

Texas College creates champions for life with scholarship golf classic

Tyler- The Texas College Golf Classic, hosted by Dallas Chapters of the Texas College National Alumni Association, (Dallas Metro, Fort Worth and Suburbia chapters) will be held, Saturday, June 29, 2007 at the Country View Golf Club, 240 W. Beltline Rd., Lancaster, Texas.

Using the theme, "Creating

Champions for Life!" the event will begin with registration and practice range from 7:30 to 8:20 a.m. and the shotgun start will begin at 8:30 a.m. an awards luncheon will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Cost per golfer is \$85. The per team cost is \$325. For more information, call (903)593-8311. ★

KTSU among nation's first to air "Tell Me More"

Houston- KTSU-FM is among the first in the nation to air "Tell Me More," a new talk show from NPR. Award-winning journalist Michel Martin welcomes guests to a safe place for difficult conversations. The one-hour interview show airs each weekday at 8 a.m. "Tell Me More is a gathering place for dialogue about the important issues facing the country," says Martin. "But we also talk about the challenges and opportunities we all face living in a fast-paced, complex society."

"Tell Me More" digs in to pursue stories and ideas that uncov-

er, explain, and portray experiences and people that are rarely given voice yet speak to how we live. According to NPR's Senior Vice President for Programming Jay Kernis, it provides a valuable service to listeners. "Our goal is to reveal and explore the under-reported truths in news and to serve up honest talk about the way we live." ★



Michel Martin

Lady Panthers honored at State Capital

Prairie View- Prairie View A&M University's Lady Panthers women's basketball team was recently recognized at the state capital for their outstanding 2007 winning basketball season. Rep. Harold V. Dutton, Jr. (D-Houston), sponsored the recognition and held the ceremony on the floor of the House of Representatives in the Texas State Capitol Building. This season, the Lady Panthers brought the school its first ever winning season by winning both a SWAC regular season title and a SWAC championship. They also represented Prairie View in the 2007 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship.

Lady Panthers head coach, Cynthia Cooper-Dyke was named the 2007 SWAC co-coach of the year. Cooper-Dyke, the former head coach of the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury was named the head women's basketball coach at Prairie View A&M in July 2005.



Reps. Alma Allen and Harold V. Dutton, Jr. joined by Prairie View A&M University Lady Panthers Basketball Team, Coach Cynthia Cooper-Dyke and school administrators.

Photo: PVAMU Public Relations Office

In addition, several of the Lady Panthers team members claimed post season and tournament honors. Gaati Werema was named SWAC women's basketball freshman of the year and to the all-conference first team. Shavonne Smith, junior guard, earned second team All-SWAC honors. Freshman Candice Thomas was named the 2007 SWAC tournament MVP and to the all-tournament team and Werema was

selected to the all-tournament team. Senior guard Angel Smith's hard work in the classroom has paid off with her selection to the 2007 SWAC All-Academic basketball team. Congratulations to Coach Cooper-Dyke and The Prairie View A&M University Lady Panthers basketball team. ★

Texas Black Colleges and Universities Directory

Huston-Tillotson University
900 Chicon Street
Austin 78702-2795
512/505-3000
www.htu.edu

Jarvis Christian College
P.O. Box 1470
Hawkins 75765
903/769-5700
www.jarvis.edu

Paul Quinn College
3837 Simpson Stuart Road
Dallas, TX 75241
214/376-1000
www.pqc.edu

Prairie View A&M University
P.O. Box 188
Prairie View 77446
409/857-3311
www.pvamu.edu

Southwestern Christian College
P.O. Box 10
Terrell 75160
214/524-3341
www.swcc.edu

Texas College
2404 N. Grand Avenue
Tyler 75702
903/593-8311
www.texascollege.com

Texas Southern University
3100 Cleburne Avenue
Houston 77004
713/527-7011
www.tsu.edu

Wiley College
711 Wiley Avenue
Marshall 75670
903/927-3300
www.wileyc.edu

Landfill threatens to destroy heritage of African American community

Webberville- Mayor Hector Gonzales today announced that the Webberville Economic Development Corporation was sweetening its offer to \$21.6 million to buy a 2,872-acre tract contiguous to Webberville, Travis County's oldest settlement. The tract, located in the eastern reaches of the county, is currently owned by Austin Energy (the utility department of the City of Austin) and is appraised by the Travis County Appraisal District for \$7.18 million.

The City of Austin has expressed a desire to study putting a huge, regional landfill on the site, which has sat vacant for almost a quarter of a century under Austin Energy's ownership. "We are offering more than three times the appraised value of this property for two simple reasons," Mayor Gonzales said. "The first is that we must stop Austin's plans to build a dump, which would service 10-25 Central Texas counties, on this beautiful property right in Webberville's front yard. The second is that we can use the tract to increase our economic viability exponentially."

Webberville began negotiating with Austin Energy a year ago to purchase the tract. The small community intends to redevelop the property as a mixed-use neighborhood, with homes, offices and retail. The Village of Webberville has raised the purchase money privately; no tax dollars would be used. Mayor Gonzales said the purchase of the tract would put more tax dollars toward numerous entities, including Del Valle Independent School District, Manor Independent School District, Travis County Emergency Service District #12, Travis County, the Village of Webberville, Austin Community College and the Travis County Health-

care District. "Under City of Austin ownership, the parcel has under-served the tax rolls for many years," Gonzales said. "From that standpoint alone, we want to bring it back to a productive status for our citizens and our schoolchildren."

The scenic, heavily wooded parcel is home to numerous natural springs and is primarily antediluvian—river-bottom—soil. Red tail hawks and Mexican eagles find homes in the post oaks that dot the property. One of the most historic sites in this part of Texas is on the tract—Webber's Fort. This is the site of the first European-style house built in Travis County. Webber was an ardent opponent of slavery who was married to a former slave. The little settlement he built in the early 1800s became a beacon to people of color, an unusual distinction in those days. The Webbers were, sadly, run out of Travis County as more and more white settlers arrived, and their home fell into ruins.

A story in The Manor Messenger by reporter B.B. Kemp, the Texas Historical Commission is beginning a process to name Webber's Fort as a Historical Texas Landmark. "It would be a dishonor to destroy a very important part of the heritage of Travis county and of the minority settlers who helped make Texas great by covering it with a landfill," Texas State Rep. Dawnna Dukes (D-Travis County), said. Dukes' district includes the Webberville area and the site in question. Rep. Dukes also serves as the Chair of Budget and Oversight of the House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism, which oversees the preservation of historical landmarks in the state of Texas. "I can't think of a better use for the property than putting it in



The sign held by James "Sweet" Blaine board member for the Economic Development Corporation and Lauren Farrington, co-director of Parks and Recreation for Webberville, says it all.

the hands of the Webberville Economic Development Corporation and the local community, making it possible for it to metamorphose into its highest and best use."

Dukes mentioned that the tract is a "stone's throw" from the Villa Muse site that was recently announced. "It would be a shame to allow a dump near what is going to be one of the world's great studio sites," Dukes said. Jay Aaron Podolnick, Founder and CEO of Villa Muse, stressed his opposition to the landfill.

"We are very excited about bringing Villa Muse to the Webberville community and major economic development opportunities to Eastern Travis County," Podolnick said. "However, we are mortified by the possibility of having a landfill or water treatment plant across the

street from us, and strongly oppose any uses that aren't conducive and aesthetically compatible for additional economic development in the area. We hope instead that the Austin City Council will seize the opportunity Webberville has presented to do something great for Eastern Travis County."

Travis County Commissioner Ron Davis, whose precinct encompasses Webberville, echoed Dukes' sentiments on the importance of the site. "Webberville is a heritage site for many African-Americans in Travis County and for any of us who care about the history of slavery and how our forefathers dealt with it," Davis said. "I am committed to ensuring that Webber's Fort is preserved, and I will continue to fight for environmental protection and quality of life for all residents of

Travis County. It is urgently critical that I protect the cluster of underground springs, underground aquifers and post oak upland woods for this area." "For too many years, East Austin and eastern Travis County were the place that the City of Austin looked when it needed to build tank farms, power plants and dumps," Gonzales said. "Austin's leaders have worked admirably to turn that tide and to ensure that environmental racism in our county is a thing of the past. We're very hopeful Austin Energy and the Austin City Council will continue that trend and that our generous offer will be accepted. We're ready for the next chapter in Webberville's storied history, and we know that Webberville will be the best steward for this extraordinary parcel." ★

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