

2020-01-30

The Weekly Challenger : 2020 : 01 : 30

The Weekly Challenger, et al

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The Weekly Challenger

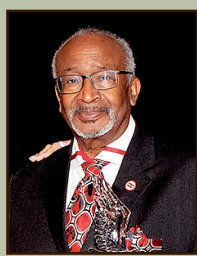
KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

VOL. 52 NO. 11

JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 5, 2020

50¢

IN THIS WEEK



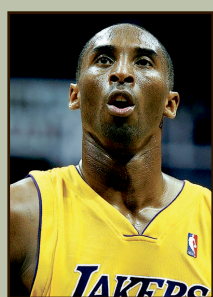
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COMMUNITY NEWS
Haynes honored



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COMMUNITY NEWS
Skeleton Crew



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COMMUNITY NEWS
In his own words



Academy Prep is now enrolling students who will be entering the fifth and sixth grades for the 2020-21 school year. If you would like to learn more about Academy Prep, plan on attending an upcoming Open House on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5:30-6:15 p.m. or Thursday, April 14, from 5:30- 6:15 p.m.

Academy Prep: More than a school

ST. PETERSBURG — Once a year, a very special reunion takes place on the Academy Prep campus, bringing together over 20 years of middle school graduates and their families to reminisce about their experience at the unique private middle school located on the south side of St. Petersburg. The day of love and laughter is deeply meaningful for Academy Prep graduates to be able to share with one another how their lives have been transformed.

Ask any graduate in the room to tell you why they continue to come back every year, and they will all say some version of the same sentiment - Academy Prep is more than a school. Academy Prep is their family; Academy Prep is their community. Academy Prep has always been a constant and their home away from home.

Since its founding in 1997, Academy Prep has been transforming the lives of middle school students qualifying for

need-based scholarships by providing them a unique and enhanced model of tuition-free college preparatory education.

Starting from enrollment in either the fifth or sixth grade and continuing through graduation in the eighth grade, students attend Academy Prep — up to 11 hours a day, six days a week, 11 months a year — on full scholarships funded by individuals, businesses and foundations in the local St. Petersburg community.

The Academy Prep experience for these capable and deserving young people includes a rigorous academic curriculum, small class sizes, rewarding extra-curricular activities, week-end field trips, and a three-week academic summer program. It is through these shared experiences that deep bonds are formed among students, and they begin to feel more like family to one another, rather than just classmates. It is one of the many reasons graduates come back, give back, and feel like the

campus is also their home.

Also, Academy Prep students receive a minimum of eight years of continued Graduate Support Services post-graduation. While enrolled at Academy Prep, the Graduate Support team provides intensive nurturing, guidance, and counseling emphasizing positive life choices, a college preparatory culture, and the development of life goals while ensuring students master academic and enrichment courses at the highest level.

Students develop educational and career goals and are then matched with advanced public high schools or private local college preparatory or boarding schools. Graduate Support monitors students' progress throughout their high school and college careers, fostering successful transitions and outcomes by carefully following their academic progress and helping to address any challenges in their academic or personal lives.



Tonya Mathis, Director of Graduate Support

Tonya Mathis, Director of Graduate Support at Academy Prep, knows first-hand the life-changing impact of Academy Prep's unique educational model. In 1997, she enrolled her son in Academy Prep's first class of young men. She remembers when the school had just one building and a small, but dedicated staff who believed in her son and encouraged her to stretch out of her own comfort zone to allow Andrew to take ad-

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NEWS

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Barbering at Pinellas Technical College Clearwater

BY RAVEN JOY SHONEL
Staff Writer

CLEARWATER – Looking for a steady career with room for growth? Well, there's a new trend in the hair industry, making it easier to get a foot in the door.

To encourage the finding of meaningful work in the state of Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis is removing unnecessary and burdensome regulations and barriers. So, the hours needed before sitting for an exam may be cut in the future from 1200 to 600 hours for a restricted barber.

That could ultimately make getting out and making money happen in as little of six months, which is a positive for those wanting a fast track.

Charles Harris, the barbering instructor on the Clearwater campus of Pinellas Technical College (PTC-CLW) likes the

idea. But after some 40 years in the business, he knows that changes will have to be made in the curriculum to ensure students are graduating with the skills they need to be proficient in the art of cutting hair.

"I'm not quite sure how it is going to be structured," he said, referring to the classes.

The Department of Education generally is responsible for providing a timeline of what to cover academically and how long to stay on a given topic. Harris plans to adapt to the changes and continue to provide quality education.

He started cutting hair at the age of 14 and grew his hustle into a business.

"People in the neighborhood got to know that I had that skill, and they kept asking me to cut their hair," said Harris, who enjoyed going house to house, honing his skills and providing



Instructor Charles Harris enjoys showing his students haircutting techniques.

a service to his friends and family. "It grew on me."

Harris went on to get his professional license and has also worked as an instructor at another school. PTC's barbering course is relatively new, only two and a half years since the

doors opened. But in that short time, Harris, the college's sole barbering instructor, has witnessed its growth.

"We started out with only one student," he said. "I went out to all the barbershops in the

See **BARBER**, page 3

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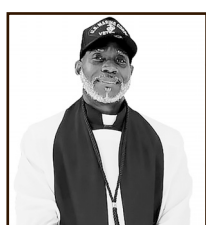
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Breaking the Cycle

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Praise the Lord saints. It's tax time again and most will be looking to upgrade to a newer car, house, etc.

Before you do, you might want to get a new updated credit report to see what's on them, Yes get all three because there might be discrepancies because they don't speak to one another. However, if one drops something off, they all have to.

These are the most commonly used letters designed to rebuild your credit. Use them word for word, but of course, input your personal info before sending off.

It's suggested that when you send them off, pay a little extra for a return signature receipt green card. In that way, they can't say they never received the letter.

If they do not reply in 30 days, by law they have to remove the disputed item.

Remove Inquiry—Creditor

<Creditor Name Here>
Credit Bureau Dispute Department
Fax #: <Fax Number Here>

Date: _____
RE: Unauthorized Credit Inquiry

According to my most recent credit report, your company is currently reporting to the three credit bureaus that I applied for

credit with your organization. I did not grant you authorization to review my credit report.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act requires that a creditor be able to verify the written authorization of the consumer giving the creditor permission to review their credit. If you can provide a copy of a credit application authorizing the disclosure of my credit files with my signature, I will accept the inquiry. If a signed authorization cannot be found please remove the inquiry from the three main credit bureaus.

The presence of this inquiry is adversely affecting my credit report and is impeding my ability to obtain necessary credit. Time is of the essence so I would greatly appreciate a response from you within thirty (30) days.

Please mail me the copy of the signed application or a letter indicating you intention to delete the inquiry.

Thank you,
<Your name>
<Your SSN Here>

Dispute Items – Credit Bureau – Example #1

<Your Name and Address Here>
<Addressee Name Here>

Date: _____
Dear Sir/Madam:
I am writing to dispute

Credit Repair 101: It's the missing link to building wealth

the validity of the above referenced item pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. The Fair Credit Reporting Act requires you to verify the validity of the item within 30 days. If the validity cannot be verified, you are obligated by law to remove the item.

In the event that you cannot verify the item pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, and you continue to list the disputed item on my credit report I will find it necessary to sue you for actual damages and declaratory relief under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Because the Fair Credit Reporting Act provides concurrent jurisdiction in federal and state courts, I shall elect to use the <insert jurisdiction in which you reside, e.g. Multnomah County (OR) Superior Court> to bring appropriate action against you.

While I prefer not to litigate, I will use the courts as needed to enforce my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

I look forward to an uneventful resolution of this matter.

Sincerely,
Signature
<Your Name Here>
<Your SSN Here>

Dispute Item – Creditor or Credit Bureau – Example #2

<Your Name and Ad-

dress Here>
<Addressee Name Here>

Date: _____
RE: _____ Account # _____/ Original Creditor's Name

Dear Sir/Madam:
This letter is a formal complaint that you are reporting inaccurate and incomplete credit information.

I am distressed that you have included the information below in my credit profile and that you have failed to maintain reasonable procedures in your operations to assure maximum possible accuracy in the credit reports you publish.

Credit reporting laws ensure that bureaus report only 100% accurate credit information. Every step must be taken to assure the information reported is completely accurate and correct.

The following information therefore needs to be re-investigated. I respectfully request to be provided proof of this alleged item, specifically the contract, note or other instrument bearing my signature. Failing that, the item must be deleted from the report as soon as possible:

Name _____ of _____ Creditor/Agency, Account # _____

The listed item is entirely inaccurate and incomplete, and as such



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represents a very serious error in your reporting. Please delete this misleading information and supply a corrected credit profile to all creditors who have received a copy within the last six months, or the last two years for employment purposes.

Additionally, please provide the name, address, and telephone number of each credit grantor or other subscriber.

Under federal law, you have thirty (30) days to complete your re-investigation. Be advised that the description of the procedure used to determine the accuracy and completeness of the information is hereby requested as well, to be provided within fifteen (15) days of the completion of your re-investigation.

Sincerely,
Signature
<Your Name Here>
<Your SSN Here>

Validate Debt Item—Collector – Temporarily Stops Collection by Law

<Your Name and Address Here>
<Addressee Name Here>

Date: _____
RE: _____ Account # _____/ Original Creditor's Name

Dear Sir/Madam:
Thank you for your recent inquiry. This is not a refusal to pay, but a notice that

your claim is being disputed. This is a request for validation made pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. Please complete and return the attached disclosure request form.

Be advised that I am not requesting a "verification" that you have my mailing address, I am requesting a "validation;" that is, competent evidence that I have some contractual obligation to pay you.

You should also be aware that sending unsubstantiated demands for payment through the United States Mail System might constitute mail fraud under federal and state law. You may wish to consult with a competent legal advisor before your next communication with me.

Your failure to satisfy this request within the requirements of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act will be construed as your absolute waiver of any and all claims against me, and your tacit agreement to compensate me for costs and attorney fees.

Sincerely,
Signature
<Your Name Here>
<Your SSN Here>
Till next week,
God bless,
Bishop-Elect Robert L. Harrison, Jr., Ph.D

NOMADstudio receives 10K Challenge Amercia Grant

Tampa/Saint Petersburg, FL—The nonprofit NOMADstudio (NOMAD) has been approved for a \$10,000 Challenge America grant to support their Justice Studio project. This project is the in-house art studio program at two juvenile detention facilities in the Tampa Bay area.

Overall, the National Endowment for the Arts has approved 1,187 grants totaling \$27.3 million in the first round of fiscal year 2020 funding to support arts projects across the country. NOMADstudio is one of 145 Challenge America grants included in the NEA's recent national announcement.

The Challenge America funding category offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that ex-

tend the reach of the arts to populations that have limited access to the arts due to geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Each grant is for a fixed amount of \$10,000 and requires a minimum \$10,000 cost share/match.

"The arts are at the heart of our communities, connecting people through shared experiences and artistic expression," said Arts Endowment chairman Mary Anne Carter. "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support projects like Justice Studio."

Supported entirely by donations, Justice Studio began when artists from NOMAD learned that youth in detention had no free access to writing, drawing or art materials during their time in custody. The NOMAD team agreed that

detained youth are especially in need of an outlet for creative expression.

"Detained youth have school Monday through Friday, but art is not part of the curriculum. We believe all children, especially those in detention, need an outlet for creative expression, and we are encouraged that the National Endowment for the Arts feels the same. We are honored that they have identified Justice Studio as a program to support with a Challenge America grant."

Three days a week NOMAD provides the tools, supplies, and guidance for detained youth to work on independent and group art projects. The NOMAD team—art therapist, teaching artists, visiting artists—along with a facility staff member, work



together in a small group setting with youth currently detained and/or committed by the State of Florida's Department of Ju-

venile Justice.

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit

<https://www.arts.gov/news/2020/national-endowment-arts-announces-arts-project-grants-all-50-states-district-columbia-and>

PICK OF THE WEEK!
7 16 44
CASH 3
730 227 465

DOG DAYS

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All news items, advertising copy and related art submitted for publication on Thursday must be received no later than 4 p.m. Monday.

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VERIFIED

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Links launch International Foreign Affairs and Business Empowerment (LIFE) program

ST. PETERSBURG — The St. Petersburg (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated through its International Trends and Services Facet, will present its Links International Foreign Affairs and Business Empowerment (LIFE) program to local high school students in three sessions beginning Feb. 3, 12, and 19, 2020 at the St. Petersburg College Midtown campus in St. Petersburg.

The program is designed to introduce minority students to international

business and foreign affairs career options. During each session, students will have the opportunity to learn more about international business and international affairs, study abroad opportunities for both high school and college, international etiquette and traveling abroad. The program will also feature guest speakers who represent leading global companies and organizations.

“We are excited to provide this unique opportunity for students to learn

how to think globally. The program is covered in three sessions and will equip scholars with valuable information about potential careers and opportunities available in the fields of international business and international affairs. We want to prepare our scholars to compete in our global society, said Lisa Brody, chair of The International Trends and Services (ITS) Facet.

Each session is free, and space is limited to 50 students. Register online at LifeCareers.eventbrite.com.




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St. Petersburg (FL) Chapter

LIFE PROGRAM

FEB 5, 12 & 19

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WEEK 1
 Wednesday February 5
 Launch/Orientation
 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

WEEK 2
 Wednesday, Feb. 12
 Your Passport to the World... Introduction of International Opportunities
 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

WEEK 3 (FINAL SESSION)
 Wednesday, Feb. 19
 Educational Opportunities/Study Abroad "Exploring The World"
 "Advocating in our Global Society" (Model UN Simulation)
 International Food Tasting
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
(Light refreshments provided during each session)

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BEGINS FEB. 10

SPC St. Petersburg College

spcollege.edu

PTC offering a Barbering program

BARBER, from front page

area and encouraged them to send their potential barbers to PTC so that we can grow our program.”

He also knew that with his teaching, he could put more qualified barbers in the workforce, something as a business owner he feels passionate about. Harris runs two barber-shops, one in Clearwater and one in Tarpon Springs.

He takes on students that show potential in his own establishments once they receive their license and help them worked toward becoming the best in their field.

Students in the program learn how to cut all types of hairstyles and textures, with shears, clippers and razors. They also

learn how to cut all lengths of hair, so no client is left unsatisfied.

“You notice the short hairstyles are a big fad right now, so everybody across the universe is wearing the faded haircuts, the blowouts, the mohawks,” he said.

Harris feels this brings all cultures in for a cut and allows all ethnicities to learn fading techniques.

“Now it won't be separate like years ago when only African Americans did a real good fade. Now you have all races of people doing the same kind of haircut, and they are doing a really good job with technique.”

Tuition for the current 1200 course runs about \$3,500, with books, sup-

plies, and fees equaling roughly \$2,000, as opposed to the American Institute of Beauty that charges close to \$15,000. Financial aid is available to students who qualify.

PTC boasts small class sizes, making it easier to get one-on-one attention. Evening courses make it easy to work and attend school for students, young and older. It usually takes about a year for students to complete the 1200 hours currently required.

Once state requirements for the program are met, students receive a certificate of completion and must sit for the state exam to obtain their license.

With Harris at the helm of the program, job

placement is high. Not only does he employ students, he consults with local barbers regularly to see what's available for his charges.

PTC also conducts barber-shop days where students attend area businesses and evaluate what they see. They are instructed to jot down information about the clientele, such as what races frequent the barber-shops, whether they use clippers or shears with the majority of their work, even if there is adequate parking.

“We want students to be aware of what the job market really looks like,” said Harris. “It also gives them the opportunity to network with that salon's owner or manager to see



if there is an opportunity for them.”

About the Barbering program

The Barbering program is a 1200-hour PELL eligible course that is featured only on the Clearwater Students are prepared for employment as a Restricted Barber or Barber with eligibility for Florida State Certifica-

tion. Classes currently run four days a week, Monday - Thursday from 2:15-9 p.m. Next semester begins March 24.

For more information on the more than 40 programs offered at PTC, visit myptc.edu or call 727-893-2500 in St. Pete and 727-538-7167 in Clearwater.

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Personal Injury Law

Haynes honored with Leadership and Community Hero Awards

ST. PETERSBURG – “To God be the glory,” said Rev. Watson L. Haynes II as he accepted before more than 1,000 people at the 2020 MLK Leadership Award at the National Council of Negro Women’s annual MLK Awards Breakfast at the Coliseum last Monday.

He sang the praises of and gave thanks to his family members, church members from Pleasant Grove, his Urban League “family” including board members and staff, along with fraternity Brothers from Omega Psi Phi, all of whom he called out for giving him the space, time, and human resources to do the work he’d been called to do.

In honoring Haynes, currently President & CEO of the Pinellas County Urban League, the local NCNW chapter had evaluated Haynes’ years of serving others, in the social service, health, education and political arenas, and leading and enabling many of them to live healed, productive, and achieving lives, guiding many of them to lead

and serve their communities to a better place with their involvement.

Garnering that honor to begin the New Year came on the heels of 2019 year-end Blessings:

Haynes was honored as the Tampa Bay Lightning Foundation’s Community Hero during a December 29 presentation at halftime of a Lightning hockey game in Tampa.

The award, featuring Haynes in a video presentation, comes with a \$50,000 grant that Haynes described as a “Blessing” that will be used to strengthen Urban League programs and services.

Asked by The Foundation to describe, among other criteria, what has changed or is different in the Tampa Bay community because of Haynes’ good work, the nominators wrote that with knowledge and observance of Haynes over the past 20 years, much of his service and leadership has brought “justice and lasting change” in at least the following areas:

- Education of the un-

derserved from Pre-K through college

- Making literacy for children and adults a priority
- Crime prevention and assistance to former offenders
- Specialized drug treatment programs and outreach
- Programs to assist people in public housing
- Programs in readiness for employment and job placement
- Bringing people together in the community and fostering racial harmony
- Mentoring young Black men and women to become leaders in the community

More specifically, Haynes is considered by many observers to be a “watchdog” for educational equity in Pinellas County. For more than 20 years he served in leadership positions for CO-QUEBS, the Concerned Organization for Quality Education for Black Students Inc., a coalition of organizations and individuals organized to ensure the Pinellas County



School Board fulfills its Federal Court order to provide equitable quality education to Black students. Haynes was instrumental in negotiating the order.

Haynes, his board and staff have established a budget for the \$50,000 grant and plan to focus first on operationalizing a Health Mobile Unit and Develop Resources with

\$15,000 to:

- Partner with the Pinellas County Health Department to screen, test, educate and provide referrals to Pinellas County residents on diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol, healthy eating and exercise
- Utilize Community Health Mobile Unit to provide preventative health-care services for

minorities

- Fulfill the need for services for underprivileged patients by taking the Mobile Unit into their neighborhoods to provide routine health checkups with caring, culturally-sensitive health professionals
- The program will operate from February through August 2020

Gospel, rock and roll, R&B innovator Sister Rosetta Tharpe examined in musical evening at freeFall Theater

BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Playwright George Brant’s “Marie and Rosetta” at freeFall Theatre through Feb. 16 is a joyful examination of the musical genius and “mother” of rock and roll, gospel and blues – Sister Rosetta Tharpe – and her partnership with singer and pianist Marie Knight.

Directed by Lydia Fort, the production triumphs with lean production values, successfully highlighting the easy, humorous, and soulful portrayals of the play’s two characters by actors Illeana Kirven as Sister Rosetta and Hillary Scales-Lewis as Marie Knight. It deserves mention upfront that both actors sing and play piano and guitar themselves, lending to an authentic concert-feel throughout.

In her director’s note, Fort states, “Growing up, I knew that while Elvis was lauded as the progenitor of Rock ‘n’ Roll, Little Richard, and Chuck Berry were there leading the way in its nascent stage. It was a source of pride to know that African Americans had a significant impact in the birth of this remarkable musical genre. But

now we know that Sister Rosetta Tharpe, a Black woman, was, in fact, the real pioneer of that guitar sound we know as Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

Kirven’s opening night performance was astonishing both because she had stepped into the role only four days earlier due to an emergency, as well as to her flawless performance of a lovely and gutsy Tharpe. She convincingly reveals Tharpe’s deeply held belief in both the power of gospel music alongside her insistence that joy is a vital component of communicating music’s God-given power.

Scales-Lewis’ performance of Marie Knight’s transformation from a humble gospel backup singer to Sister Rosetta’s piano-playing, co-vocalist is remarkable. It is through Knight’s obvious reluctance to “swing” – both her hips and on the piano – that we understand Tharpe’s dilemma as a church-raised musician with a rhythm and blues soul, who scared off much of her gospel following through her musical bravado. As the duet’s pianist, Scales-Lewis also played most of the evening’s music.

Kirven, as the guitar-

wielding Tharpe, donned an electric guitar – that seemed as tall as she was – to strum and sing Tharpe’s first true popular crossover hit, “Strange Things Happening Every Day.” The first gospel to chart on Billboard’s Harlem Hit Parade, the song was considered by some to be the very first rock and roll recording and serves as Tharpe’s finale in the production.

The play deals head-on with the racism Tharpe and Knight experienced on the road, including southern cruelties such as being forced to sleep in funeral homes since Jim Crow’s abhorrent policies barred blacks from staying in hotels.

In fact, the entire play’s single set holds two caskets alongside the piano – symbolic not only of the dire circumstances which blacks of the period found themselves in, but also invoking the play’s deeper spiritual themes: heaven, or one’s “final resting place.”

However, the play’s light-hearted attitude towards men and husbands, or “squirrels,” seems to pass over the contemporary assertions of the love affair between Tharpe and Knight. Anyone who had-



n’t read or known about the romance – an open rumor within the gospel world of the time – probably wouldn’t pick up any indication of sexual relations between the two.

Brant’s writing only alludes to Tharpe’s obvious attraction to Knight through general compliments about her beauty. It would probably necessitate prior knowledge of the suspected affair to read much into the production’s few moments of intense gazing, gentle hand-holding, and a kiss that, because of its timing, belies any clear reference to more than a close friend-

ship.

The play refers to some of Tharpe’s real-life fans such as Elvis Presley and indicates that an up-and-coming Mahalia Jackson was waiting in the wings to steal Tharpe’s singular status as the most popular female recording star of her day.

Since the play’s 2016 premiere, Tharpe was posthumously inducted into the Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame in 2018. In recent years, much has been made of Tharpe’s impact on almost every recording giant that came alongside or after her, including Chuck Berry, Johnny

Cash, Aretha Franklin, Little Richard and Eric Clapton, to name only a few.

Please hurry up and catch this easy-to-love evening of show-tapping sounds and delightful performances before it moves to Gainesville’s Hippodrome Theatre (which co-produced the play with freeFall!).

“Marie and Rosetta” is at freeFall Theatre, 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, until Sunday, Feb. 16. Call 727-498-5205 or visit freefalltheatre.com.

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweeklyphall.com




CHURCH NEWS

The Weekly Challenger

www.theweeklychallenger.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020 **5**



955 20th Street South • St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 894-4311
 Email: info@mzprogressive.org
 Website: www.mzprogressive.org

Sunday Worship Services.....7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mid-Day Bible StudyNoon - 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Service6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study6:30 p.m.

Youth Chapel Services - 921 20th Street South
Sunday Worship Service10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Small Group Bible Study6:30 p.m.

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



Rev. Louis M. Murphy Sr.
Senior Pastor

First Baptist Institutional Church
 3144 Third Avenue South,
 St. Petersburg, FL 33712
 Phone: 727-323-7518

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

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REV. DR. WAYNE G. THOMPSON,
PASTOR

BETHEL METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH
 3455 - 26th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Telephone (727) 327-0554 • Fax (727) 327-0240
 E-mail: bchurch5@tampabay.rr.com Web site: www.bmmbc.org

Sunday Worship Service10:15 a.m.
 Sunday School9:00 a.m.
 Teen Summit (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.
 Bible Study (Wednesday)7:00 p.m.



Rev. Rickey L. Houston,
Pastor

“God’s House To The City”

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



Rev. Dr. Manuel L. Sykes

SERVICES
 Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
 Mid-Week Worship: Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



The Rev. Josie Rose,
Priest-in-Charge

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 727-867-6774
StAugustine@tampabay.rr.com

Sunday Communion and Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Communion and Healing Service 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays



REV. ROBERT A. VINSON, JR.

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FAITHMMBC@YAHOO.COM
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 MATTHEW 28:18-20, JOHN 15:4-5

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FAITH MEMORIAL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE 9:00AM
 SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM
 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM
 TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM



Rev. Wallace Elliott
Sr. - Pastor

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.....9:30 a.m.
 Prayer Meeting (Tuesday)6:00 p.m.
 Bible Study (Tuesday)7:00 p.m.
 Baptist Training Union (Sunday) ..4:00 p.m.

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 (727) 321-0911
www.victorychristiancenterchurch.org



Donn & Jean
Freshler

Schedule of Services
 Sunday Worship*
 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Bible Study* -7:00 p.m.
 Friday Prayer -7:00 p.m.
 Intercessory Prayer - 9:00 a.m.
 (except Wednesdays)

Victory Christian Center is a Word of Faith Church.
 For more information about the other services and
 ministries at Victory Christian Center, please call (727) 321-0911.
 *Nursery and Youth Services Available



Bro. Robert Smith

**20th Street
 Church Of Christ**
 825 20th Street South
 St. Petersburg, FL 33712
 Home: 896-8006

Sunday Bible Class (All Ages)8:30 a.m.
 Sunday Morning Worship9:45 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
 Ladies Bible Class Monday7:00 p.m.
 Monday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Morning Bible Class10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday Evening Bible Class7:00 p.m.

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 511 Prescott Street South
 St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Helping People Live Healthy, Prosperous, and Meaningful Lives

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
 Spiritual Living Class—Wednesday 1:00 P.M. & 7:15 P.M.



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(727) 898-2457 | unitytruth1957@gmail.com



INSPIRATIONS
 BY DIERDRE DOWNING-JACKSON

Peace in Trusting the Lord

Who directs all your ways and guides your direction; Trusting JESUS keeps you focused on His truth and His protection.

What you know to be the understanding of the wealth of GOD’s wisdom; HIS love of your faith and strength is a walk into His Holy Kingdom.

When you trust in the LORD and your Heavenly Father; your faith and your life must reflect your love and honor.


Where your heart no longer leans on your own understanding; as you acknowledge GOD’s word there is peace in your standing.

Why the LORD loves you so much is evidence of HIS promise; He sees your faith and obedience and a spirit that is calmest.

How wonderful it is to trust and truly believe; Thank the LORD for HIS amazing grace and the blessing to breathe.”

AMEN

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”



EST. 1957 511 Prescott Street South St. Petersburg, FL 33712
 Email: Unitytruth1957@gmail.com

Presents

Upcoming Events and Classes

Prayer and Meditation Service
 Restarting Wednesday Night, February 5, 2020, at 6:00pm

The service will include:

- ♥ A Time to relax and connect with the God of your understanding
- ♥ A different Meditation Team each week
- ♥ Different types of meditation - guided, breath, walking, bowls etc.
- ♥ A time of silence and quiet reflection
- ♥ Prayer team members available for prayer after the service

The service is offered on a love offering bases.
 If you would like to serve as a meditation leader or provide quiet music to support the meditation, please contact: Rev. Linda McLeod at (727) 898-2457

Bible Study with Metaphysical Interpretation
 Starting Thursday Night, February 6, 2020, 6:00pm

Bring your Bibles and questions about the Bible and the Scriptures.

Please contact: Rev. Linda McLeod at (727) 898-2457 for more information

“Prayer and Meditation Practices” Class
 Classes offered on Wednesdays, starting February 6, 2020,
 at 1:30pm for 5 weeks

Learn different meditations techniques to quiet the mind and be in the silence.

Please contact: Rev. Linda McLeod at (727) 898-2457 for more information

CHURCH NEWS

6 THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2020

www.theweeklychallenger.com

The Weekly Challenger

ST. MARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1301 - 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL
(727) 321-6631 • www.stmarkch.org

Schedule of Services

Church School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Baptist Training Union..... 5:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting and Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 p.m.



Rev. Brian K. Brown

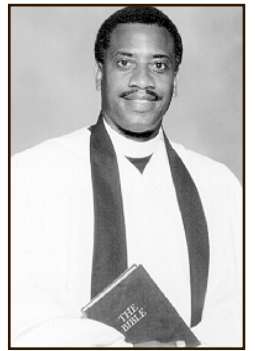
THE ROCK OF JESUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Breakfast (First Sunday only)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School (First Sunday Only)
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. / Devotion 10:15 a.m.
Praise & Worship 10:20 a.m. / Worship Services 10:30 a.m.
Saints of Prayer - Monday 12:00 noon
Weekly Bible Study - Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Adult Choir Rehearsals - Thursday 6:30 p.m.

Van service is available by calling: (727) 327-0015

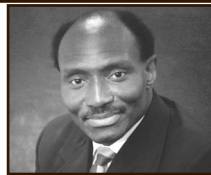
THE ROCK OF JESUS IS LOCATED AT:
3940 - 18th AVE. S., St. Petersburg, Florida
Telephone: 727-327-0015 • Fax: 727-327-0021
Email: rojmbc@knology.net
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Rev. Frank W. Peterman, Jr.
Pastor

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

3300 31st St. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33712
(727) 906-8300 www.fmbctheship.net
Email: fmbc3300@verizon.net



Dr. John A. Evans, Pastor

WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Sunday Worship 7:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Noonday Wednesday in the Word and Bread of Life
7:00 p.m. Prayer and Wednesday in the Word
7:00 p.m. Youth Enrichment

Our Mission: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is a family of believers in Christ, reaching out to the world, preaching the gospel to the unsaved and teaching the saved to serve by demonstrating the Love of Christ.

Today's Church TAMPA BAY

ST. PETE	TAMPA
940 5TH AVENUE SOUTH Staybridge Suites/Boyside Ballroom	5107 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE Church Office: (813) 450-2353
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9 AM Centering Service 10:30 AM Creative Expressions Worship Experience	SUNDAY AFTERNOON WORSHIP 2 PM Creative Expressions Worship Experience
WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORD 6:30 PM Mastermind Prayer 7 PM Bible Study Class	TUESDAY NIGHT 7 PM Bible Study Class MOC SCHOOL OF MINISTRY 8 PM Courses Offered

Dr. Doral R. Pulley, Spiritual Leader | WWW.TODAYSCHURCHTAMPABAY.ORG

CHURCH NEWS

St. Mark M.B. Church Senior Women's Ministry #2

Invite You to Join Them at Their

500 Women In Red Celebration

Theme: A Heart for God, A Vision for the World
Psalm 73:26

Guest Church: Mt. Pilgrim M.B. Church
Rev. Clark Hazley, Sr., Pastor

Date: Sunday, February 9, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.

Where: St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church
1301 37th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711
Rev. Brian K. Brown, Pastor

For additional information please contact
Committee Members: Sis Diane Coar,
Sis Carolyn Macon, Sis Thelma Ferguson
or Sis Diane Speights through the church @ 727.321.6631



Pastor's Corner

BY REV. DR. DORAL R. PULLEY,
SPIRITUAL LEADER
TODAY'S CHURCH Tampa Bay

Move in the Direction of your Good

"And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God to them who are the called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28)."

Denial - I let go of sickness, pain, disease, dysfunction, and discomfort.

Affirmation - Healing is happening now on both an individual and collective basis.

Things come up and out so that they can be healed. Sometimes that healing is taking place on an individual basis just between you and God. Other times that healing happens on a group level when families, friendships, businesses, churches, and communities engage in a collective consciousness of

healing. Be open to healing no matter how it takes place.

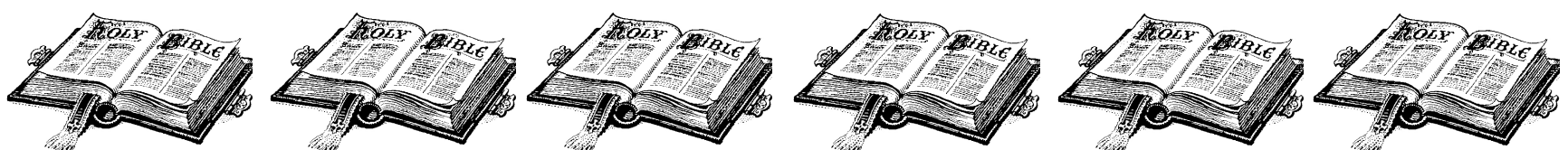
In biblical times, leprosy was a deadly and debilitating disease for which there was no cure. As a king of healing, Jesus, as Wayshower, was an active part of the healing process of ten men who had leprosy (Luke 17:11-19). He instructed them to follow the established order and show themselves to the priest. As they followed this directive and moved in the direction of their good, they were healed. One of the ten men who had leprosy came back to Jesus to express his gratitude. Unlike the other nine, he moved from healing to wholeness, a state where there is no evidence

of the previous sickness.

Thanksgiving is a part of the healing process. As you give God thanks for the healing that has happened, you become whole and there is less and less evidence of the prior condition. You don't have to stop at just the elimination of the condition and its symptoms. You can keep growing in consciousness until you don't see any residue or scars from the physical challenge.

Reflection Question - How have you experienced healing in your body or relationships?

Thanksgiving Activity - List at least 10 ways that you have been healed and thank God for your healing.



THE PRAYER AND MEDITATION MINISTRY OF HISTORIC BETHEL AMEC

CELEBRATING OUR
7TH ANNIVERSARY

"GOD CAN DO ANYTHING"

19 AND MY GOD WILL MEET ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO
THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY IN CHRIST JESUS. PHILIPPIANS 4:19

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020

9:00 AM

GOSPEL JAZZ BRUNCH WITH JAZZ SAXOPHONIST
HANK ASHWOOD
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

ATTIRE: AFRICAN GARMENTS OR CASUAL



GUEST PREACHER- DR. MANUEL SYKES,
BETHEL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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DR. DELCEDA WALKER,
PRAYERLINE MINISTRY COORDINATOR
REV. KENNETH IRBY, PASTOR

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TOOLBOX

PRAY ALWAYS

Sunday, February 23 - Friday, April 10

Facebook YouTube

Today's Church TAMPA BAY

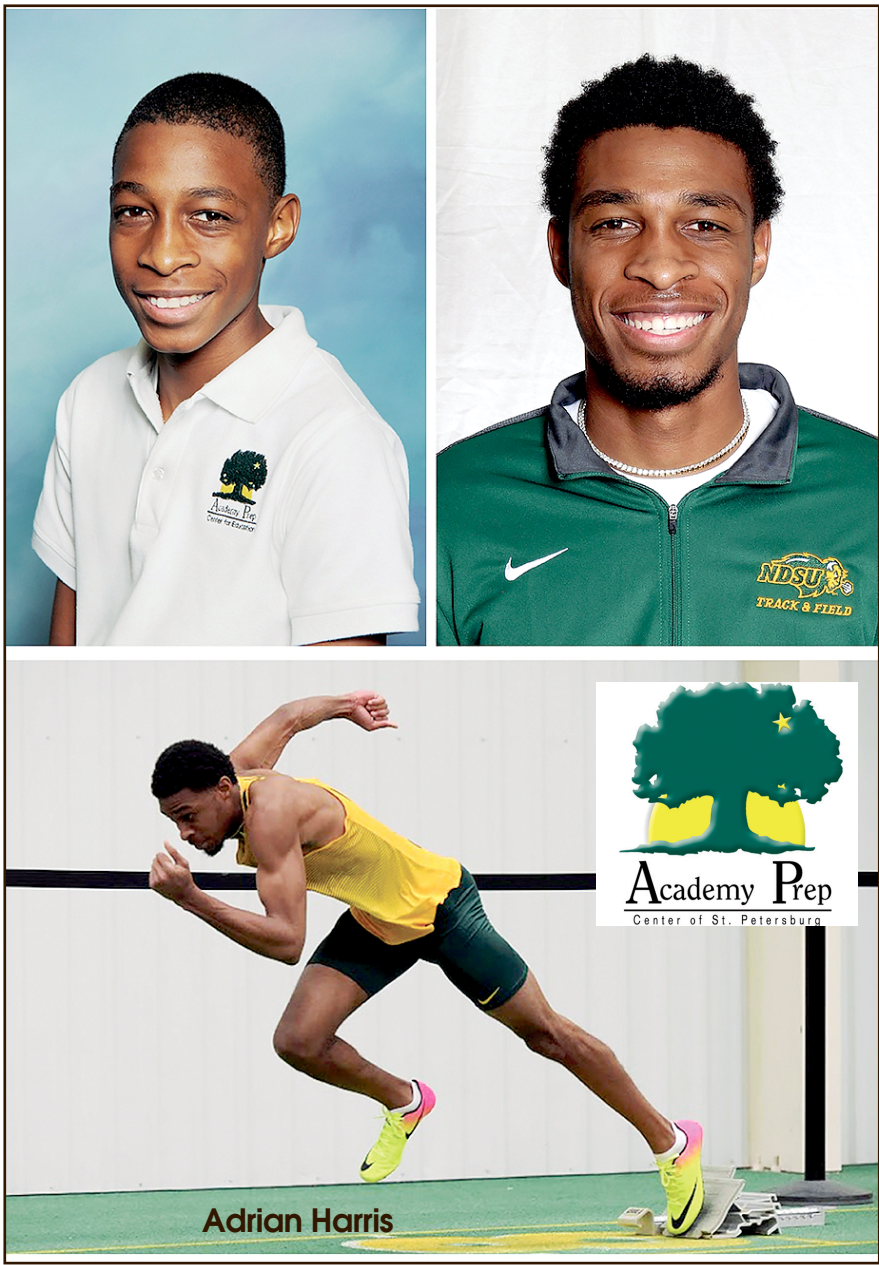
Today'sChurchTampaBay.org

Tampa	St. Petersburg
5107 Central Avenue	Staybridge Suites, 940 5th Ave S
Sunday 2:00PM Creative Expression Service	Sunday 9:00AM Centering Service 10:30AM Creative Expression Service

Academy Prep: More than a school

ACADEMY, from front page

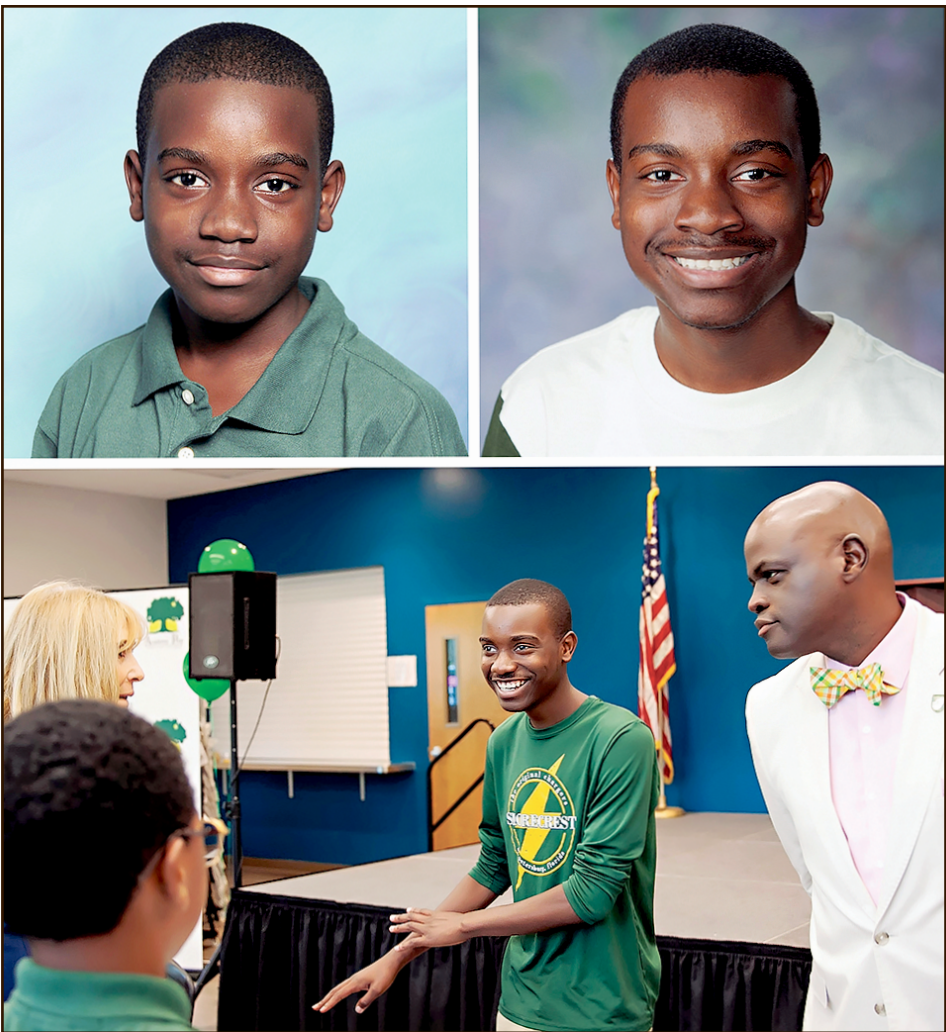
Adrian Harris feels that it was the little things at Academy Prep that made the biggest impact on his journey. He believes that the structure and support during his middle school years allowed him to grow into the person he is today and gave him the confidence he needed to make a strong first impression. Adrian is now a freshman at North Dakota State, where he earned an athletic scholarship to compete on the track and field team.



vantage of the opportunities available to him. After graduating in 2000, Andrew became one of the first Academy Prep graduates to attend boarding school. He went on to attend prestigious Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies. Andrew is currently working as a senior associate at Ward Circle Strategies, a business consulting firm in Washington, D.C. Tonya is very proud of her son, and as the new director of Graduate Support at Academy Prep, she is looking forward to giving back to the institution that helped her family by providing the tools to reach their goals and aspirations, including her own. While Andrew was enrolled at Academy Prep, Tonya went back to school to earn her first degree from St. Petersburg College, and continued on to earn both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree and has worked with youth and families during life-changing transitions for

the last 20 years. Tonya is looking forward to dedicating herself to the continued success of Academy Prep graduates, and she is motivated to help foster and grow the next generation of community leaders. Academy Prep's graduates are its best examples of the school's successful model by continuing to work hard as they strive for excellence at every level. Roderick Casteel, Academy Prep Class of 2017, is currently a junior at Shorecrest Preparatory School. In addition to excelling in academics, he participates in Students Against Drunk Driving, Relay for Life, cross-country, and track and field. Roderick is currently pursuing college applications to Howard, American, and Colgate Universities. Looking back on his Academy Prep experience, Roderick remembers finding confidence in himself and developing a positive attitude toward his education. He feels that Graduate Support had the greatest impact on his journey by

providing him with a continued relationship, a meaningful connection, and valuable, trusted advice. Roderick believes that "Graduate Support helped me become the best version of myself by providing constant encouragement and accountability throughout my high school experience." Adrian Harris, Academy Prep Class of 2015, graduated from Northside Christian School in 2019 as a member of the National Honor Society, and as track and field state champion in the 400-meter event. Looking back on his experience, Adrian feels it was the little things at Academy Prep that made the most significant impact on his journey. He believes the structure and support during his middle school years allowed him to grow into the person he is today and gave him the confidence he needed to make a strong first impression. Adrian knows that the rigorous academics at Academy Prep were the catalyst for his current success.



Roderick Casteel

"I felt academically prepared, and I know how to study. I am confident in my academic abilities," he said. Adrian is now a freshman at North Dakota State University, where he earned an athletic scholarship to compete on the track and field team. Sara Young, Academy Prep Class of 2011, came to Academy Prep while in foster care and living in a group home. After graduation, she continued on to Chatham Hall, a private boarding high school in Virginia, on a full scholarship. She then obtained her degree in computer science at the University of Central Florida. She was accepted into a coveted and highly competitive internship program with Microsoft® during her senior year of college and was offered a salaried position with them, complete with a signing bonus and stock options post-graduation.

When asked about her Academy Prep experience and how it prepared her for her future success, she said, "Academy Prep develops community leaders by giving every child a chance to succeed and a chance to figure out what they're passionate about." The Academy Prep model achieves outstanding results as almost all students have gone on to graduate from high school on time, with the majority of those graduates attending advanced high school programs or earning scholarships to attend private or boarding prep schools. Also, the majority of Academy Prep graduates have also gone on to attend post-secondary education or to serve in the armed forces. These outcomes, combined with the testimonials from Roderick, Adrian, and Sara, illustrate the successful approach of the Academy Prep program, along with the heart

behind it all. Academy Prep is more than a school. Academy Prep is a family. Academy Prep is now enrolling students who will be entering the fifth and sixth grades for the 2020-21 school year. If you would like to learn more about Academy Prep and how this unique model can transform your child's future through education, you are welcome to attend an upcoming Open House on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5:30-6:15 p.m. or Thursday, April 14, from 5:30- 6:15 p.m. To R.S.V.P. or for more information about the enrollment process, please contact Anita Reece, Admissions and Scholarship Coordinator, at (727) 322-0800 x 2105, by e-mail at areece@academyprep.org, or by completing an inquiry form available on the school's website at www.academyprep.org. The campus is located at 2301 22nd Ave. S, St. Petersburg.



Sara Young

Academy Prep is now enrolling students who will be entering the 5th and 6th grade for the 2020-2021 school year.

If you would like to learn more about Academy Prep and how its unique model can transform your child's future through education, you are welcome to attend an upcoming Open House on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5:30- 6:15 p.m. or Thursday, April 14, from 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Please R.S.V.P. to Anita Reece, Admissions and Scholarship Coordinator, at (727) 322-0800 x 2105.





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February 3 - 7
9 AM - 4 PM

Main Library
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Monthly Spotlight:
HEART HEALTH

American Stage's 'Skeleton Crew' explores family, community, job loss in embattled Detroit



BY J.A. JONES
Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG – Playwright Dominique Morisseau's award-winning drama in "Skeleton Crew," playing now at American Stage, examines the lives of four auto plant workers in her hometown of Detroit with a compassionate, unflinching eye.

Set in 2008, the play's action explores the personal stakes of characters during the period in which two of the Motor City's three carmakers sought a government bail-out, and the U.S. veered into a deep recession.

The story offers a grave depiction of the country's ongoing destabilization as it impacts the working class — in this case, Black — Americans. But the brilliance of Morisseau's writing is that while it never shirks from the characters' troubles, she offers complex humanity full of humor, pathos, and ultimately, a will to survive.

It's a tightly drawn piece, and the ensemble skillfully builds fast-paced tension punctuated by humorous observations and sly wit. L. Peter Callender's capable direction fully complements Morisseau's masterful brushstrokes, enabling us to experience both the danger and the joy of the world she creates.

Callender also employs a soundtrack of the times, interspersing

melodious hip-hop with faves by Aretha, Detroit's own Queen of Soul. Scene changes offer interludes that feature a stylized silhouette backdrop of robotic - plant-workers, knocking the play just slightly outside the boundaries of realism.

Dee Selmore guides the play's moral and philosophical arc as Faye, the wise-cracking, motherly union rep who has undoubtedly seen her fair share of life's ups and downs. Selmore's portrayal deftly draws Faye as both the salty 'auntie' you don't wanna mess with — and the aging wounded warrior without a safety net.

Enoch Armando King is both angry and vulnerable as Reggie, the team supervisor whose 'middle management' noose tightens steadily around his own neck as he plays a dangerous game to buy time from the inevitable.

Morisseau also uses the characters of Faye and Reggie to delve into the question of how "family" is created, maintained, or fractured — as King brings a touching resonance to the role of a spiritual 'son' who will accept Faye's sexuality when her own blood relatives won't.

Camille Upshaw, as Shanita, is the endearing 'round the way genius' — an optimist with a baby on the way. Bringing an enjoyable bravado and vulnerability to the role, Upshaw's Shanita offers a "bright copper penny

gleaming from cracks" attitude that keeps the audience on her side throughout.

In the role of Dez, Rasell Holt is the play's proverbial "young black male," who convincingly delivers as Morisseau's poetic, charming, do-forself, anti-establishment, hardworking hustler and dreamer. Morisseau uses Dez to remind the audience that we'll never walk in his shoes — not only because we may not want to, but also because today's youth don't have the luxury of walking — they're racing, dodging, and treading water through the crumbling chaos we've left them.

Offering an insider's view of the survivors in a city left for dead — post white flight, political mismanagement, and the Great Recession — "Skeleton Crew" manages to scrape hope from the fortitude, humor, courage, love — and willful insistence to live — found in those who have no choice but to "keep on keepin' on."

"Skeleton Crew" by Dominique Morisseau, directed by L. Peter Callender, playing now through February 23 at American Stage, 163 3rd St. N, St. Petersburg.

For more information or to purchase tix, visit www.americanstage.org or call American Stage's Box Office at 727-823-PLAY (7529).

To reach J.A. Jones, email jjones@theweeklyphallenger.com



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"LIKE LORRAINE HANSBERRY
AND AUGUST WILSON BEFORE HER,
MORISSEAU CREATES CHARACTERS
WHO DON'T MERELY SPEAK, THEY SING..."

- TheatreMania

SKELETON CREW

By Dominique Morisseau

From the writer of PIPELINE

Directed by L. Peter Callender

Director of recent American Stage hits PIPELINE, A RAISIN IN THE SUN,
JOE TURNER'S COME & GONE and JITNEY



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IN A TECH-DRIVEN WORLD

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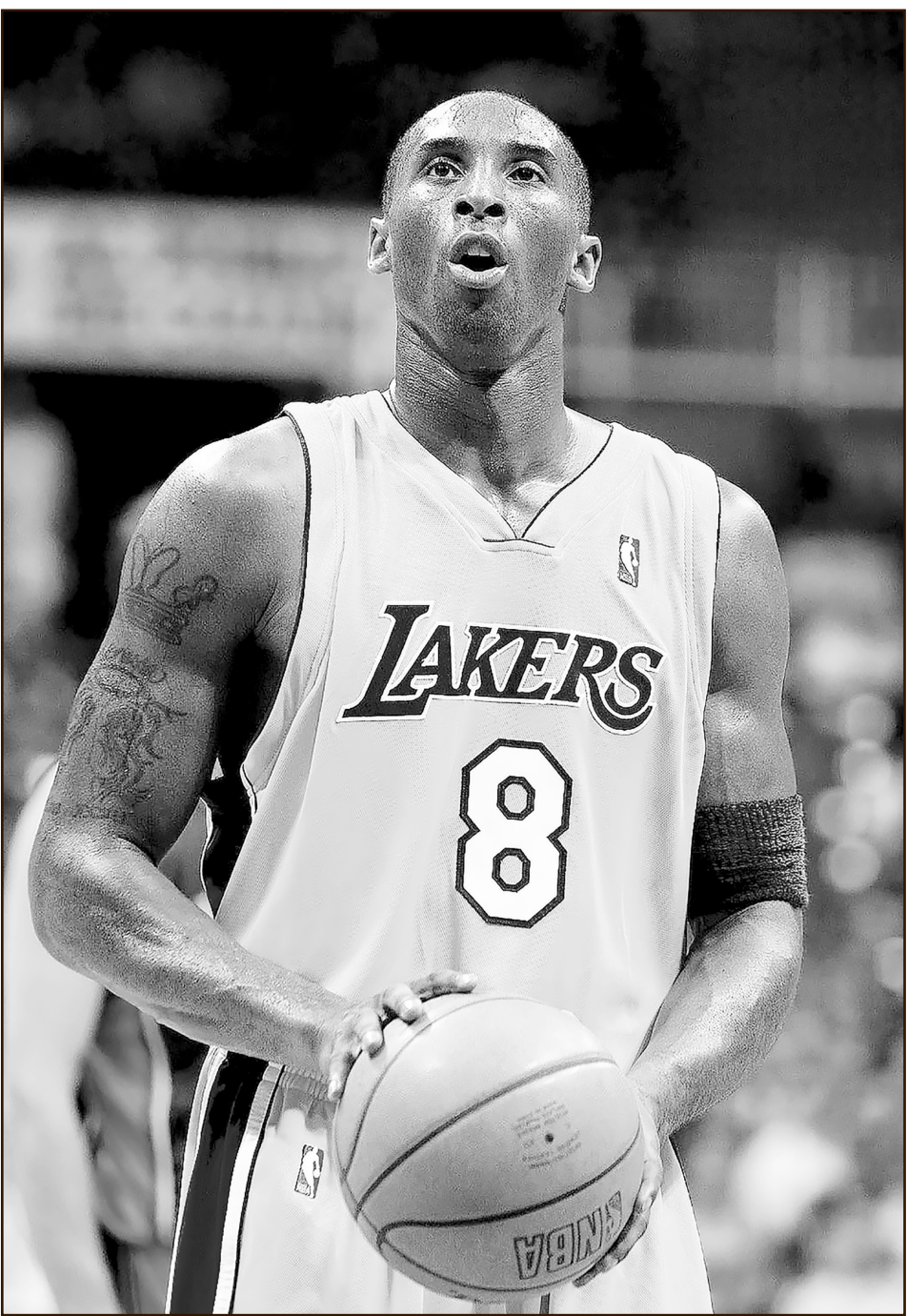
The Legacy of Kobe Bryant. . . In His Own Words

BY CURTIS BUNN,
URBAN NEWS SERVICE
A Division of Zenger News

January 28, 2020
Kobe Bryant was the only man in history to win five NBA championships, two Olympic gold medals, four All-Star Most Valuable Player Awards and an Oscar. And he could speak four languages. A Beethoven fan, he was a genuine man of many gifts and interests.
Many measure Bryant's life by the numbers, but his humility, sacrifice and tireless work ethic shone through. He was the youngest starter in NBA history, at 18 years and 158 days old. Bryant became the first guard to play 20 consecutive seasons and all with the same team. When he retired in 2016, he had scored more than 30,000 points.
The greatness of Kobe's athletic career merited a first-ballot selection to the Hall of Fame, as the basketball world unanimously agreed. He would have been inducted into Hall this year even if he had survived the helicopter crash near Los Angeles that killed him, his 13-year-old daughter and seven other people on Sunday.
But the world lost more than a hardworking phenomenon known for a picturesque jump-shot and graceful style of play. Lost was an honest voice that shared a lot. He told his mercurial story in heartening detail. He shared his uneasiness with life, and people who were not hardcore NBA fans felt a connection to him.
"When I was growing up in Italy, I grew up in isolation," Bryant said in

2015. "It was not an environment suited to me. I was the only black kid. I didn't speak the language. I'd be in one city, but then we'd move to a different city and I'd have to do everything again.
"I'd make friends, but I'd never be part of the group," he added, "because the other kids were already growing up together. So, this is how I grew up, and these are the weaknesses that I have."
Bryant's plainspoken humanity and link to the outside world are not typical in professional sports. He donated at least \$1 million to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. In Los Angeles he backed My Friends Place, a safe haven for homeless youth, and Stand Up on Second, which offers job training and finds jobless Americans housing.
"The most important thing is that you try to inspire people so they can be great in whatever they want to do," Bryant said.
Part of his message, however, was centered on the sort of sacrifice he made during every off-season—working out at 3 a.m., spending countless hours in the gym perfecting his artistry. . . instead of enjoying his wealth and down-time with his wife and daughters.
"We can all be masters at our craft, but you have to make a choice," Bryant said. "What I mean by that is, there are inherent sacrifices that come along with that: family time, hanging out with your friends, being a great friend, being a great son, nephew, whatever the case may be. There are sacrifices that come along with that."

Bryant won five NBA titles with the Los Angeles Lakers, one short of his idol, Michael Jordan, but more than most. In times of duress, he wanted the ball, seeking the responsibility of a game's biggest moment. Often he delivered.
"If you're afraid to fail, then you're probably going to fail," said Bryant. "My brain, it cannot process failure. It will not process failure, because if I sit there and have to face myself and tell myself, 'You're a failure' ... I think that's almost worse than death."
He was a constant thinker, a musing adventurer who won his 2018 Oscar for an animated short, "Dear Basketball," with music by "Star Wars" composer John Williams. He patterned the pace and momentum of some games on Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. He thought of himself as a symphony conductor, leading the Lakers and their global legion of fans in one orchestrated aria after another.
And the ensemble of his opponents never intimidated him.
"The last time I was intimidated was when I was six years old in karate class," he said. "I was an orange belt and the instructor ordered me to fight a black belt who was a couple years older and a lot bigger. I was scared s**tless. I mean, I was terrified, and he kicked my *ss."
"But then I realized he didn't kick my *ss as bad as I thought he was going to and that there was nothing really to be afraid of," Bryant said. "That was around the time I realized that intimidation didn't really exist if you're in the right frame of mind."



He shared that mantra with his daughters, including his basketball-loving 13-year-old Gianna, who perished with him on Sunday. He coached her team, basked in her passion for the game, and was proud she adopted his assertive attitude.
"The best thing that happens when we go out," Bryant said, "fans will come up to me and she'll be standing next to

me and they'll be like, 'Hey, you gotta have a boy! You and [wife Vanessa] gotta have a boy to have somebody to carry on the tradition and the legacy.'
And Gianna, he said, replied: "Hey, I got this! You don't need a boy for that."
Kobe smiled a daddy's grin, broad and knowing. It was a proud moment for him.

"Have a good time," he said. "Life is too short to get bogged down and be discouraged. You have to keep moving. You have to keep going. Put one foot in front of the other, smile and just keep on rolling.
"It's the one thing you can control. You are responsible for how people remember you or don't. So, don't take it lightly."

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WE ENCOURAGE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The African People's Socialist Party 2020

On February 1-3, 2020, black community organizers from across the U.S., Europe and Africa will meet in St. Petersburg, Florida to develop strategies to win reparations and to prepare for socialism.
It's the first Plenary of the 7th Congress of the African People's Socialist Party (APSP), an organization with an almost 50-year legacy of leading theory and practice fighting for African self-determination.
For the first time, reparations and socialism are being debated by U.S. presidential candidates. The APSP is uniquely positioned to define and direct the outcome of these demands.
In 1982, they put the U.S. government on trial for violations of United Nations law in its treatment of black people. An international panel of judges ruled that black people in the U.S. were owed \$4.1 trillion for unpaid and underpaid labor alone, with damages to be calculated later for pain,

suffering and the theft of national identity. The APSP and its Uhuru Movement have been taking the reparations demand to the streets ever since.
"They want to commission a study? The study has been done. Reparations are owed and must be fought for as part of a revolutionary process. African people must have all of our resources back - those accumulated in the collective hands of white society and those still being extracted from our resource-rich Africa," declares APSP Chairman Omali Yeshitela.
In response to one U.S. presidential candidate's claim that he's a socialist, Yeshitela retorts, "A \$15 per hour job is not socialism. Socialism is when the workers control the means of production. The achievement of socialism will take a revolution led by a revolutionary party."
"This is our time. The white world is in crisis because African and other

colonized peoples around the world are rising up and overturning the pedestal upon which capitalism was built and still rests today. Brexit, China, Trump - these are all indications of a deep crisis for white power. We must seize the moment and win our freedom!"
The Plenary conference will feature practical workshops on political organizing in the neighborhoods, on campus and in the workplace. It will include presentations on the APSP's successful economic development work and training in media and journalism strategies to "win the war of ideas".
The February 1-3, 2020 Plenary conference is open to the public. It will take place at the Uhuru House, 1245 18th Avenue South in St. Petersburg, Florida. Registration at apspplenary.org is required. For more information, email info@apspplenary.org or call 727-821-6620.

THE BLACK REVOLUTION IS ALIVE

Organize to Win!
Organize to Govern!

Keynote Speaker
Chairman Omali Yeshitela
Leader and Founder of the African People's Socialist Party

February 1-3, 2020
8am at Akwaaba Hall
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St. Petersburg, FL

REGISTER NOW: APSPPLENNARY.ORG | REGISTER@APSPPLENNARY.ORG

Keep making history.

This Black History Month,
we celebrate chefs who are
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