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TAKING AMERICA BACK - TAKING AMERICA BACK - TAKING AMERICA BACK -TAKING AMERICA BACK

Why Are the Midterm Elections in the US So Important?

by David Love

The stakes could not be higher in the upcoming US midterm elections, as a battle is being waged to decide which vision of America will prevail - that of President Donald Trump or that of his opposition.

Control of state houses, the US House of Representatives and the Senate are at stake. Political observers on both sides of the spectrum are calling on people to go out and vote because this could be the most important election in our lifetimes, if not in US history.

On the national and state levels, the Republican Party promotes policies that heighten racial and economic injustice and entrench social division. Their regressive stance on a variety of socioeconomic issues has served as a catalyst for the opposition - mobilizing women, people of color, the youth, and others and making space for dynamic, progressive candidates with bold alternative programmes to run for office.

On the one hand, states such as Republican-controlled North Carolina, ground zero for the war on voting rights, have enacted strict voter suppression measures to bar voters of color from exercising their rights.

A federal court has ordered state officials to redraw its illegally-drawn congressional districts, which were designed to benefit Republican politicians. A restrictive voter ID law in Wisconsin suppressed 200,000 black and Democratic voters in the state, which Trump won by 22,748 votes.

On the other hand, voters outraged by the current political climate are energized and poised to make change - and make history. Three states will have the opportunity to elect their first African American governors - a historic precedent.

In Maryland, the former president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Ben Jealous, a Democrat, seeks to unseat Republican incumbent Governor Larry Hogan with a progressive platform of criminal justice reform, marijuana legalization and a state-funded, single-payer healthcare system. **Continued on page 3**

City Seizing Opportunity to Stop the Violence

Flanked by several city officials, Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry assured residents looking for answers to the rash of recent violent crimes that help was on the way.

Several City Council members, joined by Sheriff Mike Williams, Bishop John Guns and others, ventured out to listen to the concerns from neighbors living in the Ken Knight Drive community .

"No city is perfect, no state is perfect, no country is perfect, but I pray that a higher good can be achieved through commitment and partnership," said Guns.

Both Pastor Guns and Curry echoed the same sentiment that starting a dialogue with the Ken Knight Drive community is a first step to stop the violence. The two had planned to lead a walk through the area but it was canceled due to rain, according to city officials. Others who were critical of the gathering said that the walk was canceled due to bad publicity.

Some controversy started before the weather put a damper on the planned walk after area residents noticed city crews cleaning up the area prior to the Mayor's arrival. Something they argue should've been done a long time ago.

The mayor challenged critics of the meetings who think this event was just a photo-op are wrong. "The facts are, I'm in the neighborhoods frequently," He said. "I take the information back and get things done and act on those things. Those are just a person's opinion. I'm just going to keep doing my job and showing up and listening to people and working for people."

In addition, Councilman Reggie Gaffney, said the City Council Finance Committee has approved a $300,000 grant, which is set to fund local grassroots and faith-based organizations dedicated to keep children off the streets.

If all continues to work out as planned, Gaffney said organizations will be able to apply for mini-grants as early as next week. Gaffney said he envisions the mini-grants being in the range of $10,000 to $15,000 for entities that have three to five staff members.

He said larger non-profit organizations "Are doing a wonderful job," but he is looking for "Boots-on-the-ground agencies who can go right next door where they know these kids who are causing these problems," Gaffney said.

Councilpersons Joyce Morgan, Reginald Gaffney and JuCoby Pittman join Mayor Curry and Sheriff Williams at a press conference.

The enrichment and intervention grants come on the heels of the recent fatal shooting at Raines High School as fans were leaving the football game against Lee High School. A 16-year-old Grand Park Education Center student was arrested in that shooting, which killed a 19-year-old and led the district to move some football games from Friday nights to Saturday mornings.

Detroit Public Schools to Turn Off Water Due To Elevated Copper

Students will be returning to Detroit public schools with no water coming from the fountains after the most recent water quality tests conducted this year showed elevated levels of copper, lead, or both across some schools.

According to the N*ew York Times*, the district has recorded higher levels of led or copper in several schools since 2016, though it still remains unclear how many of the 106 schools are affected. Still, Superintendent Nikolai P. Vitti is taking no chances, deciding to turn off the water in all the schools.

The most recent round of testing conducted this year tested 24 schools, 16 came back with elevated levels of led, copper, or both. That brings the total number of schools with known water issues up to 35. It could take up to another month for all the schools' results to come back, but Vitti is not waiting.

According to Vitti, there is nothing to indicate that students have suffered health problems because of the water. Students will still be able to wash their hands and flush the toilets, but drinking water will be provided through water bottles or coolers, rather than through fountains or sinks, reports the *New York Time*s.

It is not clear how long the drinking water across the schools will be turned off.

University Cuts Cheerleaders Who Knelt During National Anthem

When Kennesaw State University's football team takes the field next Saturday, the school's cheerleading squad will feature new faces.

Four out of the five KSU cheerleaders who took a knee during the national anthem last year as part of a nationwide movement to draw attention to police brutality didn't make the 2018-2019 team.

Their act of protest inspired praise—and a backlash from the university itself. After the cheerleaders, all of whom are black women, took a knee on Sept. 30, KSU banned the cheerleading squad from taking the field during the national anthem, keeping them in the tunnel instead. The school later reversed the move.

KSU said there was much more competition for the squad this year than last. 95 applicants tried out for 52 available spots, compared to 61 cheerleaders trying out in 2017. In total, seven cheerleaders on KSU's squad in 2017 didn't make the cut this year.

"I know the people who made it. I know their skills and I know my skills. But I don't think it was a skills-based thing. Not to say I'm amazing or anything, but I know my skills and what I had," said former cheerleader Toomia Dean.

Minnesota House Candidate: 'I Want to Be Your N-Word'

A Minnesota House Candidate told voters that he wants their support and that he wants to be their "ni**er," in a video released on Aug. 18., Newsweek reports.

Kyle Greene, who identifies as African-American and Cherokee Indian, is running for the states House of Representative seat in rural District 18A. He said he released the video to "unify as a society."

"I'm not asking you to vote for me as your leader, I'm asking you to vote for me as your public servant," Greene says in the video. "I want to be your state representative, I want to be your public servant and I want to be your ni**er."

Greene, who's running as an independent, told the Star Tribune that he used the N-word to people could pay attention to "real issues."

"We need to unify as a society, and we need to stop dealing with trivial matters," he said. "The word…is part of the American history, regardless of the race… It's part of my history being African-American, white and Cherokee Indian."

U.S. Black Public-school Teachers Outnumbered by Hispanic Teachers

Public schools opened nationwide on Tuesday with the news that the number of black teachers has been exceeded by Hispanic teachers.

Pew Research Center, a Washington, D.C.-based nonpartisan fact tank, reported that in the past 30 years, Hispanic teachers have overtaken blacks as the second-largest racial or ethnic group among U.S. public school teachers,

"In 1987-1988, there were three times as many black public-school teachers (191,000) as Hispanic teachers (69,000). Since then, the number of Hispanic school teachers has increased fivefold to 338,000 compared to the number of black teachers has increased 34% to 256, 000.

White men and women comprise 53% of public school teachers.

Pew included the data in a paper titled "America's public-school teachers are far less racially and ethnically diverse than their students."

Minority men and women accounted for 20% of elementary and secondary teachers during the 2015-2016 school year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Whites were 53% of public school teachers during the 2011-2012 school year.

There are 98,817 public schools in the U.S.

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Actor London Brown Brings West Coast Comedy to Jax

Shown is fan Monique Ellis smiling with London Brown in the green room before the show

Actor and comedian London Brown bought his comedic skills to Jacksonville on Labor Day weekend for two comedy shows at the Comedy Club on Beach Blvd. London currently stars as "Reggie" on HBO's hit cable show *Ballers*. As a trained actor, dancer, comedian and impressionist, his hard work is paying off. "I've finally found my voice; entertainers know that in order to get work, you have to work. My journey is a testament to how hard I work. I want to ignite the fire in others, expand my brand and stay true to my craft and give thanks to God for my career and family."

Joyner Brings Thousands to Orlando for Annual Family Reunion

Shown enjoying the Black Family Reunion in Orlando is comedian Guy Torry with Tonya and Bishop Holified and Alfred and Tearra Odom

Tom Joyner, host of the nationally syndicated morning show bearing his namesake, convened families from all over the country with his celebrity friends for a weekend filled with concerts, theme parks, seminars, an expo and activities for people of all ages. The event was headquartered at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Kissimmee, Florida. This year's concerts included Maze, featuring Frankie, Beverly, Bel Biv Devoe, Ricky Smiley, Guy Torry, Marsha Ambrosia and Jaheim. For flashback fans, Bernadette Stanis of *Good Times* fame also hosted a workshop panel with other guests.

Also on the weekend agenda was TJFR co-host Sybil's Book Club featuring White House correspondent April Ryan. Attendees also enjoyed a college/health/beauty fair in addition to vendors. Mornings were filled with breakfast with host Tom Joyner, daily exercise and workshops. The event closed with a Gospel Explosion featuring gospel artist Erica Campbell, Smokie Norful and Pastor Riva Tims.

Netflix Hires VP of Inclusion Strategy After PR Head Fired For Using N-Word

Myers

Netflix is making sure that an incident like the one with former chief spokesman Jonathan Friedland, who was fired over saying the N-word in a Netflix meeting, never happens again. The company has hired Vernā Myers as vice president of inclusion strategy.

According to the official release about Myers' new role, she will "help devise and implement strategies that integrate cultural diversity, inclusion and equity into all aspects of Netflix's operations worldwide."

"For the past two decades, through The Vernā Myers Company, she has consulted with a wide range of major corporations and organizations on how to help eradicate barriers based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and other differences and to make more just, compassionate and productive work environments," the release states.

Netflix's chief talent officer Jessica Neal spoke highly of Myers' experience in a statement for the release. "Having worked closely with Vernā as a consultant on a range of organizational issues, we are thrilled that she has agreed to bring her talents to this new and important role," Neal said. "As a global company dedicated to attracting the best people and representing a broad range of perspectives, Vernā will be an invaluable champion of our efforts to build a culture where all employees thrive."

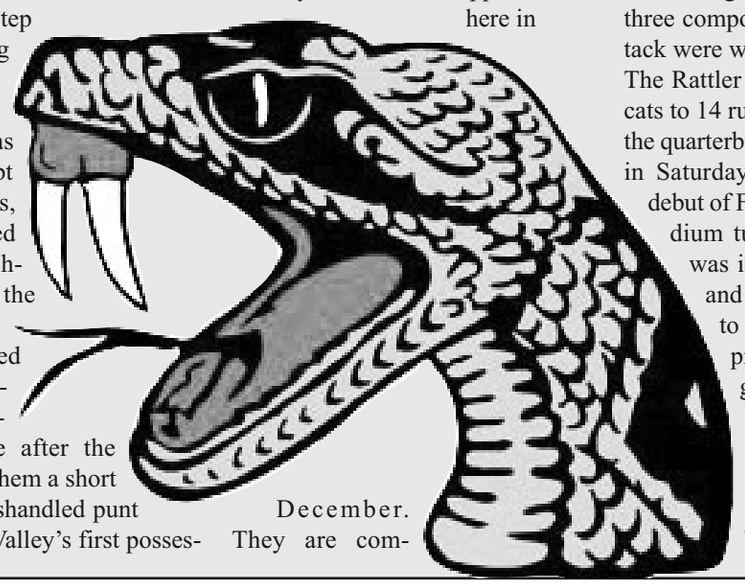
In another statement, Myers talked about her love of Netflix and her new job with the streaming service. "I have been a longtime fan of the inclusive and diverse programming and talent at Netflix, and then I got a chance to meet the people behind the screen," she said according to the release. "I was so impressed by their mission, their excellence and decision to take their inclusion and diversity efforts to a higher level. I am so excited and look forward to collaborating all across Netflix to establish bold innovative frameworks and practices that will attract, fully develop and sustain high performing diverse teams."

This isn't the first time a company has hired a diversity executive, but it is quite notable for Netflix since this hiring gives weight to its appearance of genuinely supporting diverse content. As has been mentioned before, Netflix has put considerable effort into its Strong Black Lead initiative that encourages and uplifts black creators and actors both at Netflix and in Hollywood. A mistake like Friedland's could have put the service's efforts to court black viewers and talent into jeopardy, making the initiative seem more about money rather than genuine support. But, by hiring Myers, it shows Netflix is firm about being seen as a place where everyone is welcome as viewers and as employees.

FAMU Wins Big in Debut of New Coach Willie Simmons

By Charles Griggs

It was a great start to a highly anticipated season. The Florida A&M University Rattlers opened the 2018 football season with a 41-7 victory over the Ft. Valley State Wildcats in the Jake Gaither Classic. The game marked the first win for new head coach Willie Simmons, and the beginning of the new "Willenium" of Rattler football in front of a crowd of 20,262. With the win, the Rattlers took their first step towards ending six straight losing seasons.



The game was never in doubt for the Rattlers, as they scored their first touchdown early in the first quarter and never looked back. The Rattler scoring opportunity came after the Wildcats gave them a short field after a mishandled punt attempt on Ft. Valley's first possession. The game also saw FAMU kicker Yahia Aly set a new school record by successfully making six field goals.

The FAMU offense rotated several running backs combining for 276 rushing yards, but sophomore Bishop Bonnett (Raines High School) led the team with 76 yards on eight carries.

"These guys have worked extremely hard since I stepped foot in here in December. They are committed to doing things the right way, and committed to transforming this program to a new level, and they deserved to win tonight," said FAMU Head Coach Willie Simmons. "I don't want the spotlight to be about Willie Simmons coming home. The spotlight should be about these guys coming out first home game of 2018, and having a pretty good showing."

And a good showing it was. All three components of the Rattler attack were working on all cylinders. The Rattler defense held the Wildcats to 14 rushing yards and sacked the quarterback five times. Included in Saturday's highpoints was the debut of FAMU's new Bragg Stadium turf. The new Astroturf was installed in mid-August and has been a key upgrade to the stadium as the team prepares for five home games this season.

The Rattlers next opponent is Troy State University on September 8, in Troy, Alabama.

Jesse Jackson: If Ex-slave States Vote Their Numbers, They Can Change Culture of Nation

The ex-slave states have the numbers to win if they have the will to fight back because there are 4 million unregistered Blacks in the South and 2.2 million who are registered but did not vote in 2016, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. warned.

"If they vote their interests, they could change the political landscape of this nation," Jackson stated. The power of the Black vote has been diminished due to Republican voter suppression schemes along with 5.2 million Blacks, who are on probation or parole in the South which precludes them from voting due to felon laws.

"If we vote our numbers in the South, we can change the culture of this country in a big way. With the little Latino vote plus the Black and progressive whites, that's enough to win," Jackson said.

For those Blacks running in Southern states for governor and senatorial races, Rev. Jackson said they could win "If we believe it, if you run, you may lose, but if you don't run, you're guaranteed to lose."

Referring to the Republican political ploys of gerrymandering and voter suppression he says continues in this nation, Rev. Jackson warned, "Tricky Leaks are more devastating than WikiLeaks and the Republicans are more dangerous than the Russians," referring to the voter suppression schemes that have diluted the black and brown votes.

Jackson said Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Stacey Abrams, who hopes to turn Georgia's red state to blue, could win. "She's breaking through not just a psychological barrier, but also a political barrier.

"She has put together a kind of rainbow coalition, registered about 400,000 new Black voters and high school seniors can vote…, if that happens it will be a great victory in Georgia election night," Jackson said.

Referring to August 28, 1963 when Dr. King gave his iconic speech, "I Have A Dream," at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., Reverend Jackson said 55 years ago "the day Dr. King gave that speech we could not use a single public toilet. Black soldiers had to sit behind Nazi prisoners on American military bases.

"From the degradation we were in, the August 28th March led to the 1964 Civil Rights Act. It was a huge march," recalled Rev. Jackson.

"They said there would be riots, but the only riot was the military locking Washington down. There were military checkpoints. Every government worker had to be on leave that day. It was amazing how they reacted to that march," Jackson said.

According to Jackson, President Kennedy tried to stop the march but Dr. King and his supporters held a successful march that Jackson said, "led the groundwork for 1964 Civil Rights Act."

City of Jax Expanding Benefits for New Parents

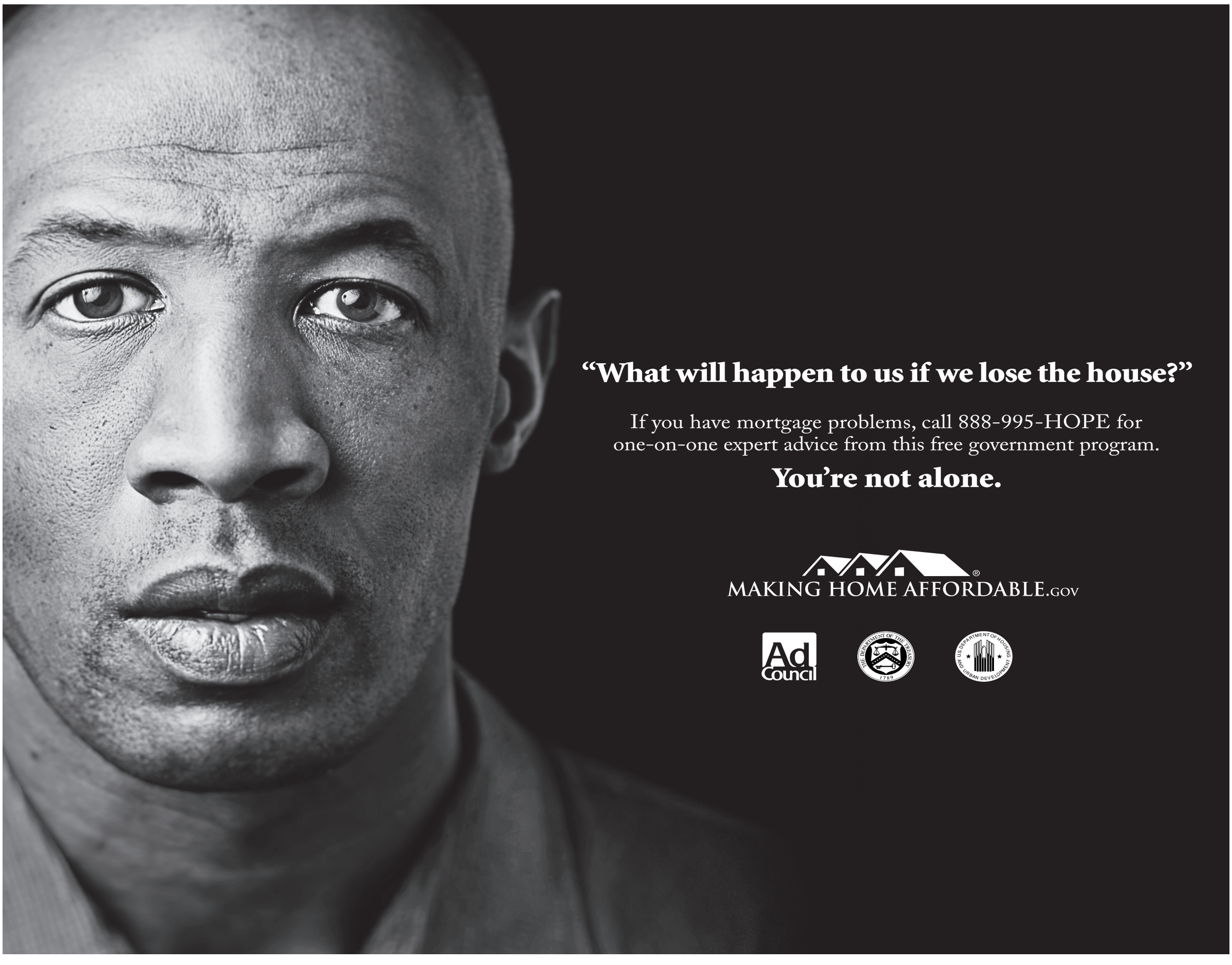
City officials recently announced new employee policies that offers parents employed by the City six weeks of paid leave following the birth or adoption of a child.

Statistics support that paid leave can have a positive impact on the health of children and families. In addition to health benefits, there are also long-term economic benefits for both families and employers who offer paid leave. The benefit is available to both the father and mother of the child if both are City employees.

The preexisting policy limited eligible employees to taking up to 12 weeks of leave, utilizing their available leave in conjunction with unpaid leave following a birth, in adherence with Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) guidelines.

"I believe all families deserve an environment where parents and newborns get an opportunity to bond without the worry of work demands and stresses of a reduced income," said Mayor Lenny Curry. "This new employee benefit recognizes the importance of our employees' families, and the valuable bonding time after the birth or adoption of a child."

Tentative agreements have been reached by the City and union bargaining agents. Following ratification by City Council, expected in early October, the City of Jacksonville would be among few city governments in the state to offer a paid parental leave policy.



Shown are members with Officer Deloris Patterson standing (l-r) Patsy Phillips, Zone 5 Officer Deloris Patterson, Francis Watson, Reverend Jesse Perry, Connie Lusco, Myrna Perry, Flora Watson, William Hill, Mami Hill Gwen Douglass and Yvonne Wheeler; Seated (l-r) Sara Gardner, Pauline Davis, Francis Alexander, Doris Swinton, and Addie Ford.

Seniors Meet Monthly to Eat, Pray and Love

Katharine Graham once said, "No one can avoid aging, but aging productively is something else." The senior citizens at Woodlawn Presbyterian Church meet monthly to stay active and educate each other on health and community issues. Their goal is to age productively.

This month, Zone 5 Jacksonville Sheriff's Officer (JSO) Delores Patterson was the guest speaker. Officer Patterson spoke to the seniors regarding crime in the area and how to secure your home as well as the proper use of 911.

Each month, the senior meetings include information on diseases like Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's as well as healthy eating habits. And then there is a little fun in the form of everyone's old time classic – Bingo. The group also embarks on quarterly trips to the Presbyterian Montgomery Center in Starke, Florida. The Center boasts a camp site, conference center and retreat facility. During the fall, church members from around the State of Florida gather for Oktoberfest, which is a day of fellowship, worship and learning.

This year's Oktoberfest will feature worship services, a round table discussion and presentations. "Our monthly meetings are a time to reconnect and discuss our health, pray for our families and reconnect friendships that have lasted a lifetime," said member Addie Frances. Meetings are the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

Dreams Come True Readies for Gator Bowl Championship

Since 1984, Dreams Come True (DCT) has fulfilled the dreams of more than 3,800 children in the Jacksonville area. DCT is the First Coast's only locally-based organization dedicated to using the power of a dream to bring hope and joy to children battling life-threatening illnesses.

No child is ever denied a dream, and no child is ever placed on a waiting list. What has been so unique about the organization is that one hundred percent of all donations go directly toward dream fulfillment.

Last week, twelve children from the agency were appointed as members of the 2018 TaxSlayer Bowl (TSB) Dream Team during a ceremony at TIAA Bank Field. This is the second year that DCT has established a partnership with the Gator Bowl organization.

The dreamers will serve as representatives for TSB, which will give youth a chance to be ambassadors for the organization. Dreams Come True participant Zion Williams, age 15, signed his Certificate of Intent and will now become an official member of the 2018 TGB Dream Team.

Williams was diagnosed with a germ-cell tumor commonly found in the brain. He finished intense proton therapy last year. Dreams Come True sent Williams and his family to Los Angeles this past June for his dream trip. The 2018 Taxslayer Bowl will take place Monday, December 31, 2019, for more visit www.taxslayerbowl.com.

Shown is Zion Tednick with his certificate

FICTITIOUS NAME

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Chapter 865.09 Florida Statue, KIYAN MICHAEL will register with The Division of Corporations, Department of State, State of Florida, the fictitious name, Branded By Christ Ministries, under which it will be doing business at: 11210 Monument Landing Blvd, Jacksonville, Florida 32225.

Why Are the Midterm Elections in the US So Important?

Continued from front

Kemp, who enjoys Trump's support, has purged 591,548 names from the state voter rolls, and is accused in a lawsuit of failing to secure Georgia's voting system, exposing the records of 6 million voters.

Parroting Trump's xenophobic rhetoric, Kemp has vowed to use his Ford pick-up truck "just in case I need to round up criminal illegals and take them home myself".

In Florida, Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum won the Democratic primaries to become the state's first African American gubernatorial nominee, mobilising support among young people, liberals and progressives, and white, Latino and black voters.

Gillum promotes gun control and a repeal of Florida's deadly "stand your ground" self-defence law, a $15 minimum wage, Medicare for all, corporate tax increases to pay for public education, and the abolishment of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

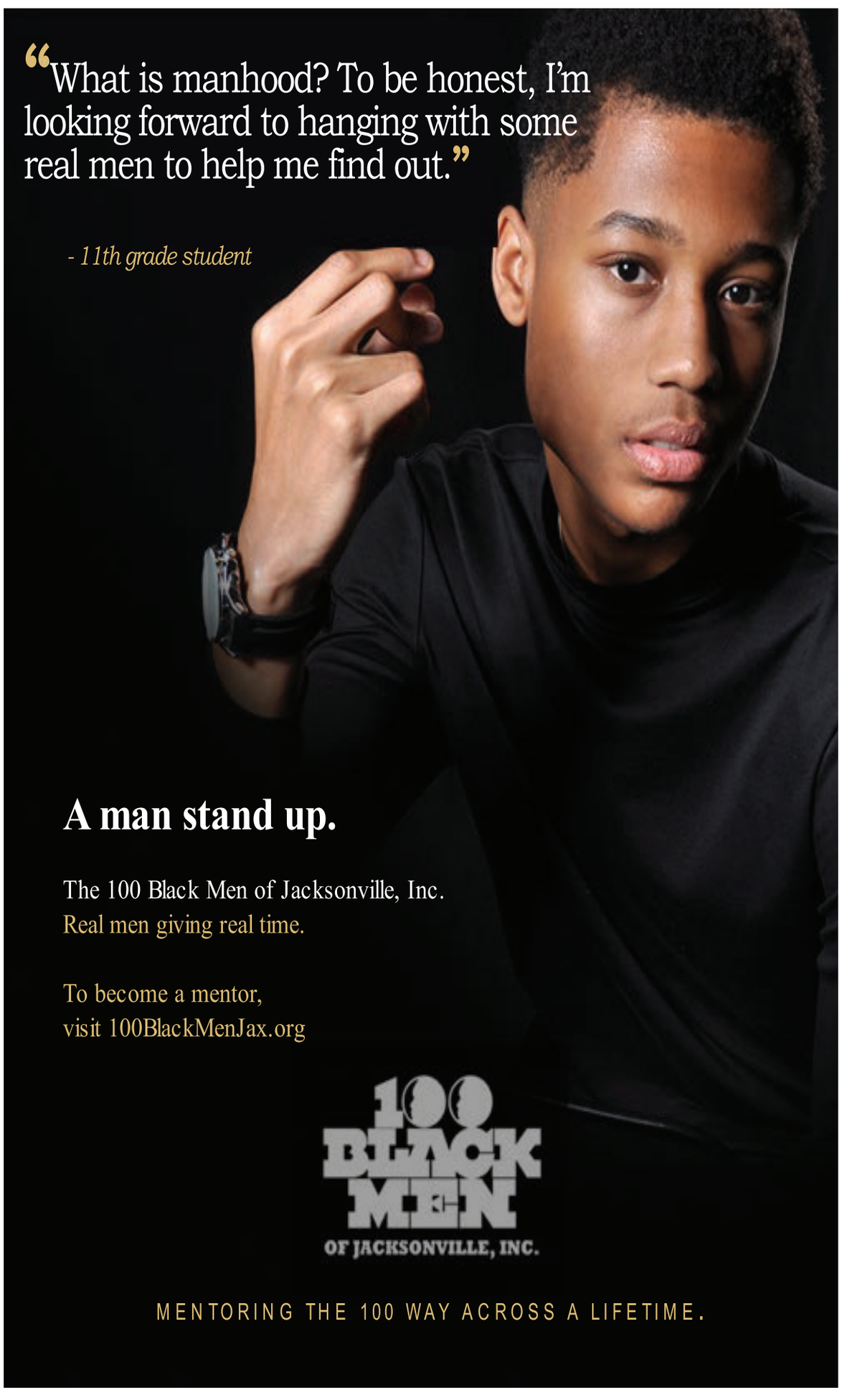
The Republican, Trump-endorsed governor candidate, Ron DeSantis, stirred controversy by using a racial slur in reference to Gillum's politics.

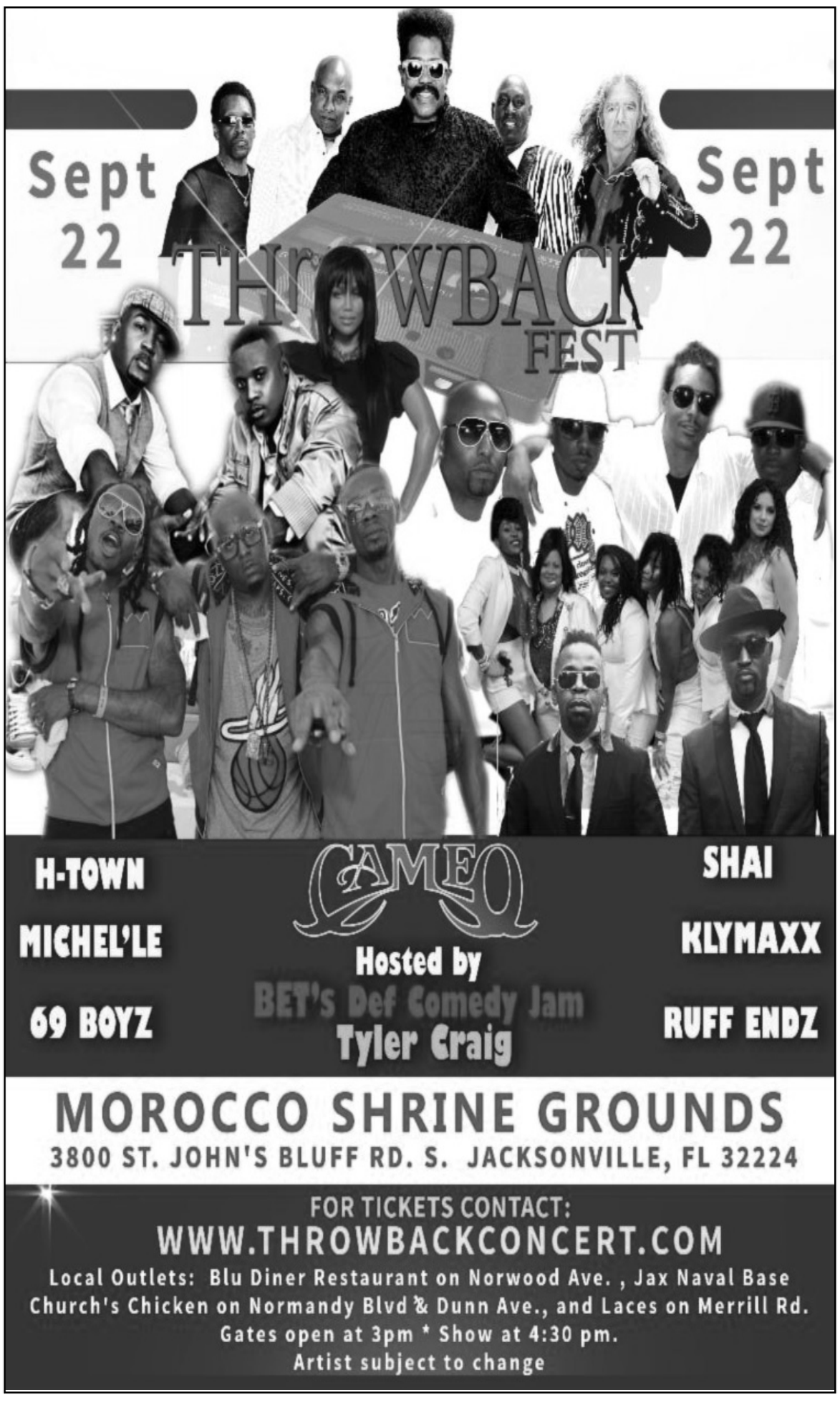
This, as the current governor Rick Scott - a climate-change denier and darling of the pro-gun lobby who made Florida the "Gunshine State" due to its lax firearm laws - runs for the US Senate. Scott has received Trump's blessing but attempted to distance himself from the National Rifle Association (NRA) and from the president, also pandering to Latino voters with a Spanish-language ad conveying the message that he is not Trump.

Latino voters, representing the fastest growing segment of the US population, are poised to influence elections in a number of states. In light of the deaths of nearly 3,000 people last year in Puerto Rico due to government inaction following the devastation of Hurricane Maria, mobilised and displaced Puerto Rican voters in Florida, New York and New Jersey could tip the balance in the midterms.

President Trump, facing a Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation and fearing impeachment if the Democrats take control of Congress, has suggested there will be violence if his party loses the midterms. The Republican Party is also facing an internal crisis, struggling with Trump's divisive politics.

The future of US governance hangs in the balance as the US president wages assaults on the rule of law and government institutions, on democratic norms, national security and the media. A Democratic win at the upcoming midterm elections could upset his bid for re-election in 2020.





City Chronicles

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

Gillum Makes History, But Some Things Don't Change – Racist Politics are Alive and Well

Sometimes African American candidates beat the odds – even when most rule them out. Between hard work, a sound strategy and the stars aligning, people like Andrew Gillum can shock the world.

We have seen it before with underdogs like Barack Obama and even locally with candidates like Nat Glover winning a Sheriff's race in a county that had never supported a Black man as the head of police. We also saw it some six years ago with Alvin Brown winning a shocker in the Jacksonville Mayor's race.

Last week, Gillum not only "beat the odds," but he proved that you can't always believe the polls and the pundits. Almost every poll published had the only Black candidate in the Democratic primary finishing in third or fourth place.

Even as the dust was still settling from last Tuesday's election, the Republican gubernatorial primary winner, Congressman Ron DeSantis was already on the attack.

During an interview on "Fox and Friends" the day after the election, DeSantis was asked about his opponent's handling of the economy. The Trump supported Congressman said, "The last thing we need to do is to monkey this up by trying to embrace a socialist agenda with huge tax increases and bankrupting the state."

Many people were offended by the reference, considering the fact that African Americans are often times referred to as monkeys by racists. The DeSantis campaign said that the criticism was an overreaction and the comment was taken out of context.

The comments were probably the first indication of what is to come. The Trump brand of politics is win by any means necessary with fear and racism being the main weapons in the arsenal.

And for those who think that it's just politics – well it's not. Of course, anyone with commonsense knows that Trump is a very insecure man on top of being a bigot. This is a man that has made fun of prisoners of war, special needs individuals, and continues to degrade minorities and women.

There is an old saying, "Entertain a clown and become a part of the circus."

Well, the circus has set up shop in the White House. In fact, it seems like every day there is a new unbelievable act that is more preposterous than the day before.

Well America, half of us elected a clown, and as P.T. Barnum once said, "Clowns are the pegs on which the circus is hung."

It has been said that absolute power corrupts absolutely. Republicans have unreserved power in Washington DC and their ringleader is out of control.

Back to DeSantis for a moment – this is a candidate that didn't run on a particular vision for Florida or on any policy experience, but ran primarily touting his Donald Trump endorsement. His TV commercials were comical because he basically stroked Trump's ego and appealed to the man's delusional followers.

So with the support of the Donald and his disciples, what's next for DeSantis? Well, that's easy - use the Trump playbook. First you subtly drop hints about your opponent's race, which fires up those in your base of voters that are bigots.

The next move is an old politics 101 stunt – get a third party group to start attacking your opponent from every angle possible. But someone or some group has taken it to the next level.

It's one thing if we were just talking about the monkey comment, but a new robo call circulating to voters has taken race politics to a new level.

According to the *New York Times*, the call says, "Well, hello there," the call begins as the sounds of drums and monkeys can be heard in the background, "I is Andrew Gillum. We Negroes . . . done made mud huts while white folk waste a bunch of time making their home out of wood an' stone."

No, I am not making this foolishness up. The recording goes on to say he'll pass a law letting African Americans evade arrest "if the Negro know fo' sho' he didn't do nothin'." Talk about taking race politics and bigotry to a new level – someone has decided that decency and campaign rules don't mean anything.

A disclaimer at the end of the robo-call says it was produced by the Road to Power, a white-supremacist and anti-Semitic group based in Idaho.

The DeSantis campaign and other Republicans have spoken out against the calls, but the damage is done. The battle for Governor in Florida may come down to race and Donald Trump politics versus the progressive politics of Gillum and the Bernie Sanders machine.

Yes, it is 2018 and we are still having some of the same conversations we had during the Civil Rights era. James Baldwin said it best, "Color is not a human or a personal reality; it is a political reality."

Signing off from the Jacksonville Branch of the NAACP, Reggie Fullwood

GUEST EDITORIAL by Marc Morial

Stop Kavanaugh: President Trump's Supreme Court Nominee Must Not Join the High Court

There are many words one could use to describe President Trump's White House, but you might be hard pressed to choose "transparent" as one of them. It should come as no surprise to anyone who even casually follows politics that a president who bucks decades of tradition and refuses (to this day) to release his tax returns is offering the American public a nominee for the Supreme Court whose public record of work remains largely unknown and unavailable.

Unfortunately, Trump's campaign and subsequent presidency has acclimated much of the public, and many of our political leaders, to lowered expectations of open and transparent governance, but this growing tolerance for the erosion of institutional democratic norms must stop now or our nation's highest court, and the hard-fought-for gains of human and civil rights groups, will be lost for generations to come.

If the past is prologue, Judge Brett Kavanaugh will do the civil rights community no favors as a sitting Supreme Court justice. From what we can glean from his court decisions, Judge Kavanaugh has a strong record of ruling against policies and protections that seek to address injustices levied on marginalized communities.

Concerned citizens can call 202-224-3121 to tell their Senators to vote no on Kavanaugh's confirmation.

In 2011, President Obama's administration blocked a South Carolina law requiring residents to show photo ID before voting. In 2012, Judge Kavanaugh wrote an opinion upholding that very same law. In a keynote address to the Heritage Foundation, Judge Kavanaugh shared his view that the Supreme Court was wrong to uphold the Affordable Care Act's insurance mandate as constitutional.

When fundamental liberties are at stake, the public and our Congress must act. To fully evaluate what kind of justice Judge Kavanaugh will be, we must know what kind of justice and public servant he has been. This is why the National Urban League has joined forces with sister civil rights organizations to demand that Judge Kavanaugh's September 4 confirmation hearing be delayed until his entire record can be fully, impartially and carefully examined by the Senate. Based on the research compiled by the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights Under Law and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, he is not fit to serve on the nation's highest court.

A rushed nomination process conducted without the full trove of government documents and records related to his nomination will leave a cloud of illegitimacy hanging over any eventual nomination and it will undermine the public's confidence in our nation's highest court. A Supreme Court appointment is a lifetime appointment. In the recent past, requesting and receiving all relevant documentation and records was the norm. That should remain the case today, especially when so many rights and liberties hang in the balance.

Just because a president, who has the constitutional duty and authority to fill court vacancies, nominates a justice, it is not a foregone conclusion that the nominee will make it to the bench—just ask Merrick Garland, President Obama's pick to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia. In the 229-year history of the Supreme Court, presidents, beginning with George Washington, have nominated 163 men and the occasional woman for the Supreme Court, but only 113 have served on our nation's highest court.

There have been moments in our history when our nation has had to fight to ensure that the court swings more towards justice and not a particular partisan ideology. While Senate Republicans do not need a single vote from Democrats to confirm Judge Kavanaugh, they do need to know that we the people are watching, and come Election Day, we can and will make our thoughts known with our votes.

To continue with the nomination process under this unnecessary and politically damaging cloud of secrecy would be a supremely bad decision that would undermine our nation's judicial branch.

Black Wealth Continues to Plummet and Headed to Hit 0 by 2053

By Charlene Crowell

For years, and particularly in recent months, major news outlets have heralded the nation's robust economic recovery. From rising corporate profits, to lower unemployment, or rising stock prices on Wall Street, many consumers might conclude that financial stability not only returned after the Great Recession, but continues to climb.

But for people of color, and specifically Black America, the state of the economy has not recovered. Instead of low unemployment, many who were laid off during the foreclosure crisis today are underemployed and cope with paychecks that lead to more month than money. Recent college graduates remain living with their parents, often due to burdensome student debt that delays them setting up their own households. And according to a recent report by the Federal Reserve, a single $400 unexpected expense led to borrowing, selling something or not being able to pay for four in 10 adults last year.

These seldom unacknowledged financial disparities emerged during testimony at a Capitol Hill hearing on August 21. A subcommittee of the U.S. Senate's Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions heard and learned about how a history of economic exclusion, combined with a more recent wealth shift to the top 10 percent of income earners, leads to a bleak financial future for people of color.

Scott Astrada, Federal Advocacy Director for the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), testified to the "fear, anxiety and despair facing millions of Americans as they look toward a financial future plagued with uncertainty and loss."

Citing data from multiple recent research reports, Astrada noted a still-growing economic divide that has worsened since the Great Recession. Today, the wealthiest 10 percent now own 76 percent of the nation's wealth, and the median net worth of Blacks and Latins are respectively $11,000 and $14,000. Further, the May 2018 Federal Reserve's Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2017, found that fewer than 40 percent of adults feel they are on track to retire with adequate savings, and 25 percent have no retirement savings at all.

For households of color, the Great Recession erased the economic progress made over the past three decades in their entirety. If current trends continue, it will take 228 years for the average Black family to reach the level of wealth White families own today. For the average Latino family, matching the wealth of White families will take 84 years. Ultimately, if current trends continue Black household wealth is on the path to hit zero by 2053."

Two long-standing federal policies were cited as key components to today's financial disparities: government-backed mortgages and Social Security. Both federal programs, according to Astrada, have a sordid history of discrimination that brought long-lasting and significantly diminished and deliberate federal efforts to diminish the financial well-being of Black Americans.

In 1935, the year that Social Security began as a financial safety net for older Americans, the New Deal program excluded domestic and farm workers. Representing nearly a third of the nation's workforce in the 1930s, these Americans were also largely people of color. A 2017 publication jointly released by Prosperity Now and the Institute for Policy Studies, The Road to Zero Wealth, tallied that long-time economic exclusion to be approximately $143 billion in 2016 dollars.

Fast forward to 2018, and generations of lower wages and benefits translates into nearly a third of Black retirees relying solely upon Social Security as the sole source of retirement income for more than half of retirees for all races.

Similarly from 1934 to 1968, widespread redlining in the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) low-down payment, government-backed mort-gages denied Blacks and other people of color opportunities to build and transfer wealth from one generation to another. During this 34-year span, only two percent of FHA mortgages were available to people of color. In just one city, Chicago, this three-de-cade exclusion shortchanged Black Chicagoans by $3 billion in 2017 dollars.

"The harm of homeownership disparities," added Astrada, "is especially clear when considering that two-thirds of the net wealth that is held by the middle 60 percent of families is in the form of home equity, resulting from, among other factors, invested wealth and appreciation."

The lack of convenient access to full-service banking was identified by Astrada as a third factor diminishing Black wealth. Communities of color, particularly those with low-incomes, frequently lack access to traditional banking. Often these same communities are where high-cost, alternative financial services offering check-cashing, money orders, or payday loans sell their predatory products.

"Individuals cannot simply save and borrow as necessary to smooth dips and spikes without access to affordable and wealth building credit," said Astrada. "Predatory lending ensnares families already in emergency situations."

Since the onset of the Trump Administration, multiple federal agencies such as the Department of Education and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have emphasized the need for more consumer information.

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MAILING ADDRESS
P.O. Box 43580
Jacksonville, FL 32203

PHYSICAL ADDRESS
1122 W. Edgewood Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32208
Email: JfreePress@aol.com

TELEPHONE
(904) 634-1993
Fax (904) 765-8611

Sylvia Perry
PUBLISHER

Rita Perry
Publisher Emeritus

Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce

CONTRIBUTORS: Lynn Jones, Charles Griggs, Camilla Thompson, Reginald Fullwood, E.O.Huthchinson, William Reed, Andre X, Brenda Burwell, Marsha Oliver, Marretta Latimer, Phyllis Mack, Tonya Austin, Carlottra Guyton, Brenda Burwell, Rhonda Silver, Vickie Brown, Rahman Johnson, Headshots, William Jackson.

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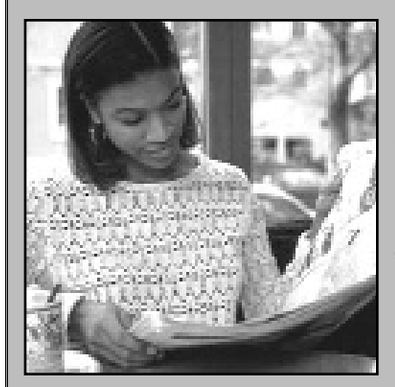

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For the Week of Sept. 4 - 10, 2018

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE™

PV Sports Photo

AIMING HIGH

BIG TEST: Prarie View and 5-6, 175-pound RB Dawonya Tucker have big test this week vs. FCS No. 4 Sam Houston State.

32 HBCU PRODUCTS ON OPENING DAY NFL ROSTERS; NC A&T UP TO FIFTH IN FCS POLL

2018 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

	DIV		CONF		ALL	
NORTH DIVISION	W	L	W	L	W	L
Virginia Union	0	0	0	0	1	0
Elizabeth City State	0	0	0	0	1	0
Virginia State	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bowie State	0	0	0	0	0	1
Chowan	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	1
SOUTH DIVISION						
Fayetteville State	0	0	1	0	1	0
Winston-Salem State	0	0	0	0	1	0
Livingstone	0	0	0	0	0	1
Johnson C. Smith	0	0	0	0	0	1
Saint Augustine's	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shaw	0	0	0	0	0	1

CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

QB - Darius Taylor, **VUU -** 13 of 21 passes for 181 yards and TD tosses of 69 and 13 yards in win over Seton Hill.
OB - Tabyus Taylor, RB, **VUU** - 25 carries, 175 yards, 3 TDs (29, 3, 2), 2-yarder in OT. 13-yard scoring catch.
DL - Marckus Crutchefield, DE, **FSU -** 6 tackles, 4 TFL for -23 yards including 2 sacks (-15 yds.) in shutout of Lincoln.
LB - Tyrone Glanton, VUU - 15 tackles in win over Seton Hill.
WR - Lensana Sesay, BSU - Had 4 receptions for 89 yards and a 14-yard TD catch vs. Wagner.
DB - Tovias Parker, **VUU -** 6 tackles, 2 ints. incl. pick in OT that stopped Seton Hill's possession.
SPECIAL TEAMS - Gene Carson, PK, **BSU -** Kicked thru 3 FGs (33, 42, 20) in loss to Wagner.
COACH - Dr. William Parker - Got win in initial game as Panthers' coach in OT vs. Seton Hill.

MEAC Mid Eastern Athletic Conference

	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
N. Carolina A&T State	0	0	2	0
Florida A&M	0	0	1	0
Norfolk State	0	0	1	0
Howard	0	0	0	1
Bethune-Cookman	0	0	0	1
N. Carolina Central	0	0	0	1
S. Carolina State	0	0	0	1
Delaware State	0	0	0	1
Morgan State	0	0	0	1
Savannah State	0	0	0	1

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
Caylin Newton, So., QB, **Howard -** 532 yards of total offense, 26 of 52 passes, 439 yards, 3 TDs, 93 rushing yards, TD.
ROOKIE
Xavier Smith, R-FR. WR, **FLORIDA A&M -** Had TD reception and led Rattlers in receiving yards vs. FVSU.
DEFENSE
Mac McCain III, So., DB, **N. CAROLINA A&T -** Team-high 11 tackles with nterception returned 100 yards to paydirt for A&T's first score in win over ESU.
SPECIALIST
Yahia Aly, PK, **FLORIDA A&M -** Hit on school-record six field goals in win over Fort Valley State.
OFFENSIVE LINEMAN
James Holman, HOWARD
Craig Rodwell, NORFOLK STATE

SIAC Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

	CONF		ALL	
EAST DIVISION	W	L	W	L
Morehouse	0	0	1	0
Benedict	0	0	0	1
Albany State	0	0	0	1
Clark Atlanta	0	0	0	1
Fort Valley State	0	0	0	1
WEST DIVISION				
Lane	0	0	0	1
Tuskegee	0	0	0	1
Miles	0	0	0	1
Kentucky State	0	0	0	1
Central State	0	0	0	1

SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
Santo Dunn, RB, **MOREHOUSE -** Ran 14 times for 159 yards and two TDs (77, 31) in win over Arkansas-Pine Bluff.
DEFENSE
Julien Turner, Jr., LB, **MOREHOUSE -** Led Tiger defense with 12 tackles, one sack vs. UAPB.
NEWCOMER
Ben Goins, Fr., DB, **MOREHOUSE -** 8 tackles, a sack, forced fumble and recovery in final minutes to preserved win over Arkansas-Pine Bluff.
SPECIAL TEAMS
Carlos Saldana, PK, **CLARK ATLANTA** - Hit on all three FG attempts (43, 26 and 24) and three PATS vs. Miss. College.

SWAC Southwestern Athletic Conference

	DIV		ALL	
EAST DIVISION	W	L	W	L
Alabama A&M	0	0	1	0
Alabama State	0	0	1	0
Alcorn State	0	0	0	1
Jackson State	0	0	0	1
Miss. Valley State	0	0	0	1
WEST DIVISION				
Texas Southern	0	0	1	0
Prairie View A&M	0	0	1	1
Southern	0	0	0	1
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	0	0	0	1
Grambling State	0	0	0	1

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
Dawonya Tucker, Jr., RB, **PRAIRIE VIEW** - 25 carries, 247 yards including a 50-yard TD run in win over NC Central.Also had a 68-yard run in the win.
DEFENSE
Urik Bethune, LB, **ALABAMA A&M** - Four tackles, 2 solos, 2.5 TFL and 1.5 sacks in win over Miles.
SPECIALIST
Ezra Gray, RB/KR, **ALABAMA STATE -** Had 46 yards on two KO returns with a long of 35, also had 11 carries for 66 yards including a 30-yard TD run in OT. Had 2 receptions for 11 yards .
NEWCOMER
Josh Wilkes, Jr., WR, **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF** - Had 244 receiving yards on 7 catches and 2 TDs (37, 77) in loss to Morehouse.

INDEPENDENTS

	W	L
Hampton	1	0
Tennessee State	1	0
W. Va. State	1	0
Lincoln (Mo.)	1	0
Langston	0	0
Allen	0	0
Texas College	0	0
Va. Univ. of Lynchburg	0	0
Edward Waters	0	2

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
Michael Hughes, QB, **TENNESSEE STATE -** Completed 11 of 18 passes for 170 yards and a 20-yard TD pitch without an interception in win over Bethune-Cookman.
Calil Wilkins, Jr., RB, **W. VA. STATE -** Ran for 138 yards on 25 carries with 2 TDs and caught 3 passes for 39 yards and a score in loss to Charleston.
DEFENSE
Blair Edwards, DB, **TENNESSEE STATE -** Led Tigers with 7 tackles, one sack, one pass break-up and 1.5 tackles for loss vs. B-CU.
SPECIAL TEAMS
Ohmante Jenkins, **HAMPTON -** Blocked punt vs. Shaw resulting in TD.

SCORES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30
Alab.-Birmingham 52, Savannah State 0
Campbell 49, Chowan 26
Charleston 35, West. Va. State 31
Lindsey Wilson 50, Edward Waters 13
Mississippi College 31, Clark Atlanta 30
North Dakota 35, Miss. Valley State 7
Pikeville 52, Livingstone 23
Wagner 40, Bowie State 23
Wingate 36, Johnson C. Smith 0

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
Alabama A&M 37, Miles 0
Alabama State 26, Tuskegee 20, OT
Buffalo 48, Delaware State 10
Elizabeth City State 19, Central State 10
Fayetteville State 32, Lincoln (Pa.) 0
Florida A&M 41, Fort Valley State 7
Florida Tech 33, Benedict 14
Ga.Southern 37, S. Carolina State 6
Georgia Tech 41, Alcorn State 0
Hampton 38, Shaw 10
Jacksonville 65, St. Augustine's 14
La.-Lafayette 49, Grambling State 17
Lincoln (Mo.) 10, Lane 7
Morehouse 34, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 30
Norfolk State 34, Virginia State 13
Ohio 38, Howard 32
Slippery Rock 39, Kentucky State 31
Southern Miss 55, Jackson State 7
TCU 55, Southern 7
Tenn. State 34, Bethune-Cookman 3
Towson 36, Morgan State 10
Texas Southern 26, UT-Permian Basin 16
Valdosta State 45, Albany State 14
Virginia Union 34, Seton Hill 28

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
North Carolina A&T 28, East Carolina 23
Prairie View A&M 40, NC Central 24
Winston-Salem State 23, UNC Pembroke 20

FOOTBALL GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Missouri State vs. Lincoln (MO) in Springfield, MO	6p
West Alabama vs. Miles in Livingston, AL	6p

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Central Connecticut State vs. Lincoln (PA) in New Britain, CT	6p

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Alderson Broaddus vs. Bowie State in Philippi, WV	12n
Robert Morris vs. Virginia State in Moon Township, PA	12n
Saint Francis (PA) vs. Delaware State in Loretto, PA	12n
West Virginia State vs Virginia-Wise in Institute, WV	12n
Central State vs. Clark Atlanta in Wilberforce, OH	1p
Mars Hill vs. Shaw in Mars Hill, NC	1p
Point vs Edward Waters in Valley, AL	1:30p
Lane vs. Morehouse in Jackson, TN	2p
Langston vs. Ottawa in Langston, O	2p
Allen vs. Livingstone in Irmo, SC	3p
Akron vs. Morgan State in Akron, OH	3:30p
Bethune-Cookman vs. Va-Lynchburg in Daytona Beach, FL	4p
Kentucky State vs. McKendree in Frankfort, KY	4p
Alabama A&M vs. North Alabama in Huntsville, AL	6p
Alcorn State vs. Louisiana College in Lorman, MS	6p
Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Cumberland in Pine Bluff, AR	6p
Albany State vs. Tuskegee in Phenix City, AL	4p
Northwestern State vs. Grambling State in Natchitoches, LA	6p
Miami vs. Savannah State in Coral Gables, FL	6p
NC Central vs. Saint Augustine's in Durham, NC	6p
Norfolk State vs. James Madison in Norfolk, VA	6p
Wingate vs. Fayetteville State in Wingate, NC	6p
Jacksonville State vs. Miss Valley State in Jacksonville, AL	6p
Davidson vs. Chowan in Davidson, NC	7p
UNC Pembroke vs. Elizabeth City State in Pembroke, NC	7p
CLASSICS	
Willard Bailey Classic	
Virginia Union vs. Carson-Newman in Richmond, VA	1p
29th Southern Heritage Classic	
Tennessee State vs. Jackson State in Memphis, TN	6p
TV GAMES - INTERNET WEBCASTS	
Monmouth vs. Hampton in West Long Branch, NJ - ESPN+ $	3p
Kent State vs. Howard in Kent, OH - ESPN+ $	3:30p
White Water Classic - FloFootball-$ | ESPN3	
Louisiana Tech vs. Southern in Ruston, LA - ESPN+ $	6p
Sam Houston State vs. Prairie View A&M in Huntsville, TX - ESPN+ $	6p
Texas State vs. Texas Southern in San Marcos, TX - ESPN3	6p
Troy vs. Florida A&M in Troy, AL - ESPN+ $	6p
Central Florida vs. SC State in Orlando, Fla. - ESPN3	6p
J. C. Smith vs. Benedict in Charlotte, NC - Eddie McGirt Classic - CIAA Sports Network	6p
NC A&T vs. Gardner-Webb in Greensboro, NC - FloFootball-$	6p
Auburn vs. Alabama State in Auburn, AL - SEC Network | Watch ESPN	6:30p
Fort Valley State vs. Valdosta State in Waycross, GA - ESPN3	7p

BCSP FOOTBALL TOP TEN

1. **NORTH CAROLINA A&T** (1-0) - Knocked off FBS East Carolina, 28-23. **NEXT:** Hosting Gardner-Webb.
2. **PRAIRIE VIEW A&M** (1-1) - Ran by NC Central 40-24 in MEAC/SWAC Challenge. **NEXT:** Taking on FCS No. 4 Sam Houston State in Huntsville, Alabama.
3. **HOWARD** (0-1) - Battled gamely before falling at Ohio, 38-32. **NEXT:** At Kent State.
4. **GRAMBLING STATE** (0-1) - Fell hard to La.-Lafayette, 49-17. **NEXT:** At Northwestern State.
5. **TENNESSEE STATE** (1-0) - Humbled BCSP No. 7 Bethune-Cookman, 34-3. **NEXT:** Facing Jackson State in Memphis.
6. **ALCORN STATE** (0-1) - Shut out at Georgia Tech, 41-0. **NEXT:** Hosting Louisiana College.
7. **NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL** (0-1) - Fell to Prarie View in MEAC/SWAC Challenge, 40-24. **NEXT:** Hosting Saint Augustine's.
9. **SOUTHERN** (0-1) - Riddled by TCU, 55-7. **NEXT:** At Louisiana Tech.
10. **BOWIE STATE** (0-1) - Fell to FCS Wagner, 40-23. **NEXT:** At Alderson Broaddus.

Bring on the ranking, ranked teams

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

After its big 28-23 win over FBS East Carolina Sunday, BCSP No. 1 **North Carolina A&T** heads home this week up to No. 5 nationally in the STATS FCS poll and No. 6 nationally in the NCAA FCS Coaches poll. A&T began the season ranked 14th in both polls.

The Aggies (2-0, 0-0 MEAC) will host FCS Big South member Gardner-Webb (1-0) Saturday (6 p. m.), who is coming off a 52-17 win over Div. II Limestone Saturday. Last year during its undefeated 12-0 season, A&T easily handled GWU, 45-3.

Prarie View A&M, up to No. 2 in the BCSP ranking after a big 40-24 win over BCSP No. 6 **North Carolina Central** at the *MEAC/SWAC Challenge*, is one of several HBCU teams facing nationally ranked teams this week.

The Panthers (1-1, 0-0 SWAC W),who got 245 rushing yards from running back **Dawonya Tucker** vs. NCCU, will face Sam Houston State (0-0), the No. 4 ranked FCS team in both the STATS and Coaches polls. The game is set for Huntsville, Alabama Saturday (6 p.m.).

Prairie View Sports Photo

Howard Sports Photo

POTENT OUTPUTS: Prairie View RB Dawonya Tucker (l.) ran for 245 yards in win vs. NC Central Saturday. Howard QB Caylin Newton had 532 yards of total offense, throwing for 439 yards and rushing for 93 in loss to Ohio. Prairie View faces Sam Houston State while Howard is at Kent State.

Norfolk State (1-0, 0-0 MEAC), coming off a 34-13 win over Div. II **CIAA** member **Virginia State**, is hosting FCS No. 2 James Madison (0-1) Saturday (6 p.m.). NSU starting quarterback **Juwan Carter** was disqualified from the VSU game for unsportsmanlike conduct and head coach **Latrell Scott** said Tuesday on the MEAC teleconference, Carter may not play Saturday. If Carter is unavailable, Scott said the team has confidence in back-up QB **D'Andre Thomas** who threw a touchdown pass and guided the Spartans to two other TDs and a field goal.

Alabama State (1-0, 0-0 SWAC E), coming off a dramatic 26-20 win in overtime vs. **Tuskegee**, stays in state for the unenviable task of playing (6:30 p.m.) at Auburn (1-0), ranked as high as No. 9 in the AP FBS national poll.

Savannah State (0-1, 0-0 MEAC) lost at UAB (52-0) and now travels (6 p.m.) to Miami (0-1) who is smarting after a 33-17 loss to LSU.

After its 49-17 loss at La.-Lafayette, BCSP No. 4 **Grambling State** (0-1, 0-0 SWAC W) is on the road again (6 p.m.) at Northwestern State (0-1). No. 3 **Howard** (0-1, 0-0 MEAC) got 532 yards of total offense from QB **Caylin Newton** in a 38-32 loss to FBS MAC favorite Ohio. THe Bison are again in the state of Ohio (3:30 p.m.) to face Kent State (0-1).

Tennessee State (1-0), up to No. 5 in the BCSP ranking after subduing **Bethune-Cookman** 34-3, is in Memphis to face **Jackson State** (0-1) in the *Southern Heritage Classic*.

BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS ON 2018 OPENING DAY NFL ROSTERS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE (AFC - 17)

BALTIMORE (2)				
41	Anthony Levine Sr.	DB	7	Tennessee State
47	De'Lance Turner (PS)	RB	R	Alcorn State
BUFFALO (3)				
20	Rafael Bush	DB	8	South Carolina State
88	Khari Lee	TE	4	Bowie State
7	Cory Carter (IR)	P	1	Texas Southern
CINCINNATI (0)				
CLEVELAND (1)				
30	Montrel Meander (PS)	DB	R	Grambling State
DENVER (1)				
1	Marquette King	P	7	Fort Valley State
HOUSTON (0)				
INDIANAPOLIS (3)				
53	Darius Leonard	LB	R	South Carolina State
68	Grover Stewart	DT	2	Albany State
80	Chester Rogers	WR	3	Grambling State
JACKSONVILLE (0)				
KANSAS CITY (0)				
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS (1)				
68	Trent Scott (PS)	OL	R	Grambling State
MIAMI (1)				
95	William Hayes	DE	11	Winston-Salem State
NEW ENGLAND (0)				
NEW YORK JETS (2)				
40	Trenton Cannon	RB	R	Virginia State
20	Isaiah Crowell	RB	5	Alabama State
OAKLAND (2)				
75	Brandon Parker	OT	R	North Carolina A&T
45	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie	CB	11	Tennessee State
PITTSBURGH (1)				
79	Javon Hargrave	DT	3	South Carolina State
TENNESSEE (0)				

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE (NFC 19)

ARIZONA (3)				
41	Antoine Bethea	S	13	Howard
95	Rodney Gunter	DT	4	Delaware State
10	Chad Williams	WR	2	Grambling State
ATLANTA (0)				
CAROLINA (0)				
CHICAGO (1)				
29	Tarik Cohen	RB	1	North Carolina A&T
DALLAS (1)				
48	Joe Thomas	LB	6	South Carolina State
DETROIT (0)				
GREEN BAY (0)				
LOS ANGELES RAMS (3)				
98	Ryan Davis (IR)	DE	7	Bethune-Cookman
84	Temarrick Hemingway (PS)	TE	3	South Carolina State
11	Khadarel Hodge (PS)	WR	R	Prairie View A&M
MINNESOTA (0)				
NEW ORLEANS (1)				
72	Terron Armstead	T	6	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
NEW YORK GIANTS (2)				
80	Jawill Davis (PS)	WR	R	Bethune-Cookman
30	Antonio Hamilton	DB	3	South Carolina State
PHILADELPHIA (0)				
SAN FRANCISCO (0)				
SEATTLE (0)				
TAMPA BAY (1)				
29	Ryan Smith	DB	3	North Carolina Central
WASHINGTON (3)				
41	Danny Johnson	DB	R	Southern
72	Anthony Lanier II	DE	3	Alabama A&M
84	Darvin Kidsey (PS)	WR	R	Texas Southern

TOTAL 32	(NC)	BY TEAM	
AFC	17 (+2)	Arizona, Buffalo, Indianapolis, LA Rams, Washington	3
NFC	15 (-4)	Baltimore, NY Jets, Oakland, NY Giants	2
BY CONFERENCE		**BY EXPERIENCE**	
MEAC	13 (-4)	Antoine Bethea	13
SWAC	12 (+5)	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie,	
CIAA	3 (+1)	William Hayes	11
INDYS	2 (-2)	Rafael Bush	8
SIAC	2 (-2)		

2018 BCSP NFL REPORT

32 black college products make opening day NFL rosters

Several vets complete moves to new teams; Numbers down by just two; SWAC catching up with MEAC

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

A total of 32 products of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are on opening day NFL rosters after teams cut down to 53-man active rosters and 10-player practice squads this week.

The teams are getting ready for the rousing kickoff to the 2018-19 NFL season which begins Thursday when the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles host the Atlanta Falcons. A full slate of 13 games will take place Sunday with two games on Monday culminating with the Los Angeles Rams at the Oakland Raiders late Monday night.

Other than the fact the black college player numbers are down just two from a year ago, the biggest differences this year are the new landing spots for some key players.

Former **Fort Valley State** punter **Marquette King**, after six years in the Oakland Raiders' silver and black, is now with their AFC West Division rival Denver Broncos.

Former **Tennessee State** first round draft choice **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie** is at Oakland, his fifth team after being drafted by Arizona and playing for Philadelphia, Denver and most recently the New York Giants.

Alabama State product **Isaiah Crowell** left Cleveland after four productive years at running back to join the New York Jets.

Standout linebacker **Joe Thomas** out of **South Carolina State** has moved on after five years in Green Bay to join Dallas.

Fellow former South Carolina State defenders **Rafael Bush** and **Antonio Hamilton** also have new digs. Bush will be playing for Buffalo, his fifth team after stints with Atlanta, Denver, Detroit and two different rides with New Orleans. Hamilton moved on from Oakland and is now with the New York Giants.

NEW DIGS: Running back Isaiah Crowell (l.) left Cleveland and now plays for the New York Jets while punter Marquette King (r.) departed Oakland and is now in Denver.

Twenty-three (23) of the HBCU products are on 53-man active rosters. They include the three 2018 draft choices – SC State linebacker **Darius Leonard** with Indianapolis, **N. C. A&T** lineman **Brandon Parker** with Oakland and **Virginia State** running back **Trenton Cannon** with the New York Jets.

Another seven (7), including five rookies, landed on Practice Squads (PS). Two HBCU players (**Ryan Davis**, a veteran defensive lineman out of **Bethune-Cookman** and **Cory Carter,** a rookie punter from **Texas Southern**) are on Injured Reserve (IR) meaning they could be designated for return later this season.

Notably absent are veteran free agents **Justin Durant** and **Chris Baker (Hampton)**, **Eric Weems (B-CU)** and **Don Carey (Norfolk State).** Former **Howard** and current Arizona safety **Antoine Bethea** is the dean of HBCU players entering his 13th year in the league.

South Carolina State tops the list with six players in the league. **Grambling State**, with two rookies on practice squads, has four. Five NFL teams (Arizona, Buffalo, Indy, the LA Rams and Washington) have three HBCU products. Thirteen of the players hail from MEAC schools and 12 are from the SWAC

BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS IN THE NFL BY SCHOOL

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (6)	
Rafael Bush	Buffalo
Antonio Hamilton	NY Giants
Javon Hargrave	Pittsburgh
Temarrick Hemingway	LA Rams
Darius Leonard	Indianapolis
Joe Thomas	Dallas
GRAMBLING STATE (4)	
Montrel Meander	Cleveland
Chester Rogers	Indianapolis
Trent Scott	LA Chargers
Chad Williams	Arizona
BETHUNE-COOKMAN (2)	
Ryan Davis	LA Rams
Jawill Davis	NY Giants
NORTH CAROLINA A&T (2)	
Tarik Cohen	Chicago
Brandon Parker	Oakland
TENNESSEE STATE (2)	
Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie	Oakland
Anthony Levine Sr.	Baltimore
TEXAS SOUTHERN (2)	
Cory Carter	Buffalo
Darvin Kidsey	Washington
ALABAMA STATE (1)	
Isaiah Crowell	NY Jets
ALABAMA A&M (1)	
Anthony Lanier II	Washington
ALBANY STATE (1)	
Grover Stewart	Indianapolis
ALCORN STATE (1)	
De'Lance Turner	Baltimore
ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF (1)	
Terron Armstead	New Orleans
BOWIE STATE (1)	
Khari Lee	Buffalo
DELAWARE STATE (1)	
Rodney Gunter	Arizona
FORT VALLEY STATE (1)	
Marquette King	Denver
HOWARD (1)	
Antoine Bethea	Arizona
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL (1)	
Ryan Smith	Tampa Bay
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M (1)	
Khadarel Hodge	LA Rams
SOUTHERN (1)	
Danny Johnson	Washington
VIRGINIA STATE (1)	
Trenton Cannon	NY Jets
WINSTON-SALEM STATE (1)	
William Hayes	Miami

SCHOOLS WITH MOST PLAYERS IN NFL

South Carolina State	6
Grambling State	4
Bethune-Cookman, N. Carolina A&T, Tennesee State, Texas Southern	2

BY POSITION

DB (CB or S, NC)	8
DL (DT or DE, -2)	6
REC (TE or WR, +2)	7
LB (-2)	2
OL (T or G, -2)	3
RB (FB or RB, +1)	4
QB (NC)	0
Punter (+1)	2

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.

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church Patronal Feast Day Celebration

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church located at 5235 Moncrief Road West Patronal Feast Day Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, September 30th at 10 a.m. Guest Speaker will be Reverend Dr. Randolph Bracy, co-founder and retired pastor of New Covenant Baptist Church in Orlando, Florida. This year's theme is "Following the Shepherd," (John 10:27). For further info contact Richardean Wright at (904) 509-1903.

Min. Davis Presents "Pop Life"

Minister Octavius Davis presents "The POP Life" a motivational speaking 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 call (904) 807-2010.

Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church Annual Patriotic Prayer Breakfast

Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church located at 2407 Rev S.L. Badger Circle, Usher Ministry #3 annual "Patriotic Prayer Breakfast" is scheduled for Saturday, September 8th at 8 a.m. This year's speaker is centenarian Sollie Mitchell. For tickets contact Elnora Paulk at (904) 353-7458.

MSMBC Women's Conference

Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor R. L. Gundy and the Sinai Sisters In Christ will present their 17th annual Woman's Conference scheduled for Saturday, September 15th, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Women's Conference theme is: "Sisters United in The Oneness of Jesus" from John 17: 20-26. Sister Wallette Gundy is the chairperson. MSMBC is located at 2036 Silver St. For more info contact the church office at (904) 354-7249.

First AME Church Palm Coast Women's Day Program

The Reverend Tracy McGeathey-Lockley pastor of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Lawtey, FL will make her way as the messenger for First Church AME of Palm Coast Women's Day program scheduled for Sunday, September 9th, 10:30 a.m. This year's theme is: "Glorious Women Working for God." White is the chosen attire for the event. All women of the community are invited to hear this powerful preacher and rousing choir. Rev. Gillard S. Glover is the Pastor of First Church located at 91 Old Kings Road North, Palm Coast, FL. For more info call 386-446-5759.

New Fountain Chapel AME Church Holds Women's Conference

New Fountain Chapel AME Church, 737 Jessie St. under the leadership of Pastor Rev. Wendell C. Webster will host their 2018 Women's Conference, scheduled for Sunday, September 16th, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. This year's theme is "Iron Sharpens Iron" from Proverbs 27:17. Speakers are Tiffany Gulama at 10 a.m. and at 4 p.m. hear Reverend Cynthia Hartsfied. To register and for more info visit www.nfcamewomensconference.eventbrite.com.

Summerville Baptist Annual Unity Day Weekend Services

The Summerville Baptist Church congregation where Reverend James W. Henry serves as Pastor cordially invites the community to share in their annual "Unity Day" services. On Saturday, September 15th, at 10 a.m. the church will showcase "The Taste of Summerville." Come taste the cooking skills of church members with special celebrity chef guests and enjoy member's cuisine! On Sunday, September 16th, the festivities continue with the following schedule: Women's program at 11 a.m. with speaker Sister Steve Norris of Mt. Zion Baptist Southside; Youth program at 4 p.m. featuring the youth of Summerville; Men's program at 6 p.m. with speaker Dr. James B Sampson, pastor of First New Zion Baptist. Anticipate a grand time of praise, worship and fellowship with community participation. The church is located at 690 W. 20th St. For additional information contact the church office at (904) 354-8186.

King Solomon United Baptist Church Celebrates its 38th Founders Day

King Solomon United Baptist Church is inviting the community to share in their 38th Founders Day celebration. The festivities take place the month of September with different activities and programs. On Friday, September 21st at 7 p.m. the church will have a banquet at the Doubletree Hotel, 1201 River Place Blvd. Speaker is Reverend Charles Skinner, pastor of Twins Springs Missionary Baptist Church. On Sunday, September 23rd at 10:45 a.m. the church will honor the founders with speakers Pastor Cecil Moore of Brown Grove Baptist Church, East Dublin, GA. Come and enjoy high praise, worship and great fellowship. The church is located at 2240 Forest St. and Reverend Dr. Ronald V. Walters is the Pastor.

Open Door Ministries Banquet

Open Door Ministries Appreciation Banquet will celebrate the 3rd Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Timothy and Lady Nona Jones is scheduled for Friday, October 26th, 7 - 9:30 p.m. Location is the Best Western Gateway Grand, 4200 N.W. 97th Blvd., Gainesville, Florida. This year's theme is "Growing Stronger, Growing Deeper, Reaching Higher". For more info call (352) 339-1733.

NOTICE: Church news is published free of charge. Information must be received in the Free Press offices no later than Monday, at 5 p.m. of the week you want it to run. Information received prior to the event date will be printed on a space available basis until the date. Fax your information to 904-765-8611, e-mail to JFreePress@aol.com or bring by our offices located at 1122 West Edgewood Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32208.

- - - SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING - - -

Do You Love You ?

The road to spiritual salvation is sometimes so obvious, so apparent that we just miss it. Like most of Jesus' message, it doesn't seem possible that by simply changing ones' outlook, the Kingdom of Heaven is yours. "Teacher, which is greatest commandment of the law?" Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is just like it; "Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40. *It is not always through guile and deceit that the devil works his evil. He can accomplish his goals if he can convince you that what is very important is of little matter and no consequence.*

This love thing is pretty well documented throughout the Bible and Christ certainly clarifies its importance in the above passage. Remember this is the Son of God talking. The single most important thing I can do to abide in God's will is to possess love in my heart for God and my fellow man. That's it! If that's as close to a guarantee as we can get, why are many of us hell bent on doing the things that will insure our place at the table in Hell's Kitchen?

I personally think the concept of loving God is pretty easy to comprehend. Most of us, dare I say, are arguably trying to accomplish this in one way or another. It's the loving your neighbor as yourself that's causing the problem. The devil is having a field day with this one. Count how many people you can't stand at this very moment. Take your shoes off and add to your list those people, who if they died tomorrow, you would be among those who would say 'good riddance.' The devil has us so confused and dumbfounded on this issue that we can't see that the hatred we harbor for others, the contempt we feel for people we don't even know, masks an underlying reality that won't allow us to love our neighbor. In actuality, we hate ourselves. You see the devil has tricked us into hating the mirror image of who we really are. Deep down inside we hate in others that which we might become, because we really don't like what we have become.

The devil knows man is not perfect, so he entices us into hating the imperfection of others; their flaws and faults, their weaknesses and shortcomings. All the while, being imperfect ourselves.

Isn't it interesting that most people, who claim being saved, tell you they first had to realize that God through Jesus' sacrifice loved them warts and all? The stories come from former drug addicts, adulterers, petty gossipers, murderers and greedy self-absorbed takers in life, who wished they knew how to have a healthy respectful loving relationship with another human being. One by one, they, we, line up and confess that once we accepted that God indeed loves us, then and only then, are we able to love ourselves and subsequently love others just like they are; all imperfect, all flawed children of God, all welcomed at his eternal table.

God knew you before you knew you and he loved you in spite of what He knew you were going to do or become. As incredible as that sounds, it's true. It's called love. God's point is so simple. If He's got it for you, the least you can do is have it for others. Step back, Satan. I love me and I ain't got nothing, but love for you too.

May God bless and keep you always. - James A. Washington

Dealing with Racial Problems Require More than Multiracial Congregations

Whites in multiracial congregations have more diverse friendship networks and are more comfortable with minorities — but that is more because of the impact of neighbors and friends of other races than due to congregations' influence, a Baylor University study has found.

"Solving America's racial problems may be hoping too much from religious congregations," said Kevin D. Dougherty, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology in Baylor's College of Arts & Sciences and study co-author. "Where people live is more influential than where they worship in shaping racial attitudes."

While a small but growing number of congregations are gathering attendees across racial lines and counting diversity as a central part of their mission, most Americans who attend worship do so mainly with those of their own racial or ethnic line. That is the case in nearly nine of 10 congregations, researchers said.

"The responsibility for moving toward racial integration still rests considerably with the majority group," wrote authors Dougherty and Edward C. Polson, Ph.D., assistant professor in Baylor's Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, in the article.

"People of color were historically excluded from institutions and areas of social life controlled by white Americans – including religious congregations and denominations," Polson said. "Changing this pattern is not an easy thing and generally requires that the group who has historically done the excluding acknowledge the injustices that have led to the current reality and then take steps to foster more inclusive organizations."

For predominantly white congregations or denominations in the U.S., this might mean acknowledging a history of racial discrimination and then taking steps to foster more diverse and inclusive leadership and membership, he said.

White non-Hispanics are the largest racial group in the United States, and the size and cultural prominence of white Americans continue to give this group a position of power in American society, Dougherty said.

The study — "Worshiping across the Color Line: The Influence of Congregational Composition on Whites' Friendship Networks and Racial Attitudes" — is published in the American Sociological Association's journal Sociology of Race and Ethnicity. Researchers analyzed data from Baylor Religion Survey's second wave, collected in fall 2007. The survey was administered by the Gallup Organization to 1,648 respondents in a national random sample of English-speaking adults.

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1880 West Edgewood Avenue

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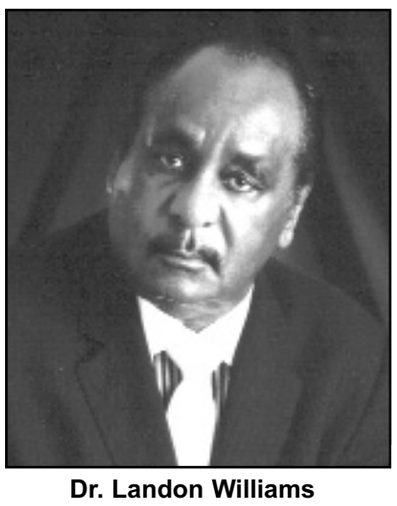
- Matthew 28:19 - 20



Dr. Landon Williams

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9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Tuesday Evening - 7 p.m. Prayer Service
Wednesday - Bible Study 6:30 - 7 p.m.
Mid-Week Worship 7 p.m.
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Senior Pastor

Weekly Services

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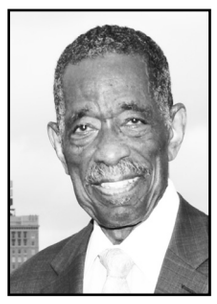
Church school
9:30 a.m.

Bible Study
6:45 p.m.

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



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Why the Lack of Black Men Entering Medicine is Worrisome

A recent medical graduating class is reflective of the diversity in mainstream America's entering doctors

Calvin Lambert recalls entering an empty lecture hall as a first-year medical student, feeling overwhelmed and ill-equipped to handle the rigors of medical school and assimilation to a new environment.

Lambert, 31, who grew up in Roosevelt, New York, an ethnically and racially diverse community, wondered if he would ever fit in.

"I was concerned about how people would accept me; how much of my 'blackness' or 'black experience' did I need to suppress in order to build a social network," Lambert wrote in an email to NBC News. "Would I ever feel like myself in this environment?"

He waited to see if he would be the only black student in the class — an all-too-familiar experience as a pre-med student at New York University — but sighed in relief when he saw four other black men walk into the lecture hall.

"I was unnerved by the idea of 'forcing' myself to fit in to a culture that was seemingly the antithesis of who I am," said Lambert. "So I was relieved to find people whom I could share this experience with … people who looked like me, talked like me, and could understand me."

Lambert was one of eight black men to join the 2015 class at Brown University medical school — the men made up just under 7 percent of the student body that year, slightly above the national average of 6.5 percent, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. He is now a fourth-year obstetrics and gynecology resident at the Howard University College of Medicine.

Even with efforts to increase the number of minority ethnic groups in science and medicine, the proportion of black men pursuing and obtaining degrees in these fields has reached a historic low. In 1986, 57percent of black medical school graduates were men — but by 2015 that number had dropped to just 35 percent, even as the total number of black graduates in all fields had increased. And that downward trend is expected to continue. In fact, fewer black men entered medical school in 2014 than in 1978.

According to a report released earlier this year by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine and the Cobb Institute, a nonprofit organization that works to eliminate health disparities among racial and ethnic groups and racism in medicine, more African-American students attend medical schools today compared with 30 years ago, but the increase is due to greater numbers of black women training to be physicians. The proportion of men among African-American medical students decreased by more than 38 percent over the same period.

And while some believe that more black women are in medical school today because the women are outpacing the men academically, the data does not necessarily support that theory.

Black men men on average have higher scores on the medical college admission test, said Dr. Marc Nivet, Vice President at UT Southwestern Medical Center, but fewer men are getting into medical school. "So we ask ourselves, what are some of the additional barriers that black men face to get into medical school?" said Nivet.

Dr. Louis Sullivan, president emeritus and founding dean of the Morehouse School of Medicine and the secretary of health under President George H.W. Bush, believes that history plays a big role in the current shortage of male African-American physicians.

"Blacks, and especially black males, have always been underrepresented in medicine," Sullivan said. "This stems from slavery and legally enforced segregation."

But, he added, "cost is as much an issue as anything. Given that many black men come from low-income families," the cost of attending medical school "is too high a burden to put on their families."

Nivet believes that schools with a history of accepting greater numbers of black students are underfunded.

"The majority of black doctors come from Spelman, Howard, Xavier and Morehouse," Nivet said. "Those institutions need more resources, both federal and philanthropic, based on their great and historic track record of sending African-Americans to medical school."

Black students often attend underperforming schools in urban areas or come from low-income families, or both. Even those who come from higher-income families are often discouraged from applying by misguided college counselors who cite the high cost of attendance and the perceived lack of preparedness they would encounter if accepted.

(L-R) Dr. Calvin Lambert Jr., Dr. Shakir McLean, Dr. Jerry Nnanabu and Dr. Gregory Barnett — four of the eight black men in Brown University Medical School's 2015 class numbering 120.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OBSTACLES ?

"The obstacles start early and it's hard not to appreciate the interplay between socioeconomic status and race," Nivet said. "To make matters worse, many black men don't have examples of black doctors in their lives. You can't imagine being what you don't see."

Sullivan, 84, recounts the story of how he was introduced to medicine to highlight the importance of early exposure to the field.

"There was only one black physician in southwest Georgia when I grew up," Sullivan said. "His name was Dr. Griffin and he was 44 miles away, in Bainbridge, Georgia. This was during the days of segregation, when black people were seen in separate hospitals or waiting rooms. Black people resented that. My father was an undertaker and operated a funeral home. As a side job he provided ambulance services in the black community. So I met Dr. Griffin with my father when he would bring him patients. I knew early on that I wanted to be like Dr. Griffin."

WHY IS THE INVOLVEMENT OF BLACK MEN IMPORTANT?

Black patients are more likely to feel comfortable with black doctors and more likely to adhere to certain preventive measures delivered by black doctors, research shows. And black doctors are more likely to practice in underserved communities.

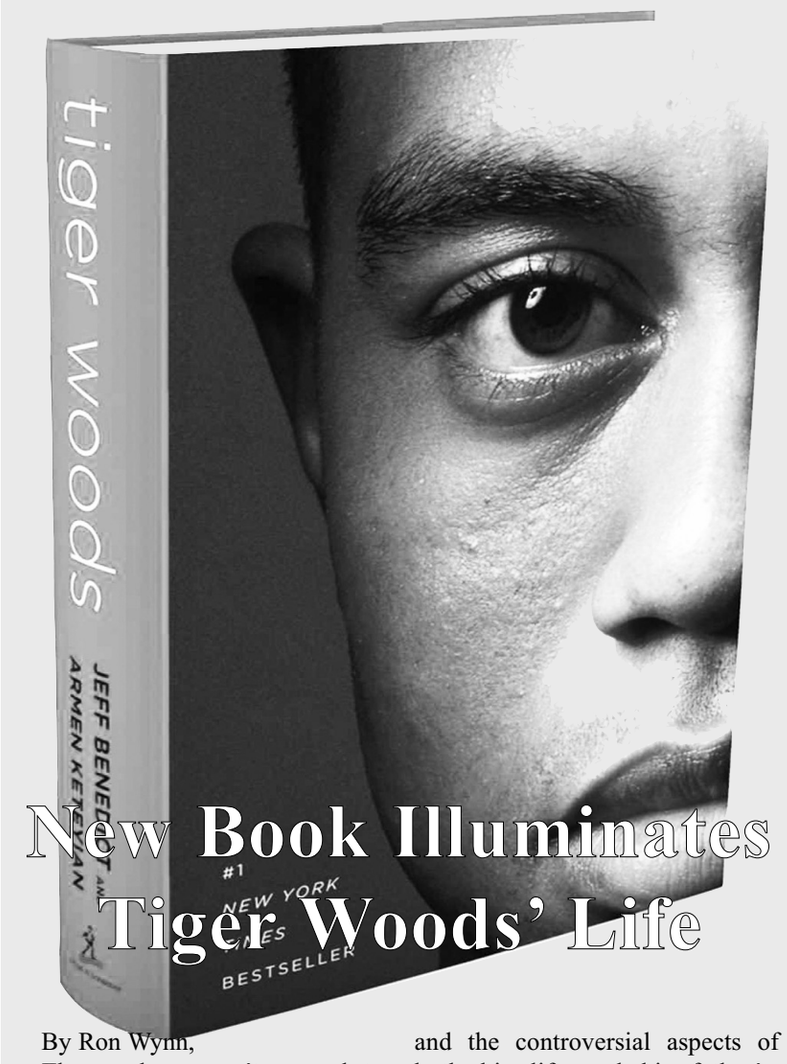
This is especially important given that black men have the lowest life expectancy of any ethnic group in the United States because of higher rates of incarceration, lower socioeconomic status, and greater barriers to health care, resulting in higher rates of chronic disease.

"More black physicians in the system establishes trust in the system," said Dr. Alvin Poussaint, professor of psychiatry and dean of students at Harvard Medical School. An entirely white staff "discourages black people from using those facilities," he said.

Dayle Hodge, 34, of Buffalo, New York, an M.D./Ph.D. candidate at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, believes that stark barriers to entry in medicine exist at every level.

Hodge believes that reshaping academic medicine to make diversity and inclusion an integral part of the institutional fabric is essential to addressing this issue.

"Identifying high-achieving black men is critical," he said. "This is easier when there is increased minority representation on admissions committees, in administrative leadership and in teaching positions."



New Book Illuminates Tiger Woods' Life

By Ron Wynn,

Those who weren't around to witness Tiger Woods in his heyday might wonder why do people still care what happens to a near 43 year-old golfer coming off multiple back operations who hasn't won a major tournament since 2008, and hasn't won anything at all since 2013. But when Woods surged in both the British Open and PGA Tournaments during the late rounds, ratings went through the roof. The final round of this year's PGA, where he shot a 64, his best final score ever in a major, enjoyed an audience surge of 69 percent over last year's telecast. The British Open, where he roared into the lead on the final day before fading, also had a 60 percent audience jump on the final day.

Still, there are plenty of young golfers on the tour, as well as fans, who really didn't see and therefore don't fully understand what the Tiger magic was in its heyday, nor why so many people continue to hope for its return. The new biography "Tiger Woods", co-written by Jeff Benedict and Armen Keteyian helps define that passion.

They spent more than three years compiling "Tiger Woods," interviewing hundreds of people in the process. The resulting biography manages to be ideal for both the obsessive golf fan and those who couldn't care less about the sport.

Benedict and Keteyian describe in detailed fashion the things that made Woods' so great from an early age. There's everything from swing breakdowns and on-course strategy to interviews and observations from caddies and swing coaches, plus insights from past and present agents and managers. So those only concerned with sports information get plenty of that.

But the more important elements for many others will be the extensive look into his background, the impact of his father and mother on his maturation and development, and the controversial aspects of both his life and his father's. Though far from a sordid work, the authors don't sugarcoat or overlook the infidelity or misdeeds of either Woods' father Earl or Tiger himself. They're not condemning so much as reporting, though it's clear there are times and instances where they aren't impressed with his behavior or his treatment of others.

They also reveal his single-minded approach to life, something they credit as being a primary reason he became so great, but also the main cause for his fall. Tiger Woods was brought up to view himself as being so dedicated to being a champion everything else didn't matter. Such things as personal courtesy, recognition of dates and events important to those around him, satisfying or remembering obligations that didn't necessarily lead to more championship opportunities were all considered a secondary priority.

Tiger Woods did so much in a relatively short period of time (roughly 1997-2013) that when you go back and recall some of his exploits it can be mind boggling. He held the career Grand slam before the age of 25. He remains the only golfer in history with multiple streaks of six consecutive tournaments won over PGA seasons. He won the US Amateur title multiple times before dropping out of Stanford. At one point he simultaneously held all four major titles. Woods also holds the record for most consecutive months atop the world golf rankings, and won Player of the Year eleven times.

It's the most extreme long shot that the Tiger Woods of old will return. Many doubt he will win another major, and would just be happy if he won a tournament anywhere. But after reading "Tiger Woods," it's easy to marvel at his accomplishments, yet also acknowledge his flaws and what the decision to emphasize golf over humanity cost him.

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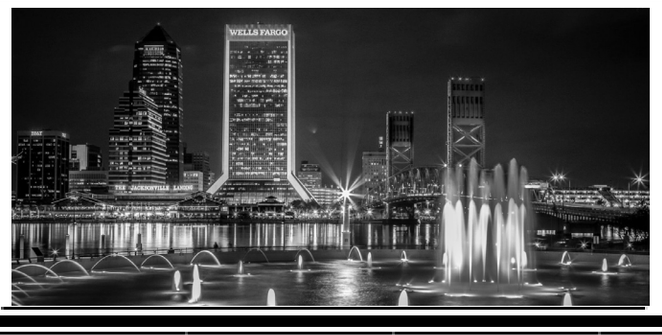

AROUND TOWN

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

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 has hosted numerous shows. For tickets and more info visit www.comedyzone.com.

Community Dialogue on Race & Law

The Northside Coalition will present a "Community Dialogue on Race and Law Enforcement," on Thursday, **September 6th**, 7 p.m. in the FSCJ downtown Main Auditorium. Take an honest look at trust, transparency and accountability between the community and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. For more info call (904) 662-2748.

First Thursdays

The First Thursday entrepreneurial business meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **September 6th,** at 5:30 p.m. at the Urban League Office, 903 Union St. For more info visit www.firstthursdayjacksonville.org.

Puttin on the Ritz

This isn't just a talent show it's "Puttin' On the Ritz." This show will take place Friday, **September 7th,** 7:30 p.m. at the Ritz Theater, 829 N. Davis St. For more info call (904) 504-2763.

American Beach Sankofa Market

The American Beach Sankofa Market & Bazaar are held every second Saturday of the month from 12 - 7 p.m. starting **September 8th** at the American Beach Museum, 1600 Julia St, Fernandina Beach, FL. For more info call (904) 385-0326.

P.R.I.D.E. Book Club Meeting

The People Reading for Inspiration, Discussion and Enjoyment (P.R.I.D.E.) Book Club will host their monthly meeting on Saturday, **September 8th,** at 4 p.m. Host and location is: Jennifer King, 211 Worthington Parkway. The book for discussion is "*Small Great Things*" by Jodi Picoult. For more info call (904) 755-1993.

NCOJ African Culture Celebration

Join the Northside Coalition of Jacksonville as they present "Celebrating Our African American Culture" with education, food, music and family fun Saturday, **September 8th,** 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Party Spot located at 10934 Lem Turner Rd. For more info call (904) 662-2748.

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 visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Jax Bar-B-Que Fest

On Saturday, **September 15th** attend the 2nd Annual Jax Bar-B-Que Fest, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the Jacksonville Landing, 2 Independent Dr. Enjoy a full day of delicious BBQ food, an artist market, kids' zone, two music stages and more! For more information call (904) 353-1188.

Masquerade Extrav Heart & Soul Event

The 2018 "Masquerade Extravaganza Heart and Soul Event," is scheduled for Saturday, **September 15th** at 6 p.m. at the Ramada Conference Center, 3130 Hartley Rd. Guest is actor Tony Grant star of Tyler Perry's "*Love Thy Neighbor*." For tickets contact Diddy Coffee at (904) 576-2692.

NEF Press Club Meeting

The Northeast Florida Press Club will meet Monday, **September 17th**, 5:30 p.m. -8 p.m. at the Casa Marina Hotel, 691 1st St., Jacksonville Beach, FL. Enjoy a mixer, dinner and presentation. For more info call Leigh Cort at (904) 270-0025.

District 10 Meeting

City Council Member Terrance Freeman (District 10) will host a Town Hall meeting on **Tuesday, September 18th**, at the Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Drive Road, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. All interested citizens are welcome to attend. For more info contact Gerrie Ford-Hardin, ECA for District 10 at (904) 630-7231.

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, 1000 Water St. For more info visit www.quiltfest.com.

Chamber North Council Meeting

The Jax Chamber North Council monthly luncheon will take place Thursday, **September 20th,** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, 370 Zoo Parkway. For more info contact Brandy Lewis at brandy.lewis@crossregions.com.

Lemon Ball

The Lemon Ball is scheduled for Thursday, **September 20th** at 6 p.m. at WJCT, 100 Festival Park Ave. Come celebrate Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) to raise funds to support families battling cancer and survivors struggling with treatment side effects. For tickets and more info contact Dallas Hempstead at (904) 556- 7504.

Jax Legal Aid Justice Awards

Piper Kerman, author of '*Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison,*' will deliver the keynote address at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid's annual Equal Justice Awards Thursday, **September 20th,** 5:30 p.m. at the Omni Hotel, 245 Water St. Kerman's memoir was adapted into the Netflix hit series. For tickets visit www.JaxLegalAid.org.

RMHC Steins & Vines

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville's young philanthropists group, The Red Shoe Crew will host their inaugural "Steins & Vines" fundraising event Friday, **September 21st,** 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Intuition Ale Works, 929 E. Bay Street. Perfect for beer and wine enthusiasts featuring live music from The Band Be Easy, appetizers, raffle prizes, and more! For tickets and more info visit www.rmhcjacksonville.org.

UF Black Alumni Association Breakfast

The University of Florida's new Association of Black Alumni (ABA) Jacksonville chapter will host its inaugural Black Alumni Breakfast fundraiser to benefit local students wanting to attend the university, Saturday, **September 22nd,** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Sheraton Hotel Jacksonville, 10605 Deerwood Park Boulevard. Keynote speaker is Jax native Dr. Herman Felton, Jr., President of Wiley College (TX). The topic is "*Rocking The Boat: How Disruption Effects Change Without Making Trouble*." For inquiries email Marques J. Wilkes at ufabajax@gmail.com.

Sister Strut 3K

Sister Strut 3K Breast Cancer Walk is back and will be held at the Jacksonville Landing, Saturday, **September 22nd,** 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. To register and for more info visit www.933thebeatjamz.com.

Magnolia Community Baby Shower

The Magnolia Project Community Baby Shower hosted by Florida House of Representatives District 13 Rep. Tracie Davis is scheduled for Saturday, **September 22nd,** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The event is for women currently or with a new baby, 0 - 2 months living in 32202, 32204, 32206, 32208, 32209, 32219 and 32254. Enjoy food, fun, activities and clothes giveaway! For more info contact Rep Davis office at (904) 353-2180.

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.

I'm A Star Celebrity Basketball Game

This year's I'm A Star Jacksonville HELPS Celebrity Basketball Game is set for Saturday, **September 22nd,** at 6 p.m. at Paxon School for Advanced Studies, located at 3239 Norman E Thagard Blvd. For more info visit www.imastarfoundation.org.

WFA Meeting

The Women's Food Alliance will meet Monday, **September 24th,** 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Palencia Golf Clubhouse, 600 Palencia Club Dr., St. Augustine. Topic is: Hospitality Etiquette Training, a two-Part Interactive Seminar Luncheon to learn the basic rules of etiquette. For tickets contact Leigh Cort at (904) 806-3613.

Chamber Small Business Orientation

The Jacksonville Chamber Small Business Center Orientation and Breakout Sessions will take place Tuesday, **September 25th**, at 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. at JAX Chamber headquarters located at 3 Independent Dr. For more info contact Shirley Moore at (904) 366-6618.

Howie Mandel & Preacher Lawson Show

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

NCOJ Public Health Fair

The Northside Coalition of Jacksonville's health fair is scheduled for Saturday, **September 29th,** 10 a.m. at the Clanzel Brown Community Center, 4575 Moncrief Rd. There will be health screenings, line dancing, games, prizes and food trucks! For more info visit www.NorthsidecoalitionofJackonville.com.

Home and Patio Show

The Jacksonville Home and Patio Show is scheduled for **September 27th - 30th** at the Prime Osborn Center, 1000 Water St. Meet and greet HGTV host and celebrities, home improvements vendors and more! For tickets and more info visit www.jacksonvillefallhomeshow.com.

The Landing Lights Up Summer Finale

On Saturday, **September 29th**, it's The Landing Lights Up Summer finale, 6 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. The Landing, 2 Independent Dr. will light up summer one last time featuring a free concert and fireworks show on the Sleiman Riverfront Stage, 6 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. For more information call (904) 353-1188.

Hurting Families MLK Fashion Show

Hurting Families with Children in Crime, Inc. presents "The Martin Luther King Nations of the World" multicultural fashion show Saturday, **September 29th,** 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Eagles Nest Banquet Hall, 8040 Lone Star Rd. For tickets and more info call (904) 755-9863.

Cultural Awareness Fashion Show

The 2nd Edition Cultural Awareness and Diversification Extravaganza African Fashion Show will feature the Jewelry Box Society of Dancers, African Drumming, taste of Africa and more, Saturday, **September 29th** 6 - 8 p.m. at 5 p.m. at Household of Faith Church Ministry Center, 1410 W. Edgewood Avenue. For more info call (904) 476-6357.

Jazzy Sunday at the Landing

On Sunday, **September 30th**, enjoy Jazzy Sunday with The Katz Downstairz, 6 – 10 p.m. at the Jacksonville Landing, 2 Independent Dr. End your weekend with a jazzy night on the river featuring live music by The Katz Downstairz and drink specials. Personal chairs are welcome. For more info call (904) 353-1188.

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Tyler Perry Offers $200K Reward in Two Florida Missing-Person Cases, Gives Shamed 80s Actor a Job

Shown is Ben Crump, the attorney representing Williams' estate and family, announcing the lawsuit flanked by actor and filmmaker Tyler Perry and Williams' mother, Marcia. Terrance Williams and Felipe Santos are shown in the inset.

Entertainment mogul Tyler Perr has had a very busy week as usual. After attending Aretha Franklin's funeral with the cast of her favorite show, he offered a social media shamed actor a new job and most recently, sponsored a reward. He is offering a $200K reward in the case of the missing-person cases of Terrance Williams and Felipe Santos. Nearly 15 years after two men disappeared within months of each other, a renowned civil rights attorney Ben Crump has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the deputy who last saw the men alive.

The two men went missing in Naples, Florida after being pulled over by Collier County Sheriff corporal Steven Calkins within four months of each other in 2003 and 2004. The deputy was fired during an internal investigation after he became uncooperative and gave conflicting statements. He is considered a person of interest in the men's disappearances.

According to USA Today, Perry and civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump filed a lawsuit alleging that Calkins is responsible for the disappearance of both men. "It was time to press the civil matter in hopes that this lawsuit would bring out some sort of evidence that would lead to criminal convictions," the filmmaker said.

They believe that Calkins and people close to him know what happened to the men. He alleged that the former cop thought he could get away with the disappearances because both men are minorities. "It is wrong for this man to put both of these people in his car in 2004… It's like a jim crow lynching," he asserted. "I can't believe this is happening in America."

The Hollywood mogul got involved with the cases in 2013 and initially offered a $100,000 reward for information to help find Williams and Santos. By doubling the reward and filing a lawsuit, Perry hopes to get a hold of records or information that may not have been made public in the past 15 years.

Geoffrey Owens in the '80s amd the present

New Life Breathed in Cosby Actor's Career

In a new interview with *Good Morning America*, former Cosby Show star Geoffrey Owens says he went from being devastated to elated after he was job shamed over the weekend for working at grocery chain Trader Joe's.

Someone snapped pics of the actor as he was on duty at the New Jersey store. The pictures went viral and the headlines were biting. Many outlets had mocking headlines that

In his interview with Robin Roberts, Owens said that the pictures and headlines did sting, but that the shaming period didn't last long because of the tremendous round of support he was shown as soon as the pictures went viral.

"I really want to thank everybody out there, family, friends, Hollywood, the general public for the amazing support and positivity," said Owens. "I was devastated, but the period of devastation was so short because my wife and I started reading these responses from literally all over the world. So fortunately, the shame part didn't last very long."

Life Post-Cosby

Owens has taught acting classes at Yale and has appeared on several television shows over the years such as The Affair and Lucifer, but he said no job has lasted more than 10 weeks. The Trader Joe's gig gave him the flexibility to audition while earning a steady check. Owens has now quit his grocery store job that he had been at for 15 months because all of the newfound attention made it impossible to remain working there.

But, it's likely that Owens will see a slew of new job offers with all of the eyes on him at the moment and he has a very gracious response to that. "I wouldn't feel comfortable getting acting jobs from this event. I wouldn't mind getting auditions. I wouldn't mind people calling me in to try out for things. I want to get a job because I'm the right person for a job. " he said.

Tyler Perry has already asked Owens to join him in shooting next week for OWN.

Bill Cosby's Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame is Vandalized Again

For the second time in four years, Bill Cosby's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame has been vandalized.

Someone spray-painted the words "Serial Rapist" across the star Monday night, said the Los Angeles Police Department, which is investigating the incident.

Cosby was found guilty in April of sexually assaulting Andrea Constand at his home in 2004. Although Constand's allegations are the only ones that have resulted in criminal charges against the actor-comedian, dozen of other women also have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct.

Someone scrawled a similar message on Cosby's star in 2014.

Cosby's star has been cleaned.

First Black Billionaire Bob Johnson Denied Entry to Hotel

Robert Johnson may be one of the richest black men in the country, but that still doesn't shield him from the every day pitfalls of racism.

On August 24th the BET Network co-founder attempted to check into his room at the Eau Palm Beach hotel in Florida after a fishing trip, but was refused access into his own room.

A receptionist asked Johnson to remove his sunglasses during the check-in process. According to West Palm Beach's WPBF, the mogul, who became the first African American billionaire after selling BET in 2001, said he thought the woman was joking at first. But when she remained firm, he explained to her that he couldn't take them off because they were prescription glasses.

"She said well, I can't check you in if you don't take off your glasses," he said.

As the exchange dragged on, Johnson asked that the police be called to help clear things up, but when no compromise was reached, he ultimately ended up leaving the hotel.

Johnson, who owns 165 hotels and is well versed on the hospitality industry — said that explanation was categorically untrue.

"I think it's a silly rule," he said, "and I think it has overtones of racial profiling."

Aretha Franklin's Family Says Eulogy Offensive and Distasteful

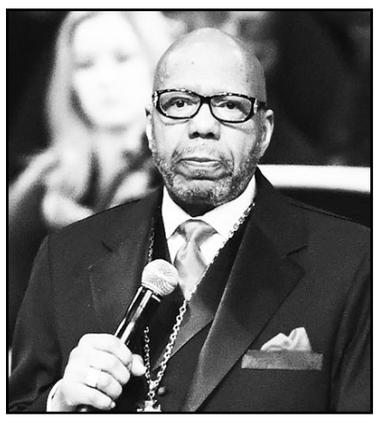
Aretha Franklin's family is outraged and blasted the pastor who delivered what they believe was an offensive eulogy which dishonored the legendary singer, slammed single Black mothers and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Vaughn Franklin, the late singer's nephew, released a statement and ripped Rev. Jasper Williams Jr. for his long-winded hypercritical speech about Black people that had little to do with the life and legacy of the Queen of Soul. The family said in a statement that Williams used the national platform to push his own failed agenda.

"I want to speak on behalf of the Franklin family as it relates to the comments that Rev. Jasper Williams, Jr. made on Friday during my aunt's Celebration of Life service on Friday, August 31. We found the comments to be offensive and distasteful," The statement said.

"Rev. Jasper Williams spent more than 50 minutes speaking and at no time did he properly eulogize her.

"My aunt did not ask Rev. Jasper Williams, Jr. to eulogize her before she passed away because dying is a topic that she never discussed with anyone.



Rev. Jasper Williams

"Our family asked Rev. Jasper Williams, Jr. to perform the eulogy because he eulogized our grandfather (Rev. C. L. Franklin), my aunt (Erma Franklin) and my uncle (Cecil Franklin). However, there were several people that my aunt admired that would have been outstanding individuals to deliver her eulogy including Dr. William J. Barber, Rev. Al Sharpton and Dr. Michael Eric Dyson."

Williams speech immediately received pushback for blasting the Black community, including from singer Stevie Wonder who took the stage after Williams to say that Black lives do matter after the pastor said in his offensive speech that "black lives must not matter."

"Black lives must not matter until Black people start respecting Black lives and stop killing ourselves."

The Atlanta pastor defended his controversial statements.

"I just wish somebody would understand my heart and understand what I'm trying to do. Instead of making mockery or creating difficulty, that hurt me more than anything else," he said.

He also shared Aretha Franklin's father, who he eulogized, would have supported his controversial message.

"Because of the great contributor that she was to civil rights movement, I would think that if I'm doing something to turn black lives around that she would be pleased," he said.

The family has a different perspective.

"We feel that Rev. Jasper Williams, Jr. used this platform to push his negative agenda, which as a family, we do not agree with," Vaughn Franklin said.

Colin Kaepernick Named Face of Nike's Anniversary Campaign

Celebrating 30 years of its "Just Do It" campaign, Nike has unveiled former NFL Quarterback Colin Kaepernick as its featured athlete."Just do it" campaign and it is none other than that of Colin Kaepernick. In the ad, Kaepernick is looking at the camera and printed over the image is: "Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything. #JustDoIt."

The quarterback has been a Nike athlete since 2011, but the Super Bowl QB has not played on a team since 2016. Kaepernick created a national firestorm when he began kneeling during the National Anthem in an effort to protest African-American inequality and police brutality in America. Since then, a number of players on all teams have kneeled or raised a fist during the anthem for the same protest.

Last season, as the debate over protesting was burning ever hotter, the NFL and the NFL Players Association defended the right for those who wanted to protest peacefully.

Kaepernick opted out of his contract with the 49 Niners in March 2017 and hasn't been able to find a new team since. In April his visit with the Seattle Seahawks was postponed after he did not assure the franchise he'd stand for the anthem if signed, per ESPN's Adam Schefter.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick told Steve Wyche of NFL Media about the decision he made in 2016. "To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

Meanwhile, NFL owners approved anthem rules in May that would force players to stand if they are on the field or they must remain in the locker room during the anthem, but the rules have been suspended for now.

Brad Pitt Foundation Facing Lawsuit Over Homes Built in Post-Katrina Housing Development

NEW ORLEANS (LA) — An attorney plans to sue actor Brad Pitt's foundation over the degradation of homes built in an area of New Orleans that was among the hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina.

The forthcoming lawsuit against Pitt's Make It Right foundation will be filed on behalf of some Lower Ninth Ward residents, who attorney Ron Austin shared had sicknesses, headaches, and infrastructural issues.

Enlisting award-winning architects, Pitt founded the venture in 2007, two years after Katrina devastated the city and essentially washed away what would become the Make It Right enclave.

Construction began in 2008, working toward replacing the lost housing with 150 avant-garde dwellings that were storm-safe, solar-powered, highly insulated, and "green." The homes were available at an average price of $150,000 to residents who received resettlement financing, government grants and donations from the foundation itself.

But 10 years and more than $26 million later, construction has halted at around 40 houses short of Pitt's goal, and some homes are falling apart. Residents have reported sagging porches, mildewing wood and leaky roofs.

"Essentially, Make It Right was making a lot of promises to come back and fix the homes that they initially sold these people and have failed to do so," Austin said.

The foundation in 2014 did spend an average of $12,000 each on 39 homes to replace the deteriorating TimberSIL lumber, which was billed as environmentally friendly, weatherproof and durable, *The Times-Picayune* reported . Make It Right then sued TimberSIL for $500,000, but it's unclear whether that dispute was settled.

Earlier this summer, Make It Right hit the headlines in New Orleans again with the demolition of one of the houses. Having been unoccupied for years, the molder-

Brad Pitt stands in front of the homes his foundation created

ing house demolished in June was described by *The Times-Picayune* as "a tattered loaf of rotting wood, fraying tarpaulin and ominous open doorways." Fed up, resident Constance Fowler made City Hall aware of several building code violations, and The New Orleans Advocate reported that Make It Right paid for the demolition, citing a contract.

It is unknown how many residents would join Austin's lawsuit, and many residents quoted in news articles this year said that despite some problems, they were appreciative of the foundation's work. Fowler herself told The Times-Picayune that without Make It Right, she might never have been able to afford a house.

Another resident said that he's not a part of the forthcoming lawsuit, and echoed Fowler's sentiments about affordability. He said that Make It Right has responded to his complaints, sending an inspector to look at his house, though he's heard nothing in the month since.

"I don't know what the future is going to bring with this house or everybody else's house, but it's going downhill now," Dupar said.

Shown is Ivy Archer with daughter Peyton and Gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum enjoying a selfie photo.

On the Campaign Trail

Fresh off of his historic party win, Florida governor candidate was in Jacksonville over the Labor Day weekend for the Jumbo Shrimp game. The 39-year-old Tallahassee mayor and upset candidate is the first black nominee from a major party for Florida governor. He will face off against Republican candidate Ron DeSantis in November.

City of Jax Expanding Benefits for New Parents

City officials recently announced new employee policies that offers parents employed by the City six weeks of paid leave following the birth or adoption of a child.

Statistics support that paid leave can have a positive impact on the health of children and families. In addition to health benefits, there are also long-term economic benefits for both families and employers who offer paid leave. The benefit is available to both the father and mother of the child if both are City employees.

The preexisting policy limited eligible employees to taking up to 12 weeks of leave, utilizing their available leave in conjunction with unpaid leave following a birth, in adherence with Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) guidelines.

"I believe all families deserve an environment where parents and newborns get an opportunity to bond without the worry of work demands and stresses of a reduced income," said Mayor Lenny Curry.