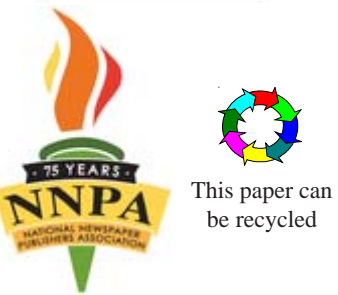




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## List of Nominees for the 90th Annual Academy Awards

Includes Mary J. Blige for "Best Supporting Actress" for Role in "Mudbound" by: The Associated Press

You can watch the 2018 Annual Academy Awards March 4th on ABC

List of nominees for the 90th annual Academy Awards presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

**Best Picture:** "Call Me by Your Name," "Darkest Hour," "Dunkirk," "Get Out," "Lady Bird," "Phantom Thread," "The Post," "The Shape of Water," "Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri."

**Actor:** Timothee Chalamet, "Call Me by Your Name"; Daniel Day-Lewis, "Phantom Thread"; Daniel Kaluuya, "Get Out"; Gary Oldman, "Darkest Hour"; Denzel Washington, "Roman J. Israel, Esq."

**Actress:** Sally Hawkins, "The Shape of Water"; Frances McDormand, "Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri"; Margot Robbie in "I, Tonya"; Saoirse Ronan in "Lady Bird"; Meryl Streep in "The Post."

**Supporting Actor:** Willem Dafoe, "The Florida Project"; Woody Harrelson, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"; Richard Jenkins, "The Shape of Water"; Christopher Plummer, "All the Money in the World"; Sam Rockwell, "Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri."

**Supporting Actress:** Mary J. Blige, "Mudbound"; Allison Janney, "I, Tonya"; Lesley Manville, "Phantom Thread"; Laurie Metcalf, "Lady Bird"; Octavia Spencer, "Mudbound."

See **THE SHAPE OF WATER**, page 2



Mary J. Blige, was nominated for two Academy Awards on Tuesday: Supporting actress and original song for "Mudbound". (AP Photo)

## The Women's March Strikes Back

by: Verena Dobnik and Tamara Lush | Associated Press



Kristyn Stickley, 22, of West Chester, Pa., at right, holds a sign during the Women's March in Philadelphia on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018. The march is among dozens of rallies being held around the country. The activists are hoping to create an enduring political movement that will elect more women to government office. (David Maialetti/The Philadelphia Inquirer via AP)

**NEW YORK (AP)** — President Donald Trump tweeted that it was a "perfect day" for women to march to celebrate the "economic success and wealth creation" that's happened during his first year in office — while rallied against him and his policies.

to celebrate the historic milestones and unprecedented economic success and wealth creation that has taken place over the last 12 months," the Republican wrote Saturday afternoon. "Lowest female unemployment in 18 years!"

But people participating in rallies and marches in the U.S. and

around the world Saturday denounced Trump's views on immigration, abortion, LGBT rights, women's rights and more.

The march in Washington, D.C., on Saturday had the feel of a political rally when U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, both

See **THOUSANDS**, pg 2

### OPINION: Black Leaders Need to Stand Up for Black People

By **Raynard Jackson** (NNPA Newswire Columnist)

I am fond of saying, "weak people take strong positions on weak issues."

There is no better example of this than the embarrassing behavior of the weak Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the National Urban League (NUL).

These groups have all feigned righteous indignation about the alleged negative comments made by President Trump two weeks ago about Haiti, Africa, and El Salvador.

Yes, our president can be extremely hyperbolic at times, but the essence of what he said was very true. Those coun-

See **WHY?** page 3

### INSIDE



Virginia Civil Rights leader passes. See **WALKER** Page 3



TEA addresses special education action draft plan. See **SURVEY** Page 5



Candidate Melancon is determined to restore fairness. See **LAW** Page 6

### OPINION: Blacks and Politics: Either Get Engaged or Get Left Behind



By **Jeffrey Boney** (NNPA Member/Houston Forward Times)

Okay, everyone, if you are reading this, welcome to 2018. You made it, and with that being said, I feel that this is the perfect opportunity for us to be honest about an important truth.

First of all, as I see it, it is extremely clear to me, and should be quite evident to anyone who would just simply open up their eyes to see it for themselves, that the Black vote can either make or break an election.

If you don't believe me, I would encourage you to take a look at previous elections where the Black community was actively engaged and driven to get out and vote in a local, county, state or federal election, versus the times where they were not as excited or motivated to do so.

See **AT ALL**, page 7

### RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt Thank you Democrats!

We have to take our hats off to the Democrats in both the U. S. Senate and the House of Representatives for standing by their guns in trying to protect the values of all of the people, and not just the Republican agenda. While Republicans control the majority in both the House and the Senate as well as having a member of their party sitting in the oval office, they continue to stand up for their constituents.

But, it is interesting to note that when President Trump cannot get his way, he blames it on the Democrats. And he is right to blame them for pointing out how our president is ignoring the Constitution in many ways as he tries to change the landscape in America. Nothing could demonstrate the power of the Democrats more than the action they took last week when they decided to let the government be closed down, rather than to vote for the Wall at the border.

The government was only closed for a few days, because the leaders of the Republican led Senate agreed to take up the issue of the DACA program in the next couple of weeks. The Republicans knew that shutting down the government was not a good idea.

We will have to wait now to see whether or not the Republicans will keep their word. If they do not, we could face another government shutdown in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, there seems to be a lot of movement in the Black community towards recruiting more Blacks to run for public office.

It is no longer acceptable for us to sit around and complain without taking some kind of action to improve our situation. No politician will solve your problem without a lot of help from you. We need to thank the Democrats in Washington for showing us that a few committed people can accomplish a lot when they put their minds to it.

"Get out there now

# “THE SHAPE OF WATER” takes form in a sea of categories



This image released by Fox Searchlight Pictures shows Michael Shannon, from left, Sally Hawkins and Octavia Spencer in a scene from the film, “The Shape of Water.” Guillermo del Toro’s Cold War fantasy tale will vie for the most nominations for the 90th annual Academy Awards. (Fox Searchlight Pictures via AP)



This image released by Netflix shows a scene from the film “Mudbound.” Rachel Morrison was nominated for an Oscar for best cinematography for the film on Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018. The 90th Oscars will air live on ABC on Sunday, March 4. (Steve Dietl/Netflix via AP)

Continued from page 1

“The Shape of Water.”

**Directing:** “Dunkirk,” Christopher Nolan; “Get Out,” Jordan Peele; “Lady Bird,” Greta Gerwig; “Phantom Thread,” Paul Thomas Anderson; “The Shape of Water,” Guillermo del Toro.

**Foreign Language Film:** “A Fantastic Woman,” Chile; “The Insult” Lebanon; “Loveless,” Russia; “On Body and Soul,” Hungary; “The Square” Sweden.

**Adapted Screenplay:** “Call Me By Your Name,” “The Disaster Artist,” “Logan,” Molly’s Game,” “Mudbound.”

**Original Screenplay:** “The Big Sick,” “Get Out,” “Lady Bird,” “The Shape of Water,” “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.”

**Animated Feature Film:** “The Boss Baby,” “The Breadwinner,” “Coco,” “Ferdinand”: “Loving Vincent.”

**Production Design:** “Beauty and the Beast,” “Blade Runner 2049,” “Darkest Hour,” “Dunkirk,” “The Shape of Water.”

**Cinematography:** “Blade Runner 2049,” “Darkest Hour,” “Dunkirk,” “Mudbound,” “The Shape of Water.”

**Sound Mixing:** “Baby Driver,” “Blade Runner 2049,” “Dunkirk,” “The Shape of Water,” “Star Wars: The Last Jedi.”

**Sound Editing:** “Baby Driver,” “Blade Runner 2049,” “Dunkirk,” “The Shape of Water,” “Star Wars: The Last Jedi.”

**Original Score:** “Dunkirk,” Hans Zimmer; “Phantom Thread,” Jonny Greenwood; “The Shape of Water” Alexandre Desplat; “Star Wars: The Last Jedi,” John Williams; “Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri,” Carter Burwell.

**Original Song:** “Mighty River” from “Mudbound”; “Mystery Of Love” from “Call Me by Your Name”; “Remember Me” from “Coco”; “Stand Up For Something” from “Marshall”; “This Is Me” from “The Greatest Showman.”

**Documentary Feature:** “Abacus: Small Enough to Jail,” “Faces Places,” “Icarus,” “Last Men in Aleppo,” “Strong Island”

**Documentary (short subject):** “Edith+Eddie,” “Heaven Is a Traffic Jam on the 405,” “Heroin(e),” “Knife Skills,” “Traffic Stop”

**Film Editing:** “Baby Driver,” “Dunkirk,” “I, Tonya,” “The Shape of Water,” “Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri”

**Makeup and Hairstyling:** “Darkest Hour,” “Victoria & Abdul,” “Wonder.”

**Animated Short Film:** “Dear Basketball,” “Garden Party,” “Lou,” “Negative Space,” “Revolt Rhymes.”

**Live Action Short Film:** “DeKalb Elementary,” “The Eleven O’Clock,” “My Nephew Emmett,” “The Silent Child,” “Watu Wote/All of Us.”

**Visual Effects:** “Blade Runner 2049,” “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,” “Kong: Skull Island,” “Star Wars: The Last Jedi,” “War for the Planet of the Apes.”

**Costume Design:** “Beauty and the Beast,” Jacqueline Durran; “Darkest Hour,” Jacqueline Durran; “Phantom Thread,” Mark Bridges; “The Shape of Water”; Luis Sequeira; “Victoria & Abdul” Consolata Boyle.

## Thousands of people gathered in cities across America, including Austin, Texas



Coast-to-coast: (Left) People line up on Central Park West as they wait for the start of a march highlighting equal rights and equality for women Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, in New York. (AP Photo/Craig Ruttle), (Right) Women hold signs in a Women’s March in Seattle. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

Continued from page 1

Democrats, urged women to run for office and vote to oppose Trump and the Republicans’ agenda.

“We march, we run, we vote, we win,” Pelosi said, to applause.

Thousands of people turned out for the rally at Lincoln Memorial and a march from the National Mall to Lafayette Park. It was one of many around the U.S. and the world in support of female empowerment.

Thousands of people gathered in Cleveland; Richmond, Virginia; Philadelphia; New York; **Austin, Texas;** and elsewhere.

“I think right now with the #MeToo movement, it’s even more important to stand for our rights,” said Karen Tordivo, who marched in Cleveland with her husband and 6-year-old daughter.

In Palm Beach, Florida, home to Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate, several hundred people gathered carrying anti-Trump signs as they prepared to march as part of Saturday’s planned protests.

Across the globe, people hit the streets on the anniversary of Trump’s inauguration, marching against his policies and in support of the #MeToo movement against sexual assault and harassment.

In Palm Beach, a group of women wearing red cloaks and white hats like the characters in the book and TV show “The Handmaid’s Tale” marched in formation, their heads bowed.

In Los Angeles, organizers predicted thousands of people, including state officials and celebrities, would march to City Hall.

Organizers in New York said the march was important because basic rights for women, immigrants and others are under attack.

Cathy Muldoon, a high school librarian from Dallas, Pennsylvania, took her two teenage daughters to the New York rally and said marching gives people hope. She said this year’s action is set against the backdrop

of the Trump presidency, which “turned out to be as scary as we thought it would be.”

“I’ve not seen any checks and balances,” she said. “Everything is moving toward the right, and we have a president who seems to have no decency.”

In Chicago, thousands of people gathered in Grant Park. Fawzia Mirza drew cheers from the crowd as she kicked off the event with a reference to the partial government shutdown, which began hours earlier.

“When the government shuts down, women still march,” she said.

She said the event was about channeling women’s energy and “putting that power in the polls.”

Earlier Saturday, dozens of activists gathered in Rome to denounce violence against women and express support for the #MeToo movement. They were joined by Italian actress and director Asia Argento, who made headlines after alleging in 2017 she had been sexually assaulted by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein in the 1990s.

The 2017 rally in Washington, D.C., and hundreds of similar marches created solidarity for those denouncing Trump’s views on abortion, immigration, LGBT rights and more. Millions of people around the world marched during last year’s rallies, and many on Saturday thought about all that’s happened in the past year.

The Republican president on Friday delivered new support to the anti-abortion movement he once opposed, speaking by video to thousands of activists at the annual March for Life.

In New York, scheduled speakers included Ashley Bennett, a Democrat who was elected Atlantic County, New Jersey, freeholder last November. Bennett defeated Republican incumbent John Carman, who had mocked the 2017 women’s march in Washington with a Facebook post asking whether the women would be home in time to cook dinner.

Among the goals of this year’s march are getting more Democrats to run for public office and bolstering

voter registration.

In Rome, Argento addressed the criticism she received once she spoke up about her abuse.

“Women are scared to speak, and because I was vilified by everything I said, I was called a prostitute for being raped,” she said at the rally.

Argento, who’s 42, was strongly criticized by many Italian media and Italian women for not speaking out earlier and was hounded on Twitter with accusations that she sought trouble.

Weinstein has apologized for causing “a lot of pain” with “the way I’ve behaved with colleagues in the past,” but he has denied “any allegations of non-consensual sex.”

Last year’s march in Washington sparked debate over inclusion, with some transgender minority women complaining that the event seemed designed for white women born female. Some anti-abortion activists said the event did not welcome them.

The organizers for the Sunday rally are striving for greater inclusion this year, with Latina and transgender female speakers, said Carmen Perez, another co-chair of the 2017 Washington march. Women in the U.S. illegally, sex workers and those formerly incarcerated are welcome, she said.

Linda Sarsour, one of the four organizers of last year’s Washington march, said Las Vegas was slotted for a major rally because it’s a strategic swing state that gave Democrat Hillary Clinton a narrow win in the presidential election and will have one of the most competitive Senate races in 2018.

The rallies also laid the groundwork for the recent movement that brought a reckoning for powerful men accused of sexual misconduct, Sarsour said.

“I think when women see visible women’s leadership, bold and fierce, going up against a very racist, sexist, misogynist administration, it gives you a different level of courage that you may not have felt you had,” she said.

# Civil Rights Leader Wyatt Tee Walker Dies; Worked Beside MLK



by: AFRO Staff

**CHESTER, Va. (AP)** — The Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker, who helped assemble the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "Letter From Birmingham Jail" from notes the incarcerated King wrote on paper scraps and newspaper margins, has died.

He was either 88 or 89. Family records showed different years of birth, said his daughter, Patrice Walker Powell, who confirmed his death.

In a Sept. 25, 1963 photo, Wyatt Tee Walker, executive director of the SCLC meets at First African Baptist Church, for the SCLC convention in Richmond, Va. The Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker, who helped assemble the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "Letter From Birmingham Jail" from notes the incarcerated King wrote on paper scraps and newspaper margins, died Tuesday morning, Jan. 23, 2018, in Chester, Va., said his daughter Patrice Walker Powell. He was either 88 or 89. Family records showed different years of birth, said Powell, who confirmed his death. (Carl Lynn/Richmond Times-Dispatch via AP)

Powell said her father died Tuesday morning at an assisted living facility in Chester, Virginia.

Walker was brought in by King to be the executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, three years after the civil rights organization was founded.

He already was a top civil rights leader in Virginia, where he had led a "Pilgrimage of Prayer" in Richmond against school segregation on New Year's Day 1959.

# Why Do Blacks Allow the Mainstream Media to Choose their Leaders? Continued from page 1

tries, including many in Africa, are basket cases.

So, all of the aforementioned radical liberal groups ran over their mothers to get to a news camera to denounce the president for his alleged statement.

With all the issues facing the Black community, CBC members joined other Democrats to attempt to pass a resolution through the U.S. House of Representatives to censure Trump for his comments, a symbolic gesture that must have kept Trump awake all night.

Derrick Johnson, the president and CEO of the NAACP called Trump a "racist."

Wow. I am sure that Trump is going to change his ways now.

Marc Morial, the president and CEO of the NUL, said that "President Trump's crude comments further reveal the repugnant racial motivations behind his administration's immigration policies."

Trump must be shaking in his boots.

I challenge my readers to find any issue directly related to Blacks in the U.S., i.e. American citizens, that these groups have put so much political and emotional capital in. It seems that these "media-appointed" Black leaders care more about those in the country illegally, homosexuals, or other groups that have no connection to America than they do the very people they "claim" to represent.

Juxtapose their reactions to Trump's alleged comments to their relative silence on the murder of Laquan McDonald in Chicago in 2014. He was murdered by Chicago police; they claimed that it was in self-defense, but the actual video revealed that the police lied and that McDonald posed no threat to the policemen.

Former Democratic congressman and Obama's first chief of staff and Chicago mayor at the time of the police murder, Rahm Emanuel refused to release the video until after his campaign for re-election in 2015 (which he ultimately won).

Emanuel has proven his total disdain for Blacks with his actions, not his rhetoric. Chicago is one of the most dangerous and violent cities in America. Where was the CBC's outrage at this? Why was there no attempt to censure Emanuel? Why are they not march-

ing through the streets of Chicago?

The NAACP and the UL have not convened a meeting or massive demonstration against Emanuel to denounce him as a racist. Oh, I forgot, he is a Democrat, therefore, he can't be racist.

Just because you are the head of an organization, doesn't mean you are a leader. Can you name me the leaders of the White community? But, I digress.

Members of the CBC are willing to oppose the short-term, Republican-sponsored spending bill, because that bill didn't include a long-term fix for President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program; even though this move would have devastating effects on the Black community, the same group they "claim" to represent.

Can you name me one issue that was of specific urgency to the Black community that the CBC has ever shut down the government for? Name me one member of the CBC that has a bill passed in his name? Name me one member of the CBC that has his name attached to a bill that became law, i.e. Sarbanes-Oxley, or the Hyde Amendment.

To the NAACP and the UL: Why is amnesty for illegals a "moral" imperative, but the high crime rate in the Black community isn't? Why wasn't the double-digit Black unemployment rate under eight years of Obama a "moral" imperative?

Remember the famous quote from former chair of the CBC and congressman from Mo., Emanuel Cleaver from September 2011: "If Obama were White, we'd be marching on the White House." This remark was made in regard to Obama doing nothing to reduce the Black unemployment rate, which was around 17 percent at the time.

Why do these "media-appointed" leaders make everyone else's issues their issue? When have you heard the illegals speaking out against the high unemployment rate in the Black community or discrimination in college admissions?

When have you seen the homosexual community speak out against housing discrimination towards Blacks or lack of access to capital for Black business owners?

Can anyone explain to me why these radical, Black liberal groups are ignoring the needs of their own community to focus on the issue of those who have absolutely no connection to our community?

Your first obligation as a parent is to take care of your own family. Period. Do you really think Michael Jordan gave a damn about Magic Johnson getting injured during a game in which they were playing against each other? Hell, no.

So, then, why are we fighting everyone else's battles at the expense of our own community?

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## Sweet Review



SaNaya White  
Ann Richards

I have completed another book and my reading length lasted a week before I had finished the book. The name of the book is "Sweet" by Emmy Laybourne. Sweet is not as kind as the title portrays. Sweet is about a cruise to celebrate the release of a newly created sweetener that taste like sugar but helps you lose weight, called Solu. Solu brings celebrities and non celebrities that are rich to the cruise in which they're the first to taste Solu and lose weight. The entire book is

both perspectives on the trip from a young lady named Laurel and a young guy named Tom who are both passengers on the cruise. Tom is a famous child star and reporter. Laurel is only there because her friend Viv's father payed for their admission. Tom and Laurel both meet and find out really interesting things about the cruise that they did not expect. A quote on the front of the book is "They'd kill to be thin." Trust this quote, it is truly what the book is about. The book covers topics such as obesity, addictions, and acceptance. I really enjoyed the twist on this story, as soon I started to read, I did not want to stop. I loved this book! It was a quick reading book, it had a grasp with the reader, and I was very upset with the ending. I hope there will be a movie or a 2nd book. I would say that out of 5 stars, I would give the book a 5. This book was amazing!

## Technology Class



Joshua Moore  
Manor New Tech M.S.

For the past few weeks in technology class

we have been learning about what makes things fly. Since we are learning about this, the teacher thought that a way to make it fun is by having a paper airplane because it has to do with flight. So this week we are going to have contest and I think I have a good chance of winning because I built my airplane out of construction paper. But I also built one with three regular papers. Which one would you use?

## MLK/Confederate Day



Tyler Allen  
Gus Garcia YMLA

We started the week with Martin Luther King Jr. Day being celebration. There were parades and speeches about all the things he stood for. Even the president had to come out and say something positive about him. Most American can find something special to say about him. King gave his life trying to bring attention to

the problems facing America and the world.

Then we ended the week with another state holiday. That day was Confederate heroes Day. Most students don't know anything about this day. There are no sell promotions. No parades. Yet that day has been a Texas state holiday since 1973, I found out. I've always wonder what guideline are used to determine who or what is to be honored.

I was told that most of building, school, statues, streets in the South were named for Southern heroes. Most were pro-slavery. I don't think you can change all their names. If you did, what would you rename them. Again I was told that you don't want to look into their personal life. Simple because you might be shocked.

## Once Upon a Mattress



Kennedy George  
Weiss High School

My school had its very first musical last week, Once Upon a Mattress. The musical is about the real and hilarious story of the princess and the pea. Many of my friends were in the musical and some were even casted as lead roles. I played my clarinet, and at first the music seemed pretty com-

plicated and the rest of the musicians and I didn't want to play our instruments one bit.

Once we started having our rehearsals with the rest of the cast though, things were starting to fall together. I remember being nervous on opening night, but that performance ended up being better than any of our rehearsals in my opinion. The next day, Friday, wasn't as good on the music side of things. On Saturday though, I felt like we did a pretty amazing job, both the actors and musicians.

After the Saturday performance everyone met at ihop to hang out and eat. It was fun hanging out with my friends and I'm glad the musical was a success.

## Girl Scout Cookie Season



Ava Roberts  
Pflugerville M. S.

January 17 was the first day of Girl Scout cookie sales. The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-run business in the world. During cookie season, you will see Girl Scouts at cookie booths set-up in front of businesses or walking the neighborhoods to sell cookies. We are excited to greet and offer you the chance to buy cookies. My favorite cookies are Caramel Delites, Lemonades, Peanut Butter Patties, Pea-

nut Butter Sandwich Shortbread, S'mores, Tag Alongs, and Thin Mints!

Selling cookies give us the experience of running our own cookie business. We are building our confidence, learning to work with others, and interacting with customers. We are also learning five essential skills: goal setting; decision making; money management; people skills; and business ethics.

By the time cookie season is over, we will have spent many hours selling cookies, counting money, and reminding ourselves of how many more boxes before they hit our individual sales goal. Your cookie purchase helps to fund life-changing opportunities and adventures for us. Thanks for helping to give us a chance to develop into tomorrow's leaders!

## AKA Warrior Cup



Quinn Langford  
Cedar Ridge H. S.

The AKA Warrior Cup is an annual martial arts tournament that was held this year on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Chicago, Illinois. The cup has won best tournament for three years in a row in the Sport Martial Arts Viewer's Choice Awards. The AKA Warrior Cup is also a part of the NASKA {North American Sport Karate Association} league, which is one of the most prestigious martial arts circuits in the world. Donovan Ruble, a teenager from Pflugerville, was one of the talented competitors at this event.

Because the AKA Warrior Cup was Donovan's first NASKA tournament and he didn't know how good his com-

petitors would be, he practiced hard beforehand to prepare himself. Even though he was physically prepared, he still felt a little nervous, so he reached out to others who had been competing in NASKA for years. They told him how they felt at their first NASKA tournament and gave him advice that helped him mentally prepare as well. As the AKA Warrior Cup approached, Donovan felt more and more confident. "[I was] ready to put all my hard work on the mat!" he said.

All of that hard work really did pay off in the end. Donovan won first place in Musical Weapons, first place in Traditional Weapons, third place in Creative Weapons, and fifth place in Traditional Forms. He got so many trophies that he had to buy another suitcase to bring them all back to Texas. The trophies weren't his only accomplishments; going to the tournament also helped Donovan come out of his shell and talk to more people. Donovan's first AKA Warrior Cup was a priceless experience, and he looks forward to returning and winning even more titles next year.

## Prince's First Birthday



Kamryn Mack  
Kipp Leadership Elem.

Prince is my dog. He's the cutest and fiercest Yorkie I know. He's a male with different colors. On January twentieth Prince had his first birthday. It was an adventure, really. Going to one place to the next. If you want to hear the tale of the birthday dog then read on.

We drove to the Tail Wagging Dog Bakery that's located in Georgetown. The lady who worked at the shop was really nice. The shop

has cakes in the shape of a bone that had different flavors like bacon and cheese. They also have little treats in a bag. We chose the cheese and bacon flavor with blue icing.

We arrived at the dog park. Prince didn't really know how to socialize with the other dogs. For example, Prince didn't know that when dogs first meet each other they're supposed to sniff the dogs tail. He was barking like he had heard a ghost at the beginning but later warmed up to the dogs. He played with Oliver, Maxine, a chihuahua and bulldog. Prince looked like he was having a good time, interacting with other dogs.

Then, Prince got to eat one fourth of his big bone cake. All in all, Prince had a pretty decent birthday. Thanks for reading.

## A Happy Birthday



Montrae Nelson  
Four Points M. S.

This past weekend my brothers and I went to Boerne to celebrate my friends birthday. Once we got there we hung out for a while before we went to this restaurant called the "Magic Time Machine" We were very excited to

go and have a good time.

Once we got there we got a table and your waiter was Jack Sparrow from the Pirate movie, the other waiters were also dressed as other cartoon characters and it was really cool seeing how they set up the place. The food was awesome, i got the buffalo chicken and it was the best I've ever had.

Lastly, We all had a great time and it was really special to spend time with him and celebrating with his family. It was sad to leave but we will all hang out again around spring break for a week and i can't wait. Thanks for reading.

**TheVillagerAnd BlackRegistryCompany**

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## A little visit to Peru



**Erika Lipscomb  
Manor M. S.**

In my spanish class we had to do a research project on a spanish country. My country that I picked was Peru. The information we had to look up was the size of Peru/compared size to state, the population, the flag, the kind of products they make, what kind of food they make, 5 famous people, and some facts. The size of Peru is 496.224 sq miles, twice as big as Texas. The population of Peru is about 31.38 mil from 2015 but i'm sure it has grown since then, having more peope than 27.86 mil in Texas in 2016. The flag of Peru was adopted by the government of Peru in 1824. It is a vertical triband with red outer bands and a single white middle band. Depending on its use, it may be defaced with different emblems, and has different names. Flag day in

Peru is celebrated on June 7, the anniversary of the Battle of Arica. Their products are mainly copper, gold, zinc, textiles, and fish meals and its major trade partners are the US, China, Brazil, and Chile. The primary ingrediants found in nearly every Peruvian dish are rice, potatoes, chicken, pork, lamb, and fish. One famous dish that they make is called Carapulca which is stew of potatoes, different meats, onions, and Peruvian chillies. Another weird dish is called Cui which is a type of guinea pig. Some famous people in Peru are Teofilo Cubillas who is soccer player, Lucila J. Sarsines is an actor, Jaime Yzaga is a tennis player, and Gary player is a golf player. The most interesting fact that I like is that every year there are 3000 typical fiestas that are celebrated, that is about 8 parades and parties every day! Another fact is that Peru is the 2nd largest producer of cocaine. A town in Peru called Puno speaks Aymara, and it's just more of difficult spanish including pronunciation and speling.

I liked doing this research project, I learned from it. Maybe I will travel there, eat guinea pigs and just party all day.

## Winter Wonderland



**Ruby George  
Riojas Elementary**

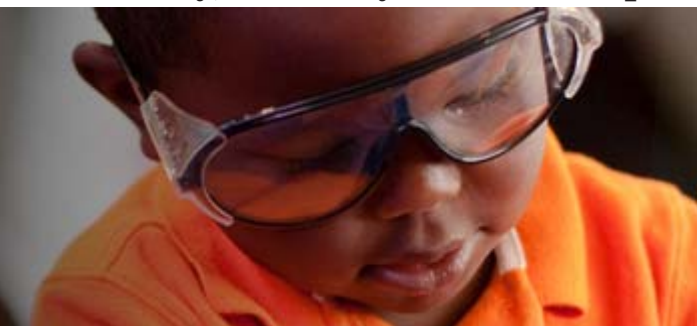
Whenever I heard that the schools were going to be closed, do to cold weather, i thought right at that moment 'snow day', but that's not what

happend. I thought that there was going to be snow because on the news, the meteorologist showed that there was going to be a chance of ice,sleet,snow, etc.

When I woke up in the morning, I wanted to go straight to my window, and see all the magical flurys of white blankets on cars,grass,and rooftops. When I looked outside, all I saw were tiny corners of ice on rooftops that you could barely see. It looked more rainy than snowy. But I have gotten snow in my life before, and that's all that matters.

## Community Night Spotlight: Black Heritage

**Wednesday, February 28 from 4-8 pm**



During Community Night Spotlight evenings, Thinkery shines a light on a unique aspect of the rich diversity that makes Austin such an amazing place to live, play and learn with educational activities facilitated by staff and special community presenters.

On February 28, join us for a playful evening in celebration of Black history, culture, art and scientific contributions, featuring hands-on activities and community presenters from the George Washington Carver Museum, Six Square and Mo' Math Mo' Money.

Admission is by donation

## TEA TEA opens online survey on special education corrective action draft plan

**AUSTIN, TEXAS -**  
The Texas Education

Agency (TEA) has made available an online survey to solicit feedback on its draft corrective action plan for special education. The online survey, which is available on the TEA website (<https://tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED>), is open to anyone wishing to provide input on the draft plan.

At the direction of Governor Greg Abbott, TEA drafted an initial corrective action plan regarding the support and delivery of special education services in our state's public schools. The initial draft addresses all issues identified in a recent federal monitoring report, including the proper identification of

special education students and assuring access to appropriate services at the local level.

The online survey is one part of TEA's ongoing outreach effort to hear from special education students, families, educators, advocacy groups, district and school officials, and all others seeking to provide input on the plan. The survey takes approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete. To fully understand and effectively respond to the questions in the survey, participants are encouraged to first read TEA's proposed corrective action plan.

TEA will be accepting an initial round of public comments on the

draft plan through Feb. 18. Following this initial round of public comments and stakeholder engagement, a revised draft plan will be available on or around March 1. Additional public comment will be accepted through March 31.

Under the current timeline, the final State corrective action plan would be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on or around April 18 (pending additional conversations and feedback from federal officials).

To review the draft plan and learn more about the agency's outreach efforts, visit the TEA website at [tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED](http://tea.texas.gov/TexasSPED).

## "THE GALLERY MIXTAPE: VOL 7" PRESENTED BY THE GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER MUSEUM, CULTURAL AND GENEALOGY CENTER



On Friday, January 26, 2018 from 7:00 – 10:00 pm, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department's George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center will host, the Gallery Mixtape: Vol. 7. This mixer offers an opportunity for black visual and performing artists to connect and engage an inter-generational community.

The evening will kick off with a special performance by multi-instrumentalist and classically trained opera singer, Kristen Trotty. Homegrown Austin native and hip-hop nurtured lyricist, Anastasia Smith will keep the night flowing with delectable cuts from her 2017 EP, Born to Love You. And soul priestess Tree G, will bless

the stage with an electrifying performance featuring selections from a forthcoming album.

In addition to musical performances, artists in attendance will have the opportunity to meet with members of the Carver Museum's curatorial team and join the institutions electronic Artist Registry.

Artists who are members of the registry will have priority access to information about Cultural Arts funding available through the city. Interested registrants will also be considered for exhibitions, residencies and teaching opportunities at the Museum.

This program is free and open to the public, but donations will be accepted at the door. All proceeds generated from the event will be used to support future programs of the Carver Museum.

## FREE TAX PREP FOR LOW-INCOME AUSTIN FAMILIES BEGINS JAN. 22

The 2018 tax season begins next week. Community Tax Centers, a program of nonprofit Foundation Communities, will provide free tax preparation for low- and moderate-income Central Texans starting January 22.

This year, families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) will not receive their tax refunds until after mid-February. This is a new effort by the IRS to prevent fraud but should not deter families from getting their taxes filed for free as soon as the Community Tax Centers open.

About 600 IRS-certified volunteers will assist fellow community members prepare and file their taxes. Volunteers have been trained to address questions about reporting health

insurance on tax returns, as required under the Affordable Care Act.

Households making up to \$55,000 are eligible for free tax preparation, with slightly higher incomes allowed for households of five or more. Six Community Tax Centers with convenient day, evening and weekend hours will be open in North, South and East Austin, as well as in Round Rock.

The 2018 tax season represents the Community Tax Centers' 14th year of operation. The tax centers expect to return \$34 million in tax refunds to more than 20,000 Central Texas families this year. Taxpayers can call United Way's 2-1-1 line for more information on locations, hours, and what documents to bring. They can also visit [www.communitytaxcenters.org](http://www.communitytaxcenters.org) for further information.

## AISD to Provide Transportation Districtwide for Garcia YMLA Students

**January 23, 2018 Austin, Texas** - As part of National School Choice Week, Austin ISD held a rally at Gus Garcia Young Men's Leadership Academy to highlight choices available to the district's students.

The Garcia YMLA drumline kicked off the event, followed by Superintendent Paul Cruz, who

announced a change at the school.

Beginning in the fall, AISD will offer transportation to any student within the district who attends the school.

Cruz also spoke about some of the other choices available districtwide, including AISD's six early college high schools.

He also emphasized

the variety of choices—Montessori, Middle School Dyslexia Project, Career Launch, Pre-K for 3- and 4-year-olds—and that the district accepts transfers from students who may live outside AISD boundaries.

Eighth-grader Artist Tyson, an out-of-district transfer student to Garcia YMLA, spoke about the

positive environment at the school.

Artist also said he appreciates the unique skills he's learning.

"They teach us how to tie our own ties, and how to use proper etiquette and how to talk to a lady," he said. "They want you to grow. At Gus Garcia, they teach you how to be a man."



## AVID College Readiness Symposium

Saturday, January 27, 2018 - 9:00am to 12:00pm  
St. Edward's University, Moody Hall, 3001 S. Congress Ave. Austin ISD's AVID, in collaboration with St. Edward's University, hosts the first AVID College Readiness Symposium. AISD high school AVID students and their families will participate in college preparatory breakout sessions.

The event is free and open to Austin ISD's high school AVID students and their families. We look forward to seeing you 9 a.m.–noon Jan. 27 at St. Edward's University, Moody Hall, 3001 S. Congress Ave.

For additional information, please contact your student's AVID elective teacher.

## Martin Middle School Showcase

Tuesday, February 6, 2018 - 9:30am to 11:00am  
Martin Middle School, 1601 Haskell St.

Join us for the Martin Middle Showcase from 9:30–11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at Martin Middle School. All current fifth-graders from Allison, Brooke, Govalle, Metz, Ortega, Sanchez and Zavala elementary schools will be attending this event as a field trip with their class.

Families are invited too!

Students from other schools are also welcome to attend with their families. Students and families will be able learn more about the amazing programs offered at Martin Middle School. Hope to see you there!

For more information, contact Ryan O'Donnell at 512-841-2595.

# Women's March Say No To Trump



Women's March 2018. Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

# 5th Annual Diaspora Women Conference

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

On February 25, 2018, Diaspora Vote will hold its 5th Annual Women's Conference. At the Women's Conference, the topics included the following: Women in Politics; Women in Business; Women in Education; Women in Community Activism; and the Women in Social Justice. Although these were the main topics, the "Conference" will also touch on the effect of the recent anti-immigration tide that both the Hispanic and African Immigrant community are facing.

fact of how women in Central Texas are making a difference in the community for the better. Furthermore, the organizers mentioned that this "conference will showcase and future the achievement of women in Central Texas."

Finally, the Women event will feature Women who are trailblazing in their area of expertise. For instance, Dyana Limon-Mercado who is running for the chair of the Travis County Democratic Party will be one of the featured speakers at this event. In addition, Isabella a Co-owner of Belle Juice will be featured speaker in the Women In Business sector.

According to organizers, this event is meant to showcase the

## Black History Month Community Sing-A-Long



First event for Black History Month at the Carver! Join us to learn the lyrics of a special song and sing it together.

## "Oh Snap!.... My Alien Children are trying to kill me!"



This moving new piece is written and performed by award-winning writer/performer Zell Miller, III.

What better way to celebrate black history month, than to take a journey with a black father. Master storyteller Zell Miller, III returns to the Austin stages with these comical and touching tales of raising his (now) 18-year old son and 10-year old daughter. "Any male can be a father, but it takes a man to be a daddy".

Come and experience the high-energy, emotional ride of fatherhood and the joys and challenges of raising children of color in this turbulent American landscape. Please be aware that there is strong language in this performance. Ground Floor Theater 979 Springdale Rd #122 Feb 1st through Feb 3rd 8pm Sunday Feb 4th 6pm. To purchase ticket or Reservations please call 512 926-2203.

## Mckinley Melancon for Travis County Court At Law #5

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist

Recently, Mckinley Melancon has announced her intention to run for the County Court At Law # 5. In other words, she has challenged the incumbent Judge of this court.

Although she has challenged an incumbent, she believes that she win the race based on the issues. According to Mckinley, "I am running for Judge of Travis County Court at Law # 5 to ensure that individuals who appear in this court receives a fair and speedy trial."

Mckinley Melancon is a lifelong Texas Democrat who graduated from South Texas School of Law. In 2013, she began a practicing criminal defense law in Austin Texas. According to Ms. Melancon, "as a criminal defense attorney, her ex-



Mckinley Melancon

perience representing people accused of crimes gives her a unique perspective in Travis County, where six out of seven criminal county court judges are former prosecutor."

Finally Mckinley Melancon is running for County Court at Law # 5. According to Melancon, "Blacks and Latino spend a disproportionate

amount of time behind bars in Travis County. As a result County Court # 5 needs someone who is sensitive to racial disparities in our community. Moreover, County Court at Law # 5 is one of the seven criminal court found in Travis County. I will strive to apply the law consistently and fair, regardless of creed, color or economic situation.

Participants and rallies such as Austin, Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities. In Washington DC, there were about 500,000 people who rallied; Austin had about 50,000 people who marched and rallied to the Texas State Capital. It was an opportunity for those who rallied and marched to express their hope of fighting against Trump's policies. According to various news outlets, the Women March was the biggest rally in US history. Moreover, there is an estimate that the "Women March" drew over 2.9 million people throughout the US, including Austin. At this rally it was an opportunity for various "progressive groups to come together" and talk about the need of changing Washington. The organizers stressed for the need of the crowd to get involved in the local areas in order to affect change.

## Big Boi: Daddy Fat Saxxx Tour, Sack 2 at Empire Garage



Big Boi

Heard Presents and Margin Walker Presents bring you: Big Boi with The Cool Kids at Empire Control Room & Garage. Doors @ 9 18+ Tickets available online.

The Cool Kids have proven to be both an Internet and live show phenomenon. The duo of Mikey Rocks and Chuck English met in mid-2005 after Mickey came across some of Chuck's beats online and liked what he heard. In 2007 they started receiving press from tastemakers, and landed several opening spots at festivals and shows. Fast forward to 2017 and The Cool Kids are back after a hiatus that saw Chuck and Mikey each expand upon their individual musical and artistic pursuits. Their new album, Special Edition Grandmaster Deluxe, features the same barrier-breaking, revolutionary hip-hop that cemented their status as legends, along with a newschool, high-gloss finish.



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



### AUSTIN-SAN ANTONIO ALUMNAE MEMBERS WELCOME NEW MEMBER TO THE AUSTIN AREA

by Anita E. Dabney,  
President Austin-  
Spelman Chapter  
of the Spelman College  
Alumnae Association

AUSTIN, TX - Afton Lane, Spelman College Class of 2013, was welcomed to the Austin area with a dinner at *Taverna – Domain* on Wednesday, January 10th. The gathering was also held as a send-off for Austin Spelman student Simone

Stinnette, as she returns to complete her final semester at Spelman College. Ms. Stinnette, a pre-med major, looks forward to her graduation in May, 2018. Her plans include pursuing a Master's degree in Public Health as she prepares for medical school. Ms. Stinnette, is the daughter of Ricardo and Nikki Stinnette.

Ms. Lane moved to Austin recently, from Las

Vegas for a position as Executive Assistant to the CEO of Cintra, U.S., headquartered in Austin. Cintra is a private sector infrastructure transportation company that manages approximately \$8 billion of projects in the U.S. and has others in development. Locally they are responsible for Highway 130. Ms. Lane is one of several Spelman graduates moving to Austin to take ad-

vantage of the growth economy in various industries seeking the talents and qualifications offered by Spelman graduates.

Founded in 1881, Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia is a global leader in the education of women of African descent. Spelman College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is part of



Spelman Alumnae meet at Taverna Italian Restaurant – at the Domain. From Left: Tracy G. Bermiss, Simone Stinnette, Spelman Class of 2018, Anita E. Dabney, Austin-San Antonio Chapter President, and Afton Lane, recently located to Austin.

## Last year's study showed the majority of White Democratic lawmakers in the U.S. Senate with millions of Black constituents had no Black senior staff members at all continued from page 1

Take Alabama's recent special U.S. Senate election race involving Republican Roy Moore and Democrat Doug Jones, where people were overwhelmingly surprised to see the exit polls that showed that Black voters made up 29 percent of the overall voter turnout in the entire election—18 percent of Black women and 11 percent of Black men. Exit polls also showed that 98 percent of Black women cast their vote for Jones, while 93 percent of Black men cast their vote for Jones.

These were phenomenal numbers, and definitely the type of numbers that Jones needed to pull off an unexpected victory in a historically and traditionally red state like Alabama. "It was exciting to see this type of political difference making by the Black community, but that excitement was immediately quenched and short-lived, after reading reports that a letter was sent to Jones on Dec. 19 from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and 16 other organizations practically begging him "to commit to hiring a staff that reflects his constituents' racial diversity."

Why wasn't this letter sent before Jones won? Why not get this type of commitment from Jones before engaging the Black community to come out and vote for him, and doing what the Black community always does when it is expected to deliver the turnout and votes necessary to secure a victory for select candidates or select issues on the ballot? I believe it is, because the Black community has grown accustomed to not being respected, especially within the Democratic Party where they are the most loyal. And before "loyal" Democrats come for my head, because they consider this an attack on the Democratic Party or as an opportunity to try and have us compare the Democratic Party to the Republican Party, I believe the Black community needs to ask itself some really tough questions.

When it comes to the Black community's involvement in the Democratic Party, how are Blacks truly viewed within the party? Despite the Black community having such a strong and dedicated voting bloc across the nation, how many Blacks actually hold key positions within the Democratic Party on a local, statewide and/or national basis? How many Black people are senior staff members in county, state or federal offices across the country?

According to a detailed report released by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies last year, the majority of White Democratic lawmakers in the U.S. Senate, who have millions of Black constituents, have no Black senior staff members at all. The report also found that while Blacks make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, they only make up 0.9 percent of the top Senate staffers. Is this by design or just an unfortunate oversight?

See, it is one thing to look out at these local, county, state and federal Democratic meetings and conventions and see this sea of diversity, with Black faces mixed in with faces from all other races and backgrounds, but it is an entirely different thing to know that Blacks are not given opportunities to have a real impact in the Democratic Party from within, other than just voting.

Secondly, as I see it, it is abundantly clear to me that the Black community is oftentimes ignored, disrespected and disregarded by both major political parties until they are needed in the midnight hour to deliver for those who only want their vote but nothing else.

This is important to highlight because, over the last several decades, Black people have voted for Democratic candidates 94 percent of the time in critical federal and state elections.

Black voters turned out in record numbers in 2008 to elect Barack Obama as the first Black president of the United States, with the primary belief that by letting their voices be heard, they would experience the "Hope and Change" he campaigned on. As a result of

this record turnout, Black voters helped elect President Obama to the highest office in the land and they helped elect Democrats to other key positions that helped Democrats gain control of both the House and the Senate. And what did the Democratic Party do as soon as they got control of the House, Senate and the White House? You guessed it! Respective groups within the Democratic Party began advocating for their own competing interests and could care less about Black issues.

And how were Black people rewarded for their 96 percent voting loyalty in 2008? Subsequently, the many issues impacting the Black community were ignored and got pushed further and further to the back of the bus, and Black people were pushed to the bottom of the totem pole.

During a time where Black people should have been experiencing tremendous gains, we saw Black unemployment at its highest point, increased poverty, property loss and home equity loss at record-numbers in the Black community, and the wealth gap tripled between us and Whites.

Sadly, as I see it, the role of Blacks within the Democratic Party has been one that has relegated us to only being good for faithfully voting Democratic that is known for hitting the pavement to rally the voters in the hood and in the church, while not having a true voice within the Party. That has to change starting in this New Year of 2018. It's extremely clear to me that we as Black people need to wake up and get more actively involved with politics, because if we don't do it, we will continue getting screwed over by people who don't have our best interest at heart and who would rather see us "begging" them for scraps from the table, rather than demanding a seat at the table. We can complain all day about how "White" and "not culturally diverse" the Republican Party is, but the one thing I can respect about them is when they choose to come together about the things that are collectively important to them—they come together.

Don't get historical amnesia on me. Lest we forget that there was a time, not long ago, where the Republican Party once advocated for Black people and Black issues, while the Democratic Party served as the home of the Ku Klux Klan and advocated for segregationist policies that violated and went against the Civil Rights of Black people.

As I see it, the Democratic Party is getting more and more fragmented, while the Republican Party remains consistent with their message and their actions, even if it costs them votes or support. They have conviction and stick to their guns for the whole of the Party. At the end of the day, the Republican Party appears to be on one accord publicly, even when there may be discord internally. This has not been the case with the Democratic Party over the last several decades.

As I see it, Blacks cannot be political squatters, sitting with our hands out, begging for scraps from the table and waiting to be given our next assignment and told our next move.

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick said it best at the last Democratic National Convention, when he told attendees that they needed to get some "backbone."

All I know is this, Black folks had better get some "backbone" and wake up before we find ourselves becoming comfortable with sitting at the back of the bus again, while the Hispanic community and Asian community figure out a way to work collectively together to advance their political and social position in this country. If we find ourselves in the back of the bus, sadly, it won't be the Republicans' fault or the Democrats' fault. This time, it will be no one's fault, but our own.

Dear Black people: We either get engaged or get left behind.

What's it going to be for 2018 and beyond?

the Atlanta University Center Consortium, which includes Morehouse College and Medical School and Clark-Atlanta University.

Spelman's student body comprises more than 2,100 students from 41 states and 15 foreign countries. Spelman empowers women to engage the many cultures of the world and inspires a commitment to positive social change through service. The experience at the College is dedicated to academic excellence in the liberal



#### New Jobs for the Week of 01/21/2017

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Nursing  
Eastview Campus  
Job# 1801008  
Coordinator, College Schedule  
Location is as assigned  
Job# 1801012  
Analyst, Business Operations  
Location is as assigned  
Job# 1801013  
Faculty, Vocational Nursing  
Eastview Campus  
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arts and sciences and the intellectual, creative, ethical and leadership development of our students.

U.S. New & World Report rates Spelman College No. 1 HBCU and No. 61. of the Best U.S. National Liberal Arts Colleges 2017 rankings.

Explore Spelman College at: <https://www.spelman.edu/>

**The Turner-Roberts Recreation Center** is seeking a Recreation Program Supervisor. The center offers recreational and leisure opportunities for Northeast area residents. Programs include: cultural arts, sports, community/family events, life skills, recreation leagues and numerous classes. Inclusive programs for youth with special needs are also offered. Go to [austincityjobs.org](http://austincityjobs.org) for more information and to apply.

**Integral Care** is currently soliciting proposals through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process for Audit Services. RFQs may be sent electronically, by contacting Brody Ballard at [brody.ballard@integralcare.org](mailto:brody.ballard@integralcare.org) beginning January 16, 2018. The deadline to submit a proposal under the RFQ is 4 p.m. CST on March 12, 2018. Historically Underutilized Businesses, including Minority-Owned Businesses and Women-Owned Businesses, are encouraged to apply.

**"The Pflugerville Independent School District** will open Proposals for: Awards on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 @ 2:00 p.m.

All proposals may be submitted (by mail or hand carry) to: Pflugerville ISD1 401 West Pecan Pflugerville, TX 78660 Attn: Janie Ornelas Proposals may be picked up in person or downloaded from the PISD website at: [www.pfisd.net](http://www.pfisd.net).



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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).



# Outstanding Film and Television Performances Honored at the 24th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards® by Naomi Richard

LOS ANGELES – The Screen Actors Guild Awards® presented its coveted Actor® statuettes for the outstanding motion picture and television performances of 2017 at the 24th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards®, hosted by Kristen Bell, held Sunday, Jan. 21 at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium & Expo Hall.

Honored with individual awards were Frances McDormand, Gary Oldman, Allison Janney and Sam Rockwell for performances in motion pictures, and Nicole Kidman, Alexander

Skarsgård, Claire Foy, Sterling K. Brown, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and William H. Macy for performances in television. The Screen Actors Guild Awards originated awards for the outstanding performances by a motion picture cast and by television drama and comedy ensembles. The Actor® for a motion picture cast performance went this year to “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.”

NBC’s “This Is Us,” ranked #3 during Primetime Week in January, won Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series.

“Veep” took home Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series.

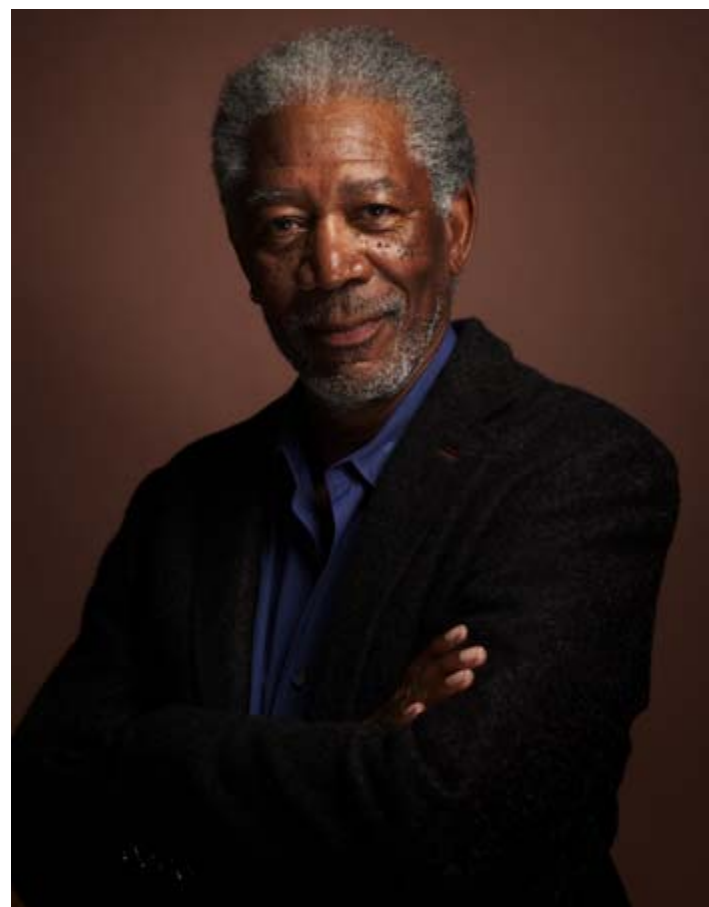
SAG-AFTRA President Gabrielle Carteris and SAG Awards® Committee Chair JoBeth Williams revealed the honorees for outstanding television and film stunt ensemble action performances during the streamed PEOPLE, EW & TNT’s Official SAG Awards® Red Carpet Live Show pre-show.

Rita Moreno presented Morgan Freeman with the 54th Life Achievement Award, following a filmed salute to the Acad-

emy Award® winning actor, producer, voice actor and activist, which mirrored when Freeman presented Moreno with the 50th Life Achievement Award. Felicity Huffman introduced a filmed “In Memoriam” tribute to the SAG-AFTRA members lost during 2017. In keeping with the SAG Awards tradition of highlighting the work of SAG-AFTRA members, SAG-AFTRA President Gabrielle Carteris introduced a montage that illustrated the union’s diversity and the wide range of its members’ professional skills.

PEOPLE magazine and the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) hosted the Screen Actors Guild Post-Awards Gala for the 22nd year. They were joined this year for the first time by official co-sponsor TNT & TBS. This exclusive event, which was held immediately following the SAG Awards on a specially extended section of the Shrine’s auditorium stage honors the charitable efforts of actors in their communities and its hosts make an annual donation to the SAG-AFTRA Foundation.

The 24th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards presented by SAG-AFTRA with Screen Actors Guild Awards®, LLC was produced by Avalon Har-



Morgan Freeman- 54th SAG Life Achievement Recipient. Photo Credit: Nigel Parry/CPA



Sterling NBC's "This Is Us" star Sterling K. Brown backstage during the SAG Awards. Photo Credit: www.twitter.com/sterlingkbrown

bor Productions. For a complete list of SAG Awards’ winners and to learn more information about the SAG Awards visit [sagawards.org/about](http://sagawards.org/about).

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## Come Join The TEAM!

**A Better Me** is a program of the Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas. It was created to assist individuals who want to make lifestyle changes that will help reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases or better manage those conditions if they already exist. The changes sought will primarily be associated with physical activity and nutrition.

**For more information or to join the team, please contact us at:**  
**E: [info@aaahct.org](mailto:info@aaahct.org) | P: 512-710-5405**

**ALLIANCE FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH IN CENTRAL TEXAS (AAAHCT)**

## CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH US

## Changes Coming to Loyola Lane at US 183

An Update from the 183 South Project Team

### DRIVER ALERT!

Construction at the Loyola Lane/US 183 intersection is in full swing, with more impacts on the horizon.

**Beginning in February, and lasting about one year, the Loyola Lane crossing over US 183 will be temporarily closed as crews construct the Loyola Lane bridge over what will be the future 183 South Expressway.**

Additionally, Loyola Lane west of US 183 will be closed for approximately two months for construction of the new general-purpose lanes.

**Alternate routes are available!**  
**Visit [183South.com](http://183South.com) for a detour map**

Drivers impacted by the Loyola Lane crossing closure should use the non-signalized U-turns at Springdale/Manor Road and FM 969 (MLK Boulevard). To reach destinations located on Loyola Lane west of US 183, use Manor Road.

*We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience!*

For more information, please visit [www.183South.com](http://www.183South.com) or call 512-640-0060.

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