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July 19, 2019



RAPPIN'
Tommy Wyatt

America is going the Wrong Way, Fast!

When Donald Trump took over as the President of the United States, America was the most feared and respected country in the world. Today we are not being looked up as the leader of the free world, but as a joke. While the president is encouraging his staff and the Republican leadership in congress to ignore Democratic leadership in Washington, the rest of the world leaders are laughing at the feud that is going on between the two parties.

Whenever anything goes wrong in Washington, the Democrats are to blame. If anything goes right, the Republicans get the credit. In the meantime the world leaders can't stop laughing.

Many of the president's staff members are ignoring any effort on the part of the Democrats to get some kind of control; the Republican majority continues to ignore anything that they try to do. They are refusing to appear before the Oversight and Reform Committee at the instruction of the president.

The disagreement has not gone to name calling and racial slurs. It reached a new low this week when the president said that four Democratic congresspersons need to go back to the country that they came from. It was noted that they are all Americans, three were born here and the other one is a naturalized citizen. She has been in this country since the age of 12.

The 2020 elections cannot come soon enough. This election will either give us new leadership, or it will set the stage for the overtake of this country by one of the foreign powers who are gaining strength every day, while watching our leaders make fools of themselves.

FAST & FURIOUS PRESENTS: HOBBS & SHAW

IN THEATERS August 2, 2019



by **Naomi Richard**
VILLAGER
Entertainment Editor

(Universal Studios) - After eight films that have amassed almost \$5 billion worldwide, the *Fast & Furious* franchise now features its first stand-alone vehicle as Dwayne Johnson and Jason Statham reprise their roles as Luke Hobbs and Deckard Shaw in *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw*.

Ever since hulking lawman Hobbs (Johnson), a loyal agent of America's Diplomatic Security Service, and lawless outcast Shaw (Statham), a former British military elite operative, first faced off in 2015's *Furious 7*, the duo have swapped smack talk and body blows as they've tried to take each other down.

But when cyber-genetically enhanced anarchist Brixton (Idris Elba) gains control of an insidious bio-threat that could alter humanity forever — and bests a brilliant and fearless rogue MI6 agent (*The Crown's* Vanessa Kirby), who just happens to be Shaw's sister — these two sworn enemies will have to partner up to bring down the only guy who might be



Courtesy of Universal Studios.

badder than themselves.

During a movie press junket Elba had this to say, "Being asked to be in the franchise in the *Fast & Furious* world...It's super exciting to me because it's one of the most successful franchises in the world. They've done well and they suit their

audience. The audience loves them. Look, I felt like I'd be a part of something going in a new format from where it is now. Since they were going in a new direction, I could do something that hasn't been done before."

Can Idris Elba do anything wrong? Not to most of us and we anx-

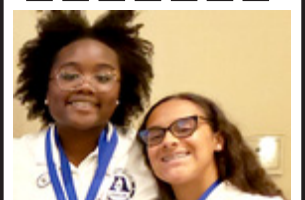
iously await his debut performance in the *Fast & Furious* release on August 2!

Hobbs & Shaw blasts open a new door in the *Fast* universe as it hurtles action across the globe, from Los Angeles to London and from the toxic wasteland of Chernobyl to the lush beauty of Samoa.

INSIDE



Houston Rockets ignite power house duo.
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Texas youth capture black history victory.
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B. Marshall seeks to nourishPville's thriving growth.
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Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw cast members/producers **Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham**; cast members **Idris Elba, Vanessa Kirby, Cliff Curtis, Eiza González, Joe Anoa'i, John Tui, Eliana Su'a, Josh Muga, Lori Pelenise Tuisano**; director **David Leitch** (*Deadpool 2*); writer/producer **Chris Morgan**; writer **Drew Pearce** (*Mission: Impossible-Rogue Nation, Iron Man 3*); producer **Hiram Garcia**; executive producers **Dany Garcia, Kelly McCormick, Ethan Smith, Ainsley Davies** and **Steven Chasman**.

The film is rated PG-13 and tickets are now on sale at all major outlets.

House condemns Trump in extraordinary rebuke

By Associated Press

(CAPITOL HILL) - In a remarkable political repudiation, the Democratic-led U.S. House voted Tuesday night to condemn President Donald Trump's "racist comments" against four congresswomen of color, despite protestations by Trump's Republican congressional allies and his own insistence he hasn't "a racist bone in my body."

Two days after Trump tweeted that four Democratic freshmen should "go back" to their home countries — though all are citizens and three were born in the U.S.A. — Democrats

muscled the resolution through the chamber by 240-187 over near-solid GOP opposition. The rebuke was an embarrassing one for Trump even though it carries no legal repercussions, but if anything his latest harangues should help him with his die-hard conservative base.

Despite a lobbying effort by Trump and party leaders for a unified GOP front, four Republicans voted to condemn his remarks: moderate Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Fred Upton of Michigan, Will Hurd of Texas and Susan Brooks of Indiana, who is retiring.



Nancy Pelosi (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

Also backing the measure was Michigan's independent Rep. Justin Amash, who left the GOP this month after becoming the party's sole member of Congress to back a Trump impeachment inquiry.

Democrats saved one of the day's most

passionate moments until near the end. "I know racism when I see it," said Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, whose skull was fractured at the 1965 "Bloody Sunday" civil rights march in Selma, Alabama. "At the highest level of government, there's no room for racism."

In tweets Tuesday night, Trump took a positive view of the vote, saying it was "so great" that only four Republicans had crossed party lines. "Quite a day!" he wrote.

Some rank-and-file GOP lawmakers have agreed that Trump's words were racist, but

on Tuesday party leaders insisted they were not and accused Democrats of using the resulting tumult to score political points. Among the few voices of restraint, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Trump wasn't racist, but he also called on leaders "from the president to the speaker to the freshman members of the House" to attack ideas, not the people who espouse them.

"Those ideas give us so much material to work with and it takes away from our time to talk about it," Sen. Mike Braun of Indiana said of Trump's tweets.

Russell Westbrook to the Houston Rockets Makes Sense



Old OKC teammates Westbrook and Harden to reunite in Houston. (Getty Images/Ringer illustration)



By John Harris Jr. VILLAGER Sports Columnist

(VILLAGER) - Get your popcorn ready!

I like the Russell Westbrook for Chris Paul trade. Love it, in fact.

Why not?

The Houston Rockets were down on their luck. James Harden and Paul, no matter how friendly they are to each other in those State Farm commercials, did not mesh on the basketball court.

Paul likes to shout at teammates to get his point across. Harden wasn't having it.

The Rockets are Harden's team, so guess who got traded to Oklahoma City?

Bye, bye Chris.

As long as

Westbrook remembers one thing: It's Harden and Westbrook. Not Westbrook and Harden.

That's right. Harden's name comes first. It's his team, his city.

Harden gets to shoot as much as he wants. There will be enough shots to go around, and Russ will receive his share. But Harden is the first option - first, last, always.

Let's hope Russ is OK with that. He should be. After all, Westbrook and Harden go way back together. They're both from Los Angeles, so they've followed each other's games for a long time. They were teammates at Oklahoma City before Harden was traded to Houston - a deal from which the Thunder never recovered.

Make no mistake, Harden knows what he's getting in Russ, who has the reputation for being a ball-hog - just like Harden. Apparently, Harden is comfortable with that. Or maybe he feels like their friendship

will carry over on the court.

Either way, Westbrook and Harden on the same team is a fascinating pairing. If nothing else, they're worth the price of admission.

Westbrook is incredibly gifted plus he's the hardest worker in the league. He's averaged a triple double for three consecutive seasons.

Harden, meanwhile, is the king of the step-back 3-pointer who's led the NBA in the scoring two straight years. Both Westbrook and Harden have won MVPs - Westbrook in 2017, Harden in 2018.

Will the Rockets compete for a title? With Kawhi Leonard and Paul George on the Clippers, and LeBron James and Anthony Davis on the Lakers, Houston won't make it out of the Western Conference, much less reach the NBA Finals.

Even so, the Westbrook trade was a gamble worth taking for the Rockets.



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Pi Omega Zeta Youth Take First Place in Black History Competition



Pi Omega Zeta Youth (L to R): McKenzie Morris, Adrianna Forbes, Caylynn Walker, Rachel Renfro, Taylor Williams, and Rebekah Renfro.

(ARLINGTON, TX) — Answering black history questions from the 1800s to today, Pi Omega Zeta Chapter Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated youth earned a first-place tie in the history competition at a recent youth retreat.

Hundreds of youth from Texas and Louisiana gathered in Arlington, Texas, for three days of competitive educational activities in addition to self-awareness sessions, step, and entertaining activities at the Southern Region Youth Retreat. The team of **Adrianna Forbes**, **Rebekah Renfro**, **Rachel Renfro**, and **Taylor Williams** captured the chapter's black history victory for the second-year in a row. Forbes also finished first in African American poetry, reciting "This is Not a Small Voice" by Sonia Sanchez. She captured third in dramatization with "I Ate the Divorce Paper" by Gabriel Davis. Rachel Renfro tied for first in the dramatization category with her rendition of Hamilton's "The World Was Wide Enough." She finished third in the "My Black is Beautiful" essay competition. Williams finished third in the Self-Esteem poster display competition. Finally, **McKenzie Morris** finished second in the

spelling competition. All youth combined with **Caylynn Walker** to capture third place overall in their categories in the mathematics.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is an international, historically black Greek-lettered sorority founded on the campus of Howard University on January 16, 1920. Five women from Howard University envisioned a sorority that would raise the consciousness of their people, encourage the highest standards of scholastic achievement, and foster a greater sense of unity among its members. The Southern Region was founded in 1929 and grew into the largest region in the sorority, earning the name "The Mighty Southern Region." The Pi Omega Zeta Chapter, which operates many community, cultural, and educational projects in the Williamson County area, was founded in 1998. On January 16, 2020 the sorority will acknowledge 100-years of service at events in Washington, D.C.

For more information or interest in joining the youth group, visit <http://piomegazeta.weebly.com/> or call 512-699-0443.

FROST CELEBRATES SUMMER WITH COMPLIMENTARY TREATS

WHAT: Frost invites families to come to an Austin financial centers for a cold and sweet summer treat. Frost will host a local provider offering guests a variety of frozen goodies.

The summer treats are an annual tradition at Frost, where dedication to the community has been part of the culture since the company began in 1868.

WHEN: 2-4 p.m., Thursday, July 18

WHERE: East 7th Financial Center

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TREATS: Casey's New Orleans Snowballs



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Dr. Ricky Freeman, Pastor

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Wednesday:
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A.W.. Anthony Mays, Senior Pastor

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Sunday Morning
Worship @ 11: am

Kenneth Hill,
Pastor

"This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified." --- Martin Luther

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

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Pflugerville City Elections

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon
VILLAGER
Columnist



Brad Marshall

Marshall, "the city's growth and how that growth remains as healthy as possible for many years to come is now my focus. I'm anxious to step back in and help guide our future, as this city faces tremendous pressure. I am ready for this challenge."

Finally, Pflugerville is at a cross-road in which the next mayor and city council can determine the pace of growth. Besides, Pflugerville has seen a rise in both its property tax; and also in the cost of housing. According to Fred, a longtime resident of Pflugerville, "the increase of property taxes may drive me out of this city." Therefore, this mayoral election is crucial for many residents.

VILLAGER NEWS - In the Pflugerville, Texas Mayoral race, it will be a rematch of the 2016 elections, between the incumbent Mayor Victor Gonzales and challenger Brad Marshall. Moreover, Marshall has served on the Pflugerville City Council in place 2. During his tenure as Councilman, Marshall also served on the finance committee, where he, fought to keep the Pflugerville tax rate at a small rate; while I have worked to increase the cities sale tax revenue by, bringing new businesses into Pflugerville.

Over the past five years, Pflugerville has seen a lot of growth. For some residents, this growth has been a positive one; while others see it as a negative one. According to Brad

HOUSING SMARTS CLASS FOR FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS AND DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Austinites looking to buying their first home and to possibly qualify for up to \$40,000 in down payment assistance are encouraged to register for the free Housing Smarts Training Class with the City of Austin this summer.

To register, visit <http://austintexas.gov/news/housing-smarts-class-first-time-homebuyers-and-down-payment-assistance>. Applications must be received at least 72 hours in advance of the class and are processed in the order they are received.

Upcoming Housing Smarts Class Schedule: Thursdays from 4-8 pm | August 1st and 8th. For further information, call 512-974-3100, or email NHCD@austintexas.gov.

2019 Africa Cup of Nations

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon
VILLAGER
Columnist



Uganda, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tunisia, Senegal, and Namibia. While Egypt was the host of the African cup, these sixteen teams sought to claim one of Africa's most coveted crowns of a champion.

Moreover, CAF has united the African community in Central Texas. Over the weekend, numerous people gathered at a local restaurant to watch the semi-final games. Moreover, Algeria will play Senegal for the finals; while next Sunday, Tunisia will play against Nigeria for 3rd or 4th place. The winner of the African Cup will receive an automatic bid for the World Cup. In other words, there is a lot at stake during this tournament.

VILLAGER NEWS - Over the past week, the African community has been watching the African Cup of Nations (CAF). The CAF Championship game is the most prestigious soccer tournament on the African continent. Championship games are held every two years in which different African countries host. During this competition, sixteen different African nations strived to win the title of

Champion of Africa. In addition to winning the championship, the nation would receive an automatic slot into the World-Cup games of Soccer. As a result, the nation of Egypt will be automatically eligible to compete in the World Cup Tournament.

The fifteen African nations that qualified for this tournament were Morocco, Madagascar,

Summer Fashion Show



1st Annual African Summer Fashion Show.
Photo/Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | VILLAGER Columnist

VILLAGER NEWS - Sunday, July 13, 2019, Sherri Henderson, a retired teacher and now an event planner brought a group together, to organize an African Fashion show in the heart of East Austin. There were over two hundred attendees. Moreover, a few dignitaries attended this event like Wilhelmina Ruth Delco. Also, the event was racially and ethnically mixed of people who were eager to see a showcase and exhibition of authentic African clothing. According to the organizers, "this event exceeded our expectations."

According to Ms. Henderson, "the purpose of the event was meant to shed a spotlight on African designer who often time go unnoticed by the mainstream fashion world. In addition, Ms. Henderson stated, "after meeting and seeing designer Ray Darden in an Atlanta, Georgia area at a pop-up market, I believed that the event should showcase her clothes."

The fashion show served as an opportunity to teach and educate the community about the cultural diversity that we have in Central Texas. For instance, the models came from the US, the Caribbean, and the African continent. In addition to the showcase, there were numerous vendors, in which, the public could devour delicious African cuisine; sample spices and taste healthy smoothies. According to the organizer, "due to the outpouring of support, I may organize another show in 2020."



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Photo by Cindy Elizabeth

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Spinderella Sues Salt N Pepa For Unpaid Royalties

By Defender News Service



Members of the iconic 80's rap group Salt-N-Pepa (from left to right): Pepa (Sandra Denton), Salt (Cheryl James), and Deidra Roper (Spinderella).

(DEFENDER) - Spinderella, the DJ known for her work with rap trio Salt-N-Pepa, is suing her former bandmates in unpaid royalties.

According to The Blast, the DJ filed a federal lawsuit against the women after they abruptly fired her. Spinderella, whose real name is Deidra Roper is suing Pepa (Sandra Denton) and Salt (Cheryl James.) The lawsuit states that the group started recording and performing in the mid-1980s. Spinderella says she helped create the success of the group.

Even though the band went into hiatus in the late 90's, Spinderella continued promoting the band. But things took a turn in the early 2000s when she discovered there was a "Best Of" compilation album

being released. Spinderella said Pepa told her that she would pay her \$125,000 but that never happened.

"By the early 2000s, the Defendants discussed with Roper an SNP reunion which would have possibly involved, among other things, a television show based on the legendary female group's rise to stardom."

DJ Spinderella claims that she was promised a third of the group's profits from the reality show. While she was featured on the show, she has yet to be paid.

According to The Jasmine Brand, this lawsuit is a long-time coming. In addition to royalties from the album and reality show, Spinderella claims she was never paid for the 2018 Billboard Music Award per-

formance. The Jasmine Brand reports that the lawsuit became necessary when Spinderella learned, through SoundExchange, that the group had earned more than \$600,000 in royalties over the last ten years. Spinderella claims she hasn't received any of that money.

She's suing for trademark infringement, breach of contract and fraud. She states that the group used her name to advertise their appearances.

Earlier this year, when Salt-N-Pepa announced that they were participating in a tour with New Kids On The Block and Naughty By Nature, but Spinderella released a statement sharing that she would not be joining them because she was kicked out of the group.

Corrections Officer Arrested for Not Performing Legally-Required Visual Inmate Checks

(TRAVIS, CO) - The Travis County Sheriff's Office has arrested Corrections Officer Carlos Luna, 21. He is charged with Tampering with a Governmental Record, a Class A Misdemeanor.

On June 19, 2019, a supervisor was reviewing surveillance camera footage in Building 12 at the Travis County Correctional Complex in Del Valle and noticed Luna did not appear to be conducting "post visual" checks on inmates at the times he recorded in a logbook.

An Internal Affairs

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investigation was immediately opened, which was followed by a criminal investigation. During the investigation, Luna was reassigned to a position that did not require inmate supervision.

Detectives found that during the week of June 10-16, Luna logged 49 post visual checks, but video evidence shows he did not perform 34 of them. Luna

told detectives he had been falsifying post visual logs for the last one to two months. In his interview, he acknowledged the "high importance" of the checks to ensure inmates' safety and health.

Luna has been employed with TCSO since July 16, 2017. His case is currently under review for administrative or disciplinary action.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Matous Construction, Ltd. is requesting Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation for the WALNUT CREEK WWTP SLUDGE THICKENER REHAB, IFB 6100 CLMC745 project. Plans and specifications are available on our website www.matousconstruction.com/plan-room or at the City of Austin Plan Room. Please contact our Estimating Department at 254.780.1400, Fax# 254.780.2599 or estimating@matousconstruction.com. Proposals at due no later than **Wednesday, July 31st, at 10:00am.**

The Work shall include furnishing all tools, labor, materials, equipment, and miscellaneous items necessary for the complete construction of the following:

The Work consists of demolition and rehabilitation of the existing gravity sludge thickener; complete demolition and replacement of the existing thickened sludge pump station; construction of a new electrical building; and replacement of existing yard piping.

This project requires the following items as noted. Please include with your proposal.

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Bid Date: Thursday, August 1st @ 10 AM
ALL Sub/Vendor Quotes must be received by Wednesday July 31st @ 5 PM
Email all Quotes to our BID DAY EMAIL: Texas@Flatironcorp.com
Project documents may be downloaded for FREE from our Flatiron Box ftp site: <https://flatironcorp.box.com/s/5wyk4ssvdqzts17uftkf0h9dubic2iy>

Payment and Performance bonds will be required for the full amount of the subcontract price. Please contact us at the email address provided below for any assistance to this solicitation, including the procedure and/or names and telephone numbers of acceptable surety companies to contact for obtaining bonding, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies.

Please provide your subcontractor and supplier scopes/quotes as early as possible to enable estimators to perform a thorough evaluation of all scopes/quotes received. Scopes will be broken down into comparable packages as reasonably necessary to facilitate participation. Quotes must be valid for the same duration as specified by the Owner for Contract Award.

We intend to work cooperatively with subcontractors/suppliers for all bid items you are licensed/certified and qualified to perform. Bid items can be split to facilitate participation from all certified firms. Firms must possess insurance and workers compensation coverages meeting project requirements. Waiver of Subrogation is required. Subcontractors will be required to execute our standard subcontract agreement and agree to the standard general terms & conditions. For your convenience a digital copy of these documents have been included in the drop box for your review prior to bid day.

Contact person for MWBE assistance: Sharon Chandler, Diversity Outreach Coordinator: (512) 916-9260 ext#7604, SChandler@Flatironcorp.com

For more information, please contact:
Flatiron Constructors, Inc.
4029 South Capital of Texas Hwy, Suite 215
Phone 512-916-9260 Fax 512-916-9255
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Job# 1907015
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Highland Campus
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Director, Gallery
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Job# 1907007
Enrollment Advisor
Highland Business Center
Job# 1907004

Apply at HR
Middle Fiskville Rd.
6th Floor, Austin, TX 78752
Job Line (512) 223-5621
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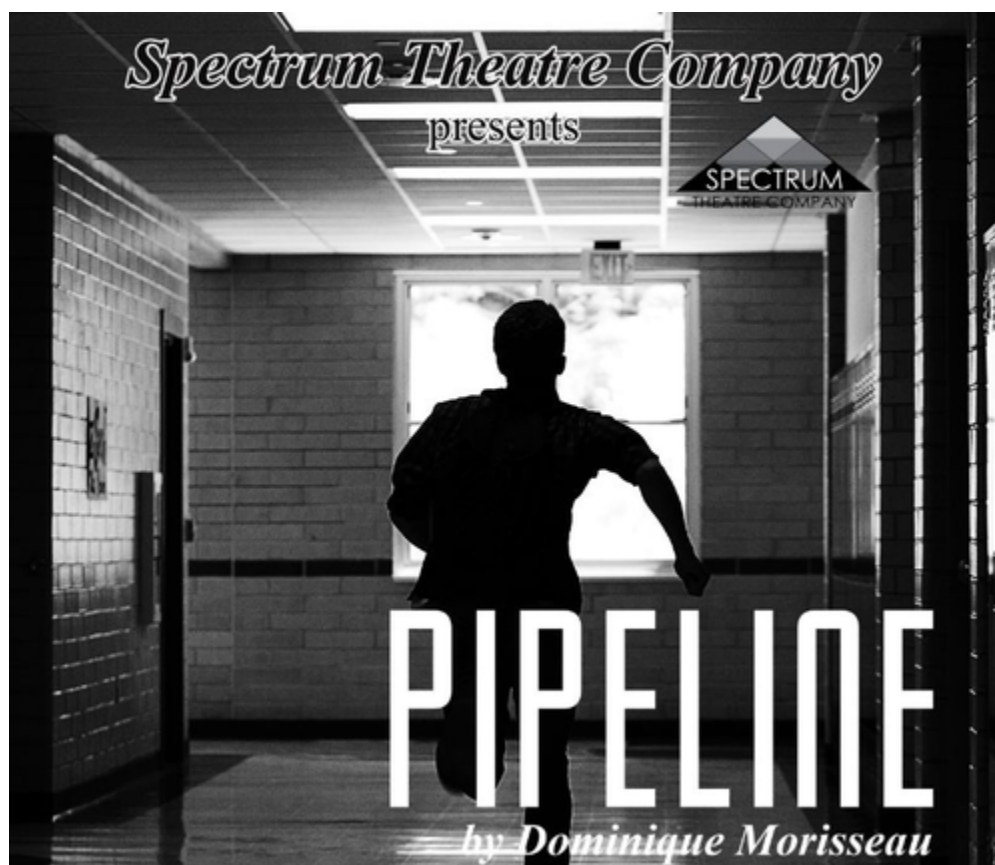
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For information on the City of Austin's Minority/Women-Owned Procurement Program please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources at 512-974-7600 or visit www.austintexas.gov/smbcr.

SPECTRUM THEATRE COMPANY TO PRESENT: PIPELINE



(AUSTIN, TX) - Spectrum Theatre Company, Austin's premier African-American theatre company, will present *Pipeline*, by Dominique Morisseau, at the Dougherty Arts Center Theatre, 1110 Barton Springs Road. Performance dates and times are Friday – Saturday, July 12 – 13 and July 19 – 20 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a special matinee at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 13, and a Pay-As-You-Wish Performance at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 18. Parking is free but limited in the Dougherty parking lots. For reservations, write spectrumtheatreco@gmail.com or call (512) 688-6516.

Pipeline tells the story of Nya, an inner-city public high school teacher who is committed to her students but desperate to give her only son Omari opportu-

nities they'll never have. When a controversial incident at his upstate private school threatens to get him expelled, Nya must confront his rage and her own choices as a parent. With profound compassion and lyricism, *Pipeline* brings an urgent American conversation powerfully to the fore.

Dominique Morisseau has written a deeply moving story of a mother's fight to give her son a future — without turning her back on the community that made him who he is.

Nya will be played by Spectrum veteran **Kellee Fuller**, with **Brandon Pegram** as her son Omari. Rounding out the cast are **Anthony Roscoe** as Nya's ex-husband and Omari's father Xavier; **Kristin Johnston** as Laurie, another teacher at Nya's school;

Khali McDuff-Sykes as Omari's girlfriend Jasmine; and **Ryan Smith** as Dun, a security guard at Nya's school. Directed by **Jeremy Rashad Brown**

The 2017 New York production of *Pipeline* at Lincoln Center received rave reviews, with the *New York Times* writer stating that the play "confirms Morisseau's reputation as a writer of piercing eloquence." The *Village Voice* called the play "powerful, passionate, and intelligent." And according to *Variety*, "*Pipeline* is an emotionally harrowing, ethically ambiguous drama that raises barbed questions about class, race, parental duty, and the state of American education."

Pipeline, the performance, is for mature audiences. For more information write spectrumtheatreco@gmail.com.

Urban University Youth Summer Camp Completion

by I. Enterprises | Special to the VILLAGER



Photo of Urban University Participants, volunteers, and African American Youth Harvest Foundation staff, and sponsors.

(VILLAGER) - The African American Youth Harvest Foundation founded by Mr. Michael Lofton conducted their closing ceremony of their "Urban University" Summer Camp Program, hosted at "Austin Achieve Charter School".

During that time, Chief Baker of the Austin Fire Department visited the campus, as well as other Austin officials to encourage camp youth attendees.

The participating students were involved in many activities, which included visiting "Camp Glimmer" (Glimmer of Hope Foundation) which

is an actual land-camp with water, and ranch features. Students experienced fishing, horseback riding and more, at the camp. Students also, visited other professions, in which they would not usually gain an opportunity to learn about.

Urban University Summer Camp was a six-week, high impact summer program, aimed at preventing summer learning loss and equip youth with the intellectual, social, and creative resources necessary for academic, career, and life success. Sessions also included classes on:

Health/Wellness, Leadership, STEM, Entrepreneurship, College/Career Readiness, also Arts / Humanities.

The closing celebration included opening statements from Mr. Michael Lofton, Camp overview / statistics from Mr. Louis Hernandez, a slide show created by Travis County Interns, remarks from Ms. Emily Morisson, and representing Board Member Dawn Tisdale. The ceremony keynote closing remarks were completed by Mr. Nelson Linder of the Austin NAACP.

Ralph Harper Named Executive Director at ECPTOTE



By John Harris Jr. VILLAGER Columnist

(VILLAGER) - Ralph Harper was recently named Executive Director of the Executive Council of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Examiners (ECPTOTE), a state-wide independent administrative government agency with headquarters in Austin.

He is the first African-American to hold the position.

The mission of ECPTOTE is to protect the people of Texas through the regulation and enforcement of the practices of physical therapy and occupational therapy. Through its association with the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and Texas Board of Occupa-



Ralph Harper

tional Therapy Examiners, ECPTOTE supports the regulation of physical therapists and occupational therapists as well as supporting the investigation of violations of physical therapists and occupational therapists practice acts.

Harper, 35, will be responsible for the overall management of the agency. He will serve as Executive Director of the Executive Council, Physi-

cal Therapy Board and Occupational Therapy Board. He was previously Senior Accountant at the agency with responsibilities including Chief Financial Officer, Purchase/Procurement, Human Resources, Payroll and Chief Accountant.

Harper said there are currently about 30,000 licensed physical therapists and about 17,000 licensed occupational therapists in Texas.



Women in Small Business Roundtable



Carla Harris, chair of the National Women's Business Council Photograph by RJ Sangosti — Denver Post via Getty Images

(VILLAGER) - The National Women's Business Council (NWBC) will be hosting a Women in Small Business Roundtable in Austin, TX on July 25, 2019. The roundtable will explore the challenges and opportunities for women's entrepreneurship by delving into the topic of access to capital, with a specific focus on issues related to credit access, federal procurement, and venture capital. The roundtable discussion will serve as the springboard for the Council's policy recommendations to Congress, the President, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) as they relate to issues affecting access to capital.

Access to capital remains the biggest barrier to success for women entrepreneurs; according to data from

Pitchbook, in 2017, female founders only received 2.2% or \$1.9 billion of the \$85 billion total invested by venture capitalists. Only about 8% of partners at top Venture Capital firms are women, and research shows that women typically "ask for less" than men do.

NWBC is interested in hearing from women business owners and understanding their unique perspective in order to advise Congress, the President, and the SBA. As a columnist, I also think this is a great discussion to be shared through your lens.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending the roundtable or writing a piece on what NWBC is doing to help advocate for women business owners.

NWBC is a non-par-

tisan federal advisory committee established to serve as an independent source of advice and policy recommendation to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on issues of importance to women business owners. The Council is comprised of eight small business owners from across the country, six representatives of national women's business organizations, and one Chairperson, currently Liz Sara, who was appointed by President Donald J. Trump in August of 2018.

Event Details:

WHAT: NWBC Women in Small Business Roundtable

WHEN: July 25, 2019 at 10:00 AM CST

WHERE: The Riveter: Austin - 1145 W. 5th St., Austin, TX 78703