

Outgoing Huston-Tillotson president knows it's wise to 'leave the party when you're having fun'

By Jennifer Stayton | KUT 90.5

(KUT) - When Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette arrived on the Huston-Tillotson University campus in Austin for a job interview to be president in 2015, she was there for practice. Her mentor had told her it would be good experience to apply and go through the search process. But she says not long after she stepped on campus, she knew this was for real.



Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette

"The campus has a magic to it," Pierce Burnette says. "And when I met with the students — they were the third meeting of the day — I was sold."

Pierce Burnette says she went back to her home in Ohio and told her husband: "I have got to get that job." And she did.

Pierce Burnette's first day as president and CEO of Huston-Tillotson University was July 1, 2015. Her last day is Thursday. She will next take over as president and CEO of Newfields (the Indianapolis Mu-

seum of Art) on Aug. 1. She says she was ready "to have another chapter in my life" and wanted to give the new H-T president "the opportunity to get to know the city and to most of all get to know the university" before launching a planned capital campaign.

Pierce Burnette says making the decision to leave was tough, but she

took her mentor's advice to "leave the party when you're having fun and know when it's time to pass the baton."

Pierce Burnette says she is leaving H-T in a good position and although she doesn't think Austin fully appreciates it and fully understands "the jewel that it is," she does believe the city appreciates H-T more than it did in 2015.

R. Kelly Sentenced to 30 years in Federal Prison

By Stacy M. Brown | NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

He famously sang, "I can believe I can fly," and many of his devoted fans believed him.

But on Wednesday, a federal judge clipped the wings of music superstar R. Kelly sentencing him to 30 years in prison for racketeering and sex trafficking charges that stemmed from years of assaulting numerous young girls in several states.

Many of those young girls were fans whom the singer betrayed.

Some were featured in two damning documentaries, the 2019 "Surviving R. Kelly" and the 2020 "The Reckoning," which exposed his crimes.

"You left in your wake a trail of broken lives," Federal Judge Ann Donnelly told Kelly, whose full name is Robert Sylvester Kelly. The judge conceded that the abuse Kelly suffered as a child

may have contributed to his crimes.

"It may explain, at least in part, what led to your behavior," Donnelly said. "It most surely is not an excuse."

Kelly's attorney, Jennifer Bonjean, said her client accepts that "he is a flawed individual."

"But he is not this one-dimensional monster that the government has portrayed, and the media has portrayed," Bonjean asserted.

Several victims vociferously disagreed.

"It's been 23 years since we knew each other, and you've victimized a lot of girls since then," one of Kelly's victims said in court. The victim has chosen to be known by Jane Doe instead of her real name.

"Now it's your turn to have your freedom taken from you," she said.

In September 2021, a

federal jury returned nine guilty verdicts against the singer, including the most severe racketeering charge and eight counts of Mann Act violations, defined as taking minors across state lines to commit a crime.

The trial included testimony from individuals involved in helping Kelly cover up his marriage to then 15-year-old Aaliyah. According to witnesses, the pair married after Kelly believed Aaliyah had become pregnant.

Following sentencing, authorities planned to move Kelly from New York to Chicago, where he's facing another federal trial later this summer on charges of child pornography and criminal obstruction.

"We were prepared for it," Bonjean said of the sentence. "We are now prepared to fight this appeal."

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US places \$3.2 billion order for updated COVID-19 vaccines for fall

BY PETER SULLIVAN | THE HILL

(THE HILL) - The Biden administration announced Wednesday that is paying \$3.2 billion for 105 million doses of an updated Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for a fall campaign, pending Food and Drug Administration signoff on the new formula.

The order is a major step in the administration's efforts to move forward with a new vaccination push this fall, in a bid to blunt a renewed COVID-19 surge when the weather turns colder in much of the country.

The updated vaccine is expected to target the omicron variant, with the goal of providing improved protection.

The new doses are expected to begin to be delivered "as soon as late summer 2022 and continue into the fourth quarter of this year," Pfizer said in a news release.

The Biden administration is using money that it was forced to cut from other areas of its COVID-19 response after Congress did not act on the administration's request for new funds.

The administration warns that it has had to cut money from important areas like maintaining testing capacity and doing research on improved vaccines, such as "pan-coronavirus" shots that work on multiple variants.

The White House is still pushing for more money from Congress, but prospects on Capitol Hill are not looking particularly hopeful amid a continued stalemate. Republicans have pushed back on the urgency for the funds.

White House COVID-19 response coordinator Ashish Jha said that "despite months of warnings from the Administration on the consequences of a lack of funding," due to Congress's lack of action, Wednesday's order "will not purchase enough vaccines to offer one of these new booster shots to every adult and unfortunately, comes at the expense of continued funding for other critical pandemic response needs like testing manufacturing and domestic vaccine manufacturing."

The order placed on Wednesday, though, will ensure the country is not completely lacking in updated vaccines for the fall.



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC) DISTRICT is requesting qualification responses from interested or qualified firms for the purposes of selecting a respondent to provide **Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) Professional Engineering Services for the following solicitation.**

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) > No. 925-22-73-00-S-KR-RFQ

All qualification responses must be submitted to the Procure to Pay (P2P) Department by no later than **on Monday, July 25th, 2022, at 12:00, p.m., Central Standard Time (CST).** See solicitation for details.

Solicitation documents are available on the ACC P2P's website at: <http://www.austinctx.edu/offices/purchasing/advertised-solicitations> or at <https://go.scoutrfp.com/rfps/public/366977>. If you are not able to view this solicitation, please send an email to the Buyer/Sole Point of Contact for the solicitation as soon as possible.

Only electronically transmitted responses will be accepted by the date and time indicated above, unless otherwise stated in the solicitation documents.

ACC will host a pre-proposal conference on **Monday, July 11th, 2022 at 2:30 p.m. via Google, Virtual Meeting.** See solicitation documents for details.

Notice: ACC Business Offices and campus locations will be closed for the College's observance of Independence Day on **Monday, July 4th, 2022.**

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS**

**TO UNKNOWN HEIRS OF RHEU DELL STRADFORD HOUSE,
DECEASED
IN PROBATE COURT NUMBER 1, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS.**

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-21-002480

RHONDA DIANE HOUSE filed an **FIRST AMENDED APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP AND FOR LETTERS OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION** in the above-numbered and -entitled estate on **April 27, 2022**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **Rheu Dell Stradford House, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

All unknown heirs and any other persons interested in this estate are cited to appear before this Court **by filing a written contest or answer** to this application if they want to do so. The Court may act on this application at any time at the Probate Court #1, Probate Courthouse, 200 West 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, on or after 10:00 a.m. on the first Monday after the expiration of ten days from the publication date of this citation. Therefore, to ensure consideration, any contest, answer, or other response must be filed with the Travis County Clerk in cause number **C-1-PB-21-002480**, styled **IN THE ESTATE OF Rheu Dell Stradford House, DECEASED** *on or before the above-noted date and time.*

If this citation is not served within 90 days after it is issued, it must be returned unserved.

Given under my hand and seal on this the 28th day of April, 2022,

REBECCA GUERRERO, County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
200 West 8th Street, Ste. 140
Austin, TX 78701
P.O. Box 149325
Austin, Texas 78714-9325

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