

JOHN O. BELLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



(Front row, left to right) – Breana J. Miller, Russell P. Kyles-Flewellen, Mrs. Mary Jo Helen Belle(widow of John O. Belle), Robert Wesley Dickerson Jr., and Sydney S. Starkes.

Austin, TX—The Epsilon Iota chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Inc in partnership with the Epsilon Iota Foundation presented scholarship awards to the following high school graduates this Sunday morning at 11am, July 30, 2017 at Ebenezer Baptist Church.(1010 E. 10th Street, Austin, TX 78702). The scholarship is named in honor of **John O. Belle** who was a distinguished pioneer in the field of education.

Robert Wesley Dickerson Jr. (\$1,500 scholarship) – Son of Shawne and Bobby Dickerson graduated from Cedar Ridge High School where he was ranked in the top 10% of his class. He was active in sports, recognized as all-district in basketball. Robert is an active member of Wesley United Methodist Church where he serves as a youth usher. Robert will be at-



Dickerson is a former member of the Villager's Youth Brigade



Essay Contest Winner: Kelli Milburn.

tending Howard University where he will pursue a business degree.

Russell P. Kyles-Flewellen (\$500 scholarship)– Son of Keelee Mosely graduated from Hendrickson High School where he was ranked in the top 10% of his class. He was an active member of the marching band while working at HEB and Chic-fil-a during high school. Russell will be attending Purdue University where he will pursue a construction engineering degree.

Sydney S. Starkes (\$500 scholarship)– Daughter of Sheldy Starkes graduated from Saint Stephens Episcopal School. Sydney received the Gold Presidential Volunteer Service Award pre-

sented by President Obama. She is an active member of the usher board at United Methodist Church. Sydney will be attending USC majoring in Cinema and Media Studies.

Breana J. Miller (\$500 scholarship)- Daughter of Jovita Kelly graduated from LBJ Early College High School where she was active with the Ladies of Distinction, poetry, National Society of Collegiate Scholars and a member of the youth & adult choir at Olivet Baptist Church. Breana will be attending Texas State University where she will pursue a psychology degree with plans to attend medical school. (\$500)

Angele Christian Kelly (\$500 scholarship)- Daughter of Dianna Kelly graduated from Saint Dominic Savio Catholic High School where she was active as the co-president of the student body and received National Merit Scholar commendation. Angele will be attending Yale University with plans of becoming an orthopedic surgeon. (\$500)

Kelli Milburn (\$750 Essay Contest Winner)– Daughter of Michelle and Rev. Troy Milburn graduated from Cedar Park High School where she was active with the soccer team. Kelli is attending Texas State University with plans of becoming a physical therapist. (\$750)

Burkina Faso Community Celebrates Independence Day

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

Although the Burkinabe Independence Day celebration was on August 4th, the Burkinabe community of Austin plans to hold an event on the weekend. Over the next few weeks, the Burkinabe American community plans to make preparations for this Independence Day Celebration which is open to everyone. The public will get to know more about Burkina Faso. Moreover, the event is meant to showcase the diversity and richness of Burkina Faso.

Over the past years, the Burkinabes living here in Central Texas have tried to come together in order to form an association. Moreover, forming an association would allow them to unite the community and to help one another. According to an “unofficial” count,



Pictured left to right: Joyce and Armelle, members of the Central Texas Burkinabe American community. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

there are about 150 Burkinabes living in Central Texas which include the areas of Austin, Pflugerville, San Antonio and Killeen. Moreover, the Burkinabe dinner event will allow the group to meet new members of community.

Burkina Faso is a land-locked country in West Africa. It is bordered by the south to the nations of Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Benin; to the east by Niger; and to the northwest by Mali. Its population stands approximately at 16,900,000 million inhabitants. The people of Burkina are both religiously and ethnically diverse who have managed to keep the country united. Over the years, the nation of Burkina Faso has emerged as peace deal makers among warring West African countries

Black Pflugerville Advocating for Inclusion and Civic Engagement



Pictured left to right: Sheldon, Shante, Patricia and Debra. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

On March 1, 2017 Black Pflugerville held its first meeting. However, it was on June 1, 2017, that Black Pflugerville was incorporated as a nonprofit organization. Black Pflugerville was started in Pflugerville due to the numerous factors such as the growing Black population and also a new mindset from Pflugerville City Hall. According to the Sheldon Lamey the founder of Black Pflugerville, “We saw the changing demographics of the black population of Pflugerville and the willing ability of Pflugerville city leaders to see this organization as a part of the city.”

When Black Pflugerville opened up, they had certain goals and objectives. According to Sheldon, the goals of Black Pflugerville include the increase of civic engagement, advocates for Black Pflugerville students, preservation of historical places in Pflugerville and the support of Black businesses in Pflugerville and of Central Texas. As one can see, Black Pflugerville has set very high goals and so far has been able to achieve them.

Finally, the mission of Black Pflugerville is to seek to create economic, political, and cultural opportunities for African Americans and the African Diaspora living in Central Texas, especially Pflugerville. Black Pflugerville will allow for better representation of African Americans and African Diaspora living in this area. For instance, one of Black Pflugerville upcoming event will focus on providing back packs for students along with educational advice for students and their parents.

Proposed Bathroom Bill Dies

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

Overall, the Tea Party Republican Legislature managed to get a lot of their Bills passed by the Legislature. However, the Bathroom bill which is supported by the Lieutenant Governor passed the Senate died during the regular session due to the opposition of the Speaker of the Texas House. Consequently, the Governor called for a special ses-

sion in order to get another opportunity to pass the “bathroom bill.”

Since the Governor and Lt Governor are running for re-election, they want to satisfy their base by passing the bill. Just recently, numerous extreme right wing Republicans held a rally at the State Capital to pressure the Republican Speaker of the House to bring up the bathroom bill. Moreover, the bathroom bill has passed the Texas Senate floor and is now pending on the Texas House Floor. Despite the fact that the business community is against the bill, the Governor and Lt Governor refuse to “let the bathroom bill” die. While they eagerly want to go against the “business leaders” of Texas, the Speaker of the House has taken heed of their opposition. Moreover, the business leaders oppose the bathroom bill because they fear the boycott of the State of Texas.

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