



Closing Blackshear Is an Assault on Black Austin’s Legacy, not a Budgeting Decision

by Thomas Wyatt | EIC, The Villager

(VILLAGER) - Austin ISD’s plan to close historic Blackshear Elementary in 2028 is more than a policy failure. It is a direct attack on the cultural, educational, and political legacy of East Austin’s Black community — a legacy embodied in the school’s namesake, **Edward L. Blackshear**.

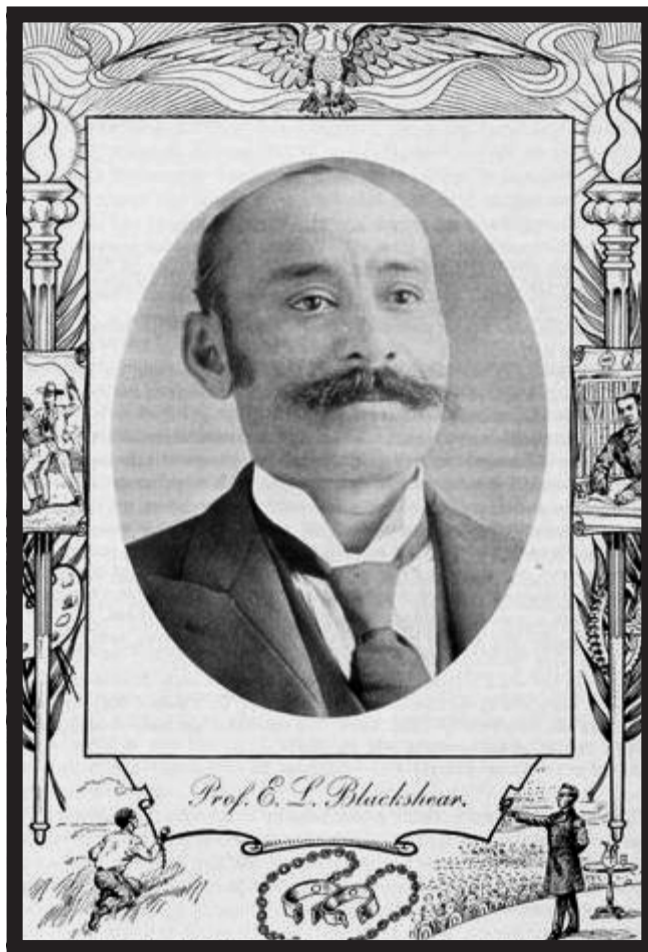
Blackshear wasn’t just an educator. He was a nationally respected Black academic leader, a former principal of Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College (now Prairie View A&M University), and a fierce advocate for Black self determination during the Jim Crow era. He fought for Black Texans to have access to rigorous education, vocational training, and pathways to economic independence at a time when the state was actively denying them both dignity and opportunity.

When East Austin residents named the school after him in 1936, it wasn’t symbolic. It was a declaration: **Black children on the Eastside deserved excellence, investment, and a future.** For generations, Blackshear Elementary fulfilled that promise — surviving segregation, redlining, urban renewal, and waves of displacement. It became home to the district’s only elementary level fine arts academy; a program families built with sweat equity and cultural pride.

And now AISD wants to shutter it under the guise of “efficiency.”

Let’s be clear: if this were a West Austin campus named after a historic educational leader, with a specialized program and a century of community investment, the district would be bending over backwards to preserve it. But when it’s East Austin — a community already stripped of housing, institutions, and political power — closure becomes the “practical” option. Or, to be frank, a welcomed conclusion!

AISD isn’t just closing a school. It is erasing a monument to Black resilience, Black scholarship, and Black history. This isn’t a school named after some confederate officer during the civil war. Nor a bird symbolizing a



Edward Lavoisier Blackshear

Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107

“chaparral-esque” landscape on the westside because some believe it to be cute. The school was founded by and named after a cherished person of significance in the momentous spirit of equal education and civil rights.

In fact, instead of closing Blackshear down, AISD and the COA should be investing heavily into renovating it - representing the pride of East Austin’s antiquity, strength, and courage through its malleableness during Austin’s 1928 master plan. This city wants to celebrate **Black History** when its month comes around like the circus. But when the shows over...

If district leaders think East Austin will quietly accept the destruction of a legacy Edward L. Blackshear spent his life fighting to build, they are gravely mistaken.

Alpha Kappa Sigma to Host 42nd Biennial Debutante Ball

AUSTIN, TX — The Alpha Kappa Sigma (Austin, Texas) Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated will host its **42nd Biennial Debutante Scholarship Program**, culminating in the Debutante Ball on **December 19, 2026**, at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Austin, Texas**.

This year’s theme is “**Unveiling Royalty: An Evening of Elegance.**” Established in 1947, the program is the **oldest debutante scholarship initiative in Central Texas**, providing mentorship, leadership development, and scholarship

opportunities for young women. “This program is more than a presentation—it is a transformative journey that equips young women with confidence, leadership skills, and purpose,” said Chapter President **Jennifer Hicks**. The program is open to **high school juniors, seniors, and college freshmen for the 2026–2027 academic year**. Applications are due **May 31, 2026**. Please visit our website to complete the application at: www.sigmagammarhoatx.com. For more information, contact AustinSGRhos.DebBall2026@gmail.com.

“Criminal Attack” Cuts Spectrum Fiber Lines in North Austin

by Villager staff

(AUSTIN, TX) — Spectrum is calling a major North Austin service outage a “**criminal attack**” after multiple fiber optic lines were deliberately cut near the Wells Branch area, disrupting internet and phone service for homes and businesses across several neighborhoods.

The company says the damage occurred early Tuesday morning and appears to be **intentional sabotage**, not an equipment failure. Technicians located several severed fiber bundles along a utility corridor and spent much of the day splicing and restoring service.

Spectrum reports that this incident mirrors a **growing national trend of attacks on communica-**

tions infrastructure, where vandals or thieves target fiber lines, cell towers, or electrical equipment. The company has offered a **\$25,000 reward** for information leading to an arrest.

APD confirmed it is investigating and has not ruled out the possibility of coordinated activity. No suspects have been identified.

Residents in parts of Wells Branch, North Lamar, and surrounding areas experienced outages lasting several hours, with some businesses reporting lost revenue due to point of sale disruptions.

City officials have not yet commented on whether the attack raises broader concerns about the vulnerability of Austin’s critical infrastructure.

before midnight. The suspect fled at high speeds, ultimately crashing into another vehicle. As officers exited their patrol cars, Guevara allegedly **fired multiple shots through his windshield**, prompting officers to return fire and strike him in the clavicle.

District Attorney **José Garza** said the grand jury reviewed all evidence and determined the officers’ actions were **not unlawful**, closing the criminal case. Internal APD administrative investigations are still pending, and the department has released **body worn camera, dash cam footage, and radio audio** related to the incident.

Guevara survived, was treated at a hospital, and remains in custody on multiple charges, including **aggravated assault of a public servant, evading arrest, and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle**.

Grand Jury Clears Four APD Officers in 2025 High Speed Chase Shooting

by Villager staff

(AUSTIN, TX) - A Travis County grand jury has declined to indict four Austin Police Department officers involved in a **May 31, 2025 high speed chase** that ended in an exchange of gunfire with an 18 year old suspect, **Devin Guevara**.

According to reporting from **Yahoo News, KXAN, and Hoodline**, officers **Joseph Duesler, Kai Finch, Martin Vela, and Vincent Nguyen** attempted to stop a stolen vehicle shortly

The dander isn’t the attempt, the danger is the sensationalism.

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pattern: the systematic effort to bend federal agencies toward ideological alignment rather than professional independence.

The danger is not that Trump tried to “buy out the CIA.” The danger is that the country has grown accustomed to political narratives that flatten complex institutional shifts into sensational claims, while the real erosion happens quietly, through policy changes that sound technical but carry profound consequences. A voluntary buyout program may not grab headlines the way a conspiracy theory does, but it can still reshape the agency’s internal culture, drain expertise, and create openings for political loyalists to fill the void. That is the story that matters—not the false claim of a literal takeover, but the very real effort to redefine the role of intelligence in American democracy.

At a time when voter suppression tactics, institutional distrust, and partisan loyalty tests dominate the political landscape, the fight over the CIA’s workforce is part of a larger struggle over whether federal institutions serve the public or serve the president. The viral claim may be false, but the political arc behind it is unmistakable: a country wrestling with the boundaries of executive power, the fragility of its democratic norms, and the ease with which misinformation can overshadow the quieter, more consequential shifts happening inside the machinery of government.

AISD 2025–2026 School Year Calendar

AUSTIN
Independent School District

Austin ISD serves a large portion of students in the Austin area. For the 2025–2026 school year, the AISD calendar includes the following highlights:

- First Day of School: **August 19, 2025** (Tuesday)
- Fall Break / Thanksgiving Week: **November 24–28, 2025**
- Winter Break: **December 22, 2025 – January 2, 2026**
- Spring Break: March 16–20, 2026
- Last Day of School (Students): **May 28, 2026** (Thursday)

For the full calendar and official updates, visit the AISD Academic Calendar.

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