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RAPPIN’ Tommy Wyatt When Presidents Come To Town

There was tons of excitement on the UT campus at the L.B.J. Presidential Library this week. It was the 50th Anniversary celebration of the 1964 Civil Rights Act signing. It brought together four of the five living presidents and a number of people who were involved in the Civil Rights Movement.

Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Jimmy Carter were all present and gave speeches during the event. President George H.W. Bush was not present. And many were trying to get tickets to the event, with not much luck. The conference was comprised of afternoon panel discussions followed by evening keynotes addresses that reflected on the nature of the civil rights legislation passed and signed by President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

This week also marked the opening of the Civil Rights exhibit at the Library and the Blanton Museum. This will give people the opportunity to examine some of the events that happened during the movement. It gives many young people a starting point to start talking about what happened during those times.

It was also a time for many of us who participated in the movement to reflect on the past and focus on what needs to be done now to make sure that rights for all Americans are protected. This week congress is getting ready to vote on the “Equal Pay Amendment” that calls for equal pay for women in the workforce. While it affects all women, women of color will be most affected by the new legislation.

Currently, it is estimated that Black women earn only 75 cents and Hispanic women 65 cents for every dollar that a White man makes. It is time for that situation to change. It is an economic issue for families that are headed by women. The meeting of the Presidents reminds us of the role that government plays in our everyday life.

DeVon Franklin’s Best-Selling Book ‘Heaven Is For Real’ Heads to Cinema

By Naomi Richard

Based on the #1 New York Times best-selling book of the same name, *Heaven Is For Real* brings to the big screen the true story of a small-town father who must find the courage and conviction to share his son’s extraordinary, life-changing experience with the world. DeVon Franklin, Senior Vice President of Production for Columbia TriStar Pictures, a division of Sony Pictures Entertainment, brought the book to Sony. Film releases nationwide April 16.

During a recent media call, with The Villager attending, Franklin had this to say, “The story is so captivating and inspirational. When I got the book about 3 years ago it was one of those books I literally read in one sitting

and could not put it down.”

The film stars Academy Award® nominee and Emmy® award winning actor Greg Kinnear as Todd Burpo and co-stars Kelly Reilly as Sonja Burpo, the real-life couple whose son Colton (newcomer Connor Corum) claims to have visited Heaven during a near death experience. Colton recounts the details of his amazing journey with childlike innocence and speaks matter-of-factly about things that happened before his birth... things he couldn’t possibly know. Todd and his family are then challenged to examine the meaning from this remarkable event.

DeVon Franklin is a rarity: an African-American. See [FRANKLIN](#), page 2



IN THE RED - Honoree DeVon Franklin on the red carpet with wife/actress Meagan Good (Photo credit: Paras Griffin/courtesy of The FrontPage Firm)

The ACA Deadline Has Passed – Now What?

by Ron Harris
Special to the NNPA from The Atlanta Voice

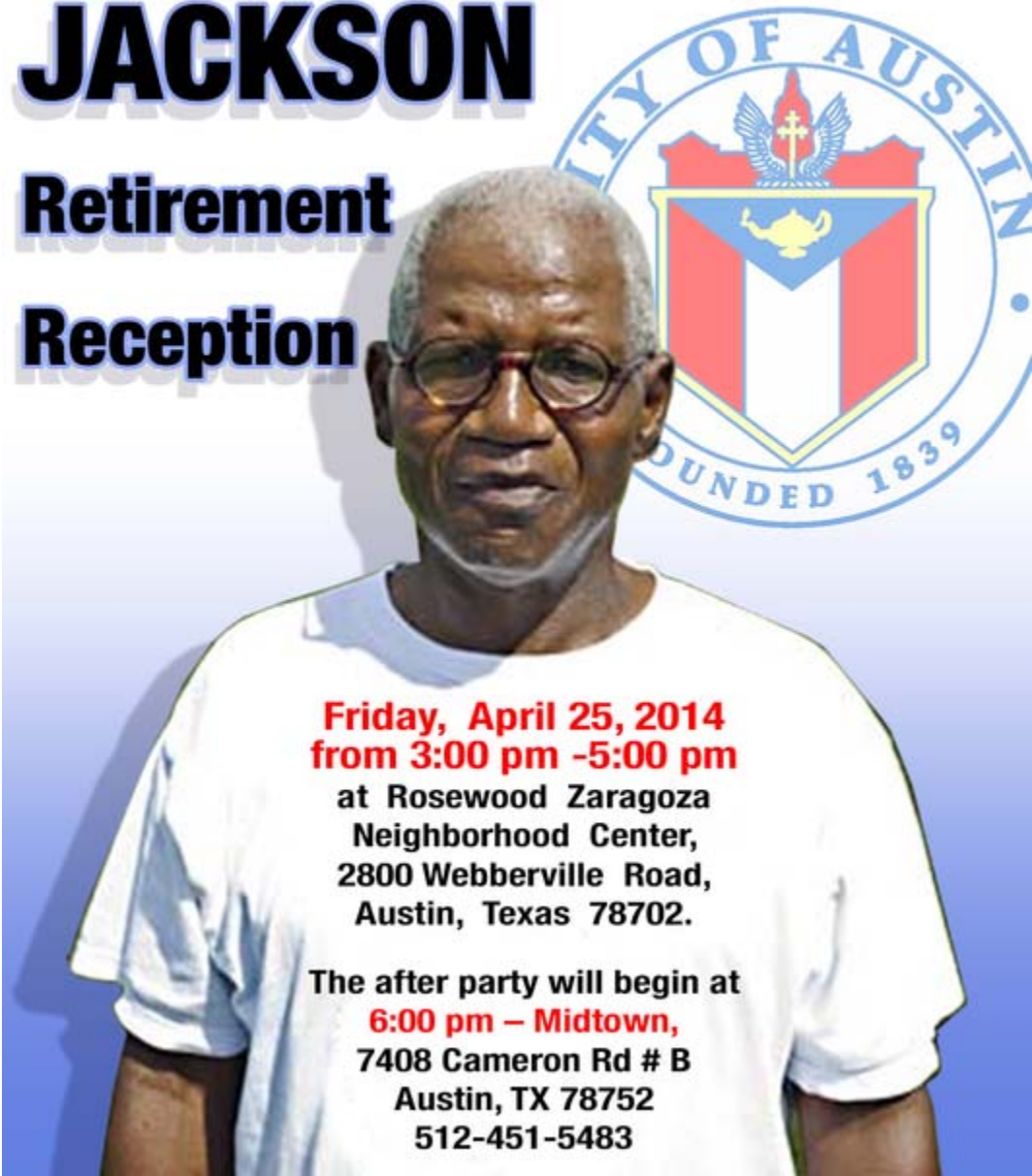


ATLANTA - The March 31 deadline has passed, but millions of Americans signed up for the Affordable Care Act just in time to soon begin receiving the benefits of the federally-backed program, which offers access to healthcare to millions of previously uninsured Americans. While they wait to receive the insurance cards that will allow them access to primary care physicians, gynecologists, ophthalmologist, dentists and other medical specialists, thousands of previously uninsured Georgia residents have already seen the benefits of ACA.

Atlanta accountant Richard Rose, owner of Richard Rose, C.P.A., in College Park, said he received an immediate boost to his business from ACA enrollment. Prior to ACA, Rose said he paid \$250 a month for his administrative assistant’s health insurance plan. Under ACA, it dropped to \$60 a month, he said. “That is a sizeable deduction,” said Rose, whose firm is in the middle of handling his corporate client’s year-end tax returns. His administrative assistant, Verna Todd, said she switched from Blue Cross Blue Shield to Human Health Insurance under ACA, and after her first doctor’s visit, everything seems to be just fine. “It was just a physical where everything was supposed to be free,” Todd said, “and I haven’t gotten a bill yet. Under the old plan, I had a \$30 co-

See [McKAY](#), page 2

LARRY JACKSON Retirement Reception



**Friday, April 25, 2014
from 3:00 pm -5:00 pm**
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**Fast-Food Workers Get
Louder with Protests**
See details on page 2

**“WE’RE NOT
LOVING IT!”**

INSIDE



Microsoft
Windows XP
Time To Update!
Microsoft pulls the
plug on XP software.
See [SUPPORT](#)
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Austin mourns
Gospel trailblazer.
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Gentrification causes
rift in East Austin
communities.
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THE COMMUNIQUE

FRANKLIN LIFE ELEMENTS ARE “INTERESTING COMBINATION”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

American studio executive at the forefront of one of Hollywood’s hit machines. He was the overseer of the remakes of “Sparkle,” starring the late Whitney Houston in her last on screen role, and “The Karate Kid,” starring Jackie Chan and Jaden Smith, which grossed over \$350 million worldwide. He also worked on “The Pursuit of Happyness” and “Hancock” both starring Will Smith, as well as the faith-based hit “Not Easily Broken,” and the family comedy, “Jumping the Broom” starring Angela Bassett and Paula Patton, both produced by Bishop T. D. Jakes.

He currently oversees production on the upcoming remake of *Annie* starring Quvenzhané Wallis and Jamie Foxx. He got his start as an intern for Will Smith and James Lassiter after graduating from the University of Southern California. He is the husband of famed actress Meagan Good and was recently honored for his work in film during the 2014 Trumpet Awards.

Franklin said this concerning *Heaven Is For Real*, “For me, I’m African-American and Christian and a studio executive which is quite an interesting combination at times. This is one of those books and one of those pieces of material that I just knew that it was a destiny thing that I had to do.” Don’t miss this film out in theaters April 16.



DeVon Franklin

Photo Credit: The Front Page Firm

McKay: “They Attacked Us Like Ants”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pay.” Additionally, she said, the amount of her hospital deductible dropped by 40 percent, to \$3,000 from \$5,000.

President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday afternoon that 7.1 million people had enrolled for the program prior to the March 31 deadline. So many logged on Monday that the federal site, Healthcare.gov, twice stopped accepting applications because it could not handle the volume. Obama said considering the hiccups involved with the launch of the website. He was pleased at the number and this moment marks a positive change in health care services in the United States. “Now, that doesn’t mean that all the problems in health care have been solved forever,” Obama said in a White House press conference. “Premiums



Dante McKay

are still rising for families who have insurance, whether you get it through your employer or you buy it on your own — that’s been true every year for decades. But, so far, those premiums have risen more slowly since the Affordable Care Act passed than at any time in the past 50 years.”

“It’s also true that, despite this law, millions of Americans remain uncovered in part because governors in some states for political reasons have deliberately refused to expand coverage under this law. But we’re going to work on that. And we’ll work to get more Americans covered with each passing year,” he said.

More than 240,000 Georgians have signed up for insurance under ACA in the past five months, according to Dante McKay, 40, state director for Enroll America/Get Covered America. McKay, an Atlanta native and graduate of Clark Atlanta University, said his organization reached out to a broad demographic across the state. When they approached taxi cab drivers to enroll them for insurance, “they attacked us like ants,” McKay said.

What is Windows XP end of support?

Microsoft provided support for Windows XP for the past 12 years. But the time came for us, along with our hardware and software partners, to invest our resources toward supporting more recent

technologies so that we can continue to deliver great new experiences.

As a result, technical assistance for Windows XP is no longer available, including automatic updates that help protect your PC. Microsoft has also stopped providing Microsoft Security Essentials for download on Windows XP. (If you already have Microsoft Security Essentials installed, you will continue to receive antimalware signature updates for a limited time, but this does not mean that your PC is secure because Microsoft is no longer providing security updates to help protect your PC.)

If you continue to use Windows XP now

Fast-Food Workers Get Louder with Protests

by Stephon Johnson

Special to the NNPA from the New York Amsterdam News



I’M NOT LOVIN’ IT - Fast food worker’s strikers at the McDonald’s in Times Square on April 4, 2013 (PHOTO BY COURTENAY BROWN)

Last week, after filing class-action lawsuits against McDonald’s in several states, fast-food workers joined a 30-day protest against the company, demanding that it stop its illegal theft of workers’ wages.

New York City Public Advocate Letitia James has sided with the workers in the protest.

“It’s hard enough for low-wage workers to survive in this economy. It’s practically impossible to do so while your wages are being stolen,” said James in a statement. “The instances of wage theft in New York City and around the country are becoming too many to ignore. My office will establish a hotline for whistle-blowers to report wage theft, and we will empower city agencies with the ability to investigate those claims.”

James also announced her office’s major new initiative to confront wage theft in the fast-food industry, calling for legislation to create an anonymous hotline for workers to report incidents and to give city agencies expanded authority to investigate wage theft vio-

lations.

In New York, the class-action case filed in federal court is an attempt to redress failures to reimburse McDonald’s employees in New York stores for the time and cost of cleaning uniforms. The plaintiffs in the suit contend that McDonald’s failure at reimbursing employees for uniform cleaning violates the state of New York’s requirement to pay workers weekly for uniform maintenance. They also claim it violates federal and state minimum wage laws.

McDonald’s requires employees to keep their uniforms clean.

“When I first came to this country from El Salvador 14 years ago, I never dreamed that I’d still be living in poverty today,” said McDonald’s employee Rosa Rivera, 47, in a statement. Rivera works 20 to 30 hours a week. “I’ve spent the last 14 years working at McDonald’s while raising three kids. Yet after all that time, I’m still making less than minimum wage because of wage theft. I’ve washed my uniform multiple times a week for years, all on my own dime ... The law says I should be getting an extra \$7.85 to help recoup the cost of trips to the Laundromat, but that never happens.

“Without that, I’m actually making less than minimum wage every week,” Rivera continued. “I’ve probably lost thousands over my 14 years at McDonald’s due to this type of theft.”

The same day that workers announced their month-long protest, New York state Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced an almost \$500,000 settlement with seven New York City-based McDonald’s franchises and their owner, Richard Cisneros, for

failing to pay legally required laundry allowances for many employees, for uncompensated work time and for unlawful deductions from wages that resulted from times when cashiers were required to cover cash register shortfalls. The settlement money, which includes damages and interest, will go to more than 1,600 workers, most of whom are minimum-wage workers.

“Like every other business in New York state, fast-food employers must follow our labor laws,” said Schneiderman in a statement. “Our lowest wage workers deserve the same protections of the law as everyone else. It’s critical for them and for their families, as well as for our economy, that we remain vigilant so that no New Yorkers are cheated out of their hard-won earnings.”

Jonathan Westin, director of the group Fast Food Forward, praised Schneiderman for his work in the settlement but acknowledged that more work is needed to be done to satisfy him and the workers he advocates for.

“Although this settlement is with just one large franchise owner, McDonald’s cannot hide from its responsibility for these unlawful practices,” said Westin in a statement. “Evidence in suits filed last week in California and Michigan shows that McDonald’s exerts control over the daily operations at its franchise restaurants, making it just as responsible for the illegal pay practices. McDonald’s made nearly \$5.6 billion in profits last year, enriching itself on the backs of workers who simply cannot afford to have their wages stolen.”

The seven McDonald’s restaurants involved in the settlement are all in Manhattan.

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CHURCH & TOWN BULLETIN

Delco Recognized as Distinguished Citizen



AUSTIN, TEXAS - On March 27, 2014, Golden member, the Honorable Wilhelmina

Delco, was recognized as a Distinguished Citizen at the 78th Southwestern Province Council Public Meeting, which was held at the Austin Hilton Hotel-Downtown. The event was hosted by the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi

Fraternity, Inc. Delco was one of five honorees who were acknowledged for their leadership in the community. Several Beta Psi Omega members attended the event in support of Delco. On March 29, 2014, Beta Psi

Omega hosted a hospitality suite for the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi in appreciation and support for their service. All who attended enjoyed food, fun, conversation and fellowship with one another.

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Bill Martin

Texas Gospel Announcer Bill "The Mailman" Martin Passes

Yvonne Wesley-Seabrooks, president of the Chicago Area Gospel Announcers Guild, informed The Black Gospel Blog that Bill "The Mailman" Martin, gospel announcer and president of the Texas Chapter of the Gospel Announcers Guild, passed in his sleep Monday evening.

William "Bill the Mailman" Martin was born in Asheville, North Carolina. After graduating from Stephens Lee High School, he moved to New York City to further his studies. He was a music lover and played tenor saxophone. Pursuing a music career, he was accepted into the Julliard School of Music. Although elated over the opportunity to attend Julliard, Martin made a last minute decision to join the U.S. Air Force instead. Martin served in Korea, Japan and England. He was later assigned to Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas. There, he would meet the love of his life, Evelyn "Tutter" Franklin. They were married on April 9, 1955 and became the proud parents of William Jr., Toni, Terry, Lori and Lisa with the added joy of 14 grand- and 11 great-grandchildren. Evelyn passed away on October 23, 2005 after 50 years of marriage.

While living in New York City, Martin worked for the NY Transit Authority as a subway motorman. While in Austin, Texas, Martin worked as a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service for 31 years, thus given the name, "Bill the Mailman"!

Martin was on the radio for 34 years, most recently on "The

Word," KLGO 1490 AM. He joined the Gospel Music Workshop of America Announcers' Guild in 1980. His most recent honor was the 2013 Central South Distribution Trailblazer Announcer of the Year Award received in January at the 2013 Stellar Awards held in Nashville, TN. He was also a Nominee for the 2013 Stellar Award Announcer of the Year category. In July 2012, he was honored to receive Announcer of the Year at the 2012 Gospel Music Workshop of America. Martin was the ONE and ONLY recipient at the 2012 Announcers Guild session which was awarded by President Al "The Bishop" Hobbs". Martin was stunned and humbled to receive this award for the first time in his 32 years of service to the convention. He founded the Texas Gospel Announcers Guild (TGAG) in 1989 with just nine (9) members. To date, TGAG has over 100 members representing over 25 radio stations throughout the state of Texas. Martin served as President of TGAG since its inception; the organization will celebrate its 23rd anniversary in November. Martin was a faithful member of the St. James Baptist Church, pastored by Dr. B.W. McClendon. There, he served as a deacon, Director of General Services, executive board member, male chorus member and promotion resource liaison. Martin was instrumental in bringing some of the world's best and well-known gospel artists to Austin and the Central Texas area. Martin's favorite pastime was golfing!

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Church School - 9:45 a.m.
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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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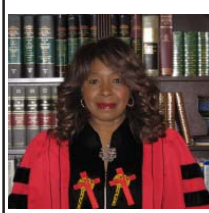
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YOUTH BRIGADE



Youth of Today



Hope of Tomorrow



Black Registry

Girl On Fire



Genesis Stiggers
Elgin Elementary

Every once in awhile I do a full analysis on where I'm at. Sometimes it's in thought. Sometimes it's in calculation. Usually, it's in writing, like now. So where am I at? Let us see. Well, I

am an A Honor Roll student. I am a fine athlete. And I have good manners. Now a full analysis doesn't mean brag about myself, so I need to see what I need to work on. Well, I need to work on staying focused mainly, because who likes a scatter brain? I also need to work on stopping bad habits, like sucking my tongue, touching my lips, and chewing my nails. There is also my problem about over thinking things that are so obvious. With the STAAR test coming up, YIKES! So I've made my complete analysis and even with all my problems, I feel this girl is ON FIRE!

Practice AP Exam



Kiara Myers
Vista Ridge H.S.

April is a busy month as a junior in high school. I think I have taken more tests that I could have ever imagined. I have to balance my time studying for the SAT, ACT, AP tests, and just regular school exams. It feels like I have become a professional test-taker. This weekend my AP US History teacher offered a practice AP exam at the school so that we could get

more familiar with the test. I was so glad I attended because it helped me mentally prepare for what to expect and see where I currently stand. I felt that I did pretty well but my brain was absolutely dead after those eighty multiple-choice questions and three essays. My teacher would keep repeating, "it's three hours of testing for six hours of college credit", which is about two semesters of college US History.

When I finished the practice test, I had an indescribable confidence. These exams can truly bring out my best efforts and show how much I've learned over such a short amount of time. Every time I put my pen down, I'm proud of what I have put forth and ready to reap the rewards.

English STAAR



Dezhia Gorrer
LBJ High School

As I attend LBJ High School the sophomore class has taken our English staar on April 2nd. The English staar is the only "big" test my sophomore class had to take, because as you go up a grade level you take a dif-

ferent subject. We don't know if we passed the test until we get closer to the end of the school year, because the test is sent out to the district so it can be graded and that might take a while. LBJ High School were preparing for the staar for almost three months. The test was five hours long, and had many different sections we were being tested on.

Now that the test is over we are able to cut back a little on the rules that were given to us by the district. This includes small privileges such as not going to the restroom much or at all during class, no phones out period, and not being able to listen to music to complete our work. Until next time..... GO JAGS!!

Testing Is Over



Imani Demps
Del Valle High School

This week I finished my STAAR tests I really hope I passed because I tried so hard. I gave that test my all, I am patiently waiting on my scores. I can't wait until I get this over with, this is really getting to me I hope I passed.

Research



Montrae Nelson
Riverplace Elementary

This week I have been learning about chimpanzees for a research project in school. Well I am researching chimpanzees and every student has their own animal they have to research. We have a packet at school that we keep our

information in for our project and questions that have to be answered about each animal. This is my first time doing a research project and we have to have four sources that can be the internet, books, or magazines. There is a lot of detail that goes into research but its fun to find out so much information I didn't know before. I have to find out about the diets of chimpanzees, their habitat, enemies, and family life. I also have to create a diorama of their habitat and that's going to be fun because my family is going to help me. All my research I did by myself at school and I can't wait to present my project!

Thoughts about STAAR



Zachariah Washington
Cedars Academy

This past week on April first and second the seventh grade class at Ce-

dars International Academy took the writing STAAR test. My personal thoughts about STAAR is that it is useless because the teachers at my school say that if you don't pass the STAAR they will grade off if you get good grades everyday.

Another reason why I think the STAAR is useless because you don't have to get an average grade in the state of Texas to pass. Because of that everybody can pass no matter what. That's why I think STAAR is useless.

Athletic Trainer



Lanette Demps
Del Valle High School

Well I am an upcoming athletic trainer for my high school. I was really looking forward to becoming a athletic trainer and now that I am I think it would help me focus more in the medical field. Being in the medical field is something I have been wanting for a while and now that I am, I think I will succeed.

Senior Celebration



Alon Rodgers
Hendrickson H.S.

The Hendrickson Athletic Booster Club needs help this week with the District Track meet at Hawk Stadium. The Athletic Booster Club has the opportunity to provide concessions for this three day event to further raise funds for Hendrickson Athletics and for our scholarship program. If you available and would like to show your support for our athletes, please consider signing up for a shift during the April 8-10 event. It is easy, fun work and it sup-

ports all athletic programs.

Z Couture and Men's Wearhouse will be donating back to the 2014 Senior Celebration. Donations of 10% for each dress purchased and \$5 for every tuxedo rental will be made. Receive \$40 off your tuxedo rented through a 2014 Prom Fashion Show representative. Please be sure to mention Hendrickson High School at both locations! Contact Irene_Barrara@yahoo.com for more information.

The student council officers of the Freshman Class will have a cook-out on Friday, May 16, 2014, from 8 pm to 10:45 pm in the HHS parking lot for all Class of 2017 students. This event is not a fundraiser but simply a celebration of a successful first year at HHS and a kick-off to summer.

Studying Hard



Jada Demps
Dailey Middle School

I'm done with sports, so now all I'm doing is studying and going to torturing. I'm doing all this because of the STARR test. I already took the reading and math. I think I did real good but, next week is science and social studies so therefore I have to study hard because I must pass all of these test.

STAAR



Erika Lipscomb
Manor Elementary

Schools have been STAAR testing this past week. So we had a break from homework. For elementary kids, the rest of the days were practice days. It took longer to finish my reading test. I hope I did well.

Cardinal Band



Jaylon Knighten
Del Valle High School

All this week the Del Valle Cardinal Band had a lot of things to accomplish in order for us to get a great score at the UIL competition.

On Monday all band will attend a clinic with a great former director who has won a lot of State UIL Championships. Mr. Babbit also came out and helped our band earlier and we received a one in the Pre UIL so I hope we will receive another good score during the real UIL. The Cardinal band will have a spring concert on Tuesday April 8th then on Wednesday April 9th our Concert band will be going to UIL held at Hays PAC and on Thursday April 10th both Wind and Symphonic band will be going and performing in UIL. Best of Luck to all Band Group

YOUTH BRIGADE

Finish Strong



Jory Henderson
Anderson High School

It may not feel like it, but believe it or not summer is right around the corner. I go to Anderson High school and after these two up coming weeks we will have one more 6 weeks till the end of the school year! So this is the time to really work as hard you can in the class room to either keep your grades up, or to higher them. The end is near but it's important to finish as strong as possible.

Malaysia 370



Sarah Robertson
Pioneer Crossing Elem.

or baggage. Every time I read about or watch television about the missing plane, I keep hearing about a black box. I wanted to know more about this black box so I asked my mother and she told me to look it up. The black box is a part of every plane and it records the activities of the plane. Just in case the plane crash this so call black box could tell them a little about what happen. The black box has enough battery life for around 30 days. The black box is a flight recorder and some have a cockpit voice recorder. I hope they will find the plane and the black box to give the each family some kind of peace. I pray for the family that has lost a love one in this tragic.

Upcoming Events



Latrice Lipscomb
Manor High School

Manor A.C.E drumline has a performance at a game. This will be placed at the Vista Rigde High School. We will be doing something different so im really looking forward to the reactions we get. Further along down the road dance tryouts will be held on April 18th. Good luck to all the girls who tryout. I hope everyone has a good week. Stay tuned for results.



Hershey's Track & Field Program was created over 30 years ago to promote youth physical

fitness and provide fun learning experiences for children 9 to 14 years old. Youth track & field is a

STAAR Test



Trenton Leary
Hornsby Elementary

April 1st and 2nd we took the Starr Test for writing and I think I did pretty

good. I was nervous very nervous but took my time and finished the test. One story was about how to keep your body healthy and that was easy because I do it everyday. The next part of the writing test was I had to write about a time I felt proud, that was hard because it has been so many times. A week from we will be taking the math and reading part of the test. Until next time stay healthy Go Houndogs!

Are You Smarter Than a Texas 7th Grader?

Denton, Texas - Did you know that the Alamo was originally constructed without its famous bell shaped upper portion? Modeled after the Texas Quiz Show, an annual middle school competition sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA), this online quiz will determine whether you are indeed smarter than a seventh grader. Every year since 2006, middle school students across the Lone Star State compete in the Texas Quiz Show to prove their Texas history prowess. Whether it's reciting facts about the Alamo or recounting details

about the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas history is celebrated and preserved through this fun annual competition. But why should middle school students have all the fun? Now is your chance to prove your Texas history knowledge by taking our brand-new "Are You Smarter than a 7th Grader?" quiz. There's even a FREE prize waiting for you upon completion of this fun and fact-filled quiz. You no doubt have a broad knowledge of the Lone Star State . . . but can you match wits with the fine middle school students who compete each year in our Texas Quiz Show? So roll up your sleeves and get ready to test your Texas history prowess at [www. areyousmarterthana7thgrader.com](http://www.areyousmarterthana7thgrader.com). Need a little help? No problem. You have three lifelines to use throughout the quiz. You may use each lifeline just once. Good luck!

great way to get kids started in a physical fitness program. It's the largest youth sports program of its kind in the United States and Canada. Track & field meets take place in every state and every province in North America. Hundreds of athletes make it to the

grand finale — the North American Final in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Join us as we help kids discover their potential, make new friends, and gain newfound self confidence. Every child is a winner with the Hershey's Track & Field Games!

Summer Camps at Austin Nature & Science Center

Offers climbing, canoeing, caving, astronomy, nature art, waterworks, archeology, geology, wildlife, paleontology, habitats, and chemistry:

Elisabet Ney Summer Camp

Session 1: 7/7 - 7/11/2014
Session 2: 7/21 - 7/25/2014
REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN

The Elisabet Ney Museum is excited to offer a brand new summer camp, designed to teach young people innovative approaches to understanding and utilizing visual literacy. Similar to Elisabet Ney's own studio processes, the activities will promote storytelling, conceptual practices and object-centered learning. Participants will also be able to develop pictorial narratives, build sculptural installations and visit other museums and landmarks. Open to children ages 11-13, this one week camp is perfect for tweens interested in exploring creative problem solving and self-expression. Camp fees apply. Contact the museum for details at 512-458-2255

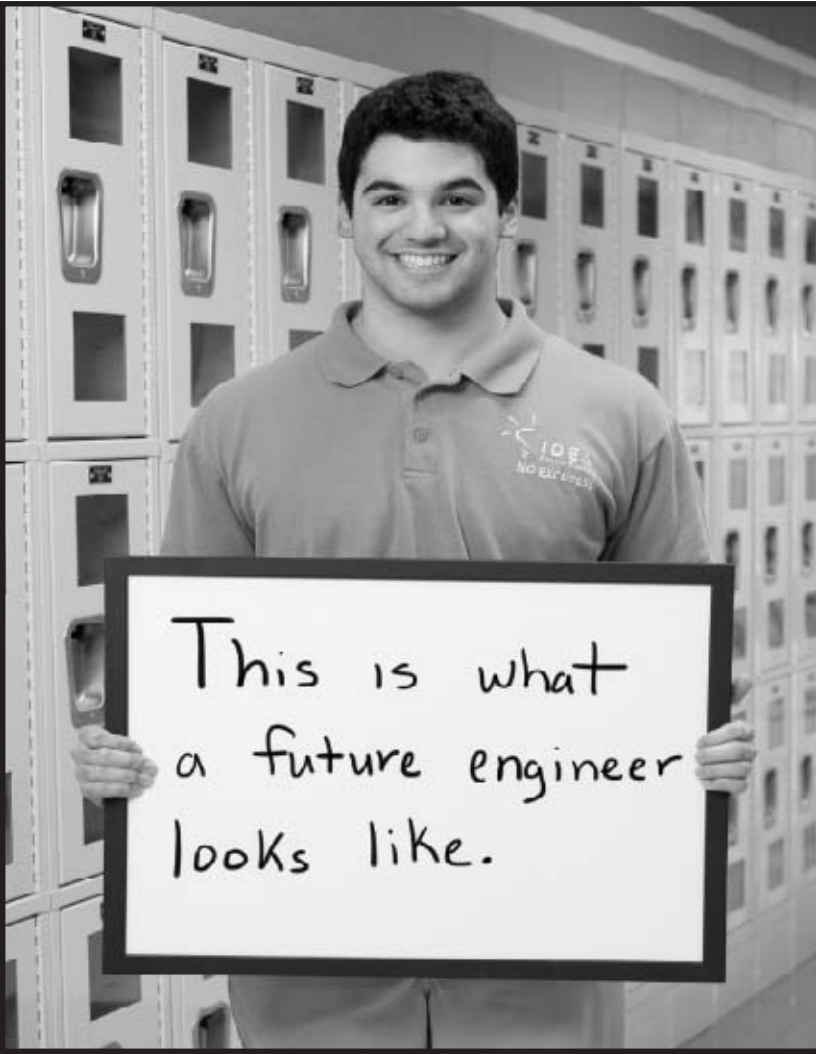


- *Explorer Camp
 - *Specialty Camp
 - *Adventure Camp
 - *Nature Camp
 - *Discovery Camp
 - *Tadpole Camp
 - *Counselor in Training Camp
- To learn more about the featured Summer Camps visit <http://austintexas.gov/departments/summer-camps-history-art-and-nature-centers>



37th Annual North American Meet is August 2, 2014

Summer Track Meets to be held at Burger Stadium.
June 17, 2014 Local
State Meets to be held in Round Rock, TX
June 21, 2014 State Meet



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CITY ~ STATE ~ NATIONAL ~ WORLD

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

On April 5, Council Member Mike Martinez officially announced his intention to run for Mayor. Mike Martinez made his announcement by holding events in each of the ten different City Council Districts.

Mike Martinez started his announcement at Barton Springs. During his first event held at Barton Springs, he was joined by the former Austin Mayor Gus Garcia, Attorney Steward Robin Cravey, State Representatives Celia Israel, and Eddie Rodriguez.

Then, Mike Martinez proceeded to other locations such as District 8 - Slaughter Alamo Draft House - 5701 West Slaughter Lane; District 1 - Hoover's Cooking - 2002 Manor Rd; District 10 Murchison Middle School; District 6 Lake Line Rail Station - 13625 Lyndhurst Blvd (78613); and District 9 - Cheer Up Charlie's - 900 Red River St. Austin.

Mike Martinez has served in public office for the past 22 years. Prior to being elected to the Austin City Council, Martinez served as an Austin firefighter for 13 years. In addition, he served 3 years as president of the Austin

Martinez for Mayor



Mike Martinez

Firefighters Association. Martinez was first elected to the Austin City Council Place 2 in 2006. Then he was re-elected to the City Council in 2009 and 2012.

While on the City Council, Mike Martinez chaired different positions of organizations such as on the Public Health and Human Services Committee; the Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprises; and a Small Business Council Committee. Furthermore, he serves on the Capital Metro board.

There will be some important issues that the various candidates will discuss during this election cycle such as affordability of housing; the increase in the price of water rates; traffic problems; and police brutality by the Austin Police Department (APD). According to certain statistics, there about 110 people who are moving to Austin on a daily bases. As a result, the demand for housing and road construction has not kept pace with this growing population. In addition, minorities, especially African Americans living in Austin have been faced with yearly shooting of African Americans males. Moreover, the next City Council will have to deal with these issues.

Round Rock Surpasses 100,000 Residents



Carlos Salinas

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

On May 10, 2014 the residents of Round Rock, Texas will be going to the polls to vote for various members of their City Council. Round Rock is located north of Austin which covers both Williamson and Travis County. In the

past decade, Round Rock has seen dramatic population growth and increase. According to the 2014 United States census, Round Rock has surpassed the mark of a 100,000 inhabitants.

Since 2009, Round Rock has not seen a disputed race for City Council. In the upcoming race, Will Peckham



Will Peckham

will be challenging the incumbent Carlos Salinas. Moreover, the Round Rock City Council race will probably have a low turnout race due to the fact that it is a non-presidential year.

Moreover, the incumbent Carlos Salinas has served on the Round Rock City Council since 2005. For nearly a decade, Salinas

has helped "shepherd" the growth of the city. On the other hand, Will Peckham the challenger has built a successful business in Round Rock. As a result, the resident of Round Rock will have to choose between someone who is experienced in government affairs versus someone who has ran a business.

Austin Becoming a Hub for African Diaspora Musicians

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

As Central Texas grows so, the African Diaspora community grows. In order, to bring this growing community together, the nonprofit AFTV 5 held an event that highlighted the growing African culture in Central Texas. In other words, AFTV5 sought to unite this growing community by the arts and music. Moreover this night was successful due to the fact of people of various races, ethnicities, and ages who attended this event.

The African Cultural Festival was held on April 5, 2014 in Austin Texas. The African Cultural Festival highlighted a growing number of African Diaspora musicians who call Central Texas their home. Some of the musicians included the group called

Zoumanchi; with Roland and the Roots Riddin. These bands played a couple of their songs at the cultural festival, which got the crowd on their feet. Not only were there various musicians playing but, there was also a fashion show that highlighted African clothes.

According to AFTV 5, "The purpose of the African Cultural and Awards Event is to promote civic engagements in the African community by educating the community members about civic issues and the political processes impacting their lives." In other words, AFTV 5 seeks to unite the ever growing community in Central Texas, so that this community can work together in achieving various goals and objectives.

Preservation Vs. Gentrification



AUSTIN REVEALED: Civil Rights Stories

by Angela Wyatt

(AUSTIN, TX) - Thursday evening, April 3, 2014, Travis County residents were presented with a special screening, AUSTIN REVEALED: Civil Rights Stories and engaged in a community discussion. KLRU hosted a Civic Summit, and

revealed a moving and appalling testimony, giving insight to many citizens who were unaware of the old East Austin. The film featured prominent dignitaries in our African American community, Tommy Wyatt, Ada Anderson, Hoover Alexander, Gary Bledsoe, Bertha Means, Linda Conner, Wilhelmina Delco

and more. These leaders spoke about their experience during Austin's civil rights period, the effect of segregation and what gentrification has meant to the city.

Following the footage a round table chat began with a panel, Mayor Lee Leffingwell; Former state Rep. Wilhelmina Delco; State Rep. Dawnna Dukes;

Natalie Cofield and John-Michael Cortez.

As the conversation weighed in with many different opinions and views, the panel and audience closely examined Austin's race issues, and the edifying gaps in the past and present among neighbors and age groups. African Americans in Austin have historically formed communities east of I-35, originally by law.

Today gentrification threatens to break up the close-knit communities and demolish the Old East Austin business district built over time. As Austin continues to grow and gentrification creating a rift in this once predominantly African-American community, how can we effectively converse these issues and encourage a healthy dialog.

Check your local listings for the airing time of the Civic Summit, Thursday, April 24th

COLONY PARK Residents Planning Meeting

If you live in the colony park area, you get to help decide what gets built on 300 acres purchased by the City of Austin.

Join us from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Facility at 7201 Colony Loop Drive.

Open house and food and drink will begin at 6, and the main event will begin at 6:30. There will be childcare provided for kids five and older. There will also be raffle prizes!

This is a public event, so invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come along with you!

FMI: 512.974.3100 or www.austintexas.gov/departments/colony-park



Photo Correction for April 4th, 2014 edition:

Billy J, Walker, not Michael McDonald Marches down Rosewood during 2014 B. L. Joyce Parade. Photo by Angela Wyatt

CLASSIFIEDS ~ PUBLIC INFORMATION



By Shirley A. Hammond
Follow her on twitter at
twitter.com/xtremeridewish1

National Poetry Month Activities

April is National Poetry Month, where events, open mikes and other poetry-rich experiences abound. On April 3-6, Austin hosted the Austin International Poetry Festival, celebrating its 22nd year.

The City of Austin's cultural diversity department sponsored the festival's yearly Antholgy, but many sponsors offered support and the use of their venues. Workshops were held at places ranging from an ACC campus to Huston-Tillotson University. Although the festival is over, the month is not. Some opportunities to share or view poetry for the remainder of the month are featured below.

NPR Radio/Twitter: For those who love metaphors, NPR radio's Tell Me More launches its ode to poetry month with a Muses and Metaphor series. During April, they will feature Twitter poems that NPR fans submit, as well as hear from writers and poets all over the nation.

Regular contributors

to the public library station will also offer chats using rhymes and verses.

All contributions have to stay within the 140 character maximum, meaning the poems tweeted have to be concise.

Blanton Museum: The Blanton Museum has a poetry project, where various poets have shared their artistry using paintings at the museum as inspiration. To view examples and find out more, visit

blantonmuseum.org/interact/poetry_project/

UT-An Evening of Poetry: For anyone reading the paper early enough, The Perry Casteneda Library on the UT campus will celebrate An Evening of Poetry on Thursday, April 10 from 6:00pm-8:00pm in room 2500.

Dean Young, 2014 Texas Poet Laureate, and Rosemary Catacalos, 2013 Texas Poet Laureate, will read

Beautiful Black Women

By Shirley A. Hammond

What happens to a beautiful woman as she navigates the terrain of life? What occurred during the mass exodus from places like Louisiana to California during The Great Migration? These are things explored in a historical fiction trilogy written by author Susan Straight. Straight did a Book Talk at The Carver Museum and Cultural Center on Saturday, April 5 from 6:00pm-8:30pm. "It took 15 years to write this trilogy," stated Straight, the mother of what she describes as three strong black daughters who she taught to be fierce. In a similar way, she states that the characters in her book leave a legacy of strength and survival.

Dubbed The Rio Seco Trilogy, her books capture the lives of fictitious female characters from slavery forward. One title, "A Million Nightingales," is set in the years 1811-1815 in Louisiana. The main character is a woman named Moinette who is sold

away from her mother when she was 14. She goes on to have two beautiful daughters, who continue to grapple with the blessed burden of being beautiful just as their mother had.

Straight explained that she got the title of the next book after hearing someone defend the potential impact of an only child and referred to children as candles. "Take One Candle, Light A Room," is set in California with a fast forward to 2005. The characters are descendants of Moinette who migrated to Orange Grove, California. The main character is a beautiful woman named Fantine; who is named for a slave girl who helped Moinette. She is happy to share the origins of her name. Ultimately, Fantine takes a trip to the New Orleans area and gets caught up in the landfall of Hurricane Katrina.

As an aside, Straight said she and her family went to Gulf Port, Mississippi and New Orleans with their church to help rebuild homes in the aftermath of Katrina. "We laid carpet. We painted. We

from their work

Design students at the university are creating poetry broadsides (graphic-designed posters of a poem and representative artwork) for poems donated by the two laureates. Copies of the broadsides will be distributed to the first 75 people to arrive. Their recent books will be available for purchase at the event, which will include a Q&A and poetry discussion.

Neo Soul-Mid-

put up walls," she reported.

She shared how their family reunions are typically 400 people strong and becomes a great backdrop for storytelling. She said the preparation and cooking of food also provides opportunities for younger members to hear personal accounts. She said stories of migrations to California that would not be repeated again were often told at these family gatherings.

Offering a sliver of advice, she said those who have no family reunions should consider visting an elder in the family and listening to their stories.

"What makes a good writer is the ability to sit and listen to an older person tell a story," she said.

As she summed up the way the beautiful woman theme continued to crop up in her work, she recalled how she personally knew a woman named Glorette who often had 10 men at a time pursuing her while she was trying to ride the bus to work. As a fellow rider, Straight said she witnessed men who pursued her so hotly with no love mo-

town Live: Poets and poetry lovers can participate in Midtown Live's Neo Soul Spoken Word event every Tuesday starting at 8:00pm. The cafe is located at 7408 Cameron Road and the event is presented by South Flavas Entertainment. Anyone seeking to share their poems or music should get their names on the clipboard early in the evening. More information can be obtained at www.southflavas.com.

tive. "She was gorgeous," Straight said, as she described her as a cross between Dorothy Dandridge and Halle Berry. "Men would follow her off the bus," she recalled. She said they'd try to hand her their numbers and give her the money to make the call.

She also remembers that being pursued as a trophy made the woman very sad. One conclusion that observation and experience has taught her is that sometimes being a beautiful black woman carries some inaccurate conclusions and stereotypes. "Oh, she's pretty, she'll never have to work a day in her life," "Oh, she's pretty, you'll never have to worry about her." She admitted that the later is something people sometimes said to her about her own daughters. She shared her belief is that real life is the best inspiration for a great story.

The final book, "Between Heaven and Here," is about five female cousins; including Fantine and a gorgeous woman named Glorette. The women have roots in Creole, Louisiana and Glorette becomes a focal point of the story.

EMPLOYMENT PROPOSALS PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR SALE FOR RENT BIDS MISCELLANEOUS

Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC) is currently soliciting proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for Group Health, Group Dental, Group Vision, Group Life/AD&D, Voluntary Life/AD&D, Voluntary Short Term Disability, Voluntary Long Term Disability 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, April 7, 2014. RFPs may also be mailed or sent electronically, by contacting Rebecca Hawes at rhawes@frostinsurance.com or (512) 473-4511. The deadline to submit a proposal under the RFP is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2014. Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs), including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses, are encouraged to apply.



New Jobs for the Week of 04/06/2014

Officer, Resource Development
Highland Business Center
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
\$3,674-\$4,593/Monthly
Job# 1403004
Apply at HR
Middle Fiskville Rd.
6th Floor, Austin, TX 78752
Job Line (512) 223-5621
<http://www.austinctc.edu>
EEOC/AAM/F/D/V

Driver Position Wanted
I am an Experienced, Private, Personal Driver seeking a Driver's Position for an "Individual, Family or Company (No Limo Co.)". I am also experienced in executive protection. Former personal driver / protection specialist for prominent businessman, Mr. Lowell H. Leberman Jr. I have driven singers, vip's, ceo's, dignitaries and politicians. I am seeking to relocate back to Austin from Dallas. Contact Mr. Gibbs at 1-214-966-5676

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City of Austin Purchasing Office

The City of Austin Purchasing Office invites you to view current bid solicitations at https://www.ci.austin.tx.us/financeonline/vendor_connection/solicitation/solicitations.cfm. 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.austintexas.gov/smbr>.

BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION

Are you interested in future public transportation options in Central Texas? Do you have ideas about how it should look and function?

Join your neighbors for an interactive workshop on potential transit projects in the Central Corridor – an area that includes East Riverside, downtown Austin, UT Campus, and Highland Mall/ACC.

projectconnect.com

PROJECT CONNECT: CENTRAL CORRIDOR WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 12
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Midway Field House
2015 E Riverside Dr.
Austin, TX 78741

Participants may join us at any time during the event and can expect refreshments, live music, and activities for kids. There will be presentations starting at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Accessible by MetroBus Routes 7, 20, 100

There will be more opportunities to participate in this process. Check our website for future meeting and webinar dates. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Contact Martin Kareithi at (512) 389-7583 or by email at: Martin.kareithi@capmetro.org for more information.



PROGRAMS ~ AWARENESS

AN OUR FAIR SHARE EDITORIAL

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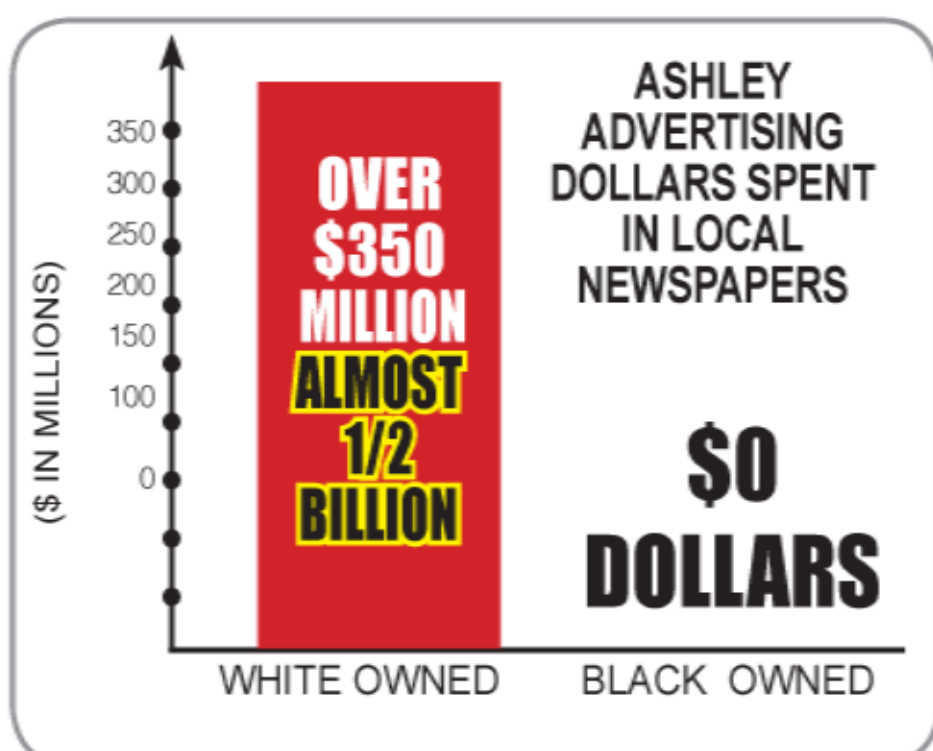


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