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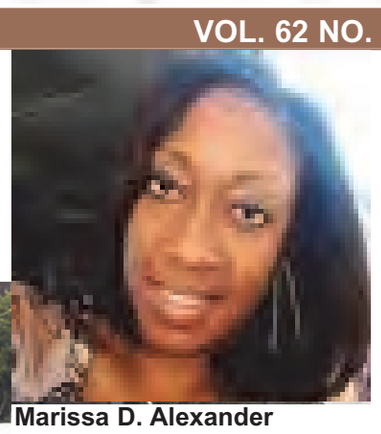
MAY 5, 2012 - MAY 11, 2012 VOL. 62 NO. 3 50 CENTS

New Trial Denied Battered Wife

by Dan Evans, The FloridaStar, photo by Angie Nixon



Marissa D. Alexander

Justice Rally for Marissa with SCLC, NAACP, Hurting Families, and many more

Supporters, community leaders, and organizers gathered outside the court house to voice concerns for Marissa Alexander, facing a 20 year prison term for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. The law is 10-20-Life.

A jury, deliberating only 12 minutes March 16, convicted Marissa Alexander on three counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. A 20-year mandatory minimum sentence unless she could win a new trial. Thursday morning, Judge James H. Daniel denied Ms. Alexander a new trail.

Marissa Alexander was convicted on three counts of aggravated assault after firing a warning shot at her ex-husband inside their home August 2010.

At the time, Alexander had taken out a protective order against her ex-husband. He was arrested for physically abusing her.

Investigations show a fight started in their master bedroom, Alexander told police she feared for her life. Motions filed by the State Attorney's office indicate Alexander was the aggressor and not her husband. However, her defense attorney Kevin Cobbin argues Alexander's ex-husband said he was going to kill her.

According to court documents, she ran to the garage to get her registered handgun.

Evidence taken during a November 2010 deposition show Marissa Alexander's husband Rico Gray bragging about his relationship with women "I got five baby mammas, and I put my hands on every last one of them except for one," Rico Gray confessed. Gray stated "The way I was with women they had to walk on eggshells around me." He talks about punching women in the face, shoving and choking them. Gray has been arrested twice for domestic battery; one of the arrests was for an assault that sent Alexander to the hospital.

New - Continued on A-3

FAMU Band Members Charged and Arrested for Death of Fellow Student - What's Next?

Caleb Jackson

Rikki Willis

Sean Hobson

Aaron Golson

James Harris

Hakeem Birch

Denise Bailey

Brandon Benson

Anthony Mingo

NOT SHOWN: Bryan Jones, Jesse Baskin, Benjamin McNamee, Shawn Turner and Harold Finley

The FAMU marching band is famous for their musical and marching skills and has performed at many events, including the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

The band was suspended shortly after drum major Robert Champion died from the hazing activities immediately after the 2011 Florida Classics.

Now that 13 of the members have been charged, many wish to know if the band's suspension will end. Of the 13 arrested, 11 were charged with felony hazing resulting in death and two were charged with misdemeanor charges. Is such sufficient for the lesson needed to end hazing?

There are high school students in Florida who are praying for the band's suspension to be lifted so that they can become a member because of the band's great history. Right now, the task force is still working on what decision should be made.

Most of the members who were charged turned themselves in soon after it was learned of the decision on Thursday, and have been released on bond.

The attorney representing Robert Champion's family has stated that he is not comfortable with the band getting back together yet because his clients fear hazing would continue. The attorney, Christopher Chestnut, when asked about the band getting back together to perform, said, according to reports, "You're asking us for a prescription to a flu, and we don't know the virus. We're still piecing this together."

Secretary General Honored in Jacksonville

On April 21st, at the New Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. Wallace J. Sibley and his wife, Dorothy Sibley, were honored with a banquet. Tributes came from all over the country. Dr. Sibley is the Secretary General of the Church of God International of Cleveland, Tennessee. He is the highest ranking Black man in the denomination. The sponsors were the Herring Family and Dr. Charles E. Wilson.

100% of Eligible, previously Homeless Veterans Now Employed in Jacksonville

Allied Veterans Center announced Thursday that 100% of Jacksonville's eligible, previously homeless veterans are now gainfully employed. The city's only remaining veteran without a job was placed Thursday by Sears, who offered him a position in their management training program.

The organization said that one of their most fulfilling goals is giving our well-deserved veterans a place to lay their head at night, and not worry about where they will sleep tomorrow. Clearly, they are not asking for a "hand out" but simply a 'hand up' and that is what the organization intends to provide.

President's Surprise Visit to Afghanistan

President Obama made a surprise visit to Afghanistan Tuesday where he signed a partnership agreement with the government, one year since the death of Osama bin Laden, that will end America's role in Afghanistan.

119,000 Jobs Added in April; Gallup Reports Job Creation is at the Highest-Level Since 2008

Mr. T Celebrates his 60th Birthday

Mr. T, (born Laurence Tureaud; May 21, 1952) is an American actor known for his roles as B. A. Baracus in the 1980s television series The A-Team. Mr. T is also known for his trademark African Mandinka warrior hairstyle, his gold jewelry, and his tough-guy image where he would say, "I Pity the Fool", shown on TV Land.

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CHURCH

Faith In Our Community
Schedule of Events and Services

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Jacksonville Chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History(ASALH), will dedicate and pay tribute to Ms Mathis at our monthly meeting on Saturday, May 19, 2012. We will have a discussion on the contributions that she made in Education, Social Services as well as in politics during her lifetime in Jacksonville.Ms Mathis was one of the two, first Black Women to serve on City Council in 1967. The Program will be held at **St. Phillips Episcopal Church,** located at 321 West Union Street on May 19th from 10:00 until 12:00p.m, admission is free to the public. Submitted By: Mrs. Flora McClendon-Parker, PR (904)378-389, Mrs. Anita Shepherd, President and Ms. Roxann Hilbert, Chairperson

The Lay Organization of the AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (South District) celebrates 100 Years of Service - Centennial Lay Celebration, Dinner and Dance, May 11, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. To be held at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk, 1515 Prudential Drive. $50.00 donation, Live Entertainment - Semi Formal. Call 904 377-5906 for more information.

GREATER MT. SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, 2335 Moncrief Rd., Rev. C.E. Banks, Pastor, will have their annual Revival on May 16, 17, 18, 2012, nightly at 7:30 p.m. The Speaker for the week will be Rev. Darius Bolden, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach, FL. For more information, contact the church at (904) 356-4759 or Pastor at (904) 765-3237.

The Jacksonville Chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History(ASALH), will dedicate and pay tribute to Ms. Sallye B. Mathis at our monthly meeting on Saturday, May 19, 2012. We will have a discussion on the contributions that she made in Education, Social Services as well as in politics during her lifetime in Jacksonville.Ms Mathis was one of the two, first Black Women to serve on City Council in 1967. The Program will be held at St. Phillips Episcopal Church, located at 321 West Union Street on May 19th from 10:00 until 12:00p.m, admission is free to the public. Submitted By: Mrs. Flora McClendon-Parker, PR (904)378-3897
Mrs. Anita Shepherd, President and Ms. Roxann Hilbert, Chairperson

NEW MT. BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

On April 21st, at the church, Dr. Wallace J. Sibley and his wife, Dorothy Sibley, were honored with a Banquet. Tributes came from all over the country. Dr. Sibley is the Secretary General of the Church of God International of Cleveland, TN. He is the highest ranked Black man in the denomination. The Sponsors were the **Herring Family** and **Dr. Charles E. Wilson.**

NEW BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

1824 Prospect St., Jacksonville, FL, will celebrate the retirement of their church mortgage on the following dates: On Thursday, **May 17th at 7:00 pm,** a "*Celebration of the Retirement of the Church Building Debt*" Service will be held. Rev. Marion Wise, Pastor of Second Baptist Church, Callahan, Fl will be the speaker; On Friday, **May 18th at 7:30 pm**, a "*Service of Thanksgiving*" will be held. Rev. Johnny Johnson, Pastor of Philadelphia Baptist Church will bring the word; Sunday, **May 20th** during 11:00 am Worship Service, Holy Communion will be served and the message will be brought by Rev. Joe Calhoun; Sunday, **May 20th at 4:00 pm**, the "*Official Mortgage Burning Ceremony*" will take place and the word will be brought by Rev. Landon Williams, Pastor of Greater Macedonia Baptist Church." For more information, please call the church at (904) 764-5727. Elder Arnitt Jones, Acting Pastor and Rev. Joe Calhoun, Pastor Emeritus

Come join **Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall Sr. every Wednesday** and **Thursday** from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM for **Prayer Meeting** and **Bible Study** at **The Greater El-Beth-El Divine Holiness Church,** located at 723 W. 4th Street, Jacksonville, FL 32209.

Listings are due the Tuesday before the next issue. Email submissions preferred. Send to: Info@TheFloridaStar.com

The Greater Mt. Salem Missionary Baptist Church will have their annual Revival May 16, 17, 18, 2012, nightly at 7:30 p.m. The Speaker for the week will be Rev. Darius Bolden, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach, FL. For more information contact the Church at 904-356-4759 or Pastor 904-571-4002 or 765-3237

DEATH NOTICES

JACKSONVILLE, FL

ALLEN, Maria Theresa Agustin, 39, died April 24, 2012.
ASHLEY, Fred James, died April 30, 2012.
ATKINSON, Harold, died April 24, 2012.
BASSOO, Seeta Sheila, 80, died April 27, 2012.
BONNER, Darryn Antonio, 45, died April 27, 2012.
BRODEUR, Paul, 64, died April 28, 2012.
BURGER, Paul Dean, 75, died April 30, 2012.
CAMPBELL, Fonda Gail, 50, died April 29, 2012.
CLAY, Thordan Cork, 70, died April 27, 2012.
DAVIS, Vernon, died April 25, 2012.
DOWDELL, Mack, died April 29, 2012.
DOZIER, Alonzo L., died April 27, 2012.
ELLIOT, James, died April 27, 2012.
FOWLER, Marion Benjamin "M.B.," Sr., 71, died April 29, 2012.
FOWLER, Susan Crosby, died April 25, 2012.
FRANKLIN, Kecia, 43, died April 22, 2012.
GAUSE, John C., Jr., 58, died April 27, 2012.
GELSEY, Gwendolyn, died April 29, 2012.
GILBERT, Jeffie T., Sr., 70, died April 26, 2012.
HALL, James V., 66, died April 28, 2012.
HARRITY, Frank Harding, III, died April 25, 2012.
HAY, Margaret Jean, died April 30, 2012.
HEATH, Larry L., 53, died April 26, 2012.
HODGES, Hillie Donald, 80, died April 30, 2012.
JONES, Carlton Pete, died April 25, 2012.
JOYNER, Anglyne E., died April 26, 2012.
KENNEDY, Brad Alan, 50, died April 26, 2012.
KISH, Diana Lynn, 60, died April 24, 2012.
LAW, Lanora Thelma Mathis, 78, died April 29, 2012.
LUSTER, Cheryl Lavon, 55, died April 26, 2012.
MADDOX, Crystal D'Onna, died April 24, 2012.
MARTIN, Carolyn, died April 24, 2012.
MERCHANT, Narcilyn Elaine, 61, died April 28, 2012.
NAPIER, Charles David, 49, died April 29, 2012.
PALUMBO, Michael, 21, died April 29, 2012.
PATTERSON, Kay, 67, died April 25, 2012.
PATTERSON, Kenneth Milan, died April 30, 2012.
PERKINS, Annie, died April 27, 2012.
PERRITTE, Mary, died April 30, 2012.
PICKETT, Wynona, 22, died April 26, 2012.
PLATT, Marissa Regina, infant, died April 29, 2012.
REGISTER, Braden Cyle, age 2, died April 24, 2012.
RICHARDSON, Beatrice Gibbs, 70, died April 29 2012.
ROBINSON, Annie Lou, 76, died April 29, 2012.
ROLIN, James L., 58, died April 24, 2012.
ROLLINS, Christopher Lamar, 37, died April 29, 2012.
ROTT, Carrie V., 77, died April 27, 2012.
SMITH, Doris, died April 27, 2012.
STOCK, Jean Helen, 84, died April 27, 2012.
STONE, Donna Ellen, 57, died April 28, 2012.
SWINTON, Mae Frances, died April 27, 2012.
TAYLOR, Clyde Dell, 75, died April 29, 2012.
TAYLOR, Evelyn Jean Chapman, 72, died April 28, 2012.

~*~

GEORGIA DEATHS

CAMPBELL, Roddy Barnard, 66, died April 28, 2012.
CONDELLES, Cynthia Bird Mayo, died April 28, 2012.
CURRY, Marvin, died April 27, 2012.
GANDY, Stephen E., Sr., died May 1, 2012.
GAY, Winifred Jeanette Peeples, 84, died April 30, 2012.
GEIGER, Ruby Smith, 79, died April 27, 2012.
GROOMS, Virginia, 85, died April 27, 2012.
HOWARD, Nathaniel, died May 1, 2012.
MALLARD, Wanda Rose Maynard, 52, died April 28, 2012.
MARSHALL, Alvin Ray, 83, died April 30, 2012.
MIDDLETON, Anne Rentz, 74, died April 26, 2012.

The Church Directory
"Come and Worship With Us"

New Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church
1824 Prospect Street * Jacksonville, FL 32208

Sunday School ….....……..9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning
Intercessory Prayer.....…..10:45 a.m.
Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.
Youth Church
2nd & 3rd Sundays (Old Sanctuary)
Tuesday - Pastoral Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.

Elder Arnitt Jones, Acting Pastor
Rev. Joe Calhoun, Pastor Emeritus
(904) 764-5727 - Church

Historic Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church

Sunday
Worship Service . . . . . 10:00 a.m.
Church School . . . . . 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday
"Glory Hour" Bible Study . . . . . .10:00 a.m.
"Jehovah Jireh" Bible Study . . . . . 6:30 p.m.
2nd & 4th **Thursday** "Young at Heart Ministry . . . . . .10:00 a.m.
Friday
Joy Explosion Ministry . . . . . 6:30 p.m.

201 East Beaver St. * (904) 355-9475
Rev. Pearce Edwing, Sr.

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Bishop Lorenzo Hall., Pastor
Street Address: 723 W. 4th St. Jacksonville, Florida 32209
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3575, Jacksonville, Florida 32206
Church Telephone: (904) 359-0661 Home: (904) 358-8932 Cell: 710-1586

Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Tuesday.....Prayer Meeting & Bible Study,7:00 p.m.
Thursday.....Joy Night,7:00 p.m.

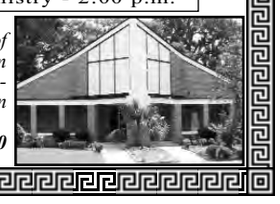
"Email: Gospell75@aol.com
Website: Greaterelbethel.org

Central Metropolitan C.M.E. Church
4611 North Pearl St., Jacksonville, FL 32206
Ofc (904) 354-7426 * Fax (904) 354-0934
Rev. Marquise Hardrick, Pastor

~ **Worship Service** ~
Sun Church School - 9:30a.m.
Sun Morning Worship -10:45 a.m.
Tues Eve Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
Wed Bible Study - 12 Noon
Wed Feeding Ministry - 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Marquise & Mrs. Deedra Hardrick

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
Mathew 28:19-20



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Wednesday Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
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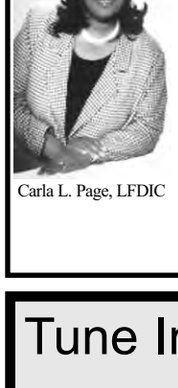

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NEW - continued from A-1

In September 2009, Ms. Alexander obtained a protective order against Gray that was still in effect on Aug. 1, 2010, when he flew into a jealous rage while going through her cell phone, discovering that she had sent pictures of their newborn daughter to her first husband. Alexander was in the master bathroom at the time, and Gray tried to force his way in. When she came out, he screamed and cursed at her while preventing her from leaving the bedroom. "I was like forcing her back with my body," said Gray...

When Alexander managed to get by, she ran through the kitchen to the garage, where she said she realized she did not have the keys to her car, could not call for help because she had left her cell phone behind, and could not escape because the garage door was not working. Instead she grabbed her gun from her car and headed back through the kitchen, where Gray confronted her again.

According to his deposition Gray admitted he "had told her if she ever cheated on me I would kill her" and during the fight said, "If I can't have you, nobody can."

He conceded he "was going towards her" when Alexander fired a single shot, high and to his right, that went through the kitchen wall and lodged in the living room ceiling. Finally he left, with his two sons.

"The gun was never pointed at me," Gray said. "She just didn't want me to put my hands on her anymore, so she did what she feels like she has to do to make sure she wouldn't get hurt."

Gray changed his story at the hearing in July 2011 saying he lied to protect her. In that hearing Alexander argued that the charges against her should be dismissed because she had acted in self-defense, Gray, according to the deposition stated at one point he lied out of anger. Circuit Judge Elizabeth Senterfitt rejected Alexander's motion to dismiss, saying she could have escaped through the front or back door instead of going to the garage.

Florida's self-defense law says "a person is justified in the use of deadly force and does not have a duty to retreat" if "he or she reasonably believes" it is necessary to prevent "imminent death or great bodily harm" or "the imminent commission of a forcible felony."

Florida Supreme Court ruled, in 1999 that a woman attacked by her husband in their home they share has no duty to flee.

Although she injured no one, she faces a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence. Circuit Judge James H Daniel is considering, acquitting Alexander on one of her three charges as the result of the testimony of one of the three victims. That victim, the son of her husband, Rico Gray, recounted his previous accounts to authorities when he testified at Alexander's trial that he was not in fear of his life during the shooting.

Rico Gray Sr., 36 has two domestic-battery arrests, one against Alexander resulting in a conviction and a sentence of probation. After that attack, records show Ms. Alexander filed an injunction against him Gray.

Marissa Alexander was convicted on a domestic battery charge against Gray in an incident that occurred less than five months after the 2010 shooting and according to State Prosecutor Angela Corey was in violation of probation.

Sentencing has been set for Friday May 11, 2012 at 8:30. Attorney Cobbin states they will appeal.

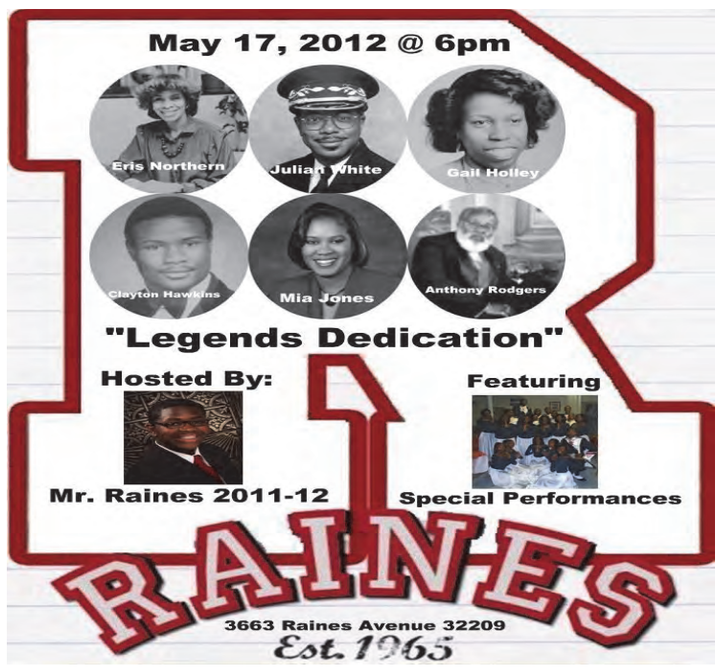
Statement in Support of Marissa Alexander

I am here today in support of Marissa Alexander, not just as a supporter, not just as an advocate, not just as a mother, not even just as a former victim of domestic abuse. I am here today as a former domestic violence victim at the hands of Marissa's husband, RICO GRAY.

My name is Chartrissa Anderson. I have known Rico Gray for almost 12 years. We have a 9 year old daughter together. My relationship with Rico Gray is one in which I have encountered violence, intimidation and control. During our relationship I was hit in the mouth, pushed into a wall and even had to run into a neighbor's house. He even beat me while I was outside and stripped me of my clothing.

Rico Gray has a very violent temper. I can recall him super gluing my house locks so I could not get in. He has broken in my house and destroyed property. He has damaged my parent's rental property by throwing rocks at the house. I have filed several injunctions against Rico Gray, but fear for my safety and him ending his relationship with our daughter I dismissed them. Just as Marissa did. The last injunction that I filed on Rico Gray was in reference to an incident that happened in 2006. On this day we got into an argument about his 4th child's mother whom he impregnated while we were in a relationship. Words were exchanged and when I tried to avoid him by going into our room, he broke the door off the hinges and told me that this was his house. I got up to go to my son's room to avoid him again, he said something I replied, and he then punched me in the face. As I called the police he came towards me and yanked the cord out of the wall. After he realized the call went through, he went to the kitchen, took a fork and stabbed himself in the arm in front of me and his son. Rico told his son to tell the officers that I had stabbed him repeatedly. When the officers got there Rico told them I had stabbed him. Fortunately, they didn't believe him so they arrested Rico Gray and charged him with domestic violence. I filed an injunction for no contact the following day.

In 2007, I revised my injunction to no violence so that he could continue a relationship with our daughter. In 2008, we got back into a relationship again. Similar to Marissa. As time went on his temper got worse. He has flared up like he was going to hit me, but while my kids were in the room, he never did. He has only been verbally abusive to me in front of my children. But he never cared about getting physical when his children were around. Rico trained them to lie and protect him. Which is why he often didn't go to jail. I tell you all this to say …that could have been me. I could be in Marissa's place, fighting for my freedom. So that is why I feel it is my duty to be HER VOICE. I plead with each of you today, to demand that she be released.



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Talk of the Town!

E kaabo (eh-kah-bow). Welcome.

By Frances Bradley, frances@thefloridastar.com *Volume Burks, Photographer*

They Call Her Lieutenant Wright.

Lt. ShimekaWright with proud parents Sheila and Robert Wright

Congratulations to **Lieutenant Shimeki Wright,** who was commissioned as a lieutenant during the University of North Florida's Army ROTC Spring Commissioning ceremony. Lt. Wright, an **Edward Waters College** graduating senior, is the first student to be commissioned as an officer from the school. Students from EWC and other local colleges and universities are eligible to participate in the UNF Army ROTC program.

Lt. Wright, a native of Albany, Georgia, graduated from Colonial High School in Orlando, Florida. At EWC, she was active in sports and student government, having served as class president her freshman, sophomore, and junior years. Additionally, she is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

As a fully commissioned lieutenant, Wright will serve in the Florida National Guard's 869th Engineering Battalion.

Photos were provided by Prof. Stephanie Campbell.

L to r, Dr. Benjamin Okafor, Lt. Shimeki Wright, Dr. Judy Scott, and Prof. Stephanie Campbell

L. to r., Prof. Stephanie Campbell, Lt. Shimeki Wright, and Dr. Judy Scott

6 No Trump! The American Beach Property Owners Association (ABPOA) invites the public to its **3rd Annual Bid Whist Tournament** on Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the American Beach Community Center, 1600 Julia Street, American Beach, Florida. Non-players are welcome to enjoy the relaxing and fun atmosphere. Food and beverage will be available to purchase. Seating is limited. Registration is required and a registration fee will be assessed each player. For more information or to register, contact (904) 310-6696 or email amerbeachevents@aol.com (include name(s), telephone number, and email address).

Ben. American Beach lost a resident and friend when **Benjamin "Ben" Carter** passed away last October. He was the other half of the couple everyone knew as Ben and Bobbie (**Ms. Bobbie Morgan Jones**). My aunt, Edna Calhoun, was very fond of them and vice-versa.

I received an email a couple of months ago announcing that the American Beach Community Center was changed to the Ben Carter American Beach Community Center. I googled the internet to get more information for this article. Unfortunately, my research uncovered a bit of controversy, which I won't belabor. The end result was that the building's name was returned to its original form.

A decision was made to create a plaque with the names of Ben and other American Beach and county residents who supported the community center project. Hmmm. I suppose Aunt Edna will be included as she served as an officer of ABPOA and was committed to the rebuilding of her beloved American Beach.

Rest in peace, Ben. Rest in peace.

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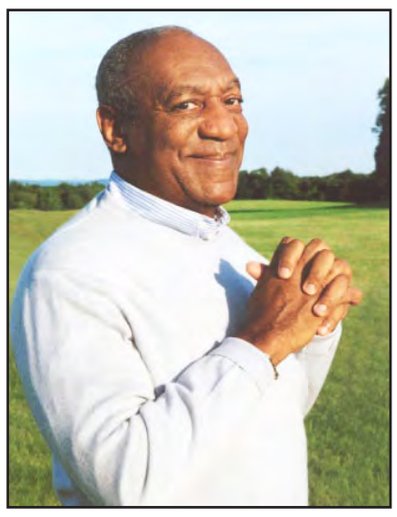

Bill Cosby Is A Funny, Funny, Funny, Funny Man!

Before a full house in the Times-Union's Moran Theatre, performing as a guest of the Artist Series, Bill Cosby - actor, comedian, philanthropist, educator, and business man – spent a little more than 1 ½ hours telling stories from his life experiences that made us laugh…hard...from the belly! When I think about this guy, I realize that his talent is natural. He has the ability to exaggerate his experiences that folks can relate to and it's just plain funny.

He told a story about his grandfather, whose house he **had** to visit every Sunday morning – *very early* on Sunday mornings – as the patriarch led these long prayer vigils, in sounded exaggerated mumblings of high and low tones, infused with a few intelligible words, such as "in thy name", the signal that the grueling ritual would soon come to an end. Many years later, before leaving for Navy boot camp, Cosby confessed, during a visit with his Grandfather, that he never understood a word of the prayers. The elder Cosby looked at him and said, "You didn't know what I was saying 'cause, I wasn't talking to you!" Okay, so you had to be there. Take my word, it was one of many stories that kept the crowd in continuous laughter!

Volume and I were among a small group invited to a meet and greet with Dr. Cosby before the show. Meet and greet guests included **Mayor Alvin Brown, wife, Santhea, and sons Joshua and Jordan, Ronald Belton, the City's CFO, Bruce Hamilton** (and fiancé Jen), **Channel 4's *The Morning Show* anchor**, who would later introduce his fellow Temple University alumni to the show's audience. As we filed in, each shaking hands with the icon of American comedy and entertainment, we were regaled with stories about growing up in Philadelphia with childhood friend, **Minerva Wiggins**, who was seated in a chair next to him, and chuckled as he engaged Joshua and Jordan in conversation about life as sons of the Mayor.

Bill Cosby is a funny, funny, funny, funny guy. Now that I've seen him perform in person, I can remove him from my bucket list. Thank you Sarah Roy, for all that you do!

Meet and greet guests, l to r, Larry Tribble, Dianne Tribble, Carol Grant, Ingrid Griffith, and Tiffany Griffith

L-r, Mayor Alvin Brown, sons Joshua and Jordan, wife, Santhea Brown

Mayor Alvin Brown and CFO Ronald Belton

Donald Wiggins and Cosby childhood friend, wife Minerva Wiggins

Bruce Hamilton loses his fiance, Jen, to "Coz"

Cosby demonstrating his Grandfather's early Sunday morning prayer ritual

L-r, Will and Donovan LaFavor waiting for the show to srtart

Brightly beaming, Marquetta and Wesley Sturdivant, wait for the show to start

L-r Linda Witsell, Jodie , Marietta LeBlanc, Nellie Henry, Raye Gary, and Renae Armstrong

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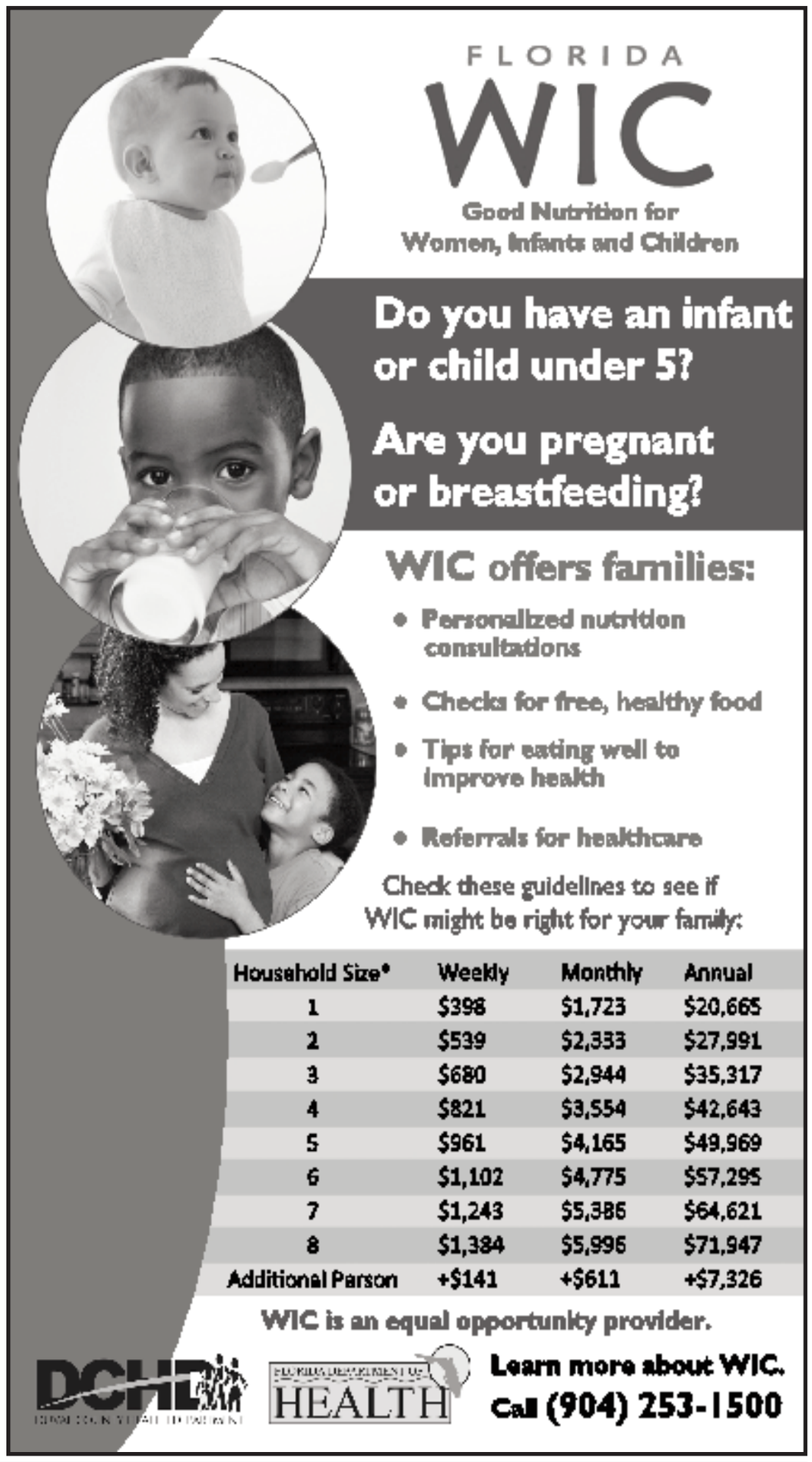
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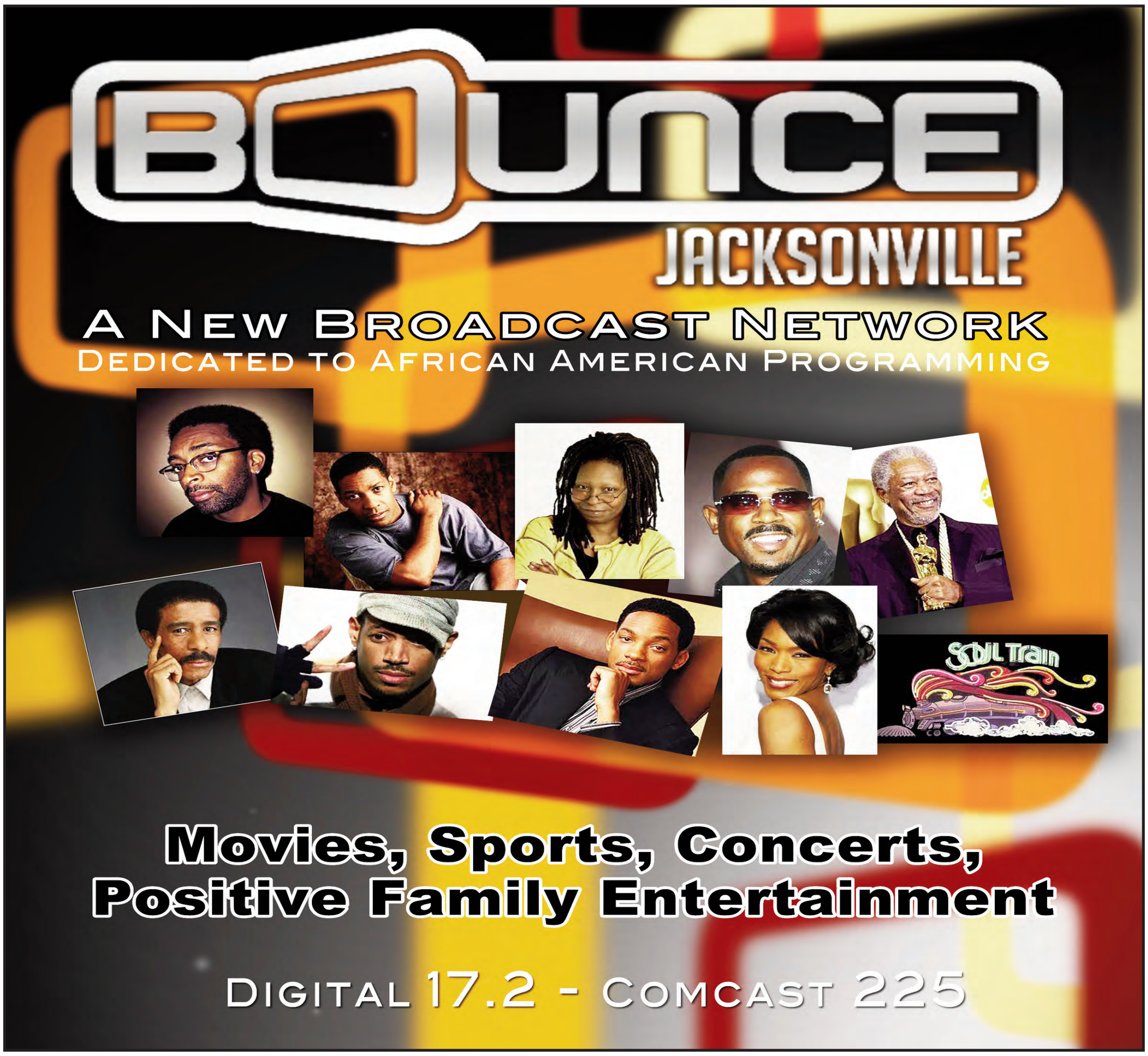
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The Masons Continues

59th Annual Grand Conclave

The Heroines of the Templar Crusades had a joyous and most productive 59th Annual Grand Conclave in Jacksonville, FL on April 16-17, 2012. Their Queen Coronation held on Monday night was magnificent with eight contestants from state-wide and the 2012 winner Princess Allean Jenkins of the A. T. Stafford Guild in West Palm Beach. Once again, the top two officers hail from the city of Jacksonville; Fay W. Moreland is the reigning 8th Most Noble Grand Princess Captain and Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall, Sr. is the Grand Royal Advisor. Delegation journeyed from Bahamas, and as far south as Miami and far west as Pensacola and were the *Jewels* of the female adoptive rites groups adorned in their Military regalia along-side their brothers of the Union Grand Commandery No. 22 Knights Templar Masons headed by Sir Knight Henry Puyol, Right Eminent Grand Commander of Miami, FL. In 1952, this organization was added to the Masonic family of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge, PHA as the auxiliary to the Union Grand Commandery No. 22 of the Magnanimous Order of Knights Templars Masons. Mrs. Louise Dean-Rolle of Miami, FL was the 1st Most Noble Grand Prince Captain and Sir Knight Rudolph Bradley was their Grand Royal Advisor and he was the Honorable Most Worshipful Grand Master. In 2009, this organization has gained international recognition when the founder's daughter; Lona B. Mathis of Miami, FL became the International Grand Princess Commandress.

The Grand Princess Captain, Fay Moreland - Hattie C. Dandridge Guilds P.H.A.

Mayor Alvin Brown greets the Most Worshipful 142nd Convocation

Most Worshipful Grand Master Anthony T. Stafford 33º . The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Gave Away $10,000.00 to Breast Cancer

Grand Master Anthony T. Stafford Banquet

Rt. Worshipful Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall 33º receive an award from the Public Defender Office (Matt Shirk) by Hugh Wilkerson

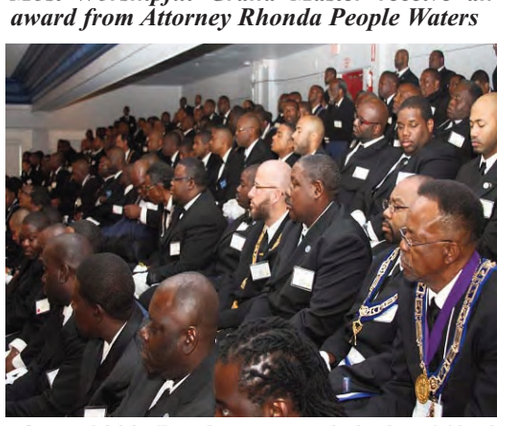
Grand High Priest of The Royal Arch Masons of Florida Henry B. Parker receive an award from the State Attorney Office by Marl Berello

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America Northeast Florida Chapter Jacksonville, Fla. Receive $1,500.00 dollars from the Royal Arch Masons

Most Worshipful Grand Master receive an award from Attorney Rhonda People Waters

Heroine Templar Crusaders

Heroines of Jericho



Over 2000 Brothers attended the 142nd Convocation

Knights Templar Masons and Heroine Templar Crusaders

Grand Princess Captain of Hattie C. Dandridge Guild Heroines Templar Crusaders

Grand Most Ancient Matron of the Heroine of Jericho of Fla. Jackie Strappy

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SATURDAY, MAY 12 @ 3 P.M.
Main Library, Conference Center G4

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CARIBBEAN NEWS

Future Olympians Compete in 2012 CARIFTA

By ARTHIA NIXON
Caribbean News Editor
Photos: Jennings Photography

BERMUDA: The region's future Olympians went head to head in the highly anticipated CARIFTA games, held this year in Bermuda. Youngsters displayed their athletic prowess before recruiters, fans and fellow Caribbeans.

"Well, the 41st Lime Carifta Games is now behind us," said Donna Watson, President of the Bermuda Track & Field Association. "I would like to thank everyone who had a hand in making this event the huge success that it was. The Local Organizing Committee what a fantastic job. The volunteers and Officials were great.

This event would have not been possible without all of sponsors. Thank you Bermuda for all of your support."

Jamaica once again took top honors with 34 gold, 25 silver and 19 bronze for a total of 78 medals. The Bahamas came in second with a total of 40 medals – 14 gold, 14 silver and 12 bronze. Trinidad and Tobago's 22 medals were comprised of 6 gold, 9 silver and 7 bronze. Host country Barbados placed fourth overall with 17 medals – 2 gold and silver each and 13 bronze.

They were followed by (in winning order) Guadeloupe, Grenada, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Martinique, French Guiana, Turks & Caicos Islands, Dominica, St Lucia, Curacao, Antigua & Barbuda, St Kitts & Nevis, Anguilla, and Guyana.

HISTORY: The CARIFTA Games is an annual junior athletics competition founded by Barbadian Austin Sealy in 1972. The Games has its origins in the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA), which was made up primarily of countries from the English-speaking Caribbean.

In 1972, when the CARIFTA was enlarged to include non-English speaking countries of the Caribbean, namely the French and Dutch speaking nations, became known as CARICOM.

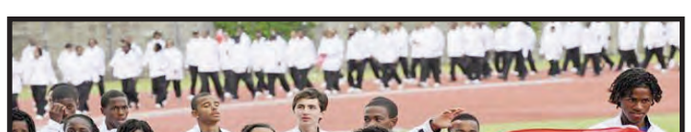
The Games consists of most of the Track & Field disciplines involving running, jumping and throwing and has two age-group categories, namely Under 17 and Under 20 for both males and females.

The Games are meant to enhance relationships between the countries and impress upon all the commonality of purpose shared between the Caribbean Islands, which are touched by the Caribbean Sea. To date there is no Spanish-speaking Caribbean nation taking part in the Games.

The Games, run entirely under IAAF Rules, are traditionally staged over the Easter weekend every year in one of the member states of CARICOM. The timing of the Games is to facilitate the school calendar of the young athletes.

Since its inauguration in 1972, the Games have grown from strength to strength and has been described by IAAF President Lamine Diack, (himself an annual spectotor at the GAMES), as being on par with the World Championships. It is arguably the most important regional Junior Athletic Championship outside of the World Youth or World Junior Championships. College and university coaches and scouts from the United States of America travel to the Games every year to identify potential athletes for their schools' athletic programs.

The Games have produced a plethora of World Record holders and World Track & Field Champions and Stars over the years including Usain Bolt, Kim Collins, Darrel Brown, Pauline Davis-Thompson, Merlene Ottey, Obadele Thompson, Debbie Ferguson, Cydonie Mothersill, Kareen Streete-Thompson, Alleyne Francique, Veronica Campbell, Marie Jose-Perec and Meleanie Walker, just to name a few. Indeed over 30 Olympic Games medallists can trace their origins to the Carifta Games.



Bahamas Elections Set For May 7. Tune In For Results Next Week As Three Parties Go Head To Head To See Who Will Govern For Next 5 Years

"I love to make Mother's Day magical."

– Chef Jamika Pessoa

Celebrity Chef, TV Personality | Atlanta, GA

My mother and grandmother taught me how to cook. So it's an honor for me to cook for them on their special day. I'm proud to share this and other recipes so you can celebrate Mom too. Publix makes it so easy for people to come back to the table. We're so scattered, but it's important for families to slow down and spend time together over a good meal.

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Pictured
Chef Jamika's Linguini with Chicken and Artichokes

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FLORIDA
Jacksonville's
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SECTION

A Tribute to Mrs. Sallye B. Mathis

Celebrating the 100th Birthday of
Sallye B. Mathis
(1912-1982) May 13th - to May 19th

Sallye B. Mathis was one of the first women and African-Americans elected to the Jacksonville City Council in 1967. She was a civil rights activist and a member of the League of Women Voters. During her tenure on the council, Mathis initiated legislation for a Citizens' Police Review Board, free public toilets, equal job opportunities in public agencies, the OIC job training program and fought for reduced bus fares for senior citizens. Before going into politics, she had a 28-year career teaching elementary school and high school history in Duval County schools and was a successful businesswoman in partnership with her husband, O. Earl Mathis. The local NAACP chapter still gives an annual Community Service award named the Sallye B. Mathis Award. The Sallye B. Mathis Elementary School here in Jacksonville is named in her honor.

Mrs. Mathis died in 1982 at the age of 70, but the work she began continues on. Her niece, Brooke Stephens, is organizing this celebration in honor of her aunt's 100th birthday on May 18th. On that day, Mayor Alvin Brown will be issuing a proclamation in honor of Mrs. Mathis.

The other events during that week will be:

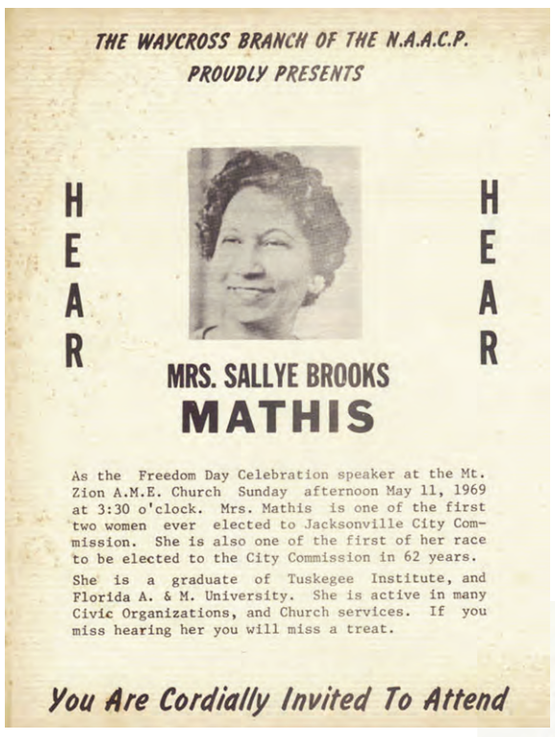
1.) **May 15th** - a commemoration on Tuesday at the Jacksonville Urban League Office, 903 West Union Street, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. Alumnae of Matthew Gilbert High School will be present to share their experiences with Mrs. Mathis when she was a history teacher and dean of girls there before she began her political career. Among the speakers will be Frank Lyons, the first African-American fire chief in Jacksonville, Deacon McRae of the Matthew Gilbert Alumnae Association and Alton Yates, who worked with Mrs. Mathis on the developing the Greater Jacksonville Economic Opportunities program.

The local chapter of the NAACP which gives an annual Community Service Award in her name will be present to discuss the services and contributions of Mrs. Mathis during her life in Jacksonville which makes her a role model for their award recipients.

2.) **May 17th** - Students at the Sallye B. Mathis Charter School will be doing a musical play which they have written about Mrs. Mathis' career on Thursday, May 17th at 5:30 PM at the Ribault School on Winton Road. The winners of an essay writing contest among the sixth graders about the life and career of Sallye B. Mathis will also be announced that evening.

3.) **May 19th** - The Jacksonville chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History will dedicate their monthly meeting on May 19th to a discussion of the history and contributions of Sallye B. Mathis to education, social services as well as politics during her lifetime in Jacksonville.

All events are open to the public. For more information and interviews on the various events of the celebration, please contact Brooke Stephens at 718.812.7433 or StephensB@aol.com.



Great Parenting Advice For Moms And Dads

(StatePoint) Raising children involves navigating tricky scenarios from time-to-time. Popular belief says that while you can usually rely on your instincts, the answers to many of life's daily details are not always clear

Arming yourself with practical knowledge is a great way to be prepared for any situation, point out Heather Gibbs Flett and Whitney Moss, coauthors of the new handbook, "Stuff Every Mom Should Know" (Quirk Books).

Flett and Moss, alongside Brett Cohen, author of "Stuff Every Dad Should Know" (Quirk Books), are going beyond the standard parenting manual to offer some practical tips for day-to-day creative parenting:

• If you've got questions, don't be shy about seeking help. Make friends with other parents and do your research. Discussion boards, mommy blogs and neighborhood email lists are a great resource.

• Start saving for college as early as possible. Take a look at your budget and allocate whatever you can. Increase your contribution proportionate to any rise in your income. Around your child's fifth birthday, seek the advice of a financial advisor who can help you grow the fund quickly.

• Sleep deprivation can cause anxiety and take a toll on your relationship and parenting skills. Alternating nighttime duty will allow each parent to get a needed dose of uninterrupted sleep.

• Don't forget, you can convince a child that almost anything's a game. Remember this principle around bath and cleanup time!

• A surefire way to impress a toddler is to have some fun animal facts stored in your noggin. Did you know that penguins can jump up to six feet high?

• Children like to test their boundaries, try new things and indulge their curiosities. At times, you're going to need to know how to say "no" -- and when you say it, mean it. But don't forget to offer an alternative.

• Sibling rivalry is difficult to prevent, but can be managed properly with a bit of sensitivity. Remember to withhold judgment until you've learned the whole story. Identify which activities lead to the biggest rivalries, and set up a schedule for alternating whose turn it is to do what.

• It's become increasingly difficult to teach children by setting a positive example, since we do so much online these days. Make a point to demonstrate how to be an active member of the community. Consider participating in local clean-ups, preparing and delivering food to someone in need, and taking your child to the polls on Election Day.

"Being a parent means a lifetime of joy," says Cohen. "It also means a lifetime of stuff that needs doing."

Fortunately, there are plenty of resources to help prepare you for whatever comes your way. This Mother's Day or Father's Day, consider giving a mom or dad in your life the gift of information with a parenting handbook such as "Stuff Every Mom Should Know" and "Stuff Every Dad Should Know". Parenting's a whole new world. But others have gone before you and lived to tell the tale. So draw upon their wisdom.

Community Activities

Announcements, meetings, happenings, and community events scheduled in Jacksonville and the surrounding area

Free Comic Book Day, Saturday May 5, 2012, at the Jacksonville Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202.
March for Babies, on Saturday, May 5, 2012, at The Jacksonville Landing, 2 Independent Dr. W., Jacksonville, FL 32202. For more information call 904.353.1188
Restore Jacksonville, on Sunday, May 6, 2012, at the Jacksonville Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Contact 904.630.2665 for additional information.
20th Annual World of Nations Celebration: Sunday May 6, 2012, at the Metropolitan Park, 4110 Gator Bowl Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Please call 904.630.0837 for more information.
Theatreworks Presents Butterfly: THE STORY OF A LIFE CYCLE, on Monday, May 7, 2012, at the Florida Theatre, 128 E. Forsyth Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. For additional information contact 904.355.2787.
36TH ANNUAL ARTS AWARDS on Tuesday May 8, 2012, at the AT&T Tower, 301 W. Bay St., Jacksonville, FL 32202.
DOWNTOWN STRAIGHT UP, b.b.'s, on Wednesday May 9, 2012, at 1019 Hendricks Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32207. Contact 904.306.0100 for more information.
Pre-K Day at MOSH, onWednesday May 9, 2012, at Museum of Science and History (MOSH), 1025 Museum Circle, Jacksonville, FL 32207. For more information call 904.396.MOSH.
Movies @ Main 2012: FORREST GUMP, Thursday May 10, 2012, at the Jacksonville Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. Contact 904.630.2665 for additional information.
ADAMEC BIKE NIGHT: Thursday May 10, 2012, at The Jacksonville Landing, 2 Independent Dr. W., Jacksonville, FL 32202. Please call 904.353.1188 for all information.
HIPP STREET, this Friday, May 11, 2012, at The Jacksonville Landing, 2 Independent Dr. W., Jacksonville, FL 32202. Call 904.353.1188 for any information.
BEETHOVEN'S NINTH, on Friday, May 11, 2012, at Times Union Center for Performing Arts, 300 W. Water Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. For more information contact 904.633.6110.
ART OF FIGHTING 15, on Friday May 11, 2012, at the Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32202. Call 904.630.3900.

Tips For Making Your Home Senior Friendly

(StatePoint) More seniors than ever before are living healthy independent lives well into their golden years. And a vast majority want to remain in their homes as long as possible, according to the National Aging in Place Council.

However, most houses were not built to adapt to our changing needs as we age.

"The good news is there are many simple ways to make a home more functional for your needs as you age," says Shannon Sims, marketing communications manager for Therma-Tru Corp.

By 2030, Americans 65 and older will make up 20 percent of the population. For those wishing to make aging-in-place easier, there are several things to consider.

De-clutter Rooms

Eliminate clutter that could get in your way, such as planters and small console tables.

Pay attention to area rugs and other tripping hazards. And if you have wood floors and carpeting, install transition strips where they adjoin.

Evaluate Your Entryway

To ideally accommodate a wheelchair, the doorway to your home should be at least 32-inches wide. Even without a wheelchair, a wider opening can be beneficial when entering and exiting.

There are different doors you can install to meet your mobility needs and personal style. For example, Therma-Tru offers 42-inch wide entry doors in its Classic-Craft Rustic Collection and Classic-Craft Oak Collection, to allow for easier access and for dramatic and elegant curb appeal.

Also consider how the door swings. A door that swings in may be easier to operate than one swinging out. A remodeling contractor can help determine what your home can accommodate structurally, provide recommendations for styles and handle installation.

Teak Bathrooms and Kitchens

Lowering countertops in your kitchen and bathroom can make using them easier. And consider grab-bars for showers and bathtubs. For their part, curbless showers and bathtubs with entrances that open can reduce the possibility of falling.

Get a Grip

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 67 million adults will have doctor-diagnosed arthritis by the year 2030. For them, just turning a doorknob can be painfully difficult. Consider installing lever-style handles on exterior and interior doors. And choose ones with a multi-point locking system for ease of opening, such as those from Therma-Tru, which also provide greater security and stability.

"Making life easier can be as simple as choosing low-maintenance entry doors with easy-to-use levers instead of doorknobs. Or, to allow more fresh air and light into the home, a homeowner can request Vented Sidelites on their doors that swing open easily on hinges," says Sims.

Upgrade Patio Doors

Patio doors tend to receive more traffic than front doors. If your patio door is due for an upgrade, you can choose the classic elegance of a hinged door or the modern conveniece of a sliding door. Both are available in two-, three- or four-panel configurations to ensure a wide opening.

Above all, when adapting your home, keep an eye on making your daily life easier.

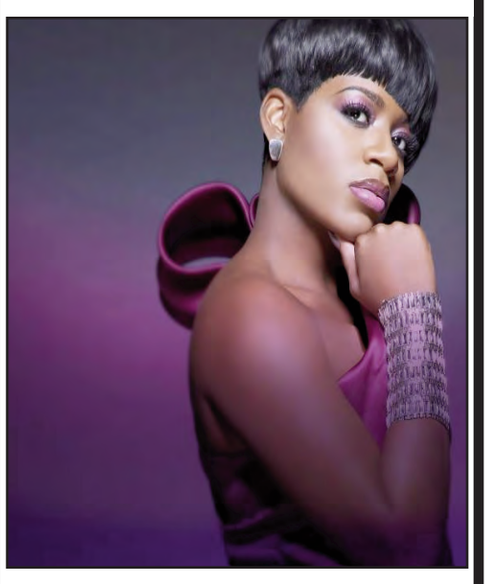
Community Activities, continued

Announcements, meetings, happenings, and community events scheduled in Jacksonville and the surrounding area

The City of Jacksonville's Planning and Development Department in partnership with Riverside Avondale Preservation will host the Restore Jacksonville conference, May 2 - 6, at Jacksonville Main Library, 303 N. Laura St. -- 32202. More information on the conference can be found at www.restore-jacksonville.com.
FLORIDA SISTERS IN CRIME holds monthly meetings to spotlight authors and the craft of writing every first Saturday from 10 – 12:00 p. m. at the Southeast Regional Library, 10599 Deerwood Park Blvd. Our May 5, 2012 meeting will feature trial attorney, Kate Mesic. Mesic, a member of Florida Association of Women Lawyers litigates both criminal and civil cases. Visit www.floridasistersincrime.com for more information. I can be reached at 904 762 1935.
The Avenues And Orange Park Mall: Simon Property Group, Inc. NYSE:SPG), the world's leading retail real estate company in Jacksonville **Celebrate NATIONAL MOM'S NITE OUT** on Thursday, May 10, from 5 – 8 p. m. The event is FREE and will feature fun events for moms to relax and unwind for an evening.
Edward Waters College is excited to announce Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown who will deliver the keynote address at Commencement 2012. Commencement 2012 will take place in the College's gymnasium, the Adams-Jenkins Community Sports and Music Complex, on May 12 at 1 p.m.
Representatives from Hens in Jax will speak at the Libertarian Party of Duval County meeting on May 17th at 6:30 PM at Golden Corral 4250 Southside Blvd, Jacksonville, FL.
REGISTRATION for the May session of Mayor Brown's Business Builder is now open. The two-day event is full of expert panels, speakers, and a business opportunity expo designed to help every level of entrepreneur. Day one, Thursday, May 17, provides topics on Franchise and Finance while Day two, Friday May 18, is focused on Planning for Business Growth. Visit coj.net today and sign up to attend one of several business growth sessions.
EDUCATION RECRUITING CAREER FAITH. The School District of Clay County will hold it's annual Education Recruiting Career Fair**:** Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m, at Fleming Island High School, 2233 Village Square Parkway, Fleming Island, FL 32003.

GEORGIA LOCAL SECTION - B

Fantasia To Perform In Brunswick



By ARTHIA NIXON
Florida/Georgia Star

Organizers of Miracle Home Care's first annual Recognize Your Community Awards have confirmed that Fantasia Barrino will be performing during the star-studded weekend.

The Life Is Not A Fairytale actress who rocketed to fame following her American Idol win is set to hit the stage at the historic Ritz Theatre.

With several big names on the card for the three day event, Brunswick might just rival Atlanta when it comes to celebrity sightings.

"We are very excited to have Fantasia taking part in the RYCAs," said Sherry Reed, organizer of the event. "As you know, we've been able to get actress Vivica A. Fox, Real Housewives of Atlanta breakout star and stylist Dwight Eubanks, and recording artist Bobby Valentino and Jessica Rogers [see feature story]."

For just $50, guests can get a full pass to the All White Party, Awards Ceremony at the Ritz Theatre and Community Day on Seldon Park. For more information and reservations call 912-264-9242.

Fire Erupts At Tyler Perry Studios

By ARTHIA NIXON
Florida/Georgia Star

Days after a fire destroyed a portion of Tyler Perry Studios, the cause of the blaze is still undermined. Officials on the scene said that the fire was so intense, that at one point firefighters were not sure they'd locate the source.
The man behind the studios, Tyler Perry was not available for comment and instructed employees not to speak with media.

However, an official press statement was later released. It read: "Atlanta firefighters responded immediately to a fire which damaged the backlot façade of one of the buildings at Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta. We are grateful that there were no injuries, and that 99 percent of the damage is limited to the backlot facade. Mr. Perry wishes to express his heartfelt thanks to the Atlanta fire department for their professionalism in their quick response and limiting the damage."

Perry's celebrity friends took to social networks to express their concern. "I think my friend and younger big brother Tyler Perry ... His back lot studio was damaged by fire last night," tweeted Oprah. "His attitude in the midst of it all was calm and feeling blessed no one was injured. Real grace under fire."

SIMPLY JESSICA: Brunswick's First Lady Of Contemporary Gospel Stepping Out In May With CD Signing, Live Performances & More. Gives Candid Interview As To What's In Store For Fans

By ARTHIA NIXON
Florida/Georgia Star

With several bookings under her belt and a CD signing on Saturday, Jessica Rogers, Brunswick's first lady of contemporary gospel, is showing why she's the rising star to watch.

As said in her bio at www.simply-jessica.com, Rogers grew up with a passion for music and an immense love for God burning in her heart; both of which are displayed with every note she sings.

On Saturday, May 5, Rogers held her first CD signing at Shekinah Glory Christian Bookstore. Its quite an accomplishment for someone who in 2008 held her very first concert "Introducing Jessica" where she debuted her hit single, "Send Me". The song was written and produced by her husband Larry E. Rogers, Jr., of No Slippin' Productions (N.S.P.). This dynamic duo has been dedicated to completing the entire CD.

She has put Brunswick on the map as the winner of the Outstanding Soloist Choral Award at the All American Music Festival (Orlando FL) and the winner of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Lambda Chapter Talent Hunt (Brunswick GA). She has also had the unique honor and pleasure of singing with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra and performing backup vocals for some of the most notable and distinguished voices in music: Ray Charles, Stephanie Mills, Isaac Hayes, Dionne Warwick, and gospel artist Douglas Miller.

Rogers credits her success to God, the unconditional love and support of her family and friends, and the prolific teachings of Pastor Mark Baker, founder of Greater Works Than These Ministries (Brunswick GA) where her scriptural knowledge and faith are continually increased as she strives toward the next level in her ministry gift.

"My prayer and desire is that my music will touch everyone that God allows to hear it. The music is not just for one race, age, gender, denomination, or culture, but for all backgrounds." – Jessica Rogers

Taking time for what looks to be a busy schedule, Rogers granted me a candid interview to discuss her successes.

AN: Do you have any new projects on your plate?
JR: Yes, I released my first full length project, Inspired, this past December. I am extremely proud of this project; it is my baby. I am looking forward to seeing it grow with God's help.

AN: I understand you're a teacher by day. What school do you teach at and does that inspire you?
JR: I work at Burroughs-Molette Elementary School in the computer lab. Knowing that a child is progressing academically because of assistance I provide certainly inspires me to keep depositing into their lives.

AN: Are you married and a mother? How do you balance that with your music career?
JR: Yes, I am a wife and a mother of a seven-year old daughter. Both my husband and daughter are supportive of my music career. Their cooperative spirits help keep things on an even keel. Knowing when enough is enough helps me keep my perspective. Let's not forget much prayer!

AN: Tell me three people you would love to do duets with?
JR: Kim Burrell, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, and Kim McFarland

AN: What is your musical style?
JR: Contemporary Gospel

AN: Getting back to teaching. Since summer is basically here, will you pour into music more?
JR: Yes. I will use the time to focus more on my ministry and to perfect my craft.

AN: You have a really marketable look for pop/R&B. Why do you choose gospel?
JR: Gospel music is my foundation. Not just gospel music, but the Gospel of Jesus Christ is essential to my existence.

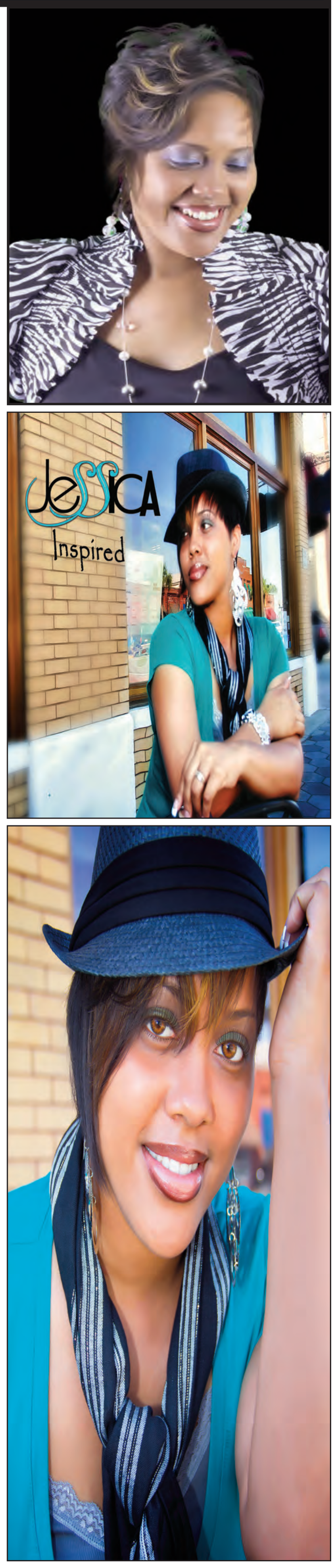
AN: Brunswick is such a speck on the map yet you've stepped so far out. What is your word of encouragement to others wanting to do the same?
JR: Whatever your aspirations are, go for them and don't let negativity stop you. Stick with it and strive to be the very best. It is also good to surround yourself with positive, like-minded people.

AN: What scripture do you think serves as a strong base in your life?
JR: Isaiah 40:31; But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

AN: What are you most looking forward to at the RYCA's?
JR: I look forward to ministering through my music to a diverse audience.

AN: Are there any events on the horizon we should know about?
JR: I have a couple events coming up that will keep me busy throughout the next four (4) months.
May 5th - CD Signing, 12:00-2:00 p.m., Shekinah Glory in Brunswick
May 11th - A Night of Praise Charity Concert in Surrency, Georgia
June 14th – ' Passionate About Me' Men and Women's Conference on St. Simons Island, GA
People can visit my fan page on FaceBook (Jessica Rogers Fan Page) or my website (www.simply-jessica.com) for updates on my upcoming events.

AN: Thanks so much Jessica and to your manager Loretta for taking time out to talk to us!



SPORTS

SHARKS' LATE SURGE FALLS SHORT IN 56-48 LOSS; PLUS HOLMAN NAMED JLS IRONMAN OF THE WEEK

The ArenaBowl XXIV Champion Jacksonville Sharks sustained a furious rally in the second half but fell one score short, as the Spokane Shock emerged on the better end of a 56-48 final in front of 10,470 at Sea Best Field on Saturday night.

The Sharks (2-4) trailed 49-40 shortly before the one-minute warning when quarterback Omar Jacobs hit Jamarko Simmons for a touchdown and followed with a two-point conversion toss to Terrance Smith to bring the Sharks within a point.

Spokane (3-3) responded with a touchdown from Kyle Rowley to Brandon Thompkins but elected to kick the extra point, keeping Jacksonville within one score. The Sharks moved into the red zone in the final minute, but Jacobs' pass to the end zone deflected off of the rail below the rebound net and was intercepted by Beau Bell.

Before their rally fell short, the Sharks had battled back from a 49-28 third-quarter deficit thanks to a key defensive stop.

Spokane's early lead came as a result of three first-half interceptions , including an interception returned for a touchdown by Shock defender Freddie Harris immediately after a Spokane offensive touchdown. In the second, Terrance Sanders picked off Jacobs and returned it to the one, setting up another Spokane score.

Jacobs finished 37-of-52 for 371 yards, seven touchdowns and four interceptions. His 52 attempts set a new franchise record, while the 37 completions tied the all-time team mark and those 371 yards represented a season high.

For the first time this season, three Jacksonville receivers each topped the century mark. Terrance Smith led the squad with 125 yards and three touchdowns, while Jamarko Simmons and Bobby Sewall each pulled in 11 passes for 112 and 107 yards, respectively.

Playing in his first game since being activated from injured reserve, offensive lineman Vladimir Richard opened the scoring with a touchdown catch for Jacksonville's first score. Also notable was the ironman effort of lineman Jason Holman, who played the vast majority of the game at both fullback and nose tackle.

Sharks lineman Jason Holman has been selected as the JLS Ironman of the Week for Week 8 of the 2012 season. high total of 365 yards. Often referred to as the Sharks' most versatile player by head coach Les Moss, Holman has started each of Jacksonville's first six games at three different positions. He opened the season at defensive end and then made one start at nose guard before starting three consecutive games at fullback.

This awards means that the Sharks have had a player earn a weekly league honor after each of the team's last four names. Wide receiver Terrance Smith was named AFL Playmaker of the Week for Week 4 and Week 6

Suns Beat Barons 8-6 In 12 Innings

The Jacksonville Suns won their second straight game over the Barons with an 8-6 victory in 12 innings on Wednesday afternoon. The Suns are a season-high five games over .500 with a record of 16-11, and have sole possession of first place in the South Division.

Birmingham scored the first run of the day in the third inning, when Tyler Saladino walked and scored on a single by Drew Garcia to give the Barons a 1-0 lead. Garcia increased his hitting streak to six games and at that point had driven in all four Birmingham runs in the series.

Before back-to-back losses to the Suns, the Barons had won five straight after their series sweep over Montgomery. The Barons outscored the Biscuits 39-17 in the process. Birmingham lost for just the second time this season when scoring at least six runs in a game. The Suns won for just the third time when allowing the game's first run.

Birmingham starter Nestor Molina entered the game in search of his fourth straight win, and pitched into the fifth before the Suns were able to get to him. Three straight singles by Donnie Webb, Jake Smolinski, and Dallas Poulk put Jacksonville on the scoreboard in the fifth. Poulk's base hit to center field drove in Webb to tie the game 1-1. Poulk and Smolinski would later score when Kyle Jensen doubled to left. Jensen now has 15 runs batted in for the season.

The Barons sent eight batters to the plate and scored three times in the sixth inning, when Suns starting pitcher Bryan Evans was a little wild. Saladino walked, went to second on a wild pitch, and crossed the plate later in the inning on a wild pitch to cut the Suns lead to 3-2. Wade Korpi entered the game in relief, and with the bases loaded Jose Martinez came through with a single to left field driving in two runs and giving the Barons in front 4-3. Martinez now has a five-game hitting streak.

No lead was safe throughout the day, and in the seventh inning the Suns tied the game 4-4 off of Barons reliever Nevin Griffith. Jake Smolinski drew a leadoff walk and scored on Shawn Bowman's single to right. Bowman has 14 runs batted in this season. Jacksonville took a 5-4 lead in the eighth when Kyle Jensen singled to center to lead off the inning. Ryan Patterson entered the game as a pinch runner and went to second on a wild pitch, advanced to third on a ground out, and scored when Curt Smith sent a fly ball to center. Smith has driven in six runs in the last three games.

A.J. Ramos entered the game in the eighth inning, but couldn't hold the one-run lead. Andy Wilkins hit a solo home run to right field to tie the game 5-5. It was his fourth round-tripper of the season. Ramos had given up just one single to the first 40 batters that he had faced this season. He allowed two hits and one run in his two innings of work on Wednesday against Birmingham.

In the 12th inning, Ryan Patterson led off with a walk. Curt Smith then drove in his second run of the day with a double to center with Patterson scoring to give the Suns a 6-5 advantage. Donnie Webb drove in a run with a sacrifice bunt to increase the lead to 7-5, and Jake Smolinski plated a run in the inning with his third double of the game. The Suns improved to 2-0 in extra inning games this season. During the 2011 campaign, the Suns led the Southern League with 10 extra inning wins.

Overall, seven of Jacksonville's 13 hits were doubles. Jake Smolinksi finsihed 4-for-6 with three doubles, two runs scored, and a run batted in. Dallas Poulk wednt 3-for-7 with two doubles and scored a run. Kyle Jensen and Curt Smith each had two hits and two runs batted in. It's the second time this season that Smolinski has had three doubles in a game to come within one of tying the Southern League record for most doubles in a single game. He had three doubles against Huntsville April 7th.

Suns starter Bryan Evans pitched five-and-a-third innings, allowing two hits and three runs(two earned). Kyle Kaminska was the winning pitcher to improve his record to 4-1. He tossed two innings, allowing just two hits and struck out two. Evan Reed pitched the 12th inning to notch his league-leading eighth save of the season. Six Suns pitchers combined to strike out a season-high 17 Birmingham hitters.

The Suns will look to continue their winning ways on Thursday night with RHP Zach Neal (2-2, 2.16) on the mound. Neal's 2.16 ERA has him among the league leaders. LHP Pedro Hernandez (2-1, 3.24) is scheduled to start for the Barons.

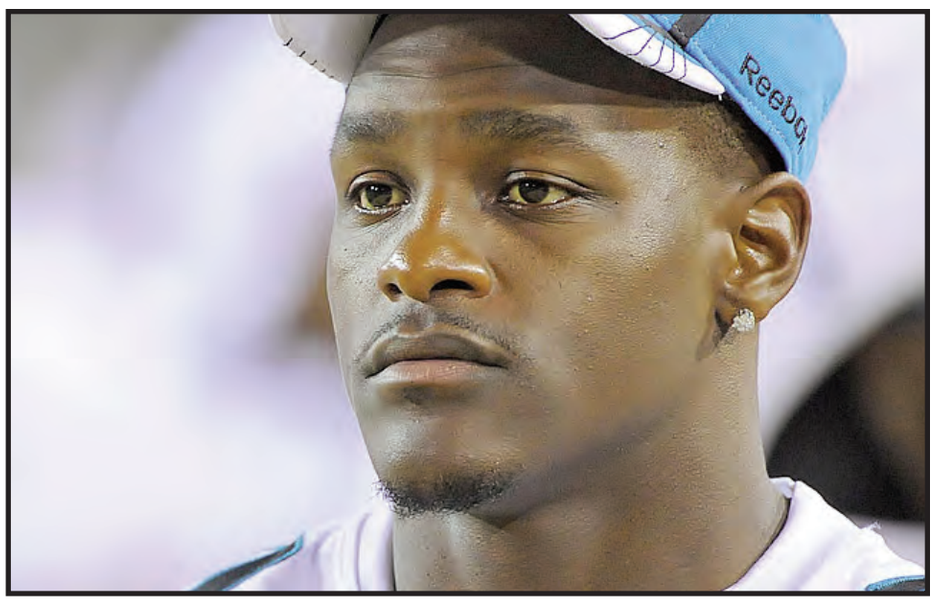
Jaguars Release Drew Coleman

By ARTHIA NIXON
Florida/Georgia Star

The Jacksonville Jaguars confirmed on Thursday that they have officially released Drew Coleman.

Coleman played in all 16 games for the Jaguars in 2011 after joining the club as an unrestricted free agent from the New York Jets

In July 2011, Coleman signed a three-year deal worth up to $7.4 million with the Jaguars. However, with the team netting players like Aaron Ross and Rashean Mathis and Will Middleton returning from injuries there simply isn't enough room on the team for everyone.



Mayweather In Cinco de Mayo Fight Against Cotto In Vegas

Cinco de Mayo night will end in a knockout if Floyd Mayweather or Miguel Cotto have their way.

Mayweather (42-0, 26 KOs) and Cotto (37-2, 30 KOs) will fight for Cotto's WBC super welterweight title Saturday night at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. The fight will air on HBO Pay Per View at 9p.m.

The battle being touted as Ring Kings will earn Cotto as estimated $8 million and Mayweather $25 million, depending on the viewer numbers.

More deteails in next week's issue.

Former NFL Star Junior Seau Dead At 43; Suicide Shocks League

Junior Seau is dead after a self inflicted gunshot wound to the chest. The former NFL linebacker was found at his California home last week after police responded to a 911 call by woman who identified herself as his girlfriend.

Seau's 20 year in the NFL included stints with the San Diego Chargers, Miami Dolphins and New England Patriots. The Chargers released a statement following news of Seau's death.

"Everyone at the Chargers is in complete shock and disbelief right now," the statement read. "We ask everyone to stop what they're doing and send their prayers to Junior and his family."

In recent years, the star athlete appeared to be troubled after driving his SUV off a cliff in 2012 just a few hours after being released from jail on a domestic violence charge regarding his 25 year-old girlfriend. While he cited falling asleep behind the wheel as the cause of the accident, many suspected it was a suicide attempt so no drugs or alcohol was discovered.

ENTERTAINMENT

John Cusack Delivers An Oscar Worthy Portrait Of Poe!

By Rych McCain, feedbackrych@sbcglobal.net and Facebook

Photo Courtesy Relativity Media Films

Any middle or high school student who has taken American literature has at one time or another been made to read and decipher the short stories and poems of the early 19th century poet/author Edgar Allan Poe. The new Relativity Media Films movie *"The Raven"* is titled after Poe's most famous poem of the same title. Poe was born in Boston in 1809. After getting himself kicked out of West Point via court-martialed because he couldn't relate to it, he spent most of his life barely making ends meet while drifting through a string of editorial jobs at various periodicals where he began to write poetry, articles, short stories and one novel. Except for the 1845 publishing of *"The Raven," which met with great success* via *The Evening Mirror* for which Poe was paid a whopping $9 dollars; fame as a writer eluded him for most of his life and didn't actually come until years after his death.

The story of Poe and his most noted writings have been the subject of many books, articles, Films and TV shows. In this latest film version, actor extraordinaire, John Cusack brings Poe to life via a very convening portrayal. Cusack's brilliant but haunting delivery of Poe's personal conflicts coupled with his career and survival struggles that he dealt with all the way to the grave is without question one of the first film performances of this year truly worthy of an Oscar® nomination for "Best Actor" when the awards season returns for 2013! Even though Cusack is one of the few actors who totally shuns the Hollywood notoriety, he may be forced to duck and dodge the rays of its spotlight should the Oscar® talk whip up to frenzy level at year's end.

When asked about the dynamics of his getting a 19th century figure down who was shrouded in so much mystery with many questions unanswered, Cusack responds, "I think the script was terrific. James (the director) and I went through it with the writers and some people and tried to pull as much of Poe's own dialogue as we could from his letters and his novels. So that we put that cadence and idiom into the structure of this genre story which is basically kind of a Poe story where Poe becomes a character in one of his own story's. So you have Poe deconstructing Poe. Even though it is fantasy, I was probably a little bit obsessed and drove James crazy saying yeah, Poe said this and Poe said that. I was always trying to use his own vernacular and his own words as much as I could in a fictional setting. We were trying to square that circle in a way. There are volumes and volumes of his thoughts on his writings. He wasn't shy about his personal memoirs.

What were the elements of this project that made it appealing other than the obvious things? Cusack lights up, "Working with James is a big deal for me because I think he is a talented film maker and he's got a big mind with a great capacity and I really wanted to work with him. I thought as an actor playing Poe and trying to get under the skin of this very, very complex genius would be great challenge and opportunity. I think any actor would want to play him so I was just up for it 100 percent." After the study, preparation and finally portrayal of the man, what was Cusack's opinion of Poe? He reflects, "I think he was a perpetual orphan of the world. His feelings of abandonment and loneliness from losing his mother, step mother and wife I think made him feel like the orphan of the world. He was a genius, kind of a bastard, he was a rogue; he was all of the things that you think of him naturally like inward looking and melancholy. He was a wonderer and a blasted soul and I think everybody can relate to that."

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL

ETHIOPIAN FILMMAKERS SELECTED TO ATTEND CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

INTERNATIONAL EMERGING TALENT ASSOCIATION AND THE ETHIOPIAN FILM INITIATIVE SPONSOR FILMMAKERS IN CANNES

Yidnekachew Shumete (center) while directing his upcoming feature ³Nishan²

Olisarali Olibui Tongolu

Henok Mebratu directing ³We All Count² an environmental documentary

ADDIS ABABA / MONACO – The International Emerging Film Talent Association (IEFTA) and the Ethiopian Film Initiative (EFI) announced today the three filmmakers selected for a week-long visit to Monaco and Cannes for workshops, programs and events happening during the 2012 Cannes film festival. They are: Henok Mebratu, Olisarali Olibui Tongolu and Yidnekachew Shumete Desalegn.

The trip will provide an opportunity for the filmmakers to meet a range of influential distributors, sales agents, producers, directors and international film commissioners at the festival, and also for them to be given one-on-one sessions with film institutions, consultants, established producing & co-producing entities, and international distribution companies.

Ambassador Tadelech Haile-Michael, a founding member of the EFI in Ethiopia, welcomed the news, calling it a chance to raise the international profile of Ethiopian films. "This is a great opportunity for Ethiopian filmmakers to establish themselves in the international marketplace," she said. "I am also delighted they will be able to present some images of our beautiful Ethiopian landscapes and culture, and show the rest of the world what an attractive location Ethiopia can be for international filmmakers."

The filmmakers were selected from a significant group of applicants emerging from Ethiopia's nascent film community. The criteria for participation mandates that the filmmaker be an Ethiopian national living and working in Ethiopia at least 6 months of the year and have produced or directed one fiction or documentary short or feature film. Prior to the filmmakers' arrival in Cannes, they will stop in Monte Carlo – the home of the IEFTA – for preparation meetings as well as a benefit event where their films will be screened.

"This is the second time the IEFTA has brought filmmakers from Ethiopia to Cannes, and we are extremely excited about the caliber of this year's finalists," says Marco Orsini, current President of the IEFTA. "It demonstrates that there is a growing film market and community in Ethiopia that should be taken seriously. We are also very pleased in the partnership we have had with the Ethiopian Film Initiative which provids on the ground training in Addis Ababa and are looking forward to expanding our programs into other parts of the developing world."

Henok Mebratu is an experienced filmmaker and a well-known figure among the Ethiopian creative community. His talents include directing documentaries and teaching media skills. In Cannes he will present a new movie drama he is working on. It tells the story of Kidist and Dawit, who were both raised abroad and whose lives are completely transformed by returning to Ethiopia to say farewell to their dying father.

Olisarali Olibui Tongolu co-produced an award-winning film, "Shooting with the Mursi", which gives an intriguing insider's view of his own tribe. In Cannes he will pitch his next project proposal "My Enemy, My Brother". Filming has already started on this project, which will focus on issues facing neighboring tribes of the Mursi. The themes to be covered include uncontrolled tourism, climate change and land rights.

Yidnekachew Shumete Desalegn is a widely respected film director in Addis Ababa, as well as a cameraman, editor, teacher and scriptwriter. He has worked extensively in both fiction and documentary films. His first feature film "Siryet" (2007), achieved widespread popularity. In Cannes he will pitch his upcoming film "Nishan" or Medal of Honour. It tells the story of Nishan, a young girl, who receives the rare opportunity of a visa to go abroad and change her life for the better. However, perplexing problems soon beset her.

"We're very proud of our 2012 Ethiopian Film Initiative finalists," states Mitch Levine, IEFTA Executive Consultant. "These filmmakers have demonstrated a passion for their art, excellence in filmmaking and a commitment to the advancement of Ethiopia's – and Africa's – filmmaking community. We are thrilled to host them for a week of education, workshops and screenings at the Cannes Film Festival and at the IEFTA's base in Monaco."

The IEFTA and EFI form an international / Ethiopian partnership committed to raising the professional standards of the Ethiopian film industry. The EFI provides capacity building support for Ethiopian documentary and feature film producers and directors as well as encouraging and training local and international entities to use local filmmakers.

The IEFTA – through its Global Film Expression and programs like the Ethiopian Film Initative – is dedicated to the discovery, nurture and promotion of filmmakers throughout the developing world. The IEFTA has been supporting Emerging talent since 2006 and has been specifically supporting Ethiopian film since 2008.

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A Personal Letter from Hester Clark...

Dear Friend,

Each year on May 1, I write a letter to try, in a very small way, to convey how grateful I am that my son Jonathan is celebrating another anniversary of his liver transplant.

This year, May 1, 2012, is the 25th anniversary. Jonathan is all grown up now, a healthy, independent, college graduate, on his way to a great career.

I made a promise in my heart to the donor mother that I have never met. I promised myself that I would honor her baby by doing everything in my power to raise Jonathan to be a good man.

I have done that. He is a good man.

Now, I have to find a new way to honor the memory of Jonathan's 5-month-old donor. I choose to honor our donor family, by working to make sure "ObamaCare" is available for all Americans.

This is not political- it is personal.

The Affordable Care Act is the lifeline for Jonathan's future. It ensures that Jonathan will always have health care coverage. Forever. Forever.

You have to understand our story- in order to understand why this is so important.

When Jonathan was born, we were 25-year-old parents in Fresno California. I was a graduate student and his father was beginning a new career. We were covered by health insurance, but the insurance did not cover liver transplants- it was considered an experimental treatment.

The prognosis was that Jonathan would die before his first birthday. The only treatment was transplantation- which cost approximately $350,000 (1986 dollars). Our family income was under $25,000. Without insurance coverage, Jonathan could not be placed on the transplant waiting list.

What happens when you don't have health insurance?

You are taken into a "financial evaluation room", where the social worker explains that- although your child meets the medical criteria for transplantation- he is not eligible to receive the transplant because we lacked adequate insurance.

We were told to take Jonathan home, and continue to work with our local physicians. Take him home to die.

We traveled across the country - Dallas, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and Omaha- each one walked us through the same procedure- without the ability to pay, Jonathan was not eligible to be placed on the waiting list. Take him home.

We had one year. One year - to convince the world that our baby was worth saving. One year - to demonstrate that we met the "financial eligibility criteria".

We did what every desperate family does- we begged.

Americans came to our rescue. Donations poured in from every corner of the country- from pennies given by school children to thousands of dollars from celebrities. We continued to beg. Please help save our baby. Finally, the insurance company overturned their decision- and provided the insurance coverage needed.

And a generous family in Texas- made the decision to give the gift of life.

Jonathan was saved.

Now, 25 years later, although my financial situation has significantly improved, I cannot stop begging. Today, I beg for the thousands of families who do not have health insurance. I beg for those like Jonathan who have pre-existing conditions. I beg, that never again, will a patient be denied care simply because they cannot pay.

Just as our donor family showed compassion, faith, selflessness and care for the greater good, I ask you to carry forth that same spirit and compassion.

Care for the greater good. Care enough so that no one is ever sent home to die.

I beg you. Please support the Affordable Care Act.

Vote as if your life depends on it. Because it does.

Sincerely,
Hester Clark

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO ADOPT

IN THE MATTER OF
JOSEPH MALACHI GONZALEZ

TO: **JORDAN GONZALEZ**
A PETITION HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO SAID COURT BY: **ANGEL M. AMARO** OF SPRINGFIELD, MA. **TANYA M. AMARO** OF SPRINGFIELD, MA, REQUESTING FOR LEAVE TO ADOPT SAID CHILD AND THAT THE NAME OF THE CHILD BE CHANGED TO: **JOSEPH MALACHI AMARO.**

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: SPRINGFIELD, MASS. ON OR BEFORE 10:00 AM ON: 05/25/2012

Notice is hereby given that on May 17, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at **Reform Auto Paint & Body Inc.** 7952 Smyrna St Jacksonville, FL 32208 the following vehicle will be sold for $7225.25 to satisfy labor services, repairs, and storage charges on: 2003 Nissan VIN 1N4BL11D13C125203. Pursuant to F.S.713.585 the cash amount of $7225.25 would be sufficient to redeem the vehicle from the lienor. Any interested party has a right to a hearing prior to the sale by filing a demand for the hearing with the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Duval County and mailing copies of the same to all owners and lienors. The owner has a right to recover possession of the vehicle by posting bond pursuant to F.S. 559.917 and if sold any proceeds remaining from the sale will be deposited with the Clerk of Circuit Court for disposition.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID

Beaver Street Enterprise Center
Phase II
728 Blanche St. Jacksonville, FL 32204

Notice is hereby given that FreshMinistries, Inc./Beaver Street Enterprise Center will receive sealed Bids until 3pm on June 4, 2012. **All Bids are to be sent to Beaver Street Enterprise Center, 1225 West Beaver Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204. All Bid envelopes must be noted on the exterior of the envelope "Beaver Street Enterprise Center Phase II, EDA Project No. 04-79-06517."** Bids will be publicly opened, read aloud, and recorded.

SCOPE OF WORK: Construction/Renovations at 728 Blanche Street Jacksonville, Florida 32204. The program at 728 Blanche Street will require completion of work: **wall, ceiling and floor finishes to complete the first floor renovations and landscape and sidewalks around the building and the second floor work would include HVAC, restroom finishes, floor, wall, ceiling and millwork in the reception area. The second floor would have 2600 SF of condition space of which 1300 SF would be finished and 1300 SF would be completed with initial painting and bare floors. The remainder of the second floor will be bare walls and floors. Applicants will be responsible for the completion of all work to date on the project. This shall include all implied labor & materials warranties, workmanship, and warranties on existing equipment and trades.**

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at Beaver Street Enterprise Center on May 11, 2012, at 3pm to discuss the specific requirements of this project.

FEDERAL FUNDING: The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration is providing partial funding for this project (EDA Investment No. 04-79-06517). Therefore, Bidders must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (24 CFR, Parts 1 & 2); Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (24 CFR, Part 115); Federal Labor Standards Provisions (HUD 4010); the Davis-Bacon Act; the Anti-Kickback Act; and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. Bidders are advised to refer to the Federal Regulations of these specifications for more information.

All Bids must be made on the forms provided, properly executed, placed in an envelope and mailed or delivered in accordance with this Notice.

ONE ORIGINAL BID AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED. NO DUPLICATES OR COPIES WILL BE CONSIDERED.

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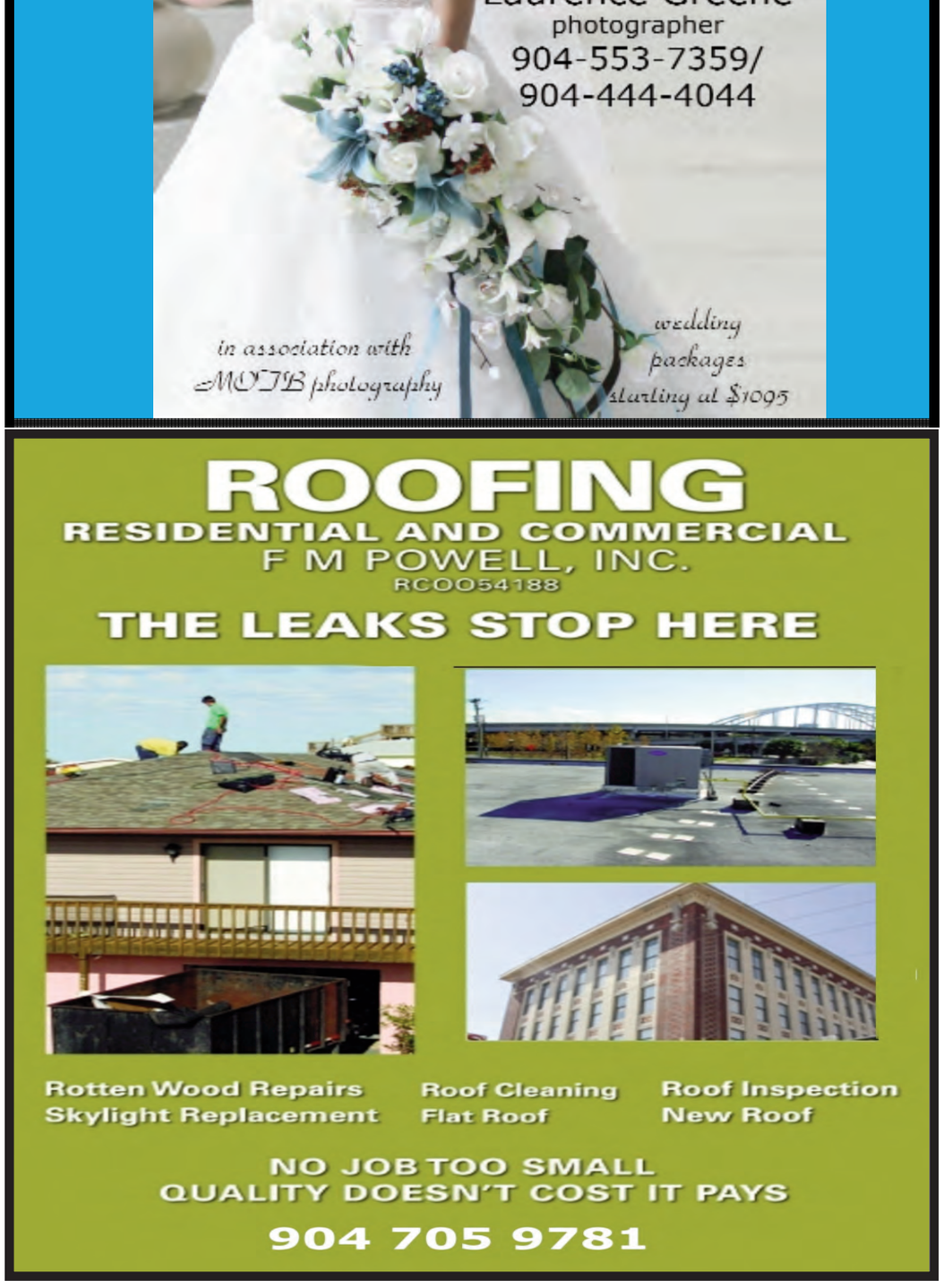


Education & Career

New program helps returning military members bridge the gap between battlefield and backyard

(ARA) - After 10 years of serving around the world in armed conflicts, members of the armed forces are returning home to families, civilian jobs and a life very different from the constant state of readiness they experienced overseas.

While most military members and their families will transition easily, others may need some assistance. In an effort to help foster positive reconnections between family members and help service members reintegrate into civilian life, the American Red Cross and Walmart have teamed-up to offer a program called The Reconnection Workshops, presented by Walmart.

"The vast majority of our military personnel returning from deployment will successfully adjust to life after deployment," says Dr. Marjorie Kukor, Ph.D., senior associate for mental health at the American Red Cross. "Others may experience some difficulty - reconnecting with their family, rejoining their workplace and re-engaging with their communities. They may appreciate having some support as they adjust to post-deployment changes."

To learn more about this new, no-cost and confidential program, military service members, veterans and their families can visit www.redcross.org/reconnectionworkshops or contact their local Red Cross office.

Legion supports end to student-veteran victimization

Executive order to protect veterans from exploitation by for-profit schools 'an important victory,' says national commander.

A longstanding campaign by The American Legion to end the victimization of military veterans and families by some for-profit schools has culminated in an order by President Obama to halt the questionable practices.

On April 27, President Barack Obama signed an executive order to help protect students and prospective students using their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits from aggressive and deceptive targeting by educational institutions, particularly for-profit career colleges. The American Legion was instrumental in the execution of the presidential order.

"This is an important victory on behalf of our young servicemembers and veterans who, in seeking to better themselves educationally, have been wrongly and unconscionably victimized by some institutions who see America's finest as nothing more than a vulnerable market," American Legion National Commander Fang A. Wong said. "I am proud that The American Legion had a big hand in the president's decision to take this bold action."

Since the Post 9/11 GI Bill became law, The American Legion has been closely monitoring reports of some institutions encouraging veterans to take out costly private loans from them, rather than advising the students of available federal aid. Reports indicate that some schools have also been engaging in high-pressure and misleading recruiting practices at military installations, of not providing realistic and accurate data on the school's academic standing and the eventual career value of their diplomas and degrees. In some cases, institutions have recruited veterans with TBI (traumatic brain injury) and PTS (post traumatic stress) without giving them the counseling and support needed to help them complete their studies.

President Obama's executive order addresses these practices to, in the words of The White House, "help ensure that students are aware of the true cost and likelihood of completing their education at an institution prior to enrolling."

In October 2011, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion adopted a resolution from the Legion's Economic Commission to "Support Regulation of For-Profit Schools and State Approving Agencies." The resolution outlined measures that were recently communicated to President Obama in a letter co-signed by several veterans service organizations.

"Congress has been examining this issue for some time," American Legion Economic Division Director Joe Sharpe said. "Legislation similar to the executive order in its intent has been introduced. However, the president has decided to take action now, rather than wait for House and Senate bills to be considered, debated, rewritten and passed. It is no coincidence that, just weeks after our letter was delivered to him, President Obama issued this order. We applaud this."

Obama signed the order during a visit to Fort Stewart, Ga., in the company of about two dozen members of The American Legion.

LOCAL EVENTS

The Riverside Arts Market

Coming Up! BikersForTheCure
There are MANY great activities all year long!
Here are just a few dates you will DEFINITELY want to join us:

May 5th - Cinco de Mayo and Zumba with the Y at RAM
June 2nd - Hale & Hearty 7K run
June 9th - Up the River swim
June 16th - Komen Bikers for the Cure Motorcycle Relay & After Party

STAY TUNED FOR MORE!

Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home Hosts Summer Kick-Off Food Drive

In an effort to give back to the community it serves, Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home in Jacksonville Beach is hosting a food drive to kick off the summer season. Community members are asked to bring non-perishable food items to the funeral home at 1701 Beach Boulevard in Jacksonville Beach from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the month of May, beginning Tuesday, May 1. All donations will benefit Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (B.E.A.M.).

"During the summer months, schools are not providing the free or reduced-cost lunches to students," said Jennifer Crews, Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home assistant manager. "It is our hope that our community can come together to ensure no child goes without a meal."

Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home is a proud Dignity Memorial® provider in Jacksonville Beach. The Dignity Memorial network of more than 1,800 funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers is North America's most trusted resource for funeral and memorialization services. Dignity Memorial providers offer an unmatched combination of products and locations serving families with care, integrity, respect and service excellence. For more information, visit www.Hardage-GiddensBeachesChapel.com.

Harvard University Announcement
No Tuition And No Student Loans

If you know of a family earning less than $60,000 a year with an honor student graduating from high school soon, Harvard University wants to pay the tuition. The prestigious university recently announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families can go to Harvard for free...no tuition and no student loans!

To find out more about Harvard offering free tuition for families making less than $60,000 a year, visit Harvard's financial aid website at: http://www.fao.fas.harvard.edu or call the school's financial aid office at (617) 495-1581.

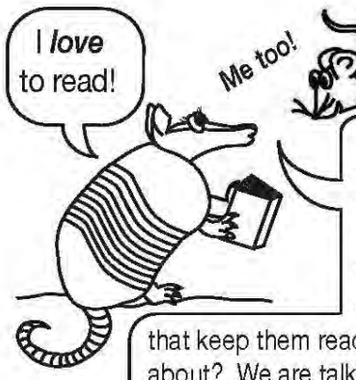
SAVE THE DATE! MAY 21, 2012
CONGRESSWOMAN CORRINE BROWN
20th Annual Job Fair
Prime Osborn Convention Center

Tribute to Ms Sallye B. Mathis

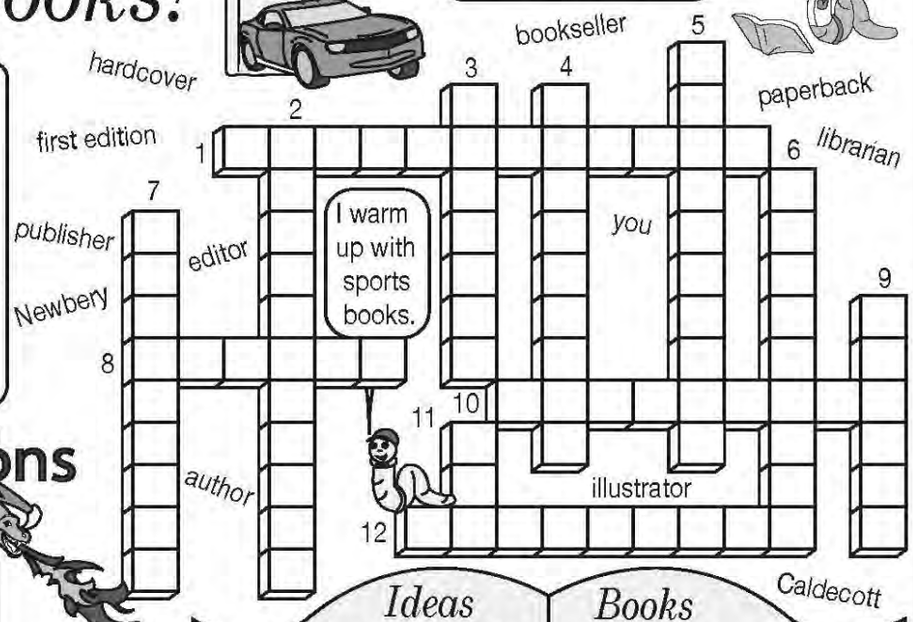
The Jacksonville Chapter of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History(ASALH), will dedicate and pay tribute to Ms Mathis at our monthly meeting on Saturday, May 19, 2012. We will have a discussion on the contributions that she made in Education, Social Services as well as in politics during her lifetime in Jacksonville.Ms Mathis was one of the two, first Black Women to serve on City Council in 1967.

The Program will be held at St. Phillips Episcopal Church, located at 321 West Union Street on May 19th from 10:00 until 12:00p.m, admission is free to the public.

We Love Books!

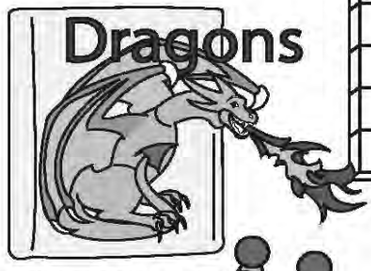


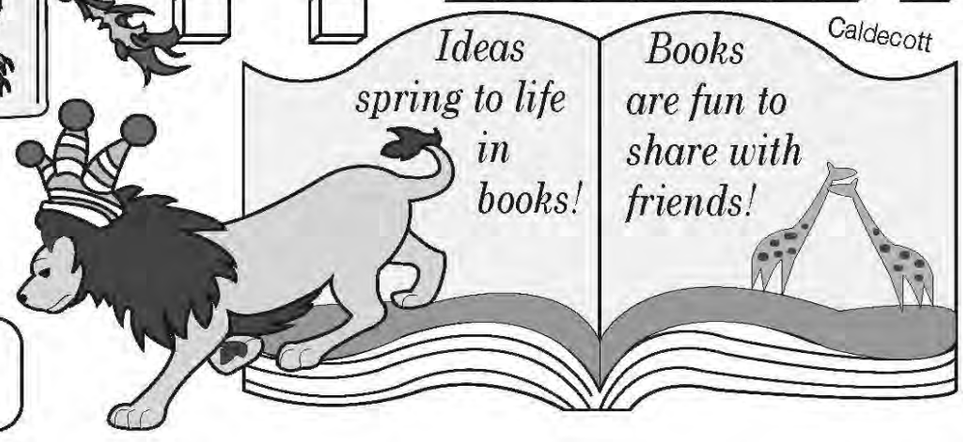
Children's Book Week is a time to celebrate the people who spend their time writing, drawing pictures, publishing, reading and sharing their love of children's books. It is a week to honor those who encourage children to find exciting books that keep them reading and wanting more. Who are we talking about? We are talking about authors, illustrators, booksellers, storytellers, teachers and, of course, librarians! Check your newspaper and library for listings of fun events for this week.



Read the clues to fill in the puzzle about books:

1. book from the first set that was printed
2. draws the pictures to help the story come alive
3. yearly award for best American children's book
4. helps you find lots of different books
5. sells copies of a book to readers
6. strong binding that can protect the book
7. soft, less costly binding, often made of thick paper
8. person who checks the work of authors and illustrators for mistakes
9. thinks up and writes the story
10. yearly award for best American picture book for children
11. most important person when it comes to reading
12. prints and binds copies of the books





Visit our web site to print out new puzzles: **Best-Loved Books, Birds** (word search) and **Spring Into Action.** Don't forget to print out the spring reading log set, too: **www.readingclubfun.com**

What Kinds of Books?

Mystery Dog can find out anything! He wants to let kids know what kinds of books they can find at the library to borrow. ***Three letters*** of the alphabet are mysteriously missing from the words in Mystery Dog's list. **Can you help him by filling in the blanks with the missing letters?**

(Hint-one letter is a vowel, one is a consonant and one can be used as a vowel or consonant!)

Fiction Books (not real)

1. Fant __ sy
2. Sc ___ ry
3. My ___ tery
4. Folk and Fair___ Tales
5. Sports ___ tories
6. Hi ___ torical Fiction

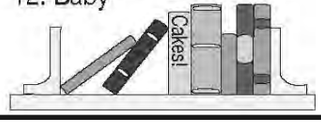
Non-Fiction Books (real)

1. ___ nimals
2. We ___ ther
3. Geogr ___ ph ___
4. ___ ports
5. Hi ___ tory
6. Biogr ___ ph ___

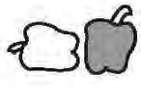
What Did The Characters Do?

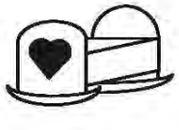
We all have our favorite Mother Goose nursery rhymes! Writers and artists have created many different books using Mother Goose verses. **Can you match these characters to the phrases that tell what they did?**

1. Old Mother Goose
2. Peter Piper
3. Humpty Dumpty
4. Jack and Jill
5. Little Jack Horner
6. Jack Sprat
7. Old Mother Hubbard
8. Cow
9. Little Bo-Peep
10. Blackbirds
11. Simple Simon
12. Baby



A. jumped over the moon
B. picked pickled peppers
C. would fly on a gander
D. were baked in a pie for the King
E. went to get a pail of water
F. looked everywhere for her sheep
G. was walking to the fair
H. could not eat fat
I. wasn't careful on the wall
J. rocked in a cradle on a tree branch
K. wanted to give her a dog a bone
L. liked to eat Christmas pie





Scholarships, Opportunities, and Achievements

College Opportunities and information about free eyeglasses for children under age 12

1. Wake Forest University has an opportunity for minority students to attend its MBA program for FREE, and so far, the response has been very poor. Please pass along this opportunity to your friends, families.This is a great school and a tremendous opportunity to attend a top graduate school. See the details below, the contact person is: Derrick S. Boone, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Marketing, Rm. 3139 Worrell Professional Center, Babcock Graduate School of Management - Wake Forest University_ WINSTON_SALEM N.C 27109-8738
email: derrick.boone@mba.wfu.edu or visit www.wfu.edu phone# toll free (866) 925-3622
2. Black Male Teachers needed. Do you know any Black Males who are seniors in high school who want to go to college out of state for FREE? The CALL ME MISTER program offered by 4 historical black colleges in South Carolina, Benedict College, Chaflin University, Morris College and South Carolina State University - visit the www.callmemister.clemson.edu/index.htldetails online application or call 1.800.640.2657
3. Harvard University is offering free tuition to families of HONOR STUDENTS and their income is less than $125,000 per year.
Visit www.fao.fas.harvard.edc or call 617.495.1581.
4. Syracuse University School of Architecture is desperately seeking young women and men of color interested in pursuing a 5 yr. professional degree in Architecture. Contact: Mark Robbins, Dean School of Architecture, 201 Slocum Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244-1250 (315) 443-256 www.soa.syr.edu/indes.php
5. A free pair of eyeglasses from Target for any child ages 12 and under brings a valid prescription for glasses from their doctor. You can find stores with optical departments at www.target.com
6. APPLY NOW - If you have/know young adults between the ages of 18-31 with a High School Diploma. Can earn up to $100,000 and earn benefits.
The Federal Aviation Association is taking application for Air Traffic Controller School visit the websiteThank you,

Apply for Benefits: Myflorida.com/accessflorida
Set up a My ACCESS Account

FAMU Division of Journalism earns Reaccreditation

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Accrediting Council on Journalism and Mass Communications approved reaccreditation for Florida A&M University's Division of Journalism on April 27 in Arlington, Va.

"This vote of reaccreditation signals the high quality work produced in our Division of Journalism, said the School of Journalism and Graphic Communication Dean James Hawkins. "Kudos to Professor (Dorothy) Bland, the journalism faculty, staff and students."

A team of journalists and media professionals visited the university in February. Phillip Dixon, a veteran journalist and former chair of the Journalism Department at Howard University, was the team chair. The site team report praised the division for engaged and enthusiastic students as well as "dedicated faculty committed to their own development and holding students to high standards of achievement."

The team report said Bland, the journalism division director, has "strong leadership and management skills and a huge appetite for hard work." The team report also gave the division high praise for "strong relationships with local media and mass communication professionals."

The team report stated that PRodigy, the student-run public relations firm, has a "strong reputation for serving clients on campus and in the community."

At the committee meeting in March, Dixon praised student media outlets – including the award-winning Famuan newspaper, Journey magazine, FAMU TV20, WANM 90.5 and related websites – for covering stories related to the death of drum major Robert Champion Jr. "without fear or favor."

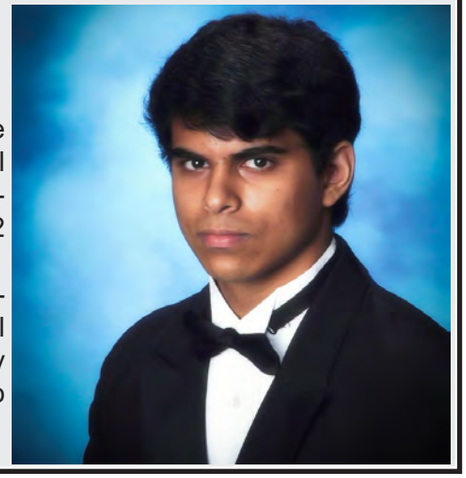
FAMU journalism students have won about 20 journalism-related state, regional and national awards this semester. For example, Wandoo Makurdi took first place in the National Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Contest for her documentary on South Africa. Journey Magazine earned first place in both the "Best of the South" Contest from the Southeast Journalism Conference and the SPJ Region 3 Mark of Excellence Contest. Broadcast journalism students earned four first place awards in the Florida Associated Press Broadcasters Contest.

The FAMU Division of Journalism was the first journalism program at a historically black college or university to be nationally accredited by ACEJMC.

Two Duval County Public Schools' Students Named National Merit® Scholarship Winners

Two students from Stanton College Preparatory were selected by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) as winners of the National Merit $2500 Scholarships. The 2,500 Merit Scholar designees were chosen from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding finalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Ana Bautista and Reno Varghese were among those selected to receive the National Merit $2500 Scholarship. Ana received the National Merit $2500 scholarship underwritten by State Farm and plans to study business in school. Reno received the National Merit $2500 scholarship from NMSC and plans to study international relations in school.

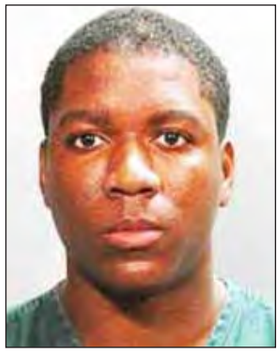


Crime and Justice

A Publication of the Florida Star and Georgia Star

As an African - American newspaper, we basically report on offenses committed by African - Americans. Please note that in our observations, weekly reports show that African - Americans DO NOT commit the largest percentage of criminal offenses in this area.

21-Year-Old Murders His Parents



Charles Fritzner III

A man was arrested after shooting and killing his parents.

Police say 21-year-old Charles Fritzner III had been staying at his parents' home on and off. His parents, 42-year-old Ltanya Fritzner and 52-year-old Charles Fritzner II, wanted him to move out and told him earlier on in the day to move his things out or they would place them outside on the curb. This issue is said to have been going on for several years and police say Fritzner was not wanted in the house also for his drug use.

Police say before the shooting happened, Fritzner's mother and 20-year-old sister, Diana, went for a walk around the neighborhood. They saw Fritzner walking around in the neighborhood as well after he had been told to move out. When the two went back home, the father asked Diana if she had seen Fritzner. She was getting ready to take a shower and proceeded without answering. As she was about to get in the shower, she heard gunshots and thought it was glass breaking. When she went to the living room, she found out that her parents had been shot.

According to police, the mother had told Diana that Fritzner had shot them. Diana then called police and another person called the police as well who heard the gunshots. Police found Fritzner walking down a street about a mile away and when he was confronted by police, he gave them a false name and asked them if someone had been shot. Not only was the question a give-away, but he also matched the given description. When they went to the house, they found Fritzner's parents conscious and crying.

Police say the family has had problems with domestic violence in the past. Records show that a total of 20 calls had been made from the home in the last two years. Both Diana and Fritzner were said to have physically abused their parents before and the father was arrested twice for beating his wife and his daughter. Records also show that Fritzner had been arrested on cocaine charges last year.

Fritzner was arrested and denied shooting his parents. He also told them that his sister was lying when questioned. Fritzner was charged with two counts of murder and is being held without bond.

Both Fritzner's parents were taken to the hospital where they died.

Man Tries to Walk out of Park with 11-Year-Old

Jackie Armstrong

A man was arrested after trying to carry an 11-year-old out of a park.

A woman had called police at about 9 p.m. saying that a man had approached her son at around 5 a.m. and carried him away out of the park. The boy told police he then squirmed out of the man's grasp and returned to the basketball court, where he played.

Police discovered the man was 20-year-old Chad Davis. When he was interviewed, he told them he was watching the kids play basketball. He then saw one of the boys getting picked on and picked him up to leave the park. He told the boy that he should not play with others who pick on him. He said he then walked with him across the street to a friend's place.

Davis was arrested and charged with false imprisonment and battery because he did not have permission to take the 11-year-old boy from the park as his intentions afterwards were unknown.

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sSSHH! From Actual Police Reports

Did You Hear About?...

EDITOR'S NOTE:
All suspects are deemed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. The Sheriff's Office reports are a matter of public record. The Star seeks to educate in the hope of keeping our community safe.

Health Inspectors Arrested for Taking Bribes from Restaurant Managers

Moses Davis Jr.

Steven Rivera

Two state health inspectors were arrested after receiving bribes from restaurant managers.

In October 2011, Detectives received a complaint about health inspectors coercing restaurant managers for money as bribery. They told them they would overlook the violations of the restaurant for cash. Reports say the amount asked for the briberies were between $100 to $300. Police then began investigating the allegations.

Police say the inspectors had taken bribes from at least 17 restaurants. Police have declined to name the restaurants, which caused an uproar. None of the managers, employees, or anybody at the restaurant involved in the bribery will face charges or state sanctions as licensees. Instead they are considered to be the victims.

Police decided to work with a couple restaurant owners and gave fake customer complaints about two restaurants to Moses Davis Jr., 54, and Steven Rivera, 44. Davis went to one of the restaurants to meet with the owner, who offered him $100 to overlook violations. Without conducting any type of inspection, Davis listed the restaurant as having "met inspection standards during visit" after receiving the money

Rivera had also met with one of the restaurant owners working with the police as well. Rivera was given $200 and he told the owner that he will accept $200 to pass inspections whenever he comes to the restaurant.

Davis had been working for the state for 15 years and Rivera 5 years.

Davis and Rivera were arrested and charged with accepting unlawful compensation for official behavior, a second-degree felony. A sentence of up to 15 years in prison is possible with just a single charge. Both are being held on $100,000 bail.

The case is still under investigation and more charges are expected for the two inspectors.

The police thank the owners who have helped them with the investigation but are also encouraging other owners ,who have not come forth yet, to speak up.

Your Safety

Identity Theft

Watch Out for Thefts Like These

Here's a sample of the way identity thieves commit their crimes.

• Steal credit card payments and other outgoing mail from private, curbside mailboxes

• Steal mail, especially envelopes containing bill payments, from unlocked, unguarded, "out boxes" at work

• Go "dumpster diving" by digging through garbage cans or communal dumpsters in search of cancelled checks, credit card and bank statements, or preapproved credit card offers

• Steal the Social Security numbers and identities of children who are especially vulnerable because they don't have credit histories and it may be many years before the theft is discovered

• Lift names and Social Security numbers from such documents as a driver's license, employee badge, student ID card, check, or medical chart

• Send a fake electronic IRS form to gather personal information and financial data (Note: The IRS never requests information by email.)

Sometimes, the thieves aren't after money. They may use your identity to commit crimes like these:

• They make long-term financial commitments, like taking out mortgages or buying cars, using their victim's credit history.

• They establish, use, and abandon dozens of charge accounts—without paying.

• They pile up traffic tickets in your name with no intent to pay them.

• They commit felonies using your identity. Victims of identity theft have been arrested, even jailed, for crimes they didn't commit.

• They may run up huge amounts of debt, then file for bankruptcy in their victim's name, ruining their victim's credit history and reputation.

Prevention Tips:

• Keep your wallet in your front pocket so a pickpocket can't take it. Hold your purse close against your body through its straps.

• If you have to give out personal or financial information from a public phone or by cell phone, make sure no one is listening or wait until you're in a more secure location.

• Shred all financial statements, billing statements, and preapproved credit card offers and the like before throwing them in the trash. Cross-cut shredding is best. No shredder? Use scissors to cut documents.

• Minimize the number of identification and credit cards you carry with you. Take only what's absolutely necessary.

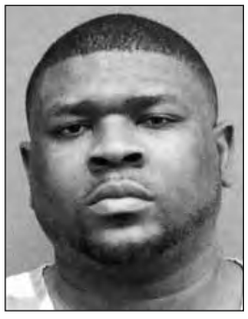
• Examine all of your bank and credit card statements each month for mistakes or unfamiliar charges that might be the sign of an identity thief at work.

• Be alert if you get a call from someone purporting to be from your bank who asks for personal data to update your "records." This is almost always a scam. If you're in doubt, hang up and call the bank yourself.

Bizarre Crimes

who, what, when...huh?

Man Charged with Felony After Throwing Soda on Cash Register



Suresh Chapman

A man was arrested after becoming angry and throwing soda on a cash register at a Taco Bell, which shut down the business' computer network for several hours.

Suresh A. Chapman, 30, had become angry with his order at a Taco Bell restaurant and threw his drink at the cash register. The computer became damaged, which estimated to about $2,500 worth of damage. This also caused the business to lose about $3,000 in revenue.

Chapman was arrested and charged with damaging a computer resulting in a loss of $5,000 or more, a second-degree felony. The charge can lead up to a 15 year prison sentence.

The arrest lead to another charge for Chapman for violating his probation for child abuse last year, according to arrest reports.Chapman was originally set for $5,000 bond, but now is being held without any bond after being charged for violating his probation.

Couple Pull Granddaughter in Toy Car with SUV

A couple were arrested after reportedly towing their 7-year-old granddaughter's toy car while she was in it with their SUV.

Belinda Berloni, 47, and Paul Berloni, 49, say they had a few beers before they decided to hook up their granddaughter's toy car with two dog leashes to their SUV. While their granddaughter was in the toy car with only her bathing suit on, her grandfather drove up and down the street several times.

They were soon stopped by police, who they thought were going to just give them a warning, but it turned out to be more serious than they expected. According to reports, Paul Berloni already had four DUIs and was also driving with a suspended license.

Both were arrested for child endangerment charges, but Berlinda Berloni was able to make bail on supervised release. Paul Berloni still remains in jail.

Berlinda Berloni said that she loved her grandchildren and she had learned her lesson as her son became angry with her about the incident.

Other Unusual Crimes Across the Nation

Man Beats Man After Being Told He Looks Like Eddie Murphy

Caleb King, a Minnesota Vikings running back, was at a birthday party one night. Another man by the name of Andrew Hayek, 22, was at the party as well who told King that he resembled Eddie Murphy. It seemed as if King did not like this comment one bit because he confronted Hayek later outside and punched him in the face. Hayek was able to get inside his vehicle, lock it, and call 911, but King went around and opened the door to the other side. He then pulled Hayek out and started striking him more to the face before throwing him head-first into the ground. Hayek suffered from a fractured skull and had to get his nose reconstructed. When King was questioned, he said Hayek fell to the ground while he was talking to him. King was arrested. Hayek's sister said her brother was a huge Vikings fan, but he will probably not be one anymore.

Mother Tries to Beat Daughter While Son Holds Her Down

Memphis, TN- 48-year-old Brenda Mitchell had become angry with her 16-year-old daughter who supposedly did not go to school. Officers spotted Mitchell in the front yard with an extension cord wrapped around her hand, arguing with her daughter. They were questioned, including the brother, who said he helped his mother by holding his sister down who needed to be disciplined. But he said that Mitchell did not whip her yet, even though she had the cord in her hand. Mitchell was still arrested and charged with child abuse and neglect as well as domestic assault charges.

Homeless Man Throws Bricks at Courthouse So He Can Go Back to Jail

Columbus, GA- 36-year-old Lance Brown had just spent nine months in jail before April and decided to commit another crime to go back to such a place, where he would be offered "a sandwich and drink." Records show that he was also released in August 2010 after serving 10 years in prison for two bank robberies. He tried to think of ways to go back, even threatening to kill the president, which did not work. This time he tried throwing a brick at the front door of the courthouse causing $1,400 worth of damage. He was immediately arrested for malicious mischief and taken back to jail.

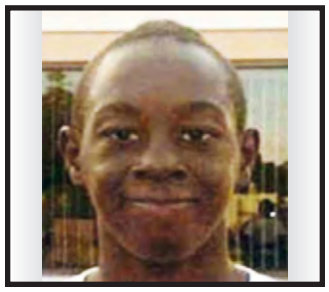
Couple Reassemble Shredded Checks and Steal $16,000

Santa Clarita, CA- Police say Grant Lind, 49, and Tammy Combe, 37, had been digging in trash cans and collecting shredded checks. The two were able to reassemble them and obtain routing and bank account numbers. They produced more than 30 counterfeit checks and stole over $16,000 from 20 different victims. When investigators searched Lind's home, they found hundreds of bank account numbers, fake and stolen IDs, check printers, computers, and bags and boxes full of shredded documents. Lind and Combe was arrested and charged with felony counts of identity theft, check forgery, commercial burglary, grand theft, false impersonation, receiving stolen property, and unauthorized credit card use. Lind is being held on $850,000 bail and Combe is being held on $50,000 bail.

Criminal Line-Up

MISSING CHILDREN

Name: Miranda Danielle Johnson
Age: 16
Weight: 130 lbs
Last seen: 4/11/12



Name: Anothony J. Dellfield
Age: 12
Weight: 125 lbs
Last seen: 4/26/12

Name: Gine Lurilia Dowdell
Age: 16
Weight: 125 lbs
Last seen: 4/18/12

Name: Joshua J. Lawson
Age:16
Weight: 145 lbs
Last seen: 4/03/12

Name: Devon Vennis Rogers
Age: 17
Weight: 130 lbs
Last seen: 4/16/12

ON THE LOOKOUT

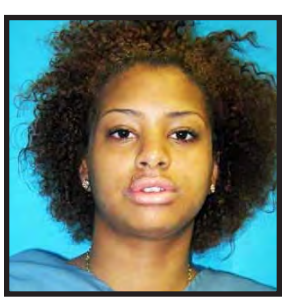
Jeweler Heist

Police responded to a fraud investigation at a jeweler. Investigation revealed two unknown suspects entered the store and purchased $16,745 worth of jewelry with a fraudulent credit card.

Police are trying to identify both women in the photo.

Anyone with any information about the identity of the suspects is asked to contact Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS or email at rewards@fccrimestoppers.com. You will remain anonymous and receive a possible reward if your tip leads to an arrest.

MOST WANTED



Name: Madeline L. Aldridge
Offense: Aggravated Battery Pregnant Victim

Name: Frederick R. Adams
Offense: Fraud-Rental Property $300

Name: Paul Boyd
Offense: Lewd Lascivious Victim 16

Name: Shirley Linda Allen
Offense: Credit Card Fraud

Name: Ray Alphonso
Offense: Felony Battery

Name: Devern Ausberry
Offense: Interfere w/Child Custody

Citizens with tips are encouraged to call Crime Stoppers at 1-866-845-TIPS. You can remain anonymous and become eligible for a reward.