

Vincent Harding Bid Farewell With Record Voter Turnout In Travis County



Vincent Harding

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

As soon as the election is over, Vincent Harding the Travis County Party Chair plans to step down immediately after

the election. According to Vincent Harding he stepping down early, in order, “to allow the opportunity for the Chair Person elect to set up their agenda.” As Vincent Harding step

down, he leaves a Travis County Democratic Party in a “good shape.” In addition, he has worked hard to bring party unity.

As Party Chair Harding leaves, he can

“brag” about the drastic increase in early voting in Travis County. According to the Travis County Clerk office, “Travis County saw the highest jump in Democratic voter turnout with over 6% of the voting age population, or 56,426 voters, showing up to vote early, a 4 percentage-point increase from the 2014 election.” In other words, this is the highest voter turnout in Travis County.

Not only has Party seen a drastic increase of voters but also has managed to fill numerous precinct chair vacancies. Moreover, precinct chairs role and duties are the following: mobilize voters in their neighborhood; and also help implement party policies. Consequently, filling these vacancies has helped the party raise its profile in Travis County. Finally, Chairman Harding worked hard at bringing party unity and support civil right issues.

Togolese Association of Central Texas Holds Quarterly Meeting

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist



Pictured left to right are: Mrs. Foadey, Julienne and and Mr Foadey. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

Saturday, March 3, 2018, the Togolese Association of Central Texas held both its quarterly meeting but also a birthday celebration for one its member. During these meetings, it is an opportunity for the community to come together to discuss issues that are key to the community. In addition of focusing on the issues, but it is an opportunity to celebrate and socialize with each other. Moreover, the group serves as a “safety net” for numerous in the Togolese American Association.

Over the years, there has been a growing Togolese American community in Central Texas. As a result, this growing Togolese-American community has sought to organize itself by starting an association. According to the leaders of the Togolese American community, having a legally established association will help their organization and outreach. Moreover, their outreach will include events that seek to educate the greater Central Texas community about Togo. According to the leadership of the Togolese American community, they want to showcase Togolese culture and also grow the Togolese Community of Central Texas. Over the years, Togolese Americans have moved to the Central Texas due to numerous magnets such as jobs and education. Currently, the local universities draw Africans and Togolese to the Central Texas region. Now, they believe it is time to really organize the community.

African-American Inventors Honored at the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Feb. 27, 2018 — The National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF), founded in 1973, has honored more than 500 visionary men and women for their patented, technological achievements, and the impact their inventions have had on our society.

Lewis Latimer (1848-1928): Durable Carbon Filament for Electric Light Bulbs, Inducted in 2006

While working for the United States Electric Lighting Co. in the 1880s, Latimer made his most important innovation in electric light technology — a more durable carbon filament. His design resulted in more affordable incandescent light bulbs transforming the average American home after nightfall.

Charles Drew (1904-50): Blood Plasma Preservation, Inducted in 2015

A renowned African-American physician for his work in blood plasma preservation, Charles Drew saved the lives of hundreds of Britons during World War II, and continues to save lives today, with his work in blood plasma preservation. In 1941, he became the first African-American surgeon to serve as examiner on the American Board of Surgery.

James West: Electret Microphone, Inducted in 1999

While working at Bell Laboratories, James West and Gerhard Sessler patented the electret microphone. The microphone became widely used because of its high performance, accuracy and reliability, in addition to being a small-size, lightweight and low-cost product.

George Alcorn: X-Ray Spectrometer, Inducted in 2015

A pioneering physicist and engineer noted for his aerospace and semiconductor inventions, George Alcorn invented his x-ray imaging spectrometer during his career at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. His invention allowed for the detection of radio signatures at a more distant and accurate rate than previously possible and influenced the continued evolution of imaging devices.

For more information visit <http://www.invent.org/honor/hall-of-fame-museum/>.

Up SZN The Culture



Pictured above: Up SZN the Culture Staff. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

On February 28, the group called Up SZN (Up Sizing) The Culture finished the month of Black History with a Black History Trivia. During the Trivia it was an opportunity for two teams to compete against each other by answering question based on Black History. Not only

was it a time to learn about Black History but also an opportunity to socialize and network. According to John, “it was an opportunity to meet up with friends.”

According to UpSZN, their mission is, “to empower the culture through positive representation of the creative arts With so much negativity in the main stream culture, our

goal to provide an entity that highlights all the good that is often overlook Through our philanthropic initiatives, events, and creative outlet, we will empower individuals to inspire the world through the culture that has been the foundation of this world’s creativity.

Up SZN believe that “It’s a way of life; a representation of the posi-

tive upcoming of the culture. Furthermore, UP SZN members are full of ambition, which, they believe that the “sky is the limit for them to reach their goal and mission.” In addition, a group like UP SZN can increase the African American (Black) visibility in the Central Texas area. Finally, UP SZN plans to organize more event in the Central Texas area.

OPINION: The Student Loan Debt Crisis is a Civil Rights Issue

By Wade Henderson (Founding Board Member, Center for Responsible Lending)

From attacks on voting rights to police killings of unarmed civilians and growing inequities in earnings and wealth, the civil rights gains of the past six decades are facing threat after threat. But on one front in the fight for full equality—meaningful access to higher education—is particularly urgent. With 65 percent of jobs soon requiring more than a high school diploma, the need is greater than ever,

especially for African Americans and other communities of color.

More than 50 years ago, Congress passed the Higher Education Act (HEA), intending to open the doors to higher education by providing students with financial assistance and low-interest loans. Conventional wisdom has traditionally held two things: 1) Higher education is the great equalizer; 2) It is okay to take out debt for the tickets to upward mobility: a college education and a home mortgage. These life decisions—and the struggles and sacrifices that made them possible—helped to build and grow the Black middle class.

Now, aspirations for advancement are colliding with the discriminatory legacy of the financial cri-



Wade Henderson

sis. Our country’s student loan bill has skyrocketed. Student debt is now the second-largest source of household debt after housing. Forty-four million Americans have \$1.4 trillion in student loan debt. One reason: Since the 1990s, the average tuition and fees at our universities

have jumped an average of 157–237 percent depending on the type of institution.

Fixing our broken student debt system should not mean un-doing years of progress since the HEA or saddling marginalized groups with a lifetime of debt. Instead, we need to hold student loan servicers, debt collectors, and institutions of all kinds accountable for their practices. Helping college graduates to repay their loans isn’t the only challenge. The challenge is enabling and empowering all our young people to make their fullest contribution to our country.

Wade Henderson is a founding board member of the Center for Responsible Lending. You can follow Wade on Twitter: @Wade4Justice.