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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH: The Crisis in Black Education

### Lakers Shake-Up: Magic is in Charge after GM Kupchak Fired



FILE - In a Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2016 file photo, former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson speaks at a groundbreaking ceremony for a stadium which will be home to the Los Angeles Football Club in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Lakers fired general manager Mitch Kupchak on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, and put Magic Johnson in charge of basketball operations in a major shake-up of the struggling franchise's front office. (AP Photo/Nick Ut, File)

by: **Greg Beacham**  
AP Sports Writer

Magic Johnson is leading the Los Angeles Lakers again after a major shake-up of the struggling franchise's front office.

Lakers owner Jeanie Buss fired general manager Mitch Kupchak on Tuesday and put Johnson in charge of basketball operations. Jeanie Buss also removed her brother, Jim, from his job as the Lakers' executive vice president of basketball

operations.

Jim Buss retains his ownership stake in the team, but Jeanie Buss has final say under the structure set up by their late father, Jerry Buss. She used it to chart a new course for the Lakers, who are mired in the worst four-year stretch in the 16-time NBA champion franchise's glorious history.

Just 19 days after Johnson returned to the Lakers in an executive role,

Jeanie Buss promoted the Hall of Fame point guard to have the final say on basketball decisions. Johnson is the Lakers' new president of basketball operations, reporting directly to Jeanie Buss, although the team also plans to hire a new general manager.

"I took these actions today to achieve one goal: Everyone associated with the Lakers will now be

See **BUSS**, page 6

### AISSD Trustee Lays It on the Line about LBJ/LASA



Edmund T. Gordon, District 1

The **AISSD Board of Trustees** held a public hearing on Monday, Feb. 13, related to the update of the district's **facility master plan**. A number of people spoke against various school closures, but the board seemed most vexed by the proposal to move the **LASA magnet school** away from its shared campus with **LBJ High**, to a new campus, likely to be built on the site of the current **Alternative Learning Center**, the old Anderson High in East Austin, which Trustee **Ted Gordon** refers to as "**Black Anderson**." Toward the end of the meeting - just after midnight - Gordon summed up with an eloquent and poignant speech about the difficult decision the board will face:

"If ... the trustees decide that **LASA** is going to go there - and I guess there are reasons for doing so - I think that everybody has to ... be cognizant of what that means. You know one of the things that is most painful to black folks in Austin is the fact that we're getting erased.

See **GENTRIFICATION**, page 2

### AUSTIN SPURS TO HOST BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION ON FEBRUARY 24

Team to Partner With 100 Black Men of Greater Austin in Pregame Event



**AUSTIN, TX** - The Austin Spurs, presented by SWBC, will host their annual Black History Month game on Friday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. vs. the Northern Arizona Suns at the H-E-B Center at Cedar Park.

During Black History Month, the NBA D-League, its players, and teams celebrate black history and culture and their important impact on society and basketball. Additionally, players wear special Black History Month warmup shirts throughout the month of February.

This year, Austin will celebrate the monumental impact Black educators have had on both the education system and the lives of students. The Spurs are proud to host Central Texas educators at the game, as well as honor those attending during a halftime ceremony.

Prior to the game, the team is partnering with 100 Black Men of Greater Austin to host a *Leadership Together* community conversation between local area leaders and youth to discuss social issues and ways to strengthen the community. *Leadership Together* is a tool that NBA, NBA D-League and WNBA teams and players have created to use their voice and platform to help raise awareness about social issues in their communities.

### INSIDE



Education advocate remains an active force in Central Texas.

See **DELCO** Page 2



Young talent showcased at star search event

See **NCNW** Page 3



KAZI spotlights local novelist gem.

See **GROOVEY** Page 6

Austin Villager Covers 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy Week

By **Naomi Richard**



The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy Awards included performances by **Beyoncé**, **Adele**, **Chance the Rapper**, **Gary Clark, Jr.**, **Alicia Keys**, **Bruno Mars**, **Carrie Underwood**, **The Weeknd**, **Sturgill Simpson**, **John Legend**, **Keith Urban** and many more. The show also honored two-time GRAMMY winner **George Michael** and seven-time GRAMMY winner **Prince** with two unforgettable tribute segments. Current GRAMMY nominee **Demi Lovato** with previous GRAMMY nominees **Andra Day**, **Tori Kelly**, and **Little Big Town** gave collaborative performances celebrating the music of the **Bee Gees** and the 40th anniversary of *Saturday Night Fever*.

Taking place at the **STAPLES Center** in **Los Angeles**, the 59th Annual GRAMMY Awards was

See **RED CARPET ROLL OUT**, page 7



**RAPPIN'**  
**Tommy Wyatt**  
Another Eastside Landmark under attack.

The Austin Independent School District Board of Directors (AISD) is now considering demolishing a historical building on the eastside, The Old L. C. Anderson school building. There is an effort by members of the community to save the structure for his historical nature. The last time that AISD considered demolishing the building at 900 Thompson Street, the decision was made to place a campus of Austin Community College on the site. The college operated there until it was relocated to Webberville Road just a couple of blocks away.

The building was then converted to the Alternative Learning Center for students who are removed from the classrooms for behavioral problems. It is a place to work with students as teachers try to help them get back to their regular class rooms.

Now, the AISD Board wants to move the students to an undisclosed location to make room for a new school building that would house another program, Language Arts and Science Academy (LASA), that is currently housed at LBJ High School. The community fears that if this is done, the community will lose another high school. There would not be enough students at LBJ to keep the school operating. However, the proposal is still being considered by the district. The community is mobilizing against the move.

The last time that the Black Community had this fight, they were trying to save Kealing Junior High School. The community asked that the school be declared Historic. Somehow while the discussion was going on, the building was destroyed by fire. That building had to be demolished, but the courts ruled that the school had to be replaced in the community. Also, many of the bricks from the old building were to be incorporated in to the new building. Kealing was saved.

It is interesting to note that the district has never come up with a plan to tear down the Old Austin High School building, but continues to find ways to use the building. It currently operates as a campus for Austin Community College. The new Austin High is located on West Ceasar Chavez. The new Anderson High is located on Mesa Drive.

African Americans are again in a fight to hold on to their heritage/legacy. It is, again, a fight that needs to be won.

# Named In Their Honor

## THE DELCO CENTER



**Wilhelmina Delco**

(©Photographer: Melissa Fontenette-Mitchell 2015)

On July 16, 1929, Wilhelmina R. Delco was born to Juanita and William P. Fitzgerald in Chicago, Illinois. She attended Wendell Phillips High School in Chicago where she served as president of the student body and was a member of the National Honor Society. Delco received her B.A. degree in sociology from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1950.

In 1952, Delco married, had four children and relocated to Texas. As a concerned parent, Delco

became an active leader in the Parent Teacher Association of her children's school. Delco ran and was elected to the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees in 1968, three days after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This landmark victory made Delco the first African American elected to public office in Austin, Texas. Following her first term on the school board, Delco sought to become a force in statewide policy-making and ran a successful campaign for

the Texas House of Representatives, making her the first African American elected official elected at-large in Travis County.

Delco served ten terms in the Texas Legislature and served on more than twenty different committees. Delco was a founding member of the Austin Community College Board. In 1979, Delco was appointed chair of the House Higher Education Committee where she served until 1991 when she was appointed speaker pro tempore. This made her the first woman and the second African American to hold the second highest position in the Texas House of Representatives.

Since her retirement from the Texas Legislature in 1995, Delco remains an active force in education. Having been awarded honorary doctoral degrees from ten colleges and universities, Delco is the chair of the Board of Trustees at Houston-Tillotson College in Austin, Texas, and serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Austin with the Community College Leadership Program. She and her husband, Dr. Exalton A. Delco, Jr., live in Austin, Texas. They have four children and nine grandchildren. Speaker Bureau Notes.

# Gentrification over the last 20 to 25 years has decimated the black community.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



**LBJ EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL**  
AUSTIN Independent School District

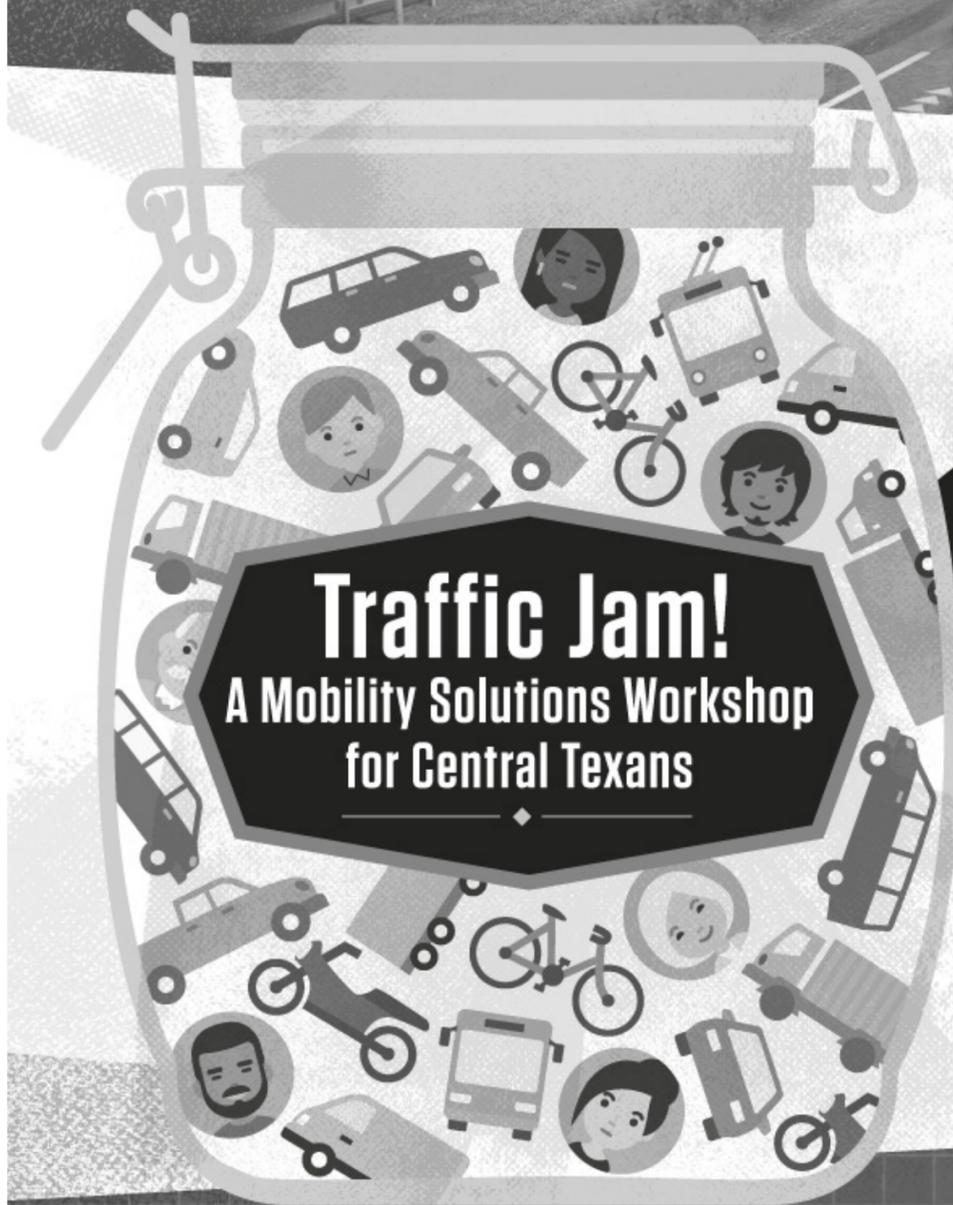


Gentrification over the last 20 to 25 years has decimated the black community. We've done it ourselves, we've up and left, and we've been priced out, and schools haven't really been good enough to keep us here, etc. But that move of LASA to ALC could be read as the ultimate step in gentrification of the city. It's taking a historic space that is an icon for what used to be a space of black autonomy in the city, and it's handing it over to what is read as ... there was a woman here who said LASA is not just

elite white folks and I think that's probably true, but it's certainly read that way. And so as you take that community and if the idea is to tear down Black Anderson and rebuild a citadel to elite educational practices, the symbology of it is deep. And so if that's what we decide to do then we're going to have to figure out how to do it in a way which is sensitive to the sensibilities of important components of the population. And the students themselves are going to have to understand what it means to sit

on that high ground in East Austin."

While lauding LASA and LBJ for their respective successes, Gordon also called the shared campus an "unprecedented failure" in terms of the ability of the different kind of factors and sectors of our community here in Austin to get along .... What we do when we move LASA out of LBJ is to admit defeat .... Is this the model for the way that we do diversity, we do social justice, and we do desegregation in this district?"



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# NCNW HOSTS 1ST BLACK HISTORY STAR SEARCH TALENT SHOW

By Sheri Marshall



Pictured left-to-right: Cochair Arlene Youngblood, 1st Vice-President and Star Search Committee Chair Sheri Marshall, and Austin Section NCNW President Shirley Sprinkles on stage at Carver Museum. (ATX Digital Photography)

**AUSTIN, TX** - On Saturday, February 4, 2017, the Austin Section of National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) held its first Black History Star Search Talent Show event at the Carver Museum and Cultural Center in the Boyd Vance Theatre. We had a full house and truly appreciate the wonderful response from East Austin, the Greater Austin Community, our affiliates, public servants and community leaders, and supportive school districts.

The winners for the 2017 Black History Star Search Talent Show are:

- First Place Winner - Mr. Etienne Gooden Oratory Category - a speech entitled "What I Would I Tell Dr. Martin Luther King?" He is a fifth grader of the Texas

Empowerment Academy in Austin, Texas.

- Second Place Tie – Miss Raven Rhone. Vocalist Category – "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keyes. She is a junior at Hendrickson High School (Pflugerville ISD).

- Second Place Tie - Mr. Roman Rhone. Percussion Category - Steel Drums. He is a freshman at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas.

- Third Place – Miss Mi' Jah McQuitty. Dance Category – Praise Dance. She is a sophomore at Cedar Ridge High School (Round Rock ISD).

All contestants received an award medallion based on their talent category. Other participants included: Carrie Agboga – Dance, Faith Hunter - Oratory and Instrumental – Piano, Kyra Tucker - Instrumental – Violin, Kylie Phillips – Vocals, Kameron Phillips – Percussion, Dance Afrique of Del Valle High School – Dance, and Ballet Afrique provided additional entertainment. Mr. Vince Powell served as Master of Ceremonies.

The Austin Section NCNW would like to thank Museum Site Coordinator Mrs. Para Agboga and the Carver Museum staff for their professionalism and technical support with the event. We look forward to working with you in 2018. And a word of special thanks goes out to the Star Search judges - Dr. Beulah A. Jones, Mr. Leroy Davis, Mr. Robert Pellette, Ms. De'Sean Roby, and Ms. Beverly Reeves. We also appreciate the hard work of the Austin Section Members and our affiliates who worked hard to make the program a success. For more information about the Austin Section NCNW, go to [www.austinncnw.org](http://www.austinncnw.org)

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**First Place Winner** - Mr. Etienne Gooden Oratory Category - a speech entitled "What I Would I Tell Dr. Martin Luther King?" He is a fifth grader of the Texas Empowerment Academy in Austin, Texas.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."  
- Frederick Douglass



**Second Place Tie - Miss Raven Rhone. Vocalist Category - "If I Ain't Got You" by Alicia Keyes. She is a junior at Hendrickson High School (Pflugerville ISD). Mr. Roman Rhone. Percussion Category - Steel Drums. He is a freshman at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas.**



MC Vincent Powell receives Star Search Certificate of Appreciation from Austin NCNW Vice President and Committee Chair Sheri Marshall.



**Third Place - Miss Mi' Jah McQuitty. Dance Category - Praise Dance. She is a sophomore at Cedar Ridge High School (Round Rock ISD).**

"Have a vision. Be demanding."  
- Colin Powell

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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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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Youth of Today  
Hope of Tomorrow



## Old Yellow Jacket Football



**Tyler Allen**  
Barbara Jordan Elem.

The theme of our school is "The Bold Journey To Excellence Starts Here". For three weekends we have a camp for math and reading. It's designed to help our scholars improve their individual Math and Reading Skills. My parents said it is help students prepare for the "STAAR" test.

Black History month is still here. I pulled out another book from my grandparent's library. This one is title "Yellow Jackets their Legacy". Since I was not there I must rely on others comments. In 1940, Black Texas high school formed their own organization to oversee their athletic activates. The Anderson Yellow Jackets were the Alabama of the new league. To win the state

football title you had to go through them. From 1940 usually the school that beat Anderson would win the state title. From 1940-45, they played in 3 title games. They were undefeated in 1944 but were disqualified. From 1955-61, they won three state football titles. Every team they lost to eventually won the state football title accept San Antonio Wheatley. At least 10 of their alumni played pro football. Many of those athletes were legends around here. Some of them were Richard "Night-train" Lane, Charlie Booner, Frank and L.D. Washington, John Truitt and John Harvey. Other just had knick names like "Babe" Horton, Lightning, "Big John" and "Simp". In 1968, alumni SMU running back Louis Scott rushed for over 100 yards against the Texas Longhorn. He was only the second Black athlete at that time to do that at Memorial Stadium.

Some of their records set. The beat Beaumont Hebert 90-0 in 1948, beat Georgetown in 1958 by a score of 115-12 and rushed for 700 yard ( 30 yards passing) against San Antonio St. Peter's.

## Black Excellence Tribute



**Cyrena Matingou**  
Cedar Ridge H. S.

Olympic Gold Medalist in track, Sanya Richards-Ross, and football Super Bowl Champion, Aaron Ross, hosted the Black Excellence Tribute through Poetry and Music. The Tribute honored four leaders in the Austin community and had performances by many poets and artists, such as Tree G, Ernestine Johnson, and Brandon Thorton. The event was hosted at the AISD Performing Arts Center on February 18, from 6-9 PM. This was the third year that the tribute has been done.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross host this tribute to expose black youth in our community about the beauty of African-American culture and the importance of our

role in society. Their event allowed us to hear amazing pieces of poetry and hear personal stories from people who dedicate their lives to helping at risk teenagers. This is the third year in a row that the event has been held and the turnout has been bigger each year. The presentation grew from a few people in the crowd to a large portion of the auditorium being filled. Mrs. Richards Ross hopes that next year "the audience will be even bigger," as the event grows.

The two athletes began this tribute, because they wanted to give back to the black community, after their athletic careers finished. They recognized that many young, black children are being trapped in the prison system and wanted to stop the cycle, so they recognize people who work to educate and empower 'at risk' students. Not only do they host this wonderful event, but the Rosses also use their skills by leading camps to rain kids in track and football. They dedicate their time and efforts to helping the youth in the community and ensuring that we know we're special.

## Good Luck Grill



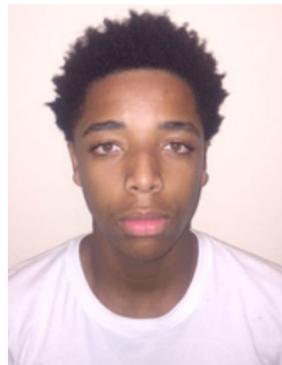
**Kayla Winn**  
Manor New Technology

Good Luck Grill is a casual diner style restaurant in Manor Texas. Good Luck Grill has been a stage for many musician, venue for many events, and stop for many people and their families. When I first moved into Manor I was unaware of where Good Luck Grill was located. My family and I found ourselves eating at Sonic and wanted to try something

different. That's when we found Good Luck Grill. When we walked in the service was great and the food was even better. Initially I only ordered burgers because that's what I'm used to eating. After a few more stops I looked at their menu seeing all the American style foods and started to order different foods.

So far i've tried their fish, burgers, sandwiches, seafood, and steak fingers. Each time I go there the food is freshly made to your liking and the employees treat you like you're apart of their family or a really close friend. I definitely recommend you go there if you live in Manor, Austin, Pflugerville, Elgin, Taylor, or Round Rock. For more information or a menu go to goodluckgrill.com.

## 3rd Annual Black Excellence Tribute



**Damon Luckett II**  
Hays High School

This Saturday, I went to the 3rd annual Black Excellence Tribute. The Black Excellence Tribute was hosted by Sanya and Aaron Ross and had many special guest. This year, the special guest was David Banner. David Banner is a rapper. David Banner sat down with the other special guest to talk about the Black community and the positive and

negative attributes of society on the Black community.

The next special guest was Charlemagne the God. Charlemagne the God is 1/3 of the famous radio show, The Breakfast Club. The Black Excellence Tribute made me feel at home. The event showed me Black people that actually make impacts on other people's lives. It also revealed sides of celebrities that i've never knew.

My experience with the Black Excellence Tribute was great. Not only did I have learn something, but I also had a good time. Seeing so many black people get together to celebrate the greatness of being Black was awesome. Attend the Black Excellence Tribute next year to have a great time!

## Bullying



**Averill Topps**  
Stephen F. Austin H.S.

Hello everybody, today I would like to talk to you about bullying and how to deal with it. Before I do that I would like to thank you for supporting me by reading my articles. Now time to tell you how to deal with bullying. At my Top Teens meeting on Saturday at the Carver Library, we

talked about bullying and the different types of people involved in bullying.

A bully is a person who uses strength or power to intimidate those who are weaker than them. A bully usually bullies because something in their lives isn't going the way they want it to. Ways to deal with bullies bullying you are: Telling a trusted adult what is going on; Not showing you are upset. If you show them you are intimidated they will keep on bullying you; Leaving your valuables at home. They can't steal what's yours if you don't have it on you and Ignoring the bully and walk away.

That's all for this week, Until Next Time. Go Austin High Maroons!

## H.O.S.A.



**Zachariah Washington**  
Crockett High School

H.O.S.A. is an acronym for the Health Occupation Students of America. It is a program recongized by the U.S department of Education and the Health Science Education (HSE). HOSA's purpose give proper Health Care to all people and to promote career oppurtunities in the Health Care industry.

HOSA is not a club

with a few students in school join. HOSA is a powerful instructional tool that works best when it is integrated into health science related curriculum and classes. Since its inception in 1976, HOSA has grown steadily reaching over 165,000 members through 48 chartered HOSA State Associations, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Italy and approximately 3,600.

HOSA's mission is especially very inportant when considering the shortage of qualified staff for the health care industry. It is essential that the Health Science Education-HOSA Partnership maintain its momentum and encourage all HSE instructors to integrate HOSA into their curriculum and classrooms.

## Sticking With Duck Tape



**Quinn Langford**  
Cedar Ridge H. S.

First Robotics Team 2881, the Lady Cans, is a Girl Scouts team located in the Austin area that had its rookie season in 2009. Our team colors are pink, green, blue, orange, and purple, in recognition of the colors of Girl Scout cookie boxes. Around that time, the Duck Tape company began to make duct tape in different colors, and they

had all five of our colors.

Duck Tape quickly became a huge part of our team image. We Duck Tape our robot, our hats, our safety glasses, the bows we give out and much more. The bright colors make us stand out, and also promote Duck Tape, which is why they have been a sponsor of our team for five years. The past weekend, Duck Tape sent a film crew to follow us around and interview our team members so that they can tell our story. They have captured not only the fun, showy aspect of our colored Duck Tape, but also the practical uses, such as wrapping it around different tools to distinguish which tool goes in which toolbox and even holding things down on the robot.

## Rosa Parks



**Montrae Nelson**  
Four Points M. S.

I'm sure you have heard the name Rosa Parks before, she was a american civil right activist whom the United States congress called the "First

Lady of Civil Rights" and the "Mother of the freedom movement"

She worked as a seamstress in a shirt factory in Montgomery Alabama, she was born on February 4,1913 and this day has become known as Rosa Parks Day in California and Missouri.

On December 1,1955 in Montgomery Alabama she was arrested for refusing to obey a bus driver named James F. Blake's order to give up her seat to a white passenger which created a national push to end segregation practices.

## Black History Program



**Ava Roberts**  
Spring Hill Elementary

On February 17, Spring Hill Elementary held its annual African American History Celebration. It was called "Dinner and a Show." 5th graders of all races worked together and performed a show that did not support a divided nation. We wanted to remind everyone that we are "one nation under God" and "indivisible!"

Before the show, we served a delicious dinner.

It was pizza, drink, popcorn, Twinkie, and Capri Sun. After dinner, we opened the show with a few songs. Then another student and I jointly gave the opening speech. Next we sang more songs followed by the guest speaker Mrs. Elaine Mosely, a public educator, who spoke about courage and optimism! The show ended with tributes to and performances by Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Madame C.J. Walker, Muhammad Ali, President Obama, Michael Jackson, and Whitney Houston.

The performances were my favorite part because we could feel the crowd's positive energy! There was a larger than usual audience. They gave us a standing ovation. We knew that the community had received our positive message of hope!

## How Single People Deal with Valentine's Day



**Chance Hall**  
Del Valle High School

Valentine's Day has passed, flowers and chocolates exchange hands, and if I had actually taken those bets last week, I would be thirty dollars richer. (Sources tell me that screaming started, and promptly ended, in the middle of third period at the back stairs of B hall). But forgetting about imaginary monetary gains, I also remembered the secondary name of Valentine's Day: Singles Awareness Day.

Now, not being single on Valentine's Day is fine. But being single and watching all of your friends lovingly interact with their "other half" (You're in high school Rebecca, slow down a bit), isn't the best way to

celebrate this holiday. So I teamed up with other (shamefully) lonely singles and found ways to amuse/distract myself from all the PDA in A hall.

My favorite strategy? Get into a meaningless argument, and then find a way to segue into another pointless argument. The argument I chose? What state flag was the best.

I'll probably write about the entire argument some time in the future, but for this situation, arguing with a fellow nerd about whether California should even be included in the list because, "Yes Shaun, I know it looks good with the color scheme and bear placement, but one of the guidelines to flag design is that there should be no words, and I'm pretty sure the flag has the words 'California Republic' on it so no, I can't count it. However, the Maryland flag-", does wonders to distract you from noticing the five, maybe six thousand couples kissing all around you.

So maybe next Valentine's Day, find another single friend and argue whether it's too hot or too cold in a building or something.

## Kevin Durant's Return Home



**Ira "T.J." Williams**  
Cedar Ridge H. S.

On Saturday, February 11th, 2017, Golden State Warriors star, Kevin Durant, returned to the arena of his previous team's arena, the Oklahoma City Thunder. Durant's departure Oklahoma City has been one of the biggest stories in sports since July, 2016. However, the Thunder fans did not exactly welcome him back with open arms.

The moment Kevin Durant entered the stadium, he was met by boos and jeers from angry Thunder fans. People were holding up signs with cupcakes and the word "KowarD" to say that Durant was a coward for

leaving and was soft like a cupcake. However, that negative energy didn't seem to bother Durant at all.

From the start of the game, Durant came out with stifling defense and electrifying offense. At halftime, Durant had 15 points and zero positive interactions with his former teammates. The second half of the game, however, was even more physical and hostile. The Thunder's small forward, Andre Roberson, got into a scuffle with Durant after a physical play was made. Durant and Thunder's point guard, Russell Westbrook, also shared some questionable words when a timeout was called.

The Warriors ended up beating the Thunder by the score of 130-114. Durant had a total of 34 points, 9 rebounds and 3 assists. The Thunder fans weren't very pleased with Durant's performance against his former team which resulted in more booing. It's hard to tell if Durant will ever be forgiven for leaving Oklahoma City.

## How Last Week Went



**Alyssa James Winn**  
Manor High School

Last week was frustrating because we barely had people in class and we had a lot of work at school. I learned a lot by experience. On Thursday was no day without immigrants and there were barely Hispanics at school. Then Fri-

day was very interesting because I saw my first protest and I never wanted to witness a protest in my high school years. But I made sure I was safe and I called my mom to come pick me up. But I actually wanted to stay in school because I had a huge project for psychology and I need to study for my first college exam this Tuesday.

Me and my family has been sick since last Sunday. We were trying to figure out if it was contagious and what was our sickness. But then my mom went to the doctor and the doctor told her she had a respiratory infection which is what me and my sister have. But last week was very different for me.

## ACGC Night Live!

**March 1, 2017 - 5:30 pm | 9:30 pm**  
Capitol City Comedy Club 8120 Research Blvd

ACGC Night Live! is a special fundraising event for Austin Child Guidance Center, a non-profit organization that provides affordable and quality mental health care services for children, as well as services for the whole family. ACGC does not turn away families that are unable to pay!

General Admission Tickets - \$15. 5:30 Doors Open & Reception ~ 6:30 Show Starts. ACGC Night Live! will feature comedy, an aerial performance, and music by the following:

- Emcee: Liz Cass
- Stand-up from Lashonda Lester - Cap City's "Funniest Person In Austin"
- Stand-up by Annie Lieber
- Improv Comedy by Mirage Machine
- Aerial Performance by Sarah Sparkles
- Musical duets with board members
- Casey McPherson of Alpha Rev & Cassie LaMere

- Mike Malone Jazz Trio
- A hilarious operatic recap of the night's performances by Lizz Cass of LOLA Local Opera Local Artists

## Simpson UMC Youth Extravaganza



**SaNaya White**  
Ann Richards

Friday February 17, was the Youth Extravaganza at Simpson United Methodist Church. The Youth Extravaganza was a time for Youth to take over the service, but with adult guidance. The adults were to help with those who had trouble reading, or to help conduct the Youth and Kids Choir. During the Extravaganza, our service included many other visiting churches who's youth

participated. Simpson had roll call, various praise choirs, a dance performance, a dance party, and real talk.

Real talk was a serious time to talk about a topic of your choice. I was asked to talk and my topic was violence and how it affects the youth. The second real talk topic was hip-hop, and how it has changed over time. These real talks allowed people to deeply think about the topics and apply them to their current life. It helps others to picture the world more broadly in an open way. The dance party was very fun and exciting. It was a time for everyone to get up out of their seats and begin to simply just dance. It was a time for everyone to have fun and praise in a way they wanted to. I had fun during the Youth Extravaganza, and I can't wait till the next one.

## Valentine's Day



**Malakhi Washington**  
Covington Academy

A couple of weeks ago was Valentine's day.

Valentine's day is a day to celebrate love and to celebrate your significant others as well as all of the people that you love and care about. Valentine's day is not one of my favorite holidays but I do enjoy the chocolates, gifts, and candy! At my school, they didn't have any parties, but I did get some great conversation hearts from my friend even though I was not a fan of the taste. I really enjoyed my Valentine's Day!

## Black History Month Poem



**Kennedy George**  
Pflugerville Cele M. S.

"The Skin I'm In"  
When you look at me what do you see? It

may be the color of my skin and from then on you are probably judging me. Full lips, wide hips, round bottoms, kinky hair and dark skin, Approach with caution, Don't feed the panther, She will pounce, This may sound stupid, But we aren't all stupid, Dark skin doesn't make us absent of a brain, We must all have an attitude, Talks like the host of family feud, But let me tell you something, We are not all the same.

## NBA All-star Game



**Joshua Moore**  
KIPP Austin Academy

The 2017 NBA All-star game was an exhibition basketball game that was played on February 19, 2017 in New Orleans, at Smoothie King Center. The half time show presented John Legend.

The West won the game 192-182. They MVP was Anthony Davis, who scored 52 points. That was they most ever scored by a player in an All Star Game.

## ACT Reflection



**Jalen Moore**  
KIPP Austin Collegiate

About a week ago, I took my first official ACT test. I had done a great deal of practice in school and I did feel prepared for the test, but I don't feel like I met my

goal of a 31. I definitely did improve from my first two full-length practice tests which is good, but I still think I fell a little short on the reading section which would bring down my overall score. I spent far too much time reading one of the passages, and I didn't have enough time to finish the last two passages.

I should receive my score within these upcoming weeks, but until then I know exactly which areas I need the most practice in, and I will prepare for the next test in April.



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# Johnson's return made Jim Buss' departure seem quite likely

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pulling in the same direction, the direction established by Earvin and myself," Jeanie Buss said in a statement. "We are determined to get back to competing to win NBA championships again."

Jeanie Buss made the extraordinary moves two days before the trade deadline. The Lakers have the NBA's third-worst record at 19-39 this season, plummeting out of contention after an encouraging 10-10 start under new coach Luke Walton, who got a strong vote of confidence.

Jeanie Buss said she "took a series of actions I believe will return the Lakers to the heights Dr. Jerry Buss demanded and our fans rightly expect. Our search for a new general manager to work with Earvin and coach Luke Walton is well underway, and we hope to announce a new general manager in short order. Together, Earvin, Luke and our new general manager will establish the foundation for the next generation of Los Angeles Lakers greatness."

Kupchak had been the Lakers' GM since 2000,

studying under Jerry West and eventually succeeding him. Kupchak had been in the Lakers' front office for 30 years, including the last 17 as general manager — the longest current stretch running a front office in the NBA.

Jim Buss had been in the Lakers' front office for 19 years, including 12 in charge of basketball operations alongside Kupchak. The former horse trainer had final say on basketball decisions in recent years.

But the Lakers have steadily declined from the heights of back-to-back championships in 2009 and 2010. They are mired in the worst four-year stretch in franchise history, missing the playoffs in three consecutive years with their three worst records ever.

After an extraordinary trade for Pau Gasol propelled the Lakers to three straight NBA Finals appearances, Kupchak and Jim Buss made a series of high-profile personnel moves that didn't pan out.

They made a pricey trade for Dwight Howard, who fled the franchise after one year, and another deal for Steve Nash, who barely played thanks to

back woes. The Lakers are still feeling the effects of that deal, which will cost them their first-round pick this summer if it isn't in the top three.

The Lakers finished 17-65 last season, a franchise low in the last year of Kobe Bryant's two-decade run with the franchise.

Johnson's return made Jim Buss' departure seem quite likely, particularly given Jim Buss' vow several years ago to leave the franchise if they weren't in contention for a Western Conference title by this year or next.

But Jeanie Buss still picked a dramatic way to end this family business' years of tradition.

Johnson has never been a decision-making NBA executive, but he has been a successful businessman and investor since his playing career ended. He also briefly coached the Lakers, but dropped his ceremonial title as a team vice president last June after his frequent public criticisms of Jim Buss and former coaches. He also sold his ownership stake in 2010.

"Since 1979, I've been a part of the Laker Nation, and I'm passionate

about this organization," Johnson said in a statement. "I will do everything I can to build a winning culture on and off the court. We have a great coach in Luke Walton and good young players. We will work tirelessly to return our Los Angeles Lakers to NBA champions."

The departure of Kupchak is even more dramatic: The former Lakers center had worked with West and Jim Buss in relative harmony for years with the tradition-bound Lakers. Kupchak had been employed by the Lakers in some capacity since August 1981.

The Lakers' recent ineptitude didn't hurt their place as Los Angeles' most beloved sports franchise and a worldwide brand, but Jeanie Buss finally tired of the apparent lack of progress. The Lakers have a talented young core with D'Angelo Russell, Julius Randle, Brandon Ingram and Jordan Clarkson, but haven't been able to translate that potential into wins despite playing an exciting style under Walton.

The Lakers also parted ways with longtime top public relations executive John Black.



Jeanie Buss  
(Photo: Richard Mackson, USA TODAY Sports)



Jim Buss  
(Photo: Richard Mackson, USA TODAY Sports)

## Diaspora Vote Community Forum for the Democratic Candidates

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

On February 18th, all four Democrats running for the Texas House District 46 attended the Diaspora Vote Community Forum for the Democratic Candidates. This event was held at the Fabaceae African Restaurant which is in the heart of the growing African Diaspora community. It was an opportunity for Phillip Emiabata, Sheryl Cole, Vela and Ana Cortez to meet and take impromptu questions from

some members of the growing African population throughout Travis County, especially in the Texas House District 46.

At this event, it was an opportunity for the attendees to ask the potential candidates various questions. The question ranged from education, immigration, police and property taxes. All the candidates agreed on the fact that the current Texas Legislature has produced legislation that seeks to limit the rights of Texans. However, all four candidates did agree on a bill that seeks



Pictured left to right: Ana Cortez, Chito Vela, Mark, Sheryl Cole and Phillip Emiabata. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

to lower the sentence for the usage of Marijuana. Not only was it an

opportunity to hear from the candidates, but, also was an oppor-

tunity for the group to hear about certain issues occurring in the

community. For instance, Manuel Jimenez who is a veteran and also retired as chief deputy for the Travis County Constable Office was present at this event to speak about issues that affect veterans. According to Mr. Jimenez, the Texas Government office grant funding cuts have caused the Travis County Commissioner Court to cut the veteran court. Moreover, this court has helped out so many veterans; consequently, cutting the program will drastically affect them.

## KAZI Book Club Features Jacob Groovey

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

On February 18th, Jacob Groovey was the special guest of the KAZI Book Club, hosted by Hopeton

Hays. Mr. Groovey first started to write at an early age. He was offered the chance to write for a magazine, but as great as the opportunity was, Jacob passed on it because he didn't want any pressure to be associated with his writing." After passing this opportunity, "he vowed to never turn down another opportunity,"

After a long period away from the "writing pad" he has begun to write again in 2003. Since, then he has gone to write numerous books. For instance, he has written the "Dance of the Broken", "The Book of Jacob", and "My World, My World", "My Words", and "The Confessions of a Cluttered Mind". "Dance of the Broken Tells" is a poignant and inspirational story of



Jacob Groovey and Hopeton Hay.

a young black girl who dreams of being a ballerina, despite society's opinion that she's cut from the wrong cloth. Elise's story is a microcosm of the adversity and negative messages that plague the minds of millions of young girls; leaving them with the belief that their dreams are out of reach." Being an Austin based writer, gives Mr.

Groovey an opportunity for numerous types of exposures. For instance, he was at the Texas Book Festival in which he had the opportunity to expose some of his works. Over the next years, more and more people within the Central Texas area and beyond will get to know some of his works. In addition to writing books, he also writes poetry and blogs.

### Help Austin ISD Design Its Facility Master Plan

Join us from 6-8 p.m. at a community meeting near you to share your ideas for our #AISDFuture!

Date	Location
Tuesday, Feb. 21	LBJ High School
Wednesday, Feb. 22	McCallum High School
Thursday, Feb. 23	Anderson High School
Tuesday, Feb. 28	Austin High School
Wednesday, March 1	Akins High School
Thursday, March 2	Travis Early College HS



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# VILLAGER witnesses first media opportunity to cover Grammy Red Carpet roll out



Bruno Mars performs in a tribute to the late artist Prince at the 59th Annual GRAMMY Awards. Photo: Kevin Winter/WireImage.com

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Television Network **February 12, 2017**. For a complete list of Grammy Award winners visit <https://www.grammy.com/nominees>.

Along with the Grammy Award telecast, the Villager covered the following Grammy Week Events:

## US to Expand Pool of People Targeted for Deportation

by: Alicia A. Caldwell | Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Trump administration is greatly expanding the number of people living in the U.S. illegally who are considered a priority for deportation, including people arrested for traffic violations, according to agency documents released Tuesday.

The documents represent a sweeping rewrite of the nation's immigration enforcement priorities.

The Homeland Security Department memos, signed by Secretary John Kelly, lay out that any im-

migrant living in the United States illegally who has been charged or convicted of any crime — and even those suspected of a crime — will now be an enforcement priority. That could include people arrested for shop lifting or minor traffic offenses.

Kelly's memo also describes plans to enforce a long-standing but obscure provision of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act that allows the government to send some people caught illegally crossing the Mexican border back to Mexico, re-

### Red Carpet Roll Out

The Villager witnessed the first media opportunity to cover the roll out of the Grammy Red Carpet. This invite-only experience was shared with other major media outlets along with Grammy Host James Corden, Recording Academy® President Neil Portnow, Executive Producer of the 59th Annual GRAMMY Awards Ken Ehrlich and CBS EVP, Specials, Music & Live Events Jack Sussman.

### GRAMMY Camp® — Jazz Session

Enjoyed an excellent night of music with the GRAMMY Camp® — Jazz Session along with special guest performers, past GRAMMY® nominee Aloe Blacc and current GRAMMY nominees KING. GRAMMY Camp® receives generous funding from the Ford Motor Company Fund, with their executive leadership in attendance. The Villager spoke with James G. Vella, president, Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services. "Music and the arts are critical to the education of students. It is proven to be a positive influence on the lives of students. We track the programs we support and have seen a consistent impact," said Mr. Vella.

The recipient of The Recording Academy and the GRAMMY Foundation's fourth annual Music Educator Award™ Keith Hancock was also present.

### Entertainment Law Initiative Luncheon & Scholarship Presentation

The Villager received a seat in the sold-out **Entertainment Law Initiative Luncheon & Scholarship Presentation**, featuring a **keynote address by Marc Geiger**, head of music/partner at William Morris Endeavor. **Elliot Groffman**, a partner at Carroll, Guido & Groffman LLP, was the recipient of the **2017 ELI Service Award**. The honor is awarded to an attorney who has demonstrated a commitment to advancing and supporting the music community through service. Other program participants include **Henry Root**, ELI Executive Committee Chair; **Ken Abdo**, ELI Program Chair and top music in-

dustry attorney (Lommen Abdo). regardless of where they are from. One of the memos says that foreigners sent back to Mexico would wait for their U.S. deportation proceedings to be complete. This would be used for people who aren't considered a threat to cross the border illegally again, the memo said.

and try to formally deport immigrants from other countries, routinely flying them to their home countries. In some cases, those deportations can take years as immigrants ask for asylum or otherwise fight their deportation in court.

The pair of directives do not have any impact on President Barack Obama's program that has protected more than 750,000 young immigrants from deportation. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals remains in place though immigrants in the program will still be eligible for deportation if they commit a crime or deemed to be a threat to public safety or national security, according to the department.

It's unclear whether the United States has the authority to force Mexico to accept foreigners. That provision is almost certain to face opposition from civil libertarians and officials in Mexico.

Historically, the government has been able to quickly repatriate Mexican nationals caught at the border but would detain



Aloe Blacc performs with the GRAMMY Camp® — Jazz Session. Photo by Naomi Richard.

dustry attorney (Lommen Abdo).

### 2017 MusiCares Person of the Year

**Tom Petty** was honored as the 2017 MusiCares Person of the Year in celebration of his extraordinary creative accomplishments and significant charitable work. **Proceeds from the annual Person of the Year tribute—now in its 27th year—provide essential support for MusiCares, which ensures music people have a place to turn in times of financial, medical, and personal need.** The Villager was honored with a coveted spot on the event's red carpet. The Foo Fighters, Norah Jones, Stevie Nicks, Lucinda Williams, George Strait and Gary Clark, Jr. were among the performers.

It was an honor and privilege to cover such high-profile events during Grammy Week.



We want **YOU!**

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### Musician Needed

Holy Cross Catholic Church seeks music director. Must read music and play contemporary and traditional gospel music. Contact Barbara Scott (512-922-1202 & text; barbara\_scott@sbcglobal.net) or Ron Collins (512-569-4424) & text;ron.collins20@yahoo.com).

### FOR SALE

**2007 Ducati Monster 695, in perfect condition up for sale price \$2650 contact r4344343@gmail.com**

**Austin Community College District (ACC)** is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide Course Scheduling System Software and Services.

### Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 208-17015JH

All proposals must be submitted to ACC Purchasing by no later than Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., Central Time. Solicitation packages are available on the ACC Purchasing website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/office/purchasing/advised-solicitations> or in the ACC Purchasing Office with advance notice (512) 223-1044 between the hours of 9am and 4pm CT, Monday through Friday.

A Pre-Proposal meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2017 at 8:30am CT.

All proposals must be sealed and returned to the ACC Purchasing Office, ACC Service Center, 9101 Tuscany Way, Austin, Texas 78754, by the date and time indicated above.

Electronically transmitted bids will NOT be accepted unless otherwise stated in the documents.

### Request for Proposal

HACA-P-17-215

### DEVELOPER/OWNER

Project Based Vouchers for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH)

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) is seeking proposals from qualified developers/owners to receive an allocation of Project Based HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers (VASH). The purpose of this allocation is to enable homeless veterans to access affordable housing with an array of supportive services. All proposals will be evaluated on scoring criteria developed by HACA. HACA will select proposals to submit to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for consideration as part of a national competition. HUD issued Notice PIH-2016-11 on July 1, 2016 which provides additional details.

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents in a sealed envelope by 4:00 PM/CST March 24, 2017.

Proposal packets may be obtained at the HACA Purchasing office, 1124 S. IH 35, Austin Texas 78704 or email [noram@hacanet.org](mailto:noram@hacanet.org). For proposal packet information contact Nora Morales, Director of Purchasing at 512-477-1496 Ext 2119. For technical questions, please email [lisag@hacanet.org](mailto:lisag@hacanet.org).

All responses must be sealed and clearly marked "Request for Proposals" and have the correct HACA proposal number. Responses must be delivered to 1124 S. IH-35, Austin Texas 78704.

HACA reserves the right to reject any or all responses and waive any informalities in the response process.

You can also dial 7-1-1 and it will automatically go to a different group such as TTY, Voice, VCO, HCO, etc. Relay Texas TTY no 1-800-735-2989 Customer Service no 1-800-676-3777 (V/T)



### New Jobs for the Week of 02/19/2017

Manager, Project Service Center  
**Job# 1702016**  
Specialist, Student Life Cypress Creek  
**Job# 1702014**  
Specialist, Adult Education Staff Development (50%) Highland Business Center  
**Job# 1702013**  
Consultant, Senior Compensation Highland Business Center  
**Job# 1702012**  
Faculty, Welding Riverside Campus  
**Job# 1702010**  
Marketing Photographer Location is as assigned  
**Job# 1702009**  
Apply at HR  
Middle Fiskville Rd.  
6th Floor, Austin, TX 78752  
**Job Line (512) 223-5621**  
<http://www.austinctx.edu>  
EEOC/AA/M/F/D/V



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[www.austintexas.gov/departments/purchasing](http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/purchasing)

For information on the City of Austin's Minority/Women-Owned Procurement Program please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources at 512-974-7600 or visit [www.austintexas.gov/smb](http://www.austintexas.gov/smb).



# Guest Columnist: Dr. Gregory J. Vincent

Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



Dear DDCE Community,

On Monday, February 13, staff at The University of Texas at Austin removed numerous posters from buildings across campus which disparaged immigrants, minorities and Muslims. Although we are a university in constant search for the truth and ardent defenders of free speech, our campus has no place for speech that targets individuals or groups based on religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, disability, sexual orientation or gender expression. We are a campus which embraces all dimensions of diversity.

While we welcome the discussion of all ideas, they must be shared freely

and fairly so that they can be properly debated as a campus community. The anonymous posters were inconsistent with our campus values and counter-productive to true campus dialogue.

At this time, we do not know for certain if the signs were posted by members of the campus community or by individuals not affiliated with the university. If you do encounter any posters or stickers which call for the denigration of any member of our campus community, witness incidents involving verbal harassment based on someone's identity or background or are subject to such harassment yourself, please re-

port the incident to the Campus Climate Response Team. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all that counseling services are available through our Gender and Sexuality Center and Multicultural Engagement Center in collaboration with the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC) and through the Employee Assistance Program. There is also a weekly meeting for international students through CMHC each Friday afternoon.

We are a diverse university that is extremely proud of the contributions

of students, faculty and staff from all identities and backgrounds. To ensure the safety and the rights of everyone on this campus, we must join together so that we can openly and intelligently engage in robust discussions and debate.

I look forward to finishing the spring semester, united by our beliefs in the university's core values that include the freedom to seek the truth and express it, diverse people and ideas and our collective responsibility to serve as a catalyst for positive change.

# Trump and the Black Caucus Plan to Meet for the First Time

By Lauren Victoria Burke (NNPA Newswire Contributor)



The CBC, which is now at its largest membership in history, traditionally requests a meeting with the new president after the inauguration. Photo of CBC members taken during a press conference outside of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. in September 2016. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

Following a bizarre exchange with American Urban Radio Networks White House Correspondent April Ryan, the Congressional Black Caucus is in talks with President Donald Trump to set up a meeting.



TRUMP

RYAN

Trump asked, Ryan, a veteran Black journalist, if she could set up a meeting with him and the CBC, as if Ryan was an employee of the White House or a special assistant to the CBC. Ryan responded by saying, "I'm a journalist."

The confusing exchange was one of several moments at an unscheduled press conference Trump held at the White House on February 16.

"Since the White House has reached out in an appropriate manner to request a meeting with the caucus, I am now in discussions with them about setting one up," Congressional Black Caucus Chairman, Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.) said in a statement after the press conference concluded.

During an interview on MSNBC on February 17, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) said that, "Steve Bannon cannot be in the room," when the CBC meets with President Trump. "He's a stone cold racist."

Bannon is currently the president's chief strategist and served as a high-ranking executive at Breitbart News, an online publication known for trafficking in right-wing, alternative news that Bannon himself defined as "the platform for the alt-right."

The term "alt-right" is increasingly used to describe a new and emerging movement of racists and White supremacists.

Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.), said the following in response to President Trump's comments regarding a meeting with the Black Caucus:

"President Trump has been in office for almost a month and the Congressional Black Caucus — which at a historic 49 members is almost a fourth of the House Democratic Caucus and represents millions of African Americans — did not hear from the White House until we introduced ourselves on Twitter after the White House press conference today."

The statement continued: "For whatever reason, the letter the Congressional Black Caucus sent to then President-elect Trump and incoming White House officials on January 19 was not enough to get their attention. As the letter explained, President Trump's 'New Deal for Black America' is ill-informed and insufficient and he would be wise to tap into the decades of expertise held by the Congressional Black Caucus when it comes to addressing issues that affect African Americans."

The CBC, which is now at its largest membership in history, traditionally requests a meeting with the new president after the inauguration. Ironically, some of the meetings the CBC had with President Obama, specifically on the topics of jobs and the challenges of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, have had tense moments.

President Obama did not meet with the Congressional Black Caucus during his first year in office. Meetings between Obama and the CBC were scarce even though most of the members and the President were members of the same party.

# First Black Crew Member to Join International Space Station

By Shantella Y. Sherman (AFRO/NNPA Member)

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has selected astronaut Jeanette Epps to join the crew of the International Space Station in 2018. Epps will become the first Black crewmember to represent the U.S. on the station.

The journey will mark the first time Epps has traveled to orbit, allowing her to follow in the footsteps of the women who, she said, inspired her to

become an astronaut.

While other Black astronauts have flown to the Space Station for brief stays during the outpost's construction, Epps will be the first Black crewmember to live and work on the station for an extended period of time. Her journey aboard the Soyuz spacecraft and stay at the station places her as the only American and female among a crew made up of mostly Russians and



NASA astronaut Jeanette Epps will be the first Black crewmember to live and work on the International Space Station for an extended period of time. (NASA)

men.

"I'm a person just like they are. I do the same work as they do," Epps told a group of STEM students at her Syracuse alma mater, Danforth Middle School. "If something breaks, anyone of us will have to be able to go out the door. We have to be

jacks of all trades. It's not a job that's like any other."

While working on her doctorate, Epps was a NASA graduate student Researchers Project fellow, authoring several journal and conference articles about her research. After completing her graduate studies, Epps worked in a research lab for more than two years, co-authoring multiple patents, before being recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). She was a CIA technical intelligence officer for about seven years before being selected as a member of the 2009 astronaut class.

"Anything you don't know is going to be hard at first," Epps said in a video statement about the launch. "But if you stay the course, put the time and effort in, it will become seamless eventually."

Epps will join veteran NASA astronaut Andrew Feustel at the Space Station. On Feustel's first long-duration mission, he served as a flight engineer on Expedition 55, and later as commander of Expedition 56.

"Each space station crew brings something different to the table, and Drew and Jeanette both have a lot to offer," said Chris Cassidy, chief of the Astronaut Office at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, in a statement. "The space station will benefit from having them on board."



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