

Christmas Break



**Kevin Parish
Hendrickson H. S.**

My Christmas Break was amazing, I had a fun time hanging out with my friends and spending time with family. A couple of days before Christmas my family and I went to Louisiana to see my Grand-

mother on my dad's side and I had lots of fun like always. When I came back it was Christmas Eve so I just spent my time relaxing but when Christmas came around I opened my gifts that I got and I really liked them all. When all that was over we had Christmas dinner which was really good. The rest of the break I just hung out with my friends and played around with my little nephew that is 6 months old. I had a really good Christmas and a good time in 2017 and I bet 2018 will be great too.

Future City



**Ava Roberts
Pflugerville M. S.**

Future City is a leading engineering education program. It has received national recognition for its role in encouraging middle schoolers to develop their interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Future City uses the engineering design process and gives students an opportunity to do what engineers do. Students identify problems, brainstorm ideas, design solutions, test/retest, and build. They build their 21st century skills by engaging them in different types of engineering concepts: apply math and science concepts to real-world issues; develop skills: writing, public speaking, problem solving, and time management; research and propose solutions to solve engineering challenges; discover different types of engineering and explore careers options; learn how their communities work and become better citizens; and develop strong time management and

project management skills.

Future City starts with the question "How can we make the world a better place?" To answer it, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. The solution must address a city-wide, sustainability issue. Past topics included storm water management, urban agriculture, public spaces, and green energy. For 2017-2018, the theme is "The Age-Friendly City." Teams will identify an age-related challenge that exists in today's urban environments. They will design two innovative solutions that allow the senior citizens of their future city to be as active and independent.

Students in my gifted and talented class are designing a Future City. We have to design a virtual city, write an essay, build a prototype, make a project plan, and present our solution. I have participated in many STEM challenges. All of them have been different topics but using the engineering design process is the same. I am very excited about my team's Future City project and encourage everyone to think about the characteristics of their "age-friendly city."

Second Semester



**Jalen Moore
KIPP Austin Collegiate**

I know longer have to worry about tedious and time-consuming college applications. I submitted applications to nine schools, and each of those institutions would enable

me to foster intellectual growth at an unprecedented level.

My senior year is embarking upon its last stretch as 50% of it has been successfully completed. It's strange to think that these friends I've made six years ago will in the near future fade into becoming mere acquaintances, but I suppose that's just the natural way of life. I'm incredibly excited to see what the future holds for myself and my peers because each person in my school's class of 2018 will likely be admitted to a college or university by the Spring.

Ye Zi Afro Dance Breaks Ground in Central Texas

by **Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon Villager Columnist**

Over the years, Pflugerville has become the "home of African Entrepreneurs and business owners." Just like any other entrepreneurs and



**Pictured above is the Ye Zi Afro Dance Group.
Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon**

business owners, these African entrepreneurs are choosing Pflugerville due to its growing multi-cultural population and its affordable venues or office rental. Consequently Eva with Ye Zi Dance opened up her dance classes in

the Pflugerville area.

Ye Zi Afro Dance was founded in 2017, in order, to bring awareness to urban side of African dances and musics. In other words, Ye Zi Afro Dance is reaching into a "new market." According to Eva,

"the vision of Ye Zi Afro Dance is to empower people of all level and background to come together and unite through their love for dancing. Not only does Ye Zi Afro Dance offer Afro-Beats and Afro Dance Class, but also fitness classes."

Finally, Eva is trained and experienced performer. Eva is a "dance passionate, performer & choreographer with over 30 years of stage experience in theater, singing and dancing. Eva is formerly trained in Classical Indian dance and has recently returned to her roots wanting to bring awareness to a more urban side of African dances and music." So far, Eva has had a dance class in late November; and, now is focusing on her upcoming performance on January 12 in Pflugerville.

Williamson County, A New Political Battleground



by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon Villager Columnist

In the past 5 years, Democrats have worked hard to make Williamson County a competitive one. This is the first time, the Williamson County Democratic Party has filled up 90% of the races with candidates. Moreover, that will guarantee very competitive races throughout the county. Starting from the Williamson County Judge position to the Williamson County Treasure race, Democrats have filled up the "slots" with candidates.

Moreover, Williamson County Democrats have proven that they can win races. Nearly 2 years ago, Williamson County Democrats won two seats on the Cedar Park race. Just last month, Democrats

won a seat on the Round Rock City Council. In other words, Democrats have turned a very "red county" into a "purple county", which, means that the county has become a battleground. Moreover, it is the demographics that have helped to change Williamson County into a "purple county."

In Williamson County, there are numerous vibrant immigrant communities who come from various parts of the worlds, such these countries: India, China, Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Ireland, Ethiopia, Vietnam and etc. Just like in the rest of State of Texas, there are numerous vibrant immigrant communities. Furthermore, Williamson County is slowly becoming a "battle ground" county in which Democrats have a chance to win. Also, Democrats now have an opportunity to win Texas.

MLK Day 2018 Festivities

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Local African Soccer Club Holds Event

by **Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon Villager Columnist**

On December 30th, a local African soccer club held its end of the year event. It was an opportunity for the soccer club members to invite non-members to celebrate and reflect on the pass year. According to Diaspora Vote, "Soccer is like glue that holds the African community. In other words, soccer provides social cohesion

within the community." Moreover, the event was family friendly due to the fact it also catered to children.

The event was family friendly and full of presentation from local artist in the community. The first performance of the evening was done by children. Then, the next performance was done by Lord Sparkles who is a local musician in the African community. Moreover, the local

musician, Lord Sparkles was vibrant and brought joy to the entire event. After the performance, the attendees had the opportunity to eat some good African food.

Finally, it an opportunity for Ghanaian Americans and other Africans present such as Nigerians, Cameroonians and Togolese Americans who came together to celebrate. There were

numerous African dishes that were served to the participants and attendees. In addition, it was a "friendly family" event. According to John Mensah, "This event was an opportunity for the entire family to enjoy both Ghanaian and African culture. It was important to bring the entire family because it is one of the rare opportunities to have the children enjoy their African culture."



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