

African Business Community Serves Up A Taste of the Soul



Pictured left to right: Stephanie Abaka Ncho, Kemmica Green and Candance Poindexter. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

Saturday, June 10, 2017, the African Business of Texas held the "Taste of the Soul". According to the ABN the Taste of the Soul was an event that was meant to bring or build a bridge between the African American community and the African Diaspora community of Central Texas. Unlike other events

that feature one culture, the Taste of the Soul showcases two cultures side by side. It brought a time of unity between the two groups.

Moreover, the "Taste of the Soul" featured some African food and juices; while also featuring some Soul food. For instance, the African dish served was Couscous which is from North Africa. Despite the fact that it is a North African dish, it is eaten

throughout the African continent. For the African American community, the dish of Mac and Cheese was brought to the event. According to Jacqueline who brought the dish, she mentioned that, "Mac and Cheese was a served for special holidays when I was growing up." So the crowd gathered and received a cultural lesson from both communities.

Finally, the event was an opportunity for various

nonprofit organizations to reach out to other cultures. For instance, it was an opportunity for the Vanguard Project led by Ms. Green to speak about her project of bridging African Americans to the African continent. Moreover, the event was held in the parking of GVMC Church. This is a church that is seeking to attract people of all ethnicity or races, and especially African Americans.

Governor Greg Abbott Calls for a Special Session

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist



Texas Governor Greg Abbott

One week after the Texas Legislature gravely out of session, the Texas Governor has called them back into session. In other words, there will be a special session that will occur by the end of the month of June. Moreover, the Texas Governor has called them back to work on certain issues that failed during the session. These issues failed due to the fact they were extremely partisan bills.

When the Texas Legislature meets once again, they will take up numerous issues. For instance, they will focus on the "Bathroom Bill, Congressional Lines, Constitutional Interest, School Finance, and other issues. Moreover, it will give Republicans another opportunity to push for it to pass. If it passes then it would give the conservative Republicans an opportunity to brag of the fact

that they managed to pass their agenda.

Most of these bills that will be addressed in the Special Session are very controversial because it seeks more to re-assure the Republican base. For instance, the bathroom room a legislative priority for the Lieutenant Governor; consequently, this bill will be heard fast. In addition, they plan to take a congressional map redrawing due to the fact 3 federal judges have invalidate a part of the map.

Austin City Council Reject Cargill's Nomination to the Bond Board

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During the Austin City Council meeting, the council members rejected Council Member Ora Houston's choice to the Bond Board. Moreover, a group of Liberal Downtown Democrats led by Andre Treiber launched a campaign to stop Council Member Ora Houston's choice of Michael Cargill. According to these Liberal Downtown Democrats, "Michael Cargill was a bad choice because he is Republican and a gun right activist who has engaged in numerous tirade or conspiracy theories against some elected Democrats."

Due to the campaign against Cargill, seven out two Council Members rejected the appointment. The only two people who voted for the nomination were Council Member Ellen Troxclair

and of course Council Member Ora Houston. Moreover, the vote against Cargill has baffled numerous people living in East Austin due to the fact Cargill met the requirement of the appointment. However, the only fault of Mr. Cargill is that he is a Republican.

Finally, the successful campaign of these Liberal Downtown Democrats against Cargill shows that they can push issues that can help minorities face problems such as police shootings and gentrification. However, these same Liberal Downtown Democrats have stayed quiet to the issues of police shootings of African Americans in Austin. Some wonder, "If these Liberal Downtown Democrats can move the City Council against a nominee then why don't they push for issues that will improve the lives people of color living in Austin?"



City of Austin District 1 Council Member Ora Houston

Williamson County Landfill Community Recreational Facility Fund Gives \$100,000 for Dickey Museum & Multipurpose Center in Taylor

Williamson County, TX – The Williamson County Commissioners Court approved an agreement last week to give \$100,000 from the Williamson County Landfill Community Recreational Facility Fund for the restoration of the Dickey Museum and Multipurpose Center in Taylor, Texas. The restoration project is headed by the Blackshear/O.L. Price Ex-Student Association of



Dr. James Lee Dickey

Taylor. The museum is the former home of Dr. James Dickey, a pioneer in the areas of wellness, recreation, community and diversity among the African-American community in Taylor, Texas, in the mid-1900s. He was named Man of the Year in 1952 by the Taylor Chamber of Commerce. The Dickey House, located at E. Fifth and Murphy streets, was approved for



listing in the National Register of Historic Places in September 2016.

The Dickey Museum and Multipurpose Center will provide information about African-Americans

and the contributions they made to the City of Taylor and the United States. It also will serve as a resource to teach African-American history through interactive and engaging exhibits. The master site plan includes theater space, a meeting room, a wellness center, mediation area, playscape, basketball courts, and a trail surrounding the museum that will connect to the

city's hike and bike trail. Parking will be available on properties adjacent to the house. The total cost of the project is \$508,000. The project ground breaking was held on January 23, 2016.

The Williamson County Community Recreational Facility Fund provides funding for construction, improvement or remodel of community recreational facilities in Williamson County.