



# The Villager



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January 8, 2010



**RAPPIN'**  
Tommy Wyatt

## It's time for a summit of our leaders!

Our young people are dragging us in to the future, kicking and screaming. I am getting pretty tired of our senior citizens (old people) constantly complaining about the decisions our off springs are making. And we will not let them make their own decisions. We want them to get our approval first, and when they go on without that approval, we complain loudly.

I remember when Sidney Poitier made the movie "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" it was ahead of its time. And apparently it is still ahead of its time today. The movie was ahead of its time in the 1960's when Hollywood dared to show an interracial couple on the screen. Poitier portrayed a Black Doctor who was in love and engaged to be married to an Anglo woman. And the movie centered around her taking him to meet her parents. His parents also came along to help show the couple just how unwise it was to pursue this relationship. The Anglo parents also did the same with their daughter.

Neither was successful in changing the young peoples minds. It could have been the story of Barack Obama's parents. The story was pretty much the same. And look what happened their off spring - he became the leader of the free world.

In the movie, at one point when Poitier was fed up with his parents being unable to accept the situation, he burst out in anger (and I paraphrase) "the Black man will not be free until all of the old people had died up and died." It was not a pleasant thing to hear, but forty plus years later, we still have people who are caught up in the same old tired ways of thinking.

We need a summit between the old and new generation in order for us to come to some kind of understanding about how we are going to proceed in the future.

The Civil Rights movement had its place as did the Black Power movement. They both had their place in bringing us to our present situation. But, we must remember that the leaders of those movements were young people who dared to challenge the status quo. However, they did not have the support of the elders. That is what our young people need today. They need our support, not our brand leadership. If we did your jobs, we prepared them to be leaders, just as we were.

## HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCE ITS SEVENTH ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S MASKED SCHOLARSHIP GALA



Grammy-Award Winner Will Downing to Perform

Grammy Award winner Will Downing, performing from his new "Classique" release, will showcase an evening to remember during Huston-Tillotson University's Seventh Annual President's MASKED Scholarship Gala. The gala will be held on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at 6 p.m. at the Sheraton Austin Hotel, 701 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street.

Downing, with his flirty, up-tempo style and mid-tempo ballads, is known as the "prince of sophisticated soul." Dinner, dancing, and a silent auction round out the evening that also features Starr Entertainment's Rayvon with Platinum. The Mankind Assisting Students Kindle Educational Dreams (MASKED) event has generated more than one million dollars for the University and featured artists such as Regina Belle, Jennifer Holliday, Najee, and Pieces of a Dream. In addition, celebrity guest appearances from Earvin "Magic Johnson, Judge Mablean Ephriam, and Emmanuel Lewis have headlined the University's signature event.

A mask is required to attend the black-tie affair. For more information, or to make reservations, call 512.505.3073 or visit the Web site at [www.htu.edu](http://www.htu.edu).

## Cast of "The Color Purple" comes to East Austin



The public is invited for a brown bag lunch with cast members from the production of the Color Purple on Thursday, January 14, from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina Street, 78702. The Austin Public Library is offering this event in collaboration with the Texas Performing Arts at the University of Texas at Austin and the George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center.

OPRAH WINFREY PRESENTS THE COLOR

PURPLE, a soul-stirring musical based on the classic Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and the Oscar-nominated film by Steven Spielberg. It is the unforgettable and inspiring story of a woman named Celie, who triumphs over tremendous odds to find joy in life, and her true inner beauty. The musical will be performed at the Bass Concert Hall from January 12 - 17, 2010.

For more information please call 512-974-7400 or visit [www.cityofaustin.org/library](http://www.cityofaustin.org/library).

## Johnson-Bentsen-Richards Dinner draws overflow crowd



JOINING THE PARTY- Among the party regulars at the dinner included (l to r) Bertha Means, Amelia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Lulu Flores and Ada Hardin. Staff photo

By T. L. Wyatt, Editor  
The Villager

The Travis County Democratic Party hosted it's Annual Filing Day Dinner, Monday night, January 4, 2010, the last day for filing for this year's primary elections. The dinner has been a long time tradition in Travis County. According to Travis County Democratic Party Chair Andy Brown, "the dinner is a large part of why our Coordinated Campaign is so Successful each cycle."

The year, the party is starting a new tradition. This year is the First Annual Johnson Bentsen Richards Dinner. The dinner is being named in honor of President Lyndon Johnson, Senator Lloyd Bentsen and Governor Ann Richards, all historic members of the State and National Democratic Party.

This years dinner was held at the Four Seasons hotel featuring congressman

Lloyd Doggett and State Senator Kirk Watson and featured representatives from the three honored families. The dinner was reportedly one of the largest in its history. The crowd overflowed our of the banquet room into the hall way.

One of the special speakers for the evening was B. A. Bentsen (Mrs. Lloyd Bentsen) who gave some very funny stories about Johnson, Bentsen and Richards. Lloyd and B. A. Bentsen were married for 63 years. Special awards were given to each family.

The final highlight of the evening was the introduction of all of the candidates who will appear on the March Primary ballot. It the largest group of candidates that have been on the ballot for a number of years, when the Democrats ware in charge in Texas.

Several of the statewide candidates were on hand, in-

cluding Farouk Shami - candidate for Governor and Jeff Weems - candidate for Texas Railroad Commissioner.

According to the Andy Brown, the dinner raised more than \$180,000 that will be used towards the coordinated campaign for the Democrats.

The March Primary election is March 2, 2010 and the deadline for getting registered to vote in that election is Monday, February 1.

The role of the party is to help candidates in the November elections, in what is called the coordinated campaign. The fight will be between the Democrats and the Republicans to see who is more successful in getting their candidates elected. For the last few years, the Republican Party has controlled Texas and is hoping to do so again in November. However, the Democrats feel that this could be their year.

## Congressman Doggett Nominates Westlake High School's Kyle Hunt to Attend United States Military Academy at West Point



(L to r) Franklin Hunt, Donna, Andrew, Kyle and Congressman Lloyd Doggett

Kyle Hunt has been nominated by Congressman Lloyd Doggett to attend the United States Military Academy, and is one of the first students to be admitted as a part of the West Point Cadet class of 2014. This is the first time in Central Texas history that an Austinite has been offered early admission. According to West Point, Kyle "exemplifies the whole person student-scholar-athlete morel that West Point recruits as seen with his extra curricular Varsity sport participation, high academic standing, standardized scoring, and physical fitness." At St. Andrews, Kyle plays football, runs track, and is currently working on his Eagle Scout project.

Pictured here with brother Andrew, a junior at St. Andrew's, and his parents, Franklin, a graduate of Reagan High School and the University of Texas, who works with Glidden Paint, and Donna, a fourth grade teacher at St. Andrews.



**James Clingman**  
NNPA Columnist

(NNPA) - A term made popular by the venerable Harold Cruse, "noneconomic liberalism", is a social strategy which focuses upon political empowerment without adequate attention to economic empowerment.

The nascent NAACP, according to Dr. Khalid Tariq Al-Mansour, in his book, "Betrayal by Any Other Name", wrote into its constitution a prohibition against owning land.

Mansour goes on to describe a call by William English Walling, a White Southern journalist with liberal views on race, for the achievement of "absolute political and social equality" for Negroes. Sound familiar?

Of course, we know the founding meeting of the NAACP was called by White citizens concerned about the so-called "Negro question," after the lynching of two Black men in Springfield, Illinois. No doubt some of them were sincere about wanting to help Black folks, just like some liberal whites today; but the lingering question then and now is, "How could (can) Black people be empowered politically and socially without being empowered economically?"

The notion that Black people would achieve "equality" simply by participating in the political arena and through new social programming was, and still is, an absurdity that should have collapsed under its own weight decades ago. As Harold Cruse and others have pointed out many times, there is no power without economic power.

Thus, for 100 years the NAACP has been self-constrained by an archaic, antiquated, outdated and, most of all, anti-empowering rule that keeps the largest Black organization landless.

It's time to change our predicament. Among the many local NAACP branches, there is a need for ownership of real estate and rental properties. Imagine the economic impact of local branches own-



**By Marian Wright Edelman**  
NNPA Columnist

(NNPA) Through a series of public policies and private sector decisions, millions of mostly low-income and minority families in America have been condemned to subsist in vast urban "food deserts" that pose serious health threats to their children. Food deserts, areas with no or distant grocery stores, are generally in communities where most residents can buy food only at "convenience" stores, liquor stores, gas stations, or fast food restaurants that sell foods high in fat, sugar, and salt. The health and vitality of people living in many urban neighborhoods can differ from block to block depending on how near or far they are to a grocery store or supermarket that offers reasonably priced fresh fruits and vegetables that are

## A Case Against Noneconomic Liberalism

ing instead of renting, most of that rent being paid to other ethnic groups; that alone would result in significant economic change.

I am sure there is some rationale for what I consider to be a ridiculous and self-defeating prohibition, other than the original rule made in 1909. But the NAACP is a Black organization, isn't it? Black folks are at the bottom of the economic ladder in this country, aren't we? Land is the basis of wealth in this country, isn't it? We can change the rules, can't we? Can't we? Or, should I ask, "can we?" Or perhaps the proper question is, "may we?"

Are we in charge of our own economic destiny, or are we still dependent on the largesse of Whites who believe in noneconomic liberalism, not for themselves, of course, but for Black people? Established and initially funded by white people, many of whom were Jewish, the NAACP was purported to be the vehicle through which the "Negro" would achieve equality. However, while I daresay that all Jewish civil rights, educational, and social organization are well funded and indeed have an economic infrastructure, it is interesting that an economic infrastructure was not built into the NAACP by those who founded it. Noneconomic liberalism?

Elizabeth Wright wrote an article in her newsletter, Issues and Views, titled, Black Men: They Could be Heroes. She stated, "...Black men were not only economically emasculated, they were taught that playing an economically aggressive role was antithetical to Black progress—since the goal of integration with whites was paramount." Wright went on to say, "It is this non-economic approach to Black problems...which ultimately led to the loss of black men's authority within their own communities—for there is a vital link between economic dominance and credible authority. The 1960s should have been the beginnings of our most economically creative period in America. Instead, Blacks were encour-

aged to leave such tasks to others and to settle for the fruits to be gained in the long, unpredictable march to 'equality.'"

That strategy is so reminiscent of 1909 during the establishment of the NAACP; and it has worked until this day. Give political access to Black people without the benefit of economic strength and leverage, and the result will sustain itself: A permanent underclass of people, laborers rather than owners, consumers rather than producers. I am not trying to pick a fight with the NAACP, rather I am simply suggesting it take a look at our situation and make appropriate changes that will economically empower our people. How can we expect young leadership to emerge or even engage on a local level, if there is no economic benefit for them and their constituents?

Young National NAACP President, Benjamin Jealous, makes a pretty decent salary. Why not create salaries for local Presidents who work just as hard for the NAACP? If we want new leadership, young, enthusiastic, energetic leadership, we need to throw out noneconomic liberalism. One should not have to take a vow of poverty to work for nonprofits that help Black people. Non-profit does not mean "broke." Just ask the Catholics and the Jewish people.

Tyler Perry gave the National NAACP \$1 million. I would encourage others to do the same for our local branches, and I also encourage our local branches to be creative in the way they raise and spend funds. Stop renting offices and being totally dependent on traditional avenues for financial support; find ways to become self-sufficient; if you are prevented from buying a building, at least rent your office space from a Black landlord, if possible.

We must change our 100 year-old acceptance of noneconomic liberalism. It has not worked and it never will work. It will only keep us "in our place" and prevent Black people from achieving true economic empowerment.



**By Nicole C. Lee**  
NNPA Columnist

(NNPA) - I have dedicated many NNPA pieces to the topic of violence against Afro-descendants in Colombia. Unfortunately violence, intimidation and injustice continue to dominate conversations about our brothers and sisters of African descent in Colombia, who conservatively make up 26 percent of the national population. Recent months have seen a marked increase in violence and threats against Afro-Colombians throughout the country, particularly in coastal communities where high concentrations of Afro-Colombians reside.

Multiple conditions have created an environment for such heightened pressures against Afro-descendants in Colombia. The pending U.S.-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has led to the preemptive displacement of thousands of Afro-Colombians. It is estimated that between 1995 and 2005, 65% of Afro-Colombians living in supposedly protected ancestral homelands were forced to flee their lands. This exodus has been the result of armed conflict and corporate development. Such displacement has only exacerbated the marginal existence many people already were facing.

In September, the State Department granted Colombia human rights certification, affirming that improvements have been made by Colombia's armed services.



**George E. Curry**  
NNPA Columnist

Now that we have ushered in not only a new year, but a new decade, I want to share my New Decade's wish list. I hope:

**PRESIDENT OBAMA** stops gutting his domestic programs in an effort to appease Republicans who have no intention of supporting him on anything. GOP leaders are lower than a snake's belly and it is useless to try to satisfy them or their No.1 ally, Joe-the-Traitor Lieberman. President Obama correctly states that he is the president of all of the people. And that includes African Americans. We're not asking him to be a Black president, just a president who realizes the needs of Blacks should be targeted just as he targeted the needs of Wall Street, banks and the automotive industry.

**DEMOCRATS** exercise the power they have accumulated. With a 60-40 edge in the United States Senate, counting two independents who regularly caucus with Democrats, a 257-178 margin in the House of Representatives, and a Democrat in the White House, it's time for Democrats to stop acting like wimps. After pleading for power, including elevating a

## Hoping for Change: U.S. Policy Toward Colombia

The certification meant the Colombian Government and armed services were "meeting statutory criteria related to human rights and paramilitary groups." Such a certification demonstrates the important position the country plays in U.S. foreign policy priorities in Latin America. The State Department views Colombia as key to securing U.S. interests in the region. This certification, part of the foreign aid bill, allows the U.S. to provide military aid to the Colombian army. Despite continued violence, and spikes in intimidation and attacks against Afro-descendant and Indigenous communities, the State Department claimed that the "Colombian government has made significant efforts to increase the security of its people and promote respect for human rights by its Armed Forces."

Reports from Afro-Colombian civil society organizations paint a very different picture. Advocacy and organizing by Afro-descendant communities have always been met with resistance across the Colombian political spectrum, but in recent months violent opposition has only increased.

A recent United Nations report noted that while the Colombian government has made some progress, "a climate of fear pervades the country's judicial system due to attacks and threats against the judiciary, victims and witnesses." Colombia continues to have some of the highest impunity rates in the world where human rights violations are seldom prosecuted. Access to a fair and speedy trial is also problematic for Afro-descendant and

Indigenous persons who are often held for long periods without any trial or charges brought. Institutional factors including socio-economic conditions, coupled with massive displacement from constitutionally protected lands, make Afro-descendants particularly at risk for unfair jailing.

Such threats have not been the only recent attacks against Afro-Colombian communities.

Conversations spurred by the COP-15 Copenhagen global climate summit shed light on the increasing deterioration of Colombia's coastline and the links between worsening environmental degradation and the security situation.

Acute weather events, including a massive flood in Tumaco, Colombia in February 2009 left about 30,000 people homeless. In addition to existing threats by armed groups, including the Colombian military, and the impacts of multi-national fumigation efforts to eradicate coca plantations, the flood has only added to the challenges faced by many historically marginalized communities.

I was happy to hear recently that Gay McDougall, a long term advocate for social and racial justice work and the UN Independent Expert of Minority Issues will be visiting Colombia early next year to assess the situation facing Afro-Colombian communities. It is my hope that such a visit will bring further international attention to the pressing issues. You can help by keeping your elected officials informed about the situation facing Afro-Colombians and the ways that U.S. policy needs to change.

## Wish List for 2010 and Beyond

record number of African Americans to committee chairs and subcommittee chairs, Democrats finally have power. They need to act like it.

**REPUBLICANS** revert to the big tent philosophy that characterized the party before it became captive of Right-wing zealots. At its best, the GOP embraced liberal New York City Mayor John Lindsay, progressive Senators Lowell Weicker of Connecticut and Edward Brooke of Massachusetts along with conservative GOP lawmakers. It also embraced former Assistant Secretary of Labor Art Fletcher and Transportation Secretary Bill Coleman, two ardent supporters of affirmative action. It now appears that in order for any African American to be accepted by the GOP leadership, he or she must be a vocal critic of affirmative action. Contrary to GOP assertions, Blacks are not in love with the Democratic Party. Rather, Republicans who routinely oppose programs that benefit people of color offer no viable alternative.

**CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS** return to being outsiders instead of insiders. Many of our leaders have become skills for the Obama administration. Instead of presenting the usual "Black Agenda," their top agenda item these days seem to be getting an invitation to some White House event. And when they don't get invited, they profess to be personally offended. Jesse Jackson, for example, recently whined about not getting invited to a White House conference on

jobs. In the eyes of many Blacks, Jackson rendered himself irrelevant when he threatened to cut off certain body parts of the president to be. For Blacks already suffering from Jesse Fatigue, that was the last straw. And no one should blame Obama for not wanting Jesse Jackson around to rain on his parade or, even worse, neuter him.

**THE JOSHUA GENERATION** - the young leaders-in-waiting - should find another name. I can understand their wanting to put some distance between them and the various icons who pose as the Moses of the Civil Rights Movement, but Joshua died at the age of 110. Therefore, Joshua is not synonymous with youth. Young people and not-so-young people such as Al Sharpton should stop complaining that the Jesse Jacksons and Julian Bonds of the world should step aside so that they can more effectively provide national leadership. Neither Jesse Jackson nor Julian Bond rose to leadership by waiting their turn. In fact, if you had studied history, you would have known that they fought for their place at the civil rights table. And if you are the leader you proclaim to be, you will not wait for their permission to assert your talents.

If we do half of the things I've proposed, I am sure we will indeed have a happy New Year and prosperous decade.



# BridgeBuilders service to be held at Wesley UMC

# Memorial In Massachusetts for Anti-Apartheid Hero

Special to the NNPA to the GIN(GIN) - Dennis Brutus, world-renowned political organizer, a former poet-in-residence at Worcester State College and one of Africa's most celebrated writers, died early on Dec. 26 in Cape Town in his sleep, aged 85. Even in his last days, Brutus was busy in the environmental movement and promoting reparations to black South Africans from corporations that benefited from apartheid. Born in Harare in 1924, Brutus moved with his South African parents to Port Elizabeth and graduated from Fort Hare University with a distinction in English and a second major in Psychology. Further studies in law were cut short by imprisonment for anti-apartheid activism.



**Dennis Brutus 1924 - 2009**  
Leading the new South African Sports Association as an alternative to white sports bodies, he was banned in 1961 under the Suppression of Communism Act. In 1963, Brutus was shot in the back while attempting to escape police custody. Memorably, it was in front of Anglo American Corporation headquarters that he nearly died while awaiting an ambulance reserved for blacks. Mr. Brutus

was jailed at Robben Island with Nelson Mandela in the mid-1960s. He helped persuade Olympic officials to ban South Africa from competition from 1964 until apartheid ended nearly 30 years later. "Dennis Brutus was a beacon of hope for human rights around the world," said Worcester State President Janelle Ms. Ashley at this week's memorial. "The entire campus community and lovers of freedom everywhere will miss his great spirit. Worcester State College is so very fortunate to be the permanent home of his books, papers and journals." He is survived by his wife May, his sisters Helen and Dolly, eight children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren in Hong Kong, England, the US and Cape Town.



**Guest Speaker - Rev. Dr. Monya Stubbs**  
The Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr. is the pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church and the Rev. Dr. Anne Fields is interim pastor at University United Methodist Church.

The Jonit Worship Service will be held at Wesley UMC, 1164 San Bernard, at 10 a.m. in the man sanctuary. The Rev. Dr. Monya Stubbs, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will be the guest preacher.

In addition, on Monday, January 18, 2010, BridgeBuilders will host its 7th Annual MLK Luncheon and dialogue Session following the march (See <http://www.mlkcelebration.com/celebration-events/march-and-festival/> for more information).

These activities will also be held at Wesley UMC in the Lower Auditorium. You don't want to miss the fellowship and the time of reflection and lively discussion. The Rev. Jeannie Whitehurst, pastor of Berkeley UMC, will be the host moderator.

The BridgeBuilders Ministry began as an outgrowth of a Lenten study on racial reconciliation in 2003 at University UMC as taught by the Rev. Rosie L. Johnson. Rev. Johnson continues to serve as spiritual advisor for BridgeBuilders. Marva McCrea (Wesley UMC) and Chad Fulton (University UMC) serve as co-chairs. Participating churches in this ministry are: Wesley UMC, University UMC, and Berkeley UMC.

BridgeBuilders churches invite you to please join us for both events. For more information contact Wesley UMC at 512/478-7007 or go to [www.wesleyunited.org/](http://www.wesleyunited.org/). You may also contact Berkeley UMC at 512/447-6633 or go to <http://www.berkeleyumc.org/> or University United Methodist Church at <http://www.uumc.org/> or call 512-478-9387.

## Focused Fathers Group meeting set for January 13

Focus Fathers Focus Group will be conducted on January 13th from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at University Hills library.

The group will complete the discussion on Single Parent Households.

Focused Fathers Project concentrates on the concept of fatherhood with the objective of identifying resources, developing programs and dispensing information beneficial to fathers in the course of fulfilling fatherhood responsibilities.

Focused Fathers Project highlights the role and responsibilities of fatherhood and also seeks to facilitate more effective fathering through development of programs and projects that inform, aide, assist, guide and direct the fathers who may stand in need of and benefit from such efforts.

The Mission of Focused Fathers Project is facilitate the effective functioning of fatherhood in the African-American community in modern society through the provision of information, the extension of education and the develop-

ment of programs and resources conducive to the fulfillment of the responsibilities of fatherhood

Please note website for Focused Fathers Project. <http://www.focusedfathersproject.org/index.html>

By: Arlene Youngblood (Wesley UMC) and Barbara Huff (Berkeley UMC)

BridgeBuilders (A ministry of Racial Reconciliation) will host an historic joint Worship Service on Sunday, January 17, 2010 at 10 a.m. between Wesley United Methodist Church (UMC) and University United Methodist Church as part of its Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration. The members of both historic churches will worship jointly not only in celebration of MLK, Jr. Day, but also as a way of affirming that our gospel is strong enough to move us - churches conceived in the sin of racism - toward the one body that Jesus Christ so dearly wants to represent him.

Wesley and University are churches that have continued to maintain a constant and significant presence in mission outreach, economic empowerment, and education. Both sister churches have been forerunners in the movement seeking racial and social justice for all. And, both churches have contributed considerably in ministry that fosters positive relationship across the faith community.



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Rev. Lois Hayes, Pastor

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**Sunday Services**

Worship Service 8:00 A.M.  
Sunday School 9:00 A.M.  
Discipleship Training 10:00 A.M.  
Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

**Wednesday**

Midweek Prayer Service 7:00 P.M.  
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Rev. Marvin C. Griffin Pastor

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## New Atlanta Mayor Takes On String of Issues

By David Stokes  
Special to the  
NNPA from the Atlanta  
Inquirer

ATLANTA (NNPA) - After a contentious battle for mayor of Atlanta, M. Kasim Reed has nearly cemented his administration and energized civic and business leaders before becoming the city's 59th chief executive this week.

A 40-year-old former Georgia state senator, Reed's inauguration was set for Monday, Jan. 4, at Atlanta's Civic Center. He ultimately won the election after Mary Norwood, the White at-Large city councilwoman who led the race for the majority of the year, sought a recount of votes upon discovery of Reed possessing less than one percent of the electorate. With the vote recount six days following the runoff election, on Dec. 1, Reed, an Atlanta native who was unknown at the race's entry, was victorious by 714 votes, with 42,839, against Norwood's 41,124. Norwood conceded the race on Dec. 9.

Reed's success sustains the string of African-American mayors of Atlanta since 1974. His no-nonsense and "non-cuddly" demeanor might prove worthy of the challenges the city faces.

Reed, a Howard University graduate, started



facing the issues head on 24 hours after runoff election night.

"There's (much) work to be done, and the city needs stability now," he said.

Reed has shown concern to communities, including his attendance at a candlelight vigil for a 21-year-old liquor store clerk who was fatally shot during a robbery. Recent robberies and other crimes led to Reed immediately naming Deputy Chief George Turner as Atlanta Police Department's interim chief. Richard Pennington retired as Atlanta's police chief on Dec. 31.

Reed appears anxious to tackle the challenges outlined in a notebook of issues provided by outgoing Mayor

Shirley Franklin. He will focus primarily on public safety, panhandling and other ills plaguing the city and its finances, said Reese McCranie, campaign communications director.

Panhandling, in par-

ticular, perturbs business leaders seeking to enhance tourism and entertainment on Peachtree St., downtown's main thoroughfare, as well as at entertainment complex Underground Atlanta.

"He will not have tolerance with aggressive panhandling, and [administering policies] will be done with compassion and humanity," McCranie stated.

For public safety, the mayor-elect has named George Turner, an APD deputy chief, as interim police chief until a search committee identifies a permanent candidate. However, Reed "prefers to have a man or

woman" from APD as chief, according to McCranie. "Finding a police chief is crucial."

Another crucial issue will be to collect revenue effectively in order to enhance city services.

Re-opening recreation centers and increasing the police department with more officers are among the priorities.

"The new mayor will go to his office to work" immediately after being sworn in, said spokesman McCranie. Also, absent will be lavish galas, but a City Hall "Open House" for the public at-large to meet and greet the new mayor.

## Dropout Prevention Summit set for January 15

On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark report, "A Nation at Risk," the country's educational system remains in peril. Across the United States, one out of every three public high school student drops out each year. A new report commissioned by America's Promise Alliance finds the local graduation rate is 71.7% — meaning that roughly one in three area teens do not graduate with their class.

According to the Education Equal Economics (E3 Alliance) 2008 Central Texas Education Profile, "Each annual class of dropouts costs Central Texas \$425+million over their lifetimes. If nothing changes in the projected high school and college dropout rate, by 2030, Central Texas will lose 85,000

jobs."

In response, the City of Austin, Travis County and the Austin Independent School District are joining together to host a Dropout Prevention Summit on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Austin Convention Center. Invited attendees and local leaders will join America's Promise Alliance in issuing a "Call to Service" to ensure youth of Austin and Travis County graduate. Additionally, the summit participants will learn about ways in which the local business community can assist in addressing the dropout crisis and help prepare young people for college, work and life — starting with the goal of earning a high school diploma. Participants

will also hear from young people who have struggled to remain in school and what lessons have been learned from those personal experiences.

Scheduled speakers include: Dr. Meria Carstarphen, Superintendent, Austin Independent School District  
Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge, Travis County  
Ben Barnes, Former Lt. Governor of Texas  
Susan Dawson, President and Executive Director, E3 Alliance.

Other partnering organizations for a "Call to Service" include Communities in Schools, State Farm, United Way Capital Area, Austin Partners in Education and The African American Men and Boys Harvest Foundation.

## 82-year-old Howard University Student Sets New Goals

By Flynn Bailey  
Special to the NNPA  
from the District Chronicles

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The tables that sit in the fellowship hall of Third Street Church of God are beginning to fill with the members who attend the weekly Wednesday night Bible Study. The Rev. Paris McIntyre is sitting at the front of the room in a grey sweat shirt, blue jeans, and tennis shoes, a Bible lays open before him and the grey bike that he rides around the city is sitting in the back corner of the room.

Rev. McIntyre is the second to testify.

"I am happy because I know that God is real," he says in a conversational tone. Those in attendance sit before him, engaged and hanging on to every word that comes out of his mouth. It has been nearly 65 years since McIntyre dropped out of John Harris High School in Harrisburg, Pa. to join the army. This year, at 82, he is Howard University's oldest student and is working on a master's degree in the School of Divinity. Seven years ago, at 75, he enrolled at Nyack College in the District of Columbia to pursue his undergraduate degrees. Getting a college degree had always been McIntyre's ambition. But he dropped out of high school to join the military because he got discouraged when he learned he would not finish high school on time.

"I did not have enough credits to finish in time because no one told me how many classes I needed to graduate," he said. "I was frustrated with the whole situation. I didn't see any future in going to school." But now, a graduate education will help him to learn more about the Bible so that he can be a better preacher. McIntyre considers divinity school to be one of the many opportunities that he has had to become educated. After nearly 25 years of preaching, a Church of God credentials board unanimously determined that McIntyre is ready to be given the title of reverend.

Before joining the military, McIntyre attended church on a regular basis.

"Once I joined the military I strayed away from church," he says. After McIntyre



Paris McIntyre, 82, says he is treated no differently than his fellow students at Howard University and Monica. McIntyre and his wife have been married for 35 years.

returned from the military and moved to Washington, D.C., he joined Third Street Church of God and immediately began working in the homeless ministry. Currently McIntyre serves on the ministerial board at his church, the Third Street Church of God. Ministering to the homeless who participate in the breakfast program at his church is a duty that McIntyre holds close to his heart.

"You can't teach people about Jesus if they are hungry," he says. McIntyre's fellow church members are also inspired by his educational journey.

"We're encourage by his zeal, determination, and love for God," says Johnnie Cheston, a member of Third Street Church of God. "I have been told that opportunity only knocks once. Whether you believe that or not, I have had at least four opportunities to become educated," writes McIntyre in his autobiographical essay entitled "My Educational Journey," an assignment that he completed at Nyack. After dropping out of high school in 1945, McIntyre joined the army and then joined the U. S. Air Force in 1948.

"I didn't have school on my mind then. So I didn't take advantage of this opportunity," says McIntyre. While in the military he passed over enrolling in night school. But in 1950 he earned a GED. After 20 years in the military, he retired in 1966 as a sergeant. McIntyre began working at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and enrolled in Washington Bible College in 1977 but could not continue because of his obligation to provide for his wife Lorna, and two children, Marsha

"I'm very proud of my dad. I'm inspired by him," says Marsha McIntyre, a graduate of Catholic University, who works as a music teacher and violinist. In 2002 McIntyre's pastor, Dr. Cheryl Sanders, who is a professor in the Howard University School of Divinity, became a founding pastor at Nyack College in Washington D.C. Sanders, pastor of Third Street Church of God, brought handouts to church to inform the congregation about the opportunity to attend Nyack.

Nyack College is an accredited, Christian centered institution that was founded in 1882. Today, there are two campuses located in New York City and Washington DC. Both serve the Christian and Missionary Alliance, a unique missionary denomination founded by A.B. Simpson, who also started Nyack College. McIntyre enrolled full time at Nyack at the age of 75. In 2006 he received an Associates degree in Christian Work and in 2008 he received a Bachelor of Science in organizational management. While at Nyack, McIntyre and his student-colleagues formed a support group and worked with each other to get assignments done.

"At Nyack, there was not that competition amongst students about who should be the better students, but we all worked together to turn out a collective answer to assignments given to us," says McIntyre. McIntyre was also the oldest student at Nyack and students and faculty were surprised at not only his age, but his sharpness.

### Upcoming H1N1 Flu Clinics

This Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, marks the beginning of the annual observance of National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW). This flu season has presented our community with a unique challenge to fight a new type of influenza -the H1N1 flu virus.

H1N1 flu is a serious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that between mid-April and November 14, 2009, 47 million people in the United States were infected with the 2009 H1N1 flu, more than 200,000 people were hospitalized, and over 9,800 people died.

Influenza is unpredictable and we do not know the likelihood of a future wave of H1N1 flu, but we do know that vaccination is the most important step in protecting against influenza. Protect yourself, your family and your community by getting vaccinated.

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department is holding 2 additional H1N1 clinics this month. Vaccines are available by appointment only and can be made by calling 972-5520.

Upcoming clinic dates are:  
Saturday, January 9, **Toney Burger Center**, 3200 Jones Road 1:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 21, **Delco Center**, 4601 Pecan Brook Drive 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Additional information can be found at [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/news\\_h1n1\\_clinics.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/news_h1n1_clinics.htm)

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➤ Citywide March & Rally | Monday, January 18, 2010

Begins at UT Campus | 23rd and Speedway 9:00 AM (Capitol program begins at 10:00 AM)

MLK Cultural Festival immediately following the march at Huston-Tillotson University on 8th and Chalmers

featuring local Austin bands. Open to the public | [WWW.MLKCELEBRATION.COM](http://WWW.MLKCELEBRATION.COM)

IMPACT TODAY FOR TOMORROW



## Austin Teacher Honored by President Obama for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching

Candy Ellard, a fifth-grade teacher at Austin's Pillow Elementary School, was among 100 educators from across the country honored today at the White House with the *Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching*.

In an East Room ceremony, President Barack Obama recognized the science and mathematics teachers whose innovative methods bring teaching to life in the classroom.

The *Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching* (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through twelfth grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Enacted by Congress in 1983, this program authorizes the President to bestow up to 108 awards each year. The National Science Foundation administers PAEMST on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Teachers honored for the PAEMST awards are identified from schools in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity. Each year, after an initial selection process at the state or territorial level, a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends about 100 teachers to receive

the award from a pool of these talented finalists.

In addition to the trip to Washington, honored teachers receive a \$10,000 award.

Ms. Ellard has taught science and mathematics at Pillow Elementary School, a TEA-rated Exemplary school — for seven years. She has been a leader on Pillow's Campus Advisory Council, which strives to raise state assessment scores. These efforts have succeeded as mathematics and science scores among the school's fifth graders have soared. Many of her fifth graders come from low-income homes.

Ms. Ellard is known for her dedication — arriving early, staying late, and tutoring any student who needs it. She has won praise for her ability to make science and mathematics interesting and understandable to a diverse group of students, and for her commitment to teaching in a high-needs district. She insists that students use scientific vocabulary and understand the concepts behind class projects.

Special experiences in Ms. Ellard's class include a walking field trip to reward students who meet schoolwork criteria, an annual fifth grade overnight camping trip, and Austin's five-day Earth Camp science program on water use. Ms. Ellard is active in implementing science and invention fairs. Her planning helps the school's science fair winners enter the Aus-

tin Energy Regional Science Festival, where many students receive first-place ribbons.

Ms. Ellard was invited to join the University of Texas at Austin's (UT Austin) National Science Foundation-sponsored outreach program, titled The Young Scientists, through the Center for Synthesis, Growth, and Analysis of Electronic Materials. Her students registered unmatched gains, and most of them were accepted into AISD's rigorous magnet program; she eventually led the required Young Scientists multi-week teacher professional development sessions. The university's College of Natural Sciences later asked Ms. Ellard to help write science curricula for teachers. For the past seven years, she has worked with the UTeach Program at UT Austin, a program mentioned in President Obama's recent *Race to the Top* speech. She mentors college students and helps many of her peers deliver quality lessons.

Ms. Ellard was Pillow Elementary's 2008 *Teacher of the Year*. She has a B.S. in education from East Texas Baptist University, and an M.A. in curriculum and instruction from UT Austin. She is certified in elementary education and teaching English as a second language.

More information about *Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching* is available at <http://www.paemst.org/controllers/home.cfc?method=view>

## Study Seeks Blacks Involved With Serious Illnesses

by Sommer Brokaw

(NNPA) - The pastor is often the first one a Black person talks to about a serious illness.

"In African-American families, they communicate these issues with their pastor," said Dr. James T. Roberson, dean of Shaw University Divinity School. "I'm one of the persons that they call sometimes even before they call their doctor." Shaw Divinity is joining the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in a statewide research study that will address how African-American families communicate

around serious illness or end-of-life issues. The study is targeting individuals who are helping a family member 60 years or older with a serious illness defined as chronic disease (including Alzheimer's, cancer, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, congestive heart failure, etc.) that is advanced enough that the individual needs help with daily activities.

Sharon Williams (above), a research scientist at UNC, is the principal investigator of the study that started in June 2008. She said they've recruited 40 people for surveys and are seeking 60 more to round out 100 before the study ends next May. She agreed with Roberson that when Black families do talk about serious illness they may be more likely to talk with their pastors. She said this is one of the reasons they decided to partner with Shaw to recruit people for the study, and because of its research on health disparities through its Institute for Health, Social and Community Research. Roberson is working to connect Williams with the General Baptist State Convention in N.C. for broader access to churches. "We believe in a higher power," he said. "We believe persons that communicate with God on a regular basis are the right people to talk to."

Roberson is also working with Old North State Medical Association to facilitate Williams' access to medical doctors who would also have access to family helpers. As a "thank you," caregivers who complete the 25-minute interview will receive a \$20 Wal-Mart gift card.

"The fact that we're even talking about health care and health disparities - especially as they pertain to the black family - to me is a matter of progress, and I do believe communication is a key issue," said Dr. Quincy Scott, dean of the chapel at Shaw. "We're trying to catch up with people on the margins who believe that our time had come, that our number was up. We're trying to communicate to people that we no longer have to die from diabetes, sickle cell and prostate cancer. It is certainly quite a haul."

The National Institute on Aging is funding the study.

"Research suggests that we are less likely to have formal and/or informal conversations regarding serious outcomes of the illness like feeding tubes or breathing tubes related to hospice care," Williams said. "Because we don't tend to have those conversations, we tend to have

tension and conflict between the family and with health-care providers."

Williams said Blacks are more likely to discuss medical decisions and advanced planning with family members than to complete formal directives like a will. "Economics and education play a role, but it seems to be a more cultural and traditional thing that we don't talk about planning medically for what you would or would not want and designating someone to speak for you if you could not speak for yourself," she said. "And it sort of happens across education and economic lines." Personally, Roberson said his younger brother's wife cared for his brother who died a year ago after a bout with lung cancer.

"He channeled all of his information through her," he said. "After he was gone, we knew how he wanted the funeral, how to handle the children. I think it made things easier for him as he let go, and I also think it made things easier for the family after he was gone. They knew they were getting instructions almost directly from his mouth by getting it from her." Williams said their goal for

the study is to first get evidence of what the facts are, and, if it suggests that family members are not happy with the communication, then they will have research that can be used to identify areas of intervention to improve the situation. Their plan is to share their findings back with communities, media outlets and health-care providers, and at the national level in terms of manuscripts and presentations.

"We've not always been the first people to step up to the plate with these kinds of studies, and it's important because of the need to understand the outcome of these kind of studies, the gain that we get and also the price that we pay if we don't participate," Scott said. "It's not just ourselves involved; we're doing this for our generation and generations to come."

To participate in the study or receive more information, click here or call Williams toll-free at 1-866-725-3583 or call Roberson at (919) 546-8569.

\*The African American Families and Serious Illness Communication Study has been approved by UNC Behavioral Institutional Review Board (Study# 07-0793).

## Some Civil Rights Leaders Critical of Black Gubernatorial Candidate in Alabama

Special to the NNPA from the Afro-American Newspapers (NNPA) - Three-term Congressman Artur Davis, the man attempting to become Alabama's first Black governor, faces a new battle against Black leaders who fought in the Civil Rights Movement.

Among his critics is the former and first Black mayor of Birmingham, Ala., Richard Arrington, as well as Joe Reed, founder and chairman of the Black wing of the state Democratic Party.

Southern politics expert Ferrel Guillory told the Associated Press that there is a "generational cleavage" in the emergence of younger Black leaders such as President Barack Obama and Davis, who were not old enough to participate in the civil rights era. As the younger generation rises, leaders of that movement wish to retain their influence, Guillory suggested.

Davis, 42, first saw opposition from Reed and Arrington in 2002 when he earned support from Whites to claim victory in a congressional race over an incumbent Black politician who was active in the civil rights struggle. He was again a target in 2008 when Davis served as Obama's Alabama campaign chairman while many Black leaders were still supporting Hillary Clinton.

"There is a group of insiders in this state who benefit from protecting the status quo," Davis told the AP.

Reed also finds Davis unsuitable for the governor's seat because Reed claimed he failed to help constituents in his majority Black, low-income district. He said Davis was also the only member of the Congressional Black Caucus to vote against the health care overhaul bill.

No Black candidate has



Congressman Arthur Davis

won any statewide office in the executive branch of Alabama's government in modern times and Blacks make up only about 25 percent of the state's registered voters. The last time a Democrat was the governor of the historically Republican state was 1986.

If elected, Davis hopes to rewrite Alabama's heavily amended constitu-

tion and enact tougher government ethics standards and reforms appealing to middle-class voters.

Arrington said, "As good a man as Artur Davis is, I'm not sure he can win and, frankly, I'm concerned that with him at the top of the ticket I'm not sure what that might mean for Democratic control of the House and state Senate."



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# Federal Appellate Court Strikes Blow Against Washington State's Felon Disfranchisement in Landmark Voting Rights Case

SEATTLE, Jan. 6 / PRNewswire-USNewswire/ — Yesterday, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that Washington State's law denying the vote to people with felony convictions is racially discriminatory and violates the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

"This landmark ruling recognizes that racial discrimination in Washington's criminal justice system has infected the State's political process," said John Payton, LDF Director-Counsel. "The result is that Black, Latino and Native American persons convicted of felonies in Washington are disproportionately denied the right to vote."

The Court found "compelling" evidence that "in the total population of potential 'felons' ... minorities are more likely than whites to be searched, arrested, detained, and ultimately prosecuted. If those decision points are infected with racial bias, resulting in some people becoming felons not just because they have committed a crime, but because of their race, then that felon status cannot, under section 2 of the VRA, dis-

qualify felons from voting." The State did not dispute this compelling evidence.

As a result of Washington's law, 24 percent of Black men and 15 percent of the entire Black population in Washington have lost their voting rights because of a felony conviction. Collectively, African Americans, Latinos and Native Americans represent only 12% of Washington's population, but comprise 36% of the State's incarcerated population.

"The evidence showed that the rate at which Blacks, Latinos and Native Americans are convicted of felony offenses and consequently disqualified from voting is not reflective of their actual participation in criminal behavior," said Ryan P. Haygood, Co-Director of LDF's Political Participation Group. "These racial disparities tell a troubling story of minority overrepresentation in the criminal justice system resulting not from any public safety imperative but rather from discrimination. The Court recognized that our democracy cannot be eroded by com-

pounding this serious injury through felon disfranchisement."

The Court's ruling strikes down Washington's discriminatory felon disqualification scheme.

"We are pleased by the Ninth Circuit's ruling today, which recognizes that discriminatory disfranchisement laws undermine core American ideals of fairness and democracy," said Larry Weiser, Director of the University Legal Assistance law clinic at Gonzaga Law School.

The lawsuit was originally filed by a group of Black, Latino and Native American incarcerated persons. The Plaintiffs are now represented by the University Legal Assistance law clinic at Gonzaga Law School and LDF.

Nationally, more than 5.3 million Americans are denied access to the fundamental right that is preservative of all other rights. An estimated 2 million of the disfranchised, roughly 38%, are African Americans. Maine and Vermont permit prisoners to vote by absentee ballot from prison.

## The African Diaspors Section

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

As the Diaspora traveled through West Africa, I have noticed that there are a countless number of individuals who have good business ideas.

The individuals encountered by the Diaspora have business ideas that range from owning clothing stores, hair salons, shoe manufacturing plants, chocolate factories, and starting up firms that would serve the entire region. However, a numerous amount of these entrepreneurs lack access to vital business organs that can help with management skills, marketing skills, customer services and raising money to expand business operations.

In the nation of Ivory Coast and Togo (West Africa), the entrepreneurs don't have enough access to non-profit organizations nor to city gov-

ernment that can help them with training in the field of management or customer services. Consequently, these entrepreneurs lack these vital skills that can grow their businesses.

However, if an entrepreneur wants to further their business skills they can attend training programs in the private sector such as the "International Institute of Management in Abidjan" (IMA) center, which offers basic business training classes.

In addition, most of these entrepreneurs face the issues of raising enough capital to start their own businesses. The majority of these entrepreneurs cannot borrow money from the local banks because the requirements tend to be difficult, such as, having enough assets that can cover their loans. Conse-

quently, these entrepreneurs turn to family members or micro-finance loans which at times don't provide the necessary funds to run a business. Moreover, some businesses have to wait a time before they can buy the necessary equipment to grow their businesses.

In summary, entrepreneurs in West Africa have a countless number of business ideas but face a numerous amount of hurdles, such as, having access to basic business training and also having enough capital to grow their own businesses. Entrepreneurs who desire business training can turn to the private sector consulting firms like IMA. Moreover, these entrepreneurs can turn to family members or micro-finance loans which at times are not enough to grow a business.

## The Austin City Council

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

The Austin City Council will convene on January 14, 2010 at city hall. During the next meeting, the city will be hearing testimonies and also voting on items set before the council. Moreover, their votes will either add new regulations or take away certain regulations. Consequently, the regular citizens living and working in Austin should be involved in the process because the council's vote affects everyone in Central Texas. Moreover, both the Pflugerville and the Round Rock city council will not meet next week.

Moreover, the Austin City Council will have twenty nine items that ranges from various city departments, such as the Austin energy, library, police, health and human services, emergency medical services, communication and technology management, parks and recreation, planning and development reviews, and from the purchasing department. For instance, the planning and Development Review will present Item 23 that "Autho-

rizes negotiation and execution of a contract with the Austin Community Foundation (ACF) to manage the Urban Forest Replenishment Fund according to the requirements of the City's Urban Forest Grant Program (UFGP) guidelines in the amount of \$100,000, with automatic annual renewals up to ten years in the amount specified in the City's annual budget. Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of the Planning and Development Review Department. This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned) Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This contract is exempted under Chapter 791 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this contract. Another example is item 17 which Approve negotiation and execution of a social services Inter-local Agreement with AUSTIN TRAVIS COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH MENTAL RETAR-

DATION CENTER to provide mental health support funding for a nine-month term beginning January 1, 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$1,260,871 with an option to renew for one 12-month term beginning October 1, 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$1,681,161 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,942,032.

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department. Funding for the agreement renewal option is contingent on available funding in future budgets.

After hearing and voting on the items, the city council will have citizen communications and then go into an executive session. During the executive session, the city council will discuss two items regarding the Austin Energy's renewable generation planning and also legal issues related to Northwest Austin Municipal District No. 1, et al. vs. City of Austin. After the executive session the city council will adjourn.

## Study: African-Americans Are Twice as Likely to Be Caregivers to Older Loved Ones

by Pharoh Martin



Kiona Daniels and her grandmother, Ella.

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - There's an adage that tells us that we are once an adult but twice a child. That is because many in their "golden years" will be spent in the care of others. In fact, a new study suggests that almost a third of the country's adult population play a caregiver role to somebody over the age of 50, a disparate number of those caregivers being African-American. Kiona Daniels is one such individual. She has cared - not just for one - but for two grandmothers.

"I had to learn at a very young age how to manage things that kids my age had nothing to do with," said Daniels, who is now 35-years-old.

The study, published by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, found that a significant majority of the nation's 65.7 million caregivers are working women and that African-Americans are almost twice as likely to be a caregiver than other ethnicity. They are also more likely to be single and have an annual household income of less than \$50,000, adding an extra hardship in tough economic times. So while other young adults were figuring out what classes to take Daniels, then living in her hometown of Mobile, Ala., was trying to figure out a care plan for her elderly grandmother - while still picking her classes.

When Daniel's mother died in a horrific car accident at 16 she was left with the responsibility of caring for Arline Boyd, her 91-year-old great grandmother. Daniels cared for her nine years until she passed in 2002. Then she began caring for her grandmother. Both situations exemplify the life of a caregiver. In addition to being a full-time student and caregiver Daniels has had to work three part-time jobs in order to make ends meet. Her week day, while caring for Boyd, would start at four in the morning.

Boyd was bed-ridden, due to medical problems. So Daniels would have to bathe and feed her, in addition to changing her under garments and dealing with her wounds from bed sores that she developed from being constantly hospitalized. If Daniels had to run an errand such as pay a bill or do some grocery shopping she would have a friend watch her great grandmother or pay a neighbor to do so.

"I really don't know how I did it. I was very stressed for a really long time. I was one of the most stressed out 20-year-olds you've probably ever would've met," said Daniels, a resident of Suitland, Md.

Taking care of Boyd was 80 percent of her day and work and everything else was secondary to that. When Boyd finally passed, Daniels

said she didn't know what do with herself personally because she didn't know who she was outside of being a caregiver. When that responsibility was gone Daniels said she went into a deep depression. Her grieving was compounded by the fact that she felt lost. She had long dreaded the possibility of this feeling. "It has an emotional impact on you watching someone you love get older and wonder what type of impact that that's going to have on yourself," Daniels said.

She didn't have much time to dwell on herself because, like her great grandmother, her grandmother Ella Daniels was in need of care assistance. Daniels moved to the Washington, D.C. area to care for her grandmother, who is now 94 - and to work on Capitol Hill as a staffer for a congressman.

Fortunately, Daniel's grandmother is still mobile and in better health, so she doesn't have to perform the same medical and physical-related tasks that she had to perform with her great grandmother. But because of her age she's slowing down considerably. For now, she handles her grand mother's day-to-day needs and her financial matters. She also has full power of attorney.

But there is very little outside help for people in Daniels' position.

"There is really no built-in assistance for a

## New Year's Day Celebrations throughout Metro Austin

In the last hours of 2009 and the first hours of 2010, Central Texans celebrated in various ways, just as the population of Central Texas varies in age, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and race. For instance, Central Texans attended churches gathering, other stayed home, while others attended events by the Palmer centers, and some attended nightclubs and parties throughout downtown Austin Texas. Furthermore, Central Texans who went out to celebrate the New Year had to brace the "cold arctic weather".

Moreover, a numerous amount of Central Texans attended church services.

Those who attended the church services believe that the first of the year needed to be dedicated to God. Moreover, during the services a numerous parishioners used this time to let their prayer requests for the New Year of 2010 be known before God. Furthermore, a numerous parishioners hoped that 2010 will be a better year in all aspects of their lives.

Others Central Texans attended events in the downtown areas, such as, events by the Palmer Center, nightclubs, and the restaurants. Moreover, the majority of families attended the events by the Palmer Center. At the events, people listened to local musi-

cians and also purchased food. Some younger Central Texans attended nightclubs throughout the downtown areas. Those who attended the nightclubs celebrated their New Year by "partying."

In summary, Central Texans celebrated the New Year of 2010 in different manners. Some Central Texans stayed home; others attended church services throughout the Metro areas; others attended the events held by the Palmer Center and some attended nightclubs. People celebrated the New Year based on their traditions. Moreover, those who attended the events had to brace the "cold arctic weather".

The financial burden is very difficult, especially now that Daniels is unemployed. While her grandmother receives Social Security, Daniels also has household expenses and her own financial obligations, such as a mortgage for a home that she still owns in Alabama. Like much of America, she simply struggles to make ends meet. "We've been very blessed in the fact that I'm able to kind of pay my bills the best way that I can even though I'm not working."

decision that she's made since she was 16, including where she went to college, hinged on how it would affect her responsibility to her grandmothers. She's given up scholarships and left a job at CNN because they wouldn't have let her be at home where she is needed.

"It wasn't an option to leave them. It was to either put them in a nursing home and live my life independently or go home to support them and be their caregiver," Daniels said.



**EMPLOYMENT/BIDS/PROPOSALS / PUBLIC/INFORMATION/ FOR SALE/FOR RENT/MISC**

**City of Austin Purchasing Office Advertisements 01/04/2010**

On October 2, 1995, a revision to the City's MBE/WBE DBEs Ordinance became effective. The Ordinance establishes new goals for MBE/WBE or DBE Participation Bid/Proposal. Bidders are required to document efforts to solicit MBE/WBE or DBEs in the Compliance Plan. The Goals for each project and the instructions and forms for the Compliance Plan are included in the MBE/WBE or DBE Program Packet included in the solicitation. For construction contracts, the MBE/WBE or DBE Program Packet is a separately bound volume of the Project Manual. ALL BIDS AND COMPLIANCE PLANS NOT RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE DATE AND TIME SET FORTH WILL BE RETURNED TO THE BIDDER UNOPENED. SPECIAL NOTICE: Solicitations issued on behalf of the Electric Utility Dept. (Austin Energy) are no longer advertised in the Austin American Statesman. Notices will be posted on the City of Austin Purchasing website at: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/purchase>

**A. CONSTRUCTION ADVERTISEMENTS - ALL CONSTRUCTION SEALED BIDS** addressed to the City of Austin will be received PRIOR TO date and time indicated for the following project(s), in the Reception Area, 10th FL., Ste. 1045, Contract and Land Management Department, CLMD, One Texas Center (OTC), 505 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX, then publicly opened and read aloud in the 10th FL. Conference Room, Ste. 1045, unless otherwise indicated in the advertisement. All Bids received after the time set forth will be returned to the bidder unopened. The OWNER's Official opening the Bids shall establish the time for opening of the Bids. All Bid Deposits are refundable upon return of documents within the specified time frame and in good condition, unless otherwise indicated. UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, Project Manuals, Plans and Addenda may be obtained at the Office of Engineering Design & Surveying, PWD, Ste. 760, OTC. First time bidders are encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference to assure their understanding of Owner's bidding and contracting requirements, particularly M/WBE Procurement Program requirements. Cashiers or Certified Check Payable to the City of Austin or acceptable Bid Bond must accompany each bid. Bidders will be required to provide Payment/Performance bonds as specified in the bidding documents. The City reserves the right to reject any and all Bids and to waive any informality in the bids received.

Bidders must attend any Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and are encouraged to attend any non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference to ensure their understanding of Owner's bidding and contracting requirements, particularly MBE/WBE Procurement Program requirements. If the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory the Bidder must arrive and sign-in within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled start time of the meeting, otherwise the Bidder will not be allowed to submit a Bid for the project.

**1. 2010 MISCELLANEOUS STREETS SLURRY SEAL & MICRO-SURFACING (CIP 8500 6207 4100). IFB 6100 CLMC138.** Pickup bid docs at OTC., Ste. 760, Attn: Gabriel Stan 974-7151 after 12/28/09. A refundable deposit of \$50 is required. For info Greg Johnston, 974-3067. A MANDATORY Vendor Conf. will be held at 4411-A Meinardus Dr., Austin, TX at 1:00P on 1/5/10. Offers due prior to 11:00A on 1/21/10. Compliance plans due prior to 3:00P on 1/21/10. Offers will be opened on 1/21/10 at 3:00P.

**2. S I-35, SEGMENT 6 - I35 SOUTH OF ONION CREEK, 36-INCH WM (CIP 3960 2207 6200). IFB 6100 CLMC134.** Pickup bid docs at OTC, 7th fl., Ste. 760, Austin, TX, 78704. Attn: Attn: Gabriel Stan, 974-7151, after 12/28/09. A refundable deposit of \$50 is required. For info Brenda Baker, 479-1635. A MANDATORY Vendor Conf. will be held at Waller Creek, 625 E. 10th St, #105, Austin, TX at 11:00A on 1/5/10. Offers due prior to 12:00P on 1/21/10. Compliance plans due prior to 4:00P on 1/21/10. Offers will be opened on 1/21/10 at 4:00P.

**B. SERVICES AND SYSTEMS CONTRACTING** Solicitations will be issued, and sealed bids or proposals may be received at the Purchasing Office, Municipal Building, 124 W. 8th St., 3rd floor, Room 308/310, telephone number (512) 974-2500, Austin, TX until the dates and times specified on following item(s):

**B. SOLICITATION SERVICES AND SYSTEMS**  
**1. RDR0040 MAINTENANCE AND CUSTODIAL SERVICES.** Offers due prior to 11:30A on 1/19/10.

THE CITY OF AUSTIN HEREBY NOTIFIES ALL OFFERORS THAT IN REGARD TO ANY CONTRACT ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO THIS ADVERTISEMENT; MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES WILL BE AFFORDED EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SUBMIT OFFERS IN RESPONSE TO THIS INVITATION AND WILL NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, COLOR, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR DISABILITY IN CONSIDERATION FOR AN AWARD.

**MBE/WBE/HUB**

**FTWOODS Construction Services, Inc.** is soliciting Subcontractor & DBE Subcontractor bids for participation on the following project: City of Round Rock Intermodal Transit & Parking Facility, Round Rock, TX Bid Date: 1/8/2010 2:00 pm - Please fax quotes to 512-930-3748 ATT: Greg Graham, Contact Info: Greg Graham 512-930-2607 or email to [ggraham@ftwoods.com](mailto:ggraham@ftwoods.com)

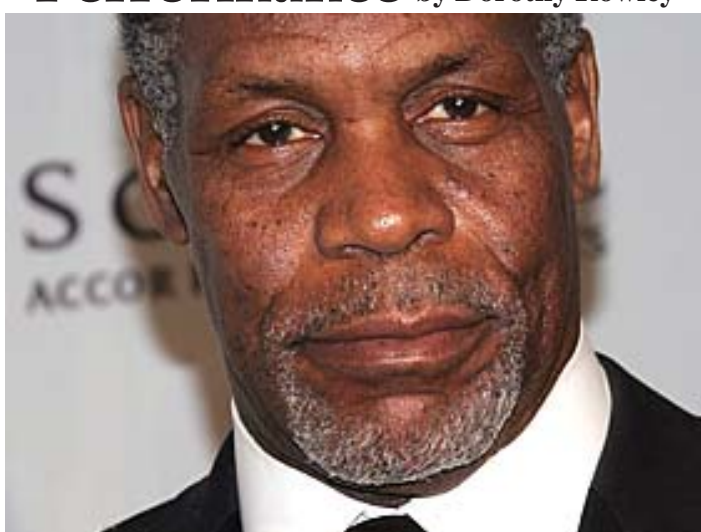
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**Round Rock ISD** is currently accepting sealed bids and proposals. Solicitation documents may be obtained from the RRISD web site at [WWW.roundrockisd.org](http://WWW.roundrockisd.org) under "Vendor Information" or by Calling 512-464-6950.

**Blastco Texas Inc.** is soliciting Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation for the City of Austin, Pilot Knob Reservoir Improvements. CIP No. 3920-2207-7266. Bid date January 14, 2009. Please contact our office for additional information. Phone 281-590-3200.

**FTWOODS Construction Services, Inc.** is soliciting HUB/MBE/WBE/DBE bids for participation on the following project: Davis / Deer from Brodie to Corran Ferry, IFB No. 6100 CLMC131, Bid Date: 01/21/10 9:00am - Please fax quotes no later than 12:00pm on 01/20/10 to (512)930-3748 Attn: Gary Gutierrez, Contact Information: Gary Gutierrez (512) 930-2607

**Danny Glover Criticizes Obama's Performance** by Dorothy Rowley



Danny Glover

(NNPA) - Actor Danny Glover pulled no punches recently in his assessment of President Obama's first year in office.

The celebrated actor, known for his activism, told NewsOne.com on December 22 that the president has not done enough during the slow economy to help the African-American community. His comments also echoed the sentiments of some members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

According to Glover, Obama has followed the same policies - almost verbatim - that were doled out by the Bush administration. "I don't see anything different," Glover said of the president's policies surrounding Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East.

"What's so clear is that this country, from the outset, is projecting the interests of wealth and property."

In addition, a blog on BigHollywood.com stated that Glover questioned Obama's handling of the bailout of Wall Street, asking why the same kind of rescue wasn't directed for Main Street.

"He may be just a different face, and that face may happen to be Black - and if it were Hillary Clinton, it would happen to be a woman,"

Glover reportedly said. "But what choices do they have within the structure." The blog noted that Glover is among a growing contingency of African-American leaders who have begun expressing, both publicly and privately, varying degrees of disappointment over a president for whom they held high hopes.

Those hopes included eradication of the high unemployment rate among Blacks, and African-Americans' inability to acquire affordable health care. Obama responded that his efforts at health care reform have been just one example of his compassion toward Black America.

According to a December 22 Associated Press report, Obama pointed to billions of dollars in aid included in his economic stimulus bill to assist states, money that was also used to save the jobs of thousands of African-American teachers, firefighters and police officers.

"So this notion, somehow, that because there wasn't a transformation overnight, that we've been neglectful is just simply, factually not accurate," Obama said during an Oval Office interview with American Urban Radio Networks.



**Hampton University Business School**

**Receives National Award**

HAMPTON, Va. (NNPA) - The Hampton University Center for Entrepreneurial Studies (CES) in the School of Business recently received the National Minority Business Council (NMBC), Inc.'s Outstanding Education and Training Institution Award for 2009. The award acknowledges CES's aim to be a leader in research and educational programming to increase the number and quality of minority entrepreneurs.

"We were happy to hear that the award had been given to Hampton," said Dr. Sid Credle, dean of the HU School of Business. "The entrepreneurship studies faculty and the director, Larry Gillus, have worked very hard over the years to make the program one of distinction."

The Hampton University School of Business was established in September 1898. The first business course was offered to a small group of students to provide skills in managing small businesses. Students in the School of Business may pursue majors in one of eight areas: Accounting, Banking, Finance, Business Administration, Economics, Entrepreneurship, Management, and Mar-

keting. At the graduate level, an MBA program is offered in two configurations.

William Johnson, who received a bachelor's degree in entrepreneurial studies from Hampton in 2007, said the program helped him in both a corporate and a practical sense.

"The number one thing we were taught was how to capitalize on business opportunities," said Johnson, now a business banking officer at PNC bank in his hometown of Pittsburgh. "A lot of the presentations and skills we practiced in the program were applicable to the real world, from small things like dressing appropriately, to eye contact and addressing your audience."

The national award to Hampton University will be presented at a Feb. 25 luncheon in New York City at the New York Marriott Marquis. The luncheon theme is, "Thirty Years of Honoring Corporate and Minority Business Leadership." The NMBC was founded in 1972 as a full-service, non-profit (501)(c)(3) corporation, according to its website, that is committed to expanding opportunities to small, minority and women business owners.

**Father Puts Cars Up for Sale to Raise Money to Find Missing Daughter**



Mitrice Richardson

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) - More than 90 days and Michael Richardson, father of Mitrice Richardson, has announced that he's selling his two custom designed cars in an effort to raise money to independently search for his daughter's whereabouts. Mitrice Richardson, 24, a Cal State Fullerton graduate, mysteriously disappeared following her September 17 pre-dawn release from a sheriff's substation near Malibu where she was booked for allegedly failing to pay a restaurant bill and possession of personal use marijuana. For sale is a 1966 fully

restored pearl white classic Chevy Impala. He's also put up for sale his 1999 customized Cadillac Escalade that includes a sound system, interior video system, and custom rims. Mr. Richardson, who recently dropped out of school to go back to working one full time job and one part time job seven days a week, says that during this economic recession, he's had to creatively figure out ways to make ends meet. Concerned with finding his daughter before the Christmas holiday, he made a difficult decision to put his two cars up for sale to help cover the costs of find-

ing his daughter. "I worked very hard and saved my money over the years to buy these cars," explains Richardson. "It was a hobby of mine to customize them both. But with Mitrice missing for almost three months and there being no news regarding her disappearance, I feel it's time for my family to make some sacrifices in an effort to find her. Selling my cars is one way to bring in the money that we need to do so."

Richardson, who works as Eligibility Manager managing state and Federal medical insurance at the Saban Free Clinic and as an Emergency Registration representative for the Whittier Presbyterian Inter-Community Hospital, says that even working two jobs is not enough in this economy to make it. And with added burden of trying to find his daughter, he's willing to do whatever it takes to bring Mitrice home.

"People don't understand that life doesn't pause when your child is missing," Richardson continues. "My wife and I are still expected to go to work everyday, smile, pay our bills, and still make time to search for Mitrice. It's hard for working families who don't have a child missing, so imagine what life is like for families who do." The cars have been posted on craigslist.com and Richardson is hoping to make enough money from the sales of both vehicles to aide in an independent search for his daughter. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department recently elevated the

search for Mitrice Richardson to a homicide investigation freeing up more county law enforcement resources in the search.

For more information on the disappearance of Mitrice Richardson, please visit

[www.bringmitricehome.org](http://www.bringmitricehome.org). For more information on the sale of Mr. Richardson's vehicles, please visit [craigslist.com](http://craigslist.com), keywords, Central L.A./Cars and trucks by owners.

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# Villager Sportsville



By George Hardin  
SportsBeat

## Bill Powell Blazed Trail as Golf Course Owner



Bill Powell

Bill Powell, the first African American to build a golf course, own and operate it, died at the age of 93 on New Year's Day at a hospital in Canton, Ohio. He received the Professional Golf Association's Distinguished Service Award last August—joining the likes of Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Byron Nelson, and was the subject of a Sports Beat article. Among those who sent greetings were President Barack Obama, former President George H. W. Bush and Tiger Woods.

An Army Air Corps veteran of World II, Powell served in England and played on some of that country's finest courses but was unable to play golf on the courses in Ohio, where he lived, after returning home. He later told a reporter, "It's distasteful when you get turned down. You have to have a little pride. You say to hell with them. I'm not going to badger. I'm not going to beg them. So I said I'd just build a golf course." He followed through on his desire.

As a veteran, he hoped to get a G.I. loan but was rejected by bank after bank. Finally, with loans from two black physicians and his

brother, who mortgaged his home, Powell bought a 78-acre run-down dairy farm in East Canton, Ohio, and set about clearing the underbrush with the help of his wife, Marcella, now deceased, and their small children—laying out the holes first on graph paper and then on the terrain. They uprooted shrubs, removed fence posts and planted grass. All this was done while Powell worked full time, first as a janitor and later as a security guard, putting every dollar he could spare into building the course.

Then, in April 1948, after two years' work, what Powell called his "crazy dream" came true. He opened

the nine-hole Clearview Golf Course not just for blacks but also for players of all races. In 1978, after buying additional land, Powell expanded the course to 18 holes. According to Powell's daughter, Renee, racists initially began calling the course "the nigger nine"—although it was open to all races—and some of them still use that slur despite the 18 holes.

Renee, who was taught to play golf by her father beginning at the age of 3, became the second African American woman to play on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour, following tennis star Althea Gibson, the first black Wimbledon champion. As a full-time competitor on the

LPGA circuit, Renee once told a reporter, "Most of the players treated me fine. But I got quite a bit of hate mail, including death threats, and the remarkable thing was that most of them were actually signed. It was as if they wanted to be sure I knew how much they hated me." Powell's son, Larry, is superintendent of Clearview, a position he has held for more than 30 years.

The Ohio Golf Course Owners Association chose Powell as Person of the Year and he was inducted into the Northern Ohio PGA Hall of Fame. Among other honors,

Tiger Woods has been giving an annual golf scholarship named for Powell and his wife.

As a student at Wilberforce University, Powell played in the first inter-racial collegiate game in the U.S., with Wilberforce winning over Ohio Northern University.

In his autobiography, "Clearview: America's Course," Powell said, "I didn't build this course for any of the recognition. It was a labor of love." He was not bitter about the years of hostility from the PGA, which did

not end its all-white policy until 1961. Before it dropped its racial barriers one sports-writer called the PGA basically "the recreational arm of the Ku Klux Klan."

Efforts are underway to induct Powell into the World Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine, Fla. Clearview was selected to be on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001. At that time, Powell said, "People must be aware that golf will not change anything. Only people will bring about a change. And if it is slow in happening, you have to work a little harder."



Clearview Golf Course

## Female Negro Leagues Pitcher Still Active in Retirement

By George Hardin - SportsBeat

Maggie "Peanut" Johnson was the first female pitcher in the Negro Leagues. She played with the Indianapolis Clowns of the National Negro Professional Baseball League, joining the team in 1953 and remaining until 1955. A right-hander, she compiled a won-loss record of 33-8 and had a batting average of .273.

Last October, at the age of 74, Johnson was a guest lecturer at the Library of Congress, speaking about her days in baseball. She works part time in the Negro Leagues Baseball Shop owned by her son in Capitol Heights, Md.

About the age of 7 Johnson began playing baseball with her uncle, Leo "Bones" Belton. In the book about her life, "A Strong Right Arm," she recalls how he taught her, saying, "I didn't pitch like a girl, either. Bones made sure of that. Not an underhanded fling of the ball. But a surefire windup, coming-right-at-ya pitch. Smack dab over the plate."

As a child, Johnson lived with her maternal grandmother, Cendonia Belton, while her mother, Della Belton Havelon, worked in Washington. When Johnson's mother became a dietitian at Freedman's Hospital (later Howard University Hospital) the fledgling ballplayer joined her and began playing with



Mamie Johnson

two black teams in a recreational league. Upon finishing high school, Johnson and a friend, Rita Jones, tried to join the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, but the all-white group rejected them. Johnson continued playing with the black teams until she was seen in Washington in 1953 by Bish Tyson, a scout, who introduced her to Bunny Downs, manager of the Indianapolis Clowns.

After a tryout, Johnson joined the team and went to Portsmouth, Va., for spring training camp. That first season the team played in Kansas City, Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, Nashville, Louisville, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Brooklyn, Chicago, Little Rock and Philadelphia.

In her first game, Johnson was teased by Hank Baylis, third baseman for the Kansas City Monarchs. He

said, "What makes you think you can strike a batter out? Why, you aren't any larger than a peanut." Johnson struck him out and from that day on was known by the nickname "Peanut."

By 1955, with the Major Leagues drawing many of the best black players and with Negro Leagues revenues declining, Johnson decided to retire. She married, attended New York University and later earned a nursing degree at North Carolina A&T University. She worked in nursing for 30 years before retiring again and then began working in the Negro Leagues Baseball Shop owned by her son in Capitol Heights, Md. Johnson organized the They Played Baseball Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the history of Negro Leagues baseball and teaching the game to young people.

For the most part, Johnson said she was treated well by the men on the teams. Referring to the exceptions, she said, "You've got your gentlemen, and then you've got your men."

While with Indianapolis, Johnson remembers getting pitching tips from Satchel Paige and help from others on batting. She once said, "Just to know that you were among some of the best male ballplayers that ever picked up the bat made all of my baseball moments great moments."

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