As the community celebrated Juneteenth byattended the parade on Saturday (June 21), there were the usual floats, marchers, revelers and other activities passing the parade. But one thing stood out very vividly. The two people who are running for the highest offices in the State had marchers in the parade, but neither had an African American carrying their banner.

While it was admirable that Wendy Davis and Leticia VanDePutte, respectively, both had banners in the parade, neither had a Black person carrying them. Can they be that clueless? Or is it that they really do not know how to relate to this community.

One of the big issues in the African American community is leadership and representation. That is the highest of any other community. Having at least one African American function as a representative of your community would go a long ways towards building support.

Could it be that neither of these candidates have Black employees among their staff? Or is it that they expect Black voters to vote for them because they do not have another alternative?

While it may be true that 90% of African Americans will probably vote for the Democratic ticket, the question is “how many of them do you vote?” The problem is that the traditional voters have stopped voting because they believe their vote will not be asked for their votes. While spending millions of dollars trying to get every other community to vote for them, there is currently no budget set aside to attract the African American voters to go to the polls.

Texas has been a “Red” (Republican) state for the last 20 years, because the Democratic leadership has gone away from their traditional voters. The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. It appears that the Democrats are living up to this definition.
continued from page 1

leader, trailer blazer, and champion of civic causes, Mrs. Anderson exemplifies the spirit of the Community Health and Wellness Center which is conceptualized to bring together the community and campus offerings to focus on holistic approaches to health,” said HT President and Chief Executive Officer Larry L. Earvin, Ph.D. “We applaud her efforts to rally the community in support of the components of the HT mission.”

Anderson graduated from Austin’s segregated L.C. Anderson High School. She attended Austin’s predominantly black colleges, Samuel Huston and Huston-Tillotson, where she received a degree in home economics in 1941. She also received her master’s degree in education from Huston-Tillotson in 1965 from the University of Texas at Austin. While a student at Huston, Anderson met Samuel Huston, a co-founder of Huston-Tillotson College, and they married in 1943 and together became leaders in the civil rights movement and in Austin’s African American community. They established the Anderson-Wormley real estate and insurance firm, providing affordable housing that empowered the Central Texas African American community.

Anderson has many firsts in her career such as serving on the Governor’s Commission on Status of Women and as the first African American professional at the Texas Employment Commission during John Connally’s term as governor. In 2004, Anderson was awarded the Leadership in Civil Rights Award by the LBJ Library and LBJ School of Public Affairs. The award was created to recognize men and women who helped enhance the rights of all Americans. She also served as an Austin Community College Trustee and Advisory Council member of the UT College of Education Foundation. She served on the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts, and the Citizen’s Advisory Committee of the Travis County Juvenile Board. She was Chair of the Board of Directors for the Laguna Gloria Art Museum, a founding member of the Austin Lyric Opera, and trustee for the Long Center for the Performing Arts. She founded LEAP (Leadership Enriching Arts Program) for African American children who were less fortunate and gave them exposure to the arts. She established the Austin chapter of Jack and Jill, America, Inc., a leadership and service organization, and is a charter member of the Alpha Chi Alumnae of the Alpha Kappa Sorority, Incorporated. The Andersons had two children, M. Jack Anderson Jr., who died at age 65 near Atlanta, Georgia, in 2013, and Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Baccus, who died at 65 near Atlanta, Georgia, in 2013. Designating the gift to HT’s health and wellness center, honor her daughter, continues her legacy. Anderson was a founder of the Austin Travis County Mental Health Association, which served on the Saint David’s Foundation Board.

Raising the immediate awareness for African American mental health practitioners in Central Texas, HT formalized the 21st Century Solutions-Based Listening Tour with a team of medical professionals prepared to address local disparities. The CWMC is planned as a $55 million, 52,000 square foot medical needs of HT students and faculty, and underserved populations throughout Central Texas. Anderson’s gift supports the University and its efforts to raise disparities in mental health care services within the Central Texas African American population as a community issue.

University of Texas at Austin and Huston-Tillotson University have partnered with Austin Travis County Integrated Care (ATCIC; Austin Travis County Health and Human Services [HT] and federally qualified health center (FQHC), and other key stakeholders to provide mental and behavioral health services committed to serving a diverse population that has been absent of minority caregivers and service providers. In addition, the City of Austin, recognizing the health disparities in Travis County for African American residents, en- couraged the University of Texas at Austin to work with a resolution and support.

One of “America’s Leading Black Doctors” according to Black Enterprise Magazine, William Lawson, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Howard University College of Medicine, led a two-day dialogue and discussion on the importance of HT’s initiative on community health and wellness.

“HT’s newly erected Community Health and Wellness Center with its classrooms, gymnasium, and health services components will strategically bring together the community and campus offerings to focus on holistic approaches to health—specifically in the areas of recreation, evaluation, education, and performance. The three pronged approach of patient care, research, and education, will significantly improve the environment of care for the minority residents of East Austin,” Earvin concluded.

University of Texas, Austin’s first institution of higher education, offers Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in 20 areas of study. The historically black university is affiliated with The United Methodist Church and the Texas State Affordable Loan Program.

Ashwood & Associates’ assisted living makes a large donation of durable medical equipment to AGE of Central Texas for the “Safe Summer” Campaign; (from left) Ashwood Director of Nursing Yenni Abebe, University of Texas at Austin’s Samuel Huston, Ashwood Administrator Meg Tesfaye, AGE of Central Texas Executive Director Joyce Lauck, and Ashwood Director of Marketing Melissa B. Mowry-Brower (photo by Rob Faubion).
FEDERAL COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF ROMAN CATHOLIC DIocese AND AUSTIN PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

AMENDMENT

Declares City of Austin’s Forced Speech Ordinance Unconstitutional

AUSTIN, TX – Today, Liberty Institute garnered a huge victory in its fight to protect the free speech and religious exercise rights of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin, and Austin area Pregnancy Resource Centers (PRCs). In the case Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin et al v. City of Austin, U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel ruled that the Austin ordinance targeting the religious life-affirming of pro-life pregnancy centers is unconstitutional. Finding that the ordinance was void for vagueness, the Court ruled that the City of Austin may not enforce its unconstitutional ordinance against the Diocese and other pregnancy centers. To view the full judicial judgment, follow this link: libertyinstitute.org/lite/11-Austin-Catholic-Diocese-v.-City-of-Austin-062314.pdf

In 2012, Liberty Institute challenged the constitutionality of the Austin ordinance that would require the Roman Catholic Diocese of Austin and its affiliated PRCs to post a sign at their front entrances with a false and misleading message about the services that they do not provide. However, pro-life pregnancy centers are unable to truthfully advertise or providing vital services to the women who seek their help. The denial of the right to share the religious exercise and expression of Liberty Institute’s clients is not only a violation of its First Amendment rights, but is also tantamount to violating the public’s right to receive accurate information. As a result, the Liberty Institute’s clients have been unfairly required to post a sign at their front entrances that is misleading and contrary to their religious exercise and expression.

“Today’s decision is a victory for liberty, and a victory for the First Amendment rights of all Texans,” said Jeff Gettle, general counsel for Liberty Institute. “Our clients’ First Amendment rights to engage in free speech and religious exercise and expression have been upheld against well-endowed public institutions that decided to establish a constitutionally invalid ordinance. This case demonstrates the importance of upholding the rights of religious organizations to serve the public in a manner consistent with their religious exercise and expression.”

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Tompson to join Division of Students Affairs & Enrollment Services

continued from page 1 and full time job opportunities.

Additionally, during her two year tenure with the Pan American, she has also fostered relationships with several profes-
sors who are proud of her success and financial in-
frastructure by organizing networking events in Aus-
tin, Texas. The most successful networking events were the annual Holiday Galas. From these events, nearly $1600 was raised in donations impacting over 200 families in the area.

As a testament to her success, a scholarship con-
cerntaining parent’s with their children through the library of Christmas gifts. Monica carried out the vision of option Mayor Marshall, President of the Chamber of Commerce, for the joint holiday party with Austin’s premier black chamber of commerce.

Organizations sup-

3rd Annual African American Book Festival

6th The H-E-B Austin Symphony 38th Annual July 4th
Concert and Fireworks

On the 4th Americ-

Texas, TX

Spent this Indepen-
dence Day with thousands of families who came to the Austin Symphony Or-
chestra at the beautiful Circuit of The Americas (COTA)! While Auditorium Shores is under reno-

AUGUST 2014 37

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Science and Math.

Black Business Owners See Obstacles to Growth

From left to right - Senator Royce West, TAAACC Chairperson Jim Wyatt, report co-author Bruce Killisson, and University of Texas at Austin Economic Research Director Allison Davis.

AUSTIN, Texas — The number of black-owned businesses in Texas is growing, but the firms are small in size and have more than twice as many employees and $1.2 million in sales, while the average Texas business had 23 employees and $1.2 million in sales.

In their survey re-
sponses, a majority of black business owners indi-
cated they felt they had the education and skills needed to succeed. They saw room for improvement in the areas of political access and contracting opportunities.

A majority of those surveyed (76 percent) said they perceived black-owned businesses to have less access than other firms to government decision makers, which required surgery when he was an infant. He is diligent and resilient in the face of early setbacks and graduated with a 3.5 Grade Point Average. He graduated in 2007, the average black-owned business had 10 full-time employees and $60,000 in sales, which while the average Texas business had 23 employees.

Black American students, faculty and all ot-

organized by The University of Texas at Austin Department of Integrative Studies and the Law School/education in some ways, leading the conversation.

African American stu-
dents to attend UT Aus-
tin—every month we will take a deep dive into a story of equality, access, and social justice, we cannot forget the past as it plays into the future. John Lewis said that we must work toward the common good, and today it is time for us to create a better understanding of the obstacles faced by black business owners, all of us—business owners, the Texas Association of African American Cham-

Bureau of Business Research, part of the UT Austin Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, surveyed 194 black-owned businesses across the state. Additional survey findings with Access to Capital: More than 50 percent of the respondents had not applied for a business loan and almost 20 percent had applied but never received one. It is also significant that 14 percent had applied but never received one, while 28 percent had received business loans.

Perceptions of privilege, in general, are some-

of the state and national community. These efforts are vital and timely, as the country engages in impor-
tant conversations on civil rights, voting rights and renegotiates the practices of equality, fairness and access.

The University of Texas at Austin (UT) (UT) (UT) with the help of its Corporate En-
trepreneurship Office, has been垃a host to the Austin Symphony Orchestra’s July 4th concert and fireworks.

The Austin Symphony Orchestra is a full-service professional orchestra that will host that the most presti-
gious black arts organizations, including the Formula 1 United States Grand Prix**. It is the first purpose-built Grand Prix facility in the U.S.

Built around a state-
mile track with capacity for 100,000 fans and an ei-

1,000-acre. Show more

site in southeast Austin, approximately 20 miles from Austin Bergstrom Interna-
tional Airport, with scenic views of downtown Austin.

Circuit of The Amer-
cas in Austin, Texas, is a 1.000-acre. SHOW MORE

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ternational Airport, with scenic views of downtown Austin.
Rhythm & Rib Festival

Friday's evening celebration at 7:30 on June 20. DJ Cut Creator kicked off the event featuring several participants seeking more bragging rights for their barbecue pit skills with pork spare ribs, chicken and brisket. 96.3 (KKMJ), a part of The Voice, Inc. and official radio sponsor. The event incorporated self-promotion opportunities and in-flight advertising performances. Amongst other things, the event incorporated self-promotion and an atmosphere of multi-cultural respect. Admissions and parking for this event were free.

Free Minds Writing Program Accepting Applications

By Shirley A. Hammond

The Free Minds Program is accepting applications for their Fall semesters. The deadline is fast approaching. Students in the course get an opportunity to improve their writing, communication, and critical thinking skills. The two-semester college class is taught by UT and ACC faculty, and students who complete the program earn six college credits from the community college. It is a program of Foundation Communities, and has offered those with low to moderate income the chance to explore and expand their educational horizons.

“Were looking for adults who are smart and motivated, and looking for a bridge back into the classroom.” The Director said that, in addition to the classes, students get a chance to do readings, go see a Shakespeare play, visit a museum and do other community-related events.

The classes meet two times per week and feature humanities coursework, in what Griffith described as semi-narrative. “It’s a small classroom, she added, while mentioning that they offer lots of individualized tutoring and assistance. Qualifying students must be at least 18 and can not already hold a college degree. Some can receive free tuition, books, meals and childcare, if they meet financial qualifications.

The first session is a mid-August orientation. They are recruiting for their 9th year of classes.

Griffith mentioned that different causes may contribute to people’s decision to give Free Minds a try. “Maybe they tried school and stopped going for any number of reasons.” She said many people are seeking a comfortable and supportive environment with other adults. In the past, the life stories and experience of the participant has varied. Griffith said this past term they had someone in their 60’s to successfully complete the program.

“We’ve had people as young as 21,” she stated, and said most students have been in their 30’s and 40’s. “Just this year a student from our 2011 class completed her Bachelors degree at St. Edwards.” As Griffith explained it, she was pregnant with her third child when she took the Free Minds class. She worked full-time, went to St. Edwards and raised her three kids after completing the Free Minds Program. After completing her degree (Magna Cum Laude), she was promoted at Communities in School, where she started out as a receptionist. Now she is a para-coordinator working with families, in her dream job.

Griffith stated, “She was proof of the power of a degree.” She said this student told them that Free Minds was what got her back into the classroom and gave her the confidence to go for her degree.

The application deadline is July 7. An online application is available at FreeMindsAustin.org for those interested can call for a mailed application or for more information at (512) 610-7961.

By Shirley A. Hammond

follow her on twitter at twitter.com/xtremeridewish

www.theaustinvillager.com

THE VILLAGER/June 27, 2014 ~ Page 5

MAKE A WINNING IMPRESSION!

We invite you to attend:
Texas Lottery Commission Annual Historically Underutilized Business Forum

Location:
Texas Lottery Commission | 611 East 8th Street | Austin, Texas

Tuesday, July 15, 2014 | 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

The forum will provide a brief overview of the TGLC’s HUB program, procurement processes, and Mentor Protégé initiatives. The highlight of this event will be roundtable networking sessions with Lottery Commission staff and a number of our key contractor representatives. Roundtable assignments will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis on the day of the forum.

The TGLC HUB Forum is FREE of charge!
Register on-line or on before 7/11/14 at: www.txlottery.org/hub

For more information contact:
Joyce Bertolacini, HUB Coordinator: (512) 344-8293 or joyce.bertolacini@lottery.state.tx.us

www.texaslottery.org
Juneteenth Celebration & Voter Registration

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

Juneteenth marks the day in which the Federal soldiers landed in Texas to inform African Americans slaves that they were free from slavery. Therefore, Juneteenth is the day of festivity and celebration of freedom from years of slavery. In Austin Texas, the Juneteenth event is celebrated at Rosewood Park in East Austin. Not only should Juneteenth be a day of celebration, but it should be a day in which Africans Americans and others get involved in their communities. Therefore, the group "Diaspora Vote" held a voter registration day during and after the Juneteenth celebration. Moreover, the point of the voter registration was to register new voters and also to inform the attendees about the upcoming Austin City Council elections.

Katrina Daniels for District 4

By Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

Katrina Daniels plan to announce her intention to run for the Austin City Council, District 4. District 4 is located around the Rundberg area of Austin, Texas. It has one of the highest concentrations of immigrants. Moreover, District 4 is one of the most contested seats. In addition, Katrina Daniels is a registered emergency nurse, who has work experience in both the Texas Legislature and the State agencies. Furthermore Katrina Daniels has lived in Austin for the past 18 years. Over the years, she has served as the Neighborhood President of her area and now is the Vice-chair of the Austin Health District. Katrina Daniels has a good resume but, will have to face other challenges in District 4. So far, Laura Pressey, Sharon Mays, Monica Guzman, Roberto Perez, Marco Mancillas, and Katrina Daniels plan to run for Austin City Council District 4.

REMEMBRER:

There are still many opportunities to learn more and have your questions answered about Project Connect and the Proposed 1st Phase of Urban Rail. If you cannot make it to one of the events below, we have added a Online Open House option: http://projectconnect.com/get-connected-email-updates. Traffic congestion in Austin costs everyone time and money, diminishes our quality of life, and continues to increase as Central Texas grows.

Capital Metro, the City of Austin, CAMPO, the Lone Star Rail District, and other partners are working together to improve long-term mobility and accessibility, support local and regional growth objectives, and meet community needs.

To learn more about Project Connect and the Urban Rail recommendation, please join us at any of the following neighborhood open houses, and visit projectconnect.com to stay informed.

Saturday June 28, 11AM - 3PM  -  Mueller Farmers Market, 2007 Mueller Central Dr

Saturday July 5, 1PM - 5PM  -  Sunrise Valley Farmers Market, 3200 Jones Road

Saturday July 12, 1PM - 5PM  -  Circle C HOA Building, 7817 La Crosse Ave

Saturday July 19, 9AM - 1PM  -  Sunset Valley Farmers Market, 3200 Jones Road

Saturday July 26, 9AM - 1PM  -  Barton Creek Mall Farmers Market, 2901 S Capital of Texas Hwy
A national advocacy day to increase awareness of summer learning help to students close achievement gaps
THANK YOU MR. OTT and MR. MCDONALD

We the Students who are attending the 2014 college tour would like to say THANK YOU to, Austin City Manager Marc Ott and Deputy City Manager Michael McDonald for supporting and sponsoring our 2014 college tour.

Under their leadership, more than 800 Fine Arts students from middle and high schools throughout Austin have had the opportunity to participate in educational college trips and showcase their talents at colleges and universities throughout the U.S.A. Our fellow students also had the opportunity to experience places, for most of them for the first time, like the Grand Canyon, The White House, The US Capital Chamber, where Congressman Lloyd Doggett introduced them on the house floor, The Hoover Dam, to swim the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific as well as the Atlantic oceans. They also had the experience of staying in a college dorm room at California State University, Dominguez Hills and even a visit Disney World.