First African American Fire Chief Sworn in for City of Austin
By Adrienne Rison-Ison | Special to the VILLAGER

AUSTIN, TX — Monday December 10th the Austin Fire Department honored Mr. Joel Baker as its first African American Fire Chief. The historic ceremo- ny and reception occurred at Austin’s City Hall Building, located in the downtown Austin area.

Joel Baker hails from the Atlanta, Georgia area, specifically East Point, GA Fire Department.

Baker began his career in this profession in 1986. Two years later, he joined the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department where he was promoted to serve as Lieutenant in the Field Operations Division and the Fire Training Academy. Baker also served as Captain of the department’s Hazardous Material / Technical Rescue Unit, Deputy Fire Chief for Airport Operations, Assistant Chief to the Office of Support Services, and finally, as Fire Chief.[...]

The December 11 runoff election decided the final 3 community voting districts for the city council. The new Austin City Council is not complete.

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Huston-Tillotson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Grand Opening Day

By John Harris Jr. | VILLAGER Contributor

(AUSTIN, TX) - Describing Huston-Tillotson as the “intellectual heartbeat of East Austin,” president and CEO Colette Pierce-Burnette announced last week that the school’s new Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) will offer students the opportunity to earn a graduate degree in Business Administration, located approximately 2.1 miles from HT’s home campus at the Center for Social Innovation on Springdale Road, the CEI will play an important role in connecting the HBCU institution with the surrounding community.

“We’re here to service the community,” Burnette told the audience at the Dec. 6 event. “Austin wants Huston-Tillotson to be a success. This is a part of our transformation and our growth. We’ve shown grit and determination for 143 years. It’s time for us to be innovative. This is an example of that.”

Burnette thanked Steven Edmund, dean of HT’s school of Business and Technology, for carrying out her vision and making CEI a reality. Edmund, in turn, introduced program director Hector Gomez Macfarland, a faculty member in the school of Business and Technology.

Macfarland said CEI will work with budding entrepreneurs such as current HT student Sean Gooden, who is developing a line of cookies and developing entrepreneurs such as current HT student Omarosa was fired by Kelly over supposedly “significant integrity issues” continued from page 1

intrapreneur. “Not everyone wants to be an entrepreneur," Macfarland said. "We will prepare people to bring new ideas to reality.”

Mayor Steve Adler proclaimed Dec. 6 as "Huston-Tillotson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Grand Opening Day.

“This is a historic day. This is our first formal offsite partnership with Huston-Tillotson through our small business division,” said City of Austin Economic Development Interim Deputy Director Sylvia Holt-Rabb. “Hopefully, it’s the continuation of alliances that we have already established in East Austin. Austin’s colleges and universities are a part of our integral fabric and it’s important that we form strategic partnerships that serve the public’s emerging needs. The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation has been established to serve not only entrepreneurship students but also the community at large who need help starting and growing a business.”

Holt-Rabb said CEI dovetails the city’s Strategic Direction 2023 plan, which includes students as well as citizens and focuses on developing business plans, strengthening women and minority-owned businesses and building pathways for those who are difficult to employ. “The city looks forward to working hand-in-hand with the center as we develop programs and deliver them for the 21st century entrepreneur,” Holt-Rabb said.

RIBBON CUTTING (L-R): HT director for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Hector Gomez Macfarland, City of AUSTIN interim deputy director for economic development Sylvia Holt-Rabb, HT board of trustee member Carol L. McDonald, HT president and CEO Colette Pierce-Burnette, HT dean of business and technology Steven Edmund. (Photo/John Harris)

In December 2017, Kelly fired Omarosa who worked at the White House as an aide to Trump. Omarosa provided NBC News with an audio recording in August of Kelly firing her in the Situation Room.

“Kelly also ignited controversy when he disre- garded slavery as a cause of the Civil War and praised Confederate General Robert E. Lee. During this time at the White House, Kelly created controversy when he tried to slander Florida’s Democratic Rep. Frederica Wilson, who was feud- ing with Trump over his mistreatment of Army Sgt. LaDavid Johnson’s widow Myeshia Johnson. Kelly also ignited controversy when he disre- garded slavery as a cause of the Civil War and praised Confederate General Robert E. Lee during an interview with Fox News.

Find your escape within the city

AUSTINTExAS.GOV/PARKS
and raise his rebellious, alcoholic, and rebellious and promiscuous 16-year-old sister, Amber (Nicola Peltz). Scarred by his past, Harley becomes infatuated, you may find yourself attached to Harley. Feel-}

The process is not yet finished, yet what we shall be, but we are growing

Debbie Meier / The Villager

much of the story unveils a dysfunctional family torn
torn in adulthood, with the weight of the world on his shoulders and with his own mental chal-
Adopt a Child

Til’ The Season

If you want to improve your handwriting, try these tips:

1. Do not use a ballpoint pen.
2. Use a soft lead pencil.
3. Hold the pencil at a 90-degree angle to the paper.
4. Practice consistency in your handwriting.
5. Improve your posture while writing.

Each child had two high school escorts who brought them to their assigned classroom after lunch. The children were then able to enjoy a party put on by the class and open their gifts. My second period teacher did not participate in Adopt a Child, but my high schoolers did. She didn’t have a second period class, so she invited students from all her classes to come and help her. Our class decided to pay for her, and when we arrived with her escort, she was shy and didn’t talk much. We had a wide variety of food set up for her, including pizza, cookies, brownies, Goldfish, chips, and juice boxes, but all she did was talk about how plentiful Goldfish. The boxes were empty, but she opened her presents. Every time she opened a present, she would talk and open her eyes wide. Her biggest reaction was to a headband that had a unicorn horn and fluffly ears on it. Her eyes immediately put the headband on her head. Due to economic hardships, the Adopt a Child kids may not have gotten any Christmas presents this year. In fact, it felt so good to make someone else’s Christmas brighter. I know they will be grateful for the presents given to them this year.

Suggested Interview Questions

1. How do you think this experience has affected you?
2. What is the most memorable part of the experience?
3. How do you plan to celebrate Christmas this year?

Handwriting Tips

Ava Roberts

Pflugerville MS.

How good is your handwriting? I was surprised to read that 69% of the population has bad handwriting. Bad handwriting can have negative outcomes at school and at work. For example, you might get a lower grade on an assignment if the teacher is unable to read your writing. At work, you may not be taken seriously if you are not doing a good job or cannot do your job well. Then practice writing while holding the pen in various positions. For a neater presentation, practice consistency in spacing and sizing of your letters. This will make your handwriting easier to read. Also make sure that capital letters look larger than lowercase letters. If you want to improve your writing, try these tips:

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Winter Wonderland

Joshua More

Manas New Tech M.S.

Winter Wonderland at Circuit Of The Americas (COTA) has the best Christmas party in Austin. The laterns have steel frames that are colorful with LED lights. There is also a 12-foot-tall Christmas tree, a petting zoo, a petting zoo, Turkish lights, camel rides, and carriage rides.

Winter Wonderland started on November 29, 2018 and will end on January 12, 2019. The tickets are $12 each. Children ages 2 and under go in free. They also have all you can ride wristbands for $25. You will have to pay extra for ice skating, rides, camel rides. and carriage rides.

Lowercase letters.

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Tis’ The Season

Baby George

Cele Middle School

I’m very excited for this Christmas. Not only because of the Christmas lights but also because of the presents. Since I am getting older, I am more excited for the presents this year. The Christmas season makes me feel good. When I am excited, I can’t wait to open presents. I will go to sleep as quick as I normally do. That’s what happens to me on Christmas Eve. The Christmas lights on my street are so pretty. If you ask me, I think this is the best Christmas lights because we all have red, and that’s the main Christmas color. Whenever I go to sleep, I see our star shaped moving lights shine through my window. When my parents wrap gifts they tell me to be careful not to go to sleep as quick as I normally do. That’s what happens to me on Christmas Eve.

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U.S. Senator Cory Booker says the new legislation will have profound effect on thousands of people

CONSIDERED BY A QUEEN MOTHER

N.J. Senator Cory Booker says the new legislation will have profound effect on thousands of people

Booker said the bill isn’t “all the way there” in terms of the sentencing reforms that he and others Democrats would have liked, but it would “take a step in the right direction and correct the injustices of the last 25, 30 years.”

The bill has been a priority for Trump’s son-in-law, Jared Kushner, who has worked behind the scenes with support from Republican lawmakers over the last two years and pushed Trump to support it. It was also a top issue for former Sen. Barack Obama, who had hoped to see the bill become law before he left office.

Supporters have long said that the bill, which would close the release of violent felons — a charge that GOP supporters denied.

Booker said he was moving the bill as soon as this week “at the request of the president” and following improvements to the legislation.

The Senate’s most vocal opponent, Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., said the revised legislation “still has major problems and allows early release for many categories of serious, violent criminals.”

Cotton said he would introduce amendments to the legislation on the floor, suggesting he could delay its passage as senators try to wrap up before Christmas.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, the legislation’s lead sponsor, has not yet released the text of the legislation. Louisiana Sen. John Kennedy, a Republican who has also been skeptical of the bill, said he was waiting to see it before he wants to “try to figure out how many people they are going to let go.”

While senators have been pressuring McConnell to take up the bill for years, the pressure ramped up in recent weeks as the Republican leader said Democrats taking the House majority in January would want to “write the bill.”

Kushner spoke with senators regularly — daily, in some cases — and appeared on Fox News Channel’s “Hannity” on Monday night, urging McConnell to take it up.

Trump said Tuesday that the bill has “great support” and was going “to be passing, hopefully.”

“Thanks to Leader McConnell for agreeing to bring a Senate vote on Criminal Justice this week!” Trump tweeted. “These historic changes will make communities SAFER and SAVE tremendous taxpayers dollars. It brings justice and FF to those who are going to be set free.”

“I’m here to register to vote,” he said. “They told me that she could register only if she could recite from memory the preamble to the Constitution of the United States. It was a common ruse, dispersed as a literacy test, to turn away black voters.

The valedictorian of her high school class, she again stood without hesitation.+

The Times noted that in her first act of defiance, 1942, becoming one of the state’s first black voters since Reconstruction.

She voted in nearly every election thereafter. For more than 40 years, she was a county poll worker on election days and a municipal registrar commissioner, helping some 4,000 people to register to vote.

In 1950, she joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and for more than 60 years participated in protests against racial discrimination, including the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. During the civil rights turmoil of the 1960s, she and her family were repeatedly threatened by white hoodlums, according to federal records.

She awoke several times in the crumblings of broken glass outside her home. Farm equipment and damage was shot into a fence and into the farmhouse. One struck just below her bedroom window.

In a tribute, The Times noted Eaton was “an obedient civil rights pioneer among millions who joined the millions who demanded a statute whose provisions ‘target African-Americans with almost surgical precision’ in what the court called an effort to deprive black voters of their franchise. One of seven children born on a farm in North Carolina, she was a “prime mover in our struggle for freeedom, justice and equality,” he said.

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The City of Austin and UP Art Studio Call on Artists to Transform Traffic Signal Cabinets

On December 9, 2018, the Black Austin Democrats (BAD) held their annual Christmas party in Austin. The event was well-attended by elected officials, community leaders, and residents. Some of the elected officials present were: Councilman Jimmy Flannigan, Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Texas State House representative Sheryl Cole, Judge Yvonne Williams and many more. Black Austin Dems honored several prominent leaders that have continued to make a difference and impact throughout the community. Nelda Wells Spears was one of the honorees.

City and UP Art Studio Call on Artists to Transform Traffic Signal Cabinets

The City of Austin and UP Art Studio are inviting artists to bring local flair to Austin streets. The Austin Transportation Department has contracted with UP Art Studio to bring the studio’s Mini Murals program to the department’s new Artbox Program, which makes traffic signal control cabinets at intersections available as canvases for artists.

UP Art Studio has opened a call for artists, inviting local Austin artists to submit their qualifications for the opportunity to create an artbox, or mini mural on a signal cabinet. The deadline is Sunday, Dec. 30, 2018. Applications will be reviewed, and qualifying artists accepted, to create a registry of artists available for this opportunity and future projects managed by UP Art Studio. Artists will be compensated $1,000 for their work.

Artists interested in joining the registry can find the open call guidelines at minimurals.org/austin. The application requires providing qualifications, images of prior work, a letter of intent, and other information. Applicants will be notified of results the week of Jan. 14, 2018.

For more information about the project, visit minimurals.org/austin.

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By John Harris Jr. | Villager Sports Writer

Colin Kaepernick (#7) is seen here knealing during the National Anthem before an NFL game.

QB Alex Smith suffers a broken leg during Washington's loss to the Houston Texans. (Reuters)

Michael Obama Extends Tour As Sales For ‘Becoming’ Top 3 Million

KARMA DOES WASHINGTON

Dublin, Ohio - Colin Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who lost his job after he took a knee during the national anthem to protest police brutality and racial injustice, is getting a second chance in the NFL.

Washington owner Daniel Snyder refused to sign Kaepernick because of his national anthem protest. Instead, Washington signed Mark Sanchez, who has played for a total of six teams — not very well, I might add. Not only isn't Sanchez any good, neither is Kaepernick — who has been blackballed by the NFL — thrown a pass in a game since January 1, 2017. So much for Washington using the Kaepernick-ir-rusty excuse when the same logic should have applied to Sanchez.

Marlaine on this. Washington refused to sign Kaepernick because of his national anthem protest. Yet the Redskins recently leaped at the chance to sign talent建档立卡 troubled linebacker Reuben Foster, who has a history of domestic violence and was just released by San Francisco for -you guessed it- domestic violence. The optics surrounding Washington's decision to sign Foster while ignoring Kaepernick is terrible.

Back to football. At the time of the Smith injury, Washington was 6-5 and in the thick of the playoff race. But given the chance to add a proven winner who could not only keep them in the playoff race but also help them win the NFC East, the Redskins passed on Kaepernick and signed Sanchez.

Karma, baby.

The head-scratching transaction sent a clear message that Washington isn't really interested in winning by putting the best players on the field. There's no way on a level playing field that Sanchez is a better quarterback than Kaepernick, but Washington doesn't seem to care. They've dropped the following week against Philadelphia, also with a broken leg. Gruden was forced to play Sanchez, who committed 21 passes for 100 yards with an interception in a 28-13 loss.

Following Washington's latest debacle, a 40-16 drubbing by the New York Giants in which Sanchez completed 4 of 14 passes for 38 yards and two interceptions for an embarrassing quarterback rating of 9.3 and was mercifully taken out in the fourth quarter. The best available quarterback was the New England Patriots' Tom Brady, but a division rival, so Sanchez fans demand their money back because, clearly, their team isn't trying to win at all costs. The likelihood of Sanchez giving Washington a better chance to win than Kaepernick is slim and none, and slim just left town.

Region Auditions

Kennedy George

He's white high school

Last Saturday, I got the opportunity to audition for a spot in region band.

It was my first time doing a region audition in high school. I had done region auditions in middle school, but the music definitely wasn't as hard. I've worked hard preparing all year. That's why I'm excited to go to these new sets of auditions and show off my skills.

Having my friends that I've gotten close with this year there with me definitely helps with nerves. Just knowing that everyone else is feeling the same feeling as me is comforting.

We got there and I feel like I performed well, even though it wasn't my best. I ended up getting 11th out of 30 other clarinetists. But I got a spot in this region band because I placed in the top 18.

Are you interested in doing business with the City of Austin?

We are here for you.

City of Austin Purchasing Office

Vendor Registration

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City of Austin

Purchasing Office

Vendor Registration

For information on the City of Austin’s Minority Women-Owned Procurement Program please contact the Small & Minority Business Resources Office at 512-974-7601 or visit www.austintexas.gov/smb
Black Panther poised to become an Oscars heavyweight

By Associated Press

...