

Deke Pierce for Constable Precinct 2

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist



Deke Pierce

(VILLAGER NEWS) - Although the Democratic Party primaries are months away, some individuals have already announced their intention to run for office. Recently, Deke Pierce stated he plans to run for Travis County Constable Precinct 2. With the current Constable seeking re-election, this seat will be contested.

Deke Pierce, a husband, father, and grandfather, has an extensive background in law enforcement. He has served as a Texas Peace Officer for over 27 years and retired from the Travis County Sheriff Of-

fice. Upon retirement, he worked at the Williamson County Constable office where he learned about the civil aspect of law enforcement while working in Wilco.

Finally, if Mr. Pierce is elected, he plans to have the Constable office ally with other law enforcement agencies and be involved with the Travis County Sheriff training program. In addition, he plans to advocate pay parity between the civilian staff and the Constable deputies. Furthermore, Pierce intends to hold more hearings with the local population.

Black Directors Brought In a Combined \$1.3 Billion at the Box Office in 2018

By Defender News Service

(DEFENDER NEWS) - 2018 revealed Black audiences' box office power, proving to the gatekeepers of Hollywood that Black film, with Black casts, are indeed financial viable. This year, there were more films by Black filmmakers to receive theatrical release than ever before.

In 2018, the domestic box office hit an all-time high of \$11.383 billion and the top ten feature films by Black directors accounted for a combined \$1.363 billion of that domestic figure.

Ryan Coogler's Black Panther grossed \$700M domestically and became the #3 all-time top domestic-grossing film. The film has grossed more than \$1.3 billion at the global box office and has become a cultural phenomenon.

Ryan Coogler's film earned three Golden Globe nominations — Best Original Score, Best Original Song and most notably, Best Motion Picture for the drama category.

Though receiving a Golden Globe nomination is not always a predicate for an Academy Award nomination

or win, most of the time, the Golden Globes do provide an indication as to how the Academy Awards will shape up.

Nonetheless, the film will stand in history and continue to be a cultural phenomenon, with or without an Oscar nod. #WakandaForever.

Steven Caple Jr.'s Creed II, which has brought in \$109.6M to date and is expected to surpass the first installment o Creed box office figure of directorial \$109.7M. The sequel has also made been a huge success at the global box office, earning \$138M.

Plus, Creed II is the first film of the Rocky franchise to be released theatrically in China and will guarantee more financial success given that China is the second-largest movie market in the world

It's been a while since Spike Lee has been a part of a major Hollywood film. In 2006, the studio-backed heist drama Inside Man was perceived by film critics to be a radical departure for the filmmaker and was perceived as apolitical (though the film is not devoid of racial poli-

UP SZN Black History

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

(VILLAGER NEWS) - For Black History month, Up SZN held their annual Black Photo-shoot at the Texas State Capitol. According to Up SZN, "the idea is to get as many people as possible for a group photo, highlighting what makes us unique in our own way. The only criterion was that a person dresses in all black. There will be one group photo with just the men and one group photo with just the women."

About sixty-five people attended this



Up SZN Crew. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

event, which surpassed last years numbers. The crowd gathered to take pictures, meant to reflect on the beauty of being African American. Once the photo session ended, everyone had the opportunity to mix and mingle.

According to UP

SZN, "we exist to empower the culture through the positive representation of the creative arts. With so much negativity in the mainstream of the culture, our goal is to provide an entity that highlights all the good that is often

overlooked. Through our philanthropic initiatives, curated playlists, special events, and Shop SZN, we will empower individuals to inspire the world through the culture that has been the foundation of this world's creativity."

Central Texas Legislative Meeting

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

(VILLAGER NEWS) - On February 2, 2019, a Central Texas Legislative town-hall meeting took place. The town-hall involved all Texas Representatives who cover the Central Texas area, which includes: Travis County, Hay County, and Williamson County. In attendance were; TX Representatives John Bucy, Sheryl Cole, Vikki



Pictured left to right are: Representative Israel and Bucy. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

Goodwin, Gina Hinojosa, Donna Howard, Celia Israel, Eddie Rodriguez,

James Talarico, and Erin Zwiener.

During the event,

Representatives addressed various issues and themes that are being debated at the Texas Legislature. Such as education reform and health care. Majority of the Central Texas delegation believes that there's a need to fix our educational system. Rep. Bucy expressed the need of having Medicare for all Texans. The Town-hall followed with a Q & A from the audience.

Finally, Democrats were elected to the State legislature from the "Blue Wave" effect. Now that they've made significant gains in the Legislature, they can effectively counter some Republican bills.



tics by any means).

Inside Man was a blockbuster and had taken in \$48.169M domestically. Lee's latest film BlackKkKlansman ran close behind his 2006 hit, earning \$48.21M domestically and receiving 4 Golden Globe nods.

Antoine Fuqua teamed up with Denzel Washington again to direct the sequel to the action-packed The Equalizer 2 acquired \$102M at the national box office. The two have previously linked up for the films, Training Day and The Magnificent Seven.

Though some took to Twitter to point out

the lack of Black women directors featured on the list, Ava DuVernay's retweet of the article assured that we can expect to see more Black women filmmakers appear on similar lists in the near future.

DuVernay's success has also made serious ground for women and particularly women of color to take their spot at the directors' chair as well as work behind the scenes.

One only has to look at her female-led directors' initiative — a kind of informal enacting of affirmative action by DuVernay for women

to direct episodes of her series Queen Sugar.

DuVernay became the first Black woman to direct a \$100M feature with A Wrinkle In Time. The visually dazzling film adaptation of the Madeleine L'Engle young-adult novel grossed \$100M domestically.

Overall, 2018 has been a huge year for DuVernay. The pioneering filmmaker inked a multi-year and multi-million dollar deal with the television branch of the historic heavyweight Hollywood studio, Warner Bros.

She is directing and

serving as executive producer to the scripted miniseries on the Central Park Jogger case, called Central Park Five which is set to be released next year. Plus, two months ago, it was announced that DuVernay will direct a Netflix documentary on the legendary artist and musical genius, Prince.

Other Black talent to feature in the top ten list of directors was Tyler Perry's Acrimony, which brought in \$43M at the box office and starred Taraji P. Henson, as well as Charles Stone III's Uncle Drew, which grossed \$42M domestically.