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# CYPRESS park

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CYPRESS PARK

## AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN TEXAS

People of African descent are some of the oldest residents of Texas. Beginning with the arrival of Estevanico in 1528, African Texans have had a long heritage in the state and have worked alongside Americans of Mexican, European, and indigenous descent to make the state what it is today. The African-American experience and history in Texas has also been paradoxical. On the one hand, people of African descent have worked with others to build the state's unique cultural heritage, making extraordinary contributions to its music, literature, and artistic traditions. But on the other hand, African Americans have been subjected to slavery, racial prejudice, segregation, and exclusion from the mainstream of the state's institutions. Despite these obstacles and restrictions, their contributions to the state's development and growth have been truly remarkable.

### **JOSHUA HOUSTON (1822–1902)**

Joshua Houston, a servant of Sam Houston and an officeholder after the Civil War, was raised as a slave on Temple Lea's plantation in Marion, Perry County, Alabama. Joshua Houston was owned initially by Sam's second wife, became an important member of Houston's family. He was treated well, taught to read and write, and prepared well for his eventual emancipation by the Houston family.

After the Civil War, Joshua Houston became a successful businessman, church leader, supporter of education, and officeholder. On January 15, 1866, he purchased land in Huntsville, where he opened a blacksmith shop and built a two-story house. In 1867 he was a trustee of the Union Church, the first black church in Huntsville, which also served as a school. He was a deacon in the First Baptist Church, established in 1869. He was appointed a city alderman in 1867 and 1870 and was elected a county commissioner in 1878 and 1882.

He died on January 8, 1902, and was buried beside his wife in Oakwood Cemetery, Huntsville, only a few yards from the grave of Sam Houston.

### **NORRIS WRIGHT CUNEY (1846–1898)**

Norris Wright Cuney, politician, the fourth of eight children born to a white planter, Philip Minor Cuney, and a slave mother, Adeline Stuart, was born on May 12, 1846, near Hempstead, Texas. He attended George B. Vashon's Wylie Street School for blacks in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from 1859 to the beginning of the Civil War. Afterward he wandered on riverboats and worked at odd jobs before he returned to Texas and settled in Galveston. There he met George T. Ruby, president of the Union League. Cuney studied law and by July 18, 1871, was appointed president of the Galveston Union League. He married Adelina Dowdie on July 5, 1871, and to their union was born a son and a daughter, Maud Cuney-Hare.

He was also strongly committed to education. He was appointed a school director of Galveston County in 1871 and supported the black state college at Prairie View (now Prairie View A&M University).

In 1873 he presided at the state convention of black leaders at Brenham. He became inspector of customs of the port of Galveston and revenue inspector at Sabine Pass in 1872, special inspector of customs at Galveston in 1882, and finally collector of customs of the port of Galveston in 1889.

In 1886 he became Texas national committeeman of the Republican Party, the most important political position given to a black man of the South in the nineteenth century.

Cuney was first grand master of the Prince Hall Masons in Texas from 1875 to 1877. He also belonged to the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows. He died on March 3, 1898, in San Antonio and was buried in Lake View Cemetery, Galveston.

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Harris County Public Library.....	281-290-3210
Post Office.....	281-858-9021

## HOA MEMBER LISTING

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 Kurt Weisinger, Secretary/Treasurer .... kurt.weisinger@gmail.com

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# NEWSLETTER INFO

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# FEBRUARY OBSERVANCES

- Dog Training Education Month
- International Expect Success Month
- International Friendship Month
- Library Lovers Month
- National Black History Month
- National Cancer Prevention Month
- National Children's Dental Health Month
- National Mend a Broken Heart Month
- National Parent Leadership Month
- National Weddings Month
- Youth Leadership Month
- Groundhog Day - February 2
- Facebook's Birthday - February 4
- World Cancer Day - February 4
- Super Bowl Sunday - February 7, 2016
- Chinese New Year - February 8, 2016
- Lincoln's Birthday - February 12
- NAACP Day - February 12
- NBA All-Star 2016 - February 14
- Valentine's Day - February 14
- President's Day - February 15, 2016
- Washington's Birthday - February 22



**SEND US YOUR Event Pictures!!**

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to [pakamafula@gmail.com](mailto:pakamafula@gmail.com). Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).



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## TIPS FOR KEEPING WARM

1. If it feels slightly chilly in your home, make sure all your windows, doors, garage doors and fireplace are closed and tightly sealed. Take a small blanket or towel, roll it up and wedge along the bottom of the door.
2. Close the blinds! It doesn't sound like much but it really helps keep the place warm.
3. You better make sure those pipes don't freeze by leaving a steady stream of water running throughout the night. If the water is only trickling out, there's a good chance there won't be enough pressure to keep the pipes from freezing!
4. Leave the cabinet doors under your sinks open. This will allow more warm air to circulate and reach the pipes below, which prevents freezing as well as de-thawing frozen pipes!
5. Turn off any unnecessary appliances or lights in rooms you're not occupying.
6. Layer, Layer, Layer! It's not about having the thickest jacket or what type of material it's made from, it's about layering. Wear gloves, even if you think you won't need them.
7. Don't forget your four-legged children! If it's too cold out for you, it's too cold out for them! Please make sure and bring all your

- pets indoors!
8. Drink something hot on your way to work or school.
9. Use God's gift to mankind, disposable hand warmers. You can put them in in your pockets, your gloves, even your shoes to give your toes a little extra warmth. Make sure to buy these in bulk, because they last for about ten to fifteen minutes.
10. While lighting up a fireplace, whether it's gas or wood, can make a room look warm and cozy, the flames don't generate enough radiant heat to warm up a room because the heat simply goes up and out of the chimney. Closing the damper when a fireplace is not in use is very important.
11. Try to keep something cooking in the home, this will provide extra heat, especially if you are cooking soups, chilies, or hot beverages to drink.
12. Heating blankets, fleece throws, down comforters and flannel sheets are all good bedding items to invest in to avoid cranking the heat at night.
13. The elderly or disabled should ask family, friends, or neighbors to visit once or twice daily.

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# MONTH OF FEBRUARY TRIVIA

- At one time February was the last month of the year. True or false?  
True  
False
- February gets its name from the word februa. What language does this word come from?  
Latin  
French  
Greek  
San
- What is the meaning of the word "februa"?  
more daylight  
purification  
winter  
rainskrit
- Augustus Caesar took a day from February to make August the same length as July. True or false?  
True  
False

- Which of these flowers do many people consider February's flower? It's not the one you'd think!  
primrose  
crocus  
snowdrop  
anemone
- What is the birthstone for February?  
amethyst  
sapphire  
garnet  
ruby
- How often does February have twenty-nine days?  
Always  
Every other year  
Every four years  
Every ten years

(Continued on Page 6)

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# CYPRESS PARK

(Continued from Page 5)

8. Was 1900 a leap year? Yes or No?

Yes

No

9. The second of February is Groundhog Day. It is also a special day for Roman Catholics. What is it?

Michaelmas Day

Ascension Day

St Andrew's Day

Candlemas Day

10. Complete this quote: 'The most serious charge which can be brought against New England is

not ----- but February'.

Socialism

Snobbishness

Racism

Puritanism

Answers: 1. True 2. Latin 3. Purification 4. False 5. Primrose 6.

Amethyst 7. Every four years 8. No

9. Candlemas Day 10. Puritanism

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# CYPRESS HAPPENINGS

## Kids Night Out

February 13, 2016 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Langham Creek Family YMCA

16725 Longenbaugh, Houston

[ymcahouston.org](http://ymcahouston.org)

## Kids' Track Team Season Starts February 15

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is now registering new and returning athletes for the 2016 spring and summer track season. All athletes new to the sport who are not on school track teams must pass a fitness test at their first practice in order to join the team. Practices are held on Mondays and Thursdays at Cypress Creek High School track, 9815 Grant Rd., Houston.

Those who missed the mandatory orientation on February 6 may register online at [www.northwestflyers.org](http://www.northwestflyers.org).

Contact the club at [linette.roach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linette.roach@sbcglobal.net) or 281-587-8442.

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Traveling the world and experiencing new cultures is something many dream of but few are able to do. Hosting an Ayusa exchange student provides the opportunity to experience the world while bringing other benefits to their family and local community.

For schools, opening their doors to an exchange student provides their students the opportunity to experience new cultures and expand their understanding of the global society. Not only will students be able to expand their circle of friends, they will be able to reference different perspectives of world events. The new perspectives that both local and exchange students gain through the exchange experience are invaluable for the ever-expanding global community.

Ayusa exchange students are eager to learn and participate in school and community programs. They take their role as ambassadors for their country seriously. Ayusa students are not simply bystanders to their program year; they are active participants looking to make a difference in their host school and community.

Ayusa exchange students are strong academic performers, well-rounded, and open-minded. Prospective students go through an extensive interview process in their home countries and are evaluated for maturity, strength of goals, leadership skills, and academic background. Ayusa honors all school enrollment standards, academic requirements and student placement criteria specified in school or

district policies.

Host families also reap the benefits of opening their home by sharing their America. When they share with their exchange student, they are also able to see America with fresh eyes through the student. Families often learn new things about the U.S. and have different perspectives after hosting. The experiences and memories that are shared during the program last a lifetime and span international borders.

For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at [www.ayusa.org](http://www.ayusa.org).


  
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