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KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

VOL. 52 NO. 02

NOVEMBER 7 - NOVEMBER 13, 2019

50¢

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The Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators honored 13 black administrators for their commitment to serve Oct. 18 at the St. Petersburg Police Department.

NFBPA honors local African American public administrators

BY KARIN DAVIS-THOMPSON
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) paid tribute to several members of the community for their commitment to public service during a recognition ceremony held at the police department's new headquarters.

During the event, held Friday, Oct. 18, the chapter's current president, Nikki Gaskin-Capehart, told attendees how excited she was for the opportunity to highlight the NFBPA and also recognize a group of community leaders

for their commitment to serve. "I am excited to expose the community to NFBPA," Gaskin-Capehart said. "And to even expose it to our students, they need to know about us as well, and the professional development needs that we can meet."

NFBPA is a national organization whose membership is comprised of public administrators from various organizations, including local government, public commissions, private businesses and academic institutions.

Along with providing professional development, the group also works to provide a professional network for African Americans serving in

public administration and lobby for an increase in minorities in the field.

After introducing the current slate of NFBPA officers, Gaskin-Capehart presented the first two honorees, Thomas "Jet" Jackson and Theresa Jones. Jackson and Jones were honored as founding members of the chapter who are still working in public service today.

Jackson has worked for the City of St. Petersburg for nearly six decades. In 2014, the city named the Wildwood Recreation Center the Thomas "Jet" Jackson Recreation Center in his honor for his commitment to the community.

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A cowardly plaque for the Courageous 12



Freddie Lee Crawford

FROM THE FAMILY OF
FREDDIE CRAWFORD

ST. PETERSBURG – Heroes are memorialized in bronze and stone for historic contributions to our society – serving their communities, protecting them from danger, leading a path toward change. The Courageous 12 check all those boxes and more, yet last Tuesday, they were honored with just a simple plaque.

Actually, "honored" is a generous term, considering how the gesture shows more disrespect than genuine appreciation. Decades ago, in the face of deep-seated racism, 12 black police officers concluded that they had an obligation to serve and protect all members of their community to the fullest extent, not just those who looked like them.

At the time, the black officers were only allowed to patrol black neighborhoods and could not arrest whites. In 1965, these courageous 12 men sued the City of St. Petersburg for equal rights when performing their duties. They faced prejudice from the community and injustice from the court system through the dismissal of their case in 1966, even though the 1964 Civil Rights Act had been enacted two years prior.

It wasn't until they won their appeal two years later that these determined men won the basic rights afforded to the uniform they wore – rights their white colleagues had enjoyed for years. This landmark lawsuit generated years of meaningful progress, to an era where black men and women have served proudly in positions of leadership on the police force.

Many other cities have celebrated feats like this with museums, installations and towering, awe-inspiring statues – but not St. Petersburg. In St. Petersburg, heroic civil rights advocates merely get a frame on a wall.

The Public Arts Commission has committed a budget for a larger art exhibit, and while this is a step in the right direction, it should have been the mayor's first inclination. Instead, the honor these men deserve has been reduced to an afterthought, a cleanup job after the plaque recognizing them failed to inspire the level of pride within the

See **12**, page 2

Bay Area Women's Empowerment Expo

BY BRITTANYE BLAKE
Neighborhood News Bureau

ST. PETERSBURG – "What if a group of educated and enlightened women came together to empower one another," asked Jenee Skipper, vice president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter. "We would have a room full of beautiful visionaries, beautiful minds and girl bosses!"

And so started the inaugural Bay Area Women's Empowerment Expo held at Pinellas Technical College St. Petersburg and presented by the women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter and The Youth Development Foundation of Pinellas County, Inc.

Keynote speaker and St. Petersburg Deputy Mayor Dr. Kanika Tomalin engaged the crowd by sharing her personal story of losing her husband suddenly, after 18 years together.

When her husband died of a heart attack, she had to find a way to nurture her grieving children as she processed her



The inaugural Bay Area Women's Empowerment Expo held Oct. 19 aimed to ignite the power within.

own pain, she said. Through this tragedy, she said, she found strength, and she invited attendees to "ignite their power" as well.

"I felt that my power to attain that kind of happiness could never be recaptured," she said. "And I have never been more wrong. My power never left me – my power sustained me...when all that was left was my flickering pilot light, somewhere deep in my soul, in a

place my grieving heart could not reach. I want you to know that it was then that my power became a blazing flame that carries me forward to this day."

After her speech, many women in the audience embraced her with smiles and hugs, expressing how encouraging she was.

Attendee Beverley Richardson said, "I identify with Dr. Tomalin's story of finding your

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY FRONT AND CENTER

Ida B. Wells Barnett and the Anti-Lynching Movement

BY JACQUELINE HUBBARD, ESQ.
ASALH President

Ida B. Wells was born a slave in 1862 in Holly Springs, Miss. She attended Fisk University in Nashville. She is considered one of the greatest political reformers of the first quarter of the last century.

No other black leader, male or female, took on the issue of lynching black people as she did. She condemned lynchings in two newspapers she owned, writing to reveal the abuse and racial violence African Americans had to endure.

The Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), located in Selma, Ala., recently concluded that nearly 4,500 African Americans were lynched from the end of Reconstruction to 1950. Black men, and sometimes women, were hung from trees with rope around their necks, from scaffolds and from railroad tracks.

Some were beaten, maimed, cut and burned alive while hung. Many were public spectacles, advertised in local newspapers as to the time and location of the lynchings. Most were without any real evidence of any actual crime having been committed. Black men were often convicted of rape, solely on the word of a white female, arrested, taken from jail and lynched.

As EJI aptly stated: "African Americans living in the South during this era were terrorized (by lynching) if they intentionally or accidentally violated any social more defined by any white person."

This reign of terror was legitimized by those whites in positions of power. According to EJI, black "subjugation was to be achieved through any means necessary, and whites who undertook the duty of carrying out lynchings would face no legal repercussions."

During the period from 1877 to 1950, Florida has been documented to have perpetrated 311 lynchings. In looking for relief, African Americans often looked to the black press. Anti-lynching forces gathered around the black press such as the NAACP, anti-lynching freedom fighters and record keepers such as Wells, T. Thomas Fortune and Monroe Work, a sociologist at Tuskegee Institute.x

Completely engaged in the issue, Wells created her own newspapers: *Free Speech* and *Headlight*, in Memphis. She was a co-founder of the Niagara Movement, the precursor of the NAACP.

Because of rumors, she was considered too radical, so she left the NAACP in 1912. She authored a famous anti-lynching pamphlet entitled "Is Rape the 'Cause' of Lynching?" So great was her stature that Fred-



Ida B. Wells was an African American journalist and activist who led an anti-lynching crusade in the United States in the 1890s.

erick Douglass wrote of her in 1885:

"Brave woman! You have done your people and mine service which can neither be weighed nor measured. If American conscience were only half alive, if the American church and clergy were only half Christianized, if American moral sensibility were not hardened by persistent infliction of outrage and crime against colored people, a scream of horror, shame, and indignation would rise to Heaven wherever your pamphlet shall be read."

A close friend of hers, Thomas Moss, was lynched with two others in Memphis on March 9, 1892, after much violence was perpetrated on the black community. Wells led a series of successful anti-lynching actions in Memphis prior to the violence including a boycott of city street cars.

In retaliation, her newspaper building was burned to the ground, and after threats on her life and others, she relocated to the North. She moved at first to New York and continued her anti-lynching activities, publishing "A Red Record: Tabulated Statistics and Alleged Causes of Lynching in the United States."

The first of its kind, she sought to demystify the often told, untrue rationale for the lynching of black men: they preyed upon white women. Much anger greeted the book's publication by an outraged white population.

Wells left America in 1893 and went to England to continue her anti-lynching crusade. In 1895, she married Ferdinand Barnett, a Chicago lawyer, and had four children. She continued her activism throughout her life and died March 25, 1931.

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.

A Night of Toni Morrison

BY HOPE WEIL
Neighborhood News Bureau

ST. PETERSBURG – Next Tuesday, Nov. 12, the Warehouse Arts District Association will be putting on "A Night of Toni Morrison," at the Palladium in downtown St. Pete. The free ticketed event is being held to honor the legendary writer Toni Morrison.

"I think that in this day and age, our culture needs something to agree on, and we can all agree on Toni Morrison," said Diane Morton, executive director at the Warehouse Arts District. "We all can honor her and her body of work."

Morrison was one of the most influential and important writers of her generation, and this event will celebrate her memory, her words and some of her greatest accomplishments. In 1993, Morrison was the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

She died this past August at 88 years old due to complications from pneumonia.

Next Tuesday's event was initially set to take place at the Warehouse Arts District, but the public response was so overwhelming, it had to be moved to the Palladium to accommodate as many interested parties as possible.

"We can only hold 100 people in our gallery, so when I put it up, I asked people to register,



so we knew how many people were coming, and within 22 hours (not even a day) all 100 seats were sold," said Morton. "And I had developed 800 on the waiting list."

Morton said the response for this particular event was astounding in comparison to past events hosted by the Warehouse Arts District Association.

The doors for the event will open at 6 p.m., and the show will start at 7 p.m. The four guest speakers scheduled to speak include Morton, St. Petersburg Deputy Mayor, Dr. Kanika Tomalin, Bob Devin Jones, co-founder of The Studio@620 and Colette Bancroft, book editor at the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Morton said that it would be interesting to hear what each of the speakers chooses to focus on from Morrison's body of work, as there is a lot to choose from.

Following presentations from the guest speakers, there will be a special screening of *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*, Timothy Greenfield-Sanders' latest documentary featuring Morrison

speaking about her life and work as a writer.

"Toni Morrison told universal stories about the human experience and especially showed light on the African American experience that had never happened before," said Morton. "For her to be a winner of a Noble prize, that certainly shows that her body of work is essential reading for the human condition."

"I think [the event] is going to be very enlightening, and I think it's going to be a very respectful and warm event for the community," said Morton.

Independent bookstore, Tombolo Books, will be on hand selling Morrison's books, and refreshments will be available for purchase as well.

For more information on the event and to see how you can reserve tickets, go to mypalladium.org

Hope Weil is a student reporter in the Neighborhood News Bureau at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Visit nbnnews.com for more info.

A cowardly plaque for the Courageous 12

12, from front page

community that this magnitude of courage deserves. The promise of a better memorial later shows that this was not a priority now.

The legacy of the Courageous 12 lives on through one surviving member, Mr. Leon Jackson, who was the mayor's "special guest" for the insufficient plaque ceremony. It is a travesty that he had to

watch his brave fight for progress and equality be recognized with nothing more than a plaque on a wall, like an elementary school test hanging on a refrigerator.

In today's era, we are continually grappling with the implications of statues memorializing those with tainted pasts. This would have been a perfect opportunity to

use the medium to celebrate progress and bravery instead. Clearly, the city missed it.

This short commentary was provided by the family of Freddie Lee Crawford, who in his discontent with the unfair treatment, was able to rally the other 11 members of the Courageous 12 to initiate a lawsuit against the City of St. Petersburg.



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Community Conversations with Candi Carter at Poynter Institute

BY FAYE TIPPY
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Spirited, dynamic, down to earth, practical, humorous, informative, vivacious are a few words used to describe television personality Candi Carter, who is also the executive producer of ABC's "The View."

In town last month, Carter sat on a panel about diversity and inclusion at Poynter Institute's Leadership Academy for Diversity in Digital Media. The academy is a partnership with the *Washington Post* and designed to train journalists of color in digital media to thrive personally and professionally. It is a highly competitive, transformative, tuition-free leadership program.

Carter shared her background and experiences with an audience of more than 200 people in a VIP reception at the Poynter Institute in downtown St. Pete. The community conversation included a range of attendees, among them journalism students, experienced journalists, community partners and leaders and Rising Stars partici-

pants, who are young journalists that attended a reporting workshop.

Carter is an Emmy award-winning producer with more than 25 years in the industry. She started her career at CNN and spent 15 years at *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.

She is currently one of the highest-ranking African Americans in the industry (and first at ABC) in her role as executive producer of "The View." Under her tenure, the talk show was recently highlighted by the *New York Times* as the most influential political show in America right now.

Carter sat with *PolitiFact's* managing editor, Katie Saunders, to discuss topics such as the power of a majority female audience, how to moderate an authentic debate between political parties and how "The View" may change the 2020 election.

In the audience question and answer portion, Carter was asked about "assimilation" as an African-American woman in a white male industry. She said, "I like to win. You can't win if you're not in the game. And in any



Candi Carter, executive producer of ABC's "The View," with Faye Tippy, reporter at *The Weekly Challenger*

game, you have to have the uniform."

Carter also talked about being authentic, giving back and mentoring, and revealed how she unwinds from her high energy, fast-paced career.

"I get up at 4:45 a.m. for my quiet time. I work out, and I read on my commute in from New Jersey to New York City in the morning. During hiatus, I take a big break from all things media related."

Community Conversations is a regular event at Poynter Institute, a global leader in journalism headquartered in downtown St. Petersburg. For more information, visit poynter.org



Candi Carter, executive producer of ABC's "The View," lit the room up at the Poynter Institute Oct. 13.



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The 2020 Plan to create history trove on Commerce Park

The 2020 Plan team will soon be releasing a new trove of historic photos, property records and media clippings about the 14-acre site known as Commerce Park, which is slated for redevelopment by the City of St. Petersburg and private developers.

The archive is being curated by Gwendolyn Reese, President of the African American Heritage Association of St. Petersburg. It was commissioned by The 2020 Plan to contribute to the public discourse underway about the ideal uses for Commerce Park as the largest assemblage of undeveloped land in South St. Petersburg (and the latest touchstone in the debate about gentrification in the City's African

American community).

According to Gypsy Gallardo, CEO of The 2020 Plan, "We commissioned this work to honor the truth that 'Those who do not learn their history are doomed to repeat it.' We must understand our history of striving and thriving, and reckon with the reasons for past failures, if we want Commerce Park to be a breakthrough development."

The research is part of a growing roster of special projects by Reese and the African American Heritage Association to infuse historic perspectives into contemporary strategies for equity in South St. Petersburg.

Reese and Association co-founder author Jon Wilson are also working

with the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg to create a history wall of images and stories in the new Center for Health Equity, a facility recently opened by the Foundation in the heart of South St. Pete.

While community and city leaders contemplate weighty questions about the future of Commerce Park, Reese is assembling the wisdom of the past to "help key leaders make informed choices," in her words.

"When we look at projects such as Commerce Park and the redevelopment of Tropicana field it is vitally important that untold stories become a permanent part of our shared history," says Reese.

Her work may shed

light on the biggest bone of contention about the project – the mix of new housing slated for the site.

Community commentator Matt Byrd recently released a video with his perspective on the topic. He is among those who advocate for more "low-income" housing on the site.

City leaders have envisioned a mix of affordability levels at the site — from low-income to middle-income — which also aligns with the emerging Sankofa Vision by a collaborative of community organizations.

The new trove will paint a picture of the types of housing and retail that once occupied today's Commerce Park. Reese notes that several of the

community's most prominent families lived there during the segregation era, while a number of businesses operated (both formal and informal).

Reese will work with a graphic designer to create a map of commercial and home edifices that dotted the Commerce Park landscape in the pre-integration era.

Gallardo and Reese will also host an invitation-only Trolley Tour of the African American Heritage Trail for representatives of 2020 Plan partner organizations. The Trail encompasses 19 historic markers covering a dozen city blocks. The tour originates at the Carter G. Woodson Museum and will incorporate a special focus on Commerce Park



Gwendolyn Reese is a founder of The 2020 Plan vision and current president of The African American Heritage Association of St. Petersburg.

(roughly two blocks north of the Museum).

To contribute photos, documents and information to the project, please call the Heritage Association at 727-537-0449.

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Battle scars: When the church wounds its own, part 6

Praise the Lord saints. If you will recall, I spoke on Ezekiel 34 and trust me, we will go into detail even more but I need to include another passage of scripture that I believe is probably just as unpreached as Ezek 34 and clearly explains in explicit details why so much has happened in the past 3-5 years in the manner in which it has.

Before I do, congratulations to the 2 winners of the city council elections that occurred back on Tuesday. I pray you allow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to lead and guide your decisions and stance as you embark on this new chapter in your lives. I also pray that the 2 that didn't win continue in their pursuit to fulfill those things you felt needed to be addressed and put into motion for a better South St. Pete. At some point we all must come to realize that more can be achieved by supporting one another rather than fighting against one another.

This passage of scripture will be eye opening and mind blowing in the sense that it totally dispels the notion that God is a God of Love ONLY and this totally false notion that everyone will make it into paradise regardless of your life choices and decisions. It will also explain why these decisions are being made and that the spiritual leadership must now teach on this to better help those that are lost or confused.

Again, this falls right in line with how the church has been the main culprit in the injuring of so many saints just like in Ezek 34 but from a different approach, however, just as damaging and destructive.

Let's look first at what Jesus Christ Himself says how He feels when one in leadership does this.

Matthew 18 Amplified Bible (AMP)

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

2 He called a little child and set him before them, 3 and said, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, unless you repent [that is, change your inner self—your old way of thinking, live changed lives] and become like children [trusting, humble, and forgiving], you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever [a]humbles himself like this child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 Whoever receives and welcomes one [b]child like this in My name receives Me; 6 BUT WHOEVER CAUSES ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES WHO BELIEVE IN ME TO STUMBLE AND SIN [BY LEADING HIM AWAY FROM MY TEACHING], IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM TO HAVE A HEAVY MILLSTONE [AS LARGE AS ONE TURNED BY A DONKEY] HUNG AROUND HIS NECK AND TO BE DROWNED IN THE DEPTH OF THE SEA.

7 "Woe [JUDGMENT IS COMING] to the world because of stumbling blocks and temptations to sin! It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come; BUT WOE TO THE PERSON ON WHOSE ACCOUNT OR THROUGH WHOM THE STUMBLING BLOCK COMES!

He said this to His disciples!

The main point I want you to focus in on is that misleading can be also categorized as watering down, sugar coating, or just plain avoiding a certain particular passage of scripture.

Tell me you knew Jesus said this about misleading saints.

It gets better or worse depending on your stance.

2 Thessalonians 2 Amplified Bible (AMP)

2 Now in regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to meet Him, we ask you, brothers and sisters,

2 not to be quickly unsettled or alarmed either by a [so-called prophetic revelation of a] spirit or a message or a letter [alleged to be] from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has [already] come. 3 Let no one in any way deceive or entrap you, for that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first [that is, the great rebellion, the abandonment of the faith by professed Christians], and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction [the Antichrist, the one who is destined to be destroyed], 4 who opposes and exalts himself [so proudly and so insolently] above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he [actually enters and] takes his seat in the temple of God, publicly proclaiming that he himself is God. 10 and by unlimited seduction to evil and with all the deception of wickedness for those who are perishing, because they did not welcome the love of the truth [of the gospel] so as to be saved [they were spiritually blind, and rejected the truth that would have saved them]. 11 BECAUSE OF THIS GOD WILL SEND UPON THEM A MISLEADING INFLUENCE, [AN ACTIVITY OF ERROR AND DECEPTION] SO THEY WILL BELIEVE THE LIE, 12 IN ORDER THAT ALL MAY BE JUDGED AND CONDEMNED WHO DID NOT BELIEVE THE TRUTH [ABOUT THEIR SIN, AND THE NEED FOR SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST], BUT INSTEAD TOOK PLEASURE IN UN-RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Till next week,
Blessings Bishop Elect Dr. Rob Harrison

PS—Please support the Golf Tournament we are partnering with Chief Holloway and SPPD. It's a first! Please look at the flyer for details.

REV. DR. ROBERT L. HARRISON, PhD
 Senior Pastor
 True Holiness Worship Ministries, Inc.
www.trueholinessworshipministry.com

FLORIDA WEST DISTRICT ELDER
 Open Door Church of God & True Holiness, Inc.
www.opendoortrueholinesschurch.org

CHURCH OF GOD & TRUE HOLINESS, INTL.
www.cogath.org
 727.265.6437 pastorrobharrison@gmail.com

CHURCH NEWS

The Weekly Challenger

www.theweeklychallenger.com

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019 **5**

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

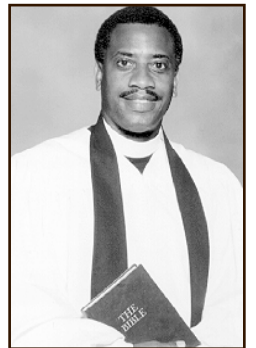
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

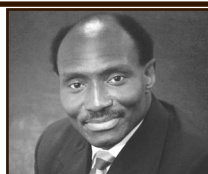
THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:
3940 - 18th AVE. S., St. Petersburg, Florida
Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021
Email: rojmbc@knology.net
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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.

ST. PETE
940 5TH AVENUE SOUTH
Staybridge Suites/Bayside Ballroom

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
9 AM | Centering Service
10:30 AM | Creative Expressions
Worship Experience

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORD
6:30 PM | Mastermind Prayer
7 PM | Bible Study Class

TAMPA
5107 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE
Church Office: (813) 450-2353

SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP
2 PM | Creative Expressions
Worship Experience

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

"For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. Mark 5:8"

The First Sunday Message for November was 'How Will You Meet Terror?' The text for the message was Mark 5:1-15. The answers followed the statement 'Here is How Jesus Met Terror': 1. He met him with His hope; 2. He met him with His heart and, 3. He met him with His help.

In Mark 5 Jesus and the disciples had moved from a storm on the sea in Chapter 4 to another place of trouble which reminds us that we can move from a set of problems to another place that doesn't get better and may even get worse. From verse 2, when Jesus got off the ship, he met a man that came out of the tombs, who was possessed with an unclean spirit. The text suggests that life can take us on a journey through storms, and then take us to encounters with people and situations that create terror for

us. But it also shows us that God can speak over, in, through situations and allow us to have victory no matter what terrorizes our lives? God has the power to make that which is a problem become a peaceful situation. When terror shows up, we should meet it with hope. Hope that says God can change what terrorizes us into something good. Until we have a heart for others, our hands won't participate by doing good. If there is no heart for service, there can be no hands to help in giving the service that's needed. Jesus meets us with his hope to say that we don't have to stay the way we are and with his heart he sees something good about us and when he gets involved with us something good can come from us. We can't get help if we don't have a heart and we can get a heart if we don't have hope. Please join us on Sundays at 10:45 a.m. for the preached word.

Thanks to the YAMS and all who assisted with the Fall Festival!! Upcoming is General Mission's monthly meeting on Saturday, November 9 @ 9:30 a.m. where preparation for the upcoming Thanksgiving season will be made. The Pastor's Aide Ministry will also meet on the 9th @ 11:00 a.m. Members are encouraged to be present and on time for both meetings. On Sunday, November 10 The Membership Ministry will host the New Members Fellowship after the morning service.

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

It's not your thought until you think it!

Scripture - "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5
Denial - I do not accept every suggestion that comes to my mind.

Affirmation - I decide which suggestions to give my energy.

Your mind is the thinking part of your soul. Like seeds sown in the ground, the thoughts that you hold in mind reproduce themselves in your health, finances, and relationships. You cannot stop ideas from coming to your mind, but you can decide how much energy that you give to those ideas. Until you give an idea energy, it is simply a suggestion. You decide what suggestions to accept

and what suggestions to reject. The suggestion does not become your thought until you accept and give it energy.

In the wilderness, Jesus, the Wayshower, received suggestions from all three aspects of his mind: subconscious (ego), conscious (senses) and Superconscious (Christ mind). He heard and denied the suggestions that came from his ego and senses and accepted and affirmed the Divine Ideas that came from Spirit. That's why he did not command the stones to be made to bread, jump from the pinnacle of the temple or worship something other than God. The devil of the text is Jesus' subconscious mind or ego taking him to these various places and making these suggestions. It is not something or someone outside of him tempting him; rather it is Jesus battling within himself.

Your mind takes you various places. It is so creative. Use the creativity of your mind to imagine and manifest good or use the energy of your thoughts to fulfill the wishes of the ego. It's your choice. You are the lord of your own thoughts.

Reflection Question - Think of an experience where you operated in your ego and describe what you learned from that experience.



Happy Sixty-Second Birthday To Unity Temple of Truth Church

511 Prescott Street South
St. Petersburg, Florida



On November 10, 2019 Unity Temple of Truth Church celebrates 62 years of sharing hope, love and a commitment to providing tools for living a healthy, prosperous and joyous life. We continue to be a beacon of light for those seeking a healthy relationship with God, therefore having healthy relationship with themselves and others.

Join us for Service at 10:00 am and 11:30 am for lunch at Big Apple Buffet at 1030 58th St N # 1038, Tyrone Gardens Shopping Center, St. Petersburg, FL 33710-6327

Happy Sixty-second Birthday

unity A positive path
for spiritual living

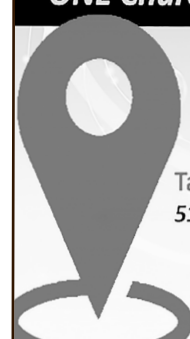
Harvest Table Fellowship
November, 26th | 7 PM

Ready for what's in Store?
...Thanksgiving is the Door

**Welcome to
MORE!**
PRE-THANKSGIVING
Service

5107 N. Central Avenue | Tampa, FL 33603

ONE Church, TWO Locations



St. Petersburg Location
940 5th Ave South | Staybridge Suites
- 9 AM & 10:30 AM | Sunday Morning Services
- 7 PM | Wednesday Night Word

Tampa Location
5107 N. Central Avenue | Admin Offices
- 2 PM | Sunday Afternoon Service
- 7 PM | Tuesday Night Teaching

Today's CHURCH
TAMPA BAY

Where ALL the Pieces Coming Together!

CHURCH NEWS

6 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019

www.theweeklychallenger.com

The Weekly Challenger



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

Sunday Worship Services.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible StudyNoon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study6:30 p.m.

Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
Sunday Worship Service10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Small Group Bible Study6:30 p.m.

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



Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
Senior Pastor

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 Service10:15 a.m.
Sunday School9:00 a.m.
Teen Summit (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,
Pastor

“God’s House To The City”

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.



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



REV. ROBERT A. VINSON, JR.

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. 1909

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE 9:00AM
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM
TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM



Rev. Wallace Elliott
Sr. - Pastor

First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
1121 22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 327-8708

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

“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”

**YOUR CHURCH AD
COULD BE HERE!**

Contact:
www.TheWeeklyChallenger.com



Donn & Jean
Freshler

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



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.

Unity Temple of Truth Church
511 Prescott Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Helping People Live Healthy, Prosperous, and Meaningful Lives

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
Spiritual Living Class—Wednesday 1:00 P.M. & 7:15 P.M.



(727) 898-2457 | unitytruth1957@gmail.com

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**Centering
9 AM Service**

THE MEDITATION | THE MESSAGE | THE MOMENT
Every Sunday Morning

**Today's Church
TAMPA BAY**

STAYBRIDGE SUITES | Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader
940 5TH AVENUE SOUTH | ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705





Moore making ‘major’ moves

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – On any given day, Major Nicole A. Moore may be writing a class paper, figuring formulas or working on her capstone class at Webster University in pursuit of a master’s degree in human resources management. However, her daily activity also involves doing what she loves most: being a soldier in the United States Army.

Moore was recently promoted to major in a ceremony attended by family and friends. She assumed duty as G-1 senior human resources officer for the United States Army Reserve Medical Command on May 14, 2018, following her previous assignment as G3 57 chief operations and plans officer for the 94th Training Division, Fort Lee Virginia.

Her new rank advancement to Major is the continuation of a dream come true.

“Nicole is a breath of fresh air on campus at Webster. She is a great student and an inspiration to be around,” said Joel Hornes, Webster University St. Petersburg/Tampa campus director.

While in high school, Moore envisioned traveling the world to see how other cultures lived. She is the eldest daughter of three siblings to Rickey and Diane Moore and a native of St. Petersburg. She is the proud mother to Laniya D. Etheridge.

Moore graduated in 2003 from Boca Ciega High School. Desiring a change in life, she moved to Fort Rucker, Ala., and began work at a childcare center. But that didn’t last long. Her thirst for self-improvement grew.

She had thoughts of joining the military as a way to obtain an education and improve her life. That thought would play out sometime later.

Moore made her way back to her hometown, enrolled at St. Petersburg College and graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Public Safety Administration, concentrating in fire science and emergency management.

However, she still had the desire to travel and do more. She remembered her thoughts in Alabama of how the military could be the answer, so she went to the army recruiter’s office and joined.

“I just knew that there was more to life than what I was experiencing. The army said to ‘be all that you can be,’ so I accepted the challenge,” said Moore.

A trip to the United

States Army Recruiting office on September 30, 2005, changed her life. As an enlisted soldier, she served as a dental specialist until her commission through ROTC as an Adjutant General Officer on May 9, 2009.

Additionally, she holds a certificate in Homeland Security from St. Petersburg College. Upon graduating, she became the first person in history ever to receive a commission from her hometown alma mater.

“I could not have done any of this without the support of my family. I am living a dream life. My parents have been such a blessing, and my daughter is the love of my life. I’m thankful,” said Moore.

The army has taken her to places far from St. Pete. She mobilized to Des Moines, Iowa, in operational support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She’s also been deployed to



Major Nicole A. Moore

Kuwait and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Along with her family, schoolmates and other supporters, her army support unit attending the ceremony showed the love and influence for Moore as she belted for her G-1 section to sound off.

In unison, the unit responded with a resounding, Hoo-ah! This is to say, “Major Moore, we are here.” It is more than she could have ever imagined, but just as she envisioned as a soldier.

To reach Dexter McCree, email dmccree@theweeklyphallenger.com

District teacher named state outstanding science educator Amber Robinson

ST. PETERSBURG — Amber Robinson, a teacher at Douglas L. Jamerson, Jr. Elementary, was named the 2019 Outstanding Elementary School Educator by the Florida Association of Science Teachers (FAST).

She received the award on Oct. 25 at the annual FAST conference in St. Augustine. The award honors educational professionals for their outstanding work and achievement in science education.

A 16-year educator at Jamerson, Robinson was recognized for her dedication to science and STEM

excellence while inspiring students and fellow teachers in her innovative approach to learning about and living STEM education.

Her contributions include developing STEM integrated curriculum that uses engineering as the link among the science, mathematics, and language arts components. For the past two years, Robinson has presented along with her husband, Rafael, an educator and author of “The Super Sprockets STEM Club Trouble,” at the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA).

NSTA is the largest professional organization in the world, promoting excellence in science teaching and learning, preschool through college.

“My vision is for all students to have authentic experiences that expose them to the wonderful world of engineering,” Robinson said. “The hands-on problem solving that we engage in at Jamerson Elementary and in the Super Sprockets STEM Club is a model of student accomplishment and program capabilities for classrooms nationwide.”

After school, Robinson co-teaches STEM with her husband. Tipping Point STEM-ulating an Urban Arising brings the Super Sprocket STEM Club to three schools within the district through a grant. The Super Sprocket STEM Club provides students with comprehensive skills built on problem-solving and real-world experiences.

“I will continue to provide opportunities inclusive of girls and urban students to get involved in STEM education,” Robinson said. “This is my life’s work and passion.”



Amber Robinson



Visionary Brief by Keisha Bell, Esq.

She patrols

How big are your dreams? It is a fair question, one worthy of consideration. When you take a moment to think about the life of your ancestors, of their ability to survive various trials and tribulations for your existence, do you feel a responsibility to defy the odds and enter places once deemed forbidden? She does.

Meet Valdez Venita “Val” Demings (née Butler), a politician who currently represents Florida’s 10th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives.

Some are born into politically-established families. Demings was not. Born March 12, 1957, her family was poor, and she attended segregated schools in 1960’s Jacksonville.

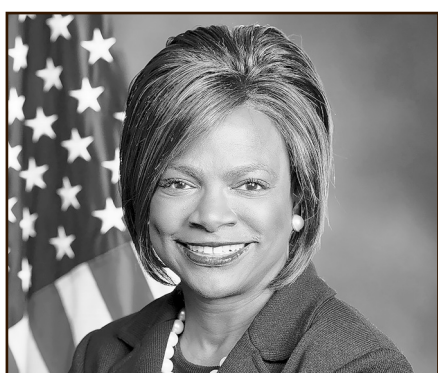
Amid the Civil Rights Movements and calls for social justice, Demings was a school-aged girl who had become inspired to pursue a career in law enforcement after serving as a school patrol in middle school.

Who would have thought that wearing an orange safety belt with its accompanying orange hard hat would lead to a place in history books? She did.

Seventeen years after the first African-American undergraduate student was admitted into Florida State University, Demings graduated from there with a degree in criminology. In 1983, she successfully applied to work with the Orlando Police Department. She achieved her childhood dream, but at some point, her goals enlarged.

Demings started on police patrol on Orlando’s west side. In December of 2007, she made history by becoming the first woman to lead the Orlando Police Department. She became chief of police and served the Department for 27 years. On June 1, 2011, Demings retired and shortly after that, set her sights on Congress.

In 2012, Demings unsuccessfully campaigned to represent Florida’s 10th congressional district in the United States House of Representa-



tives as the Democratic Party nominee. In the General Election, she was narrowly defeated in its slightly Republican District. She was not deterred, but afterward initially opted to run for mayor of Orange County in 2014.

Demings dropped out of that election, however. A significant legal change had occurred. The court-ordered redistricting had made the 10th congressional district more Democratic in time for the 2016 election.

Not surprisingly, Demings again won the Democratic Party nomination for that seat. In 2016, Demings won, and by doing so, she became the third Democrat ever to win that Orlando-based district since its creation in 1973.

If Demings had limited her efforts to serve the public by being a law enforcement officer, no one would have found fault. Her life had already turned heads. She was already an inspiration.

She was not finished, though. She felt a deeper responsibility to represent the people in her congressional district and of the State of Florida in the legislative halls of Washington, D.C., and she had unknowingly, at least at one time, prepared to do so.

Her inclusion at such decision-making tables was once inconceivable to most. She continues to patrol while defying the odds. That is real progress.

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

Gulfport welcomes dean of Stetson Law School

GULFPORT – City Manager Jim O’Reilly, Gulfport Public Library’s David Mather, Mayor Sam Henderson and city council members will host a program welcoming Dr. Michèle Alexandre, the new dean of Stetson Law School.

Dean Alexandre is a noted civil rights, gender and race scholar. She is the author of the civil

rights textbook “The New Frontiers of Civil Rights Litigation” and “Sexploitation: Sexual Profiling and the Illusion of Gender.”

She was named one of *Ebony* magazine’s Top 100 influential African Americans of 2013 and one of the 50 “Most Influential Minority Law Professors 50 Years of Age or Younger” by *Lawyers of*

Color Magazine. She has received Fulbright and Watson Fellowships.

The program starts at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at the Gulfport Library, and is sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Everyone is invited to this very special event.

For more information, contact 727-893-1074.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS OF THE GULFPORT LIBRARY


INVITES YOU TO HELP US

WELCOME TO GULFPORT

DR. MICHELE ALEXANDRE

DEAN OF

STETSON LAW SCHOOL



7:00 PM, WEDNESDAY

NOVEMBER 13, 2019

GULFPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY 5501 28TH AVE. SOUTH

Join Gulfport Library’s David Mather, City Manager, Jim O’Reilly, Mayor, Sam Henderson, and the City Council members in welcoming Dr. Alexandre, Dean, and noted civil rights, gender and race scholar.

Black public administrators honored

NFBPA, from front page

Jones has been a city employee for more than 30 years and currently works in Veterans, Social and Homeless Services.

Gaskin-Capehart, director of Urban Affairs for the city, said while they will honor other past members throughout the year, they wanted to start with Jones and Jackson in commemoration of their continued commitment to working on behalf of the community and NFBPA.

Attendees were also allowed to tour the department's new headquarters and command center at the end of the evening.

To learn more about NFBPA, visit their website at nfbpatampabay.org

Dean Michèle Alexandre

Professor Michèle Alexandre, J.D., a leading civil rights scholar, administrator and trailblazer, become the first black dean of the College of Law at Stetson University in March.

She arrives at Stetson from the University of Memphis School of Law where she was the associate dean for Faculty Development and Intellectual Life, as well as a professor of law.



Dean Michèle Alexandre

Alexandre is the first black valedictorian of Colgate University and earned her Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. Her teaching and scholarly areas include constitutional, international, civil rights, and disability law, along with critical race theory, human rights and gender.

She is the author of the civil rights textbook "The New Frontiers of Civil Rights Litigation" and "Sexploitation: Sexual Profiling and the Illusion of Gender," Alexandre was named one of Ebony magazine's Top 100 influential African Americans of 2013.

Dr. Sandra Braham

Dr. Sandra Braham brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in the not-for-profit sector. Before becoming president and CEO of Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, she spent 25 years in El Paso, Texas, where she served for 10 years as CEO of the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region, the largest YWCA in the nation.

Dr. Braham received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Missouri at Columbia and master and doctorate degrees in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso.



Dr. Sandra Braham

She is a graduate of Leadership Texas, Leadership America, and the Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management Executive Education program. Braham was named a 2018 Business Woman of

the Year by the Tampa Bay Business Journal and in January was honored by Academy Prep Center of St. Petersburg as one of its "Five Fabulous Females."

Sherri Brown

Sherri Brown has been in the hospitality industry for 36 years. She entered the workforce after graduating from high school, working as a telephone operator with Omni Hotels Union Station St. Louis.



Sherri Brown

During this time, she decided to pursue a life-long career in the hospitality industry. Her next career move was with the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Bureau for seven years, then opening sales executive with Renaissance Hotel Downtown St. Louis, where she achieved Marriott's Golden Circle Sales Award for six consecutive years.

Brown served with Hyatt Regency Management Training for eight years, where she achieved Management Trainee of the Year. In September 2008, she received a call from the vice president of sales for Visit Tampa Bay, asking if she would be interested in an opportunity working as a national sales manager for the multicultural markets.

She accepted the offer and made an impact by bringing national and international conventions to Tampa. Brown holds an Associate in Applied Science degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management, a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from Webster University in St. Louis and a Master of Arts degree in Marketing from Webster University as well.

Judge Jessica Costello

The Honorable Jessica G. Costello was appointed on March 29, 2019, by the Governor of Florida to serve on the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court Hillsborough County bench. She presides over county, civil and domestic violence injunction matters.



Judge Jessica Costello

Costello was appointed by the governor and first lady of Florida to serve as a member of the Florida Children and Youth Cabinet, the mission of which is to improve the self-sufficiency, safety, economic stability, health and quality of life of all children and youth in Florida.

Costello also served as an assistant statewide prosecutor with the Florida Attorney General's Office. She has served as a member of Florida's Anti-Terrorism Task Force and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force Executive Committee.

She has also worked with community leaders and non-governmental organizations to engage and inform the public about is-

suces related to crime in our community.

Costello has been named a Top Government Attorney by Florida Trend since 2014 and was named to the Tampa Bay Business Journal's "Up and Comers" Hall of Fame in 2016.

Nikki Gaskin-Capehart

Nikki Gaskin-Capehart was appointed by Mayor Rick Kriseman to serve as the director of Urban Affairs for the City of St. Petersburg. She is a change agent, leading the city's plans on behalf of the mayor in the urban core.

Her focus on the South St. Petersburg Community Redevelopment Area helps to leverage existing community resources and direct new investments in people, programs and purpose in a way that will be impactful and sustainable.



Nikki Gaskin-Capehart

Gaskin-Capehart holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from the University of South Florida and is currently pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts Degree from there as well.

She is a graduate of Leadership St. Petersburg, National Urban Fellows America's Leaders of Change, Tampa Bay Public Leadership Institute, Whitney M. Young Jr. Emerging Leaders and the Tampa Bay Chapter of the New Leaders Coalition.

Timothy Dudley

Tim Dudley's office works closely with national, regional and local agencies to monitor and manage response to potential emergencies associated with severe weather such as hurricanes, large events and other high-risk situations.



Timothy Dudley

A St. Petersburg native, he has a strong background in strategic planning and emergency preparedness with more than 10 years of senior-level management experience. Before his work with Hillsborough County, he was the senior emergency management coordinator for Pinellas County.

Dudley perfected his leadership skills during a 27-year career with the U.S. Army, ultimately serving as the J63 Operations Sergeant Major at U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa. In this role, he was responsible for all matters pertaining to continuity of operations before retiring in 2014.

Dudley holds a Master of Science degree in Emergency Services Management from Columbia Southern University, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Homeland Security from American Military University and an Executive Leadership Certificate from Cornell University.

Valerie D. Fulbright

In her current role as vice president, Valerie D. Fulbright leads First

Home Bank's community engagement and program growth activities. Before launching The Fulbright Method, her own consulting firm, she was the senior director of talent acquisition at Well Care Health Plans, the vice president of human resources for GTE Financial in Tampa and Truman Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo.



Valerie D. Fulbright

Fulbright began her career at General Motors while attending undergrad at the University of Michigan in 1982, where she received her bachelor's degree. She later received her master's degree from Webster University in 1993.

She enjoys developing others and thus is an experienced certified professional coach. She also has her senior professional human resources certification.

Bill Horne

Bill Horne was appointed by the Clearwater City Council to serve as the chief administrative officer for the city and is responsible for all departments except the city attorney's office. He is one of only two employees who report directly to the council.



Bill Horne

Horne is directly responsible for 1,836 employees and accountable for the annual operating and capital budget of \$542 million.

With a wealth of management experience in dynamic and fast-paced environments, Horne came to Clearwater in 1998 as the general support services administrator. He was selected as an interim city manager in 2000 and was appointed to the position in 2001.

Prior to that, he served as a colonel in the United States Air Force. Horne earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Tulsa, a master's degree in human resource management from Pepperdine University and a master's in political science from Auburn University.

Albert Lee

Albert Lee started his banking career more than 20 years ago after graduating from Florida A&M University with a degree in business economics. He partnered with a former client to start a local dry cleaning chain from the ground up.



Albert Lee

The business ultimately grew to include four store locations, a processing plant, multiple wholesale accounts and more than 15 employees before being sold to local competitors.

Today Lee is the president and CEO of Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation, a 25-year-old U.S. Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution that provides loans to small businesses not meeting the lending requirements of conventional banks.

Lee has loaned, underwritten and presented millions of dollars in commercial, commercial real estate and retail loan transactions during his career.

Judge Patrice Williams Moore

Judge Patrice W. Moore is the current Unified Family Court Administrative Judge in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. She presides over delinquency, dependency, domestic violence injunctions, family law matters involving the families in dependency court, girls court, crossover court and dependency drug court.



Judge Patrice Williams Moore

She is the current chair of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) in Pinellas County and former co-chair of the Florida Youth Justice Commission.

She was elected August 2010 as the first African-American female Circuit Court Judge in the Sixth Judicial Circuit. She received her undergraduate degree from Florida Memorial University and her Juris Doctorate from Stetson University College of Law.

Ben F. Shirley, Jr.

Director of Regional Economic Self Sufficiency Florida Department of Families and Children, Ben Shirley, Jr. has 25 years of progressive and innovative state agency experience in operations management, programs, policy, design and deployment of strategic planning, performance-based budgeting and quality improvement systems.



Ben F. Shirley, Jr.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Florida A & M University, and a Public Manager Certification from Florida State University. He was appointed to the Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys in 2015.

Shirley is a member of Big Brothers, Youth Mentoring, National Conference on Preventing Crime Conference, 100 Black Men of Tampa Bay and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Dr. Kanika Tomalin

As the first African-American female deputy mayor and city adminis-

trator of one of Florida's largest cities, Dr. Kanika Tomalin is a role model for women from all walks of life and an advocate for innovative policies, equitable community revitalization, healthy families, at-risk youth and education.



Dr. Kanika Tomalin

In her role as deputy mayor, she works in partnership with Mayor Rick Kriseman to strategically advance St. Pete toward its goals.

As city manager, she's taken a fresh approach to this traditional role, transforming intent into action through strategic operations and fiscal innovation – ultimately bringing transparency and easier access to city government.

Tomalin earned a bachelor's in broadcast journalism from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, an MBA from the University of Miami and a doctorate in law and policy from Northeastern University.

She has received countless awards and appointments, including being named one of Florida's most powerful and influential women and businesswoman of the year. She is committed to several important causes, namely engineering self-perpetuating sustainable opportunities and improving the health of the community she serves.

Kenneth Welch

Commissioner Kenneth Welch was elected to the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners in 2000, representing District 7. He was re-elected in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016.



Kenneth Welch

Welch has focused on critical issues that are vital to moving the community forward, including jobs, housing, youth services, transportation, justice reform and community development.

Recently, Welch led the effort to create the first Pinellas Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs) focused on poverty reduction. The South St. Petersburg CRA is the first and will direct approximately \$70 million in county and city funding to reduce poverty over the next 30 years.

Welch's professional experience includes 14 years in accounting, information technology, financial systems administration with Florida Power Corporation (now Duke Energy), five years as associate vice president of business services for St. Petersburg College and more than 20 years of entrepreneurial experience as technology manager for Welch Accounting & Tax Services, a family-owned business.

The last Negro League World Series

BY FRANK DROUZAS
Staff Writer

For breath-taking Word Series moments, the last Negro League World Series ranks up there among the very best.

In Game 1 of the 1954 Series between the New York Giants and the Cleveland Indians, the score was tied 2-2 in the top of the eighth inning. With runners on first and second and no one out, the Indians were threatening to break the game open as slugger Vic Wertz stepped to the plate.

On the fourth pitch, the dangerous Wertz swung mightily and launched the ball deep into the cavernous centerfield of the Polo Grounds in New York — it would travel about 420 feet in all. The runners on base bolted right away, certain no mortal fielder could catch up to a ball hit that far.

But a fleet-footed centerfielder named Willie Mays turned and ran like a sprinter at the crack of the bat, making a manic dash toward the fence where — with his back still to the infield — stuck out his glove and hauled in his prize, short of the warning track.

After the jaw-dropping, over-the-shoulder catch, he spun immediately and heaved the ball back toward the infield, forcing the runners — who had seen no need to tag up on a ball smacked so far — to go scampering back to their bases. The magnificent grab preserved the tie, and after the Indians failed to score, the Giants ultimately won the game in the tenth inning. It came to be known simply as “The Catch” and lives on as one of the truly great World Series moments.

But far fewer people got to witness an arguably more impressive Series performance by the incredible Mays when he almost single-handedly beat the opposing team with his legs, glove, arm and bat.

It was 1948, and the Birmingham Black Barons were set to face the Homestead Grays in what would be the last Negro League World Series. With many financially

struggling ball clubs folding all around and Jackie Robinson breaking the color line in the Majors the year before, the death toll was sounding for these longstanding leagues in which so many black ballplayers excelled and entertained.

And one of the biggest rising stars of the Negro American League was Mays, then a 17-year-old phenom.

Hailing from Westfield, Ala., young Mays was still in high school when he began playing for the Black Barons. His father, “Cat” Mays was a talented and speedy outfielder in his day, but it was apparent to all that son Willie had more talent and certainly more speed from the moment he stepped onto the field. What’s more, he played the game with the effortless, youthful exuberance of a kid on the sandlot with his friends, having a ball.

The Negro League had a lingo all its own, and in this colorful slang, black ballplayers all agreed that Mays possessed an “awful” arm — that is an awfully good one. Even as a kid, he could run down balls that could’ve been blasted from canons, snagging them out of the air with his trusty glove. In turn, he could send a ball screaming back to the infield with a speed of an express train, nearly burning holes in his infielder’s mitts as they caught his powerful and dead-on throws.

Though he batted respectively, he had trouble finding a comfortable hitting groove early in his career. This was really the only weakness his opponents saw in this kid, and his opponents in the 1948 World Series were the mighty Homestead Grays of Washington, D.C. — a team that had beaten the Black Barons in the 1943 and 1944 World Series and were looking to whip them again.

After outlasting the fearsome Kansas City Monarchs in a grueling series for the Negro American League crown, the Black Barons quickly found themselves in the hole after the first two games against the Grays, led by future Hall of Fame first baseman Buck Leonard.

In Game 1, the Barons

were down 3-1 in the late innings with Mays on third base and teammate Pepper Bassett on first. Player-manager Piper Davis then stepped up and promptly whacked a tripled to right field.

Mays scored easily, but Bassett, a big man huffing and puffing his way toward the plate, saw the Grays’ catcher Eudie Napier ahead of him, waiting for the throw from right field. After a dusty collision at the plate, umpire Frank Duncan of Kansas City called Bassett out. The Black Barons dropped Game 3-2.

Mays and his teammates were happy to be in Birmingham for Game 2, in their own Rickwood Field. Games at Rickwood were always an event, as the hand-clapping, foot-stomping fans infused the park with all the infectious buzz and passion of an enormous outdoor church revival. Up by a score of 2-0, Barons’ veteran starter had pitched an efficient two-hitter into the sixth inning, when he promptly self-destructed.

After giving up a couple of singles, Powell walked the ever-dangerous Buck Leonard. The Grays’ Wilmer Fields smacked what looked like an easy inning-ending double-play ball to Davis at second, but misfortune intervened for the Black Barons. Davis’ toss to infielder Artie Wilson lodged in Wilson’s glove and a run scored, cutting the lead to 2-1. Napier then slapped a single to tie the game.

Running out of steam, Powell served up a pitch that Willie Pope like so much that he launched it over the wall for a three-run dinger, putting the Grays up 5-2 and effectively sucking all the air out of Rickwood Field. But there was still some fight left in the Black Barons, who closed the gap to 5-3 when pinch hitter Herman Bell hit an RBI double.

Manager Davis pulled the slow Bell from second base and inserted speedier pinch-runner Jehosie Heard. Wilson was up next, but when he went down swinging, chasing his big weakness — the high fastball — the Barons were down to their last out.

Third baseman John Britton stepped up to the plate, and if he could find a way to somehow get on, Mays was ready on deck, waiting for his big chance to set off his own brand of fireworks in the Birmingham sky. Though the teenaged Mays was still trying to establish himself as a feared hitter, the youngster certainly picked his moments to impress.

In his book about the 1948 Black Barons titled “Willie’s Boys,” author John Klima wrote: “Nobody considered Willie a kid when he batted in a man’s situation.”

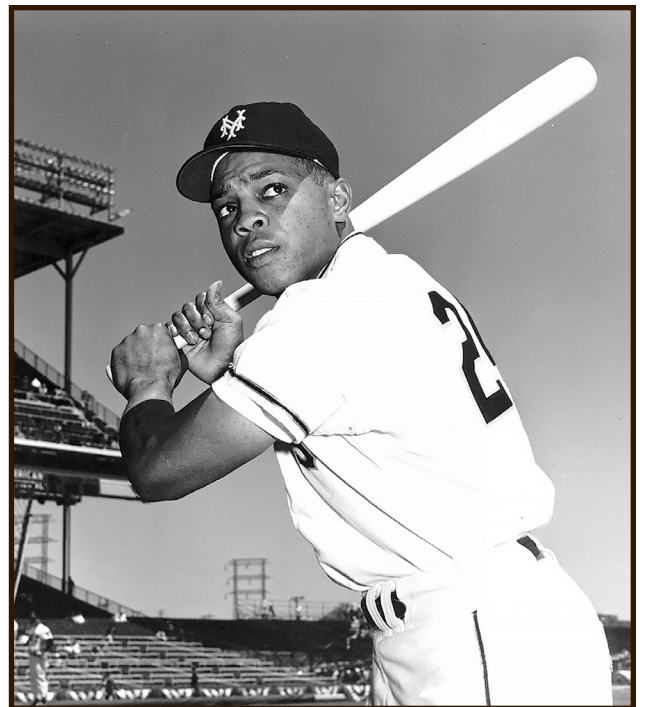
Sadly for the Barons and the Rickwood faithful, he never got the chance. Britton’s ground ball out ended the contest, giving the Grays a commanding 2-0 lead in the Series. The kid would have to wait for his chance.

The Black Barons wanted more than anything to win a World Series game against the dreaded Grays in Birmingham. Referring to Mays’ performance in Game 3, Klima wrote: “For the first time in a meaningful game, he put all of his fantastic skills together at once, proving that he could beat you with his speed, his defense, his throwing, and when it mattered most his hitting.”

Mays wanted to win so badly he was willing to put his entire team upon his sturdy shoulders and carry them to victory himself if need be. In Game 3, he would show the baseball world that he was indeed a giant among men.

Barons’ starter Alonzo Perry and Grays’ hurler Ted Alexander were locked in a scoreless duel through three innings when Homestead power hitter Bob Thurman — who boasted as a young man he “could hit a ball nine miles” — turned on a pitch and sent it flying toward center. Thurman gave it such a ride that he figured he had a double for sure, but Mays had already started running.

The teenaged speedster was making up impossible ground on the soaring ball as pitcher Perry looked on, and Thurman came trotting up to second base where Artie Wilson was waiting to deliver the news to the hapless hitter: the



Willie Mays

centerfielder caught your fly ball. You’re out.

The Rickwood crowd feverishly praised and applauded the young wizard of the outfield. By then, many had been going to the ballpark just to see Mays make such impossible plays. In the fifth, Perry helped his own cause by driving in a run with a double, putting the Black Barons up 1-0.

In the next inning, Buck Leonard was on first base. Leonard, who had seen Mays play a couple games but never witnessed his superhuman ability to throw a baseball, took off as soon as the following hitter singled to center.

Thinking it fairly routine that he could reach third base after getting a good jump, Leonard barreled toward third when all of a sudden, an object came zipping through the air like an angry arrow and thwacked right into third baseman Britton’s waiting glove.

In horse racing terms, the incredulous Leonard was out by two lengths. The veteran later admitted that he was not only flabbergasted that a kid could make such a strong throw but such an accurate one, to boot.

The Black Barons increased their lead to 3-1 thanks to a wild pitch, but the Grays battled back in the eighth when Thurman smashed a two-run double to tie the game 3-3. In the last at-bat for the home team, Bill Greason led off with a line-drive single.

After Wilson flied out, Britton then walked. With the winning run on second base, Mays made his way to the plate. He had astounded the Grays with his speed and his arm, and now it was time for his big stick to do the talking. With the hopes of his team riding on him, Mays turned on Alexander’s pitch so fast that he sent it whistling back at the pitcher, through his legs and into the outfield. Mays started running, and so did Greason, who turned on the jets and loped his way around the bases.

Luis Marquez, the Grays’ centerfielder with an average arm, fielded the ball and tossed it back in but Greason, who never stopped running and scored easily without a play. Mays’s game-winning hit threw the ballpark crowd into hysterics, and the hometown boys finally defeated the hated Homestead Grays.

Mays’ manager and mentor, Piper Davis, hugged Mays at the end of the game — something the stoic disciplinarian rarely ever did. As Klima wrote, left fielder Jimmy Zapp said of teammate Mays after the game, “Here we thought we was the ones makin’ him better, but it was the other way around.”

It was clear on that day fall day in Birmingham that the players and fans had witnessed something special. Major League scouts also witnessed the Mays magic as well.

The Grays would have their complete revenge for that loss when they obliterated

ated the Barons 14-1 in Game 4 and went on to beat a dispirited Barons team in Game 5 by a score of 10-6, winning the Series. It was the final Negro League World Series for good, as the Negro National League folded at the end of 1948.

A few of the surviving teams soldiered on in the newly-formed Negro American League eastern Division, but the writing was on the ballpark walls. The Negro Leagues were on their way out. The Homestead Grays, champs of 1948, didn’t exist after the 1950 season.

Some of the players found their way to the big time of “white folks’ ball,” as black ballplayers called it. There was no shortage of interest in the multi-talented Mays, as the Boston Braves, Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants all scouted him. It was the Giants that won the day, however, as they signed Mays to their minor league affiliate.

In 1951, Mays debuted for the Giants and played every one of his 22 seasons with them in New York and then San Francisco, after their move out west in 1958. Over two decades later, the mark he made on the game could never be diminished.

The “Say Hey Kid” finished his playing days in 1973 with a career batting average of over .300, bashing out over 3,200 hits and blasting 660 home runs. He was a 24-time All-Star and a World Series champ in 1954 when his Giants swept the Indians — the Series where Mays made his historic catch.

Although that miraculous grab has been celebrated throughout the decades, players and fans who had seen Mays play as a teen probably wouldn’t have even called it his best catch. After all, they had witnessed Willie the Wizard make such stupendous plays before, on the rustic fields of the Negro Leagues.

Furthermore, many black ballplayers felt that the caliber of their Negro League baseball was every bit as strong as white folks’ ball. Talented squads such as the Homestead Grays and Birmingham Black Barons could more than hold their own against the New York Yankees or St. Louis Cardinals, they argued.

And with no shortage of legends such as speed demon Cool Papa Bell, home run king Josh Gibson and fireball pitcher Satchel Paige — who would wind up in the Majors himself — few could argue the quality of their game.

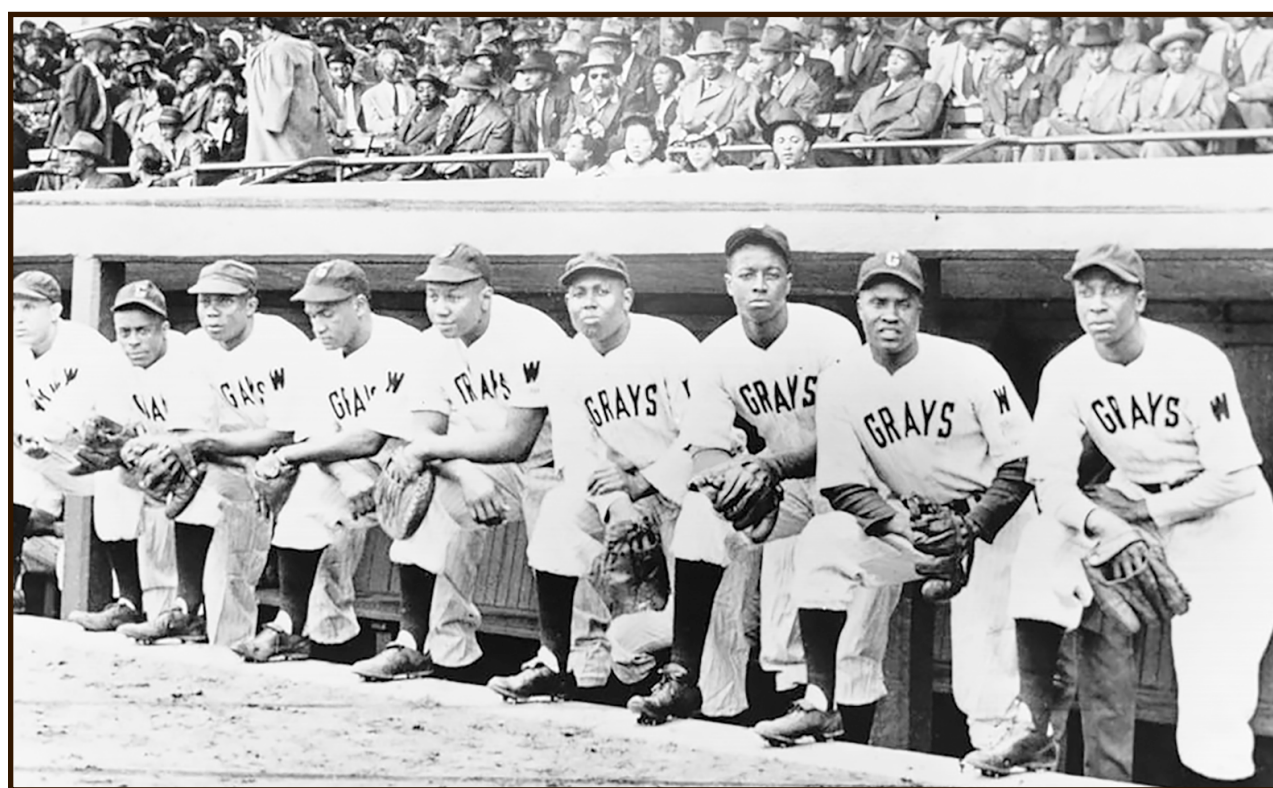
Mays will be remembered for many things—The Catch among them—but he should always be acknowledged as a man who helped bridge the gap between men playing in cozy, segregated Negro League parks to black and white ballplayers sharing the field in big-time Major League stadiums.

Source: “Willie’s Boys: the 1948 Birmingham Black Barons, the Last Negro League World Series, and the Making of a Baseball Legend,” by John Klima (Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2009).



The 1948 Birmingham Black Barons

Courtesy of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Inc.



The Washington Homestead Grays circa 1946.

Courtesy of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum Inc.

Ignite your power with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

EXPO , from front page

power. I lost my husband of 12 years suddenly...I had to find the power to provide love to my four-year-old daughter.”

There was a variety of vendors to shop, learn and explore. Vegan and cruelty-free lipsticks, lip glosses and concealers from Loud Mouth and statement pieces by Pardon my Fetish Accessory Boutique were on full display.

“When I think of the word ‘empowerment,’ said Lisa Brody, president of the ZUO Chapter in addressing the audience, “I think of providing information that will enable someone to achieve something and advocating for others.”

And that is precisely what the expo did. Jo Ann Nesbitt was on hand with literature on homeownership and Tommalisa Lumpkin was there advertising her book “Menopause vs. Puberty.”

Northside Hospital with breast self-exam information and a magnetic health card for your home and Bayfront Hospital gave blood pressure readings were just a few of the healthcare vendors.

A panel discussion entitled “Women on the Move” moderated by Dr. Cynthia Johnson, director, Florida SBDC at Pinellas County Economic Development, included panelist Shannon

Ligon (Pretty Smart Law), Lorna Taylor (Premiere Eye Care) and Sharon Hayes (Bayfront Hospital).

Each of these women spoke to being successful in male-dominated fields, demanding equal pay, taking care of self and much more.

Breakout sessions allowed participants to become educated on topics such as managing money, social connectivity, engagement, mental health, moving through age and personal branding.

One of the most popular breakout sessions was personal finance and wealth-building presented by Precious Green, Re-

gions Bank Manager from the Tyrone branch. She interacted with attendees by communicating the terms in real-life scenarios. She also gave out resources dealing with Regions “Becoming a Millionaire” tracker, attainable financial goals and transferable wealth.

The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. are already planning next year’s expo guaranteed to top last month’s event.

Brittanye Blake is a student reporter in the Neighborhood News Bureau at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Visit nbnnews.com for more info.



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but the Republicans’ voter suppression scheme emerged in the form of a poll tax violating their civil rights.

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