A Community Service Weekly Since 1973
4132 E. 12th Street Austin, Texas 78721

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The Committee host 7th Annual White Party Affair at MYEC

The Committee members from left to right are:
Ottis Williams, Yannis Banks of Capital Metro, J.T. Tyler, Cheryl Williams, Aaron Jones, Barbara Foreman, Arthur Hargis, Ron Stewart, Alyisia Friday, David Williams, Lawrence Sampleton, Creola Williams, Donald Jones, and McCrory of Capital Metro, Byron January, and Derelle Young.

(AUSTIN, TX) – The Committee the Original Austin Chapter held its 7th Annual White Party Affair at the Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex. Saturday evening July 27th from 8:00pm to 1:00 am. An event, year after year, that has drawn thousands of guests from around the Austin and surrounding areas.

The Committee the Original Austin Chapter is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charitable organization, promoting minority business growth, recognition of local community leaders who’ve made contributions to Austin, and we promote education of higher learning for graduating high school seniors. As the Committee’s hope has been to connect with students with resources that allow them to pursue and complete their higher education at a high level, this night’s event was the beginning of this becoming a reality as the Committee along with their platinum sponsor, Capital Metro, awarded five deserving graduating high school seniors with a $1500 scholarship check today.

To continue the mission, a portion of each ticket sold for this year’s event will help provide even more resources for more students next year.

See INSPIRATION, page 6

JPMorgan Chase and National Urban League Collaborate to Help Black Households Increase Savings

Special Report | AFRQ News Service

FINANCIAL SAVINGS INITIATIVE

As part of the initiative, the National Urban League will select 10 Urban League Affiliates from around the country to integrate financial technology tools into their financial coaching programs.

The program will include tools that are being identified, tested and scaled by JPMorgan Chase as part of the firm’s Financial Solutions Lab. Managed by the Financial Health Network in collaboration with JPMorgan Chase, the Financial Solutions Lab will bring promising fintech innovations that can help people in the U.S. increase savings, improve credit and build assets. Financial Solutions Lab innovations have led to more than $1 billion in savings for U.S. residents to date.

“Financial health is an important element in building strong and resilient households, communities and economies, and the JPMorgan Chase Financial Solutions Lab is working with the National Urban League to expand access to these tools and coaching they need to save for the future,” said Sekou Kaaland, head of Advancing Black Pathways for JPMorgan Chase.

“For many Black Americans lack access to the tools and coaching they need to save for the future. With initiatives like this one, more people can share in the rewards of a growing economy.”

Over the last five years, JPMorgan Chase committed over $100 million to 250 nonprofit organizations and research institutions across the world, helping 7 million people improve their financial health and save more than $1 billion.
Kim Scott of Tony’s Jamaican Food as a food truck located at 1200 E. 11th Street in East Austin when it debuted during the SXSW Music Festival. It was recognized last week by ATX Black Food Week 2019 highlighting Black-owned restaurants in the Austin community.

Tony’s Jamaican Food opened at 2700 West Pecan Street, Suite 650 last November.

“Tony enjoys cooking. He always wanted to own his own restaurant,” Kim said of her husband and business partner. “We used to have a little place in Jamaica. We’ve grown a lot since then.”

Tony continues to cook at his trailer in East Austin. Steve Sharpe is the head chef at the Pflugerville restaurant.

Kim said menu favorites include oxtail and jerk chicken, among other Jamaican dishes.

“We’re expanding the menu. We cater to our customers,” Kim said. “We have garlic shrimp and curry shrimp. Someone might say, ‘How about jerk shrimp?’ ‘Oh, yeah, we can make that happen.’”

Tony’s Jamaican Food will celebrate Jamaican Independence Day this week with a DJ and music Saturday at the food truck and Sunday in Pflugerville.

J. LEONARDI’S BARBECUE

Jerome Faulkner and brother Leonard have operated their food truck at 1124 East 11th Street for about three years.

J. Leonardi’s Barbeque was recognized last week by ATX Black Food Week 2019. “We’re local, born and raised here. We serve East Side backyard barbeque.”

SASSY’S VEGETARIAN SOUL FOOD

Owner/operator Andrea Dawson operates her food truck at 1819 East 12th Street, which was featured in ATX Black Food Week 2019. She also provides catering services.

Sassy’s offers a meatless menu featuring fried cabbage, chicon and waffles, three green medleys (kale, collard and mustard), refried creamy blackeyed peas and hotwater cornbread.

ATX Black Food Week 2019 continues through Saturday.

TCSO Victim Services Unit Seeks Volunteers

(TRAVIS COUNTY) - The Travis County Sheriff’s Office Victim Services Unit is seeking volunteers to provide immediate assistance to victims of various criminal and crisis circumstances including, but not limited to: Family Violence, Sexual Assaults, Child/Elder Abuse, Aggravated Assaults, Robberies/Burglaries, Suicides, Structure Fires, Death Notifications, Natural/Accidental Deaths and Major Traffic Accidents.

Volunteers must complete a comprehensive training program that is scheduled for September 9-28. (Mondays 6 – 9pm, Thursdays 6 – 9pm, Saturdays 9am – 5pm). Volunteers will also be accompanied on a series of calls before being cleared to take calls independently.

TCSO is seeking persons of excellent moral standing with the sensitivity and self-awareness necessary to provide effective assistance to those in crisis. Volunteers need to be 21 or older, with a reliable, insured vehicle, a working cell phone and a schedule that allows for (4) four-hour shifts of on-call duty per month. Volunteers must also be willing to submit to a background check that includes fingerprints.

To volunteer, visit https://www.tcsheriff.org/victim-services/volunteers.

ENJOY SUMMER SAVINGS

Easy tools and tips can help you manage utility bills

• Use Austin Energy’s web app and Austin Water’s Dropcountr app.
• Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher.
• Access rebates for energy and water efficiency.
• Water lawns on your assigned day.
• Cool off away from home at a library or a community center.

Visit austinenergy.com and austinwater.org for summer savings tips and take control of your utility bills today!
Justin Brooks takes an emotional toll on when applying for jobs, rejection he receives the game he truly loves, spirits, the inability to play record. While his mother he dreamed of despite fighting to regain the life Brian lost out on a USC the college campus.

After seeing a TV news story about lawyer Justin Brooks (Greg Kinnear), co-founder of the California Innocence Project (CIP), Brian writes to him with a passionate plea for help. Brian knows the chances of exonerating are virtually non-exis-
tent, but after meeting with Brian and hearing his story, he eventually agrees to take a closer look at the case.

Actor Aldis Hodge (left) and the real life Brian Brooks (right) on the set of Tom Shadyac’s BRIAN BANKS, a Bleecker Street release.

Brian describes the transformative experience he had while locked in solitary confine-
ment. What saved him from that nightmare was a class he took in his life.

Litter, while applying for a job at a local gym, Brian meets Karina (Melonie Diaz), a personal trainer. On a date, he tells her about his wrongs, and his initial discomfort is exc-
erbated by her own ex-
perience as a victim of sexual assault, but as she learns to trust Brian she becomes a source of support and comfort in his struggle to set the record straight.

Film Director Tom Shadyac made a poi-

sive reflection, “I’d heard the statistics be-
fore: 97% of all cases pleaded out; thousands of incar-
cerated are plead out; thousands of years mean little un-
til a name, a story, comes along that drives home the weight of the injustice.

Actor Brian Banks (right) is seen alongside Karina (Melonie Diaz) in the set for the movie "BRIAN BANKS."
African Diaspora Meet With Beth Payan
by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon
VILLAGER Columnist

VILLAGER NEWS - On July 28, 2019, a small group of the African Diaspora met with Beth Payan, candidate for the 427th District Court. It was an informal meeting in which Mrs. Payan had the opportunity to address some concerns of the community members. Beth had the chance to witness the growing African Diaspora in Central Texas. Moreover, she managed to win over a couple of voters.

Mrs. Payan has a lengthy history as a lawyer. Upon graduation from law school, she performed legal work for nonprofits. Later, she became the City of Austin prosecutor. Finally, Payan landed in the Travis County District Attorney office, working on numerous cases. Although she loves her job as an assistant prosecutor, she believes that being a Judge would allow her to better affect the justice system.

Finally, Beth Payan has mentioned that she is over, she managed to win over a couple of voters.

Pictured left to right are: Beth Payan and Eli Doghe. Photo/Toske (Chuch) Adjavon

GIVEN'S SWIMS: A DANCE FOR A CITY POOL AND ITS PEOPLE
by Charlotte Moore || Soulciti

The tides have been turning in East Austin for some time. A few decades ago with gentrification. Nearly a century ago when Austin leaders segregated the city. Tides continue to turn as people who live in East Austin adapt — and ride — the waves of change.

This adaptation is experienced by as many members of the community — old and new. Thankfully, there exist local groups and organizations helping navigate these potentially treacherous wa-
ters. Groups like Forklift Danceworks.

Now, explaining what Forklift Danceworks does is akin to describing that scene in Flashdance (sorry, millennials — Google it) when Jennifer Beals’ character, while performing a dance routine, pulls a chain extending from the roof, releasing a cascade of water down onto her person.

You kinda have to see it to fully grasp it. But, allow this writer to try:

Founded in 2001 by local artist and choreog-
raper Allison Orr, Forklift Danceworks aims to elevate respect and un-
covering the “common man” by pre-
senting dance perfor-
mances by sanitation workers, power line-
men, warehouse em-
ployees, and the like — people in our communi-
ties who work very hard day in and day out and we collectively sometimes take for granted.

The thing is, these performances are only available about body movement. The organi-
ization is successfully us-
ing choreography to ad-
dress much larger issues.

If you’ve not heard of Forklift Danceworks, you may have heard of “Trash Dance,” an award-winning docu-
mentary featuring Aus-
tin sanitation workers and their trucks busting some wild moves.

(again, you have to see it.)

We are using col-
laborative artmaking to bring people together.

For the last three years, the group has been making a splash in a whole new area — lo-
cal swimming pools — in a spectacular show called “My Park, My Pool, My City,” a trilogy of performances aimed at educating our com-
munity about city pools and the people who use and maintain them.

But, it’s about so much more than that.

“It’s also a chance to showcase the beauty of East Austin.”

HOFT Holds Multicultural Talent Show
by Toske (Chuch) Adjavon
VILLAGER Columnist

VILLAGER NEWS - Thursday, July 25, 2019, the HOFT Institute hosted a multicultural talent show, in order to fund and support need-based scholar-
ships for international students. According to the Institute, “the center welcomes students from 41 different countries, many of which were repre-
sented in this show.” Students came from Togo, Columbia, Ghana, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Thailand, and more.

Event organizers expressed, “the evening included a fashion show, with students promoting in their culture’s traditional attire and delicious delicacies. In conclusion, Columbian students will perform a Salsa dancing lesson.” According to the co-founder of the insti-
tute, “our students know firsthand that studying abroad is a special and transforma-
tive experience. It’s inspiring to watch them come together and volunteer, sharing their cultures and helping students who otherwise might not be able to experience living and learning in another country.”

Pflugerville Celebrates Liberian Independence Day
by Toske (Chuch) Adjavon
VILLAGER Columnist

VILLAGER NEWS - Saturday, July 27, 2019, the Liberian community of Central Texas held their Annual Liberian In-
dependence Day cele-
bration. Unlike prior years, this year the event was a low key and scaled back. According to an unofficial census, there are about a hundred Liberian American living in Central Texas. Moreover, it is one of the largest African groups in the area.

The freed American slaves re-settled in Liberia. The ties between the U.S and the new settlement were strong because they named a city after James Monroe.

The freed American slaves and the indigenous people worked together to create the nation of Liberia. As a result, Liberia was the first na-
tion in West Africa to be an independent nation. For over 150 years Liberia experienced peace and prosperity. However, dur-
ing the early 1980’s it ex-
perienced a military coup.

In the early ‘90s, Liberia faced a Civil War, enduring for fourteen years. The War caused a massive flow of refugees throughout West Africa and to the United States. Once again, the nation of Liberia was a trailblazer by electing the first woman President of West Africa in the early 2000’s. Now, the nation of Liberia has become a promising land for its people.

Liberian American Independence: (left to right) George, Janice, and Joseph. Photo/Toske (Chuch) Adjavon

Students Join the In Grow
by Villager Youth Brigader

Be a reporter from YOUR school!
Villager Youth Brigader

For More Information Call 512.476.0082
4132 East 12th Street, Austin, Texas 78721
Deadline: August 15, 2019
Americans largely do not want Blacks to obtain cash reparations

By Defender News Service

(DEFENDER) - The majority of Americans are not in favor of the Black community getting cash reparations, according to the results of a new survey released Monday. The survey, which was conducted by Gallup and released Monday, surveyed a random sample of 2,543 Americans via phone in interviews taken from June 19 to July 12 of this year. Among the U.S. residents who took the poll, 67 percent say they are opposed to the government issuing cash to Americans who are descendants of enslaved Africans. Still, the majority of Black Americans are in favor of such a policy making up the bulk of the 29 percent of people who say cash reparations should be doled out. Other findings in the poll reveal that over 98 percent support for monetary reparations is up by 15 percent compared to 2002 when only 14 percent of Americans favored the move. Back then 81 percent of people said they did not support cash reparations.

The poll comes at a time when several Democratic presidential candidates have voiced backing for looking into reparations or other methods of tackling racial disparities in the U.S. New Jersey Senator Cory Booker, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro, California Sen. Kamala Harris, Mas- sachusetts Sen. Eliza- beth Warren, and Pete Buttigieg are among those who’ve claimed to back the idea of reparations, although the latter has only voiced support against giving cash for them. Buttigieg unveiled a plan in support of the Black community that would go hand-in-hand with other reparations solutions. Meanwhile, Booker introduced a reparations bill as a companion to HR 40 that would establish “a commis- sion to study the im- pact of slavery and convict labor on Black Americans and make recom- mendations on reparations proposals for the descendants of slaves.”

A young girl attends a slavery reparations protest outside of the New York Life Insurance Company offices on August 9, 2002, in New York City. Mario Tama/Getty Images

Free caregiver conference in Central Texas, the annual event helps to ease the challenges of caring for an aging family member by providing unpaid caregivers with relevant information and vital re- sources. The attendees will discover local resources, acquire skills to better manage their caregiving situation, and connect with other caregivers and local ex- perts on aging. The day also includes workshops on topics related to caregiving, with experts available for questions. This year’s conference features author and caregiving expert Dr. Eboni Green, speaking on “Bridging the Family Communication Gap.” Dr. Green is the Presi- dent and CEO of Caregiver Support Services, and the author of three books: At the Heart of the Matter, Caregiving in the New Millennium: Wellbeing and Reflections from the Soul, and currently writes a monthly article that fo-cuses on self-care among caregivers. Green has extensive ex- perience focused on caregivers’ health and wellness, with an em- phasis on caregiver stress, burnout, and re- lated family conflicts. She has contributed to a number of publications and given presentations that focus on training, assessing, and support- ing caregivers. Registration for the “Striking a Balance” Caregiver Conference is free, and includes all presentations, break-out sessions, and lunch. Par- ticipants must pre-regis- ter by visiting http://t i n yurl . c o m / s 6 8 2 2 0 , or by calling (512) 616-6182. Regis- tration is now open and space is limited.

Free workshop will also be available at the Age of Central Texas Thrive Social & Wellness Center, located at 3110 Cedar Street in Austin. Requests for repur- e cash support must be made by calling (512) 600-9275 by Wednesday, August 21. The Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Austin is located at 6505 N. Interstate Highway 35 in Austin. For more information on the “Striking a Balance” Caregiver Conference, please visit www.AgeofCentralTX.org or call (512) 451-4611.

AT THE VILLAGER/AUGUST 2, 2019

Legal Notice

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

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<tr>
<th>Game Name</th>
<th>Cents/Odds</th>
<th>Official Game Name</th>
<th>Close Out Date</th>
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<td>100X</td>
<td>Overall Odds 1 in 3.92</td>
<td>10/16/19 21/20</td>
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<td>75X</td>
<td>Overall Odds 1 in 3.63</td>
<td>10/19/19 3/30/20</td>
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Help Wanted

We are looking for energetic, enthus- iastic, and detail-oriented people for the position of Office Assistant. The job is part-time. This is a part-time position averaging 10-15 hours a week at $4500, depending on experience and availability. Need to be detail oriented, possess good customer service skills, some cash handling skills. Apply: phoebe.smith550@gmail.com

Contact Information

2113 E 6th Street, Austin, TX 78701
512-550-0808
info@theaustinvillager.com

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/minority

*The Villager is currently selecting proposals through a Request For Proposals (RFP) process for Pharmacy Benefits Management Services. RFPs may be sent electronically, by contacting Brody Ballard at brody.ballard@integralcare.org beginning July 19, 2019. For more information, please contact the Purchasing Office at 512-974-2018 or email vendorexReg@austintexas.gov.

Are you interested in doing business with the City of Austin? We are here for you!

City of Austin
Vendor Registration
512-974-2018
VendorexReg@austintexas.gov

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/minority.
A white affair event with a white glove touch – that affects the lives of those who we hope to stand in our shoes one day and be a source of inspiration and encouragement for generations to come. Thank you to the Austin and surrounding area communities that help make all of this possible.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FAIR HOUSING

It’s not an option, it’s the law.

Federal, state and city discrimination laws protect your right to live where you want. For more information call the City of Austin Equal Employment and Fair Housing Office:

(512) 974-3251 | Relay Texas 7-1-1

austintexas.gov/department/housing-discrimination