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Cedar Hill Recreation Center, making the walk and day a “wonderful experience” and of “good fellowship,” according to Walker Shakuntala Gholston. She said the 3.2 miles gave her a chance to meet and support others. She came to the festival in honor of her two aunts battling cancer and by an invite from her fitness instructor. She said she works at a pharmacy and sees the large impact cancer is having on minorities, and how fitness can be important.

“It helps with stress and it keeps you positive,” Gholston said.

According to the American Cancer Society, women can reduce their risk of breast cancer by doing 45 to 60 minutes of above-normal physical activity five or more days a week.

The festival not only promoted cancer awareness and fitness, but it also promoted celebrating life as its theme. Two-time breast cancer survivor, Shirley Carter, came to the walk from Michigan to make a difference and to support others. She said the theme “celebrating life” is so powerful because survivors celebrate life every day.

“Seven years ago, I was unable to walk because I was on life support, so this is a special walk for me,” Carter said. “I celebrate life every day and live life like there is no tomorrow.”

Pam Rauls, another cancer survivor, said this theme is important because for survivors, this is their “second chance at life.” She said as a survivor, you enjoy life, thank God for your life, and live and see life differently. She also believes fitness and exercise really adds to life.

“It helps our body, mind and spirit,” Rauls said.

The founder and coordinator of the Celebrating Life Foundation, Sylvia Dunnivant, said she started the foundation when she lost her aunt to breast cancer 15 years ago. She wanted to start a program that would empower and impact those dealing with breast cancer in the black communities. The mortality rate of black women with cancer is increasing, making early detection highly important, she said.

According to a recent study released September 9 by the Austin affiliate of the “Susan G. Komen for the Cure” organization, black women have the highest mortality rate from breast cancer: 32 percent

compared to 25 percent for white women and 16 percent for Hispanics. This was analyzed from breast cancer statistics in Hays, Williamson, Travis, Caldwell and Bastrop counties during the past two years and was found true in all five counties.



Volunteer Rhonda Jones cheers the walkers as they cross the finish line.

Due to these statistics, black women today are making a stand and a difference. Dunnivant said the festival is to not only raise awareness and education about breast cancer, but about overall fitness and health. She chose walking and jogging as the primary attraction for the festival because it easily promotes exercise and allows people to bring their families and friends to talk with others about cancer detection and options.

US MORTALITY

From 2002-2006, the median age at death for cancer of the breast was 68 years of age. Approximately 0.0% died under age 20; 1.0% between 20 and 34; 6.2% between 35 and 44; 15.1% between 45 and 54; 20.3% between 55 and 64; 19.8% between 65 and 74; 22.8% between 75 and 84; and 14.9% 85+ years of age. The age-adjusted death rate was 24.5 per 100,000 women per year. These rates are based on patients who died in 2002-2006 in the US.

“Longevity is one thing, but having a long life but not a healthy life is detrimental,” Dunnivant said. “Living healthy is important.”

Juneeta Boyd, a 29-year breast cancer survivor, said she

has been coming to the foundation’s festival for years and brought a friend this time to introduce her to other survivors. She said it is important to pass on the support and to share your experiences with others.

Her friend Billie Love, a five-year cancer survivor, said the first thought you have when the doctors tell you that you have cancer is that you are not going to survive, but that’s not true. Now, with the education women are surviving. She also said that early detection and mammograms are top priority, because she had no lumps during her self-examinations and was still diagnosed with cancer.

The recent study also showed low early detection rates among African American, Hispanic and rural women in the five Central Texas counties.

Both Boyd and Love said the lack of education about breast cancer for black women is due to the lack in black history. Boyd said black women didn’t go to doctors much back in the day. Nor did black women talk about it back then because they were embarrassed to talk about mammograms and self-examining their breasts, Love said.

To cease the past mistakes and motivate change, the festival displayed many vendors and sponsors who educated and promoted wellness, fitness, and women’s health programs and options. The Trinity Women’s Center, a gynecologists and obstetricians center, supported the cause by giving free tests and information about anemia, chemo prints, birth control, and other health issues. The Uptown Health and Wellness medical practice was there offering different types of healthy foods and drinks. There was also an herb specialist who offered vitamin and herbs drinks and products, as well as free samples of organic healthy coffee. The Methodist Dallas hospital sponsored and gave free mammograms, as well as educated women on how to self-examine themselves and find organizations that support cancer awareness and survivors. Other sponsors and supporters included the KHVN radio station, the Cedar Hill Recreation Center, the University of North Texas’s Eta Epsilon Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., members, and the Methodist Dallas Hospital. All of the proceeds from the festival will go the breast cancer survivors retreat.

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in the justice system, but stated that the jurors did not make the right decision.

“It’s unfortunate that justice was not served, because my husband and I are innocent, Sheila said. “We’re not guilty of what we’re being charged off. You would hope justice would be fair. I’m not saying that the system was not fair, this verdict was not a good verdict.”

Rev. Charles Stovall, associate pastor of St. Luke United Methodist Church admitted that he didn’t follow the entire trial, but felt he detected some inconsistencies.

“All of this seems to be circumstantial. To my understanding, there’s no where in the tapes were there any acceptance of any kind of offering of any kind of deal,” Stovall said. He also noted disappointment that Southwest Housing president Brian Potashnik, also deeply ingrained in the alleged transactions, may not see any punishment at all. Potashnik accepted a

plea bargain just days before the trial began in June. The details of his status have not been disclosed.

“What really disturbs me is that five people have been found guilty, yet the developer is practically going to get away Scott free, with just a slap on the hand,” Stovall said. “That doesn’t feel like justice to me.”

Pastor Frederick Haynes of Friendship West Baptist Church, who calls Hill a friend, said that, as serious as the convictions may be, it should not be stamped as a true total reflection of Hill.

“It’s heartbreaking. I pray that it’s (verdict) is fair; he says that it’s fair. With that being the case, my heart goes out to him and his family. My prayers are with him also.

“I hope that it will not in any way taint the service he rendered because he did a lot of good. I don’t think this should be the legacy that defines him.”

The jury found Hill

guilty on seven of eight counts involving bribery and extortion conspiracy. Sheila was found guilty on five similar counts. Lee was found guilty on all seven counts charged against him, Darren Reagan on two counts and Robertson also on two.

Pemberton also said that Hill should be known more for his trailblazing accomplishments during his years as a city councilman, having personally worked with him on projects such as Southwest Center Mall. She hopes Hill’s appeal may shed other layers of his case.

“When you turn the lights on, something happens,” she said. Stovall stated: “There’s always some hope. What else can you do other than make sure that they take justice to its fullest limit and try to take his case as far as it can be heard. One of the things we want to see is justice done on a fair and equitable manner.

“It doesn’t feel like it’s happening here.”

GRAMBLING, continued from page 6

Black sealed the game for PVU with 55 seconds left, on a critical 4th down and 1 yard play at Grambling’s 28-yard line, when he masterfully faked a handoff to marquee running back Donald Babers and ran 15 yards around the right end to the 13, giving his team a first down and allowing them to run out the rest of the clock. The play was so effective, it even fooled Coach Frazier.

“That was all K.J. Black. He had the option to read it,” Frazier said. “He told me I wanted the ball in his hands. I thought Babers had the ball. He pulled it and, Man!” they win the ball game. K.J. is a big time player and he made a big time play.”

“I told him to just spread it out and let me run up the middle but they said they wanted to run the zone play so once I saw them blitzing off the edge,” said Black, who completed 16 of 18 passes for 161 yards and two touchdowns, along with rushing for 72 yards. “I knew I had the bullet or else we were going to get stopped.”

Prairie View built their early lead with effective ball control behind the rushing of Babers and Donald Jason and mostly selected short passing. Babers rushed for 61

yards on 19 carries, while catching 5 passes for 26 yards. Jason added 49 yards on 12 carries.

“I thought we controlled the line of scrimmage. K.J. Black controlled the offense today,” Frazier said. “We were able to complete a lot of passes and we were able to run the ball.”

Prairie View took the opening kickoff of the game and consumed over nine minutes in a 20-play drive that culminated with Black scoring on a 4-yard keeper. The Panthers returned with a four-minute 47-yard drive, with Babers also scoring from four yards out.

Grambling narrowed the score to 14-10 with a long drive of their own, 92 yards in 10 plays, with quarterback Greg Dillon scoring on a 2-yard keeper, followed by an Ari Johnson 28-yard field goal. On the eighth play of a 76-yard drive, Black connected for 8 yards with Weeden, who made a remarkable catch while falling on his back along the left side of the end zone, with 18 seconds left in the half.

Prairie View drove 90 yards in the third quarter, highlighted by Black’s 46-yard touchdown run up the middle, picking up great

blocking on the way.

The Tigers then stunned the Panthers and the Cotton Bowl crowd with their tradition-laden mystic.

Dillon found Van Phillips in the end zone for a 37-yard touchdown pass that narrowed the score to 28-17. Just 68 seconds later, Grambling’s Derrick Wilhite blocked Pedro Ventura’s punt, allowing Gabriel Fleming to return it 20 yards for a touchdown. Grambling’s two-point conversion attempt failed.

Less than a minute after that, Black’s pass to Weeden was knocked down toward the ground, but bounced off another player and was intercepted by Toby Mott at Prairie View’s 18. Two plays later, Dillon completed a scoring pass to Ryan Allen from 17 yards out. The Tigers again failed at a two-point conversion, keeping Grambling’s lead to 29-28, with 4:27 left.

Babers remarked on his team’s poise that enabled them to score and take the lead for good.

“You’ve got to remain calm. If you start getting nervous in those kind of situations, you’re going to fold and you’re likely to make mistakes,” he said.