

THE COMMUNIQUE

NBFA's Cobell Settlement Provided \$3.4B in Compensation for Native Americans

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pected to be a turning point for the NBFA and the future of Black Farmers.

As we celebrate a thirty year struggle to victory for black farmers, we must focus on

the future. NBFA members must find creative ways to take part in all federal programs such as the much delayed federal crop insurance program to compete with large scale farmers said John Boyd President of the NBFA.

One major theme of the meeting will be a commemoration of the NBFA's success in settling a decades-long struggle for racial fairness in federal farm

lending practices. A protracted legal and legislative battle ended when President Barack Obama signed a bill on December 8, 2010, providing \$1.25 billion in payments to eligible black farmers who endured discriminatory practices by the Depart-

ment of Agriculture.

After decades of waiting, some 18,000 black farmers have begun receiving payments of \$50,000 each, plus \$12,500 to cover tax liability, under the settlement. I am proud to have lead the fight that resulted in a historic

payout to black farmers Boyd concluded

Native American farmers also are beneficiaries of the NBFA advocacy under a related agreement known as the Cobell Settlement, which provided \$3.4 billion in compensation to nearly a half million Native Americans.

Boyd announced that the NBFA will host an information session for members during the conference.



SHEA ENTERS RACE FOR TRAVIS CO. COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2



Brigid Shea

By Charlotte Moore

CENTRAL, TX - For more than 25 years, Brigid Shea has been a tour de force in Austin politics – a natural product, she says, of an upbringing which instilled in her the significance of a life dedicated to public service.

"My dad was a small-town doctor in North Dakota who always cared for people, even if they couldn't pay," Shea said. "My mom was a social worker who cared for the mentally ill, so public service and being involved in my community just seemed like a normal thing to do."

After moving to Austin in 1988 to help launch the state chapter of Clean Water Action – which works to protect the environment and promote clean and safe water – Shea helped found Austin's renowned Save Our Springs Alliance before voters elected her to Austin City Council where she served from 1993 to 1996.

Now, Shea is running for Travis County Commissioner Precinct 2 to fill the seat Sarah Eckhardt vacated earlier this year in order to run for Travis County Judge.

Shea argues her **NSBE Fall Fresh Start 13 A Day of STEM**

proven record of reform and her decades of experience as a local leader make her the most qualified candidate for the job.

"Each year, the Travis County Commissioner Court spends around \$800 million in revenue, creates policy that affects more than one million people, sets the tax rate, and manages thousands of employees," Shea says. "The court is heavily involved with protecting our environment, developing our roads and highways, overseeing our justice system, and, really, impacting our quality of life. These are profound responsibilities which demand the most capable of proven leaders to execute them. Unlike my opponents, I bring all of this experience to the race."

As a city council member, Shea took the lead in passing Austin's first domestic partner benefits program. She also led the effort to create the Austin Asian Employee network to ensure this segment of the city was included in Austin's minority contracting program. Shea has acted as advisor to LCRA, Seton, Vignette, Green Mountain Energy and other groups. She is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce Clean Energy Council as well as many other community organizations.

"These are serious undertakings," Shea says. "It is noble to perform as an employee at any level of city or county government, but it's a very different thing to be the elected official, take the hard votes and provide the leadership on the issues. When you're an elected official, you develop special relationships with other elected officials. That's a unique quality

I will bring to the county commissioner since neither of my opponents has held elected office or has the record of leadership and reform that I bring."

Shea's most pressing concerns include making Austin and Travis County more affordable, in part by fixing the city's broken tax appraisal process which she says places an unfair tax burden on homeowners. Shea also wants to push for change in the county's economic development policy and require companies which receive Travis County tax incentives to hire more workers who actually live in Travis County. And, Shea will build on her record as one of the area's most effective environmental activists by promoting inventive water conservation efforts and spearheading the creation of one of the most effective disaster preparedness programs in the country.

Shea has received official endorsements from State Sen. Kirk Watson, former State Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, former Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower and NAACP President Nelson Linder.

"Brigid Shea will bring rare and unique characteristics to the Travis County Commissioner's Court," Linder says. "Brigid has demonstrated a needed concern for the ecological system that affects us all, combined with a desire to address social justice and civil rights in a city that seems uncomfortable addressing poverty and equity."

To read more about Brigid Shea, her policies and why she's running for Travis County Commissioner, go to voteforbrigid.com.

Nov. 17th AA NSBE Host Interactive workshops to introduce multiple forms of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to 6th-12th grade students. FML: eventbrite.com/event/9054764043/eorg

BORN TOO SOON

HEALTHY MOM - HEALTHY BABY
COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR
PREMATURITY AWARENESS MONTH
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2013
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Rosewood Zaragoza Neighborhood Center
2800 Webberville Road 78702
FUN! DOOR PRIZES! FREE CHILD CARE!
Presented by: African American Quality of Life Unit-Health and Human Services Department-Community Services Division in Partnership with the March of Dimes of Austin.

For more information call: 512-972-5409 or 512-589-9382

Advertise in the **VILLAGER!**

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT OF THE PROGRAM YEAR 2012 CDBG ANNUAL REPORT

As part of Travis County's ongoing public engagement related to its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG,) Travis County will make available to the public its Program Year 2012 CDBG annual report known as the Consolidated Annual Program, Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

The CAPER covers a period from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013, and describes progress made in carrying out the CDBG projects. This report will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to meet federal requirements.

COMMENT PERIOD AND DRAFT DOCUMENT

Comments will be accepted for 15 days beginning November 25, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. and ending December 9, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. Beginning November 25, 2013, a draft document will be available for download on the Travis County CDBG page www.co.travis.tx.us/CDBG or available for review at any of the seven Travis County Community Centers:

South Rural Community Center	3518 FM 973, Del Valle
Travis County Community Center	15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg D, Pflugerville
West Rural Community Center	8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A, Oak Hill
Northwest Rural Community Center	18649 FM 1431, Jonestown
East Rural Community Center	600 W. Carrie Manor, Manor
Palm Square Community Center	100 N. IH-35, Suite 1000, Austin
Post Road Community Center	2201 Post Road, Suite 101, Austin

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The public can provide their comments by attending a Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Travis County Commissioners Courtroom, 700 Lavaca St., Austin, TX.

MAILING COMMENTS

The public can also mail their comments to: CDBG Program, Travis County, HHSVS, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767 or e-mail them to the CDBG program at cdbg@co.travis.tx.us

For additional information contact Christy Moffett, at cdbg@co.travis.tx.us or call 512-854-3460. To request that an American Sign Language or Spanish interpreter be present at the public hearing, please contact staff at least five business days in advance.

Travis County is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please call 512-854-3460 for assistance.



The Sheriff's Office Is Helping To Change The Face Of Men's Health

You will notice some hairy faces at the Travis County Sheriff's Office this month. That is because the Sheriff's Office is participating in Movember, a worldwide men's health charity event that encourages men to grow, and women to support, the Mo (moustache) for the 30 days of November.

Since the Sheriff's Office allows growing a moustache, this is not much of a challenge so we are taking it to the next step and are offering a chance for moustache-goatee growth or a full beard with no neck growth – for a worthwhile cause.

Our goal is to bring awareness to men's health issues and to help change the face of men's health and promoting the importance of early detection in cancer while raising funds. All money raised will go to the local Testicular Cancer Foundation (www.tccancer.org).

As of November 2nd the Sheriff's Office has 261 participants who have donated \$20 to grow a moustache. If they wanted to grow a goatee or beard they donated \$5 more.

Go to <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/menshealth.html> to find more information on men's health issues.