

Lakesha Small For Manor Independent School District

by Tsoke
(Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

As the midterm election approaches, there will be various races on the ballot. Manor Independent School District has two candidates running for Board of Trustee Place 5, it's a very contested race due to the fact it is a vacant seat, anyone has an opportunity to win. One of the contenders running for Manor ISD is Lakesha Small. Small has been very active with Manor ISD. For instance, she is a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) member; volunteer at concessions for Manor High School & Manor New Tech High School. Lakesha Small is running for several issues. According to Small, there will be a renewed focus and different prescriptive on technology and



Candidate Lakesha Small

Engineering to Manor ISD. As an engineer, Small understand what is needed to bring technology to the district.

According to Manor ISD, "being an effective school board member is no easy task particularly in today's cli-

mate of change and challenge. School board members need to be knowledgeable about the complexity of educational and social issues and carry out initiatives and directives from both federal and state governments.

County Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood Texas Votes, and Lupe Valders for Governor.

Moreover, the event featured a variety of speakers, discussing the need for change and new leadership direction in the State of Texas. This change can occur on November 6, 2018. Special guests in attendance were: Cecile Richards, former President of Planned Parenthood, Wendy Davis, Joi Chevalier for Comptroller, Vicki Goodwin for Texas House District 47, Sheryl Cole for

State Representatives and other elected officials and candidates.

In the past two weeks, people have been voting at record numbers. Moreover, the victory for either party will be based on voter turnout. Unlike other years, the Democratic party nominee for United States Senator, Beto O'Rourke has managed to fire up the base; consequently, it has increased the Democratic party turnout throughout the tickets. So far, Texas has already broken its early vote turnout.

Huston-Tillotson Career Day

By John Harris Jr.
VILLAGER Contributor

It was a big day of celebration for Huston-Tillotson when the historically-black university held its annual Charter Day in the King-Seabrook Chapel on Oct. 26. The program recognizes faculty and distinguished alumni and honors top ranking students and Honor Society students.

President Colette Pierce Burnette announced that HT recently welcomed its third-largest freshman class in school history and largest since 2010. It was another in a list of impressive accomplishments since Burnette's arrival in 2015. Last month, HU introduced the school's new Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation located about 21/2 miles from the main campus.

Additionally, Burnette told the standing-room audience that HT hosted two official SXSW events on campus last year for the first time in school history and that the City of Austin proclaimed Feb. 1 as Huston-Tillotson University Choir Day.

What's more, Huston-Tillotson's NAACP Unit 69AA was recognized for winning the NAACP's Youth and College Division's "Game Changer Issue" award for Heath Advocacy at the national organization's 109th annual convention in San Antonio last July. Derrick Lewis II, who helped bring the NAACP chapter back to HT's campus, was named Organizer of the Year for Region 6 (Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana).

Keynote speaker Robert E. Hayes Jr., a Huston-Tillotson graduate and Board of Trustees member, highlighted



President Burnette (left) and Provost Archibald Vanderpuye.

Photo credit: John Harris Jr.

the uniqueness of his alma mater. Tillotson College was chartered in 1877 as Tillotson College and Normal Institute. Many of Tillotson's first students had no formal education. In 1909, the school was renamed Tillotson College and received accreditation in 1943. Samuel Huston was chartered in 1910 and accredited in 1934. Tillotson College and Samuel Huston College merged in 1952, becoming the sole provider of higher education for African-Americans in Central Texas until the landmark case of Brown v. Board of Education in 1954. In 2005, the institution changed its name to Huston-Tillotson University.

"These two schools decided they could do more together than they could by themselves and merged," said Hayes, who became the first African-American bishop to serve two Oklahoma conferences - the Oklahoma Conference, which serves 530 churches and 250,000 members; and the Okla-

homa Indian Missionary Conferences, which represented 45 tribes and 8,000 members. "Today is an important day because it honors our beginnings. As day set aside to honor those great men and women who had the audacity to think that they could change the culture through education. We are here to celebrate their vision, their commitment to excellence, and their achievements."

Hayes told the audience that Huston-Tillotson accomplished the "impossible."

"The playing field has never been level," Hayes said. "That's OK because we have mastered and specialized in unlevel competition. And even though our classrooms may have been in the basements of churches, we are a people who know how to survive."

Embrace your history, Hayes told students.

"The world will forever try to fit you in its ready-made world of what you should be," said Hayes, whose daughter, Joya, is an HT graduate, and whose son, Ray, is a graduate of HT's Master's program. "Don't try to be somebody you're not. My message is don't be intimidated. Samuel Huston and Tillotson College faced insurmountable odds 10 years after the Civil War of trying to educate a race of people. That's why to this day Huston-Tillotson is faith-based because we were birthed in the church."

Hayes continued: "We're not the University of Texas, and we don't try to be. We are not Texas State, and we don't try to be, we are who we are and we are proud of that."

Get Out the Vote Rally

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On October 27, 2018, numerous groups allied to organize a Get Out The Vote Rally. The daytime demonstration and dance were organized to mobilize voters to go and vote. Organizers included the Travis

Pol. Adv. Pd. Vincent Harding Campaign. This campaign has agreed to comply with the contribution and expenditure limits of the Austin Fair Campaign Charter.

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VOTE EARLY FROM OCT. 22 — NOV. 2 ELECTION DAY NOV. 6, 2018

Texas Africa Fest Ends With A Bang

by Tsoke
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From October 26th to October 28, 2018, the Texas Africa Fest was held in Round Rock, Texas. It was an intense three days of networking and showcasing African Diaspora-owned businesses and culture. Not only was it a time to display industry and history but also to educate people about resources they have in their com-



Texas Africa Fest Organizers. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

munity. According to the organizers, they were well pleased with the outcome of the event.

During the festival, several workshops focused on; Immigration, Business franchising, and Advertisement. The Texas Africa Fest is an outwardly look, meaning it's time for the African community to start networking with other communities.

On a cultural aspect, the event centered on community activism. The affair served as a platform for the president of Ijaw Youth American council to share the struggles that Ijaw people face. In addition, the audience had the opportunity to learn about the various type of Nigerian and Burkinabe clothing and culture.