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RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt

This is the most confusing election year!

If you have not voted already, you may want to do that during the Early Voting period. The lines are shorter than they will be next Tuesday, November 6 which is Mid Term Election day.

I voted early and was very disappointed that I could not vote for some of my main choices. That is because I do not live in Austin, but just outside of the city limits (the ETJ).

My ballot did not contain any of the races in Austin proper. But, I could vote on most of the County races. I was very disappointed.

The ballot is a long one that will require you to pay attention to what you are doing. However, everyone should vote in this election, even if you know only one candidate or item that you feel strongly about.

Be sure to get your sticker that says "I voted" and wear it throughout the day to encourage others to vote. This is an election that will affect our lives for years to come.

Don't let anyone tell you that your vote does not count, because it does. That is why the political parties and candidates spend so much money trying to encourage you to vote for them.

This election is very important in determining who will be in charge of Washington politics. Make sure that we elect someone who speaks for us.

Vote and the Choice is yours. Don't vote and the choice is theirs.

A Salute to Austin's Own Playwright Jeanette W. Hill

By Naomi Richard
VILLAGER Entertainment

(VILLAGER NEWS)- Jeanette W. Hill, founder of JWHill Productions LLC, a producer and a playwright of epic portions, recently won the Atlanta Black Theatre Festival's (ABTF) Best Reading Series with an historic, first-ever perfect score from all judges! What an accomplishment just as ABTF became one of the "Top Theatre Festivals to Visit Around the World" by TOPTEN ZILLA (https://toptenzilla.com/). Hill won the award for her play *Clean Sheets*, a riveting story of secrets and lies. It shows what happens when family blessings collide with family curses.

Hill is an award-winning



Jeanette W. Hill
Photo by Dwayne Hills.

playwright and a committed activist. Through her art form, she masterfully addresses high profile social issues such as *Black Lives Matter*, *Mental Illness*, *Sexual Abuse* and the difficulties of *Aging*. Hill labels herself as a "creative activist,

expressing my activism through the art of theatre."

Hill, who takes her role very seriously, partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Health for her play *No Ordinary Days*, which exposed a topic some

consider to be taboo. Through her partnerships, Hill provides resources for those in difficult circumstances who need help.

In an exclusive interview with *The Villager Newspaper*, Hill shared, "I was so impressed and happy to have people of color at the table from the Alliance on Mental Health at my events. It is important to have people of color because otherwise audience members will not open up. They just don't. I knew the play would have an impact, but I didn't know how transparent people would be in revealing their own struggles or struggles of family members."

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Lady Rams Coach DuCree Looking to Instill a Defensive Stalwart

By John Harris Jr.
VILLAGER Sports Writer

(AUSTIN, TX) - Following a third-place finish in the Red River Athletic Conference, Huston-Tillotson's women's basketball coach Kendall DuCree enters the 2018-19 season with a renewed focus to upgrade his team's defensive performance and compensate for losing several key seniors to graduation.

"We're definitely looking to improve our defense," said DuCree, whose team is picked to finish third in the pre-season coaches poll behind LSU-Shreveport and Our Lady of the Lake, who tied for first place.

HT opens the season on Saturday at home against UT-Dallas at 3 p.m. DuCree said a lot depends on the play of his two returning all-conference players, seniors Taylor Briggs and Korie Pichon along with sixth man Joya Lemons, also a senior.

Junior Kryshona Carter, who was slowed by an elbow injury last season, is fully healthy and has the potential to surprise people, said DuCree, who described Carter and senior Desirea McGinnis as



COACH'EM UP! - Coach Kendall DuCree is seen here drawing up a play while surrounded by his Lady Rams basketball squad. (HT photo)

"sleepers." Two newcomers to watch are Kayla Barber from Hutchinson (Kansas) Community College and freshman Ilana Sanford from San Antonio, where she was considered one of the area's top point guards.

For DuCree, it's a matter of selecting the right players for his system who are willing to work hard on the defen-

sive end.

"You get a lot of people knocking at your door. But as head coach, who have to make the right fit for your program," DuCree said. "We like to get up and down and score quick. But this year we're definitely looking to improve our defense. At certain times last year, I felt like we lacked certain things on the defensive end. This

year I want to make sure we correct it going into the season."

To that end, DuCree said early home games against UT-Dallas and UT-Tyler along with road contests against St. Edward's and Division I Texas Southern will be a good barometer for his players.

"We like to play a tough schedule early," DuCree said.

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Mrs. Small seeks to expand technology access in schools. See MANOR Page 6

Houston's notable Warriors receive a prestigious honor. See HBC Page 7

BETO

visits

Round

Rock

by Melissa Fontenette-Mitchell



Beto O'Rourke
©Photographer: Melissa Fontenette-Mitchell 2018

ROUND ROCK - Beto O'Rourke visited Round Rock, TX on Wednesday, October 24th at the Round Rock water tower. Hundreds of supporters stood in the rain to hear BETO speak on healthcare, strengthening and security in our communities and that all people should be treated with dignity and respect.

Beto said "In order to get this done, we need a government that Texans can trust and a Senator who is focused on helping the people he's elected to serve".

Get out and VOTE early. Click on the link to get more information on early voting. <https://www.votetexas.gov/faq/early-voting.html> #BETOFORTEXAS