



BGA shocks MBA in private schools' clash

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Williamson Herald

THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST COUNTY

Thursday, October 8, 2009 • 50 CENTS

'An Evening with the King' inspired by princess who wants to give back

BY DONNA O'NEIL
STAFF WRITER

For the past 23 years she has been living the 'American Dream' first in California, now in Tennessee.

A little more than a year ago Spring Hill resident Princess Fumi Ogunleye Hancock visited her native Emure Kingdom, Nigeria in Africa, when the reigning king passed away and a new king was crowned. Emure Kingdom is a community of the Yoruba tribe and is located in the southwestern Nigerian state of Ekiti.

What she witnessed was such a shock to her that upon her return to the U.S. she started a foundation to provide assistance to the needy.

While on her visit she heard cheering from the people of Emure Kingdom. "Our princess is back" she said. They saw her as one who could in-

spire some relief to their impoverished situation.

In the United States, King Emmanuel Adebayo would be called Princess Fumi's cousin. Out of respect, she refers to him simply as the King.

"The King shared his heart with me," she said, imploring her to make a difference in their lives. "He said, 'I can't do it alone.'"

"Agriculture is the mainstay," she said. "But no one wants to farm anymore."

Hancock toured the schools while she was visiting. "It tore me up. It really messed me up. Some of the schools are sheds," she explained. "There are no bathrooms. Students and teachers were running to the bushes when I was there."

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In January a number of locals accompanied Princess Fumi Ogunleye Hancock from Nashville to Emure Ekiti, Nigeria. From left, they include: Brian Church, Rafe Young, Adam Paul, Lindsay Daly, King Adebayo, Ryan Daly, Princess Fumi, David Hancock, Yolanda Shields, Les Conner, and Les Stouder.

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mentum of her efforts has grown to the creation of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Together with about 12 area residents, the princess formed the Adassa-Adumori Foundation. Based in Spring Hill and now a full-time venture for her and her husband, a former Nissan executive, the foundation was "organized for the purpose of developing and supporting sustainable projects on behalf of the people of West Africa, particularly children growing up in circumstances of extreme social and economic disadvantage."

steal the day with her unique sense of fashion style," Princess Fumi said.

Her Majesty's Collection combines vintage with modern chic offering damask lace with charmeuse and global accessories.

King Adebayo, the reigning king, is the former police chief in Emure Kingdom.

"He has traveled several times to Colorado for police conferences," she said. "So I took advantage of the situation and asked him if he would visit our area."

The King has been recognized for his contributions locally and on state and national levels for law enforcement, economic development, education, and environmental improvement.

As part of the Adassa-Adumori Foundation's fundraising efforts and to show appreciation for the work being done here, King Adebayo and Queen Mary Adebayo are visiting Williamson County and will be the focus of several community events, including "An Evening with the King."

The benefit gala will be held, Saturday, Oct. 10, beginning with a VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and presentation at Westhaven Resident's Club. Master of ceremonies for

dio, Carters Court, Franklin will also host the Adassa Fashion Show and Benefit Concert, Sunday, Oct. 11 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20. The concert will feature recording artists Will Barrow, Michelle Gold and Adassa Adumori Foundation Youth Ambassador Merche Moore. Food will be provided by the Bunganut Pig.

This event will also launch Her Royal Majesty's handbag collection. "It is always a privilege to have such a unique opportunity as this, to share my passion for fashion with the world," said the Princess, who is the chief designer for the ADASSA products, ranging from clothing to jewelry and now a signature handbag collection.

Spring Hill will hold a welcome event for King Adebayo with Mayor Michael Dinwiddie, Oct. 14, at 10 a.m. at Spring Hill Library.

For information on the Adassa Adumori Foundation, visit www.adassafoundation.org. Information can be found on that Web site for fashion lines inspired by the people of Emure and created by Princess Fumi, including The Princess Heirloom Collection, Couture Handbags and Her Majesty's Wardrobe. Photo: J. O. ...

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