF TRUTH CHURCH
EST. 1957 Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader

Etta B. Cole GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA

60th Church Anniversary Kick-off

5:00 PM
OCTOBER 15, 2016
LITE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

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- New View Music Group
- The Alumni Singers
- The Spirit of Tampa Bay Community Choir
- Willie Corbett & FMM Baptist Church
- Bouie Family Spiritual Singers
- Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church Mass Choir

AND MANY MORE!

Also featuring For God's Glory Dance Ministry
and solo dancer Jordan Taylor

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Council will decide the Manhattan Casino’s fate

CASINO, from front page

they want to see something great happen with that space.”

Jackson, who has opened restaurants around the country, said the history and arts are what caught his eye. And for those same reasons is why the community is up in arms.

Opening as an entertainment facility in 1931, the Jordan Dance Hall was named for the African-American entrepreneur and former slave who contracted it, Elder Jordan.

Eventually becoming the Manhattan Casino, it was the place of cultural and social entertainment for African Americans in the segregated St. Pete. When legendary performers such as Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Duke Ellington and Nat King Cole came to town, the Manhattan was the only venue they were allowed to perform in.

Concerned citizen Faye Watson feels the Manhattan Casino Legacy Collaborative would be a more appropriate tenant in the space and feels the mayor is missing the point.

“We need to focus on what can bring the most money and tourism to that community. With a combined collaboration with the Warehouse Arts District, we have a gold mine.”

Watson, who has worked with historians

and preservationist in the past, said a historic district is more viable than a restaurant.

Representative Wengay Newton asked the council what was the urgency in making a decision before the November election.

“In a strong mayor form of government, the mayor does not vote, council votes. I urge you not to do anything with the Manhattan Casino until the people are able to be here,” Newton said.

Since the council meeting took place days after Hurricane Irma, Newton felt more people would have been present at the meeting to voice their opinions.

If council accepts the Callaloo Group’s proposal, Deborah Figgs-Sanders will coordinate events while keeping the integrity and history of the building. She wants to pay homage to the greats that once entertained there while at the same time make the Manhattan a place where future legends can perform.

“Our goal now is to embrace the Siobhan Moniques, the Deneen Wymans and the Steven Wilsons, our local talent that we have,” said Figgs-Sanders. “Years from now we’ll be talking about how they played the Manhattan.”



Theresa Lassiter wants the Callaloo Group to take their business down to the closed Walmart in Tangerine Plaza.



Chuck Egerter said the RFP process is unfair.



Rep. Wengay Newton



Alan DeLisle and Deborah Figgs-Sanders

She reminded the council that the building sat vacant for 37 years until the city spent \$2.8 million to renovate it.

“So, to answer Rep. Wengay Newton’s question about why the hurry, why wait?”

Figgs-Sanders said she would be working with the

Callaloo Group to ensure the legacy of the historic site and “to make sure that the Manhattan Casino is taken back to its days of glory, and I know I can do that.”

Councilman Steve Kornell has not made up his mind yet, but he had a strong warning for the Callaloo Group if their pro-

posal is accepted.

“In five years from now when it comes up for renewal...I better see somebody that lives in Midtown, more than one somebodies, who live in Midtown that own a franchise somewhere. It doesn’t have to be on 22nd Street South, but I wanna

see African-American people owning businesses,” Kornell said. “That’s what this proposal says, and to me, that’s really clear-cut. Either you did, or you didn’t in five years.”

City Council Chair Darden Rice said a decision will come down in October.

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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 34th Street S.
727-893-2500

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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