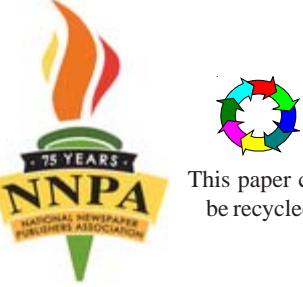




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April 10, 2015



RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt

Another change at the 40 Acres

When head basketball coach Rick Barnes swiftly departed from the University of Texas and later took a job at the University of Tennessee, there was some concern over who would be his successor. But just as swiftly as Barnes made his announcement of his new job, his replacement was announced a couple of days later.

UT Athletic Director Steve Patterson wasted no time in selecting the new coach. He introduced Coach Shaka Smart to the Austin community. It had been rumored that Smart would be the new coach, but he had not officially accepted the job. He was in the process of finishing out the year with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). His resume is included in the feature article.

One of the big questions in the African American community was "would UT have two Black coaches for their two major sports: football and Basketball."

When Coach Charlie Strong was announced as the head coach for the Longhorn Football team, some alumni were very upset because they were not consulted before he was hired. Strong made a special effort to meet with the concerned UT supporters and quickly won them over. It doesn't appear that Smart will have to make those rounds.

One thing that we all know is that Black coaches do not have the luxury of taking several years to build a winning team. Strong will have to make a big impression in the Big 12 next season. This year he will be working with some of his own recruits.

Smart, on the other hand, is taking on a good program, but will be expected to move them to a higher level. One of the Longhorns' problems is going deeper into the end of the year tournament. For the last few years, they have not made it out of the first round. Another challenge that he has is to get the fans excited about the program and get them coming to the games again. Excited fans will go a long ways to getting the team winning at a higher level.

HT Board of Trustees Announce Colette Pierce Burnette as the Institution's Sixth President



Colette Pierce Burnette

[AUSTIN, Texas] — Huston-Tillotson University Board of Trustees has announced Colette Pierce Burnette as the institution's sixth President and Chief Executive Officer, effective July 1, 2015. Pierce Burnette becomes the first female president of the merged Huston-Tillotson University and only the second female president in the institution's 140-year history.

Pierce Burnette is an experienced leader in higher education with a deep commitment to student success. In 2012, she

served as interim President at Pierce College in Puyallup, Washington, leading the college within a district environment and working collaboratively with executive leadership to serve more than 30,000 students each year. Pierce Burnette had an extensive career at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, from 1999 - 2012 that scaled to Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer where she provided financial, analytical, physical plant, auxiliary services, capital construction, and

See **EARVIN**, page 2

Shaka Smart takes over the Texas Longhorn Hoops Program

AUSTIN, TX - The Texas Longhorns basketball program enters into a new era with the resignation of long term coach Rick Barnes. Barnes spent 17 seasons at Texas and made it to the NCAA basketball tournament 16 times and at one point the Longhorns made it to the tournament 14 years in a row. Barnes has been on the hot seat in recent seasons for not advancing deep into the tournament. Barnes did lead the team to Final Four appearance in 2003.

A four-time Big 12 Conference Coach of the Year (1999, 2003, 2008 and 2014) and five-time National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) District 9 Coach of the Year (1999, 2001, 2003, 2008 and 2014),



UT welcomes Shaka Smart as new Longhorns head basketball coach

Barnes elevated the Texas program to a consistent level of national prominence never before seen at the Forty Acres.

Barnes said, "I am so blessed to have spent the last 17 years at The Uni-

versity of Texas. This university, the city of Austin and the great Texas fans have been so good to me and my family. I sincerely want to thank (former UT Men's Athletics Director) DeLoss Dodds and (former

UT Chairman of the Board of Regents) Don Evans for their work in bringing me here and providing me with this great opportunity".

Barnes continued, "I leave this job with no re- See **SMART**, page 2

Stevie Wonder: Songs in the Key of Life Performance Review

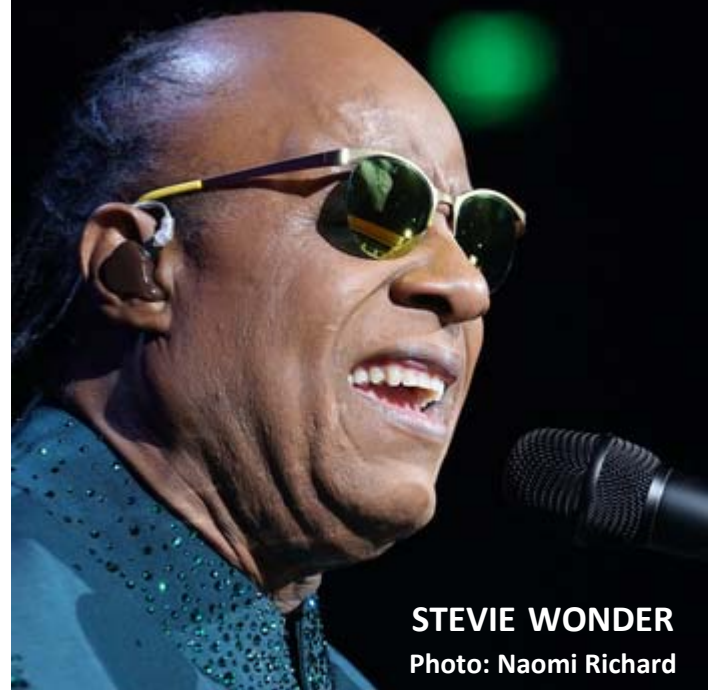
Naomi Richard | The Austin Villager Newspaper

Legendary singer, songwriter, musician and producer Stevie Wonder announced an extended run of dates for his SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE Performance Tour due to popular demand. Wonder brought the critically acclaimed performance, which is a live adaptation of the iconic SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE album, to more than 10 U.S. cities, including a performance in Austin at the Frank Erwin Center on Saturday, April 4!

By far, this was one of the best concerts of the decade. While SONGS IN THE KEY OF LIFE was originally released in 1976, it was as though it just came out by the crowd's ecstatic response! Wonder gave a stellar performance singing favorites like Ribbon In The Sky, Superstitious, Isn't She Lovely and If It's Magic to name a few.

Not only did Wonder sing his heart out, he was very comical naming Austin, Texas as "The Most Musical Town in Texas!" He went on to challenge us to sing louder than his tour stops in cities like Denver and Dallas. Austin did not disappoint Wonder, singing when asked to their fullest potential and in sweet harmony.

Special kudos to the Music Director **Greg Phillinganes**. The show included over thirty highly talented band members including multiple keyboard play-



STEVIE WONDER
Photo: Naomi Richard

ers, guitarists, drummers, percussionists, trumpet players, saxophone players, violinists and one trombone player! Several musical numbers received standing ovations from the audience.

The band and background singers complemented the performances with riveting sounds throughout the See **INDIA ARIE**, page 3

INSIDE



GABC honors elite innovators. See **BUSINESS** Page 3



Republicans deny legal immigrants in-state tuition See **BILL** Page 6



Prestigious education agency hires exceptional director. See **START** Page 7

LONG CENTER Jay Leno

Brings Laughs to Dell Hall



Austin, TX - Perhaps one of the best known comedians and entertainers today, former "Tonight Show" host JAY LENO is coming to the Long Center for a one night only show-case his best comedy routine, and the personality that made him a star on late night television. See the longtime host live in Dell Hall on Sunday, May 31st. Tickets are available at TheLongCenter.org or by calling (512) 474.LONG (5664). Also available at the Long Center's 3M Box Office located at 701 West Riverside Drive at South First Street.

THE COMMUNIQUÉ

EARVIN: “Colette Pierce Burnette brings a set of experiences that help ensure the continued advancement of Huston-Tillotson University”

continued from page 1
human resources leadership to achieve mission-based goals. In addition, at Central State University Pierce Burnette served as Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer.

She earned her Master of Science Degree in Administration with honors from Georgia College in Milledgeville in 1983 after completing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Ohio State University in Columbus in 1980. In 2003, Pierce Burnette was accepted and graduated from the Harvard Graduate School's Education Management Development Program. She is completing an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration at the University of Pennsylvania slated for May 2015.

Pierce Burnette said, “I am deeply honored to serve as the sixth President of Huston-Tillotson University. When I stepped on the grounds of this campus and interacted with the distinguished faculty, administrators, alumnae, and bright and engaging students, I could see myself here. HT has a rich

and remarkable history of preparing students for careers that enhance our society and world. The diverse student population, enhancement of STEM offerings, the future Community Health and Wellness Center, and this beautiful campus are just some of the reasons why I see Huston-Tillotson as a truly special place.”



Dr. Earvin

Larry L. Earvin, President and Chief Executive Officer, said “Colette Pierce Burnette brings a set of experiences that help ensure the continued advancement of Huston-Tillotson University.”

The nationwide search for the replacement for Earvin, who announced his retirement 12 months ago, netted about 70 applications with Pierce Burnette as one of

three finalists. The 18-member Search Committee, comprised of representatives from the HT Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community and business leaders, narrowed the field to a list of nine semi-finalists who were engaged in two days of interviews before the finalists were selected and approved by the Board of Trustees at its March 2015 meeting.

Albert Hawkins, Chair, HT Board of Trustees, said, “The leadership skills and abilities among the candidates were impressive. However, Colette Pierce Burnette’s vision, experience and determination solidified the decision and will compel the University to higher levels. I extend my thanks to everyone involved in this process during the past few months as we prepare for the next phase of Huston-Tillotson.”

She is the mother of two children Daarel II, a journalist in Memphis, Tennessee, and Daana, a public relations professional in New York, New York. She is married to Dr. Daarel Burnette, a proficient administrator and

consultant in higher education finance and fiscal leadership. She is affiliated with many organizations and holds a membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Huston-Tillotson is a historically black institution with a heritage in Aus-

tin that dates back to 1875. Earvin informed the HT board last year that he would conclude his tenure as President at the end of his current contract, effective June 30, 2015. He has served the University as its fifth president since July 1, 2000. During this time,

Earvin had an enormous impact on the school, raising it from a College to a University in 2005, doubling enrollment from 500 to 1,031 students, and more than doubling the school's endowment from \$5 Million to more than \$11.5 million.

SMART: “I’m very appreciative of President Bill Powers and Athletics Director Steve Patterson for believing in me”

continued from page 1

grets. Instead, I look back at our time here and say ‘thank you’ to all the players, coaches and staff who have worked with our program throughout the last 17 years. I am so proud of our players and their success, not only on the court, but also in the classroom and in the community. I’m humbled when I really step back and think about how many of them have gone on to be such great all-around men in life.”

Texas Men’s Athletics Director Steve Patterson said, “The University owes Rick a great deal of gratitude and respect for all he’s done to put Texas on the Basketball map. He elevated our program immensely and always did it with class. He put our student-athletes first. He won with integrity. We thank Rick for his many years of service to Texas and wish him continued success in the future.”

One of the hottest young coaches over the past several seasons Shaka Smart formerly of Virginia Commonwealth University Rams will take over for the Longhorns. Smart was a four-year starter and three-year team captain at Kenyon College (Gambier, Ohio), Smart graduated magna cum laude in 1999 with a degree in history. He still holds the school single-season (184 in 1998-99) and career (542) records for most assists.

Smart lead the VCU



Steve Patterson, Bill Powers and Shaka Smart

program to the 2011 Final Four and posted at least 26 wins in each of his six seasons at the school. The 37-year-old Smart will become the 24th head basketball coach for Texas.

Smart said, “I’m extremely excited for the opportunity to be the head men’s basketball coach at The University of Texas,” Smart said. “I’m very appreciative of President Bill Powers and Athletics Director Steve Patterson for believing in me and giving me the chance to work with a tremendous group of young men. Coming to The University of Texas presents an opportunity to be a part of a special community. My highest priority is spending time and developing relationships with our current players, our former players and the young men who will make up the future of Texas Basketball.”

Patterson said, “We are extremely excited today to announce that Shaka Smart will be joining us in Austin as our Head Men’s Basketball Coach. He is a smart, driven, exciting, dedicated coach and developer of young men who the entire basketball world has watched with admiration for some time. We know he can continue the up-



ward trajectory of our basketball program and look forward to working with him and his family, including Maya and Little Zora, for many years to come.

In his senior season, he earned All-North Coast Conference (NCAC) honors and was tabbed the league’s Scholar Athlete of the Year. Smart was one of 20 students named to the 1999 USA Today All-USA Academic Team and earned a prestigious NCAA postgraduate scholarship. Smart will have his hands full moving from a mid-major VCU from the Atlantic 10 to a power five conference in the Big 12. Smart had the ability to have the Rams in the top tier of the Atlantic 10. Now he will have to compete against the likes of Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa State and the likes on a nightly basis in one of the best basketball conferences in the nation.

With the move to Texas the type of athletes that Smart will recruit will be some of the best recruits in the nation. While at VCU, Smart had the luxury of developing players and having them play for him for four years. Smart will have to start recruiting the football loyal Longhorn fans to start to become more rabid fans of the basketball program.

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This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department.

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- Artists in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet, Blanco counties are eligible to apply.
- Multiple commissions will be awarded. Budget for artwork ranges from \$3000 to \$10,000.

**For more information and to apply, visit
tinyurl.com/AustinAIPP**

TEMPO is a project of the City of Austin Economic Development Department

CHURCH & TOWN BULLETIN

GABC 2015 Small Business Awards Gala

AUSTIN, Texas- The Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce is an organization that promotes the development of African-American businesses and the expansion of the Greater Austin business community by providing resources, technical assistance, and leadership on policy issues that enhance economic growth by promoting convention and tourism.

GABC's vision is to serve as a bridge for African-American businesses and the Greater Austin business community to obtain greater prosperity and influence within Central Texas.

On April 17, 2015 the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce will host its 2015 Small Business Awards Gala at the Hilton- Downtown Austin- 500 E. 4th Street, Austin, Texas 78701 from 7:30PM – 12:00AM.

There are currently 16 member honorees, of whom will all be awarded at the 2015 Small Business Awards ceremony.

Among those honorees are Richard Overton, one of the oldest surviving World War II Veteran, who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. Overton is an African- American centenarian. He served in the South Pacific from 1942-1945, as part of the all-black 1887th Engineer Aviation Battalion. Richard Overton is the cousin of the late Austin civil rights leader Volma Overton, who also served in WWII as a Marine and went



on to become the longtime president of the Austin NAACP.

Some of the other honorees that will be awarded are: George Howell-Anchor, CNN International, Shuronda Robinson- ADISA Communications, Sterling Smith- KeyStoke, and Ashley Goudeau- Reporter, KVUE News.

The 2015 Keynote Speaker will be Shawn Taylor, President Zaxby's Houston, LLC | Limited Partner, Houston Astros.

Shawn Taylor, a proud Purdue graduate (class of 82') was raised by a single mother of four in the projects on the crime-infested Southside of Chicago. Mr. Taylor began his professional career in Dallas at the world's largest accounting firm, Arthur Andersen. During his 10 years with the firm, Taylor was instrumental in leading the Dallas office in the recruitment and retention of minority employees at a rate never achieved by any other office in the firm.

For more information on the 2015 GABC Small Business Awards Gala visit www.austinbcc.org.

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Arie complements Wonder with style and class



Stevie Wonder with India Arie.

Photo credit: Naomi Richard

continued from page 3

evening. A violin solo by local performer Haydn Vitera brought both Wonder and Phillinganes to a resounding applause. Vitera rendered a show stopping performance.

In an exclusive interview with Vitera, he was noticeably overwhelmed by his experience with Wonder. "I was only there because someone else could not make it at the last minute... There was no practice for the solo role, it was completely improvisation... When the opportunity presented itself, I jumped up and began to play... Improvisation is our gift back to God."

Just when the audience thought the night could not get any better, Wonder was joined by Grammy® Award winning singer, songwriter and producer India Arie! Arie complemented Wonder's music with such style and class. An accomplished performer in her own space, Arie added her strong voice and musicianship to the evening, changing several times into a beautiful array of stunning outfits and head attire. Having both astounding performers on one stage was magical in and of itself!

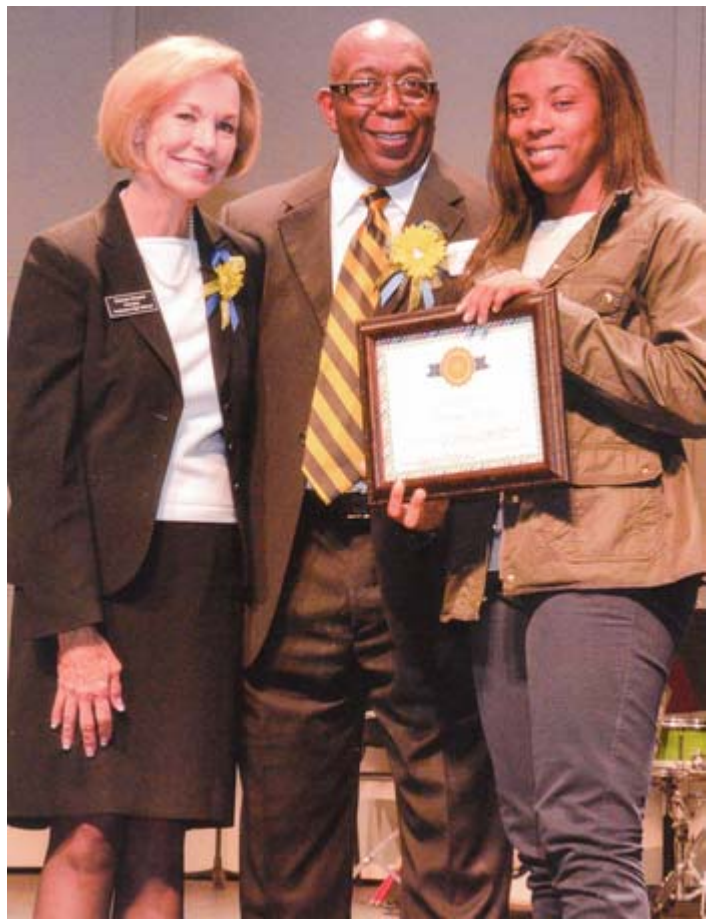
Conscience of the Central Texas region, Wonder added a Latin and Country Music flare to the evening causing many in the crowd to take to the floor dancing and cheering him on. There were screams and laughter as fans of all ages and ethnic backgrounds showed their love of Wonder's Latin and Country inclusion!

APRIL 11 | 7TH ANNUAL GOOD HOPE MBC GOLF CLASSIC

Join the Good Hope BC friends from the Round Rock, Pflugerville, Austin and surrounding areas for a fun day of golf, networking, and fellowship!

Join us at the beautiful greens at Forest Creek Golf Club in Round Rock on Saturday, April 11, 2015. Check-in at 7 am, shotgun start at 8:00 am. The day includes a 4-person scramble (Best Ball), lunch and awards reception included. FMI: 512.350.0151

The Heritage of L. C. Anderson



(left to right) Principal Donna Houser, Old Anderson National Pres. Raymond Whitley and L. C. Anderson student Kennedy Harris. Photo by Melvin Scott

March 26, 2015, the administration of the L. C. Anderson Trojans invited the Original L. C. Anderson Yellow Jackets to display artifacts from the old school at the new. Speakers were: Superintendent Paul Cruz, Board President Gina Hinojosa, current Principal Donna Houser, 1st Trojan Principal Dr. Charles Akins and current Old Anderson National President R. Whitley. A one thousand dollar scholarship was given to a Trojan student.

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 BIBLE STUDY: 7:30 P.M.

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

Kenneth Hill, Pastor

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Brackets in March



Wesley Dickerson
Cedar Ridge H. S.

As March ends and April starts we experience the end of March Madness. March Madness, for those of you that don't already know, is the common term used to refer to the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Tournament. What makes March Madness so interesting and popular are the brackets. Brackets show how the tournament is structured in terms of seeding and game schedules. Many people around the nation enjoy predicting the games in order to create the perfect bracket, but the part we love to hate is that making the perfect bracket is as close to impossible as something

can get. Even picking an entire round can be difficult because the unexpected and the unpredictable will happen. This year a shocker to us all was the defeat of Baylor, a 3 seed, at the hands of Georgia State, a 14 seed. It's these types of games that show why we love and hate March Madness.

Although the competition on the hardwood takes the center stage of the tournament, as well it should, competition among the millions of fans and viewers is fierce as well. Brackets can be filled out for pleasure but the biggest reason to fill out a bracket is to compete against friends, family, and co-workers. Bracket competitions are arguably some of the most heated battles of the tournament. Many people, me included, enjoy talking trash and watching the games praying that a certain team wins for the sole purpose of the success of your bracket. The month of March is filled with competition that I believe all people should take part in, so next year make sure that your are part of the madness!

New Dance Team



De'Ja Hill
Lamar Middle School

Hello readers,
This week at Lamar Middle School there was not too much going on except the STARR testing. However, we did get a little

time in my dance class but we did more conditioning than dancing. We did stretches and ran on the track, which is also important when you are a dancer.

Outside of school my mother let me join the Lavish Dance Company and I am glad because not only do we get to go to competitions it is during the summer time. Although, our first rehearsal started last week, the majority of the things we do will be after school has ended. This is great because I will have something to do besides sit around the house and it is something that I like doing.

My Special Hobby



Malakhi Washington
Cedars Int'l Academy

This year I am thinking about making a duck tape wallet shop. I have already made seven wallets and coin purses. I began doing this about a year ago and found it to be lots of fun.

Duck tape comes in all kind of decorations now. It is not just the gray tape that the stores used to sell.

I have made men and women wallets and they are very strong and good. I carry one of them myself. I will open my duck tape shop and sale the wallets for profit. I am going to be a business owner when I grow up and this will be a good start, plus I really enjoy arts and crafts and this gives me an opportunity to be very creative.

One thing I have learned is that in order to make money I have to keep investing money to buy more tape. This is just one of my hobbies that I love very much!

Social Media and College Decisions



Kiara Myers
Vista Ridge H. S.

If I were to look on my Facebook feed right now, there would be hundreds of posts from the many students in each of the college groups I'm apart of. A growing way to communicate with future classmates is through social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, where special pages are made for each newly admitted class to the university. It allows for students to introduce themselves, find roommates or friends, ask random questions, or just post humorous anecdotes. I think it's cool to get a glimpse of what the people will be like on campus, and there's definitely a difference in dynamic on each university's page.

What I've gotten most out of these college groups is being able to ask questions and get multiple answers from people who represent many backgrounds. You can meet people who

share the same interests as you or learn about previously unknown programs and scholarships within the school. Sometimes it can be intimidating to post something in a group with thousands of members, but it's important to put yourself out there and see what opportunities can be made in beginning the next chapter of your life. Yet, it's also important to remain appropriate when making posts, as there are college admissions officers and administrators in the group as well.

College can be a scary time because there are a lot more people than high school and most of them you know nothing about. Thus, connecting on social media can become an awesome way to make friends before you even step on campus and learn relate to other admitted students facing similar struggles and triumphs. For example, one time I had a college dilemma and was fully welcomed by many people who commented on my post and offered sincere, thoughtful advice. I even had some students message me after the post to give me more words of wisdom. Furthermore, I can truly say that I will feel a since of comfort walking on campus in the Fall based on how openly responsive people have been in these college forums.

I Desire to be President Pt.1



Zachariah Washington
Cedars Academy

Over next few weeks I will be writing a series about how I desire to be the President of the United States of America, The Cabinet Jobs, Assonated Presidents why and how they deal, Presidential Transportation and Inside The White House.

I Desire to be President

When I was in the First Grade I remember learning about the First President of the U.S.A George Washington. Ever since then, my interest in the Presidents have grown stronger and more passionate. Until one day I told myself, "this is your passion," then I made the decision that I'm going to go run for the Presidential Office when I grow up.

Anybody I know you can ask them "do you know what Zach wants to be when he grows up?" All the people you ask will proudly say that he wants to be a President of the United States. At my school students and teachers call me Mr. President because they realize how serious I am and passionate about this. All my life I've had a thrive to help to people to make life better and easier for other people. So I decided that if I really REALLY want to help people I need to go into the Big Leagues and make laws and approve laws that will make life better for other people.

Some of the requirements to become the President are that you must be a natural born citizen which means you have to be born in the United States. You have to be 14 years or more which means you have to be a house owner or live in the United States for 14 years or more. Lastly you have to be 35 years old to reach the requirements. These requirements do not prohibit women from being the President so y'all women that want to be the President go for it.

John F. Kennedy



Kevin Parish
Park Crest M.S.

One of the classes I enjoy is my History class. In class we learn about all of the Presidents .Before John F. Kennedy became the President he had to campaign for the position. At a meeting JFK wanted to win over Florida and Texas and visit those two states in a two week period. In 1956 he almost gained the Demo-

cratic nomination for Vice President and four years later he became the first ballot nominee for President. JFK beat Richard M. Nixon by a narrow margin in the popular vote. When President Kennedy was about to go to Dallas TX, to make a speech he was aware that the U.S Ambassador was physically attacked, a month earlier in San Antonio. Friday November 22, 1963 traveling in a Presidential motorcade through downtown Dallas, he was shot once in the throat, and once in the head. Kennedy was taken to Parkland Hospital for emergency medical treatment, but pronounced dead at 1:00 pm. Only 46, President Kennedy died younger than any other U.S. President to date. Go Pumas!

Joggers



Genesis Stiggers
Elgin Middle School

When you look out the window you can see joggers anywhere. You see them in Austin, Smithville, Bastrop, even your hometown. I see people jogging and I see strength and willpower. It is important to have willpower because strength and composure are some of the most important things people needed in order to be successful. Without those with composure and strength, some of the inventions used today wouldn't be around.

In my homeroom class, we are learning about composure. The definition

of it is the state or feeling of being calm and in control of oneself. If I am honest, I do not always have composure but I do always know when to stop and walk away. Something I learned in that unit is even if it might be too hard to keep your cool, you should always know when to stop and walk away. I know the only way to get what you want is to fail first, keep your cool, and keep trying again.

I've learned a lot of things just by glimpsing over a page or article. One thing I've learned was that even warriors had to have composure. Though you think that warriors are impatient and violent, most of the time they have to wait and think about what their strategy would be. If warriors like Native Americans could have composure, then why can't we? As you look out the window notice the joggers passing by, maybe you can think about their composure, or maybe just remember how much composure you have.

Excited



Imani Demps
Del Valle High School

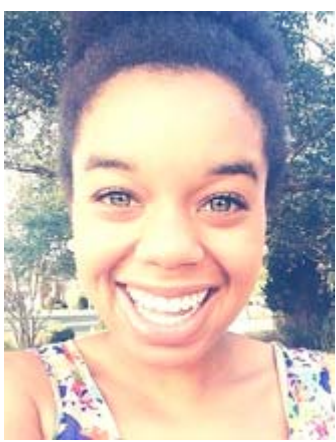
This week was good I have like 43 days left of school. That's crazy the real

world is coming so fast. I'm going off to school in 5 months. I get so excited talking about it. I went to church today and I don't go often but I really enjoyed myself. I had a talk with God and I'm gone try to go to church more often. I need to better myself as a person. When I go off to school I'm going to try to join a church down there. Church gives me a feeling that's unexplainable.

I like the feeling and I like that I have come so far in life. I'm about to graduate. I'm can't explain how happy I am.

YOUTH BRIGADE

“Black Girls Rock” Inspires



Rebecca Richard
Bowie High School

On Sunday, April 4, BET aired “Black Girls Rock!”, the annual award show that seeks to highlight and uplift phenomenal women all over the world. This year’s honorees included singer and philanthropist Erykah Badu, famed actress Jada Pinkett Smith, and the producer of blockbuster hit “Selma” Ava DuVernay, among others. First Lady Michelle Obama, singer/actor Jill Scott, and BET C.E.O Debra Lee were also in attendance. With so many pillars of strength and grace in the building, the only result was empowerment and it was felt throughout the evening.

This year’s “Black Girls Rock!” comes at a crucial time for black women. While we are among the most resilient and capable of all creation, we are attacked at virtually every side: our sons, brothers, and fathers are shot down in broad daylight; we are constantly subjected to European views of beauty; and we must be twice as good as everyone else just to assert ourselves in corporate settings and receive the respect we deserve.

Many argue that the fight for civil rights is a moot point, and look towards our nation’s first black president as evidence, stating that we have already overcome. However, miraculous as that achievement is, we will soon have a new administration. So if attaining the presidency was the full realization of Dr. King’s dream, where would that leave us as a people in 2016? While she has not yet formally announced her intentions to run for President, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is a strong Democratic contender, and African-American Republican likely Dr. Ben Carson has launched presidential exploratory committees to investigate the potential for his campaign.

These political strides for historically underrepresented groups are celebrated throughout the media, but the lack of black female candidates should be disturbing to us. One of the most important things I took away from a recent leadership forum was to constantly ask myself, “who is not at the table?” That is to say, who are we affecting in our actions that does not have a voice during the decision making process? Black women have a voice, black women matter, and we will be heard.

“Black Girls Rock!” affirmed that we are entirely capable of succeeding in any endeavor to which we devote ourselves, and the sheer magnitude of our potential demands to be acknowledged. One love.

Jumpstreet



Montrae Nelson
Riverplace Elementary

Hello everyone, this week we began the writing portion of our STAAR test. It took two days to finish and next week we will have the reading section to do. We had prepared for this test by learning about different types of writing and strategies for reading. Our teachers told us to take our time and read over our work carefully. I was so glad when we finished day two and we were able to relax and I was looking forward to the week-

end.

On Friday April 4, 2015 we did not have school, it was a teacher workday. My mom took me and my brothers to a place called Jumpstreet. When we walked in there were so many people talking and kids screaming. There were giant trampolines that looked like runways. There was a section for older kids and a section for kids under seven years old. They also had two giant inflatable slides and bounce houses for the younger kids. There were chairs, couches, and tables for the adults to sit and watch their kids. There were also arcade games and a section for birthday parties.

My brothers and I jumped for almost an hour until we got tired. We had a lot of fun and it was nice to hang out with my family. So if you have young kids and they like to jump and run then Jumpstreet is the perfect place!

Busy Body



Erika Lipscomb
Manor Elementary

I am really busy right now. I just had the STAAR Reading last week. I think I did well. Easter was great. I went out of town to spend

Easter with my family on my mom's side. We started the day with church. We had Communion and after church, we had a Easter egg hunt. After church, we had 2 choices to go to eat, my uncle's or my aunt's. Most everyone went to both.

I'm excited too because I'm trying to organize a mini sleep over. I'm starting to doubt it happening because it hasn't come together yet. But I'm still trying while my mom is willing. Well, Happy Easter everyone. Have a marvelous day.

Fundraiser Cancelled



Zyon Hill
Reagan High School

Hello readers,

This week in school there were only two things that happened that were really interesting. The first thing was tasking the English STAAR Test, which took all day long. The most interesting thing about it was

a bet I made with someone that I could score 4000 or higher on my test. If I score 4000 or better, I'll win and I get my choice of candy.

The second interesting thing is that the X-Y Zone was informed that the Maggie Johnson Nursing Center has been closed and all of the people that were living there have been placed in other facilities. Personally, I was not happy to hear about this but I know there is nothing we can do about it now. The fundraiser has been cancelled and our group will be brainstorming on who or what else we can help. My suggestion was the animal shelter but I may be standing alone on that suggestion. I will keep you posted.

Time is Passing By



Whitney Brown
S. F. Austin H. S.

The world is making many new changes this time of year. It is becoming more and more evident that time is passing by. With all of the blooming flowers and rain showers, I am pleased to see summer making its way here. A little sad to see winter go, but I soon will get over it. It also saddens me the many things I see in the news, online, or even in my own life. It sometimes is easier to bail out on life than to go through the many struggles

to the end. Spring cleaning has come upon us. A recurring theme in my life has been to de-clutter. It is easier said than done. But when I look at it this way I understood better. It's as if “you've got a marathon ahead of you, and you can't run the marathon with a barbell in your hands.

Often people quit in life because everything they're carrying wears them out”. -Rick Warren. Well readers don't quit anything. There is always a greater good after your small struggle. What looks like a life changing battle today will not amount to the joy that will come in the end. “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” Hebrews 12:1

Black Businesses Help Reduce Black Youth Crime

by Jazelle Hunt
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – One of the most powerful agents in curtailing Black youth crime in major cities is the presence of Black business owners, according to Karen Parker, professor of sociology and criminal justice at the University of Delaware.

“Not only have [criminologists] not looked at all the aspects of the urban economy by focusing on unemployment and poverty and joblessness, but then we also present this picture that African Americans are not invested, are detached, are not involved with the community. This article suggests that they very much are,” says Parker, author of the study, “The African American Entrepreneur – Crime Drop Relationship: Growing African American Business Ownership and Declining Youth Violence.”

She explained, “By looking at business ownership, we're seeing [Black business owners'] presence in their neighborhoods...and how they are having a very positive impact on the violence there, specifically among youth.”

Her research appears in last month's Urban Affairs Review and analyzes the growth in Black entrepreneurship compared to Black juvenile arrests in large cities, as well as a few independent variables such as deindustrialization and income inequality.

The data comes from the beginning of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s. Both periods saw specific job losses (manufacturing jobs in the '90s, professional jobs in the 2000s) and rises in Black entrepreneurship. According to the report, the number of Black-owned businesses increased by more than 32 percent between 1992 and 1997; Black-owned businesses that

Surprising Turn Out



Latrice Lipscomb
Manor High School

Saturday, March 28th was definitely a day to remember for the W.A.M.M Nation Drumline. On that nerve wrecking day, we competed against many schools as well as the same school that won first place last year even with a dropped drum on stage during their performance. This year the three finalists were Victory Prep, W.A.M.M Nation Drumline and Austin High School. When it was time to hear the results, the

crowd went berserk because coincidentally, the same school that won first place last year won first place again this year. W.A.M.M Nation Drumline came in second and Victory Prep came in third. I would like to know your opinion on who you think should have won first place this year. 2015 High Noon Showdown Drumline Competition. If you would like, go to the Internet and look up “Austin - high noon show down - 2015” to watch who won first place. To see who won second place look up “WAMM Nation Drumline High Noon Competition 2015”. Lastly, to see who won third place look up “VICTORYPREP-HIGH NOON SHOW DOWN-2015”. My email is latrice.lipscomb29@edu.manorisd.net, please comment to me your opinion on who you think was the real winner of the High Noon Showdown 2015.

employed others increased 43 percent.

During the weak economic times following the September 11 attacks, the number of Black-owned businesses rose more than 60 percent – “more than triple the national rate of 18 percent for all U.S. businesses according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners,” Parker points out in the study.

At the same time, violent offenses involving Black youth dropped about 29 percent in large cities across the nation.

“The thing that was surprising – and it came from [criminologists'] view that look, maybe it's not the African American owned businesses at all. Maybe it's just that there are jobs now when jobs weren't there before, and that's what leading to the [drop in] crime rate,” Parker said. “But I actually tested for that. I tested for employment of African Americans in business and service and manufacturing, and that did not explain away the presence of the African American businesses specifically. It wasn't the fact that they were simply there to employ, it was more than that.”

By her analysis, the positive influence of visible Black business owners seems to flow in two ways.

“First, minority-owned businesses, through the lives of their owners, employees, and families, can serve an important function – as role models to urban youth in the community,” she writes. “Business growth also means an inflow of resources into the community, reducing the level of economic disadvantage that has been linked to urban violence.”

Culturally, the presence of Black business owners in a community, particularly if there is poverty or other socioeconomic disadvantage, often raises morale and staves off the cynicism that social scientists have tied to high crime among youth. The study also asserts that Black business owners tend to be involved in maintaining other positive areas of their communities, such as schools, churches, and recreation centers.

Although Parker's study did not conclusively find that employing other Black people had an affect on youth crime, it did cite other research that Black business owners hire other people of color almost always, whether their business is situated in non-White communities. Black-owned businesses also offer culturally relevant services and products to their Black and brown neighbors, and recycle Black dollars within their communities longer.

There were more than 1.9 million Black-owned businesses in the most recent Census Survey of Business Owners (2007), up from 1.1 million in the 2002 survey. This growth is despite poor access to financial services, weaker professional networks, and a host of other challenges that hinder Black Americans from using traditional routes to entrepreneurship.

“Given all the odds of lack of resources, lack of support, lack of survivability – the impact on their own families in terms of having to use their own incomes, their own family money, their own personal credit cards – let's acknowledge the role they're serving,” Parker said.

“For a policymaker...let's not just acknowledge them, let's support them. Just in access to capital, provide business loans to them, give them access to business credit and other things... and training programs to maintain their businesses. Because empirically, they're having an amazing impact on their communities and the youth there.”

CITY ~ STATE ~ NATIONAL ~ WORLD

Senate Bill 1819 Seeks to Cut In State Tuition for Immigrants

by Tsoke (Chuch)Adjavon

Now that the Republicans have a super majority in both chambers, they are seeking to by-pass the Federal Government immigration law. The Republican led legislature seeks to write their own immigration law through various bills that are being proposed in the legislature. For instance, Texas Senator Donna Campbell from Central Texas wrote a bill that seeks to "strip away in state tuition for legal Green card holders with pending immigration status and also undocumented students."

Under current Texas' law, undocumented students who have graduated from a public or private high-school in Texas can get enrolled as "in state student." The "in-state registration" come with an in state tuition fee at all Texas public universities. Moreover, Legal Green Card holders and also undocumented students from the four corners of the world have benefited from



Senator Donna Campbell

this program. However, Donna Campbell's SB 1819 bill seeks to un-do this current law.

Currently, SB 1819 is being heard committee. Moreover, it is most likely to pass a vote in committee and make it way to the floor of the State Senate. According to Ainee Arthar

an organizer with FWD.US who work on immigration issues mentioned that, "SB 1819 will deprive thousands of immigrants in TX from an education; it will cost taxpayers money and also hurt other immigrant communities by limiting their economic opportunities."

Baese for Round Rock Place 5

by Tsoke (Chuch)Adjavon

On May 15, 2015 the residents of Round Rock, Texas will be going to the polls to vote for Place 5 on the ballot. Round Rock is located north of Austin which covers both Williamson and Travis County. In the past decade, Round Rock has seen dramatic population growth and increase. According to the 2014 United States census, Round Rock has surpassed the mark of a 100,000 inhabitants. According to certain statistics, the city of Round Rock has grown for over 7% since 2000. Moreover, Writ Baese will be running for the Round Rock City Council Place 5 position.

Writ Baese is a husband, father, and small business owner in Round Rock Texas. In addition of being a business owner, Writ Baese is involved in his community. For instance, he has served on the board of the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce. Furthermore, he



Writ Baese

served on the 2013 bond advisory committee. Moreover, this committee assisted in passing a bond which helped the city of Round Rock with the enhancement of the Old Settler Park.

Writ Baese plans to focus on certain issue, which, he campaigns. For instance, property tax is one of the issues he plans to focus on. According to

Writ, "Residents of Round Rock continue to enjoy one of the lowest property tax rates in the region. Quality economic development programs and a focus on continuing to broaden the sales tax base provide a solid fiscal foundation for our city." Another issue that he plans to focus on including is transportation and safety.

Tour to Feature Local Investments in Housing, Historical Preservation, Neighborhood Revitalization

The City of Austin's Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office will host a special celebration and walking tour to highlight investments in Austin using federal funds.

Residents can join Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo and community members in a presentation and tour of projects made possible by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding tomorrow, April 7 from 11 am to 2 p.m. at the African American Cultural and Heritage Facility, 912 E. 11th Street, Austin.

"These investments help to invigorate Austin's



Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo

economy through the development of affordable homes, modifications to homes for persons with disabilities, and neighborhood revitalization. CDBG helps to leverage additional resources to serve more

people and have a greater impact," said Betsy Spencer, Director of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, which provides housing, community development and public services to increase opportunities for self-sufficiency. National Community Development Week, April 6-11, 2015, recognizes programs that provide local governments with resources to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, including residents with low incomes or disabilities.

Visit www.austintexas.gov/housing to learn more about NHCD's programs.

Austin Police Department Delayed in Purchasing Body Cameras

by Tsoke (Chuch)Adjavon

In recent times, there have been an increased number of police shootings of people of colors, especially of African American males. As there has been an alarming increase of shootings of African American males throughout the United States, some local elected officials are looking to curb the excessive use of deadly force. Not only have African American males been shot throughout the United States, but also in Austin Texas.

The Obama's administration through the Justice Department has offered various grants and funding for local police



force to purchase body cameras for their officers. So if the Austin Police department really wanted body cameras then they could pursue a grant through the justice department. In addition SB 158 authored by Texas Senator West of Dallas calls for the requirement that police officers wear body cameras while they stop a motorist. However,

this bill has not yet passed the Texas Legislature. Moreover, the city of Austin and the Austin Police Department should not wait until SB 158 pass prior from purchasing body cameras.

Over the years, Chief Acevedo has mentioned that he is in favor of body cameras; however, he has never followed through. According to APD, they are looking for the right "type of cameras". However, cities like Pflugerville and Tyler Texas have already purchased body cameras for their officers. In addition, numerous of other Texas cities and U.S cities have used these grants by the Justice department to purchase body cameras.

Annual Career Expo City of Austin

Your Journey to Success Starts Here

- More than 100 employers with more than 2,000 job openings!
- A complete list of employers can be found at www.austintexas.gov/careerexpo
- Free and open to the public
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Tuesday, April 14, 2015 • Noon to 5 p.m.
Palmer Events Center • 900 Barton Springs Rd.

Career Expo to Include More than 100 Employers

Free April 14 event features jobs, career enhancement opportunities

The City of Austin, along with other local agencies and employers, will host a free Career Expo with more than 100 employers listing thousands of jobs and career opportunities.

The event, from noon to 5 p.m. at Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, will feature employers from throughout the community and job sectors

including information technology, engineering, manufacturing, retail, banking, health care, sales, administrative and labor.

"We see the Career Expo as a golden opportunity for all job seekers, including those considering a career change or perhaps a career enhancement," said Joya Hayes, Assistant Director of Human Resources for the City of Austin.

Participants are encouraged to bring resumes for face-to-face meetings with employers.

Representatives will be from public agencies

such as the City of Austin, Travis County, the University of Texas and the State of Texas, as well as private employers and temporary staffing agencies including AT&T, Time Warner Cable, Grande Communications, Visa, US Foods, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts, The Home Depot, Lowes and Manpower.

Free parking for the public will be available in the Palmer Events Center garage. Spanish language interpreters, sign language interpreters and sighted guides will be available.

FMI www.austintexas.gov/careerexpo.

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CLASSIFIEDS ~ PUBLIC INFORMATION

Child Inc Hires New Head Start & Operations Director

Austin, TX - Child Inc is pleased to announce Patrick D. Sanders has joined the Agency as its new Head Start and Operations Director. In that capacity Mr. Sanders will oversee the Early Head Start, Head Start, Summer Learning and After School Care programs, which serve over 1,800 Travis County families each year. In addition to operating responsibilities and programmatic aspects of the program, he is charged with leading the agency to becoming a model Early Child Program that others can follow.

Child Inc Executive Director, Albert L. Black stated "The Board, Policy Council, and Staff all participated actively in this recruitment and selection process, and we were unanimous in our choice of Mr. Sanders as our new Head Start Director. His intelligence, proven skills, and genuine concern for at risk children and families as well as his extensive Head Start experience made him the obvious choice."

Mr. Sanders has over 14 years of management experience in a leadership role managing the Tarrant County and GETCAP Head Start Programs in Nacogdoches, Texas. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Work and a Masters of Public Administration from Stephen F. Austin State University. Mr. Sanders has a history

Cross-Discipline Artist Sanford Biggers Gives Talk and Performance by Shirley A. Hammond

Some artists revel in spreading their creative wings wide. Los Angeles native Sanford Biggers seems to be an arbiter of style that exceeds the boundaries of many in the world of art. With a Morehouse education, along with a Masters from the Art Institute of Chicago; he is bringing his multicultural talents to Austin. On Thursday he will do an artist talk at UT from 4:00pm-6:00pm at the Austin Art Building Room 1.102. On Friday, April 9, he will give a Mood Medicin Performance. The performance takes place at 8:30pm at Jones Center Roof Deck at 700 Congress Avenue.

The Thursday event will be a UT feature, while the John L. Warfield Center for African American Studies will bring Friday's performance as part of their Performing Black Series.

According to information from The Contemporary Austin Director of Public Programs, Andrea



Patrick Sanders

of involvement in his community and was the Board Chair of the following Agencies and Organizations: Nacogdoches County United Way, Africa American Heritage Project, Progressive Leadership and former chair of Health Horizons. He was a founding board member and past treasurer for the Christian Women's Job Coalition of Nacogdoches. Mr. Sanders also sat on the Nacogdoches County Agriculture Advisory Board, Bancorpsouth Community Advisory Board, and Stephen F. Austin State University Dept. of Social Work Advisory Board and NAACP Political Action Committee.

"I am thrilled and honored to have been selected to be a director of one of the most prestigious Head Start Programs in the nation. Child Inc has a reputation for success across the country and I plan to continue that success. I look forward to working with the dedicated Board and the great citizens of Austin." said Sanders

Mellard, the artist selected the roof deck of the Jones Center when offered all of the museum's locations (Laguna Gloria and the Jones Center) due to its dramatic skyline view and the vibrant downtown location.

She also advised that Sanford is also related to Harlem Renaissance beloved Houston African American mural artist John Biggers.

Sanford Biggers is a cross-discipline and cross-cultural artist. His body of works spreads across genres to include sculpture, video, performance, music, and photographs. He is also credited with using rites and icons that involve Japanese mandalas and slave quilts in tandem with the hip hop and YouTube music cultures. According to his online biography, he likes to purposely complicate issues in his work and uses concepts and aesthetics in this fashion.

On Friday, Biggers' Moon Medicin will give what is described on Soulciti.com as an evocative music concert which twins a jam session and a performative film screen-

Congressman Will Hurd Named HT's Commencement Speaker

AUSTIN, Texas - Rep. Will Hurd (R-Texas) will render the Huston-Tillotson University Commencement Convocation address on Saturday, May 9, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. The ceremony will be held on the Huston-Tillotson University athletic field, located at 900 Chicon Street.

Hurd, elected to the 114th Congress in 2015, representing the 23rd District, which includes San Antonio and the southwestern portion of Texas serves on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and chairs the Information Technology Subcommittee. He also sits on the Committee on Homeland Security and is the vice chair of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee.

Hurd served as an undercover officer in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the Middle East and South Asia for nearly a decade, collecting intelligence that influenced the National Security agenda. Upon leaving the CIA, he became a senior advisor with a cybersecurity firm, covering a wide range of complex challenges faced by manufacturers, financial institutions, retailers, and critical infrastructure owners. He was also a partner with a strategic advisory firm helping businesses expand into international markets.

Hurd attended John Marshall High School and Texas A&M University, where he majored in computer science and served as the student body president.

The 2015 ceremony represents the last HT degree conferring convocation for President and Chief Executive Officer Larry L. Earvin, Ph.D., who announced his retirement, effective June 30, 2015. Earvin conferred degrees for a record 125 graduates in 2014, reflecting the University's largest graduating class.

Commencement Convocation occurs in conjunction with his live work will incorporate found images, animation, film noir, punk, funk, sci-fi and original songs and video.

Biggers is Assistant Professor at Columbia University's Visual Arts program and a board member of Sculpture Center, Soho House and the CUE Foundation. His biography informs of many career-making accolades, national and international exhibitions to his and a host of fellowship/residency/scholar opportunities that he has taken advantage of in order to share and expand his range of skills.



Will Hurd

Huston-Tillotson University's Honors Convocation and Reunion Weekend 2015 activities. Honors Day Convocation, in recognition of students who have earned high academic honors, is scheduled on Friday, May 8 at 10 a.m. in King-Seabrook Chapel. Reunion Weekend activities begin on Thursday, May 7 at the Holiday Inn Midtown and continue through Saturday. Registration and packet information is online at <http://htu.edu/alumni/reunion-weekend-2015>. In addition to the ceremony for the 2015 graduates, HT's 50th year Class of 1965 will be honored at the graduation program and throughout the weekend festivities in addition to members of classes ending in 5s and 0s.

For more information about Reunion Weekend 2015, Honors, or Commencement Convocations, call 512.505.3073, or visit the Web site at www.htu.edu. ; Convocations are open to the public. Event parking is available on Chalmers Avenue.

Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC) is currently soliciting proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for Group Health, Group Dental, and Wellness Programs. RFPs may be picked up between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Frost Insurance Agency, 401 Congress Ave., 14th Floor, Austin, TX 78701, beginning Wednesday, March 25, 2015. RFPs may also be mailed or sent electronically, by contacting Rebecca Hawes athawes@frostinsurance.com or (512) 473-4511. The deadline to submit a proposal under the RFP is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2015. Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs), including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses, are encouraged to apply.



New Jobs for the Week of 04/05/2015

Clerk, Warehouse Service Center
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
\$1,461-\$1,827/Monthly
Job# 1503026
Faculty, Paralegal
Rio Grande Campus
Hours as assigned: Must maintain an established schedule. This position will also include evenings and possibly weekends.
Salary is assigned according to the Full-Time Faculty Salary Scale.
Job# 1503023
Apply at HR
Middle Fiskville Rd.
6th Floor, Austin, TX 78752
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<http://www.austincc.edu>
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SAN ANTONIO -Blue Bell Ice Cream has voluntarily recalled some of its products while it continues to work with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. H-E-B has decided to withdraw all existing Blue Bell products on its shelves as a precautionary measure due to food safety concerns. Working with Blue Bell, we will replenish our shelves with new product as soon as feasible.

Customers with concerns may return the product to H-E-B stores for a full refund. Customers with questions can contact H-E-B Customer Relations at 1-855-432-4438 between the hours of 8AM and 5PM Monday through Friday.

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

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- Parking Enforcement Officer (2 Openings)
- Video Production Specialist (Part-Time Temporary)
- Distribution Electrician
- Street & Bridge Operations Technician
- Water Meter Technician Assistant
- Dispatcher Technician- Temporary
- Inclusion and Adaptive Programs Activity Specialist I, II, III
- 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.

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PROGRAMS ~ AWARENESS

‘Religious Freedom’ Scams



By Lee A. Daniels
NNPA Columnist

enable business owners to discriminate against gay and lesbian prospective customers, and anyone else under the cover of “religious belief.”

The blowback from corporate giants, religious denominations, cities and states, associations and organizations, and prominent entertainment and literary figures produced a thunderous roar succinctly expressed by the headline of the March 31 front-page editorial of the Indianapolis Star newspaper. In huge letters, it blared: “Fix This Now”

Suddenly, faced with the likelihood of devastating economic boycotts,

the two states’ governors and state legislatures quickly complied. By week’s end last week they had amended those particular so-called religious freedom restoration laws to declare they couldn’t be used to discriminate against someone because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. (However, neither did either legislature enact specific statutes barring discrimination against, gays, lesbians and transgendered people.)

But no one on the right side of history should think this ends the anti-gay rights campaign. Nor should they forget this



Indiana Gov. Mike Pence

episode’s lessons.

For one thing, it’s underscored the true purpose of these “religious freedom” laws, which now exist in 19 other states and are being considered in an additional 14. That purpose, with the U.S. Supreme Court set to rule on same-sex marriage by this June, is to provide the anti-gay forces a means of escaping compliance with the seemingly inevitable affirmation of same-sex marriage by the federal judiciary.

Secondly, these wolf-in-sheep’s-clothing laws offer further proof that the GOP down to its very roots in state and local communities has devolved from a political party ruled by the old traditions of give-and-take politics crucial to the functioning of a democratic society. It’s become one driven by an unceasing winner-take-all attitude that’s only barely concealed beneath a thin veneer of ultra-conservative religious dogma.

Further, we should remember that the justifications for these laws are classic examples of the “hustle” used to pretend bigotry is not bigotry: those who want to discriminate against a particular group claim it’s that group, backed by “the government” who are “victimizing” them.

So, Indiana Gov. Mike



Eric Miller

Pence could assert, shortly after he signed the original state law, that “many feel their religious liberty is under attack by government action” in forcing them to accept gays and lesbians as customers of their businesses.

One doesn’t have to be that well-versed in the Southern massive-resistance campaign against the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s to note the tawdry similarity: That region’s politicians also vociferously claimed that they were defending white citizens’ against attack by the federal government. And, as numerous other commentators have noted, many Southern Christians cited Biblical passages to justify their racism.

The rationales for today’s anti-gay laws are just as despicable. Their advocates claim they’re needed because, as Eric Miller, executive director of the conservative group Advance America, said they could help Christian bakers, florists and photographers avoid punishment for “refusing to participate in a homosexual marriage.”

Got that? Miller contends that any business owner who sells an item to or performs a service for a customer thereby becomes a “participant,” and “involved” in what-

ever it is the customer proceeds to do with the item. If you think that’s silly, look up some of the segregationists’ rationales for all the grand and petty laws of Jim Crow for further proof that bigotry is impervious to logic

The historian Jarrett Ruminski ended his recent column on this latest effort to cloak intolerance in law with these words: “If I wanted to argue from a religious standpoint, I’d point out that rabid anti-gay stances conflict with Jesus’ injunctions to ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’ And to ‘Judge not, that ye be not judged.’ Finally,” he wrote, “if I wanted to argue from the standpoint of basic human decency, I’d argue that love is always better than hate, and that hate shrouded under the banner of good intentions and blind moral absolutism is especially devious.”



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