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RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt

The race for City Council

There are five seats on the Austin City Council that could be contested in this year's midterm elections. Under the City Council Place system, members are elected to serve staggered terms. As a result, half of the council is up for reelection every two years. The council members are elected from 10 geographic districts. That means that the residents of these districts have the opportunity to elect the person of their choice every two years.

The African Community has placed their emphasis on District 1, because historically that is where the majority of them lived. That is no longer the case. As the community is undergoing a tremendous turnover through gentrification, African Americans have moved to other districts in Austin. And many of them have moved completely out of the Austin geographical area. However, for this election the remaining residents are trying to elect an African American to replace Ora Houston, who announced that she will not run for reelection.

Many feel that Place 1 is the most likely place to elect an African American. This may be the last election that that will be possible.

It is time for the Black community to start developing political leaders in their new neighborhoods. They are eligible to run in whatever district they now reside. However, it will be up to them to convince the community that they can best represent them. That is what other nationalities have been all along.

In the meantime, it is important that we all become politically active so that we can make the best choices for our community. It starts with making sure that you are eligible to vote by getting your voter registration cards up to date.

HACA awarded scholarships to 36 Low-Income Students



Recipients show off their Scholarship with HACA staff and supporters

(AUSTIN, TX) - The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) and its nonprofit subsidiary Austin Pathways awarded 36 renewable scholarships totaling \$60,100 to residents of the public housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs at its 18th Annual Austin Pathways HACA Scholarship Ceremony, Friday, July 13,

2018. The event was held at the Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron Road. Scholarship recipients range from newly graduated high school students to returning adult students and those attending college for the first time. Meadowbrook residents Jaqueline Nunez represents nearly half of the

awardees. She is the first generation in her family to attend college. Nunez will start at Austin Community College in the fall, and aspires to become a nurse.

Austin Pathways oversees and manages an endowment for HACA resident scholarships that originated with seed funding from HACA's nonprofit, revenue generating sub-

sidaries—Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation and Austin Affordable Housing Corporation. Annual fundraising through donations and grants allows Austin pathways to maintain this endowment and continues to provide residents scholarships. HACA has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships since 2001.

Black Women NASA Pioneers Nominated for Congressional Medals

By Defender News Service



NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson (seated) and, from left to right, Janelle Monáe, Taraji P. Henson and Octavia Spencer pose backstage during the 89th Annual Academy Awards at Hollywood & Highland Center on February 26, 2017 in Hollywood, California. Photo: (Photo by Christopher Polk/Getty Images)

(DEFENDER NEWS) - The film *Hidden Figures* brought the unsung stories of Black women NASA pioneers to the forefront and now they are finally receiving the credit and recognition that they long deserved. Katherine Johnson, Dr. Christine Darden and the late Mary Jackson and Dorothy Vaughan have been nominated for Congressional Gold Medals, KTVA reported.

The honor—which is given to trailblazers who have contributed to shaping American history—is one of the most prestigious awards distributed in the U.S., the news outlet writes. The decision to honor the women was made by a group of 44 political leaders including California Senator Kamala Harris, Delaware Senator Chris Coons and Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski.

"These women were barrier breakers, and their immeasurable contributions to NASA and our nation have cemented their place in history," said Harris in a statement, according to the news outlet. "I'm proud to help recognize their achievements

as they continue to serve as a beacon for Black women both young and old, across the country." Senator Coons added that their accomplishments remained hidden for far too long and that it's not only important for them to be recognized for the indelible mark that they left in the STEM industry, but it's essential for their stories to be brought to the forefront so they can serve as inspiration for the young women following in their footsteps.

Several organizations dedicated to the advancement of women and people of color across different industries backed the bill. The organizations include Girl Scouts of the USA, the United Negro College Fund, the National Association of Mathematicians and others.

The honors are continuing to roll in for the trailblazers who broke both gender and racial barriers in STEM. In June, West Virginia State University announced the creation of a bronze statue in Katherine Johnson's honor as well as the launch of a scholarship fund named after her.

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District 1 candidate seeks to promote, maintain diversity.

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HT EXPANDING ITS CENTER FOR INNOVATION



(AUSTIN, TX) - Each day that passes, Huston-Tillotson University (HT) gets closer to one of many milestones to come, an expanded Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI). This fall (official date to be announced), located at the Center for Social Innovation (CSI) on Springdale Road in East Austin, HT's Center for Entrepreneurship will make dreams of starting a new business come true for more women and minority students and the community at large through education and partnerships.

"We are going to make some millionaires out there!" said an excited Dr. Steven Edmond, Dean of the School for Business and Technology.

In March 2018, HT announced its plans to expand to an off-campus site to speed up its "intellectual heartbeat" in East Austin in the area of entrepreneurship. President and CEO Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette noted that the Center for Social Innovation campus is an

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