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Crime survivors speak

BY J.A. JONES

ST. PETERSBURG — The St. Petersburg area Crime Sur-
vivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ) organized a healing vigil to honor individuals who have tirelessly given their time, talent and expertise to benefit the community. These community heroes represent a broad range of activism that included health, culture, public service and business.

Audrina Henry, the lead theater instructor for the fine arts program at John Hopkins Mid-
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teen of Ceremonies duties. This year’s entertainment was provided by saxophonist Henry “Bank” Ashwood and Deborah Figgins-Sanders, a woman who wore many hats in the community. She was the guest speaker.

Each year, candidates for the Distinction Awards undergo a strict review process that starts in the previous year. To evaluate the nominations, a se-

100 years and counting!

By Raven Joy Shoniel

ST. PETERSBURG — Family and friends gathered at the old Mercy Hospital, now known as the Johnnie Ruth Clarke Center, a day before Mamie Chapman’s 100th birthday to celebrate the life of a loving mother, caring nurse and wonderful friend.

Down from Kalamazoo, Mich., she came to enjoy herself and make a difference in the community.

Born April 1, 1918, in Spartan-
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Renee Ambrose Education Scholarship, commitment, a concern for community involvement, lead-

1967 - 2017 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF LIVING HEALTHY

The Weekly Challenger

2018 Men and Women of Distinction Awards

BY RAVEN JOY SHONIEL

ST. PETERSBURG — The Gathering of Women, Inc. 2018 Men and Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony kicked off an amazing afternoon last Sun-

day, April 15. The St. Peters-
burg Country Club, located at 2000 Country Club Way, was filled with family and wellwish-

cers who came out to support the achievements of this year’s honorees.

The Distinction Awards are given to honor individuals who have tirelessly given their time, talent and expertise to benefit the community. These community

heroes represent a broad range of activism that included health, culture, public service and business.

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Saddled, women have been the victims of sexual assault since before biblical times. On plantations, black women were routinely victimized in ways. Today, we hear that "sex sells.

Question, Are you buying it? From my perspective as a former copy editor, I have seen women objectified and forced to endure acts that are not considered sexual assault. Little was born in 1951. She was the oldest of 10 siblings and was forced to care for them. The pressure was too much. She often rebelled and was a regular runaway.

In 1968, and pursuant to her mother's request, Little was declared a truant and ordered to the Dobbs Farm School by the time she was 20, she had acquired a series of arrests. Still, her intelligence was not hindered by society who offered her encouraging words. What if her intellect was celebrated? How different her encouraging words. What if, 20, she had acquired a series of arrests and ordered to the Dobbs Farm School?

United States history to be acquitted and released. Sadly, women have been the victims of sexual assault since before biblical times. On plantations, black women were routinely victimized in ways. Today, we hear that "sex sells."

Tinsley was convicted and sentenced to life in the United States. Anti-death penalty and prison reformers were extremely interested in Little's case. Since the jail guard did not see Little as anyone she was charged with first-degree murder, a crime that carried an automatic death sentence. It was obvious that sexual activity had taken place. Unfortunately, the jail guard did not see Little as someone else's sexual object.

Little acknowledged that she killed the jail guard, but she stated that she did so in self-defense to the sexual assault. The widespread interest in Little's case. Since the jail guard did not see Little as anyone she was charged with first-degree murder, a crime that carried an automatic death sentence. It was obvious that sexual activity had taken place.

Little's legal team argued that she acted in self-defense to the sexual assault. The widespread interest in Little's case. Since the jail guard did not see Little as anyone are trained by men, but those who are trained by women are trained that this way. Today, we hear that "sex sells."

Praise the Lord. Yet we are committed to telling our girls and our boys about our nation's history to be acquitted and released. Sadly, women have been the victims of sexual assault since before biblical times. On plantations, black women were routinely victimized in ways. Today, we hear that "sex sells."

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Black-owned businesses began to evolve as African American social and economic institutions began to advance and thrive during Reconstruction (1865-1877). Due to the many Black businesses that catered to the needs of the African-American population, there was an upsurge in economic development that stretched out and southwest parts of the United States.

With hard work, ambition and fortitude, Black-owned businesses began to lay economic foundations. As concentrated populations of African Americans grew, so did a robust economic activity. Agricultural monopolies grew while black businesses districts took root and flourished. The name used to describe those prosperous business districts was "Black Wall Street." In the era of Jim Crow Laws and the Separate Equal Doctrine from 1870 to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, there were several historically significant African American communities.

One of those districts was the Hayti District in Durham, N.C., and most encircled a legacy of success was the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Okla. The hinterland of black people in Oklahoma is connected to the westward expansion and the desire for land in the 19th century. During that time, while farmers and entrepreneurs staked out and left their mark in what is now the American southeast and southwest parts of the United States into Oklahoma.

The government began a systematic policy of economic segregation, from 1865. As they moved farther west, formed an economic analysis of Black business districts. In Durham, N.C., the Jackson Ward District in Richmond, Va., and most encircled a legacy of success was the Greenwood District in Tulsa, Okla. The hinterland of black people in Oklahoma is connected to the westward expansion and the desire for land in what is now the American southeast and southwest parts of the United States into Oklahoma.

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The heart to feed

BY DEXTER MCCREE
Feature Writer

COMMUNITY NEWS

SURVIVORS, from front page

“That’s where the love a long time for my family. That’s the main ingredient.”

The compassion of Ernestine McCrone could not take seeing a homeless woman walking the streets with no food to eat and no money to buy any. The compassion of her heart moved the skills of her hands and sent her into the kitchen.

The kitchen is the place where Ernestine’s love provides testimony for her desire to serve mankind.

In just a few minutes, she showed up, served a hearty breakfast and brought it out to the frail-looking woman who appeared to have missed many meals, especially like the one she received the day that the arcade appreciation on the woman’s face spoke everything that needed to be told. That was a special moment for Ernestine and she never forget that feeling.

“The been cooking for a long time for my family and people who like to have gatherings,” she said. “That’s where the love comes out. I love cooking and I must say that I’m pretty good at it. When I fix food for other people, I mix a lot of love in it. That’s the main ingredient.”

Cooking is really nothing new for Ernestine. As the great-grandmother of 15 children, 47 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren, nearly every meal she cooks is a culinary service experience. She takes pride in preparing southern style healthy meals with an emphasis on cleanliness while cooking.

With so many memories and people eating and people eating and appreciating the delicious meals, she took to advancing the love even more. Her granddaughter, Ameenah, suggested that Ernestine could display her work and cater it. That was a simple truth:

“One of the things that I loved about school that I could test what I already knew and compare it to what they expected us to do. That is when I really knew that I was pretty good.”

Her granddaughter Ameenah, whose name means spiritually, inspired McCrone to launch Ernestine’s Catering and Event Design where you can trust the food will be mouth-watering.

Ernestine enjoys cooking and is really committed to people eating healthy. She has witnessed too many people succumb to health issues because of unhealthy diets, particularly in the African-American community.

Her squash pie is a healthy alternative to the sweet potato pie. She also makes butternut squash minit

Survivors Speak Healing Vigil

SURVIVORS, from front page

“Every human being that I loved about school that I was already knew that I was pretty good. I must say that I’m pretty good.”

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My child has not attended Voluntary PreKindergarten (VPK).
I want my child to be ready for Kindergarten.

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The Well, where the organization meets monthly.

“We need to make sure that people eating healthy. She has witnessed too many people succumb to health issues because of unhealthy diets, particularly in the African-American community. They’re not planning a catered event, she opens up her kitchen and sends her delicious food to your event.”

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The Revolution Will Not Be Pathologized!

Community conversations around healing

By Kayla Nembhard, MA, LMHC

What does “healing” look like? What are we truly healing from? What have we been told we need to heal from? If you have engaged in it, has this so-called healing process felt like a whole or complete one? And, even if it has been a healing process, then what?

What comes after such a revolution? Even as a psychotherapist, I can honestly say I am not sure I know what the notion of true healing looks like yet, especially when one considers our communities of color within the context of traditional notions of counseling.

Hopefully, this piece, and the ones to follow will generate a louder and more visible conversation among communities toward necessary exploration and (re)discovery—remembering, that is—around this healing.

It is important to first think about what has been fed to us about what healing is and what we supposedly even need healing from in the first place. Over the past few years, there has been a bigger push for this shift in how people of color perceive psychotherapy in efforts to increase awareness around how this service is beneficial to us too.

Awesome! Part of what I became a therapist was to assist in this mission. So, let me break down what to expect, generally, in therapy.

Through clinical training as a therapist, we are ultimately taught that our psychological and emotional problems are caused by our communities of color within the historical context, and feel validated, supported, heard and observed repeated thoughts and feelings voiced around how there simply is no safe space to really talk about our trauma, in a historical context, and felt validated, supported, heard, even.

How do we begin to create these spaces and openly and productively have these conversations—conversations that can lead to community movement? Let’s talk about it.

Kayla Nembhard is a licensed psychotherapist, budding writer and community warrior. Kayla’s mission is to truly heal.

If therapeutic models and ways of “healing” in a therapeutic context completely dismiss or offend as “harsh reality,” what, then, becomes a path to healing for certain people? In my work among and with community, I have heard and observed repeated thoughts and feelings voiced around over? Where is the accountability and permission necessary to begin to come to terms with generations of oppression and trauma that were inflicted upon entire groups and communities of people?

Where or how does this truth—this history—fit into the particularly common therapeutic narrative that in order to heal one must accept what he or she does and does not have power over? Where is the accessibility and social justice necessary within this context for generations of communities to truly heal?

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Mamie Chapman celebrates 100 years with friends and family

Amma had a big smile, she beamed and couldn’t wait to get married and started a new year at the hospital in 1918. She and Angres welcomed a baby boy named Terryence. They fed so close to Mercy that she walked to the hospital while in labor. The small family moved to Detroit in 1956, where she continued working in the nursing field for the US Department of Veterans Affairs. She and her husband moved back to St. Petersburg and she officially retired here in the early 1990s. Mrs. Chapman once again moved back to Michigan after her husband died in 2012.

Members of both the Mercy Hospital Alumni Association and the RN/LPN Association were present to wish their friend a happy birthday. Mary Nelson worked at Mercy Hospital right out of college. She met Mrs. Chapman when she joined the RN/LPN Association, founded by Marie Yopp.

“She helped me so much as a young nurse out of school,” said Nelson, adding that Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Yopp kept her on the straight and narrow. “I contribute my success to them.”

Emma L. Tillman first met Mrs. Chapman when she started working at Mercy in 1949. The two worked together for a number of years and have kept in touch ever since. “Whenever she takes St. Pete, she always comes to see me,” said the 92-year-old. Mrs. Chapman makes her rounds when she’s in town. Another friend on her list of visits is Thelma Forrest. Under the weather, she wasn’t able to make the party but sent her daughter instead.

“I’ve known her all my life,” said Pamela Forrest, recalling that Mrs. Chapman would administer her vaccination shots. “She has been a true and faithful friend to my mom.”

Catherine Crumbs met Mrs. Chapman when she joined the RN/LPN Association. She said she was quite a lady when she first laid eyes on her. “I wish her 100 more years,” stated Crumbs.

Angres Chapman opened up a highly successful tailoring shop in St. Petersburg back in 1947 on Central Avenue while segregation and racism were in full force. After 10 years of fighting against discrimination, he moved his family to Detroit. He returned 29 years later to Central Avenue and work picked back up like he never left.

Sarah Parris-Jeffers — “I thank you father for her blessings and all the things that she’s done.”

Mary Nelson

Ann Gethers — “It’s a pleasure to be here to celebrate this 100th year birthday of Mrs. Chapman.”

Emma L. Tillman

Carrie Avery

Mary Ellen King with Mamie Chapman

“Happy birthday,” said Katherine Jones, who knew Mrs. Chapman before she married. “You are still as beautiful as you were when I first saw you.”

Ernestine Rembert & Catherine Crumbs

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Questions? Contact 727-588-6210
Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg welcomes new trustees

ST. PETERSBURG – The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg is pleased to announce Imam Aquil Muhammad Aquil has joined its Board of Trustees. He, along with Charles Harris, were both elected to the Board on March 21.

The board oversees the Foundation in St. Petersburg, which uses mission-based philanthropy to improve conditions and outcomes for underserved communities in southern Pinellas County.

“Imam Aquil and Mr. Harris are two outstanding local leaders who will bring invaluable direction and experience to the Board of Trustees of the Foundation,” said Jonathan Ellen, M.D., Board Chair and President of the Tampa Bay Collective Empowerment.

The Foundation’s Board of Trustees is comprised of active members of the community who bring invaluable direction and experience to the foundation. The board includes representatives from the business community and organizations that assist those in need.

On March 21, the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg welcomed new trustees, Imam Aquil, and Charles Harris.

Imam Aquil has joined the Foundation’s Board of Trustees, bringing valuable community insight and expertise to the board. Imam Aquil is a community leader and long-time activist, social reformer and community builder and has led mosques and Islamic centers in Tampa, St. Petersburg and across the county. He has served as the president/CEO of Dog Tag Heroes, Inc, was President/Group of the Tampa Bay Collective Empowerment and served as secretary for the Dali Museum Board of Directors.

Charles Harris is a shareholder at Trenam Kemper, a law firm in the St. Petersburg Housing Authority and served as the president/CEO of St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. for 11 years.

Charles Harris has also served on the board of Directors of the Collective Empowerment Group of the Tampa Bay Area, Inc; president/CEO of Dog Tag Heroes, Inc.; board member of the African American Business Foundation and first vice president of the Pinellas County Job Corps Community Relations Council Board.

Imam Aquil has also served as secretary for the Billboard Association of Religious Leaders and a board member of the National Conference for Community and Justice (formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews); Congregations United for Community Action; the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and the St. Petersburg Interracial Foundation. He is the former deputy director of the St. Petersburg Housing Authority and served as the president/CEO of St. Petersburg Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. for 11 years.

The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg is a private foundation formed in 2013 following the sale of the non-profit Bayfront Health St. Petersburg. It is the steward of almost $180 million in assets to support health equity in Pinellas County. The Foundation seeks and empowers people, ideas, information exchange, organizations and relationships to end differences in health due to social or structural disadvantages and improve population health.

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The Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg is a private foundation formed in 2013 following the sale of the non-profit Bayfront Health St. Petersburg. It is the steward of almost $180 million in assets to support health equity in Pinellas County. The Foundation seeks and empowers people, ideas, information exchange, organizations and relationships to end differences in health due to social or structural disadvantages and improve population health.

Please note that the text above includes some information that is not relevant to the main topic, such as business directories and community news. The main focus of the text is the welcome of new trustees to the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg. The text provides background information about the trustees and their contributions to the community.

The text also mentions the Foundation’s goals and mission, which is to improve health equity in Pinellas County by supporting organizations and initiatives that address social and structural disadvantages.

The text concludes by encouraging people to support the Foundation and its mission by donating, volunteering, or engaging with its partners and initiatives.

In conclusion, the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg welcomes new trustees, Imam Aquil and Charles Harris, who bring valuable insight and expertise to the board. The Foundation is committed to improving health equity in Pinellas County through mission-based philanthropy and partnerships with local leaders and organizations.
Duane Alexander holds a degree in psychology from the University of South Florida.


COMMUNITY NEWS

Eddie Joan & Jimmy Roberts

in 2015, the Robertses formed a nonprofit hunger relief organization called MayMay & Katie's Rescue Organization. The organization's mission is to fight hunger in the community, providing food and resources to those in need. The organization operates in the Palm Beach County area, serving areas such as Boynton Beach, West Palm Beach, and Palm Springs. They are dedicated to helping families and individuals who are struggling with food insecurity. In addition to providing food, the organization also works to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and healthy eating. The Robertses are passionate about making a difference in their community and believe that everyone deserves access to healthy food. They work diligently to ensure that those in need have the resources they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives. Through their efforts, MayMay & Katie's Rescue Organization has made a significant impact on the community, improving the lives of many who are in need. The organization continues to grow and expand its reach, providing hope and support to those who are struggling with hunger.
**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.
- **Mid-Week Worship:** Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

The Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
Queen Street Church of God in Christ

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Class:** 10:00 a.m.
- **Monday Evening Bible Class:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Ladies Bible Class Monday:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 7:00 p.m.

**Mission Statement:** Impact the way we carry ourselves to reach the lost with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Claude Williams
Victory Christian Center Church

- **Wednesday Bible Study** – 7:00 p.m.
- **Teen Summit (Wednesday)** – 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday School** – 9:00 a.m.

Victory Christian Center is a Word of Faith Church.

- **Elder Willie Williamson, Pastor**
  - **Communion and Worship Service:** 9:00 a.m. every Sunday
  - **Communion and Healing Service:** 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays
  - **Contact:** (727) 321-0911
  - **Voice:** (727) 327-0554
  - **Fax:** (727) 327-0240

**Website:** www.Victorychristiancenterchurch.org

**Address:**
3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

**Bro. Robert Smith**
Church Of Christ
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
825 20th Street South

- **Be led by the Spirit My child. Hold on to your peace and be ready to serve, deliver and be delivered.**
- **Continuer to walk by faith. Be not discouraged and rest in My blessed assurance.**
- **Rest and move forward in your anointing.**
- **Be not discouraged and rest in My presence.**
- **Your love will harvest souls for my Kingdom.**
- **Peace and strength are yours.**
- **Remember to study yourself to be quiet and the Spirit will forever be in your presence.**
- **Your love will harvest souls for my Kingdom.**

**Rev. Dr. Wayne H. Saunders, 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**

**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:** 9:00 a.m.
- **Prayer Meeting:** 9:45 a.m.
- **Bible Study:** 10:00 a.m.

**Rev. Wallace Elliott, Pastor**

**ST. AUGUSTINE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
10:30 a.m.

- **Welcome – Bienvenidos**
- **Mission Statement:** Impact the world by equipping believers
- **To serve, deliver and be delivered.**
- **Continue to walk by faith.**
- **Be not discouraged and rest in My blessed assurance.**
- **Rest and move forward in your anointing.**
- **Be not discouraged and rest in My presence.**
- **Your love will harvest souls for my Kingdom.**
- **Peace and strength are yours.**
- **Remember to study yourself to be quiet and the Spirit will forever be in your presence.**
- **Your love will harvest souls for my Kingdom.**

**Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Sykes**

**First Baptist Church**
720 20th Street South
St. Petersburg, FL 33715
(727) 321-9639

- **Rev. Wallace Elliott, Sr. Pastor**
  - **Sunday Worship:** 10:45 a.m.
  - **Praise Time:** 10:45 a.m.

**Welcome – Bienvenidos**

**BY DIERDRE DOWNING-JACKSON**

**INSPIRATIONS**

**A Word from The Lord**

Be led by the Spirit My child. Hold on to your peace and be ready to serve, deliver and be delivered. Salvation is near, comfort is near and patience is here. Trust Me with your family and be led by My Holy Spirit. This will be a wonderful journey and you will grow amazingly. Give as your heart leads you. Treasure your time and cherish your presence. Your love will harvest souls for my Kingdom. Peace and strength are yours. Remember to study yourself to be quiet and the Spirit will forever be in your presence. Your love will harvest souls for my Kingdom. Peace and strength are yours. Love. Your HEAVENLY FATHER

John 15:17 KJV

“These things I command you, that ye love one another.”
Let not your heart be troubled ye believe in God, trust in His Son, John 14:1

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Its pastor, Rev. Brian Evans, is asking for your continued support and a request for you to pray for his pastor, the awesome gift of God, John. He requests your continued support to our community an invitation to share in our praise as we pursue our mission and our calling as a Bible-Based Haven of Hope for all peoples.

Friendship Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. 4:45 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Service Schedule
Monday: Breakfast 7:00 a.m. Wednesday Monday and Wednesday in the Word and Bread of Life 7:00 p.m. Wednesday in the Word and Prayer

We strive to grow God's Church and to learn the awesome gift of God, John. He asks that you join and to develop a spiritual relationship with God. We also request your continued support to our community an invitation to be part of our praise to God and the mission of our church. Thy Great Works Study Group. We are a group of God's people who are growing together for greater work in our church. We believe that God is the one in charge, and that we must continue to work for the greater good of the church. We hope that you will join us as we continue to grow together for the greater good of the church. Our mission is to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where all are welcome. Our goals are to continue to grow and develop as a church and to serve our community.

Church News
The congregation of Faith Memorial Baptist Church is located at 1800 18th Avenue South. All members of the church are welcome to participate in any church activities. For more information, please contact the church at (727) 327-0015.

Pastor's Corner
The congregation of Faith Memorial Baptist Church is located at 1800 18th Avenue South. All members of the church are welcome to participate in any church activities. For more information, please contact the church at (727) 327-0015.
Have You Experienced Complications From Taking Invokana?

Contact us immediately and see if you have a claim with no out of pocket expense.

Have you or a loved one been affected by complications or side effects such as Ketoacidosis caused by the type 2 diabetes medication Invokana?

Side effects include:

- Ketoacidosis
- Kidney Failure
- Heart Attack
- Stroke
- Coma
- Death

Legal Help is Available NOW!

You may be entitled to Compensation.
For Immediate Assistance Call: 855-744-7001