

# CLASSIFIEDS ~ PUBLIC INFORMATION

## Controversy Surrounds Microsoft's 'Avoid Ghetto App'

By Cyril Josh Barker  
Special to the NNPA from the  
New York Amsterdam News

Over a week ago, Microsoft was awarded a patent for a new feature to appear on new Windows phones with GPS devices that would take into account the weather and crime statistics of neighborhoods when giving directions. The patent filing states that the technology would help users avoid "unsafe neighborhoods or being in an open area that is subject to harsh temperatures."

Some have dubbed this new feature the "ghetto app," and it has drawn criticism for being racist.

"It's pretty appalling," Sarah E. Chinn, author of "Technology and the Logic of American Racism," told AOL Autos last week. "Of course, an application like this defines crime pretty narrowly, since all crimes happen in all kinds of neighborhoods. I can't imagine that there aren't perpetrators of

domestic violence, petty and insignificant drug possession, fraud, theft and rape in every area.

"A more useful app would be for young Black men to be able to map blocks with the highest risk of being pulled over or stopped on the street by police," continued Chinn. "That phenomenon affects many more people than the rare occurrences of random violence against motorists driving through 'bad' neighborhoods."

But Mary Mitchell, a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, is calling out the outrage over the app. She says those who are opposed to the app are smug, considering that the "ghetto app" was labeled as such by the media and pundits, not by Microsoft itself.

"Although the murder rate is down more than 2 percent citywide, neighborhoods plagued by gangs and drugs, like Englewood, saw

a dramatic increase in homicides," said Mitchell. "It is no wonder so many Black people have fled to the suburbs.

"But whenever anyone dares point out that this madness is not happening in all of the city's neighborhoods and is primarily occurring in neighborhoods that are predominantly Black, many of us bristle over the ugly truth," she continued. "In this instance, asking if the so-called 'ghetto app' is racist is asking the wrong question.

"The question we should consider is whether it is racist to refer to Microsoft's pending patent as a 'ghetto app' in the first place?" contended Mitchell. "'Ghetto' was scuttled by the media decades ago because it was deemed to be an offensive term used to describe low-income and crime-affected neighborhoods. Today, people throw the word around as if it were innocuous."

## East Austin Battered by Strong Winds

Strong winds caused some structure damage to buildings in the 5100 block of Commercial Park Drive Wednesday morning, January 25.

A warehouse building on Commercial Park Drive had pieces of its roof ripped off by winds, as well as sustaining other substantial damage in what authorities are calling a "wind event." The Austin Police Department

received a call around 3:30 a.m. about an alarm going off at the building.

The heavy winds knocked windows out of local businesses in the area, as well as scattered pieces of machinery throughout Commercial Park Drive. Authorities say there is a minor gas leak in the area, and they are working to locate the source of the leak.

Starflight has taken

aerial surveillance of the scene to observe the damage sustained to buildings in the area. Authorities are waiting for the National Weather Service to arrive on the scene before classifying exactly what caused the damage to the buildings on Commercial Park Drive. As of now, they are not calling this a tornado.

Authorities are asking people who work in the area to contact their employers before attempting to head into work.

## January Men and Boys Conference this Saturday at Reagan

Saturday January 28th, 2012 Conference, is one you won't want to miss! Please

show up in FULL FORCE at Reagan High School (small gym) from 10am-

2pm. Your presence will help us launch our 49th Conference with 2012 STYLE!! Conference location is - 7104 Berkman Drive, Austin, Texas, 78752. The Conference and mid-day lunch are FREE!! Volunteers and Vendors are always needed and welcome! Volunteers please arrive between 8:45am to 9:00 am; Vendors between 9am-9:15am to ensure proper set-up and to help us welcome our wonderful conference guests. Tables are provided for free on a first come, first served basis. Door prizes will be given away to several lucky ticket holders! The entire day will be FUN and enriching for ALL!!

**Directly after the conference in the large gym - AAMB Harvest Foundation and Austin Rhythm Basketball will be co-hosting a Fundraiser of an Exciting Kind - Professional Basketball!!!**

Summer Youth Employment Training for Travis Co. Residents!! We Have 50 Slots to Fill !!

To enroll your teen (ages 14-17), parent/guardian and teen must both attend the upcoming conference at Reagan HS, and "Workplace Readiness" workshop. Application information and training location will be provided at the end of the workshop.

## Huston-Tillotson Roundup

By: Terry Davis



### Men's Basketball

The Bacone Warriors snapped a 10-game losing streak with an 89-76 victory over Huston-Tillotson. The Warriors jumped out of the gate quickly to lead by double digits at 17-7 after Lakheem Trotter nailed a three-pointer with 13:41 in the first half. Collectively, Bacone shot 51 percent (18 of 35) from the field in the first half, blitzing the Rams to take a commanding 51-27 edge at halftime.

For the game the Warriors finished with a 46 percent (33 of 71) from the floor while connecting on 20 of 31 free throw attempts. The Rams hit 38 percent (26 of 68) and went 19 for 26 at the charity stripe.

Ronzelle Fort was the only player for the Rams in

double figures with 19 points and 12 boards.

### Women's Basketball

A strong second half surge propelled the Bacone Lady Warriors past the Huston-Tillotson Lady Rams 75-70. In the first half both teams struggled shooting as the Lady Warriors combined to hit 31 percent (13 of 41) compared to Huston-Tillotson hitting 38 percent (10 of 26). Despite this Bacone held a slim 33-32 lead heading into halftime courtesy of a late score by Emily Lovell.

After halftime Huston-Tillotson got hot and would grab a 12-point lead at 62-50 with 7:52 remaining and looked to be in control.

Bacone would not trail the rest of the way as they closed out a 75-70 conference win over the Lady Rams. The Rams will need to finish in the top eight for a trip to the Red River Conference Tournament in March.

For the game the Lady Warriors shot 36 percent (27 of 75) in contrast to Huston-Tillotson's 38 percent (24 of 62). Bacone also connected on 16 of 27 free throw attempts. Kendra Venzan paced the Lady Rams with 25 points.

The Rams will play Saint Thomas on Saturday January 28 for a double header starting at 5:30 pm.

## Mitt Romney Reveals How He Takes Advantage of Tax Breaks

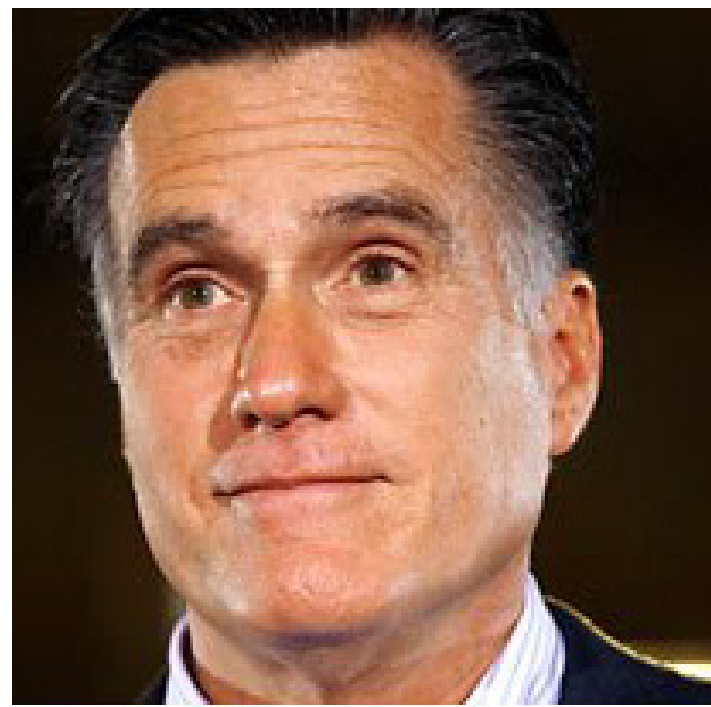
Oh, I'm sure people will talk about it," GOP presidential hopeful Mitt Romney told a Florida audience Monday night, on the eve of the much-ballyhooed release of his tax returns. "But — but I pay all the taxes that are legally required and not a dollar more."

And as Romney's returns showed, that was absolutely the truth — the former Massachusetts governor pays all the taxes that are legally required ... and not a dollar more. The surprise for many voters, however, will not be that Romney's taxes are in order, but just how small a percentage of his income goes to Washington.

According to his returns, Romney made \$21.6 million in 2010, and paid a little over \$3 million in taxes. This works out to 13.9% of his income. By comparison, the average U.S. household making \$79,000 pays an effective income tax rate (income tax minus deductions) of 14.4%. In other words, Romney's 2010 tax percentage was lower than that of a family making 0.3% of his income.

How did Romney manage to pay taxes at such a low rate? The "secret formula" isn't so secret: It's just out of reach for most Americans. Romney's money came from investments, not wages. Under the current tax code, anyone with a salary of \$379,150 or more per year pays taxes on it a 35% tax rate. However, people who derive their income from stock dividends, capital gains or carried interest only pay 15%. Those three categories account for the vast majority of Romney's income.

There's a case to be made for taxing capital gains and dividends at lower rates. It goes something like this: Invested money was taxed when it



Presidential candidate Mitt Romney

was first earned, and corporations pay taxes on their profits. From this perspective, taxing dividends and capital gains is like taxing the same money a third time.

Other pundits and tax critics claim that investment tax breaks are good for the economy, as they encourage people to keep money in the market, where it helps fund startups, business expansion, and other economically worthwhile endeavors.

It's Not What You Think

But a big chunk of Romney's income doesn't come from stocks that he

personally holds. In 2010, he made \$7.4 million from carried interest. You haven't heard of carried interest? Basically, it's a share of investment income that goes to the private equity manager who oversaw the investment. Romney's carried interest income doesn't come from dividends on stock he owns, nor from the sale of stock that he once owned. The money wasn't generated from income that he had already paid tax on. Think of it as being sort of like a tip skimmed off the top of all the money that his company makes for its investors.

## EMPLOYMENT/BIDS/ PROPOSALS/ PUBLIC INFORMATION/ FOR SALE /FOR RENT/ MISC

### BIDS/PROPOSALS

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (ACC) is soliciting for bids from qualified vendors for the printing of student planners.

#### Invitation for Bids No. 785-12011VJ

Completed bids must be submitted to the Purchasing Department by no later than Thursday, February 16, 2012, at 2:00 P.M., Central Time. Bid documents are available on the ACC Purchasing website at <http://www.austincc.edu/purchase/>.

Bid documents will be available in the ACC Purchasing Office (512) 223-1044 between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

Bids, when submitted, must be properly identified, sealed, and returned to the ACC Purchasing Office, ACC Service Center, 9101 Tuscany Way, Austin, Texas 78754, by the deadline.

Electronically transmitted responses will not be accepted. Late bids will be retained unopened.

ACC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive informalities or technicalities, to clarify ambiguities, and to award items or groups of items as may be in the best interest of ACC.

### Employment

Property Manager/Admin. Asst. (Part-Time) Blackland Community Development Corporation seeks a Property Manager/Administrative Asst. 30 hours/week. Responsibilities: oversight of maintenance, bookkeeping, tenant selection, application verification, property inspection, and other administrative duties. Required: Two years of property management and bookkeeping experience, experience working with low-income people, H.S. diploma, and excellent interpersonal skills. Preferred: experience working in non-profit or public housing and Spanish-speaking. Must be willing to work between hours of 8-5 M-F and occasional weekends and evenings, maintain regular office hours, and carry an emergency cell phone. Salary range: \$13-16/hr plus vacation and sick leave benefits. Applicants must submit cover letter and resume and fill out job application, available 1/27-2/10 at the Blackland Neighborhood Center, 2005 Salina Street, M-Th 8-6; F 8-12. For more information please email [headrick@blacklandcdc.org](mailto:headrick@blacklandcdc.org). EOE

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## City of Austin Purchasing Office

The City of Austin Purchasing Office invites you to view current bid solicitations at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/purchase/vs/p2.htm>. Vendors are encouraged to register on-line in the City's Vendor Self Service System. Once your company is registered, you will receive notifications about new bid opportunities. For additional information regarding current bid opportunities or Vendor Registration, please call the Purchasing Office at 512-974-2500. For information on the City of Austin's Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Procurement Program and the certification process, please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources Department at 512-974-7600 or visit their website at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/smbr>.