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FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST QUALITY BLACK WEEKLY

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Black Wealth Predicted to Fall to $0 by 2053

A new report calculates that median wealth for black Americans will fall to $0 by 2053, if current trends continue. Latino-Americans, who are also experiencing a sustained downward wealth slide, will hit $0 about two decades later, according to the study by Prosperity Now and the Institute for Policy Studies.

"By 2020, median black and Latino households stand to lose nearly 18% and 12% of the wealth they held in 2013 respectively, while median white household wealth increases by 3%," the report states. "At that point – just three years from now – white households are projected to own 86 times more wealth than black households, and 68 times more wealth than Latino households."

With the US set to become "majority minority" by 2044, researchers say this spells major economic peril for the nation. "If the racial wealth divide continues to accelerate, the economic conditions of black and Latino households will have an increasingly adverse impact on the economy writ large, because the majority of US households will no longer have enough wealth to stake their claim in the middle class."

The authors cite the legacy of discriminatory housing policies, an "upside down" tax system that helps the wealthiest households get wealthier, and the economic effects of mass incarceration as among the root causes for the discrepancy.

"The middle class didn't just happen by market forces, and the whiteness of the middle class didn't just happen by market forces. Both were intentional," said Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, a senior fellow at Prosperity Now and one of the report's authors.

Take homeownership, which has long been the primary means by which Americans of modest and middle-class income are able to build generational wealth. After the broken promise of "40 acres and a mule" to newly freed slaves, virtually nothing was done to endow black Americans with a share of the wealth generated by centuries of slave labour – the same labour that, directly or indirectly, helped to build most of the wealth enjoyed by white Americans. **Continued on page 2**

LIVING WHILE BLACK

San Francisco Man Stopped and Frisked for Selling Lemonade

Viktor Stevenson, a Black business owner of a high-end lemonade kiosk in San Francisco, had the police called on him after someone mistook him for a robber while he was opening up for business.

Stevenson was just checking the security system of his store, Gourmonade, to make sure that it's safe from vandals when he himself was mistakenly accused of being a robber. Four cops showed up to his store with "guns almost drawn" because somebody in the neighborhood apparently called 911 saying he was breaking into his own business. He had to show the police his store key and ID just to prove that it was actually his business.

The incident happened three days after the grand opening of his store, but it hasn't tainted his outlook. The following days, Gourmonade would sell out of stock in just two hours in addition to requests for cross-country shipping to as far away as Virginia and Missouri.

Charlottesville Organizer Withdraws Bid for Anniversary

The organizer of last August's deadly white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia has withdrawn a request to hold an anniversary event. Jason Kessler sued Charlottesville in March stating that it violated his First Amendment right of free speech when it didn't grant him a permit. He sought a preliminary injunction that would force the city to issue a permit for next month's rally, according to NBC Washington.

NBC Washington reports that the event can still take place since the city doesn't issue permits for events that have fewer than 50 people.

On Aug. 12, 2017, Kessler held a "Unite the Right" rally to protest the removal of a statue of the Confederate general Robert E. Lee. The event brought out hundreds of white supremacists and counter-protestors, who fought in the streets. Heather Heyer, 32, was killed by James Fields Jr., 21, when he drove his car into the crowd. He was charged with murder under Virginia state law and for a hate crime in federal court, per reports.

NFL, Players Union Place National Anthem Policy on Hold

The NFL and the National Football League Players Association agreed to stop the implementation of the recent national anthem policy while they both work on a resolution, The Associated Press reports.

In a joint statement, the League and the players association said that no new rules on the national anthem will be made until they come to an agreement.

The announcement comes after The AP first reported that players for the Miami Dolphins who protested on the field during the anthem could receive a suspension up to four games under the team's policy implemented earlier.

In a nine-page document obtained by the newswire, national anthem protests were on a list that said it was "conduct detrimental to the club," but that it is up to the Dolphins on whether to fine or suspend a player.

The hold comes after the NFL announced in May that players will be fined if they don't stand during the national anthem while they are on the field, but that they have the option to stay in the locker room.

Jax Based Sports Apparel Giant Fanatics Sued for Discrimination

The U.S. government is suing Fanatics Inc., the sports apparel company whose investors include the National Football League and Major League Baseball, for racial discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

The suit brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission centers mainly around claims by a former employee, a black man, who says he was repeatedly subjected to discrimination during his time at the company's Jacksonville headquarters.

The accusations include a team leader using the n-word on the employee's first day of work, and other comments from colleagues and superiors. Other Fanatics employees describe the workplace as racially divided, with separate treatment of white and black employees, according the lawsuit. A former Operations Administrator said minorities are "treated like uneducated slave labor."

Mother of Slain Teen Jordan Davis Wins GA Congressional Runoff

Gun control advocate Lucia "Lucy" McBath won the Democratic nomination for the U.S. House in Georgia's 6th Congressional District.

McBath beat her Democratic opponent, businessman Kevin Abel, in a runoff after they finished as the top contenders in the state's May primary but neither garnered the majority of the vote.

McBath, a national spokeswoman for gun control group Moms Demand Action, will now face a challenging race against incumbent Rep. Karen Handel (R-Ga.) in November's general election. Handel beat Democrat Jon Ossoff in last year's special election — the most expensive U.S. House race in history, with more than $50 million spent.

McBath was spurred into activism by the 2012 death of her son, Jordan Davis, a black 17-year-old who was shot dead at a Baymeadows gas station by a white man complaining about loud music. McBath decided to run for Congress after the February school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people.

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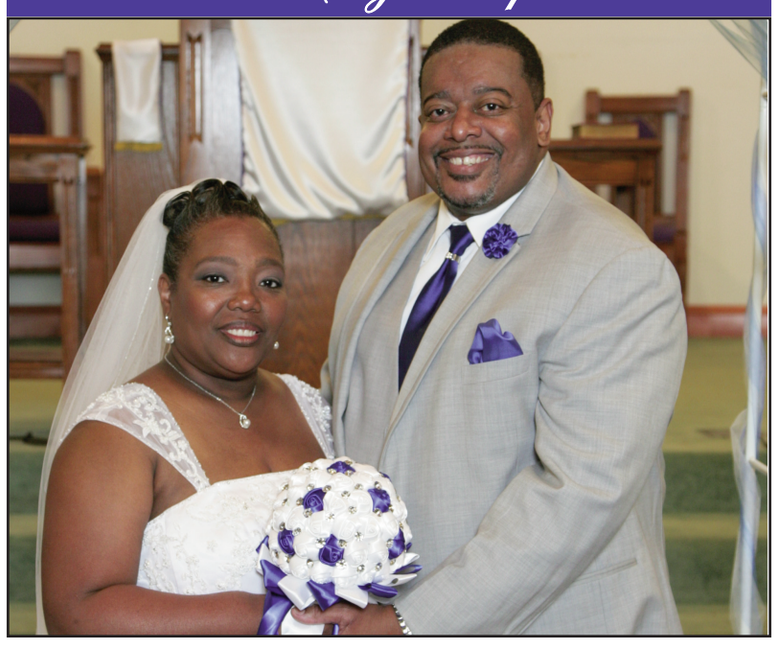


Rev. and Mrs. Gary Kitt

High School sweethearts Jennifer Sugar and Reverend Gary Kitt were married this past Saturday in the sanctuary of Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. The sweethearts who met in the sixth grade and are both graduates of Raines High School class of 1986.

The ceremony, which included a wedding party of twelve, was officiated by Reverend Robert E. Herring Sr. Participants were adorned in the couples Greek colors of royal blue, white and silver representing Zeta Phi Beta, Sorority, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma, Fraternity.

The bride holds a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education from Edward Waters College and a Master's of Science in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University and is employed with Duval County Public Schools as an elementary school teacher. The groom holds a B.S. Degree in Fine Arts from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and is employed with the City of Jacksonville in addition to being the assistant pastor at Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Jennifer and Gary will embark on a five day honeymoon cruise to the Bahamas visiting Freeport and Nassau and will reside in Jacksonville.

Shown is Councilman Terrance Freeman and resident Robert Tripp talking as Greta James looks on.

Councilman Freeman Treads Hostile Waters to Represent New Post

By Lynn Jones

For more than two weeks, the controversy surrounding Governor Scott's appointment of Terrance Freeman as the "fill-in" District 10 Councilman continues to be a major issue as residents are upset about the decision to appoint someone not from that community.

Many residents believe that the recent appointment undermines the nature of a representative democracy political system and suppresses the will of the people to select their own elected representatives. The issue is simple – Freeman does not live in the district and never has. He is also a Republican, and no member of the GOP has ever represented a majority African American City Council district.

Although the appointment is temporary, the long-term impact of **Continued on page 9**

Legacy of Rutledge Pearson Preserved with Renaming of Post Office

Last week, Congressman Al Lawson and U.S. Postal officials hosted a dedication ceremony to mark the renaming of the Kings Road Post Office in honor of civil rights activist Rutledge Pearson. Rep. Lawson filed the bill to rename the post office (H.R. 3638) in August of 2017. The legislation passed Congress earlier this year and became law on March 28, 2018.

"Mr. Pearson was an instrumental leader in the fight for civil rights and his efforts, both locally and nationally, helped change Jacksonville's cultural landscape," said Rep. Lawson during the ceremony.

State Sen. Audrey Gibson, Jacksonville Branch NAACP President Isaiah Rumlin, local historian Rodney Hurst and members of Pearson's family were also a part of the ceremony, which was emceed by WJAX's Dawn Lopez. Jacksonville Beach Councilwoman Chris Hoffman presented the Pearson family with a proclamation on behalf of the City of Jax Beach.

Shown at the plaque commemoration are the honorees brother Lloyd Pearson, Pat Pearson and Rutledge Pearson Jr..

As a young man, Pearson had a successful baseball career with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro League. Exceptionally talented in baseball, he had the opportunity to play baseball in his hometown, however because of his race, the Jacksonville Beach Seabirds rejected the notion of having Pearson join their team. In fact, the team disbanded to prevent Pearson from joining.

This experience propelled Pearson to pursue a career in education and to join the Civil Rights Movement. In 1961, he was elected president of the Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP. He was later elected President of the Florida State Conference of the NAACP. Pearson also taught history at Isaiah Blocker Junior High School and coached baseball at New Stanton High School. He died in a car accident in 1967 at the age of 37.

The ceremony culminated a journey that began in March 2016 for the rare process of renaming a regional postal facility. Olympian and NFL pro Bob Hayes was also in consideration for the honor.

4 Things You Must Do Before You Retire

by Maurie Blackman

Many workers look forward to retirement, and rightfully so. After all, you've worked hard your entire life and are finally getting an opportunity to kick back, relax, and spend your time doing the things you love. But before you pull the trigger on retirement, there are a few key moves you'll need to make to ensure that you're adequately prepared. Here are four you can't afford to ignore.

1. Create a new budget

If you're already in the habit of following a budget, you're doing the right thing for your finances. That said, your expenses are likely to change once you stop working, so to continue using the same budget in retirement would mean doing yourself -- and your finances -- a disservice. Before you retire, create a new budget that maps out the expenses you'll face based on your new schedule and lifestyle.

Maybe you'll no longer have to pay for a train pass to work, but will instead spend $300 a month on a country club membership. Similarly, your dry cleaning bills might mostly go away, but you might spend more on hobbies since you'll have more time to pursue them. Either way, make sure you know where your money will be going once you retire, and that your various income streams can support the lifestyle you're planning to lead.

2. Assess your savings

If you've been putting money aside for retirement throughout the years, your IRA or 401(k) balance might seem like a pretty impressive number. But before you get caught up in that figure alone, see how much yearly income it actually translates into. For years, financial experts have said that if you withdraw roughly 4% of your nest egg annually, your savings have a strong shot at lasting throughout retirement. But if you're sitting on a $300,000 nest egg, that's only $12,000 a year to work with.

Furthermore, while 4% has long been the standard for retirement plan withdrawals, you'll often hear that these days, it's too aggressive a rate given the fact that seniors are living longer and that lower-risk investments like bonds aren't paying what they used to. Therefore, if we take that same $300,000 balance, which might seem adequate at first glance, and apply a 3% withdrawal rate, you're looking at just $9,000 a year of income.

Of course, your personal savings number might well exceed $300,000, and you might have other income sources, like a part-time job, at your disposal. The key, however, is to know what sort of cash flow your nest egg is likely to produce on an annual basis, and make sure it's enough. If it's not, you might consider extending your career to allow for some extra savings.

3. Understand your healthcare needs

Healthcare is the one expense that tends to climb for seniors during retirement -- yet in a recent study, only 12% of workers said they were taking steps to prepare for it. According to HealthView Services, a cost projection software provider, the average 65-year-old man today will spend $189,687 on medical care throughout retirement, while the average 65-year-old woman will spend $214,565. Of courses, these are just averages, which means that while your personal total might end up being less, it could also end up being more. That's why you'll need to read up on healthcare in retirement in advance and be strategic about keeping your costs down.

Another thing to keep in mind is that the aforementioned figures don't include long-term care. Since 70% of seniors 65 and over will need some type of long-term care in their lifetime, you must plan for that expense as well. That means not only learning about the costs involved, but securing insurance to help defray them later on.

4. Figure out how you'll spend your time

You might think the idea of having your days to yourself is appealing, especially coming off a rigorous work schedule. But once you find yourself with no structure whatsoever, you may come to find that you're not only bored, but frustrated that your new existence isn't as fulfilling as you thought it would be.

That's why it's so important to go into retirement with a plan as to how you'll spend your time. The last thing you want is to fall victim to depression because you're having difficulty adjusting to your new lifestyle, so figure out whether you'll pick up a new hobby, take classes, or volunteer to keep your mind engaged.

Retirement is an exciting milestone, but it can be a stressful one if you don't prepare for it. Check these key items off your list, and you'll be more likely to enjoy your golden years to the fullest.

The $16,146 Social Security bonus most retirees completely overlook

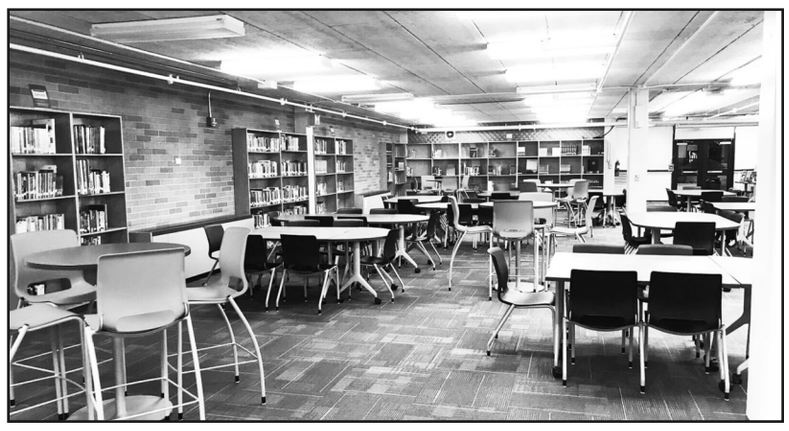
If you're like most Americans, you're a few years (or more) behind on your retirement savings. But a handful of little-known "Social Security secrets" could help ensure a boost in your retirement income. For example: one easy trick could pay you as much as $16,146 more... each year! Once you learn how to maximize your Social Security benefits, we think you could retire confidently with the peace of mind we're all after. Simply click here to discover how to learn more about these strategies.

The former library now bears the namesake of longtime librarian Iris Northern and Principal Vincent Hall

Raines Remodels Former Library Into a Career Resource Center in Honor of Faculty

Over the past several months William Marion Raines Senior High School's Library has gone through a complete renovation. In an effort make adequate use of the current space and keep up with the changing times, Principal Vincent Hall decided to turn the space into an Academic and Career Advisement Center. This center will be a one stop shop where students can meet with guidance counselors and college recruiters. The goal is to also bring more collegiate prep services to students while increasing the college acceptance and graduation rate.

The Raines School Advisory Council (SAC) has recognized The Raines Academic and Career Advisement Center as a significant part of the school's plan for improvement and success by awarding it an official dedication sign. The sign honors and establishes the Center as an important part of the new school culture.



A section of the renovated facillity

Recently, a dedication ceremony was held to commemorate the completion of the remodeling effort and unveil the new sign. Representing the student body and speaking at the ceremony was the reigning Mister & Miss Raines, Devonte' Wilson & Aaliyah Core.

"For over 53 Years Raines has been a leader in education and in producing very productive members of our society," said Core. "Raines is a breeding ground for people with class, intellect and talent. This is Duval County's Premier High School and we are Ichiban/number one."

The high light of the evening came when Mrs. Eris A. Northern addressed the attendees. Mrs. Northern began her tenure at Raines in 1968 after attending South Carolina State University and later Clark Atlanta University where she received her bachelors and master's degrees in library sciences. Mrs. Northern was hired by the school's first principal Dr. Andrew A. Robinson and went on to work as head librarian for 35 years. She was also instrumental in the school receiving a television production program.

Northern said, "Libraries are important cornerstones of a healthy community. Libraries give people the opportunity to find scholarships, explore research, experience new ideas, get lost in wonderful stories, while at the same time providing a sense of place for gathering."

"Kudos to principal Vincent Hall for having the vision to keep up with the many changes in technology, rising costs in books and other materials, staff and budget shortages, and a growing demand from the student body", she added.

At the conclusion of the event, the Dedication Committee, led by Willie B. Hall a 2003 graduate, surprised Mrs. Northern and Principal Hall by announcing that the SAC had voted to name the new center "The Eris A. Northern and Vincent R. Hall Academic & Career Advisement Center."

Founded in 1965 William M. Raines Senior High School currently serves approximately 1,500 students.

Black Wealth Predicted to Fall to $0 by 2053

Continued from front

So black Americans started off generations behind, only to encounter the redlining and racially restrictive housing covenants of the early-to-middle 20th century, which prevented the sale of many homes to black Americans, and isolated them together in communities that lost value as white residents fled to the suburbs.

"African-American households are making 'middle-income money' – but have the wealth of a white high-school dropout" **DEDRICK ASANTE-MUHAMMAD**

"The majority of white Americans weren't middle class until the 1930s or 40s," Asante-Muhammad told the Guardian. "Then there was mass investment to create an American middle class – but it was a white American middle class."

Programs such as the GI bill, which offered returning WWII veterans generous lending terms to buy houses, helped turn the US into a home-owning middle class society – from which black Americans were functionally excluded. In his 2005 book When Affirmative Action was White, Ira Katznelson notes that of the first 67,000 mortgages insured by the GI Bill, fewer than 100 were taken out by non-white people.

Recent economic crises have widened this wealth gap, according to the report, as communities of colour took the brunt of the economic hit. Black median wealth has never recovered from the 2001 recession, nor Latino median wealth from the 2008 financial collapse. White median wealth, on the other hand, was left unaffected in 2002, and began rebounding just two years after the speculative housing bubble began to implode.

"Unfortunately home values don't come back in the same way in black communities when things happen," said Althea Saunders-Ranniar, a financial coach and advisor in Baltimore, Maryland, where about 95% of her clients are black.

One of the things Asante-Muhammad and his co-authors found extremely important was focusing on inequality of wealth as opposed to income, because they felt it was a more accurate test of middle-class status.

"You find first-generation, even second-generation African-American and Latino households that have professional jobs and are making 'middle-income money' – but they have the wealth of a white high-school dropout," Asante-Muhammad said. "They're not truly part of a middle class – which would mean financial stability, money to weather challenging economic situations, or money to invest in the economic opportunities of their children."

The solution, he said, is to "invest in a 21st-century American middle class. We need to make sure, for the first time, that we are investing in a middle class that includes communities of colour. This generally hasn't been done before."

Family of Slain Florida Man: 'Something Needs to Be Done' About Stand Your Ground Law

The family of a Florida man shot dead July 19 over a parking space dispute wants justice after law enforcement declined to press charges, citing the state's Stand Your Ground law.

Markeis McGlockton's relatives spoke at a press conference at a church in Clearwater, Florida, Tuesday saying that they want the state attorney to file charges against Michael Drejka, 47, who shot and killed him.

A lawyer for the family said that authorities are "sanctioning a murder" by allowing Drejka to walk free.

"It is our position that this case is not a Stand Your Ground case because one of the things that I know just practicing as a criminal defense attorney, you meet deadly force with deadly force," said attorney Michele Rayner. "[McGlockton] shoved him because he was advancing on Ms. Jacobs, he was advancing on the vehicle and he shoved him to protect her and his three children that were in the vehicle at that time."

McGlockton got into an altercation with Drejka after Drejka confronted McGlockton's girlfriend, Britney Jacobs, over parking in a handicap parking spot.

Surveillance video shows McGlockton intervening on Jacobs' behalf and pushing Drejka to the ground. The video then shows Drejka pulling out his gun and shooting McGlockton as he was turning away.

McGlockton died in the convenience store in front of his girlfriend and their three kids, per reports.

"Any kind of law that allows one man to kill another man, and the man who pulled the trigger doesn't even get fingerprinted … it needs to stop. Something needs to be done," said Michael McGlockton, father of the victim, according to ABC News.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri said at a press conference on Friday that Drejka "had to shoot to defend himself."

"Those are the facts and that is the law. No matter how you slice it or dice it, that was a violent push to the ground."

VEEP Coalition Hosting Congressional Forum

The Voter Education and Empowerment Partnership (VEEP) will be hosting the Congressional District 5 Candidates Forum: A Conversation for the People – Alvin Brown & Al Lawson. The forum is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14, 7 - 8:30 pm, at Eugene Butler Leadership Academy, 900 Acorn Street, Jacksonville, FL 32209.

The forum is open to the public and will feature invited Congressional District 5 candidates providing answers to questions generated by the public and through a participant panel. The community will have the opportunity address the candidates.

If you are interested in providing a question for the candidates, email your "Candidate Questions" to: veeppartners@gmail.com.

The Voter Education and Empowerment Partnership is a collaborative of service organizations include the 100 Black Men of Jacksonville, Inc., Umunna Legal Group, The Jacksonville Free Press, My Village Project, Gamma Rho Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Bold City (FL) Chapter of The Links Inc., Perkins Bar Association and others.

Panel host Malynda Rackley with Jeff Shuford, Dr. Ane Mercer, Felicia Wright and Jack Manila

"My Message Matters Conference" Launches its Four City Tour

On Saturday, July 21st, the "My Message Matters Conference" kicked off its four city tour at the Aloft Hotel in Jacksonville's Tapestry Park. Organizers say that the anticipation was high as dozens of people preregistered for the conference.

Participants were business owners or individuals looking for strategies to grow and be successful. Individuals shared their stories and specifically focused on the topic of "Living out the dash," which refers to the concept of living life to the fullest from start to finish.

Moderators also stressed to attendees the values of marketing yourself or business in order to build success and what it means to have a brand. The highlight of the conference was the workshops: "Speak Your Way to a six-figure Business" by Cheryl Wood and "Maxing Out your Message for Media," hosted by Angela Spears.

The event closed with a panel discussion, which included presenters Jack Manilla, Jeff Shuford, Felicia Wright and Dr. Ane Mercer. Conference organizers were thrilled with the Jacksonville turn out and feel that it was a great start. The next stops for the event are Savannah, Ga, Saginaw, MI and Houston, Tx.

Barbara Lee Wants to Make a History First with Democratic Caucus

Rep. Barbara Lee

Black women have still been going hard to achieve firsts in many areas, including politics. As such, U.S. Rep Barbara Lee was expected to announce her bid for the Democratic Caucus chair, a position that has never been held by a Black woman.

The California congresswoman's decision will further challenge the Democratic party to recognize the vital role of Black women in its success. African-American women have long been a strong voting bloc but seldom recognized as such or welcomed into leadership roles in the nearly two centuries that the party has existed. Black women are not laying down and are demanding R-E-S-P-E-C-T, as Aretha Franklin explained in her hit song.

"When you look at the history of the Democratic Party and the Democratic leadership, African-American women…we've been the backbone of the Democratic Party — we should be in the face of leadership also," Lee, 72, who represents Oakland and the East Bay's 13th Congressional District, told POLITICO on Sunday, one day before she planned to announce her Democratic Caucus chair campaign bid. "Whether it comes to grassroots issues, or voter mobilization and political activism, she said, black women have long proven they can "lead not only our communities, but lead our country, on the very tough issues facing us."

Lee, first elected to Congress in 1998, has been lauded as a progressive and concerned with issues affecting the most vulnerable Americans, including jobs, poverty, education and healthcare. Her extensive record has included work to enact HIV/AIDS laws and uniting the Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton presidential campaigns as progressive Democrats. She also got national attention for being the only member in the House to oppose the use of military force against terrorists behind the horrific Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, The Intercept reported.

With Lee stepping into the Democratic caucus chair ring, she would have to battle another Californian, Rep. Linda Sanchez. New York Rep. Joe Crowley will be out of the position — the fourth-highest ranking position in House Democratic Leadership responsible for communicating messages to every Democratic House member — after a June primary defeat by progressive champion Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

Lee and Sanchez will duke it out during the midterm elections in November. With the support of Ocasio-Cortez and with a passion for strongly representing for Black women, Lee has a good chance to win.

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City Chronicles

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

With August Primaries Close are Voters Paying Attention?

News flash to some, on August 28th – Florida will hold primary elections for a number of seats, including the Governor's race.

It is hard not to pay attention to the buffoonery coming out of the White House nearly every day, but I wouldn't sleep on the upcoming primary election season.

Maybe it's just me, but voters/citizens don't seem to be that engaged. Apathy is certainly in the air, but it shouldn't be with the stakes so high in so many races. Yeah, I get it – the summer is the summer and who wants to really focus on politics when vacations, family reunions and water parks are much more fun?

However, the primary elections coming up are definitely worth a significant amount of focus. Consider this fact alone, Rick Scott's election some eight years ago affected critical issues like school funding and statewide educational policy, felon rights restoration, disaster relief funds and many more topics that we all deal with everyday.

The Governor's Office is a big deal and so are many of the local elections that Jacksonville voters will see on the ballot.

Here's a quick run down.

I mentioned the governor's race – talk about a cast of characters. Both Republican and Democratic primaries feature candidates that are diverse and distinctly different.

Top Democrats running for governor include Andrew Gilliam, current mayor of Tallahassee, who is the only African American candidate in the race. And then there is billionaire real estate mogul, Jeff Greene, who is definitely one of the more interesting candidates. A close friend of mine was in candidate interviews for a large statewide PAC and he said that Green reminded him of Rodney Dangerfield.

Other top candidates include former mayor of Miami Beach, Philip Levine and former U.S. Rep. and daughter of former Florida Governor Bob Graham – Gwen Graham.

She is the only woman in the race, and is considered the front runner, but pundits say don't sleep on Levine or Green, who is spending his own funds like he has a money tree in the backyard of one of his mansions. I recall Gov Scott had a similiar formula for success.

The Republican front runners are Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam and U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis.

President Trump has already endorsed DeSantis ahead of the GOP primary, which has given him a boost – especially amongst the Donald's base of loyal lunatics. While Putnam is favored, DeSantis is making the race competitive with a few weeks to go.

The next big race to watch is for Congressional District 5 or as most would refer to it – the old Corrine Brown seat. The fairly new house district stretches from Quincy to Jacksonville.

Congressman Al Lawson is the one-term incumbent facing former Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown. The seat is a heavily Democratic seat and drawn favorably for Black candidates. This race should be interesting to watch.

While Lawson represented Tallahassee and surrounding counties in the Florida Legislature for 28 years, the district is still a predominately Jacksonville voter heavy seat. Most would say that Lawson hasn't done enough to establish a strong presence in Duval, but it is always tough to beat incumbents.

And while Brown was the first African American to be elected as Mayor of Jacksonville, many question his ability to turn out voters. Some elected officials and political pundits that I have talked to even question if Brown really has a strong base of voters in the city. Regardless of the winner, this will be a close race.

My favorite race of the primary season is Tax Collector, yeah I know, it's not the sexiest office to run for, but Duval County voters have an opportunity to elect the first African American female constitutional officer in Mia Jones. And just so that I'm fully transparent with my readers, Jones is a personal friend so I am somewhat biased. But despite the friendship, she is well qualified as a former City Councilwoman, State Representative and CEO of a healthcare organization.

Ironically, Jones faces three Republicans men who all served on the City Council around the same time as she did. Jim Overton and Lake Ray are past City Councilmen with Overton being a former property appraiser as well, and Ray a former state legislator. The third candidate is current City Councilman Doyle Carter, who represents parts of the Westside.

Other local races to watch include the FL House District 14 seat where State Rep. Kim Daniels faces a challenge from School Board Chairwoman Paula Wright. This should a close race as well – definitely one to watch.

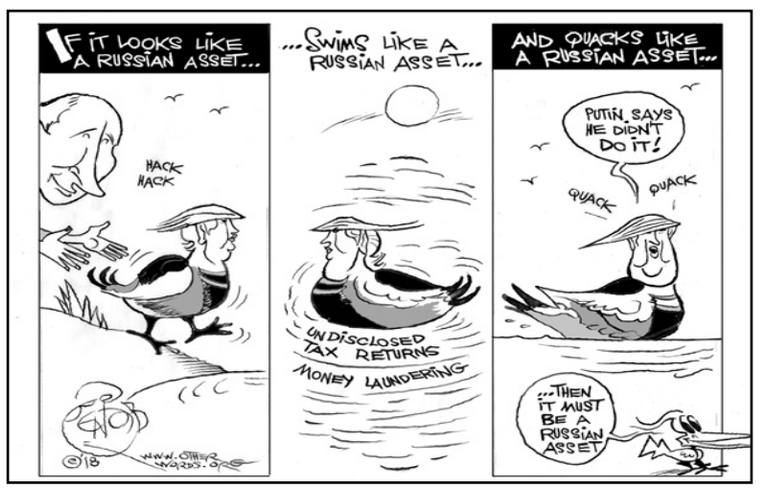
The race to replace Wright on the School Board is also highly contested with six candidates qualifying. Contenders include: Erdine Johnson, a retired teacher and principal, Darryl Willie, a Teach for America executive, Timothy Sloan, a retired vet and parent of two Duval students, Charis Scurry, manager of a drop-out prevention program, Cynthia Smith, a former teacher and owner of a child development center and Linda Butler, a retired teacher who served on the city council in Monticello, FL.

It's a crowded field that will certainly have a run off in the general election in November between the top two finishers. I would bet on Willie facing off against either Johnson or Smith, but I have been wrong before.

Stay tuned for more the local races shaping politics in the African American community.

Signing off from the Jacksonville Free Press Office, wondering why there are so many cats here,

Reggie Fullwood



GUEST EDITORIAL by Julian Malveaux

It's Not Just About Roe

Senate Republicans hope to get Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court, confirmed before October 1, when they reconvene. Senate Democrats hope to hold on to any vote until after the November election when Democrats have the possibility of taking a majority in the Senate and giving Republicans a dose of their own medicine.

Bravo to Senate Democrats who have not yet scheduled meetings with Kavanaugh. Dems are treating him slightly better than Republicans treated Justice Merrick Garland, President Obama's choice for the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, with a Republican majority in the Senate, Senator Mitch McConnell can schedule a hearing without Democratic concurrence.

If Republicans stick together, and if the calendar is favorable, Kavanaugh can be voted in without any Democratic support.Most of the scrutiny of Kavanaugh has focused on the possibility that he would vote to overturn Roe V. Wade, the legislation that guarantees abortion rights. Kavanaugh has assured all who will listen that he honors judicial precedent.

While he isn't likely to vote to overturn Roe, he is extremely likely to rule in favor of limiting abortion rights. This might persuade Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) to vote against his confirmation. Several women's organizations have weighed in against Kavanaugh, largely because of his perceived positions on Roe.

Depending on how he answers questions in a hearing, Kavanaugh might lose the support of moderate Republican women Senators. Abortion rights aren't the only rights on the line if Kavanaugh is voted onto the Supreme Court, as so many women have so narrowly focused on the issue.

What about voting rights? In 2013, the Supreme Court trashed Title 4(b) (and thus also Title 5) of the Civil Rights Act. Chief Justice John Roberts, who naively believes that the way to stop racism is to simply stop mentioning it, would trash the entire Voting Rights Act, and affirmative action, too, if he had his way.

He does not believe that disparate impact means discrimination and would likely oppose any state action that made adjustments to prevailing practice because African Americans or other people of color are getting the short end of the stick. Laws that prevent discrimination, according to Roberts, are unconstitutional. Kavanaugh is likely to follow Roberts in voting against any legislation that is "race-conscious."

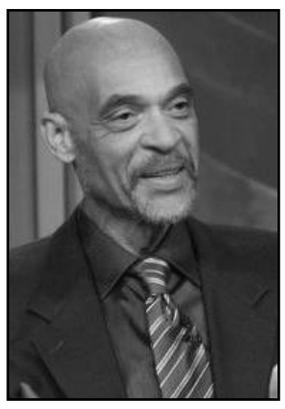
Now, President Trump has nominated Mulvaney's assistance, Kathy Kraninger, to replace him as CFPB leader. Kraninger, a Georgetown University law graduate, has absolutely no background in consumer protection or financial services. Kraninger should not be confirmed to lead the CFPB, but the agency may be short-lived if Brett Kavanaugh becomes a justice. He has ruled that the CFPB is "unconstitutional" and "a threat to individual liberties:" Through his rulings, predatory bankers have been able to avoid paying millions of dollar of fines. He is on record opposing regulation and consumer protection and will make life much more challenging for everyday Black folks.

Brett Kavanaugh has been a strong proponent of presidential power, and would likely cover for Trump in individual lawsuits, and prevent government agencies, or others, from bringing lawsuits against Trump. He has stated that he would put "a nail in the coffin" of the independent counsel statute, and would probably prevent investigations of presidents while they are in office. But if we wait until 2020 to pin the tail on the Trump elephant, we will have been annexed by Russia, reimposed segregation, and more!

The white women who consider their top issue in vetting a Supreme court justice the abortion issue are being extremely short-sighted. There are plenty more reasons to be opposed to this nominee. Perhaps Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) the lone Black Republican in the Senate, will be swayed by the Kavanaugh position on voting rights. Maybe others will grow a conscience.

Or perhaps Schumer can hold the line on a vote until November. In any case, abortion rights aren't the only rights on the line if Kavanaugh makes it to the Supreme Court.

Who Can and Can't Beat Trump in 2020



by Earl Ofari Hutchinson

They aren't waiting for the official start of the presidential silly season to start dropping open and veiled hints, teases, and inuendoes that they will challenge Donald Trump in 2020. The "they" are the ten or so Democrats to date who are feverishly jockeying to position themselves at the front of the Democratic presidential pack.

There are the usual suspects Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, and even Hillary. They are closely followed by a slew of senators, governors, mayors, and even Oprah. None of them have so far declared. In almost all cases most of them shouldn't for the simple but brutal reason they don't have a ghost of a chance of beating Trump.

There's no mystery why I say that. A recent Rasmussen poll among Democrats answered that about the three most recognizable Democratic warhorses. Biden, Sanders, and Clinton. The majority don't want them. They want a "fresh face," someone who has relative youth, hasn't been through the political ringer, doesn't carry a train station full of political baggage, and can do this razor thin tightrope act. That is convincingly talk jobs and industry flight, and immigration reform that's palatable to non-college educated blue collar whites in the handful of Midwest must win states. And, at the same time do an Obama like pitch to Blacks and Hispanics that will drive more of them to the polls than Hillary was able to do in those same must win states. This means padding the number of Hispanics, Blacks, women, and youth in the five or six states that elect presidents.

The fresh face as painful as it is to admit must be a male, and that's a white male. True, there's been an explosion of Democratic women candidates and they are winning offices. But winning a local or congressional race is one thing, winning a broad national election with the Oval Office the prize is another. The massive number of women that voted for Trump over Hillary was proof that in a head to head contest for the White House, the gender card is no winning card in and of itself. The hidden and not so hidden anti-woman bias is still deeply embedded in a wide swatch of the electorate, especially in those must win states.

But even being a white male is not enough to go toe to toe with Trump. He must be a white male Democrat not from California, or New York. He would be ruthlessly baited as a dreaded liberal, big government, tax and spend proponent, who will tilt to minorities and women. The best shot the Democrats have here is someone from one from the old Rust Belt states.

Then there's Trump. A monster mistake would be to think that a non-stop beat up of Trump for his colossal fumbles, bumbles, ineptitude, corruption, lies, and snuggle up to Putin and Russia, while relentless pillorying the Mueller probe will fire up millions to storm the polls to dump him. This means nothing to his rock-solid base.

The bitter truth hasn't changed one bit since 2016. Trump won many disconnected and frustrated white voters because he welded their latent racist, anti-immigrant, anti-woman, pseudo- patriotic sentiment to their loathing of, and alienation from, the GOP and the Democrat's beltway, out of touch with Main Street crowd. Polls show that his overall approval ratings fluctuate under fifty percent. However, the real story is the numbers that still mean the most to him and the GOP. That's Republican voters. The overwhelming majority far from jumping ship despite his antics are still very much on board. These are the voters that the GOP will need Trump to rev up in the key swing districts in 2018. They'll look to him to do just that. This is the voter loyalty that buys a lot of support from the GOP establishment even as they flail him or shake their head in disgust for his Putin love fest.

This is not blind party loyalty. They need him. He is more than the titular head of the GOP. He is the point man for GOP policy and issues and, in a perverse way, the spur to get action on them. The party showed in the 2014 midterms and in the states, Trump needed to win in 2016, the GOP showed that it could get those numbers out while damping down the Democratic voter turnout by rigging, playing dirty and gerrymandering.

Trump will have a bulging campaign kitty. He's already raised nearly $100 million. He'll have a fawning media that will continue to give him tens of millions of dollars in free air time by playing up every silly tweet, inanity, dumb utterance, insult, and screw-up from and by him. He will continue to suck the media air out of everything that the Democrats do and try to do.

It's a tough uphill slog for the eventual Democratic presidential candidate, but not impossible. There are far more Democrats than Republicans. They must vote in the handful of states that elect presidents. This requires some semblance of party compromise and unity between the Democrat's Bernie faction and the centrist-moderates, a well-oiled get out the vote ground game, and the willingness of big and small donors to turn on the money spigot. The 2020 Democratic presidential candidate who can do that has the best shot at beating Trump.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is an author and political analyst. He is the author of the forthcoming Why Black Lives Do Matter (Middle Passage Press). He is a weekly co-host of the Al Sharpton Show on Radio One. He is the host of the weekly Hutchinson Report on KPFK 90.7 FM Los Angeles and the Pacifica Network.

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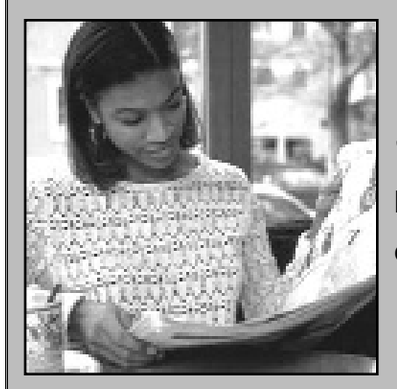

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FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 24 - 30, 2018

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

KICKOFF COUNT DOWN CONTINUES

SUMMER THROWDOWN: Morgan State's Tiwian Kendley shows his stuff at NBA Las Vegas Summer League.

CIAA, OVC, SAC FOOTBALL PICKS UNVEILED; NBA HOOPS HOPEFULS; HBCU NFL OFFICIALS

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HALL TO LEAD GRAMBLING SOFTBALL:

GRAMBLING, La. | **Grambling State University** has announced **Nakeya Hall** as the new Lady Tigers' head softball coach. She takes over for **Wilbert Early**.

Hall

Hall, who was named the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) Softball Coach of the Year, guided **Alabama A&M** to a 22-21 overall record and an 11-8 SWAC East Division mark last season. The Lady Bulldogs won a share of the East Division crown and their 20 wins were the most Alabama A&M had in its program in 10 years

Hall showed improvement in each of her six seasons at Alabama A&M. She guided the Lady Bulldogs to an 18-25 overall mark in 2015, along with a 7-9 SWAC record. In 2016, AAMU went 9-9 in SWAC play and followed that with an 8-7 record the following year.

Before taking over the reins at Alabama A&M, Hall was an assistant coach at her alma mater, **South Carolina State**, for four years. Prior to that, she served as an assistant coach at **Winston-Salem State** for two seasons.

NEW TOUGALOO WOMEN'S COACH:

Tougaloo, Miss. – **Tougaloo College** has announced **Keith Barnes, Sr.** as associate athletics director and head women's basketball coach.

Barnes

Prior to joining the Bulldog Family, Barnes served as head women's and men's basketball coach at St. Joseph Catholic High School from 1991-2004 and from 2006 to 2010 before being named the school's Principal in 2011. Barnes also coached AAU Basketball in affiliation with the late Mayor of Jackson **Chokwe Lumumba** and the Jackson Panthers. During his tenure as principal, St. Joseph High School was named best private school in Mississippi in 2015.

With over 28 years of educational and corporate leadership experience, Barnes has demonstrated successes as a high school assistant principal, math teacher, athletic director, as well as, basketball, track and field and assistant football coach. Some of his notable basketball achievements include: state runner-up, several district championships both girls and boys, and south-state championships.

A native Mississippian, Barnes returns home as he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics/Business Administration from Tougaloo and a Master of Education Administration and Supervision degree from **Jackson State University**. During his matriculation at Tougaloo, Barnes was a member of the Bulldog basketball team from 1981-83. Barnes' wife, **Laurie** is also a former Lady Bulldog basketball player. Barnes will take over following Interim Head Coach **Nicholas Judgeware** last season and Coach **Ira Peterson** the year before.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NFL OFFICIALS WITH HBCU ROOTS

Nine officials with HBCU connections have been listed in the 2018 roster of National Football League officials.

Morehouse product **Jerome Boger** leads the group as referee and crew chief.

No.	Name	Pos.	College	NFL Experience
23	Jerome Boger	R	Morehouse	15
86	Jimmy Buchanan	FJ	S. Carolina State	10
41	Boris Cheek	SJ	Morgan State	23
81	Roy Ellison	U	Savannah State	16
71	Ruben Fowler	U	Huston-Tillotson	13
10	Julian Mapp	LJ	Grambling State	10
109	Dyrol Prioleau	SJ	Johnson C. Smith	12
12	Greg Steed	BJ	Howard	16
38	Greg Yette	BJ	Howard	9

R - Referee | U - Umpire | FJ = Field Judge | SJ - Side Judge | LJ - Line Judge | BJ - Back Judge

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BCSP Notes

Tennessee State picked sixth in OVC

Tennessee State was picked to finish sixth in a vote of the Ohio Valley Conference head football coaches and communications directors unveiled at the league's Media Day last week.

Jacksonville State, who has won 32 straight OVC games and the last four conference titles, was picked as the top team. The Gamecocks open the season against **MEAC** and Celebration Bowl champion **North Carolina A&T** on August 25 in Montgomery, Alabama.

TSU received 64 votes to finish behind JSU (126), Austin Peay (112), UT Martin (95), Eastern Illinois (73) and Eastern Kentucky (69).

Tennessee State junior wide receiver **Steven Newbold** (34 catches, 627 yards, 4 touchdowns) was a first team preseason selection. Tennessee State sophomores **Vincent Sellers** (49 tackles, 2.0 TFL, 2 INT, 5 PBU) was selected to the preseason all-OVC defense.

Langston enters inaugural SAC football season as preseason favorite

FORT WORTH, Texas – A New Conference, a New Season and New Opportunities. That's the mantra as **Langston University** enters its first Sooner Athletic Conference season as the top team in the first-ever preseason football coaches' poll.

LU comes off a 10-1 season where the Lions won the Central States Football League championship and went unbeaten until the NAIA Championship Series. Langston collected seven of the possible nine first-place votes to total 63 points in the poll and enter the year as the preseason conference favorite.

Jaylen Lowe, a senior quarterback from Collinsville, Okla., had 1,116 yards and 11 TDs through the air for Langston to be league athlete of the year in 2017.

This year marks the inaugural football season for the SAC, whose member schools have amassed an NAIA-best 106 national championships in 14 sports throughout its 40-year history. The first game of 2018 featuring an SAC member happens Thursday, Aug. 23, when Southwestern Assemblies of God visits Evangel (Mo.) for an ESPN3-broadcasted bout. The first ever SAC contest is set for Saturday, Sept. 8, when Ottawa-Arizona visits Langston.

WSSU names new cross country/track coach

WINSTON-SALEM, NC – The **Winston-Salem State University** cross country and track & field programs will enter a new era with the announcement of **KayMarie Jones** as the head coach.

FLYING HIGH IN VEGAS: Former Morgan State standout Tiwian Kendley, playing for the Washington Wizards in the NBA Las Vegas Summer League, dunks here during a game vs. the San Antonio Spurs. The 6-5 Kendley, who was the top black college scorer last year at 26.1 points per game, averaged 9.2 points, 2.0 rebounds and 2.5 assists for the Wizards team and is looking to land a spot on the new Wizards G-League team, the Capital City Go-Go. The other HBCU product playing in the Vegas Summer League, 6-1 Morehouse guard Tyrius Walker, the SIAC player of the year, averaged 6.3 points, 2.1 rebounds and 1.7 assists playing for the New York Knicks summer league team.

Jones comes to WSSU after three years as an assistant coach at New Mexico Highlands University where she served as an assistant coach with the Cowgirls. During her tenure, she helped the program to finish ranked seventh in the nation last season with eight All-Americans. The team also won a Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Championship where her student-athletes swept the women's triple jump and won the 200m dash, long jump, and the 4 x100m relay. For her efforts, Jones was honored as the United States Track & Field/Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) South Central Region Assistant Coach of the Year.

Jones

Prior to joining the coaching staff at New Mexico Highlands, Jones served as a volunteer coach at Clemson. She also has coaching stints at Adams State and Wingate University. She is a 2013 graduate of Adams State University and she holds a Master's of Business Administration degree from Adams State (2014) as well.

Jones and the Rams will make their cross country season debut at the Chick-fil-A Invitational hosted by Catawba University on Saturday, September 1st.

Bowie State, Fayetteville State picked in CIAA football

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

NORTHERN DIVISION	SOUTHERN DIVISION
Bowie State	Fayetteville State
Virginia State	Winston-Salem State
Virginia Union	Saint Augustine's
Chowan	Shaw
Elizabeth City State	Johnson C. Smith
Lincoln (PA)	Livingstone

OVERALL VOTING
1. Bowie State
2. Virginia State
3. Fayetteville State
4. Winston-Salem State
5. Virginia Union
6. Saint Augustine's
7. Chowan
8. Shaw
9. Elizabeth City State
10. Johnson C. Smith
11. Livingstone
12. Lincoln (PA)

Bowie State Senior, QB **Amir Hall**

VSU won the championship game 42-19 to complete a perfect 10-0 campaign to that point in the season and give second-year head coach **Reggie Barlow** his first CIAA crown.

The Trojans went on to fall in the first round of the Div. II playoffs to West Georgia 35-9 to finish at 10-1.

BSU also made the D2 playoffs and made a inspired run before falling to Delta State 45-35 in the first round to finish at 9-2.

Hall and five of his teammates including wideout **Lansana Sesay** (33 receptions, 792 yards, 9 TDs) were voted to the preseason all-conference team. That list includes 2017 Special Teams Player of the Year, BSU kicker **Gene Carson**, who scored 102 points for the Bulldogs last season, completing 10 of 13 (77%) field goals and 72 of 77 (94%) extra point attempts.

Defensive back **Sterling Hammond** of **Virginia Union**, the 2017 Defensive Player of the Year, highlights the preseason's defense after completing his sophomore season with 5 interceptions. He also tallied 70 total tackles, including 46 solo tackles.

2018 PRESEASON ALL-CIAA FOOTBALL TEAM
OFFENSE
TE - Carlton Evans, Sr., ECSU; OL - Tyreek Bailey*, Sr. FSU; OL - Frank Ball, r-Jr., VSU; OL - Shamdu Nalls, Sr., VUU; OL - Donald Boone, Sr., CU; OL - Deveonte Mackey, So., WSSU; WR - Lansana Sesay, Sr., BSU; WR - Torry Baker, Sr., CU; QB - Amir Hall, Sr., BSU; RB - Stevie Green, Jr., FSU; RB - Kerrion Moore, r-Jr., WSSU; KR - Brandon Smith, Jr., FSU; PK - Gene Carson, Jr., BSU
DEFENSE
DL - Jarell Bright, Sr., WSSU; DL - Derrick Tate, Sr., BSU; DL - Jalen Cousar, Sr., FSU; DL - Oluwalike Ajenifuja, r-Jr., BSU; DL - Tyler Bembry, r-Sr., CU; LB - Devon Hunt, Jr., SU; LB - VIncent Thomas, Sr., ECSU; LB - Anthony Harris, r-Jr., FSU; DB - Jaleel Scroggins, So., SU; DB - Quantyle Battle, r-Jr., VUU; Sterling Hammond, Jr., VUU; DB - Elvin De La Rosa, So., FSU; PR - William Flowers, Jr., BSU; P - Brandon Howard, Jr., JCSU

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

ROANOKE, VA - What do you remember about the 2017 CIAA football season?

Most likely it was the great battle between eventual champion **Virginia State** and **Bowie State** for the Northern Division title and the battle between VSU senior running back **Trenton Cannon** and BSU junior quarterback **Amir Hall** for the offensive player of the year award.

Well, VSU (47-35 over BSU) and Cannon prevailed in both of those last year.

Hall, who threw for a dizzying 3,591 yards and 41 touchdowns with just four interceptions in 11 games – and by the way beat out Cannon and two others for the Black College Football Hall of Fame player of the year award – is back for his senior campaign. The coaches and SIDs in the league feel he and his teammates will prevail in the CIAA this time around

The Bulldogs were picked to win both the North Division crown and the league title when the results of voting for CIAA honors were unveiled last Thursday at the conference's Media Day here.

Virginia State returns quarterback **Corderal Cook** who passed for 1,590 yards and 11 touchdowns and ran for 729 yards and another 18 TDs. The Trojans were picked to finish behind BSU in both the North and in the overall voting.

Fayetteville State, who features junior running back **Stevie Green** who rambled for 1,257 yards and 15 TDs, and ended WSSU's six-year stranglehold on the Southern Division, was picked to prevail over the Rams again in 2018.

Virginia Union was the fifth pick slated to finish behind both BSU and VSU in the North and FSU and WSSU in the South.

But if all you paid attention to last year were the BSU/VSU and Cannon/Hall battles, you missed a lot.

How about the fact that the division clinching wins for VSU in the North and **Fayetteville State** in the South were both last-minute one-point nail-biters on the final day of the regular season?

VSU narrowly edged VUU, 40-39, and FSU barely escaped **Winston-Salem State** with a 23-22 win to set up their match up in the CIAA title game last November in Salem, Va.

CIAA Announces 2018 Football TV Schedule

Charlotte, NC – The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) has announced a broadcast schedule of five (5) football contests, including the 2018 CIAA Football Championship, to be televised live on Aspire TV this season.

The CIAA will broadcast four (4) regular season football games and the 2018 CIAA Football Championship to be held in Salem, Virginia. The regular season broadcast schedule will begin at **Bowie State University's** Homecoming on Saturday, October 13, 2018 versus the Trojans of **Virginia State University** and extend four consecutive weeks. Each regular season contest and the 2018 Championship will be televised live on Aspire TV.

2018 FOOTBALL BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Game	Location
Sat., Oct. 13	1:00 PM	Virginia State @ Bowie State	Bowie, MD | Bulldogs Stadium
Sat., Oct. 20	1:00 PM	Bowie State @ Virginia Union	Richmond, VA | Hovey Stadium
Sat., Oct. 27	1:00 PM	W-Salem State @ Shaw	Durham, NC | Durham Stadium
Sat., Nov. 3	1:00 PM	W-Salem State @ Fayetteville State	Fayetteville, NC | Jeralds Stadium
Sat., Nov. 10	1:00 PM	2018 CIAA Football Championship	Salem, VA | Salem Stadium

CIAA to debut digital streaming network

Charlotte, NC – The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) has announced a partnership with Blue Frame Technology to create the ***CIAA Sports Network*** involving the conference office and all 13 of its member institutions.

The partnership will enable all member schools to stream their game broadcasts to one platform provided by Blue Frame. The service will begin with the 2018-19 athletic season. Additionally, the CIAA will provide video coverage of its championship events along with other original content.

"We are excited to partner with Blue Frame to allow our institutions to produce high quality broadcasts for fans to enjoy," said Senior Associate Commissioner **Suzette McQueen**.

"We see this as an excellent opportunity to tell our own story. It's a great recruiting tool and allows family and friends to cheer on their loved ones from near or far. The strength of our membership together will hopefully provide revenue opportunities in the future to ensure long-term growth of the network."

The new partnership will allow fans to watch their favorite CIAA teams live. The conference along with each school will have their own dedicated video portal/web page where fans can easily access live and archived footage.

In addition to online access, fans can also watch the action live on their televisions through Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Apple TV, and Roku streaming devices.

In the first year of the conference-wide streaming initiative, member institutions will broadcast a limited schedule of home games in football and volleyball with the goal of providing coverage of all regular season men's and women's conference basketball games.

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church Combined Choirs Concert

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church combined choirs will be in concert, Sunday, August 19th at 3 p.m. Get ready for old school traditional gospel, sacred acapella, contemporary and quartet music ministered by a full choir. Bring your shouting shoes and the church will provide the fans! Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church is under the leadership of Pastor R.L. Gundy. For more info contact the church office at (904) 354-7249.

True Holiness Under God's Salvation Pack the Pew Rally

True Holiness Under God's Salvation church located at 1086 W. 23rd Street presents the "Pack the Pew Rally," scheduled for Sunday, August 25th at 4 p.m. Bishop James Sapp Jr. and congregation expect to see you there to worship and enjoy this rally for Christ. For more information contact the church office at (904) 361-8772.

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.

Historic Mount Zion 152nd Anniversary Celebration

Historic Mount Zion 152nd Anniversary Celebration entitled, "Refreshing Our Zeal through the Holy Spirit," scheduled for Sunday, August 12th at 10 a.m. Historic Mount Zion is located at 201 E. Beaver St. Reverend Pearce Ewing, Sr. and congregation will be ready to fill the pews with family and friends! For more info contact Anniversary Chairperson Olivia Young at (904) 502-6472.

African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Ministers Alliance Political Forum

Reverend Mark Griffin, pastor of Wayman Temple and the African Methodist Episcopal A.M.E. Ministers Alliance is hosting a 'Political Forum' scheduled for Monday, August 6th, at 7 p.m. This forum will be held at Wayman Temple 1176 Labelle Street. This forum is open to the entire community and everyone is encouraged attend. For more info and further details contact Wanda Patterson at (904) 739-7500.

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. The 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.

Covered House Revelation Service

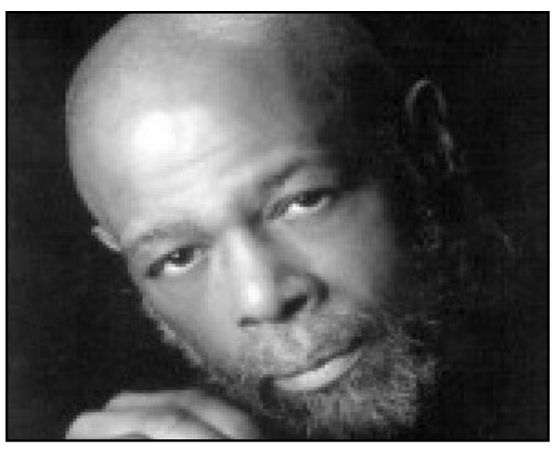
The Covered House Ministry "The Book of Revelation Live: Unveiling of The Seven" service is scheduled for Sunday, September 23rd, at 4 p.m. The Covered House Ministry is located at 4300 Post Street. For more information call the church office at (904) 405-8077.

El-Beth-El Development Center Back To School Give-a-Away

El-Beth-El Development Center located at 725 W 4th St., will host their annual "Back-to-School Give Away," Saturday, August 11th, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. This year to help make this event a great success the church is seeking your support for donations of school supplies or monetary gifts. Last year over 800 hundred backpacks filled with school supplies blessed the children of the community! To become a sponsor or for more info contact Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall, Sr. at (904) 710-1586.

- - - SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING - - -

The role of faith and death in Christian life



To Christians, life and death are part of a belief system that should affect how we live. In this regard, faith and death are inextricably connected.

Understandably, one must die to this world and be reborn to the next. We believe Christ died physically and overcame that death in order for us to access eternal life as the blessing that it is from the Father.

I recognize that this whole life and death and life thing can be confusing and at times overwhelming, which is where faith comes in. For those who claim faith in the reality of Jesus Christ, our facts are sometimes based on what we cannot see, touch or understand.

Believers know life, eternal life, exists on many levels. Death by itself is neither the beginning nor the end of anything. Life and death are the continuation of an existence that has always been here. Our living is but a temporary form of eternal life. Our faith demands more than a leap. It demands intellectual enlightenment.

If you believe in electricity, you just know when you turn on a light switch, the room you're in will become illuminated. You act accordingly. If you don't believe in electricity, light switches and bulbs have a very different meaning for you.

If you believe in Christ, your view of death is totally different from someone who doesn't. That knowledge does not make the transition from this life to the next any easier. It does, however, put some things about this life into perspective.

I am now at an age where my mortality should be embraced, given the faith I have about my immortality. After all, we're supposed to walk by faith and not by sight. To do so demands that we accept a yet-to-be-experienced consciousness that is the foundation of our belief in the life and death and life of Jesus Christ.

The specter of your or my death should not keep us from meeting each day, each person, each situation and circumstance anew and refreshed in the opportunity to experience life again and again, anew each and every day. What we go through, including pain and suffering as well as joy and happiness, is essential to the eternal cycle of life.

Through faith Christians believe all things are possible because God is certainly capable of accomplishing anything. That includes overcoming death. That includes acknowledging our own immortality with Him. Hence, death is God's business as is life. Faith allows us to put it all in his hands. It is but one step closer to God.

In many cultures, worldly death is looked upon as cause for celebration. This is, or should be, the same for Christians.

"Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you the devil will put some of you in prison to test you and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful even to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life. He, who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." Revelations 2:10-11.

May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington is the publisher at Dallas Weekly. He can be reached at dallasweekly.com.

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Chicago Mayoral Candidate Hands Out $300K at Local Church

Willie Wilson, a popular Christian philanthropist and mayoral candidate in Chicago, insisted Sunday that he wasn't trying to buy votes when he doled out what his camp says was about $300,000 in cash and checks to churchgoers at New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church.

"My wife and I have been blessed by God to be able to get a few of the material things out of life, and so it's up to us to now continually to share back with all of you all and others," Wilson told church members as he shared his financial blessing with them, according to WGN9.

The millionaire businessman who owns a medical supply company gave out the cash the same day Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner also spoke at the church.

Critics have since accused Wilson of buying votes, but elections officials said they didn't see a violation of Illinois election law, which prohibits the buying of votes, according to a Chicago Tribune op-ed by Kristen McQueary. After highlighting how politicians have warmed voters in the past, she argued that even though there is no evidence that any laws were broken, Wilson's intention behind the money giveaway was clear.

"While watching video of the Sunday event — after lifting my jaw off the living room floor — I almost longed for the conventional ways of vote-buying. Build an unnecessary infrastructure project in my ward. Cut a ribbon at a new park the city can't afford. Send me a tax rebate. Hire my sister for a ghost-payroll job," she wrote. "Frankly, Sunday's hand-to-hand distribution of money was just too unsavory. I prefer tradition."

Wilson, who also launched "Singsation," the first nationally syndicated gospel entertainment show in America in 1989, called his actions at the church on Sunday "one of the biggest property tax relief assistance" events of the year while noting he was no stranger to philanthropy.

An aide to the businessman told WGN9 that Wilson gave away $300,000 to 2,000 people through the Dr. Willie Wilson Foundation, a nonprofit. Wilson says he organized the giveaway to assist homeowners who are struggling to pay their property tax bills.

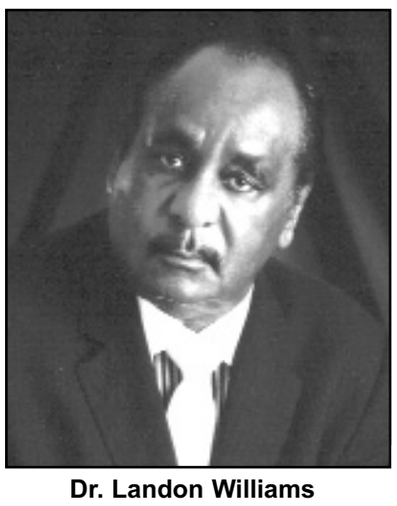
Rauner, who's facing a tough battle for a second term this fall, railed against high property taxes in his speech to the churchgoers.

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.

Radio Weekly Broadcast - WCGL 1360 AM
Sunday 2 PM - 3 PM

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Bethel Baptist Institutional Church

215 Bethel Baptist Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202 (904) 354-1464

Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Jr.
Senior Pastor

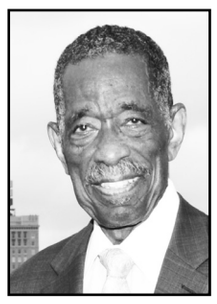
Weekly Services

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.



Bishop Rudolph McKissick, Sr..
Pastor Emeritus

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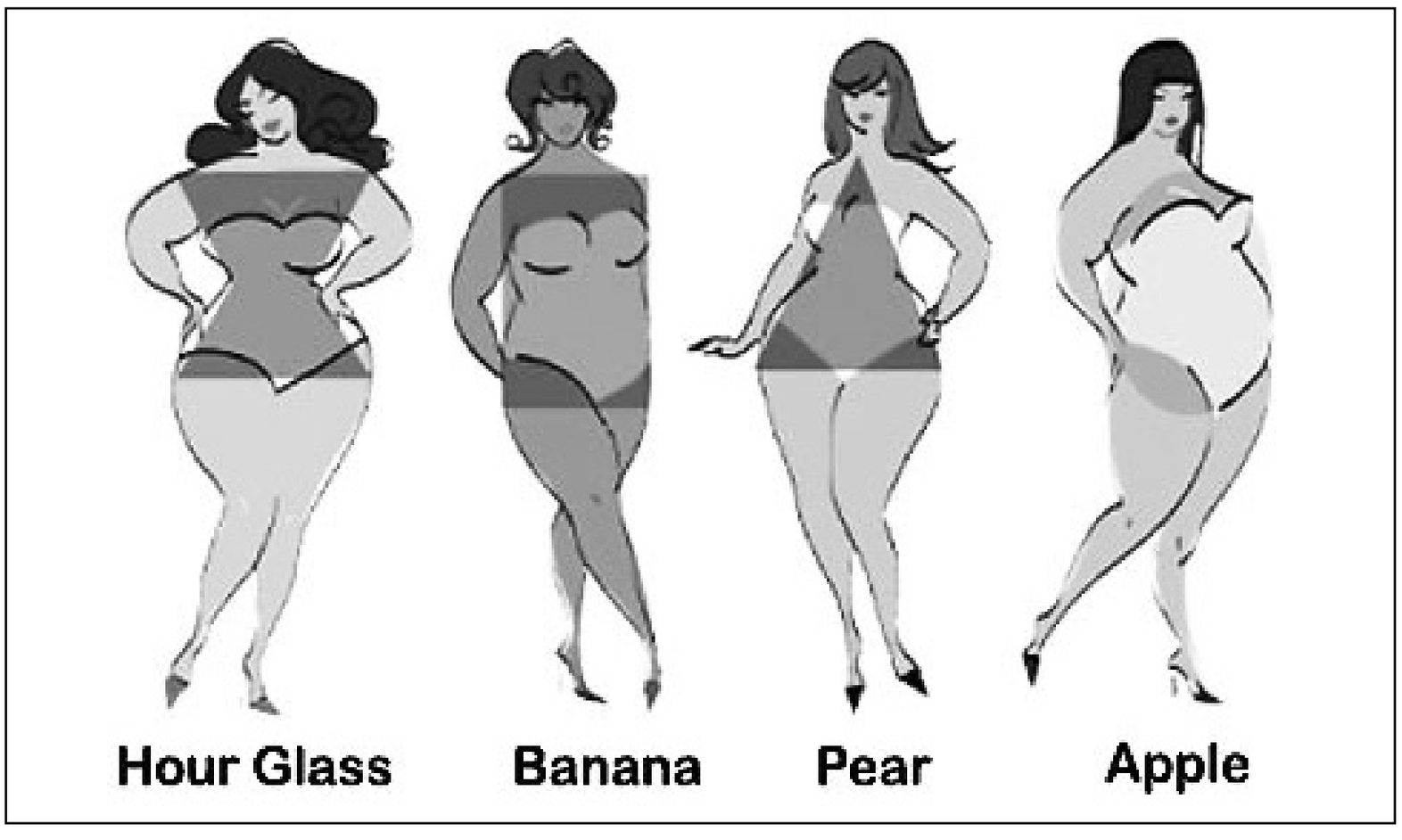

Your Body Shape Could Put You at Rish for a Heart Attack

Ladies, Your Body Shape Could Be Putting You At Risk for Heart Attacks

(Health Day News) - Although we have a very different outlook on obesity than we did 10 years ago, it is still a heavy issue today. We now have plus size sections, extra wide shoes, and big & tall fashions, but what exactly did it fix? We've even made mantra's that "big is beautiful," "she's voluptuous," "thick," "PHAT" (pretty, hot, and tempting). However, in a recent study, it showed that excess belly weight and specifically a so-called "apple shape," raises a woman's risk for heart attack even more than overall being obese.

While obesity raises heart attack risk in both sexes, women with bigger waists and waist-to-hip ratios have greater odds of a heart attack than men who have similar apple shaped body, a large British study finds.

"Our findings show that looking at how fat tissue is distributed in the body -- especially in women -- can give us more insight into the risk of heart attack than general measures of obesity, such as body mass index," said lead researcher Sanne Peters. Body mass index (BMI) is a commonly used measurement based on height and weight.

Having a pear-shaped body, a smaller waist with excess weight mostly around the hips, isn't thought to raise heart attack risk to the same degree.

Currently, no medical treatment focuses on excess belly fat, said Peters, a research fellow in epidemiology at the University of Oxford's George Institute for Global Health.

However, "more intensive screening for the risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes among those with an apple shape might help to prevent heart disease, especially in women," Peters said.

According to the World Health Organization, 40 percent of women worldwide are overweight and 15 percent are obese.

Obesity increases the risk for heart attack, the leading cause of death worldwide, the researchers noted. Obesity also raises your odds for stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes and some cancers.

For the new study, Peters and colleagues collected data on nearly 500,000 adults in the United Kingdom, aged 40 to 69, and followed them for seven years.

The investigators found that waist-to-hip ratio and waist circumference, respectively, were 15 percent and 7 percent more strongly tied to heart attack risk in women than men.

Also, compared with BMI, waist-to-hip ratio was an 18 percent stronger predictor of heart attack in women and a 6 percent stronger predictor of heart attack in men, the findings showed.

However, the biological factors that contribute to the increased risk for heart attack aren't known, Peters said.

Further research is needed to try to determine the different ways women and men store body fat, and to understand how exactly this is linked to different health risks.

"Knowing exactly how patterns of fat storage influence the risk of obesity-related conditions will yield insights into the biological mechanisms and could inform sex-specific interventions that might halt the obesity epidemic worldwide," Peters said.

One specialist believes women must act quickly to reverse weight gain around the waist in order to reduce the risk of heart disease.

"We have had similar data in the United States that belly fat is a risk marker for heart disease," said Dr. Nieca Goldberg, a spokeswoman for the American Heart Association.

Goldberg said she thinks fat accumulation in the gut is linked with inflammation and insulin resistance. Both can lead to heart disease and heart attacks, she noted.

It's possible that the risk is higher in women than men because women have a higher percentage of body fat, she suggested.

To reduce their risk, women should be conscious of weight gain around the middle, according to Goldberg, who is also director of the NYU Center for Women's Health in New York City.

Her advice for those who find the pounds piling up around the waist: Cut down on sugar, carbohydrates and alcohol, which is largely sugar.

"These are the patients I target for decreases in starches and sugars, and increases in aerobic exercise to help reverse this process," she said.

Women and black women specifically have to be aware of what they are getting themselves into. Carrying excess weight can be a preference to some and may even be a liking from the opposite sex. However, what it really comes down to is you. How do you feel? Are you having a hard time breathing? Are you tired from just a few steps to your mailbox? Your health trumps everything else when it comes to your life. Visit your local health care provider and truly gets the facts of your health status.

What Every Black Woman Should Know about Hair Loss and Fibroids

A recent study shows that black women with a relatively similar type of hair loss may also be at a high risk of developing fibroids.

What are fibroids? Fibroids are fibrous growths that develop in or around the uterus. On average, about 80 to 90 percent of Black women and 70 percent of White women develop fibroids by the time they turn 50. Not to worry, these growths are mostly benign and noncancerous.

The research, wherein four years of data of over 487,000 adult Black women were studied, also included data regarding a hair loss condition called the central centrifugal cicatricial alopecia (CCCA).

Black women are the ones usually affected by CCCA, which makes it the most common hair loss condition in this group.

It is discovered in the research that almost 14 percent of women affected by CCCA also had fibroids while only 3 percent of women without CCCA had fibroids. This shows that women with CCCA have five times higher chances to develop fibroids.

"The cause of the link between the two conditions remains unclear," says Dr. Crystal Aguh, the author of the research and an assistant professor of dermatology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Even though the research still does not prove that one condition causes the other, there seems to be some kind of connection between the two. Nevertheless, the findings still suggest that women with CCCA be checked up for fibroids or any excess fibrous growth.

The research also considered that blacks, in general, are more likely to develop some conditions that involve scarring and that scarring is one of the results linked to the beginning of CCCA.

Consequently, the findings of the research show that CCCA-linked scarring is resemblant to the type of fibrous-tissue scarring associated with fibroids, which could be the reason why there is a higher risk to develop fibroids with the hair-loss condition.

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, snacks and more! For more info contact (904) 470-8899.

GA Rape Victim Awarded Record Billion Dollar Settlement After Six year Fight

By Rosaland Tyler

A jury in Georgia has awarded $1 billion to Hope Cheston, who was 14 when an armed security guard raped her on a picnic table outside an apartment complex, after she attended a friend's birthday party in October 2012 in Jonesboro, Ga.

Her mother filed the civil lawsuit in 2015, accusing the security company of negligence in their training and performance and of failing to keep a 14-year-old girl safe, according to news reports.

On May 24, jurors in Clayton County, Ga., awarded her $1 billion in compensatory damages in a civil lawsuit against Crime Prevention Agency Inc., the security company that employed her rapist. Her lawyers believe it is, by far, the largest jury verdict ever awarded in the United States in a sexual assault case.

Many women suffer sexual assault, do not pursue justice, and try to put it behind them, Cheston, now 20, said at a recent news conference. "My verdict basically shows if you stick with it and do what you need to do to get your justice, there'll be a brighter end.

At the press conference on May 23, Cheston added, "Sexual assault is sexual assault. It's not right, and it needs to be punished.

For the longest (time), I thought it would be pushed under the rug and no longer mattered … but come to find out 12 strangers feel like what I went through and my story and how I feel six years later is worth a billion dollars," Cheston said.

Still, she almost certainly won't end up a billionaire. According to news reports, the security company isn't worth a billion dollars, and the judge could still reduce the amount of such a verdict.

But she and her lawyer both said the judgment offered a symbolic win for all sexual assault victims.

"A jury, from now on, will know there is no ceiling on the damages that rape causes to a woman," her lawyer, L. Chris Stewart, said. "They literally thought a billion dollars was the value of a 14-year-old being raped in public."

The security guard who attacked her, Brandon Lamar Zachary, 28, began serving a 20-year prison sentence for statutory rape in 2016.

The judge in the civil suit had already ruled the company was liable for negligence, and the jurors were brought in to determine the amount of the damages. They appeared touched. After the verdict was read, several of them came over to hug her, she said.

Cheston's whole personality changed after the attack, she said. She was "very shut off," losing friends and straining her relationship with her mother. She stayed inside more. She still distrusts authority figures, especially male ones, and wouldn't feel comfortable going to the police in an emergency.

"Knowing that just one encounter can change your life forever is terrifying," she said.

She's now a sophomore at Fort Valley State University, majoring in social work, and volunteers helping the homeless during the summer, she said. She intends to continue working toward getting her degree. she said."

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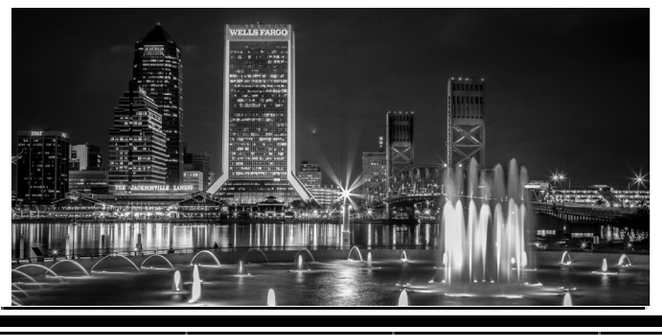

AROUND TOWN

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

Children's Department at Highlands Library Seeks Input

The Highlands Regional Library, 1826 Dunn Ave. is gaining a new Children's Department! The updated children's areas is designed to incorporate learning and literacy experiences for youth from early childhood to preteen. The community input meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **July 31st**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. For more info call (904) 757-7702

Death of a Nation Movie Premier

"Death of a Nation" by patriot Dinesh D'Souza movie premiere is scheduled for Tuesday, **July 31st**, at 7 p.m. at the Regal Hollywood River City Theaters, 12884 City Center Blvd. For tickets and more info visit https://doanprescreening-jacksonville.eventbrite.com.

Webb Wesconnett Library Seeks Input

The Webb Wesconnett Regional Library, 6887 103rd St., is gaining a new Children's Department! The updated children's areas is designed to incorporate 21st century learning and literacy experiences for youth from early childhood to preteen.. The community input meeting is scheduled Wednesday, **August 1st**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. For more info call (904) 778-7305

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.

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, snacks and more! For more info contact (904) 470-8899.

P.R.I.D.E. Bookclub Meeting

People Reading for Inspiration, Discussion and Entertainment (P.R.I.D.E.) will meet Saturday, **August 4th** at 3 p.m. at the home of Marsha Phelts, 5400 Ocean Blvd, Fernandina Beach, Fl. The book for discussion is "Guilty, Until Proven Innocent, The Letter vs. The Spirit of the Law," by A. Wellington Barlow. For more info contact Marsha Phelts at (904) 261-0175.

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.

Sea Level Rise Candidate Forum

Moderated by Brian Nelson, this is Jacksonville's opportunity to speak with Primary Election Candidates about their approach to protecting Florida from Sea Level Rise, Monday, **August 6th**, 6 - 8 p.m. Location is UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center, 12000 Alumni Drive. For tickets and more info visit www.tidaltownhalls.org

Chamber Luncheon

Join Daniel Davis, JAX Chamber President and CEO and John Peyton, President of GATE Petroleum Company and 2018 Chamber Chair, to learn about current initiatives, recent successes and plans for the future, Thursday, **August 9th,** from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Roy's Restaurant, 2400 3rd Street South, Jacksonville Beach. For more information email kathy.sutton@myjaxchamber.com.

VIP Teacher Supply Giveaway

The annual "Your Name Should Be in Lights - Teacher Supply Giveaway" will be on Saturday, **August 11th** at Kingdom Plaza Mall, 5310 Lenox Ave. Calling all teachers to participate in this event including a red carpet, vendor presentations, goodie bags filled with teacher supplies, and refreshments. For more info email moniqueterry@wealthwatchersfl.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. Location is the UNF Fine Arts Center, Lazzara Theater. For further info 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.

SMART Couples Workshops

The next SMART Couples Workshop class is for those wanting to take their relationship to the next level will be held on Tuesday, **August 14th,** 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Kids Hope Alliance office located at 1095 A Philip Randolph Blvd. For more information or to register visit www.SMARTcouples.org.

SoMMA Exhibition

The public is invited to an exhibition presented by the Society of Mixed Media Artists (SoMMA). The show will be in the Scene Room of the Cultural Center, located at 50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra, FL 32082. This exciting exhibit is entitled "Between Truth and Illusion" and will showcase pieces by many of the award winning members of the organization, Friday, **August 17th,** 6 - 8 p.m. For more info email milonbarbara3@yahoo.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.

NEFL Press Club

Northeast Florida Press Club next meeting mixer will take place Thursday, August 16th, 5:30 -7:30 p.m. at Palencia Golf Club, 600 Palencia Club Dr., St. Augustine. Florida. For more info visit www.NEFloridaPressClub.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, 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

Comedian Aries Spears

Comedian Aries Spears at the Comedy Zone, 3130 Hartley Rd, **September 6th - 8th,** 7: 30 p.m. and 10 p.m. shows! Aries starred in "Mad TV," and his sketch "Talkin' American" was the shows most popular bit. He was a regular on Fox's "The Best Damn Sports Show Period." For tickets and more info visit www.comedyzone.com.

Sting & Shaggy in Jax!

Sting and Shaggy will bring their dynamic and vibrant joint live tour to Jacksonville Friday, **September 14th,** 7 p.m. at Daily's Place, One TIAA Field Dr. For tickets and more info visit www.ticketmaster.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.

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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.

Email - JFreePress@aol.com Fax (904) 765-8611
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Remains of Former Slaves Found on Former Texas Plantation

The remains of dozens of black men and a black woman forced to work for free as part of a convict-leasing program that came into being after the 13th Amendment ended slavery except in certain instances have been found on a former Texas sugar plantation.

Construction crews so far have exhumed 95 sets of human remains in Sugar Land, Texas, near Houston. The area was the location of large sugar plantations worked by black men and black women until they died from exhaustion, beatings or disease.

The men and women are believed to have died between 1878 and 1910. The bodies are of individuals ranging in age from 15 to 70. At one time, the area was known as the "Hell on the Brazos," named after Brazos, a Texas river.

Workmen discovered the remains while constructing a building for the Fort Bend County, Texas, school district. Sugar Land is located in Fort Bend County.

There are also reports that more remains also could be found in the area, which included other sugar plantations and prison camps.

Some of the remains that have already been found have chains with swivels on them, indicating the men and the one woman were part of a chain gain under the convict-leasing program.

Convict leasing was a system of penal labor practiced in the Southern United States, beginning with the emancipation of slaves at the end of the American Civil War in 1865. The brutal labor practice peaked around 1880. From 1870 to 1912, 59 to 60 percent of Texas state prisoners were black and they were leased to sugar plantations, according to the Texas State Historical Society.

Shown is Dr. Willis lecturing to Mary Singleton seniors

Could This be the Most Beatiful Girl in the World?

A photo of a 4-year-old Nigerian girl is racking up compliments online, with many claiming she's the most "beautiful" and "absolutely stunning" "doll-like" child they have ever seen.

Photographer Mofe Bamuyiwa shared a photo of a girl named Jare on Instagram, writing, "Oh yes she's human! She's also an angel!"

Over twenty-thousand people reacted to the stunning photo, writing that it was a "true work of art" and that Jare is the new Barbie. "Jare isn't a professional model," Bamuyiwai tells Yahoo Lifestyle, adding that the girl's two sisters, Jomi, 7, and Joba, 10, with their "striking features and strong characters," have also posed for photos.

Bamuyiwai says she inspired the children's mother to launch an Instagram page for her daughters called The J3 Sisters, where they already have more than 5K followers.

"All I want is for everyone to see Jare's powerful potential. … I want the photo to speak to her when she has reached her adulthood," Bamuyiwai said.

Jare is one of several child models dominating social media. Seventeen-year-old French model Thylane Blondeau was branded "the most beautiful girl in the world" at the age of 6. By then she had already walked the runway for two years.

Last year, a 6-year-old Russian model named Anastasia Knyazeva was crowned by social media as Blondeau's successor.

Dementia Lecture Series Empowers Seniors to Take Heed to Early Symptoms

Mayo Clinic's office of Health and Disparities held a Dementia Awareness lecture series last week at the Mary Singleton center in Springfield.

Seniors in attendance learned about various aspects of the disease including symptoms, causes and treatments. Dr. Floyd Willis of Mayo spoke to seniors about some preventative measures, warning signs and the importance of early detection.

There are various early indicators that seniors and family members should monitor. These signs include: memory problems, increased confusion, reduced concentration, personality or behavior changes, apathy and withdrawal, depression and the loss of ability to do everyday tasks.

The crowd asked questions that pertained to symptoms, told personal stories and discussed self-care. Dr. Willis also talked about activities that can play a part in stimulating the mind, such as singing songs or playing music, arts and crafts, organizing household or office items and gardening.

Many of the seniors at the center are active and currently engage in many of the suggested activities, however attendees vowed to increase their memory improvement undertakings. The next dementia lecture series is scheduled for September of this year.

Don't Expect to Retire Off of Your Uber Income

$3.37! That's the paltry median hourly profit for Uber and Lyft drivers—after expenses are factored in—according to a new study.

The paper, from the MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, is based on a survey of over 1,100 rideshare drivers. The results indicate that the "median profit from driving is $3.37 per hour before taxes, and 74% of drivers earn less than the minimum wage in their state."

After the working paper was published, Uber's chief economist John Hall published a response stating that there was "a major error in the authors' methodology." Stephen Zoepf, one of the paper's authors, then responded by saying that "Hall's specific criticism is valid," and acknowledged that the "survey questions could and should have been worded more clearly."

If he followed the advice in Hall's criticism, Zoepf explained, median profit would rise to somewhere between $8.55 to $10 per hour for Uber and Lyft drivers, not $3.37 as initially indicated in working paper. Zoepf said he would be "conducting a thorough revision of the paper and will update it" in the next few weeks.

After Zoepf released his response to Uber's Hall, Lyft also issued a statement: "When an academic study changes so dramatically in just a matter of days, that's a real flag. While the revised results are not as inaccurate as the original findings, driver earnings are still understated. MIT's study has fundamental methodology problems."

Cedric the Entertainer is Finally a Star!

Cedric The Entertainer celebrated 30 Years in Show Business surrounded by close family, friends, and fans as he received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Celebrities on hand for the event included former cast mates Niecy Nash, George Lopez, Terri J. Vaughn, Michael Blackson, Comedian Rell and more.

"On my star day, its official and it's so great to be recognized. I've been doing this a long time," he said.

Cedric's friend and fellow Walk of Fame Magic Johnson helped to unveil the star joining others with speeches dedicated to him.

District 10 Residents Upset and Frustrated with New Appointee and the Process Used

Continued from front

of Freeman's ten months in office could be far reaching. His three committee assignments on the City Council are Neighborhoods and Community Services, Public Health and Safety and Transportation, Energy and Utilities.

The Council will also deal with several major policy issues over the next 10 months including votes on the budget, education, affordable housing, and police accountability. Freeman will essentially cast votes representing a community that some say he has no real connection to, which will affect his constituents now and for years to come.

In the short time since his appointment was announced, the residents of District 10 have made their feelings loud and clear. At a recent community meeting at the Legends Community center, several residents stood up and said that Freeman does not reflect the politics of their community.

Both are legitimate standards that most voters feel every elected official should be held to in a democratic form of government. Last week's meeting was filled with elderly District 10 residents, community leaders and public officials.

Fired up residents stood in line to speak at the podium lashing out and questioning Freeman's motives, his application for the position and his professional resume. As mentioned earlier, many of the residents were upset at his party affiliation, a registered Republican.

Other long time residents questioned his integrity and his ability to get the job done. Some of the residents asked the crowd for patience and suggested that Freeman have a chance to move forward, while another called him the 'N" word.

The meeting lasted for an hour and was basically a public display of years of discord and frustration according to some residents. District 10 boasts over 40,000 residents and some two hundred attended the meeting.

Former District 10 Council member and current candidate for Tax Collector Mia Jones was in the crowd, and local attorney Brenda Priestly Jackson, who earlier in the day had filed a lawsuit against Governor Scott to rescind Freeman's appointment. Jackson plans to run for the seat in 2019.

The bottom line is that the District 10 community is in turmoil. Its elected Councilman has been suspended and facing multiple counts of federal fraud charges and it's appointed representative isn't connected with his constituency.

For over 50 years, the same issues have plagued the district. Consistent issues such as failing infrastructure, septic tanks, sidewalks, gangs, a lack of economic development and even food deserts.

The appointment of Freeman is yet another example of politics taking precedent over the will of the people. Combine disenfranchisement with the good old boy network and you get, "Business as usual."

Nine Members of One Family Drown in a Tragic Duck Boating Accident

by Fred Lowe

Nine members of a black family drowned when their tour boat sank on Table Rock Lake week in Branson, Missouri, in 70 miles per hour winds and high waves. The boat was equipped with life jackets, but before the accident the captain told passengers they didn't need to wear them.

The family's last name is Coleman, and they were residents from the Indianapolis, Indiana, area. The Colemans were among 17 adults and children killed when their duck boat sank in 40 feet of water before finally resting in 80 feet of water. Twenty-nine passengers and two crew members were aboard the boat.

Duck boats are six-wheel-drive amphibious modification of the 2½ ton trucks used by the U.S. military during World War II.

The boats were operated by tourist company Ride the Ducks International. Ripley Entertainment, based in Ontario, Florida, owns the company.

Tia Coleman, whose husband, children, sister and cousins drowned, said life jackets were on the boat, but the captain told passengers they didn't need them.

"My husband would want to me to say this—he would want the world to know that on this boat we are on, the captain had told us 'don't worry about grabbing life jackets—you won't need them,' so nobody grabbed them as we listened to the captain as he told us to stay seated."

So much for sea lore of the captain going down with his ship. He survived.

A member of one of the rescue boats tossed Coleman a life jacket and that is how she survived. " Tia Coleman said during a news conference that she believed she had died and angels saved her.

Members of the Coleman family who drowned are:

Angela Coleman, 45; Arya Coleman, 1; Belinda Coleman, 69; Ervin Coleman, 76; Evan Coleman, 7, Glenn Coleman, 40; Horace Coleman, 70; Maxwell Coleman, 2; and Reece Coleman, 9. They were in Branson for a family vacation.

Other drowning victims were: Asher Williams, 69; Rosemarie Hamann, 68; Janice Bright, 63; William Bright, 65; Leslie Dennison, 64; Bob Williams, 71; Lance Smith, 15, and Steve Smith, 53.

You can help accident victims through gofundme.com/table-rock-cares and Coleman Family Boat Accident and cfozarks.org/donate.

Marvel to Launch 'Black Panther' Comic Book Series Spinoff 'Shuri' in October

Marvel Entertainment is preparing to launch a new comic book series centered around T'Challa's sister, Shuri, months after the character stole the show in Ryan Coogler's Black Panther movie.

The new series will be called Shuri and will be written by award-winning author Nnedi Okorafor, who penned the digital comic series Black Panther: Long Live the King for Marvel.

"[Shuri is] an African young woman of genius level intelligence who is obsessed with technology and has traveled spiritually so far into the past that she's seen Wakanda before it was Wakanda. The Ancestors call her Ancient Future," Okorafor is quoted as saying.

The series will fit into the continuity of Ta-Nehisi Coates' Black Panther comic book series, where T'Challa has moved into space to explore the Intergalactic Empire of Wakanda, leaving the actual nation without a leader…which means that Shuri, as the next in line to the throne, has to step up as monarch, whether or not she likes it.

The series will launch in October.