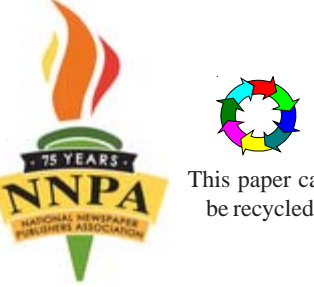




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May 1, 2015



RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt Restoration of Felon Voting Rights

Many have been saying that Police/Community relations in the African American communities across the country is the new "Civil Rights Movement." And while this issue is of great concern in the community, there may be one of equal importance that is needed to be given some attention. Ant that issue is Voting Rights.

Voting rights differ from state to state. Many states allow felons (people who have been convicted of crimes that could require prison time) to retain their rights to vote once they have served their time and been released from probation (known as off paper). Voting rights are among our more basic rights as a citizen of this country and give us a lot of power over determining the laws and politicians who have a lot of control over our lives. "If you vote, the power is Yours. If you do not vote, the power is theirs."

Congressional Democrats have now introduced bills in Washington to Restore Felon Voting Rights. Under this bill, convicted felons currently serving parole or probation, would be guaranteed the right to vote in federal elections, regardless of whether the state in which they reside extends the same privileges in state elections.

According to the findings listed at the beginning of the bill, "about 1 in 40 adults in the United states, currently cannot vote as a result of a felony conviction. Of the 5,850,000 citizens barred from voting, only 25 percent are in prison."

The findings also state that, "currently, 1 of every 13 African-Americans are rendered unable to vote because of felony disenfranchisement, which is a rate 4 times greater than non African-Americans.

This is a bill that should be supported by both Democrats and Republicans. And we should do all that we can to see that this legislation if passed in both houses of congress. Voting is a powerful tool that can be used by any community. But, for the African American community it could replace a lot of power and pride.

HT's Honor Students to be Recognized during Annual Convocation

AUSTIN, TX - Huston-Tillotson University top ranking graduating seniors and students who earned high academic honors and placement on the Dean's List and Honor Roll will be recognized at the annual Honors Convocation. The program, open to the public, will be held on Friday, May 8, 2015, at 10 a.m. in King-Seabrook Chapel. Natalie Cofield, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce in Austin,



Natalie Cofield to Deliver the Keynote Address

Texas, and founder of Walker's Legacy, a minority women in business collective established in 2009, will be the keynote See COFIELD, page 2

FORMER NBA PLAYER STAN MCKENZIE BRINGS GOLF TO AUSTIN



TenthFuture, Inc., leaders welcome players to its Annual Golf Tournament last year in Dallas. (Left to right: Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Presiding Prelate of the Tenth Episcopal District of the AME Church and CEO of TenthFuture, Inc.; Dr. Stan McKenzie, Episcopal Supervisor of the Tenth Episcopal District of the AME Church, Advisor to TenthFuture, Inc and former NBA Player; and Rev. George Johnson, Jr., Pastor of St. Paul AME Church in Waco and Chair of the TenthFuture, Inc. Golf Tournament.)

Greater TEXAS FCU Hosts Free Shred Day in Austin, Texas



Austin, TX - Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union (GTFCU) hosted a free Shred Day Event in Austin, Texas at the Airport Blvd. location on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

This was the first time a shred day was held at this location and the whole community was encouraged to come out and shred their personal and confidential documents for free, including bank statements, invoices, contracts and tax returns.

Over 68 cars attended and more than 4,000 pounds of paper were shredded and recycled by Shred-it on-site. Many attendees appreciated the ability to see their documents shredded in front of them and said that it made them feel better about participating in the event. GTFCU has shred day events across the state year-round, and has already hosted them at the Manor, Cedar Park and San Antonio locations this year.

Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union currently has 18 branches across the state of Texas and is known as AggieLand Credit Union in the Brazos Valley.

RED RAIDER RAETHAN



Look out, Lubbock! Raethan Bigham will be graduating this year, 2015, and is planning on attending Texas Tech University in the fall to study Engineering. The Bigham and Robertson family would like to congratulate Raethan Bigham for receiving a \$2,000 scholarship from Stephen F. Austin High School foundation scholarship program. Pictured are Angela Bigham (mother), Raethan Bigham and Reggie Bigham (father).

SPELMAN COLLEGE ANNOUNCES THE SELECTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT



Chapter Members & their families celebrate Spelman College Founders' Day. (Pictured on Right Dr. Christian Marie Bell)

April 12, 2015 - The Austin/San Antonio National Alumnae Association of Spelman College recently gathered to celebrate Founders' Day; and they are pleased to announce that Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell has been identified as the next president of the 134-year old institution of higher education, in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Founders' Day celebration began with a joyful and inspiring worship service at the Sweet Home Baptist Church in Round Rock known as "The Pinnacle of Praise" pastored by Rev. Dr. Dante Wright. The Spelman graduates in attendance made an offering to the Sweet Home high school youth ministry to encour-

age the pursuit of higher education.

Spelman graduates and their families continued the celebration of the College's Founders, Sophia Packard and Harriett Giles at Jack Allen's Kitchen. They founded the School in 1881 for the education of women of African descent recently out of slavery.

Spelman College, part of the Atlanta University Consortium is a top rated, nationally recognized liberal arts institution of higher education for young women. Spelman offers competitive studies in science and engineering and study abroad programs, as well. The School currently has an enrollment of approximately 2,100, with students from 41 states and

INSIDE



Captivating film illuminates passage of Civil Rights Act. See TOPFER Page 3



Residents stress lack of economic development. See ADLER Page 6



Senate confirms nation's top law enforcement official. See LYNCH Page 7

15 foreign countries. With a teacher student ratio of 11:1 and attention to developing leadership and a commitment to service, it is an exceptional environment that nurtures the whole person. This Historically Black College empowers women to be change agents in their communities and the world through their chosen professional careers and commitment to service. The Spelman Alumnae are the Living Legacy and in the Central Texas area they are involved in a wide array of professions and community service efforts.

Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell, President-elect will begin in August with the retirement of Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, who See CAMPBELL, page 2

THE COMMUNIQUE



Cofield serves on the board of directors for the CleanTX Foundation

continued from page 1
speaker.

The top ranking seniors in each major are as follows: Biology, Darrell B. J. Robinson, Binta Sidibeh; Business Administration, Keisha Meashall Jones, Rufaro Mukahadzi, Tochukwu Joshua Nwozor; Chemistry, Brandon Eric Worden;

Computer Science Patrick Jalwiny Agenonga, Abuchi Okey Obiegbu; Criminal Justice, Bakari Lee Jefferson, Simone Olivia Sawyer; Education, Nancy Janneth Ruiz-Mata, Felicia Piggue-Johnson; English, Stephanie Marie Frausto, Sybil Kim Hay; History, Derry P. Dydell, Jr., Brittany R. White; Kinesi-

ology, Angela Elizabeth Skaggs, Ashlea Michelle Tolbert; Music, Jalal Tariq Goggins; Psychology, Alessandra Cristina Rose Cannon, Shanequiwa Danielle Sledge; and Sociology, Kadiatu Gelo Jabbie.

Cofield serves on the board of directors for the CleanTX Foundation, corporate ad-

visory board of BioDrill, was the former chair of the District of Columbia Commission for Women Economic Development Committee, and has been named a Top 40 Under 40 alumna by Howard University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Information Systems.

Honors Convocation,

scheduled during Reunion Weekend 2015 and prior to Commencement Convocation, also features the HT concert choir, under the direction of Dr. Gloria Quinlan, and the Elite Combo, under the direction of Dr. Javier Stuppard. Parking with a shuttle service is available on Chalmers Avenue.



Faye Rencher, Ita Ufot, LaShawn Tanksley, Rev. Dr. Dante Wright Traci Bermis, Tiffany Lemon, Judge Harriet Murphy, Tiffany Dudley, Anita E. Dabney, Chapter Pres., Dr. Tara Heyliger (not pictured Dr. Christian Marie Bell).

BREWER: "Quite simply, Dr. Campbell is the right leader at the right time" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has served with distinguished leadership for 13 years. Dr. Campbell, a native Philadelphian, but long-time New Yorker, has a reputation as a dynamic leader in education, the arts and the public sector. She is recognized as a visionary in her cultivation of the Studio Museum of Harlem and creation of new programs and expansion of student and faculty diversity at the New York University Tisch School. Dr. Campbell was also appointed by President Obama as Vice Chair for the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

It will be an exciting time of transition for the College, Dr. Campbell's experience and vision will allow her to chart a successful future for Spelman continuing the culture of high expectations and hallowed traditions amidst the challenges presented in the higher education arena today. "Quite simply, Dr. Campbell is the right leader at the right time," stated Rosalind Gates Brewer, Chair, Spelman College Board of Trustees and President & CEO of Sam's Club; "...she will further elevate Spelman's leadership on issues of critical importance to our nation and indeed our world".

We invite young women in the Central Texas area to explore the opportunities at Spelman College.

Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson Statement on the Confirmation of Loretta Lynch as United States Attorney General



WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson (FL-24) issued the following statement after the United States Senate confirmed Loretta Lynch as Attorney General of the United States:

"Yesterday, I was proud to witness the confirmation of the first female, African American

Attorney General of the United States of America, Loretta Lynch. I join the women of the Congressional Black Caucus in saluting her with a huge thumb's up!" said Congresswoman Wilson.

"It was a great day in Congress, in the U.S. Senate, and all across America."

Congresswoman

Wilson is a third-term Congresswoman from Florida representing parts of Northern Miami-Dade and Southeast Broward counties.

Lynch is the 83rd and current Attorney General of the United States, having recently served as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

DON'T MISS OUT!

The Texas Lottery Commission Invites You to Attend: "Doing Business Texas Style" Spot Bid Fair

In conjunction with: DFW Minority Supplier Development Council's ACCESS 2015

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Tuesday, May 12, 2015 | 9:15 am - 11:30 am & 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

The Spot Bid Fair is FREE of charge!

Small, minority-owned, and Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) will have a unique opportunity to compete for bid awards and network with state agencies and institutions of higher education. Bids must be submitted to agency staff on-site.

Bid opportunities available for view and download at:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/bidops/current_bid_opportunities/index.phtml

For more information contact:

Tiffany Dockery: (512) 471-2863 or tiffany.dockery@austin.utexas.edu
Dominik Mendoza: (512) 389-4538 or dominik.mendoza@tpwd.state.tx.us



SUPPORTING TEXAS EDUCATION
AND VETERANS

CHURCH & TOWN BULLETIN

All The Way at Austin's Topfer Theatre

by Naomi Richard Villager Columnist



Production photo for ALL THE WAY. Photo by Kirk Tuck

Princess as the voice of Puffin. He has done hundreds of commercials and television productions, including Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Everybody Loves Raymond, Cold Case, Malcolm in the Middle, Law and Order: LA, Hannah Montana, and many more. Vinovich is a graduate of the Juilliard Acting School under John Houseman, and a three-time winner of the LA

Drama-Logue Awards.

A searing, enthralling dramatization of President Johnson's first year in office, All The Way illuminates the passage of The Civil Rights Acts and a pivotal point in American history. All The Way enjoyed critical success earning the 2013 Drama Desk Award, Drama League Award, Outer Critics Circle, and New York Drama Critics' Circle

Awards for Best Play as well as the 2014 Tony Award for Best Play.

For those who love history and can endure the language, this is a great production. The setting, the makeup and the wardrobe are all reminiscent of the time period. It is well performed and well directed. A great stage play and you still have time to purchase tickets!

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The Church of Pentecost, USA Inc. 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.

APRIL 27, FIRST DAY EARLY VOTING FOR MAY 9, 2015 LOCAL ELECTIONS

AUSTIN, TX - Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir is reminding voters that Early Voting for the May 9th local General and Special Elections begins on Monday, April 27, 2015.

12 local jurisdictions including the cities of Cedar Park, Lago Vista, Lakeway, Leander, Manor and West Lake Hills. School districts of Eanes ISD and Leander ISD are also on the ballot. Austin Community College, City of Austin and Austin ISD are not holding May 2015 elections. 77,681 Travis County voters are eligible to cast a ballot in this election and election officials anticipate a fair turnout.

web site and voters may view and print their personalized ballot at www.votetravis.com to determine if they are eligible to cast a ballot in the May election.

office at 238-VOTE.

DeBeauvoir will be in the Washington DC area this week at a meeting of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Standards Committee. She is one of only two Texas appointees to the national committee, working on developing standards for voting systems across the country.

"Travis County has an excellent Early Voting Program and utilizes Vote Centers on Election Day to make voting easy and accessible so eligible voters have the opportunity to let their voice be heard during this election" DeBeauvoir said.

Sample ballots for the 12 jurisdictions can be found on the Elections

A list with maps of all Early Voting locations may be found on the County Clerk's Elections web site www.traviscountyelections.org or by calling the Clerk's

Group Home Summit set for May 4

On May 4, 2015 there will be a Group Home Summit at St. James Episcopal Church, 1941 Webberville Road. The event will be from 7- 8:30 p.m.

each panel member to give a short introduction and their agency's connection to group homes. The moderator will ask a series of question, then questions will be open to the audience.

The Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association is hosting a summit to promote community safety. This summit come two weeks after a fatal stabbing that occurred within the neighborhood boundaries at a group home. This summit is to promote a dialogue concerning group homes and safety. The meeting is open to all who would like to attend and participate in this discussion.

Representatives from the following agencies have been invited to participate in the panel: ATCIC, Central Health, Representatives from a group home, resident of group home, EMS-Tony Marquet, APD-Officer William Torres, Neighborhood Assistance Department-Carol Gibbs.

For information about the summit, contact Andrew Bucknall at 512-299-0187 or at andrewbucknall@yahoo.com.

The format will allow for

Olive Branch Fellowship of Austin / All Faith Chapel

4110 Guadalupe St Bldg #639 Austin, TX 78751

Sunday Morning Worship @ 11: am

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

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

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 and Praise /Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
 (to include Children's Choir Rehearsal and Bible Study with age appropriate Activities)

Rev. Jack C. Gause, Pastor

Public Input Agenda

- 2014-0212: Officer involved, non-fatal, shooting on March 18, 2014 at 6301 Berkman Drive.
 - Public Comment
- Complainants/citizens may address the Citizen Review Panel about the above items.
- If you wish to address the Citizen Review Panel, please sign up 30 minutes in advance of the public session. For additional information on any agenda item, please contact the Office of the Police Monitor, City of Austin 512-974-9090.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days before the meeting date. Please contact Julian Garza at the Office of the Police Monitor at 512-974-9090 or julian.garza@austintexas.gov for additional information. TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

Villager Youth Brigade will be taking sponsorships starting summer of 2015. Your support has been much appreciated over the years. Please continue to invest in Austin's youth. We look forward to another successful year with some promising students. FMI Call 512-476-0082

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The Indian Cobra



Genesis Stiggers
Elgin Middle School

The Indian Cobra has many names, such as the Spectled Cobra, the Asian Cobra, and the Binocellate Cobra. The Indian Cobra is located, hints the name, in India and other parts of South Asia. In fact, this species is apart of the big four: The Indian Cobra, The Common Krait, The Russell's Viper, and The Saw-Scaled Viper. These four snake species make the most snakebites on humans in India, making them very dangerous. Today we will be focusing on the Indian Cobra, the animal that made second deadliest animal on the

planet.

In India, the Indian Cobra is apart of life. They are found in Indian mythology and are a big part of the culture. In India, snakecharmers are usually seen making the snake dance with its magical flute. The Indian Cobra is currently protected with the Indian Wildlife Protection Act in 1972. The Indian Cobra is part of the genus Naja, and the family of Elapidae.

The Indian Cobra has many unique designs and pattern. The colors of this species have a wide range and the most common pattern they have is a spectacle shape on its hood. Indian Cobras are very long and most adult snakes are 1-1.5 meters long. With its different designs, patterns, and colors, the snake can be hard to spot so watch out. In South Africa there are many animals that can harm you, so if you are ever at a trip through India, make sure you watch for the dangerous, Indian Cobra.

Monster Jam



Kevin Parish
Park Crest M.S.

Today was a good day. My ride came to pick me up and we went to go eat lunch. Then we to a Monster Truck Jam with my friends at Frank Erwin Center. The

Monster Trucks were huge and heavy, they weigh around 1,300 pounds. One of the many things that they did was race and do wheelies.

Overall, the drivers and their trucks did seven competitions. One or two of my favorite events were Monster Jam ATV race, where 8 vehicles race around the track 4 times to win and Monster Jam Freestyle where the trucks can do whatever they want, like a donut, wheelies and destroyed cars. Monster Jam was pretty fun if it comes back you should go see it. Go Pumas.

“Revolutionary” Financial Aid



Kiara Myers
Vista Ridge H. S.

This past weekend I visited Harvard University for Visitas, which is the admitted students weekend. I had been struggling to make a decision on where I wanted to go for college for many weeks, but I have finally made my choice. I was debating between UT Austin, Rice University, and Harvard University for a few weeks. My visit at Harvard this weekend was great because of the many people I met and the beautiful campus. They had lots of activities and events for us to learn more about what the college had to offer for parents and students.

For many years Harvard has boasted having a revolutionary financial aid system that extends need to a growing amount of families. Indeed, it does have enormous benefits for low-income families that cannot afford an elite pri-

vate school education. However, middle class America rides the bubble of this system and shares the greatest financial sacrifice amongst these families. Families making under around \$120,000 receive a duly deserved free education, and many families above that scale receive a smaller amount of aid. Parents who are fairly wealthy of course have no problem with paying full tuition. This leaves many in between to take on a large percentage of the \$260,000 cost of going there for four years.

I understand that these families make more money, but many parents are still financially unable to contribute this amount of money to their child's education without taking out a lot of loans or dipping into their retirement funds. They also do not take into account family situations such as divorce in creating financial aid packages. It's sad that many people must turn down their admissions offers because of this factor, but I have found great peace with my decision to go to the University of Texas. God has truly blessed me in giving me the opportunity to make such a choice, and I couldn't be more thrilled to become a Longhorn in August. Hook 'Em!

Reading STAAR Test



SaNaya White
Cedars Int'l Academy

I took the reading STAAR last week and we already got our test scores back. We didn't get our re-

sults on the math and science tests yet. I was kind of nervous about all the tests I took at first but after I finished each one, I felt pretty confident. I had already known I was going to pass the reading test and I did! I passed and got commended! Commended means that you didn't miss very many questions and you only missed a few. I was very excited when I got the news that I passed and got commended. I can't wait until I get the results for science and math! I just pray I pass.

Spring Show



Latrice Lipscomb
Manor High School

Manor High School cheerleaders had a great time on Saturday, April 25th at the spring show of the year. The event was located at the Ann Richards School gymnasium and was hosted by Lonestar cheer company. There were many performances and fun events,

including jump-off competitions. Winners of the jump-offs received trophies and one of our own Manor High School cheerleaders took one home. Participants of the performances ranged everywhere from 3years of age all the way to high school cheerleaders.

This event was a great way to showcase the amazing work that the head coach at Lonestar puts into her company and the great school spirit of the performing cheerleaders. Lonestar will also be putting on a Winter Show sometime around that season and as of now, it will be held at the same location. Details of the next Winter Show is to be announced and I hope everyone has a great week.

Testing



Aaron Williams
Kealing M.S.

This week we took the STAAR test for three days of the week. Monday was the math test, Tuesday was the science test, and Wednesday was the social studies test. The test I had the most problems with was the social

studies test, after that was the math test, and the easiest was the science test. I am so glad that we have finished taking them although, they will let people retake parts of the STAAR test if they need to in May.

I have a few cousins that are on a dance team and they had practice earlier this week. I thought that we would be able to watch them, but they have closed practices so we went to the gym and played basketball. I had fun because there were some guys already at the gym and they challenged us to a game of twenty-one. Needless to say, our team won and since I helped it made me feel even better.

Testing is Over



De'Ja Hill
Lamar Middle School

Hello readers, This week nothing really happened in school except completing the STAAR test. Monday through Wednesday were the days we had to take the remainder of the test, but because I was out of school on Monday I had to take my math test on Thursday. I had a hard time with the test because

math is not my best subject, but I hope I did well on it.

The end of the school year is coming near and I cannot wait to go to high school. One of the reasons I am excited about starting high school is because I get to continue dancing, which is something I really like to do. However, the main reason is because I want to study aquatic science. This has always been something I have been interested in because I have always wondered what else is in the ocean.

Next month is special to me because Mother's Day and my mom's birthday are in that month. My mom's birthday is on May 29, 2015 and we are going to do something real special for her. I cannot wait to give her the gift we have in store for her.

Excited



Imani Demps
Del Valle High School

This week went good I had prom Saturday. I really enjoyed myself, everything is just coming so fast we have five weeks left of

school then I get my diploma. I'm so excited I really can't explain how I feel but it's a good feeling. Now I just have to worry about capstone and I will be done with everything. Capstone is basically a senior project they just call it capstone at Del Valle. I have to go in front of some people and talk about the effect that cellphones have on young teens and really everyone in society. I have really been slacking on that but I got five weeks to pull something together. I know I can do it. I'm so excited, June 4th hurry up!

Green Week



Jarian Galloway
Harmony Academy

This past week, a club named SPARKS included Harmony Science Academy in its first Green Week. Everyday this week SPARK has invited students to donate a recyclable or gently-used item to the charity of the day. In example, on Monday, students were instructed to donate plastic

bottles for a charity that cleans water sources. Each student who donated was given a pass to wear jeans and a shirt of the club's chosen color (i.e. Thursday was blue shirt day) Those who were not able to donate items could donate one to two dollars in exchange for the same pass.

Thanks to the club and those who participated, this year's Green Week was a success! SPARK received many donations for the charities from students and even many of the teachers who were involved.

Hopefully this week will be a reoccurring event for the years to come so that we can celebrate our Earth and work towards making our planet clean and safe.

YOUTH BRIGADE

Different Teaching Techniques



have noticed that the teachers are coming up with new ways to have the student learn such as; projects, lab work, and anything else that does not require them to lecture to us the entire class period, which is fine with me.

On another note the choir and guitar classes are having an end of the year fundraiser. They are selling 'The World's Finest Chocolate' candy bars all of which are \$1 each. All proceeds from the sale of the candy bars will go to fund the choir, guitar, and other music programs; all help will be greatly appreciated.

Zyon Hill
Reagan High School

Hello readers,
Since the school year is coming to an end it appears that some of the teachers are using different teaching techniques. In some of my classes I

Upcoming Events



First, we are having a field trip to the Inner Space Caverns even though I already went, but it will be cool to go again. Then, after that, we are having another field trip to the Long Center Orchestra. On that day, we have the dance. After that is field day and then end of school parties. Each of these events I will write an article about them. This is Erika keeping you informed. Til next time, Bye.

Erika Lipscomb
Manor Elementary

In a few weeks, 5th grade is going to have a lot of stuff going on.

STAAR Test



Sarah Robertson
Athlos Leadership Acad.

At Athlos Leadership Academy, last week on Tuesday and Wednesday, 6th and 7th grades had to take the State of Texas Assessments of Academic

Readiness (STAAR) test. I was so happy to finally take the STAAR test and get it over with because I was a little nervous. Tuesday we took the math section and Wednesday we took the reading sections.

Since we have been preparing for the STAAR test, I went to bed early and ate a good breakfast, taking the test this year was surprisingly easy. When 6th and 7th grades finished the STAAR test we got to play and eat outside which was really fun and relaxing. I am glad that the STAAR test is over for this year and now I'm just waiting for the school year to be over.

Track Season



Hannah Robertson
Connally High School

Connally High School girls' track season is over. This year our team did better than the year before. We only had a couple of seniors but numerous underclassmen wasn't afraid if a little competition made our team good. I was proud to be on the girls' track team at

Connally. We came to our new district track meet ready to compete and that's exactly what happened. We started things off by getting 4th in the 400 meter relay. Which meant we got to advance to the area track meet.

Also, we had a lot of other events that got to advance to area but my track career ended with area and I'm very happy with the results. I'm really hopeful for the future, I can see the underclassmen stepping up and winning a district championship in the years to come. I've learned a lot about life, conditioning, pushing yourself and team work from four years of running track. These lessons I will take with me to the next level.

College Signing Day

GenTX Day is Friday, May 1, 2015 @ HT, 900 Chicon St, Austin, TX 78702



As our #AISDProud students take their next steps toward realizing their futures, Austin and communities across Texas are coming together to celebrate their successes—and College Signing Day festivities. In the days leading up to GenTX Day, please promote, celebrate and congratulate the students of Generation TX—especially graduating seniors.

GenTX Day is a signature event of Generation Texas, a statewide movement to ensure students have the information and inspiration they need to graduate—and achieve their highest potential.

AISD invites everyone to wear their college T-shirts for College Signing Day.

Wearing a favorite college T-shirt is a fun and easy way to participate. When we all wear our shirts, our AISD communities send a powerful message about our belief in higher education—and our students. Wearing a college T-shirt invites conversations for people to share their own personal stories, choices, and careers—conversations that could inspire and change a student's life.

Help AISD Promote College Signing Day—and Our College-ready Culture. For additional information visit www.austinisd.org/announcements/help-aisd-promote-gentx-day-and-our-college-ready-culture

Bavu Blakes Day



Damon Luckett II
Hays High School

Today, I am going to talk about a man who has

his own official day (besides his birthday) from Austin, Texas. He is a rapper, on 16 vinyl records, and is a 7th grade humanity teacher. That man is Bavu Blakes. He is recognized by the city of Austin for helping kids from multiple communities and teaching music to the kids.

Bavu helped at a music camp for kids, middle school through high school and I learned a lot there. His official day started April 23, 2015 and I have no doubt that he did deserve it.

Presidential Transportation Pt. 3



Zachariah Washington
Cedars Academy

The most powerful man in the United States has a lot of ways to get around the country. If by land, by seas or by air the President has a lot of ways to travel. The 3 presidential vehicles that I will be talking about are Airforce I, Marine I and The Beast.

Air Force I is any air force aircraft that carries the President. It is well equipped with missiles, and bombs to carry the Command-in Chief since the 20th century. Fun fact about Air force I is that it can mid-air refuel when it runs out of gas. The Presidents air force I has an office where he can make

decisions, a conference room and a kitchen. Lastly, the first President to ever fly on an Air Force I is President John F. Kennedy.

Marine I is a Marine aircraft that carries the President. It was established in 1947 as an experimental unit tasked for testing tactics and techniques. Ever since, it has been the helicopter to carry the President of the U.S. In 1957 Dewight Eisenhower was away on vacation but was urgently needed back at the White house. What was normally a 2 hour car drive was reduced to a 7 minute helicopter flight because of Marine I.

The Beast is designed from the ground up by the Secret Security. The Beast is a moving car, a fortress impenetrable by bullets and bombs. At least 2 cars travel with the President wherever he goes. The President's motorcade is surrounded with up to 45 other armed vehicles including an identical decoy, local police, more armed vehicles and an ambulance.

Recycling




Malakhi Washington
Cedars Int'l Academy

Recycling is a great thing and it can save the lives of animals, plants and


people. Sometimes people don't recycle well. They need to start recycling. Have you heard of the three "R's"? Reduce. Re-use and Recycle.

Those words stand for a great thing that's why people need to do it. We can make this a great world if we start recycling. Many of the items that we use everyday are recyclable items. We all should make it a goal to recycle and save our planet!





Ready for a fresh start in college?






Free Minds is a college course in the humanities for adults who do not have college degrees and are living on low to moderate incomes.

Taught by professors from UT Austin and ACC
Subjects include literature, history, philosophy & writing
Tuition, books, and child care provided at no cost
Students earn six credits from ACC

Apply by July 6, 2015

For more information visit FreeMindsAustin.org or call 512-610-7961.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CITY ~ STATE ~ NATIONAL ~ WORLD

The Esuberante Boutique

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon



Over the years, more and more African Americans in Austin are making their marks by opening up their own businesses. For instance, Shameka and Terriekki who are both cousins decided to start their own business called,

“Esuberante Boutique.” Moreover, Esuberante Boutique has several components to it, such as being an online store and also for holding various fashion events.

The term Esuberante, is derived from an Italian origin meaning, “Excessive, more than necessary, desirable, immoderate,” which also defines their business model. According to the owners, “Esuberante Boutique’s team has over fifteen

years in the beauty and fashion industry and delivers style, sophistication and elegance to the distinguished fashioners.”

Just recently, the Esuberante Boutique held their 4th “Shop in the Citi” event. Moreover, this event was meant for other small business owners who are in the fashion industry to showcase their products. According to Terriekki, “It was open for other small businesses to promote their products.”



“We are family... We are Esuberante Boutique.” Owners Terriekki and Shameka. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

Togolese AA of Central Texas Celebrates 55th Independence

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon



Dr. Bege Dou, professor at the Université de Lomé

The nation of Togo first received its independence on April 27, 1960. Consequently, the Togolese American Diaspora celebrated the country’s 55th Independence. The Togolese Diaspora throughout the world, including the one of Central Texas celebrated their nation’s Independence Day. The Independence Day celebration was “toned down and low keyed”. Yet, the Togolese Diaspora came together to recognize their country’s Independence Day.

The Independence Day was low keyed due to the fact of the present presidential elections occurring in the nation of Togo on the same day as the independence event. Despite, it being toned down, Dr. Prosper focused on how the Togolese Diaspora could help in their native land.

Since its independence, Togo has faced military coups, political and economic instabilities and an uphill struggle for democracy. Moreover, Togo is a small country located in West Africa with a population of 6.8 million. However now, Togo is on its pathway to political reform and reconciliation among its people.



Save The Date: Commemorate Juneteenth Friday, June 19 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate freedom in honor of the 150th anniversary of Juneteenth with the Bullock Texas State History Museum. Join us for an exclusive VIP program, reception, and preview of two exhibitions featuring African American artists celebrating traditions of storytelling through art, *And Still We Rise: Race, Culture and Visual Conversations and Reflections— African American Life from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collection.* Invitation and details to follow.

Following the reception, stay for our exclusive party featuring the opportunity to meet and mingle with artists featured in the exhibitions, music by the W.C. Clark Blues Revue, and light refreshments in the Museum’s Grand Lobby from 6 - 8 p.m.

Reflections— African American Life from the Myrna Colley-Lee Collection is organized by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC in collaboration with the office of Myrna Colley-Lee, and was curated by Rene Paul Barilleaux of the McNay Art Museum, San Antonio.

For additional information visit www.the-storyoftexas.com

Mayor Adler Attends a Community Brunch



Mayor Adler and Fatima hear residents express thoughts towards the treatment of African Americans in Central Texas. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

On the 100th day since being elected, Mayor Adler attended a brunch meeting organized by the Austin Social Justice coalition of Austin. At this event, Mayor Adler had the opportunity to meet and greet numerous people in the African American community. Not only was it an opportunity for Mayor Adler to meet people, but also an occasion to directly hear from the African American community.

At this event, the “microphone” was opened to the attendees to ask questions or speak directly to the Mayor. Some of the questions posed ranged from the Body Cameras of the Austin Police Department; gentrification; and the lack of economic development in the African American community. Unlike other Mayors and City Councils, Mayor Adler plans to act on some of the issues that were raised by the African American Community.

Moreover, it was an opportunity for people like Victor Reed and Brandon to be heard by the Mayor. For instance Victor expressed his discontentment for the lack of jobs offered to African Americans in Austin; despite the economic growth that the city has seen. Furthermore, he criticized some African American leaders for not doing enough for their people. In addition, Council Member Ora Houston of District 1, who is from the “African American Opportunity District”, was also in attendance.

Huston Tillotson Austin Alumni Chapter

It’s that time of year again for our Annual Golf Tournament! The Huston-Tillotson University Alumni will host the **27th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament, Shot Gun Starts, Friday, May 8, 2015, 8:00 a.m.** at Riverside Golf Course, 1020 Grove Boulevard, Austin, Texas, 512.386.7006

As you know, it is becoming increasingly important that we provide support for private and church

supported colleges and universities in order to continue offering our students additional educational opportunities. Huston-Tillotson University is a small, private, liberal arts institution providing vital services to youth from all over Austin, Texas, and other parts of the United States, as well as a growing number of students from other countries. The Austin community has been the primary beneficiary of the contributions of many ex-students and graduates of Huston-Tillotson University over the years. As alumni, our primary goal is to support the University personally and to cultivate additional benefactors in the community. We believe it is extremely important to maintain this historical vi-

able institution to benefit future generations. You help us do this by participating in fundraiser which benefits the University. We invite you to join us in this most worthy endeavor to provide funds for the University and at the same time enjoy a day of golf.

If you wish to join us as a golfer, sponsor other golfers, and or make a donation, please complete the registration form. The fee per golfer is **\$75.00** and the deadline is **May 7th**. The fee includes lunch, range balls, green fees and golf cart. Should you have additional questions, please give me a call. I look forward to seeing you, thank you again for your previous support.

Sincerely, Marvin H. Douglas, Chair, 512.477.2998

LEGAL NOTICE

These Texas Lottery Commission Scratch-Off games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1600	Veterans Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.14	\$2	5/18/15	11/14/15
1645	Caesars® - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.90	\$5	5/29/15	11/25/15
1542	Break the Bank - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.80	\$2	6/24/15	12/21/15
1543	Weekly Grand - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.92	\$2	6/24/15	12/21/15
1591	White Ice 8's - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.13	\$2	6/24/15	12/21/15
1599	Golden Key - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.47	\$5	6/24/15	12/21/15
1615	Cowboys - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.48	\$5	6/24/15	12/21/15
1616	Houston Texans - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.61	\$5	6/24/15	12/21/15
1583	100X The Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 2.86	\$20	6/24/15	12/21/15
1394	\$7,500,000 Fortune - Overall Odds are 1 in 2.47	\$50	6/24/15	12/21/15

For detailed odds and game information, visit txlottery.org or call 1-800-375-6886. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and veterans. © 2015 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



CLASSIFIEDS ~ PUBLIC INFORMATION

Loretta Lynch Confirmed as Attorney General;

1st Black Woman to Hold Post

by Stacy M. Brown

Special to the NNPA from The Washington Informer

Loretta Lynch has spent much of her life fighting for the fair and equal justice that President Barack Obama called the foundation of the nation's democracy.

But, to Lynch and her supporters, her confirmation on Thursday, April 23 as the next attorney general may have seemed that it took a lifetime for the Senate to vote and approve Obama's pick to succeed Eric Holder.

"This should be a happy day for America," said Missouri Democratic Senator Claire McCaskill. "Republicans opposed her merely because she agrees with the man who selected her," McCaskill said.

With the 56-43 vote to confirm her, Lynch, 55, becomes the first African-American female attorney general in United States history.

As head of the Justice Department, Lynch, who's served as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York since 2010, will oversee a vast portfolio of cases, including counterterrorism and voting rights; public corruption and white-collar crime; judicial recommendations and policy reviews.

"All of which matter to the lives of every American, and shape the story of our country," Obama said in a state-

ment.

"She will bring to bear her experience as a tough, independent, and well-respected prosecutor on key, bipartisan priorities like criminal justice reform. And, she will build on our progress in combating newer threats like cyber crime. Loretta's confirmation ensures that we are better positioned to keep our communities safe, keep our nation secure, and ensure that every American experiences justice under the law."

Congressional Black Caucus Chair, Rep. G.K. Butterfield, had joined many others in expressing outrage over the long delay in confirming Lynch, who Obama picked in November to replace Holder.

Lynch's nomination cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee in February, but she still waited longer than the seven most recent U.S. attorneys general combined for a vote on the Senate floor, Butterfield said.

"Today is a historic day for our country as Loretta Lynch becomes the first African-American female to serve in the role of our nation's top law enforcement official," he said. "Her impeccable qualifications in this important position will help

our country move the criminal justice system forward."

With the seemingly unending videos and reports surfacing in a growing number of cities where African-Americans are losing their lives in confrontations with law enforcement, many said it was important that the attorney general nomination would no longer be held up.

"It was ridiculous," said Northeast resident Carl Moore.

"Blacks are losing their lives and white Republicans are stopping a black woman from such a critical leadership position. It had to come to a head at some point," said Moore, 56.

Born in Greensboro, North Carolina, Lynch grew up 60 miles to the east in Durham, North Carolina. According to a CNN report, Lynch's father was a fourth-generation Baptist minister; her mother, an English teacher and school librarian.

As a child, Lynch rode on her father's shoulders to his church, which served a meeting place for students organizing anti-segregation boycotts in the early 1960s, she told the Judiciary panel at her January confirmation hearing.



Loretta Lynch



New Jobs for the Week of 04/26/2015

- Faculty, Counselor Round Rock Campus Hours are as assigned. Must maintain an established schedule. Some positions may also include evenings and weekends. Salary is assigned according to the Full-Time Faculty Salary Scale. **Job# 1504006** Technician, Electronic Security Service Center Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. \$2,879-\$3,599/Monthly **Job# 1504019** Supervisor, Student Life Northridge Campus Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. flexible \$3,174-\$3,968/Monthly **Job# 1504013** **Apply at HR Middle Fiskville Rd. 6th Floor, Austin, TX 78752 Job Line (512) 223-5621 http://www.austincc.edu EEOC/AA/M/F/D/V**

EMPLOYMENT / PROPOSALS PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR SALE / FOR RENT / BIDS MISCELLANEOUS



City of Austin Featured Job Opportunities

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

- 911 Call Taker Trainee- Multiple Positions
- 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.

The City of Austin is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JAMES CLYDE KEYS Deceased, No. C-1-PB-15-000194 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

TERRY MOORE and all

The alleged heir (s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed in Probate Court No. 1, Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe, Austin, Texas, on January 29, 2015, an Application to Determine Heirship & for Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request (s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said JAMES CLYDE KEYS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned inserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on January 30, 2015.

Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. BOX 149325 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy: O. RUIZ

C-1-PB-15-000194 28P - 000001726

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF LINDA LOUISE HOLT Deceased, No. C-1-PB-15-000700 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

ROBERT D. HOLT JR. AND ALL

The alleged heir (s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed in Probate Court No. 1, Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse, 1000 Guadalupe, Austin, Texas, on April 15, 2015, an Application to Determine Heirship & for Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request (s) that said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said LINDA LOUISE HOLT, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned inserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, on April 16, 2015.

Dana DeBeauvoir County Clerk, Travis County, Texas P.O. BOX 149325 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78714-9325

By Deputy:

M. LIMON



C-1-PB-15-000700 28P - 000001806

Austin Travis County Integral Care is currently soliciting proposals through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for Construction Manager-at-Risk Services. RFPs may be mailed or sent electronically, by contacting Brody Ballard at brody.ballard@atcic.org or (512) 440-4022 beginning April 27, 2015. The deadline to submit a proposal under the RFP is 2 p.m. CST on May 19, 2015. Historically Underutilized Businesses, including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses, are encouraged to apply.

City of Austin Purchasing Office

The City of Austin Purchasing Office invites you to view current bid solicitations at https://www.ci.austin.tx.us/financeonline/vendor_connection/solicitation/solicitations.cfm. Vendors are encouraged to register on-line in the City's Vendor Self Service System. Once your company is registered, you will receive notifications about new bid opportunities. For additional information regarding current bid opportunities or Vendor Registration, please call the Purchasing Office at 512-974-2500.

For information on the City of Austin's Minority Owned and Women-Owned Procurement Program and the certification process, please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources Department at 512-974-7600 or visit their website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/snbr>.



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PROGRAMS ~ AWARENESS

The Frederick Douglass Club of Austin, Texas Mother's Day Weekend-Jazz Brunch Scholarship Fundraiser



Douglass Club members

AUSTIN, TX - The Frederick Douglass Club of Austin, Texas (the Douglass Club) will host its Mother's Day Weekend Jazz Brunch Scholarship Fundraiser on Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Southern Hospitality Restaurant, 6700 Middle Fiskville Road #405, Austin, Texas 78752. This scholarship fundraiser is open to everyone, men, women, and children. 60 percent of proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to fund scholarships.



toire and performance background. There will also be door prizes and local vendors; providing you an opportunity to get Mom a great Mother's Day gift.

The Douglass Club is a nonprofit women's social and cultural community organization with 109 years of outstanding service to improve the quality of life for all citizens. It is the oldest African-American women's service organization in Austin and Central Texas. The organization was formed to

provide an avenue for African-American women to address the needs of their family, community, and nation, by addressing issues that improve quality of life. The Douglass Club has a special emphasis on providing educational opportunities for youth in their formative years. For over 100 years, it has provided youth scholarships, good citizenship awards, aid to the elderly, and contributions in the community. Our motto, adopted in 1906 from the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC), is "Lifting As We Climb."

For information to purchase tickets or for an interview, please contact Felecia Williams-Dennis at 512-784-4917 or feleciaywd@gmail.com

Unequal Education



by William Purcell Villager Columnist

Education is an important component in the United States. However, although it is an important factor, education in the United States is suffering due to a learning divide. The fact of the matter is that black children are receiving less of an education than white children. While 91 percent of white children aged 3 to 5 who weren't enrolled in kindergarten were read to by family members three or more times per week, 78 percent of black children were read to with the same frequency.

In schools, black students are more likely to be held back than white students which results in

more black students being likely to drop out. According to the U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection, 12 percent of black students are held back in the 9th grade, with just 4 percent of white students being held back. If you combine all the grade levels together, black students are almost 3 times more likely than white students to be held back and more likely to drop out of high school instead of earning their diploma.

There is also a lack in school funding towards poorer districts with high minority rates. A report from last March showed that there is an 18 percent funding gap between rich

districts and poor districts. In total, 23 states have more local funding going towards rich districts than poor districts which leads to poor schools having a less quality education due to the lack of quality teachers and other resources.

When looking at these statistics, it puts a major unease for parents who have African-American children due to them being more at risk than white students. It is important to make sure the children are guided in the right direction in spite of these obstacles because the government is not going to do it for us. We can also make the attempt to contact our local government and bring up this issue to them in hopes of making African-American children more fortunate in the education system. If we continue to push, we just might be able to succeed.

Learn the Techniques to Become a Successful Leader in Your Business!

DATE: May 9th 2015

LOCATION: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas
1315 Barbara Jordan Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78723

Who is This Event For?

This highly anticipated event is geared towards helping small business owners, supervisors, managers, coaches, team leaders - no matter what your official title may be. Our leadership seminars will teach you the skills to become more effective and successful leaders!

TCRP FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT; WILL PURSUE OTHER GOALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS WORK



Jim Harrington announced his retirement 25 years after he founded TCRP, as follows:

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Members of the Board:

September 23 will mark 25 years of the Texas Civil Rights Project. Having shepherded the Project, with your help, from a staff of two to 36 and growing a healthy financial reserve and inching my way to age 69, the time has come to begin the retirement and transition process.

I want to dedicate the last few good years of my life, to the extent they are in the cards, toward working directly with people in a different way. Human rights are my passion; and I will do my best to continue to advocate on a personal level, and through speaking, writing, and perhaps co-counseling a case or two. I am not riding into the sunset.

Unfortunately, the bigger the Project has become, the more administration I have had to do. I can't even remember the last time I was in court or met with a client, once a perk of the job. At this point in my life, I feel a call to serve people in a different way through volunteering and church ministry. Not to mention spending more time with my seven (soon to be eight) grandchildren.

The Project is on very good footing, and the timing seems fortuitous. The staff is seasoned; operating systems have been honed; and we enjoy the respect of the community. We own three of our buildings, mortgage free; and we only have to pay utilities on our Houston facility. I have every confidence the Project will go on to bigger and better things.

I would imagine this transition process will be lengthy and will take us at least up to the 25th anniversary dinner, a great fundraising opportunity – and another good piece of timing J.

I personally thank you for your support and service and for the pleasure of working with you. I am particularly honored, as an attorney, to have represented so many awesome people in their struggle for justice.

I look forward to joining with you to make this transition as seamless as possible. Best regards,

Jim

Pennsylvania, 59 year old David Kassick was shot by Hummelstown police officer, Lisa Mearkle. The incident was caught thanks to the camera on Mearkle's stun gun and showed Mearkle fire two bullets four seconds apart, into Kassick's back as he lay face down. Mearkle is now facing homicide charges. A case

like this is a reason why police cameras are something that should be implemented in all police departments, so events like this won't go unnoticed. The Austin Police Department is now looking into making officers wear body cameras to document incidents. After the department is able to secure funding for it which

the Texas Senate is considering, it will put out requests for proposals.

Police cameras are the gateway to African-American victims of police brutality, having their cases become more heard and pursued by the law. It'll be some time before body cameras become national, but we're at a good place to start.

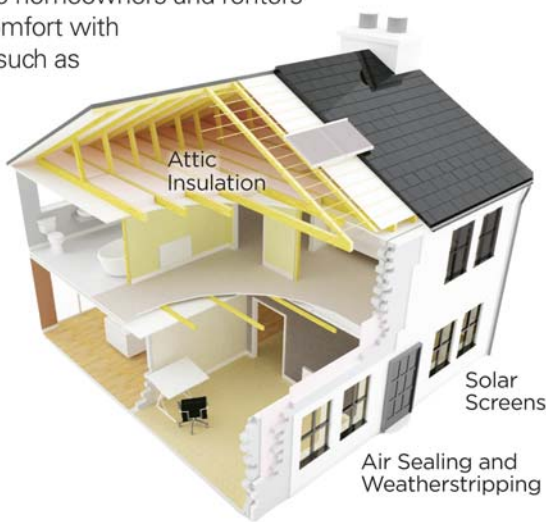
Does your home qualify for FREE HOME ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS?



Austin Energy helps income-eligible homeowners and renters save energy and improve indoor comfort with **free** home energy improvements, such as attic insulation, weatherstripping and window air conditioner repair or replacement.

You may qualify if:

- You are an Austin Energy customer
- Your home is 2,000 sq. ft. or smaller
- You meet income requirements



Find out if you qualify at austinenergy.com/go/weatherization or call 512-482-5346



The Phenomena of Police Body Cameras

by William Purcell III Villager Columnist



The phenomena of police body cameras are starting to catch on as an increasing number of police departments are enforcing their use. You may ask yourself, "do they actually help?" The answer to that is simple, yes. A 12 month study conducted in California revealed that the use of police body cameras has decreased

the amount of police force used by 50%. There was also a 90% decrease in the amount of complaints filed against the police.

That is not to say that the amounts of unlawful shootings against unarmed civilians have permanently stopped. It still happens to this day, but it is definitely becoming more attention centered thanks to the body cameras. Cases where police officers have been caught using deadly force on civilians have caused the

spread of body cameras. In North Charleston, South Carolina, Patrolman First Class Michael Slager was caught by a civilian's camera shooting 50 year old black man, Walter Scott. As a result of this footage, he was fired from the police department and charged with murder. Two state senators have now been pushing a body camera bill. The state now plans on using a federal grant of \$275,000 to buy 115 body cameras. 2 months ago in