2019 Essence of Ebony Pearls Debutante Cotillion

**BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL**

**ST. PETERSBURG** – The people who last week were Maria L. Scruggs re-elected as NAACP president.

Lines an outside of the sanctuary of McCabe United Methodist Church last Thursday to cast ballots in the NAACP election.

**INDEX**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**ST. PETERSBURG** – Through disillusion

Twenty-one young ladies were presented into society at the 10th biennial Essence of Ebony Pearls Debutante Scholarship Cotillion last Saturday night. Picked is Miss Debutante 2019 Natalie Yvonne Fort and her handsome escort Emanuel Rouson.

**BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL**

**ST. PETERSBURG** – The purpose of Saturday night’s affair was to highlight the social event of the season emblematic for a husband to secure their future.

The night’s affair was to highlight achievements, social grace and provide, scholarship opportunities to Pinellas County junior and senior high school girls.

These young ladies were recognized for their academic performances, church, community and civic involvements.

To prepare for the cotillion, the young ladies participated in various workshops such as Health and Wellness, Building Self-esteem, Career Development, How to Deliver a Powerful Elevator Speech, Social Media, Keeping It Classy and Dining Etiquette. The belles of the ball also attended the Debutante Tea, celebrating the Harlem Renaissance.

Some 575 people attended the social event of the season crowned by Greenwood Fields and Lawrence Romison, who presented her daughter at the 2011 Cotillion. The night saw networking... 

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**LINES AN OUTSIDE OF THE SANCTUARY OF MCCABE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LAST THURSDAY TO CAST Ballots IN THE NAACP ELECTION.**
Saint Petersburg - Students, their parents and teachers are all invited to participate in a five community conversation on “The City of St. Petersburg’s Consolidated Plan” and what the future holds for our city. March 21, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Bethel Community Church, 2901 54th Ave. S. Free refreshments will be provided. Children are invited to attend with the Legal Defense Funders, the organization co-founding the Women’s March and the Legal Defense, Equality Florida, Gypsy Galdef and ONE Campaign. Johnson and Chart 14, for The Wild Program, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the National Fair Housing Alliance.

Color of Change, the nation’s oldest civil rights organization building power for African Americans and working for racial justice, plans for a meeting, Power, forward, a public policy advocate advancing racial justice through research, advocacy and journalism, Rev. Watson Hawkins and the Urban League, the Black Radical Congress and the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

We cannot continue to support failed and isolated leadership as the world passes us by. There is much work to be done and networking, collaboration and unity is the only way to accomplish that work. Anything less is failed business as usual and the times are too critical for that.

Elijah D. Johnson
CEO Publisher Emertis
Published by Examiner"
The Pinellas County Consortium has in place a Five-Year (FY2015-FY2019) Consolidated Plan that identifies housing and community development needs, priorities, objectives, and strategies. A new five-year Action Plan (FY2019-FY2024) has been prepared to address needs identified in the Five-Year Plan. This notice summarizes a proposal of new Action Plan projects and funding and gives locations for viewing and providing comment on the Action Plan. The Action Plan is subject to final approval by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Pinellas County Consortium consists of the Urban County and the City of Largo, with Pinellas County serving as administrator of the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program. Currently the Urban County includes all of the unincorporated areas and nineteen cities cooperating in Pinellas County’s CDBG program. Funding sources of proposed projects are the Pinellas County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) programs, and the Community’s HOME program. Funds expected to be available are as follows (City of Largo CDBG funding and proposed projects are advertised separately):

- $2,431,096 CDBG Enrollment
- $10,000 CDBG Program Income
- $1,349,340 HOME Enrollment
- $888,466 HOME Program Income
- $224,144 ESG Enrollment

Total $6,083,807

Annual funding amounts identified above are estimated amounts based on current year funding levels and projected program income. At this time of the notice, HUD has not announced Fiscal Year 2019 allocation amounts. In addition, an estimated $238,000 in program income from Neighborhood Stabilization Programs, approximately $1,000,000 in allocation and program income from the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) Program and approximately $175,000 in program income from the Pinellas County Housing Trust Fund Program are included below to indicate how housing goals will be met.

2019-2024 funds are proposed to be allocated as follows:

Target Area, Public Facility and Public Infrastructure Improvement Programs

YMCA of the Suncoast - High Point Facility Rehabilitation ($31,440 CDBG)

Homeless Enrollment Program - Adult Emergency Shelter Rehabilitation ($579,774 CDBG)

YMCA of the Suncoast – Greater Ridgeland Facility Rehabilitation ($417,087 CDBG)

Pinellas In-Offender Re-Entry Coalition - Facility Rehabilitation ($446,646 CDBG)

Senior Community Facility - Facility Rehabilitation ($58,516 CDBG)

Directions for Living - Facility Rehabilitation ($128,244 CDBG)

FMC – Herkert Villa - Facility Rehabilitation ($68,000 CDBG)

FMC – Curry Villa - Facility Rehabilitation ($73,000 CDBG)

ALPHA House of Pinellas County - Facility Rehabilitation ($69,714 CDBG)

Code Enforcement ($480,000 CDBG)

The proposed projects and award amounts listed above are based on an estimated FY 19-20 allocation that is equal to the current FY 19-19 allocation. The proposed projects are listed in priority order based on application ranking score. Should the actual CDBG allocation decrease, funding will be provided to the projects in the above order, until funds are fully allocated. The proposed Code Enforcement project funding will remain at the stated funding level regardless of final the CDBG allocation. Should the actual CDBG allocation amount increase, alternate projects identified before may be funded.

Public Services Programs (sump at 15% of total allocation, per CDBG program regulations)

Pinellas Opportunity Council - Shelter Services Operations ($38,888 CDBG)

YMCA of the Suncoast - Omni Center Operations ($29,000 CDBG)

CASA – Shelter Operations ($9,000 CDBG)

Religious Community Services - Grace House Operations ($15,262 CDBG)

The proposed Public Services Programs projects represent the second year of funding of a two year funding award. Award amounts listed above are based on an estimated FY 19-20 allocation that is equal or less than the current FY 19-19 CDBG allocation. The proposed projects are listed in priority order, with the actual CDBG allocation decrease, funding will be provided to the projects in the above order, until funds are fully allocated. Should the actual CDBG allocation amount increase, alternate projects identified before may be funded.

Additionally, the following proposed projects will be funded and may also receive funds available from prior fiscal years:

- Demolition and/or clearance of deteriorated structures/tenant developable land ($25,000 CDBG)
- NRSA - Target Area Community Clean-ups ($15,000 CDBG)
- NRSA - Target Area Land Acquisition/Site Development ($40,000 CDBG)

Public Facility and Public Infrastructure Activity Delivery ($60,000 CDBG)

Relocation assistance resulting from current or prior year funded activities ($15,000 CDBG)

Homeownership and Homelessness Prevention Services Program

Homeownership Enrollment Program - Adult Emergency Shelter Rehabilitation ($52,224 ESG)

Emergency Solutions Grant Program Components: Emergency Shelter; Homelessness Prevention; and HMIS Data Collection ($567,658 CDBG)

The proposed Homeownership Services projects and award amounts listed above are based on an estimated FY 19-19 ESG allocation that is equal to the current FY 19-19 ESG allocation. Should the actual ESG allocation increase or decrease, the ESG Program Components project will increase or decrease proportionately as required by program regulations.

Housing Preservation Program

Housing Preservation City of Largo ($115,379 HOME)

Housing Preservation ($384,134 HOME; $600,888 SHIP)

Housing Preservation Activity Delivery

Housing Production Program

Housing Production ($38,513 HOME; $225,220 NDP; $78,000 SHIP; $150,000 HSST)

Housing Production Activity Delivery

Homeownership Promotion Program

Housing Opportunities: Large Down Payment Assistance ($13,040 HOME)

Housing Opportunities (Ownership) ($404,000 HOME; $500,000 SHIP)

Housing Counseling and Self Sufficiency Services ($30,000 SHIP)

Homeownership Promotion Activity Delivery

Should the actual HOME allocation decrease, proposed HOME funding amounts will decrease proportionally, or as required by program regulations. Should the actual HOME allocation increase, proposed HOME funding amounts will increase proportionally or as required by program regulations.

Administration

$192,744 CDBG Program Grants

$120,690 State SHIP Fund

$1,249 Local Housing Trust Fund

Alternatives

If additional funding becomes available, alternate projects are proposed based on the amount of additional funds received, application ranking score, and readiness of projects to proceed: Public Facility Alternatives: WestCare Gulfcoast Florida - Turning Point Facility Rehabilitation ($81,000); WestCare Gulfcoast Florida - Davis Bradley Facility Rehabilitation ($446,646); Friends of Ridgeland Facility Rehabilitation ($128,244).

Approximately 98% of Pinellas County CDBG funds are allocated to activities which principally benefit low- and moderate-income households.

No displacement is anticipated at this time. However, the Residential Anti-displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan required under the CDBG program is available for viewing at the Pinellas County Community Development Division at the address listed below.

Availability for Viewing

The draft of a Pinellas County Consortium 2019-2020 Action Plan is available for viewing on the Community Development website at www.pinellascountygov.org/community and at the following locations between March 22, 2019 to April 22, 2019:

- Pinellas Community Development Division, 440 Court Street, 2nd Floor, Clearwater, FL 33756
- City of Largo Community Development Department, 201 Highland Avenue, Largo, FL 33770
- Pinellas County Housing Trust Fund, 5220 56th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710
- Greater Ridgeland Bicentennial YMCA, 1801 19th St. N, Largo, FL 33778
- Sun Life Family Community, 2481 100th Avenue, Largo, FL 33774
- Citizens Alliance for Progress, 401 East MLK Jr. Drive, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
- Young Life Pinellas County Urban, 12601 130th Avenue, Largo FL 33774
- High Point Branch YMCA, 5345 Laurel Pl, Clearwater, FL 33760
- Leashin and Asian Neighborhood Family Center, 4255 56th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33714

Public comments on the Plan are requested during this period and should be sent to the Community Development Division at cdplanning@pinellascounty.org or mailed to Pinellas County Community Development Division, 440 Court Street, 2nd Floor, Clearwater, FL 33756.

Community development and housing programs are administered in a nondiscriminatory manner, consistent with equal employment opportunity, affirmative action, and fair housing requirements. Questions, concerns, complaints or requests for information in alternative formats should be directed to Community Development Division staff at 727-464-8210.
Dear Editor:

Anyone may make a request for public records. About this past 12-month period, I wonder if it was such a request, and the response I got back was shocking! It cost $134,892 paid in advance for the City of St. Pete to provide me with public records showing the actual amount of money Elder Jordan Sr., a noted St. Pete printer, transferred in the city in 1929 to get out of debt and when it was paid back.

This figure is astronomical, and it seems unreasonable. At the time, paying $134,892 to get out of debt would have been extraordinary.

It is stated that it was taken on November 26th and 1919 because there are city agencies that have charged other residents for similar public records.

Who decides the costs and time estimated to procure requested documents? Who decides what documents are found in less than the estimated time?

My grandfather loaned the city money to help it get out of debt. It would seem the city would be happy to find out the answers and fill up this black man as an example of a black man who cared for the city.

It is my belief that this information is needed. No referral let military balls. High school girls for any dress regardless of where in inventory.

We have over 3,000 dresses at the Belle of the ball project.

The 5,000 square foot per day is the first shopping and 13.

Some of the more than 3,000 dresses at the Belle of the Ball boutique, 1201 Holt Ave. Community News

Belle of the Ball to give free prom dresses March 23

CLEARWATER — The Belle of the Ball project will provide free prom dresses for students who attended high school grades 9–12 in 1929. The project will provide dresses for students who attended school and graduated in 1929 in St. Petersburg.

The project was started in 1929 St Pete.

However, at the same time of the public records request, President Obama through the Public Arts Committee, secured a national 2000 dress in 1929 St Pete.

One week later, the city’s official report noted there was a suspension of marriage licenses.

It is my belief that this information is needed. No referral let military balls. High school girls for any dress regardless of where in inventory.

As I served on this committee with blacks and whites, an attitude of ap- preciation and honor for my grandfather and me and my grandmother glowing at each meeting.

One Caucasian committee member handed each of us a 24-page index of names and dates he had done on Elder Jordan dating back to the United States Cen sus of 1880.

It revealed information I had never seen such as the name of the first black for laws which went from St. Pete.

It was time that city girls take a critical look at the way things are going on. There was an increase in the lack of experience in administrative, educational, residential political, sexual and self-centered cloud that many of God’s people receive from an overhead harvest.

I have faith to believe that changes come through addressing the tough issues openly with genuine concern for my fellow persons, with the lack of experiencing compassion, one on one, “cross racial and gender blindness,” will still harbor desper ation which the people who live here will define the truth about me, in private. It is this way I live, and we build community and trust this way. It may hurt my look ings, but I have more re spect for them than hearing about myself some other way.

And remember, no matter what’s going on with you today, there is always still hope.

Dr. Basha P. Jordan, Jr.

The Hope Dr.

In info@HopeAliveOutreach.org

www.HopeAliveOutreach.org

Clearwater Area NAACP re-elected president

NAACP, from front page

Scrumps re-elected as NAACP president

WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By TOM PACKER

St. Petersburg – On Tuesday, March 5, the Eta Rho Chapter celebrated its annual Memorial Service. March 13 to honor brother- hood and Eta Rho Chapter. The service was held on March 13, 2019, at the Chapter House of Eta Rho, located at 1330 28th Street South.

The service is held annually to remember those brothers who are no longer with us.

This year, the service honored those brothers who have been lost in the past 12 months.

The service begins with opening words and remarks from the local Eta Rho Chapter leadership.

Dr. Basha P. Jordan, Jr., Grandson of Elder Jordan Sr., is the current president of the Eta Rho Chapter. The service begins with opening words and remarks from the local Eta Rho Chapter leadership.

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L.R. Kevin Myles, NAACP SouthCoast Regional Director and Don Brown, first vice president of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP.

For more results from the March 13 election in- cluding Nick Wright, first vice president, Deborah Fitzgerald, second vice president, and Kent Chanter, treasurer.
Mental health ‘Lunch & Learn’

ST. PETERSBURG – A Tampa Bay area nonprofit wants to take the stress out of seeking behavioral health services such as therapy. Through a series of “Lunch & learn” sessions, Pinellas County Urban League Young Professionals (PCULYP) are exploring the reasons why many don’t get the help they need.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, mental health issues go untreated more often in communities of color due to lack of access, insurance coverage, bias and other factors.

This first event will focus on knowing when and how to seek help for yourself.

With the advice of licensed mental health counselor Zaneta Ellison of New Vision Behavioral Health, Inc., those that attend can expect to get a healthy helping of ways to recognize, consult a professional and how to choose the right course of treatment.

“Unfortunately, there is still a stigma associated with seeking help from mental health professionals, especially in the African-American community,” said PCULYP Chair Dr. Brittany Peters. “We want to bring awareness and hopefully provide solutions as we initiate dialogue with a licensed mental health counselor regarding how to recognize the need to help and how to ask for help.”

“Mental Health Lunch & Learn: Asking for Help!” will happen Saturday, March 30 at Rush Hour Chicken & Waffles from 1-4 p.m. The event is open to the public, but seating is limited.

To register, call 727-393-4617 or email Rebeccacrossley@gmail.com. The event is free and all are welcome to attend.

The event is open to community members and PCULYP members, especially young professionals ages 21-45 in the movement of economic equality for all.

For more information, visit www.pinellas.org/pculp/youth or call 727-393-4617.

TAMPA – Being kind is good news, but For The Family is taking it a step further during the National Days of Kindness (NDK) that begin March 17. You and your friends are invited to do a random act of kindness and describe it in a smartphone “selfie” video that’s emailed to ForTheFamily.Tampa@gmail.com by March 31.

It can be as simple as making people happy at a senior center, school or hospital. If you want to be creatively kind, so much the better. You can even record your own kind action if it happens.

Everyone knows that your kind action as it happens is the reward for brightening someone’s day is larger than the effort it takes. However, For The Family will make it more worth your while by presenting a Family Flame Award and a $100 gift card and in the Random Act of Kindness category of the annual National F.A.M Awards in November.

“The is the Academy Awards of Kindness where the best videos are honored just like films receive Oscars. It’s the culmination of Kindness of the Heart activities that take place from coast-to-coast in the U.S. and Canada. Meanwhile, the Family Flame Award and $100 gift cards will also be presented for smartphone “selfie” videos that nominate deserving parents, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, volunteers and first responders. A Tampa Bay area nonprofit wants to take the stress out of seeking behavioral health services such as therapy. Through a series of “Lunch & learn” sessions, Pinellas County Urban League Young Professionals (PCULYP) are exploring the reasons why many don’t get the help they need.

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Introducing 21 young ladies into society

Nikhay Acoff

Her handsome escort for the evening was David Merck, a senior at Lakewood High School. After graduation, Akilah Aquil plans to attend the University of West Florida and is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Exquisite Gems.

Taylour Nichols Cooper

Her handsome escort for the evening was KeyShawn Devon Allen, a senior at St. Petersburg High School. After graduation, Mikiya Fudge plans to attend Florida International University to major in public relations. Her career goal is to become a capable relations provider, model and social signer. Her hobbies and activities include dancing, traveling, spending time with friends and family. Her handsome escort for the evening was Jordon McAlpin, a senior at Northeast High School. After graduation, Kainos Alex McMillion plans to attend St. Petersburg College and is a member of the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity.

Chamomile Cummings

Her handsome escort for the evening was Keisha Simmons, a senior at Lakewood High School. After graduation, Jonalde Flowers plans to attend Florida Technical College and plans to continue her military career. After graduation, she plans to study to become a computer science at a historically black college and university. Her career goal is to become a computer professional. Her hobbies and activities include playing volleyball, cooking and spending time with her siblings and family. She is planning to travel 5 to 10 years and participate in a Spanish immersion program. Her handsome escort for the evening was Grammy Award-winning artist Fabolous.

COTILLION, front page

a father-daughter dance and the presentation of scholarships. Six of the 21 participants received more than $10,000 in scholarship awards.

President of Zeta Up

One chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. finalized the evening by thanking the participants, their families, and the parents of the debutantes for making the evening so successful.

“We thank you for shar- ing your daughter with us for the past six months. All throughout the process, it has never been busier or more fun. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with you, and we thank you for helping us to make this happening for her.”

She also thanked the members of the Lamba Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for their assistance in planning the event, as well as their assistance with the escortors in planning the event.

Nyah Sherril Acoff

Nyah Sherril Acoff is a senior at Lake- wood High School and is a member of the Multicultural Club. She is the team captain of the basketball team, a member of YG’z, a Capstone Student, a member of the Multicultural Club and the National Honor Society.

After graduation, Nyah plans to attend Tallahassee Community College and transfer to Florida A&M University. Her career goal is to become a major and a career goal. Her hobbies include shopping, spending time with friends and family and watching television.

Joneasha Flowers

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Her handsome escort for the evening was KeyShawn Devon Allen, a senior at St. Petersburg High School. After graduation, Jonalde Flowers plans to attend Florida Technical College and plans to continue her military career. After graduation, she plans to study to become a computer science at a historically black college and university. Her career goal is to become a computer professional. Her hobbies and activities include playing volleyball, cooking and spending time with her siblings and family. She is planning to travel 5 to 10 years and participate in a Spanish immersion program. Her handsome escort for the evening was Grammy Award-winning artist Fabolous.

Kaila Priester

After graduation, Kaila plans to attend Florida A&M University to pursue a de- gree in journalism. Her ca- reer goal is to become a broadcast journalist. Her hobbies and activities include cooking, spending time with family and friends and Christian dancing for the church.

Her handsome escort for the evening was KeyShawn Devon Allen, a senior at Northeast High School. After graduation, Kainos Alex McMillion plans to attend St. Petersburg College and is a member of the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity.

Kaina McMillion

Kaina McMillion

Her handsome escort for the evening was Miles Akilah Richardson, a senior at The Bogo Cragg High School. After graduation, Chase Amaya Drew plans to attend the University of Florida to study human resource management. Presented by her par- ents, Judges Patricia and Miles Akilah Richardson, Chase Amaya Drew is a senior at The Bogo Cragg High School and is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Exquisite Gems.

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Dr. Charles Drew was an African-American surgeon, well-known educator and medical genius. Born June 3, 1904, in Washington, D.C. Drew graduated from Amherst College in Massachusetts in 1925. After securing a two-year Bible reading scholarship, he entered McGill University Medical School in Canada.

Dr. Drew received his medical degree in 1933, graduating magna cum laude. He earned both his Doctor of Medicine degree and his Master’s Degree in Surgery at the same time. He then studied at the Johns Hopkins Medical School and the New York University School of Medicine.

At the age of 38, Dr. Drew discovered the method by which blood could be stored in a vacuum, destroying and reused. He was awarded a patent for Preserving Blood which the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 10, 1942, in the midst of World War II. According to the Forbes University website:

“During World War II, Dr. Drew was appointed Superintend­ent of Blood Transfu­sion for the United States Navy and Army. He was in charge of the blood bank program for the Armed Forces and the Navy.”

Inventor of the blood bank and savior of the Red Cross

Dr. Drew pioneered America’s first large-scale blood bank during World War II. He was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1977. Drew graduated from the Boston University Law School in 1923 and then became the first black woman to be appointed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was also the first black woman to be appointed as a Private Investigator for the FBI.

After delivering a lecture at the University of Chicago, he discovered the need for a blood bank to save lives during the war. This led to the establishment of the American National Red Cross in 1917. Drew went on to become the head of the blood bank department at the New York Blood Center, where he served as its Director from 1943 to 1945.

At the age of 40, Dr. Drew discovered the method by which blood could be stored in a vacuum. He was awarded a patent for Preserving Blood which the United States Patent and Trademark Office on November 10, 1942, in the midst of World War II. According to the Forbes University website:

“During World War II, Dr. Drew was appointed Superintendant of Blood Transfusion for the United States Navy and Army. He was in charge of the blood bank program for the Armed Forces and the Navy.”

Dr. Drew’s work on blood banking was crucial during World War II and beyond. He was honored posthumously in 1998 with the induction into the National Inventor’s Hall of Fame.

Dr. Drew was also a accomplished in the field of sculpture and painting. He was a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and the National Association of Afro-American密碼.”

Dr. Drew was known as an outstanding athlete at Amherst College where he also joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He returned to Washington, D.C. in 1928 and began working at Columbia University in New York, where he completed graduate work and received his degree. He became the first African American to be appointed to the position of Assistant Professor at Columbia University in 1931.

Initially, Drew’s work was centered on the difficulties of blood transfusions. He was interested in the manner of his death will be known forever. Drew died after a violent automobile accident in 1950, he was only 46 years old. This accident occurred during the Jim Crow era, and Dr. Drew was a victim of the brutal racism and violence that plagued African Americans during this time.

The truth or falsity of Drew’s death is uncertain. He was killed in a car accident in 1950, but it is believed that he may have been targeted by a mob. Drew’s death remains a mystery, and his legacy continues to inspire generations of African Americans.”

Dr. Drew worked on blood banking during World War II. He was also a successful surgeon and medical genius. He was known as an outstanding athlete at Amherst College, where he also joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He returned to Washington, D.C. in 1928 and began working at Columbia University in New York, where he completed graduate work and received his degree. He became the first African American to be appointed to the position of Assistant Professor at Columbia University in 1931.

There have been many attempts to uncover the truth behind Dr. Drew’s death. Some believe that he was killed by a mob, while others believe that he may have been targeted by the medical community. Despite the uncertainty surrounding his death, Dr. Drew’s legacy continues to inspire generations of African Americans.”

Community News
COMMUNITY NEWS

79 and fabulous
BY DEXTER MCCREE
Features Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Most days, Evelyn Graves awakens from a broken night of sleep to walk out to the front yard and pick up the morning newspaper while admiring the sounds of nature, chirping birds and the beauty of God’s creation. Often, she goes back in to make a cup of coffee and turn on Bay News 9 to pursue the daily news.

Last Wednesday started out no different, but another routine day, as she thought. Her phone rang and it was her great- niece Shakira Hawkins calling from Whitefield, N.C.

“Sir, you thought I forgot about your birthday,” the voice on the other end of the phone said.

Hawkins was as surprising as the message coming forth. “You know, I would never forget your birthday, and I’m coming to see you.”

The calls kept flooding in. Graves niece, Willie Mae, called. Then her grandson Michael followed by her other granddaughters, Evie and Evette. She thought it was for most of the day.

Graves’ daughter, Wanda, called along with her sister, Lillie and called so went it for most of the day. Graves’ daughter, Wanda, called along with her sister, Lillie and called so went it for most of the day.

“Open up your present to see what is waiting for you,” they said. “You are doing great, front,” said Jones. “She was my first employees when they opened the doors in 1970.”

Graves’ daughter, Wanda, called along with her sister, Lillie and called so went it for most of the day. Graves’ daughter, Wanda, called along with her sister, Lillie and called so went it for most of the day.

Nearly five decades ago, when Graves opened the doors to Geri-Care Nursing Home, it was like a meal I would serve to my own family, stated Graves. “When pressed about the number of people she gave jobs to, she was incredibility modest.”

“I don’t think it was such a big deal. When people have opportunities, they will work. And when people work and can take care of themselves and their families, they are productive,” said Graves. Graves will always remember her 79th birthday celebration. Her birthday celebration will be a lasting memory. It is even captured on YouTube as part of the SCRAM Family Video series titled “GRANDMA’s 79th Birthday Celebration.”

Talent Hunt Chairperson
BY TOM PACKER
Contributor

ST. PETERSBURG – Nearly five decades ago, when Graves opened the doors to Geri-Care Nursing Home, it was so it went for most of the day. Graves opened the doors in 1970. As Geri-Care was preparing for its grand opening, Graves, affectionately known as “Ms. Eric,” had already secured employees with the company. She was the first employees when they opened the doors in 1970.

For 38 years, she served as the dietary direc- tor at Geri-Care, later renamed Encantada Manor. She cooked, conditioned and passion- ately ensured the nutritional needs of the residents were met. Graves did it with love.

“Open up your present to see what is waiting for you,” they said. “You are doing great, front,” said Jones. “She was my first employees when they opened the doors in 1970.”

Graves’ daughter, Wanda, called along with her sister, Lillie and called so went it for most of the day. Graves’ daughter, Wanda, called along with her sister, Lillie and called so went it for most of the day.

First place was awarded to Cameron Kay for classical dance; sec- ond place for instrumental. McHann took home third place for instrumental. The first-place winner was Eta Rho Chapter host annual Talent Hunt program.

St Petersburg Florida Water Management District

REBATES UP TO $125
ST PETERSBURG WASH REBATE PROGRAM

- Rebates for one high flow, non-HI water heater replaced by a high efficiency EPA Energy Star model.
- Open to St. Petersburg single family residential water customers.
- Rebate your laundry water use by up to 45% and energy use by up to 25%.
- This PGC Project is available for a limited number of customers.
- A new clothes washer purchased and ordered through St. Petersburg Utilities April 1st, 2019, is eligible for a rebate.
- For more information call 727-892-5611.

WashRebate@stpete.org

St Petersburg Florida Water Management District

Email or Call Today!

This program is cooperatively funded by the City of St. Petersburg and the Southwest Florida Water Management District

www.THEWEEKLYCHALLENGER.COM

GRANDMA GETS TURNT To The MAX!!!
With the SCRAM Family Video Series
When a week is not enough, the calls kept coming in. Graves niece, Willie Mae, called. Then her grandson Michael followed by her other granddaughters, Evie and Evette. Evette, while admiring the sounds of nature, was overwhelmed with all the expressions of love. "Open up your present to see what is waiting for you,” they said. “You are doing great," front,” said Jones. “She was my first employees when they opened the doors in 1970.”

First place was awarded to Cameron Kay for classical dance; sec- ond place for instrumental. McHann took home third place for instrumental. The first-place winner was Eta Rho Chapter host annual Talent Hunt program.

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Promoting literacy in the black community

READ, from front page

orange t-shirts and repeat- ing everything he belted out over the megaphone.

“Walk for Reading! Open a book! Readers are leaders!”

This year’s festival was lined with informational vendors and those selling their wares. Dr. Christopher Warren was out promoting the Bethel Community Foundation and their Truancy Intervention Program Service, which includes free access to licensed psychologists and therapists for children and families in need of help.

Funded by the state, the free program includes Anger Management classes, Active Parenting Parents and Children classes, Malehood Development and Female Life Skills classes.

To learn more about the program, call 727-866-2747.

Also on hand was the Epsilon Beta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. conducting fun children’s activities while promoting their April 6 Youth STEMposium to introduce the young ones to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics learning opportunities that are designed to support student academic growth.

The free workshop will be held at the St. Petersburg College Allstate Center from 9-2:30 p.m. For more information, email info@kidventions.org.

If you missed the fun this year, next year promises to be even larger with more entertainment, vendors, food, and of course, books!
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

BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH
3485 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-6240
E-mail: bchurc3@tampabay.rr.com • Web site: www.bmbc.org

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

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

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

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Phone: 727-323-7518
Praise Time: 10:45 a.m.
Saturday Night Live - Prayer Service & Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Ruwach International Ministries Pastor/Prophet Huberta Rejouis
1940 11th Ave. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Email: huberta@rmanjai.com • Phone: 727-768-2784
Sunday Night Worship Service: 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study (Yara Time) ...........7:30 p.m.

Ruwach International Ministries is an Apostolic global ministry. 
We sponsored in the local ministry. 
All are Welcome! Shalom!

Victory Christian Center Church
3012 18th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Fl. 33712
(727) 321-8811
www.victorychristiancenter.org

Welcome – Bienvenidos
ST. AUGUSTINE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Joyful Spirit, Joyful Jazz
2920 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg 33712
727-867-6774
Staugustine@tampabay.rr.com
The Rev. Josie Rose, Priest-in-Charge

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays

ST. AUGUSTINE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
10:30 a.m.
955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
www.mzprogressive.org
Email: staugustine@tampabay.rr.com

Welcome – Bienvenidos
StAugustine@tampabay.rr.com
Rev. Rickey L. Houston,
Church Of Christ
825 20th Street South
Home: 896-8006
20th Street

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20th Street Church Of Christ
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St. Petersburg, Fl. 33712
Home: 896-8006

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823 25th Street South
St. Petersburg, Fl. 33712
Home: 896-8006

Welcome – Bienvenidos
Rev. Anthony Jones
Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Mid-Week Worship: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

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 (Tuesday) (Tuesday)...........6:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Tuesday) ........7:00 p.m.
Baptist Training Union (Sunday).4:00 p.m.
“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”

“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”
Rev. Wallace Elliott
E. Pastor
B. Church

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Rev. Wallace Elliott
E. Pastor
B. Church

McCabe United Methodist Church
150 Years in Mission Ministry

McCabe United Methodist Church will host millions of its denomination’s women in celebrating The United Methodist Women’s 150 Years Anniversary of mission ministry.

McCabe’s UMW will celebrate Sunday, March 24 at the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Rev. Dr. Blaithin White will bring the message. Rev. Dr. Blaithin White is a long-time leader in community outreach and mission ministry. She is an associate minister at Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in St. Petersburg.

The United Methodist Women (UMW) is the major mission arm of the denomination and its membership serves in local and worldwide mission ministry. Each United Methodist Church has a unit that serves individual and collectively with the worldwide mission.

Come out and join in this great celebration.

INSPIRATIONS
BY DIERDRE DOWNS-JACKSON

We are to obey

“As we realize the grace of GOD in our lives, we are reminded of what HE wants us to do for HIS kingdom.

We are to obey.

We are to walk by faith and not by sight.

We are to speak the truth in love.

We are to walk by faith and not by sight.

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We are to speak the truth in love.
St. Mark's MBC

Welcome, it is always our pleasure to open our doors to all who wish to worship with us. We want to welcome you and we would like to encourage you to continue to do so — as a member or a friend of our Church. Where, with open doors and hearts, we_idx (John 4:23-24) stand ready to make you comfortable and to share the message of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Bryan Bassett
Pastor

St. Joseph Gospel Evangelanaga

Come Get Your Praise On! St. Joseph Gospel Evangelanaga

Friday: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Pastor’s Service by REV. DONALD M. PULLEY, SPIRITUAL LEADER

Church News

The ROCK OF JESUS Missionary Baptist Church is located at 1310 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL. Telephone: 727-547-0615 / Fax: 727-547-0021

Dr. Evon Gibson, Pastor
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 

Mount of Beatitudes

One of the greatest spiritual experiences that I had in Israel was at the Mount of Beatitudes. This is the place where Jesus took his disciples at the beginning of his ministry so that he could lay the foundation for what they were to do. Since they were all Jews, it was necessary for them to understand the difference between Jewish laws and Kingdom principles.

The Beatitudes are a part of the Sermon on the Mount which can be found in the Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew gives an expanded version in chapters 5-7 and the Gospel of Luke gives a condensed version in chapter 6. Paul was not expecting to have such a profound spiritual experience in this place. It was not the focus of the more popular tourist sites. Nevertheless, this experience made the whole trip worthwhile for the five reasons.

The first reason is that it was unusual. I was a member learning the New Testament. Sunday School referred to the Beatitudes as “attitudes that better us as we are going to be like Jesus.” My dream as a little boy finally came true.

Blessed are they that mourn…

Secondly, the day that I entered the site, Tuesday, January 27, was the day that Catholics celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family. They believe that this is approximately the time of the year that Jesus, the Christ, did those peaceful, teaching things. There were priests, nuns and bishops from all over the world in Israel for this celebration. It was a pleasant time to meet and dialogue.

The third reason was my immersion. I had the opportunity to pray and reflect in the space without being fed. Although there were all people there, no one seemed to be in a hurry and it did not seem overcrowded. Everyone was in peace there to be still and to meditate.

Fourthly, it was so scenic. The mountains and the trees were gorgeous. There was a wonderful view of the Sea of Galilee. There were many treks over the world in Israel for this purpose. There were priests and other religious leaders who took you there as an opportunity of this beautiful place.

The fifth reason is that this is approximately the time that Jesus, the Christ, did those peaceful, teaching things. There were priests, nuns and bishops from all over the world in Israel for this celebration. It was a pleasant time to meet and dialogue.

We encourage every person who has an opportunity to go to the Holy Land to go to the Mount of Beatitudes. It is not just a physical mountain, but it is a higher place in consciousness. Through the Mount of Beatitudes, the Holy Spirit is calling us higher.

Blessed are those who are poor in spirit.

Blessed are the most

Blessed are the pure in heart

Blessed are our.ResponseEntity...
My Brother’s Keeper Programs

• Cohort of Champions - this program provides a unique transitional opportunity for ages 12 to 24 including educational, entrepreneurial, workforce and enrichment training opportunities.

• Not My Son - this grassroots community outreach marketing campaign and intervention effort assists African American male young adults, ages 12 to 24, by promoting positive achievement and anti-crime awareness.

My Sister’s Keeper Programs

• "JUST GIRL TALK" and "JUST B YU" conferences - this program is geared toward young women, starting with the “JUST YU” conference for middle school girls in the summer and the "JUST GIRL TALK" conference for young women in high school.

• Sister’s Kin-nest - this newest program of the Sister’s Keeper Collective is Sister’s Kin-nest – "a community of inspiring women igniting and connecting opportunities." This annual event will offer a dynamic evening of personal investment, intention to ignite and inspire!