Wednesday evening, city and county officials held a press conference on the front porch where mother of the Aesha Kendrick was killed Sunday morning to ask for the community’s help in ending gun violence and donations to the family.

Communities rallies around slain victim’s family

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL

ST. PETERSBURG – It all began some 48 years ago for a young man named Benjamin Shirley Sr. He had just arrived in St. Pete on Nov. 1, 1970, and immediately began looking for work. Eight days later, he was hired on doing maintenance in the Sanitation Department at the City of St. Petersburg.

He worked his way up to the top of the Sanitation Department where he served as director for more than 10 years. Last Thursday after losing work, Shirley Sr. suffered a medical episode and was later pronounced dead at Bayfront Health St. Petersburg.

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In his 40 years at the city, Shirley Sr. witnessed many changes from mayors to city administrators. He credited his success to hard work, personal experiences, and of course, the wisdom of others. Through the years of attending courses. He also received many awards for outstanding service in the community.

Ben Shirley: A good man gone

BY DEXTER MCCREE

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ST PETERSBURG — Florida’s midterm elec-
tion has turned out to be a calamity for those hop-
ing for a transparent and tran-
sparent voting process. More than 10,000
mailed-in ballots were re-
jected due to undeter-
mined “vote-caused error” and another
10,000 voters’ ballots were denied because their
registration card was missing a signature.

Additionally, images have popped up since last Tuesday included in art-
icles referring to un-
accounted ballots found in
a mail facility in Daytona, or the box of uncounted previous ballots found
behind a polling site by a
school teacher.

As of the weekend,
Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach had thousands of uncounted
ballots that hadn’t been returned.
Officials in these counties shared
they would not be able to finish their recount
for this time in time for this
election day.

But around the state, activists and citizens
were pressing for the recount to go on to determine which candidates —
Gillum or DeSantis, Nelson or Scott and Fried or
Anderson — would win after every vote cast had actually been counted.

On Saturday, Nov 10, community members met
at the Pinellas County Su-
pervisor of Elections Of-
fice to hold a “CountEveryVote” rally. The rally, in downtown St Pete,
was held in concert with events in Miami, Tampa, Jacksonville, Tallahassee and
Pensacola.

Carla Bratulic shared a sentiment held by many
of the over 80 people in-
tendue at the St Pete
erally. “We’re not here
fighting because we be-
lieve we won — and we’re
fighting for the right for
every vote to be
counted.”

Although Pinellas had few problems with its
count, those in atten-
dance at the rally, includ-
ing former City Council Member for Dist 3 Karl Nurse, stood as
witness to Florida’s con-
troversial voting process.

“It’s important to
us develop the country here,” stated Nurse.

“There’s a longstanding effort to reduce the votes of the progressive com-
nunity, and it’s done
directly through registra-
tion suppression, provi-
donal closing down voting places. This
good news is that the fol-
time, over is on our side.
But we have to resist all
these efforts to not count
all the votes.

Organizer Ashley
Green led the rally atten-
dees in a mini-march
throughout the neighbor-
hood’s streets, as drivers
honked their horns in support of those advocate-
ing for the recount.

Rally attendee Dan
Smith shared, “I’m
against voter suppres-
sion, and that’s in-
what’s happening — they’re hold-
ging back in other coun-
tries, they sound like they’re hiding votes.”

Charles, a long-time St Pete resident and De-
ocratic, asserted, “This is
very, very important.
We need to get a representa-
tive government Florida
is going to be our best chance.

The rally was organ-
ized by members of the Win Justice coalition —
including, SEIU FL, Planned Parenthood, Florida Immigrant Coalition,
Voice Voter, Organize Florida, New Florida Ma-
ny, and Color of Change, as well as
Defend-Our-Votes, Indivi-
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St Pete, Pinellas, March for Our Lives, the
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others.

The Pinellas County chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Council’s
Jeffrey Copeland said that if
time it’s not because
we need to work,
"we will be
that this truly is the
planet.

This nation was founded on one core prin-
ciple about the world,
the power of the people. If
we stand up for
what we believe in, no
matter what the odds or the
consequences.

Before the final
March around the Black Pinellas
mourned with the crowd.

“We know that peo-
ple under 18 have been
beaten, and we choose
to be recognized as our
opposition,” said J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweekly-
challenger.com.

“[These] are the ones running from the truth because
people who think like you and me are
everywhere,” said 17-year-old Kai Tomoki, who worked with
March for Our Lives and interned with the
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They that think they have us on the run, but
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“We need to get a représentative
government,” said Charles.

Organizer Ashley Green led the rally attendees in a mini-march
throughout the neighborhoods’ streets, as drivers
honked their horns in support of those advocate-
ing for the recount.

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When the Civil War ended in 1865, the Compromise of 1877 formally ended Reconstruction, and the Act of 1877, pushed by the Hayes Administration, removed federal troops from the South. By 1877, the growing consolidation of the Republican Party and the Democrats had enabled Hayes to secure the presidency of a divided nation, making the 1876 election of Rutherford B. Hayes a politically contentious and historically significant event.

The 14th Amendment, Section 3, granted the right to vote to any male citizen, 21 years or older, who had not collected a federal tax, engaged in insurrection, or given aid or comfort to the enemies of the United States. It was the first of three constitutional amendments that protected the rights of African Americans following the Civil War. The 14th Amendment also provided that no state could “deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.”

In the presidential election of 1876, a compromise was entered into by Republicans and Democrats that resulted in the election of Republican Rutherford B. Hayes as a controversial president.

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The compromise that ended Reconstruction

South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana agreed to certify Hayes as the president in exchange for the removal of federal troops from the state. Hayes complied with the compromise. He quickly ended Reconstruction and withdrew federal troops from the last two occupied states, South Carolina and Louisiana. The right to vote was the first victim of the ensuing assault on Constitutional rights for African Americans and is still a struggle.

The compromise resulted in an appropriation—called the Morrill Act—that included the prohibition of any military occupation of any state by the United States Army. By the 1876 election, Congress was dominated by the Democratic Party, and it passed the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1870 to end Reconstruction. The Compromise of 1877

The compromise that ended Reconstruction
Evelyn McCullough celebrates 56th Achievement Week program

BY DEXTER MCCREE

November is Family Engagement in Education Month

By Dexter McCree

November is Family Engagement in Education Month

Evelyn McCullough retires!
COMMUNITY NEWS

Barbara Norris: 75 years young

BY ALLEN A. BOCHNAN

ST. PETERSBURG — More than 40 friends and family shared an afternoon at Callaloo Restaurant with Barbara Norris to help her celebrate 75 years of a life well lived and appreciated on Saturday, Nov. 3.

“Her life is a tribute,” said good friend Paulette Goolsby. “Shell is a tribute to God. She has given her life in the service of God, and she loves everybody.”

Goolsby talked about Norris love of education and how terrible she is at spelling. “She retired from teaching then came back, then retired again and came back again,” laughed Goolsby.

Another member of the Goolsby family, Kenneth Jr., paid tribute to the Goolsby family, Kenneth, to theenn his daughter Bridgett and loved one after.

“I've made some mistakes along the way, but Mrs. Norris has always been someone who has encouraged me to do better and to get on the right track in every aspect of my life,” said Goolsby Jr.

Born in Tallahassee on Nov. 9, 1943, in M.T. and Annie J. Brown, Norris is one of five children from this union.

Always an excellent student, when she graduated from high school, she moved to St. Pete to attend Gibbs Junior College in 1961. Then she moved to the University of South Florida where she majored in early childhood development.

Barbara's first job out of college proved to be very fulfilling. Instead of getting experience and moving on to bigger and better things, she worked at Happy Workers for 18 years as a preschool and kindergarten teacher. In 1990, she accepted her next assignment at Central Christian and taught there for 15 years, retiring in 2004.

She continues to mentor children and volunteers at hospitals and nursing homes. Norris is very active with the St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section National Council of Negro Women where she once held office as the communications secretary. She is also an ardent member of the Gibbs Junior College Alumni Association.

Norris' daughter Bridgett and loved one after loved one expressed what a kindhearted and awe-inspiring woman of God she is.

“She turned me to the sunshine and encouraged me to do things,” said Bridgett, adding how her mother established markers along the way to help her distinguish between right and wrong.

Norris graciously thanked everyone for coming out to celebrate her life and for giving her her roses while she can still smell them.

To reach Allen Bochhnan, email allenboch@theweekly-challenger.com
Her diamond quality

Stacey Abrams, the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, has given the nation a true view on voter suppression and how it continues to impact elections. Her campaign has also brought to the forefront a real-life example of the struggle that African Americans are frequently faced with in workplace environments across the country.

The very presence of Abrams’ existence on a political ballot requested people to respond to the question: “Is she (the most) qualified for this position?”

Listening to the reasons listed in the negative seemed laughable to many; except they were not. Even the current president gave his opinion, stating that Abrams was not qualified to be the governor of a state where she had previously held elected office for 10 years.

The president’s opinion led to numerous social media threads in which people listed all that she felt he was not qualified to do. These threads also led to admissions that “not qualified” is coded language for “she is black.”

It is this very meaning when they pitch the idea that such candidates are not qualified. On your priority list of qualifications (for any job or source for authority), is white and male or white and male your ideal candidate?

In political elections, qualifications are met when candidates make the ballot. Votors then determine why one is more qualified than another; but few will publicly admit in non-minority dominated district that they prefer a white candidate. It is this subtext that cause it is understood, or is it simply not true?

Furthermore, prior to the recent push to elect women, few would publicly admit that they preferred a woman representative. Vocal congressional men, deemed “out-of-touch,” denied the need for a woman in any position. One could reason that as women’s roles have increased, so have the areas of womenisch matters as that of women’s health. The notion many women run for public office.

It has, however, these congresswoman listened to women’s concerns, would one have these same voices and the voices figuring for her to be included at these policy-making areas?

We know that visuals are important, yet many times African-American women are left to linger at the bottom of the priority list as it is unlikely to be seriously be included at all. Her ballot box presence is too powerful to ignore her. Likewise, her diverse creation can’t be ignored. Her diamond quality.

Her diamond quality.
Preserving history one issue at a time

ARCHIVE, from front page

photo: L-R, Library Collection Specialist Alexandra Curran and Librarian David Shedden.

Dr. Goliath Davis

Rick Edmonds, Media Business Analyst at the Poynter Institute

Dr. Goliath Davis

L-R, Library Collection Specialist Alexandra Curran and Librarian David Shedden.

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Bayfront Health Medical Group
Through Our Eyes:
Midtown and Beyond

Join us for the annual exhibit of work by multimedia journalism scholars from Melrose Elementary, John Hopkins Middle and Lakewood High schools at Studio@620, 620 First Ave. S, St. Petersburg

Opening night: Friday, Jan. 11 from 5-8 p.m.
Poetry Slam and Second Saturday Artwalk:
Saturday, Jan. 12 from 5-8 p.m.

The Studio@620 has showcased scholars’ work in an annual exhibit at the gallery since 2004.

Free Admission

The program immerses students K-12 in multimedia journalism training and results in this wonderful annual student exhibition. There will be an opportunity to get an actual taste of Midtown highlighting area restaurants in the Midtown community in addition to the visual and multi-media journalistic exhibition.

Presented in partnership with the Centers for Journalism and Multimedia at Melrose Elementary, John Hopkins Middle and Lakewood High, Pinellas County Schools.
Healthy Living NATURALLY
By Dr. Ramona Valentine
The statistics for cancer are staggering. There are more than 2 million new cases diagnosed every year in the U.S. One in 20 people developed cancer in the 2010s, one in 9 in the 1940s, and one in 4 in the 1920s. That is why I agree with Dr. Mercola, who states that this is the cancer industry’s crusade to find a cure.

The average cancer patient spends $250,000 (and many more) over their lifetimes. Many of these patients are told that they have metastatic cancer, which means that the cancer has spread to distant organs. But it is patients who tell us that they are ready to take charge of their health. These patients are often referred to as “alternative” or “natural” healers.

One of the most well-known practitioners is Dr. Andrew Weil. His book, “The Medicine within,” was published in 1989 and has sold over a million copies. Weil believes that the body has the ability to heal itself, and that the role of the doctor is to help the body do so. He advocates for a holistic approach to health, which includes diet, exercise, and stress reduction.

Another well-known practitioner is Dr. John West, who founded the West Cancer Network. West believes that cancer is caused by a combination of factors, including diet, environment, and lifestyle. He advocates for a plant-based diet, exercise, and stress reduction.

One of the most controversial practitioners is Dr. Mercola. He is a medical doctor and a popular speaker on the topic of natural medicine. Mercola believes that the pharmaceutical industry is a major contributor to the deterioration of our health, and that the use of natural remedies is essential for good health.

Cancer: The epidemic of our time

Cancer is not just a disease, it is an epidemic. Over 1 million people are diagnosed with cancer each year in the U.S., and more than 600,000 die from the disease. The cost of cancer care is also staggering, with an estimated $330 billion spent each year.

The cause of cancer is not well understood, but there is increasing evidence to suggest that it is caused by a combination of factors, including diet, environment, and lifestyle. Many people believe that cancer can be prevented and treated with natural remedies.

A ketogenic diet

A ketogenic diet is a very low-carbohydrate, high-fat diet. It is based on the idea that the body should burn fat as its primary source of energy, rather than carbohydrates. This diet is thought to be effective for people who are trying to lose weight, but it is also being studied for its potential to treat cancer.

The ketogenic diet is a very low-carbohydrate, high-fat diet. It is based on the idea that the body should burn fat as its primary source of energy, rather than carbohydrates. This diet is thought to be effective for people who are trying to lose weight, but it is also being studied for its potential to treat cancer.

A recent study published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute found that a ketogenic diet was able to reduce the growth of cancer cells in mice. The study showed that the diet was able to reduce the size of tumors and to slow the progression of cancer.

Another study, published in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition, found that a ketogenic diet was able to reduce the growth of cancer cells in humans. The study showed that the diet was able to reduce the size of tumors and to slow the progression of cancer.

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I believe that the ketogenic diet is the way to go. It is not only a healthy way of eating, but it is also an effective way to treat cancer. I encourage people to try the ketogenic diet, and to see if it works for them.

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3144 Third Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
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Rev. Dr. Wayne D. Williams, Pastor

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Teen Summit (Wednesday)..................7:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Wednesday) ....................7:00 p.m.
Rev. Rickey L. Houston,
Pastor

First Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
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(727) 327-8708
Sunday Worship Services 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
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Prayer Meeting (Tuesday)...............6:00 p.m.
Bible Study (Tuesday) .......................7:00 p.m.
Baptist Training Union (Sunday)........4:00 p.m.
“The Little Church Where Everybody Is Somebody”
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Sr. - Pastor

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Forgiveness

“For we are not only saved, but also justified by faith” (Romans 5:9). Forgiveness is the key to our relationship with God. In order to be saved, we must repent of our sins and trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Forgiveness is the act of releasing someone from a debt or obligation, allowing them to move forward in life without being held accountable for their past actions. It is an act of love and compassion, and it is essential to our spiritual growth and development.

Forgiveness is an act of mercy, and it is a way of responding to the love and grace of God. When we forgive, we are reflecting the love and forgiveness that God has shown to us. Forgiveness is not just about letting go of past hurts or grievances, but it is also about releasing ourselves from the burden of guilt and shame. Forgiveness is a key to spiritual freedom and healing, and it is a way of demonstrating the love and grace of God to those around us.

In our personal lives, forgiveness is important because it helps us to move past our own hurts and grievances, and it allows us to live in peace and harmony with others. Forgiveness is also important in our relationships with others, as it helps us to build healthy and fulfilling relationships based on trust, love, and understanding.

In our community and society, forgiveness is important because it helps to promote healing and reconciliation. When we forgive, we are creating a space for new beginnings and new opportunities, and we are demonstrating the power of love and grace to bring about positive change. Forgiveness is a key to building a society that is characterized by love, compassion, and understanding, and it is essential to creating a world that is free from the pain and suffering caused by past injustices.

In conclusion, forgiveness is a key to our relationship with God, and it is an essential part of our spiritual growth and development. It is an act of mercy that allows us to move past past hurts and grievances, and it helps us to live in peace and harmony with others. Forgiveness is important in our personal lives, our relationships with others, and our community and society, and it is essential to creating a world that is characterized by love, compassion, and understanding.

Forgiveness is an act of mercy, and it is a way of responding to the love and grace of God.
Aesha Kendrick loved her children

read about a shooting on Facebook in her cousin’s neighborhood, and shared the post, stopping short of tagging Kendrick. Ten minutes later, her son gave her the bad news.

Powell rushed to the hospital where family members and friends were praying.

“We were just really hopeful,” she said. When the surgeon pulled up a chair, Powell knew her beloved cousin was gone. The room was thrown into turmoil, and Kendrick’s two oldest children were inconsolable.

“We are a close-knit family minus one,” said Jordan. “When I walked through her door, we used to call each other names; now I don’t have that person to joke with anymore.”

Jordan said one of Kendrick’s children refused to enter the house through the front door, and the second to the youngest boy is special needs.

“We are a close-knit family minus one,” said Jordan. “When I walked through her door, we used to call each other names; now I don’t have that person to joke with anymore.”

Pinellas County School Board Chair Rene Flowers asked the community to rally around the Kendrick family and show support.

“If we say that we are a village, this is time to show that we know how to act like a village and how to keep our village together,” she said, announcing a Go Fund Me campaign to help pay for Kendrick’s funeral.

Octavious Keys, Kendrick’s boyfriend and father of her youngest child, is visibly still in shock. He woke up Sunday morning to screaming and the love of his life in a pool of blood. As he held the couple’s one-year-old child, he fought back the tears to get through the press conference.

“I just want to thank everybody for coming out and showing support. I really appreciate it; very helpful,” Keys expressed.

For now, Keys will take care of three of the children while Kendrick’s mother has accepted the other two into her home. Both households are in desperate need of help.

Senator Darryl Rouson said he’s been in touch with the Victim’s Crime Compensation Fund and will be at the attorney general’s office on Thursday in Tallahassee to discuss with them how that fund can help the family.

Flowers thanked the principals, teachers and classmates who attended the press conference.

“If you would like to donate money, please log on to https://www.gofundme.com/aesha-kendrick.”

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