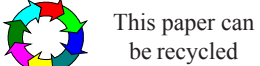


The Villager

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March 15, 2013

Celebrating and Promoting Diversity In All Its Forms

By Angela Wyatt and LaTonya J. Pegues

Blacks in Technology (BiT), the leading coalition of African-American technology organizations and industry thought-leaders proudly announced the addition of The BiTHouse to South by South West (SXSW) Interactive. The four-day event rallied many of the brightest minds in innovation for a vibrant series of workshops, seminars and award presentations aimed at highlighting the impact the Black Diaspora has in shaping innovation and growing technology-related industries, products and services.

BiT is an initiative that grew out of a concern expressed by African-Americans living in Austin to promote more diversity during the SXSW conferences. In 2008, SXSW began hosting a free Welcome Reception at the Carver Museum encouraging African Americans from Central Texas to attend. The BiTHouse has evolved into a place where African American entrepreneurs and techno professionals can share, collaborate and educate themselves in the latest



Miss. Mikaila Ulmer, SXSW Youth Panelist and Mr. Cory Booker, Mayor of Newark. Photo courtesy of BeeSweet Lemonade

solutions, financial options and guidelines to build and renovate their businesses to increase success.

BiT activities kicked off with an opening reception Friday, March 8, 2013 from 6PM to 9 PM at The Carver Museum, followed by an awards ceremony, Top African Americans in technology sector, honoring the Top

10 Black Innovators of 2012 who have, demonstrated leadership and made an impact by fostering disruptive in innovation in technology-related industries, products and services. The 2012 Top Black Innovator Award Recipients: **Heather Hiles** – CEO and Founder of Pathbrite; **Katherine Finney** – Editor-at-Large

of BlogHer, Founder of The Budget Fashionista blog and the digital undivided conference; **Hamet Watt** – Co-Founder of bLife and MoviePass; **Mae Jemison** - Physician and NASA astronaut, 1st African American woman in space; **Cory Booker** – Mayor of Newark, NJ and Co-Founder of Waywire; **Navarrow Wright** – Chief Technology Officer at Interactive One; **Victoria Walker** – 11 year old winner of AT&T's 2012 hackathon; **Melissa Harris Perry** – Author and host of MSNBC's "Melissa Harris-Perry"; **W. Kamau Bell** – Socio-Political Comic and Host of FX's "Totally Biased" and **Kimberly Bryant** – Founder of Black Girls Code

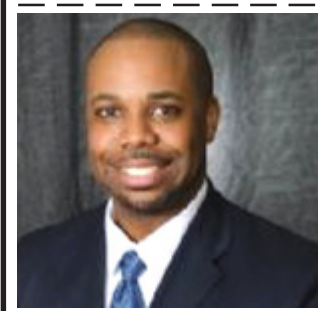
Saturday, March 9, 2013 attendees enjoyed an assortment of panels, where local youth and adult engagement shined through brighter than ever at the 2013 @SXSW Interactive Festival. An all youth panel ranging in age from 8-13, "Generation Change" featured five young pioneers whose insight on problem solving

See **DIVERSITY**, Page 5

INSIDE



Baylor College School of Medicine ranked top-tier medical school in U.S. See **MEDICAL** Page 3



Gilder receives exaltation in strategic management career. See **TECHNOLOGY** Page 7



SIG invest millions into 1,300 of the country's lowest performing schools. See **FUNDING** Page 8

UT Austin Graduate Programs Receive Top Rankings from U.S. News

AUSTIN, Texas – The University of Texas at Austin has the top ranked accounting and Latin American history programs in the nation and more than 50 other science, humanities and professional programs ranked in the top 25 nationally, according to U.S. News & World

See **UT**, Page 2



Austin Energy Issues Call for Additional Wind Energy

AUSTIN, TX – Austin Energy is on course to obtain up to 35 percent of its electricity from renewable energy by 2020 with the release Monday, March 11, of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for up to 200 megawatts (MW) of wind generated renewable energy.

See **TAX CREDIT**, Page 5

Wells Fargo commits to lending \$55 billion to women-owned businesses by the year 2020

(BLACK PR WIRE) – SAN FRANCISCO, March 8, 2013 – Wells Fargo & Company (NYSE: WFC), America's No. 1 small business lender¹ and a leading lender to women- and diverse-owned businesses, to

See **WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES**, Page 2



African Ancestry, Inc. Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

(BLACK PR WIRE) – WASHINGTON, DC (March 2013) – It's easy to forget that just 10 short years ago, African Americans had no way to accurately or reliably determine where they came from in Africa. In 2003, African Ancestry, Inc. (AfricanAncestry.com) arrived on the scene and things

See **DNA**, Page 5

Ethics in Business & Community Finalists Announced

Austin, TX – RecognizeGood announces the finalists for the 11th Annual Ethics in Business & Community Awards. This prestigious award recognizes individuals and businesses in Central Texas who have been nominated by the community as exemplary ethical leaders demon

See **HOPE FOR HEROES**, Page 2

Howard's Garage Closes



By Shirley A. Hammond follow her on twitter.com @xtremereidewish1

A letter of appreciation, removal of huge signage, and a final repair job. These were some of the happenings at 924 Shady Lane as garage owner James

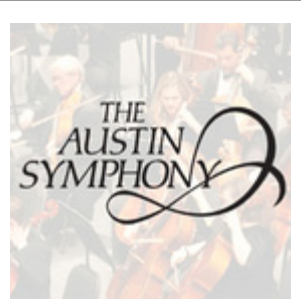
See **HOWARD**, Page 2

Building a Community:



The First Century of African American Life in Travis County, a new exhibit that takes visitors on a sojourn through a century of African American history in the Travis County area, opens on September 25, 2012 and runs through March 24, 2013 at the Aus-

See **ESTEVANIO**, Page 7



AUSTIN SYMPHONY CONTINUES ARTISAN CHAMBER SERIES

The Austin Symphony continues its new chamber music series on Thursday, March 28 with the second concert of The Artisan Series

See **MOZART**, Page 2



PAWS IN PRISON PARTY

Friends of the Paws in Prison program invite you to party with them at the Nutty Brown Café, Sunday, April 7th, 3:00-6:00 pm. The afternoon will feature live music from Austin's blues and rock band Pearl, a silent auction and other treats to

See **CHAMPIONS**, Page 2

THE COMMUNIQUE

UT Austin Programs Increase in Ranks Continued from page 1

Report's latest edition of "Best Graduate Schools," released this morning.

The College of Education and College of Pharmacy are each the fourth best in the nation in their fields (with Education ranking first among public universities). And the School of Information(iSchool) is sixth best in Library and Information Sciences.

Among other overall school rankings, the Cockrell School of Engineering is 11th best (sixth among publics). The McCombs School of Business is 17th best (fifth among publics). The Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs remains at No. 16, the Jackson School of Geosciences remains at No. 9 for Earth Sciences, and the School of Social Work remains at No. 7.

The University of Texas School of Law climbed one place in the rankings, to No. 15 in the nation. It is fourth best among public law schools, trailing only the University of Virginia, the University of Michigan and the University of California at Berkeley, all of which charge higher tuition

to both in-state and out-of-state residents than UT Law.

"Graduate programs are critical to the research university ecosystem, and UT Austin's graduate programs continue to be a source of strength, advancing the whole university," said President Bill Powers, who also serves as vice chair of the Association of American Universities. "We should all be very proud of the progress UT Austin continues to make in graduate education."

Using quantitative and qualitative measures, U.S. News annually ranks graduate school programs in business, education, engineering and law. Certain other Ph.D. programs and specialty programs are ranked in alternate years based on ratings of academic experts, including faculty members and administrators. Some of those rankings are included in the latest report, which is considered the 2014 edition.

Since 2006, the number of UT Austin programs ranked in the top 5 has climbed from 9 to 16.

Other highlights for UT Austin this year in-

clude:

- **Computer engineering moved up four places to No. 5.**
- **Mechanical engineering moved into the top 10.**
- **Digital librarianship moved up four places to No. 9.**

The top rankings for graduate programs are consistent with other rankings for UT Austin, which has been named the 25th best university in the world (Times Higher Education), the 46th best overall university in the United States (U.S. News & World Report) and the 27th best value among public colleges (Kiplinger).

UT Austin has maintained these levels of excellence despite cuts in state general revenue funding. Legislative leaders are now exploring ways to restore some of those cuts. The university also receives less money through state allocations and tuition than its national peers and is thesecond most efficient public research university in the U.S.

Women-owned Businesses are Among America's Fastest Growing Segments Continued from page 1

day announced a commitment to lend a cumulative total of \$55 billion to women-owned businesses in the U.S. by the year 2020, updating its lending commitment first established in 1995. The announcement will be made by Lisa Stevens, Wells Fargo lead executive for Small Business and West Coast Regional Banking president, at the Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) 22nd Annual Latina History Day conference in Los Angeles.

March is National Women's History Month, and Wells Fargo has a rich history of working with women business owners and providing them access to capital and financial services. Since introducing the women's lending commitment 18 years ago, Wells Fargo has provided more than \$38 billion in capital to women business owners, a group that grew in size by more than 20 percent from 2002 to 2007, according to the latest Census data. Today, approximately 30 percent of businesses in the U.S. are owned by women, according to the National Women's Business Council.

"Women-owned businesses are among America's fastest growing segments, and we are honored to support their

role in shaping the future of small business," said Stevens. "As a leader in lending to women, Wells Fargo is dedicated to helping women succeed financially — in business and personally."

Wells Fargo's first lending commitment in 1995 established a goal to lend \$1 billion to women business owners over three years. Fueled by the continued growth of women business owners, the goal was increased, most recently in 2003.

In addition to the cumulative lending goal, Wells Fargo supports numerous outreach efforts to build relationships with women business owners and help them to succeed financially. Wells Fargo is a proud supporter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) and the Women Presidents' Organization, as well as several other organizations focused on the education, growth and advancement of women business owners. Wells Fargo provides the full array of financial products and services to satisfy all of the financial needs of women-owned businesses, such as banking, business loans and lines of credit, credit cards, payroll, merchant services, insurance, retirement planning, and online resources.

Fight for Air Climb 2013

Date: April 27, 2013

Time: 7am-1pm

Venue: Frost Bank Tower: 401 Congress Ave, ATX 78701

Website: www.AustinClimb.org

Phone: (512) 467-6753

Contact: Paige Lewandowski (same phone)

It is \$100 minimum to climb, but for those attending the event not climbing it is FREE

MOZART, BORODIN, SCHUMANN, OH MY! Continued from page 1

ries. The Artisan Series will features performances by the Artisan String Quartet, principal players of the Austin Symphony Orchestra. This second concert of this season takes place on Thursday, March 28th at the Smith Family Chapel at Riverbend Church, and will feature works by Mozart, Borodin and Schumann, as well as guest pianist Melissa Marse.

Hope for Heroes Program Has Received Statewide Recognition Continued from page 1

strating outstanding ethical practices and excellent business principles including: respect, fairness, honesty, justice, and sustainability.

The Finalists for the 11th Annual Ethics in Business & Community Awards are as follows. In the individual category Mark Curry of Wells Fargo, Matt Kouri of Greenlights for Nonprofits Success, and Adrian Mertz of Austin Area Home Health Council. In the non-profit category the finalists are Active Life, Grid Earth Project and Impact Austin. Small business finalists include Home Therapy Austin, Square Cow Moovers and Wag-a-bag. And fi-

nally, the finalists in the large business category are Frost Bank, IBM, and Texas Disposal Systems.

Nominations were solicited from May 2012 until January 2013. The nominees were vetted by the students of the College of Business at Concordia University Texas. Once the students have reviewed the initial applications they narrow the field of nominees to twelve finalists (3 in each category). The students begin a rigorous, in-depth review of each finalist and present their findings to an independent selection committee of business and community leaders to vote on the actual award re-

ipients. The selection committee is led by Don Christian, Dean of the College of Business at Concordia University Texas.

All finalists are recognized and the recipients will be announced at the awards luncheon on May 2, 2013 at the AT&T Conference Center. This event is attended each year by hundreds of Texas business leaders with an anticipated 500 attendees this year. This year's Honorary Chairs are Bobby Jenkins, CEO ABC Home & Commercial Services and Earl Maxwell, CEO St. David's Foundation.

Proceeds from this event benefit the Sa-

maritan Counseling Center, a non-profit counseling center that provides professional counseling, integrative medicine and community education to prevent and treat abuse, teach healthy life skills, and strengthen families. The Center serves children and adults of all ages who are struggling with a variety of problems such as stress, depression, abuse and addiction. The Samaritan Center's Hope for Heroes program has received statewide recognition for helping service members and military families heal the emotional wounds of war and reintegrate back into our community.

HOWARD: "It's Something I've Always Liked." Continued from page 1

Howard geared up to enter a new phase of life. His last day as owner/operator of Howard's Garage was Friday, March 8. As he recalls it, he decided that he wanted to run his own garage in 1962. As for repairing cars, he said "It's something I've always liked." His family has been involved in the running of his repair shops for over 44 years.

One brother, David Howard, explained that James hardly ever took vacations. "He's an avid hunter," he pointed out. He said preachers

know his brother very well and have long trusted their cars to him. He said James goes by to see his mother and feed her at a local nursing home every night. Recently he's seen many of his older brother's customers who received his four paragraph farewell letter come by to say goodbye and shed tears.

"I found out that a lot of people hate to see me go. They don't want that," stated James Howard. He said he plans to do some camping, traveling, and to catch up on some overdue hunting and fish-

ing.

The property has vehicle bays with large print labels offering state inspections, A/C service, tune-ups, and brake service. There was also room for a tow truck, and plenty of space in its location across from Airport Boulevard's Dan's Hamburgers. A clean bathroom, organized equipment, and a welcoming waiting room put one in the mind of a well-kept business that was a point of pride.

Many foreign and domestic cars have graced those bays, as Howard's owner and



James Howard

employees sought to get them fit and ready for the road. The colorful business card had raised lettering and proclaimed that satisfied customers were the best ads. Those satisfied customers will now have to look elsewhere for vehicle repairs and service, replacement of worn parts, and state inspections.

PROGRAM

Mozart – String Quartet in C Major, K. 465 "Dissonance"

Borodin – String Quartet No. 2 in D Major

Schumann – Piano Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44

In its brief history, The Artisan Quartet has already performed many concerts around central Texas, including at the Victoria Bach Festival, the Incarnate

Word University in San Antonio, the Blanco Performing Arts Association Series, the Twilight Series (Jonestown/Lago Vista), the Santa Cecilia Series (Austin), Texas State University (San Marcos), and the Salon Concert Series (San Antonio). The Artisan's also offer future performances in Austin through the Fall of 2013. The Quartet was invited by MidAmerica Productions to

make its Carnegie Hall debut in March 2012, performing to rave reviews on the Weill Hall Chamber Music Series to a sold out audience.

The quartet is made up of principal players of the Austin Symphony Orchestra: Paula Bird and Richard Kilmer, violins; Bruce Williams, viola; and Douglas Harvey, cello.

Tickets for The Artisan String Quartet are \$30.

Charge tickets online at AustinSymphony.org, where you will find seating maps, price options and a wealth of concert information. Tickets are also available at the Austin Symphony Box Office, 11th and Red River or call 476-6064 or 1-888-4-MAESTRO (toll-free).



CHURCH & TOWN BULLETIN

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BCM Among Top 20 Medical Colleges in U.S. News & World Report



HOUSTON - (March 12, 2013) - For the third year in a row Baylor College of Medicine (www.bcm.edu) has improved in the rankings in U.S. News & World Report, moving up to No. 18 among all research-intensive U.S. medical schools. "These numbers show the growing strength of the Baylor College of Medicine community as a whole, making us the highest ranked medical school in Texas as well as in the southwest region," said BCM President and CEO Dr. Paul Klotman. "We will continue to move forward as we focus on our missions of education, healthcare, research and community service."

BCM is in the top 15 percent of schools that

were ranked, jumping from last year's No. 21 position. U.S. News & World Report released its annual list of top graduate schools in business, education, engineering, law, medicine and social sciences and humanities on March 12.

The U.S. News annual rankings are based on medical student GPA and MCAT scores, student selectivity, faculty-to-student ratio, National Institutes of Health funding for the medical school and grant dollars per investigator, as well as a reputational component from surveys of medical school deans, deans of academic affairs, heads of internal medicine and directors of admissions.

"Our outstanding trainees, faculty, staff and affiliated teaching hospitals along with our tremendous Board of Trustees, alumni and community supporters have kept us moving forward in this competitive environment," Klotman said.

"This ranking assures that the very best students, residents, physicians and scientists will continue to be attracted to Houston and to Texas."

BCM also ranked 24th among top medical schools in primary care, and the pediatrics pro-

gram ranked number eight among all pediatric programs reflecting the strong partnership with Texas Children's Hospital (www.texaschildrens.org), where BCM faculty care for pediatric patients and our students and residents train.

U.S. News & World Report did not conduct new surveys this year for physician assistant, nurse anesthesia or biological sciences for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Nationally, the Graduate School is ranked 26th in the biological sciences. The School of Allied Health nurse anesthesia program is ranked fifth and the physician assistant program is ranked sixth.

Rice University and the University of Houston were also listed among the top graduate schools in the nation. Rice, where



BCM students can obtain an M.B.A. while pursuing their M.D., was ranked among the top 50 U.S. business schools at number 30. The University of Houston Law School, where a combined M.D./J.D. dual degree program is available for BCM students, improved its rank entering the list in the top 50 law schools at number 48. The UH Health Law program ranked eighth and the Intellectual Property Law program ranked seventh in the nation.

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Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Donald-Mims

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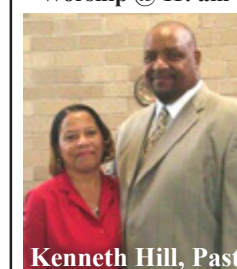
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 Tel: 512 302-1270

The Church of Pentecost, USA Inc, Austin offers a wide variety of opportunities for children, youth, adults, and older adults to be involved in worship, spiritual growth, education, community outreach, and making a tangible difference to those in need in our community. You too, can make a positive difference in our community through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness.

Olive Branch Fellowship of Austin / All Faith Chapel

4110 Guadalupe St Bldg #639 Austin, TX 78751

Sunday Morning Worship @ 11: am



Kenneth Hill, Pastor

This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified.
 --- Martin Luther

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

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"Ministries For Mankind" Luke 4:18
 A.W.. Anthony Mays, Senior Pastor

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Spring Break



Marcus Austin
Cedar Ridge High School

We have finally reached spring break. I really enjoy this week long break from school. During this time you can rest, hang out with friends or family, study, or just sit back and enjoy the week away from school. I don't really have anything planned for this

year's break. I may go golfing with my dad over the break.

The women's Varsity Track Team has won 1st place overall in the last 2 track meets they ran in. The meet on March 8th was rained out so hopefully this doesn't slow down the momentum they have going for them so far. What a great start the ladies have going for them. Keep up the good work! Go Raiders!

Cedar Ridge will be hosting a "Rock the Runway" Fashion Show next month. All grade levels are welcomed to come and try out. The outfits will be provided by Al's Formal Wear and Dillard's. Tryouts will be on March 20th at 5:30 in the cafeteria.

That's all the news for this week. Thank you for reading. Take care & God bless.

Spring Break



Lanette Demps
Dailey MS

Well as everyone spring break starts Monday. I know everyone's happy because no one has school 7 days straight. Spring break is a big break for me because

at my school we been doing a lot of testing and I'm getting tired of it. I'm feel like when we test the teachers should test and feel how the students feel about taking test back after.

As everyone knows now we don't take the taks test no more now we take the STARR test and we only have 4 hour to complete and i don't like it because we are getting timed on how long we take a test . When we took the taks test we didn't have to worry about time when we take the STARR test sometimes i cant focus because i am worried about and i hate being rushed to do something.

Science Olympiad Team



Jaylon Knighten
Dailey Middle School

Our Science Olympiad team was recognize for being

the youngest team in history to finish second in the Regional Science Tournament and Dailey won eight out of 14 possible medals. Congrats to Dailey Science Team.

This week we started Spring Break. I didn't have any plans, but it was good not having to wake up early for school. All eighth grade algebra students took the mock test before leaving for spring break. I felt pretty good about how well I might have done.

The Timberwolves 8th grade boys Track team finish 1st at the Cedar Creek Eagle Relay.

Separate Schools



Aubri Allen-Brent
Dailey Middle School

This week we are on our spring break. We have many breaks during the school year and I look forward to them, But summer breaks sometimes I feel they are too long. Before I came to Dailey Middle School I attended NYOS charter school. There we had school all year round, with smaller

but more breaks. Those breaks were short. I think having shorter breaks was better for me .I seemed to stay more focused.

I read a lot about the idea of having separate schools for boys and girls. I think that is crazy. To me it is like segregation, because black and white kids were kept separate. Yes, when they left school they could play and talk to each other. But I feel, if they keep kids apart at school it will not help the kids.

The boys will think about girls while in school and the girls will do the same. They will call them, and text them every chance they get. I feel if you enter your child in a extracurricular program your child will be more successful academic wise and behavior wise .they will also stay in school.

Spring Break



SaNaya White
Cedars Academy

I am so glad Spring Break is finally here! The definition to me is vacation time! I really enjoy Spring Break. I can stay the night at my grandparents house, stay up late, have friends over, sleep in late and go visit different places. This week we are going to San Antonio! I have been there before but this time we are going to stay in a hotel and enjoy new sites! My mom won't tell me exactly where yet, but I am sure it will be fun!

The next generation of Austin leaders

AYC Membership Mixer 3.21.13



Join Austin Young Chamber of Commerce (AYC) at Kung Fu Saloon on Thursday, March 21st at 5:30pm for our monthly Membership Mixer hosted by Protect America! AYC Membership Mixers are a great way to get connected with other AYC members and expand your business network. They are also an excellent way to learn more about the organization if you are interested in joining.

AYC Mixers are a FREE event for AYC members and \$10 for non-members. Non Members if you sign up for a membership within a week of the event your \$10 will be used towards your AYC Membership!

Working Hard



Jaquarry Wilson
Del Valle High School

The Del Valle High School journalism department consists of three main components. Those components are the Newspaper class, the Photojournalism class, and the Yearbook class.

The newspaper might be the most published work of the year, once every six

weeks, I believe, but the yearbook has got to be the most difficult.

Ever since the start of the new semester I have been in both the yearbook and photojournalism classes. It's definitely a job. Not only have I been taking photos that are to be in the yearbook itself, I am writing captions, finding quotes, and editing a variety of quotes from other members of the yearbook staff. It might seem like a simple and easy task, but on the contrary, it's quite tedious and it requires a lot of hard work.

To keep focused, I think about the future outcome of the yearbook for the 2012-2013 school year. I know it's going to be one of a kind and the best yearbook the school has had thus far.

Spring Break

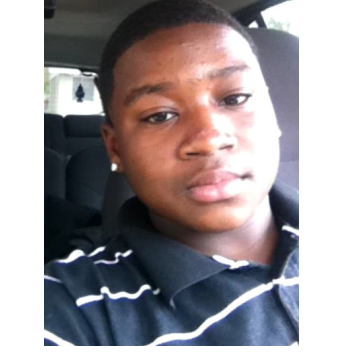


Olivia Smith
Lockhart High School

Springgggg Breakkkk! Every student and teacher was full of excitement gearing up for Spring Break's arrival. Even though Spring break's duration isn't as long as Christmas Break, LHS sure appreciates the time off anyways.

I myself need a break; I am so tired. I am ready for sleeping in and watching movies. I am also ready to have a safe spring break, and I hope everyone else does the same as well.

Air Force or U of H



Imani Demps
Del Valle High School

Tomorrow is the official start of spring break for Del Valle High School. I am so excited. I have been working so hard and now I

get a week break. Although I am NOT doing anything major for spring break. I will be finally cleaning my room and preparing for the college trip that we are having at school. I am supposed to be going to the University of Houston.

I'm so ready so I can go exploring and see what's interesting about the school. I can't wait till I really graduate so I can go to the airforce or the University of Houston. I think its going to be a great experience for me. I hope every thing goes as planned.

Houston Competition



Latrice Lipscomb
Del Valle High School

Manor High Schools ACE drumline went to H-Town to compete in the drumline competition. We went down with a motive and came back with a trophy! The competition was a very fun experience. It was so much fun having to battle other drumlines.

The excitement ran through every inch of our bodys. We won the drumline battle throwing material from everywhere to play. I can't wait until the next drumline competition, we're ready.

Spring Break

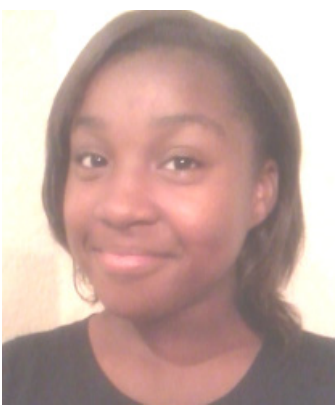
Erika Lipscomb
Manor Elementary

Spring Break is here and I'm excited for it. That means that flowers and roses and tulips grow. Spring

Break is a break I could not wait for. Everyone loves Spring Break.

I have really fun plans for this Spring Break. I hope it goes by as slow as possible. Have a good Spring Break everybody!

Dailey Cheerleader



Jada Demps
Dailey Middle School

I tried out for cheer leading and I made the team. My mom was so proud of me. I was so proud of my self as well because I practiced day and night. All that hard work payed off, thank God it didn't go to waste.

Im no longer doing track behind careless things. But no worries I'm doing a sport that is all year around. The only sad thing is that we have cheer practice during the summer.

Track



Tori Smith
Lockhart Junior H.S.

Well now for the last three weeks track has started. We have won the

Lehman meet, San Marcos meet, and the Hays C.I.S.D meet, for 8th grade girls. What we have left is the Seguin meet and our home district meet in Lockhart.

The fun thing about track meets are of course running your event, but also staying up late at night and coming back late. Though the only bad thing about track meets is they're on Thursdays and so then we're left with Friday... ALL TIRED. Our next track meet is in Seguin on Thursday, March 21st, 2013. That's all for now.

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COLLECTED PRÉCIS

Promoting Diversity

Continued from page 1



BiT reception at The Carver Museum. Photo courtesy of LaTonya Pegues

and social consciousness was shared to an audience of all ages. Included in



Kathryn Finney

the panel was 8-year-old, Bee Advocate from Austin, Texas, Mikaila Ulmer who



W. Kamau Bell

uses her award winning Flaxseed Lemonade to raise awareness about bees and



Kimberly Bryant

their role in our ecosystem (www.beesweetlemonade.com). She's not the only minority



Hamet Watt

youth getting plugged into SXSW, there's an entire Youth Media Project whose

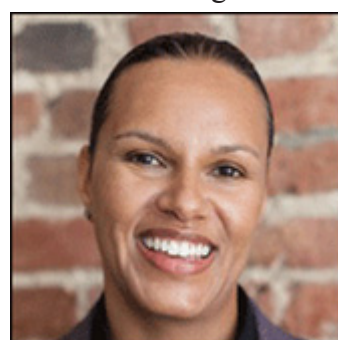


Mae Jemison

been working for a month preparing to document and create media around and about the national speakers sharing professional and personal insights on everything from hacking and coding, to growing food and utilizing Instagram at Church.

The Youth Media Project (YMP) created especially for SXSW is an alliance between E4Youth, Inc., Krew12, and Blacks In

Technology that provide hands-on mentoring and hands-on training in career



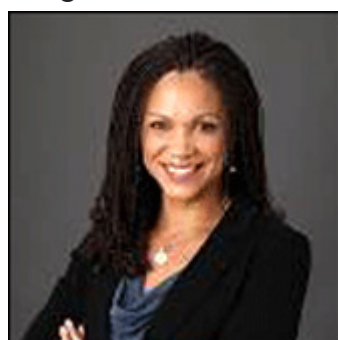
Heather Hiles

development, filmmaking, radio production and more. Students have gone through



Cory Booker

and completed the media bootcamp to earn a Gold Badge - their ticket to a



Melissa Harris Perry

week at SXSW Interactive - where they utilized their new skills in documenting and



Navarrow Wright

posting their thoughts and interviews on social media sites through ipods, flip cams,



Victoria Walker

smartphones and other new media.

Also aimed at cultivating youth interest in tech is the organization Black GirlsCode.org whose founder Kimberly Bryant was a BiT Award recipient, offered a community workshop for girls of color titled, Screen>Play: iPod Film School & Web Design. To learn more about all BiT SXSW Interactive visit www.wearebit.com

Women in Public Housing

The reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act is giving women in domestic abuse situations the right to maintain their federally-funded housing choices, says Allison Bethel, director of The John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Clinic in Chicago.

Protections for women threatened with the loss of their federally-funded housing choices because of domestic violence or abuse will again find protection in the courts thanks to President Barack Obama signing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

The legislation became law on March 7, 2013, when the president took the final action after a year-long ef-



Pres. Obama signing the VAWA reauthorization. Photo courtesy of Clara Pratte N. Nation Washington Office

fort to reauthorize the legislation. VAWA provides federal funding for programs aiding the prosecutions of domestic and sexual violence cases.

"The reauthorization of VAWA by President Obama is a step in the right direction toward protecting the rights of victims of domestic violence and other abuse survivors," said Professor Allison Bethel, director of the Fair Housing Legal Clinic at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

"VAWA provides important protections for those living in federal public housing or on Section 8 financial assistance," Bethel explained. "But, it does not extend to private housing. We need to close this loophole and insure that an abuse victim's safety at home does not depend, even a little bit, on whether they live in public or private housing."

Illinois is one of the few states that include victims of domestic violence as a protected class in its fair housing law. "This insures that landlords cannot refuse to rent, evict, terminate tenancy or otherwise treat someone



Professor Allison Bethel, Director of the FHLC

badly simply because they are a survivor of domestic abuse," she noted. "Obtaining and retaining safe housing is critical to the recovery process for survivors—many of whom are women with children."

Bethel said the Fair Housing Legal Clinic works to make fair housing options available to all persons.

"The John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Clinic offers assistance to families, and any victim of abuse who believes this or her fair housing rights may have been violated," she added.

For more information, contact the Fair Housing Legal Clinic at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago at 312.786.1047 or at www.jmls.edu/fairhousing/clinic.

About the Fair Housing Legal Clinic: The John Marshall Law School established the Fair Housing Legal Clinic in 1993 to train law students in fair housing law and to work with those being discriminated against in their housing choices. The Clinic provides representation to persons discriminated against because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, physical and mental disabilities, familial status, sexual orientation, source of income, military discharge status and protective order status.

GetEQUAL Texas

Continued from page 1



The Texas Legislature only meets during odd-numbered years for 140 days. Several bills have been filed by our allies in both houses of the state legislature that could greatly impact the lives of LGBT Texans.

"Now is the time to act. We have less than 80 days

left in this legislative session and we have a real chance to affect positive change in the Lone Star State," said Tiffani Bishop, Central Region Lead Organizer for GetEQUAL Texas.

For the first time ever, employment non-discrimination bills have been filed in

Austin Energy Takes Advantage of Federal Tax Credit

Continued from page 1

"Many utilities and cities across the country have renewables goals," said Larry Weis, Austin Energy General Manager. "Our ambitious goal is very close to becoming reality."

Austin Energy is taking advantage of the federal tax credit for wind energy that was extended recently by Congress through 2013 that enables competitive prices from interested parties. The tax credit saves 2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour of energy produced from new wind energy facilities for the next 10 years. The extension applies to projects begun in 2013 but not operational until 2014.

"Now is the time to act while prices are in our favor," Weis said. "These wind sources will generate benefits for our customers for years to come."

Proposals for Austin Energy may be offered from new or existing resources within the boundaries of the Electric Reliability Council of

Texas (ERCOT). ERCOT manages the flow of electric power to approximately 23 million Texas customers representing 85 percent of the state's electric load and 75 percent of the Texas land area. Deliveries from the wind sources to Austin Energy are to commence in 2014.

The RFP can be found on Austin Energy's Web site on Monday, March 11, at www.austinenenergy.com. Proposals will be accepted until 5 p.m. CDT on April 12, 2013. All questions concerning the RFP must be submitted in writing to energysupply@austinenenergy.com.

Currently, Austin Energy receives the annual output of up to 850 MW from wind turbines located at eight wind farms divided between West Texas and the Texas coast through long-term power purchase agreements. These energy resources combined with the annual output of the 30 MW Webberville solar project and the 100 MW Nacogdoches biomass plant mean that about 27 percent of the energy delivered by Austin Energy during 2013 can be generated from renewable resources.

Largest Collection of Indigenous African DNA

Continued from page 1

changed forever. Not only did the small, black-owned enterprise establish the first and only DNA-based ancestry tracing marketplace for people of African descent, but this first-of-its-kind venture went on to dramatically enhance the way African Americans see themselves and the rich influences that Africa has in their lives today.

"Our 10-year anniversary is more than a one-time reason to have a party or a fleeting marketing opportunity," said Gina Paige, co-founder and president of AfricanAncestry.com. "This milestone marks an unprecedented, collective transformation for thousands and thousands of Black people that augments their identities in today's America and across the world," said Paige.

Formed by one of the country's few Black geneticists Dr. Rick Kittles and entrepreneur Paige, AfricanAncestry.com employs the largest collection of indigenous African DNA (collected by Kittles) in a proprietary DNA matching analysis to assess present-day African countries of origins. As with all great inno-

vators, AfricanAncestry.com has spawned a few industry copycats, however, none delivers 99+ percent accuracy in each sample tested, making African Ancestry the most trusted and reliable in the industry.

"I never imagined that my passion for African history and the movements of its people throughout the world would one day manifest in a much-needed product for African Americans," said Dr. Kittles whose years of research on genetic variation in Africans led to the founding of AfricanAncestry.com, published works in more than 100 publications and break-through advancements in the field of human genetics and genetic anthropology.

Since its inception, AfricanAncestry has been on the forefront of collecting and analyzing first-time, interesting data from its test-takers. And while it's clear that there's a close race between people wanting to trace their mother's side (53%) versus their father's side (47%), African-American women overwhelming outnumber men — two to one — when it comes to tracing their roots.

both houses of the legislature. Additionally, bills pertaining to marriage, insurance, supplemental birth certificates for adopted children, and a standard process for changing gender markers have also been introduced this session, along with a host of others.

"We must lift our voices in unison and let our lawmakers know that we are not going to go anywhere anytime soon. We will march rain or shine. And we'll be back if these bills don't pass," said Bishop.

The march takes place

one day before Equality Texas' Lobby Day. Both events are expecting more than 500 attendees.

For more information about the march, visit www.getequaltx.org. For more information about the Equality Texas Lobby Day, visit www.equalitytexas.org.

The forecast is predicting rain on Sunday. Participants are encouraged to bring a poncho or umbrella.



CITY ~ STATE ~ NATIONAL ~ WORLD

Texas Defense for Life Center

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon



Rick Santorum addresses fundraiser dinner. Photos courtesy of TDLC.



Ghana Celebrates 63th Anniversary

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

On March 6, 1957, the nation of Ghana became an independent nation. Its leader, Kwame N' Krumah led the nation from its independence and was also a leader within the Pan-African view movement, which called for the solidarity among people of African descent. In other words, Kwame N'Krumah was one of the first African leaders who believed in self-reliance, instead, of receiving monetary aid from Western nations. After his tragic death, Ghana would spiral into various military coups, which slowed the development of Ghana. But, then Ghana would eventually stabilize under the military leader of JJ Rawlings, who would later organize and win the first democratic election in Ghana.

So, on March 6, 2013 the nation of Ghana celebrated its 63th Anniversary, which makes it the oldest independent country in Sub-Saharan Africa. The 63th Anniversary comes after the death of the "sitting" President Atta Mills; a hotly contested election of President John

Dramani Mahama; and a failed African soccer cup bid. Now, that these events are behind them, the 63th Anniversary re-unites the people of Ghana. Not only is Ghana the oldest nation in Sub-Saharan Africa, but it also has become a role model for other countries to follow.

Over the past two decades, Ghana has become a "beacon" of democracy in West Africa. It has become a role model of democracy due to the fact that they organized elections that were "free and fair" to all of its citizens. Now that Ghana has held five successful elections without any incidents, now it serves as a showcase nation to their neighboring countries like Cote d'Ivoire and Togo which have much work to do before holding free and fair elections.

Finally, the Ghanaian diaspora living in Central Texas are still in the planning stage of its independent day celebration. Moreover, the Ghanaian celebration is a source of community unity and pride. For instance, Martin mentioned that the event services as a gathering for the community.

On March 5, 2013, the Texas Defense for Life Center (TDLC) held a fundraiser in Austin, Texas. For their first fundraiser events, approximately 450 people attended this event in Austin Texas. For the participants, it was an opportunity to show their support for a "pro-life" institution.

During the event, Rick Santorum was the featured speaker. During his speech, he mentioned that Texas has played a key role in the abortion debate. For instance, he mentioned that, "Roe versus Wade is a case that began in Texas and then went national." As a result, Rick Santorum mentioned that Texas will continue to play a major role in the abortion debate.



Gregory R. Terra, Esq. TCDL, President

The Texas Center for the Defense of Life (TCDL) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and non-partisan organization. The center was formed in 2011 and has dedicated itself to "aggressively defend the sanctity of human life in Texas and also in the federal court. Furthermore, the TCDL provides pro bono (free) legal representation and support.

Swing Dance Spring Graduation

Step-N-Motion, Inc. presents our G14 Spring Graduation. Saturday, March 16 at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Performances By Austin, Dallas, Houston, Oklahoma. Doors Open 6:30 pm • Dinner 7:00 pm • Show 8:00 pm • Party Until 1:00 am • After Party at Midtown

Tickets: \$30 Pre-Sale: \$35 at the door. To purchase tickets or tables, contact: Flo Tisdale 512.913.3307 or Joanie Washington 512.743. 3082. Tickets are tax deductible. Proceeds go towards our Scholarship Fund for high school students entering their first year of college.

What's the Cost of a Seat in Congress?

March 11, 2013—It costs a lot of money to win a seat in Congress, but how much exactly? MapLight has conducted an analysis of money raised by members of the 113th Congress who won election in 2012.

Data:

*House members, on average, each raised \$1,689,580, an average of \$2,315 every day during the 2012 cycle.

*Senators, on average, each raised \$10,476,451, an average of \$14,351 every day during the 2012 cycle.

"I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me."
Muhammad Ali

Kenya Holds Election

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon



President-Elect Uhuru Kenyatta

On March 4, 2013, the nation of Kenya held its fourth democratic election. According to the Kenyan electoral committee, a record of 12 million Kenyans went to the voting booth. Then, Kenyan electoral committee took one week to count all the votes, in-order, to declared

Uhuru Kenyatta as the elected President. Moreover, President-elect Uhuru is the son of the Kenya's founder and first President, Jomo Kenyatta.

During the election, Uhuru Kenyatta faced a formidable opponent named Raila Odinga. Uhuru Kenyatta over the

years had to prove to the Kenyan people that he was a "self-made" leader. On the other hand, Raila Odinga had to prove that he could appeal to all Kenyans. Moreover, Uhuru Kenyatta won with 50.3% of the vote, which caused him to avoid a run-off.

Although the Kenyan electoral committee has declared Uhuru Kenyatta the winner, Raila Odinga mentioned that he would challenge that decision. In addition, Uhuru Kenyatta still has to face the International Criminal Court due to the alleged 2007 post-electoral violence that claimed thousands of lives. Moreover, some people observe that Uhuru Kenyatta won the election due to these alleged violence because many Kenyans see it as interference into the domestic politics of Kenya.

Now that Uhuru Kenyatta was declared President-elect, the Western nation, like Great Britain should accept the results of the election. In other words, the West should not try to meddle into the "domestic affair" of Kenya. Some believe that Uhuru Kenyatta would have a hard time working with Western nations due to the alleged 2007 post-electoral violence.

FBI Releases Files on Whitney Houston

Special to the NNPA from the Washington Informer

The FBI has released 128 pages from its file on Whitney Houston, revealing details of an apparently successful blackmail plot, as well as an investigation into an obsessed fan.

Released in response to a freedom of information request, the FBI's documents cover 11 years of threats against the singer, from 1988 to 1999. But the pages are



Whitney Houston

heavily redacted – in many cases, to the point of incomprehensibility.

Sometimes the redactions are tantalizing. In late 1992, an unidentified Chicago lawyer wrote to Houston's New Jersey-based production company stating that unless the singer paid \$100,000, his client planned to "reveal certain details of [Houston's] private life ... to several publications". Later the blackmail amount was boosted even higher, to \$250,000.

According to the FBI, this was extortion. But when agents met with Houston and her father, the singer said she knew the woman who was making the threats, and that she was "a friend ... [who] would never do anything to embarrass her". Officers closed the case, even though Houston's father had apparently sent the blackmailer a confidentiality agreement and an unknown sum of money.

In addition to the extortion case, officers investigated several cases of over-devoted fans. One Vermont letter-writer claimed: "I start to shake ... when I think about you."

"Over the past 17

months, I have sent ... 66 letters to Miss Whitney," he wrote. "I have tried to stop writing the letters and to give up twice but after a few weeks I had to start writing again ... I have gotten mad at [Whitney] a few times [for not replying] ... it scares me that I might come up with some crazy or stupid or really dumb idea ... I might hurt someone with some crazy idea."

FBI agents eventually questioned Houston's one-

sided pen-pal in 1988. They decided he was harmless. The same was true for a Dutch or Belgian correspondent who insisted he had written some of Houston's songs. The writer further claimed that he was the president of Europe and had purchased the country of Brazil.

After selling more than 200 million records worldwide, Houston drowned in a hotel bathtub in February 2012. She was 48.

austintexas.gov

MUNICIPAL
CIVIL
SERVICE
COMMISSIONAPPLY
TODAY!BE A PART OF THE FIRST
FIVE-MEMBER COMMISSION

THE NEW COMMISSION WILL:

- Establish certain personnel rules.
- Sit as the ruling body on appeals of disciplinary actions by most City of Austin employees.



DEADLINE: MARCH 27, 2013 BY 5 P.M.

Applicants must be a City of Austin resident and qualified voter.

APPLY ONLINE: austintexas.gov
MORE INFORMATION 512-974-2497

CLASSIFIEDS ~ PUBLIC INFORMATION

EMPLOYMENT PROPOSALS PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR SALE FOR RENT BIDS MISCELLANEOUS

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (ACC) is soliciting for proposals from qualified vendors for Licensing Management Services.

Request for Proposal No. 961-13003VJ

Completed proposals must be submitted to the Purchasing Department by no later than Thursday, April 18, 2013, at 2:00 P.M., Central Time. Proposal documents are available on the ACC Purchasing website at <http://www.austin.cc.edu/purchase/>

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

ACC Business Offices and Campus locations will be closed for the college spring break from 11 March 2013 through 15 March 2013.

Proposal documents will be available in the ACC Purchasing Office (512) 223-1044 between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday starting 18 March 2013. Proposals, when submitted, must be properly identified, sealed, and returned to the ACC Purchasing Office, ACC Service Center, 9101 Tuscan Way, Austin, Texas 78754, by the deadline. Electronically transmitted responses will not be accepted. Late proposals will be retained unopened.

ACC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, to waive informalities or technicalities, to clarify ambiguities, and to award items or groups of items as may be in the best interest of ACC.

Austin Travis County

Integral Care (ATCIC) is currently soliciting proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for Group Health and Wellness Programs. RFPs may be picked up between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Frost Insurance Agency, 401 Congress Ave., 14th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, beginning Monday, March 11, 2013. RFPs may also be mailed or sent electronically, by contacting Rebecca Hawes at rhawes@frostinsurance.com. The deadline to submit a proposal under the RFP is 5 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2013. Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs), including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses, are encouraged to apply

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

**Saturday,
May 11, 2013**

Early Voting begins:

April 29, 2013

Early Voting Ends:

May 7, 2013

During Early Voting,

you may vote at any

Early Voting location

in Travis County.

Visit traviscountyclerk.org

The following

Election:

November 5, 2013

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE New Jobs for the Week of 3/10/2013

Assistant III,
Administrative
Elgin Campus
Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-
4:00 p.m.
\$2,256-\$2,820/Monthly
Job# 1303008

Assistant III, Administrative
Highland Business Center
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-
5:00 p.m.
\$2,256-\$2,820/Monthly
Job# 1303012

Coordinator, Bioscience
Credentials Consortium
Round Rock Campus
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-
5:00 p.m.
\$3,174-\$3,968/Monthly
Job# 1303010

Dean, Student Services
(Internal)
Northridge & Elgin Campus
This is an Administrator
level position.
Hours may often exceed a
typical 40 hour work
week; evening and
weekend hours also required.
Salary Commensurate
Upon Experience
Job# 1303005

District Police, Dispatcher
Service Center
Salary is as assigned
\$2,148-\$2,685/Monthly
Job# 1303002

Faculty, Vocational Nursing
Fredericksburg
Hours as assigned: Must
maintain an established
schedule. Some positions
may also include
evenings and weekends.
Salary is assigned according
to the Full-Time
Faculty Salary Scale
Job# 1303006

Faculty, Vocational Nursing
Eastview Campus
Hours as assigned: Must
maintain an established
schedule. Some positions
may also include evenings
and weekends.
Salary is assigned according
to the Full-Time
Faculty Salary Scale
Job# 1303007

Manager, Campus
South Austin Campus
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-
5:00 p.m.
\$4,924-\$6,155/Monthly
Job# 1303001

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



**WE WANT YOU.
TO
ADVERTISE**



**WHY WAIT
CALL NOW
512.476.0082**

Paws in Prison Transforms "Lost Causes" into Wonderful Companions Continued from page 1

raise funds for this life-changing project. Admission is free. But the suggested cover is a new dog toy. Donations will also be accepted.

Silent auction prizes will include many different experiences and items—like time with a personal trainer; manicures, pedicures and facials; original artwork, gift baskets, and much more.

Paws in Prison, started in the GEO Lockhart Unit of the state prison system in 2007, rescues dogs from rural area shelters and takes them into the prison in Lockhart where women inmates train them in basic obedience to get them ready for adoption.

The dogs provided by partner agencies are likely to be at risk for being euthanized or have little chance of adoption for any number of reasons. Sometimes it is simply a lack of space at the shelter or an easily treated medical condition. The stress of being in a shelter may also make some strays unlikely candidates for the shelter's own adoption program.

By restoring their

mental health, treating their medical ills, and giving them the attention, leadership and training they need, Paws in Prison transforms these "lost causes" into wonderful companions with good temperaments.

During training the dogs live at the prison for 2-3 months in the cells with their inmate handlers. A professional dog trainer teaches a weekly class about how to train the dogs to the select group of women inmates responsible for the dogs' instruction. The inmates teach them to sit, stay, lie down, and walk on a loose leash, as well as making sure they are potty and crate trained. For fun, the dogs also learn a few tricks. A lot of time is spent simply nurturing and socializing the dogs that may have been abused, abandoned, or not socialized.

A veterinarian makes sure the dogs are up to date on their shots, spayed/neutered, heartworm negative and on preventative heartworm treatment, and microchipped.

The program makes a life-long impact on the women trainers. An in-



Megan Reeves, an inmate at the Maine Correctional Center in Windham, embraces dog Piper at the prison on Thursday after completing the weekly dog obedience training course. Reeves and other inmates have been granted permission to take care of young puppies as part of "Paws in Stripes," a program being coordinated with the Animal Welfare Society in Kennebunk. (JEFF LAGASSE/Journal Tribune)

mate in the very first group of trainers in 2008 said, "For me it's been a learning experience... We come in here with a feeling of worthlessness, and these dogs give us a sense of responsibility." Another woman credited the program with "learning how to control ourselves." One of the current inmate trainers explains, "We watch as they [the dogs] blossom in a structured and consistent environment. Each day is a lesson in cause and effect. As they learn, we learn, and as they grow, we do also."

Paws in Prison is a unique model for coordinating community resources to serve community needs. People interested in adopting one of these well-trained dogs are invited to call 512 398-3480 ext. 101 to learn about adoption fees and requirements. The program's website, www.pawsinprison.com has pictures and information about the current class. Donations are accepted at Paws in Prison, 1400 Industrial Blvd., Lockhart, TX 78644. Please write "Benefit" on the memo line.

Estevanico, One of the First Explorers of Southwest U. S. Continued from page 1

tin History Center (AHC), 810 Guadalupe St. The Austin History Center is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12 noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The exhibit is free to the public.

The exhibit focuses on 1839 through 1940, the first century of African American life in Travis County, and explores the contributions and achievements as well as the obstacles faced in building a community and obtaining the American dream. Hundreds of documents and photographs mined from the AHC's

collections illustrate these stories and help reveal periods of this history that need documentation to complete the picture.

The first record of African Americans in Texas is widely believed to have begun with Estevanico, a slave held by Spanish Explorer, Andrés Dorantes de Carranza. In 1528, Estevanico was one of four survivors of the ship-wrecked Pánfilo de Narváez expedition that was stranded off the Texas coast. Although he would later be killed by the Zuni Indians, he played an important

role as a translator between the explorers and the native tribes they encountered. His account, along with the other explorers, offered vital information about the Texas coast that helped lead to further exploration and eventual settlement of Texas by the Spanish.

Estevanico and other African Americans have contributed to building, protecting and supporting America. In fact, some historians estimate that Africans have been living in Texas for more than four hundred years; yet, little is



Estevanico

known about these individuals and communities. Unfortunately, the African American story is lost in the pages of history due to lack of documentation. The AHC's new exhibit Building a Community: The First Century of African American Life in Travis County is an attempt to bring some of that information to light.

O.J. Gilder Promoted to Vice-President of Information Technology

Austin, TX - A+ Federal Credit Union (A+FCU), is proud to announce the promotion of O.J. Gilder as its Vice-President of Information Technology.

Mr. Gilder started his career with A+ in August 1998 as a Teller. After working in various positions for A+ and obtaining his degrees, he was selected to be the VP of IT at Brazos Valley Schools Credit Union (Katy, TX) in February 2009. He came

back to A+FCU in July 2011 as the Programming Manager. With this promotion, his responsibilities include all aspects of I.T. including network administration and programming.

Gilder, who holds a BBA in Management Information Systems from the University of Texas at Austin and an MBA from Texas State University, has over 14 years of credit union I.T. experience.

Kerry Parker, CEO



O.J. Gilder

states "OJ has really grown up with A+ and we are proud to have been part of his career path. It is wonderful to watch someone with his talent be successful and have him fill this strategic management role."

TCC Recognizes Retailers with Community Partnership Award

Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir recognizes three grocery retailers Randalls, Fiesta and H-E-B for the generous use of their stores for Early Voting and Election Day polling sites at Travis County Commissioner's Court on March 5. "These



companies demonstrate their dedication to democracy by donating their facilities, resources and time to host polling places. These convenient locations give more voters the opportunity to cast a ballot" DeBeauvoir said.



City of Austin Purchasing Office

The City of Austin Purchasing Office invites you to view current bid solicitations at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/purchase/vs/p2.htm>. Vendors are encouraged to register on-line in the City's Vendor Self Service System. Once your company is registered, you will receive notifications about new bid opportunities. For additional information regarding current bid opportunities or Vendor Registration, please call the Purchasing Office at 512-974-2500. For information on the City of Austin's Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Procurement Program and the certification process, please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources Department at 512-974-7600 or visit their website at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/snbr>.

PROGRAMS ~ AWARENESS



APD, Area Law Enforcement Agencies Announce Initiative to Curb Aggressive Driving

The Austin Police Department, along with other local area law enforcement agencies, will be initiating a campaign to help curb aggressive driving on the IH-35 corridor. The initiative will begin Sunday, March 17, 2013 and end Saturday, March 23, 2013.

The initiative will focus on aggressive drivers, including commercial vehicles, and is part of APD's Ticketing Aggressive Cars and

Trucks (TACT) program. The goal of this initiative is to reduce serious injury/fatality collisions along the IH-35 corridor. Enforcement will include a higher visibility of officers on the corridor, who will be writing citations and warnings to aggressive drivers.

Some examples of aggressive driving include:

- Speeding
- Unsafe movements

- Following too close (Tailgating)
- Passing unauthorized emergency vehicle
- Failure to signal intent
- Safety belt violations (to include child car seats)

Drivers are encouraged to, as always, obey all traffic laws, avoid being distracted behind the wheel, do not drink and drive/find a designated driver and always wear your seat belt.

11 STATES WILL RECEIVE FUNDING TO HELP TURN AROUND THEIR LOWEST-PERFORMING SCHOOLS

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today announced that 11 states will receive funding to continue efforts to turn around their persistently lowest achieving schools through the Department's School Improvement Grants (SIG) program. The states that will receive continuation awards are: Connecticut—\$3.6 million; Kentucky—\$7.7 million; Maryland—\$6.8 million; Min-

nesota—\$5.5 million; Mississippi—\$6.1 million; New Mexico—\$4.1 million; Ohio—\$20.2 million; South Carolina—\$7.4 million; South Dakota—\$1.5 million; Utah—\$3.4 million; and West Virginia—\$3.3 million.

"When schools fail, our children and our neighborhoods suffer," Duncan said. "Turning around our lowest-performing schools is hard work but it's our responsibility. We owe it

to our children, their families and the broader community. These School Improvement Grants are helping some of the lowest-achieving schools provide a better education for students who need it the most."

Under the Obama Administration, the SIG program has invested up to \$6 million per school over three years at more than 1,300 of the country's lowest-performing schools.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has announced the appointment of David J. Johns as executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans.

"David's expertise will be critical in helping to address the academic challenges that many African American students face, and I am delighted to have him on our team," Duncan said. "His wealth of knowledge and passion will help the Department move forward in its quest to ensure that all children are college and career ready."

Johns will work to identify evidence-based best practices to improve African American student achievement—from cradle to career. The initiative will work across federal agencies and with partners and communities nationwide to produce a more effective continuum of education programs for African American students. Prior to joining the Department, Johns was a senior education policy advisor to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) under the leadership of Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. Before working for the Senate

HELP committee, under Chairman Harkin, Johns served under the leadership of the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass. Johns also was a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Fellow in the office of Congressman Charles Rangel, D-N.Y. Johns has worked on issues affecting low-income and minority students, neglected youth and early childhood education, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). His research as an Andrew W. Mellon Fellow served as a catalyst to identify, disrupt and supplant negative perceptions of black males, both within academia and society. Johns is committed to volunteer services and maintains an active commitment to improve literacy among adolescent minority males.

Johns obtained a master's degree in sociology and education policy at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he graduated summa cum laude while simultaneously teaching elementary school in New York City. He graduated with honors from Columbia University in 2004 with a triple major in English, creative writing and African American studies.

Lydia Quit & Supports Tobacco Free Living




The Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas's Living Healthy on the Eastside project is featuring a story about Lydia Ross, an Austin resident who's story of how she quit smoking serves as an inspiration to those smokers looking for a reason to quit. When her husband was diagnosed with emphysema, Lydia set her mind on quitting smoking. Then, she did it. She quit cold turkey, without tricks or tobacco substitutes. Once she'd decided to quit, she "didn't have the desire anymore." Astonishingly, she had no direct help from anyone, and no relapses. "Even the smell became repulsive," she said, after being asked if she avoided situations that might have triggered her urge to smoke. When asked if she supports the proposed smoke-free patio and deck rules in Austin, she expressed her support for the law stating, "I live in a smoke free building and am happy about that." However, she feels that it will take more than laws to get people to quit smoking. "People who have the desire to smoke will continue to smoke if they want to." She wants to see more people quit and encourages them to make the decision for themselves. When it comes down to it, "it's up to the individual," she said. Her story serves as inspiration and highlights an important fact about smoking: the first step in quitting is deciding to quit.

The Sheriff's Reserve Unit Is Recruiting

The Travis County Sheriff's Office Reserve Unit consists of certified Peace Officers who volunteer as law enforcement officers to supplement the Sheriff's full-time personnel.

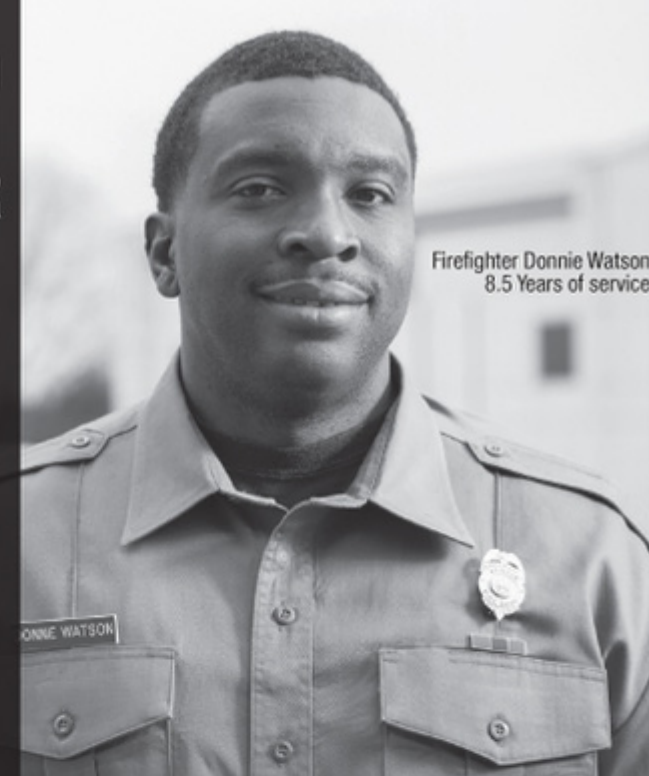
The Sheriff's Office has planned an evening Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) that is scheduled to begin in January of 2014 and the Reserve Unit is seeking qualified Reserve applicants. An informational forum about the course and the Reserve Unit will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. The session will begin at 7pm, at the Sheriff's Office, 5555 Airport Boulevard, in Austin. If you would like to attend the session and/or apply for the BPOC, please send your resume to Joellyn Brelsford at joellyn.brelsford@co.travis.tx.us.

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Must be 18, and not 36 years of age on May 13, 2013
- Must have minimum of 15 college hours
- Must be U.S. citizen or have work permit



512-974-0292

GUESS WHO'S TURNING 40?



THE VILLAGER NEWSPAPER

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