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**November 14, 2014** 

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Senator West files statewide policy SB158 for officers. See SESSION

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Austin elects first

Mexican-American

female into office.

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Wrongful convictions

remain a rare

phenomenon.

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RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt

#### **Chris Riley did** the right thing!

Austin City Councilman Chris Riley has withdrawn from the District 9 Runoff election against current council member, Kathie Tovo. She came within 1% of the votes in the regular election to win out right without a runoff.

Every one knows that the runoff election that will be held on December 16 will require a lot more work. But, in a practical sense, the results usually do not change. So, Tovo can now begin preparing to be the leader of the incoming council. She will be the only member of the

current council to return. While it is a hard decision for candidates to pull out of the runoff elections, the ones who are running behind with double figures should consider this option. The decision is not taken lightly. The candidates do have an obligation to consult with their supporters, friends, family, and contributors before making the final decision. And in many occasions, those supporters want their candidate to continue in the race.

Riley has been a valuable member of the Austin City Council for several years and is considered to be openminded on most issues. He will continue to be a valuable resource as we go forward.

We will all have to be patient with the new council and not expect them to get off at a rapid speed. There is a tremendous learning curve that they will have to overcome. Not only will the council need to go through a learning process, but the entire city will have to be patient as they learn.

Austin is a city that has a lot of citizen participation. And we have a lot of council regulars who are advocating for different issues. But in the words of Aaron Rodgers to his fans, "Relax". It may take a minute for us to get a handle on this new system. In the meantime, we should continue being involved in selecting the rest of the council.

Turn out will be unusually low, but it is a process that is necessary to complete before moving to the next level.





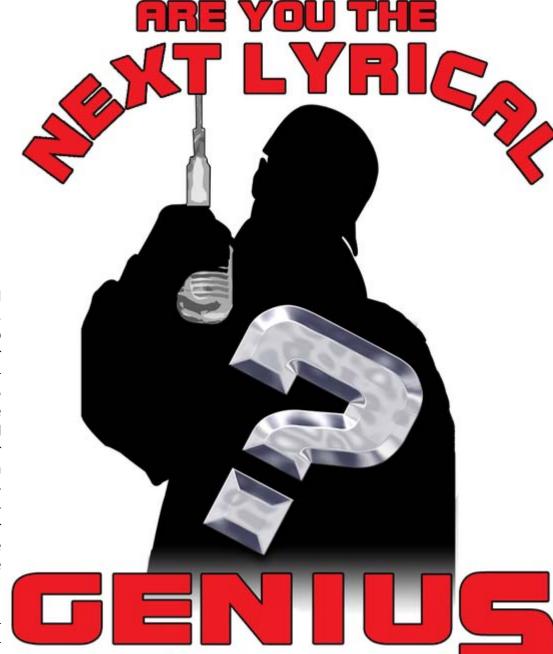
By Shirley A. Hammond twitter.com/ xtremeridewish1

For a top-of-mind place to go for holiday fun, Austinites need look no further than the Carver Museum & Cultural Center. Located at 1165 Angelina Street, the venue has a slate of events and activities for the remainder of the year. Following is a sampling of what the museum/cultural center offers those looking for things to do to celebrate the various holidays of the season.

November 15

1. On Saturday, November 15 from 8:00pm-11:00m a competition to narrow down a lyrical sa-

See DATES, page 2



Logo for Lyrical Genius Contest. Photographer Jason Spence



World War II veteran, Richard Overton, 108-years-old and quite possibly the oldest veteran of one of the world's more historical defining moments, sits in his front yard and speaks with T.L. Wyatt, Editor of The Villager Newspaper, as a group of volunteers from ACC, CoA Veterans Service Office and Team Home Depot engage in renovation exercises to upgrade Overton's home environment. Photo by Thomas Wyatt

Parades, fly overs by military aircraft and rallies with speeches given on the steps of various Capitol buildings are all nice ways to show appreciation for Veterans for a single day of recognition. Many restaurants offer free meals or other special treats to Veterans on Veterans Day. But when that day is over, many veterans are left to wonder if they haven't been forgotten and put away for another year like an ornament used to decorate a tree, or a holiday-themed tablecloth

that graces a dining table for a meal. By any measure, one population of veterans that sometimes need special consideration seem to be those dealing with mental illnesses. The Texas Legislature has a new initiative that will provide matching funds for community-based health programs that help veter-

ans and their families toward this end. Funding for the program will come from the Health and Human Services Commission, with \$1 million designated to address this need. The program will target those needs that are unmet by any other initiative in place for this population. Since it's a pilot program, it's performance will likely be under close scrutiny during the first year to see if it makes sense to continue beyond the pilot year.

On Monday, November 10, sitting Governor Rick See RETURING VETS FROM MIDDLE EAST Page 8

#### Black Pollster: 'Democrats Got their [Butt] Whipped'

By Freddie Allen NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Even with overwhelming support from Black voters, Democrats still lost control of the United States Senate in the midterm elections and President Barack Obama will have to compromise with the GOP-controlled Congress in order to get

anything done in his last two years. "First let's put it in

context, and this is not an

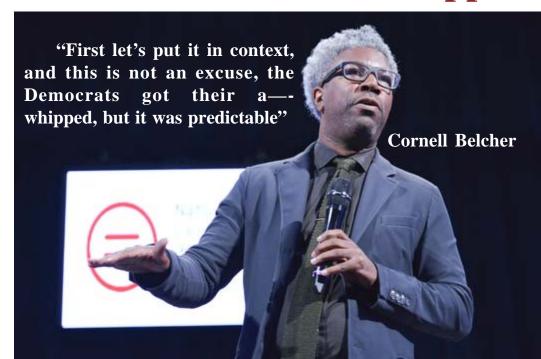
excuse, the Democrats got

was predictable," said Cornell Belcher, a Democratic strategist, pollster and president of Brilliant Corners Research & Strategies, a polling firm that works with the Democratic National Committee. Belcher, an African

their a—- whipped, but it

American, said that Republicans had both history and geography on their side. Many of the key races were run in the heart

See WHIPPED Pg 8



# THE COMMUNIQUE

### **Dates for Carver Museum Holiday Season Activities**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vant will take place. Called "Are You the Next Lyrical Genius?," the event will showcase 10 talented individuals who have already rose to the top of their genre in rap, poetry, writing, etc. Celebrity judges will assess their skills and determine winners for the event. Organizer Jason Spence advised that they plan to hold this event every year.

"Basically it's like a Hip Hop American Idol," he stated. Spence also pointed out that there is no other genre that is as widely embraced around

the world the way Hip Hop is embraced.

prizes include \$1,000, a recording/mixing session others. The Houstonite said the venue is what attracted them to Austin. VIP tickets are \$20 and regular admit tickets are \$15 – both include an Eventbrite fee of about http:// www.eventbrite.com/e/ the-next-lyrical-geniusshow-tickets-tickets-12874250229.

2. On Saturday, November 15, in the Boyd Vance Theatre, there will be a period of Thanksgiving story time and crafts.

Starting at 1:00pm, visitors can hear stories centered He said the top around the theme of thanks and create takehome crafts that celebrate the season.

#### December 5-6

On Friday and Saturday, December 5-6 The Nutcracker: Suite Dreams performance will take place at 2:00pm and 7:00pm, also at the Boyd Vance Theatre. According to the dance theatre's website, this family-fun event will feature a new twist with added characters to accompany Clara. General admission is \$20, with an additional \$15 for those who wish to partici-

pate in the pre-performance wine event an hour before the Saturday show. There may be additional charges of less than \$2.00 for the tickets if purchased through Eventbrite. http:/ /www.eventbrite.com/e/ the-nutcracker-suitedreams-tickets-13832985833?aff=es2&rank=0. December 12-13

On Friday and Saturday, on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of December, the Blue Lapis Aerial Dance Troupe will

perform at Carver allowing students to display their abilities with dancing in the air. The performance will take place in the Boyd Vance Theatre. Tickets are

\$15. This group danced outside a downtown building last year; providing those seated in the wintry cold an aerial show full of stunning effects and suspenseful moments as they dangled, danced and rappelled from the top of the building to the ground

December 16 On Tuesday, December 16, Carver's Festival of Trees and Tree of Life annual event kicks off on this day. Various themed Christmas trees will grace the foyer and hallways of the museum, and then the

talented student musi-

cians that study under

Daphne McDole in the Keys of Life musical training will give a recital at 6:00pm.

December 18

On Thursday, December 18, the annual Silver Bell Social, a mainstay of the holiday activities at the Carver Museum, will take place in the Boyd Vance Theatre at 3:00pm.

December 20

On Saturday, December 20, Santa will touch down at the museum in time to take pictures with the children at noon.

December 26

Friday at 2:00pm is set aside for a Kwanzaa event at the museum.

#### **November Writing Month Emphasizes Novel Writing**

By Shirley A. Hammond

Is writing an entire novel in a month a reasonable goal? Many think it is. Before exploring that question, it might be worthwhile to consider what qualifies as a novel. By definition, a novel is a long narrative that often shows up in a prose writing style, with fictitious characters and events that are often told in sequential order. NaNoWriMo is actually a yearly event that occurs in November. It is designed to put experienced writers and new/emerging writers together under a structured community environment and give them a timeline so that they can all hopefully write a novel before the month is over. There is also a fund-raising component that's geared toward creating the finances to sponsor several literary projects and initiatives that take place throughout the year.

This is the main focus - each person is supposed to get the motivation, inspiration and other resources

to write a novel of about 50,000 words. The creativity focus of the organization is what makes it so appealing to many who want to be part of a larger writing community. There's a Facebook page for it, there are November camps and workshops for it, and there is a young writers arm to it. Libraries offer their Come Write In programs, which links writers to the type of communities that they will need to have relationships with when their novels are done - libraries, bookstores and others. Libraries also offer their space for writing endeav-

Anyone who can write a 50,000 word draft of their novel during the month join the ranks of serious writers. While there's editing, proofreading, re-writing and various other drafts; by emphasizing that the initial rigorous work gets done during the designated month, NaNoWriMo gives people a push to achieve a goal that may have been simmering in their hearts or percolating in their minds for a great length of time.

The Night of Living Dangerously - During this month, writers have the chance to travel to San Francisco if they choose to participate in The Night of Living Dangerously. The designated date is Sunday, November 16. The fete takes place from 4:00pm-11:00pm in the Julia Morgan Ballroom at the Merchants Exchange Building (15th floor).

Although there is food and drink, the main focus will be a six hour write-a-thon. More information about The Night of Living Dangerously can be found at http:/ /nanowrimo.org/writeathon.

The Month-long Commitment - This month-long commiment will help many to achieve their goals. By giving a deadline and timeline, the organization behind this hopes that people can muster up the determination and excitement to see this through. The official website offers help with preparation, character development, setting, conflict, designating a time for writing, plot and help with completing more elements that make up a novel. There are also gift baskets with writing kits and other goodies, fundraiser prizes, grand prizes that are all geared to help writers and more special features.

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## **CHURCH & TOWN BULLETIN**

### **Senator Royce West** pre-files legislation for 84th Session

Early bills focus on protection from predatory lending; criminal justice

**DALLAS** — State Senator Royce West (D-Dallas) filed 12 pieces of legislation today, the first day to file bills for the upcoming 84th session of the Texas Legislature.

"With eight new members in the Senate, and a slate of new officeholders at the statewide level, it should be an interesting session," Senator West concluded. "I look forward to developing relationships with my new colleagues and to working with them for a better Texas."

Senate Bill 121 addresses "payday" lending. It is modeled from legislation that passed the Senate in 2013. "We know that some people lack access to traditional sources of financial lending," said Senator West, "but the practices of some Texas payday lenders has created a cycle of debt from which many hardworking Texans cannot escape. SB121 should help restore

> **Sunday Morning** Worship @ 11: am

Rev. Jack C. Gause

Dr. Ricky Freeman,



balance to the relationship between borrowers and lenders in this area."

In light of recent shootings involving law enforcement and reportedly unarmed suspects, numerous cities and police departments across the country and here in Texas, have employed or are exploring the use of bodyworn camera technology by officers. However, little legal or statutory framework for the use of cameras worn by police officers exists. Senate Bill 158 by Senator West would create statewide policy and looks to provide bodyworn cameras for officers assigned to patrol duties.

Senator West also prefiled a number of bills related to criminal justice. Senate Bill 122 extends compensation for persons who were wrongfully convicted. Current state law does not account for per-

This life, therefore, is not righteous-

ness, but growth in righteousness; not health,

but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest.

but exercise. We are not vet what we shall be. but we are growing toward it. The process is

not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been

justified by faith, we have peace

with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

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9:00 A.M.

11:00 A.M.

7:00 P.M.

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the end, but it is the road. All does not yet

gleam in glory, but all is being purified.

Martin Luther

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Sunday School

**Sunday Services** 

**Ebenezer Baptist Church** 

**Bus Ministry** 

Sunday School

Worship Service

Ages 0-5 years

Felix Bamirin, Pastor

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Midweek Prayer Service

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DINE IN OR ORDER TO GO

sons whose convictions were overturned prior to post-conviction DNA legislation passed in 2001.

Senate Bill 124 identifies in state statute, the federal prohibition for knowingly buying firearms for another person who cannot legally purchase guns. The ban on "straw" gun purchases was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in June of this year.

Under Senate Bill 126, certain seriously-ill prison inmates, who because of their infirmities are no longer a threat to society, could be released from confinement following review by the Board of Pardons and Paroles. This measure would reduce expensive medical care costs that are now paid entirely by the state.

Senate Bill 128 seeks to ensure that criminal history record information disclosed to the public is accurate and up-to-date, and that private entities selling this information are held accountable for the accuracy of the disclosed information.

Senator West's past work regarding orders of nondisclosure is furthered by Senate Bill 130 that would allow the disposition of a judicial "setaside," a dismissal, to be sealed from public disclosure. Senate Bill 131 follows up with legislation passed in 2011 that created statewide standards and training for law enforcement agencies, court workers, technicians and others responsible for the collection, analysis, storage and retention of biological (DNA) evidence.

Among the other legislation filed today by Senator West are bills permitting cities and counties to set a minimum wage that is greater than the federal minimum wage, and creating a bipartisan commission to handle congressional redistricting.

### JUNK comes to life in new feature exhibit at the **Thinkery**

Austin, TX - Opening Nov.15, 2014, the Thinkery welcomes families to visit its new feature exhibit, JUNK - a whimsical exploration of waste and recycling presented in collaboration with guest artist Zach Dorn.

Through donations from the community, Dorn has created a miniature metropolis from discarded items, knickknacks and oddities. "I have received some amazing junk," said Dorn, detailing his vision that straddles the extraordinary and the everyday. "Some of it feels rich with stories and it tells me exactly where it wants to go."

On opening day, Dorn will perform an original liveprojection puppet show, It Was the Coldest Year. The performance will be continuously displayed throughout the run of the exhibit.

JUNK will also include a variety of hands-on activities and special guests to engage visitors as they learn and demonstrate environmentally responsible practices.

"We're so thankful to the Austin community who donated items to bring JUNK to life," said David C. Smith, interim executive director of the Thinkery. "Children and adults alike will be amazed and inspired by the artistic 'upcylcing' creations of Zach Dorn."

Who: Thinkery

JUNK exhibit preview What:

When: Friday, Nov. 14, 2014, 10:30 am Where:

1830 Simond Ave, Austin, Texas, 78723



The materials for JUNK include discarded cabinets, desk lamps, computer parts, vintage suitcases and other repurposed objects. Experience Grace For Life

We Want YOU! **Advertise With The VILLAGER** 

#### **Tax Office Branch Hours Changing December 1**

Austin, TX - For the past several years the four branches of the Travis County Tax Office have been open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Largely due to the fact that population growth is outpacing our space and staffing, the branch office hours must change to 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning Monday, December 1, 2014. The half hour at the end of the day will allow staff to serve customers who arrive at the very end of the day when the doors close. In addition, staff will have sufficient time to close out for the day and reconcile their transactions.

#### **Branch office locations:**

East Austin - 4705 Heflin Ln, Austin, TX 78721 Southeast Austin – 4011 McKinney Falls Pkwy, Austin, TX 78744

Pflugerville - 15822 Foothill Farms Loop, Pflugerville, TX 78660

Southwest Austin - 8656 Hwy 71 W, Building B, Austin, TX 78735

We regret that this change may inconvenience customers and consider the change a temporary one. The main office located at 5501 Airport Boulevard will continue to be open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

To provide public comment regarding this change, customers can call 512-854-9473 or email tax\_office@traviscountytx.gov.

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A.W.. Anthony Mays, Senior Pastor

#### **Agape Baptist Church**

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WEDNESDAY-PRAYER & PRAISE: 7:00 P.M. BIBLE STUDY: 7:30 P.M.

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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.

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### Youth of Today



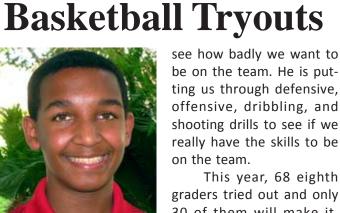
Hope of Tomorrow

# **Frost**



### Black Registry

#### **Sports**



graders tried out and only 30 of them will make it. Thursday afternoon, tryouts were based on offensive skill and agility. Friday afternoon, tryouts were based on defensive skill and agility. Coach Walker even made us scrimmage to see if we had good chemistry together. The last day of tryouts is on Monday, November 10th and Coach Walker will most likely scrimmage us the entire time to make his final judgment on who will make the team. Even with the large number of people trying out, I like my chances of making the team this year because I've shown that I have worked very hard.

Stay tuned for next week's issue of Basketball



**Genesis Stiggers Elgin Middle School** 

In school sports are not always needed, but they sure are fun. They teach kids endurance and stamina while at the same time showing them how to be a good competitor. It is fun and a great way to show

children different morals that can be used in everyday life.

Most deaths America are caused by not exercising properly or eating a healthy diet. If all the kids enrolled in school played sports then their will probably be more fit kids which make successful futures. Sports can help with many things that can make children live more brightened futures.

I am a 6<sup>th</sup> grader so I can't join athletics yet so I am going to try and play basketball for my cities athletics team. Sports are a fun and exciting way to make exercising fun.

#### **Mother Daughter Tea**



**Kevin Parish** Park Crest M.S.

Last Weekend, I had to spend the night with my grandparents because my parents went to a Zydeco concert. On Saturday I helped my grandmother all day with this small little get together

for our church called a Mother Daughter Tea. When Sunday came I got to spend some time with my grandfather after church. We went to go at eat Denny's for breakfast. My school basketball try-outs are on Monday I really hope I can make A-Team. Now basketball is not like football because everybody that tries out for football makes the team. Only 25 people can make the basketball team. So, to the people that will tryout for other schools I hope you make the team. Next week I will tell you if I made the team or not.

Go Pumas.

### **Playoffs**



**Wesley Dickerson** Cedar Ridge H. S.

The Cedar Ridge football team is onto the playoffs for a second straight year after a rocky season. Rocky might be an understatement to describe the football season here at Cedar Ridge High School. To start off the Cedar Ridge Raider football team won five straight games, two of which were district wins. Sadly the team was stripped of their first three victories due to some issues with an ineligible player. So just to be clear the Cedar ridge football team at this point had an official record of 2-3 even though they had actually won all five games played, but a district record of 2-0. So after that initial bump in the road

the Raiders went on to win their next game against Pflugerville High School.

The next three games all ended in loses for the Raiders, some uglier than others. This put the Raiders in an awkward position, they went from tied for district champions to fighting for the last playoff spot in the district. Now a certain chain of events had to happen for Cedar Ridge to reach the playoffs. For the Raiders to get into the playoffs Stony Point High School had to beat Pflugerville, which they did. Also the Raiders needed Rouse High School to loose to Hendrickson High School, which they did. Lastly the Raiders needed to win their last district game and defeat the Westwood High School Warriors, which they did. So everything that the Raiders needed to happen did happen and now they have

reached the playoffs, barely. Hopefully the Raiders use their momentum coming off of a win to push them to victory in the first round of the playoffs. Although with the rollercoaster season that the Raiders have had there is still much to be determined.

#### Game Over



**Aubri Allen-Brent Del Valle High School** 

Our last game was Thursday we played against Bowie and the score was 14-0. We played a good game this football season . Hopefully next year we will be better though . However, Varsity lost, so so we won't be attending paly offs this year . But now it's

basketball season .

Today teens are attending party's and they might recieve peer pressure to drink. Peer pressure is the influence from members of ones peer group. Some things they might get pressured into doing are drinking, smoking, and etc . You have to say no . some ways to say no are "no, I'm not really interested right now" , or "Im not thirsty" , "that's gonna make me sick" or simply "I don't drink" But sometimes it may be hard . drinking at a young age is bad and it may increase the chances of you getting cancer, or drinking to much can lead to alcohol poisoning which can kill you! So remember drinking at young age is a NO NO. Untill next

# **Automatic Admission**



Ira "T.J." Williams

Ridgeview M. S.

year again! The time when

Ridgeview Middle School

tryout for the basketball

team. This past week,

Ridgeview had its 8th

grade basketball tryouts.

The new head basketball

coach, Coach Bradley

Walker, totally changed

the routine of tryouts this

year. Last year, our former

coaches put people on the

team just based on if they

could make a lay-up. This

year, Coach Walker is

pushing us to the limit to

all the

It's that time of the

ballers at

**Kiara Myers** Vista Ridge High School

Texas has a law that states that students in the top 10% of their graduating class are automatically admitted to any public Texas college if they apply. This system is very beneficial because students in the top 10% can have a secure acceptance to a variety of colleges, which can limit the unknown factors when ap-

This law is effective for all Texas public colleges except The University of Texas at Austin. The automatic acceptance rate for UT varies from year to year, but this year you must be in the top 7% of your class to be automatically accepted. UT has this special case because with the previous years, they were filling up too many spots and didn't have enough room to admit equally qualified students from outside of the top

An issue with automatic admission can be derived from the differences in academic competitiveness at different schools. A valedictorian at one school may not have as high a GPA as a student in the top 8% of another school. Despite this problem, I still believe the top 10% rule is necessary and gives opportunities for students at different high schools with different resources the ability for collegiate success.

# **Spanish Class**



**Del Valle High School** 

I am not doing so good in Spanish class right now this is the hardest class i ever took. I wouldn't say my Spanish teacher cant teach but i just don't understand her way of teaching. I try

really hard to do extra credit but sometimes i be so tired and i feel that its extra work. I honestly don't even wanna take this class but in order for me to graduate i have to take a foreign class for 2 years. This class really makes my grades go through the struggle. Nobody in my class understand what she talks about and that's what comes out of everyone's mouth, not just mines. I don't want to get my schedule changed because if i change my class then i would have too change my whole schedule. I like the rest of my classes its just Spanish i wish i just didn't have to take it.

#### **Alon Rodgers** Hendrickson H. S.

Football and Volleyball playoffs begin this

The Athletic Booster Club will be selling football playoff shirts during lunch on Tuesday and Thursday. Navy short sleeve sells for \$15 and Black long sleeve shirts are \$20. Cash, Check, and Credit Cards will be accepted. The school store, the Hawk's Nest is now open on Friday's during lunch hours. They too will offer the playoff shirts this Friday!

District play with a 33-28 victory over Rouse as runner up to Round Rock. They will face the Austin High Maroons in bi-district. By the time you read this the volleyball bi-district will be over but this year was one of the best in history.

time GO CARDS!

**Sports Nation** 

The Girls Varsity Basketball team looks awesome going into the new season. Post player Ashleigh Cooper, point Kaila Anthony, and 3-point shooter Karissa Black lead the team.

Sophomore Daniel Viegra took 4th place at the UIL State 6A Cross Country Meet.

Events this week include Tuesday: Playoff Volleyball vs. Westlake at Berger Center; Wednesday: Senior Celebration Meeting at 7 pm; Friday: Playoff Football vs. Austin @ Round Rock Dragon Stadium 7:30 pm, Girls Basketball @ Vista Ridge, HHS Football Stadium Hosts Eastview vs. Bastrop The Hawks ended 5A Playoff Game.

### **Project Week**



**Imani Demps Del Valle High School** 

This week went good. I'm still on top of this

project. Everything is coming together and I really feel like I tried hard on this project. I can't wait to see the final product. I'm doing it over PETA. I have learned so much about it. It's actually quite interesting, I like doing this project it opens my eyes to everything I knew nothing about. I'm ready to present this, I feel like it's going to come out really good. I have faith that I will do good on it and I hope this week goes as good as this past week went. I'm going to try to stay on top of my grades.

#### YOUTH BRIGADE

#### **Happy Birthday**



**Montrae Nelson Riverplace Elementary** 

Hello, I wanted to share with everyone that November 4, 2014 was the birthday of my younger brother Marquis. He turned nine years old and he was very excited! That morning when he woke up all of us told him happy birthday! At school his class and the music teacher sang happy birthday to him. Since his birthday was on a school day we took him out to celebrate on Saturday. Marquis wanted to go to Chipotle to eat and to Toys

we all got dressed and Marquis and I went to get our friend Cameron who lives next door. We were all so excited! Everyone knows that Chipotle is my favorite place to eat so I was really happy my brother chose to eat there. We ate, talked and laughed and went to get ice cream when were finished. Next we went to Toys R Us and all of us picked out a toy and of course Marquis was able to get more toys but it was his special day. After we left the toy

store we went to meet my

mom's friend, Mrs. Ola Mae,

who made Marquis a home-

made chocolate cake. Once we made it back home my parents lit the candles on Marquis's cake and we all sang happy birthday to him. He blew out all of his candles and was so happy. The cake was so good! After that we went outside to play with our friend Cameron and that was the end of my brothers special day. I love my brother and I am so glad I was able to be with him and

#### When Saturday came my family for his birthday!

**Perfect Art Studio** 



Malakhi Washington Cedars Int'l Academy

I love art very much. I often imagine that I have my own art studio. My studio would be a place that I could go to get inspired. It come true because I have would also be a place where I can go for peace.

I imagine that it has close to one hundred drawings from different artist and myself. It would also be a place where I could put my favorite things like a television, a refrigerator and several books and favorite magazines.

When I go into my special place, my art studio, I get all kind of ideas for drawings and paintings that I can create and sell to people. I want to have my own business and be very successful.

This would be a dream wanted an art studio since I was a little boy!

### Senior's Night



Jaylon Knighten **Del Valle High School** 

Last week ended the football season for the Del Valle Cardinals and for

Marching Band. All seniors that played on the Football team, in the Marching Band, Cheerleaders, and Belles were recognized at the game on Friday Night as we celebrated senior's night. The Cardinals played against the Bowie Bulldogs. Freshman tied 21-21 on Wednesday while the JV played on Thursday and lost 14-0. Our Varsity team fought hard and lost 54-14.

We did well this year and next year the Del Valle Cardinals will be coming bigger and stronger to beat Westlake, Bowie and Lake Travis.

#### **We Made It**



Hornsby Dunlap Elem.

On Saturday November 8, 2014, Capital City Bearcats Junior team defeated SAO Black 37-0. I was so excited for this win because it only meant one thing, and that was we were on our way to the championship.

The Championship game will be held Saturday November 15, 2014 in Hutto, where we will be playing against Kyle White. I am hoping that we can defeat this team and remain undefeated all season. Either way we made this far and I am grateful.

November 22, 2014 CCB will having their annual banquet, that will be held at St. Micheal School. Until next time be safe and have a bless week.

### **Concerts Anyone?**



**Lamar Middle School** 

Hello Readers,

In my guitar class, we are getting prepared for our concert. Our concert will be on November 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. We will have our concert at the St. John's Church across the street from Lamar Middle School, which is different because most of our concerts are held at our school.

Time seems to be flying by, in my dance class we are learning choreography for our fall concert. That concert will be on December 3, 2014 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and it will be held in our school cafeteria. We will have a few rehearsals before the concert, one of which will be a full dress rehearsal. Because I have advanced to intermediate dance, it is mandatory that I perform in the concert. I am a little nervous because our dance routine is more difficult than the beginners dance class.

That is about all the eventful things that happened at school this week. This weekend, after I practiced on my guitar and practiced my dance routine I did not do too much of anything except lay around the house. Next week will be a short week for school because we are out of school for Veteran's Day and I am looking forward to that.

Until next time.

#### **Thanksgiving Thoughts**



**Zachariah Washington Cedars Academy** 

Guess what !! Thanksgiving is right around the corner on November 27 on a thursday. I cant wait because this is the national holiday where i get to eat my little heart out. YaY!! During my free time I reasearched the first Thanksgiving and I found that the first Thanksgiving was celebrated on the autumn of 1621 by the English Colonist and Wampanoag nation in the colonies. Some of the foods they ate were turkey, bass, cod, corn and more.

My family and I are going to my Aunts house and eat until we cant eat anymore and play different games like spades, dominoes and slap jack. Thanksgiving is the day to give thanks to god for all the things that he has done for you and how he has layed favor on your life and many things he has done for your life. So I hope that you and your have a peace, happy, blessed and great Thanksgiving

### Faith & Elections



Whitney Brown S. F. Austin H. S.

January 19th, 2015 will be my sixteenth birthday. January 24th, 2015 I plan to have a purity ceremony. This is very important to me because I believe our current generation has lost the true meaning of the Christian faith. Yesterday, my pastor said something that really stuck with me. "People try to revise the bible", they "try to change the meaning of the text". God has a specific set of instructions on how we should live our lives. I think that as we live in the practices of the world, it is easy to see the word as what we want it to be verses what it truly is.

For my sixteenth birthday I would like to ceremoniously make a vow to God, the creator of all, that I will follow his word and that I believe in him and understand his instructions clearly and I am willing to learn more. This ceremony is important to me because it al-

lows me to show others what

I believe in a glorious way. This week's past elections have surprised me. I did not know run-off elections were so common. I am also disappointed that the Democratic Party did not win the national spots therefore the President will continue to have a hard time to make a great change in our society. I do not know much about the political system but I do understand the concepts of change. I know when everyone is on the same page and have a common goal they will work more efficiently to

that common goal. I believe that God always has a plan so the outcomes of the election were meant to be. I was also excited to see so many people I saw at the polls on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at the Carver Branch Library. It was raining and storming that night but the lines kept moving along. I was proud to see that the obstacles people in the past went through to give us the right to vote were used to the best of many people's ability. Though there was a great amount of room to improve. Congratulations to the Austin High Mighty Maroons Football Team for making it to play-offs! Great Job guys and keep it up! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John

3:16)

#### Leadership



**Connally High School** 

It is important to have leadership qualities in your life. You never know what at you might need it for or when, where and why but it is a quality that is often stressed. This year I had the honor of being the captain of the volleyball team where I help to lead my team to district champs. It was important for me to stay positive and encouraging others even in times when I was feeling frustrated. The young players and underclassmen would look to

us and watch how we responded to the coaches, referees and even to each other. There were times on the bus, after a road game, when I would have to lead the younger players to understand they still needed to get their homework done for that night, even if they had to do it on a crowded noisy

Leadership did not come overnight; it took a lot of examples in my home and everyday life. Leadership did not come easy; sometimes I wanted to just worry about myself and forget about everyone else. But leadership demands you to be concern about the needs of others. Leadership is a quality that everyone need in their lives, because there is always someone; a little brother or sister, an underclassman, a kid in the neighborhood, or even a younger person in your church who is looking up to you.

#### **Babies Are Not Easy**



**Kealing M.S.** 

This week in my skills for living class, we took home a baby that is lifelike. This is used to show able to pick up my baby until after school and my football coach had to write a note to my skills for living teacher to let her know I would not be able to start taking care of the baby until after football

practice was over. I am sure I mentioned previously that the baby has a key in its back that is supposed to be used when it cries a lot. I walked home with baby in arm and all was fine until we got to the house. My baby began to cry as soon

as I got home, when I could not get him to be quiet without using the key I turned the key to quiet the baby. The baby stayed quiet for about five hours, when it was time for me to go to sleep everything was fine. At about one o'clock in the morning the baby started crying, I used the key and the crying stopped. At three o'clock in the morning, he began to cry then again at five o'clock in the morning; both times, I used the key to quiet the baby. When I woke up at five I was not able to go back to sleep us how hard it is to take and it felt as if I had been care of a baby. I was not up all night. As soon as I got to school that morning I gave the baby back to my skills for living teacher. I know taking care of a baby is not something I want to do anytime soon.

I know I told you all about our football team winning the championship in our zone that led us to play in the playoffs. We played Bailey Middle School and we lost the game. We will play Garcia Middle School next and if we win, we will place

third. Wish us luck.

#### **Elections**



**Sarah Robertson** Athlos Leadership Acad.

This past week was Election Day for pretty much everything. Election Day is very important because citizens get to vote on who will represent our city, state or the country. Voting is the right of every American Citizen over

If you don't vote it means that you really don't care about our country. Voting is a way to show that you are concern about what is happening and want to voice your opinion. If you do vote you have a voice in this country. This year the election was big in Texas because of the people wanting to be the next Governor. The two candidates were Greg Abbott and Wendy Davis. They had a really

close race for governor and Greg Abbott won. When another Election Day comes, make sure you vote for the next big election. I'm not 18 yet, but when I turn 18, I plan on exercising my right to

### CITY ~ STATE ~ NATIONAL ~ WORLD

Delia Garza, the First Latina **Elected** to Austin City **Council** 

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon



On November 2014, the first Latina was elected to the Austin City Council. Delia Garza ran in District 2 which is located in South and South East Austin. Moreover, it consists of areas such as Del Valle and Dove Springs. Delia Garza won with 65% of the vote; despite the fact that there were numerous candidates running in that district. In other words, she won with a mandate, but most of all, reached out to those who didn't vote for her. However, her strongest opponent was Edward Reyes who was a long time community leader in the Dove Spring area. According to Delia Garza, she will fight to "keep Austin affordable, alleviate traffic congestion and improve access to public transit.

First of all Delia Garza was one of the first Mexican-American female firefighters in the Austin Fire Department. Delia spent her career at Fire Station 17 which served the South Austin community. As a cadet, Delia lived in Dove Springs and later brought her home in her responding territory of the Sweetbriar neighborhood. After 6 years of service, Delia Garza left to pursue a law degree. While she was running for Austin City Council District 2, she decided to quit her job as an assistant Attorney General.

Now that she has been elected, she will focus on fighting for the families of Austin District 2. According to Delia Garza, she will fight to "keep Austin affordable, alleviate traffic congestion and improve access to public transit. Moreover, Delia Garza has certain issues that she would like to fight, such as Collaborating with AISD to provide quality education and opportunities for Austin children; Protecting our environment and securing our water supply; Equitable economic development that provides jobs with living wages, safety protections and good beneûts.

### **Pressley Makes the Runoff**

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

After all the votes came in, PHD Laura Pressley had made it into the runoff with Greg Laura Casar. PHD Pressley is running in Austin District 4 which consists of areas such as Rutland, Rundberg, and Kramer Lane. Moreover, Austin District 4 is one of the most diverse districts in Austin. For instance, one can find a variety of ethnic grocery stores with Middle Eastern, African, and Asian food stocks. In addition, District 4 faces numerous issues such as crime, lack of economic develDespite these issues, District 4 is one of the few districts that have affordable houses.

Now that the two will face off in the December runoff election, PHD Laura Pressley has already started her ground game. She recently got endorsed by Sam Osemene who unsuccessfully ran for District 1. Mr. Osemene who owns a grocery store in District 4 stated, "We must elect Laura Pressley to the City Hall. She is qualified, knowledgeable, educated, approachable, a good listener, and a bridge builder unlike the other

opment and congestion. opponent. The opponent is a remote controlled politician with too many channels. We cannot afford the risk of electing inexperienced youth in District 4. We cannot afford another on- the- job training City Council member. Laura Pressley is the real deal."

> According to Laura Pressley, there are numerous issues, which, causes her to stand apart from her opponent Greg Casar. According to PHD Laura Pressley, one of the major distinctions between her and Greg is the residency aspect. For instance PHD Laura Pressley mentioned. "I have been a resident of Austin for over



(Left to Right) Sam Osemene, Laura Pressley, Phillipe and John. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

only lived in Austin for 2.5

26 years, while Greg has years." Finally, she will differences between Greg continue to highlight the and herself.



**Ora Houston** 

On Election night, Ora Houston garnered 49% of the vote; therefore, did not make the 50% threshold to starve off a primary. In the crowded field of 6 other candidates, Dewayne Lofton managed to squeeze enough vote to earn a spot in a runoff with Ora Houston. Both of these candidates of African American descent are running in District 1, which, is considered to be an African American opportunity

#### Houston vs. Lofton

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

district. District 1 includes areas such as Northeast, East, and parts of Central Austin. Over the years, District 1 has dealt with gentrification which has changed the area.

Moreover, the two candidates are running on different issues. Ora Houston is running on the following such as high property taxes; jobs and employment; transportation/congestion; and workforce housing. According to Ora Houston, the city can lower property taxes by collaborating with the Travis County delegations to close loopholes in state regulations and the growth of industry should pay its fair share in taxes.

Ora Houston has been very active within the community for numerous years. She has served as a member of the Citizen Advisory Task Force of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan and a member of the collaborative council of the Travis County Model Court for Children and Families. In addition, she served as the vice chair of the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Plan-

On the other hand, Dewayne Lofton issues include transportation, affordability housing, infrastructures, and economic development. According to



**Dewayne Lofton** Dewayne Lofton, "We must start looking at all transportation models, including creating more live-workplay communities, shared lanes, bike lanes and rail. In terms of jobs, Lofton believes that "We must work with the chambers to attract major employers to the district who can provide high paying, low skilled jobs. We all know that economic prosperity improves com-

#### **Honoring Veterans Every Day**

A Veterans Day Message by Senator Judith Zaffirini In war, there are no unwounded soldiers. These poignant words by José Narosky help us understand the tremendous sacrifices made by our country's military veterans. These men and women should be foremost in our minds this Veterans Day. Today's holiday began in 1919 as Armistice Day, which marked the anniversary of the end of World War I, and was expanded in 1954 to honor all veterans. Texas is home to more than 1.5 million veterans from all walks of life. These brave Americans risk their lives and spend long periods away from their families to protect the freedoms we cherish. Their courage and patriotism are an inspiring testament to our national character. Narosky's beautiful words should underscore the importance of supporting our veterans, including by ensuring they have access to education, housing, jobs, and health care. Accordingly, it always is my pleasure to champion their needs in the Texas Senate. My prayer is that all Texans thank veterans for their service and honor them not only today, but every day. May God bless our veterans, and God bless Texas!



"Take a Vet to School Day." She champions the needs of all Texas veterans.

#### **CLASSIFIEDS ~ PUBLIC INFORMATION**

### Improved quality of Medicare plans and steady premiums are great news as

Open Enrollment begins

By Marilyn Tavenner, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator

Fall is a wonderful time of year. Changing leaves. Cooler weather. It's also the season for people with Medicare to review their current Medicare coverage, as Medicare Open Enrollment begins.

As we prepare for Medicare Open Enrollment, which began on October 15 and ends on December 7, Medicare wants everyone to know that quality continues to improve both in Medicare Advantage and in the Part D Prescription Drug Pro-

Each year, plan costs and coverage can change. During open enrollment, seniors and people with disabilities across the country have the opportunity to review their current Medicare coverage and see if they want to make any changes for the next year. It's important for people with Medicare to take the time to make sure their current situation still meets their health care needs best.

To help people choose a plan, Medicare calculates plan "star ratings" for Medicare health

and prescription drug all-time high of over 16 plans. Each plan gets a number of stars on a scale of 1 to 5—with 5 being the best—based on quality and performance. These ratings are designed to help people with Medicare, their families, and caregivers compare plans, in addition to information on their premiums and

This year, people with Medicare who choose to enroll in a Medicare health or prescription drug plan will have access to more high-rated, four- and five-star plans than ever before. Approximately 60 percent of Medicare Advantage enrollees are in a Medicare Advantage Plan earning four or more stars in 2015, compared to an estimated 17 percent back in 2009. Likewise, about 53 percent of Part D enrollees are currently enrolled in stand-alone prescription drug plans with four or more stars for 2015, compared to just 16 percent in 2009. Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, enrollment in Medicare Advantage will increase to 42 percent to an

million and Medicare Advantage premiums will have decreased by 6 per-

For people with Medicare, this is good news in how they receive care. Plans that are higher rated deliver a high-level of care, such as improving the coordination of care, managing diabetes or other chronic conditions more efficiently, screening for and preventing illnesses, making sure people get much-needed prescription drugs, or getting appointments and care quickly. A high rating also means these plans give better customer service, with fewer complaints or long waits for care.

If you have Medicare and need assistance, you can visit Medicare.gov, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or contact your State Health Insurance Assistance **Program** (SHIP). You should have received the 2015 "Medicare & You" Handbook and important notices from your current plan, Medicare, or Social Security



about changes to your coverage. If you're satisfied with your current coverage, there's nothing you need to do.

Better quality in Medicare health and prescription drug plans isn't the only good news for people with Medicare. For most seniors who have Original Medicare, the 2015 Part B premium will stay unchanged for a second consecutive year at \$104.90. This means more of seniors' retirement income and any increase in Social Security benefits will stay in their pockets. The Part B deductible will stay the same as well.

Medicare is working hard to make sure this good news continues so that seniors and people with disabilities will continue to get the health care coverage they deserve.



Week of 11/09/2014

Supervisor, Heating Ventilation & Air-Conditioning Service Center Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. \$3,858-\$4,823/Monthly Job# 1411003

Specialist, Advising/Student Services Highland Campus Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Extended hours on Monday, 10:00 a.m.-7:00.

Some Saturdays \$2,879-\$3,599/Monthly Job# 1411002

Designer, Web **Highland Business Center** Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. \$3,333-\$4,166/Monthly

Job# 1410053 Apply at HR Middle Fiskville Rd. 6th Floor, Austin, TX 78752 Job Line (512 223-5621 hhtp://www./austincc.ed EEOC/AA/M/F/D/V

### **EMPLOYMENT / PROPOSALS**

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#### **City of Austin Featured Job Opportunities**

The City of Austin is currently seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

- Park Ranger I (2 Openings)
- Animal Health Technician
- Public Information & Marketing Corporate Manager
- Building & Grounds Lead
- Administrative Assistant
- Dispatcher Technician- Temporary
- Building & Grounds
- Drainage Ops & Maint III
- Traffic Signal Technician
- Engineer A
- Administrative Specialist

Please visit the City of Austin employment website at www.austincityjobs.org to view requirements and apply for these and other job opportunities. We encourage you to check the employment website

> often as new job opportunities are posted daily.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call 512-974-3210 or email us at employment.services@austintexas.gov.

The City of Austin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



#### City of Austin **Purchasing Office**

The City of Austin Purchasing Office invites you to view current bid solicitations at <a href="https://">https://</a> www.ci.austin.tx.us/financeonline/ <u>vendor\_connection/solicitation/solicitations.cfm</u>. 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 <a href="http://www.austintexas.gov/smbr">http://www.austintexas.gov/smbr</a>.

#### Breakthrough **Austin receives** \$1.6 million scholarship fund for its students to enroll in college STEM programs

AUSTIN, TX - Breakthrough Austin, a local nonprofit creating first-generation college graduates, announced a \$1.6 million scholarship fund at its Beat the Odds benefit on Wednesday.

The scholarship fund will enable Breakthrough's high school students to participate in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology—an Indianabased college ranked as the nation's best undergraduate engineering program by U.S. News & World Report's College Guide for 16 consecutive years. The fund was established through a generous donation from Gregg and Diana Lowe.

Each year, the scholarship fund will provide one Breakthrough student (who gains admission to Rose-Hulman) with a four-year scholarship covering tuition and on-campus residence expenses as well as a summer internship at Austinbased technology company Freescale Semiconductor after his or her sophomore year at Rose-Hulman.

In addition, the annual scholarship fund will allow two Breakthrough students to participate in Rose-Hulman's two-week STEM exploratory summer pro-

"We are proud to partner with the prestigious

From bottom left to right: Diana Lowe, member of Breakthrough Austin's board of directors; Gregg Lowe, president and CEO of Freescale; Vince Young, UT football legend; Gail Suscholtz, Breakthrough Austin donor and supporter; Rodney Suscholtz, Director of The Contemporary Austin Museum; and Michael Griffith, executive director of Breakthrough Austin at the Beat the Odds benefit last Wednesday where the scholarship fund was announced.

initiatives.

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and profoundly grateful to the Lowe's for their investment in the future of our students. As Breakthrough Austin continues to grow and serve more students at a rapid pace, it is all the more critical to work in partnership with visionary philanthropists like Diana and Gregg. Together, we can help students create their own education legacy and break the cycle of poverty for generations to come," says Michael Griffith, executive director of Breakthrough Austin.

Gregg Lowe is the president and CEO of Freescale and alumni and trustee of Rose-Hulman. His wife, Diana Lowe is a member of Breakthrough Austin's board

of directors and supporter of

many community education

Diana Lowe says: "Gregg and I are honored to partner with Breakthrough Austin and Rose-Hulman to bring this opportunity to deserving young students."

Freescale is also a partner in Breakthrough's Summer 9th grade STEM Academy and hosts the annual Freescale Cup competition for Breakthrough students.

University of Texas football legend Vince Young celebrates the announcement of Breakthrough Austin's \$1.6 million scholarship fund with students who, like Vince himself, will be the first in their families to graduate college, Breakthrough's Beat the Odds benefit.

#### **NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS** HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF ROGER I. GABY, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Roger I. Gaby, Deceased, were granted on the 6th day of November, 2014, pending in Cause No. C-1-PB-14-001898 in the Probate Court No. 1 of Travis County, Texas, to:

> Linda L. Gaby, Independent Executor.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Independent Executor of the Estate addressed as follows:

Linda L. Gaby,

Independent Executor,

Estate of Roger I. Gaby, Deceased,

c/o Barnes Lipscomb Stewart & Ott PLLC,

Attn: John R. Ott, 2901-D Bee Caves Road,

Austin, Texas 78746.

All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED this 6th day of November, 2014.

Linda L. Gaby, Independent Executor of the Estate of Roger I. Gaby, Deceased By:/s/ John R. Ott

John R. Ott

2901-D Bee Caves Road

Austin, Texas 78746 (512) 328-8355

FAX: (512) 328-8413 Attorneys for the Independent Executor

### **COLLECTED PRÉCIS**

### **Democrats** Got their [Butt] Whipped

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Republican territory, through the heart of the South. Belcher added that the midterm electorate also tends to be older and less diverse, voters that tend not to be very favorable towards Demo-

"There was a lot of conversation going into this election about how wildly unpopular the president is and that was the narrative that the Republicans ran with and the media actually helped them run with it," said Belcher.

On Election Day, roughly 40 percent of Americans approved of the job the president was doing, according to a recent Gallup poll. In Iowa, Kansas and Arkansas, where Democratic candidates were soundly defeated, the president's approval rating was below 40 percent.

"If the president's job approval was 51, 52, 53 percent, that would mean absolutely nothing in Kentucky or a lot of these solidly red states where you're not going to see a lot of enthusiasm for a Democratic candidate," said Belcher.

Belcher suggested that the Democrats have a White voter problem.

"Democrats haven't won White voters since [President Lyndon Johnson] signed the civil

rights legislation, said Belcher. "You would think that because we're postracial now, we'd been winning more White voters, but the truth of the matter is we're winning less."

Minority voting, as a proportion of the electorate, actually increased during the 2014 midterm elections compared to 2010 midterms, Belcher said. Those gains were driven largely by Black voter turnout. According to the Pew

Research Center's Hispanic Trends Project, a group that provides public opinion surveys on Latino views on social economic and cultural issues, Hispanics accounted for 8 percent of midterm voters, the same share they garnered in 2006 and 2010. The share of Black voters has increased steadily from 10 percent in 2006 to 11 percent in 2010 and 12 percent in 2014.

Meanwhile the share of White voters in the electorate continues to decline, down from 79 percent in 2006 to 75 percent

The Pew Research Center found that 89 percent of Black voters supported Democratic candidates. Meanwhile, Whites voted for Republican candidates 60 percent of the time.

"Democrats really pushed women's equity issues, but [President Obama] is scary and when you tell me you're a 'Clinton Democrat' and you're parsing it up like that, we Southerners know what that means," said Belcher. "As much as they tried to run from it, that's what they couldn't es-

Many Democratic candidates chose to run from President Obama's record on economic recovery, positive labor market growth, and the Affordable Care Act that has provided millions of Ameri-



**Dianne Pinderhughes** 

cans with health insurance who were previously not covered. President Obama also kept his promise to bring American troops home and end decadelong wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Should Democrats have let President Obama out on the campaign trail more? Absolutely, they should have," said Belcher. "He had something to run on."

Dianne

Pinderhughes, a political science professor at the University Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., said that there's still some portion of the population still has a great deal of difficulty dealing with the fact that there is an African American president.

"It adds stigma to any action that he takes," said Pinderhughes. "People can't accept the fact that anything that he's done has anything good associated

They can't process information, added Pinderhughes, because race blinds them.

"The blame for what

Andra Gillespie

happened during the midterms cannot be laid at the feet of minority voters," said Belcher.

Andra Gillespie agreed.

Gillespie, the interim chair of the Department of African American Studies at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., and co-author of a report on Black voter turnout for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a nonpartisan think tank focused on racial equity, said that there were a few places where the Black voter turnout as a share of the overall electorate either declined or stayed the same.

"But in many places," Gillespie said, "the Black share of the electorate increased and the White share of the electorate decreased. Democrats still lost and they didn't lose because Blacks didn't turn out and vote for them."

Gillespie added: "It's just that, numerically speaking, it takes more than Black votes for Democrats to be able to win."

Lorenzo Morris, a political science professor at Howard University in Washington, D.C., said that the midterm elections ushered in a dramatic change in the distribution

Perry, Lt. Governor

By all indications, the

David Dewhurst and House

Speaker Joe Straus made the

announcement about this

initiative has plenty of sta-

tistics to support it. Schol-

arly articles that detail the

mental problem faced by

returning military personnel

range from PTSD (post-trau-

matic stress disorder), ad-

justment disturbances,

anxiety issues, alcoholism,

substance use, depression,

suicide and other mental

health problems. In addi-

tion, several cohort studies

of veterans who returned

after serving in the Gulf War

point to a large population

who suffer from the mental

program together.

of power on Capitol Hill.

"But it's not a dramatic change of what they will do on Capitol Hill, which is probably very little," said Morris.

Gillespie said that President Obama would have to compromise now, because bills that once passed the House of Representatives and stalled in the Senate will get through Congress.

Pinderhughes said that the president is going to have to do a lot of strategic planning in order to figure out how to get things through Congress. That includes his nomina-

United States Attorney Loretta Lynch of the Eastern District of New York. Lynch to replace Attorney General Eric Holder. If confirmed, she would become the first Black woman to lead the Justice Department.

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), who is the presumptive majority leader of the Senate in the next term, said that Lynch's nomination hearings should begin in 2015 with the new Congress.

As the Democrats gear up for the 2016 elections, Mary Frances Berry, a history professor at the University of Pennsylvania and the chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission under President Bill Clinton, said that the voter suppression efforts are not enough to persuade Blacks and other minorities to turn out and vote for Democratic candidates any-

"It's not going to be enough for Hillary run and say, 'All the Black people

should vote for me, because I'm a Democrat and because Obama's not on the ticket now, so you should vote for me," said Berry. "I don't think it's going to be enough." Berry said that the

Democrats need to act earlier and more aggressively to gain the support of young Black voters, possibly targeting the group with a jobs program. The Labor Department can set up model programs using discretionary funds and start pilot programs in certain areas targeting high unemployment areas, Berry explained.

"Then [President Obamal could ask Congress for an expanded program and people would be able to talk about what the party is doing," said Berry.

Wade Henderson, chairman and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 200 civil and human rights groups, said that the interests that Blacks espouse are not partisan interests, they are national interests.

"We want better schools and opportunities that education provides, we want an economy that is responsive to interests and needs of our people and we want opportunities for growth and development that can only occur, if we are fully enrolled in the economy of the day," said Henderson.

He added: "We've got to do our best to make sure that, whoever is in power, that we are signaling that we are here to deal. And that's just the way it is."

#### **Employment Outlook for Black Males Improving** By Freddie Allen

NNPA Senior Washington Correspondent



WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Last month's Black unemployment rate (10.9 percent) was more than twice the White unemployment rate (4.8 percent), but when it comes to key measures in the labor market, Blacks and Latinos have experienced greater gains than Whites over the past year, according to a recent report by the Economic Policy Insti-

Valerie Wilson, the director of the Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy at EPI, a nonpartisan think tank working to improve economic conditions for low- and middleincome families, said that

tute (EPI).

not only have the unemployment rates for people of color declined faster than the jobless rate for Whites over the last year, the labor force participation, the measure of people that have jobs or currently looking for work, has also increased, pulling more people into the labor market.

Wilson said that an examination of the employment-population ratio, the share of the population of people that have a job, those numbers have also increased more for Blacks and Latinos than the employment-popula-

tion ratio for Whites. "That shows that strong job growth matters

35% of **Veterans** returning from the Afghanistan or Iraq war-zone received mental health care diagnoses CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

when we talk about improving employment outcomes for people of color," said Wilson. "It would be

especially beneficial for these groups if the economy continues to proceed on this path." According to the latest jobs report from the

Labor Department, the economy added 214,000 jobs in October and is averaging of 229,000 added per month this year. The national unemployment rate edged down to 5.8 percent in October.

The unemployment

ravages (stress and trauma,

The jobless rate for Black women ticked down 0.2 points, from 9.6 percent in September to 9.4 percent in October and the unemployment rate for White women also declined 0.2 points, from 4.8 percent to 4.6 percent over the same period.

However, since October 2013, the labor force

rate for Black men over 20 years-old decreased from 11 percent in September to 10.7 percent in October and the jobless rate for White men fell from 4.4 percent to 4.2 percent.

> "The African American unemployment rate was lowest in Virginia (8.2 percent) and highest in Nevada (16.8 percent) and Michigan (16.7 percent)," wrote Wilson in a post for

EPI's website. "By way of comparison, although 8.2

for example) of the war. One key aspect that crops up with many studies, VA reports and other sources is that these mental troubles end up affecting the physical well-being, quality of life and lifespan (mortality) of the veterans in the long-run. PTSD cropped up in 21.5% of study participants in one

study. According to a study detailed in a September 29, 2009 report in the Journal of General Internal Medicine, 35% of Veterans returning from the Afghanistan or Iraq war-zone received mental health care diagnoses.

Even the Veterans Administration initiated a study into this area with

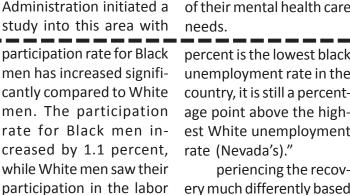
force shrink by 0.3 per-

tiative, which targeted several categories of concern, including PTSD. This study resulted in a study guide for medical providers. It's generally known that veterans bear the consequences of war. With this initiative, those in the Lone Start State may be in for a new ally in support

their Veterans Health Ini-

percent is the lowest black unemployment rate in the country, it is still a percentage point above the highest White unemployment rate (Nevada's)."

periencing the recovery much differently based on their race and their location, and for far too many people, particularly people of color, the recovery has yet to occur," said Wilson. "Until the recovery reaches these families, policymakers should use every available tool to put more people back to work."



#### **PROGRAMS ~ AWARENESS**



H-E-B'S 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FEAST OF SHARING DINNER EXPECTED TO SERVE 14,000 MEALS IN AUSTIN

Community dinner will provide free hot meals and live entertainment

(Austin) — To celebrate the holiday season, H-E-B will host its 25<sup>th</sup> annual Feast of Sharing dinner, an H-E-B tradition for community residents to enjoy a delicious, free meal and festive entertainment. **Set for Tuesday, November 25, 2014, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Palmer Events Center,** H-E-B's Feast of Sharing will be located at 900 Barton Springs Road in Austin.

"Feast of Sharing is the highlight of H-E-B's yearround effort to combat hunger throughout Texas and Mexico. It's just one example of how H-E-B takes an exceptionally active role in being a good neighbor and demonstrating our *Spirit of Giving*," said Winell Herron, group vice president of public affairs, diversity and environmental affairs. "Over the past 26 years Feast of Sharing has become a holiday tradition for the communities we serve and we appreciate the opportunity to express gratitude to our customers and their families."

Hundreds of H-E-B Partners and community volunteers will work together to prepare and serve more than **14,000 meals** to residents of Austin on Tuesday, November 25, 2014. Altogether, 3,500 pounds of sliced turkey; 3,500 pounds of mashed potatoes; 3,080 pounds of vegetable medley; 280 gallons of brown gravy; 1,400 pies; 14,000 dinner rolls and soft drinks will be served.

Attendees of the Feast of Sharing dinner will enjoy live entertainment with performances by the Mariachi Caballeros, Lake Travis High School Fiddlers; Fabtones, a Beatles tribute band; Wesley Intergenerational Choir, The Levites and the Austin Civic Wind Ensemble. In addition, a children's area where kids will enjoy arts and crafts with help from The Contemporary Austin; and Sprint will be onsite to offer our guests free long distance calls to loved ones.

In its fourth year, the H-E-B Community Connection will host 15 nonprofits on-site offering social services to guests, including care for elderly, volunteer health clinics, and information about shelters and community aid centers.

Free parking will be available in the Palmer Events Center parking garage or attendees can visit one of the following H-E-B locations to pick up a complimentary one-day bus pass (available to the first 5,000 visitors) for the event, courtesy of Capital Metro and H-E-B beginning on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>:

H-E-B #1 at 2701 E. 7th St.

- H-E-B #3 at 1000 E. 41st St.
- H-E-B #8 at 2400 S. Congress Ave.
- H-E-B #12 at 2508 E. Riverside Dr.
- H-E-B #15 at 9414 N. Lamar
- H-E-B #30 at 1801 E 51st St.

Please visit www.capmetro.org for route and schedule information.

H-E-B will also sponsor the making of meals for those who are unable to attend the feast via Meals on Wheels and More! on Thanksgiving day to provide meals to homebound individuals in Austin and surrounding areas. Additionally, H-E-B is donating decorative mums to adorn each Meals on Wheels client's home for enjoyment during the Thanksgiving holiday.

graded, state-of-the-art H-E-B Mobile Kitchen that will

serve as the host site for the H-E-B staff to prepare and

Making its debut this year is a brand NEW up-

cook the holiday meal. The mobile kitchen has the capability to prepare more than 6,400 meals per hour. The H-E-B mobile kitchen is paired with a 53' refrigerator trailer for the transportation of perishable food items and supplies and is designed specifically for Feast of Sharing and to respond to disaster emergency relief efforts.

To volunteer for the Feast of Sharing dinner, please

To volunteer for the Feast of Sharing dinner, please visit www.handsoncentraltexas.org. Groups, families, and individuals are invited to participate while spots are available.

H-E-B's commitment and involvement in the community has been recognized as an important part of the way the company does business. The Feast of Sharing tradition began in 1988, and H-E-B's holiday dinner program has now grown to serve more than 250,000 meals in 32 locations throughout Texas and Mexico.

### Feds to Create Wrongful Convictions Unit By Jazelle Hunt

WASHINGTON (NNPA)

– U.S. Attorneys across the

nation are professional prosecutors, making sure criminals are locked up for their crimes. Beginning this fall, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia will take on a new and very different role as it turns its attention to those convicted of crimes they did not commit.

It will be the first time any of the nation's 93 presidentially-appointed federal prosecutors has taken up this cause.

The Convictions Integ-

rity Unit will re-evaluate violent felony cases in which defendants can supply sufficient, new evidence that warrants a reconsideration of the conviction, especially DNA or biological evidence that can prove innocence.

The National Registry of Exonerations, a joint project between the University of Michigan Law School and the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law, compiles information on all known exonerations since 1989, with convictions beginning in the late 1950s.

Florida, California, Illinois, New York, and Texas have the highest rates of wrongful convictions, and according to the registry, 1,467 people – 46 percent of them Black – have been exonerated since 1989. This year alone, 81 people have been cleared; (49 of them are African American).

On average, these men and women are imprisoned for at least a decade before their convictions are overturned and their records expunged.

"There's nothing to suggest that the rate of false convictions is slowing down, at all," says Samuel Gross, law professor at the University of Michigan, and editor and cofounder of the National Registry of Exonerations.

Together, murder and sexual assault convictions account for 60 percent of the registry's exonerations. The high rate of homicide in Black communities is reflected in both conviction

and exoneration rates; but in the case of the Black men who have been wrongfully convicted of sexual assault, a discrepancy emerges.

"Of the approximately 250 people exonerated for adult sexual assault, a majority are African American, over 60 percent. That's way higher than their rate of imprisonment [for sexual assault]," Gross says. "Among those exonerated, the African Americans are primarily Black men convicted of raping White victims. And their exonerations are based on misidentifications...because cross-racial identification is notoriously more difficult. This is especially true of White people."

For 80 percent of Black men wrongfully convicted of sexual assault, mistaken witness identification was one the factors that led to exoneration. And these cases take longer to review and overturn.

In the last decade, several conviction integrity units have sprung up in state and district attorneys' offices across the country, beginning with Dallas County in 2007. There are also several universities and organizations dedicated to assisting the wrongly convicted through DNA testing, such as the National Innocence Project or The Exoneration Initia-

tive in New York. But this unit in Washington is unique. Most crime is tried at the state level, unless it overlaps with federal law and the U.S. Attorney in that jurisdiction decides to prosecute on behalf of the United States. Because Washington has no statelevel justice system, both its local and federal crimes are tried in federally run courts. This unit expects to handle primarily local cases, but possibly some federal cases as well. Thus, it may be the first institution within the federal government to examine federal felony cases in search

of the innocent.

"The U.S. Attorney's r
Office for D.C. handles lo-

cal crime in D.C. as well as federal crimes. In other places, all sorts of things can be in local court but almost none of these are federal crimes, except in D.C.," Gross says. "Also, because it's a federal office, there are more resources they have command of...so they're capable of doing a more thorough job. [This Office] has more influence than U.S. Attorney's Offices anywhere else."

The U.S. Attorney's Office for Washington first turned its attention to possible wrongful convictions following the discovery of faulty testing and mismanagement within an FBI forensic lab that occurred during the 1980s and 1990s. Over four years, the Office sifted through thousands of FBI case files, reviewing Washington cases involving hair or fiber evidence processed by the FBI between 1980 and 2000.

Five men were exonerated as a result of this initial investigation. Each had already served approximately 30 years in prison.

Following the last of these exonerations, the Attorney's Office announced the creation of a permanent Convictions Integrity Unit for the District of Columbia. The unit is part of the Special Proceedings Division, which already handles all post-conviction matters for Washington. A Conviction Integrity Committee of internal prosecutors and vetted defense attorneys will choose and review eligible cases, and will create prosecutor training recommendations to prevent future wrongful convictions.

"Although wrongful convictions remain a rare phenomenon, their consequences are tragic—for the defendants involved, for the victims of the crimes that remain unsolved, and for the community we work every day to protect," said U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. in a statement. "As prosecutors, our goal is not to win convictions, but to do justice."



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