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The Weekly Challenger

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

VOL. 51 NO. 38

JUNE 27 - JULY 3, 2019

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3,100 children are currently being served in Pinellas County's foster care system, and 40 percent of them are African American. Eckerd Connects urges black people to consider becoming a foster parent.

Black foster parents are in need

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The disproportion of African-American children in the foster care system is alarming and rapidly growing. According to Brian Bostick, the executive director for Eckerd Connects, Inc., 3,100 children are currently being served in Pinellas County's foster care system. Forty percent of them are African American.

There are approximately 470 licensed foster homes in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. In Pinellas County, there are 242 foster families with about 53 traditional licensed foster homes in St. Petersburg, and with 1,000 new cases of child neglect, abuse and or aban-

donment reported to the Pinellas County Sheriff Office Child Protection Division each month, there are not nearly enough homes to house these youngsters.

Eckerd Connects Community Alternative is the lead agency contracted by the Florida Department of Children and Families to provide and oversee the distribution of protective supervision, foster care and adoption relative services in Pasco and Pinellas counties.

They, along with Man Up and Go Tampa Bay, hosted a clergy and leadership breakfast at the Callaloo restaurant on June 18 to discuss and bring awareness to a systemic quandary as it relates explic-

itly to the disproportionality of African-American children in foster care.

"We're reaching out to the church; we've tried everything," said Wanda Jones, Eckerd Connects Advisory Council. "This is not a Florida issue; this is not even a Pinellas County issue — this is a national issue."

Since the church is a strong institution in the black community, Jones pleaded for their help in solving the foster care crisis.

"We need your reaction; we need your responsibility," she said, asking the clergy to "lock arms with the system" and help black children find loving homes.

See **FOSTER**, page 9

Inaugural 20K race for youth scholarships



LaShante Keys and David Campbell

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – More than 300 people lined up Saturday, June 15 in Poynter Park to participate in the inaugural Downtown Community Race to raise money for minority student scholarship.

Spectators watched 73 teams made up of business groups, families and friends and more than 62 individuals sweat their way around the Dali Museum, Albert Whitted Airport, the soon to be pier and back to Poynter Park on Third Street South.

LaShante Keys and his non-profit organization Community EFX, Inc., whose mission is to develop innovative programs to bring awareness to and help eliminate educational and health disparities in the black community, came up with the idea to increase scholarship opportunities for local high school graduates and those struggling while in college.

"Eighty-five percent of monies raised from the event are going to scholarships for students in Pinellas County whether they are going to college or going to technical school," said Keys.

As of now, the only criteria for receiving a scholarship is that you must be a minority. Keys feels that students with higher GPAs have other opportunities of earning money, so his organization would like to help the student who is struggling.

"So we're looking at those students who really need to stay in school by any means necessary, students who are already working two jobs and maintaining a 2.7 GPA. So we're looking at any student that has a great story."

And although he didn't raise as much money as he'd like, Keys thinks the next race will rake in the big bucks because he has a lot of great sponsors stepping up to the plate.

"I think you have to get through that first year," he said. "We're having great conversations already about 2020, so I'm positive we'll be able to get some really good sponsors next year."

Not only was the 20K, which is about 12.5 miles, created to raise scholarship dollars for the youth, it was also developed to raise awareness for the importance of living healthy and being fit.

With the team concept, participants hold each other accountable.

See **RACE**, page 9

Black media outlets in Pinellas County discuss the black narrative

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Last Sunday, June 23, *The Tampa Bay Breakfast Club's* Brother John Mohammed, Jabaar Edmond and Carla Bristol hosted "Black Media Meetup: The Importance of Controlling our Narrative and Telling our Stories" – an event that gathered a number of the area's African-American media outlets together at Rush Hour Chicken & Waffles.

The lively discussion celebrated the *Breakfast Club's* first anniversary, and joined together members of *The Weekly Challenger*, *The Burning Spear* and *The St. Pete Bulletin* newspapers and radio stations 99 Jams WUJM "The Burg," 99.1FM and Black Power 96 FM Radio.

Also in the house was On the Beat-St. Pete, who broadcasts on Facebook Live, radio personality Daisy Lane of the Daisy After Dark podcast, radio show and YouTube channel and filmmaker



Black media outlets came together to discuss coverage of the black community.

Cranstan Cumberbatch.

The group shared thoughts on where Tampa Bay's black media stands on current issues and the steps the organizations are and should be taking to continue to push forward initiatives that are important to the area's African-American community.

Education, voting, political representation at the local and

national levels and community broadcasting were all topics of discussion.

St. Pete Bulletin's Richard Love spoke of the need for more blacks in radio, and was seconded by Daisy Lane, who shared, "A lot of us who want to start radio stations and go FM

See **MEDIA**, page 3

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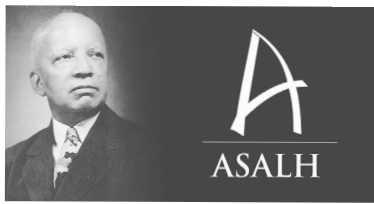
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AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY FRONT AND CENTER

BY JACQUELINE HUBBARD, ESQ
ASALH President

It is incredible how historians determined the number of black people killed by lynching in America. A Nov. 2015 report by the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Ala., found nearly 4,400 people were killed in lynchings in a dozen Southern states between 1877 and 1950.

The early researchers who combed newspapers, the black press, death records, and any information they could find, including eye-witness accounts, were unsung heroes. Without their work, much of lynching history of black people would have been lost.

A precious few recorded these evil events. One of the most prolific is someone most of us don't know, but should. His name is Monroe Nathan Work, and he was an African-American sociologist who founded the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute (Now Tuskegee University) in 1908. He was the director

of this extraordinary lynching archive until his retirement in 1938.

Work archived vital historical documentation that became the basis for many later reports that formed the statistical basis for collating the number of lynchings in America from Reconstruction throughout the Jim Crow era. Named "The Lynching Records" (1881-1953), it consists of 66 biannual reports.

Work also published "Negro Year Book, An Annual Encyclopedia of the Negro" and "A Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America," which contained 17,000 references to African Americans. Much of the information he investigated can be found at Tuskegee University's National Center of Bioethics, Archives and Museums.

Work was born on Aug. 15, 1866, to Alexander and Eliza Work, who were born in slavery in Iredell County, N. C. When he was 23 years old, he graduated third in his class from an integrated high school in

Arkansas City, Kan. He studied at the Chicago Theological Seminary after high school and then later at the University of Chicago where he received his bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in sociology and psychology in 1903.

Shortly after graduating, he joined W.E.B. Dubois' Niagara Movement. In 1904, Work received and accepted an invitation by Booker T. Washington to come to the Tuskegee Institute where he began to establish his life's work, which centered on recording and researching black life.

This provided the foundation for Tuskegee University's Black History Archives. Work's historical archives are so detailed and thoroughly researched that they are irreplaceable. Reading them is a joy for any serious student of black history.

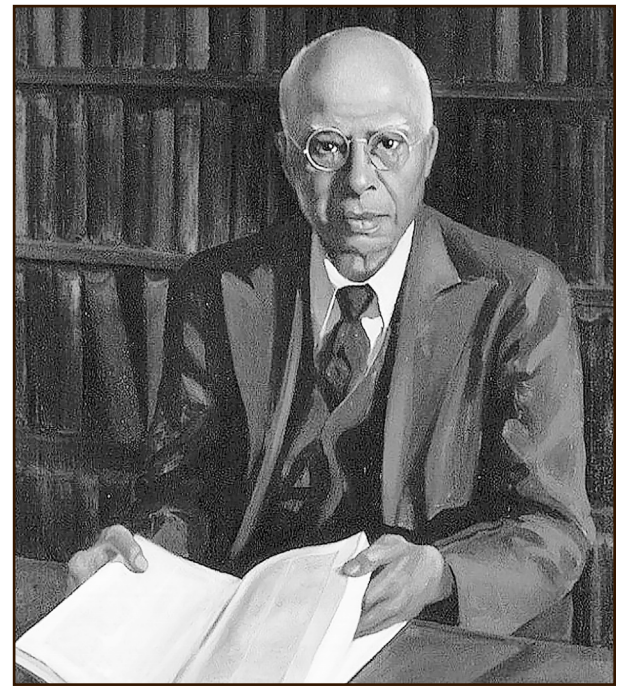
In 1908, Work accepted a proposal by Washington to found the Department of Records and Research. While

Monroe Nathan Work: An unsung hero of lynching history

there, he began "The Negro Year Book," a publication that incorporated, among other things, his periodic summation of lynching reports, which resulted in the Tuskegee Institute becoming one of the most quoted and authoritative sources on racial violence by lynching in America.

Lynching today is generally taken to mean a vicious mob killing of a black person or black people. Work's research showed how frequent this brutal exercise of terror was used to frighten and control black people in the South. After 1886 in the South, nearly 80 percent of mob murders or lynchings were attacks against black men and women.

In Ishaan Tharoor's *Washington Post's* article entitled "U.S. owes black people reparations for a history of 'racial terrorism,'" says U.N. panel," he wrote: "Lynching was a form of racial terrorism that has contributed to a legacy of racial inequality that the United States must address. Thousands of people of African de-



scend were killed in violent public acts of racial control and domination, and the perpetrators were never held accountable."

The United States is still not held accountable, but black Americans will not forget. If not for the accounting of the numbers by Work and a few other people, much of this history would have been lost.

A new map project called Monroe Work

Today is probably the most comprehensive map of proven lynchings from 1835 to 1964. Log onto monroeworktoday.org/explore to view American terrorism at its best.

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.

Dr. Brenda L. Walker appointed interim associate dean of the College of Education at USFSP

BY ROGER CLENDENING
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Dr. Brenda L. Walker, a professor of Exceptional Student Education at the University of South Florida, began her tenure as the Interim Associate Dean for the College of Education at USF St. Petersburg earlier this month.

Walker, a professor since 2002, is the founding director of USF's CAROUSEL Center (Center for Action Research and Effective Leadership) launched in 2001 to shape a national urban education agenda by engaging in culturally responsive action research and professional development to improve academic outcomes for urban children and young adults.

In 1995, Walker, then an assistant professor in the USF's Department of Special Education, devel-

oped Project PILOT (Preparing Innovative Leaders of Tomorrow), the first of several initiatives that prepared African-American men for urban special education teaching careers.

As a result of that initiative, 31 African-American men have graduated and are teaching children with special needs.

Walker's appointment now presents unique challenges because USF, with campuses in Tampa, Sarasota and St. Petersburg, is consolidating its operations into one accrediting institution by July 1, 2020, pursuant to the Florida Excellence in Higher Education law enacted in 2018.

After consolidation, there is likely to be only one College of Education at the university, and as of now, they don't know if Walker's position will hold or what her title might be.

"My position is really to shepherd this College of Education through the consolidation phases," Walker said, admitting that she's excited about the opportunity. She's spent the last 28 years at the Tampa campus.

Her stellar academic credentials leading to her new position includes a Juris Doctorate from the Stetson University College of Law and a doctorate in education with a focus on behavior disorders and learning disabilities from the University of Kansas at Lawrence. She also holds both a master's degree in education and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Central Michigan University.

Walker, a groundbreaking scholar activist from Saginaw, Mich., who grew up in the projects — an experience she said helps define and shape who she is beyond the de-

grees — has focused much of her research and practice on the schooling and academic achievement of African-American children.

She co-authored a constructive behavior management textbook and has several book chapters and papers on schooling issues related to black children. Walker's scholarship also centers on the disciplinary practices to which African-American learners are "disproportionately" subjected, issues around ethics, power and privilege, and strategies for black students with academic gifts and talents.

Her work has included dozens of presentations and workshops for teachers, administrators and family members on enhancing African-American student success by affirming their individual and cultural differences



Dr. Brenda L. Walker

and developing culturally responsive pedagogy.

Walker definitely feels there is a need for more black male teachers in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties and hopes to have a chance to review her grant-making experience and the creation of the 1991 Project Pilot program to explore the possibilities for a comparable program at USFSP.

She's very excited

about being in St. Petersburg because of the "so-called failure factories schools" that the Federal Department of Education maintains have not provided African-American children with effective, equitable educational services.

"I've actually done some work at Azalea Middle School with teachers on being culturally responsive," Walker stated.

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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.

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Paying it forward

ST. PETERSBURG – When Lauryn Latimer was in elementary school, she had a smile that said a thousand words but hid the hurt behind it. She was bullied to the point that she did not want to attend school anymore and began to question the life she was so blessed to have.

Lauryn, an African American, attended a predominantly white school and was overweight. This built a bridge for bullying all five years of elementary. The struggle she faced during elementary school now adds beauty to the things she is doing now.

She knew how it was to be young and to struggle and not having people to talk to about it. That is why she is now paying it forward in a way no one else could ever imagine.

Before graduating earlier this month, Lauryn was a student in the Center for Advanced Technologies as well as the Athletic Lifestyle Management Academy at Lakewood High School, which opened many doors and opportunities for her to volunteer.

Her volunteerism began at Johns Hopkins

All Children's Hospital, where she painted, played games and often danced with sick children.

"Volunteering here first opened up my heart to help me understand that volunteering is something that I would like to do," she said. "Once I put my mind to volunteering, nothing was going to be able to stop me, and I mean nothing."

She began to realize that volunteering was filling the void that was created in elementary school. She craved more. She became a part of the Health Squad, a club that promotes health on her high school campus.

After joining, she saw issues in her school family. She noticed the number of people going without basic necessities and felt a need to fix that.

In a conversation with teacher Erika Miller and another student, Lauryn began a food pantry on her campus, which was sponsored by local charity Feeding Tampa Bay. She even held a drive at school for clothing and school supplies.

"This pantry to me is one of the best things I have ever done," she

said. "If I am grateful enough to have food on my table every night, I feel as if anyone who is a part of my Spartan family should as well."

The pantry that began with serving three students now serves more than 40.

Lauryn said she finally filled that void by volunteering at Campbell Park Elementary where she was a mentor to a few girls on the campus. She helped them get through various issues that they may be going through.

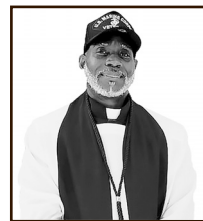
In college, Lauryn is planning on studying communication sciences and disorders at the University of South Florida or Florida State University to become a speech pathologist specializing children's issues. She is also planning on taking her dedication to volunteerism along with her to college.

Lauryn "turned her cannots into cans and her dreams into plans," reminding people that what you were yesterday and the struggles of yesterday will not affect the person you will be tomorrow.

Lauryn is the daughter of Quin Cubby and Craig Latimer.



Lauryn Latimer



Breaking the Cycle

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

WOW! Be not deceived, part 4

Praise the Lord Saints. I know this is a long series, but you cannot let what you have known to be the truth for decades become a lie just because pretty preaching, smooth talking, hooping and hoping preachers sound so good and look so eloquent doing it.

I will close next week with all the scriptures you will need and then it's up to you.

Romans 9:31-33: "but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone."

Galatians 3:7: "Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham." These are the Gentiles who believe. Both of these are now part of the body as Christ broke down the middle wall of partition to make one new man. (Eph.2) We are one "IN Christ." Scripture is clear that we must abide in the vine to be in Christ as well as to be fruitful.

There will be two brides, one married to Christ, and the other will be married to the one who looks like Christ but is a fake substitute. One bride follows the Word of God and is watching for His appearance; the other bride uses the Word for its own advancement and looks not to His coming but to the things of earth.

They, by default, will not be ready for His coming. There is the Church married to the lamb and is willing to follow Him anywhere He leads, even into suffering. Then there is the Church that is not will-

ing to give up anything of the world but long for good life they have been taught they deserve.

They know the lamb but are not willing to wholeheartedly give up the world and all the attractions in it, and they see nothing wrong with it. As with the 10 virgins, we are told while the bridegroom delayed, five were filled with the oil and had their lights shining; they were busy doing the work of the Lord.

The other five slumbered, and when the time came for Jesus to gather his bride, they were taken by surprise. They asked the five who had lights and doing the Lords' work to sell them oil for their lamps. They were unprepared.

Their answer? Go to those who sell the oil and buy it. Here's the twist, they actually did go to buy the oil, and while they did the bridegroom came. It was too late; no amount of pleading would let them in.

There is a lesson in this. One cannot buy the Holy Spirit, nor can you get the oil (anointing) neither by tithing or offerings nor from another man. It can only come directly from Jesus, and one must follow him to receive it. When Jesus came, and these five unwise virgins called to Jesus the very same way the false miracle workers do in Matt .7:21 saying, "Lord, Lord."

Jesus answers by pointing to the very same day of his coming back "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord HAVE WE NOT PROPHESED IN THY NAME? And in thy name cast out devils and in thy name done many wonderful works?"



REV. DR. ROBERT L. HARRISON, PhD

Senior Pastor

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The importance of telling our stories

MEDIA, from front page

don't know it's only \$900 for an FM antenna; you spend \$900 in a month."

She encouraged African Americans to look into building new community radio stations like Black Power 96.

"We have different interests as black people," noted Black Power 96 FM's general manager, Themba Tshibanda. "Understanding those interests and having those viewpoints allows you to recognize what you are, what you want to be, and who you want to do it with."

Host Carla Bristol, whose Gallerie 909 Black Arts and Film Festival celebrated its third year in 2018, spoke to the value of multiple outlets in the community.

"Even if you all covered the same exact story, the perspective is always going to be different; there's nothing against having multiple media covering the same thing," Bristol said, encouraging all media outlets to continue to con-

verge on community events and share different opinions.

On the Beat - St. Pete's Sharlene Emmanuel agreed, sharing, "It's about being whole and comprehensive, and you can't do that if you have only one voice — you have to have multiple weigh-ins on a topic so that people can make a good informed decision."

Cumberbatch, whose medium is film, weighed in saying, "We have an outlet, a medium, a viewing audience that wants to know more about our stories, our culture...it allows us to break a lot of stereotypes through our stories, to educate through our storytelling."

Edmond, who co-wrote and co-directed *Agent X* with Cumberbatch, also spoke on the diversity of the black community, saying "we are not monolithic."

The *Bulletin's* Barbara Love also spoke on the importance of blacks in the south and north part of the county to learn more about

each other in order to strengthen unity, knowledge, and power in Pinellas.

"African Americans in Pinellas County stretch all the way from Tarpon Springs to St. Pete," asserted Barbara Love. "Not too many people in St. Petersburg knew that Tarpon Springs had the first African-American mayor who served two consecutive terms."

Jake-ann Jones from *The Weekly Challenger* shared her concerns about the 2020 election and encouraged all the other outlets to work to bring awareness to the importance of voting.

The group affirmed the need to continue coming together for discussion, with a future possibility of building a media coalition to strengthen the community ties and political and social power within Pinellas County's black community.

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

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St. Petersburg is a city divided!

Dear Editor:

There is a systematic plan by developers and politicians, who fill their campaign accounts with big bucks, to push poor and working-class black families out of their homes and businesses on the south side of St. Pete.

As a white woman who has lived here for more than 50 years, I have witnessed this attack on the black community, and I am disgusted by it.

I know I speak for many white people in this city who do not want city officials to displace elderly black Jordan Park residents for big developers to make profits.

We understand that when new luxury apartments downtown push up the cost of housing for everyone in St. Petersburg, black families suffer the most!

It takes a minimum wage worker 108 hours per week of work, or the equivalent of three jobs, to afford a two-bedroom rental apartment in St. Petersburg. That means there is no af-

fordable housing for many regular working people, and black workers are often paid less per hour than white workers.

We are horrified to hear about police on every corner in the black community stalking young black people, arresting and charging them with crimes that young white people are never charged with. Knowing they will be brutalized and could be killed in the process of those arrests makes this even more distressing.

We are appalled at the media's depiction of black youth as thugs. The entire young black community is characterized as criminals when a few teens race cars in a parking lot, something I remember white boys doing at Dixie Hollins High when I was a teen. All white youth were not criminalized because of that.

Police and media attacks on the black community open the door for gentrification. These attacks work in tandem with the plans of powerful politicians and predatory devel-

opers to steal more land from the south side black community.

We will not take their side! There is a growing movement in this city of people who stand with the demand of the black community to stop this all-out assault on black people, black families and black children.

This movement to elect Eritha Akile' Cainion for District 7 City Council and myself, Anne Hirsch, for the District 5 seat is creating a hostile environment for the capitalist elite developers. We can make it impossible for them to carry on in this city.

Reparations are due to the black community to restore the economic life of the community destroyed by the city government, and these greedy developers over the last few decades.

The black community demands that the city return the land under the Trop, which was a part of the Gas Plant neighborhood that once contained more than 500 households,

nine churches and more than 30 businesses that were either moved or closed.

The reparations demand requires an infusion of capital for the black community to redevelop that area and rebuild the housing and businesses in that black neighborhood.

Our city is flush with cash now! City officials have spent it frivolously and unnecessarily over the last few years.

I am offended by the building of a new police station for more than \$85 million, a piece of artwork on the waterfront for another one million dollars and \$35 million for downtown parking and transportation for tourists and wealthy white condo owners while black residents and regular working people struggle to survive in this city.

When we invest our tax dollars in reparations, there will be commerce within the black community once again! This will lift the south side black community out of poverty, creating a prosperous, healthy area for

everyone who lives there.

This development will raise the tax base of St. Pete instead of enriching greedy out-of-town developers and the current city council and mayor! The building of affordable housing will take the pressure off the housing market, and rents will go down. Regular working people will once again be able to afford housing in St. Petersburg.

It is this kind of development that will uplift the entire city!

Reparations to the black community just make sense. It halts gentrification and creates a city where everyone can thrive, no one at the expense of any other!

This is a bold new vision! It is the only truly progressive, sustainable way to develop St. Petersburg!

Join this social movement to make it happen. It is you who will put Akile and me in office! It is you who will take back the power for the people in this city and kick out the corrupt, greedy politicians and developers.

St. Pete ran the first



Anne Hirsch

ever reparations candidates in 2017! In 2019, we will be the first city to elect reparations representatives to city council!

Donate and come out to volunteer with our Akile and Anne brigade! The excitement is palpable! People are thrilled to have an alternative to the same old negative ideas that tell us it just takes time. That is a lie!

We can halt the building of luxury condos today! We can create a city based on the needs of the people, not the greed of a few.

Join the campaign, and together, we will unify our city through reparations to the black community!

Vote Aug. 27 for Anne Hirsch for District 5 and Eritha Akile' Cainion for District 7 City Council! Unity through reparations!

Anne Hirsch

From homeless mom to college graduate

ST. PETERSBURG — Nikishea Wright is no stranger to hardship, but with hard work and perseverance, she now holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Policy from St. Petersburg College (SPC).

Born and raised in Miami, Wright experienced childhood trauma watching her mother endure domestic violence by her father's hand and

going through a period of being separated from her family. She eventually moved to the St. Petersburg area and started working, but her employer relocated.

During the transition, Wright became homeless, living in her car with her three-year-old son. She would park at local church parking lots and clean him off early in the mornings at

a McDonald's.

She eventually found a home, enrolled at SPC and starting working on campus as a student assistant. In 2017, Wright was diagnosed with depression, anxiety and PTSD after a close family member was killed. But, she was determined not to allow her circumstances to define her life.

Now, she's become the motivating force for

so many women at SPC as the coordinator for the Woman on the Way program. She has found her passion for helping others to overcome life's obstacles and has completed one of her dreams.

Wright walked across the stage at Tropicana Field on May 18 and collected her much-earned degree. Congratulations!



Nikishea Wright

Calling Dr. Johnson

BY DEXTER MCCREE

Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — If things go as planned for Zharia Johnson, the Boca Ciega High School class of 2019's 10-year reunion will have stories of her graduating from medical school and having opened her obstetrics or pediatric practice.

She has a love for little children and is excellent with maintaining them. In either of her desired practices, working with babies is in her future. For now, we salute Zharia as a recent high school graduate who believes that all things are possible.



Zharia Johnson

Early in her high school career, Zharia discovered that there are no limitations other than what she chose to impose upon herself. She possesses a strong will and determination to be able to give something back to the communities in which she was raised.

"I plan to use education as a tool to prepare me for a vocation, as well as help me become a self-sufficient individual who is fully prepared for life," she asserted.

Her mother, Rochelle Johnson, raised Zharia, and the two have a great relationship. She is the youngest of four siblings and often acknowledges feeling the pressure to excel and not make mistakes.

She also had challenges with fitting in, coming from a multi-ethnic household. Her dad is black and Hispanic, and her mother is American-Bahamian. This led to some challenging times and a period of being withdrawn.

When she entered high school, her struggles con-

tinued. She was ridiculed because her English had a Caribbean accent. Her outward beauty drew the ire of other females, and she found herself trying to defend what she couldn't change.

Zharia was so affected that her grades suffered, and she did not want to attend school any longer. She enrolled in online classes, but with the help of her mom and assistant principal Kathleen Van Dora, she had a change of heart.

Fortunately, she learned that being part of more than one ethnic group is an advantage, not a detriment. She made the decision that no one was going to stop her from advancing in life.

"Everyone and everything in my past have been my teacher, and I feel that my history has inevitably led me to my major field of study, biology, of which I am immensely passionate. It has opened an endless

doorway for me to walk through," said Zharia.

Her goal is to work with children, especially babies, where she can be instrumental in them coming into the world and helping them be healthy and thrive.

Zharia confesses her belief in God has made her a secure and well-adjusted person. It has also helped her relate to others and value things other than money.

"I believe that helping others in any capacity is extremely important to one's well-being," stated Zharia. "No one is exempt from turmoil during their lives, and I can honestly say that I am thankful for the adversities and challenges that I have experienced."

Zharia is proud to claim and take part in her diverse heritage. In the fall, she will be attending St. Petersburg College.

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

Recipe for success

BY DEXTER MCCREE

Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Nyah Acoff was born and raised in Tallahassee where she loved the liveliness of the college town atmosphere. She enjoyed the cheers heard at football games and the precision marching and sounds of Florida A&M University's Marching 100. She was young but envisioned one day leading a cheer in Bragg Memorial Stadium as a Rattler cheerleader.

Her mother, who is a hairstylist, expanded her business (Loving My Hair) and moved to St. Pete when Nyah was in the fifth grade, but she never stopped dreaming of being a Rattler.



Nyah Acoff

Now that she has graduated from Northeast High School, the opportunity to attend college will bring her back to the City of the Seven Hills.

For the past four years, Nyah studied in the Northeast's culinary arts program where she was introduced to the art of serving people. Learning the importance of people skills has enhanced her appreciation for the work her mother does in the hair salon.

"I have done a lot for the community and school through culinary," said Nyah. "For community service, we've cooked several different foods and fed the homeless. To see people's faces go from frowns to smiles is priceless."

Being the daughter of a hairstylist has its perks aside from learning customer service. Nyah's captivating hairstyles would lean heavy on most peo-

ple's budgets. Even after a night of cheering and sweating at a basketball game, her hair was back in place by morning.

The culinary arts program at Northeast High puts on a weekly event called the Viking Bistro, which is held at the school's restaurant each Wednesday. The Viking Bistro is run by the students who prepare, cook and serve meals.

During these events, Nyah learned various jobs from preparing the food tables and making sure everything is neat and tidy to prepping the food, setting the plates out for the cooks and making it all look presentable.

In addition to her involvement in the culinary program, her extracurricular activities include basketball cheerleading, where she was the team captain and participated in all four years of high school. As the captain, she

was tasked with making sure the team knew the cheers and performed in unison. She sometimes had to use extra people skills to make it through a session, but that's part of being the captain.

In the community, she joined the AKA AKAdemy youth program six years ago. There, Nyah was involved in various college-bound activities.

Nyah figured out the recipe to return home to Tallahassee, and the main ingredient is education. In the fall, she will attend Tallahassee Community College and transfer to FAMU to earn her bachelor's degree in business management. She plans to start her career as a pastry chef and then open her own bakery.

Nyah is the daughter of Marcina Williams and Jarrod Acoff.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Weekly Challenger

www.theweeklychallenger.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019 5

Danisha Brown receives \$750 scholarship from JPPNA

ST. PETERSBURG – The Jordan Park Project Nostalgic Association (JPPNA) presented Danisha Brown with a \$750 scholarship to St. Petersburg College this past Monday at their monthly meeting. President Shirley Abrams and education chair Betty Crawford made the presentation at the Enoch Davis Center.

JPPNA carries on the legacy of Elder Jordan Sr., a founding father of St. Pete, who donated the land to the city that Jordan Park Apartments sits on. Built in 1939 and completed in 1941,

African Americans were able to have decent housing in spite of segregation in the Sunshine City.

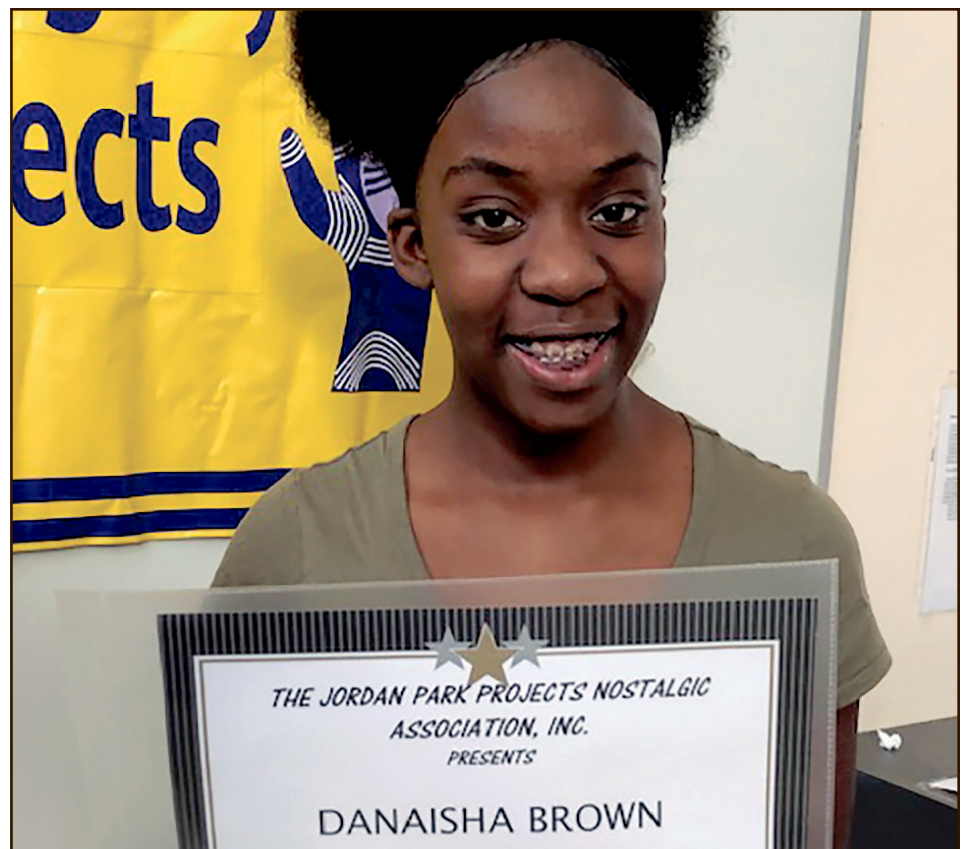
The majority of the members of the association lived in Jordan Park during the time when it was “the place to live.” New members are being solicited to help carry on the work of bettering the community and continuing the legacy of Elder Jordan.

Danisha will begin St. Petersburg College in the fall and wants to be a dental hygienist. Dr. Basha Jordan, Jr., the grandson of Elder Jordan, encouraged her to

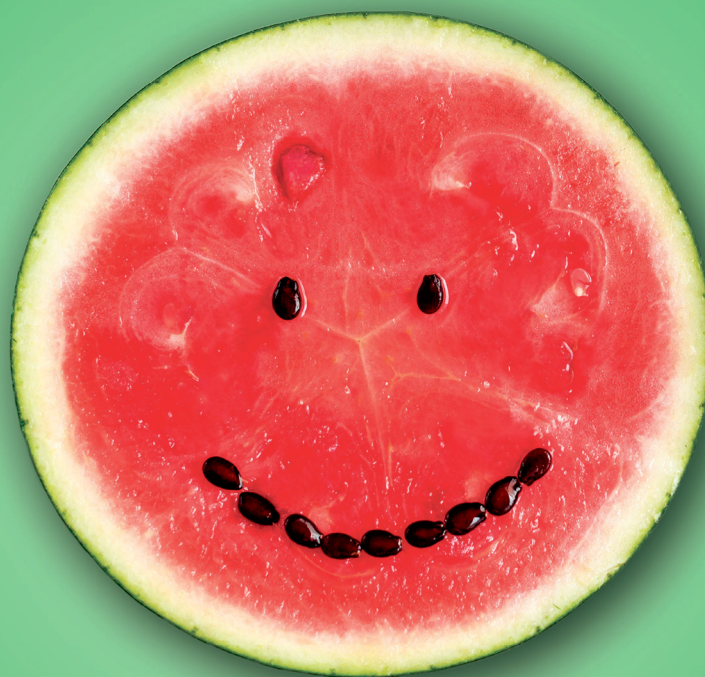
contact Mendee Ligon of the Ligon Dental Group to get some practical experience in dentistry through volunteer work this summer.

“We must encourage our young people to go on to the top of their careers with the help of those of us who have become successful. Building upon foundations already laid by our ancestors is a key component to achieving our dreams and goals,” Jordan, Jr. said.

For more information or to donate to JPPNA, please call 727-742-0373.



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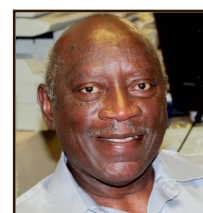
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ST. PETE PRIDE 2019

ST. PETERSBURG – Last Saturday, June 20, the Tech Data St. Petersburg Pride Parade 2019 turned the downtown waterfront on Bay Shore Drive into a kaleidoscope of humanity where more than an estimated 250,000 attendees came out to show support for the local LGBT community and enjoy hours of entertainment and comradery. Support for the local Pride parade has mushroomed over the last 17 years to make it second only to the Atlanta Pride celebration in the southeast.



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HEALTH EQUITY

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The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg is seeking vendors to support the new Center for Health Equity at 2333 34th St. South, St. Petersburg, Fla., opening Fall 2019.

The Center for Health Equity is a place where people from across Pinellas County can come together to learn, share, explore ideas and find solutions to problems and challenges that keep people and communities from achieving their best health. Groups using the Center's meeting spaces to collaborate and create change will be supported with research, technology and trained facilitators to accelerate their work. The Center will also host Foundation events such as speaker series, trainings, and workshops.

Opportunities include providing services for: event set up and tear down; janitorial; security; pest control; plant care; HVAC maintenance; and inclusion on approved caterers list.

In keeping with the Foundation's mission to improve health equity in South Pinellas County, consideration will be given to vendors who have one or more of the following qualities:

- Have completed either the St. Petersburg Chamber/Greenhouse Community Business Development Initiative (CBDI) Ice House or Academy training series, and/or the Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation CATCH or 2020 CATCH Lite programs
- Are located in proximity to the Center, 2333 34th St. South, St. Petersburg
- Are a minority-owned business

OPTIONAL INFORMATION SESSION FOR POTENTIAL VENDORS:

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 from 8:30-10 a.m.
Pinellas Technical College, 901 34th St. South, St. Petersburg, Room D2, First Floor

Visit healthystpete.foundation or email info@healthystpete.foundation for additional information about these opportunities, qualifications and application guidelines.

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Life skills and football

BY KARIN DAVIS-THOMPSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – School may be out for the summer, but for members of the Azalea Bulldogs Pee Wee Varsity team, there is still a lot of learning to do. While the team will spend time working on new plays on the football field, they will also take some time to learn that life is about more than just football.

The groups' team mom, LaToya Jackson, joined the club in 2018 and wants the team to learn about the importance of brotherhood as football players and as young men. She said learning about the importance of teamwork in any situation will make the boys not only better football players but better people.

"These boys are at a critical age in life where the

wrong influences can come and lead them down the wrong path," Jackson stated.

This year the team will take time from practice to work on projects, and team building activities that Jackson believes teaches them about working together and making a difference — skills they will need to be successful football players and successful citizens.

Earlier this month, they partner with Keep Pinellas Beautiful to sponsor a park cleanup at Walter Fuller Park, and Jackson is planning to have the team feed the homeless next month.

Jackson said the activities allow the children to build up their teamwork skills and interact with the coaches in a different setting, building stronger bonds and lasting relationships.

"We want to have an en-

vironment where the kids are able to come to the coaches for anything — personally, academically and even emotionally," Jackson explained.

And while the Bulldogs, a team with children ages 11 and 12, are taking time off the field to learn a few life lessons, they are still learning a lot about the game of football and that scoring the most points isn't all they need to know.

"The kids have to know that it's not just about winning," Jackson contends. "We want them to learn the fundamentals of the game too."

The Azalea Bulldogs Pee Wee Varsity team will showcase their football skills in an upcoming tournament in Orlando. They are looking for volunteers to help raise the much-needed funds to make the

trip possible. Jackson feels the work the team has done with their volunteer efforts will also help them coordinate projects and fundraisers to reach their goal.

She said having the opportunity to show the children how football and life go hand-in-hand has become a real passion of hers, and something she hopes the player will build on as they grow.

"We want them to always know that life and football are similar," Jackson said. "In order to win on the football field, you have to have discipline, you have to be able to execute the plays effectively, and most of all, you have to trust one another."

For more information on how you can help the Bulldogs on and off the field, visit them on Facebook.



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Sweating for education

RACE, from front page

They trained together and made sure teammates weren't sneaking out for late night McDonald's runs.

"So we just want to make sure that it's a team concept, everybody can come together and just hold everybody accountable for their health," said Keys. "We want to live longer, but also we want to enjoy the good foods, but you got to put some work in."

Keys made sure health-care professionals were on hand to answer questions and provide insightful educational resources.

"And so we just try to make sure that we're living a better lifestyle, especially

when it comes to our health because unfortunately a lot of African Americans really don't work out as we should," he said, adding that walking is one of the easiest forms of exercise.

With a vigorous social media campaign and old-fashion begging, Keys' first race saw participants coming as far off as Washington, D.C., Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Sarasota and a whole team from Atlanta.

"I was out there like Barack Obama just campaigning and saying, 'Hey, can you support? Can you support?' And for every 100 people I talked to, I may have gotten two or three yeses," he explained.

Keys is so grateful for

the sponsors who took a chance on his fledgling event that he hopes to eventually bring thousands to the downtown area for a race to end educational and health disparities. This year's sponsors included Pinellas Technical College, My Spine & Joint, Dr. Daniel Wubneh, the St. Petersburg Chapter of the Links, Inc. and Serenity Village.

For more information about donations and or sponsorship opportunities for 2020, please email Keys at Downtown20KRelayRace@gmail.com.

To reach Allen Buchanan, email abuchanan@theweeklychallenger.com



Foster care system sounds the alarm

FOSTER, from front page

Out of the 3,100 foster children in Pinellas, the majority are ages zero to five. They are most likely to be removed because of their parents' drug use, domestic violence, or mental health issues.

"If we don't change the trajectory for these children, they're going to end up in our criminal justice system; they're going to end up homeless or they are going to end up being teen parents," asserted Bostick, whose mother and father were once foster parents.

He also stressed the need for black children being placed in black foster homes so that they can remain in their community.

"We have foster parents that don't understand about our skin and our hair," Bostick averred. "They do everything that they can, and they try to make it work for our kids; however, they do not understand."

Having foster homes in St. Petersburg are essential to the stability of an already displaced child who would be in imminent danger if remained in their home. It is vital that the child have some normalcy and stay connected to their environment, culture and community in which they are familiar.

When a child enters the foster care system, their whole world is

shaken. They often have to transfer to a new school, find new friends, attend a different church, and learn a new neighborhood. It's an unforgiving lifestyle.

Jeff Ford, CEO of Man Up and Go has an adopted son from Africa. He said there are conversations he cannot have with his son because as a white man, he'll never have many of the experiences his son will face. But, he did not let that stop him.

"The problem that Man Up and Go is trying to solve is fairly simple to understand – we want every child to have a father. Over 700 million children in the world do not have a steady, consistent,

loving father-figure in the home. The severity of the risks for children without a father has been well-documented. Foster care feels the impact."

One couple at the breakfast, William and Tia Kilpatrick, is responding to the charge of being foster parents. They have eight boys and one girl of their own ranging in age from 18-38 years old.

The couple relocated to St. Petersburg from the Panhandle in Oct. 2018 when their home was destroyed by Hurricane Michael. They lost everything except their love for children. Almost immediately, they sought to become licensed foster parents.

"We have a love for children. Our strength is nurturing, loving and caring. If people would open their heart, it will open their life. We can't get too comfortable. When we meet needs, it gives purpose to your life," stated Tia Kilpatrick.

"It really is about community," said Laurallyn Segur, senior director of Licensing and Recruitment for Eckerd Connects. "You should not have to remove a child in St. Petersburg and the child be sent to Pasco County because there are no available homes in St. Petersburg or the community the child lives in."

The child welfare sys-

tem is overwhelmed; however, the remedy could very well be the unused bedroom in your home! Consider becoming a foster parent. If you feel you can't commit to a full-time foster child, consider becoming a respite parent who takes care of children for a few days while their foster parent gets a break.

Training and orientation are offered in convenient locations throughout Pinellas County, or someone can come to your church or organization and give a brief orientation.

For further information, please call Laurallyn Segur at (727) 456-0600 ext. 2002.



L-R, Laurallyn Segur, Wanda Jones and Deborah Figgs-Sanders



Brian Bostick, the executive director for Eckerd Connects, Inc



Jeff Ford, CEO of Man Up and Go



Visionary Brief
by Keisha Bell, Esq.

Sometimes other people see the possibility of your greatness before you see it yourself. Even in situations when you know that you are terrific at something, it may take time to visualize how great you can become. Without a proper support team to assist in steering you away from danger, amid the applause you may unknowingly fall victim to it.

Meet Marion Lois Jones, formerly a world champion track and field athlete. Jones also played professional basketball for a brief period. She was born on Oct. 12, 1975, in Los Angeles, and graduated from the University of North Carolina (UNC) in 1997.

Before college, Jones established herself as "an

athlete to watch" in both track and basketball. As a high school track star, she won the CIF California State Meet in the 100-meter sprint four years in a row.

Jones was also selected the Gatorade Player of the Year for track and field three years in a row. Not surprisingly, in 1991 and 1992 she became the third female athlete to be named the High School Athlete of the Year by *Track and Field News* twice.

With so many accolades in track and field, Jones arrived at UNC on a full scholarship in basketball. After helping her university's basketball team win the NCAA championship as a freshman, Jones "redshirted" her 1996 basketball season to

concentrate on track. Of the two sports, she decided to pursue a career in track and field.

It did not take long for Jones to find success as a professional in track. She won the 100-meter sprint at her first international major competition in 1997. Two years later, she won that event again at the same tournament, as well as a bronze in the long jump.

At the 2000 Olympics, Jones won three gold medals and two bronze medals. She was later stripped, however, of these Olympic medals after admitting that she had used performance-enhancing drugs.

Rumors of Jones using drugs to improve her track and field results sur-

She was coached

rounded her even as an amateur. While in high school, she faced charges of doping. At that time, she was successfully defended by attorney Johnnie Cochran on the charges.

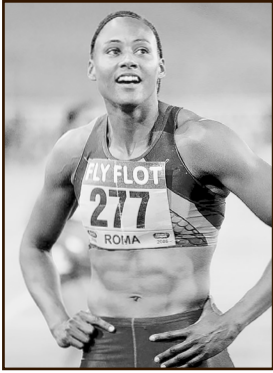
On the Olympic stage, however, she was one of the more popular athletes linked to the BALCO drug scandal. The rumors of drug usage followed Jones throughout two Olympiads. She did not help her image by training with both coaches and athletes who were also surrounded by rumors and accusations of using performance-enhancing drugs.

In 2007, Jones admitted to using drugs to enhance her performance. Many of her fans were disappointed.

Track and field had been kind to Jones. She was one of track's first female sports millionaires. It was routine for Jones to earn between \$70,000 and \$80,000 a race. Also, Jones would typically earn at least an additional \$1 million from race bonuses and endorsement deals.

The events that followed her confession changed her life drastically. She retired from the sport, returned the Olympic medals, suffered significant financial loss, faced public and private shame and received a jail sentence.

After her incarceration, Jones wrote her autobiography in which she shares many lessons. She has also traveled the country, giving speeches and sharing



her story. Even amid the drug-enhancement rumors, Jones was still beloved by millions of fans.

Many still wonder what would have been if Jones had a support system that would have helped to direct her away from danger. In a sport that rewards speed, would Jones be in the record books if someone slowed down long enough to look closer at the temptations? She was coached to win, but what if she was mentored to last?

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

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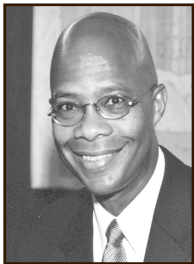
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727-896-0351
FAITHMMBC@YAHOO.COM
GROWING RELATIONALLY IN DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH CHRIST
MATTHEW 28:18-20, JOHN 15:4-5

FAITH IN ACTION
FAITH MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
EST. 1960

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
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.

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 Service7:30pm
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 pres-
ence along life’s way.
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.”

CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Weekly Challenger

www.theweeklychallenger.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019 11

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

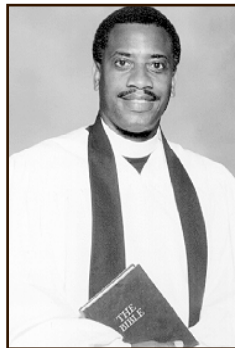
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

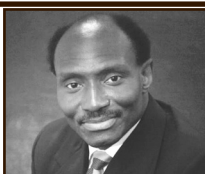
THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:
3940 - 18th AVE. S., St. Petersburg, Florida
Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021
Email: rojmbc@knology.net
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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.

Today's Church TAMPA BAY

ST. PETE 940 5TH AVENUE SOUTH Staybridge Suites/Boyside Ballroom	TAMPA 5107 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE Church Office: (813) 450-2353
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9 AM Centering Service 10:30 AM Creative Expressions Worship Experience	SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP 2 PM Creative Expressions Worship Experience
WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORD 6:30 PM Mastermind Prayer 7 PM Bible Study Class	TUESDAY NIGHT 7 PM Bible Study Class MOC SCHOOL OF MINISTRY 8 PM Courses Offered

Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader | WWW.TODAYSCHURCHTAMPABAY.ORG

CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark MBC

Greetings from St. Mark M. B. Church!

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted; . . . A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; . . . I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God. Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

The biblical text from Pastor Brown's message was from the above text. The message was entitled 'An-

other Season' with the question asked of the scripture 'So What Do We Do With This Season?' The answers presented were: 1) Make Sure You Live Your Purpose; 2) Make Sure Your Labour is Productive and 3) Make Sure You Learn This Principles (God Is In Control). Sunday worship services at St. Mark begin at 10:45 a.m. and a seat is available for you to hear the word in its entirety.

Once again, we say congratulations to the 2019 high school and college graduates who were honored on Sunday after the morning worship services. A pomp and circumstance fellowship was held with many accolades given to both parents and students for a job well done. St. Mark's Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held July 15 - 19 (there will be classes for all ages). The Childs Park Neighborhood is especially invited to be part of the week which will be filled with learning more

about Jesus, songs, arts and crafts, competitions, and prizes. We close out the month on Sunday, June 30 with St. Mark members engaging in fellowship with our sick and shut through Operation Love immediately following morning worship.

The Music Department of St. Mark is seeking an experienced drummer to be part of the music staff. Interest 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

You can have balance in your life!

"God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them (Genesis 1:27)."

As a person made in the image and likeness of God, you are a combination of masculine and feminine energy. Your genetic makeup is a balance of 23 chromosomes from your father and 23 chromosomes from your mother. Your hormonal composition includes both estrogen (female hormones) and testosterone (male hormones). Not only is this balance within you, it also manifests outside of you in your relationships and interactions with others.

At Jesus' baby dedication ceremony, there were two prominent figures present, Simeon and Anna. Simeon was a devout man who had a revelation that he would not die until his path intersected with the Wayshower. When he saw the infant, Jesus, he embraced him and spoke blessings over his life.

Anna was an 84-year widow who resided in the temple and spent her life fasting and praying for others. When she saw the infant, Jesus, she prophesied about his greatness. Jesus, the Wayshower, experienced this balance of masculine and feminine energy right at the

beginning of his life.

Part of your call to be a Wayshower is living a holistically healthy, balanced and well-rounded life. Charles Fillmore, co-founder of the Unity Movement, saw the thinking nature as masculine energy and the feeling nature as feminine energy. Strive in every relationship and experience to balance your masculine energy and your feminine energy. Too much of either energy is unhealthy. Pay attention to the people in your life who "balance you out." Remain open to other perspectives that empower you to make balanced decisions.

Bethel AME celebrating 125 years

ST. PETERSBURG—Bethel African AME Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a variety of activities for the members and the community to engage and enjoy.

To jump start the celebration, the Young Peoples Department (YPD) will host a Youth Explosion themed "Stand Firm in Faith" on June 29 from 6-8 p.m. at the church located at 912 Third Ave. N. Come and support our youth as they show off their talents, while praising His name at the same time. The YPD will also host a back-to-school giveaway earlier in the day.

Other activities for the anniversary include a street festival on Aug. 10 from 11-2 p.m. with live entertainment,

vendors, face painting and games for the youth. Then on Sept. 28, put on your best bib and tucker and join us for the Heritage Gala featuring award-winning filmmaker and native son, William Packer, Jr. as the keynote speaker.

The elegant affair will be held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park with the VIP reception starting at 6 p.m. and the gala at 7 p.m. Ticket information is available by calling the church at 727-822-2089.

The 125th anniversary celebration will culminate with a worship service at the church on Dec. 8 at 10:30 a.m. with the Right Rev. Adam Jefferson Richardson, Presiding Bishop as the speaker.

Bethel has participated in the development of St. Petersburg and is recognized as a historical site. The Gothic revival building located at 912 Third Ave. N, is the oldest African-American church in the city. Bethel has been a part of the historic Methodist Town since 1894.

Please join us in recognizing the great accomplishments of this great church. For vendor and performing artist information, please contact the church at 727-822-2089.

We need support for our historic celebration and are accepting donations. Please make all checks payable to Bethel AME and mail to P.O. Box 16423, St. Petersburg, FL 33733. You will be recognized for your contribution.



Today's Church TAMPA BAY

6:30 PM Hosting a Partnership between Police & Community!
FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2019

Join us as we PARTNER to EMPOWER, PROTECT & SERVE!
Wear your "Not My Son" T-shirt!

Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader
Staybridge Suites | 940 5th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

NOT MY SON

St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman's initiative to keep our children safe this summer.

"LINE UPON LINE..."

...PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT"

JULY 11 - JULY 14, 2019

INCREASE 2019

CONFERENCE & HOLY CONVOCATION

Dr. Doral R. Pulley
COTEK Presiding Bishop

Atlanta, GA

Staybridge Suites Atlanta Airport
3420 Hoffman Berry Drive, Atlanta, GA
Conference Hotel

Overseer Julius L. Ford
Kingdom Assembly of Grace and Truth
Host

KINGDOM PRINCIPLES

LOVE THEM. LEARN THEM. LIVE THEM.
ISAIAH 28:10

ATLANTA

START YOUR CAREER AS A CLINICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANT IN ONLY FIVE MONTHS!

Earn your Clinical Medical Assistant Certificate through St. Petersburg College's Workforce Institute. Classes are offered at the college's MIDTOWN CENTER in St. Petersburg.

Certified medical assistants are in high demand at physicians' offices, hospitals and other health care facilities where they:

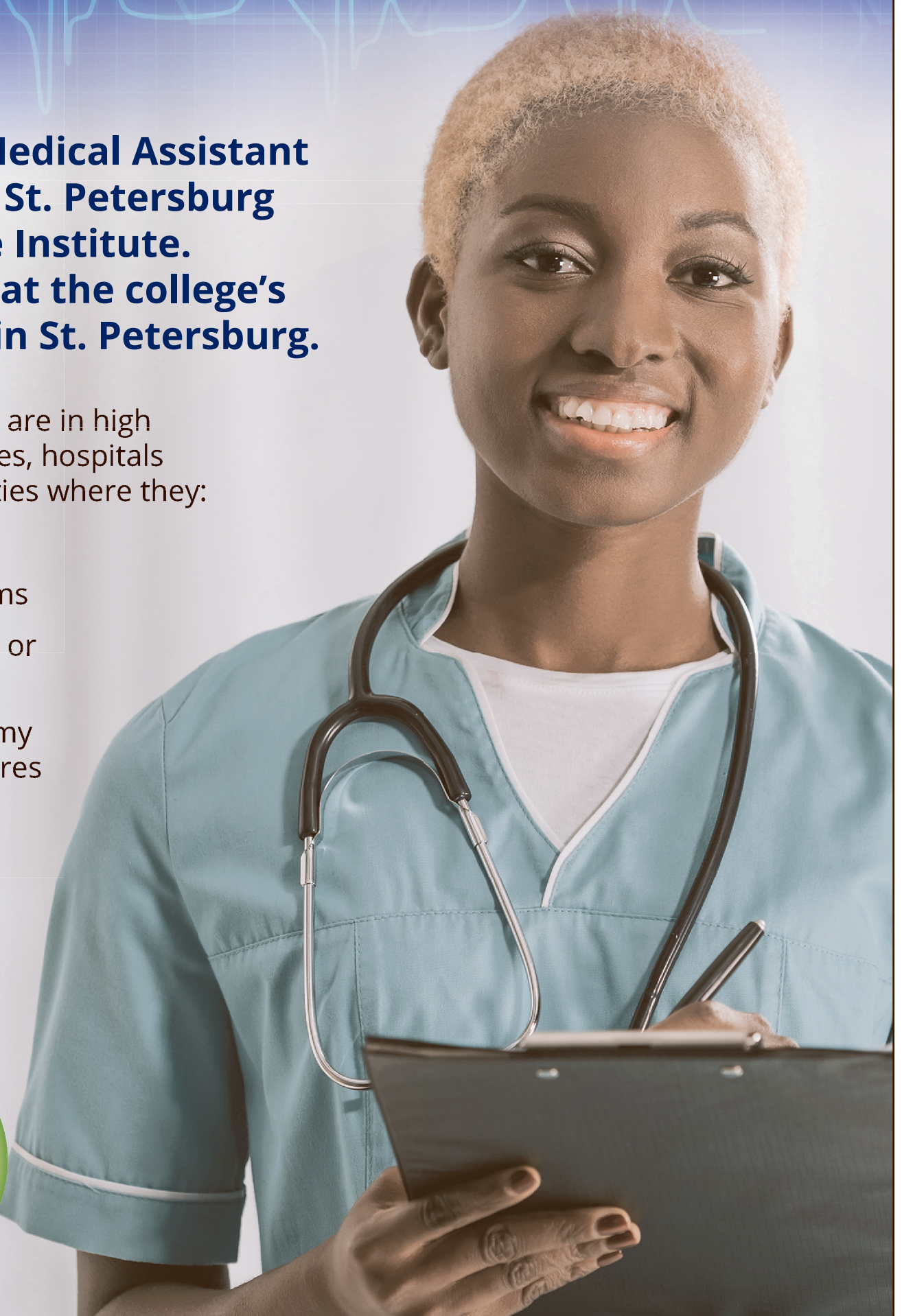
- Check in patients
- Assist doctors with exams
- Administer medications or injections
- Perform EKG, phlebotomy and laboratory procedures

29%

job growth
predicted from
2016-2026

Annual mean
wage of

\$31,980



WANT TO KNOW MORE? PLEASE CONTACT US AT WORKFORCE@SPCOLLEGE.EDU OR (727) 341-4445.

SPC St. Petersburg
College

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