

# Pflugerville Chamber of Commerce Host Annual Expo



Pictured above is the Copperfield Youth Ministry group. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

Saturday, October 7, 2017, the Pflugerville chamber of commerce held their annual Expo. It was a time and opportunity for businesses and individuals who are involved with the Pflugerville chamber of commerce to showcase their products. There were a variety of businesses present at the Pflugerville chamber of commerce event, such as: insurance, banking, child care services, campaigns; and the hospitality industry.

Moreover, the Pflugerville Expo was a family friendly events, in which, the entire family could have attended. For instance, there were "Star" flight Helicopters, in which, kids and their families can get into. In addition, there were a petting zoo for children. As a result, it was an entire day of fun for everyone involved. Furthermore, the expo had various type of dance and singing performances. For instance, some of the performance came from the Highland Park Elementary Ballet Folkrico and Copperfield Ministry.

At the expo, Copperfield Ministry was able to showcase their talents and skills during the Pflugerville expo. According to its founder, "Copper Field Youth Group is an organization that allow people from various age to perform their talent. The purpose of the group is stay true to themselves, live free and enjoy the talent that is being performed without being judge and work toward perfection." Moreover, they were able to showcase their talent at the Pflugerville expo.

## AT&T RED RIVER SHOWDOWN

OCT 14 (SAT) - 2:30 P.M.  
**DALLAS, TEXAS**  
 TV: ESPN - RADIO: 104.9FM, 99.3FM  
 #ThisIsTexas #HookEm

# Jeff Marsh Enters Race for Pflugerville City Council

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

Unlike the other candidates, Jeff Marsh was born and raised in Pflugerville. According to Jeff Marsh, "I started off in Kindergarten at Pflugerville Elementary and stayed in the Pflugerville ISD until I graduated from Pflugerville High in 2005. After graduating from Texas A&M, I moved back to Pflugerville and started in the home-building industry working for a large corporate builder. Just like his challenger, Jeff Marsh currently runs the operations for his family's business, a Pflugerville based, residential and light commercial, construction company.

On November 7th, Pflugerville residents will be voting to elect their City Council Members. In this upcoming election, all the seats are being contested.

Moreover, these contested seats are usually a good sign that a community such as Pflugerville residents is very engaged in their community. In Place 2, Adeline Binh Bui plans to challenge the incumbent Jeff Narsh. Al-



Jeff Marsh

though Jeff Marsh (incumbent) comes from a very politically engaged family, Ms. Adeline Binh Bui believes that she has an opportunity to win.

Finally his election cycle will be crucial one due to the fact the next

city council members will determine the direction of Pflugerville. As Pflugerville seeks to transition from a "sleepy suburb of Austin into its own identity" then the next City Council will play a vital role to direct the growth of the city.

# Enjoy a Taste of West Africa



Pictured left to right are: Sheldon, Leviticus, Vonti, Ozi, Miriam and Ousmane. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

Austin, TX - Afrique 365 held their last Taste of West Africa in Pflugerville. According to the organizers, "we held 4 different Taste of Africa throughout Central Texas; but this one is the last one for the 2017 year." Furthermore, the organizers mentioned that the "Taste of Africa featured these two dishes from two different African countries: such as Nigeria and the Ivory Coast. In addition, they mentioned that "the Taste of Africa" is an important for people to learn about cul-

ture through the food.

For this food tasting, the organizers choose two African countries. Moreover, these countries that were choosing were the Ivory Coast and Nigeria. Nigeria was choosing due to the fact that country just celebrated its independence. On the other hand, the Ivory Coast was choosing due to the fact that its dishes are knowing throughout the West African region. During the event, there were two dishes, which were Moi-Moi from Nigeria and Attieke from the Ivory Coast.

According to the or-

ganizers, the "Taste of Africa" is an opportunity to bring the African culture closer to the greater Central Texas community. It is an opportunity to break down the walls between the recent waves of African immigrants with those from the larger community. As "Americans" get to taste eat more African food, they will be inclined to learn about the African continent. According to one attendee, "these Taste of Africa help me seeks to learn more about the African continent and culture. Moreover, they plan to hold more food tasting in 2018.

# Airbnb Campaigns to Increase Diversity on Its Platform

By Freddie Allen (Editor-In-Chief, NNPA Newswire)

Airbnb, the housing marketplace that connects travelers with hosts in 65,000 cities and 191 countries worldwide, is now on a mission to increase awareness about the company's economic benefits in communities of color.

It's part of an ongoing effort to increase diversity and eliminate discrimination on the platform that launched during the Great Recession.

In 2015, the company came under fire when Harvard researchers reported widespread discrimination by Airbnb hosts.

"Real Airbnb users of color said they weren't surprised," SmarterTravel.com reported. "Black users shared stories of repeated cancellations and failed booking attempts, using #AirbnbWhileBlack on social media."

Janaye Ingram, the director of national partnerships for Airbnb, said that since those revelations were made public, the company recruited former Attorney General Eric Holder and Laura Murphy, the director of the ACLU's Washington Legislative Office, as consultants to examine the claims of discrimination.

The home-share rental platform imple-



PHOTO CAPTION: Janaye Ingram, the director of national partnerships for Airbnb (left), and actor and humanitarian Danny Glover want to educate Blacks about the economic benefits of hosting on Airbnb. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

mented a "Community Commitment" pledge and an "Open Doors" policy, which allows anyone who feels like they've been discriminated against to issue a claim to the company.

"We will rebook guests immediately to another listing, begin investigating the claim of discrimination and remove the host from the community," if the claim is proven to be true, said Ingram.

Ingram continued: "Racism exists in this world, but the company is striving to do everything that it can to prevent anyone from being discriminated against for their disability, race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. We're continuing that work and it's a lot of work, but we have a commitment to do it."

Actor and humanitarian Danny Glover, who joined the campaign to

highlight Airbnb's success stories in communities of color, said that, "If we have an ally, if we have a company that is willing to be a part of the world that we all want to see, it's important that we engage ourselves with that process."

Glover continued: "[Airbnb] understands the position that they are in as a responsible company and as responsible citizens, as well. If [Airbnb] is willing to stand up and face those challenges in a way in which I think they're capable of, then something special will happen here."

Glover said that he's met African American and Latinx Airbnb hosts that were able to make ends meet, help pay for college tuition and save for retirement; the hosts are also forming new bonds and communities for support.