Cranston Cumberbatch honored with Jackie Robinson Breaking Barriers Award

BY J.A. JONES

ST. PETERSBURG - Cranston Cumberbatch, one of St. Pete’s most well-versed and respected artists and lead actor and producer of “Art in The City,” received the Tampa Bay Breaking Barriers Award for Preparation for Manhood and Leadership.

The Breaking Barriers awards were given during Jackie Robinson Day, commemorating the 71st anniversary of Robinson breaking baseball’s color barrier in 1947, and recognized those community heroes and volunteers.


Cumberbatch, who is currently in production on his latest film project, “Agent X,” was elated and moved by both the honor and the ceremony:

“It was truly a high honor; it’s an honor and the ceremony,” said Cumberbatch.

She highlights that African-American women are still faced with an unseen system, a scheme in which black females are forced to be heads of households because of the disproportionate imprisonment of black men.

The inequity of pay that black women receive in comparison to their white counterparts, and the division that so many have for the strength and intelligence of black women, are still issues and makes it all but impossible not to

See VOLUNTEER, page 6

BY INDHIRA SUERO ACOSTA

Terri Lipsey Scott

ST. PETERSBURG — Terri Lipsey Scott is a woman who stands firm on her beliefs. Every action along with every one of her words proves that she is a passionate and loving person.

She’s most known for being the executive director of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum and a civic leader, although to hear her tell it, she’s a wife and mother foremost.

One of the first thoughts that came to her mind when she arrived in St. Petersburg from her native Savannah, Ga., was to break the segregation barrier that was so prevalent in the city.

“I found it very odd for there to have been such a division in the early 80s coming from Savannah, which is a black college town,” said Lipsey Scott. “To witness the predominance of separation throughout the city was very disheartening.”

Black women

We have a lot of reasons to be angry and I don’t dismiss that thought,” said Lipsey Scott. “When you consider all that we have had to endure, we have every right to be angry. For those who don’t get it and don’t understand, they’re missing a huge point.”

She recalls a time when black women came to this country against their will. Rapled, battered and separated from their families, they were the original victims of the “Me Too” Movement and the scars of that history continue to haunt the race even today.

She highlights that African-American women are still faced with an unseen system, a scheme in which black females are forced to be heads of households because of the disproportionate imprisonment of black men.

The inequity of pay that black women receive in comparison to their white counterparts, and the division that so many have for the strength and intelligence of black women, are still issues and makes it all but impossible not to
On the other side of ‘no’

Life is not a straight road. There are ups and downs, unexpected twists and turns. There are victories and failures, “yeses” and “noes.” Now you decide what is on the other side of “no.”

Meet Barbara Charline Jordan, an African-American state senator to be named to a major committee, namely the Committee on Appropriations. Furthermore, Jordan was the first African-American state senator to be named to a major committee, namely the Committee on Labor and Management Relations. Furthermore, Jordan was the first African-American state senator to be named to the Texas Senate. Jordan became the first African American to represent Texas after Reconstruction. This victory made her the first African American to represent a southern state in the Senate. Jordan lived from February 21, 1911 to January 17, 1996. Jordan made history, even in death, by being the keynote address at the Democratic Convention.

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The City of St. Petersburg shall consider all qualified proposals and may enter into negotiations with any qualified proposer. Proposals must be delivered not later than 10:00 A.M. EDT, July 2, 2018 under “Requests for Proposal / Solicitations”.

“City” invites developers, end-users and interested parties to submit proposals to lease the Municipal Services Center, 1794-22nd Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33712, located at 1-800-327-4483.

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They are under these faith? Are you so foolish? or part of the solution. silent or indecisive. In you to be complacent, and this is no time for The delusion is increas- Laodicean church today. canery. What has taken the manipulation and chi- the cross. If they did they tending on living as Jesus instructed, to deny Jesus instructed, to deny SELF . The problem does sound doctrine, but ac- They “will not endure sound in these you may be partakers of the divine grace or blessings.

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Happy Workers at an R'Club Early Learning Academy #3652273176

Make plans to attend our 11th Annual Celebration Breakfast May 9, 2018 from 7:30-9:00 am at the St. Pete Coliseum Go to www.rclub.net for reservation and contest information.

Help us build a new Happy Workers, an R'Club Early Learning Academy!

City youth initiative hosts one-day conference for young women in high school

I AM: The James Weldon Johnson Branch Library By Gwendolyn Reese

Seventy-one years ago on April 1, 1947, the James Weldon Johnson Branch Library was dedicated and named in honor of James Weldon John- son, a poet, author, educator, essayist, writer, civil rights activist, leader of the NAACP and native Floridian. He was best known for the songs “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” which became known as the “Negro National Anthem.” The original one-room facility that housed 1,965 volumes was located at 1053 Third Ave. S. The 1,025 square-foot room was on the ground floor of the Masonic lodge and was leased to the city for 50 years.

Until this time, St. Petersburg had only one library, the Carnegie Library, built in 1915 and redesignated Mirror Lake Branch in 1949. The library, located in the downtown area, was not open to the city’s black residents. According to an article in the St. Petersburg News, April 5, 1947, “all facilities he supported could not deny use by any person be- cause of their race, creed, or color.” This stipulation was not upheld in St. Peters- burg.

By Gwendolyn Reese

It wasn’t until 1944 when the need for library services for African Ameri- cans was finally addressed that blacks were allowed to use the basement of the Carnegie Library but under no cir- cumstances could they use the main floors. Previously, blacks could use a reading room with few books at the Campbell Park Center. That facility closed, the community was left with only one library, the Carnegie Library, but under no cir- cumstances could they use the main floors. Previously, blacks could use a reading room with few books at the Campbell Park Center. That facility closed, the community was left with no library.

In December 1944, a group of citi- zens formed a committee and worked together for several years, making a case for a library to serve the African-American community. On April 1, 1947, the committee discussed the need to form an interracial committee. Mrs. Carrie M. Holmes, wife of the pastor of the First Baptist Institutional Church, was elected chairman of the committee. Their efforts resulted in an appropriation of $3,500 for the library.

The library attempted to meet the needs of the community in every possi- ble way. Storytime, summer reading programs, book clubs, and a room for even older citizens were offered. The collection increased to 2,750 volumes with 1,201 registered borrowers.

It served the community at the Third Avenue location until 1979, when it was closed because of the city’s urban redevelop project, which dis- placed hundreds of black residents from the Gas Plant area.

In 1981, the James Weldon Branch reopened in the newly built Enoch Davis Center at 1111 18th Ave. S. Of the five public libraries, the Johnson Branch Library moved into its current location at 1059 18th Ave. S, adjacent to the Enoch Davis Center. The $2.7 million, 14,500-square-foot building housed more than 1,600 public services throughout the country with the stipu- lation that “all facilities he supported could not deny use by any person be- cause of their race, creed, or color.” This stipulation was not upheld in St. Peters- burg.

In the summer of 2002, the Johnson Branch Library moved into its current location at 1059 18th Ave. S, adjacent to the Enoch Davis Center. The $2.7 million, 14,500-square-foot building housed more than 1,600 public services throughout the country with the stipulation that “all facilities he supported could not deny use by any person be- cause of their race, creed, or color.” This stipulation was not upheld in St. Peters- burg.

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Minimize your risk of stroke during American Stroke Month

**HEALTH & BEAUTY**

Suncoast PACE: Helping aging seniors live well and independently

BY LAHDAMIE KENY
Empathy Health Community Partnership Specialist

PIKE ISLAND – The Drayton family believes in high-quality care and support for those in need. For Linda Drayton and her family, this means providing companionship and care with other providers. Medical transportation and coordination of therapies, counseling, social and active living in participants’ homes, and more.

The team fosters healthy, well-functioning families for many years, said Linda Drayton, laughing. "It's a lot more than hospice, it's a lot more than care. They're the best, they're the best, they're the best."

"The best possible health is the community. A girl comes in on Thursdays and cleans my room, washes my clothes, fixes me something to eat if I need it and keeps me company." It's important to quickly recognize the warning signs of stroke – one of the most common manageable risk factors for this medical emergency. Often called "the silent killer," high blood pressure (HBP) or hypertension quickly damages blood vessels, possibly leading to stroke.

**BY THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**

There are several warning signs for stroke, a medical emergency that can make part of a person’s face drop or cause an individual to have trouble speaking. More than seven million Americans annually have had a stroke, which is a leading cause of disability.

This American Stroke Month, the American Heart Association shares vital information about stroke and highlights that stroke is preventable. Those who have experienced a stroke can avoid having a second one by following these medical advice.

- **Strokes happen when a blood vessel brings oxygen and nutrients to the brain either gets blocked by a clot or bursts. This causes a part of the brain to become deprived of the blood and oxygen it needs to function, prompting brain cells to die. The effects of a stroke can have a long-term impact on a person’s vision, speech and mobility.**

- **Time is crucial in minimizing the long-term impact of a stroke.** According to Dr. Clarke, "It’s not just a medical emergency. Time is crucial in minimizing the long-term impact of a stroke.**

- **If you have weakness, if you have speech or language difficulty, if your eyes are drooping, if you lose vision or become confused, call 9-1-1.**

- **Prevention is the best medicine**

- **Every 10 seconds, someone has a stroke.** More than 7 million Americans annually have had a stroke, which is a leading cause of disability.

- **Prevention is the best medicine**

**Dona Clarke, M.D., specializes in emergency medicine at St. Petersburg’s Northside Hospital.**

**Suncoast Hospice.**

We’re not just hospice, we’re Suncoast Hospice.

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

- **With freestanding specialized care centers providing continuous medical care if your loved one has uncontrolled pain and symptoms – improving their quality of life and your peace of mind.**

- **Where expert staff are supported by nearly 2,000 community volunteers, helping us provide the best possible care for your loved one.**

- **With a local foundation that supports services and care not paid for by insurance. This means your donations and support of our hospice stay in your community.**

- **That’s part of the larger Empath Health network including palliative care, home health, elder care, advance care planning and more – offering complete support for your loved one.**
COMMUNITY NEWS

The Carter G. Woodson Museum

VOLUNTEER, from front page

be angry. Lipsey Scott takes pride in acknowledging and celebrating the brilliance and fortitude of black women, particularly when celebrating First Ladies in African American History," as the event she has fostered since 2014. The Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum honored the 2018 inductees this year on April 22 for the extraordinary accomplishments of some of this community’s leading ladies while honoring Black Women’s History Month amidst a sold-out crowd of supporters.

The museum

“I’m now retired, and even in my volunteering, I find myself angry because of the injustice that I have to face while operating the city’s only African-American museum,” she averred. A city that thrives as a community of a rich culture and history has certainly felt the Woodson out of the big picture. Despite the City of St. Petersburg’s recent purchase of the Woodson Museum, she feels in pole position in comparison with other local museums they have admired.

Although not as detailed as it was in the 80s, there’s still no obvious line of demarcation that separates the city’s black residents from the white residents. Even though the Woodson Museum is a feature destination, she’s reminded each Second Saturday ArtWalk of the city’s black residents. “I had to learn early on that if I didn’t leave this building, go out and jump on the trolley and beg people to get off, no one would. There’s a reputation associated with this area. And it’s important to know that this is not a good place or that whatever we have here might not be worthy of them stepping off the trolley.”

The Woodson is more than a museum as evidenced by community engagement. From creating opportunities for programming, mentors, classes, to tea parties and advocacy for the disenfranchised, the Woodson recognizes the importance of what it offers, and take pride in not giving up is not in their vocabulary. Regardless of the issues that she confronts, Lipsey Scott envisions that the Woodson will continue to thrive. She, along with members of the Woodson board, has worked tirelessly to interject, present and preserve black art, history and culture. From washing windows, scrubbing tiles, mopping floors to creating exhibits, curating, planning or granting writing, Lipsey Scott and the board stand strive for excellence.

Not only is it their passion, but it is also a full-time commitment to honor and help preserve untold stories relative to the contributions of African Americans in St. Pete and beyond.

“We are moving towards doing things that would make a difference in the lives of others,” she stated, “and I remain hopeful that our passion will illuminate an area of our community that has been left in the dark too long.”

One thing that can be said about the Lipsey Scott and the rest of the museum’s board is that giving up is not in their vocabulary. We’re passionate about our commitment; she finished, wiping the tears that rolled down her face.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE BUS
Coming To a Stop Near You!

The Community Resource Bus rotates between different neighborhoods in St. Petersburg. It is active during the first week of every month.

Safety Information • Health Screenings • Health Resource Info • Giveaways & Activities

Goodwill Superstore
2550 34th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713
May 7 - 11, from 8:00am to 4:00pm

For more information about the Community Resource Bus please contact: Javontae Simms at (727) 897-5721 or email: javontae.simms@stpete.org

FREE!

The Magic and Title 2 Covenant Alliance Ministries, Inc.
PRESENTS
THE 9TH ANNUAL
JAMMIN RED CARPET RECOGNITION DAY FOR YOU, OLY BRUNCH & CONCERT

SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2018
2:00PM
HILTON ST. PETERSBURG BAYFRONT
201 1ST STREET N., ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701
Call 727-720-2227 for more information. Call 727-720-2332 or text 855-222-7777 to RSVP.

$5 PER PERSON

In this issue

For more information about the Community Resource Bus please contact: Javontae Simms at (727) 897-5721 or email: javontae.simms@stpete.org

Don’t miss out on weekends in May

WINE COUNTRY IN THE CITY
May 4, 2018
3:00 – 6:00 PM
ST. ANNE’S HALL
1307 6TH STREET N.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33713
COLOR BLUE: THEME: HATS

In this issue

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$5 PER PERSON
Participation encouraged with May 14 City Budget Open House

ST PETERSBURG
Citizens are encouraged to discover how city leaders create an annual city budget and learn next year’s spending priorities during the FY2019 City Budget Open House Monday, May 14, 5–7 p.m.

This year’s open house will be held at the Colliseum, 355 Fourth Ave. N, and allow citizens one-on-one access with Mayor Rick Kriseman, City Administrator Deandra Tomasson, City Commission members and senior administration. Staff from City Development, Public Works, Public Safety, Neighborhood Affairs, Leisure Services, and General Government will also be available to answer citizen questions from 5:30 p.m.

Following the break-out session, Budget Director Lisa Makofske will present an overview of the budget process and encourage citizens to participate in the budget process by sharing their thoughts on issues of concern.

A representative from the Pinellas County Appraiser’s Office will also be present to explain and answer questions on Amendment 1, the 3rd Homestead Exemption, which will be on the Nov. 6 ballot. Amendment 1 proposes an additional homestead exemption for qualifying homeowners.

Through May 31, citizens are encouraged to participate in the budget process by sharing their spending priorities by administrative function at https://bit.ly/2DF7k1l or at www.stpete.org/budget.

The Budget Open House will be rebroadcast on Spectrum/TV, Spectrum Channel 641, WoW! Channel 15 and Frontier Channel 20 and on the city’s YouTube channel.

City Council will consider the FY2019 budget for adoption during hearings Sept. 6 and 26 at 6 p.m. Room 1, 2nd Flr. S. N. For more information about the FY2019 budget, visit www.stpete.org/budget.

A word to fellow community warriors...

Let us explore, reflect on and ultimately, co-create new ways for everyone to contribute to our community’s unacknowledged and unhealed trauma. For everyone and everything that is happening in our community, we are called to examine the deeper root causes of our collective response to trauma, understand the sources that have been toxic and continue to be toxic, and understand the actions that can be taken now and in the future that are healthy for our community.

To attend the May 14 City Budget Open House and to learn more about how you can participate in the budget process, visit www.stpete.org/budget.
Cumberbatch, who was elated to see his face on the big screen, said Cumberbatch’s accomplishments is the work he does as a performing arts director and recruitment specialist at Pinellas County Job Corps. He gets to engage students through the arts, and the program provides them with supplies, props and costumes to help in their productions. All the material that he’s created with his students has been all original material. Cumberbatch’s work with the students gives him the experience of the professional world. “I tell them: ‘The things that I’m teaching and showing you is the same stuff I did in the real world, this is the way it’s done.’”

Sharing that professionalism with the students also allows him to help shape the social skills, which is necessary for them to be able to survive in a job or maintain healthy relationships with people they work with. He works hard to help his students overcome fears that plague everyone. He tells the students that their process is so smooth that they won’t realize they’re being taught anything until they take their first break.

“Receiving the Breaking Barriers Award for Deter- mination has clearly given Cumberbatch that much more fire to work even harder and accomplish more. His words of encour- age for those who are on an extra step to pursue their goals: “I’m inspired to con- tinue pursuing what I love. I’m even more dedicated to inspiring more people to come out of the closet of their dreams to see how close we really are, rather than far-fetched. I’m on a political campaign to do just that — through ac- tions more than words. And I hope the determination that people see in me will inspire them to take the courage to step out on faith… and live a happier life.”

For more information on “Agent X,” visit www.in- stagram.com/agentxthefilm.
99.1 Jams on rock another year

BY ALLEN A. RICHLER & DEREK MCCREE
Small World News

ST. PETERSBURG – The Tampa Bay community converged on Central Avenue last Saturday to celebrate WJUM “The Barg” 99.1 FM’s second anniversary on the airwaves. Listeners and supporters were treated to an array of exciting programs, activities and local news.

The mission of 99 Jams, as it is popularly called, is to infuse the diverse culture represented in this area into an urban-versus-culture represented in this area into an urban-verse culture represented in this area into an urban-verse culture represented in this area into an urban

Blessed to have support from parishes who believe in her gifts, Zaire has already had the opportunity to experience the Afro-Punk Festival in New York City via social media, which is where she got the inspiration for the pictures on display at the celebration. “She’s African American and she has red hair and she has percussions,” Zaire described on one of the paintings. “Most of the time that is not expected in our communities, so I wanted to show that ambition in the girl to show that other girls can be as ambitious and confident in themselves.”

In five years, Zaire wants to be a professional artist as well as an art and recreational therapist. She has already had her paintings in museums, exhibits, nature parks and online. Her efforts have resulted in receiving the Philadelphia County’s National Scholastic Awards. She even took top honors, winning the Gold Key Award, resulting in a trip to the nationals.

Local entertainment reigns supreme at the celebration. A young trio of boys dubbed “The Nephews” put on a dazzling performance with positive lyrics about doing well in school and in everyday life.

The beautiful duo “Pretty Image” captivated the crowd with their rap, steeped in remembrance of Satch and TLP, back in the day. Local recording and performance artist Lenoma closed out the show with smooth raps layered over well-produced and smooth soundtracks.

Overall, 99.1 Jams anniversary celebration put everyone in a jovial mood for the week ahead, and by the looks of things, their third-year celebration will be even grander.

Small businesses, corporations and enterprises are encouraged to underwrite programs to help the station grow. For more information, call 727-637-2410.

To reach Allen Richler, email abuchanan@theweekly-challenger.com or reach Dexter McCoy, email dmcree@theweekly-challenger.com
A Royal Celebration

Mr. Debonair Award
Antrez Smith
Best All Around Award
Jalen Dixon
Most Improved Award
Carlos Lovett
Favorite Quote: “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer at all?” — 1 Samuel 16:7

COLORS

Nick's Award: Black
Takes Award: Yellow
Reserved Award: White

Nicholas Flowers
Escorted by his grandparents Freddie and Margaret Fussell, he is a junior at Gibbs High School.

He plans to attend Florida A&M University and major in broadcast journalism.
Favorite quote: “Whoever goes against me has evil in his heart.” — 1 Samuel 16:7

Leatrice Reid
Antrez’s belle for the evening was Jalea Reedy.

Leatrice’s belle for the evening was Jeneice Talley.

Jeneice Talley
Escorted by her parents Odell Sermons, he is a senior at St. Petersburg High School.

He plans to attend the University of South Florida and major in marine science.
Favorite quote: “If you want to succeed as bad as you want to breathe, then you will be successful.” — Jalen Dixon's Belle for the evening was Giovanna Cummings.

Laquail Foster
Escorted by his mother Taneka Dixon, he is a junior at Pinellas Park High School.

Nicholas Flowers
Favorite quote: “High quality of character, achievements, and academics; precision in marching, perfection in musicianship, dedication to service and strive for the best.” — Dr. William F. Pate

Nicholas’ belle for the evening was Leatric Reid.

Leatrice Reid
Best Belle Award
Antrez Smith

Best Belle Award
Jalen Dixon

Jalen Dixon
Escorted by his parents Aireous Shorter Sr. and Mrs. Timothy and Tamika Lovett, he is a senior at Pinellas Park High School.

He plans to attend Florida A&M University and major in sports medicine.
Favorite quote: “If you want to breathe, then you will be successful.” — Jalen Dixon’s Belle for the evening was Giovanna Cummings.

Laquail’s belle for the evening was Charnecia Lewis.

Charnecia Lewis
Escorted by his mother and father Mr. and Mrs. Timothy and Tamika Lovett, he is a senior at Pinellas Park High School.

He plans to attend Florida State University and major in criminal justice.
Favorite quote: “If you want to succeed as bad as you want to breathe, then you will be successful.” — Jalen Dixon’s Belle for the evening was Giovanna Cummings.

Laquail’s belle for the evening was Charnecia Lewis.

Charnecia Lewis
Escorted by his mother Aireous Shorter and father Leonte Tukes, he is a junior at St. Petersburg High School.

He plans to attend Bethune-Cookman University, major in Christian Theology and pursue the
Ciega High School.

The Boca Ciega High School senior is a senior at The Boca Ciega High School.

He plans to receive additional vocational training through the Extended Transition of Florida County after graduation.

Dylan Davis

Excerded by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Derrick and Stephanie Thomas, he is a senior at Berkley Preparatory School in Tampa.

He will attend Howard University in Washington, D.C., this fall and plans to pursue a career in editorial photography.

Favorite quote: “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” — Maya Angelou

Justin Gamble

Favorite quote: “I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for.” - Jeremiah 29:11-13

Justin’s belle for the evening was Alarea Poole.

Chandrahasa Srinivasa, Jr.

Excerded by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Chan and Sabrina Srinivasa, he is a junior at The Boca Ciega High School.

He plans to attend Florida A&M University where he will major in pre-medicine and pursue a career as an anesthesiologist.

Favorite quote: “Anything’s possible, you gotta dream like you never seen obstacles.” — J. Cole

Chandrahasa’s belle for the evening was Sierra Lowery.

Torence Ruffin, Jr.

Excerded by his grandparents Mr. & Mrs. James and Emila McMillin, he is a junior at Lakewood High School.

He plans to attend the University of South Florida and major in marine biology or veterinary science.

Favorite quote: “When you feel like you’re reached your limit, it’s only the beginning. That’s when it’s time to dig deep, to find the courage to push some more.” — Leif Gren James

Dalon Wilson

Excerded by his parents Michelle Mann and David Brown, he is a senior at Gibbs High School.

He plans to attend Florida A&M University and major in pre-medicine and pursue a career as an anesthesiologist.

Favorite quote: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” — Philippians 4:13

Dalon’s belle for the evening was Madison Rock.

Torrence’s belle for the evening was Rayona Mc- Donald.

Aaron Williams

Excerded by his mother Kimberly Williams and mentor Dr. Chris War- ren, he is a senior at Gibbs High School.

He plans to attend the University of South Florida and major in marine communication.

Favorite quote: “Giving up is harder than trying.” - Kanye West

Aaron’s belle for the evening was Madison Rock.

Clayton Brody

Excerded by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Carl and Lisa Brody, he is a junior at Admiral Farragut Acad-emy.

He plans to attend college and major in business and marketing. After college, he will pursue a career as a Major League Baseball executive.

Favorite quote: “There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance the next time.” — Malcolm X

Clayton’s belle for the evening was Endea Robinson.

Torrence’s belle for the evening was Mya Hughes.

Demetria Williams, Jr.

Excerded by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Demetria and Karen Williams, he is a junior at St. Petersburg High School.

He plans to attend college and major in business administration and pursue a career as an entrepre- neur, owning his own restaurant.

Favorite quote: “Mistakes are always forgivable if one has the courage to admit them.” — Bruce Lee

Demetria’s belle for the evening was Endea Robinson.
Victory Christian Center

**Pastor’s Corner**

**By Rev. Dr. Solomon F. Fuller, Spiritual Leader**

**Created for a Purpose**

“Every one that is called by my name, I know him, and know the place where he is dwelling” (Isaiah 43:1). God never calls anyone with no purpose. When you have been called to Christ, you have been called to the purpose of God. This purpose is His design for family, church and community. God’s purpose for you is to grow in your relationship with Him and shine His light in your world. God created you to fulfill a specific purpose, so go for it. God loves to be glorified, and there is no greater accomplishment than seeing someone carry out their God-given purpose. It is important for you to know what your purpose is, and to strive to accomplish it.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Friendship’s Women’s Ministry presents their annual Seasonal Luncheon

BY ALLEN A. BOHMANAN

ST. PETERSBURG – The Women’s Ministry of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church presented its annual Seasonal Luncheon fundraiser in the upper dining room on April 21.

“We’ve taken all seasons of the year and all holidays and decorated our tables accordingly,” said Women’s Ministry President Cynthia Pierce. As a result, the equals
dozen variety of colors captured everyone’s attention when entering the dining room. Brown, orange, yellow and white for the Fourth of July Holiday table.

The Women’s Thanksgiving, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and the spring tables were samples, part of the huge assortment of holidays and special historical events tables represented at the luncheon.

The table commemorating the life and times of Dr. King featured one table for the church members wearing an authentic Southern Christian Leadership Conference silver jacket, which is also symbolic of what the Women’s Ministry does annually to help people who are struggling with life’s endless challenges.

“We did this event on every year so that we can sponsor other events. This is a fundraiser for us, and we do a lot of outreach ministry like sending shoes to Haiti, giving t-shirts to the homeless shelters and helping a brother or sister any way we can,” finished Pierce.

Allproceeds from the luncheon supports over 100 food pantries and charitable causes a year.

For more Allen Bohmanan, email allenbohmanan@worldwidebible.org

SPC ranked 6th in the nation for study abroad program

PINELAS COUNTY – St. Petersburg College (SPC) is ranked 6th in the nation, among associate colleges, for sending students abroad, according to the Institute of International Education Open Doors Report.

Over the last year, more than 140 SPC students have traveled to other countries.

Dr. Samantha Kirsch, director of the Center for International Programs, celebrated the report naming SPC among leading institutions for study abroad education and emphasized the importance of study-abroad experiences for students.

“When I arrived at SPC a little more than five years ago, SPC was not even on the radar for study abroad,” said Kirsch.

“Low, in just a little over five years, we have increased study abroad participation by 113 percent.’’

SPC has a broad range of study-abroad programs throughout the world. The upcoming 2019-20 programs include:

• Veterinary Technology students will be working in assisting troubled sea turtles in Australia.

• Students will discover what makes India a cultural and religious force.

• Social psychology in a global context will be explored in Ireland.

• Students will be working with varying ecosystems and wildlife in Israel.

• Students will be studying World Literature and Culture in Japan.

• High school students will say Bonjour Québec as they study International Relations and do service learning activities in Canada.

Learn more about SPC’s study abroad program online or email studyabroad@spcollege.edu

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COMMUNITY NEWS