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2017

The Weekly Challenger

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

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AUGUST 23 - AUGUST 29, 2018

50¢

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Two weeks before school started, Melrose Elementary educators took a tour of Midtown to better understand the children that come from the area. Pictured here at the Royal Theater.

Melrose teachers get a lesson in Midtown

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Before parents happily dropped their children off for the first day of the 2018-19 school year last month, Melrose Elementary School educators learned a thing or two about that the students that would be sitting in their classes.

School Board Chair Rene Flowers conducted a tour for educators of Melrose so that they could better understand where

their students are coming from.

"I believe it is important for individuals to understand the rich history of our community, and sometimes when you understand that history and you see the community, you begin to better understand some of the issues that your students bring with them to school."

From returning educators to Melrose newbies, a charter bus was packed with teachers, administrators and support staff ready to learn more about the community they serve.

As the bus twist and turned through the streets of Midtown, Flowers gave short history lessons and anecdotes on the black community where most of their students live. Starting with Davis Academy (later named Davis Elementary School), which was the first formal educational institution for black children. Located at 944 Third Ave. S, the school opened in 1910.

The bus toured through Jordan Park housing complex

See **MELROSE**, page 12

Historic Jordan Park units set for demolition

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The St. Petersburg Housing Authority (SPHA) voted Aug. 23 to raze the last vestiges of historic Jordan Park by the end of the year. The last of the original buildings constructed from 1939-42, will be replaced by a 60-unit complex for seniors.

Despite the protestations and pleas of many passionate members of the community, the board voted to move ahead with the original plan.

Tempers ran hot in the standing-room-only meeting held at the Gandy Boulevard location. Although there was no police present, there was a lot of gavel pounding and talking over one another.

Deborah Figgs-Sanders, a member of the South St. Petersburg Community Redevelopment Area citizens' advisory committee, calmly asked the



The standing-room-only crowd at the Aug. 23 SPHA meeting was disappointed to hear that the Historic Village in Jordan Park will be demolished by the end of the year.

commissioners if they had been acquainted with CEO Tony Love before he accepted the job.

She reasoned that Love has no ties to the St. Pete community, but the commissioners do.

"We know each other; we

grew up together," said Figgs-Sanders. "This issue, among the many, that have already separated our community is not going to make it any better."

She warned that there might be a day when they are

See **PARK**, page 7

Gillum wins Democratic primary without Pinellas



Andrew Gillum

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – In what can only be described as an upset, Andrew Gillum soared to victory over establishment favorite Gwen Graham in a historic primary win Aug. 28.

By 10:30 p.m., with 94 percent of the precincts in, Gillum made history, becoming Florida's first African-American Democratic nominee for governor.

At 11:30 p.m., with 99 percent of precincts reporting, Democrats had cast 1,494,225 votes with Gillum taking 511,918 votes (34.35 percent), Gwen Graham taking 468,621 (31.4 percent), and Philip Levine coming in third with 303,164 (20.3 percent).

Gillum took the greatest number of votes in large counties including Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Orange, Hillsborough, Duval and Leon.

But in Pinellas, it was Graham who took the largest number of votes, and there were many thoughts about the voting differences in Tampa Bay's two largest cities.

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) organizer Jabaar Edmond noted, "I think what held Gillum back is the same thing that held Hillary Clinton back – Pinellas is extremely conservative, although St. Pete is liberal. Gwen Graham spoke to the more conservative Democrats."

Edmond felt that Gillum's visits to Pinellas did energize the younger voters and millennials, but he also asserted that Hillsborough has led the way in being more racially progressive than Pinellas in many areas for the last several years, and noted that no small amount of that could be attributed to Pinellas' latent and not-so-latent racism.

"The Democratic establishment in Pinellas is older women of all racial demographics. Gillum needs to connect with them. He's got the younger people on tap, but

See **GILLUM**, page 2

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COMMUNITY NEWS



AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY FRONT AND CENTER

BY JACQUELINE HUBBARD
ASALH, President

The overwhelming majority of colleges for African Americans were established after the Civil War, largely through the efforts of churches, religious societies and the federal government. These included the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), American Missionary Association, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church and the Freedmen’s Bureau.

After the Civil War, federal legislation, specifically the Morrill Act, required the states, especially former Confederate states, to provide land grants for institutions for black college students if their admission, because of segregation, was not allowed elsewhere. These institutions of higher education have trained successful black Americans for more than 160 years, and continue to do so.

Between 1861 and 1900, more than 90 black colleges had been established including Alabama State University (1867), Clark Atlanta University (1865), Bowie State University (1865) and Florida A & M University (1887).

Many historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) were founded due to the success of the Union Army and the insistence of President Ulysses S. Grant and his generals. Education was also insisted upon by the newly emancipated and their supporters such as Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington.

After the Civil War, black Americans hungered for education—to read and to write—and understood its importance in American society. Today, we also understand the importance of higher education. A high school diploma, and in some cases even an undergraduate degree, is not enough to compete in today’s economy. Our students must look higher and utilize these institutions.

Only three HBCUs, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania (1837), Lincoln University, Pennsylvania (1854) and Wilberforce University (1856) were established for black students before the Civil War. In 1856, the AME Church of Ohio collaborated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, a predominantly white denomination, in sponsoring Wilberforce University, the third college in Ohio.

Some of the other schools, established by religious institutions include Spelman College (1881), Talladega College (1867), Howard University (1867), Tuskegee Institute (1881), Morehouse College (1867), Fisk University (1866) and Hampton University (1868).

According to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, “Early HBCUs were established to train teachers, preachers and other community members. During the 20th century, many HBCUs shifted their focus to promote scholarship among African Americans. Academic councils, conferences and founded



Spelman College (1881)



Talladega College's Savery Library (1867)



Tuskegee Institute (1881)



Hampton University (1868)

scholastic journals to showcase black intellectual thought.”

Such notable figures as W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells, Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King Jr., Julian Bond and U.S. Representative John Lewis attended HBCUs.

Shaw University (1865) was the first HBCU in the south. Shaw created the Leonard School of Medicine, one of 12 black medical schools training black doctors during Reconstruction and afterward. In 1910, the Carnegie Foundation published the Flexner Report, which resulted in negative ratings (C or less) for all black medical schools except Howard University

and Meharry Medical School.

All other black medical schools closed by 1923. Only two additional medical schools have been established since that report: Drew College of Medicine in California and Morehouse Medical School in Atlanta.

HBCU law schools are in place at Florida A & M, Grambling, Hampton, Howard, North Carolina Central, Southern University, Texas Southern and the University of The District of Columbia.

These schools led the civil rights struggle. Sit-ins were first held in Tallahassee, Fla., and Greensboro, N.C., by students at HBCUs. In 1960, the

founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) took place at Shaw University.

Formed initially as a way to help students organize sit-in movements across the south, SNCC played a significant role in the Civil Rights Movement, joining the Congress for Racial Equality, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and other organizations for the 1963 march on Washington.

SNCC engaged in numerous voter registration drives. These efforts were essential in bringing about the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

If history is any lesson,

these institutions will continue to lead in the struggle for full integration of black Americans into American society.

Indeed some of us have attended elite white colleges since the 1960s, many of us on full scholarships, but those institutions are richly endowed. HBCUs are not, and they deserve our full support and the full support of their graduates.

Attorney Jacqueline Hubbard graduated from the Boston University Law School. She is currently the president of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc.

Where are Pinellas Democrats?

From **GILLUM**, front page

the establishment hasn’t understood why he’s a good pick yet,” said activist and community leader Kofi Hunt.

“This is a retirement community with individuals who are more likely to vote for a familiar name. Graham had a familiar name, and the elderly went with someone who was comfortable. We have more senior citizens than Hillsborough,” said a reliable source who worked as a canvassing field manager.

“Also, there are a large number of African-American felons who could not vote,” said the source, referring to Pinellas’ share of the 21.3 percent of African-American felons in Florida who are currently disenfranchised.

Others also attributed it to simply numbers, stating Pinellas has a 10 percent African-American population, while Hillsborough’s is 15 percent.

Educator Denise Ford, a registered Independent, said it pointed to a flaw in the system that she could not vote in the primary election. “I want to be an Independent, and I want to be able to vote for anyone I want regardless of party affiliation,” shared Ford in

a Facebook post.

Although she knows she’ll be able to vote in the General Election, she wondered how many Independents are similarly impacted. “This is the time when it matters most,” she added.

Some Independents choose to vacillate during primaries, like Patty Sriram—who also said that some Independents don’t even realize they aren’t able to cast a ballot until general elections.

“I am amazed at how many people don’t realize that Florida primaries are closed. I’m an Independent, but until we have open primaries I will continue to register as a Democrat for the primary so that I can vote,” stated Sriram.

Now that Gillum has won the Democratic nomination, Edmond asserted it’s even more vital to get people registered and to the polls in Nov.

At Rush Hour Restaurant and Lounge, Edmond and Brother John Muhammad of CDAT joined with the Pinellas County Urban League Young Professionals to hold a “Millennials Voters Primary Watch Party,” which is part of an ongoing effort to get millennials to the polls.

Edmond said there would be more such events moving towards the General Elections on Nov. 6, and said they still need people to help with the Amendment 4 campaign to restore rights to nonviolent felons who have served their time, as well as phone banking to turn out African American and low-propensity voters.

“Having a black man run for governor of Florida is revolutionary – most people can’t even fathom that,” declared Edmond. “Florida still has the Confederate flag inside its flag – we have some skeletons in our closet.”

“I think it’s going to be a very, very, very, heated race because we have some very racist people in the state who will come out to vote against a black candidate,” stated Edmond, asserting the upcoming election will be a time to rally all the people.

“This is not the time to sit home – we need an avalanche of voters,” he added.

For more information on how to help with the campaign, call Jabaar Edmond at (727) 320-6264.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweekly-challenger.com.



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COMMUNITY NEWS



Visionary Brief

by Keisha Bell, Esq.

Behind her dance



Dance like no one is watching, they say. On stage, everyone watches. The journey she takes, however, to take center stage is oftentimes invisible once her performance begins. No one really thinks about the pain behind her dance—not when the goal is a standing ovation.

Meet Misty Danielle Copeland, a ballet dancer for American Ballet Theatre (ABT). ABT is one of only three leading classical ballet companies in the country. Copeland made history on June 30, 2015, when she became the first African-American woman to be promoted to principal dancer at ABT.

Born on September 10, 1982, when she was seven years old she saw the movie “Nadia” about Olympian Nadia Comaneci. After seeing it, Comaneci became her role model. Using her imagination, Copeland choreographed flips and dance moves to Mariah Carey songs. Visuals matter.

While a student at Dana Middle School, Copeland joined the drill team. Her natural abilities caught the attention of her coach, a woman who was classically-trained. As a result, her coach encouraged her to take free ballet classes that were being taught by her friend at a Boys & Girl’s Club. Impressed, her new teacher began teaching her at her small ballet school.

Being considerate of her family’s poor financial condition, initially, Copeland declined the opportunity to take ballet classes. Her teacher saw so much potential in her, however, that she provided transportation for her to attend. After three months, Copeland could dance on her toes. She was a prodigy.

Isn’t that something? Copeland was a child prodigy who, due to conditions outside of her control, could have easily been overlooked.

Like so many others, major odds were stacked against her. She was a child of a single parent, not meeting her father until she was 22 years old. Her family’s socioeconomic condition was poor. Her mom had several relationships and worked long hours. Yet, she took advantage of opportunities that helped to develop her true talent.

Do you take advantages of opportunities that develop your true talent?

Copeland did not start ballet until she was 13 years old. Some would say that that is late. Two years later, in the midst of a custody battle between her mother and her ballet teachers/custodial guardians, Copeland had become an award-winning dancer and was fielding professional offers. The legal proceedings ended up being dropped.

Her coaches introduced her to books and videos about ballet. Again, visuals matter. During this time, she saw a principal ballerina who was with ABT perform at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Copeland discovered an additional role model.

Copeland’s dance and professional career continues to progress. She has won numerous awards and honors. She has also authored books, appeared on television programs, endorses products and is a public speaker.

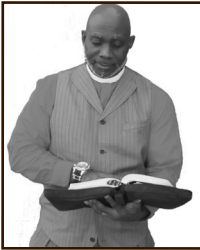
Not to be lost in her accomplishments, however, is the acknowledgment of her strength and perseverance. She overcame while dancing at an elite level.

Her home-life was only one part. Copeland dealt with being self-conscious about her body image, struggling with a binge eating disorder, being the only black woman in a prestigious dancing company and at times dealing with cultural isolation. At one point, Copeland thought about pursuing another career path.

Just like in her childhood years, there was someone who identified her potential and worked in support of its fruition. ABT’s artistic director connected Copeland with a mentor who introduced her to black women, specifically ones who were trailblazers and who were supportive and provided her with the strength to go forth and perform at her highest level in spite of her situation. Again, visuals matter.

Maybe that is the take away. Behind her dance, before the applause, is an audience of opportunity if she can persevere.

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



Breaking the Cycle

REV. DR. ROBERT L. HARRISON, PH.D.
Men of S.T.E.E.L. Ministries
www.menofsteelministries.com

Is tongues the evidence of the spirit – Pt. 2

vThere is no training to receive another tongue. I have been in more Pentecostal services than not, in which I heard someone say to me or others, just speak it and it will all flow out or I have the first word of your prayer language. NONSENSE! We are to exercise faith to function in our spiritual gifts.

1Cor.12:4-11 we find it is God who sovereignly gives the gift. We are not to seek a specific gift. At best its foolishness to want someone else’s gift, at worst it is coveting.1 Cor. 12:4-6 “Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all.”

Vs.12-26 tells us we are all equally important to God and there is no one who has all the gifts otherwise he would not need anyone else. Unfortunately I have heard this too spoken by a prophet.

Vs.28 first appointed are apostles. Although many claim this position, again this is NONSENSE since no one has seen Jesus physically or in His resurrection which was the requirement, we have no true apostles functioning in the office today. (Revelation says there is only 12 that will be acknowledged in heaven).

Vs.29 Paul asks the question “are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? In vs.30 he asks, “Do all have the gifts of healings? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?”

If one insists that all must speak in tongues than they all must have the other gifts as well. Then everyone is an apostle and worker of miracles. But the fact is this is the very opposite of what Paul is stating,

since he was an apostle he should know. The gift of tongues is at the bottom of the list (which certainly seems to be put in the order of importance in a relative way); last of all showing it is to be the least desired for a church as a whole body. He is setting the Corinthian Church straight on their waywardness. Tongues is a spiritual gift that gives one the ability to speak a language they have not studied; tongues is just one of the nineteen gifts of the Spirit.

1Cor.14:19-20 Paul says he’d rather speak five words with understanding than ten thousand words in a tongue. Paul then implies that those who emphasize speaking in tongues were babes in understanding which is the same word he used in 3:1 that he could not speak to them as spiritual, but as carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. Those five words just might have been more to do with the Gospel than showing your spiritual-one-upmanship to others.

vs.21-22 tongues are a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not.” We need to ask what is a sign? In the Bible the word sign means to declare or point to something. For example, circumcision was the declaration of the covenant in the Old Testament. The rainbow serves as a sign of God’s grace after judgment. When tongues were spoken out loud in Acts 2 it was to those who were in unbelief.

According to 1Corinthians 14:22, tongues are a declaration of some truth. It was used to prove God was among them to those in unbelief.

As an apostle and evangelist Paul traveled and his custom was to enter the synagogues of the Jews. This gave him

the opportunity to exercise this gift to them and the gentiles.

When Paul stated that he thanked God that he spoke in tongues more than all of you (14:18) it related to his calling as an apostle that he had special signs distinguishing himself from other believers, otherwise there would be no difference from the apostles and the other believers.

Book of Acts
To understand when they first are used in the New Testament we need to have the Old Testament background.

Isaiah 28:7-8, “But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.” Interesting that the mockers who heard the Apostles speak in other languages said they were filled with new wine and stayed in unbelief.

What is written describes God’s view of disgust with the leaders of Israel. God took Israel, a people from the nations and made them His special people above all others. But they rebelled over and over not listening to God’s precepts. The rebellion got so bad that drunkenness became pervasive among God’s leaders. It seems that they fell from their calling. No place could be found that had not been affected by their practice. It is in this context, God sends the prophet Isaiah to offer hope if these sinful leaders would repent.

*Till next week,
God Bless.
Elder Dr. Robert L. Harrison*



Experts In Life-Changing Care

By LaShante Keys

Empath Health Community Partnership Specialist

Natural Care and Comfort for Your Family

You hope and pray for good health for your family. If they become impacted by a severe illness, there is specialized care that you may not know can improve their comfort and well-being.

Integrative medicine and palliative arts

Sept. is National Pain Awareness Month. We want to shine a light on integrative medicine and palliative arts, which are combined with traditional medical treatment to help relieve pain, symptoms and suffering of patients and others served by Suncoast Hospice and Empath Health.

Integrative medicine includes acupuncture, breathing techniques or other practices. Palliative arts include recorded or live music (including for patients with Alzheimer’s), aromatherapy, energy work (Reiki), pet visits and massage therapy. These methods are found to decrease pain, nausea, anxiety, agitation and other stress and discomfort of pa-

tients. It can also ease the minds of family members knowing that their loved ones are being comforted.

“Palliative arts address the body, mind and spirit,” explained Julie Martin, palliative arts clinician at Empath Health. Martin is a board-certified music therapist who oversees the first-of-its-kind Suncoast Hospice Integrative Medicine and Palliative Arts program. She also trains staff and volunteers as well as educates the community in music and aromatherapy.

Volunteers provide palliative arts at the three Suncoast Hospice Care Centers, nursing and residential facilities or patients’ homes. The Suncoast Hospice Integrative Medicine Clinic includes acupuncture provided by Dr. Barbara Dobron, an expert acupuncture physician and ARNP (advanced registered nurse practitioner), and palliative arts (aromatherapy, recorded music and energy work) provided by Martin

and volunteers. Patients choose what they wish to receive and are monitored for comfort levels during treatment or service.

Martin has seen and heard many positive results from patients treated at the clinic. With the Chinese technique of acupuncture, a practitioner inserts tiny needles in a person’s skin to relax muscles and bring comfort.

“We had a patient who said that acupuncture was one of the best treatments that helped with his pain and other symptoms,” she said.

Music
Many patients and families have benefited from palliative arts. Music can make a calming connection.

“Music is a natural part of being human. Many cultures have a rich history of music through churches or communities. Music is a natural way to support pain management because it is familiar and helps to refocus attention away from the pain.

If people are actively singing, then they are breathing more deeply, which helps to relax the body and support the release of pain. Some people respond very well to music that is slow in tempo, mild in melody and predictable. It depends on each person,” Martin noted.

Aromatherapy

Aromatherapy can create a soothing environment.

“I recently spoke about aromatherapy with a local church group. Most people knew about it or used it in their lives for enhanced well-being and quality of life. Some companies provide essential oils that are specific to pain, relaxation and anxiety, but they can be costly. If you can’t afford essential oils, be aware of the comforting scents in your environment. If your grandmother is in pain and she grew roses in her yard, you could place a loosely-woven bag of crushed rose petals on her pillow to fill the air with the aroma,” she said.



L-R, Julie Martin Palliative Arts Clinician and Dr. Barbara Dobron Integrative Medicine clinician at Empath Health

Energy Work

Energy work can generate a peaceful presence. With the Japanese technique of Reiki, a practitioner gently touches or places his or her hands over a person’s body and sends positive energy and prayers.

“We have energy about us through nature, prayer and intention. Just being present with a loving intention can have a deeper meaning for a family member who is experiencing pain, whether physical, emotional or spiritual pain. A volunteer in our clinic once said that Reiki practitioners become a clear channel for the energy of love and God to affect people in a positive

way,” she added.

Children

Children can also participate in palliative arts.

“Oftentimes we find that children are more open to trying palliative arts. They can be the recipients or the givers. You can show a child how to touch someone who is in pain gently. And think about the meaning a child can have singing a song to a grandparent, parent or sibling. If children are willing to help, I would say give them the opportunity to try,” she said.

To learn more about these services and volunteer opportunities, please visit SuncoastHospice.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Florida Dream Center hosts masquerade ball to support Lealman families

LEALMAN — When Lealman resident Sabrina Simmons answered an unexpected knock on her door three years ago, she had no idea how much her life would change. A recent transplant from New York City, Simmons and her infant daughter moved to Florida to help care for her ailing mother.

As a single mother in a new city, making ends meet was a struggle. Simmons found herself living in a cramped efficiency apartment with only a futon and an old television set while earning a paycheck that barely covered the cost to get to and from work let alone pay for daycare.

When she thought she was beginning to make progress, a vindictive boss blocked her from a much-needed promotion and a hiccup at her bank almost left her homeless.

"I felt ashamed for not being able to provide for my daughter and do the things you know you should to care for your family," she said.

When Simmons thought she had reached her breaking point, the Florida Dream Center came knocking.

"They just came to my door one day offering to help with yard work, food and even furniture," Simmons recalled. "I was very



Every Saturday, a team of volunteers helps residents with lawn work and home repairs while also providing more than 60,000 meals a month.

stressed at the time, and it was like a sign from God."

Within a week, the Florida Dream Center ensured Simmons had food, diapers and clothes for her daughter. And the Dream Center continued to regularly visit Simmons for the next three years ensuring she had the support she needed to remain afloat.

"Everything we needed in our house, they gave it to us," said Simmons. "Every dish in my house, even the furniture was given to me by them."

With the Dream Center's continued support and encouragement, Simmons was able to secure the funding needed to renew her CNA license, making her eligible for even better-paying job opportunities. She also eventually saved up enough to be able to afford her first car and a more

spacious home.

"Sabrina's happy ending has not been without bumps in the road," said Zelda O'Connell, director of programs at the Florida Dream Center. "Her persistence has been extraordinary and very much been the driver of her success. We know everyone needs a helping hand from time to time, and we're grateful to be able to support and empower our neighbors in Lealman and beyond."

The Florida Dream Center's Adopt-a-Block program provides a critical safety net to dozens of Lealman residents like Simmons. Every Saturday, a team of volunteers helps residents with lawn work and home repairs while also providing more than 60,000 meals a month.

On Saturday, Sept. 22, the Florida Dream Center will host a masquerade ball at the Manhattan Casino. Renowned Chef Gary Morgan, formerly of the world-famous Tavern on the Green restaurant, will cater the event with entertainment provided by the Bayou Dance Club.

All proceeds from this black-tie affair will go to benefit the work of the Florida Dream Center.



Healthy Living Naturally

by Dr. Ramona Valentine

For health sake, stop using these household items

People seem to think that Styrofoam cups, plates, etc. are safe; however, they are far from it. Styrene is a harmful chemical that can leach into your food and liquids. It is a petroleum byproduct that can not only be found in Styrofoam but also in plastics and resins.

According to the National Research Council, styrene is classified as a carcinogen. The amount of Styrofoam used in the U.S. could circle the globe 426 times.

It is also a big part of the problem causing pollution in our oceans. Styrofoam cups lying in landfills create enough methane gas that has two times the ozone-depleting power as CO2.

In 1986, a study by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) detected styrene in 100 percent of human tissue and breast milk samples. There needs to be a ban on styrene. So, please say no to Styrofoam. Buy paper products instead or use your glass products and save some money.

Previously I discussed how toxic fluoride is. I highly recommend that you try Tom's non-fluoride toothpaste, which can be purchased at Walmart and Publix or any health food store. Just make sure you pick up the tube that says non-fluoride because Tom's does carry fluoride toothpaste.

You can also purchase Brandless non-fluoride toothpaste at Brandless.com.

Fluoride is toxic and is the key ingredient in some rat poisons. I do not think it's necessary to go into depth about the dangers of fluoride as that was covered in my article entitled "The shocking reasons you should not drink tap water."

Regular deodorants and antiperspirants contain aluminum, which is linked to cancer, especially breast cancer. I do not recommend getting the crystal deodorant stones and sprays either because they also contain aluminum.

Many deodorants and antiperspirants contain up to 25 percent aluminum salts, which can mimic the hormone estrogen. Just about any chemical that mimics estrogen can cause breast cancer.

Also, antiperspirants use aluminum to block the pores that release sweat, which is one of your body's routes for detoxification. Once this aluminum in the antiperspirant is rolled on, it is absorbed through the skin, lymph nodes, capillaries and the bloodstream.

Also, high concentrations of aluminum are found in the brains of Alzheimer's patients. Some researchers believe that aluminum is the trigger for developing Alzheimer's disease.

Twenty thousand people in a British village called Camelford were exposed to aluminum sulfate after a truck overturned carrying the chemical. They were exposed for several weeks, and a large number of the town's citizens ended up developing early onset of Alzheimer's.

After all that's said, as a solution I do recommend Tom's non-aluminum de-



odorant, which you can purchase at just about any store, including Walmart.

Aluminum pots and cookware should be thrown in the trash if you haven't already. For the same reason as above, you are getting large doses of aluminum, but this time in your food.

The safest cooking is with stainless steel and platinum cookware. However, when you choose stainless steel cookware, beware of the lightweight pots and pans because they are mixed with aluminum and other unsafe metals. Make sure they are heavy and double check the packaging. I try not to purchase any stainless steel made in China for that reason.

Non-stick cookware should be tossed out immediately. Again, go with pure stainless steel or platinum cookware. When non-stick coated pans are heated, the non-stick coating breaks down releasing toxins in the air called PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate), PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) and PFCs (perfluorinated compounds).

According to the EPA, these chemicals are showing up in the blood of the general U.S. population. Some other products that these chemicals are used in are microwave popcorn (chemicals used in the bag); stain-resistant clothing, stain-resistant carpet and drinking water near PFC manufacturing facilities are contaminated with it.

The health problems caused by these chemicals are cancer, hypothyroidism, reproductive problems, immune system problems, birth defects and organ damage.

In summary, these are almost all things you can change by buying the items mentioned here that are safe to use; you can change your health. Needless to say, when your body is loaded with toxins it is very difficult to lose weight. Having trouble losing weight? Don't procrastinate! Give me a call today.

Also, if you are just concerned that you have these toxins in your body making you sick? Then call to make an appointment for testing and how to handle it.

If you have any questions regarding this article, please email all questions to aslimmeryou@aslimmeryou.us.

Dr. Valentine is a weight loss consultant, a health consultant and a chiropractor. You can reach her at 855-771-SLIM (7546) or stop by A Slimmer You at 10300 49th St. N, Suite 211.

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Gibbs' Coach Trotter is a believer

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Just one conversation with Ja'Vonta "Jay" Trotter and you'll be convinced that he believes what he believes. When he says that the Gibbs High School football program will return to the school's winning tradition, you sense that you are talking to a man who has conviction, faith and a plan.

The winning tradition at Gibbs dates back to the late 1960s and is a rich history. More specifically, the football program garnered the likes two-time Super Bowl champion Glenn Edwards; Melvin Rogers, who played several years with the San Diego Chargers and Shaun King, former quarterback for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The hall of fame wall in the Gladiator gymnasium list an all-star cast of athletes who have worn the blue and gold. More history will be added this season when new head football coach Trotter takes the helm of this historic program.

"Becoming Gibbs' head football coach is a dream come true. It's an awesome feeling, and it's much bigger than the football program," said Coach Trotter.

Trotter is convinced that he has been given the assignment to help change the lives of young men and the community in which they live through the football program.

Trotter grew up in St. Petersburg, graduating in 2008 from The Boca Ciega High where he excelled in football and track. As a senior, he was named to the All-Pinellas Team as a utility player. He was also a member of the All-Suncoast Team as a kick returner and selected the MVP of the Pinellas All-Star Football Classic.

He went on to Murray State University in Kentucky where he played wide receiver and kick returner for the Racers, graduating in 2013.

Although he is not a Gibbs High graduate, he is aware of the community's pride surrounding the school. In 1927, Gibbs became the county's first public secondary school for African Americans. In 1967, Gibbs winning ways included a state basketball championship. Then, in 1970, public schools in Florida were integrated, and Gibbs became culturally diversified.

In the last few years, the Gladiator football program has fallen on hard times. They've lost more games than they've won, the number of players coming out for the team has been low, and the game attendance has been lower than usual. These are all signs of a struggling program and uncommon compared with years past.

Trotter has plans to turn that around. There has already been an increase in the number of players coming out for the team. He is experiencing



buy-in from the players, coaches and a supportive leadership staff.

He plans to shift the program and practices to resemble a college atmosphere, believing that he can with help from everyone involved.

"Coach Trotter has hit the ground running and he has the players on point," said Beverly Wimberly, mother of a senior football player.

Last Friday, the team got off to a good start by defeating Hillsborough County's Middleton Tigers in a preseason classic in Tampa. Middleton carries a similar distinction in Hillsborough County, being the first high school for African Americans when it opened in 1934.

Coach Trotter is a man of conviction, and his faith is on full display. One conversation with him and you'll leave excited about what's to come.

The historical significance of Gibbs High School is well-documented. The traditions and winning ways are memories the community hold on to and envision the return of soon.

To reach Dexter McCree, email dmccree@the-weeklychallenger.com

Another wonderful summer with SPHA's 2018 summer youth interns

ST. PETERSBURG — The St. Petersburg Housing Authority continued its partnership, which began in 2006, with Boley Centers' Summer Youth Intern Program.

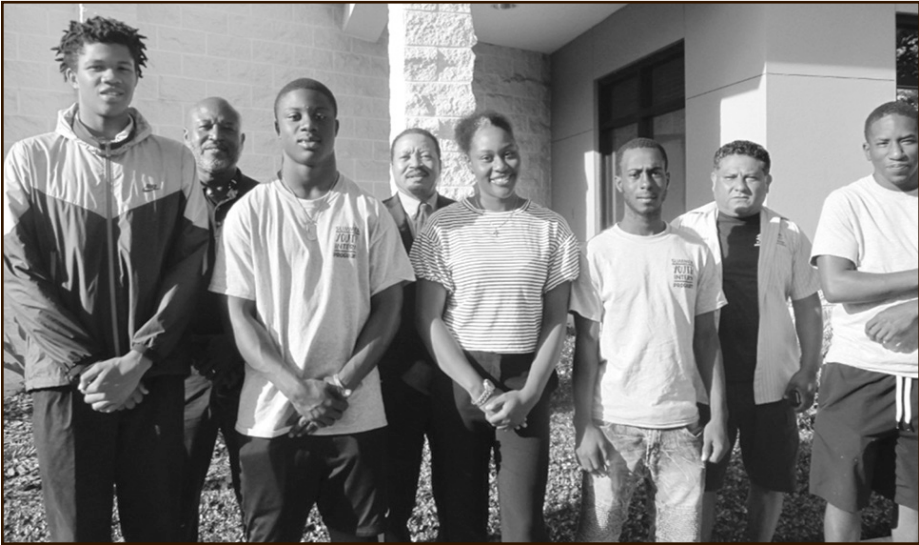
This summer, seven youth participated in the seasonal program. Boley's Summer Youth Intern

Program serves youths 16-21 and lasts 8-10 weeks between June and August. Adolescents enjoy receiving income for work within safe, structured environments that give them an opportunity to learn valuable skills.

The interns worked at the SPHA approximately

30 hours per week. They performed tasks for the maintenance staff at SPHA owned and managed properties or provided clerical assistance in their business offices.

The City of St. Petersburg and the SPHA funds the Boley Summer Youth Intern Program.



L-R, Edward Eason, Geroge Finch (SPHA), Anthony Fuller, Tony Love (CEO), Ja'Eisha Scott, Jemond Flowers, Ulises Reyes (SPHA), and Giovanni Palmer. Not pictured Jeffrey Huell and Toniya Matthew.

COMMUNITY NEWS

We still can't breathe, and the air is getting thicker



BY YLANA PALMER
Contributor

Running. Parking lot. Loose cigarettes. Walmart. Stand your ground. By themselves, these words and phrases don't seem to have a reason to be connected, but they are intertwined in a despairing way. I did a quick Google search of "Unarmed black man shot," and these are the terms that appeared more than once just in my review of the first 10 articles.

There is often debate about whether there are more black than white males being shot and killed by the police in the U.S., or if it has just been brought to the forefront thanks to social media, cell phone cameras and the media's biases. When there is a disagreement of this nature, I tend to turn to the most logical way to address debates: Pure logic and hard facts.

In 2016, I did some research and made this sign for a Black Lives Matter march that took place on July 11, 2016, in Savannah, Ga., and had thousands of participants. Keep in mind, even though the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention log fatal shootings by police, their officials admit to the fact that their data is incomplete. So, the numbers below are likely even higher.

Of the lethal police shootings from 2017 through June 2018, almost all victims were male. As mentioned above, the various databases are incomplete, but we will use the given numbers with the understanding that a few may have been female.

Black men were killed at a rate that was 260.66% higher than white men.

Side note: There are about 1.5 million more black women than black men in America – a jarring reality of the fact that black men are more likely to be incarcerated or to die young at the hands of violence. But that's another article!

In 2016, black men accounted for 40 percent of unarmed men shot to death. In 2017, Black men and women were 54 percent more likely to be unarmed when killed by police, compared to their white counterparts.

Racism, politics, the militarization of police, a criminal "injustice" system, lack of diversity

training... the list goes on and on when it comes to people attempting to justify or explain the reason for the police shooting and killing unarmed black men. Root causes are important to look at, and we must all unify, do our research and create evidence-based solutions in order to keep our black men alive and out of the system.

The next time you are in Walmart, or you're selling loose cigarettes or even if you are studying the "stand your ground" law, remember those who have unnecessarily and arbitrarily lost their lives involving those very same things. They weren't "thugs" or in the process of committing crimes. They weren't even "lone wolf" shooters who had murdered students at a school. They were merely living, being black males in America.

If you are interested in researching this topic, I recommend the following sites:
statista.com
washingtonpost.com
time.com
census.gov/quickfacts
bjs.gov
cdc.gov/violenceprevention
ucr.fbi.gov/use-of-force

	Black Males	White Males
Percent of total U.S. pop.	6% (19.5 million)	31% (100.97 million)
Shot and killed by U.S. police (2017 through July 2018)	325	668
Percentage of the demographic shot & killed by U.S. police	0.0022%	0.00061%
There are about 5.2 more white men than black men in this country.		

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Project Prosper offers recent immigrants financial education

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – On a muggy Friday at the end of July, Maxi Wood, programs manager of Project Prosper, met new American citizen, Brazilian-born Gylmara Santos, owner of a house cleaning and organizing service, to bring to a close a two-year process.

Meeting at Raymond James, Santos was accompanied by her husband, Kristin Smith, Project Prosper loan committee chair and Nancy McCarthy, a long-time Project Prosper loan program mentor.

The group gathered to have all parties sign on the dotted line that Santos had finished paying the micro-loan she received from Project Prosper to help her start her maid service and to give her the pleasant reimbursement check of \$300 she earned from making all her payments.

In the two years since she first met Wood, with the help of the bike, which the loan enabled her to purchase, Santos’ business grew from three clients to more than 25.

“I’m very happy,” the Project Prosper graduate beamed. “My clients are wonderful; I work two or three days a week, very hard days, but so nice because it’s like I’m not working. I make nice money and have a lot of

fun,” she added.

Project Prosper’s mission is “to provide financial integration services and resources that empower recent immigrants and refugees in our community to achieve financial stability.”

Founded in 2007, Project Prosper was the brainchild of Robin Warren and Ann Haendal, two women with a heart for immigrants and refugees. The organization offers two programs: Financial Literacy and their Loan Program.

Wood has been the Programs Manager for the last eight years. “Ann was a world traveler who had seen micro-lending work in third world countries. She said, ‘We can do that here in St Petersburg,’” Wood explained.

Robin Warren was an attorney who saw the importance of financially educating immigrants and how easily they were taken advantage of. The two met, married their ideas and birthed Project Prosper.

Since 2007, through their Loan Program, Project Prosper has made 72 micro-loans, with a maximum of \$1,500.00 per loan. Loans can be used to cover expenses such as permanent residency costs, small business supplies, education costs, or in Santos’ case, a bicycle for travel.

Recently, Project Pros-

per added reporting loan payments to financial institutions, which often gives loanees their first credit histories.

Students come from all over South America, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and most are between 21 to 64 years of age. The majority make less than \$25,000 per year, with more than 50 percent making under \$15,000 annually.

The winner of the 2017 WEDU Be More Encouraged (Judge’s Choice) Award, Project Prosper holds their classes onsite at the locations they partner with, enabling students to receive the free training without having to add yet another travel obligation to their already hectic lives.

“It takes an organization like ours to come to where they already are, so they don’t have to go someplace else, or to something else to learn about how the financial system works in this country,” stated Wood, who noted that often, like many native-born Americans, immigrants must work two or even three jobs.

Project Prosper’s Financial Literacy program takes place at schools and centers teaching English language learners in ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes, including Pinellas County schools such as



Maxi Wood

Tomlinson Adult Learning Center and Dixie Hollins Adult Education Center. Volunteers teach a modified Wells Fargo curriculum.

Classes include three core modules: Financial Institutions 101, Budgeting Basics and Understanding Credit Cards, and nine electives that the learning program or school can choose, such as Checking and Savings, Basics of Car Buying or Home Buying 101.

While Wood is the organization’s sole full-time employee, she has a part-time assistant and says she couldn’t do it without the more than 100 active volunteers. The volunteers are experts or instructors in the financial field; many come from banking institutions. Wood says they always need more volunteers.

There’s also a very active board of trustees who are often in the class-



Kristin Smith, Gylmara Santos, Nancy McCarthy

rooms alongside the volunteer instructors – including, this year, a first-generation immigrant from India and another from Cuba.

Wood describes herself as having a heart for immigrants and refugees. “I know what it’s like to move someplace where you know no one, and you need that guidance and that help,” she shared.

Ten years of volunteering as an ESOL instructor prepared her to work at Project Prosper, where she was hired as the very first employee in a part-time position in 2010.

Today, Wood is proud and thrilled at the organization’s growth; although, she admits new immigration policies are definitely impacting students.

“It really depends on how they came to the country,” she acknowledged. “For example, the Haitian entrance — now being told that they have

to leave and don’t have permanent residency. So, if they’re in the classroom and the word has come down that they have to go, of course, there’s that anxiety,” she asserted.

Wood also noted that while in 2016, Tampa Bay received 60,000 refugees, she doubted they would see numbers anywhere close to that this year.

But while the schools are dealing with the impact of the new laws, at Project Prosper they’re less likely to experience student stress.

“We are really just coming in to provide the much-needed information,” said Wood. “And a lot of them are so excited to see us.”

For more information on Project Prosper, or to find out how to volunteer, visit www.projectprosper.org.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweeklyphychallenger.com

WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

Pinellas County’s great controversy

Dear Editor:

Once again, the great controversy and debate over Florida’s “stand your ground” law has gained national attention with the recent shooting death of Markeis McGlockton in a convenience store parking lot in Clearwater. McGlockton was shot by Michael Drejka who has now been arrested and charged with manslaughter. His defense is the “stand your ground” law.

In 2012, the killing of Trayvon Martin put the “stand your ground” defense in the spotlight in Sanford, Fla. Today in Clearwater, right in our backyards, we are faced again with a law that many agree needs to be repealed or fixed. There are supporters and opposers on both sides of the law.

The law, according to civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump who represents the McGlockton family, “is a racist law that gives white people a license to kill unarmed people of color.” He explained that it disproportionately protects white shooters because “when black people make a ‘stand your ground’ argument, it’s from inside a jail cell.”

How long will this controversy continue? How are we as people of color related to it? What is our responsibility? What will be its ending? These are all questions that we need to think about and act upon.

In addition to the “stand your ground” law controversy, there is another debate that is a “sister” to “stand your ground,” and that is body cameras. There has been much controversy over the use of body cams in the state of Florida—who should wear one, what is done with the footage and how long it needs to be

saved. In Florida, the police are not required to wear body cams, as it is left up to each district or agency as to whether or not they want their police officers to wear them.

Case in point, for the past four years there has been an ongoing controversy in St. Petersburg regarding the use of body cams. On Nov. 6, 2014, the National Christian League of Councils (NCLC) spearheaded the initial campaign for body cameras.

The NCLC led a delegation of ministers, civic and labor leaders to lobby before the city council the merits of making body cameras law in St. Pete. The approval of body cam implementation was opposed by Police Chief Anthony Holloway and Mayor Rick Kriseman, who both appealed to council to allow Holloway to study and test the use of the equipment and submit the results and a projected budget the following Jan.

For two years, the NCLC and the African-American community never witnessed any communication or notifications from Holloway and city council as to whether any testing was ever done. On July 8, 2016, the NCLC requested to come before city council a second time to make body cameras law, but then-Chairman Dudley never responded or placed body cams on the agenda.

On March 9 of this year, following the multiple tasing of Lamont Stephens by St. Pete Police at the Shell Service Station on 18th Avenue South, the NCLC along with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) re-launched a campaign petitioning city council, Kriseman and Holloway

to adopt and approve the use of body cameras, which needs to be included in their budget for Fiscal year 2019.

A few days ago, Holloway announced that he would be trying out new body cameras for the next 30 days as a part of a pilot program. He would then advise the mayor of his findings. How much more testing and studying time does Holloway need before he can make a decision?

According to an article in the *Tampa Bay Times*, Howard Simon, executive director of the Florida Chapter of the ACLU said, “It seems absurd that it would take four years to study something that police departments all across the country have been able to implement on a shorter timetable.”

Both NCLC and the executive director of the ACLU think it is time for Holloway to decide.

City council is now in the midst of their budgetary season. Any more testing by Holloway will simply delay the issue of body cams coming before council until after the 2019 budget has been finalized.

The fact of the matter is that for the last four years, Holloway has been studying and testing body cams. In a Jan. 2017 CNBC article, he discussed testing gun cameras and body cameras.

“We love that function because it can send a signal to the sergeant to let them know that he or she just pulled their weapon and it also tells you exactly where they are so you can start sending units to the location,” stated Holloway.

The article goes on to say that, “Holloway’s training unit is evaluating

the devices along with body-worn cameras,” noting that Holloway preferred gun cameras.

Unlike the body camera, the camera on a gun is mounted below the barrel of a handgun and starts recording only after the weapon is removed from the officer’s holster and won’t capture what led to officers drawing their guns or other interactions with the public.

Civil rights groups say gun cameras should not be used instead of body cameras. What do you think? Which would you prefer during a confrontation with the police? A body camera that will record the interaction from beginning to end or the gun camera that will record what it’s pointing to or shooting at?

According to information from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, there are 22 sheriff’s offices and 102 police departments that use body cameras. St. Petersburg and Clearwater are not included on that list, nor are Pinellas and Hernando Counties.

Hillsborough, Pinellas and Polk County Sheriffs are against using body-worn cameras on deputies. Temple Terrace, Gulfport, Seminole, Winter Haven and Pasco County are all nearby cities using body cams. But what about us here in St. Petersburg and Clearwater?

Let us not forget the beating of Stephens by St. Pete police that was recorded on a bystander’s cell phone or the cell phone recording of St. Petersburg Police Officer Michael Naples who recently resigned for using the N-word while investigating a dispute.

We must realize that what is happening to

African Americans in our communities is not normal. The unarmed killing of black men and women is not normal. The police brutality against people of color is not normal. The police being called on black people who are just going about their daily activities are not normal and has gotten out of hand.

In the past few months, it seems like every week we hear about a white person calling the police on black people for minor violations or nothing at all—sitting in Starbucks while black, dining at Waffle House while black, driving while black, shopping at CVS while black, selling homes while black, barbequing while black, napping on a couch in a college dorm while black, mowing lawns while black and a eight-year-old girl selling bottled water on the sidewalk while black outside her apartment building to raise money for a trip to Disneyland after her mom lost her job.

These are the conditions and experiences that people of color live with every day; they are examples of how we are viewed with suspicion, profiled and threatened with responses from police to 911 calls. They are not normal and we must not sit idly by and accept and adjust to this behavior. If there ever was a time that the community needed body cams, it would be now!

Professor and radio show host Michael Eric Dyson speaking on police brutality and training said, “Hands up get shot, hands down get shot, run away get shot, don’t run away get shot. We’re not doing anything wrong and we’re still being killed.”



For four years, the black community has patiently waited and repeatedly asked city officials to take a preventive step to adopt body cameras for the benefit of the entire community. The body cameras are not just for the black community, but also for the white community as well. It doesn’t just capture black pictures but white pictures and other colors as well.

The NCLC is encouraging the community, its members and supporters to stand your ground and contact your city council members, the mayor, chief of police and other elected city and county officials and urge their support to make body cams law for both the St. Pete and Clearwater areas.

Maybe Michael Jackson was right when he said in his song “They Don’t Care About Us:”

Some things in life they just don’t want to see But if Martin Luther was livin’

He wouldn’t let this be, no, no

All I want to say is that They really don’t care about us.

If it’s true that this city’s administration, the mayor, city council and the police chief care about us, I only have two words for them: PROVE IT!

Darryl L. Brown, Sr.
Chairman, Direct Action Committee, NCLC

COMMUNITY NEWS



He Say, She Say Should you swing that thing?



BY SHARLENE EMMANUEL

Q: Do you think swinging can hurt or spice up your relationship?

He Says (Williams, 52): Swinging can spice up your relationship if you're into that type of thing. I don't know a lot of men that would want to invite a guy into their bedroom, but I'm pretty sure they would be down with inviting another female, if their wife was up to it.

Some people feel like swinging is a way of being honest with their partner about their desires to experience other people, which in a funny way can create more trust. Like I said, both people must be into it.

I had a friend who participated in swinging with his wife, but only under the circumstance that they swing together, and he didn't try to do it behind her back. Well, my buddy broke the code and tried to swing with one of their partners without her and it didn't end well for him in his relationship. You got to know what you're getting into before you start swinging.

She Says (Parker, 42): There's nothing fun or funny about swinging and it will do nothing but hurt your relationship. Inviting another person into your bedroom can create many problems including distrust, insecurity and deception. It's hard to build and maintain trust, and this type of situation can break that in a minute.

As women, we are constantly worried about how we measure up. We have concerns about our weight, our looks, and of course, whether or not we are making it happen for our man in the bedroom. Inviting other women into your space will only intensify those insecurities. What if she's prettier, or slimmer, or can shake her tail feather better. If you are into that sort of thing, then more power to you. For me, it's a NO!

Sharlene Says: For some, the thought of their partner being with anyone else is the worst thing they can ever imagine. For these people, a swinging lifestyle is not for them!

There can be pros and cons to a swinging relationship. If you and your partner have a strong foundation and both have an interest in exploring this uncharted territory together, then swinging may bring some spice to your situation.

For those couples who wish to try swinging, they may find that they are able to improve their sexual confidence while also discovering new pleasures with each other. Women in long-term relationships have expressed that swinging has in many ways strengthened their bond and made it easier to discuss other issues.

Swinging for some can remove the desire to cheat as they can have all their sexual needs met within the comforts of their relationship. As with anything, communication is vital. If both partners do not agree to swinging, then that option should be off the table; no one should be forced or coerced into participating in this type of situation.

Also, swinging should never be used to fix a struggling relationship as it does nothing but compound the problems you already have. Sex and sexual compatibility is important in a relationship, but so is trust and respect. You should never trade off one for the other.

You can catch "He Say She Say LIVE" with On The Beat St. Pete at Rush Hour Restaurant and Lounge every second and fourth Friday starting at 7 p.m. Have a "He Say She Say" question? Send us an email to get your question answered to onthebeatsp@gmail.com

Sharlene Emmanuel is the founder of On the Beat St. Pete, an online media and entertainment company that works to uplift the positive image of the black community in St. Pete.



Visionary Brief by Keisha Bell, Esq.

When they go low

The idea that minority candidates and elected officers receive racist "messages" should not be surprising. Let us not forget that President Barack Obama frequently illustrated restraint and professionalism when faced with repeated illustrations of blatant disrespect rooted in a belief that black is "less than" and therefore should not be respected when in a non-domestic leadership role.

Some may better relate to this idea when it is presented in terms of gender, age, sexual orientation, religious or socio-economic deficiency or any other category that is not what is thought of as a "typical American."

Many in the African-American community questioned the public silence of Obama's political party time and time again while racist behavior was directed at him. Many more could relate to the Obamas' position.

There was a desire for the Democratic Party, a party with a long history of relying upon the so-called black vote to have a strong, unified presence of defense for its party's national leader. There were missed opportunities. Many were left disappointed.

First Lady Michelle Obama may have summed up best what is frequently a public display by minority candidates and elected officers when racist rhetoric is boldly present. She said, "When they go low, we go high." It is an all too familiar practice by minorities in general, a practice for many that dates back to slavery.

Now, let us turn our attention to Florida Democratic Party nominee for Governor Andrew Gillum. We, the public, know of a few "messages" that we, the people, are supposed to get. You may have heard by now about Gillum's Republican challenger telling Florida voters not to "monkey this up."

Then, there are a series of racist robo-calls mocking him. The head of the Florida Democratic Party, Terri Rizzo, called the comments a "racist dog whis-



tle." Many in the African-American community do not know of her response, or of her name. There are missing links that may prove vital down the ballot in Nov. and beyond.

Unfortunately, controversial racial remarks will motivate some to vote but do we really want to be a society where that is the formula that increases voter turnout? In the "land of liberty," we cannot wait for "when they go low" to celebrate qualified, minority candidates, nor can we wait for political parties to endorse our best to support our best.

Many people in local political parties would welcome your involvement no matter the election year. This year, however, there is a favorable possibility that Florida will make history by electing its first African-American Governor in Gillum. He is a gubernatorial candidate who is a pragmatist, meaning that he has an ability to talk across party lines. Besides, he is a progressive. These things are attractive to today's voters regardless of their party affiliation.

Presenting more candidates like Gillum will attract more voters on Election Day. His attraction is not limited to "black voters," nor should it be thought to be limited. Gillum proved this in Aug.

When they go low, we go high. Let us make conscious-voting a top priority by highlighting Nov. 6 as Election Day and high-step to the ballot box.

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

Demolition slated before the end of the year

From **PARK**, front page

elderly and need someone to advocate on their behalf.

"Let's not forget from whence we come," she said. "What you decide today is history. Don't let it cost you your peace."

Jhanavi Pathak's people come from India. She told a story that took place during British colonial rule that was the catalyst for Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent protest, which then inspired Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

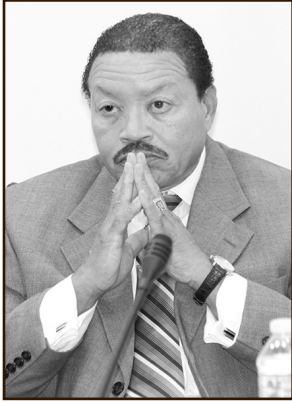
A British officer gave the orders for Indian soldiers to fire on their own people during a festival. Hundreds of families were massacred that day. Pathak said it is no surprise that the British soldier gave the command, but the surprise came when the Indian troops pulled the trigger on their own people.

"The decision isn't just about those who live in Jordan Park right now. It's about your own personal legacy. Will you be those who protected a black community or will you have sold it off to the highest bidder? Please, please make the right decision and don't do the oppressor's job for him."

Paul Hendriks, chairman of the board of directors of Pinellas Realtor, said they would be willing to work with the SPHA just as they work with the city.

"People do business with people they know, people they like and people they trust," he said speaking to Love. "Your behavior and what I know of it does not lead me to like you or trust you, and I cannot in good conscious recommend to my board that we do business."

"We have to change the mentality of how this board thinks," said President and CEO of Advan-



St. Petersburg Housing Authority CEO Tony Love

tage Village Academy Toriano Parker, who was once evicted from a SPHA property and had a family member evicted from the Graham-Rogall public housing complex that was deemed uninhabitable but now is expensive apartments geared toward millennials.

Parker once used the Jordan Park Gym as a base for AVA, which provides supervision and guidance to many local disadvantaged and deprived youths, but was forced to find other accommodations after the SPHA took the property back. The gym has sat empty for the last six years and has fallen victim to vandalism.

"This board has made a lot of decisions that really has had adverse effects on the community... I am not bitter about what happened to me; I moved on. Some people can't come back from these decisions."

City Council Chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, whose district Jordan Park sits in, said she was disappointed that the commissioners would not accept her invitation to discuss the future of Jordan Park and work toward a unified solution in the best interest of the residents.



L-R, Commissioners Ann Sherman White, Harry Harvey and Dr. Delphinia Davis

She along with most of the city council was present, canceling committee meetings to attend the Aug. 23 SPHA meeting.

Directing her ire toward the CEO, she said, "Mr. Love, for you to call the St. Pete PD on me when I held a press conference, and also to threaten to sue me if you lose your job is very cowardly. Do the right thing for Jordan Park. Hold off on this vote today."

Susan Bradley of Robert Reid Wedding Architects said the forensic study of one of the buildings in the Historic Village showed termites, asbestos and structural problems. They would also have to bring the buildings up to 2017 building codes.

The estimated cost, Bradley revealed, would be approximately \$4.1 million to rehab the 31 units while the cost of 60 new mid-rise apartments is estimated at \$9 million.

Love said the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is expecting that they demolish and replace because the SPHA accepted the 31 vouchers to relocate their residents.

"So we would then have to go back to HUD and ask to undo the paperwork, pay back the money

that we spent at an average of 1,300 to \$1,500 a family, plus their rents over the time on the vouchers," he said. "We would have to give all that back and come up with money, and then, undo it and put them back into public housing at those rents."

Senior housing in south St. Pete lacks some 2,500 to 3,000 units, so the 60 new apartments would address around 10 percent of the city's needs for affordable housing in the senior community, Love revealed.

So why is a housing project so historically significant to the black community? Well, Jordan Park is not just any old housing project. Travel back, if you will, to St. Pete in the early 20th century. Jim Crow was at its heights, the possibility of being lynched was always on black people's minds, and housing was barely up to third-world standards.

One shack could be occupied by two or three families. The roof leaked; no running water, no electricity and the outhouse was around the back. With segregation in the forefront, African Americans were packed in designated areas with nowhere to go.



L-R, Commissioners Jo Ann Nesbitt, Dr. Basha Jordan and Sharelene Gambrell-Davis

Land donated to the city by a former slave turned businessman by the name of Elder Jordan Sr. was used to build the area's first housing development with money provided to the city by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal initiative.

These new apartments were state-of-the-art, equipped with indoor plumbing, a full kitchen and were made from concrete, not wood. There was a long waiting list to live in the newly built structures.

Unlike the stigma that follows housing developments today, back in the 1940s this form of housing was coveted by both blacks and whites, of course, they were segregated dwellings.

Under the Hope VI Grant, most of Jordan Park was demolished in 2000 and rebuilt. The Historic Village was saved, which received a facelift that did not include infrastructure improvements. Now the remaining original 31 units will be lost to history.

Some of St. Pete's most prominent and successful African-Americans started life out in Jordan Park such as acclaimed actress Angela Basset,

two-time Super Bowl champion Glenn Edwards, former Bayfront Medical Center's Chief of Staff Paul McRae, longtime educator Willie Felton and School Board Chair Rene Flowers.

The SPHA is now considering a way to preserve the history of Jordan Park by constructing a building on Ninth Avenue to allow for the archival of memorabilia, statues, plaques, etc.

Commissioner Dr. Basha Jordan, Jr.—the grandson of Elder Jordan Sr.—was a staunch proponent of preservation, but in an about-face, he voted to demolish one of the last pieces of black history in St. Pete.

"My heart is with Jordan Park. My heart is with the residents. My heart is with the sustainability of what we are doing," said Basha Jordan, adding that if he were a resident, he would rather live in a new building instead of a renovated one. "I'm saying that is because I believe this is what my grandfather would want."

All of the commissioners voted to demo and make room for the new mid-rise complex except Ann Sherman-White.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Local FAMU alumni association is back

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

On October 3, 1887, the State Normal College for Colored Youth was founded by Thomas V.R. Gibbs in Tallahassee. Thomas DeSaille Tucker was the school's first president. In 1909, the school was renamed Florida Agriculture and Mechanical College. In 1953, under the direction of Dr. George W. Gore, president, the school gained university status. FAMU was born!

This historically black institution of higher learning sits atop the highest of Tallahassee's seven hills. How-

ever, its educational impact reaches far beyond Leon County. There are hundreds of thousand Florida A&M University alums all over the world.

FAMU garners respect for being a top producer of African Americans earning bachelor and doctoral degrees. The university is world-renown for its School of Pharmacy, School of Business and its exceptionally talented, high-stepping and precise marching band!

The enthusiastic alumni involvement is a fundamental part of preserving the prestigious legacy of the university. The National FAMU Alumni Association sup-

ports and even makes efforts to develop active alumni associations in cities across the country, which are awesome recruiting tools for the university.

With the relaunching of the local chapter of FAMU National Alumni Association in Jan., the South Pinellas-St. Petersburg Chapter is in full force. According to chapter president Tamika Hughes-Leeks, the immediate goal is to reach, reconnect, engage and empower at least 100 FAMU alumni living in the area.

They further endeavor to pique the interest of a new generation of Rattlers.

"We are working on

alumni membership, student recruitment, scholarships and partnerships. We want to assist in sending the best and brightest students to FAMU," said Hughes-Leeks.

There is a mixture of educators, athletes, business owners, pharmacists and other medical personnel that currently make up the local alumni chapter and who share the sentiments as many others regarding their alma mater.

"There was Rattler in my blood before I was even born," said Karen Demps, a proud FAMU graduate. "Both of my parents were graduates of FAMU. I can

remember going to the school's homecoming football games since I was five years old."

A few notable Florida A & M University graduates include FAMU Hall of Famer Ezekiel Sims, All-Pro National Football League player Glenn Edwards and gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum. Re-launching the alumni association may bring forth other local notable graduates.

Several well-attended social and community events have taken place to promote camaraderie, and since the re-launching, some 25 alumni have come on board. The South Pinellas-St.

Petersburg Chapter is an official affiliate of the main campus in Tallahassee. Chapter officers include Tamika Hughes-Leeks, president; Natalie Miller Washington, vice-president; A. Maria Salter Climes, secretary; Joi B. Davies, treasure and Rick Still, Chaplin.

To reach the South Pinellas-St. Petersburg Chapter FAMU Alumni Association, log onto famunaa.org; like them on Facebook @ South Pinellas FAMU NAA or email at spfamunaa@gmail.com.

To reach Dexter McCree, email dmcree@theweekly-challenger.com



Tamika Hughes-Leeks



Congresswoman Frederica Wilson and black women: A tutorial, Part 2

BY DR. YVONNE SCRUGGS-LEFTWICH

Black women icons, many of them now in a shared state of permanent repose, still served as models for those of us who remain on earth. But as new and less familiar national threats and obstacles challenge our families, communities and us as black women, we must assure that we update our leadership examples.

We must publicly and repeatedly acknowledge additions to this expanding reservoir of talented, dynamic, dedicated black women who now are leaders—in their own right—and have added strength to our country and our communities.

Congresswoman Frederica Wilson is one such contemporary breach stander for blacks in crisis. She was the black woman leader at the side of Sargent La David Johnson's wife and family after the heroic soldier was killed in action in African.

Missing for days and finally found, his remains were returned to his native land, America. His grief-stricken family was nurtured through this horrible crisis by Congresswoman Wilson. Apologize, Mr. Chief of Staff Kelly!

The template for identifying leaders and examples of success, power and influence among African-American women has gradually shifted, and the venues in which black

women make their most significant impacts have changed and evolved.

In the era in which many of the black icons matured, gained prominence and rose to leadership, there often were social service institutions and non-profit-type organizations. Often, they were organized, community-based facilities such as settlement houses and church centers or opportunities for leadership in social service programs.

Gender discrimination barriers remain—more impenetrable for black women than for most non-black women. This suggests that those positions, institutions and environments in which black women leaders have found opportunities and advancement in the past offer examples that should at least be considered and evaluated for their potential by younger emerging leaders.

In my last book, "Sound Bites of Protest," a chapter is devoted to a national political institution, the U.S. House of Representatives and to the African-American women who serve there. The chapter "Black Women Are Credible Presidential Candidates" presents the very rich pool of black women politicians who served in the House and United States Senate also.

Highlighted in this essay are 15 remarkable women who were members of the Congressional Black Caucus

when the book was published in 2008.

Some people, reading this today, might stage whisper: "That's your list, Scruggs-Leftwich! I have my own names to add." So, do that! And celebrate their leadership, and the daily contributions they make to keep America great.

Remember to send strength to Congresswomen Wilson, Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Senator Kamala Harris of California who, since the November election ending Barack Obama's final second term as president, have been told to "sit down" (and shut up) by white men in congressional positions of power, which they flaunt through their condescending behavior.

Also, send a special "sister-shout" to white lawyer Congresswoman Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, whose brainy determination has earned disrespect and denigration comparable with that directed at her black women congressional colleagues.

Community organizations and local service-providing institutions, as incubators for African-American women leaders' grooming, are less frequently in place locally. Easy access to preparation by expert leaders who can become role models is logistically or economically challenging and is made more remote by social communications technology and

other obstacles to most effective hands-on mentoring.

An analytical look, which the chapter in "Sound Bites of Protest" takes, involves the United States Congress, as viewed through the prism of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The core concern that has driven my thoughts and writing in this essay as well as over the many years, which the advancement of African-American women has preoccupied my research, commentary and advocacy, has been this: Women—including black women—can become anything they choose to become, given two conditions:

1. Opportunity and access free from artificial barriers and deliberate obstacles
2. All humans, including black women, have to be able to imagine their possibilities.

We need to be able to have some idea, no matter how faint, of what it will be like to become what we envision—somehow, somehow—even if only a dream.

The list of icons on whose shoulders we stand must now be expanded to include more contemporary versions of successes, power and influence, with dignity. We must mention them, by name, often, when they are present and when they are not.

We must require that our detractors and adversaries do not falsely assume that since some black women's heroes have passed on, the causes

for which they advocated, championed, and stood in the breach are now left untended, without the protectors, champions and guides through the sandstorms of time. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The new technologies see, hear and make a record of EVERYTHING. Some next-generation breach standing shoulders are already identified. Watch the social media reports and posts.

Also, you might be interested in visiting the Congressional Black Caucus website to learn the names, rich preparation and community service of other CBC members who, like Congresswoman Wilson, Congresswoman Waters and all of our national breach standers, who are already advocates, leaders and performers of good works.

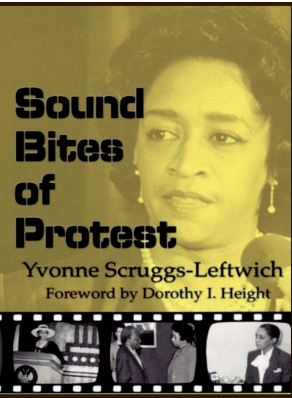
My next essay will celebrate the role of the black press and media in African American progress. HUGE!! Stay tuned! Journalist and provocateur Ida B. Wells Barnett leads that march.

About the author

Dr. Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich is a political scientist, public policy specialist and a journalist whose writing awards include: Washington-Baltimore Newspaper Guild's "Bernie Harrison Front Page Award" and the Association of Black Journalists' Griot Award for Commentary. She is the author of



Congresswoman Frederica Wilson



several books and numerous commentaries.

She earned a yearlong Fulbright Fellowship to Germany and was inducted into the Hall of Fame of St. Petersburg, among other accomplishments. Dr. Scruggs-Leftwich earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, was the deputy mayor of that city and the Commissioner of Housing for New York State, in Governor Mario Cuomo's Cabinet.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Sci-fi thriller ‘Kin’ melds family drama, violence with Afro-futuristic twist

NATIONWIDE — It’s rare to see a science fiction film blend family drama and crime – and even rarer to find an African-American youth take center stage in an end-of-summer summer thriller.

But ‘Kin’ – written originally as a short and directed by brothers Josh and Jonathan Baker, with a screenplay by Daniel Casey – juggles family pathology, sci-fi and violence in Detroit with surprising twists.

While the film teases out difficult father-son issues between Hal (Dennis Quaid) and son Jimmy (Jack Reynor), a felon, it is the 14-year-old Eli (Myles Truitt), Hal’s adopted African-American son, who we emotionally travel through the film with.

After Hal’s wife dies, he’s left to raise Eli alone and does so with a brusque, but devoted edge. Eli, a loner who spends his spare time collecting copper wire from abandoned buildings for cash, has recently been suspended for fighting, and early on we are aware Eli is being raised in, as he says, a “hard” world.

Looking to purchase a new pair of sneakers, Eli is scavenging in a boarded-up building when he stumbles upon a strange find – several dead bodies wearing what seem to be full-body space suits (or some bizarre

hazmat uniforms).

Spooked, he flees the building only to return after a strange dream leads him back to the abandoned elevator shaft where, at the bottom, he finds a peculiar weapon.

Soon, we learn that Jimmy – who has returned home from prison, clearly without any prospect for work – owes big money to a scary bunch of tattooed rough-necks, led by super-thug Taylor Balik (James Franco). When his father refuses to help, Jimmy’s desperation creates the film’s major crisis.

When Balik’s attempt to get the money turns deadly, Jimmy and Eli end up on the run – with Eli toting the stolen and bizarrely powerful weapon along. And when Jimmy’s attempt to lose the now out-for-revenge Balik lands them in a strip bar hounded by another criminal element, the power of the weapon is revealed once Eli is forced to use it to protect his brother.

The two pick up Milly (Zoë Kravitz), a stripper ready for a better life (or at least a life away from the hole they find her in), and after realizing the new weapon guarantees them almost unlimited power, Jimmy turns the trio into a Bonnie and Clyde — and his younger brother — kind of outfit.

Eventually, Jimmy’s

past comes back to haunt them, and he’s locked up. With his arrest televised, Balik heads after them.

The last third of the film deals with the resolution of the troubles, and while there’s a surprise waiting at the end, there’s a ton of violence and havoc to wade through – mostly wrecked by the “mystery weapon” which only young Eli seems to be able to make work.

Although the film has received lukewarm reviews, much of the criticism is directed at the unexpected and somewhat unfamiliar combination of genres. Is it a family drama? Is it sci-fi? The heavy father-son adoption-mixed race elements leave the viewer with a myriad of emotional baggage so when the sci-fi kicks in, some viewers may feel thrown off-kilter.

Additionally, sometimes the film is unsettling, as the audience finds itself having to root for a 14-year-old who is handling, for all intents and purposes, a violent weapon.

Equally angering is having to watch Jimmy (although played sympathetically by Reynor) make several bad decisions that will clearly cost his brother his innocence (SPOILER ALERT – SKIP PAST THE REST OF THIS SENTENCE NOW!!! TO AVOID THIS

SPOILER:– after already costing him his sole emotional anchor (spoiler alert!).

All that aside, let’s be honest, there is another possible culprit for the film’s lackluster reviews.

Did someone say, “RACE??”

The clearly Afrofuturistic themes revealed slowly through the last moments in the film might be difficult for some hardcore, mainstream sci-fi viewers and reviewers – who happen to be, historically (if numbers are to be believed) largely white and male.

Additionally, one might also wonder if a performance like the one delivered by Myles Truitt — as the precocious, embattled Eli — was given by a white actor, would critics would be kinder to the film?

Who knows, and who cares? Regardless, our recommendation is the following:

With its Afrocentric and surprisingly Afrofuturistic themes, we give ‘Kin’ an 8 (out of 10) because not only is a movie that should be added to any sci-fi buff’s list of must-sees, but it stakes a claim in the realm of space as the final frontier for those with darker skins as well.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweekly-challenger.com



WC Film Buff Rating: 8 (out of 10)

Directed by:
Josh & Jonathan Baker

Screenplay: Daniel Casey

Starring: Jack Reynor, James Franco, Zoe Kravitz, Myles Truitt, Dennis Quaid

Producers: Shawn Levy, Jesse Shapira, Jeff Arkuss, Dan Cohen, David Gross, Michael B. Smith

Playing in theaters now

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‘This Is Not a Selfie’ at the MFA features art photographers’ self-portraits

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Museum of Fine Art’s new exhibit “This Is Not a Selfie: Photographic Self-Portraits from the Audrey and Sydney Irmas Collection” is a challenge and reversal to the current cultural phenomenon that has exploded with the advent of social media.

Comprised of actual self-captured images by a range of international photographers whose work has impacted the world of art through the decades, the collection challenges the present fixation with the smartphone and disposable camera’s quick-pic – revealing how artistic flourish deepens and expands the camera’s eye and emotional scape in the hands of the professional.

Photos date as far back to the likes of French photographer Nadar (Gaspard-Felix Tournachon, 1820-1910), whose “Self-Portrait in Indian Costume” reveals the European’s fascination with “dressing up” in the garb of cultures that were both foreign and ripe for exploitation.

African and African-American influences are displayed in a range of images: Mali-born artist Malick Sidibe (1936-2016) created the self-portrait “Malick Lui Meme (Malick Himself)” in 1972, a mere 12 years after Mali’s independence from France.

American photographers Lyle Ashton Harris (American, b. 1965) and Renee Cox (Jamaican, b. 1960) collaborate in the photograph, “The Child” – playing with cultural role assignments, with Cox dressed as the male “father” figure, and Harris

dressed as the “mother.”

Jennifer Moon (American, b. 1973), a conceptual artist, invokes the image of Huey P. Newton in her 2013 self-portrait “You Can Kill My Body, But You Can’t Kill My Soul.”

Among the most striking pieces in the collection is Yasumasa Morimura’s (Japanese, b. 1951) giant, ornately decorated, photo-hidden-in-a-painting – featuring the visage of artist Frida Kahlo. Morimura is almost absent from the piece except for his eyes, peering out from the work entitled “An Inner Dialogue with Frida Kahlo (Collar of Thorns).” Morimura based the work on Kahlo’s (1907-1954) painting, “Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird.”

Chino Otsuka’s (b. 1972) works “1976+2005, Kamakura, Japan,” “1984+2005, Richmond Hotel, France” and “1984+2005, London, UK” use flawless digital augmentation to allow the photographer to insert older versions of herself alongside her younger images.

Some reveal bizarre fetishes: Orlan, (French, b. 1947) is famous for documenting her body augmentation experiments. In “Holy Shroud #3” she created her own “Shroud of Turin” (the veil believed to have been covering Jesus’ face in the tomb). The work is described as combining gauze and blood — to create a creepy rendering of the artist’s face.

Other images reveal photographers poking fun at themselves – such as Mehemed Fehmy Agha (Ukrainian, 1896 – 1978), a former art editor at Vogue — whose “Self-Portrait” was of his (presumably) foot, adorned with specta-



Jennifer Moon (American, b. 1973), a conceptual artist, invokes the image of Huey P. Newton in her 2013 self-portrait “You Can Kill My Body, But You Can’t Kill My Soul.”

cles and a comical ‘necktie’ and ‘jacket.’

A series of self-portraits by Bruce Nauman (American, b. 1941) depicts him pulling his facial features in bizarre ways; Jonathan Borofsky’s (American, b. 1942) “Self Portrait,” feature his face, neck, and shoulders tattooed with mysterious numbers reveal personal obsessions.

Other fascinating images include:

“Photo Transformation 8/19/76” by Lucas Samaras (Greek, b. 1936), who used a dual image of himself combined with whimsical flowers, petals, and paint to create a ghostly mirror image

“Untitled,” 1964, Andy Warhol (American, 1928-1987) – a young Warhol in a strip of images

“Self-Portrait,” 1932, Herbert Bayer (Austrian, 1900 – 1985) created a sur-

real early “photoshopped” image with his head sitting on a chopped-up mannequin’s body

“Leap into the Void, 1960” by Yves Klein (1928-1962) used a photomontage of two negatives combined to “appear” as if Klein was leaping from a second-floor window

“This Is Not a Selfie” is at the MFA until November 25th. Bring your phone or camera to take shots backed up by their selfie walls!

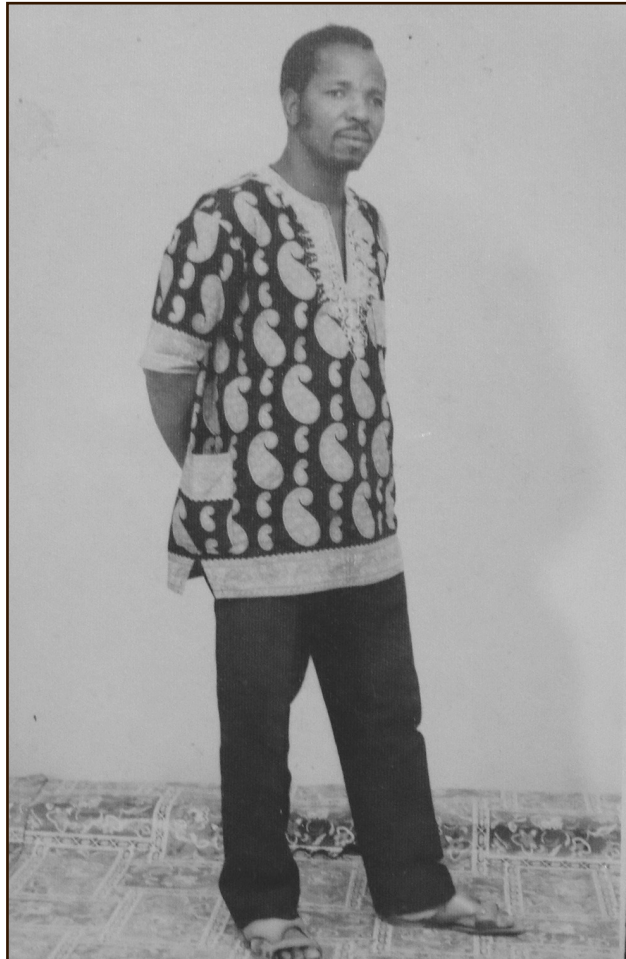
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To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweekly-challenger.com.



American photographers Lyle Ashton Harris (American, b. 1965) and Renee Cox (Jamaican, b. 1960) collaborate in the photograph, “The Child”



Malick Sidibe (1936-2016) created the self-portrait “Malick Lui Meme (Malick Himself)”

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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.

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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.



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



Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Sykes

SERVICES

Sunday School: 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Mid-Week Worship: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



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(Full breakfast served after service, \$6.00)
Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays*

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A deeper look into:

- The Call of a Preacher
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- The Preacher’s Discretion

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

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

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



Donn & Jean
Freshler



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

Call: 727-896-2922



#SELFIE SUNDAY
Every Second Sunday @ 10 AM

Step One: Prepare your selfie during the Guest Blessing. Be Creative!
Step Two: During fellowship, pose and take your pictures. Remember to open Camera, hold at arms length, pose and smile!
Step Three: Post on UTTC: Selfie Sunday Facebook page with Dr. Pulley’s message title and the hashtag #selfiesunday

511 PRESCOTT ST. SOUTH • ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712
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UNITY TEMPLE OF TRUTH CHURCH
EST. 1957
Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader

Victory Through Faith Ministries

2nd Annual Royal Women of Excellence Conference

“Women Transitioning “
Staybridge Suites
940 5th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

September 28 – 30, 2018
Host Apostle Vanessa Cox

Friday - 7PM Opening Services– Evangelist Tina Jones
Saturday– 7AM—Dynamic Guest Speakers
First Lady & Evangelist, Pearlle Dockery
Apostle Joan Pennington, Pastor Dorothy Pettis
Sunday– 10AM Closing Service– Apostle Vanessa Cox

Free admission for nightly services
Conference Registration \$75

For more information contact Co-Pastor Beatrice Wilson 727-385-9151



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

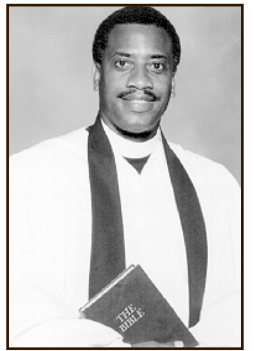
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

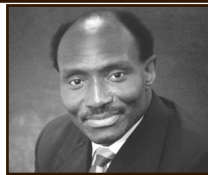
THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:
3940 – 18th AVE. S., St. Petersburg, Florida
Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021
Email: rojmbc@knology.net
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

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

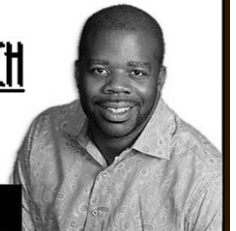
WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Sunday Worship 7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Noonday 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.



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

CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark MBC

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. John 14:1

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, Pastor Brian K. Brown and members give thanks to God for his continual mercy, grace and abundant blessings.

First Sunday's early morning message was brought by Minister Reginald Rhett. The title was 'Faith That Fights'. The points were: Faith that Fight Motivates; Faith that Fights is not Passive and Faith that Fights Believes in a Cause. The scripture background was 2 Timothy 4:1-8. Minister Rhett reminded us that we should not have a passive faith but an aggressive faith that fights for the cause of Christ, a faith that reaches out to those who need Christ and a faith that fights to lay hold of eternal life.

In consideration of Communion Sunday and our remembrance of what Christ has done for us, Pastor Brown took a reflective approach to the message at 10:45 a.m. and asked the question 'How Shall You Be Remembered?' Will

You Be Remembered for Hoping the Helpless; for Healing the Hurting or for Helping the Hindered? We were reminded to remember all that Christ has done for us and live a life where Christ is seen more clearly in us each day. We should remember that when we were hopeless we found hope in Jesus and give others hope that says with God there is hope and remember that God got us out of our situations and help someone else get out. Remember our doors are open and we invite you to join us on Sundays to receive the full depth of each message.

St. Mark is steadily approaching its 87th Church Anniversary and part of our celebration is holding Pre-Anniversary services. This month we are holding St. Mark's version of 'Family Feud' on September 14 @ 7:00 p.m., St. Mark will be in competition with Mt. Calvary. Come out for an evening of laughs and great fellowship. On September 23rd Friendship M.B. Church will join us at 3:30 for a Pre-Anniversary service. We

are looking forward to the 'Ship' sailing over to worship with us.

Youth Boys ages 8-18 will join the Brotherhood Ministry for a fishing trip on September 15 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are encouraged to bring your young men out for this great opportunity of fun, adventure and fellowship.

Weekly Events:
Sunday School - Sundays @9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - Sundays @10:45 a.m.

Young Adult Ministry (YAMS) - Sundays @9:30 a.m.
Senior Hour of Power Bible Study - Wednesdays @9:30 a.m.

Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

As we strive to give God our utmost praise for the awesome gift of His Son, Jesus Christ we extend to our community an invitation to share in our praise and in our pursuit of Creating a Bible-Based Haven of Hope, Help, and Healing.

First Mt. Zion MBC

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

On Sun., Sept. 9 at 4 p.m., the Unity Day committee will present "Great Men and Women of the Bible."

Come out and witness this program which

will feature ladies and gentlemen from local churches in the St. Petersburg area as they portray characters such as Eve Job, Mary the Mother of Jesus, John and others. This will be a spiritual treat that you do not want to miss.

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

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 infor-

mation on any of the announcements, please contact us by the following methods: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 31st Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida 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 and WCBDA Website: www.experientthecoast.com

Transportation is available - Call the Church at (727) 906-8300 - Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

REVIVAL AT THE SHIP CHURCH SCHEDULED EVENTS

Our Revival is Coming starting with Payer Week: September 10-12, 2018 7:00-8:00 pm nightly, Prayer of Preparation, Pastor is asking All Ministries and Tribe Birth Months to see the schedule for the aforementioned.

Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm - Pastor is encouraging all members of the following Ministries to attend this special call Music and Arts Vision Casting Ministry meeting: Adult Choir, Male Cho-

rus, Adult Dance Ministry, Youth Dance Ministry, and Youth Choir. Guest Facilitator is Dr. Kevin Parrott.

REVIVAL-RENEWED-RESTORED

Scripture: (Luke 15:1-32)
September 17-19, 2018 at 7:00 pm Nightly

Those in Service: Adult Mass Choir, Male Chorus and the Ushers Ministries.

Our Guest Evangelist Pastor Christopher A. Wimberly, Sr. (The Honored Pastor of the Hunter Hill Baptist Church of

Atlanta, Georgia Sunday, September 23, 2018 at 4:00 pm - Fellowship with St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, 1301 37th Street South, Rev. Brian K. Brown, Pastor, Pastor Evans is asking that the Adult Mass Choir, Male Chorus and 2nd Sunday Ushers to Serve, let us show up in big numbers to help St. Mark in their Celebration of their 87th Church Anniversary and the Mortgage Burning.

Monday, September 24, 2018 at 7:00 pm 21/41 Pastor's and First Family Appreciation Celebration, Prayer and Planning Meeting, All interested members are encouraged to attend.



Pastor's Corner

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

I endorse the vote!

As a spiritual leader, it is not my role to endorse any candidate for president, governor, mayor, state senate, city council or any other political office. Instead, it is my responsibility to endorse the right for people to vote. It is not my job to tell people for whom to vote, rather it is my duty to encourage them to take advantage of the opportunity of voting.

Voting is our constitutional right as American citizens. Our ancestors fought for all people to have the right to vote regardless of their age, gender, race, culture, creed, religion, orientation, family dynamic, socio-economic status, educational level, criminal background or any other distinction.

It is also my responsibility to lead by example by voting myself. Whom I choose to vote for is private and no one else's business. I refuse to use my influence to sway people in the direction of one candidate or another. Instead it is my charge to pray for the right and perfect person to be elected to office so that he or she can work for the highest and the best for all his or her constituents.

In addition to endorsing the vote, it is my call to support the entire process that leads to the vote. I endorse people having the right to run for any office for which they qualify and I encourage people who feel so inclined to fill vacancies that match their expertise and passion. I also do everything in my power to encourage people to register to vote so that they can exercise their God given right to make good choices and wise decisions (Deuteronomy 30:19).

As a minister, it is also my duty to establish forums, support debates and encourage healthy dialogue where the issues of our day as well as practical solutions are being discussed. I endorse people voicing their opinions about the issues that concern them. My role is to create and maintain peaceful environments where people can hear and listen to others whose opinions may be different than their own.

Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, it is my responsibility that once the election is over to unite people for the greater good of our community no matter who their candidates were (Ephesians 4:3). As a clergyman, it is also my role to pray for everyone who is in office and everyone elected to an office because ultimately "God is the judge and God puts down one and sets up another (Psalm 75:7)."

It is also my responsibility to hold those in office accountable to what they promised to do and to give them ideas of how to make our community better. Even if I disagree with the views of a person in office, I respect the office that he or she holds and I see him or her as a child of God made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-28). Amidst political challenges, I remind myself and others of the truth that "all things work together for our good because we love God and are the called according to God's purpose (Romans 8:28)."

Rev. Doral Pulley is the senior pastor of Unity Temple of Truth Church, 511 Prescott St. S., St. Petersburg.

Victory Crusade

Bring the broken, sick, hurt, confused, depressed, lost and hungry to experience the love of JESUS and a New Beginning, Satur-

day, September 8 through October 6, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. New Hope of Glory is located at 1198 62nd Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church

Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church will be celebrating our 115th Church Anniversary. The Deacons 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.

Our Theme is "Growing Stronger - Growing Deeper - Reaching Higher" Isaiah 40:31

Calendar of Events:
Prayer Brunch - Sat., Sept. 1, 10:00 am
"A Night of Songs" Concert - Sat., Sept. 22, 4:00 pm

Anniversary Proper - Sun., Sept. 23 10:15 am, Guest Preacher - Pastor Troy Adams, New Jerusalem MBC - St. Petersburg, FL

Revival - September 25-27. Revivalist: Pastor Marvin Scott - Second Shiloh MBC Sanford FL. 7:00 pm - Nightly

A NIGHT OF SONGS

Don't miss our 115th Church Anniversary Concert: Sat., Sept. 22, 4:00 pm, at Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church, 3455 - 26th Ave. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33711

UNITY WORLD Day of Prayer

Thursday, September 13, 2018

11 AM - Live Stream with Unity Village
12-1 PM - Musical & Silent Meditation Prayer Service
2-6 PM - Sanctuary Open - "Continuing the Consciousness Prayer Vigil"
7-8 PM - Courage to Heal Service

Hosted By the UTTC Prayer Ministry
Maria Watson
Lead Minister of Prayer

511 PRESCOTT STREET SOUTH | ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33712
www.unitytruth.org

"I AM a Healing Presence"

COMMUNITY NEWS

Melrose Elem. is now a journalism magnet school

From **MELROSE**, front page

where Flowers lived until she was 21 years old. Built between 1937 and 1942, the land was donated to the city by a former slave turned businessman to address the housing needs of African Americans. The last remaining original units are set for demolition by year's end.

Flowers made sure not to skip the Thomas Jet Jackson Recreation Center (formerly known as Wildwood) where the Jennie Hall Pool opened in 1954. African Americans could only swim at the South Mole Beach and in the Jennie Hall Pool until the city desegregated its public facilities.

As the bus drove down the 22nd Street Corridor, she pointed out the historic train station, now the Morean Center for Clay, and the Manhattan Casino, where the great black entertainers of yesteryear performed such as Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington and James Brown.

She also made mouths watered when she described her former eating haunts up and down the Deuces.

"You know how you get the munchies in the middle of the night and you want to come get some chicken fried real quick—greasy delight is what I used to call it—some gizzards with some ketchup and hot sauce and white Wonder Bread and some milkshakes," Flowers said, describing the greasy fare bought at Sno-Peak, which sat across the street from the Manhattan.

She explained the "great dividing line" of Central Avenue. Some of the educators were not aware that African Americans were not allowed on the north side of town after sundown unless they were employed in the area.

"When I was younger, if it was dark, you were not on the north side of Central Avenue," she said. "For some of us, Central Avenue still holds some pain."

Panama City native George Wells teaches Exceptional Student Education (ESE); he's taught at Melrose, but this was his first time on the tour. He feels that students should also be invited on the tour so they can learn more about their heritage and the history of the area.

"I didn't know half of this about St. Petersburg," adding that he didn't think the morning would be that extensive.

Wells knew about the razing of the Gas Plant neighborhood to build Tropicana Field, and he was familiar with the blight the interstate brought to the area, but he was unaware of the harsh level of segregation.

"The culture in St. Pete is deep, but I did not know the extent of segregation. I did not know that St. Pete was a sundown town," he said, referring to the policy of not allowing black people into certain areas after dark.

The bus stopped at the historic Royal Theater (now the Boys and Girls Club) and the educators were able to tour of the building. Opened in 1948, the Royal Theater was one of two movie houses African Americans could attend during the Jim Crow era.

Director Eldon Hollomon and his pint-sized 11-year-old junior leader, Sinai Dunbar, gave the group a tour of the facility along with a little history.

After desegregation, the Royal Theater closed in 1966, and the building

housed a laundromat for a time and also stood vacant, according to city records. In 1975, it became a youth center, and in 1977 was sold to the Boys and Girls Club.

In 2004, three years after it was designated a historic site by the city, the Royal got a \$1.2 million renovation that restored some of its previous glory. The restoration was financed by the city, with additional funds from philanthropist Bill Edwards and St. Pete native and acclaimed actress Angela Bassett.

Once a single, open hall that held 700 seats, the building got separate rooms in the renovation—classrooms, computer rooms, a state-of-the-art recording studio, offices and a staging area for productions.

During the school year, the Boys and Girls Club now offers afterschool homework help taught by certified teachers. The children are also able to participate in their signature programs after homework is complete.

The tour group then headed across the street to St. Petersburg College's Midtown campus. La'Keshia O'Neal, community relations coordinator and college recruiter, encouraged the teachers to bring their students on field trips to plant the seed of higher education.

"A lot of students haven't been introduced to college in this community, and for them to be introduced to college in the fifth grade, it gets them thinking about all of the possibilities for their lives."

O'Neal looks at each teacher as an information board for the community. Teachers can help inform parents and caregivers about the services the Midtown campus offers, such as free access to computers with internet service, free tutoring and free courses for members of the community over the age of 60. Also, the Midtown campus will now offer STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities for children.

"I want you to be able to relay that message," she said. "You'll be armed with knowledge when you leave. Hopefully, you'll be able to encourage parents...about these programs that are really just down the street."

O'Neal also encouraged the educators to inform the parents about the free PITCH Program offered by SPC and the City of St. Petersburg. It provides healthcare and technology training to African-American males between the ages of 18 and 24.

PITCH students will be able to enroll in GED classes, A+ Certification, Mobile Device Repair, Clinical Medical Assistant and Phlebotomy.

The tour group headed over to the Poynter Institute to participate in a press conference given by the Wendy Wallace, the institute's director of advancement and Gretchen Letterman, Journeys in Journalism advisory committee chair.

This school year, Melrose will begin teaching the principals of journalism in all of their classes, and what better place to get some pointers than at the Poynter Institute—the global leaders in journalism.

Melrose educators learned how and why elementary school children could benefit from teaching journalism.

"Journalism is a profession that's changing so you're not necessarily creating future newspaper reporters, but you're teaching skills that will help young people succeed in school and in life," said Wallace.

In 2001, a partnership between Pinellas County Schools and the *Tampa Bay Times*, who is owned by the Poynter Institute, formed to create Journeys in Journalism. The first coordinator of the program, the late Cynda Mort, along with author and journalist Gelareh Asayesh, helped start the journalism magnet program at Melrose and built an award-winning program that spread to John Hopkins Middle and Lakewood High Schools.

Journeys in Journalism is a hands-on training program that teaches students to be reporters, photographers, videographers, editors and page designers. Melrose's *Manatee Messenger*, in fact, actually rivals a few local publications.

"When you are, starting in kindergarten, taught to interview somebody and look them in the eye and ask thoughtful questions, you are becoming a better citizen, and you can do anything you want," said Letterman, who is the former coordinator of the program.

Melrose educators will receive help incorporating journalism into their lessons from the new Journeys in Journalism Coordinator Crystal Pruitt, Melrose's writing teacher and the media specialist, who will all work together to help the teachers "breathe journalism" into their lessons, averred Letterman.

The Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum ended up being the last stop on the tour. There, educators met Executive Director Terri Lipsey Scott, who, in her own way, encouraged the teachers to incorporate black history in their lessons all year long.

"Do me a favor. Don't call me in February," she warned. "We celebrate black history 12 months out of the year, and I find it offensive that my calendar fills up and my phone is blowing up because people just want to address black history in the month of February."

She asked the educators to "creatively give thought on how you can incorporate African-American history in your studies."

When asked if they knew who Carter G. Woodson is (the historian who started Black History Week in 1926 and is considered the father of African-American history), many of the educators had no

clue. Lipsey Scott suggested that they have basic knowledge of where they are taking their students on field trips.

After eating lunch at the museum, Melrose staff was dropped off at the school to continue planning for what will be an exceptional school year. Teachers are ready to incorporate journalism into the classroom and feel that it will only help teach their subjects.

Larona Morehead teaches math and feels that incorporating journalism will go smoothly because she's already teaching what every good reporter must have—the Five Ws: Who, what, when, why and where. Those questions go hand in hand when solving a math problem.

Third-grade math and science teacher Jennifer Bowens also feels the transition will be seamless. Since science is inquiry-based, she has always taught the Five Ws.

"Then the kids are also journaling down their answers. They're writing their answers down, so journalism does impact science," Bowens stated.

Yolanda King-Byrnes teaches all subjects in her first-grade class. She's been incorporating the principals of journalism since she's worked at the school. Each morning, she has her students tell her what they did the night before, what they'd like to do and what they are looking forward to, all while incorporating the Five Ws.

Coming from Virginia by way of Indiana, Cheryl Orr learned a lot about the history and culture of the area. Having taught at Melrose last year, she realized how important it is for her students to understand their history for them to move forward in life.

Melrose Principal Donnika Jones said that to turn the school into a successful magnet, they would have "to build the capacity of the magnet within the teachers," so that it will be sustainable. Instead of the journalism program being supported by a coordinator and facilitated by one teacher, all teachers must own the process.

As the new journalism program coordinator, Pruitt plans to incorporate more aspects of journalism. In doing so, all three schools—Melrose, Lakewood and John Hopkins—will be integrating more multimedia functions such as social media; producing video and writing news briefs that can be published instantly online as well as in their quarterly publication.

For more information on Melrose Elementary Center for Journalism and Multimedia, visit pcs.org/domain/1961.



Royal Theater Boys and Girls Club Director Eldon Hollomon with 11-year-old junior leader Sinai Dunbar



La'Keshia O'Neal encouraged teachers to bring their students back on field trips.



Fifth-grader Santana Holt, 10, was the only student on the tour. There to gather information for a *Manatee Messenger* exposé, she advises fellow students to "follow your dreams," and plans on being a Barbie when she grows up, meaning she will have many successful careers.



Left, Gretchen Letterman, Journeys in Journalism advisor and Wendy Wallace, Poynter Institute



Rene Flowers and George Wells

