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2017

# The Weekly Challenger

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

VOL. 49 NO. 52

AUGUST 17 - AUGUST 23, 2017

50¢

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Master barber Antonio Brown offers hair coloring, hot towel shaves, eyebrow service, beard trims, facials and kids cuts.

## Central Station Barbershop & Grooming

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG—Sitting in Central Station Barbershop & Grooming on a Sunday afternoon, you'll hear the solutions to all the world's problems. Finance, relationships, recidivism —no topic is too complicated for owner Antonio Brown and his clientele.

"I'm basically a sounding board for a lot of people when they come in, so I have to be well-rounded and able to converse with many

different ethnicities being that I cut multi-cultural hair, all textures," said Brown.

Located across the street from Taco Bus at 2325 Central Ave., the barbershop opened its door Oct. 1, 2015. Brown provides high-class grooming options at working-class prices.

"We can do anything because we know about the scalp and all of the medicinal aspects of hair, how to treat it," said Brown about himself and his three employees: David Lee, Keith Austin Ragsdale and

Dar'rell D. Nash. "We can do anything from an edge to a relaxer."

Central Station also offers hair coloring, hot towel shaves, eyebrow service, beard trims, facials and kids cuts.

Born and raised in St. Pete, Brown graduated from Boca Ciega High School in 1999 and soon after became a father. Instead of going away to college, he stayed home to help raise his son Jaelyn.

Taking a lucrative job at a mortgage investment firm, he worked in customer

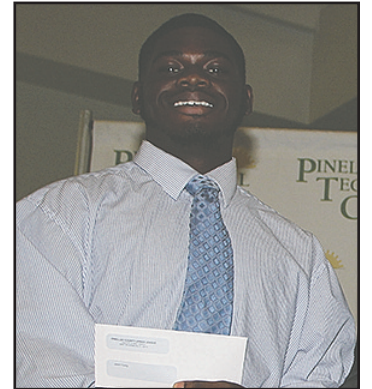
service and the tele-marketing department and soon became an assistant supervisor.

"I was 19 and doing pretty well for myself," he said, noting that his time in customer service was like receiving a degree in public relations.

Being as young as he was and with a pocket full of money, most people would have settled in and grown complacent. Not Brown. He knew he had more potential that working for someone else and decided

See **HAIR**, page 8

## S.T.Y.L.E. spotlights youth



Jared Young

BY ALLEN A. BUCHANAN  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The Pinellas County Urban League's annual Summer Training In Youth Leadership & Employment (S.T.Y.L.E.) program showcased their 2017 class earlier this month at Pinellas Technical College (PTC). Forty-eight students successfully completed the job-training program this year.

The S.T.Y.L.E. program selects approximately 50 young people between the ages of 14 and 16 to participate in its annual on-the-job entrepreneurial training and professional skills development program that has been in existence since 2009.

Through a series of workshops, seminars and field trips, the youth received training in the areas of employability skills, leadership development and career development/college preparation.

Participants also received a \$500 stipend for completing the eight-week course.

For 15-year-old Jared Young, an 11th-grade scholar and athlete at Lakewood High School, the S.T.Y.L.E. program could not have intersected with his life at a better time.

"When I started the program, I thought I would just go through the program and just focus on the program, but there were some bumps along the way," said Jared.

What Jarred went through could have been a very reasonable excuse for him to decide to quit before the eight weeks were up.

"One of the bumps was my mother passed halfway through the program. Even though a major part of my family was gone, I still felt the true compassion and love of the 50 students and the four instructors," explained Jarred.

Jared's father stated that the painful experience of losing a mother and wife brought them closer together.

See **STYLE**, page 6

## JHOP tours Midtown

BY DEXTER MCCREE  
Feature Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – The new principal of John Hopkins Middle School (JHOP) asked a group of new teachers what comes to their mind when they hear Silver Lake. The responses, or lack thereof, indicated their newness to the area surrounding the school.

The teachers started their school year by taking a bus tour, sponsored by Greater Mt. Zion AME Church, in the Midtown area. The purpose of the tour was to pro-

vide teachers who are new to Pinellas County, St. Petersburg and JHOP an opportunity to see part of the community where a large portion of the population they will be serving live.

With the new school year starting, the teachers got a chance to see for the first time a perspective of living that the kids have seen all their lives.

"It's important to know about the people that we serve and the families that we partner," said Dr. Dallas Jackson, principal of JHOP. "Not only do we have brand new teach-



JHOP teachers watching a video on Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll

ers to John Hopkins, but we have teachers that are new to the area. They have no clue what the kids are talking about when they mention Silver Lake, Play Lot, Three Brothers (store), JP (Jordan

Park) or Midtown. The tour turned out well and they appreciated the environment acuity talk."

The day started with the teachers watching a video about

See **JHOP**, page 9

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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Breaking the Cycle

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

Reform or adapt  
Praise the Lord Saints.  
Back when I was in the Marines we had a saying and for the sake of some that may be reading I will clean it up a bit: “Don’t urinate on my boot then tell me it’s raining.”  
Eventually, I’m going to go outside or check the weather report and see there ain’t a cloud in the sky.  
The time has come for those that think they are so much more superior, intelligent or just plain smarter than the average bear to just stop it.  
I say stop it cause I’m really fighting the “Marine” in me to not say what I truly want to, but I know Lyn wouldn’t print it and it’s not the godly thing to do so I have to think about what I want to say in a way that you become informed and it not lose its impact.

I’m just so sick of those “status hounds” telling us it’s raining outside when they know for themselves that not only is it not raining, but they are banking on us not to do the research and check for ourselves. Hallelujah for social media.

Thank God for papers like *Tampa Bay Times* to give it to us straight, no chaser.

It’s amazing to me how when the *Times* exposes the truth how some will attempt to insult our intelligence and try to discredit what the largest newspaper in the state of Florida prints as though they don’t research what they print.

One thing the Lord had me to not do was call folks names out when I write these articles but to expose their deeds.

Well, all one would have to do is follow social media or the two political races and it would become apparent. I know it seems that I am rambling, but again hop onto Facebook and click on the various candidates running and their major supporters, which seem to be well-known folks in our area, and you will get an ear and eye full.

It would be like we are raging civil war against ourselves all for individuals who could care less about what we want or truly believe in. Politicians lie, always have and always will.

When a particular sector of folks have become insignificant to them as it relates to the polls, not position, not support, but polls, you can best believe when the smoke clears, you will start to see all the promises go puff into thin air.

Young folks have a saying now: “you mad or nah.” But by then, they got what they wanted and all you can do is whine, bicker and complain just as you did the

previous months and years leading up to election season.

The one major issue I have is this: I have run into a whole big bunch of “democrats” that are unwavering and steadfast. They don’t care what their candidate says or does, well except for the lies, I mean. The kicker is that these “democrats” are also boasting to be Christians, not all of them but most of them.

Therein lays the dilemma. To be a Christian, one must be “Christ-like” in word and deed.

The saying is you are to never mix religion with politics and anyone with a pulse knows that has always been bull crap! One of the very reasons I believe we, as black folks have been continually stuck in the mess, is because we decide to not get involved and let those that we see in the media be our spokespersons. We lend our trust to them to steer us in the right direction.

Laughable when we see the state of all of our economic and social conditions over the past umpteen years. You would think we would have learned our lesson by now.

I taught a lesson and wrote an article some time ago called “The 3 Strikes of Aaron” in which I detailed all three incidents in that Aaron had an opportunity to do the righteous thing, notice I didn’t say “right.”

The term “right” is ambiguous in nature and lends itself to one’s own interpretation, and the immediate or current situation or circumstances influence the outcome. However, when it comes to the things of God, there is no ambiguity, no wiggle room and no gray areas. It’s either yes or no according to His Word.

“Super saints” today are similar to Aaron, Moses, Solomon, David, Abraham and King Saul; for example, assume they had special permission from God to alter His commandments or Word without recompense.

Well, these individuals know the outcome of each of these great spiritual leaders and I fear it’s going to come around again unless they start to override their political affiliation and replace it with their spiritual one. Notice I said spiritual, not religious.

No, this is not my opinion or personal feelings, research the outcome of each of those aforementioned.

My time and space are up this week but not my message. Stay tuned next week.

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

## Stonewall is here

Dear Editor:  
This is an open letter to the members of the “Stonewall” Democratic Party organization here in St. Petersburg.

I am the campaign manager for Eritha “Akile” Cainion for District 6 City Council and we work together with the committee to elect Jesse Nevel for Mayor on the platforms of “Unity through Reparations and Radical Times; Radical Solutions.”

I am a gender and sexuality non-conforming African (GSNA) and I think—no I know—it is my responsibility to reclaim Stonewall from this group of white nationalist.

We understand that many within the Stonewall Democrats are closeted supporters of Jesse for mayor and Akile for District 6 while continuing to openly campaign for big money gentrifier Rick Kriseman.

We are also aware that a lot of intimidation is being leveled against would be supporters by the president of the “Stonewall” Democrats Susan McGrath, who has proven herself to be an enemy of the platforms of reparations and justice for the black working-class community.

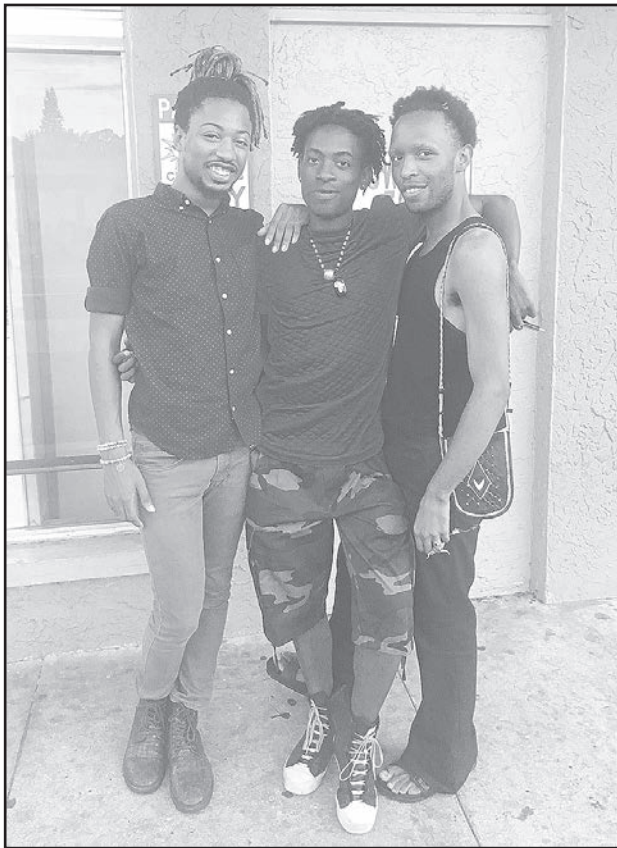
Susan McGrath called me and dozens of other GSNA domestic terrorist because we fight against police state sanctioned genocide of our black community.

We would like to remind you Susan McGrath that the Stonewall rebellion was courageously led nearly 50 years ago by a black working-class transgender woman Marsha P. Johnson and Latina Sylvia Rivera. It was a rebellion sparked by the influence of the vibrant black liberation movement of that period. Just like our movement for Radical Solutions, it was a fierce struggle against the terrorizing police force.

The Pinellas Stonewall Democrats is a predominately white LGBTQ group who function within the status quo to integrate this sector of the white population into the big money corporate political structure of the Democratic Party.

This capitalist extraction is done at the expense of the black community through gentrification and police terrorism.

The campaigns of Nevel and Cainion include a dynamic and leading contingent of GSNA and trans people who are still fighting for rights within the context of the rights of the whole black community to win justice, reparations and self-determination over our economic, political and social



situation.

If you cannot openly stand up for reparations for the black community, justice and black community control of the police and schools; if you turn your backs on a black working-class led movement that includes GSNA, trans, youth, workers, seniors and so many others; if you call for state sanctioned violence towards the movement behind the campaigns for Akile and Jesse because we clapped too loudly and too enthusiastically at a discussion between the two oppressive Ricks and broke the decorum used to silence the voices of the oppressed, then very likely you would NOT have supported the raucous and exuberant black working-class who led the Stonewall Rebellion 50 years ago!

Our Stonewall has been appropriated for way too long as a cover for rights for a few at the expense of millions non-white LGBT. Our ancestors put their lives on the lines during that rebellion and we refuse to let anyone drag their legacy to a disrespectful and opportunist low-life level. We are reclaiming our history!

Stonewall is here with us! We ask for you to join us on the right side of the wall.

The fact is the courage of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power Movement of the 50s and 60s was the impetus for the movement for white women and LGBT people to come out of the kitchen and out of the closet.

The fact is despite the right to vote gained in the 60s, the conditions of African people, including GSNA people are worse than they were 50 years ago.

GSNA people are fight-

ing for their rights in the context of the whole black working-class community and movement. Our struggle must be heard by the white LGBT community and our leadership must be followed if white LGBT people are truly and honestly concerned with the rights of ALL LGBT and not just themselves. We believe a sector of you want to take that stand.

Don’t be cynical. Be part of a real movement. Stand up for your convictions. Have the courage to act on your beliefs and make St. Pete Florida a model city for the whole country.

Today the interests of the big money are in the center of Dem. Rick Kriseman’s agenda. That means rights for white people at the expense of the black community.

The interests of reparations mean that we start with real justice; we turn our priorities right side up and put the interests of the black community in the center, a community that has been the moral compass of the US, standing for the interests of all the people against all oppression. The platform for reparations will unite our city, uplifting all communities no one at the expense of another.

Come on over to the side of the people, the black community and the forward side of history. Come over to the side of the leaders of the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969 and the leaders of the GSNA community today.

Come out and openly join the campaigns for Jesse Nevel for mayor and Eritha Akile Cainion for City Council District 6. Unity through Reparations!  
*Gazi Kodzo*

## Maria Scruggs brings experience with Midtown’s struggles to the race

BY GRAHAM COLTON & RICHARD MARINI  
Neighborhood News Bureau

ST. PETERSBURG — Maria Scruggs, 59, president of St. Petersburg’s NAACP chapter, is one of eight candidates in the crowded city council race to represent District 6. This diverse district encompasses both downtown and Midtown. The seat is currently occupied by Karl Nurse who is term limited and cannot run again.

Scruggs joins Eritha “Akile” Cainion, Justin Bean, Robert Blackmon, Gina Driscoll, Corey Givens Jr., Jim Jackson and James Scott, in the highly contested race.

The upcoming Primary Election will be held Aug. 29, and the top two candidates who receive the most votes will proceed to the General Election Nov. 7.

In an interview with Scruggs, she addressed some of the issues affecting south St. Petersburg, such as food injustice. However, according to Scruggs, food injustice is “political rhetoric that cannot be resolved.”

Areas of south St. Pete have been affected by food injustice in the wake of Walmart’s closing in

Tangerine Plaza this past February. Scruggs said that the Walmart closed because the community was not able to support it.

She disagrees with the way that Mayor Rick Kriseman has been handling the situation and believes that she can offer better alternatives to the community.

“You can’t just put a grocery store in a location and expect people will come,” Scruggs said.

To cope with this closing on a short-term basis, Scruggs proposed using fresh produce stands staffed by local suppliers for one to two months.

On a long-term basis, Scruggs suggested raising the income of south St. Pete residents, such as those who worked at the Walmart that closed.

“You had young people that worked at the Sweetbay that could not afford to shop there,” Scruggs said. “You have to work with the people there.”

Scruggs’ focus on creating opportunities for workers translates to addressing high rates of poverty among the black community in Midtown.

While addressing some of south St. Pete’s issues, Scruggs mentioned her frustration



with the politically charged rhetoric flooding the city council race.

“We have too many socio-economic issues in our community,” Scruggs said. “You need someone that knows the needs and knows the struggles.”

In a wide city council race, Scruggs aims to stand out on her community experience. She said her opponents aren’t clear on what the issues are and only spew political rhetoric. A successful candidate has to speak to not only issues in downtown, but also the issues in Midtown.

Scruggs said that her key value is “integrity.” She also offered a piece of advice for voters to follow: “Don’t ask a politician what they’re going to do, ask what they’ve already done.”

The Primary Election is Aug. 29.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## What is the first amendment to Principal Hepburn?

Dear Editor:  
Jail is back in session! I mean, school, right? I can't tell the difference these days.  
On the first day back, faculty members and staff set up a cute show for news outlets to showcase Gibbs' 90-year-anniversary and how much the school has "improved" with our new school grade of a "C," challenging the previous year's "D" score.

Upon entering the gates of Gibbs, you found staff and faculty holding signs saying "welcome back" and "Dare to 'B' Great."  
Freshmen may have been fooled into seeing this "warm welcome" as a great introduction to their high school life, but upperclassmen like myself saw this as a cover-up.  
After we entered our homeroom classes to receive our schedules, Principal Hepburn greeted the school with the new "Dare to 'B' Great" slogan. Since the school hopped from a pitiful "D" grade to an equally horrible but slightly better "C" grade, he is pushing the students to make the school a "B."

We were corralled into the school's auditorium where Hepburn went on to pull statistics of how black students perform in school and their graduation rates compared to non-black students. The statistics revealed that non-black students graduate at a rate of 94 percent and black students graduate 15 percent less at 79 percent.  
Does he have any idea how embarrassing that is? In a room of 400 plus students, with around 150 white students, us black students are graduating at lower rates than they are? We felt so silly even sitting in the same room as those white kids, and it's a pre-



dominately black school! Is this what he calls progress?  
Is this what's going to get the school to a "B" grade? It doesn't even stop there.  
Hepburn literally said that if you have problems or issues with how this school is run, keep it confidential and within the school. Don't write articles or papers about the school.

The African students were caught off guard when he said this because he was directly targeting the First Amendment right of free speech with that statement. He then mentioned the article I wrote entitled "Back to jail" in last week's edition of *The Weekly Challenger*.

This attack on my article is a direct disunity with our First Amendment right to free speech. I wrote that article as a way to express what many of us African students experience at this prison of a school, and no matter how many rules and policies they change and alter to loosen the brute terror, this school in its current state will never work in the interest of its majority African students.

Will being silent and turning a blind eye to the police terror and slander appease our principal? How are we not supposed to bring the struggles that we go through at Gibbs to the light of the media?  
We should not hesitate

to showcase and expose the lies within those prison gates that conceal us Monday through Friday. Not forgetting the topic of police terror, students were gladly shown a picture of young Africans like ourselves restrained by police officers in the grass and on concrete with yellow letters on top reading "Let's End the Cycle." This is criminalization at its finest!

No white student in this assembly was shown in a demeaning way. This is because Hepburn needs to pull out all the card tricks to make sure that his beloved PCCA program is properly pulling in these high test scores to uplift the contradiction of the traditional students test grades.

He must not tread too lightly or else he will receive backlash like no other for slandering young children. Why is this not the same reality for us Africans? Where is this sensitivity to our needs and struggles in this school? Like I referenced in my first article, "Let the African youth speak!"

We cannot allow corrupt leaders to preside over the education of our children because it takes a village to raise a child, and if this village is being led by the likes of Hepburn, our community will reflect that corruption.

*Iniko*

## Fighting food deserts

Dear Editor:  
The issue of food deserts has become a consistent theme throughout St. Petersburg's primary election season, particularly in the District 6 city council race.

After much conversation & collaboration with community leaders, I believe that we now have a sustainable-strategic plan that will create access to affordable and nutritious food in South St. Petersburg. The catch is, the city must be willing to invest in this community-lead plan.

Food deserts are described as an area, especially those having low-income residents, with limited access to affordable and nutritious food. By that definition, south St. Petersburg definitely qualifies.

My plan is to establish a community co-op between local nonprofits and small-business owners to provide low-income individuals and families with healthy food alternatives. What I envi-

sion is an area where local residents can have a centralized location to shop, dine, and learn how to prepare low-cost, nutritious meals.

I would utilize the space vacated earlier this year by Walmart in Tangerine Plaza as the best place to house the co-op. It's something different that will attract visitors and capital for generational wealth through investment.

Our role as leaders is to connect citizens with the resources they need to live a healthy and productive life. A shuttle service to the Walmart on 34th Street North is just a temporary solution. We need long-term solutions that will put dollars back into the local economy.

A shortage of quality food and markets isn't just a Midtown issue; this is a quality-of-life issue that affects all residents in our city. We've lost two major grocery stores in the past four years. No retail tenant can



succeed in Tangerine Plaza without addressing the needs of the surrounding community. Food access is directly impacted by poverty and transportation.

We have a broad base of issues facing our city in this election. We can't afford to stay silent or suppressed. We must take proactive measures against poverty, inequality and injustice. Our future and our livelihood will be determined based on who we vote for on or before August 29th.

Let's unite St. Pete!  
*Corey Givens Jr.*

## Because silence is deadly and inaction = complicity

Dear Editor:  
I was about to lay low and say nothing in this city election cycle. My attitude was "let the chips fall where they may." What difference does it make anyway? African Americans have never gotten their fair share. And nothing for us is going to change anyway. As a great friend of mine once told me, "The policies of neither party are meant to benefit us."

But as I thought and thought, I knew I could not keep still or be silent in the face of the sweeping wave of systematic injustice now being played out in state and national policy. Yes, this local mayoral race is legally nonpartisan. But the person who sits in the mayor's office represents everyone in this city on the county, state and national levels. They are the one who sets the tone for policies supported on each level.

Therefore, I cannot support a candidate who supports the current national GOP agenda of oppression and suppression of civil rights, voting rights and healthcare; or of one who has supported the oppressive policies of both the Bush brothers and of Governor Rick Scott.

This election is about much more than rattling a cage and making noise. It's about sitting down at the table and talking turkey. It's about us getting more than just the turkey butt and gizzard. We like thighs and some white meat too.

Now allow me to lay out some facts. Rick Baker, while being a very honorable and genuinely a nice man, we must consider the philosophies he believes and the policies he has historically supported. The policies he has supported have disproportionately affected poor people and people of color.

Point blank and simple, Baker is a conservative Republican.

In the conservative thought, one seeks to spend as little as possible of the government's money on social programs such as healthcare and education in order to fund tax breaks for the wealthy and fund the prison industrial complex as well as the of the military industrial complex.

It seeks to deregulate as much in industry as possible to increase shareholder profits at the expense of workers and the environment and consumers. These national policies all have very real local implications

I have watched the constant erosion of civil rights and affirmative action gains that were made under the Johnson administration. Ronald Reagan ushered in a more powerful mindset on the right with the whole Moral Majority right-wing Christian conservative movement.

It was the beginning of many of the situations we face right now. It is during this time that we saw the birth and rise of the crack cocaine epidemic, HIV/AIDS came on the scene and the entire social safety net that had been installed was dismantled.

Social programs that provided jobs and training to low-income youths were defunded. The education system started moving to take money from public education and transfer it into the hands of private school providers at the expense of the very students they say they wanted to provide more choices for.

All industrial education was taken out of public middle and high schools, which have left millions of young people with absolutely no skills if they dropped out of high school. And the ones that did graduate still had no marketable skills.

All this lead to mass incarceration because of people having little or no economic opportunity, no skills, no legal way to earn a living. And many who fell prey to the drugs and became addicted were given harsh prison sentences rather than rehab.

The revolving door of the prison system helped to further the spread of AIDS in the black community, which disproportionately affects Black men women and children. The infection rates in the black community are at epidemic crisis levels.

In the time since Regan, the prison population has risen over 300 percent for men and over 600 percent for women. In 2008, there were 7.3 million people in America on either probation, parole or in jail and prison.

Again, these are national policies that have very real local implications.

So let's look at what happened in St. Petersburg during that time. During the Baker era, we saw downtown redeveloped, and the pier that was already in decline and needed life support was given none. We got doggie parks. We did see the opening of the Sweet Bay on 18th Avenue and 22nd Street South; however, Mr. Baker did not cause the plaza to be there.

We saw home ownership in Midtown decline and poverty has steadily increased in the last 20 years.

We did not see any other significant economic development that affected the residents of Midtown. We did not see any significant programs aimed at helping our kids and giving them jobs. He did bring in a mentoring program, but that was far too little to solve the problems.

Under Mayor Rick Kriseman, there is now \$750,000 in the budget for such programs. Some are already in action such as



Not MY Son, My Brothers and Sisters Keepers and Men in the Making.

Mayor Kriseman is reaching out to and making available opportunities to partner with the city and other non-governmental organization in the area to provide collective solutions. Not one person or only a few people sharing in the process, it's open to whoever has a legitimate solution and properly credentialed organization.

There is one other issue that arises in this election and that is the subject of LGBTQ rights. Now I understand this is where I see how so many in the African-American community justify their support of Mr. Baker.

I have seen how over the last 40 plus years many elections have been swayed on this one issue. I have seen how politicians have courted pastors and bishops to encourage their followers to vote for the Republican candidate even though every other policy they stood for went against the very people they wanted to vote them. They knew that getting a fraction of the black vote could swing the election. And it did and it is happening in this race.

So, in this election, we must look at this for what it is. Yes it is local, yes it is a non-partisan race and yes Mr. Baker was a good mayor in many ways. But as much as everyone says he is not supporting the Trump regime, he has consistently supported the oppressive policies of the GOP here in our own city.


I find it hard to believe that he says he can fix all that he didn't fix before and fix all that he has helped to make wrong. It's not like he didn't understand the plight of poor people and people in the inner city.

You tell me, what has the black community gained under Baker or Foster?


Kriseman has begun some programs that should have been started years ago. It will take time to realize the effects but the fact remains that at this time in history, Kriseman is on the right side of progress.

Surely we must press his feet to the fire so to speak, but I am not ready to go back.

I fully and wholeheartedly support Kriseman for mayor of St. Petersburg. Let's keep moving forward. Don't look back.  
*Rev. William Graveley*



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Mini Lights: Folklore as a way to deal with trauma

BY JABAAR EDMOND  
Contributor

ST. PETERSBURG – The local Mini Lights urban legend of little green creatures snatching and eating children near Booker Creek or Lake Maggiore has been around for decades. The tale varies and even the neighborhoods, but one thing they all have in common is the town—St. Petersburg.

Looking back, some adults may think the Mini Lights was just a tool used by parents to make sure they got in the house before dark. Even I was told the story of little kids being eaten and how on some quiet nights you could actually hear them along Booker Creek.

This local legend has even inspired a movie by the Vitale Brothers, two independent filmmakers and muralist. They’ve collected stories from around south St. Pete and are making them into a film.

Most urban legends are rooted in truth, and this one is no different.

What many people aren’t aware of is that St. Petersburg was one of the largest alligator farming cities in America. Alligator farming was so popular here that people came from all over the world to view the adult reptiles and even purchase the babies.

This practice also spawned the urban legend of tourists bringing home baby alligators back to New York City and let-

ting them loose in the sewers and now gigantic gators terrorize citizens in the five boroughs. We all know that these creatures wouldn’t survive one winter in the cold sewers of New York.

But I digress. The practice of alligator farming boosted tourism and brought much-needed dollars to the area. Tourist traps sprung up all over Florida. You could buy gator meat, gator hide and all the gator souvenirs you wanted.

But there was a more sinister side to this bygone era. To lure tourist to these “farms” and roadside attractions, the gators had to be lured out of their enclosures. How you may ask? Old newspaper articles from around the country show that these creatures were coaxed out by using black children as bait.

Postcards, fans and flyers advertised the murders of beautiful babies for the enjoyment of white spectators. There are newspaper and magazine articles dating back to the 19th century documenting these heinous crimes all over Florida.

So was the blood of black children used to feed gators in St. Petersburg? One could make that argument.

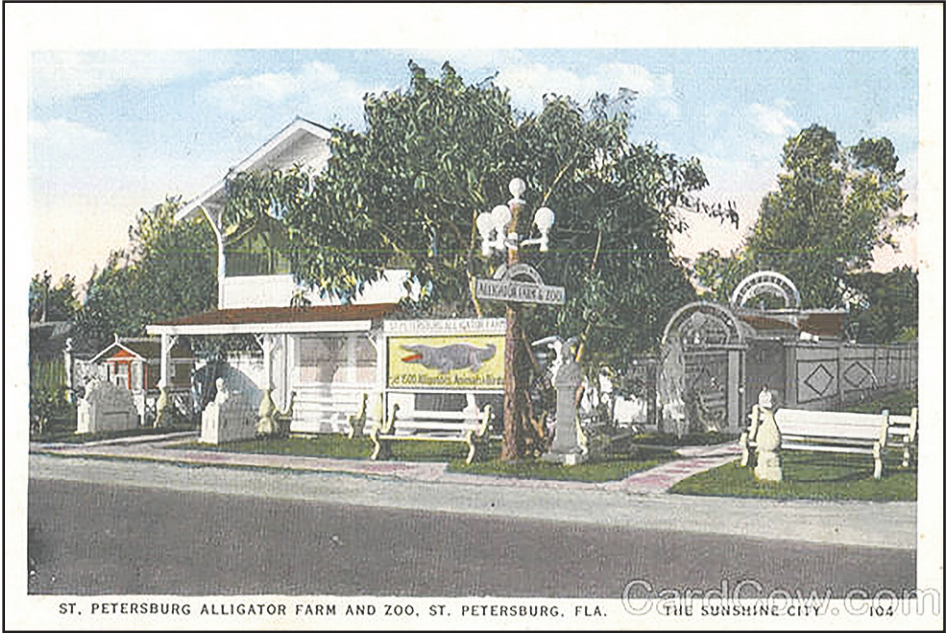
I can remember one of my community elders always telling me that there’s no such thing as Mini Lights and the missing black children were kidnapped by white folks and fed to alligators. I would also hear that the gators in Lake Maggiore and other surrounding waterways were from the farms or at least descendants of those gators.


As the story goes, this murderous breed, with a propensity for black chil-

dren, would travel through the sewer system with some ending up in Booker Creek in the Roser Park neighborhood. They would wait alongside the creek for unsuspecting children and pull them into the water, never to be seen again.

In some of the Mini Lights accounts, the monsters are described as green creatures that move really fast and snatch up their victims. Could all this be attributed to the practice of luring gators with black babies?

Folklore, at times, is the way for a community to deal with the trauma they’ve experienced. So the stories parents told their children to keep them safe could be based on the practice of kidnapping black children and using them as bait for gators.






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Did you know the City of St. Petersburg is considering the development of a new garden project adjacent to the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S.? We want to hear from YOU about what type of garden is best for your neighborhood.


A range of proposals are being considered, including community gardens with individual plots where residents can grow their own food or market-style gardens managed by non-profit organizations offering fresh, affordable produce for sale.

### Take the Survey!

- ♦ Visit [stpete.org/communitygarden](http://stpete.org/communitygarden)
- ♦ Or pick up paper surveys at any of the following locations:
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  - Frank W. Pierce Center, 2000 7th St. S.
  - Thomas “Jet” Jackson Center, 1000 28th St. S.
  - Campbell Park Center, 601 14th St. S.
  - Childs Park Center, 4301 13th Ave. S.
  - Lake Vista Center, 1401 62nd Ave. S.
  - Sunshine Senior Center, 330 5th St. N.

**Completed surveys are due by Tuesday, Sept 5.** Approximately a week after the survey is first distributed, neighborhood teens from the Teen Leadership Council or Cohort of Champions will be going door-to-door to answer questions, provide assistance, and collect completed surveys.

**Need assistance with the survey?**  
Have comments or questions? Contact Robyn Keefe at [robyn.keefe@stpete.org](mailto:robyn.keefe@stpete.org) or 727-892-5255.



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## A call to action!

TAMPA BAY – One Church One Child of Florida challenges communities to seriously consider adopting or mentoring children in need of a forever home. Do you have room in your heart for a child or siblings in need of a family?

This is an urgent and important question that must be raised time and time again, but each time there is a different child or children. One Church One Child of Florida is reaching out to families and individuals in local communities across the state in efforts to help share the truth that the child pictured here and others like him are.

Daily, over 700 children are in need of a family to call their own, many of them are minorities. Can you provide a loving, permanent home for these children or other children like them or consider becoming their mentors?

Churches are asked to partner with One Church One Child in sharing information with congregations and extending Watch-Care Ministries to children. Rev. Beverly Hills Lane, state president for One Church One Child of Florida and vice-president for National One Church One Child, is challenging fellow pastors to get involved and encouraging families to

open their hearts and homes to children in foster care.

These series of articles feature children located in communities across the state; they have no family identified to adopt them, will you take the challenge of opening your home and family to parenting them?

August’s child is highlighted in this article; she too deserves to have a family. Do pray sincerely for her and consider making her a part of your family through adoption or a part of your church through Project Watch-Care, for support and mentoring.

**Sabrina, 17**  
Sabrina was born with a song in her heart. She’s animated, outgoing, hilarious and almost always smiling. She loves people and gives herself wholeheartedly to being a great friend.

Sabrina is serious about her health, eating well (though she has a soft spot for lasagna!) and staying active. Gymnastics and dance are her two favorite sports and she’d really like to be either a gymnast or a dance therapist when she grows up.

She has no preference of family type - she said if she had two dads she could be a “daddies’ girl” and the more siblings there are the more

Photo by Lara Cerri



“I want to learn to drive!”

love to go around - but she is very clear about one thing: she wants more than anything in the world to mean the world to someone.

Sabrina has such a bright, amazing future ahead of her. She needs and deserves to be part of a loving, encouraging and accepting forever family.

If you are interested in knowing more about Sabrina and other children in foster care available for adoption, or if you would like to become a foster parent, mentor, partner or volunteer, please contact LaKay Fayson, Recruitment Coordinator for One Church One Child of Florida’s SunCoast Region, at (813) 740-0210 or lakay\_fayson@ococfl.org.

For more information, please log on to [www.ococfl.org](http://www.ococfl.org).

## Business and political relationships make the difference

BY CINDY CARTER  
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Former Mayor Rick Baker hopes to have one more shot at running the city with the Primary Election just days away. With a strong passion to make real improvements throughout St. Petersburg, Baker’s connections in the business and political arenas, he feels, gives him the advantage to bring about change.

“You need to be able to call on resources with people everywhere,” said Baker who has actively criticized the Kriseman camp for making the traditionally nonpartisan election about party lines.

Baker prides himself on his ability to work with all party denominations. “Whether they are defined as progressive or not progressive or whoever they are, if they have the ability to impact St. Pete, I’m going to go talk to them.”

In the past, Baker has called on politicians from both sides of the aisle to alleviate blight and about bring much-needed resources. He’s worked with such names as the late Rep. Bill Young not only in his endeavors as mayor but with his contributions to the Edwards Family Foundation Program, which provides hundreds of bicycles and toys for disadvantaged families come Christmas-time.

He has a relationship with the governor and the Speaker of the House,

along with our senator, who is a Democrat. Those relationships can serve you when you are trying to help the city.

“If you’re the type of person that is willing to work with everybody, which I’ve always been, then you’re going to accomplish a lot,” said Baker.

Like the post office in Midtown that Baker spent three years trying to open up to local residents, the request finally making it all the way to the White House. It was Baker’s connections that got him an audience with then President Bush and eventually raised the quarter million dollars to allow Midtown residents a place where they could buy stamps and pick up packages without having to wait outside at a window.

Or the Pinellas County Job Corps Center building that alleviated roughly 15 acres of blight and provided jobs for some and access to jobs for countless others.

“It was an environmental disaster,” said Baker, speaking of the abandoned buildings that once stood there, “a dumping site for people in the community.”

Baker used his connections to obtain grants that improved community resources, and yes, built buildings. He doesn’t take stock in the Kriseman rhetoric that his legacy is just a bunch of buildings though.

“I think it’s an excuse for not having more tangible results,” said Baker on



Former Mayor Rick Baker

Kriseman’s record, citing the building of the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Community Health Center is more than just a building to members of the community that rely on it.

“We need to continue to build,” explained Baker, marking Midtown and the Childs Park areas as making positive strides, but not enough to create sustainable change. “We’ve made progress, but they certainly don’t look like other parts of our community.”

Baker’s backing of the CRA should add to the solution; although, he plans to track the money and make sure it is targeted to programs and the developing of sites that will help the community as opposed to implementing development to gain political favor.

“I don’t care who they are,” he said. “I think it’s a huge mistake to exclude either side when you’re trying to gather resources for the community.”

WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## 2017 graduating class

STYLE, from front page

“Since there are only two of us in the household, we are strengthening our lines of communication, verbal as well as non-verbal,” said Patrice Young.

Jared acquired an extended family this summer that no doubt helped him through the grieving process.

“It was truly a blessing to come somewhere and feel like every time you are there, you feel family around you.”

The young man was not about to throw himself a pity party on stage. He did quite the opposite revealing a spiritual strength and maturity far beyond his years.

“Not only did I make a family [here], but I also will be making \$500 that I will be receiving at the end of the program,” he

said to a room full of laughter.

Five years from now, Jared plans to attend PTC to broaden his music skills and become a music producer by the time he is 21 years old.

Next, 15-year-old Angeline Evans graced the podium. Like Jared, Angeline found S.T.Y.L.E. to be a home away from home.

“This program is what I call a breath of fresh air,” said Angeline.

The astute young black woman acknowledged that preconceptions of what she was supposed to be in life had already been set. Whoever set those parameters knew absolutely nothing about the home she was raised in.

“Without God, I would not be where I am today,”

said Angeline. “I thank my father especially because he is an ordained man of God.”

Angeline talked about the instructor who had the most influence on her successful outcome in the program.

“What I didn’t know when I first came into this program is that I would meet someone like Mrs. Pacherrah Faulkner,” said Angeline.” Mrs. P is one of a kind. She portrayed what a humble, independent and well-put together African-American woman is. Mrs. P really cares about the futures of all 50 of the S.T.Y.L.E. 2017 participants.”

Faulkner used her own life story as a point of reference to relate to the students, and judging by Angeline, her sincerity

touched the class.

Gibbs senior D’Errica Denise Daniels expressed how the program improved her presentation skills.

“I learned how to speak in front of a great crowd, how to read something and constantly look up for good eye contact and how to posture myself,” said D’Errica.

D’Errica hopes to apply what she has learned on future job interviews. The young lady will be graduating from the Business Economic Technology Academy at Gibbs High School next summer and plans to attend the University of South Florida next fall.

Dunedin freshman Ebony Scott was not on board with the S.T.Y.L.E. program at the beginning of the summer.

“I want my money; that’s all I’m here for,” said Ebony about her earlier days in the program.

But being around peers like Jared, D’Errica and Angeline changed her attitude.

“Now when I go to a job interview, I don’t have to try to figure out what I have to say because now I know actually what I have to do in order to get the job.”

“My plans for the future are to become an OBGYN and possibly go to the University of Miami,” said St. Petersburg Collegiate IB sophomore Kerstyn Elaine Russell

Like her peers before her, Russell said the S.T.Y.L.E. program stepped up her interviewing game for success.

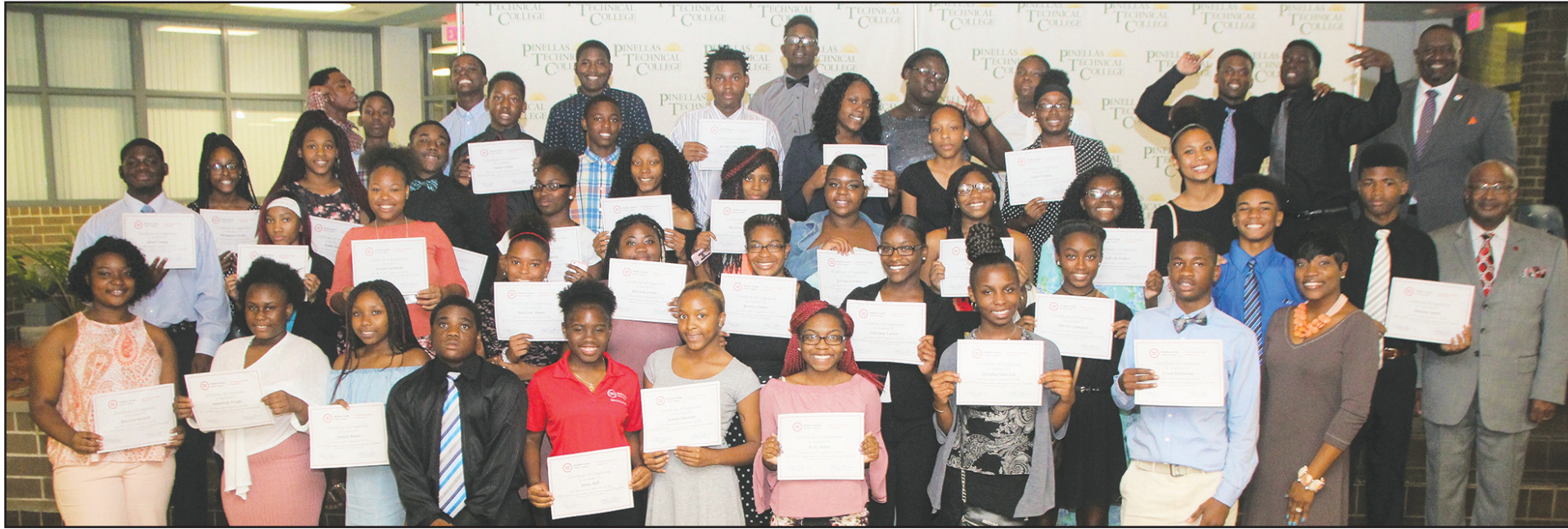
“The benefits I got out

of this program is actually how to interview and do a good interview and not do something that would make a fool out of yourself and not to get so nervous and not look people in the eye,” said Kerstyn.

Parents and guests cheered while others shed tears as the youth filed in one by one to receive their certificate of completion, shake each dignitary’s hand at the front of the stage, and of course, collect their \$500 check.

For more information about the program for next year, interested parties can contact Roshne Ramjattan at 727-327-2081 x121 or rramjattan@pcul.org.

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



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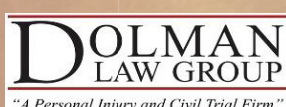
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Who’s doing your hair: Antonio Brown

HAIR, from front page

that he was going to run his own business.

“One day I just felt like that wasn’t my purpose or my calling and decided I wanted to do something different with my life.”

Always in the back of his mind was the scene from the film “Boyz n the Hood” where Cuba Gooding Jr.’s character bonded with his father who was cutting his hair. He knew from the first time he watched that movie as a child that if he had a son he would be the only one cutting his hair.

“I started cutting on my son. He’s never been to another barber.”

Brown first used himself and his son as guinea pigs and then ventured off to friends. Eventually, he decided to go back to school and become a master barber.

Raised by his mother who had him at an early age, the two of them basically grew up together.

“She exposed me to a lot. I grew up kind of fast,” Brown recalled. “Being that I was the only child, we had to go through a lot of struggles together.”

His mother, Reba Brown, taught him the value of hard work and was dedicated to raising him up to be a respectable young man.

“That was one of her biggest things is that I was respectable...”

Growing up without a father, he vowed to never let his son experience the hardship of being fatherless. He and his child’s mother stayed together for the first two years but went their separate ways. His son, however, has

been by his side for the last 17 years.

“I struggled through it and I made it work,” Brown said. “He really made me wake up and get my life together and want to cut hair and own my own business.”

The moment he decided to become a barber is the moment he decided to own his own shop. Before becoming a business owner, however, he worked at six different barbershops.

“I did a lot of observation... I knew how I wanted to manage my own shop.”

Barbering is a very competitive business, and a lot of trial and error is involved. Brown said people will sometimes give you advice not in your best interest so “you have to go with what works for you.”

Being a self-motivator, he studied and researched his craft. Brown not only focused on his skills, he focused on the business.

“It’s key for me to be more of a businessman than a barber,” he said, revealing that he has plans to franchise his idea and open up a string of shops that will employ workers who want to obtain financial freedom.

Brown advises all barbers fresh out of school to find a shop where there’s a helpful family-friendly environment that is conducive to learning. And for those looking to go into business for themselves, he advises them to have a vision and workable plan.

“Be willing to accept failure, frustration and hardships,” he said. “A lot of people will doubt you

when you want to put your vision into play, but the biggest thing is you not letting people get to you to the point where it discourages you.”

Brown has a passion to inspire and motivate others to realize their potential. That’s why he and a committee of 14 business and community leaders are in the process of organizing the Black Excellence Expo and Job Fair.

They are looking for businesses to participate that offer apprenticeship programs and internships and who are prepared to hire on the spot. Participants are encouraged to bring a resume and come ready to work.

The goal is to have more than 100 vendors and conduct workshops and seminars on topics such as credit restoration, tax help, how to become a landlord and even have a discussion on medical marijuana.

Browns feel like it’s a gift to be able to actually pull together 14 people with very busy schedules and have a meeting of the minds.

The Black Excellence Expo and Job Fair will take place on Nov. 5 at Pinellas Technical College. More information will be provided in the coming months.

Central Station Barbershop & Grooming’s summer hours are from 8-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Appointments can be made at StyleSeat.com or by calling (727) 317-3701.



Carson Goslin, 3, is a regular at Central Station.



LaShane Keys joined in the discussion of how to solve the world’s problem.

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## JHOP tours Midtown

**JHOP** , from front page

Curtis “Wall Street” Carroll. This young man was an intelligent student who went astray and ended up in prison where he discovered the stock market. Through friends and family on the outside, he invested in the stock market from San Quentin State Prison in northern California and became an informal financial adviser to fellow inmates and correctional officers. “It’s important to understand the heart of what’s been crippling our society. The video tells about the brilliance of children and we need to find the Wall Street in them,” explained Jackson. The tour bus started at JHOP and headed east on 7th Avenue. With the principal narrating, he noted Citrus Grove Apartments and a brief history

of Bethel Heights. Coming up quickly was Campbell Park Recreational Center where the tennis courts, football field and the swimming pool are named after educator Olive B. McLin. The trip continued to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street before heading south. The sight of Booker Creek to the immediate left brought out memories and a lot of stories that were put on pause for the sake of time. As the group continued on the historical journey, one of the veteran teachers pointed out the Davis-Bradley building and the connection to former Chief of Police Goliath Davis and for Representative Rudy Bradley. With the bus heading west on 18th Avenue, it brought into view the

James Weldon Johnson Library and the Enoch Davis Center, a frequently used community meeting place. Posted in several lawns were “Not My Son” yard signs, the city’s campaign to save African-American males. This quickly became part of the travel discussion. The 16th Street corridor introduced the teachers to the Morris Milton Post Office, Connie’s BBQ, the history of Red’s Snak Shak, Melrose Elementary, JHOP’s feeder school in journalism and media studies. As they made their way over to 22nd Street, the hotel where Negro League Baseball players stayed when they came to town, St. Petersburg College (Midtown campus), the Royal Theater, Galleria 909 and the Creole

Café were all pointed out. The final leg of the tour took them past the Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum, Jordan Park School and the interstate that uprooted many families and business, bringing blight to the area. This small tour through parts of Midtown explained the history of the area gave insight into the lives of the students they will teach. “I really enjoyed the tour. I thought it was very informative learning about the community,” stated Tatyana Arnold, a sixth-grade language and literature teacher from Chicago. “The thing that is most interesting is the idea that a principal would take his staff to learn about the student they will be teaching. I have



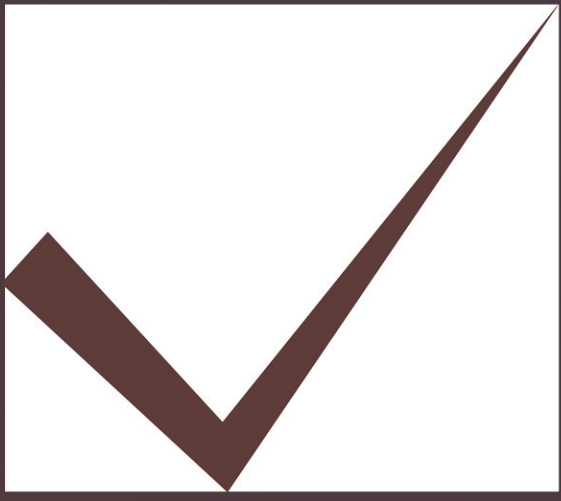
New teacher Tatyana Arnold enjoyed the ride.

never seen this done before.” Now when the new teachers hear talk of students going to get a drink from Three Brothers, they will know that there aren’t three siblings at the school supplying a thirst quencher. To reach Dexter McCree, email [dmcree@the-weeklychallenger.com](mailto:dmcree@the-weeklychallenger.com)



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Kriseman team tries to silence black community at ‘Vigil Against Hate’

Dear Editor:

Rick Kriseman’s “Vigil Against Hate” at Demen’s Landing took an ugly turn on Sunday night when the white Democratic Party-affiliated organizers turned the microphone off and tried to shut down the event when black activists were finally given time to speak.

Here’s how it all went down:

As everyone knows by now, the events in Charlottesville where mobs of white nationalists with torches are marching in the streets and clashing with counter protesters have inflamed the sentiments of many throughout this country who are concerned about racial justice.

The Women’s March of Pinellas County, which is led by a Kriseman campaign volunteer named Lisa Perry, called for a “vigil” in the park. In actuality, the vigil was nothing more but a publicity stunt for Kriseman and an array of his surrogates who comprised the majority of the speakers’ list.

Earlier in the day I spoke with Lisa and informed her that I would like to speak at the rally as well as Eritha Akile Cainion, the chair of the Committee for Justice for the Three Drowned Black Girls and a candidate for District 6, and Gazi Kodzo, a popular organizer with the Uhuru Movement and leading member of the African People’s Socialist Party.

Perry ensured me that we would be given time to speak and asked that we would not make our statements as candidates because they didn’t want this to “get political.” I agreed to that and told her that we would want to be there to speak regardless of whether we were running for office.

We would want to speak because we believe that the road to genuine unity between white people and black people is paved in justice and reparations.

For us in the white community, the only genuine and appropriate response to the horrors of Charlottesville is a full-throttle stance of opposition to all forms of white nationalism whether it’s torch-bearing Klansman or state sanctioned lynchings in the form of police violence against the black community.

We believe unity is possible and that is why we have based our entire campaign on the principle of unity through reparations.

So, we agreed to Perry’s terms and conditions.

Perry also told me she would send me a copy of the program beforehand to get feedback. (She never did).

When we got to the park, Perry gave us a paper with the program printed on it, and we noticed that were placed at the very end of the list, after several musical performances and at least a dozen other speakers.

I have a copy of this paper still. The list of speakers included the mayor Rick Kriseman, his deputy mayor Kanika Tomalin, Nadine Smith (a Kriseman endorser), Darden Rice (Kriseman endorser), and others.

They spontaneously added Ken Welch (a Kriseman endorser) to the program when he showed up, pushing us back even later into the program.

All of the speakers exploited the tragedy in Charlottesville to make thinly veiled pleas for the audience to vote for Kriseman in the upcoming election.

At one point as Kriseman was practically on his knees begging people to vote for him, an elderly Jewish woman in the crowd shook her head and walked away. As she left the park, she turned to one of my friends and said, “Shameless how they are turning this into a rally for that guy. I feel sick!”

It was getting dark and people were leaving the park, bored out of their minds by the cheap campaign antics of Kriseman’s shameless henchmen when finally the organizers invited Akile up to speak.

As usual, Akile lit the audience on fire, and the crowd erupted into cheers when she exposed that the entire social system is built on the oppression of black people and that is why it requires radical solutions in the form of a progressive platform of reparations to the black community to end the conditions that birthed the Charlottesville violence.

When Akile started to expose the role of the city government and the police department in perpetrating violence against the black community, Perry and other Kriseman-affiliated operatives went into a panic attack, screaming, “Take her mic! Get the podium! Make her stop!”

The sound engineer, who was white, walked over to me and said, “They are telling me to turn off her microphone. I feel like I shouldn’t.”

“You’re right,” I said. She stood with us. I appreciated her stance.

After Akile finished, a white woman went up to the microphone and scolded the audience, wagging her finger and admonishing the crowd: “You all are acting up!” she yelled, condescendingly. The

crowd started chanting, “Let Jesse speak!”

Finally, they did. I went to the microphone and spoke, not as a candidate, but as a white person in solidarity with Black Liberation and white reparations to African people.

I spoke about the need for the white community to loudly and proudly declare our unconditional solidarity with the black community’s struggle for self-determination, freedom and social justice.

I also paid tribute to Chairman Omali Yeshitela for ripping down the racist mural that hung in City Hall 50 years ago that was as offensive as any Confederate statue.

Then, it was Gazi Kodzo’s turn to speak. And that was when the white organizers of the march literally shut off his microphone.

They told him that “Jesse made an agreement with us that it wouldn’t get political!”

It was political the moment the rally began and it became obvious that this whole thing was set up as an event for the pathetic, failing Kriseman campaign.

Beyond that, I don’t know how you can be “non-political” when we are talking about taking a stand against white nationalism. That’s pretty political wouldn’t you say?

In a city where the status quo of big moneyed interests enriches itself off an economy built on the oppression of black people, how can we have this discussion without “getting political”?

We have to get political about stopping the rampant police violence like the recent murder of three black teenagers by sheriff’s deputies in Palm Harbor.

What happened at



Demen’s Landing was just the latest, desperate attempt by the Democratic Party and its minions to try to contain the voice of the black working class and the explosive and optimistic vision personified by Akile Cainion, and to alienate the growing number of white people who are standing on the side of justice for the black community.

This is the same Democratic Party whose local Chair, Susan McGrath went on record calling the Uhuru Movement a “Domestic Terrorist Organization.”

When the Kriseman team tried to stop Gazi from being able to speak, people in the crowd started chanting “This is no different from Virginia!” and saying, “You are just as white nationalists as the torch bearers in Charlottesville!”

But just as the white nationalists in VA do not speak for all of us, the Democrats do not either.

Because there have been many white people, including Democrats, who have broken ranks from the status quo and come over to the side of reparations and unity.

Even Brooke and Jim Anderson quit their jobs as the Secretary and Treasurer of the St. Petersburg Democratic Club to join our campaigns.

This is a growing movement, and we are winning.

We are winning tremendous support for our platforms. The people of St. Pete just gave Akile an overwhelming victory in the first survey done about the district 6 race. This shows support not only for Akile but for my candidacy and the joint platform of unity through reparations.

It shows that the people are ready to cast out the criminal elites and political corporate hacks from City Hall.

It means the people are ready to see a public policy of economic development for the black community as opposed to a public policy of police containment.

It means the people are ready to unite our city through reparations.

Communities United for Reparations and Economic Development is hosting another action on Wednesday night, August 16th. It’s called “March Against Hate! St. Pete stands against white nationalism.” The march begins on the steps of City Hall at 6pm.

I’m planning to attend and show my solidarity with the struggle against white nationalist violence in all forms. I encourage everyone to attend.

The Primary Election is Aug. 29.

*Jesse Nevel, candidate for mayor*

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Cainion and Scruggs driving Dist. 6

BY GYPSY C. GALLARDO  
Guest Columnist

After scrapping our first attempt to survey voters about District 6, and scrubbing responses from our second survey (concluded yesterday morning at 9 a.m.), the two African American women on the ballot surfaced as the clear top contenders among those surveyed.

The Power Broker's 48-hour non-scientific survey drew 220 total responses, of which 160 were judged to be valid reflections of voters' voices (see Survey Methodology & De-Duplication Process at the end of this piece).

Eritha Akile Cainion was the run-away favorite for survey respondents, with 43% in her corner. Maria Scruggs came in a strong second, considering the field, with 16%. Corey Givens, Jr. placed third with 9%. James Scott, Jim Jackson and Robert Blackmon each pulled around 6% of the total.

Results differed greatly by respondents' race. Though Cainion held the lead among both black and white respondents, only two other candidates – Jim Jackson and Robert Blackmon – had any measurable support across racial lines (relative to their vote totals).

Notably, Givens (who is African American) had zero votes from white survey takers, while Gina Driscoll and Justin Bean (both white) failed to draw any black votes.

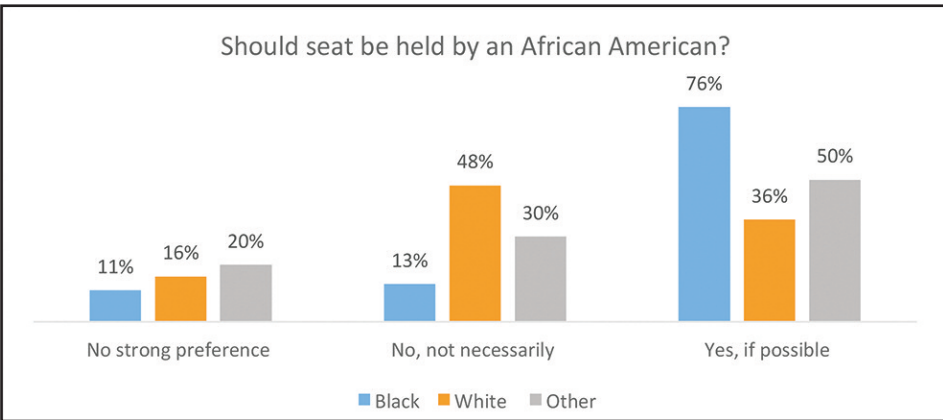
Isolating black respondents only, Cainion led with 45% to Scruggs' 22% and Givens' 13%, while 10% remain undecided, even at this late stage of the game.



Maria Scruggs



Eritha Akile Cainion



### Survey Methodology & De-Duplication Process

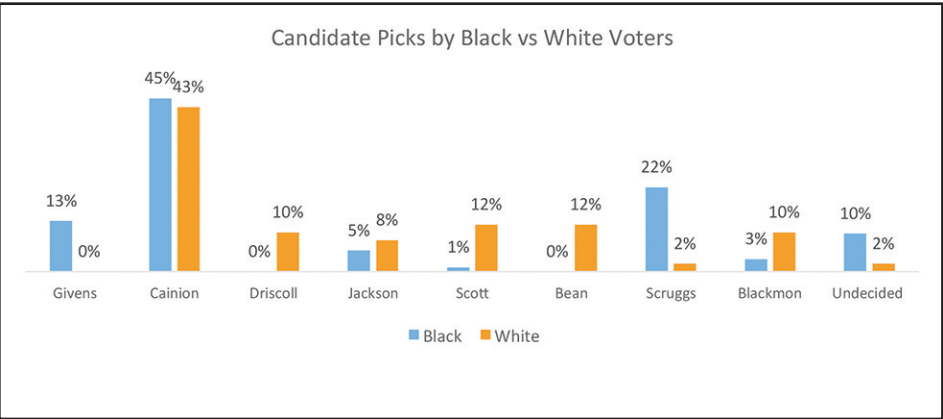
This non-scientific survey was conducted over the course of two days. An eight-question survey was distributed via Facebook and text message. Results have limited applicability and should not be interpreted to represent the preferences of St. Petersburg or District 6 voters on the whole.

In this the Power Broker's second District 6 survey, staff attempted to prevent multiple responses by using SurveyMonkey's "Multiple Responses Off" feature. Nevertheless, numerous respondents appear to have attempted to "game the system," such as submitting more than one response from separate devices at the same Internet Protocol (IP) addresses or at separate IP addresses.

In order to de-duplicate responses, the Power Broker's web manager secured IP addresses for all responses. A research assistant then attempted to match full name respondents to St. Petersburg residents of the same age and ethnic group as indicated in responses.

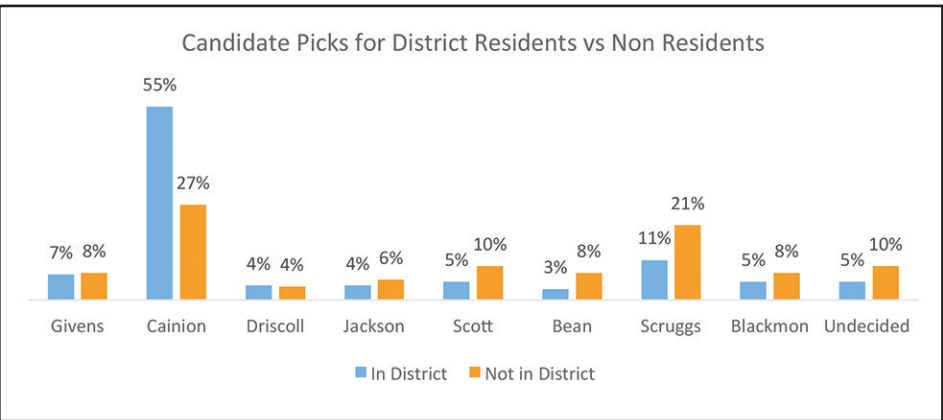
Responses eliminated were a) those indicating "No" to the question of "Are you registered to vote in the City of St. Petersburg?" b) those not providing their name or providing only a first name from an IP address already used by another respondent, and c) those whose name, age and ethnicity could not be matched to a St. Petersburg resident via Facebook and Google searches.

In future, some Power Broker surveys will require email address submission as an added guard against multiple responses. However, after extensive dialogue, the SurveyMonkey customer support team informed us that for public access surveys, it generally is not possible to fully prevent multiple responses for individuals wishing to weight results.



### Voters in District 6

Just over 60% of respondents report to live in District 6, while 33% do not and 7% say they don't know if they do. Paring down to only district residents, Cainion's lead is even larger (55%). Here again, Scruggs and Givens showed at second and third place, respectively (11% and 7%).



### Should the Seat be Held by an African American?

In answer to the survey question "Do you feel this seat should be occupied by an African American?," results saw distinct responses by race of respondents. An overwhelming share of African Americans answered "Yes, if possible" (76%) while a plurality of whites said "No, not necessarily" (48%).

### Count of Respondents by Response

	Total	Black	White	Other	In District
Corey Givens, Jr.	14	12	0	2	7
Eritha Akile Cainion	69	41	21	7	53
Gina Driscoll	6	0	5	1	4
James "Jim" Jackson	9	5	4	0	4
James Scott	10	1	6	3	5
Justin Bean	7	0	6	1	3
Maria Scruggs	25	20	1	4	11
Robert Blackmon	9	3	5	1	5
Undecided	11	9	1	1	5
TOTALS:	160	91	49	20	97

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MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Each fall elementary, middle, and high school students from Pinellas County schools, churches, community centers, clubs and other organizations form Brain Bowl teams to compete at the local, regional and state levels. Teams winning at the County and Regional levels advance to the State level and may be eligible for scholarships offered by colleges and universities in Florida.

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You Have What It Takes To Compete?

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Students interested contact

Esvicloria Blasingane by September 4, 2017

at [blasingane.esviclori@spcollege.edu](mailto:blasingane.esviclori@spcollege.edu) or (727) 614-5335.

Coach Interest Meeting – September 18, 2017 @ 6PM

Johnson Branch Library

The County/Regional Competition will be held

January 13, 2018 at St. Petersburg College.

Request For Proposals:

FAITH BASED COMMUNITY IMPACT INITIATIVE

The Pinellas County Urban League, in partnership with the Juvenile Welfare Board and Pinellas Technical College is soliciting RFPs for up to \$2,833 to expand youth and family activities in faith-based communities.

• RFP Notice dissemination: July 17, 2017.

• Proposals Due October 1, 2017

• To learn about the grants, please attend one of the Information Sessions

For More Information, contact Michael Boykins at 727-327-2081 x120 or [mboykins@pcul.org](mailto:mboykins@pcul.org)

Pinellas County Urban League

Juvenile Welfare Board

Please attend one of the Info Sessions

South County

Date: 8/17/2017

Time: (6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Pinellas County Urban League

333 31st Street N. St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Mid County

Date: 8/17/2017

Time: (6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

1201 Douglas Ave, Clearwater, FL 33755

North County

Date: 8/22/2017

Time: (6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.)

TBA



# CHURCH DIRECTORY



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

Sunday Worship Services.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible Study .....Noon - 12:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Service.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.

Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South  
Sunday Worship Service .....10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Small Group Bible Study .....6:30 p.m.

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



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](mailto:bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com) Web site: [www.bmmbc.org](http://www.bmmbc.org)

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



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,  
Pastor

**“God’s House To The City”**



Rev. Wallace Elliott  
Sr. - Pastor

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

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

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(727) 898-2457 • [unitytruth1957@gmail.com](mailto:unitytruth1957@gmail.com)  
[WWW.UNITYTRUTH.COM](http://WWW.UNITYTRUTH.COM)

**WEEKLY SERVICES**

Sundays: 8:45 am Christian Education  
9:45 am Meditations & Devotions  
10:00 am Morning Worship  
(Children’s Church Available)

Tuesdays: 6:30 pm Bible Study  
Thursdays: 6:30 pm Prayer & Healing Service



Dr. Doral R. Pulley  
Spiritual Leader

**Queen Street Church of God in Christ**  
Elder Willie Williamson, Pastor  
First Lady, Patricia Williamson  
1732 9th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33712  
727-896-4356

**SERVICES**

Sunday Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.  
A. M. Service – 11 a.m.  
Tuesday Morning Prayer – 9 to 10 a.m.  
Wednesday YPWW Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.



**Unity Temple of Truth Church**  
EST. 1957  
Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader

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



Pastor  
Claude Williams

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



Pastor Michael T. and  
Elect Lady Sheila Culbreth

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

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




Rev. Manuel Sykes

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

Bro. Robert Smith

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



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# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL  
(727) 321-6631 • [www.stmarkch.org](http://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

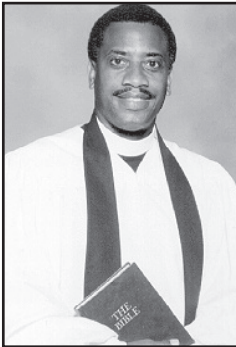
## THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

### 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](mailto:rojmbc@knology.net)  
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.  
Pastor

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CHURCH AD COULD  
BE HERE

Call: 727-896-2922

## Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

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



Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

### WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Sunday Worship ..... 7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday ..... Noonday Wednesday in the Word and Bread of Life  
7:00 p.m. Prayer and Wednesday in the Word  
7:00 p.m. Youth Enrichment

Our Mission: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is a family of believers in Christ, reaching out to the world, preaching the gospel to the unsaved and teaching the saved to serve by demonstrating the Love of Christ.

# CHURCH NEWS

## Friendship MBC

THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO THE CHURCH WHERE WE KNOW "IT'S JUST NICE TO BE NICE" - COME TO THE SHIP AND SEE FOR YOURSELF -

August at the Ship  
Join US at "The Ship" at the 7:45 am or 10:45 am Worship Service, a Real place to be for these Real time.

"OUR CHILDREN ARE BACK IN SCHOOL KEEP THEM IN PRAYER"

7TH ANNUAL FAMILY & FRIENDS CELEBRATION

AUGUST 17-23, 2017

REUNION CHOIR WORKSHOP - FAMILY & FRIENDS WORSHIP SERVICE AND

THREE (3) - NIGHT REVIVAL

"God's Amazing Love For Family & Friends with HUGS - John 15:12-15

Our Guest Clinician for the Music Workshop - REGISTRATION ON SITE REQUIRED

Minister Corey Edwards, Abyssinia Missionary Baptist Church-Jacksonville, FL

Our Three (3) Revivalists are - August 21-23, 2017 at 7:00 pm - Nightly:

Pastor Robert J. Evans, Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church - Akron, OH

Pastor Delores Franklin, Salvation & Praise Worship Center - Indianapolis IN

Minister J. Ruth Harris, The House of the Lord - Akron, OH

WEST COAST BAPTIST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

SECOND SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, YOUR HOST CHURCH AND

REV. MARVIN SCOTT, YOUR HOST PASTOR

FOR THE UPCOMING ANNUAL SESSION OF THE

WEST COAST BAPTIST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION - NOVEMBER 8-11, 2017 - IS

PROVIDING THE HOTEL INFORMATION. SHOULD YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR HAVE ISSUES

WITH BOOKING, PLEASE CONTACT SIS. TERRICKA BRADWELL.

SPRINGHILL SUITES ORLANDO NORTH / SANFORD, 201 NORTH TOWNE ROAD, SANFORD, FLORIDA 32771, (407) 995-1000. BOOK UNDER

"WCBA" BY CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY THE TELEPHONE NUMBER PROVIDED. WE HAVE BLOCKED

20 SUITES (WITH 1 KING OR 2 QUEENS). ROOM RATE \$105.00/NIGHT PLUS TAX

(UNLESS YOU BRING YOUR TAX EXEMPTION). CHECK-IN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017 - CHECK-OUT, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2017. DEADLINE TO BOOK YOUR ROOM IS OCTOBER 15, 2017.

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC. 137TH ANNUAL SESSION HELD WITH THE CHURCHES IN CINCINNATI, OHIO, SEPTEMBER 4-8, 2017

"THE SHIP" won't sail without YOU! For additional information on any of the announcements, please contact us by the following methods:

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 3300 31st St. S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712 Church Office: 727-906-8300 E-Mail: [fmbc3300@verizon.net](mailto:fmbc3300@verizon.net)

Now "Live Streaming": Visit Our Website: [www.fmbctheship.net](http://www.fmbctheship.net) Visit Our Facebook page

Visit West Coast Baptist District Association Website: [www.experiencethecoast.com](http://www.experiencethecoast.com)

Need a ride to church? Call our Transportation Ministry - (727) 906-8300 - Mon. - Fri. from 9 am - 3 pm.

"Remember and pray for our men and women in uniform as well as our veterans this new year!"

## St. Mark MBC

The St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, its pastor, the Reverend Brian K. Brown, its official staff of Deacons and Trustees, and the entire congregation, extends to the community at large, its wish that there would be an overflowing of God's blessings upon their lives. St. Mark is grounded in a Christ-centered doctrine that has as its central core, the belief that we are a haven of hope, help, and healing for a lost world hungry and thirsty for the word of God.

At St. Mark, we as a body of believers are Christians willing to work and partner in

unity, praising God for the awesome gift of His son, Jesus Christ.

Events for August

Aug 20 - Right Hand of Fellowship for new members at the conclusion of the 10:45a.m. morning service.

Aug 27 - 86th Church Anniversary-Pre anniversary Service with guest Church, First Baptist Institutional Church (Reverend Wayne G. Thompson, Pastor). Theme: "A Committed People Serving a Faithful God" -Psalms 90: 1-2

Sunday school held for both children and adults of all ages. Sunday school

starts each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to come out and join us.

Young Adult Ministry (YAMS) Every Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

*Mt. Zion Primitive*  
**BAPTIST CHURCH** Presents

*Pastoral Anniversary Celebration*  
Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 7 PM

Guest Speaker  
*Dr. Doral R. Pulley*  
UNITY TEMPLE OF TRUTH CHURCH

FEATURING THE MUSIC MINISTRY OF UTTC:  
*NewView Music Group*

3700 22nd Avenue South • St. Petersburg, FL 33711  
Pastor G. Gregg Murray, Host

*Unity Temple of Truth Church*  
Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader

**YOUR VOTE COUNTS**

City of St. Petersburg 2017 Elections  
OFFICES OF COUNCIL DISTRICTS 2, 4, 6, 8 AND MAYOR

Primary Election August 29, 2017  
General Election November 7, 2017

"Don't complain if you can't help change...Get out and Vote!"

For more information or for early voter registration, visit: <http://www.stpete.org/elections>

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# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Visionary Brief

by Keisha Bell, Esq.

### Political party affiliation

How did you determine your political party affiliation? Were you “born into it?” Did you want to support a particular presidential candidate in a primary election? Did something happen—historically or otherwise—which “encouraged” your decision?

According to a 2014 analysis done by the Pew Research Center, 39 percent of registered voters call themselves Independents. Reasons cited for this include desires to vote for issues rather than political parties, failure of political parties to align with one’s full set of beliefs, desires to determine one’s vote without the instruction of a political party, an inability to feel “welcomed” in either the Republican or Democratic Parties, and one’s frustration with the “political blame game.”

Meet Condoleezza Rice, Ph.D. Rice served as the 66th United States Secretary of State in the administration of President George W. Bush. This history maker was the first female African-American Secretary of State, the first woman to serve as National Security Advisor—a role she fulfilled during President Bush’s first term—and the youngest person, as well as, the first woman and first black to be named provost of Stanford University.

Among a long list of accomplishments, Rice is currently the Denning Professor in Global Business and the Economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business; the Thomas and Barbara Stephenson Senior Fellow on Public Policy at the Hoover Institution; and a professor of political science at Stanford University.

Although a Republican today, Rice was first a Democrat. Having been born in 1954 in Birmingham, Ala., at a time when the South was notoriously and racially segregated, Rice is no stranger to the complexities of race relations in America. Note, one of her kindergarten classmates was among the four girls killed in the 1963 bombing of a Baptist church by white supremacists.

In 1975, Rice worked as an intern in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the State Department during the Administration of President James Earl (“Jimmy”) Carter, Jr. She was a Democrat then, but in 1982 Rice changed her political party affiliation to Republican. She has given two main reasons for during so.

One reason, Rice disapproval of President Carter’s response to the 1979 Soviet Union’s invasion to Afghanistan. Rice cited the other rea-



son at the 2000 National Republican Convention. There she said, “The first Republican that I knew was my father John Rice and he is still the Republican that I admire most. My father joined our Party because the Democrats in Jim Crow Alabama of 1952 would not register him to vote. The Republicans did.”

How many choose their political party affiliation for personal reasons?

During a press conference on the Nov. 5, 2008, then-Secretary of State Rice looked proud while stating, “President-elect Obama was inspirational and I’m certain that he will continue to be. The Department of State will do everything that it can and I will personally do everything that I can to make sure this is a smooth transition...One of the great things about representing this country is that it continues to surprise; It continues to renew itself; It continues to beat all odds and expectations. You just know that Americans are not going to be satisfied until they really do form that perfect union and while the perfect union may not ever be in sight, we just keep working at it and trying. And I just want to close on a more personal note. As an African-American I am especially proud because this is a country that has overcome a long journey in terms of overcoming {inaudible} and making race not the factor in our lives. That work is not done but yesterday was obviously an extraordinary step forward and I wanted to have an opportunity to say that to you...”

Rice consciously decided her political party affiliation. How could she have known that her decision would position her to offer Mr. Barack Obama a friendly face and assist with making his presidential transition a smooth one? How could anyone?

*Keisha Bell is an attorney, author, and public servant. [www.emergingfree.com](http://www.emergingfree.com)*

### Radio host Princess Denise 13th anniversary celebration

ST. PETERSBURG — Radio personality Princess Denise Wright of Matters of the Heart Radio & Connecting Point Ministry, a non-profit organization, will be celebrating 13 glorious years of radio broadcasting in the Tampa Bay area with a special love and appreciation event at Glad Tidings Assembly of God, 4200 17th Ave. N, on Sunday, Aug. 27 at 4 p.m.

Event highlights will include jazz and gospel musical selections, honorary reflections from friends and family and

memorable flashbacks of the radio broadcast and humanitarian causes and events.

Everyone is cordially invited to come out and celebrate this joyous occasion with Princess Denise and her legacy in radio broadcasting with love, joy and appreciation.

A charitable donation of \$7 in support of the ministry’s upcoming holiday events will be appreciated.

Vendor tables available for \$ 113, and if you would like to be a participant on the program, call Kewa



at 727-742-7203. Looking forward to seeing you there!

### There’s a genocide happening and it’s against the black community

Dear Editor:

On August 6, three teenage black boys, Dejarae Thomas, Keontae Brown, and Jimmie Goshey were chased to their deaths by Pinellas County Sheriff’s Deputies in the dead of morning.

An act of genocide.

Immediately after this murder, the Sheriff’s Department and the media got to work slandering these boys, so that when day broke the story for the world would be that three teenage black boys deserved to die because their lives are less valued than that of a car.

However, that was not the sentiment expressed by two candidates running for political office: myself, Eritha “Akile” Cainion for District Six City Council and Jesse Nevel for Mayor of St. Petersburg, Florida, who actually came out to denounce the murders of the three boys.

The campaigns to elect both candidates held two press conferences, one on August 7th, where persons like Hekima Ukimbizi and Iniko Kitemoma, 16-year-old Gibbs High students as well as Lara Mustapich, a senior at Gibbs High, made statements in regards to how these murders affected them. James McLynas, former candidate for Sheriff, also spoke about the Sheriff’s Department’s two-tiered chase tactics, where deputies conduct illegal chases in most cases while the victims are black.



nothing but tremendous sympathy.

To have had to endure the same circumstances of losing my child to the police and one year later experiencing the same pain. Because as a black mother I feel this. Because those kids were my kids too. They were children of the black community, and this community stands with you. We are fighting for you.”

Then came the statements of myself laying out the case, the eerily similarities to that of the murder of the three drowned black girls, and declaring this murder another act of genocide carried out by this social system.

Genocide, as defined by the United Nations, is as follows:

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

(a) Killing members of the group;

(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;

(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;

(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;

(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

The word genocide wasn’t coined until 1944 to describe what had happened to the Jewish population in Nazi, Germany. Never mind what happened to the Indigenous people as Europe invaded and colonized North America or the capture and enslavement of African people. Never mind the 600 years of colonial domination, rape, theft, and crimes against humanity committed against Africa and African people, America, and almost every place on the planet earth through U.S. imperialist wars and the birth of a parasitic capitalist economy.

It wasn’t until Jewish people experienced a crime against them in Europe that the word genocide was created to

explain the reality that black people in this country and around the world have been confronted with for centuries.

This is why this press conference was held in front of the Holocaust Museum. Jesse Nevel says:

“We are holding this press conference here because we believe that if right here in St. Petersburg Florida if it is right to stand up against a systematic mass murder when it is committed against Jews, then it is right to stand up when it is happening to the black community right here in our own city.

And if it was right for the German government to take measures to right the wrongs committed against the Jews, then it is right for the U.S. to pay reparations to the Black community for the crimes that are still being committed, and we can start that process in the city of St. Petersburg.”

This is why Jesse and I are building a people’s movement united around reparations to the black community. Reparations is not only payback for the stolen exploited labor of the black community, but it is an acknowledgment of a crime and our commitment to making sure that these attacks can never happen again.



A stance against genocide, against the Holocaust, against the oppression of anyone, has to be a stance for justice and reparations to the black community.

It has to be in support of these children who have been murdered by the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Department time and time again.

That’s why this election, you should support the only two candidates that have stood up for these children, their families, and have gone up against the status quo. The only real progressive candidates with a message of unity through reparations.

Stand on the right side of history this election and vote on August 29th for Eritha ‘Akile’ Cainion for District Six and Jesse Nevel for Mayor!

*Eritha “Akile” Cainion for*



The Ladies of Epsilon Beta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. cordially invite the community to a Public Reception to present the newly inducted Sorors on August 25, 2017 from 7-9 PM

Public Reception to be held at:

St. Petersburg College  
Douglas L. Jamerson Jr. Midtown Center  
Room MPJC-141  
1300 - 22nd Street South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33712

There will be meet and greet, stroll show and light refreshments.

You are cordially invited to attend

**PARENT SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION, COUNCIL, Inc. (PSFEC)**

And

**Naomi and Titus<sup>2</sup> Covenant Alliance (NTCA)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Prayer Vigil**

for the (5) Transformational Elementary Schools

**Melrose, Campbell Park, Fairmount Park, Maximo and Lakewood**

**Saturday, August 26, 2017**

**8:30-9:30am**

**Melrose Elementary Parking Lot**

**1752 – 13 Ave. South**

**St. Petersburg, Fl. 33705**



100%