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Supreme Court Opposition Mounts

By Stacy M. Brown

If President Donald Trump's last Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch is any indication, his latest pick in Brett Kavanaugh will do the civil rights community no favors, National Urban League President Marc Morial said of the president's high court nominee.

Morial wasn't alone, as many others joined in to call on the Senate to reject Kavanaugh, 53, who currently serves as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Some of Kavanaugh's more controversial opinions are at the core of arguments for those who oppose his appointment.

Continued on page 3

Jax NAACP Upholds Winning Streak at ACT-SO

The Jacksonville Branch of the National Association of the Advancement of Color People - Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (NAACP ACT-SO) students competed in the 40th National ACT-SO Competition in San Antonio, Texas on Friday, July 13th.

Six students from Douglas Anderson, Ribault, and Baldwin competed in dance, drama, written poetry, and contemporary vocal categories. Competition sessions included educational workshops and an awards ceremony on Sunday with special guest actor Michael Anthony of the hit TV show Blackish and a former ACT-SO Alum. Each medalist received a scholarship to assist with college tuition, books and fees.

Pictured L-R are Sandra Thompson (Co-Chair), Jesseca Scott (Contemporary Dance), Chandler Bryant (Dramatics), A shari Cicero (Modern Dance) and Monique McCarthy (Chair)

ACT-SO is an annual achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. The annual program includes 32 competitions in STEM, humanities, business, and performing, visual and culinary arts.

Almost 300,000 young people have participated in the annual event from around the country since its inception. For over thirty years the mission of ACT-SO has been to prepare, recognize and reward youth of African descent who exemplify scholastic and artistic excellence.

Failure to Defend Our Democracy is a Dangerous Dereliction of Duty

by J. Jackson

Russian President Vladimir Putin came late to the Helsinki Summit with Donald Trump on Monday and spoke first at the news conference afterward.

He handed Trump a soccer ball from the World Cup, but he clearly walked away with the trophy for the World Cup of politics, largely because Trump, in a bizarre and unprecedented performance, kept scoring his own goals on Putin's behalf.

I have always supported dialogue and negotiations over conflict and isolation. I believe that good relations with the Russians, a nuclear power, are as Trump would say, "a good thing." But Trump made it embarrassingly clear that he is more concerned about defending his own besmirched election campaign than he is about protecting American democracy.

The president apparently doesn't understand that it isn't all about him. Russian interference in our elections — which Trump's own intelligence appointees warn is ongoing — isn't just about the "collusion" that the president rushed to deny. Continued on page 3

Altamese Dawkins Celebrates Centennial

Shown above is the honoree seated surrounded by her seven children (l-r): Jimmy Dawkins, Donna Baytop, Marvin Dawkins, Marva Dawkins, Ralph Dawkins, Cecilia Dawkins and Vincent Dawkins.

Lucille Ball once famously said, "The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age." But when you reach 100 years of age, it is a time of celebration and certainly not a time to lie.

Last weekend, Altamese Dawkins celebrated her 100th birthday with a party at the Omni Hotel in downtown Jacksonville with over 200 attendees. Known for her kindness and generosity, Mrs. Dawkins was born on July 11,1918, and attributes her long life to faith, family and friends.

A gifted soprano, she sang in the choir for many years and was a founding member of Crucifixion Catholic Church. She raised a tight-nit group of seven children with all achieving success in their professional careers – professions include a medical doctor, three PhDs, a lawyer and an MBA. She also helped to raise extended family always providing love, food and support for anyone in need.

Amazingly, she still enjoys reading, praying, singing, attending church, shopping and visiting family and friends. She was married to former award-winning golfer and golf instructor Ralph Dawkins, Sr. for 64 years. He was well-known for exposing black youth to golf and spent many years teaching the sport to at-risk youth.

Hemphill - Wade Nuptials

Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Hemphill

A reception at the Double Tree by Hilton culminated over a decade of courtship for the former Nakisha Wade and Lonnie Hemphill. The couple, who originally met in Houston, Texas began their wedding festivities at Ocean Way Baptist Church in front of hundreds of family and friends with a bridal party of twenty. From the moment Lonnie proposed last November, the couple decided that God would always be the center of their relationship. A highlight of the ceremony was officiating Pastor Calvin McGill jointly baptizing the couple before the wedding to symbolize a new beginning in Christ as husband and wife.

Nakisha holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in early childhood education and is employed with Step by Step Learning Center in Fernandina, Beach. The groom is currently continuing his studies at the University of Phoenix to complete his degree in Business Administration and is currently employed as a distribution driver with Chartwell Food Services. Following their honeymoon in Cancun, Mexico, the couple will reside in Jacksonville, Florida.

Great Britain Crowns First Black Miss Universe

Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers made history this weekend as she became the first Black woman to be crowned Miss Universe in Great Britain since the pageant's inception in 1952.

The 25-year-old beauty queen is from Anguilla, a British territory, and will represent both Anguilla and the United Kingdom at the international Miss Universe competition in the Philippines this December.

Her win was no small feat considering she competed in Newport, Wales, against 40 other women from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and British overseas territories.

In addition to competing in pageants, she is a competitive athlete, winning a silver medal in the heptathlon in the Central American and Caribbean Games and a bronze medal in the CARIFTA Games.

Author of Emmett Till Book Gave FBI Interview Recordings

Weeks after he published a book about the brutal slaying of Emmett Till, a North Carolina author received a call from FBI agents asking about his interview with a key witness who acknowledged lying about her interactions with the black teen.

Not long after that, Duke University scholar Timothy Tyson said, he turned over interview recordings and other research materials for his 2017 book on the 1955 case that shocked the nation and helped build momentum for the civil rights movement.

A federal official familiar with the matter told The Associated Press that information in the 2017 book was what led federal investigators to re-examine the case. The reopening of the Till case was disclosed in a federal report sent to lawmakers in March that said the Justice Department had received unspecified "new information." The case was closed in 2007, with authorities saying the suspects were dead.

Just about the only one still alive is Carolyn Donham, 84, Tills accuser who lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

No Passes Needed for African American Museum in September

Two years after its star-studded opening, the National Museum of African American History and Culture will not require timed passes for visitors on weekdays in September. The month-long reprieve serves as a test for the future, officials said. Weekend visitors will still need to have the free timed passes.

The museum has welcomed more than 4.5 million visitors since it opened on Sept. 24, 2016, including 1.5 million in the first half of this year. The passes — distributed online in advance and for same-day use — have been used to limit lines to enter, control crowds in the galleries and provide a better museum experience.

NAACP Lifts American Airlines Travel Ban

The NAACP has lifted its months-long travel ban against American Airlines. . Organization officials said they believe the airline has finally made some significant headway in cutting down on discrimination incidents involving passengers of color.

The announcement came after the civil rights organization advised American Airlines on diversity and inclusion after implementing the ban over "unsafe" conditions for African-Americans last fall.

American agreed to make big changes in a number of areas: diversity and inclusion gap research; implicit bias training for the airlines' 130,000 employees; and the launch a discrimination complaint resolution process for workers and customers. The NAACP said the airline made a good effort to ensure their business was more comfortable for Black travelers and its staff members.

Morehouse Ends Relationship With Papa John's Pizza

Papa John's controversial founder crossed a line with Morehouse College when he used the N-word, prompting the HBCU to kick the pizza chain off campus.

Morehouse suspended its dining relationship with Papa John's, as it looks at other options to distance itself from the franchise, the school tweeted. The HBCU joined a number of other institutions that ended its relationship with the pizza giant over the controversy.

John Schnatter's rapid downfall stems from his use of the N-word on a conference call in May, which was first reported by Forbes.

His remarks came on a call between Papa John's executives and marketing agency Laundry Service. Ironically, Schnatter was doing a role-play exercise intended to prevent him from creating more public relations problems for the company, after his statements in November about the NFL player's protest.

"Colonel Sanders called Blacks n——s," Schnatter said, in response to a question about how he would avoid white supremacist groups online. He added that Sanders never got into trouble for using the racial slur.

Also during the conference call, Schnatter recalled that during his childhood, white folks in Indiana used trucks to drag Black people to death.

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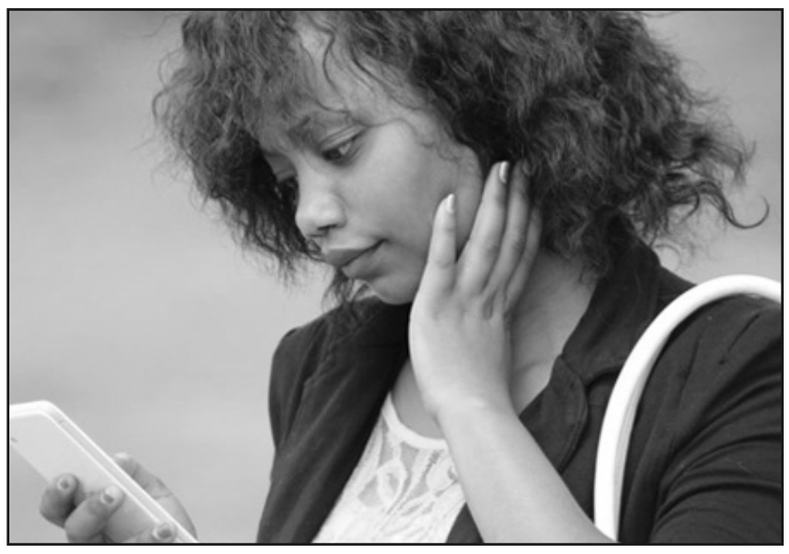
Black Women Have the Highest Amount of Student Loan Debt



Education may be priceless but it does come with a price tag. And for Black women in the United States, it's even more expensive! A new study has discovered that African-American women have the highest average amount of student loan debt… and it boils down to race and gender inequality.

A recent report released by American Association of University Women entitled "Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans" revealed that African-American women accumulate an average of $30,400 of debt by the time they graduate from college, in comparison with $22,000 on white women and $19,500 on white men.

All in all, women owe almost twice the country's student loan debt amounting to $890 billion, compared to $490 billion owed by men.

Kim Churches, the Executive Director of AAUW, added that the debts women carry over their careers are even aggravated if they face the gender pay gap. "This debt is an albatross for many women as they embark on careers and work to support their households and families. And, it only gets worse over time when coupled with the gender pay gap," she said.

That happens even though women account for 56 percent of enrolled college students and are most probable to graduate than men owing money at 71 percent for female graduates and 66 percent for male graduates.

Although women have higher graduation rates, because Black women barely make 63 cents for every dollar white men make, they still find it harder to pay off their student loan debts.

Meanwhile, there are some solutions presented in the report which includes increasing state and federal funding of public colleges and universities and ensuring and expanding Pell Grants for low-income students.

Social Security Matters

When to Start Collecting Social Security

Dear Rusty: I am single and will be 63 on July 1 this year. I was born in 1955. I have been considering retiring sooner rather than later. (In other words, before FRA, which for me is 66 and 2 months). I have been reading about the "rat holes" in the Social Security system that may affect my timing for when I choose to begin my SS - I can't quite figure out a strategy as to when to begin my SS so as not to fall into that rat hole. Can you possibly advise me as to when would be the soonest that I should choose and not "take a hit", so to speak? Or does it not really matter that much?

Signed: Trying to Decide

Dear Trying: I'm not sure what you've been reading which describes Social Security's "rat holes," but it sounds to me like hyperbole designed to get you to buy something. Social Security really doesn't have any secrets or nefarious traps designed to cheat you out of the money you've earned from a lifetime of working, although it is a necessarily complex topic, which governs a myriad of possible claiming choices by millions of different people. But at a basic level the rules are pretty simple: if you claim benefits at your full retirement age you'll get 100% of the benefit you are entitled to from your lifetime of working; if you apply sooner you'll get less and if you claim later you'll get more. Age 62 is the earliest you can collect and age 70 is the latest you should apply.

Deciding when to claim your Social Security is not a simple matter. You should take into account your health, your family history of longevity, and current and future financial needs. If you're in good health, and don't really need the money right now, then waiting until at least your FRA and possibly longer will get you a bigger benefit check. But if you're sickly and/or need the extra money now to pay your basic living expenses, then collecting earlier makes a lot of sense. The fact is that Social Security was designed to pay out about the same amount of money regardless of what age you apply - if you claim early your checks are smaller but you get more of them; if you wait until later your checks are bigger but you don't get as many. But that logic depends almost entirely on how long you live. You may want to do a "break even analysis" which will show how long you would need to live to break even if you collected at age 66 versus collecting at age 63, or when you would break even if you waited until you are 70 to apply versus claiming at your FRA. Here's a link to an article on how to do a break-even analysis. Of course, if you live beyond the break-even age you're ahead money, and the average life expectancy today is in the mid-80's (slightly more for women).

So as to your specific question of when is the soonest you can collect without "taking a hit", that would be at your full retirement age when you'll get 100% of the benefit you've earned from working your entire life. If you claim earlier than that your benefit amount will be reduced by about 6.7% for each year early, and if you apply later than your FRA your benefit amount will grow by 8% for each year you delay up to age 70 when it reaches maximum. Does it really matter that much? Well that depends on how healthy you are, how long you think you will live and how badly you need the money. But it's a choice only you can make.

Meet the Youngest Black Woman to Ever Own a McDonald's Franchise

28-year old Jade Colin from New Orleans has made history as the youngest Black woman to ever become a McDonald's franchise owner. While in college, she started her career as an employee working the night shift at a local McDonald's, and after years of earning promotions and awards, she decided to purchase her very own franchise.

Her inspiration

For as long as she can remember, Jade has been an independent spirit. She also had a good example to follow from her entrepreneurial parents who purchased their first McDonald's franchise in 2010.

After graduating from the University of Louisiana in 2012 with a degree in business management, Jade decided to apply for the Next Generation program for children of McDonald's owners.

After finishing that intensive two-year training program, she became a manager of her parent's franchise... and immediately began planning to open a franchise of her own.

Her philosophies

During a recent interview with TheBlackProfessional.com, Jade shared some valuable points, "Take the risk and know that it will be a lot of hard work."

"Network and have a core team of genuine mentors. You need people who are in your corner that will positively motivate you. I say 'genuine' because not everyone will have your best interest at heart," she added.

She also firmly believes in helping others, and she gives back to her community whenever she can. She even mentors her employees to finish high school and pursue entrepreneurship.

Jade concluded, "As an African American community, we need more men and women to know that it's not just about right now, but it's about the generations to come."

Travel Agent Rips Off Essence Fans

The most recent Essence Music Festival was enjoyable for those who attended. But two Black women who planned to attend the event are very disappointed because they were apparently taken advantage of by OBL Travel, a travel agency where they booked their trip. One of the women reportedly lost $5,000 while the other one lost $17,000.

Adrianna Williams, who is from Minnesota, said she booked her trip through OBL Travel online for her group of 16 to go to the Essence Festival. The package she got included their hotel stay, rides to and from the airport, and party passes and tickets to the festival. She said she paid $17,000 with a money order, but she didn't hear from OBL after that.

"I didn't get nothing but lint in my pocket and not being able to pay my mortgage," Williams told WDSU News.

Another woman, Cinneah Elamin, who came to New Orleans from New York, was shocked when she found out that her group had no tickets, hotel, or party passes even though they paid $5,000.

"At the moment we have nothing. If we find out that we actually do not have concert tickets, then we likely will not be able to attend the show now that the tickets are well over $500," Elamin said about the situation.

Nakesia Washington, the owner of OBL, released a statement regarding Williams and says, "I plan on refunding the money." However, she claims that she's in the hospital and her account is hacked so her money is frozen. Meanwhile, she says she doesn't know about Elamin even though she has provided proof that she indeed paid for the trip through OBL.

The Better Business Bureau revealed that they have had over 17 complaints against OBL Travel and many are from large groups.

The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office is now investigating the travel agency after they have also received multiple complaints from people who allegedly lost thousands of dollars on Essence Festival packages that didn't actually exist.

Cancer Foundation Annual Gala Built on A Mother's Love and Legacy

The Edith Marie Cancer Foundation hosted their second annual gala this past weekend at Queen's Harbor Yacht and County Club.

Dozens of friends and family members attended the event, which included empowering messages about breast cancer survival, fortitude and the importance of supporting each other.

Family members, spouses or friends that have supported survivors through their journey surrounded many of the featured guests. "I was in awe to be honored tonight for my fight for all breast cancer survivors," said Monique Ellis, an honoree and breast cancer survivor.

She added, "This foundation has not only helped me, but provides hope to others that may be financially strapped to take on the many ills that come with this prognosis."

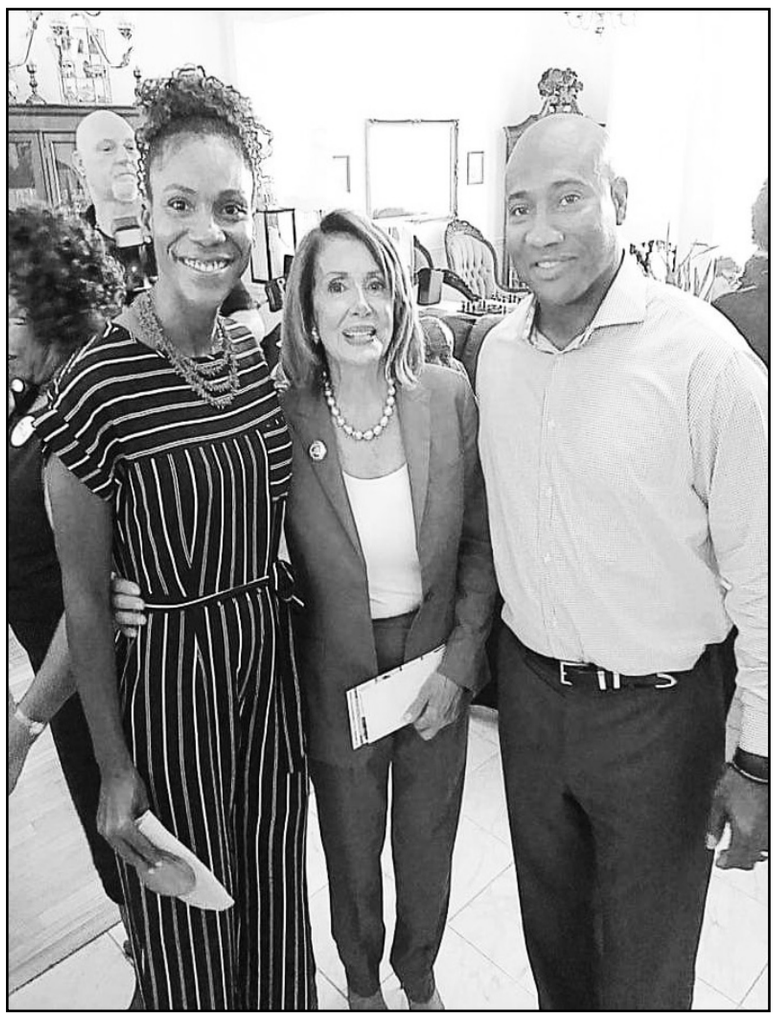
Pictured (l-r) is Monique Ellis receiving an honoree gift bag from host and organizer Terri Cooper.

This year's gala was a black tie affair as survivors shared their stories with new friends gathered at their tables. The event featured catered cuisine, live entertainment, and silent and live auction items.

The foundation is named in honor of Edith Marie Cooper, who passed away from cancer in 2016. Mrs. Cooper was a wife, mother and pastor who proudly battled breast cancer and has been an inspiration to many other cancer patients.

All proceeds from the event benefitted the foundation's efforts to provide relief to those in need during difficult times. A breast cancer diagnosis may result in the inability to perform daily tasks and prevent the capacity to maintain employment, making financial obligations difficult to meet. The organization offers financial support for housing, utility and nutritional expenses to the families of those who are fighting breast cancer.

The nonprofit organization was established by the youngest of Cooper's four children, Terrie, who continues to spread the love and compassion that her mother was known for.



Shown with Pelosi are attendees Deidre and Deon Johnson.

Big Names Stop in Jax to Stomp for Election Season

When big election seasons begin you can count on newsmakers to make their rounds throughout the city. Jacksonville is no stranger to the political scene and always a stop for headliners, saw the first major stop of the year with a visit by House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi last week.

As a part of his bid to be re-elected, 5th Congressional District Congressman, Al Lawson brought in the big gun as the featured guest at a fundraiser and rally.

Pelosi gave a strong endorsement to the first-term U.S. Rep. several weeks before he faces former Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown in the Democratic Primary in August. The endorsement came following a campaign meet-and-greet at Lawson's Dunn Avenue headquarters.

The Democratic Leader took questions from volunteers, supporters and other elected officials. "This is an important election, and we need representatives in Washington who are committed to bettering the lives for all Americans," said Pelosi.

For 30 years, Pelosi has represented California's 12th District in Congress. From 2007 to 2011, she served as Speaker of the House, and was the first woman to do so in U.S. history. She has led House Democrats for more than 12 years and previously served as House Democratic Whip.

Trump's Failure to Defend Our Democracy is a Dangerous Dereliction of Duty

Continued from page 1

It is about subverting our democracy. Trump can deny collusion, but it is simply grotesque that he could not bring himself to warn Putin publicly that continued interference with our elections is totally unacceptable.

Trump is outraged at the Mueller investigation of possible collusion of his campaign with the Russians, but he seems unmoved by the clear evidence of the subversion of our elections. He didn't give Putin a red light or even a yellow warning one about future interference; he essentially gave him a free pass.The reality is that a core of our democracy — free elections — is under assault.

Given the administration's failures, foreign interference is likely to spread. The home-grown systematic efforts by right-wing politicians and activists to suppress the vote, to make it harder to register and harder to vote, to purge voters from the lists, to gerrymander election districts to distort the outcome and to open the gates to a flood of unaccountable, secret corporate and private money continue to get more sophisticated.

Already experts suggest that Democrats will have to win the national vote by 6 to 8 percent in order to take the majority of the House, largely due to Republican partisan redistricting. Trump is so focused on his own election campaign, so defensive about the legitimacy of his own victory that he has utterly failed to protect our democracy from subversion from abroad or at home.

The president should be applauded for meeting with Putin. Hopefully reduced tensions and new impetus for reducing nuclear arsenals will follow. But his failure to defend our democracy both against Russian interference and against domestic subversion is a dangerous dereliction of duty.

Republicans in Congress won't act because they seem to believe that their majorities may depend on suppressing the vote. So, it is up to the states, and to an aroused citizenry, to insist that our election be open, free and fair. The shocking display that Trump put on in Helsinki makes that all the more imperative.

Opposition Mounts Against Nominee

Continued from page 1

While he hasn't expressed outright opposition to the Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade, critics note that Kavanaugh may likely side with Trump, when he eventually votes on the issue of abortion.

In one opinion, Kavanaugh did write that the government has "permissible interests in favoring fetal life, protecting the best interests of a minor, and refraining from facilitating abortion."

In other issues that appear more germane to minority groups and communities of color, Kavanaugh has issued controversial rulings on religious liberty and the Second Amendment.

The U.S. Supreme Court is the final stop for justice in America. The Supreme Court's rulings affect all citizens, because every state must follow its decisions.

"Judge Kavanaugh has a record of ruling against affordable healthcare and women's reproductive rights. Particularly troubling is his record on cases involving racial and workforce discrimination," Morial said. "Seating a Supreme Court nominee with an obvious disdain for fundamental liberties will change American life as we know it."

Kavanaugh has suggested that Congress pass a law barring sitting presidents from criminal prosecution and investigation, personal civil suits, and questioning from criminal attorneys.

He has claimed that presidents can disregard laws they consider unconstitutional, despite what courts say.

Kavanaugh, a Georgetown educated jurist, who also teaches at Harvard Law School, declared the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau unconstitutional; he also wrote that Washington D.C.'s ban on semi-automatic rifles was unconstitutional.

Kavanaugh has also attempted to roll back President Obama's greenhouse gas regulations.

Lawmakers also voiced their concerns.

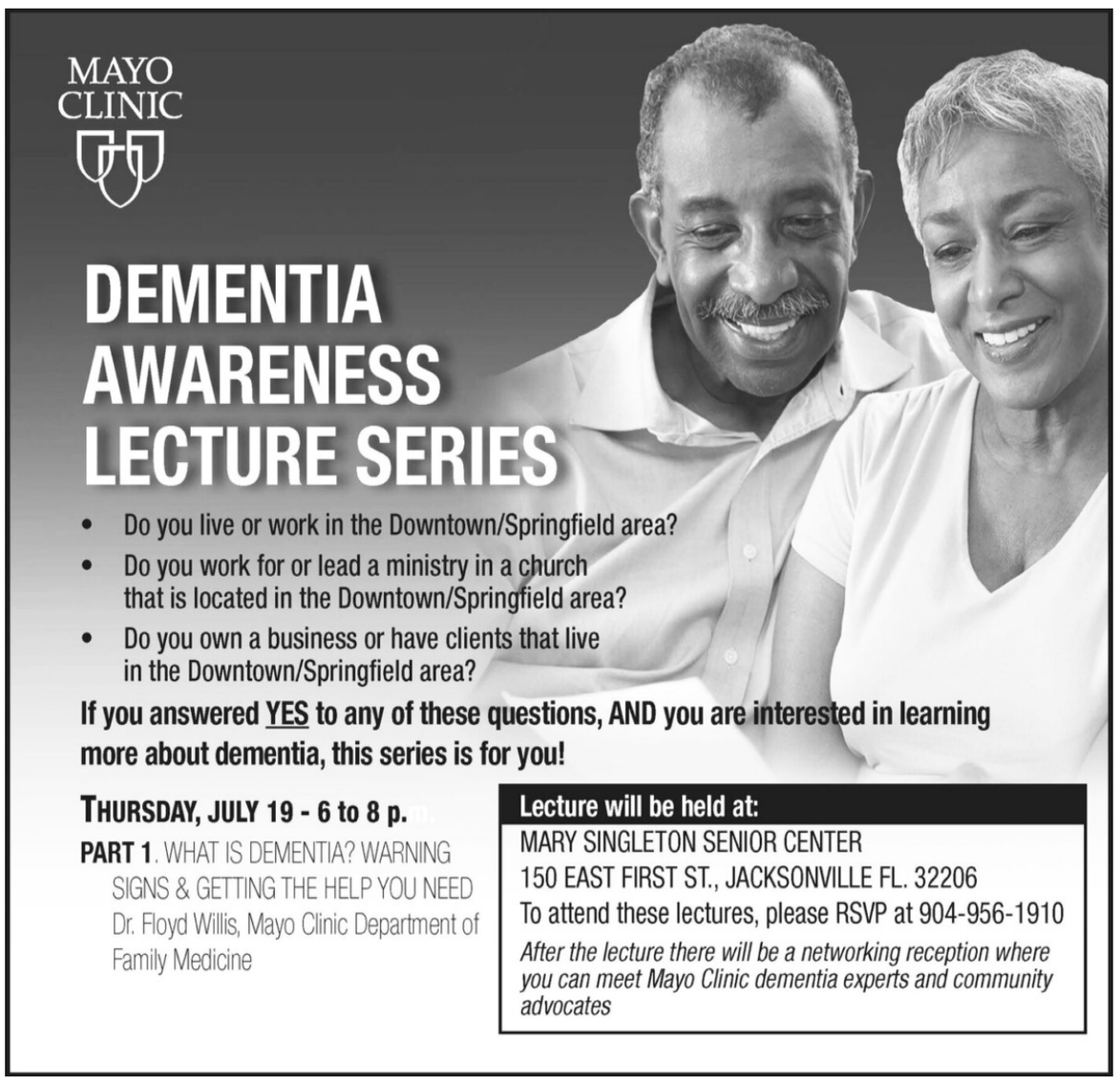
"Whether or not the Supreme Court enforces the spirit of the words, 'Equal Justice Under Law,' is determined by the individuals who sit on that court," said Democratic California Sen. Kamala Harris. "Brett Kavanaugh represents a fundamental threat to that promise of equality. I will oppose his nomination."

Democratic New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand also opposed the nomination.

"One things already clear from his record, [Kavanaugh] can't be trusted to safeguard rights for women, workers or to end the flow of corporate money to campaigns," Gillibrand said.

After the announcement, Kavanaugh said that his judicial philosophy is straightforward.

"A judge must be independent and must interpret the law, not make the law," Kavanaugh said. "A judge must interpret statutes as written. And a judge must interpret the Constitution as written, informed by history and tradition and precedent."



City Chronicles

Diatribes on life in the African-American Diaspora by Reggie Fullwood

Why is it Getting Harder to be Black in America?

Living while black in America should be getting easier for African Americans. Hell, we elected a Black President, we are running major corporations and some of us have become billionaires. So life should be good right? Wrong.

Every week in this country all you need to do is casually peruse the news to see situation after situation of: "driving while black," "delivering while black," "walking down the street while black" or even "cutting grass while black," to see that it is still extremely difficult to avoid racism in "My Country Tis of thee, Sweet Land of Liberty."

Malcolm X once said, "If you stick a knife nine inches into my back and pull it out three inches that is not progress. Even if you pull it all the way out, that is not progress. Progress is healing the wound, and America hasn't even begun to pull out the knife."

And in the year 2018 we can certainly say that the knife has been pulled out, but have the wounds of inequality, racism and oppression healed? We have patched those very wounds for years, but we all know that bandages are only temporary solutions. Healing occurs when the wound is acknowledged and properly treated.

And thanks to today's technology, smart phones primarily, the revolution or should I say, the degradation is being televised. I often say that technology is a blessing and curse, but in the case of Walter Scott it was clearly a blessing that it was caught on camera.

Walter Scott did not live to see his 51st birthday because the South Carolina police stopped him over a broken taillight. Mr. Scott ran from the police, which he shouldn't have, but he was unarmed and not aggressive towards the officer, which does not warrant eight shots in the back.

Just last week, a 12-year-old boy was targeted while delivering newspapers on his first day covering a route in Arlington, Ohio. Someone called the police because of his suspicious behavior – delivering newspapers to addresses on his list. It doesn't get any more suspicious than that.

Speaking of dubious activity – African American couple Felicia and Othniel Dobson were traveling home from South Georgia to North Carolina with their four children and an aunt. The family decided to grab some dinner at a Subway in Newnan, GA when the police showed up and told them that someone made a complaint about them. Apparently, an employee of the fast food restaurant called 911 because she thought the family looked "suspicious" even though they didn't do anything wrong.

Yeah, six black folk eating sandwiches and chips in a restaurant screams suspicious activity. WTH!

Arthur Ashe said, "Being a black man in America is like having another job."

Another 12 year old young black male entrepreneur in Ohio, the owner of Mr. Reggie's Lawn Cutting Service, had the police called on him because he was mowing too close to a neighbors yard. The white neighbor told the police that the young man was trespassing.

All I can say is, "Wow." Black folk are so tired of dealing with bigotry and discrimination based on the color of our skin and the fears of the ignorant.

Think of the number of young black men that have lost their lives because they were simply the wrong color in the wrong neighborhood. Trayvon Martin was probably the first major recent murder that really brought this issue to the forefront. Then came Jordan Davis and Michael Brown and several other unarmed black men that lost their lives too soon.

But is anyone actually surprised anymore? Unarmed black men have faced this type of injustice since the end of slavery in America.

Dick Gregory may have said it best. He said, "This isn't a revolution of black against white, it is a revolution of right against wrong. And right has never lost." I will say it again; the fight for equality was not a black issue, but an American issue.

The first time I became familiar with the story of Emmett Till was then I watched the Eyes On the Prize documentary in middle school. Teal was a young man on vacation in Mississippi from the North, and while in a convenient store with his cousins he flirted with a young white girl.

The girl told her father and brothers who became very upset and later that day went to Till's uncle's house and dragged the young man out and threw him in the back of a pick up truck.

Till was found the next morning dead. To make a very long and unfortunate story short, the men who pulled him out of the house were tried in court with a jury of their "peers." And when I say peers I do mean the same type of people they were (racist, bigots). So despite overwhelming evidence and eyewitness testimony, the men got off and Till's death was never vindicated.

While Emmett Till's death and the controversy surrounding it made national headlines his story was not an odd occurrence in the Klu Klux Klan dominated South.

Fast forward to today in America and while so much as changed, so much has also remained the same.

So for those who don't understand the black struggle, this article probably will not help you get there, but in the views of most of Black America we are "Sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Enough is enough – and Black people are tired of listening to armed assailants like George Zimmerman and the Ferguson police officer who say that they feared for their lives so they were justified in killing our youth.

Enough is enough – and Blacks are tired of being told that, "this has nothing to do with race." Well, we are not ignorant. Race has been and will continue to be an issue in America because we refuse to have honest dialogue about our differences.

James Baldwin said, "Color is not a human or a personal reality; it is political reality."

Black lives do matter. Of course, we should all teach our children to be respectful of authority and their elders, but that can only go so far when you are minding your own business and someone starts harassing you like Jordan Davis.

African American are tired of watching videos like the one we saw of Eric Garner being placed in a chokehold by NYPD, listening to him say "I can't breathe, I can't breathe" and then watching him die minutes later.

Being black in America has never been easy, but thanks to people like Donald Trump and his mostly mindless flock, it seems to be getting even harder.

Signing off from a "When did so many White People get so Mad at Minorities?" conference,

Reggie Fullwood

GUEST EDITORIAL by Jesse Jackson

White Pride vs. Black Pride: Why there's a need for the divide

by George Johnson

There have always been marginalized communities within marginalized communities, and for LGBTQ people, this is no different.

There is a stark difference in the issues platformed by white LGBTQ people versus Black LGBTQ people—which often showcases itself during Pride season. When Black folks realize their acknowledgement isn't going to come at the hands of whiteness, we do what we typically do. Acknowledge ourselves and keep it moving by creating our own. Black Pride now fills the void left by white Prides erasure of our involvement in this movement.

Pride celebrations in this country have been going on for more than 40 years commemorating the overall LGBTQ culture, but what's lacking is the specificity needed to celebrate all under one umbrella. The intersection of race, gender, and sexuality, especially when it comes to Back LGBTQ people's disparities, has left little to be desired in a space where whiteness largely dictates the direction in which the LGBTQ community moves.

One need to look no further than what was deemed as the most important "agenda item" for white LGBTQ people to attain - marriage equality.

Don't get me wrong, it is important in this country that queer people have this right. Capitalism is set up in a way where those who can attain marriage can also gain certain privileges and protections that single people and those without to right marry cannot attain. However, the gaining of said right can't negate the real issues faced by marginalized LGBTQ communities.

Within Black community, we continue to make strides and find common understanding and safety, but there is still a struggle at times to get past homophobia. There's no turning to the white community due to our blackness, as we also share in the same oppression based on skin color as our hetero brothers and sisters. It is clear then why Black Pride has become the place where we can go to find solace in both queerness and blackness, away from either of the communities that have yet to fully embrace us.

Throughout the years, Pride events have unfortunately struggled to acknowledge this within the big picture of what we are all fighting for and it's often the reason why we refer to the main celebrations as "White Pride."

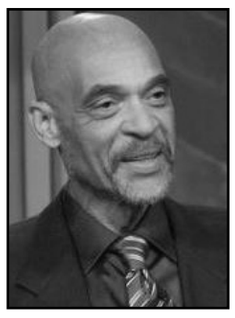
Reflecting back on societal issues, we have watched white gay America fight and win marriage equality yet remain silent on the deaths of Black transgender women—who's life expectancy is estimated on average to be 35 years of age. That cognitive dissonance of being able to share in a queer identity, but not recognize that there are oppressions within that identity based on race and other factors has continued to stifle the movement's work, lending further reasoning for the divide.

Hence, the need for two separate prides - because truth be told, the Black community is celebrating queer pride for very different reasons than the white community. To be Black and queer is a multilayered experience of oppression every day before you even get out of bed. The intersection of race and gender makes us more susceptible to health disparity, fiscal disparity, homelessness—placing us at the bottom of most societal pyramids.

Black Pride is the place for us to go when we need to escape a heteronormative society. A place where we can come together yearly across the country and share in Black queer joy. We are celebrating survival, paying homage to our Black queer ancestors who led the movement of the Stonewall Riots of the late 60's, and inspiring future generations not only to be Black and proud, but Black, proud and queer.

Black pride events are our safe haven in a society that gives little space, and the separation needed from a white LGBTQ culture that continues to use its privilege to oppress some within the shared marginalized group.

Any LGBTQ Pride celebration that negates to realize our Black experience is doing a disservice to any liberation we seek because of our queerness. Until then, we will continue to be Black and queer in a space created for us and by us. And no, you can't come in…



5-4 is High Courts Latest Number

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Five and four are far more than simple math numbers. They have become the norm for the U.S. Supreme Court vote on any profound game-changing court case.

That 5-4 vote has spelled deep peril for millions of Americans. President Donald Trump's Supreme Court pick, Brett Kavanaugh, will virtually encode that number in present and future Supreme Court decisions for years to come.

Trump and Republicans bank on that. For three decades, Republican political and judicial activist groups have ruthlessly pulled out all stops to enshrine a 5-4 conservative majority on the high court. They bankrolled court watchdog and lobbying groups to the tune of millions of dollars.

They railed against liberal activist judges. They compiled and vetted dozens of rigidly conservative ideologue judges for the appellate courts and the Supreme Court. They made sure Republican senators and Republican presidents demanded a hard-nosed ideological litmus test for prospective judges on union rights, voting rights, corporations, campaign financing, federal powers, same sex marriage, and of course the conservative's number one pet peeve, abortion.

They topped their relentless drive to control the court with their greatest coup of all. They absolutely refused to hold a single hearing, let alone a vote, on then President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland. Then when they got the ideological compatible Supreme Court nominee they hungered for in Neil Gorsuch, they rammed home the "nuclear option" that cut off all debate and then got their man in on a simple majority vote.

Even before Gorsuch and Kavanaugh, Justice Clarence Thomas and the late Antonin Scalia virtually turned 5-4 into a fine art. They reflexively voted against any and every Obama administration position, initiative, or piece of legislation that wound up before the court. It was a judicial war against him that was almost unprecedented.

The five ruled multiple times that Obama had allegedly badly abused his constitutional authority in decisions, appointments and court appeals. Their rulings had nothing to do with executive abuse since many of the cases were routine appeals. They were open, no-holds barred, ideological wars against Obama.

The five ruled against him in most of cases that had his administration's fingerprint on it. Invariably the vote against him was 5-4. The assault had little to do with the law and everything to do with politics and ideology. Their decisions against him were blatant partisan political pandering.

Thomas and the other four justices were appointed by Republican presidents. The other four justices that almost always backed the Obama administration in their votes on court cases were appointed by him or other Democratic presidents.

The tip-off that the conservative five would vote their ideology rather than the law came from George W. Bush. On the presidential campaign trail in 2000, Bush was asked if elected what kind of judge he would look for and nominate. He didn't hesitate.

He pledged to appoint "strict constructionists" to the court and specifically named Thomas, Scalia and William Rehnquist as the judges that perfectly fit that description. Trump may have badmouthed Bush and the GOP establishment during his presidential campaign, but he quickly latched onto their template for packing the court with ultra-conservatives to cement their majority.

He stumbled over himself to practically coronate Scalia as the second coming of Moses, the lawgiver. He repeatedly vowed that his nominees would be Scalia clones.

Gorsuch was the first. He was the much vaunted and cherished fifth and deciding vote on Trump's Muslim travel ban, ripping apart public employee unions, upholding the right of faith-based crisis pregnancy centers to counsel against abortion, to torpedo a key labor protective provision of the National Labor Relations Act, to tighten the screws on prisoner lawsuits, sanctioned discrimination against gays, and to upheld Ohio's voter purge law.

The rulings have far-reaching and damaging public policy consequences for gays, minorities, women and labor. The beauty of it for conservatives is that they were all decided by the 5-4 majority that they worked so painstakingly hard to put in place on the court.

The problem with retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy was that he was not and would never be the dependable fifth vote.

However, Trump's replacement for Kennedy changes the Supreme Court completely. This will be the encased fifth vote that guarantees that anything that hits the court that evenly remotely touches on voting rights, affirmative action, prisoner rights, corporate and property rights, and union and environmental protections can almost be mailed in; the majority decision will be that predictable.

The horror of this is that the four liberal and moderate judges can do nothing more than voice impassioned dissents that will have absolutely no force of law behind them.

Trump and the GOP know this, and the playbook they used to sabotage Garland and fast track Gorsuch through will be used again. Get used to 5-4. It will be the Supreme Court's standard number from here out.

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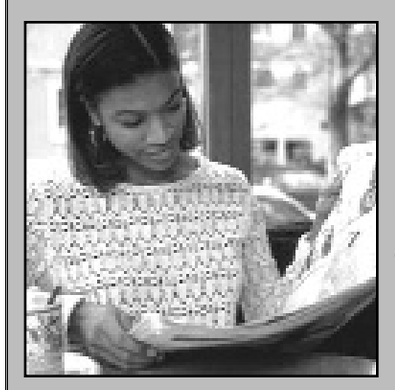

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FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 17 - 23, 2018

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

TWIN TOWERS: Coaches and SIDs in the SIAC and SWAC make their picks for 2018 football honors.

SUMMER KICKOFFS

SIAC, SWAC MEDIA DAYS KICKOFF 2018 FOOTBALL; FOUR NEW HBCU HOOPS COACHES

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

Watson

Gayle

Jones

Stanton

GO FIGURE!: As football season looms, four new basketball coaches are named at Miles (Watson), Albany State (Gayle), St. Augustine's (Jones) and Allen (Stanton).

WATSON LEAVES BENEDICT FOR MILES:

Highly successful head coach **Fred Watson**, a six-time coach of the year in the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC), is leaving **Benedict**, his alma mater, after 16 years to take over the men's head coaching job at fellow conference member **Miles College**.

Watson succeeds **Leon Douglas** who was let go last spring following a 27-57 overall record at Miles.

"This is a great opportunity for myself and my family," Watson said. "We're excited to join the Miles College family and look forward to embracing the Fairfield and Birmingham communities. Having been in the SIAC for the past 16 years, I've been impressed by the tremendous support this program has received."

Last season, Watson won his 300th game and will take a career record of 350-150 (.681 winning percentage) to the Golden Bears program. He has 15 consecutive winning seasons, eight 20-win seasons, five regular season and five SIAC tournament titles, and has made nine appearances in the NCAA Div. II South Region Tournament with one Sweet 16 appearance.

Newly named athletics director **Reginald Ruffin**, also the head football coach at Miles, pulled off a major coup with the hiring of Watson.

"With Coach Watson, we not only found a proven recruiter and winner, but we also found someone with an unwavering commitment to engaging and motivating communities through basketball," said Ruffin.

GAYLE TO LEAD ALBANY STATE HOOPS:

ALBANY, GA – **Albany State University** (ASU) announced at a press conference last Thursday that **Patrick Gayle** has been named the new head men's basketball coach. Gayle is a coaching veteran that brings over a decade of experience as both a head and assistant coach at the NAIA and high school levels.

Gayle was selected from a pool of over 100 applicants and after a national search. He is the seventh men's basketball coach in ASU history and will begin his duties immediately.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Gayle comes to Albany State after a successful thirteen year run as an assistant and most recently, the head coach at St. Thomas University in Miami, Gardens Florida. From 2008-2012 he was an assistant before being promoted in July of 2012 where he went on to compile an overall record of 125-51 over six seasons as the head coach.

In his first three years at the helm of the program, Gayle guided the Bobcats to the NAIA Division II Tournament advancing to the Sweet 16 twice (2013, 2014). He was twice named Sun Conference Coach of the Year after leading the Bobcats to Sun Conference Regular Season titles during the 2013-2014 and 2017-2018 seasons.

His team also made history during the 2013-2014 season as they set a new school record for wins (26).

JONES NEW ST. AUG WOMEN'S COACH:

RALEIGH, N.C. (July 16) – After two seasons as the men's lead assistant, **Montel Jones** is the new head women's basketball coach at **Saint Augustine's University**, the athletic department announced last week.

Jones has eight years of coaching experience including the past two seasons as an assistant under SAU head men's basketball coach **MarQus Johnson**.

A Kinston, N.C., native, Jones was previously on the men's basketball staffs at the University of Mount Olive and Wingate University before also coaching at **Virginia State** and SAU. Before entering the coaching profession, Jones was a basketball student-athlete at Mount Olive, where he graduated in 2008 with a criminal justice degree.

STANTON TAKES OVER AT ALLEN:

COLUMBIA, SC - **Allen University** has announced that **Akia Stanton** has been named the head coach of the Lady Yellow Jackets basketball team. She succeeds **Jason James**, who became head men's coach in March.

Stanton comes to Allen from Jarvis Christian College where she was the head women's basketball coach for the past four years. Prior, to coaching at Jarvis Christian she was the assistant basketball and volleyball coach at her Alma Mater **Paine College** for three years.

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Coaches pick Grambling, Alcorn State in SWAC

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** released its 2018 All-SWAC Preseason Football Teams Friday at its preseason Media Day with two-time defending SWAC Champion and *Celebration Bowl* representative **Grambling State** tabbed with the most individual honors with 15 overall selections including 10 first team nods.

Senior running back **P.J. Simmons** of **Alcorn State** was the head coaches and SIDs choice for the SWAC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year award. Simmons averaged 8.6 yards per carry to total 80 carries for 687 yards and seven touchdowns.

Grambling State linebacker **De'Arius Christmas** was tabbed as the SWAC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year after amassing 88 tackles, 4.5 sacks and two forced fumbles a year ago.

East Division four-time defending champion **Alcorn State** totaled 95 points as it was named the preseason favorite to win the East once again.

In the West Division, reigning two-time SWAC champion Grambling State was chosen as the overall favorite after amassing a conference-best 96 points in the voting.

Preseason Offensive Player of the Year: P.J. Simmons (RB) – Alcorn State
Preseason Defensive Player of the Year: De'Arius Christmas (LB) – Grambling State

2018 PRESEASON ALL-SWAC FOOTBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE	SECOND TEAM OFFENSE
QB - Noah Johnson, ALC	QB - Darryl Pearson Jr., ALS
RB - P.J. Simmons, ALC	RB - Jordan Bentley, AA&M
RB - KeShawn Williams, UAPB	RB - Dawonya Tucker, PVA&M
OL - Mustaffa Ibrahim, ALC	OL - Deonte Brooks, ALC
OL - Jeremiah Abby, SU	OL - Kevin Hall, ALC
OL - William Waddell, GSU	OL - Roderick Smith, PVA&M
OL - Kyle Davis, GSU	OL - Jimmy White, TSU
OL - Corbin Finlayson, PVA&M	OL - Tytus Howard, ALS
WR - Quinn McElfresh, MVSU	WR - Quintin Guice, GSU
WR - Darrell Clark, GSU	WR - Markcus Hardy, PVA&M
TE - Jordan Jones, GSU	TE - Zarrian Holcombe, PVA&M
DEFENSE	**DEFENSE**
DL - Linwood Banks, GSU	DL - Anfernee Mullins, GSU
DL - La'Allan Clark, GSU	DL - Sterling Shippy, ALC
DL - Brandon Varner, GSU	DL - Kevin Agee, UAPB
DL - Vernon Moland, AA&M	DL - Christian Clark, ALS
LB - Patrick Harbin, MVSU	LB - De'Andre Hogues, GSU
LB - Trae Ferrell, ALC	LB - Malcolm Williams, GSU
LB - De'Arius Christmas, GSU	LB - Solomon Muhammad, ALC
DB - Dylan Hamilton, AA&M	(tie) Darron Johnson, ALS
DB - Andre Augustine, SU	DB - Reggie Stubblefield, PVA&M
DB - Ju'Anthony Parker, PVA&M	DB - Jeffrey Hill, ALS
DB - Percy Cargo, GSU	DB - Brady Smith, ALC
	DB - Dedrick Shy, GSU

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

EAST DIVISION	
Alcorn State	95
Alabama State	72
Jackson State	55
Alabama A&M	51
Miss. Valley State	27
WEST DIVISION	
Grambling State	96
Southern	78
Prairie View A&M	65
Texas Southern	30
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	30

SPECIAL TEAMS (1st TEAM)
K - Marc Orozco, GSU
P - Jamie Gillan, UAPB
RS - KeShawn Williams, UAPB

SPECIAL TEAMS (2nd TEAM)
PK/P - Corey McCullough, ALC
RS - George Golden, ALS

SWAC Football, Basketball Championships back in Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) has announced a partnership with the City of Birmingham that will bring two of its high-profile championships back to the Magic City.

As a result of the agreement, the 2018 Toyota SWAC Football Championship and 2019 Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament will return to Legion Field and Bill Harris Arena respectively.

"I'm grateful to Mayor Randall Woodfin and City of Birmingham on this renewed partnership to bring the SWAC football and basketball championships back to the Magic City," Interim Commissioner **Edgar Gantt** said. "The city has made many improvements to its sports infrastructure here in Birmingham. This next year will play an important part as the SWAC prepares for its centennial celebration."

Legion Field served as the initial site for the SWAC Football Championship from 1999 to 2012. Birmingham served as the home of the SWAC Basketball tournament during the mid-2000s, with Bill Harris Arena hosting the event as recently as 2009.

The SWAC Football Championship game will be held on Dec. 1, and the SWAC Basketball Tournament will take place March 13-16.

Tuskegee and Albany State picked again in SIAC football

But the 2018 favorites are much less than shoo-ins in what are expected to be competitive races

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH
(First-place votes in parenthesis)

WEST DIVISION	EAST DIVISION
1. Tuskegee (6)	1. Albany State (7)
2. Miles (3)	2. Benedict (2)
3. Kentucky State (1)	3. Fort Valley State (1)
4. Central State	4. Morehouse
5. Lane	5. Clark Atlanta

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

ATLANTA – The news coming out of the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** Tuesday when head football coaches and players descended on the College Football Hall of Fame for the second straight year for the annual preseason Media Day was not a surprise.

Though **Fort Valley State** and **Miles** have found their way into the championship circle in recent years, **Tuskegee** in the West and **Albany State** in the East are the perennial kingpins of the SIAC having a hand in 22 conference crowns between them, some they shared, since 1994.

They are picked again by conference coaches to be the top teams in 2018.

What is interesting is the slew of underclassmen that made their mark last season and are poised to be difference makers and make the division races competitive again this year.

Here's how the teams break down.

WEST DIVISION

TUSKEGEE (9-2, 7-1 SIAC) – The Golden Tigers emerged with the 2017 SIAC crown beating a game **Fort Valley State** team 13-6 in the championship contest. They lost two of their first four games last season including an embarrassing 61-0 loss to Findlay that head coach **Willie Slater** called "the worst loss in my (40-year coaching) history."

"You build off of those," said Slater, who is the dean of SIAC coaches entering his 13th year on the job. "We haven't lost since then." His team won its last seven games including a big (33-7) win over SWAC member **Jackson State** and a 50-20 thrashing of **Miles** that clinched the West Division crown.

The Golden Tigers, will be without RB **Hoderick Lowe** (701 yards, 8 TDs) and all-everything linebacker **Osband Thompson** (117 tackles, 4 interceptions), but return junior quarterback **Jamarcus Ezell**, a mechanical engineering major who was selected as the preseason first team signal-caller. Ezell passed for 1,105 yards and 7 TDs and ran for 274 yards and another two scores. Senior RB **Justice Owens**, who had seven rushing TDs, is also back.

Linebacker **Davoris Thomas** (72 tackles), the preseason defensive player of the year, and lineman **Kali James** are among nine Golden Tigers on preseason all-conference teams.

MILES (6-4, 6-2) – The Golden Bears persevered and had a late run at the West Division title despite head coach **Reginald Ruffin** going through a tough 2017. He lost his wife of 17 years, Monica, early in the year, lost Assistant Head Coach **Tony Oglesby** before the season began and the young 3-year old son of another assistant in September.

"It was a tough year, but I was blessed to have a resilient group of young men," said Ruffin.

Leading the charge in 2018 is preseason Offensive Player of the Year, senior RB **Justin Hardy** (5-8, 185), who led the conference last season with 1,197 rushing yards and 12 TDs. **Joseph Cambridge** returns at quarterback.

Austin Stephens, who racked up 80 tackles as a sophomore, is back to lead the defense that includes preseason first-teamer **Marquell Shelton** at defensive tackle.

KENTUCKY STATE (3-8, 2-5) – Third-year head coach **John L. Smith** has a 17-member senior class that he hopes will help turn around a 2017 squad that he said lacked senior leadership. **Ken Ackerman** is the new offensive coordinator.

SIAC STANDOUTS: (Above l.) QB Jamarcus Ezell and head coach Willie Slater of West Div. favorite Tuskegee. (Above r.) Head coach Gabe Giardina of East Div. favorite Albany State. (L.) Preseason Offensive POY, Miles RB Justin Hardy.

First team all-SIAC RB/KR **Brett Sylve** (995 rushing yds., 6 TDs) was the breakout star for the Thorobreds leading the league with 179 all-purpose yards per game and three return TDs (2 punts, 1 kickoff). Also returning is former QB **Jules St. Gee** who led the 'Breds to the 2016 SIAC title game in Smith's first season before sitting out last season. He'll compete with holdover **Paul Campbell** for the signal-caller duties.

CENTRAL STATE (1-9, 0-8) – The only win on the Marauders ledger was a 40-35 victory at SWAC member **Arkansas-Pine Bluff**. "That's the day we put it all together and we finished," said head coach **Cedric Pearl**. "That shows what we're capable of."

Incumbent **Trent Mays** will get competition from several transfers at quarterback. Running back **Terraris Saffold** (869 rushing yards, 6 TDs) is back to lead the ground game. Second team preseason linebacker **Kailen Abrams** is a prolific tackler (86 stops) but needs defensive help. CSU gave up 35.2 points per game a season ago

LANE (2-8, 1-7) – "We started but we didn't finish the games," is how Assistant Head Coach **Fred Manuel** explained the Dragons' 2-8 2017 season that saw them lose five games by 10 points or less. Manuel was at Media Day in place of head coach **Derrick Burroughs**.

Quarterback **Marcus Reynolds**, who missed parts of several games last season, is back to lead the offense and has a prolific receiving corps that includes **Ahmad Isaac** (35 rec.). **Omari Hampton** (30 rec.) and **Micah Grigsby** (25 rec.). Beefing up the offensive line that produced just 7 rushing TDs and gave up 25 sacks will be key to improving upon a league-worst 18.2 points per game.

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EAST DIVISION

ALBANY STATE (6-4, 4-2) – In **Gabe Giardina's** first year, the Golden Rams beat **Tuskegee** (20-7) but lost close games to **Clark Atlanta** (44-36) and **Benedict** (17-12) down the stretch that cost them a shot at the E. Div. title. Employing Giardina's option attack out of the shotgun, ASU ran for 193 yards per game and led the league averaging 27 points per game.

They return the dynamic senior RB duo of **McKinley Habersham** (850 yards, 6.0 yards per carry, 8 TDs) and **Kelan Fraise** (620 yds., 7.5 ypc., 6 TDs). Wide receiver **Mike Green** (44 rec., 3 TDs) is a preseason first team All-SIAC selection as is **Jamie Glenn** who anchors four returning starters on the offensive line.

BENEDICT (7-2, 6-1) – In its third year under former **Albany State** head coach **James "Mike" White**, the Tigers won their last five games and were a 31-28 overtime loss to **Fort Valley State** in late September short of taking the East Division title. The only other loss on the season was in overtime to Limestone (20-17) on Sept. 9.

White, who won six SIAC championships and made seven Div. II playoff appearances in 15 years at ASU, believes this will be his best team at Benedict. He returns eight starters on offense and eight on defense. The defensive unit led the league in scoring, total and rushing defense. Three defenders (LB **Xavier George**, DL **Charles Williams** and DB **Travionte Brown**) are preseason first teamers.

White also believes he has the best quarterback in the league in 6-4, 265-pound senior **Dominique Harris**. "He's legit," said White of Harris who only played in five games last season.

FORT VALLEY STATE (5-5, 5-3 SIAC) - An early (31-28) win in overtime vs. a resurgent Benedict team set up FVSU for its second straight East Division title. They clinched the title with a late October (52-7) pasting of **Morehouse** before dropping a meaningless season-ender to rival **Albany State**.

Six-four, 220-pound QB **Slade Jarman** (1,640 passing yards, 57.5 completion percentage, 14 TDs) earned newcomer of the year honors while leading the Wildcat offense. He's back along with WR **Loren Smothers**, his top target (33 rec., 3 TDs) who also had two punt return TDs.

Linebacker **David Brown** and defensive backs **Cameron Young** and **Aaron Dore** are preseason first teamers on defense.

MOREHOUSE (4-6, 4-5) – The Maroon Tigers lost three of their final four games to fall out of the E. Div. race but finished on a high note with a 40-0 win over Atlanta neighbor and rival **Clark Atlanta**. Two of those three losses were in extra sessions, to **Benedict** (29-26) in two overtimes and to **Tuskegee** (23-17) in one.

Mike Sims will compete at the quarterback position with NAIA all-American transfer **Cedric Phillips**. Wide receiver/kick returner **Amyr Smith** is only 5-7, 175, but he's a big part of the Maroon Tigers' title hopes. He caught 41 passes last season for 527 yards and 5 TDs and averaged 25 yards on 12 kick returns. "We move the way he's able to move offensively and kicking-game wise," said 12-year head coach **Rich Freeman** of Smith.

CLARK ATLANTA (4-6, 3-5) – First team all-SIAC QB **Jonathan McCrary** (2,445 passing yards, 18 TDs) is gone from the league's top offense but head coach **Kevin Ramsey** believes he has an adequate replacement in 6-3, 225-pound **Charles Stafford**, a transfer from Albany State. The new QB has a qualified mentor in record-setting former **Mississippi Valley State QB Willie "Satellite" Totten**, the new coordinator of the Panthers' offense.

Senior **Roger Thomas** (364 rushing yards, 4 TDs) is back to lead the ground attack while **Jonathan Sanders** (40 rec., 4.4 rpg., 4 TDs) is the league's top returning receiver.

PRESEASON ALL-SIAC TEAMS

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE	SECOND TEAM OFFENSE
Jamarcus Ezell, QB, TU	Slade Jarmon, QB, FVSU
Joseph Castellanos, TE, KSU	Ryan Edwards, TE, MHC
Javarrius Cheatham, WR, TU	Johnathon Sanders, WR, CAU
Mike Green, WR, ASU	Amyr Smith, WR, MHC
Justin Hardy, RB, MC	Terraris Saffold, RB, CSU
Brett Sylve, RB, KSU	McKinley Habersham, RB, ASU
Jamie Glenn, OL, ASU	Marcus Campbell, OL, KSU
Jean Cyriaque, OL, MHC	Roger Womack, OL, MC
Justin Brown, OL, BEN	Craig Hinson, OL, BEN
Darrius Hicks, OL, FVSU	Rochelin Romain, OL, TU
Lowell Richardson, OL, TU	Jah-Mai Davidson, OL, CAU
DEFENSE	**DEFENSE**
Antonio Johnson, DL, MHC	Demetrius Harris, DL, FVSU
Marquel Shelton, DL, MC	Kamari Jones-Hunter, DL, MHC
Terrance Leatherwood, DL, TU	Bundrea Conway, DL, MHC
Charles Williams, DL, BEN	Kali James, DL, TU
David Brown, LB, FVSU	Austin Stephens, LB, MC
Davoris Thomas, LB, TU	Kailen Abrams, LB, CSU
Xavier George, LB, BEN	Kevin Dawson, LB, TU
Aaron Dore, DB, FVSU	Quantavious Singletary, DB, CAU
Darnell Hill, DB, TU	Nicco Whigham, DB, FVSU
Cameron Young, DB, FVSU	Jaylin Boyd, DB, ASU
Travionte Brown, DB, BEN	Macaiah Page, DB, MHC
Dalton Hall, PK, TU	Carlos Saldana, PK, CAU
Gabriel Ballinas, P, ASU	Vincente Luis Juan-Pena, P, LC
Brett Sylve, KR, KSU	Lorenzo Smothers, KR, FVSU
Lorenzo Smothers, PR, FVSU	Brett Sylve, PR, KSU

Faith & Spirit

Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church Family & Friends Day

Elder Lee Harris, Pastor of Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church will present a "Family and Friends Day" celebration which will begin with church school Sunday, July 22nd at 9:30 a.m., followed by a spirit filled church service at 11 a.m. All friends, family and former members are welcome to join in a good old fashion get together to celebrate another year of unity and harmony through the blessings of God. Mt. Olive is looking for your face in the place! For more info call the church office at (904) 355-0015.

Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Hosts Summer Revival

Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church summer Revival will take place July 24th - July 25th. Guest speaker is Reverend Terry Brown of Mt. Calvary Baptist church, Deland, Florida. The church is located at 2803 Edgewood Avenue. Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church is under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Clifford Johnson. For more information call the church office at (904) 764-9353.

First (A.M.E.) Church of Palm Coast African Fashion Show

The Women's Day Committee of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Palm Coast will light up the runway in an "African Fashion Show," Saturday, August 4th, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The church is located at 91 Old Kings Road North, Palm Coast, Florida. First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Palm Coast is under the leadership of Reverend Gillard S. Glover. For more info call the church office at (386) 446-5759.

DIP Outreach Ministry School Supply Giveaway

The 2nd annual "Tools 4 School" clothing and school supply giveaway is scheduled for Saturday, August 4th at 10 a.m. at DIP Outreach Ministry located at 2078 Cassat Avenue. Local charity seeks to aid those in need of clothing and backpacks filled with school supplies. For more info, updates and details call (904) 438-4347.

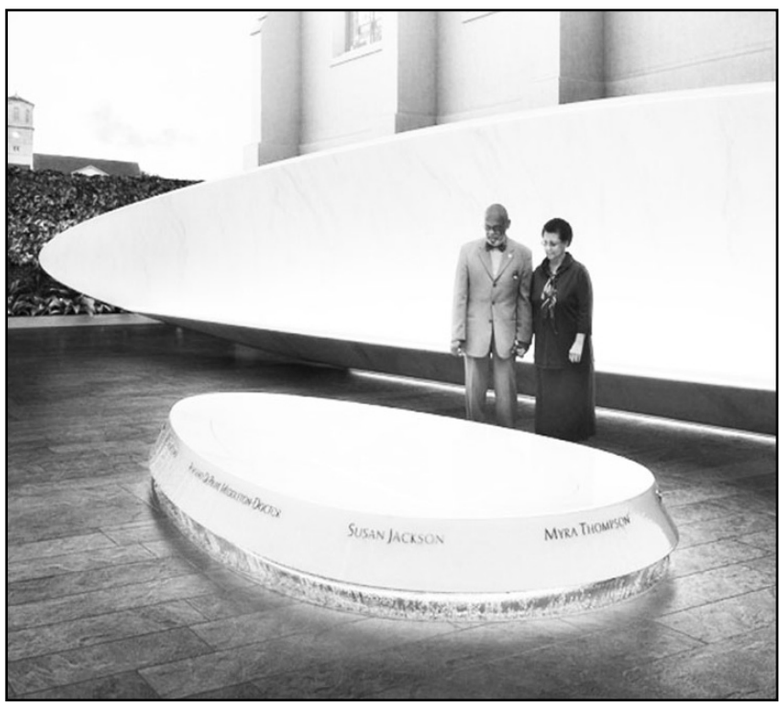
Min. Davis Presents "Pop Life"

Minister Octavius Davis presents "The POP Life" a motivational speaker series developed to inspire individuals to diligently pursue their passion (s) is scheduled for Saturday, October 20th from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Featuring a one-on-one conversational-style interview with award-winning ESPN and Big Ten Network women's basketball analyst Vera Jones at The Ritz Theatre and Museum, 829 N. Davis St. For tickets and more info call the Ritz at (904) 807-2010.

Southside Church of God in Christ Pastor's Anniversary

Celebrate Southside Church of God in Christ Pastor's Anniversary recognizing Bishop Edward Robinson and Lady Cynthia Robinson 39 years in Ministry, July 19th - 21st at 7:30 p.m. This year's theme is "A Pastor after God's Own Heart." Enjoy the Bishop's famous BBQ, fellowship with friends, family and the congregation. All activities will take place at Southside Church of God in Christ is located at 2179 Emerson St. To order dinner and for more information call (904) 398 1625.

Charleston AME Church Members to Get Memorial



A rendering of the planned fountain at the center of the memorial, bearing the names of those killed in the massacre at the Emanuel AME Church.

Three years after nine members of the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, were violently gunned down by an avowed white racist during a Bible study in June 2017, church officials announced Sunday that they will be honored with a memorial.

Plans for the permanent tribute to the late parishioners designed by Michael Arad, the architect behind the 9/11 Memorial in New York, were unveiled by officials at the church on Sunday evening, The Associated Press reported. Sections of the church's parking lot will be transformed into a stone memorial courtyard and a grassy survivors' garden The New York Times said.

Arad, who is a New York-based partner with Handel Architects, told The New York Times that the memorial was "intended to promote a sense of community, that when you walk into this space, you become a member of this congregation."

The memorial will consist of a marble fountain with carvings of the victims' names flanked by curved stone benches that rise above visitors' heads "like sheltering wings," the church said in a news release.

"When you walk into the memorial, it's going to give you the feeling of being embraced, just embraced with warmth," City Councilman William Dudley Gregorie, a church trustee who lost a loved one in the attack, told the AP.

A foundation connected to the church is now seeking to raise an estimated $15 million to $20 million, John Darby, a prominent local developer who's a co-chairman of the campaign along with Emanuel's pastor, the Rev. Eric S.C. Manning, also told the Times.

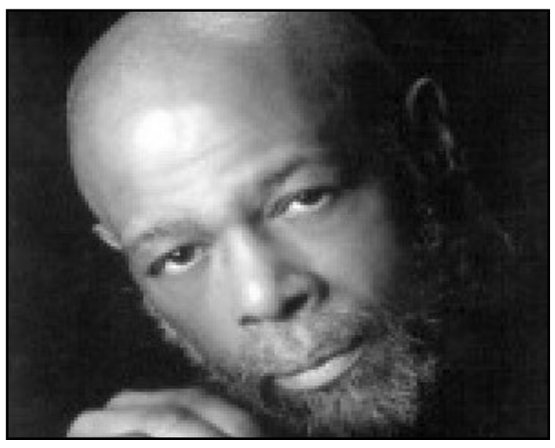
Dylann Roof, 24, was sentenced to death in 2017 for killing the nine black worshipers as they prayed at the Bible study.

Just two days after the massacre, many relatives of Roof's slain victims, including Felicia Sanders, one of just three people to survive the attack, offered him forgiveness.

"We welcomed you Wednesday night in our Bible study with welcome arms," an emotional Sanders said back then. "Tywanza Sanders was my son. But Tywanza Sanders was my hero. Tywanza was my hero. ... May God have mercy on you."

In addition to Sanders' son, the other victims of the massacre are: the former pastor of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney; the Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, 45, a high school speech pathologist and track coach; Cynthia Hurd, 54, a county library manager; Ethel Lee Lance, 70, a longtime church member and sexton; the Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, 49, a college enrollment counselor; the Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons Sr., 74, a retired pastor who filled in part-time at the church; and Myra Thompson, 59, an English teacher and guidance counselor.

- - - SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING - - -



Are You the Devil's Wannabe Trophy ?

by James Washington

Every now and then I tend to focus on good and evil and its impact on my life. In doing so, the devil inevitably comes up. I have difficulty in coming to grips with the fact that Satan wants me as a trophy and God wants me as an eternal testament to His love. I just can't see myself in such a high stakes game of life and death. The battle I'm in is one in which the only weapon I have is my faith. The difficulty is at any given moment, Satan will attack. He is relentless and at times, a lot of times, my guard is just not up. On my best days there are distinct moments when focusing on the Word of God is impossible, unlikely or just plain hard. When this occurs, it is obvious to me that this is when the devil is at the top of his game. You see that's what I mean when I say I don't realize how important of a trophy I am for Satan. When I'm conscious and thinking correctly, I understand Satan wants to embarrass, humiliate and like a scorned lover, hurt the Lord. What better way to do this than to steal something, degrade something, ruin something that the devil knows the Lord loves, i. e., me. In your case that would be you.

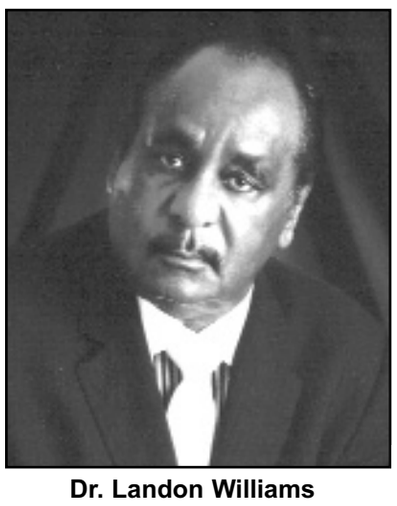
It's hard for me to think of myself as being that important. It's hard to consider myself the pivotal piece in an eternal game of spiritual chess. So I guess without knowing it, I am vulnerable. Like a child who unknowingly wanders off into a swamp, he or she has no idea of the dangers lurking there. Injury and death are but steps away. That's how I feel sometimes. I know I'm in trouble. I know I'm lost. I know if I'm not vigilant and consistent, the devil will take me out and celebrate at the wake. Therefore, like a weekend athlete, I know I must train. I know I must be prepared. I know the game is out there. But sometimes I just don't want to work that hard. I just want to be left alone. Can you see how that frame of mind can get you killed? Can you see how that rather mundane thought can spell trouble?

The bible is full of references to those who would be seduced, abducted, tricked and persecuted for not being true to the Word of God. God Himself expresses frustration at times about those who would willingly forget, or unwillingly choose not to remember who He is and who they belong to. The consequences can be catastrophic. So what's the answer when you're just not feeling it? Get into the Word. What's the solution to being lost in this world? Get into the Word. What's the defense for Satan's temptations? Get into the Word and form an offense of testimony. I guess this is a good time to suggest to you that my dilemma on this when I find myself out of sync, is to simply realize that I am, well, out of sync. The answer is to be deliberate in the effort to find my way home. You know when you're determined, you can't be distracted. There are some qualities that we all possess that arm us for this fight. Recognition, understanding, desire and discipline come to mind. Together, focused on the Word, they guarantee victory for God and humiliation for the devil. Sometimes is just takes the will to fight, and the understanding that the war is over. We win. If you don't believe me, juts ask Jesus. Better yet. Just ask the devil.

May God bless and keep you always.

Greater Macedonia Baptist Church
1880 West Edgewood Avenue

Seeking the lost for Christ
- Matthew 28:19 - 20



Dr. Landon Williams

8:00 A.M. Early Morning Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Tuesday Evening - 7 p.m. Prayer Service
Wednesday - Bible Study 6:30 - 7 p.m.
Mid-Week Worship 7 p.m.
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Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr.
Senior Pastor

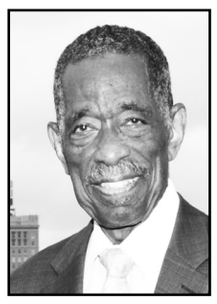
Weekly Services

Sunday Morning Worship
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Church school
9:30 a.m.

Bible Study
6:45 p.m.

Midweek Services
Wednesday Noon Service
"Miracle at Midday"
12 noon - 1:00 p.m.



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Shown above is the family in the park in Washington, D.C.

Edwards-Walker Clan Tour Washington D.C. For reunion Legacy Tour

The descendants of Jessie and Anna Edwards held their 29th family reunion in Washington, D.C. The focus on this year's "come together weekend" was to celebrate their ancestral history and family legacy.

The families' roots extend from the plantations of Hawkinsville, Georgia to Northeast Florida. The first family reunion was held in 1989, and Robert Walker, the great grandson of deceased family patriarch and matriarch, hosted this year's reunion.

This year's trip to DC was planned to engage and educate family members about African American artifacts, museums and history in the United States. The trip was also a time for bonding and fellowship with family members from Florida and Georgia chartering a bus for the 18 hour trip. The remaining family members traveled from Washington state and Massachusetts.

Making the most of the trip, the group also dined at various restaurants, shopped and sang old spirituals to pass the time. The Edwards-Walker crew visited the Museum of African American Culture, Martin Luther King Center, Howard University, Georgetown University, JFK Stadium, and several other locations.

The reunion ended with a family bar-b-que in the park to celebrate the next generation of trail-blazers.

Workforce Program Helps Young Adults with Special Needs Find Jobs

Nick Vujicic has become an accomplished writer, motivational speaker, father, husband and so much more despite being born without limbs. He has been an inspiration to so many, but he's just one of many people with disabilities that are doing amazing things.

And that's the mission of Prestige Workforce, a local nonprofit organization that is focused on helping individuals with disabilities do extraordinary things. The organization's goal is provide professional job placement to individuals with impediments to employment as well as helping community employers increase revenue and productivity by hiring people that have been apart of their program.

"Our goal is to build partnerships with local companies to help fill their vacancies with motivated, dependable, reliable candidates," says Jada Williams, Prestige CEO.

The organization will host a free week-long youth program catered to students with disabilities geared towards helping them find employment. Students must have a 504 or Individual Education Plan (IEP) and be between the ages of 14 and 21. The workforce training sessions will take place from July 23rd-27th and August 6th-10th at Beaver Street Enterprise Center on West Beaver Street.

Williams says that Prestige is unique because she and her partner started the organization after working for several years for the State of Florida as Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors. That distinctive experience has helped Prestige develop into a well-rounded, full service workforce development and career training organization.

Prestige has over 80 local employers that they work with to place special needs youth and adults. The nonprofit also has partnered with the University North Florida and Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.

Program participants have been placed in jobs throughout Northeast Florida including Orange Park Junior High as a teacher and Brooks Rehabilitation as a certified nursing assistant. "We have tremendous passion for what we do and have had positive feedback from the employers that hire our-participants," says Williams.

She adds, "We aim to change the lives of those with barriers to employment by providing professional job placement and career enhancement."

Black Men and Healthcare - A Broken Relationship

by Adris Elba

Every year my mother texts or calls to check whether I've completed my annual physical, dental cleaning and vision test. Going to the dentist and optometrist has always been easy to complete, but going to the doctor for routine check-ups and blood tests haven't been. In my case, accessibility to a network of providers is easy because of the health benefits associated with past and current jobs.

With access to such good healthcare, why am I so reticent to regularly go to the doctor?

Why are black men so hesitant to regularly visit their doctors?

I've asked myself this question a multitude of times. The answer is layered and nuanced.

There's a naivety that comes with being young, a black man or both. It's almost a feeling of invincibility – a false sense of healthiness that's based off an unprofessional self-assessment consisting of an "I'm okay. I feel good." If there's no sharp pain or glaring signs of a problem then there's no need to go to the doctor. "I know my body" is often our sole justification. Obviously, this is a dangerous way of thinking that positions us to be reactive rather than proactive.

With youth and/or being a black man also comes the blissfulness of ignorance. Being unaware of your current state of health is more soothing than finding out something may actually be wrong. Living in the unknown doesn't force us to face past actions that may have triggered health issues: whether its sexual activity, substance abuse, diet, etc. Here is when you realize how much we believe in "out of sight, out of mind."

Black men's subscriptions to flawed notions of masculinity only compound the issue. Our definitions of what it means to be a "real" man are generally shaped by societal and traditional masculine norms, which condition us to be self-reliant and conceal any sort of weakness. Revealing health issues to our closest friends and families puts us in a vulnerable state that jeopardizes our "manhood." In a sense, black men feel there's a stigma and embarrassment associated with sickness when in actuality it's just being human in its most rudimentary form.

Another layer we must analyze is black men's mistrust of the healthcare system. The lack of trust is rooted in racial and prejudice undertones. The relationship between patient and physician is just that – a relationship – and the foundation of trust is broken within the black community. One must look at the historical contexts of blacks and the health care system to truly understand.

Historically, black bodies have been the victim of forced medical and surgical experimentations only to have the results used as justification of their oppression and exploitation.

Dr. J. Corey Williams explained, "In the Antebellum period, blacks were forced to participate in dissections and medical examinations. The psychiatric diagnosis of drapetomania, or "runaway slave syndrome," was created to diagnose and pathologize African slaves who fled their vicious slave owners. To run away from slavery was considered a disease. The treatment was often amputation of extremities."

He continued, "Later during Reconstruction Era, white American doctors argued that former slaves would not thrive in a free society because their minds could not cope psychologically with freedom. In the Civil Rights era, psychiatrists used the concept of schizophrenia to portray black activists as violent, hostile, and paranoid because they threatened the racist status quo."

On another note, it can't go without saying that the socioeconomic issues that continue to cripple black communities play a major factor as well. The resolution to this generational problem is quite robust, to say the least. It's not only a change of mindset, but also a change of culture that persists in America. We are more than aware of the systematic oppression and exploitation of black people and a collective effort is needed to alleviate the sickness of mind, body, and spirit on all sides.

Black Staffers are Hard to Find Among Democratic Senators

by Fred Lowe

U.S. Senators who represent states with significant black populations have people of color in top and mid-level positions but not many African Americans, according to a report by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington, D.C. -based non-partisan public policy organization.

Of the 147 top-level positions held by Democrats in the U.S. Senate, only three are held by blacks, representing 2% of all top positions compared to 1% in 2015.

Though African Americans represent 13.4 percent of the nation's population, they account for 23 percent of Democratic voters, according to the study which is based on a report by Senate Democrats.

The Joint Center said Senators Tim Kaine (Virginia), Bob Casey (Pennsylvania), Richard Blumenthal (Connecticut), Chris Murphy (Connecticut), Jack Reed (Rhode Island) and Amy Klouchar (Minnesota) don't have any black staffers.

Kaine was Hillary Clinton's vice-presidential candidate in the 2016 presidential election and he took a great deal of pride saying he attended a black church in Virginia.

Ben Cardin of Maryland has not hired a black person in a top staff position and employs only one black person in a mid-level position, although the Maryland's population is 31 percent black.

Democratic U.S. senators have increased their hiring of blacks and other people of color for top-level and mid-level positions but not by very much compared to 2017, according to a report released by Senate Democrats.

"Compared to last year, the report showed only a slight increase in the number of non-white Democratic staffers across 49 Senate personnel offices and 19 Senate Committees," reported the Joint Center. "The release of the data, while disappointing, is a critical step towards diversifying Capitol Hill staff."

Of the 49 Democratic Senate personal offices, 29 reported an increase in the number of staff who identify as non-white, 16 reported a decrease and four remain unchanged. In more than half of the offices, the change was not substantial (less than 5 percent).

Of the 19 U.S. Senate Committees, eight committees increased the number of Democratic staffers of color, seven committees reported a decrease and four remained unchanged, the study reported.

Democratic Senators with the most diverse staffs include Senators Kamala Harris (California), Cory Booker (New Jersey), Kirsten Gillibrand (New York), Doug Jones (Alabama), Mark Warner (Virginia), Sherrod Brown (Ohio) and Elizabeth Warren (Massachusetts).

People of color comprise 66 percent of Harris's mid-level and top positions including four African Americans. Harris and Booker and Tim Scott, a South Carolina Republican, are the three African-Americans in the Senate. Republicans did not release data concerning their hiring of non-white staffers.

Only Senator Jones has a black chief of staff. Dianne Feinstein and Harris have legislative directors that are African American. No Democratic Senator has a black communications director.

Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii has assembled the most diverse staff. Some 72 percent of his staff are people of color.

"We all know that the U.S. Senate has a problem with a lack of diversity in top-level positions," said Spencer Overton, president of the Joint Center. "The mid-level positions are often feeder positions to the leadership positions."

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Did you know that in the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) does not require companies to list the ingredients contained in sanitary napkins and tampons, yet the average woman uses more than 15,000 sanitary napkins, or has a tampon inside of her, for more than 100,000 hours over her lifetime?

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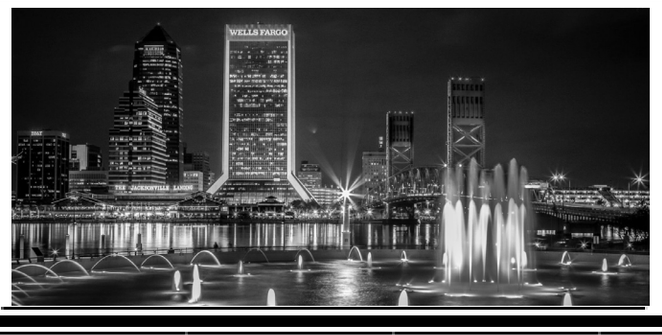

AROUND TOWN

What to do from social, volunteer, political and sports activities to self enrichment and the civic scene

Smart Couples Relationship Workshop

Smart Couples Relationship Skills Workshops are scheduled for **July 19th and 26th** from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Extension Duval County Office, 1010 N. McDuff Ave. Enjoy food, fun, gift cards and workshop entitled: "Before You Tie the Knot: Premarital Workshop." To register visit www.smartcouples.org.

Rutledge Pearson Post Office Dedication

Cong. Al Lawson will dedicate the Rutledge Pearson Post Office Building on Friday, **July 20th** at 10 a.m. The post office located at 1100 Kings Rd. For more info email Lawson.rsvp@mail.house.gov.

WFA Meeting

The Women's Food Alliance next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **July 24th,** 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Casa Marina Hotel, 691 1st Street North, Jacksonville Beach, FL. To become a member and for more info visit www.WomensFoodAlliance.com.

LGBT Safe Space Training

Safe Space Training will take place Wednesday, **July 25th,** 1-4:30 p.m., in the UNF Student Affairs Conference Room 58E/2100. Participants will learn LGBT terminology, awareness of the challenges that LGBT students may face, resources, strategies and more! For more info contact Ms. Legg at (904) 620-4720.

Jurassic Quest Showcases Dinosaurs

Jurassic Quest is the only Dinosaur event that has true to life size dinosaurs. From the very small, to the gigantic skyscraping dinosaurs, Jurassic Quest has over 100 true to life size dinosaurs on show, July 27th - July 29th at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water St. For more info visit www.jurassicquest.com.

Jacksonville Music Summit

Attend the 2018 Jacksonville Music Summit scheduled for Saturday **July 28th,** 1 - 5 p.m. Hosted by Dawn Lopez and Carlos "Daddy Black" Spencer. Location is the Boys & Girls Club located at 555 W. 25th St. Come and hear directly from the professionals. Panel Topics include: contracts, social media, funding, building your platform, rap beefs and more! For more info contact Diallo Sekou at (706) 284-9808.

America's Got Talent

View the "America's Got Talent" tour on Sunday, **July 29th** at 3 p.m. at Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, 300 Water St. For tickets and more info visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Cirque du Soleil's "Corteo"

Cirque du Soleil's 'Corteo,' A**ugust 1st - 5th,** at Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Phillip Randolph Blvd. Corteo is a festive parade imagined by a clown's world of fun, comedy and spontaneity in a mysterious space between heaven and earth. For more info visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Lauryn Hill in Concert

Singer, songwriter, rapper, record producer, and actress Lauryn Hill in concert at Daily's Place, One Everbank Field, Thursday, **August 2nd** at 6:30 p.m. For tickets visit www.daileysplace.com.

NTSZ Back to School Event

The New Town Success Zone Back to School event will take place **August 4th,** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Edward Waters College Sports Complex, 1859 Kings Rd. Vendors will provide immunizations, physicals, vision, speech and hearing screenings, healthy snacks and more! For more info contact (904) 470-8899.

Ritz Marketplace

The Ritz Marketplace featuring local vendors items for sales is scheduled for Sunday, **August 5th,** 1 - 6 p.m. at the Ritz Theatre & Museum, 829 N. Davis Street. For more info visit www.ritzjacksonville.com.

WWE is back!

The World Wresting Monday Night Raw returns to Jacksonville for the first time in over eight years, Monday, **August 6th** at 7:30 p.m. at Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena, 301 A Philip Randolph Blvd. For more info visit www.jax-events.com.

Back to School Jamboree & Giveaway

Back to School Jamboree and Giveaway will take place Saturday, **August 11th** at 10 a.m. at Emmett Reed Community Center located at 1093 West 6th St. For more info call (904) 630-0829.

IOA 5k Stadium Challenge

Insurance Office of America 5K Stadium Challenge "Run under the Lights," will take place Saturday, August 11th at 6 p.m. Bring the entire family to run through stadium ramps and the finish line on the field! To register and for more info visit www.jaguars.com.

Florida Ballet 40th Anniversary

The Florida Ballet celebrates its 40th Anniversary with a special performance on Saturday, **August 11th**, at 7 p.m. The program will feature the return of Florida Ballet alumni and current pre-professional students from the organization's four decades of dance celebration. Location is the UNF Fine Arts Center, Lazzara Theater. For further information visit www.floridaballet.org.

PAW Patrol Live

PAW Patrol Live! "The Great Pirate Adventure," **August 11- 12,** 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Times-Union Center, 300 Water St. For tickets visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Wiz Khalifa and Rae Sremmurd in concert!

Dazed & Blazed Summer tour featuring hip hop superstars Wiz Khalifa and Rae Sremmurd will co-headline Daily's Place on Wednesday, **August 15th** at 6 p.m. The multi-platinum artists will be joined by hip hopper Lil Skies. For tickets visit www.dailysplace.com.

Marcus Garvey Family Culture Weekend

The 4th annual 'Marcus Garvey" lecture by Dr. Jamil Toure. Featuring Sister Aat KaMaat Bey, Demetrius Senior and keynote speaker Queen Neith with musical guest include D.J. Outlaw, will be held on Sunday, **August 19th**, 12 - 6:30 p.m. It's a family culture weekend, with vendors focused on black love! Bring your grills, chaise lounges and enjoy recreational activities hosted by Masjid El-Salaam, 1625 North Pearl Street. For more info call (904) 359-0980.

Comedian Gary Owen

Catch comedian Gary Owen at the Comedy Zone **August 23rd - 26th** for two shows at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Gary recently released his new special, "I Got My Associates" on Showtime and starred in his own docuseries "The Gary Owen Show" on BET. The Comedy Zone is located at 3130 Hartley Rd. For more info visit www.comedyzone.com.

Blues, Brews and BBQ

Summer Fun at Florida Theatre's Annual Blues, Brews and BBQ scheduled for Thursday, **August 23rd**, 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. Location is the Florida Theater, 128 E Forsyth St. For tickets and more info visit www.floridatheatre.com.

Stage Aurora Golf Tournament

The Stage Aurora 18th annual invitation golf tournament is scheduled for Saturday, **August 25th** for an 8 a.m. shotgun start for 18-Holes at Deerfield Lakes Golf Club, 54002 Deerfield Country Club Rd, Callahan, FL. Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, lunch bar-b-que chicken and ribs, gift bags and door prizes. For more info contact Stage Aurora at (904) 765-7373.

NCI Golf Tournament

The Northside Community Involvement 13th Annual Golf Tournament will be held **August 25th** at 7 a.m. at the Omni Resort located at 39 Beach Lagoon Rd, Amelia Island, FL. Meet new friends for a round of golf, food, fun and scholarship presentation. For more info call (904) 660-2157.

Comedian Bruce Bruce

Comedian Bruce Bruce will be on stage at the Comedy Zone, 3130 Hartley Rd, **August 31st** - September 2nd, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. shows. Bruce hosted BET's "Comic View," among other high profile comedic performances. For tickets and more info visit www.comedyzone.com.

Monster Jam is back!

Monster Jam will be back in Jax, Saturday, **September 1st,** 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Stadium, 300 A Philip Randolph Blvd. Enjoy customized high-powered vehicles and more! For tickets visit www.ticketmaster.com

A Symphonic Celebration of Prince

A symphonic celebration of "PRINCE," Curated, produced and directed by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, featuring the Jacksonville Rock Symphony Orchestra is scheduled for Saturday, **October 6th,** at 8 p.m. at the Florida Theatre, 128 E Forsyth St. For tickets visit www.floridatheatre.com.

Civic Cinema

The Florida Theatre's "Civic Cinema" screening on Tuesday, **September 19th,** 7 p.m. will feature the movie *"Philadelphia"* followed by a discussion on the state of LGBTQ rights and relations in Jacksonville. For free tickets visit www.floridatheatre.com.

QuiltFest

Quilt Fest will take place **September 20th - 22nd,** 10 a.m. at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center located at 1000 Water St. For more info visit www.quiltfest.com.

Throwback Festival

The Throwback Festival is back featuring Cameo, Michelle, Klymaxx and Ruff Endz at the Morocco Shrine, 3800 St. Johns Buff Rd, Saturday, **September 22nd** at 5 p.m. For tickets visit www.throwbackconcert.com.

Howie Mandel & Preacher Lawson Show

Experience one great night of comedy with Howie Mandel Live and Preacher Lawson at the Thrasher-Horne Center, 283 College Dr, Orange Park, on Saturday, **September 29th** at 8 p.m. For tickets visit www.THcenter.org.

See the Girls Summit

Get ready for the 5th annual "See the Girl Summit," **October 18th - 19th.** Attend workshops focused on creating safe spaces for difficult conversations. For tickets visit www.seethegirl.org/summit.

Southern Women's Show

The Southern Women's Show is back **October 18th - 21st** at the Prime F. Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water St. Shop, sample while perusing boutiques, gourmet treats, health and beauty, fashion shows, top chefs, and celebrity guests. For more info visit www.southernshows.com/wja.

Sesame Street Live!

You're invited to Elmo's amazing journey to discover the "power of yet" in Sesame Street Live!, Sunday, **October 28th,** at the Times-Union Center, 300 Water St. For tickets and more info visit www.ticketmaster.com.

BBBS Margaritaville

Big Brothers Big Sisters annual Margarita fundraiser is Friday, **November 9th,** from 6 - 10 p.m. at Casa Marina Hotel, 2429 3rd St S. Enjoy margaritas, island-inspired cuisine, raffles and more! For more info visit www.bbbsnefl.org/events.

Jacksonville PorchFest

The fifth annual Jacksonville PorchFest, a music festival held on the front porches of Historic Springfield, will take place on Saturday, **November 3rd** from 12 - 9 p.m. The free event will feature musicians from diverse genres. For more info contact Heather Benefield at (904) 353-7727.

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Do You Have an Event for *Around Town*?

The Jacksonville Free Press is pleased to print your public service announcements and coming events free of charge. News deadline is Monday at 6 p.m. of the week you would like your information to be printed. Information can be sent via email, fax, brought into our office or mailed in. Please be sure to include the 5W's - who, what, when, where, why and you must include a contact number.

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Sade Reportedly Working on a New Album

The stars may be aligning for a Sade comeback. The mysterious but beloved British chanteuse may be back in the studio to record a new album, 8 years after her last one, Soldier of Love.

After a magic run in the 80's with albums like Diamond Life, Promise, Stronger Than Pride and Love Deluxe, Sade all but disappeared, resurfacing in recent years in a photo with Drake and for a song on the Wrinkle In Time soundtrack.

Although her official, verified Instragram account (that only has 11 posts) has nothing new beyond a picture of the Wrinkle in Time single, her longtime bandmember Stuart Matthewman recently provided some updates on the band. (Sade is not just the name of its lead singer, it's the name of the band as well.

He exclusively told RatedR&B.com that the band has been recording:

Matthewman says Sade and their creative team currently have "a bunch of songs," that eager fans will hear once they're satisfied with the final product. "When we're happy, then we'll let everyone else hear it."

Like his comment in a previous interview with Rated R&B, "It might sound funny but we write and do music to please ourselves and just hope that [we] have good taste and other people will like it."

Matthewman says Sade's label home, Epic Records, respects her artistry and doesn't pressure the release of new music. "The record company knows there's no point in nagging us or giving us deadlines. It doesn't really help the process," he says.

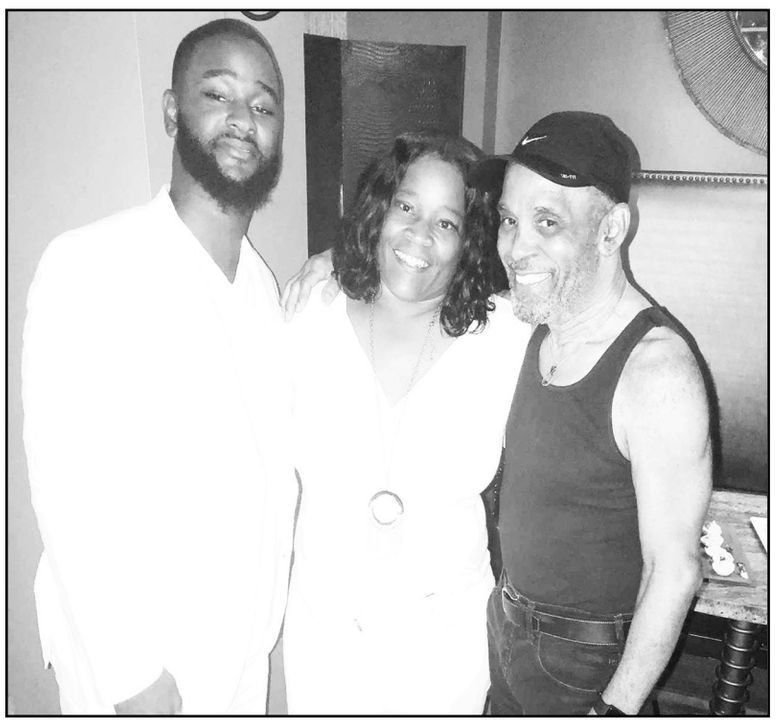
While other artists are content with releasing music more frequently to remain in the limelight, Matthewman says, "[Sade's] not interested in the fame or any of that [other] stuff. She likes to put out art. So when it's ready, it will come out."

Raines Graduate Brings Old School Concert to Jax Leaving Footprints in the Hometown Sand

This past weekend, local concert promoter William Davis, Jr. bought two legendary groups to town - Maze featuring Frankie Beverly and the Whispers.

Davis, a Jacksonville native, was raised by a single mother with two siblings and grew up in Cleveland Arms apartments. A 2009 graduate of Raines High School, Davis earned mostly C's and D's on his report card and stayed in trouble. But despite his lackluster academic proformance, Davis attended Tallahassee Community College (TCC) to study family pharmacy and chart a path towards his personal success.

One year during spring break, he returned to Jacksonville to visit family and was sad to find out that his friend had tragically died. This prompted him to use his skills to honor his friend with a memorial service at the former nightclub Plush in Arlington. The event was a success, and it prompted Davis to start a new career - becoming a national promoter booking acts around the country.



Shown l-r is Raines graduate and promoter William Davis Jr., Mother Kecia Harris and Frankie Beverly.

His resume includes artists K'Michelle, Betty Wright, the Manhattans and many more. "I started out not knowing anything about the promotions business, then soaked up everything like a sponge," said Davis. "I had a few mentors and stuck to my motto that connections and networking can take you further than money."

The concert was held at the Times Union Center to a sellout crowd excited to witness the "This is it Tour," hosted by comedian, actress and talk show host Sheryl Underwood. Maze closed out the concert with their hits, "Before I Let You Go," "Joy and Pain," "While I'm Alone," and many more.

Harvard Study: Black Men Sentenced to Longer Prison Terms Than Whites Convicted of the Same Crimes

Republican-appointed judges to the federal bench sentence Black men to longer prison terms compared with White men convicted of the same crime, according to a study by the Harvard Law School.

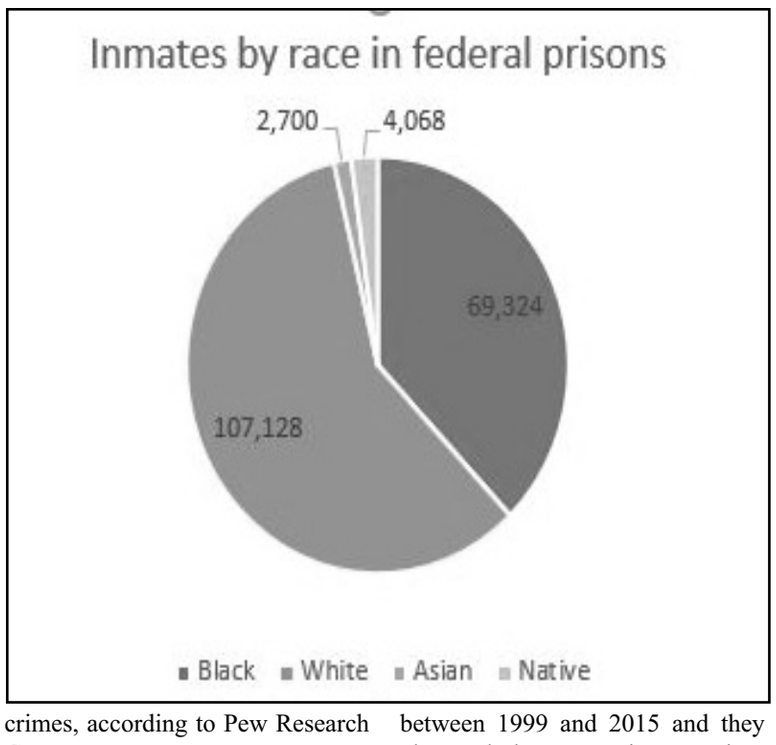
The report also found that Black judges impose shorter sentences on average than non-Black judges. However, in Chicago there hasn't been a Black man on the federal bench since 2012, Crain's Chicago Business reported in January 2016.

The study "Judicial Politics and Sentencing Decisions," reported that the racial disparity in sentencing decisions contributes to the fact that Black defendants comprise a disproportionate fraction of the prison population relative to their percentage of the overall population," the study found. The Federal Bureau of Prisons reported Saturday, May 26, that Blacks comprised 37.8 percent of the prison population or 69,324 inmates.

Over 95 percent of criminal convictions are the result of guilty pleas. Once a plea deal is reached and accepted by the judge, the judge schedules sentencing.

Black offenders were sentenced to 4.8 months more in prison compared to similar non-black offenders, the study reported.

Prison sentences have grown for federal inmates from 17.9 months in 1988 to 37.5 months in 2012 for violent, property, drug, public order, weapon and immigration



crimes, according to Pew Research Center.

In comparison, women offenders receive 12.1 fewer months in prison compared to male offenders. Defendants with children are sentenced to longer terms in prison than defendants with fewer dependents.

To arrive at its findings, researchers at Harvard Law School studied the sentencing data of more than 546,916 federal defendants linked to federal judges. Harvard studied defendants sentenced between 1999 and 2015 and they observed the sentencing practices of approximately 1,400 unique judges.

"Male defendants are sentenced to substantially longer time in prison than female defendants even after accounting for arrest offense and criminal history," the report said.

There are 677 authorized federal judgeships in 94 district courts as of 2017, Harvard reported. Most of the districts have between two and seven authorized judgeships.

Floyd Mayweather Tops List of Highest Paid Celebs

Boxer Floyd Mayweather tops Forbes top 100 list, earning $285 million.

Mayweather didn't make the 2017 list, but this years fight vs. Connor McGregor brought in over $550 million and launched him over the top.

The Rock also made the top 10, coming in at number five by with a total of $124 million. Some of your other faves who made the list include athletes LeBron James, Steph Curry, Jay-Z, Beyonce, and Kevin Hart.

White House Internship Program Open for Applicants

- Deadline August 24 -

The White House Internship Program (WHIP) application portal is now live for the Spring 2019 term. Applicants are encouraged to submit a thorough application that illustrates their qualifications, character and commitment to public service. The application deadline is 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, August 24, 2018. Interns must be at least 18 years old as of the internship start date, and must meet established criteria. Those who want to apply to be part of the WHIP Spring 2019 Class, which will run from January 16-April 12, 2019, contact Zoe Jackman at Zoe.L.Jackman@who.eop.gov.

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Former President Barack Obama Visits Africa to Help Sister Open Sports Center and Honor Nelson Mandela

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — While visiting Kenya, former U.S. President Barack Obama praised Kenya's president and opposition leader for working together but said this East African country must do more to end corruption.

On his first visit to Africa since stepping down as president, he commended President Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga for cooperating following last year's disputed presidential election which were marked by violence.

"Despite some of the tumultuous times that seem to attend every election we now have a president and major opposition leader who have pledged to build bridges and have made specific commitments to work together," said Obama, speaking in Kogelo in Siaya County, the rural birthplace of his late father.

"So what we see here in Kenya is all part of an emergence of a more confident, more self-reliant Africa. But we know real progress means addressing the problems that remain. It means rooting out corruption that weakens civic life," he said.

Other challenges facing Kenya are tribalism and the need for better education, Obama said. Since visiting Kenya as senator in 2006 and then as president in 2015, Obama has passionately urged Kenya to tackle its endemic corruption and problems surrounding the divisions between this country's ethnic groups. In 2006, he angered the government of President Mwai Kibaki when he gave a talk about corruption at the University of Nairobi. The government spokesman responded calling him "an inexperienced young man who could not teach Kenya how to manage its affairs."

Obama went to Kogelo this week to launch a sports and training center founded by his half-sister, Auma Obama, through her foundation Sauti Kuu. Thousands of Kenyans turned up in his ancestral home of Kogelo to see him but many could not get into the venue due to high security.

"We wanted to appreciate Barack Obama for what he has done. In fact he has developed the community through giving iron sheets for people to build their houses," said Boniface Rachula, a farmer from Kogelo who was turned away from the event.

Obama's current visit to Kenya is low key, unlike his previous trips where he electrified thousands of Kenyans who lined the streets to see him. "It is a joy to be with so many people who are family to me and so many people who claim to be family to me. Everybody is a cousin," Obama said in jest.

Following his trip to Kenya, he visited South Africa where he delivered the annual Neslon Mandela lecture marking the late anti-apartheid icon's 100th birthday.

Ernest J. Grant Becomes 1st Male President of the American Nurses Association

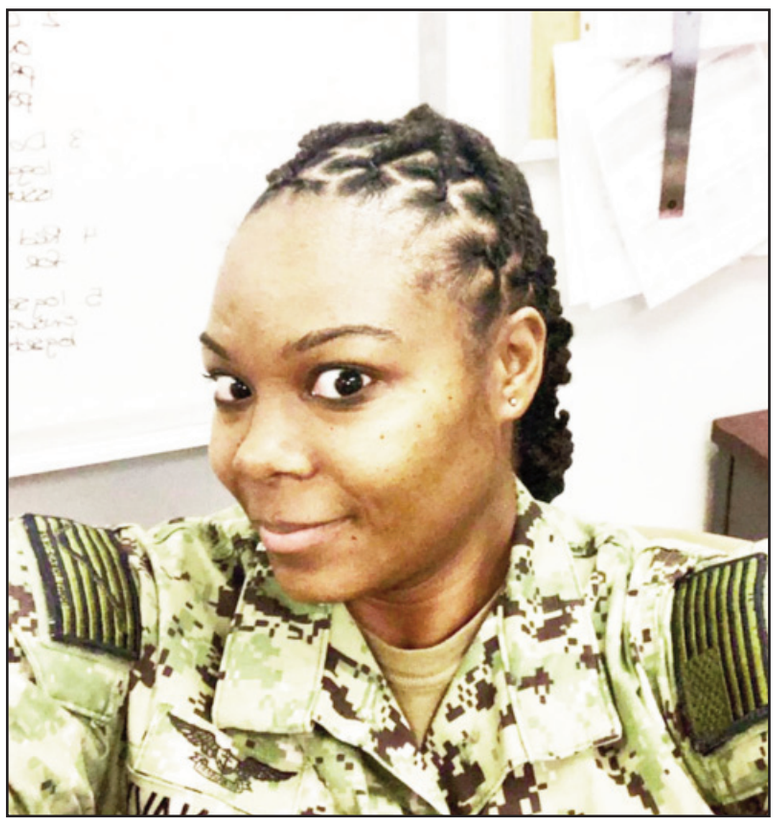
Ernest J. Grant has been elected president of American Nurses Association. When he takes office on January 1, he will be the first man to serve as president of the organization that represents nearly 4 million registered nurses in the United States, about 90 percent of whom are women.

Dr. Grant is an internationally recognized burn care and fire safety expert and oversees the nationally acclaimed North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center at the University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing, where he works with undergraduate and graduate nursing students in the classroom and clinical settings.

Dr. Grant, who has been affiliated with the University of North Carolina Hospitals for 36 years, will step down from his posts at the University of North Carolina in order to devote his attention to his duties as president of the American Nurses Association.

A native of Swannanoa, North Carolina, Dr. Grant completed the licensed practical nurse program at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. He went on to earn bachelor's degree in nursing at North Carolina Central University in Durham. Dr. Grant earned a master's degree in nursing education and a Ph.D. in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Grant



U.S. Navy Finally Joins Army, Air Force and Marines in Lifting Ban on Dreadlocks for Women

The United States Navy is joining the Marines, Army and Air Force in ending its ban on dreadlocks for female sailors.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson says the change won't just make the Navy more formidable, but also more inclusive.

The Navy enlisted a six-person working group to recommend changes to grooming standards, based on feedback from their peers. As part of the decision, ponytails, buns and other styles will also be permissible for women in uniform so long as they don't interfere with a sailor's operational or safety needs. Male sailors are still required to keep their hair short.

Petty Officer 1st Class Jacqualynn Leak, a member of the working group, has worn dreadlocks since 2014. She led efforts to reverse the ban and says her fight involved years of research on the cultural and health aspects of wearing locs. She also surveyed dozens of female sailors affected by the ban.

"I wanted to make an argument so compelling that every reason my chain of command could give me for why dreadlocks were banned could easily be rebutted with facts," she said.

Before, Leak opted to cover her shoulder-length dreadlocks by wearing a wig, which she says became more difficult as her hair grew. Options were even more limited for other female sailors. Some were forced to choose between cutting off their dreadlocks in favor of chemically straightened hair, or facing harsh punishment.

The decision makes the Navy the last branch of the military to drop grooming regulations that prohibit dreadlocks. The Marines first approved locs for women in 2015, and the Air Force announced late last year that dreadlocks would become an approved hairstyle after a review by its uniform board. The Army authorized dreadlocks for women earlier this year after having previously banned them since 2005.

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