

MILLION-DOLLAR FITNESS PLAN

Women find boxing provides a great way to stay in shape. **A3**



PUBLIC SAFETY

Police have issued a warrant for a man accused of home invasion. **A3**

WEDNESDAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny; wind chill as low as -11.
High: 26 | Low: -4



More weather
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Austin Post-Bulletin

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50¢

MLK JR. / SPEAKER

Build a place of justice

By Heather Rule
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Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a time for people to remember the civil rights movement, celebrate King's life and his message and give back with service to the community.

The message and spirit of this day should not be limited to just one out of 365. Naomi Tutu expressed to the Austin community that it's so much more; it's about embracing human differences, reaching the point of "a beloved community" and using the gifts we've been given as human beings.

"What is needed where you are today?" Tutu said. "Who is hungry in Austin? Who is homeless? And what are you going to do about that?"

"Because if you are able to turn Austin into a model of the beloved community, if you are able to make this community a place of justice and respect for one another, you have already moved the rest of the world closer to a beloved community."

The daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Naomi Tutu spoke Monday evening at Riverland Community College as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration put on by the Austin Human Rights Commission.

She is the third child of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel laureate. Naomi Tutu has served as a development consultant in West Africa and a program coordinator for programs on Race and Gender and Gender-Based Violence in Education at the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town. She has also taught at the Universities of Hartford and Connecticut and Brevard College.

She is a consultant to two organizations: Spiritual Alliance to Stop Intimate Violence and the Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Tutu received a standing ovation.

"This is the place where I feel that I am doing what I am called to do," Tutu said. "It is a wonderful gift."

"Wouldn't it be great if we were all like children? They look at difference as an opportunity to learn something new about the world."



Photos by Ken Klotzbach, kklotzbach@postbulletin.com

Naomi Tutu was the featured speaker at the Austin Human Rights Awards presentation Monday night in Frank Bridges Theatre at Riverland Community College.



A crowd was on hand to see the award recipients and hear the words of Naomi Tutu.

Tutu acknowledged how easy it is to set aside a day to honor King and celebrate the civil rights movement, to make it a day of service to the community. It's also wonderful that there are parties and gatherings, like the MLK breakfast she spoke at in Minneapolis on Monday.

With that day of celebration also comes an element of failure.

"We have fallen short of the reality that Dr. King called us to," Tutu said. "To live our whole lives striving for peace and justice."

It's also not just about the acts of service that people do for others, it's "about how we live in community, in communion with our fellow human beings," Tutu said.

She focused on looking at

the differences among people in a different way — through the eyes of children. They notice differences, and they aren't afraid to tell you what they notice, as Tutu illustrated with a story of an encounter she had with a boy on an airplane.

"Wouldn't it be great if we were all like children?" Tutu said. "They look at difference as an opportunity to learn something new about the world."

"As an opportunity, not a threat."

That was a fundamental message that King tried to communicate, she said.

Differences do not need to be a cause for fear, they can be a chance to see how great the world is, Tutu said. Underneath it all, we remain human

beings, each with the same dreams and fears. So people are all called to act in a way that makes the most sense to us, to be activists in our own communities, Tutu said.

Each one of us has at least one gift, something that we do better than anyone else. King used his gift of oratory "as a way to heal a wounded nation, to move us closer to the beloved community of which he spoke," Tutu said.

Using those gifts to make Austin, Minnesota, the United States, "a better place" may be as simple as reaching out to one other person, she said.

"You'll be amazed at the opportunities that come into your life," Tutu said.

Page A4: Austin gives out five human rights awards

AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS / NEW SCHOOL

What's in a school?

Technology, community affect building's design

By Heather Rule
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A lot has changed since Austin Public Schools last built new school buildings — it constructed Ellis Middle School and Southgate Elementary School in 1958.

The district is in the midst of the planning and designing its new intermediate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) school, which will be just east of Ellis.

Mark Hayes, architect and a partner with ATS&R Planners/Architects/Engineers in Minneapolis, picked out a few aspects in building schools that have changed the most. They include technology, security, a better understanding of how students learn, the use of multi-purpose spaces, green initiatives and accommodating a community's needs.

"It's that cliché that the only thing constant is change," Hayes said. "It changes right away. Because everything's always evolving and improving, and we're always learning more."

Technology is something that is definitely always on the move. Students have much more access to technology, and then there's the role of Smart Boards, which have popped up in classrooms more and more over the past decade.

The role of media centers in schools also has changed. It used to be, and still is to some extent, the heart of the school because that's where the information is accessed, Hayes said. With laptops and cellphones, that importance of the media center isn't as great as it was maybe 20 years ago.

"There's so much technology can do now a days," Hayes said.

Safe buildings

The heightened awareness of the security and safety of students while at school "seems to be more of a concern" than in the past, Hayes said. That's why buildings now may have controlled entrances that are closer to the main office and a process in place to monitor visitors.

This is one of the modifications planned at Woodson Kindergarten Center — shifting the main office around to the main entrance of the building.

Multi-purpose spaces

Architects are also "starting to design buildings that are a lot more flexible within the building itself," to help with the variety of ways students learn, Hayes said. It means designing space in the building outside of classrooms where students have the opportunity to work with a tutor or paraprofessional, or in small groups.

"All students don't learn at

"One of the most rewarding ... aspects is to try to figure out what it is that really kind of reflects the values of that community and kind of incorporating that into their school. I think we're doing that at Austin."

— Mark Hayes, ATS&R Planning/Architects/Engineers

the same rate and in the same way," Hayes said.

Along with this idea is the concept of designing buildings with multi-use spaces, such as cafeteriums or auditoriums, "to make the building more efficient and flexible," Hayes said. These types of spaces combine, in some way, a room that could be used as a cafeteria, auditorium and/or gymnasium.

Options like this save on space and cost. Green measures also help, as the public is making energy efficiency more of a priority than in years past. Things in this category may include using durable, yet inexpensive, materials; solar panels, green roofs, wind power, wind turbines or smaller things like having more energy-efficient mechanical and window systems.

Community influence

One of the biggest factors when constructing a school is "understanding the community that the building is going in," Hayes said.

Some members of the new school steering committee have said they'd like the school to represent the diversity of Austin, while others mentioned the rural influence on the city. It all comes down to community.

"And, of course, that the building should fit within the context of the site," Hayes said.

"It needs to fit within the community."

ATS&R specializes in K-12 schools — 98 percent of the firm's work is in education. Hayes has been with the company for 25 years, and he's been designing schools for 28 years.

"One of the most rewarding ... aspects is to try to figure out what it is that really kind of reflects the values of that community and kind of incorporating that into their school," Hayes said. "I think we're doing that at Austin."

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Related weblinks

Austin lawmakers to discuss session

Post-Bulletin staff

Big issues face the Legislature this year when lawmakers return to St. Paul later this month.

Austin Post-Bulletin Dialogues, a community discussion program hosted by the Austin Post-Bulletin and the Austin Public Library, will highlight the Legislature at 6:30 p.m. today in the library's large group meeting area. The event is free and open to the public.

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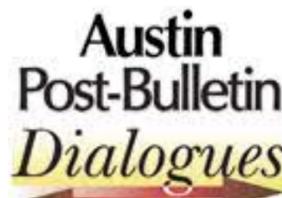
What: Austin Post-Bulletin Dialogues: A look at the 2012 Minnesota Legislature.

When: 6:30 p.m. today.

Where: Austin Public Library, 323 Fourth Ave. N.E.

Details: Sen. Dan Sparks, DFL-Austin, Rep. Jeanne Poppe, DFL-Austin, and Rep. Rich Murray, R-Albert Lea, will be on the panel to talk about the key issues this session.

Sen. Dan Sparks, DFL-Austin, Rep. Jeanne Poppe, DFL-Austin, and Rep. Rich Murray, R-Albert Lea, will be on the panel to talk about the key issues in the session,



including the Hormel Institute expansion, the Minnesota Vikings stadium and the state's budget.

The public is welcome to come listen to the lawmakers and ask their questions in this free one-hour public event.

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UP NEXT

On Wednesday:
A new plan will be reviewed to help in the fight against bullying.

PUNCHLINE

The man replied, "I know you didn't, but your neighbors did."

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OBITUARIES

Warren Iversen, Thomas LaClair, Wilton Lentz, Brooklynn Schroader, Margaret Severson, Jean Stier.

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