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# The Villager

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September 29, 2017

## 60th Anniversary of the Little Rock Nine

by: **The Associated Press**



**RAPPIN'**  
**Tommy Wyatt**

### The National Football League (NFL) has joined in the protest

Colin Kaepernick's decision to sit during the national anthem to protest social injustice against African-Americans and other minorities in the United States in 2016 has found support among others members of the NFL players owners and coaches.

Many credit President Donald Trump with igniting the firestorm after his comments on Friday, September 22, in which he described NFL players who chose to take a knee through renditions of the "The Star-Spangled Banner" as "sons of bitches" who should be fired. On Sunday, he urged fans to boycott the NFL as long as the protest continued.

Players through America's most popular sport joined in the protest. Around 130 players could be seen kneeling in the 13 games that took place Sunday, the largest such demonstration since former San Francisco 49er quarterback Kaepernick began his protest. The first mass demonstration took place at the NFL's London game between the Jacksonville Jaguars and Baltimore Ravens at Wembley Stadium, where a large number of players from both teams knelt. In Nashville, neither the Seattle Seahawks nor the Tennessee Titans took to the field to observe the national anthem.

While President Trump looks at the demonstrations as disrespect for the Flag, military veterans, and our way of life, it is neither. The demonstrations are to bring attention to racial injustice in this country. They are upset about the things that the president has said.

Lost in the middle of all of this is the fact that Colin Kaepernick has been basically fired. He has not been picked up by any team in the NFL. That is an issue that the NFL owners should take a look at and one of them should give him a job.



This combination of file photos (left) shows the nine black teenagers who had to be escorted by federal troops past an angry white mob and through the doors of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, on Sept. 25, 1957. Top row from left are Minnie Brown, Elizabeth Eckford and Ernest Green; middle row, Thelma Mothershed, Melba Pattillo, and Gloria Ray; bottom row, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas and Carlotta Walls. (AP Photo), (right) This combination of Friday, Sept. 22, 2017 photos

shows eight of the Little Rock Nine, the black teenagers who had to be escorted by federal troops past an angry white mob and through the doors of Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., on Sept. 25, 1957. Top row from left are Minnijean Brown Trickey, Elizabeth Eckford and Ernest Green; middle row, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Melba Pattillo Beals, and Gloria Ray Karlmark; bottom row, Terrence Roberts and Carlotta Walls LaNier. (AP Photo/Kelly Kissel)

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## INSIDE



Screaming Eagle of Soul loses battle with cancer. See **BRADLEY** Page 2



Fit Kit workshop teaches youth fundamentals of money. See **FINANCIAL** Page 6



Annual golf tourney raise funds for Austin development program. See **RESTORE** Page 7



(Shelley Mays/The Tennessean via AP)

## Police: Tennessee Church Shooting Suspect Sent Suicidal Text

by: **Erick Schelzig** and **Kristin M. Hall** | Associated Press

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — A man charged in a mass shooting at a Tennessee church expressed suicidal thoughts in June and had a volatile relationship with a woman that twice involved law enforcement intervention this year,

according to police records. Emanuel Kidega Samson, 25, is charged with the fatal shooting of one woman and is expected to face several more charges following the rampage that left See **HERO EMERGES FROM CHAOS**, page 3

## Gospel and Soul Singer Leon Bridges Joins Country Music Royalty for Hurricane Harvey Relief Concert

By **Naomi Richard** | The VILLAGER



Pictured in the left photo is Leon Bridges and Brittini Jessie. In the photo on the right (from L to R) are Jai Malano, Martie Macguire, Charlie Sexton and Ryan Bingham. Photos by Charles Reagan Hackleman.

**AUSTIN, TX** - Stars from all over the country travelled to Austin, Texas and performed without compensation for the **Harvey Can't Mess With Texas: A Benefit Concert for Hurricane Harvey Relief** on September 22 at the Frank Erwin Center.

The largest live concert benefit featured exclusive performances and original collaborations from Leon Bridges, Willie Nelson, Paul Simon,

James Taylor, Bonnie Raitt, Lyle Lovett, Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats, plus many more guests.

Leon Bridges is a 28-year-old accomplished gospel and soul singer on Columbia Records. Bridges came home to Texas to join the hurricane relief effort.

The awesome musical talent was joined by Matthew McConaughey, Renée Zellweger, Luke

Wilson, Austin Mayor Steve Adler, Houston Chief of Police Art Acevedo, and more. The commentaries made were genuine and heartfelt, while images of storm devastated areas of Texas played on screens around the room.

To hear from reporters on the ground during Harvey's move through Houston, the Houston Police Chief described how Houston's own officers worked through the hurri-

cane knowing that they too lost their homes. It was also unmistakably heart-wrenching to hear of the bravery of medical professionals who worked untiringly to treat victims of the storm ridden areas.

Interwoven into these stories the crowd heard uplifting, strong and inspiring music, offering hope that Texas will recover. We will rebuild and we will go on. We heard the recurring theme that

we are TEXAS STRONG, TEXAS PROUD.

The Michael & Susan Dell Foundation, in collaboration with the OneStar Foundation, is leading the charge to raise \$100 million for the Rebuild Texas Fund. Contributions can be made at RebuildTX.org.

The concert was broadcast on 11 TEGNA stations and stream internationally on YouTube.com/Texas Strong.

# Profiles of the Incredibly Brave Little Rock Nine; Central High Integrators

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)** — The nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock’s Central High School in September 1957 all went on to seek higher education. Eight remain alive.

While they’re most known for their collective story, they have their individual achievements as well.

Here are their stories, as provided by organizers of the 60th anniversary of the Little Rock Nine’s desegregation of all-white Central.

**MELBA PATTILLO BEALS**

Melba Pattillo Beals currently lives in the San Francisco area. Her mother, Lois, had been among the first Black graduates from the Univer-

sity of Arkansas. Beals earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from San Francisco State University, a master’s at Columbia and a doctorate at the University of San Francisco. She worked as a reporter in public television and at an NBC affiliate and also wrote “Warriors Don’t Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Desegregate Little Rock’s Central High School.”

**ELIZABETH ECKFORD**

Because all of Little Rock’s high schools were closed a year after the desegregation battle, Elizabeth Eckford moved to St. Louis, where she obtained her GED diploma. She attended Knox College in Illinois and received a bachelor’s degree in history at Central State Uni-

versity in Ohio. Eckford served in the U.S. Army. She and a key tormentor captured in a 1957 photograph outside Central High School received a humanitarian award from the National Conference for Community and Justice after their reconciliation more than three decades after the crisis. Eckford lives in Little Rock.

**ERNEST GREEN**

Ernest Green was the first of the Little Rock Nine to earn a diploma at Central High School. He worked in public finance for Lehman Brothers in Washington and was listed in Black Enterprise’s 2006 list of the “75 Most Powerful Blacks on Wall Street.”

Green has a bachelor’s degree in social science and a master’s in sociology from Michigan State University, plus honorary documents from Central State University, Michigan State and Tougaloo College.

**GLORIA RAY KARLMARK**

Gloria Ray Karlmark is the youngest granddaughter of a former slave. After leaving Little Rock for Missouri while her hometown schools were closed, she graduated from the newly integrated Kansas City Central High School in 1960. After graduating

from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, she joined IIT’s research institute as an assistant mathematician.

In the 1970s, she and her husband immigrated to Sweden and she joined IBM’s Nordic Laboratory. She retired in 1994.

**CARLOTTA WALLS LANIER**

Carlotta Walls LaNier is the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine, entering Central High School at age 14. She graduated from Central in 1960 and attended Michigan State University for two years and later graduated from the University of Northern Colorado.

She received an honorary doctorate from Northern Colorado and is in the Colorado Woman’s Hall of Fame and the National Women’s Hall of Fame. She wrote “A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School” and is a real estate broker.

**TERRENCE ROBERTS**

Terrence Roberts entered Central High as a junior, completed the school year and moved with family to California, where he graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1959. He earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from California State University, Los Angeles, a master’s in

social welfare from UCLA and a doctorate in psychology from Southern Illinois University.

He was on the faculty at Pacific Union in the 1970s and was assistant dean at the UCLA School of Social Welfare from 1985 to 1993. He has written “Lessons from Little Rock” and “Simple, Not Easy: Reflections on Community, Social Responsibility and Tolerance.”

**JEFFERSON THOMAS**

Jefferson Thomas was running track at all-Black Dunbar Junior High School when he volunteered to help integrate all-white Central High School as a sophomore in 1957. He graduated from Central in 1960 and subsequently earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Los Angeles State College. He was an accounting supervisor at Mobil Oil and joined the Department of Defense when Mobil moved its credit card operations out of Los Angeles, Ohio, in 1989.

The 27-year federal employee retired in 2002 and died in 2010.

**MINNIJEAN BROWN TRICKEY**

Minnijean Brown Trickey was the first of the Little Rock Nine to be suspended, after retaliating

against her tormentors. She moved to New York and lived with a pair of social scientists who had played a role in the Brown v. Board of Education case and graduated from the New Lincoln School in 1959.

She studied journalism at Southern Illinois University and later received a bachelor’s of social work in native human services from Laurentian University and a master’s of social work at Carleton University, both in Ontario. She worked in President Bill Clinton’s administration as deputy assistant secretary for workforce diversity at the Department of the Interior.

**THELMA MOTHERSHED WAIR**

Thelma Mothershed Wair completed her high school work through correspondence courses and summer school in St. Louis. She received her diploma by mail.

Wair graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in home economics education and earned a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from Southern Illinois. She worked in East St. Louis, Illinois, schools for 28 years — 10 as a home economics teacher and 18 as a counselor — before retiring in 1994 and moving back to Little Rock.

## Austin ISD 2017 Bond Open Houses are Underway!

Hear how proposed projects may affect your school and your community

Meetings are 5:30–7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and are designed in a come-and-go format. A districtwide open house will be 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21.

	<p><b>Oct. 3</b> Austin High School</p> <p><b>Oct. 5</b> Crockett ECHS</p> <p><b>Oct. 10</b> LBJ ECHS</p> <p><b>Oct. 12</b> Reagan ECHS</p> <p><b>Oct. 17</b> Rosedale School</p> <p><b>Oct. 21</b> Austin ISD Board Room</p>
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Child care, light refreshments and simultaneous Spanish presentations take place at all meetings.

**Early voting is Oct. 23–Nov. 3**

**Election Day is Nov. 7**

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## Soul Singer Charles Bradley Passes away at 68



**FILE** – In this June 24, 2017 file photo, soul singer Charles Bradley performs at the inaugural 2017 Arroyo Seco Music Festival in Pasadena, Calif. His publicist said Bradley died Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 after a battle with stomach cancer. He was 68. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)

by: The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Charles Bradley, known as the “Screaming Eagle of Soul” for a powerful, raspy style that evoked one of his musical heroes, James Brown, died Saturday at age 68.

Bradley, who achieved success later in life with his 2011 debut album “No Time for Dreaming,” was diagnosed with stomach cancer in the fall of 2016 and underwent treatment, according to a statement from his publicist Shazila Mohammed. He headed out to tour earlier this year after receiving a clean bill of health, but the cancer returned recently, spreading to his liver, the statement said.

Recording on the Daptone label, Bradley

was a fiery live performer. He followed up his first album with “Victim of Love” in 2013. His third album, “Changes,” was released last year.

Among his TV appearances was a stop last year on “CBS This Morning: Saturday,” which earned him an Emmy nomination.

Born in Gainesville, Florida, Bradley found himself living in New York at age 8. He left home as a teenager and lived as an itinerant until he settled in Brooklyn 20 years ago.

Bradley idolized Brown, working as a Brown impersonator known as Black Velvet before he was discovered by Gabriel Roth, a Daptone co-founder. He later became known for closing

shows under his own name with hugs for his audiences.

“The world lost a ton of heart today,” Roth said in the statement. “Charles was somehow one of the meekest and strongest people I’ve ever known. His pain was a cry for universal love and humanity. His soulful moans and screams will echo forever on records and in the ears and hearts of those who were fortunate enough to share time with him.”

Roth said he told Bradley recently there’s so much love to be found for fans knowing Bradley “will continue to inspire love and music in this world for generations to come.”

Bradley’s response? “I tried.”

# Happy 90th Birthday

You are a wonderful mom, grandma, aunt, sister, daughter, cousin and friend. So gentle, yet so strong. Your unfailing love without limit, your ability to soothe our every hurt, the way you are on duty, unselfishly, every hour, every day, makes us all so grateful that we are yours, and you are ours.

With open arms and open heart, with enduring patience and inner strength, you give so much, sometimes at your expense. You are our teacher, comforter, back bone and encourager, who is appreciating and forgiving.

Here's to wishing you another year of laughter, joy, peace, surprises, love and happiness. May God continue to keep you and bless you.

~ Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. ~  
Love, The Maxwell Family



Mrs. LuGean Brown

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# From the Chaos of Gunshots and Falling Victims, a Hero Emerges continued from page 1



Pictured top is a photo of Emanuel Kidega Samson courtesy of the Metro Nashville Police Department via AP. Pictured left is Robert Engle, who likely saved lives on Sunday after he physically confronted Samson at a church in Nashville, Tennessee. Engle was injured from being pistol-whipped by Samson. (Image source: Facebook/Robert Engle)

six others wounded on Sunday.

According to an affidavit filed with the court, Samson told Nashville police following his arrest that he arrived at the church armed and fired upon the building. Court documents do not indicate whether Samson has an attorney in advance of his first court hearing Wednesday.

Police records in Murfreesboro, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) southeast of the church, show that Samson's father reported that his son had texted him on June 27 to say "Your phone is off, I have a gun to my head, have a nice f--- life."

Officers in January responded to two domestic disturbances between Emanuel Samson and a woman who accused him of cheating on her. Samson cut his hand when he punched a small TV on her desk, according to statements to police.

In March, police were dispatched to Samson's home. Samson told police the woman was trying to enter his house despite his attempts to break off contact. He told officers he was afraid of her because she had struck him in the past.

No charges were filed in either incident.

Toward the end of services at the Burnette Chapel Church of Christ on Sunday, member Minerva Rosa said members were talking about the success of their yard sale the previous day when they heard gunshots outside the building. The church pastor, David Spann, 60, then shouted for everyone to run, according to a witness.

The gunman entered the church from the back after fatally shooting a woman outside, police said. He then walked through the church silently, shooting six more people before an usher subdued him, police said.

Police later recovered another pistol and a shotgun from the suspect's vehicle.

Rosa said the reading that day had been from Luke, Chapter 8, and she recalled the part about a woman who touched Jesus and was cured of bleeding.

By the end of the shooting, she was on her knees, her dress stained with blood, putting pressure on the gunshot wound in Pastor Spann's chest. She and others got on their phones to call 911.

Another church member, a 22-year-old usher named Robert Engle, tackled the gunman and suffered injuries when he was pistol whipped. In the struggle, the shooter shot himself, although it wasn't clear if it was on purpose or an accident. Engle retrieved his own gun from his car and held the man until police arrived, police said.

"He's amazing," Rosa told reporters about

Engle. "Without him I think it could be worse. He was the hero today."

Authorities said Samson came to the United States from Sudan as a child in 1996 and is a legal U.S. resident.

No motive has been immediately determined. Church members told investigators that Samson had attended services a year or two ago, said Don Aaron, a spokesman for the Metro Nashville Police Department.

Melanie Smith, 39, of Smyrna, Tennessee, was killed when the shooter opened fire in the parking lot. Spann's wife, Peggy, 65, was also shot as well as William and Marlene Jenkins, 83 and 84 respectively, Linda Bush, 68, and Katherine Dickerson, 64. Police said none of the surviving victims suffered life-threatening injuries.

Forty-two people were at the church at the time of the shooting, Aaron said.

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Dr. Ricky Freeman, Pastor

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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

Kenneth Hill, Pastor

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# Youth of Today Hope of Tomorrow



## IT 2017: Movie Review



**Kevin Parish  
Hendrickson H. S.**

IT (It: Chapter One) is a 2017 American supernatural horror film directed by Andy Muschietti, based on the 1986 novel of the same name by Stephen King. The novel was made into a miniseries in 1990. In October 1988, Bill Denbrough gives his seven-year-old brother Georgie a sailboat made from paper. Georgie takes the boat out onto the street and is unable to stop it from sailing down the

storm drain. In the storm drain, he finds a figure dressed as a clown who introduces himself as "Pennywise the Dancing Clown."

The clown severs Georgie's arm when he reaches into the drain for his boat before dragging him into the sewer. Bill and his other friends (the losers club) find out how his younger brother died and decide to find the clown and attempt to kill him. They didn't kill him but they made him disappear for another 27 years. The Losers form a blood oath that they will return to Derry in 27 years if IT returns and destroy the creature once and for all. If you liked what you just read then you will like the movie, so I advise you to go see it!

## SYATP



**Ava Roberts  
Pflugerville M. S.**

See You at the Pole(SYATP) started in Texas in 1990 as a movement with ten students praying at their school. Every year on the fourth Wednesday in September, Christian students meet at the flagpole in front of their schools to pray before school starts.

The prayer is initiated, organized, and led by students who pray for the school, teachers, friends, families, communities, and their nation.

On Wednesday, September 27, I will meet in front of the flag pole at my school. I am not afraid to be the only student there. I plan to read Bible scriptures and silently pray. After school, I plan to meet and share with other students from my church. I am a Christian who loves God!

This will be my second time participating. I am looking forward to praying at school with students from all over the world

## Football



**Tyler Allen  
Gus Garcia YMLA**

I had an exciting weekend. One of my best friends spent the weekend at my house. We played video games, ate a lot of good food and just chilled out. We even found time to watch a movie. The only time we left the house was to go to Dairy Queen.

My grandfather the family "Time Machine" decide to take me back to when he was my age (1950's). Some refer to it as "back in the 'Day' or the 'Good Ole Days'". He said they were good for the kids but the parents thought different.

He said back then there was no social media. He said our television broke

(only one) and it stayed broke. We did not have a shower but did have a large wash tub. It felt good to get to bath first. There was usually at least one telephone on your block. Most kids did not complained that much. They still had fun. Snack food galore, cookies, candies and beverage drinks were very seldom around. He said the ants liked the outhouse as much as you did. My grand father said if you could walk, you wanted to be outside so you could play. If you didn't go outside you could play dominoes, checkers, read a book, fix a puzzle. But one thing we had was the radio.

We always enjoyed listening to music. Especially if someone had record player. A trip to the Harlem Theater was something to look forward too. The most exciting thing to do in the Fall was going to a "YellowJacket or Kealing Hornet football game. Black parents had limited opportunities for employment. They were mainly concern with providing for there family. Now he said his grandparent said then was better than the 1930's.

## The Chocolate Fundraiser



**Kamryn Mack  
Hornsby- Dunlap Elem.**

At school , right now we are having a chocolate fundraiser to help raise money for school events. These events are carnivals, new gym equipment, and other school events that benefit the school.

The way it works is your guardian or your parents have to sign a permission slip so you can participate and then you get a box to sell. The ultimate goal is to sell as much chocolate as you can so when you get a box of chocolate which means, going around neighborhoods, apartment complex's, and even asking your parent or guardian to take the box of chocolate to work. When you finish selling one box of chocolate you have to ask a parent or guardian to

sign another permission slip so you can get another box of chocolate.

Some rules and important rules of selling chocolate is that if any amount of chocolate is melted or unaccounted for then your parent or guardian has to pay the chocolate fee. Another piece of important information is that each individual chocolate costs two dollars and the chocolate fundraiser is only six weeks each year. A really important rule is that you can't sell chocolate on school grounds because the school officials don't want selling chocolate to get in the way of your education.

The last topic I want to talk about today is the prizes which is the second most exciting part. Every time you sell a box of chocolate you get some kind of prize or reward and the prize or reward gets bigger depending on the number of boxes you sell. All the prizes or rewards are emoji themed like an inflatable chair, cell phone holder, and a ball. That is some information about the chocolate fundraiser, so I would advise you to keep selling chocolate!

## Racism: America's Monster



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

There is a crisis that is affecting the entire country. It is making people question whether America is truly the "Land of the Free." Actually it is more than just a crisis, it's an epidemic. It's a sickness that has been spreading throughout the American consciousness for almost 500 years. Unfortunately, a cure has not been found for this disease called racism.

Racism has been one of the most significant problems in the United States for generations. It has been a blemish on America from the 17th, 18th & 19th centuries with slavery to the 1960s with the Civil Rights movements up to the present day with our current president bashing professional athletes for taking a knee

during the national anthem. The fact that the "leader of the free world" is offended by athletes exercising their rights and making a statement about the very real issues in this country is astonishing. Even in the year 2017, people are still trying to downgrade racism like it's no big deal.

For many Black and Latino Americans, living in the United States is just as hard and dangerous as it was fifty years ago. People automatically make assumptions about minorities without even talking to them. They will prejudge them based on their skin color and treat them poorly or as if they are dangerous. This can result in violent interactions such as the murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in 2012. These unfair judgements are the reasons that many minorities are unemployed, incarcerated and unfortunately, killed without cause.

Racism is very real and very present in today's society. Until people start realizing that everyone was created equal in the eyes of God and that skin color should not be used to discriminate, only then will racism begin to be dissolved.

## English Language Arts



**Joshua Moore  
Manor New Tech M.S.**

In English Language Arts class we have to read for twenty minutes. While we are reading, my teacher says that we have to write "I like, I wonder,

and I notice." I like means to write what you like about the book so far. I wonder means to write what you are confused about. I notice means to write what you notice about the book.

Also, we have to write four literacy letters so that the teacher knows what we need help in as a reader.

In addition, we also have to do something on the iPad called listen wise. In listen wise, we choose a story and then it plays and you have to listen to what they are saying.

## I Went on A Cruise



**Ruby George  
Riojas Elementary**

This was back when I was in third grade, but I still wanted to share it. Two years ago in October, me, my sister, and a lot of family members went on the Carnival Magic cruise. We drove from Pflugerville to Galveston and stayed one night at a hotel. The cruise left the next morning. I was so stunned on how big the ship was. The first thing I saw was the water slides on the top of the ship. I was sure that I

was going to do that soon. When we got out of the car, we got our suitcases and got in the line. I guess some people thought it was a really long line, and I thought so to because it went in and out of buildings and we had to walk on a ramp to get on, but it went by super fast. Of course the first thing we did was take the elevator to our room. We set our luggage down, and went to go eat.

The was a buffet, a pool, and a waterpark on the 12th floor. The staff was amazing, and they did a dancing show at dinner every night .We got to have room service breakfast and we got to have a late night movie night. My experience on a cruise was amazing. It is definitely something your family should try.

## Chemistry Demonstration



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

Hello everybody, today I want to talk to you about a chemistry demonstration that we had at my school. I also want to talk to you about my Cross Country meet that I went to.

On Friday 22, 2017, I went to a chemistry demonstration that was really interesting and fun. First we popped balloons that

were filled with different types of air and saw which one had the biggest explosion and why. Then we got to see liquid nitrogen up close. The lady that explained the reasoning behind why each experiment worked was very nice and funny.

On Saturday 23, 2017, I went to a Cross Country meet that was really unique because it was very foggy outside. When we first got there it was so foggy that you could barely see 100 feet in front of you. We ran 3 miles and I set a personal best of 23 minutes. I really encourage people to try Cross Country out even though it may seem boring.

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



**TheVillagerAnd  
BlackRegistryCompany**

## How Do You Feel About Outer Space?



**SaNaya White  
Ann Richards**

In my algebra class, we have currently started a project that will help us determine our pathway. Our task is to create a society that will be sustainable for colonization in Mars, the Moon, or Free Space. On these three options of colonization, I had to do some research. My research about pros and cons on the Moon was, some advantages on colonizing the Moon. The shuttles used to get there can be reused, we can recreate and start over with new technology, and oxygen can be harvested from the Moon's soil by using electricity and heat.

Some disadvantages are, that the moon is 238,900 miles away, it is 4.47 billion years old, the cost per passenger is around \$100 million, it will cost around \$100 - \$200 million to get there, space equipment will be needed and it may not always be very dependable, because as soon as there is a hole or rip in your suit you may not make it. Also, you have to think about the cost of transportation and how you're gonna get there. The temperature is around 100 degrees Celsius in the day and at night it can get as cold as -173 degrees Celsius. 1 day on the moon is equivalent to 28 days on Earth, each passenger will need proper astronaut training, and a really important detail is that because of gravity, children would suffer extreme bone, muscle, and heart troubles. This means NO children on the Moon.

Colonization will be very difficult. Research

cons on Mars was on going to Mars is that it is a one way trip, we may not even make it to the surface because the air is too thin, the radiation is 200 times the amount we receive on Earth which can kill human DNA, the soil is radioactive, it's very cold, there are huge dust storms, and the trip is very expensive. Some pros to traveling to Mars is that there are resources and raw materials, we can discover new life, we can push and advance in technology, it's a little similar to Earth, it is a new and fresh start, and there is a lot of land to build on.

Lastly, some research on Free Space or Interstellar Travels was, Interstellar space travel is a life changing project that is currently being considered. When this is considered, pros and cons have to be referred to in order to make a decision. Once again, this project will be difficult and will have to be well thought out and planned before actually proceeding. The decision is a debate and huge discussion (among all who care). Some cons to this situation are, that there are some overwhelming distances, there are energy limitations, there is limited supplies, there are occurring physical, emotional, environmental, and technological emergencies, you also have to decide who goes and who stays, the cost is pricey, it is a one way trip, it is a dangerous trip, the transportation will have to be very durable and sustainable, we would need to find an unlimited energy source. Some pros to interstellar travel are that new life can be discovered, new technology can be created, people will see new parts of the galaxy, people will be living in space, your're traveling all day everyday, and you are exploring/learning and discovering something new everyday. After all this research, and all these options, which would you like to colonize or be apart of?

## Pi Omega Zeta Youth Informational



The Pi Omega Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is a non-profit organization, which operates many community, cultural, and educational projects in the Williamson County area. Some of our projects include the following:

Leadership and development activities for area youth; Prenatal education program for young mothers in partnership with the March of Dimes; Scholarships for students pursuing higher education; Historical research for the Old Hopewell School in Round Rock and Food and clothing

donations to needy families.

Pi Omega Zeta Chapter is seeking youth interested in leadership, mentoring, academic competitions, community service, and fun. If you are a female between the ages of 9-18, please RSVP online for our Youth Informational occurring October 14, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. at 2400 Round Rock Ave in Round Rock.

Additionally, we will have a speaker present to discuss how to prepare for a natural disaster with the recent Impact to Houston, TX and potentially Florida.

## Planting Plants



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

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, I went to clear a bed in a family's backyard in preparation to plant a garden. The previous owners of the house had left a raised bed and a pot, which were quickly taken over by weeds. I dug the weeds out and loosened up the soil to clear the way for a garden. I did this as part of a Girl Scout Journey, which is a project Girl Scouts can do that encourages them to identify a problem and come up with a plan to fix it. I attended an all-day Journey kick-off this summer where I was taught about nutrition and the benefits of locally grown food, which inspired me to

help the family have a source of fresh vegetables right in their backyard.

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, I bought cabbage, lettuce, green onion, and broccoli plants, all ready to be transplanted into a garden, along with a pack of carrot seeds. I also bought three bags of organic soil meant for raised beds and a bag of organic fertilizer. The next day, I returned to the house. The family I was helping had bought tomato and sage transplants. We put the extra soil on top of the original soil and added the fertilizer before planting the vegetables. It surprised me that a lot of the vegetables needed to be spaced out a foot or more away from each other. It also surprised me that the pack of carrot seeds we bought had over a thousand tiny carrot seeds, which seems like the amount a farm might have. Now that the transplants are in, the area is really starting to look like a garden, and I'm excited to see how the vegetables turn out when they mature.

## College Essays



**Jalen Moore  
KIPP Austin Collegiate**

I started many of my college essays last year in my junior seminar class as well as over the summer while I attended LEDA (Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America), but ensuring that each essay reaches its maximum potential is tedious. All of the colleges I'm applying to have their own individual set of questions, but because my college list wasn't solidified until last month I have a limited amount of time to write and revise these essays.

Especially because of my school's extended school days, I find it very difficult to manage the essays for my college applications, homework, tests, and applications for scholarships and fly-out programs. Because of this limited amount of time, I've had to prioritize a few assignments at the expense of others, and I am ultimately beginning to feel the effects.

I definitely find it beneficial to begin the college application process early and I am extremely grateful for the support and guidance provided by my LEDA counselors and school faculty, but completing all of these assignments and activities at an exemplary level has become not only mentally taxing, but also emotionally draining. I know that I will soon reap the benefits of this diligent work, but I really want a break or at least more time to complete each task.



## Get Ready, Get Hired: Intensive Training for Youth Job Seekers Ages 14-24

Wed, October 4, 2017 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM CDT  
Workforce Solutions Alamo  
6723 South Flores Street, #100  
San Antonio, TX 78221

**KYM ATX: Fall Youth Kemetiic Yoga Classes**

Led By Queen Roue Every Sunday, 1-2 pm, at Mueller Lake Park, Austin, TX. As your kids connect with themselves through fun & relaxing yoga & interactive storytelling, take advantage of the meditative, sacred geometry art available for sale by Ufulu Child's very own Sol Xprsn, and partake in the organic, fresh produce at Mueller Farmer's Market.

## The Caddo Tribe



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

Hello, In social studies class we are studying different native American tribes and I would like to explain to you about one in particular, The Caddo tribe. This tribe was very interesting to me and in this story I'll explain why.

The Caddo tribe is a nation that is a confederacy of several different southeastern native American tribes, today the Caddo nation of Oklahoma is a federally recognized tribe. The Caddo were also farmers that lived in east Texas also.

The tribes lived in dome shaped grass houses large enough for thirty people, the main two groups lived in Texas. One major tribe "The Kadohadacho" lived in large villages along the Red River near the present day Oklahoma. Thanks for reading

## School So Far



**Alyssa James Winn  
Manor H.S.**

Manor Early College High School Program, for 10th graders has a humanities class. Humanities teaches students about civilization and the upbringing of humankind.

This class is giving students a better understanding of the world and where we got culture from. This class is a requirement because it can help the students in the future. The same year of this class students are taking world history. Having world history and Humanities is very helpful because students learning stuff more than once.

They are also taking a drama class, which will help students who are shy. Drama is not only to learn how to act it's to learn where it originated from. Students have learned some background history about why we use acting.

## Homecoming Week



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

Last week, September 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, was Homecoming week at Cedar Ridge High School. Throughout the week, there were different dress up days, a hall decorating competition, a football game on Friday, and a dance on Saturday. The theme for Homecoming at the school was Sea of Dreams, which was incorporated into the dress up days, hall decorating, and the dance decorations.

The week of festivities began on Monday with the dress up theme of Texas Pride. This was selected to show solidarity with those affected by Hurricane Harvey and to support our state coming together to overcome the disaster. After school, all grades decorated their designated hallways with their class color and sea decorations. Tuesday's dress up day was Raiders Dreaming and encouraged everyone to wear paja-

mas. On Wednesday, students and teachers dressed in overalls and there was a parade and pep rally open to the public after school. The most popular theme day was Thursday, Tacky Tourist. The halls were filled with Hawaiian shirts and sandals. Friday was the football game at the Kelly Reeves Stadium and "Purple Out" day. Everyone wore purple to support the Raiders as they claimed their victory against Temple High School.

Every year, a Homecoming court is voted for and is composed of two girls and boys from grades 9-11, and five girl and boy seniors. On Thursday, all students vote for a boy and girl from the senior court to be declared Homecoming king and queen. The entire court is presented at half time at the football game on Friday night. One of the sophomore girls selected was Anna Woodruff, who was on the freshman court last year. Miss Woodruff's favorite part about Homecoming is "the atmosphere of it, because everyone is always so excited." Homecoming is always popular at Cedar Ridge and creates an energy that buzzes on campus, affecting everyone.

# Pflugerville City Council Candidate Forum



**Pflugerville City Council candidates. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon**

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

On September 23rd, 2017 the group “Black Pflugerville” organized a Pflugerville City Council forum. At this forum, all of the candidates were invited and also attended. It was an opportunity for the public to hear directly from all eight candidates running for the Pflugerville City Council. All these candidates talk about the fact that the city of Pflugerville is at a crucial crossroad.

During the forum the candidates were asked various questions regarding the various issues that affect the life style and conditions in Pflugerville. For instance, one of the questions dealt with whether or not they would support an increase in the police budget? If elected or reelected the majority of them will support a raise in the budget.

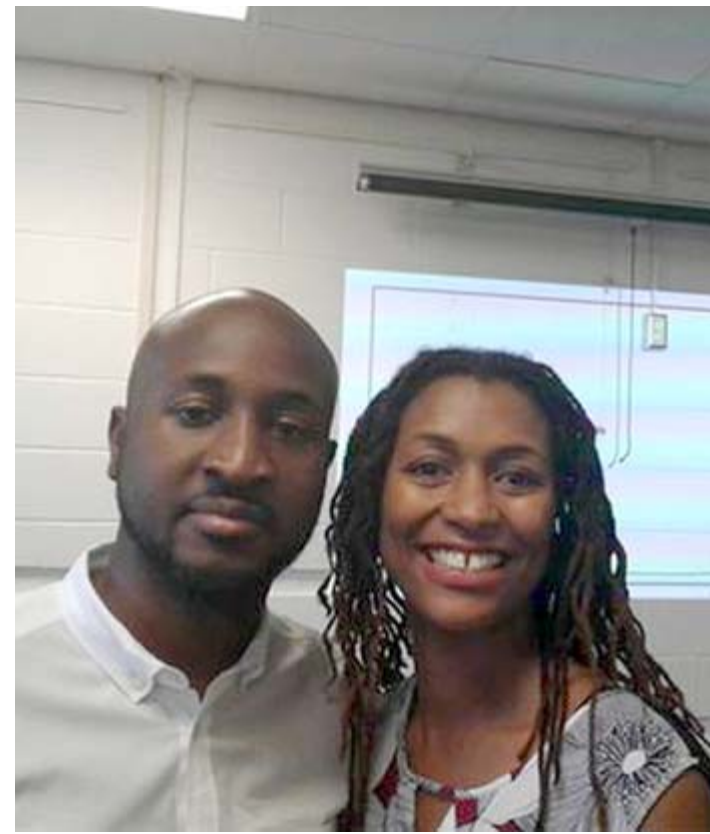
Moreover, the candidates enjoyed the candidate forum. According to Rudy Metayer, “I had a wonderful time at the Pflugerville City Council Candidate Forum today. A Lot of great questions asked by the moderator and the audience regarding the future of our City and how we can all work together to make it as bright as possible.

# Kid Friendly Financially Fit Kit

by Tsoke  
(Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

Saturday, September 23, 2017 the group called Financially Fit Kids held the “Kid training session” in the heart of Austin. Moreover, the kids training session was meant to help children from the ages of 5-11 to learn how to count money and to use money. In other words, it was a session that dealt with the mechanism of money.

Financially Fit Kits has been doing these types of training for at least three sessions. According to Financially Fit Kids, “It is a free workshop designed to teach children the basic fundamentals of money. In addition, they use 3D animation videos, manipulative, and games to provide the students with a fun engaging way to learn these skills necessary for



**Pictured left to right are Financially Fit Kit Founders: Ousmane and Kia. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon**

school and life.”

According to Ousmane, one of the founders mentioned that the reason why they started this group is be-

cause “They want to teach kids at an early age to manage money so, they will not make the same mistake as their parents concerning money.”

# Rep. Al Green Meets with the Black Press on Capitol Hill



**By Freddie Allen (Editor-In-Chief, NNPA Newswire)**

During an on the record meeting with publishers of Black-owned newspapers on Capitol Hill, Rep. Al Green (D-Texas) discussed a range of issues from symbols of the Confederacy to advertising in the Black Press and the impeachment of President Donald Trump.

Publishers and staffers representing the Daily Challenge, Cross Roads News, the San Diego Voice and Viewpoint, the Chicago Crusader, the Gary Crusader, The Washington Informer, the Michigan Chronicle, Atlanta Daily World, New Pittsburgh Courier, Chicago Defender and the Houston Forward Times attended the meeting, that lasted more than an hour.

When he learned that the Black Press was celebrating its 190th anniversary, Green, who represents Houston, Missouri City and Stafford, recommended that the milestone receive a formal Congressional citation. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, said that Congressman Green is a servant of the people, adding that he was one of the best lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Green said that he has taken up the cause to get Confederate monuments removed from public spaces and he lamented the proliferation of Confederate monuments and symbols across the South and in Houston, in particular. According to ABC 13 Eyewitness News, “Spurred on by calls from the public, Mayor Sylvester Turner has agreed to begin a full review of Confederacy-related statues on Houston public lands.”

Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution states that: “The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.”

Green noted that for the president to be impeached, the president does not have to commit a crime. Green said that lawmakers, who are serious about starting the impeachment process, should not wait for the outcome of former FBI chief Robert Mueller’s special investigation into Russia’s tampering with the 2016 election. Green encouraged the Black publishers to read the “Federalist Papers,” especially “Federalist 65,” written by Alexander Hamilton.

The Texan lawmaker said that the Constitution gives each member of the House the same amount of power when it comes to impeachment. When he was asked about the status of the Government Accountability Office’s report on advertising spending by federal agencies, Green said that that invidious discrimination still exists. The federal government is the single largest advertiser in the United States, and Black-owned companies have been disproportionately left out of the bidding process for government contracts for years.

Green concluded with a popular political quote that epitomizes Mahatma Gandhi’s nonviolent philosophy.

# Nigeria Independence Day

by Tsoke  
(Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

The most populated African country of Nigeria will be holding its Independence Day and commemoration on October 1, 2017. Although the Independence Day is on October 1; the Nigerian-American community of Central Texas plans to celebrate it on September 30th. On September 30th the Organizers (Pyramid Entertainment) plans to hold an event at the AFC center that will occur from 9pm-4 Am. It will be a night to celebrate Nigeria and the rest of Africa.

The nation of Nigeria is located in Western Africa and is one of the top



**Mr. Emebry**

population on the continent of Africa in the world. Nigeria is bordered by the nation of Benin to its West; Cameroon to its East; Chad to its North-East; Niger to the North; and the Atlantic ocean to its South.

Moreover, Nigeria has seen its share of troubles and good times. Recently, the Islamic radical group, Boko Haram has unleashed a wave of terror in Northern Nigeria. Moreover, Nigeria has also seen its share of good times and achievements. The nation of Nigeria recently launched a satellite into orbit. Its soccer team recently won the African Confederation Cup. And its economy has been booming due to its vast resources of oil/gas and agriculture

oil producers. In recent times, it has become a very strong ally of the United States due to the fact the U.S. plans to get 25% of its oil from this part of the world. Nigeria is considered among the “giants” of the African continent due to the fact that it has the largest African

# Austin NPHC Lonestar Greek Cookout 2017

Please join us September 30th on the campus of Huston-Tillotson University, the oldest institution of Higher Learning and only HBCU in Austin, Texas for the 5th annual Austin NPHC Lonestar Greek Cookout. This family-friendly event was created to serve a need in bringing together members of the “Divine Nine” Greek organizations in the Central Texas Region. There will be Dominoes & Spades tournaments, with cash prizes and a step/stroll exhibition.

Please help support our food drive by bringing either 2 can goods or a \$5 donation for a meal ticket. There will be vendors! Bring your chairs, blankets & plan to have a good time!



## Impact of the City of Austin's Ordinance No. 20170913-002 on Electric Ratepayer Classes



On September 13, 2017, the City Council of the City of Austin adopted Ordinance No. 20170913-002 establishing a revenue requirement for electric rates for utility bills rendered on or after November 1, 2017. The City posted a written report of this change with the City Clerk of the City of Austin on September 20, 2017, pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Act §33.103. This additional communication broadly describes the impacts detailed in that written report. More information is available on request from the City Clerk’s office.

Customer Class – Inside City of Austin	Approved Rate Year Revenue Requirement	Prior Revenue Requirement	Percentage Change
Residential	\$385,265,950	\$378,372,609	1.8%
Secondary Voltage 1	31,592,787	31,058,494	1.7%
Secondary Voltage 2	236,802,816	232,219,079	2.0%
Secondary Voltage 3	206,136,264	202,024,434	2.0%
Primary Voltage 1 (<3 MW)	20,374,680	19,910,850	2.3%
Primary Voltage 2 (≥ 3 < 20 MW)	56,128,342	54,838,425	2.4%
Primary Voltage 3 (≥ 20 MW)	—	—	—
Primary Voltage 4 (≥ 20 MW @ 85% aLF)	81,126,075	78,623,446	3.2%
Transmission Voltage	353,149	345,581	2.2%
Transmission Voltage (≥ 20 MW @ 85% aLF)	11,379,996	11,918,523	-4.5%
Service Area Street Lighting	—	—	—
City-Owned Private Outdoor Lighting	2,125,480	2,109,276	0.8%
Customer-Owned Non-Metered	95,748	92,593	3.4%
Customer-Owned Metered	429,662	421,443	2.0%
<b>Customer Class – Outside City Of Austin</b>			
Residential	\$105,299,419	\$103,330,340	1.9%
Secondary Voltage 1	4,686,797	4,606,784	1.7%
Secondary Voltage 2	32,596,528	31,983,921	1.9%
Secondary Voltage 3	19,943,590	19,517,800	2.2%
Primary Voltage 1 (<3 MW)	2,615,110	2,547,465	2.7%
Primary Voltage 2 (≥ 3 < 20 MW)	5,078,149	4,930,319	3.0%
Primary Voltage 3 (≥ 20 MW)	—	—	—
Primary Voltage 4 (≥ 20 MW @ 85% aLF)	—	—	—
Transmission Voltage	1,293,632	1,258,916	2.8%
Transmission Voltage (≥ 20 MW @ 85% aLF)	—	—	—
Service Area Street Lighting	66,321	65,826	0.8%
City-Owned Private Outdoor Lighting	460,069	455,580	1.0%
Customer-Owned Non-Metered	—	—	—
Customer-Owned Metered	85,224	83,571	2.0%

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

**HT DAY AT WESLEY UMC  
FEATURING DR. BURNETTE**

By Arlene L. Youngblood | The VILLAGER

AUSTIN, TX - On Sunday, October 8, 2017, the public is invited to Huston-Tillotson University Day at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1164 San Bernard Street, during the 10 a.m. worship service. Guest speaker will be Dr. Colette Pierce Burnette, University President/CEO. Other attendees include: the University Concert Choir led by Performing Arts Chair Dr. Gloria Quinlan, the university faculty, staff/administration, returning alumni, students, and friends. Dr. Pierce Burnette is the first female president to lead the combined institutions of Samuel Huston and



**President Colette Pierce Burnette, Ed.D  
Huston-Tillotson University**

George Tillotson Colleges (now University). She received her appointment as president in July 2015 and is the second female president to serve in the institution's 143-year

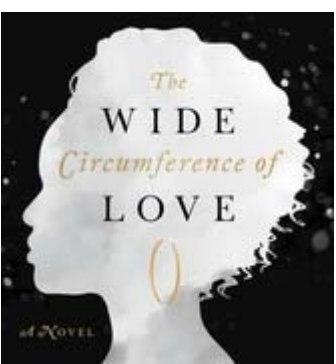
history. The theme for this year is "Our Struggle to Overcome Must Begin with You and Me" by Dr. James B. Evers, Jr. Huston-Tillotson University is the oldest institution of higher education in the Greater Austin area. Huston-Tillotson University is a historically black university and is affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and the United Negro College Fund. The University continues to be a trailblazer in providing a quality education for students of all ages, races, and religions.

**BARBARA'S  
BOOK  
BAG**



Barbara Williams

**The Wide  
Circumference  
of Love**  
by Marita Golden



This is an interesting and informative story set against a background of a family dealing with the Alzheimer disease. It captured and held my interest throughout its 300 pages. It is well written and easy to read. The author spent four

years researching material on the Alzheimer disease. This is really a beautiful love story that is told in a compassionate way. The story is about an African American family and takes place in Washington D. C. The main characters of the novel are: Diane Tate, a family court Judge, married for 35 years to Gregory Tate. Gregory Tate, age 68, is the architect husband of Diane, who is suffering from early on-set Alzheimer. They have two adult children, Lauren and Sean Tate. The story opens with Diane taking her husband, Gregory, to an assisted living facility for memory loss.

He has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. He has become far too much for her to handle alone, in their home. The story deals with the devastating impact the disease has on the entire family as it educates the reader about the disease itself. The wife, son and daughter must learn how to cope with who Gregory once was, and learn to love who he has become. The family members combat the issues of love, loyalty, guilt and fear as each of them are addressing important issues in their

own personal lives. Without giving any spoilers, I can say the author surprises the reader with several twist in the plot and a little humor. Let me emphasize again, that first, this is a love story. A beautiful love story. that is also informational. I enjoyed the book very much and gave serious thought to Alzheimer. It was possible to see the effects of Dementia through someone else's eyes. Although this Novel is a work of fiction, I learned a lot from Gregory's visit to his Doctor. The research of the author was very informative. The disease is two time greater for African Americans than that of the general population. African American women are the most vulnerable of the sexes. As the life expectancy increases so does the chance of having Alzheimer. I had one concern about the choice Diane, the wife, made regarding her own happiness at the end of the book. This is a great read and I recommend it highly, especially for those interested in how others are managing their life as they give care to others. Rating 4.5 Stars



**ROUND ROCK, TX - The 2nd Annual Dr. Charles Urdy Golf Tournament was held on Friday, September 15, 2017 at Teravista Golf Club in Round Rock, Texas where over 40 players enjoyed a day of golfing, entertainment, and networking. The day started with tasty breakfast tacos and ended with lunch and an awards reception in the clubhouse overlooking the golf course. Our sponsors donated amazing raffle prizes to raise funds to support ARA's Community & Cultural Development programs including: property tax and community initiatives, art exhibitions, and culturally diverse music festivals. Thank you to our sponsors, the committee, and the volunteers who made the event a huge success. We look forward to next year!**



**Eureka Holdings- 1st Place Winners  
Stephon Gibson, Phillip Allen, JP Flack, and Travis Brown**



**Balcones Resources- 2nd Place Winners  
Paul, Jeff, Robb, and Hunger**



**Six Square – 3rd Place Winners  
Freddie Dixon, Kevin Cofield, LaVon Perrin, and Tony Lawrence**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

These Texas Lottery Commission scratch ticket games will be closing soon:

Game #	Game Name / Odds	\$	Official Close of Game	End Validations Date
1833	Lucky No. 7 - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.17	\$5	10/20/17	4/18/18
1836	Fiesta De Ganancias - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.70	\$1	11/22/17	5/21/18
1875	Aces High - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.68	\$1	11/22/17	5/21/18
1699	Big Cash Money - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.38	\$2	11/22/17	5/21/18
1823	10X The Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.14	\$2	11/22/17	5/21/18
1850	Combo Play - Overall Odds are 1 in 4.35	\$3	11/22/17	5/21/18
1821	Classy Cash - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.70	\$5	11/22/17	5/21/18
1835	Cash Fortune - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.93	\$5	11/22/17	5/21/18
1834	Willy Wonka™ Golden Ticket - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.46	\$10	11/22/17	5/21/18
1764	\$1,000,000 Riches - Overall Odds are 1 in 3.05	\$20	11/22/17	5/21/18
1756	High Roller Casino Action - Overall Odds are 1 in 2.52	\$50	11/22/17	5/21/18

For detailed odds and game information, visit [tdlottery.org](http://tdlottery.org) or call 800-375-6886. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket. The Texas Lottery supports Texas education and veterans. PLAY RESPONSIBLY. For help with a gambling problem, [ncpgambling.org](http://ncpgambling.org). © 2017 Texas Lottery Commission. All rights reserved.



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VILLAGER



**New Jobs for the Week of 09/24/2017**  
Faculty, Mathematics  
Location is as assigned  
**Job# 1709015**  
Department Chair, Agricultural Science  
Elgin Campus  
**Job# 1709016**  
Coordinator, Data Management  
Highland Business Center  
**Job# 1709017**  
Faculty, Accounting  
Northridge Campus  
**Job# 1709021**  
Apply at HR  
Middle Fiskville Rd.  
6th Floor, Austin, TX 78752  
Job Line (512) 223-5621  
<http://www.austincc.edu>  
EEOC/AAM/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).



# ‘Obamacare’ Survives; GOP Last-Gasp Repeal Try is ‘Dead as a Doornail’

by: **Erica Werner** | AP Congressional Correspondent

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - “Obamacare” lives on. Senate Republicans, short of votes, abandoned their latest and possibly final attempt to kill the health care law Tuesday, just ahead of a critical end-of-the-week deadline.

The repeal-and-replace bill’s authors promised to try again at a later date, while President Donald Trump railed against “certain so-called Republicans” who opposed the GOP effort. But for now, Trump and fellow Republicans who vowed for seven years to abolish President Barack Obama’s law will leave it standing and turn their attention to overhauling the nation’s tax code instead.

The GOP’s predicament was summed up bluntly by Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, a lead author of the legislation: “Through events that are under our control and not under our control, we don’t have the votes.”

“Am I disappointed? Absolutely,” he said after a GOP lunch attended by Vice President Mike Pence.

Standing alongside Cassidy, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said: “We haven’t given up on changing the American

health care system. We are not going to be able to do that this week, but it still lies ahead of us.”

“We do think it’s time to turn to our twin priority, reforming the tax code,” McConnell said.

There was much talk of returning to the repeal effort later, but not all Republican senators were putting on that brave face.

Sen John Kennedy of Louisiana described the bill as “dead as a doornail.”

The bill Cassidy co-authored with Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina would have unraveled the central elements of Obama’s law, including the requirement for Americans to carry health insurance or pay fines, and offered block grants to states to design their own systems with less federal control.

Republicans are also strongly in agreement on a need for action on overhauling the loophole-ridden U.S. tax code, and hope that if they also succeed in getting Americans a tax cut, their failure on health care will be forgiven.

Yet they began the health care effort with unanimity, too, up until the devilish details began to

emerge and divide them as they pursued a partisan effort against united Democratic opposition.

Much the same could happen on taxes, where Republicans are at the beginning of the process, with plans to unveil a blueprint on Wednesday.

On health care, the urgency confronting the GOP this week lay in special budget rules that protected the legislation from a Democratic filibuster, allowing the Republicans to pass it with just 50 votes, plus a tie-breaker from Pence, instead of the 60 often required. Those special rules expire Sept. 30.

Even with that advantage McConnell had little room for error given his slim 52-48 vote majority in the 100-member Senate. And as in July, when Arizona Sen. John McCain cast a dramatic late-night thumbs down to kill the previous repeal bill, McConnell was unable to corral the 50 “Ayes.”

In addition to McCain, moderate GOP Sen. Susan Collins of Maine announced her opposition, as did conservative Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky. Several other senators were skeptical or undeclared, among them



Colleen Flanagan of Boston, and other activists in wheelchairs opposed to the GOP’s Graham-Cassidy health care repeal bill, are removed by U.S. Capitol Police after disrupting a Senate Finance Committee hearing on the last-ditch GOP push to overhaul the nation’s health care system, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Sept. 25, 2017. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, who waited until McConnell had conceded defeat Tuesday to issue a statement criticizing “a lousy process” on the legislation.

A full analysis of the legislation was never completed by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, contributing to critics’ complaints of a rushed process, but independent experts warned that millions could lose coverage, states could relax existing requirements, and coverage could end up being unaffordable for many, including people with pre-existing conditions.

That last element drew attention from late-night TV host Jimmy Kimmel, who got involved in the health debate in April after his son was born with a heart defect. He was outspoken on his ABC show in denouncing the bill and accusing Cassidy of lying about it. On Tuesday Kimmel tweeted a photo of his smiling baby son and wrote, “Thanks to all who stood up and spoke out from this happy guy and his less-fortunate friends

#GoodbyeGrahamCassidy.”

The legislation also would have cut \$1 trillion from Medicaid over the next decade, prompting angry protesters in wheelchairs to descend on the one hearing held on the bill, on Monday, chanting “No cuts to Medicaid! Save our liberty!” Dozens were pulled out and arrested as cameras captured the striking scene.

For Trump, the failure added one more justification for his ongoing grudge against McConnell, and provided another reason to turn his back on Republicans and make deals with Democrats instead, as he’s begun to do of late. Indeed, he said in a private bipartisan meeting of House Ways and Means members Tuesday that he would work with Democrats on health care if the Republicans “didn’t get repeal done,” according to Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., who was present.

Neal quoted Trump as saying, “You get a better deal if it’s bipartisan.”

Graham insisted that despite Tuesday’s failure, Republicans would return to the health issue after

disposing of taxes. But even under the optimistic assumption that Republicans will pass tax legislation in the coming months, Graham’s timeline would put the next health care debate into the 2018 congressional campaign season, and that would be unlikely to improve the bill’s chances.

It’s unclear how the collapse of the GOP’s latest repeal effort will affect Americans’ 2018 sign-up season for subsidized private health policies under the Affordable Care Act.

Wednesday is the deadline for insurers to finalize 2018 contracts. Uncertainty over whether the Trump administration will continue to pay monthly subsidies for assistance with copays and deductibles has been blamed for driving up next year’s premiums.

Although earlier this month senators launched a bipartisan effort to try to stabilize premiums for next year, that was put on hold as Republicans pursued repeal. It’s unclear if it can be revived, particularly since feelings are raw on both sides.

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