DIGITAL COMMONS
@ UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

University of South Florida
Digital Commons @ University of South Florida

Newspaper collection

The Weekly Challenger

2019-06-06

The Weekly Challenger : 2019 : 06 : 06

The Weekly Challenger, et al

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/challenger

Recommended Citation

The Weekly Challenger, et al, "The Weekly Challenger : 2019 : 06 : 06" (2019). *Newspaper collection*. 1218.
https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/challenger/1218

This is brought to you for free and open access by the The Weekly Challenger at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newspaper collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usf.edu.

The Weekly Challenger

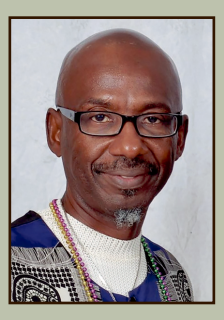
KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

VOL. 51 NO. 36 | JUNE 6 - JUNE 12, 2019 | 50¢

IN THIS WEEK

PAGE 3
COMMUNITY NEWS
One Community Grocery Co-op

PAGE 4
COMMUNITY NEWS
Continuing legacy



PAGE 7
HEALTH & BEAUTH
Care councils

INDEX

COMMUNITY NEWS
PAGES 2 - 5, 10

HEALTH & BEAUTY
PAGE 6 - 7

CHURCH NEWS
PAGES 8 - 9

8 53619 00471 2

Hundreds joined the Crawford family in mourning the loss of Freddie Crawford, a compassionate trailblazer who helped changed the face of law enforcement in the United States.

Freddie Crawford: Celebrating a life well-lived

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Hundreds of people came to pay their last respects for a man who helped changed the face of law enforcement in the United States last Saturday, June 1 at First Baptist Church.

Freddie Lee Crawford is known locally as the driving force behind the Courageous 12, a group of black police officers who sued the St. Petersburg Police Department and won the right to fully use their powers to arrest any offender, black or white, but his legacy as a trailblazer goes far beyond the Sunshine City.

A year after winning the landmark lawsuit, one of the first of its kind after the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act that prohibited discrimination, Crawford moved to Atlanta and worked for the Justice Department. There he worked in conciliatory activities in school desegregation cases throughout the southeastern United States.

Thomas Anthony, Crawford's younger first cousin, said he was his hero. As a child in rural Georgia in the late 60s, he would start school sometimes as late as October to help bring the crops in. As he was working in the fields, he didn't know who that man was driving a "green government car," but he was impressed.

"Up popped this man, this big, black, tall, masculine man who was riding in a car, who was dressed to impress and he was my hero," said Anthony. "He was what you aspired to be. He left that impression on so many people."

Crawford made history once again when he was sworn in as the first black corrections director of the Metropolitan Dade County Department of Corrections in 1981. Daniel Junior, the agency's current director, was one of about 60 current and former co-workers from Miami who came to say goodbye.

Junior met Crawford in the late 1990s during his second stint with the Miami-Dade Corrections Department. Although they did not work together for an extended period of time, he will be forever grateful for Crawford's trailblazing efforts.

"I stand here today as a direct benefit from his legacy, his pioneership. And I stand before

See ***CRAWFORD,*** **page 5**

Family asks community for help with heart transplant for 15-year-old

BY KARIN DAVIS-THOMPSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – As another school year ends for students in Pinellas County, summer vacation will be in full swing. Some students will begin preparing for college, others will attend various summer camps, and some will work on their volunteer hours or a summer job. But for Ian Cooper, summers won't be filled with camps or activities with friends, but doctors' visits, constant medication and a pacemaker.

Ian, 15, is waiting for a heart transplant and must focus all of his energy on staying healthy while he waits.

His parents, Leon and Jennifer Cooper said they first noticed something was wrong when Ian was an infant. He would frequently cry out for no apparent reason, and nothing they would do seemed to soothe him. He almost always had a cough or fever, but doctors said it was just a virus.

Ian Cooper

But then, during a wellness visit, the doctor took a listen to his heart and thought something sounded off.

"He was diagnosed with Obstructive Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and Wolff Parkinson's White (WPW) at 10 months old," Jennifer Cooper said.

The condition means the heart muscle can become thick, making it hard for it to pump blood.

WPW is a fairly rare condition where an additional electrical pathway between the upper and lower chambers of the

See ***TRANSPLANT,*** **page 6**

Family of sick child asks for bone marrow donations

Grant King

BY KARIN DAVIS-THOMPSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Latasha Grant said her family is hoping their prayers will be answered. Her son, King, needs a marrow/stem cell transplant to save his life, and while they remain hopeful, it's hard not to get discouraged. But Grant is getting the word out any way she can to find a donor for her son.

"King really wants to get better," Grant said. "He suffers from being bullied, and he hates taking meds."

At only 16 months, King was diagnosed with Chronic Granulomatous Disease (CGD), an immune system disorder that occurs when a particular white blood cell that usually helps the body fight off infections isn't working properly. CGD can lead to pneumonia and various infections including lung, skin, lymph node, gastrointestinal and liver.

Stem cell transplantation can often cure CGD if the right donor is found.

Grant said becoming a possible donor is easy and starts with just a few questions and registration to be a willing bone marrow donor on the Gift of Life Marrow Registry. You then provide a simple cheek swab and wait to see if you are a match. If you are found to be a potential match for King or someone else on the donor list, you will then be asked to do a blood test to confirm the match.

If the match is confirmed and a physical deems you to be in good health, you will donate either Peripheral Blood Stem Cells (PBSC) or bone marrow. In most cases, the PBSC donation is needed and only requires a non-surgical outpatient procedure, collecting the blood stem cells via the bloodstream.

Many times the donor is someone from the same ethnic background, and studies show that African Americans are less likely to register.

Grant said people might think something as simple as a cheek swab won't make a difference, but it does – it could make all the difference in the world for a sick child like King.

"He has a terminal illness that needs to be treated by a therapy that can eventually see that he lives a

See ***MARROW,*** **page 6**

We Value *Diversity* | We Value *Education* | We Value *History*
www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com • 727-896-2922

COMMUNITY NEWS

I AM:
The Manhattan Casino, part 2
By Gwendolyn Reese

The Manhattan Casino, known as "The Home of Happy Feet," occupied the second floor of a building a half-block in length and 12,000 square feet. The building housed several businesses over the years including a pharmacy, restaurants, a cleaner, a variety store, barbers, a post office, the Manhattan Bar and Package and the Manhattan Pool Room.

In addition to promoting the Manhattan and booking famous musicians and vocalist, George Grogan taught chemistry at Gibbs High School, sold real estate and managed Jordan Park.

As noted in part one of this article, nearly all of the musicians and vocalist of the era, regardless of the genre, performed at the Manhattan Casino. Several men were primarily responsible for booking the performers. One was George Grogan, who is considered by many to be the person most responsible for defining the character and legacy of the Manhattan.

In addition to promoting the Manhattan and booking famous musicians and vocalist, Grogan taught chemistry at Gibbs High School, sold real estate and managed Jordan Park. He is fondly remembered for giving James Brown a start at the Manhattan.

William H. "Buddy" West was a barber, a tailor and a promoter at the Manhattan. He is credited with bringing in among others, Louis Armstrong and Fats Waller and he arranged Thursday afternoon dances for young people, charging 25 cents admission.

Rev. Goldie Thompson, a popular radio personality and gospel disc jockey, booked the best gospel singers of the era into the Manhattan. He also promoted gospel singers throughout the state and organized the Teenagers, a singing group he managed.

For more than 40 years, the Manhattan served as a social hub for black residents and it also provided one of the few venues where black and white residents mingled for performances by musicians such as Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

The Manhattan Casino closed in 1968 and in 1986 the building was purchased by John Miller for $30,000 to use as a storage facility for his sign business. He used the first floor for his shop and maintenance area and the second floor for storage.

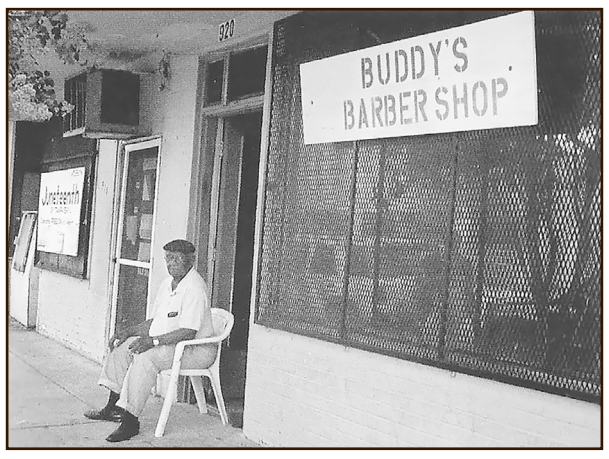
It was listed as having 2,400 square feet when the actual square footage was 12,000. Miller got a bargain. In 1994, the city council, recognizing the building's cultural and historical significance, designated the building as a historic landmark.

It is now Dec. 2003; the city owns the Manhattan Casino with plans to reopen a renovated and enlarged building in May 2005. The renovation estimated to cost $2.3 million would return the Manhattan to what it was back in the day. There was still a long road ahead until the completion and opening of the Manhattan.

On Dec. 28, 2005, there was a Manhattan Casino tent during the annual First Night celebration. The event was scattered throughout the city, from Straub Park to Central Avenue and from Dr. Martin Luther King and Second Avenue North to 22nd Street. A stage was set up across the street from the Manhattan Casino.

The exterior renovation was complete, but the inside was unfinished. The Buster Cooper Jazz Band played what was labeled Manhattan Casino Era Jazz under the tent from 2-3 p.m. and again from 4-5 p.m.

Down the street at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum, organist and local music legend Al Williams played two sets, and saxophonist Eric Darius performed at the renovated Royal Theater. Al Williams and his band, the Versatiles, were one of the many local groups that performed at the Manhattan during its heyday. A photo from the early 60s shows organist Fess Clark, trumpeter and bandleader Al Williams, drummer Martin Rainey, saxophonist Leroy Barton and vocalist George Brown.



William H. "Buddy" West was a barber, a tailor and a promoter at the Manhattan. He is credited with bringing in Louis Armstrong and Fats Waller, among others.

Finally, the day we'd all been waiting for arrived. Its Friday, Oct, 28, 2011, the kick-off of the grand reopening weekend, which is a three-day celebration featuring local musicians, John Lamb, Ron Gregg, Ernie Calhoun and Al Williams as well as the Dizzy Gillespie All Stars. The weekend included an open house, street festival and gospel brunch. A weekend to be enjoyed by all.

The phoenix rises; the Manhattan Casino was reborn.

Sources:

Gadsden, Sandra. "Historic Manhattan brings back the music." Tampa Bay Times. 26 October 2011. Pg. 1 & 3

Peck, Rosalie and Jon Wilson. St. Petersburg's Historic 22nd Street South. Charleston: The History Press 2006

Rogers, David. "The Manhattan Casino: It was All We Had." St. Petersburg Times, July 5, 1999. Pg. 1 and 6

Wilson, Jon. "Manhattan Casino addition gets approval from city." St. Petersburg Times, December 24, 2003. Pg. 10

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

A Public Hearing will be held by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in the Board Assembly Room on the fifth floor of the Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, to obtain citizen views on the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan. The Annual Action Plan is Pinellas County's application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and the Pinellas County Consortium's annual application for HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds.

The anticipated funding allocation for Pinellas County's CDBG and ESG Programs and the Consortium's HOME Program for 2019-2020 is $4,762,907, which includes grant funds to be received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as estimated program income. The Consortium consists of Pinellas County, acting in its capacity as an Urban County, and the City of Largo.

Persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at this hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this hearing, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Should you need assistance, please contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 S. Fort Harrison Avenue, 5th Floor, Clearwater, FL 33756 (727) 464-4062 (V/TDD).

www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com

Duval Park is an 87-unit apartment community located at 5025 Duval Park Circle in St. Petersburg, Florida. The property has 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments, and it is designed to provide permanent, affordable and supportive housing to U.S. Military Veterans and their families. **Preference will be given to U.S. Military veterans and families who reside in, or are transitioning to, permanent housing.** To that end, 36 of Duval Park's units (40%) will be set aside for those veterans with a service-connected disabling condition.

Duval Park is a Section 42 Low Income Housing Tax Credit project with 44 vouchers for HUD Section 8 rental assistance. In order to be eligible for housing in this community, you must meet the income eligibility requirements established by the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program. Your gross household income cannot exceed 60% of the Pinellas County area median income (AMI), which is currently set at the following limits:

1 person: $28,140 2 people: $32,160 3 people: $36,180
4 people: $40,140 5 people: $43,380 6 people: $46,620
7 people: $49,800 8 people: $53,040

Management is actively accepting applications for placement on the waiting list for an apartment. Applications will be processed in the order that they are received. To request an application or more information about the property or the admissions criteria, please contact the Property Manager at 727-522-1400 (FL Relay TTY 800-955-8771). You may also request information or return applications via email (duvalpark@carteretmgmt.com) or mail to Management's corporate office at 5300 W. Cypress Street #200, Tampa FL 33607. Applications are also available for download on the property's website, www.duvalpark.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

DUVAL PARK

FLORIDA Lottery

PICK OF THE WEEK!
28 52 40

CA$H 3
563
975
802

DOG DAYS

6-4 1-3
2-1 7-8
8-5 4-6

The Weekly Challenger

Home Delivery to South St. Petersburg for $50 yearly
First Class Mail Subscription Cost: $80 yearly

RATE REDUCTION SPECIAL!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No: _____

Email Address: _____

New Subscription _____ **(or) Renewal** _____

Date: _____ **Amount Paid: $**_____ **Cash** ____ **Check** ____

Comments: _____

Make Checks Payable to: The Weekly Challenger
Mail this form & payment to: The Weekly Challenger, P.O. Box 35130, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Email: editor@theweeklychallenger.com • Phone: (727) 896-2922 • Fax (727) 823-2568

The Weekly Challenger
is distributed in the following cities:
St. Petersburg ▪ Clearwater ▪ Largo
Tarpon Springs ▪ Dunedin ▪ Safety Harbor

P.O. Box 35130, St. Petersburg, FL 33705
Phone: (727) 896-2922
Fax: (727) 823-2568
Email: editor@theweeklychallenger.com
www.theweeklychallenger.com

Ethel L. Johnson
CEO/Publisher Emerita

Lyn Johnson
Publisher/General Manager

Advertising
Advertising Dept. 727-896-2922
advertising@theweeklychallenger.com

Lorrie Bellinger
Art Director

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
on Thursdays

READERSHIP
100,000 monthly

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
$50 for 1 year (local only)

SINGLE COPY 50 cents

ATTN. POSTMASTER:
Send all address changes to:
The Weekly Challenger
P.O. Box 35130
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

NO PAPER?
If you have not received your paper during delivery, call (727) 896-2922

DEADLINES
All news items, advertising copy and related art submitted for publication on Thursday must be received no later than 4 p.m. Monday.

COLUMNIST'S DISCLAIMER
The views expressed by The Weekly Challenger columnists/advice columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of The Weekly Challenger. By publishing such columns, The Challenger is not advocating the following of any advice or suggestion expressed.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY
Submissions to The Weekly Challenger may be edited for reasons of space, clarity or for considerations of liability. All submissions become the sole property of The Weekly Challenger. The Weekly Challenger reserves the right to run all or part of any submission at a later time. Some submissions may take precedence due to timeliness or newsworthiness.

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

VERIFIED

FLORIDA PRESS ASSOCIATION

NNPA

Volume 51 ▪ Number 36
Published Thursday, June 6, 2019
10 pages ▪ 1 section

© The Weekly Challenger

All rights reserved. No portions of this periodical may be reproduced without expressed consent.

COMMUNITY NEWS

One Community Grocery Co-op turns one – with a mission of fresh produce for the south side

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — The One Community Grocery Co-op (OCGC) recently celebrated its first anniversary during the monthly "$3.00 Meal" the co-op held at Pinellas Technical College (PTC) on May 23.

OCGC, which will be located in south St. Petersburg, is in its first stage of planning and implementation and is currently working to build its membership to 300 residents and, or, families to be part of the initial co-op launch.

The One Community Grocery Co-op was created in south St. Petersburg in 2018. After a long history of big box store closures and failed agreements, residents started asking for control of their food security and access in the form of a grocery co-op.

The call for the co-op was formed out the 2015 People's Budget Review, which began to collect the voices of south St. Pet residents and asked for input on what they wanted from their city and what residents desired to see happen in their neighborhoods and communities.

A year in the making, OCGC was recently chosen as one of the "18 Big Ideas to Transform South St. Petersburg's Economy" presented at the recent VISIONDISTRICT Expo in April at PTC.

The VISIONDISTRICT One Community Economic Innovation Plan also provided an online survey to gather community ratings on which ideas will be selected for ongoing development through the One Community Plan (funded by the City of St. Petersburg to aid in finding new approaches to economic growth).

With voting still open, OCGC Board President Erica Hardison, who presented at the Expo along with fellow board members Abenah Redwood-Adams and Judith Turner, is optimistic about the current voting tallies, which show OCGC high up in the ratings received from survey participants.

"We are in the top three out of 10 for the VISIONDISTRICT's Big Ideas," shared Hardison, who added that online voting is open till the sixth of June.

Among supporters, Hardison mentions collaborators including the St. Pete Time Bank, Pinellas Technical Food Systems Center and Callaloo Restaurant. She also said the St. Pete food systems community and several community gardens and gardeners have gotten behind the initiative.

"We are an all-volunteer organization at this point, so we rely heavily on word of mouth," she noted.

Hardison explained that anybody can join the food co-op if they live in Florida and if they choose to leave, they can gift their $225 membership fee to another resident, or receive a full refund.

Memberships are open to individuals, families and even businesses.

"We have a number of businesses who have joined," said Hardison. "Other co-ops can join — a credit union is a type of co-op, and we have Achieva Credit Union as a member. It's for anybody with an interest in food, anyone who really wants to support and see this cooperative food system and food security movement develop," she added.

Hardison had been a member of a grocery co-op while in college at Florida A&M, and she watched it grow to a point where members even became employees, including herself.

While she also joined "buying clubs" here in St. Pete, Hardison said none of them moved on to becoming co-ops. With her longterm interest in sustainable urban agriculture, she was eager to join the collaborative group that came out of the People's Budget Review and the New Deal for St. Pete meetings on food security.

Like other urban agricultural activists, Hardison refrains from calling St. Pete's lack of fresh food grocery stores indicative of a food desert and instead refers to the situation as a condition of food apartheid.

She feels the distinction between the two is vital to understand.

"It's an important discussion because it sets the context. When we think of 'deserts,' they are these naturally occurring things in nature. When we talk about 'food apartheid,' we talk about policies, how they are linked to food and food insecurities in certain areas. It's more of a discussion about what policies exist that allow conditions of food insecurity to exist," explained Hardison.

Erica Hardison with board member Abenah Redwood-Adams representing One Community Grocery Co-op at the VISIONDISTRICT Expo in April.

One Community Grocery Co-op Board President Erica Hardison

These and other informative discussions happen at the OCGC's $3 Meals, which are scheduled through the rest of the year every third Thursday at PTC from 6-8 p.m. The $3 Meal is an opportunity to enjoy a healthy menu, to learn more about food co-ops, community gardeners and gardening and also serves as an OCGC membership meeting and signup for newcomers.

For more information on the One Community Grocery Co-op, you can stop by one of the $3 Meals happening at PTC, 901 34th St S, St. Petersburg, on June 27, July 25 and August 22 (and continuing on the third Thursday through the rest of the year).

You can also visit their Facebook page or call 727-279-5216.

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

We Encourage Letters to the Editor

End voter suppression of the black community: Restore felons' rights to vote

Dear Editor:

My name is Eritha Akile Cainion, and with the support of the people, I will be your next District 7 City Councilwoman here in St. Petersburg.

The struggle for the rights of black people in the U.S. to participate in the electoral arena is one that is ongoing.

In the 60s, throughout this country, black people were engaged in a fierce movement to gain equal rights under U.S. law, one of the most important rights being the right to vote.

It was a struggle that threatened violence and death on black people, especially those within the Deep South. By the time we had achieved the ability to vote, the U.S. government had assassinated our leaders and destroyed our black power movement, leaving us nothing to vote for.

The U.S. government wouldn't stop there.

Over the decades, the government revealed more tricks up their sleeves that served as black voter suppression, which includes the voting restrictions placed on convicted felons.

Statistically, the majority of people impacted by this setup have been black people.

Not because there is something wrong with black people — like we can't stop committing "crime" — therefore we are convicted at a higher rate than white people.

It is by design that we are the ones who bear the brunt of this restriction. It manages to keep a sizable amount of our community from being able to exercise political power at the polls, especially black workers who are often rendered voiceless throughout the elections.

Recently, the people of Florida voted in favor of restoring the right to vote for those who have been hit with the "felon" label.

Despite overwhelming support to restore this right, the Florida legislature has advanced a bill that will essentially veto that vote.

And who will pay the highest price? The working class black community.

Take a walk through St. Pete's south side black community.

During my run for office in 2017, almost every door I knocked on and a black man answered, he told me he would support me, but he couldn't vote.

I was primarily raised by my dad, who was a single father for most of my upbringing. He's a hard working black man who did everything he could to make sure his daughters were fed.

My father is one of those men currently ineligible to vote.

This is large-scale voter suppression of our community; so despite our battles and the lives we've lost in the process to obtain these rights, we have never truly been able to exercise them.

Working class black communities throughout Florida have never been able to use this so-called right to vote based on these limitations that have been imposed on us historically and presently.

When I'm elected, I'm going to use the position I hold to fight for the immediate restoration of ex-felons' rights. We will wage a massive campaign for automatic restoration of voting rights — no strings attached. This will return political power back to the black community!

It won't stop there, however, because the voter suppression doesn't stop there.

Honestly speaking, if the status quo could avoid people voting altogether, they would. That's why most people don't know about these voting obstacles at all. When we've mentioned to people outside of St. Pete how the local nonpartisan elections have a primary and a general election, there's always a look of bewilderment because it's already abundantly clear what kind of issue that poses for the black community.

Here we have a situation where black people make up something like 23 percent of the city's total population. Our citywide representation is supposed to come from those who represent us in a district; however, the district ultimately doesn't get to choose who they want to represent them.

The overwhelming white population gets to make that determination for the black community in the general election, which means the interests and agenda of the black community get overruled by the white community every time.

On top of this, we have to deal with the newly gerrymandered setups in what used to be primarily black districts being turned into white ones.

Everywhere we turn there's a roadblock in front of us, preventing us from being able to use the electoral arena to our advantage. Our voices are never heard. Our interests are never realized.

The big money developers, the corporations who buy their favorite politicians, they get to take an election with ease.

Not this time around.

When we win, we're going to return the districts to their original zoning pre-gerrymandering, and we're calling for one genuine single-member district general election - winner takes all.

The "Make the Southside Black Again" electoral campaign to elect me, Eritha Akile Cainion, for District 7 City Council is a campaign that represents a future for the black community, where we have economic and political power, and we are no longer threatened with the possibility of being gentrified out of existence.

This future can be yours. It must be yours!

Join this campaign that's fighting for the restoration of felons' rights and an end to the voter suppression of the black community!

Make the Southside Black Again! Unity Through Reparations!

Vote Eritha Akile Cainion for District 7, Aug. 27. To support or join this campaign, visit VoteAkile.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

New funeral director continues father's legacy

ST. PETERSBURG – Irving Sanchez, III said he is so glad to be back home trying to make a difference for his community.

Sanchez, a St. Petersburg native, and his wife Judy, recently returned to the area and founded Sanchez Rehoboth Mortuary and Cremations Services, located at 6501 25th Way S, St. Petersburg.

Being a support to families in their time of grief has been a part of Sanchez's life since he learned about the funeral business from his father Irving Sanchez, Jr., who owned a funeral home on 22nd Street South in the height of black-owned businesses in St. Pete.

"My father was a funeral director in the mid-1960s," he said. "I was exposed to the business, and l learned how to do what I do."

Sanchez III, who also serves as the funeral director for his new business, got his director's license and decided he wanted to try and venture out on his own.

"I went to Seattle and managed a funeral home there," he revealed. "Then Nashville and St. Louis, but I always had a desire to have my own place."

When he began to realize that his mother would need more assistance and care in St. Petersburg, he said he just knew it was time to return home.

"The Spirit just hit me to do it, and by the grace of God, we are here," Sanchez declared.

His wife, Judy Sanchez, serves as the chief financial officer for the firm. She said they work hard to make sure that their business is a blessing to the community. They both believe that it is vital to give back and be a real part of the community.

The couple installed a "blessing box" outside the funeral home where those in need can stop by and take non-perishable items while those who want to donate can leave non-perishables in the box to help someone who needs it.

They also provide various informational sessions at the funeral home. The latest being a class on aromatherapy for grief with a focus on the top nine oils to help support those going through the grieving process.

"It's just something that's on our heart, to give back," Sanchez III said.

The funeral home also offers a host of services for families making final arrangements for their

loved one from pre-planning to custom memorial jewelry.

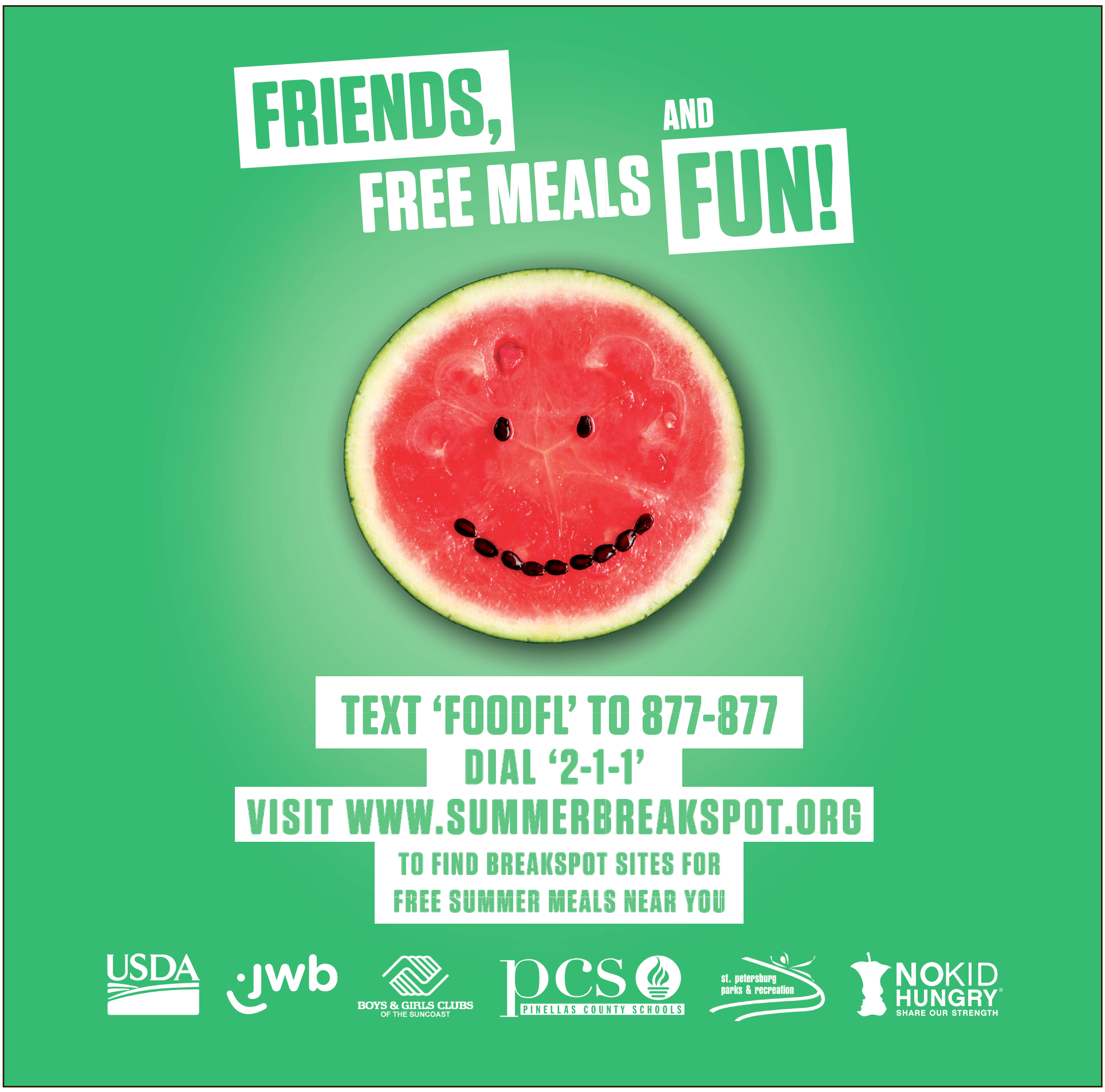
The husband and wife duo recently held a grand opening and ribbon cutting to introduce the community to the business. Judy Sanchez said the event drew more than 100 attendees including Mayor Rick Kriseman and Chris Steinocher, president of the St. Peterburg Chamber of Commerce.

"Several organizations came out to support us including the Alumni Singers of St. Petersburg and the Al Downing Tampa Bay Jazz Association," she said. "We had food vendors, and giveaways, and people brought food for the blessing box. It was truly a festive occasion."

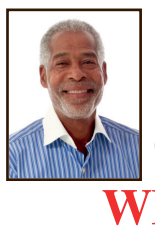
Along with introducing the community to their new business, Irving, III said he wanted to use the event to reconnect with his hometown, and can't express how excited he is to be back serving the community he loves, doing what he loves.

"It's good to be home," he said.

For more information on Sanchez Rehoboth Mortuary and Cremation Services, visit www.sanchezrehobothmortuaryandcremationservices.com. You can also contact the funeral home at 727-317-0035.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

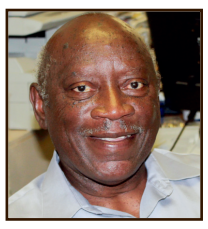


HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE
Cancelled or Non-Renewed??
WE CAN HELP!!!
727-393-4617
Larry Eugene Walker • Insurance
Great Automobile Rates • Over 20 Years of Experience

Deannie K's Beauty Salon

Beauty is more than skin deep.
Call TODAY for an appointment
Phone: 727-894-1734
2500 9th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

B. Brinson Insurance Agency
Auto, Life, Health and Home Owners
brinsoninsagy@yahoo.com



Bennie Brinson
1830 49th St. So.
St. Petersburg, FL 33707
Tel: 727-328-9878
Cell: 727-215-3048
Fax: 727-328-9545

Silverlining
Beauty and Hairloss center
$20.00 Basic Shampoo/Set
Silk Press starting at $50
Specializing in Healthy Hair
1834 49th St. S, Gulfport • 727-328-2623

CREAL FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATIONS, INC
1940 7th AVENUE SOUTH
ST PETERSBURG, FL 33712
727-896-2602
"STILL SERVING WITH DIGNITY AND COMPASSION 60 YEARS LATER"
CREALFHANDCREMATIONS@GMAIL.COM

USFSP UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG
The following job(s) are currently available:
• **Psychologist (Assistant Director) (Job ID 20965)**
For information regarding the position(s) listed above, please visit:
http://w)ww.usfsp.edu/jobs
or visit the USFSP Human Resources Office at 140 Seventh Ave. S., Bay 206, St. Petersburg, FL
USFSP is an EO/Equal Access Institution. Welcoming...Diverse...Inclusive

COMMUNITY NEWS

Black community radio boosts local artists

ST. PETERSBURG — Local musicians are gaining exposure on south St. Pete's own WBPU 96.3 FM, also known as "Black Power 96." The station's weekly Local Going Global contest invites listeners to vote for their favorite local artist.

Hundreds of votes are counted each week, most from St. Pete residents, but also from listeners as far away as New York and Colorado who tune in through the station's mobile app and web stream. Local Going Global shows how a small community radio station can help local artists find a big audience.

Local Christian/gospel rapper BLA (Bruce Loves the Almighty) was the first contest winner. He writes rhymes and produces his own tracks. He is a husband to his lovely wife Tessa, cuts hair, sings in two choirs and serves as Bethel Metropolitan's Sunday School department superintendent under the direction of Rev. Dr. Ricky L. Houston. He performed on the Black Power 96 soundstage at St. Petersburg's MLK Day this year.

BLA said his music "offers a lyrical message inspired by God over sultry melodic tunes with the low-frequency bass rumble of today's popular trap songs." He relates the gospel message to everyday personal struggles.

"Every day another person is dealing with pain in some way, shape or form whether it be the pangs of addiction, homelessness, a lack of self-identity or just a genuine need to hear the truth," he said. "We should also acknowledge God when things are going well for us, too."

Next up was local performing group, the GBT Babies. Aprincea, 10, Zy'cariah "Princess Zy," 8, and Daegeana, 10, are cousins whose parents were local St. Petersburg rap artists. GBT was the name of the group their parents were a part of: Gutta Beezy, now known as Aprincea's father, Josh (aka Hot Wheels), and Tank, Zy'cariah's mom, Quaniesha.

GBT Babies also performed on MLK Day at Black Power 96.3's Free Da Mic event. Last month they traveled to St. Louis to perform at a conference of the African National Women's Organization where they were enthusiastically received. Under the tutelage of their manager, "Cheese," GBT Babies' original songs such as "Why U Mad?" and "No More Bullying" bring a positive message with a catchy beat.

Another winner of the Local Going Global contest was V.O.C.A.L.E. (Voices on Christ and Lyrical Expressions). This local group combines elements of praise and a variety of genres including gospel, R&B, hip-hop, jazz, spoken word and neo-soul to create, as they say "music that touches on the problems that many people face every day and the remedy to those problems, which is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

V.O.C.A.L.E. members Manuel Allen (spoken word artist AKA Finale), vocalist Jaylissa Golden (Lady Jay) and vocalist Larry Young (Deacon Soul) write their own songs. Finale is an ordained minister born in Cincinnati and raised in Chicago. Lady Jay was born and raised in St. Petersburg, where she follows in the footsteps of her mother and grandmother who sang in the church choir. Deacon Soul was born and raised in Detroit, where he was inspired to sing while listening to his mother rehearse with her R&B and gospel groups.

Crunkcoco has held Black Power 96's Local Going Global title for four consecutive weeks. Born Courtney Fraser in St. Pete, he gained popularity on YouTube when he posted videos shot with a school camera in the classroom.

His "Who You Finna Try" video went viral, and he has since appeared in Cristol's music video and on "WorldStarHipHop" 12 times. He's been on "Upload with Shaq," truTV, as well as on BET's "106 & Park," MTV's "Ridiculousness" and on "The List."

The free-spirited Crunkcoco is known for his over-the-top dancing in which he puts his extreme flexibility on display, often wrapping one arm around his head. He has been on stage with K. Michelle and Cardi B, City Girls and Da Brat.

"I'm cool with celebrities Cardi B, Safaree, Nicki Minaj, K. Michelle and Trina," said Crunkcoco, who just released a new single called "Like That" featuring Heather Marie.

Winners of Black Power 96's Local Going Global contest are announced on the air Fridays at 5 p.m. Their songs get placed into heavy rotation on the airwaves and they receive promotion through the station's website and mobile app along with an award certificate.

The contest is the brainchild of Black Power 96 DJ Eddie "Florida Blind Boy" Maultsby, whose gospel show airs Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7-9 a.m. DJ Eddie is well-known throughout St. Pete for his years playing guitar and singing on the streets and for his stint on the airwaves of the now-defunct WRXB.

DJ Eddie volunteers at Black Power 96 as assistant station manager and can be heard at many times throughout the week bringing local updates and popular music.

"We are a station of the people," he said. "I wanted to connect with the people and the artists. I didn't know this contest would be so popular, but I'm very happy to help the community to get connected."

Themba Tshibanda, Black Power 96's station manager, said: "The black community is powerful when we come together. Our talent should belong to us and Black Power 96.3 FM radio is ensuring that our community is heard here in St. Pete and around the world so that artists like these can make music that serves our people and they don't feel forced to cater to those who mean our community no good."

Local artists are invited to submit their songs for broadcast on the station through the website at www.blackpower96.org.

Volunteers are needed to help with office work, community outreach, voice work and audio production. Training is available. For more information, call 727-914-3614 or visit the station during business hours at 1245 18th Ave. S, St. Petersburg.

Celebrating the life and legacy of Freddie Lee Crawford

CRAWFORD, from front page

you today as the seventh black department director…"

Anthony Dawsey, another co-worker from the Miami-Dade Corrections Department, said as a boss, Crawford was a "visionary" and a "transformative leader."

"He seamlessly moved from being the boss to being a friend. He saw me and many other co-workers struggling with substance abuse or addiction and he offered us a second chance."

Crawford was born Aug. 17, 1937, to Mae Vesta Crawford, née Dowdell, and Moses Crawford in Americus, Ga. The family moved to St. Petersburg, where he received his early education. He graduated from Gibbs High School and earned degrees from Gibbs Junior College, the University of South Florida, New York University and the University of Georgia.

In 1960, he joined the St. Petersburg Police Department. After years of enduring abject racism, only being able to police the black section of town and no career advancement in site, Crawford led the charge to take the police department to court and sue for workplace equality.

Three years later, Crawford, Leon Jackson, the last surviving member of the Courageous 12, and the 10 other fighters of justice won their case in federal court. That decision set a precedent for law enforcement agencies around the nation and paved the way for minorities in the Tampa Bay area.

Goliath Davis, III, St. Pete's first black police chief, stands on the shoulders of the daring dozen who bravely fought to integrate and dismantle Jim Crow. From the day he was born, Crawford seemed to have a plan for him.

Once Davis returned from college in 1973, Crawford was there to not only congratulate him but to challenge him to join the police department. Twenty-eight years later, Crawford was there at Davis' retirement party from the force.

"He and the Courageous 12 epitomized community policing. He policed with compassion, he policed with humility and patience, but more importantly, he epitomized what compassion and policing is all about," he said.

Davis revealed that certain individuals who were running for elected office wanted to use his name and reputation for their political gain. They promised Crawford that they would erect a monument of the Courageous 12 in the lobby of the new police building.

"Those were promises made, but to my knowledge as I stand before you today, they were also promises not kept," he declared. "That promise was made, and it's our duty to make sure that promise is kept."

Maria Scruggs, president of the St. Petersburg Branch NAACP called herself one of Crawford's law enforcement daughters because he convinced her father that her becoming a police officer was a good idea.

About 20 acknowledgments and resolutions came in from agencies and cities all over Florida including Orlando, Opa-locka and Miami. Dr. Tonjua Williams, president of St. Petersburg College, read a proclamation from Mayor Rick Kriseman and read one from the Board of County Commissioners, where it was declared June 1, 2019, as Freddie Crawford Day.

Rev. Wayne Thompson, senior pastor of Frist Baptist Institutional, gave the eulogy, stating that "it's a good thing if we can remember what Freddie did, after today you've got to be intentional that he's not forgotten."

Thompson said with Crawford and other black officers' community policing, his life of crime was cut short. He encouraged the Crawford family to tell his story of sacrifice, and urged the elders in the community to let the younger generations know "what used to be so that they can appreciate what is now."

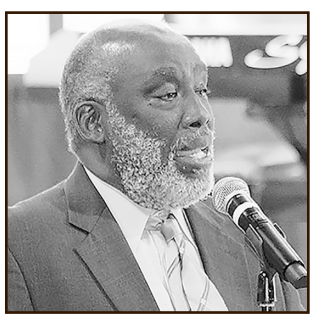
Along with the family, mourners included 78-year-old Jackson, the last living member of the Courageous 12, Mayor Kriseman, Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch, St. Petersburg Police Chief Anthony Holloway and retired Assistant Police Chief Cedric Gordon.

Crawford was sent off with a 21-gun salute by the Miami-Dade Corrections Honor Guard.

In a resume written by Crawford 10 years ago, he said it best when reflecting on a life well-lived:

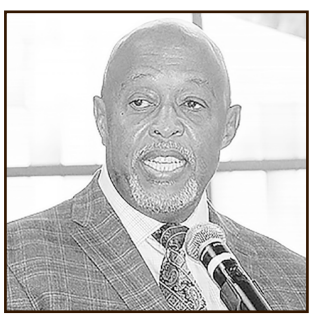
"These are but a few, a very few, of the hundreds, no thousands of occurrences that were instrumental in my development into the total man I am today. And at 71 years of age, I can truly say that all of the foregone have been with the constant guidance of, and with prayers to, and the blessings of GOD."

Rev. Wayne Thompson



First cousin Thomas Anthony

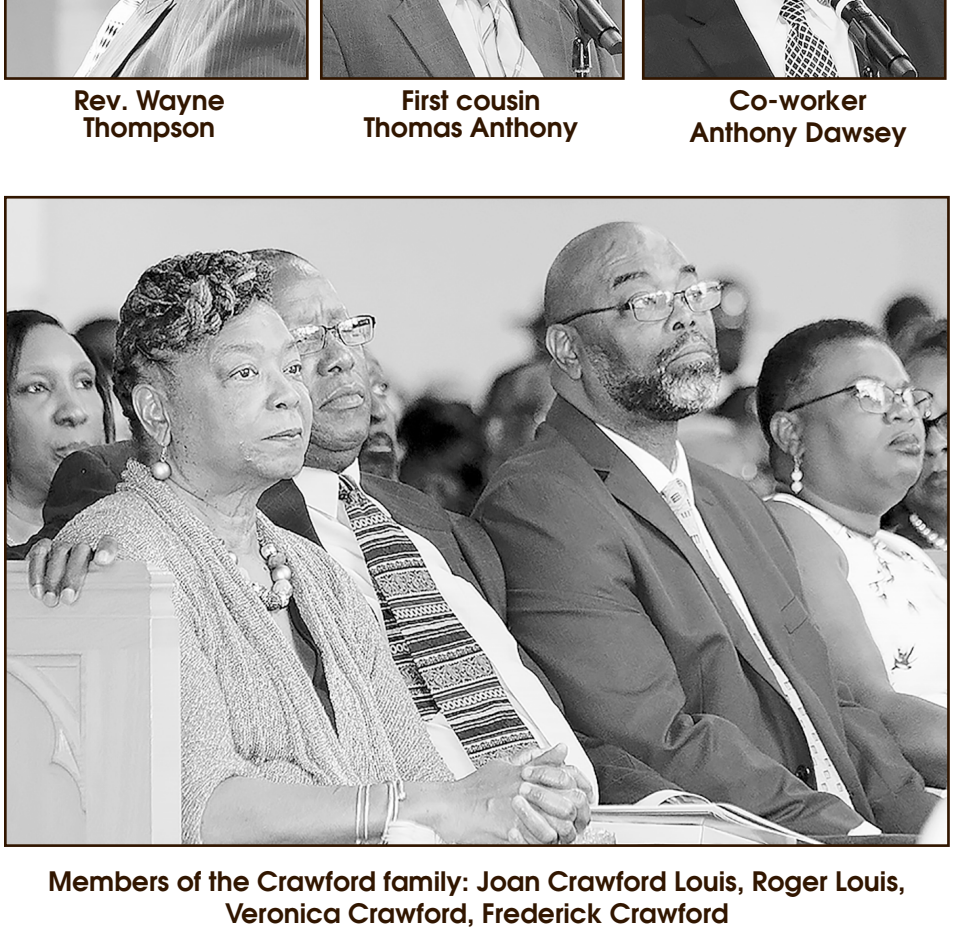
Co-worker Anthony Dawsey



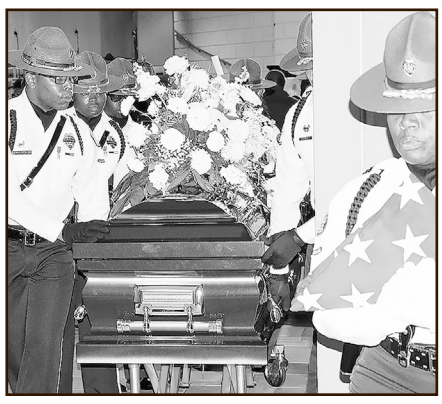
Goliath Davis, III

Director Daniel Junior, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Dept.

Leon Jackson



Members of the Crawford family: Joan Crawford Louis, Roger Louis, Veronica Crawford, Frederick Crawford



HEALTH & BEAUTY

Dawn Hunter seeks to eradicate inequality at The Foundation

ST. PETERSBURG – The Foundation for a Health St. Petersburg is a private foundation working with the communities of Pinellas County to eradicate inequality, achieve health equity, and improve population health. They are proud to announce they've have added a senior director of policy, strategy and legal services to their team.

Dawn Hunter, JD, MPH will be responsible for facilitating systems change through research, data-driven policy, advocacy and community engagement. A University of South Florida and Stetson Law alumnus, she brings with her an intimate knowledge of Pinellas County. Her previous work experience makes her uniquely qualified to support the Foundation's efforts.

Hunter's primary activities will include establishing a policy program that provides research and evaluation, developing advocacy efforts to support policy initiatives and guiding strategic direction and organizational planning efforts. She will also provide legal advice on business issues and company strategies.

Before coming to the Foundation, she served at the New Mexico Department of Health, where she started as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation visiting attorney in Public Health Law, and later served as director of health equity, policy director and deputy cabinet secretary. During her tenure, she led a variety of initiatives to address health system innovation and meeting the unique needs of New Mexico's rural and underserved communities through collaboration and partnership.

Some of her core responsibilities included managing the department's legislative and policy activities, as well as strategic planning, performance management and quality improvement. She is also experienced in training and compliance, organizational policy management and workforce development.

Randall Russell, president and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg had this to add, "Dawn's experience for a decade in Tampa Bay coupled with her recent experience as the Equity Officer for the State of New Mexico brings specific expertise to Pinellas County and St. Petersburg. We are most excited to have her unique blend of talents shared through the Foundation to benefit the community,"

Hunter is excited to return to the Tampa Bay area. She was previously engaged in research and development as a microbiologist at the University of South Florida, Center for Biological Defense and also has experience in child protective services in Hillsborough County.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in English from Princeton University, a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and a Master of Public Health from the University of South Florida, and a Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law. She is certified in public health by the National Board of Public Health Examiners and is a member of the Florida Bar.

About the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg

The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg inspires and empowers people, organizations, ideas, and relationships to ensure that every person equitably achieves optimal health and well-being.

Dawn Hunter

Visionary Brief
by Keisha Bell, Esq.

Her unique journey to perform

As children, we are routinely encouraged to use our imagination to "see" our future. "What do you want to become when you grow up," is a common question asked. Such question follows us throughout high school while changing into, "What are you going to do when you graduate?"

As we grow, frequently, we receive messages that restrict the boldness needed to manifest our childhood declarations of what is possible. We are steered to accept societal categories of what we can become. Yet, there are some who reject societal limitations.

Meet Octavia Lenora Spencer, an actress, producer and author. She is the first black actress to receive two consecutive Academy Award nominations in back-to-back years, the first black actress to receive two Academy Award nominations after a win, one of only two black actresses to have received three Academy Award nominations and is currently tied with Viola Davis as the most nominated black actress.

Spencer was born on May 25, 1972, in Montgomery, Ala. She had childhood dreams of becoming an actress but also believed in obtaining a college education.

She initially attended Auburn University at Montgomery but graduated from Auburn University in 1994, where she majored in English with a double minor in journalism and theater. That in itself is a worthy accomplishment; however, Spencer could not shake the pull on her heart to act.

Spencer's mother, who worked as a maid, knew of her daughter's desires. She encouraged her to do something more practical, so after graduating, she took a job assisting in casting movies filmed in her home state. What happened next illustrates that what is meant to be, will be.

While working to help with casting for the movie, "A Time to Kill," the film's director asked Spencer to audition for a role. Just one year after graduating from college, Spencer landed her first on-screen role without any professional training.

While filming, Spencer made connections with two people, namely Sandra Bullock and Tate Taylor, who would prove to be instrumental in her career. This experience gave her the confidence she needed to move to Los Angeles, sharpen her talent, and pursue her dream to act.

Spencer obtained small roles in short films and on television guest spots. Bullock hired Spencer to work in her 1998 short film. Making progress, Spencer got a role on a short-lived television series. As she worked to advance her career, people began to take notice, and she became known as a strong supporting actress who is very skilled at both drama and comedy.

It was through her connection with Tate, however, that Spencer's career really took off. Tate bought the film rights to Stockett's novel "The Help" before the book was published. Although Spencer had to audition for a part in the movie, she traveled with Stockett on her book tour to read the black maids' dialogue.

Because of the success of the book, there was pressure to hire a famous actress to play the role Spencer eventually was cast. She did not disappoint and was rewarded by winning the Golden Globe Award in 2012 as well as the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Spencer's acting credits are lengthy, as are her awards, which include a British Academy Film Award. Her unique journey to perform reminds us to be courageous as we pursue our dreams. In truth, we never know who is waiting to help us arrive at the next level.

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

Donations needed for heart transplant-related expenses

TRANSPLANT, from front page

heart causes a rapid heartbeat.

Since the diagnoses, Ian has had multiple open heart surgeries, and his heart depends on a defibrillator to beat properly. He also has a tunneled peripherally inserted central venous catheter line to deliver medication directly to his heart.

A year ago, he was placed on the heart transplant list, and his family is doing all they can to have faith that he will receive the transplant he needs to live a full life.

"Truthfully, all of it has been hard," said his mom. "But we have our faith, family and friends that help greatly."

She said their church, Genesis Worship Center, and extended family and friends are always there when she needs to talk, share some news or just pray.

The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) is working with Ian to tell his story and raise funds for the medical bills his family must endure and the funds that will be necessary once a donor is found.

COTA was founded in 1986 to provide financial assistance to transplant families with children or young adults in need of a life-saving organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplant. Families can work with COTA for a lifetime for financial assistance with transplant-related expenses.

Along with paying for medications each month, Ian's family must travel for appointments. His immunologist and transplant team are located at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

For Ian's part, he says it can be tough, but he is getting through it.

"It's been difficult because I can't go to school, hang out with my friends or just run," Ian admitted.

And although he has to stay inside and attend school online to try and ward off any illnesses, he does have friends to talk to and keep his spirits up. Ian also finds escape in watching Anime, listening to music, and "I have faith in God," he proclaimed.

For more information on Ian's story or to donate to the family to assist with transplant-related expenses, visit www.COTAforTeamIanC.com.

To reach Karin Davis-Thompson, email kdavis-thompson@theweeklychallenger.com

Mother urges community to register to donate bone marrow

MARROW , from front page

long life," she explained.

King, 11, has been waiting for his match for nine years, and his mom said they are doing everything they can to find that one match that could change her son's life.

"We are praying for a miracle," Grant said. "He is a funny, smart, wise and loving kid."

Each day is a challenge for King with several oral medications to take as well as an insulin shot. But Grant said her son takes it all in stride.

"He has his good days and his bad days," she revealed. "But he pushes through each day."

Grant has even started a Facebook page to try and get comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres to invite King to be on her show.

"It would give the world the chance to meet a wonderful kid in the hopes that we find a donor," she stated. "And he would get the chance to meet the coolest TV host ever."

The family is also hoping to get assistance finding a good private or charter school for King with a small population of students who can better understand the needs of someone like him. Spending thousands of hours in the hospital each year means King often misses several days of school and is often behind in his studies.

For now, the family is making every effort to encourage people to register and praying for the call that could change everything.

For more information on becoming a donor, go to www.giftoflife.org/king.

To reach Karin Davis-Thompson, email kdavis-thompson@theweeklychallenger.com

Latasha Grant, the mother of 11-year-old Grant, is asking for African Americans to give bone marrow donations.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Experts In Life-Changing Care

By LaShante Keys, Empath Health Community Outreach Specialist

Care councils: Community collaboration and support

GO — Longtime Largo resident Vernon Bryant pours his heart and soul into helping his Ridgecrest community.

From his Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation executive work to ministry support to volunteering with Empath Health and other organizations, he acts as a bridge to services.

"That has been my whole life trying to connect people to resources, education and information," he shared. "As a Christian, that's an important part of what I am. I come from a family of people helping people," he shared.

Bryant was born and raised outside of Chicago. He earned a horticulture degree and worked at the University of Illinois in the Cooperative Extension Service and urban gardening.

He and his wife uprooted their lives and moved to Florida where Bryant took a job with the Pinellas County Extension and helped build the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo. His wife started a ministry in Seminole.

His 20 years of life in the Ridgecrest area is anchored in creating an informed and healthy community.

"It's a great community," he Bryant averred. "Many generations have lived here. There is a lot of talent and success. I want to help people know what's going on and what's available. It's about helping them find the resources that can help them have a better life."

His community involvement has expanded over time. He plays piano in churches and supports the Multicultural Young Life ministry, the Friends of Ridgecrest, the Empath Health African-American Care Council and more. He connected to Empath Health through his previous work at the Greater Ridgecrest YMCA.

"The Y's focus is health. I was trying to do health fairs." He shared. "That's how I got hooked up with Empath Health and Suncoast Hospice, and the relationship grew out of that."

Bryant now spreads the word to others about Empath Health's wide scope of programs.

"I've known lots of people who have been cared for by Suncoast Hospice. I've learned so much about what Empath Health does, and I've continued to be impressed and amazed. I learned that Empath is a huge resource that is not tapped by some people who can really use it. It's an opportunity for me to be an ambassador," he noted.

Bryant feels working with Empath Health is rewarding. He enjoys being a part of the care council because he likes meeting new people; finding what's out there and helping people become aware and take advantage of services.

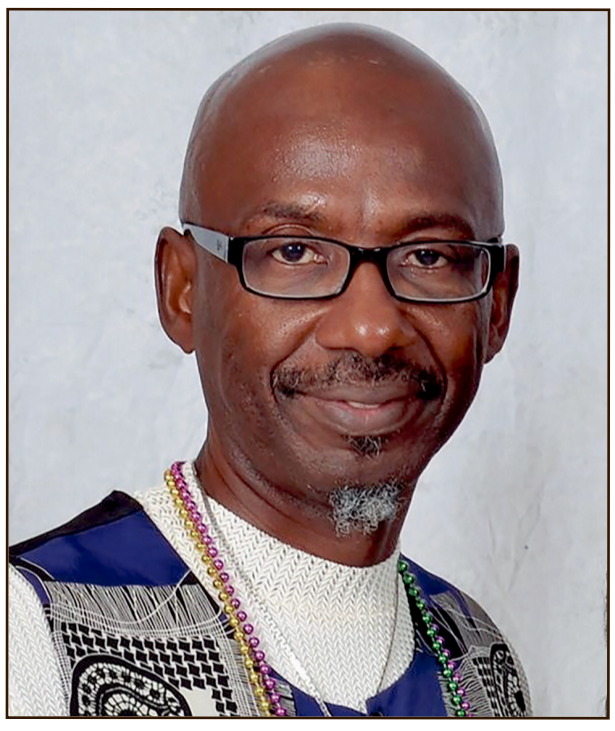
"I love being able to do a lot of collaboration," he said. "None of us have the answers for every situation. We've got to work together."

Empath Health will join the community at the 2019 Juneteenth Celebration/Fish Fry on Saturday, June 22 at 9 a.m. at the Greater Ridgecrest YMCA, 1801 119th St. N, Largo. Come out and enjoy this special event presented by the Friends of Ridgecrest and the Greater Ridgecrest Crime Watch.

***

The three Empath Health Care Councils are dedicated to working with African-American, Hispanic and Jewish communities throughout Pinellas County. Our members include local faith, law enforcement, nonprofit and other community leaders and advocates who help inform and connect people to Empath Health and other community care, services and resources.

New members are welcome. For more information or to join our care councils, call (727) 523-3427.



Vernon Bryant

CONNECT WITH US! facebook YouTube twitter

www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com

CONNECT WITH US! facebook YouTube twitter

WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

At Suncoast Hospice, your loved one is our priority. For more than 40 years, we have provided compassionate life-changing care to patients and their families. Our nonprofit, community-based hospice is the only Pinellas County hospice:

- With freestanding specialized care centers providing continuous medical care if your loved one has uncontrolled pain and symptoms – improving their quality of life and *your* peace of mind.
- Where expert staff are supported by nearly 2,000 community volunteers, helping us provide the best possible care for *your* loved one.
- With a local foundation that supports services and care not paid for by insurance. This means your donations and support of our hospice stay in *your* community.
- That's part of the larger Empath Health network including palliative care, home health, elder care, advance care planning and more – offering complete support for *your* loved one.

We're not just hospice, *we're* Suncoast Hospice.

SUNCOAST HOSPICE | a member of empath health

(727) 467-7423 | SuncoastHospice.org

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church

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

Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
Senior Pastor

Sunday Worship Services.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study .....Noon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.
Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Small Group Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.

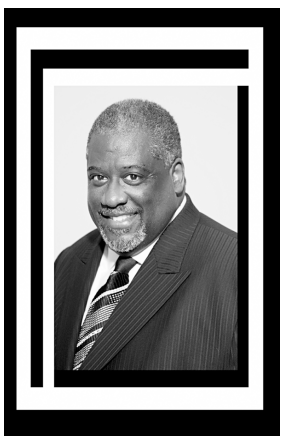
Mission Statement:
Impact the world by equipping believers to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

First Baptist Institutional Church

3144 Third Avenue South,
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
Phone: 727-323-7518

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

Come Worship With the First Baptist Family



Rev. Dr. Wayne G. Thompson, Pastor

BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

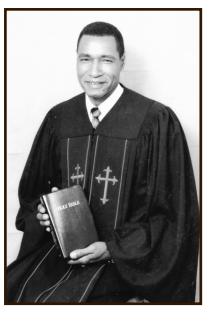
3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240
E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Web site: www.bmmbc.org

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

"God's House To The City"

Rev. Rickey L. Houston, Pastor

First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church



Rev. Wallace Elliott
Sr. - Pastor

1121 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 327-8708

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

"The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody"

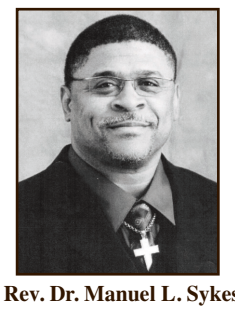
The Rev. Josie Rose,
Priest-in-Charge

Welcome – Bienvenidos
ST. AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Joyful Spirit, Joyful Jazz
2920 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg 33712
727-867-6774
StAugustine@tampabay.rr.com

Sunday Communion and Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays

BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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



Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Sykes

SERVICES
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
Mid-Week Worship: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Faith Memorial Missionary Baptist Church

1800 18th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
727-896-0351
faithmmbc@yahoo.com
Growing relationally in discipleship through Christ
Matthew 28:18-20, John 15:4-5

Faith In Action
Faith Memorial Missionary Baptist Church est. 1969

Rev. Robert A. Vinson, Jr.

Sunday Prayer Service 9:00AM
Sunday Church School 9:30AM
Sunday Worship Service 10:45AM
Tuesday Bible Study 7:00PM

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

Victory Christian Center Church

Donn & Jean
Freshler

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*

20th Street Church Of Christ

Bro. Robert Smith

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

Sunday Bible Class (All Ages) .....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....9:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....6:00 p.m.
Ladies Bible Class Monday .....7:00 p.m.
Monday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Class .....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Class .....7:00 p.m.

Ruwach International Ministries
Pastor/Prophet Huberta Rejouis

3940 18th Ave. South, St. Petersburg, Fl 33711
(above the daycare)
Email: huberta.rejouis@yahoo.com • Phone: 727-768-2784

Sunday Night Worship Service 7:30pm
Thursday Night Prayer and
Bible Study (Yara Time) 7:30pm

Ruwach International Ministries is an Apostolic global ministry.
We operated in the five-fold ministry.
All are Welcome! Shalom!

INSPIRATIONS

BY DIERDRE DOWNING-JACKSON

GOD has Kept Me

As I look back over my life,
GOD has kept me.

As I look back over my life,
GOD has kept me.

As I look back over my life,
GOD has kept me.

GOD has kept me in the
midst of the storm.

Thank you JESUS,
for abiding within me.

Thank you JESUS,
for abiding within me.

Thank you JESUS for abiding within me.

Through the storm, Thank you JESUS for abiding in me.

The Holy Spirit gives me direction.

The Holy Spirit provides my protection

The Holy Spirit designs my way

Through the storm, Thank you Holy Spirit,
For your presence.

Hallelujah, GOD has kept me

Hallelujah, JESUS is with me

Hallelujah, the Holy Spirit guides me

Hallelujah, there is peace through the storm."

AMEN.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isaiah 41 : 10 KJV)

Psalm 107:29
"He maketh the storm a calm, so the the waves thereof are still."

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

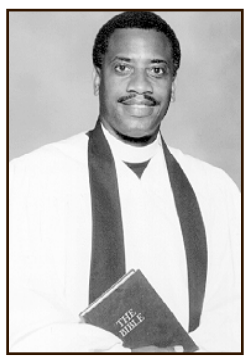
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

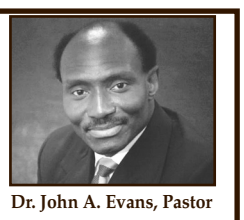
THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:
3940 – 18th AVE. S., St. Petersburg, Florida
Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021
Email: rojmbe@knology.net
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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

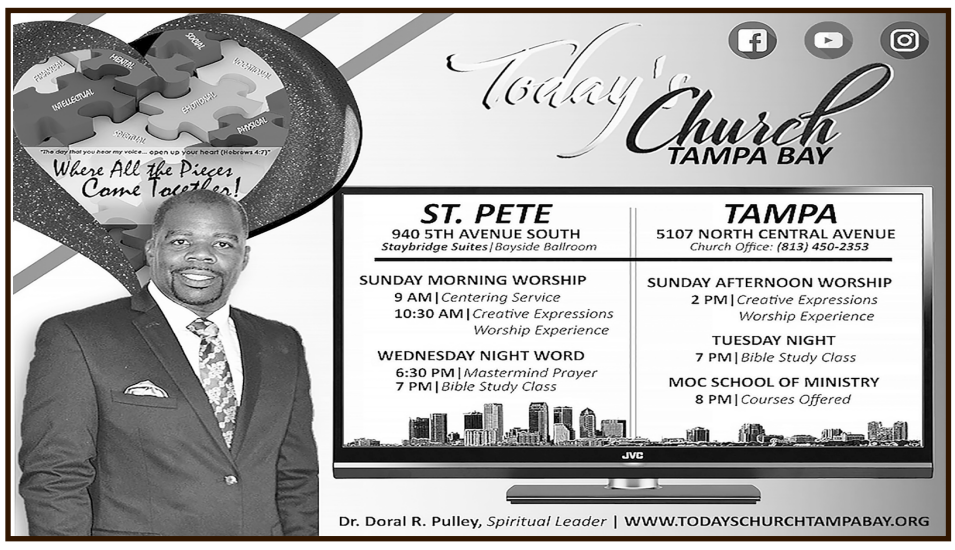


Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

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.



CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark MBC

Greetings from St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

On this past Monday the Pizza Ministry closed out its 2019 outreach to the Childs Park Community. The Ministry not only served up pizza to our neighbors but presented the gospel message and offered served fun and friendship to all who participated. Our prayer is that seeds were planted that will yield a great harvest in each individual's life that will ultimately give praise and worship to God.

Pastor Brown's message on Sunday was

'What Can Selah Do For You?' The text was Psalms 3. The answers to the question were: 1. It Helps minister to your troubles; 2. It Helps maintain your trust and 3. It Helps move you to triumph.

Next Sunday, June 9th, St. Mark marks the 24th Anniversary of our pastor, Rev. Brian K. Brown. Bringing the preached word at the 10:45 hour will be Bishop D. Franklin Browne of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. This year's theme: 'Rooted in the Word … Grown into the Future' with the scripture text Isaiah 55:10-11. Please join us in praising God for the leadership of Pastor Brian K. Brown as the under shepherd at St. Mark these 24 years.

On the heels of celebrating the pastor there's great anticipation for this year's Father's Day luncheon on June 15 from 12 noon through 2:00 p.m. To the men of St. Mark, you don't want to hear about it you really want to be part of what Usher Board No. 1 and the women of St. Mark have planned.

The Music Department of St. Mark is seeking drummer to be part of the music staff. Interested persons are asked to contact Music Director, Keith Flournoy through the church office at 727.321.6631.

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.

Pastor's Corner

BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY, SPIRITUAL LEADER
TODAY'S CHURCH Tampa Bay

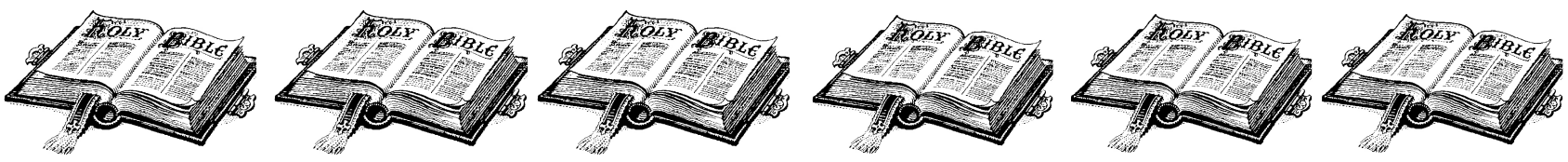
Rejection is a blessing!

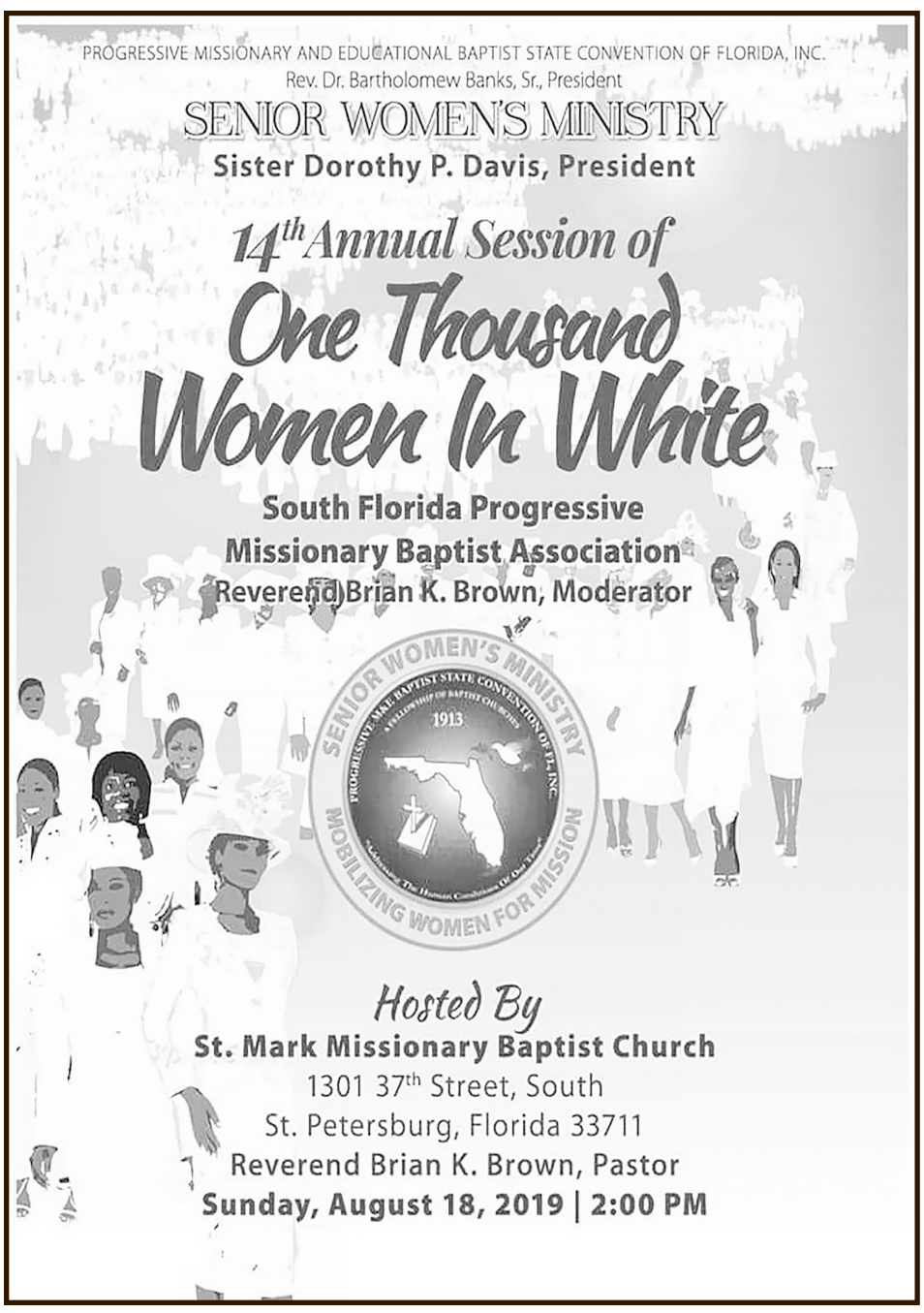
"Jesus said unto them, did you ever read in the scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes (Matthew 21:42)?"

Rejection is a part of the human experience. You have experienced some form of rejection in your life. Perhaps rejection was prevalent at a certain stage of your development: childhood, adolescence or adulthood. Maybe the rejection was crystalized in a particular relationship with parents, siblings, teachers, classmates, colleagues, coworkers, etc. Possibly you were rejected because of your age, gender, race, culture, height, weight, complexion, hair color, orientation, socio-economic status, criminal background, family dynamic or for no specific reason that you can identify.

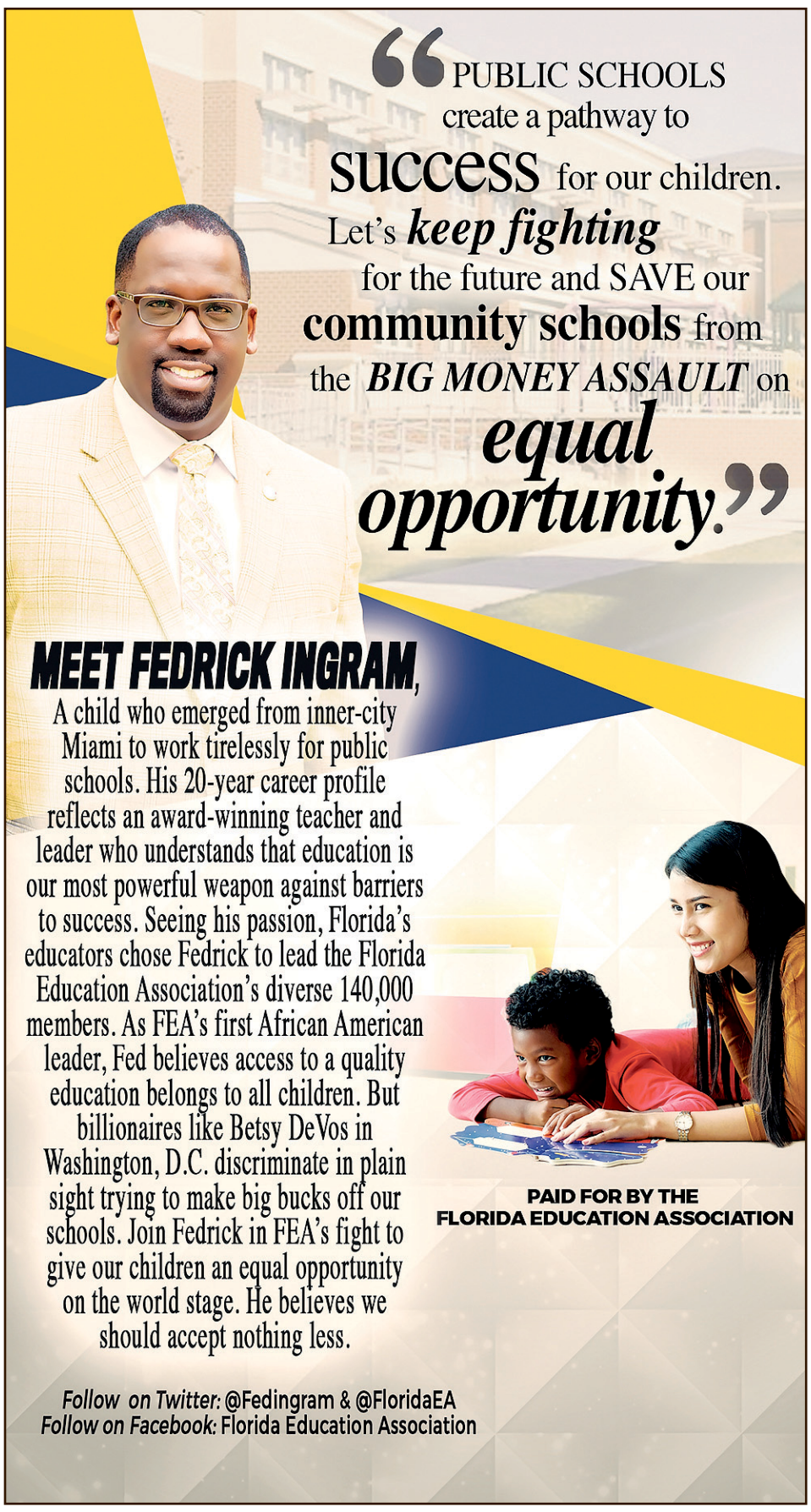
Joseph and the expectant mother, Mary, were in their hometown, Bethlehem, for tax purposes. The local hotels, motels and inns were booked. Because there was no room for them in the inn, their accommodations were the manger with the horses. Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Wayshower, in a stable and he was wrapped in swaddling cloth. Although they were rejected by the inn staff, they were accepted and celebrated by the Wise Men and the shepherds.

Your ability to handle rejection determines your success in life. See rejection as a Divine placement from God. When you feel rejected in one area, look for the lesson or the blessing of acceptance in another area. Be aware that when one door closes, another or an even better door opens. As one relationship comes to an end, take a deep breath, learn from the experience, and anticipate something new and improved.





COMMUNITY NEWS



Tax the developers! Not the people!

Dear Editor:

My name is Anne Hirsch, and I am running for District 5 City Council on the same platform as Eritha Akile' Cainion for District 7 City Council.

When it comes to upgrading the failing sewage infrastructure in St. Petersburg, our position is that the big corporations and real estate developers who build in the city must pay an infrastructure tax that will be used to upgrade our sewage system.

Earlier this year, our city council unanimously voted at the behest of Mayor Kriseman and his administration to increase all citizen's water bills by $11.02 to pay for the repair of the sewage system. That is an increase of 11.5 percent.

The city council has approved another rate increase for the fall of 2019 from $5 to $24, a tiered system based on the square footage of the impervious surface area (surfaces that water runs off) of property on which a home sits.

These increases put more burden on District 5 citizens who have larger yards than those in other parts of the city. It negatively affects poor and working-class citizens, placing strain on the already limited monthly income that could push people over the limit of their available resources. It will increase housing costs since landlords will inevitably pass this increase on to renters.

For years, various city governments put off upgrading an aging sewage system. But it still worked!

All that changed in 2015 when a glut of new high rise condos and the closing of a downtown sewage processing plant pushed the sewage system past its capacity to function properly.

Mayor Kriseman and his administration chose to dump unprocessed wastewater into black neighborhoods and then into Tampa Bay. This created a human health risk, an environmental crisis, and killed wildlife.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, evidence was found that 89 felonies and 103 misdemeanors were committed. Neither Mayor Kriseman nor anyone in his administration faced any consequence for these crimes.

St. Petersburg's current mayor and city council want regular citizens of St. Petersburg to foot the bill for a crisis caused by big developers and corrupt politicians.

When we are elected, Akile' and I will not stand for the dumping of hazardous waste in the black community. Our platform of Unity Through Reparations will create economic and political power in the hands of the black community that won't allow that!

Developers who are making a profit building in St. Pete must invest in our city! We will propose initiatives to roll back these taxes on the citizens of St. Pete and introduce new initiatives to tax the developers! This will benefit everyone in the city.

We are a people's campaign, unlike some of our opponents who are funded by big corporations, real estate developers, or the current city council members and the mayor!

We will be beholden to our platform and the people, not big money interests and the agendas of the Democratic and Republican parties.

To learn more about our campaign platform, visit voteakile.com and votehirsch.com.

CONNECT WITH US! facebook YouTube twitter

WWW.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM