

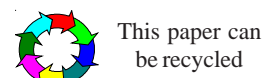


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March 4, 2011

First African-American in space speaks to Austin students



Guion S. Bluford, Jr., Ph.D.

By Angela Wyatt
Staff Reporter

Dr. Guion "Guy" S. Bluford, Jr. is the first African-American to fly aboard the Space Shuttle in Austin February 23, 2011. In honor of Black History Month, Austin Community College invited Dr. Guy Bluford to speak to ACC student, Austin school students ranging in all ages and community members. He talked about his experiences of traveling to space and his work on the International Space Station.

Born in Philadelphia, PA in 1942 and received a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1964, master of science in aerospace engineering with distinction from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1974, a doctor of philosophy degree in aerospace engineering with minor in laser physics from the Air Force of Technology in 1978 and master in business administration from the University of Houston, Clear Lake in 1987.

Bluford spent 15 years as an astronaut. He made four trips to space between 1983 and 1992 and participated in the first night launch and night landing of the space shuttle Challenger on August 30, 1983. His duties in space ranged from working on Space Station operations, to Spacelab systems and experiments, to payload safety issues.

His first mission was STS-8, which launched from Kennedy Space Center, Florida, on August 30, 1983. This was the third flight for the Orbiter Challenger and the first mission with a night launch and night landing.

Bluford believes that the future of human space exploration is strong, thanks to continuing worldwide interest in traveling beyond the

Earth's atmosphere. "There is a lot of interest in human space flight. Not only in the United States but around the world," Bluford said. "The Russians are interested, the Europeans still support it, the Chinese support it. We have something called the International Space Station and we'll be supporting that for at least another 10 years, and that will be an international effort."

Among those in the audience, was a group of students representing the Texas Empowerment Academy. One of them asked Dr. Bluford what they could do to become astronauts. "I encourage kids to aim high," Bluford said. "To choose careers in things that really get them excited and to realize that with hard work and perseverance and stick-to-it-iveness they can be anything they want to be."

In 1993 he retired from the Air Force at the rank of Colonel. Also, in 1997, he became part of the International Space Hall of Fame. His first hardship in life was when his teachers said he wasn't college material. He went to college, but it was another hardship in his life. He was one of 35 out of 8,878 applicants for the astronaut program. As for one of his major accomplishments, he flew 144 combat missions in the Vietnam War.

He demonstrated many characteristics of being a hero. He showed courage and bravery in becoming an astronaut and flying over 144 missions in the Vietnam War. He showed determination for not giving up on his dream. I think Guion Bluford's life teaches us to not give up and good things will come, because he didn't give up on his dream and it came true. Dr. Bluford is a great role model.

Planning Meeting for March 12 Rally to be Held Saturday

The next community planning and organizing meeting to prepare for the Save Texas Schools march and rally will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 5 at the Carver Museum, located at 1165 Angelina Street.

District 50 Representative Mark Strama, a member of the House Public Education Committee, will be one of

the speakers.

The discussion will be regarding the 82nd session of the Texas Legislature and possible solutions to the funding issues that threaten the quality of public education all across Texas.

The Save Texas Schools march and rally will be at the Texas Capitol on Saturday, March 12.

More than 3,000 attended the 11th African American Legislative Summit



Summit attendees gather in House Chamber for the conference. Photo by Damon Luckett.

The 11th African American Legislative Summit was held in Austin February 28 - March 1 in Austin. The conference was hosted by the Legislative Black Caucus (TLBC). The Chairman is Sylvester Turner of Houston and is composed of the Seventeen members of the House of Representatives and two Senators.

The events were held between the Texas Capitol

and the Sheraton Hotel at the Capitol. This year's theme was "African Americans Staying Relevant in the Midst of Changing Demographics."

A number of events were included in this year's summit. A lot of attention was given to people who contributed to the advancement of the African American community. There were also a number of Scholarships given to deserving students.

The keynote speaker for the Monday evening Scholarship Banquet was Debra Lee, CEO of BET and the Breakfast speaker was Roland Martin, Journalist for TV 1 and CNN Contributor.

There were also a number of workshops held during the conference as well as lunch on the grounds of the capitol. There was an estimate of approximately 3,000 plus attendee to this year's event.



"Concerned Citizens of Austin calls for meeting with Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem

Citing the revelation of a cache of emails from Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell and Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Martinez, a group of concerned citizens signed a joint letter to each of the two men, expressing its "profound dismay and justified outrage" over the written correspondence, which depicts some of the public's highest ranking employees as "jokes", "bought off", "company men" and other derisive terms. The unprofessional tone of the remarks is causing some to question whether there are deeper-

seated issues at work with the elected officials.

The group is demanding an in-person meeting with the Mayor and also with the Mayor Pro-Tem as soon as possible. The group, called Concerned Citizens of Austin, also held a press conference on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 12:00 Noon at City Hall.

"Even when I disagree with my elected officials, I must believe that they are acting in good faith. When that changes, then it undermines the public trust. This country, state and city are great be-

cause we have processes, and we believe in process," said Dr. Gregory J. Vincent, a spokesperson for the group. He also said, "Speaking as a private citizen and not in my official UT capacity, what we are criticizing here is the lack of process and unprofessional behavior."

Concerned Citizens of Austin represents a broad geographic cross-section of Austinites and express a sincere desire to improve the quality of life for all people, particularly those who have been historically underserved by our City.

NEW TRAVIS COUNTY PRECINCT ONE BUILDING NAMED AFTER JUDGE RICHARD E. SCOTT

Travis County Commissioners vote unanimously to name new Travis County building at 4717 Heflin Lane after judicial official who served for over 35 years.

Former Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Richard E. Scott who was sworn in January 1975 as the first African American elected Judicial Official for Precinct 1, Travis County, Texas and presided in the Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Court. Judge Scott served nine consecutive four year terms.

Judge Scott earned his undergraduate degree in Po-



Judge Richard E. Scott

litical Science at Prairie View A & M University and earned his Doctorate of Jurisprudence in 1972 from The University of Texas School of Law at Austin, where he served on the Longhorn Foundation Advisory Council. After ad-

mittance to the State Bar of Texas, Judge Scott was one of the first African American lawyers to practice law in Travis County. In addition to the State Bar of Texas, Judge Scott has been a longtime member and former chair of the Judicial Council of the National Bar of Texas, representing more than 1,100 judges throughout the United States.

A letter signed by 14 judicial officials was received by the Commissioners Court in support of the naming of the new Precinct One building after Judge Scott.



RAPPIN'
Tommy Wyatt

What a difference an email makes!!

African Americans have become quite good at determining who their friends are. There is an old saying that "we have no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent problems." Keeping that in mind, there had to be coalitions formed to work on specific problems.

The goal is to find someone who need us as much as we need them. There was a time when we could count on a coalition between African Americans and Hispanics. At other times, there were pacts formed between African Americans and the white Liberal community.

But when the Liberals broke away in favor of environmental concerns, African Americans had to look for other partners. It has not been easy to form a cooperative group, until now.

That problem may have been solved somewhat with the revelation of emails of members of the Austin City Council. These emails revealed that the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem does not have a favorable opinion about the City Manager, at least one Assistant City Manager and the Fire Chief. It just so happens that all of them are minorities - two African Americans and one Female.

Their actions have caused a strong response from several groups. The NAACP called for a meeting with the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem to discuss the issue. They have been joined in this effort by a group of Concerned Citizens from the African American community as well as coalition of other groups who object to this outrageous behavior.

The situation came to light when the emails of the council members was released to the Austin American Statesman. And there are many more to be released. We can only wonder what kinds of information is included in these emails. However, we already have enough to see the mindset of the people writing them.

As we prepare for the May City Council elections, there will be several incumbents on the ballot. They will have a lot of questions to answer as they face the citizens at the political forums.

The entire Austin community should pay a lot of attention to the candidates running for the council. And we must make sure that whomever we elect will represent the interest of the entire city.

In the meantime, we must make sure that we are asking the right questions in order to have our issues receive serious consideration. And there is no better time than now.



Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

The momentous democratic revolt sweeping the Arab World has captured the interest and imagination of millions. The energy and courage of the participants has inspired movements in other parts of the world, including in our own Wisconsin (with the fight against the governor's attacks on pub-

A Call to Black Families. The distinguished theologian Howard Thurman once described an oak tree in his childhood yard with leaves that each autumn turned yellow and died but stayed on the branches all winter. Nothing—neither wind, storm, sleet, nor snow—dislodged these dead leaves from the apparently lifeless branches. Dr. Thurman came to understand that the business of the oak tree during the long winter was to hold on to the dead leaves before turning them loose in spring so that new buds—the growing edge—could begin to unfold. At winter's end, what wind, storm, sleet, or snow could not force off passed quietly away to become the tree's nourishment.

My parents were like that oak tree. Throughout most of our history, most Black families have been like that oak tree. Despite enormous assaults and pressures, Black parents and elders remained determined to hold on and persevere long enough to prepare the next generation and give them a better life. During



By Judge Greg Mathis
NNPA Columnist

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has set off a fire storm among the state's unions and public employees. To compound matters other states are proposing similar laws and will soon have to deal with their own revolts. Walker, in the

Unexpected Consequences Can Hurt Black America As the saying goes, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions". This has been the plight of Black America since our emancipation from slavery. Big policy is decided without adequate consideration of our situation or positive inclusiveness of the outcomes. Allow me to journey back into history and also current activity to explain my point.

Social Security Program: It sounded so good. An employee will have a part of his income deducted and put into a retirement investment program and the employer would put up a portion also. The money would be there at the time of retirement (age 65) and disbursed monthly to the retiree. The very big problem is this: Blacks' life spans are much shorter than Whites. This means that Blacks will receive much less of the money they put

Why Should We Care About the Arab Democratic Revolt?

lic sector workers).

The Arab democratic revolt has the potential to change global politics. This is absolutely no exaggeration. The governments that are facing their people's wrath are—with the exception of Iran, and to some extent Libya—governments that have been in the pocket of the U.S.A., in some cases for decades. They have been allies of various U.S. administrations and have helped the U.S. government to move otherwise unpopular policies in North Africa and the Middle East. While various U.S. administrations have mouthed about democracy, they have been quite comfortable holding

hands with governments in North Africa and the Middle East that demonstrate not a shred of respect for democratic rights.

Therefore, what is important for us to understand is that it is quite possible that the U.S.A. may lose key allies in North Africa and the Middle East and, for the first time in decades, actually have to negotiate new relationships based on mutual respect with countries that they have treated as vassal states.

It is also important to recognize that the Arab democratic revolt has been Al Qaeda's worst nightmare. Consider for a moment that the revolts, al-

though including Islamist forces (in many cases) have not been religious revolts or religiously inspired revolts. They have been a response to the economic and political injustices that people have suffered for years. In fact, in a courageous and historic act of solidarity, Coptic Christians in Egypt protected Muslims during a Friday prayer against the forces of then dictator Mubarak. There had been a fear that during prayer Mubarak's internal security units would attack. The Coptic Christians indicated that they would not let that happen.

Finally, these revolts are not revolts that were

the result of outside forces, except and insofar as you acknowledge the role of the Internet and social media sites such as Facebook. The reality is that it has been the people of these countries, often inspired by hearing about or reading about uprisings in other countries, who have taken their respective futures into their own hands. This step is monumental, thus making this what is often called a "teachable moment." We can learn from the example of the Arab people, for instance, that despite immense, if not overwhelming difficulties, that it is possible to successfully resist and create a better world.

We not only have much to learn from the Arab democratic revolt, but we should also find ways to offer our support. If history is any standard, the U.S. government will do what it can to win the new governments back into the fold of the West rather than treating these new governments as sovereign partners who have chosen a different course. Obama and Congress need to accept this understanding and they will if and when Black America and other people of good will speak out in a chorus of millions.



By Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist

ence, out of wedlock birth, and massive incarceration is sentencing millions of children of color to dead end, powerless, and hopeless lives and threatens to undermine the past half century of racial and social progress. Those of us who see the threads of our families, neighborhoods, and social networks fraying under the burden just as our children need us most know we need to reweave the fabric of family and community that supported us and got us this far. This is why we've launched the second phase of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC).

The Black family has been the strongest defense Black children have had throughout our history, and must become so again to help lead this crusade. Our children have been nurtured and protected in the past as best as we could because of the hard work of committed and determined Black adults—and today, it's our turn. Too many Black adults have gone AWOL and need to come home to family. We've already withstood pow-

erful storms and we will withstand this new and dangerous storm by banding together as a Black community to protect all of our children. As the words of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" remind us, we've come over a way that with tears has been watered. We've treaded our path through the blood of the slaughtered. We've already come this far on the way, and it is not time to stray or let our children down on our watch. Wake up and stand up for our children who are asking for and deserve our help.

To learn more about the Black Community Crusade for Children and join us, visit www.childrensdefense.org/bccc.

Child Watch

property, we learned to honor and revere our mothers, fathers, and ancestors and to see our children as children of God.

We've all heard stories of the lengths many newly-freed slaves went through after Emancipation to try to be reunited with family, sometimes traveling for hundreds of miles in desperate attempts to find loved ones. At the same time, we also learned to create other networks of extended family and near-family that laid the foundation for strong Black communities and nurturing Black children. Families saw us through Reconstruction and did their best to shield and protect children during the dark days of Jim Crow, mob rule, and lynchings. Throughout segregation, many Black families and communities reminded children they had dignity and worth. Long before the phrase became popular, our mothers and grandmothers took their time braiding our hair, neatly pressing our clothes, and reminding us every day that Black was beautiful. During the Civil

Rights Movement, many Black families fought together every step of the way. Many parents participated in the struggle for an end to segregated schools and facilities because they knew they wanted a better education and world for their children. In Birmingham, Alabama, Jackson, Mississippi, and across the South, Black children marched and were attacked right alongside and often without their parents.

Our families have seen us through many crises, but there have also been threats to Black family stability and reports of Black family breakdown throughout our history. Drugs, poverty, violence, and unequal opportunity have battered our families mightily. But, many of us who are committed to strengthening Black families believe the forces undermining Black family life are turning in a dangerous way, and many Black children are treading through treacherous new territory. A toxic cocktail of poverty, illiteracy, racial disparity, vio-

Union Busting Politicians

name of balancing the state budget, has proposed legislation that will essentially deny public employees their collective bargaining rights and increase their payments to the state's healthcare and pension plans.

Union employees, including teachers and others, from around the Midwest (some even came in from New York) flocked to the Wisconsin state capital en masse to protest and continue to do so. The state legislature's 14 Democrats oppose the plan and don't want to

vote on it. Instead of staying in Wisconsin and simply not showing up for the vote, which would have been in violation of the law, they left the state to prevent the state legislator from having the necessary number of members needed to vote on the legislation.

Wisconsin definitely has a big mess on its hands. Soon, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio - all of which have similar legislation in the works - may be dealing with their protests and stonewalling from state

Democrats.

Supporters of the proposals in all the states say these types of cuts are necessary to reduce state deficits. Yet, Governor Walker, a Tea Party backed Republican, has proposed tax breaks for corporations. If Walker is truly interested in sorting out Wisconsin's finance, why would he, on one hand, give away revenue by cutting corporate taxes and then, on the other, jeopardize the job and financial security of union employees, all of whom are tax paying citizens? Something here

doesn't compute.

Also interesting is the fact that Walker received more than \$40,000 in campaign contributions last year from a political group run by David and Charles Koch. The two Koch brothers run a booming gas and oil business and have been uncovered to be major financial supporters of the Tea Party movement. Is Walker, and other politicians like him, doing his own bidding, or is he paying back the Tea Party for its support by moving their agenda forward?

We may never know

for certain. But, we do know this: balancing the budget, whether it be at the state or federal level, on the backs of public employees who provide the services we all need to maintain and enjoy our quality of life is unfair, especially when rich corporations are being given tax breaks. Walker's attempt is an old maneuver from the Republican playbook of the past and the Tea Party of new. Opponents of union busting legislation must stand strong and reject these modern day union busting efforts.

Beyond The Rhetoric

in and Whites will receive a disproportionately greater amount. A great amount of Blacks will not receive any benefits at all as they will die before they are eligible to retire. Much of this sinister formula was known to the architects of the Social Security program and most Blacks were void of the knowledge. It was a major transfer of wealth in a very subtle manner. A very big hustle indeed!

The Interstate Infrastructure Program: During World War II, General Eisenhower marveled at the German Autobahn (their freeway system). He emulated it with the interstate freeway system for the United States. When the freeways came to urban areas they went to the line of least resistance - the Black neighborhoods. Black retail establishments everywhere were subject to eminent domain and bulldozed over for infrastructure improvement. From the Fillmore in San Fran-

cisco to Black Bottom in Detroit they were done in forever in the name of free-ways and new development. Some of our greatest neighborhoods and cultural centers were lost forever.

The Great Society: There was nothing "great" about this. In fact, our deficit and annual budgets are suffering from the largesse of charity. It was a great narcotic to our victims of poverty rather than a solution. It told the masses to sit down and be taken care of rather than rising up and empowering themselves. The end result has been a trans-generational dependency on welfare and public housing living rather than a positive transition from poverty to self sufficiency. African Americans as a people are burdened by the weight of helplessness and dependency to the point of extinction. Somehow we must throw this "yolk" from our "neck" and begin to stand tall and strong.

Ethanol Promotion: They should have done their historical perspective on this. Henry Ford commissioned George Washington Carver to develop ethanol from peanuts to relieve our dependence on oil (manipulated by John D. Rockefeller) for our cars. The great scientist Carver worked diligently on it at Tuskegee University but went to his grave without successfully mass producing it. Yet, here we are in the 21st century trying it again. It just doesn't work and what is worse it adversely impacts the rest of our economy. The subsidies (billions of dollars) given for ethanol production has caused a great shortage in corn production for the rest of our agricultural markets. The end result is that groceries, fuel and energy prices are going through the roof and there is no significant improvement on our carbon emission footprint. This is a supreme mistake and failure that causes Black

families/consumers more harm than others in that we have fewer dollars to waste and to be exploited. When they catch a cold we will get pneumonia. Ethanol has been a direct assault on Black families.

Higher Energy Costs / Less Energy Consumption: This assumption by environmentalists and progressive politicians is very flawed. It does not take into account that staying warm, air conditioned, cooking, and traveling to essential places is necessary and basic to common living. There are many who feel that if we skyrocket energy prices, i.e. \$8.00 per gallon gasoline and triple the average household energy bill people will lower their consumption levels. They don't take into account that you must travel to work, eat every day and protect your family from ill health. While Whites may sell their summer cabins, Blacks cannot afford a home at all and move into



Harry C. Alford
NNPA Columnist

shelters or the streets. While Whites may sell one of the family cars, Blacks will not be able to buy a car at all. This strategy is totally out of touch but yet it exists. That is why they have the oil moratorium in the Gulf Coast while the world cost of oil is rapidly increasing. That is why they have onerous EPA regulations without justification. That is why they are proposing to cut energy assistance (LIHEAP) in the new budget.

This is why the National Black Chamber of Commerce is forming a new division to be a watchdog on such policy and measure the impact on Black America.

New Book Teaches How to Overcome Life's Systemic Deterrents

Eyes of the reader will be opened to no longer be satisfied with status quo

LONGWOOD, FL—In recalling the life of Jesus, believers know that He consistently was being challenged by the "system." Although systemic injustice in biblical times was different, it did still exist. Jesus encountered these injustices daily, but He did not allow the system to manage Him; He conquered, mastered, and overcame the systemic deterrents that have historically impeded the success and growth of many—which is what Christians are called to do through the Word of God. Within the pages of *It's in the System*, a new release from Dr. Lonnie Woods, Esq., the author will open the eyes of the reader to no longer be satisfied with the status quo. Instead, they will be inspired and motivated to seek God's guidance and wisdom in challenging issues that occur daily.



Rev. C. C. Robertson

of men' but be empowered to overcome doubt, intimidation, anxiety, and fear through the Word of God," Reverend C.C. Robertson—senior pastor of Bexar Street Baptist Church—says in the book's opening Commentary. "This writing will be appreciated by believers, non-believers, scholars, and theologians. I envision this work as being circulated throughout the country in our Christian education curricula and in academia in general."

Dr. Woods says when he began to realize the vulnerability of the average citizen to bureaucratic powers, the more inclined he became to figure out how to overcome this vulnerability and fear of seemingly "untouchable" institutions and entities. His personal exploration of this topic resulted in this book, which he hopes will inspire readers to live a pure Christian life in a nation that may have run errand of the Word of God when applying the rule of law to issues of social justice.

Xulon Press, a division of Salem Communications, is the world's largest Christian publisher, with more than 8,000 titles published to date. Retailers may order *It's in the System* through Ingram Book Company and/or Spring Arbor Book Distributors. *It's in the System* is available online through xulonpress.com/bookstore, amazon.com, and barnesandnoble.com.

Old Fashioned Sunday School at Wesley Church



Mrs. Bettye Washington

Wesley United Methodist Church will host the Annual Old Fashioned Sunday School this Sunday, March 6, 2011, at 4 p.m.

The superintendent

Zion Hill to host Pre-Spring Gospel Fest

The Zion Hill Baptist Church will sponsor a Pre-Spring Gospel Fest, March 25, 2011 at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the church, 1701 Chestnut Avenue.

The event is open and any group who wants to participate can call Robert McDonald at (512) 939-3039.

Check us out on our website

www.theaustinvillager.com

this year will be the beloved Bettye Washington, devoted church woman and community leader. Mrs. Washington, retired educator, has held several leadership positions in Wesley UMC, the Austin District, and the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The theme is "Are You Preparing for Your Rainy Day?" Scriptures are from: Genesis 41:33, Psalms 3:8, 4:7-8, and 2nd Corinthians 9:6-9.

All are invited to attend this fellowship opportunity. The Rev. Sylvester Chase is the Pastor.



Austin Energy installs first public charging station

Austin Energy electricians installed the first two public charging stations in Austin Energy's Plug-In EVwhere network recently on the first level of Austin Energy's parking garage at 721 Barton Springs Road.

There will be more than 100 public charging stations in the Austin Energy network by the end of this summer. The Austin City Council recently approved a six-month, \$25 subscription (which includes sales tax) that will enable drivers of electric vehicles to charge their vehicles at any of the charging stations in the Plug-In EVwhere network with a swipe card issued by Austin Energy. Non-subscribers can pay a \$2/hour rate with a credit card at the stations.

The charging stations come from Coulomb Technologies Inc. through a federal government stimulus grant under the company's ChargePoint America program. These Level 2 charging stations operate at 240 volts and are capable of fully charging an all-electric Nissan LEAF in 6 to 8 hours or a Chevy Volt in 2 to 3 hours.

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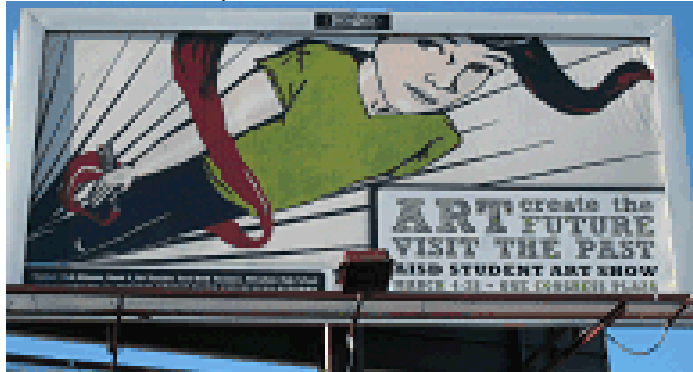
THE AIRPORT FLEE MARKET Saturdays and Sundays

4501 East Martin Luther King Blvd.

1149 Airport Blvd.

Austin Schools Celebrate Youth Art Month with Art Show, Billboards, T-Shirts —

In celebration of Youth Art Month 2011, more than 1,500 works of student art — representing 111 elementary, middle, and high schools — will be displayed in a public show, March 4-28, at One Congress Plaza, located at 111 Cesar Chavez.



grade art student at McCallum High School.

The billboards will be displayed through the month of April in the following locations around Austin:

- 5202 Burnet Rd. E. Cesar Chavez at Neches
- South First St. at Live Oak
- 4341 S. Congress Ave. 5312 Manchaca Rd. 6750 Airport Rd. 8225N.Lamar 6115 Hwy. 290 2002 E. Manor Rd. East Ben White near Riverside
- Art strands in the Texas Essential Knowledge and

Skills — state curriculum standards — include artistic perception, response/evaluation, creative expression, and history and culture. By studying art styles from pre-historic to modern times, Austin students have incorporated art history into their own cultural and personal styles. They have learned to express themselves and their traditions and invent beauty through their art creations.

For more information about Youth Art Month, interested individuals may contact Kristen Marstaller, AISD Fine Arts Coordinator, at 414-4730, or kmarstal@austinisd.org.

DAVID CHAPEL
Missionary Baptist Church

SUNDAY - Christian Education Hour: 9:30 a.m.
WORSHIP: 8:00 a.m. (MLK) & 10:30 a.m. (MLK)
Nursery Available

TUESDAY - TNT BIBLE STUDY (PFLUGERVILLE): 6:45 P.M.
WEDNESDAY—PRAYER & PRAISE: 7:00 P.M.
BIBLE STUDY: 7:30 P.M.

2211 EAST MLK@CHESTNUT ST. • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78702

Dr. Joseph C. Parker, Jr. Senior Pastor 512-472-9748 • www.davidchapel.org

Agape Baptist Church

In "The Centre" Bldg. F-157801 N. Lamar Blvd. (SE Corner of N Lamar and 183)

AGAPE is a church for all people. "Where Jesus Christ is Magnified and the love He exhibited is Exemplified." Come, receive God's unconditional love for you. For there is no greater love!

Church Services

Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Mid-Week Service

Thursday: Praise, Prayer and Bible Study 7:00 PM
Call 454-1547 for Transportation
Website www.agapebcaustintx.org

Rev. H. Ed Calahan Pastor

Imani Community Church

Davis Elementray Auditorium 5214 West Duval Road

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.
Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
•Power Hour Bible Life Group 6:00 P.M.

Imani Complex & Office,
11800 Mustang at Duval Austin, Texas 78727

Visit: imanichurch.com
Office: 512-343-9300

St. Peter's United Methodist Church

4509 Springdale Road Austin, Tx 78723
Office 512- 926-1686 Fax 512-929-7281

Christian Web Site-
stpetersaustintx.ning.com
stpetersaustintx@att.net

THE PLACE WHERE WE STEP OUT ON FAITH.
COME AND STEP OUT ON FAITH WITH US

Sunday School 8:45 a.m.
Praise and Worship 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 12:00 p.m.
and Praise /Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
(to include Children's Choir Rehersaland Bible Study with age appropriate Activities)

Rev. Jack C. Gause Pastor

JOSHUA CHAPEL CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1006 Yeager Lane, Suite 102-A Austin, Texas

Sunday Services

Sunday School 10:00 A.M.
Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study 6:30 P.M.
SATURDAY New
Member Assimilation 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Lois Hayes, Pastor

Rosewood Avenue Missionary Baptist Church

1820 Rosewood Avenue, Austin, Texas 78702
(512) 476-8201 Fax (512) 476-5693
"Divine Empowerment for Bold Ministries"

Weekly Services
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
Wed. Night Bible Fellowship 6:30 p.m.

The Spencer & Ora Lee Nobles "Hope Center" (512) 476-6722
Website: www.rosewoodbaptistchurch.org

Rev. Coby Shorter, III Pastor

Ebenezer Baptist Church

1010 East 10th Street 512-478-1875 Fax: 512-478-1892

Radio Ministry (KKI 970 AM) 9:00 A.M.
TV Ministry (ACTV. Ch 32) 9:00 A.M.
Bus Ministry Call 512-478-1875

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

Wednesday

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Panther Pictures at Pflugerville



Marshay Hatcher
Pflugerville Middle School

Spring picture time is approaching and the students

are very excited. Pictures are going to be taken March 4th, 2011.

Pictures will be taken in the students Social Studies class.

There are some amazing poses and backgrounds to choose from. And the best part is that we can take them with our friends, unfortunately the limit of people in the picture is three. Payment and a list of friends provided by a parent is required. Dress nice and don't forget to bring your smile.

School budget cut



Marcus Austin
Cedar Ridge High School

A major school budget cut has affected the state of Texas. Some of the School Districts affected by this budget cut are: Round Rock ISD, Hutto ISD, and Austin ISD. Austin ISD may close several schools, along with Hutto ISD. The Round Rock School District may put a freeze on hiring new teachers, make school year around, increase class sizes, and maybe even take away block scheduling. My English II teacher encouraged us to write a letter to the State Rep. Larry Gonzales to show our concern for what may happen to our school. We

had to pick 3 topics to write about in our letter. My 3 topics were: making school longer, bigger classes, and not having enough money to fund our technology classes. When everyone in all 7 classes finish their letters we will mail them off to the capitol and hope someone can help.

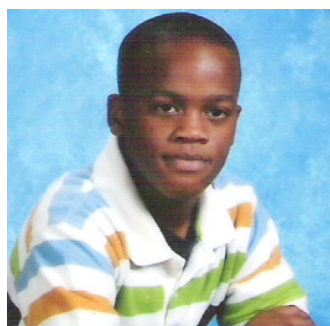
In my technology class we are a making PSA on the topic of recycling. We are in groups of 3 to 4 people and which ever groups PSA the school thinks is the best then that PSA will air on a local news channel.

February is black history month and at school we learned about some of the traditional African music played only with drums, chimes, and bongos.

We are taking our first TAKS Test of this year on Tuesday March 1. The TAKS will be English language arts for the 10th graders and Reading for the 9th graders.

That is all the news for this week thank you for reading.

P.I.S.D in Financial Crisis



By Adrian Jackson
Pflugerville Middle School

Texas is cutting school funding, and Pflugerville ISD students, staff and community members are paying the price.

It has been all over the news that Texas public schools are facing a financial

crisis. Decreasing funding for schools by nearly \$10 billion, leaving school districts in Texas to reduce already tight budgets 15% or more.

For P.I.S.D this means we will have to cut the budget by eliminating 100 or more employees from administration to campus level. Changes in courses offered and program structure are also being considered.

P.I.S.D has scheduled meeting to get together and discuss what can be done and to inform community members and parents on how they can help. We hope to get the support of our community to save our schools.

Boy's State Basketball Playoffs



Alonzo Black
Hendrickson High School

Last week marked the start of the Texas boy's state basketball playoffs. With only two losses in district play, the Hendrickson Hawks walked into the playoffs as the winner of their district. The Hawks had a very unusually mature team this year, having a total of eleven seniors this year, most of whom been teammates since their freshman year, or even longer for some.

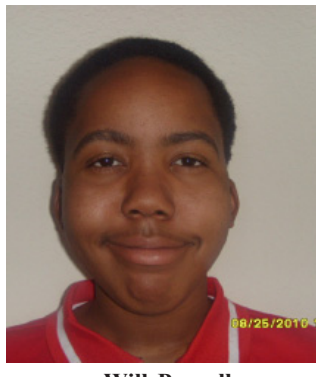
The Hawks looked to use this mature team, anchored by two very terrific senior guards, 5-11 Jalen Harris, and 6-5 Jalen Washington, who were both recently featured in the Austin American Statesman as one of the best duos in Central Texas. Their first game would be against Waxahachie High School In-

dians, a fourth place finisher in their district, a team that nearly missed the playoffs all together. They faced the Indians at Waco-Midway High School, which was chosen as a neutral site for their first round clash.

As the game got underway the Hawks fell behind in the first quarter, but came back strong in the second quarter to take a nine point lead into half time. The Hawks maintained their lead in the third, and going into the fourth quarter, seemed to be rolling when they got on top of the Indians by fifteen points.

Then as the quarter began to get underway, the Hawks' momentum slowly, but surely started slip away, and before they knew it, they were down by three with only seconds left. After one last missed desperation three, the hawks had to foul the Indians, and sent them to the line were they iced the game by splitting a pair of free throws. The final score of the game would then stand at a 67-63 loss in the first round of the playoffs. Congratulations Hawks on a wonderful season.

Done with Finals



Will Purcell
Manor New Tech High

After a stressing week, the second trimester finals are over. I'm glad I was able to get that out of the way. I'm proud of myself for doing good on

them. Although Manor New Tech High School is the with the finals, other schools still have to take theirs. The finals having always been nerve racking when it came to studying and passing. I'm super happy that in my most difficult class, I got a 84 on the final! I was so proud and so were my parents. So at the moment, we really don't have anything to do. But, I know eventually the school will be getting back to work in no time. As of right now, I won't have to see another trimester final for 12 more weeks.

Its time for Spring Break



Lexus Wren
KIPP: Austin Collegiate

On Tuesday March 1st KAC will be taking their Reading TAKS test. On Wednesday March 2nd the sophomores will be taking their science benchmark. On Thurs-

day March 3rd we will be taking our math benchmark and on Friday March 4th the sophomores will be taking their social studies benchmark.

After TAKS testing and benchmarking, KAC will have intersession and then go into Spring Break.

Also KAC Dance Crew entered two competitions in the past two weeks one in Killeen, Texas and they one two trophies and then another competition last weekend at McNeil High School and won another trophy for hip hop.

Celebrating Black History



Jaylon Knighten
Dailey Middle School

Dailey Middle School celebrated Black History Month with a Program on Wed. Feb 23rd. The Program was held in our school gymnasium. We had singing per-

formed by some of our eight grade students, The Dailey Dazzlers dance team perform and our special guest speaker was the President of the NAACP Mr. Nelson Linder. Mr. Linder spoke to us about getting our education and staying in school doing the right thing. We are the next generation and he mention that maybe in 30-40 years people could be speaking about one of us and what we have accomplished in life.

Audition for our Talent show coming in March was held this past week and on Friday we had a Pep Rally.

A lot of tests to take



Toni Nelson
KIPP: Austin Collegiate

Coming up this week is a lot of testing for the Kipp Austin Collegiate. On Monday February 28, 2011 we will have a regular school day, but on Tuesday we will be taking the real English TAKS test. For the 11th graders this means a lot, this is the exit level TAKS for us, and this means that this test is part of

the decision if we graduate. Wednesday through Friday the whole school will be benchmark testing.

Last week the KAC Varsity soccer played a friendly game against the KAC junior varsity soccer team and won 2-0. So congratulations to them. Also coming up, next week is intersession, this is a two day period where the students have no academic classes, right before Spring Break.

And lastly, last Saturday on February 26th the junior class of 2012 at KAC took our second to last PSAT before we go in to take our real SAT on March 12, 2011. So until next time, stay in school and goodbye.

AISS Funding Crisis

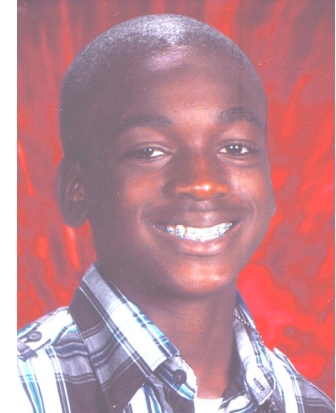


Jaquarry Wilson
LBJ High School

Recently, during this current school year, Austin Independent School District (AISD) has been talking about shutting down many schools soon. Not only has the district been on the verge of shutting nine schools down, but AISD will also be eliminating over 1000 jobs. There are approximately 12,000 positions at the

moment, and being on a \$114 million dollar deficit doesn't really contribute to the problem in a good way. This is a funding crisis that is causing many to worry. Without proper funding needed to run schools and supply them with the right things they need to educate their students, where will the money come from? This is why there might be a 13% cut of its budget for the 2011-2012 school year. But this isn't the final budget. The budget will be revised on April 11th 2011 and on April 15th 2011 all AISD employees under contract must be notified if the district is going to be cutting their job. But there is still much confusion surrounding the district and their decisions. Hopefully these problems will be solved soon.

The season's First track meet



Alon Rodgers
Kelly Lane Middle School

The boys' swept all four games at Westview Middle School and the girls had a bye week while their basketball season wraps up this week against DMS.

The season's first track meet will be March 3 at home. Don't expect this year team to perform at the same high level as past years because so many athletes are specializing in other sports and won't be

competing in track. As the eighth graders get closer to high school we start having to make a decision about what our sport of choice will be because there is just not enough time to do them all and there is a risk of injury in a sport we are not going to continue in high school.

Spring is here and everyone is pulling out their summer clothes. Maybe your clothes don't fit anymore or are torn and might get you in trouble with the dress code. Now is a good time to go through your closet and throw out items that might not be "school appropriate" anymore. And it is a great argument for a trip to the outlet mall.

Seventh graders will be taking the TAKS writing test this week, while the rest of us have a little more time.

This year's school musical "Beauty and the Beast" is March 4 in the cafetorium.

Advertise in the VILLAGER! Call 476-0082 for info. or go to www.theaustinvillager.com

2011 African American Legislation Summit in photos by Damon Luckett



Special Guest Roland Martin addresses the media panel



U.S. Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee Addresses the Summit



Attendees line up for lunch on the grounds

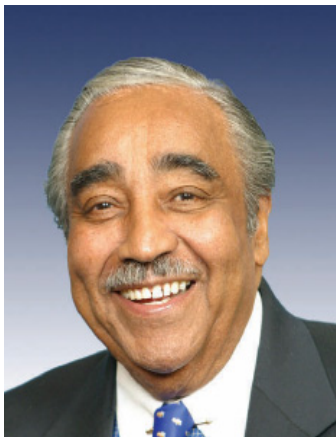


Media panelist (l to r) Millie Belt (Dallas Examiner) Sonny M. Jiles (Houston Defender, Karen Carter Richards (Houston Forward Times) and Akwasi Evans (Nokoa - The Observer)

Rangel Ready for 2012

By Cyril Josh Barker
Special to the NNPA from the
New York Amsterdam News

It's never too early to start. Harlem Congressman Charlie Rangel is "fired up" for the 2012 election season, with hopes of winning his 41st term as representative of the 15th Congressional District. Rangel has officially filed the necessary paperwork with the Federal Election Commission allowing him to run in 2012 and begin to raise funds for his campaign. The Democratic Party congressman hit a few bumps last year when he was censured by Congress on ethics charges, and stepped aside from his position as chair of the House Ways and Means Committee before the Democrats lost the House of Representa-



Cong. Charlie Rangel tives in the fall elections. However, Rangel's camp said the congressman is gearing up for another victory. "I would assume he's confident," said Bob Liff, a spokesman for Rangel's campaign. "We were up against some significant obstacles and went through the toughest election since 1994, and it was extremely gratifying for him. He won every single part of the district

and he won against five other candidates." Liff added that Rangel is one of several sitting representatives who have already made a running start for 2012. Michigan Rep. John Conyers from Detroit told a newspaper that he plans to run for his 25th term. Rangel won the 2010 Democratic primary congressional race for the 15th District seat with 51 percent of the vote against five opponents, and in the general election he received 81 percent of the vote. Several candidates from the 2010 election have expressed interest in running again, including Joyce Johnson, who was endorsed by the New York Times for the seat in 2010, Vince Morgan and Craig Schley.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Youth Rip the Runway During Their First Spring Break Fashion Show

(Round Rock, TX) — The Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Pi Omega Zeta Chapter youth invite the community to a Spring Break Fashion Show on Friday, March 18, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at Fern Bluff Community Center, 7320 Wyoming Spring Road, Round Rock. The show, supported by local retailers, features youth styling the latest fashions, entertainment, emcee Virginia Cumberbach, and refreshments. Supporters include: Lakeline Mall's Express and Visual Changes Salon, Andy/Sohn/Haun, and Target.

tx/piomegazeta/. Fern Bluff on Hwy 620, one block from the Round Rock Hospital.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the show starting at 6:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the youth of the Pi Omega Zeta Chapter. For tickets, call 512-699-0443 or visit www.orgsites.com/

MYEC

Celebrating Black History Heritage Festival held at Huston-Tillotson

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

On February 26, the Twelfth Annual Heritage Festival was held in the heart of East Austin at Huston-Tillotson College. The Heritage Festival was birth from the idea of the need to celebrate Black History in positive way. So, for the past twelve years, the entire city of Austin has used the Heritage Festival to celebrate both the past and the present African American history. Moreover, this event is important because it is one of the most popular events commemorating the existence

of African Americans in the city of Austin. Since this event was family friendly, an entire generation of African Americans came to celebrate their history.

Furthermore, the festival was widely attended by both the vendors and the public. According to the festival organizers there were over 60 vendors present at this event. The vendors were selling a variety of products, such as, jewelry, clothes, shoes, insurance, beauty products, food, house products and

decorations, and authentic African wood carving statues. Furthermore, vendors came from all the parts of the city and also from other cities like San Antonio. For instance, Ms. Jackson came all the way from San Antonio. Moreover, the numerous vendors stated that "this year, the mood was very festival and pleasant." Despite the cloudy weather, the people made an effort to enjoy themselves, while supporting African American small business owners present at the event.

South Sudan Chooses Independence, Blacks Still Enslaved

Boston - As South Sudan's Christians and animists voted overwhelmingly to secede from the Arab Muslim north, rights groups are concerned about the fate of an estimated 35,000 of southern slaves still held in the north.

Officials from the American Anti-Slavery Group (AASG) and Christian Solidarity International-USA (CSI-USA) witnessed the voting and documented the liberation of almost 400 slaves. "As the world focuses on the birth of the newest African nation, thousands of southerners are held as slaves who continue to serve masters in the north," said Charles Jacobs, President of the AASG.

Slavery in Sudan persists despite British efforts to end it in the first half of the 20th century. In the 1980s, with the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, the regime in Khartoum attempted to impose Shariah law on the south triggering a revolt. In response, northern leaders sent Arab mili-

tias to destroy southern villages; African women and children were captured as war booty and enslaved.

"It is inconceivable that in the 21st century Blacks are still being enslaved because of the color of their skin. Their suffering is terrible. They are treated like animals," said Francis Bok, and escaped Sudanese slave and an Associate of the AASG. CSI frees slaves in partnership with Arab retrievers who find and return them to the south. CSI also provides the former slaves with humanitarian aid.

Reports of slavery originally sparked U.S. interest in Sudan. AASG and CSI, along with others, created a grassroots abolitionist movement and built an unlikely left-right political coalition that pressured U.S. administrations to intervene in Sudan. In 2005 President George W. Bush imposed a peace treaty that included the provision for the recent vote. "Slavery is not a matter of right or left, but right or

wrong. Imagine, we had Pat Robertson and Barney Frank," said Jacobs.

The "Sudan Campaign" included Congressional Black Caucus members, Black radio personalities and White Republicans. "America is an abolitionist nation," he added, "I heard stories of absolute horror," said Jacobs. "The slaves were ripped from their families and taken north. Some were branded, many were raped - boys as well as girls and women. Many were forcibly converted to Islam." Muslim as well as Christian slaves were liberated. Jacobs stressed, "All people of goodwill should join us in demanding that all of the remaining slaves be set free." Dr. Jacobs and Mr. Bok are available for interviews. Also, photos and videos of freed slaves are available at www.iabolish.org. For all inquiries contact Charles Jacobs Email: charlesjacobs123@gmail.com Contact telephone: (617) 835-3584

AISD Declares a state of Emergency for the district

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

In the early mornings of March 1, 2011 the Austin school board voted on the declaration of Financial Exigency, which would allow the Austin School District to take the necessary steps to address the budget deficit. After the declaration, the school board can begin to legally look at designated areas or programs that need to be cut. The next step would be the application of selecting the criteria to get rid of the programs. Then the school board would vote either to terminate employees or vote not to renew certain contracts. Moreover, the school board has until March 28, 2011 to begin to layoff Austin school district employees and to cut certain programs that would help the Austin school district bridge its budget gaps.

Moreover, the cuts are necessary because the State government is facing one of its largest budget deficits; therefore, cannot adequately fund all the school districts throughout Texas. Since the State of Texas cannot properly fund the schools, the various Central Texas school districts have to find alternative and creative ways to keep its doors open to teach the students. In other words, the Austin School Board decision to declare Financial Exigency was not a light or easy decision. Moreover, the vote was taken in pain, because the



Ms. Peace has a simple message for the school board - Take School closures off the table

School Board understands that Austin has one of the best teachers and educational programs. Now that the Financial Exigency was voted on, the Austin school district can begin to close the 44 million budget deficit.

However, the School Board's only positive decision was to keep all the schools open. In other words, there will most likely be no school closure for the next fiscal year. Consequently, it would allow for neighborhood

schools to remain open. Parents would not have to drive long distances, in order, to take their children to school. It would be best for numerous exemplary schools, to keep on teaching students throughout the city of Austin. Also, the continuations of these schools are victory for all Austin school age students because they would have the opportunity to remain in the school, in which, they have build friendship with other students and teachers.

The Ivory Coast: From bad to Worst

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

In the past weeks, the events of the Ivory Coast has gone from bad to worse. In the past weeks, there has been an escalation of violence on both sides. However, the so called international community, which is supposed to be impartial, has slowly begun to take sides against the Ivorian Leaderships. Consequently, the international communities, such as the Human Right Groups, the United States of America, France, Great Britain and some other African countries have begun to openly support the opposition groups. Moreover, their "blatant" partiality have stop or refrain the need of real peaceful solution among Ivorian themselves. Moreover, the so called International community that wants to enforce human rights, should look at all the avenues in which the Ivorian government and the opposition can sit together and have an honest and truthful dialogue that focuses on ending

the violence on civilians; while resolving the governance issues.

Furthermore, Western governments should end the entire embargo on the Ivory Coast because it only affects the population, instead of addressing the real problem. In recent weeks, the American government has placed in embargo on the Ivory Coast cocoa. However, the embargo will only affect the poor farmers, because the government can go around them. Then foreign banks including numerous French banks have closed their doors without warning their clients. Moreover, this measure was done to make people angry against the government but also to shut down the Ivorian economy. Finally, there has been an embargo on the pharmaceutical products. Moreover, all these bans have only caused numerous innocent people who have nothing to do with the crisis, suffer with those who caused it. In other

words, these are unfair measures because it is targeting everyone who lives in the Ivory Coast.

Finally, numerous non-profit so called right groups like Human Right Watch have decided to take a side against the government. Consequently, groups like the Human Right Watch have refused to condemn and acknowledge violence coming from the other side. In order to be a credible source, the so-called right groups need to condemn violence coming from both sides. Condemning violence from both sides will cause both parties to sit down at the table and find a real solution. In other words, "It takes two to Tango." So, if the so-called human right groups are interested in protecting the lives' of civilians on either side, then they must ask each side to refrain from violence. Moreover, this violence on both sides does not advance the political stalemate.

THE AFRICAN CHILDRENS CHOIR COMES TO TOWN

The African Children's Choir will be coming to Austin this March 6th & 9th ---They are in town to perform at Austin Christian Fellowship on the 6th and Lake Hulls Church on the 9th. I wanted to get in touch with you to see if you and might be interested in event coverage, be it in advance or in attendance of the event!

These ambassadors of peace and joy, range in age 7-11, they travel the world to perform, educate and inspire. These are children from the poorest countries on the planet but whose rich voices have been heard by international leaders and top performers the world over. During the past 26 years, these little ones have raised millions of dollars to educate and rebuild countries devastated by famine,

war and AIDS. Each child is heartbreakingly familiar with such circumstances; every child in the choirs has lost one - or both - parents to these killers. However, they triumph. The children come from countries where education is not free, so through the efforts of the Choir and its sponsor, Music for Life, The African Children's choir is able to educate 6500 children in seven African nations.

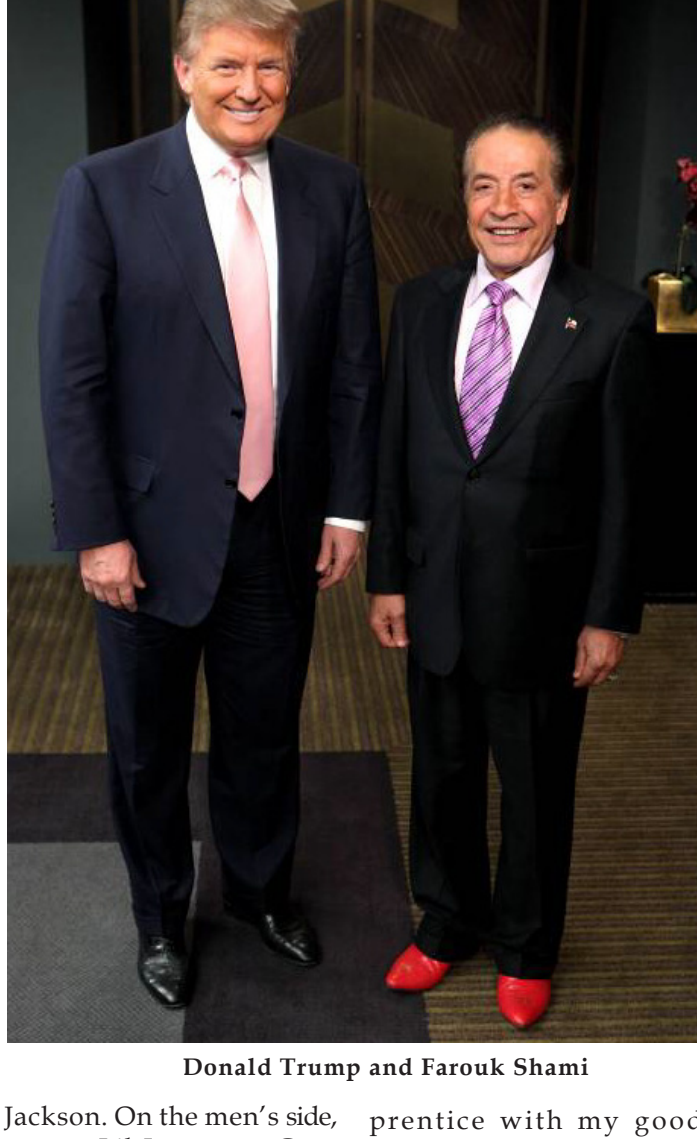


HAIR KING FAROUK SHAMI ON THE CELEBRITY APPRENTICE

Watch the drama unfold beginning Sunday, March 6 at 9 p.m. Eastern! NBC's hit show *The Celebrity Apprentice* returns to primetime for its 11th consecutive season. Making a guest appearance amid the all-star line up will be Farouk Systems Founder and Chairman, Farouk Shami, who will appear as a guest judge during a special task in episode 9 airing May 1st.

"The next season of *The Celebrity Apprentice* will be the most exciting yet," said Donald Trump, the show's star and executive producer. "We are thrilled to bring back the celebrity format with 16 new and unbelievably talented celebrities who will help me make *The Celebrity Apprentice* one of the hottest shows on television this spring. Our cast and the tasks they perform in conjunction with our sponsor partners are just outstanding. As the top television shows for product placement and brand integration, *The Apprentice* proves the extraordinary value we offer to our sponsor partners."

This season's cast includes *Real Housewives of Atlanta* star NeNe Leakes, actresses Lisa Rinna and Marlee Matlin, model Niki Taylor, singer Dionne Warwick, former *The View* co-host Star Jones, Playmate Hope Dworaczyk and LaToya



Donald Trump and Farouk Shami

Jackson. On the men's side, rapper Lil Jon, actor Gary Busey, former baseball player Jose Canseco, Survivor winner Richard Hatch, former teen idol David Cassidy, and singers Meat Loaf, John Rich and Sugar Ray lead singer Mark McGrath.

"Watch me, the Hair King, on *The Celebrity Ap-*

prentice with my good friend Donald Trump," Shami said. "We are proud to have gotten the opportunity to share in this experience. You won't want to miss out on this season!"

The newest season of *The Celebrity Apprentice* premieres Sunday March 6th at 9 p.m. on NBC.

Smoke-Free workplace law would save the Texas economy \$404 million each biennium

New academic study shows substantial economic benefits of a smoke-free workplace law for Texas.

A new study released today by the Smoke-Free Texas Coalition concludes that the implementation of a comprehensive statewide smoke-free workplace law would save the Texas economy \$404 million in reduced health care costs and productivity savings biennially.

The study titled "Smoke-Free Environments: The Benefits to Texans and Their Communities" was funded by the American Cancer Society and conducted by the Texas Health Institute, the University of Texas School of Public Health and Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health. The objective of the study was to assess the health and economic impact of a comprehensive smoke-free law that would cover all public workplaces, including restaurants and bars.

"As a doctor and a lawmaker, I see the impact of secondhand smoke to Texans from two perspectives: one from the health perspective and the other from the impact this law would have on the Texas budget," said Rep. John Zerwas, M.D. (R-Simonton) House Committee on Appropriations on Article II. "This study's results indicate that a statewide smoke-free workplace law would not only save money for the state's economy, but would help improve the health of Texas employees and customers."

Within the \$404 million total biennial savings, the study authors found:

- More than \$108 million in reduced health care costs to nonsmokers that would not be exposed to secondhand smoke, including \$32 million in medical costs that would be averted by reducing low birth weight births in areas of Texas with only partial or no smoke-free

workplace legislation.

- More than \$142 million in reduced health care costs for smokers who quit as a result of the law.

- More than \$154 million in productivity cost savings for the state's economy.

"The results of this study indicate extraordinary health care cost savings and productivity gains for the state's economy: more than \$404 million," said Dr. Shelton Brown III, Ph.D., health economist at the University of Texas School of Public Health and lead study researcher.

A statewide smoke-free workplace law will have an extraordinary impact on health care costs due to low birth weight births in Texas. Every year, an estimated 325 babies are born with a low birth weight in areas of Texas with only partial or no smoke-free workplace legislation as a result of a mother's exposure to secondhand smoke while she is pregnant. With a statewide smoke-free workplace law, the state's economy will see more than \$32 million in medical cost savings due to fewer cases of low birth weight births in Texas biennially.

"Our research team found that the Texas economy would directly benefit from the millions in savings accomplished through healthier workplace environments prompted by the passage of smoke-free workplace legislation," said Klaus Kroeyer Madsen, MPH, director of special projects at the Texas Health Institute. "It is clear, employees, employers, taxpayers and all Texans would benefit from the reduced exposure to secondhand smoke that would follow passage of this law."

Secondhand smoke kills 46,000 Americans due to heart disease and 3,400 Americans due to lung cancer every year. Secondhand smoke exposure is the third leading cause of preventable

death in the U.S. and is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, premature birth and low birth weight and other health problems.

"Our goal was to quantify the savings a statewide smoke-free workplace law would provide Texas," said Craig Blakeley, PhD, MPH, dean of Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health. "The results demonstrate millions saved through significant reductions in health care costs and other direct and indirect costs of secondhand smoke exposure such as increased worker productivity."

The findings of the study add to the increasing momentum for a smoke-free workplace law in Texas. Senate Bill 355 and House Bill 670 filed by Sen. Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) and Rep. Myra Crowover (R-Denton) respectively propose a comprehensive smoke-free workplace law that would give all Texas employees and nonsmokers protection from the dangers of secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace. The proposed legislation is supported by numerous organizations, local elected officials, faith leaders and individuals across the state.

"The millions of dollars saved through a statewide smoke-free workplace law adds to the growing list of reasons why such a law is necessary for Texas," said James Gray, government relations director at the American Cancer Society. "A smoke-free workplace law would not only save lives, but would provide much-needed savings for our state in this critical time of massive budget constraints."

The study was commissioned late last year and concluded this week. Researchers focused on counties and municipalities where smoke-free policies do not already exist and took into account Texas cities with partial ordinances.

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

City of Austin Purchasing Office Advertisements 02/28/2011

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/vs/p3.htm>

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. JSD0502 RFQS EAST 11TH AND 12TH STREET DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. A Vendor Conf will be held at Municipal Bldg, 124 W. 8th St., Ste. 308 at 11:00A on 3/14/11. Offers due prior to 2:00P on 3/30/11.

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.

BIDS/PROPOSALS

Laughlin-Thyssen Inc is soliciting Minority, Small Locally Owned & Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation for the following City of Austin Project: Airport & Chesterfield Wastewater Improvements; Bid Date & Time: 3/31/2011, 10:00AM CT. Please Call (713) 429-6500 for more information.

Employment

Office/Fiscal Manager

Small non-profit agency seeks full-time office/fiscal manager. Assist Executive Director in fiscal matters including monitoring financial systems, payroll and preparation of technical and budget proposals. Maintain confidential budget, personnel and grant information and files. Assures federal and state grant and contract financial compliance and reporting. Must have: Ability to analyze and systematize financial information; strong written, oral and organizational skills; strong attention to detail. Reply to: austin@jba-cht.com.

Austin Community College

New Jobs for the Week of 2/25/2011

Assistant, Senior Student Financial Aid – Veterans Affairs Round Rock Campus Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. \$2,369-\$2,961/Monthly Job #1102003

Coordinator, Evening/Weekend Operations – Part-Time (50%) Round Rock Campus Monday – Thursday 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. \$1,587- \$1,984/Monthly Job #1102028

Assistant II, Administrative Round Rock Campus Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. \$2,046-\$2,558/Monthly Job #1102029

Apply at HR 5930 Middle Fiskville Rd. 6th Floor, Austin, TX 78752 Job Line (512) 223-5621 <http://www.austinncc.edu> EEO/AA/M/F/D/V

JANITORIAL WORKERS NEEDED ISS Facility Services, Inc. has openings for supervisory, floor men, and general cleaners for part-time evening employment. Apply at ISS Facility Services, Inc. Austin, M-F, between 4-6 pm, 8101 Cameron Road # 304. ISS Facility Services, Inc. is an Equal opportunity Employer (EOE) and promotes a Diverse Workforce.

Austin 8th Grade Students Achieve Highest Score on Science Among 17 Urban Districts — Austin 4th Graders Score Higher on Science than Peers in 12 Other Urban Districts

'Nation's Report Card' Compares Districts on 4th and 8th Grade Science

Superintendent Meria Carstarphen announced today that 8th grade students in the Austin Independent School District achieved the highest score in Science, among the 17 urban districts participating in what is commonly referred to as the *Nation's Report Card*. Austin's 4th graders also scored higher in Science than their peers in 12 other urban districts.

"Results from the *Nation's Report Card* show that the AISD 4th and 8th grades students' scores in Science were among the highest in the nation, compared to the 16 other urban districts in the study, and our students are Number One in the nation in 8th grade Science," Dr. Carstarphen said. "We are all filled with pride, as the nation looks today at our AISD students and staff, who continue to prove that they are outstanding among their peers."

"The Austin School District takes the lead of the nation's urban school systems striving to improve science education," said Michael Casserly, executive director of the Washington D.C.-based Council of Great City Schools. "The proof is in their students scoring at the national average in science among fourth and eighth graders, making the Austin school system the only big-city school system that volunteered for the rigorous national test to claim that achievement."

Results for the 17 urban

districts that participated in this year's National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) were released today in Boston, Massachusetts.

AISD has participated in the NAEP urban schools assessment since 2005, and — as with previous Reading, Writing, and Mathematics results — Austin students once again outperformed most of their peers on Science, based upon 2009 data.

Fourth Grade Results: Austin's 4th graders' scores ranked third among the 17 urban districts, nine points above the Large City percentage. Overall, 31 percent of 4th graders tested in AISD scored at or above Proficient level, compared with Large Cities (17 percent), and national public schools (29 percent), and other TUDA districts, including Houston (17 percent).

AISD White, African American, Hispanic, and Economically Disadvantaged 8th graders scored significantly higher than did their peers in both national public schools and Large Cities. Additionally, Austin 8th grade students with disabilities outperformed their peers in large cities. (Data for each student group are presented in Tables 1 and 2.)

Similar to results for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), gaps in performance on NAEP between White students and other student groups for Mathematics, Reading, and Science continue to persist.

Additional results for the science test may be accessed at the following website: <http://www.nationsreportcard.gov>

METRO

Proposed Summer 2011 Service Changes

Capital Metro is seeking public feedback on changes to its transit system. As part of Capital Metro's regular Summer Service Change, relatively minor adjustments are made and are typically associated with suspension of school-related services. These proposed changes also include minor route and schedule modifications for improvements in passenger access and reliability.

Public Meetings:
Monday, March 7
 Capital Metro Transit Store, 323 Congress Ave.
 - 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 - 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
 Served by downtown routes
Monday, March 7
 Northfield Neighborhood Association
 Dayspring Chapel, 55th and Avenue G.
 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
 Served by routes: 7 & 320
Public Hearing:
 Wednesday, March 9
 Capital Metro Headquarters, 2910 E. 5th St.
 Served by routes 17 and 300
 11:30 a.m.

The proposal will go before the board of directors on Monday, March 28. If approved, these changes would take effect Sunday, June 5, 2011.
 Cynthia Lucas Marketing Manager, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 2910 E. 5th Street, Austin, TX 78702, office: 512-369-6078 fax: 512-369-6524



By George Hardin SportsBeat

George "Monk" Foreman III won over Christopher Jones by technical knock out 2:55 into the first round at the Austin Music Hall Friday, Feb. 25. The heavyweight-boxing match was the main event in the Joe Dumas Legends series, which featured five other fights, sponsored to help raise funds to reopen the Ann Wolfe Boxing and Fitness Gym.

Foreman III, of Houston, son of the former heavy champion of the world, George "Big George" Foreman—who was in a ringside seat—charged

into Jones instantly as the opening bell rang and stunned him with a barrage of punches that knocked him down. The referee asked Jones if he wanted to continue and Jones said yes.

As fighting resumed Jones, who is from Shreveport, La., was again overwhelmed, was barely able to defend himself and was knocked down again. Officials decided to stop the fight.

Wolfe, one of the nation's top female boxers, provides recreational activities and social skills lessons at no cost to at-risk youth, but recently faced financial problems at the nonprofit facility and had to close. She formerly was the world champion in four different weight groups at the same time.

Wolfe's daughter, Jennifer Wolfe, won over Kerri Hill of Russellville, Ark., in the only contest on the card featuring two female boxers. George "Big George" Foreman was a two-time heavyweight boxing champion. (He's now better known as the namesake of the George Foreman Grill.) When Wolfe's daughter and Foreman's son on

George Foreman III defeats foe in 1st round by TKO

the same bill it was the first time ever that the children of ex-world champions were on the same card.

In other matches, Cedric Agnew of Chicago defeated Tyrone Jackson of Groesbeck, Texas; Salvador Roa of Pflugerville won over Robert Hill of Gulfport, Miss; Johnny Arellano of Austin overcame Chris Russell of Shattuck, Okla.; and Calvin Shepard of Austin defeated David Green of Monroe, La.

The Reagan High New Orleans Funk Band performed during intermission.

Regarding her daughter's win, Ann Wolfe said, "She's following in my footsteps, She's starting to step up now, starting to come alive."

Dumas, the promoter, who is based in Houston, said, "We've been making tours around small towns in Texas, Louisiana. We bring along young developing fighters. George had no amateur experience. The idea was to get him started and showcased in small venues as we



George Foreman III stands over his opponent, Christopher Jones, after knocking him down, as the referee hovers over the fighter. Foreman was declared winner after the fight was stopped in the first round. Photo by George E. Hardin

build him up." Dumas is the nephew of "Big George" Foreman.

"I feel good," Jennifer Wolfe said after her fight, "because I was on point. I

moved around more. I didn't have much nervousness. I was more relaxed." Training with her mother, she said, "is hard but it's good. Sometimes I don't want her to do my

training because she's my mom and she's going to be twice as hard on me, but she brings out the best in me."

Golf tournament honors Donald Grace's memory

By George Hardin SportsBeat

Intermittent rains did not hamper the Donald Grace Memorial Golf Tournament benefit a golf tournament on Saturday, Feb. 26, at Blackhawk Golf Course, 2714 Kelly Lane.

Horace Edison of Wesley United Methodist Church said, "We have over 60 players signed to

support us in our effort to honor brother Donald E. Grace. He was a member of Wesley and he passed away a few years ago. We named this tournament in his honor."

Edison said the tournament has been held for about five years. He said golfers were registered from throughout Austin and all over Central Texas. "We

have a lot of persons," he said, "from fraternities and church groups that support each other. So it's a community-type effort at this golf tournament. Our coordinator is brother Leonard Woods along with brother Grady Elliot."

A continental breakfast and lunch were included as well as team and individual prizes.

Participants in the Donald Grace Memorial Golf Tournament,



Photo 1, from left, Jim Anderson, Michael Gibson, Hamlet Herring and Ed Fernandez.



Photo 2, from left, R. Christopher, C. Christopher, L. Woods, and L. Hornsby.



Photo 3, from left, Grayson Crayton, Tommy Wyatt, Tony Lawrence, and Lawrence Britton. Photos by George E. Hardin



George Foreman is surrounded by fans who want pictures with him as he appeared at Austin Music Hall to watch his son box. Photo by George E. Hardin

Austin Toros basketball player finds success and inspires on and off the court

Michael Joiner loves playing basketball for the Austin Toros, the NBA's Development League and the official minor league basketball organization associated with the San Antonio Spurs. He also knows that at the age of 29, he may not have many more years left in the very physically demanding sport.

Fortunately for Michael, he loves education as much as he loves basketball. Michael comes from a household where learning and higher education are valued and held in high regard. His father, a 22-year career Army veteran who oversaw human resources management in the service and later as a civilian employee for the military, has a master's degree. His mother, also a master's graduate, is an elementary school principal. Both taught him that education is something no one can

take away from you once you've earned it, and if you twist a knee, you're not taken out of the workforce game as you would be from the basketball court.

Michael recently earned his Master of Management in Human Resources degree from University of Phoenix. He is enthusiastically awaiting the diploma to arrive by mail to his home in Stedman,



Michael Joiner

North Carolina, where he resides during the Toros off-season. Due to his hectic basketball schedule which has taken him throughout the world, including China, Australia, South Korea, Great Britain and Germany; he could not attend commencement ceremonies. "I'm hoping that with my degree, I can stay in the game I love, but trade in my basketball uniform for a business suit and manage the human resources or personnel side of the business," he said. "With a degree, the options have widened immensely for me."

Michael Joiner is a positive example of how lifelong learning and the pursuit of education are never a "bad call" in the game of life. I would love to connect you with Michael for a more in-depth interview and profile in conjunction with Black History Month in February.