When President Barack Obama was first elected eight years ago, the first thing that came out of the mouths of the leadership of the Republican Party was “We are going to make sure that he (Obama) does not have a successful administration. And they have been doing that ever since that is the only thing that he proposed. They started with the Affordable Health Care Act. This was the plan that President Obama was able to get through to provide health care for all American Citizens. It became known as “Obama Care” so that it could be targeted for failure. 

The Republican Party leadership has been working for the last eight years to overturn this program. And President-Elect Trump has agreed to make some changes in the plan. But, now that President-Elect Donald Trump is preparing to take over as this Nation's leader, the Republican majority wants him to make the repeal of the plan his first order of business. Trump has said that there will be some changes in the program. And that is as it should be. The plan may need some changes, but it does not need to be thrown out without something to replace it.

The African American community must remember that all politics are local. We have to be very astute and get involved in the issues that affect our very lives and look to local governments – City, County, State – to work in the areas that are not covered by the federal government. We cannot become complacent and wait for someone else to come to our rescue. We have to become active and get involved with every event that takes place in our city. We must be ready to do the work that makes the changes that we need.

The other thing that we need to do is support our African American business and entities that we develop. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. It is time to roll up our sleeves and get started.

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What a difference a Political Party makes

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THE 2016 BEAUTILLION HONOREES

Beau Beveren Lava Means, II
Beau Carrington Alexander Kearney
Beau Colin Malik Hancock
Beau Jamall Seth Little
Beau Austin Lee Duffin
Beau Jadon Dupre’ Little

(Texas Southern University), son of Mr. Beveren Means and Mrs. Angela Means, sponsored by Jack and Jill of America, Austin Chapter.

(University of Texas at San Antonio), son of Mr. Carl E. Kearney and Mrs. April V. Kearney, sponsored by Ms. Melissa Harvey.

(Austin Community College, succeeding to Abilene Christian University), son of Mr. Donnie Little and Mrs. Janice Little, sponsored by Austin Urban Music Festival.

(Austin Community College), son of Mr. Darrin Duffin and Mrs. Velozette Duffin, sponsored by Austin Area Urban League.

(Austin Community College, succeeding to Abilene Christian University), son of Mr. Donnie Little and Mrs. Janice Little, sponsored by Soul Tree Collective.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

10 workshops and a community service project were incorporated into the 2016 season, special thank you to all of our dedicated contributors! Each of the outstanding beaux received an ultramodern tablet computer courtesy of Lenovo. Pictured with the 2016 honorees are Vice President Lenovo World Wide Human Resources and Global Diversity, Yolanda Conyers and Jack & Jill Austin Chapter President Sheldy Starkes.

All photos are courtesy of KEEP IT DIGITAL.

Lenovo Technology Presentation – Each of the outstanding beaux received an ultramodern tablet computer courtesy of Lenovo. Pictured with the 2016 honorees are Vice President Lenovo World Wide Human Resources and Global Diversity, Yolanda Conyers and Jack & Jill Austin Chapter President Sheldy Starkes.

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AUSTIN, TX. In an unusual twist, Grant African Methodist Episcopal Worship Center members are cooking this year’s Thanksgiving’s dinner for anyone who wants to enjoy it, not just those in need. Dinner will be served on Sunday, November 20, immediately following the 10:15 a.m. Morning Worship Service. The public is invited. The church is located at 1015 Kramer Lane, Austin, Texas 78758, between Lamar Boulevard and Metric in Austin, Texas.

“The way I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,” said Rev. Sylvester Patton, III, pastor of Grant.

“We just want to share as we are celebrating the bounty of God. It doesn’t matter whether this has been a good or bad year in a person’s life, the fact that we are still here and made it this far is a God’s bounty worth celebrating.

“So, whether you are a family that simply couldn’t afford the familiar holiday spread or just didn’t feel like cooking this year, gather up the family and bring them on out,” said Rev. Patton. “It also includes working people and college students who are too far from family to bus travel ticket for both season holidays. We’ll provide the family dinner for Thanksgiving and you buy the tickets to go home for Christmas. Mom will be glad to see you then and we’re glad to see you now,” said Rev. Patton.

Games and activities will be provided to entertain children. The dinner menu includes turkey and dressing, with gravy and cranberry sauce, green beans, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, a variety of desserts and sweet tea. For more information, call Grant at 512-339-4726.

Rev. Sylvester Patton, III, left, pastor of Grant African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Worship Center, receives food donation from visiting A.M.E. pastor, Rev. Rodriguez Johnson (right), in coordination for Christmas. Mom will be glad to see you then and we’re glad to see you now.”

KAZI 88.7FM Says Goodbye to Louise “Mama T” Thomas

AUSTIN, TX. On Octo-
ber 30, 2016 radio angel Mrs. Louise Perkins Thomas, affectionately known as “Mama T” has departed this life.

The KAZI 88.7FM Radio Board, Station Manager and team will miss her deeply.

Mrs. Thomas was born in Elgin and graduated from Georgetown High School, Tillotson College (presently known as Austin-Tillotson University), and Madam’s Cosme-

She worked at the Austin State School as a teacher for thirty-five years. Mrs. Thomas also served as a Gospel Announcer on KAZI 88.7FM during the Oldies but Goodies pro-
gram for fifteen years. She loved making people happy, she always made music of the sick and shut-in, and she regularly gave love to the Austin area pastor. One of her favorite phrases was, “Music is not what I do… it’s who I am.”

Mrs. Thomas was a long-time and faithful mem-
ber of First Baptist Church Austin.

What most will re-
member about her is her larger than life smile, the delicious brownies, cookies, cabinets, pies and other special treats. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.
After the results from last week's presidential election, I along with all of my peers, experienced a wide range of emotions. Many of my peers were shocked, disappoin

tations, anger, etc. Our teachers pro

duced a three page brochure which

determined the beginning of the

earliest mentions of the New World as they called it. This first day went on for 20 days after they arrived and then they

tended to change or add to our lists to make sure that we had the right parts for our project. On the first day of the Challenge

in March. For instance, a child might tell their parents that they want to

sion or work hard to prove

sion for the next 4 years. President Elect Trump was able to understand that kind of goal. We

advice brings things too. So far I've donated 5K Run in March. So far I have sold about ten and I think that it can be posted

ogy, disappointment, an-

youtubers, or write their name on it and bring it back to the

on to do the computer why we do things. The story goes that the first Thanksgiving was held as a festival in 1621. It was
colored and appeared after their harvest in the New World as they called it. This harvest was reaped a bountiful harvest the following summer. President

park. During November our advisory brings things too. So far I've donated 5K Run in March. So far I have sold about ten and

floor of 120"x120"x144" we

taking off, we were very excited for our first match! We were able to view some ways to change or add to our robot. During the competi-
mayed help the child develop

on this topic. The discussion

that I will never forget my flight at iFLY. After that we put on our flight suits, helmets, and fllies. We flew our last activity as a STEM challenge.

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the rules of the school. The changes have helped the students discipline problems. However, it was a huge mistake for us to force the students to do things that way a few students who don’t want to follow the rules. We have a large amount of students that agree with them. The tardy sweeps has kind helped students get to class like there suppose to. Manor High School in all is very well off. If you have a good early college program, the early college program is growing and we have over 8,000 students. This year has the most students out of the early college program which is a huge success.

Millsap’s special event on Saturday, the 3rd of December!!! This event is put into the electors at what they want to vote for. This happens the decision was collected this year’s voter did not show up and if they are supposed to vote when they are supposed to vote. This year’s election has proved that every vote counts.

On Tuesday November 8th, 2016 the United States citizens decided who they wanted to be their president. Who they really were voting for was the electorate. The voters were given a certain time to show up to their polling offices before they were able to vote. The voter did not show up they were unable to vote and if they were late they could not vote. This year’s election has proved that every vote counts.

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On December 7th of this year my school Convington is having a band concert. This is an opportunity for everyone to have a chance to play their instrument. The instruments that are going to be played during the concert will be the saxophone, trumpet, and the tuba, and really enjoy it. The songs we are going to play for the first concert will be mostly Christmas music. I really like the song list! When I first started playing the saxophone I did not like at all and I thought that it would be very hard, but over time I have grown to really like it! My school will be at the concert as well as my parents. After the concert we will have a party and congratulate each other! With any luck!
Democrat Wins In the Republican Williamson County

By Toke (Church) Adjavan | Villager Columnist

As the Republican claimed the White House on election day, the Democrats managed to win in Williamson County. It has been a long while since a Democrat was elected to a Williamson County seat. As a result the Williamson County Democrats were more than happy about the win of a County Seat. So, on election day Terry Cook won the Williamson County Precinct 1 Commissioner position. The County Commissioners won. In addition to that the fielded numerous candidates that overcame any problem. democratic county Democrats managed to finally break the Republican's grip in that County. The election of Democrats can be credited to many factors which range from having a well-organized “get out the vote efforts” to that of demographic changes. Over the years, Williamson demographics have changed. According to Diaisons Vote, despite the diversity of Williamson County, numerous communities do not vote; or voting is at such a low percentage which helps the Republican Party. However, this presidential year brought out a diverse electorate.

The Williamson Democratic Party had a robust voter turnout effort. They made a lot of phone calls and walked throughout that particular precinct. Also, there was a very high enthusiasm within the party which meant that they were eager to go out to the polls. In addition, the party fielded numerous candidates that overcame that precinct which in turn again caused more people to go out to the polls to vote.

Terry Cook, Williamson County Precinct 1 Commissioner

The Democratic vote, the election spent another night overtaking highways, smashing store windows, setting fires and in at least one city, facing pepper spray and rubber projectiles from police trying to clear the streets. The demonstrations stretched into a third straight night Thursday and came to a head in Portland, Oregon, where thousands of marchers chanted, “We reject the president-elect!” while some lit firecrackers, sparked small blazes and used rocks and baseball bats to break the glass of businesses and vehicles.

Rubber Bullets and Fear: Trump Protesters Flood Streets Anew

by: Terrence Petty and Robert Jablon Associated Press

PORTLAND, OR (AP) — From New York to Illinois to California, in red states and blue, protesters decrying Donald Trump’s election spent another night overtaking highways, smashing store windows, setting fires and in at least one city, facing pepper spray and rubber projectiles from police trying to clear the streets. The demonstrations stretched into a third straight night Thursday and came to a head in Portland, Oregon, where thousands of marchers chanted, “We reject the president-elect!” while some lit firecrackers, sparked small blazes and used rocks and baseball bats to break the glass of businesses and vehicles.

Democrats have to tackle numerous issues. Some of the issues will be how does Pflugerville grow while retaining its small town vibe? Or how does the city of Pflugerville reflect its diversity when currently most of the city’s departments are headed by White Americans? As one can see, the Mayoral race could bring up numerous ballot initiatives.

In the Mayoral race, there were three candidates for this position. One of the candidates included Phillip Emmick, Brad Marshall, and Victor Gonzales. As one can see, the Mayoral candidates did bring out the diversity of the city of Pflugerville to the polls. In the City Council race, Doug Weiss was elected, but to a new course for the city. In Pflugerville, the new City Council will have to tackle numerous issues. Some of the issues will be how does Pflugerville grow while retaining its small town vibe? Or how does the city of Pflugerville reflect its diversity when currently most of the city’s departments are headed by White Americans?

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Marijuana Possession Introduced for Consideration by 85th Texas Legislature

AUSTIN, TX - A bill to reduce penalties for simple marijuana possession was introduced in the Texas House of Representatives HB1, which was introduced by Rep. Moody of El Paso, would remove the current possession of one ounce or less of marijuana a non-criminal offense punishable by a fine of $250. Under current law, possession of one ounce or less is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to $2,000 and 180 days in jail.

Sen. Jose Rodriguez, also a member of the Senate Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence and the Texas Young Republicans Federation, said, “State penal statutes make possession of small amounts of marijuana is antiquated and makes good sense as it frees up resources that could be used in ways that better serve our communities. No one deserves to have their lives derailed by state governments expending millions of dollars prosecuting and incarcerating these non-violent drug offenders,” said Sen. Jose Rodriguez. “In addition, those convicted often suffer collateral, disproportionate consequences, such as an inability to find employment or access certain benefits, like stable financial aid or housing assistance.”

“We commend Rep. Moody for introducing meaningful legislation on the first day of the pre-filming period,” said Heather Fazio, spokesperson for Texans for Responsible Policy, “His dedication to sensible marijuana policy, “his legislation, and we are proud to support HB 81. Imposing a civil penalty instead of criminal penalties makes good sense as it frees up resources that could be used in ways that better serve our communities. No one deserves to have their lives derailed by state governments expending millions of dollars prosecuting and incarcerating these non-violent drug offenders,” said Sen. Jose Rodriguez. “In addition, those convicted often suffer collateral, disproportionate consequences, such as an inability to find employment or access certain benefits, like stable financial aid or housing assistance.”

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The bill, which is co-sponsored by Rep. Jason Isaac (R-Dripping Springs), was introduced in the Senate companion bill, SB 170.

This is the second time Rep. Moody has introduced legislation to remove criminal penalties for simple possession. Last session, this proposal was introduced with the support of more than 40 co-sponsors in the House and was approved by the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee before the session closed. The bill was supported by the Texas Association of Business PASS Committee before the session closed and was supported by passing the Texas Senate Committee on Criminal Justice.

“After years I’ve come out right and asked how you’re doing, but I’ve never met it. Tonight I actually do mean it. Does anyone one need a hug?” Conan O’Brien said in his monologue Wednesday on TBS. Despite divisions among voters, he said, “the optimist in me chooses, today, to be happy that we have fair and free elections. It’s not perfect. It’s not perfect. But it’s all an amazing thing.”

And then there was the President. This was the day he said the @realDonaldTrump was making great strides in reducing the burdens of our communities.

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**LeBron James Slams Phil Jackson for Using ‘Term Posse’**

**by: Tom Withers AP Sports Writer**

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP) — LeBron James said he didn’t want to pay the next NBA season as the 11-time champion and current New York Knicks president, for using the word “posse” in a recent interview to describe his business partners.

LeBron said he’s set it aside and although he didn’t utter the word while speaking, it caused him to focus on the next big move.

“Just made my day Pam.”

Taylor told WOSU-TV on Monday night that she was put on leave.

Meanwhile, Whaling issued a written apology to news outlets saying that her comment wasn’t intended to be racist.

“Sorry,” she said Tuesday following the Cleveland Cavaliers’ morning shootaround. “It don’t bind. You can’t hold up the whole team because you and your posse want to spend an extra night in Cleveland,” Jackson said in the ESPN interview.

The word “posse” struck a chord with James, who has surrounded himself with childhood friends during his career.

Jackson’s language also touched a flash point at a time of heightened racial tension in the country.

“We see the success that we have, but then there is always someone that lets you know how far we still have to go as African-Americans,” James said Tuesday following the Cavaliers’ morning shootaround. “I don’t believe that Phil Jackson would have used that term if he were doing business with someone else that wasn’t African-American. I don’t think he would have called them a posse. But it just shows how far we have to go. It just stops us from doing what we need to do as a group. I’ve put together a great team, I’ve empowered some great guys — some people who I am a fan of, who I grew up with, who I’ve known for years.”

LeBron James and Phil Jackson (AP Photo/File)

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