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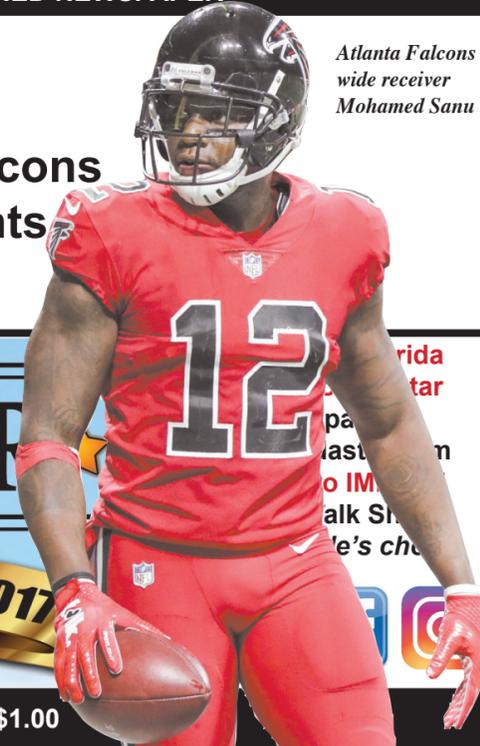
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Sports, Page 8

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Sports, Page 8

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Greg Ruffin New Head Football Coach At Edward Waters College



Greg Ruffin, was named as EWC new football coach on Thursday. (Photo Courtesy of Edward Waters College)

By Adesina O. Koiki

Jacksonville, Fla. – Edward Waters College named Greg Ruffin as its new head football coach in a press conference on Thursday.

Ruffin takes over for Alvin Wyatt, who resigned after four seasons after the 2017 season. Like Wyatt, who was Bethune-Cookman's head coach from 1997 to 2009, Ruffin comes over to Edward Waters after a stint coaching at Bethune-Cookman, where

he spent this past season as the tight ends coach.

Ruffin had previous head coaching experience at Texas College, where he was head coach for one season in 2016. He also was the head coach at Paine College in Augusta, Ga. back in 2013, the first season Paine fielded a football team in more than 50 years, as well as the head coach of Shaw University in Raleigh back in 2002, leading the Bears to a 7-3 record in his only season at Shaw.



IN DEFENSE OF CORRINE BROWN

By Matthew Walther
The Week

The number of living elected officials whom I do not despise shrunk by one when Rep. Corrine Brown, who lost the Democratic primary in Florida's fifth congressional district in August 2016, left Congress in January of this year.

Brown will almost certainly never hold public office again. She was sentenced by a judge in her home state of Florida to five years in prison on Monday, on charges of using a phony charity to squeeze money from donors and into her own pockets. Of course, she could win the appeal she has vowed to pursue, and I for one am praying for her victory. But in all likelihood, Corrine Brown is done.

Brown is one of our most remarkable politicians not only because of the genuinely good work she did for her constituents, but because she is an

extraordinary human character. Not since the death of Rep. James Traficant (D-Ohio) has there been a more amusing figure in Congress. Brown is a larger-than-life stateswoman, a free spirit, a tongue-lasher, a brawler, a pro-earmarks street fighter, a welfare pugilist, motivated not by ideology or party loyalty but by practical concern for the well-being of men and women in her largely black district, a long flood-ridden plain extending from Jacksonville to Orlando along the St. Johns River that was largely uninhabited until it became a haven for freedman in the immediate postbellum era for whom she secured hundreds of millions in federal dollars.

Brown's putdowns, invariably delivered from her favorite tables at the barbecue joints of Jacksonville and Tallahassee and full of casual obscenities ("My congressional office is for congressional matters. You need to know it's not for the

b****."), are the stuff of legend. Her opponent in the 1992 Democratic primary, a white liberal talk-show host, was a "bubba," she said, who "couldn't win at the ballot box, so he took it to court." Gov. Charlie Christ, he of ever-shifting party affiliation, was a ludicrous figure who was "good at taking pictures." She dismissed George W. Bush's administration as "a bunch of white men" and was rebuked by that beacon of virtue Dennis Hastert for referring to the 2004 presidential election as a "coup d'état." The charges against her in 2016 were "some bullshit... a Peyton Place witch hunt." She is known to sign her letters "Your sister in the struggle, Corrine Brown."

It is impossible to imagine many of the numberless and indistinguishably venal creatures who represent us in our federal legislature caring at all about

Please see Brown, page 6

Black Voters Made Doug Jones a U. S. Senator in Alabama

By Stacy M. Brown

A heavy African American turnout in Alabama's special election propelled underdog Democratic candidate Doug Jones to victory, in a hotly-contested race against the flawed, yet heavily-favored, Republican candidate Roy Moore.

The New York Times reported that Jones defeated Moore 49.9 percent to 48.4 percent for Attorney General Jeff Sessions' vacated United States Senate seat.

According to CNN exit polling, 68 percent of White voters, including 72 percent of White men voters and 63 percent of White women voters, supported Moore, an alleged child predator.

Meanwhile, 96 percent of Black voters supported Jones, including 93 percent of Black men voters and 98 percent of Black women voters.



Roy Moore and Doug Jones

Blacks accounted for a 29 percent share of all voters in the special election in Alabama.

Black voter turnout played a key role in getting Jones elected as Alabama voters were forced to choose between a Republican who's perceived as a racist and accused of child abuse and a Democrat who has earned his

chops prosecuting the Ku Klux Klan.

The contest also was viewed, by many, as a test of racial progress in the Deep South, and the power of President Donald Trump's rhetoric to sway voters.

Trump campaigned hard for

Please see Election, page 6

Omarosa Manigault Newman Denies She Was Fired From The White House

By Hayley Miller

Omarosa Manigault Newman is bucking reports that White House chief of staff John Kelly fired her.

"I resigned and I didn't do that in the residence as being reported," Newman said during an appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America" Thursday.

Newman resigned from her role as director of communications for the White House Public Liaison Office on Tuesday, the White House said Wednesday. She will continue her job until Jan. 20.



Omarosa Manigault Newman

Newman said Thursday that her goal when she came to work in the Trump administration was to work in the White House for a year and then "get back to my life."

It's unclear if Newman chose to step down or if she was forced

to resign. Multiple news outlets have reported that she was physically removed from the White House grounds after she attempted to confront President Donald Trump about her departure.

Newman denied Thursday that she was escorted off the premises, citing a statement Thursday from the Secret Service that noted they had not been involved in her resignation or removing her from the White House.

"I like to hear all of these interesting tales, but I have to tell you that they are 100 percent false," Newman said.

Tavis Smiley statement on PBS investigation of misconduct

Talk show host Tavis Smiley released the following statement on Facebook on Wednesday after allegations of misconduct:

"On the eve of the 15th season and 3,000th episode of my nightly talk show, I was as shocked as anyone else by PBS' announcement today. Variety knew before I did.

I have the utmost respect for women and celebrate the courage of those who have come forth to tell their truth. To be clear, I have never groped, coerced, or exposed myself inappropriately to



Travis Smiley

any workplace colleague in my entire broadcast career, covering 6 networks over 30 years.

PBS launched a so-called investigation of me without ever in-

forming me. I learned of the investigation when former staffers started contacting me to share the uncomfortable experience of receiving a phone call from a stranger asking whether, I

had ever done anything to make them uncomfortable, and if they could provide other names of persons to call. After 14 seasons, that's how I learned of this inquiry, from the streets.

Only after being threatened with a lawsuit, did PBS investigators reluctantly agree to interview me for three hours.

If having a consensual relationship with a colleague years ago is the stuff that leads to this kind of public humiliation and personal destruction, heaven help us.

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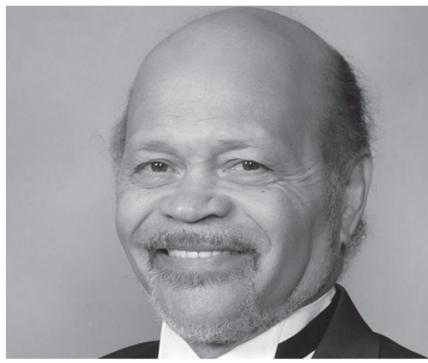
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OPINIONS

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Sixty-Three Percent of White Alabama Women Voted for Roy Moore



By Oscar H. Blayton

It is hard to understand why, in Alabama, white voters professing to be staunch Christians tried their best to send Roy Moore, a man widely believed to be a child molester, to the U.S. Senate. These evangelicals are the same people who, for decades, have asserted that they hold the moral high ground in this country. Yet, they believed that sending an accused child molester to Washington was God's will. What is even more difficult to understand why (as Newsweek reported) 63% of the white women who voted in Alabama supported a candidate who has been credibly accused of preying upon teenage girls when he was a prosecutor in his thirties.

It is crucial to the political, economic and civic wellbeing of Black folk for us to understand the reasons for such insane political positions. Without this understanding we are unable to be fully equipped to force this nation to become truly the land of liberty and justice for all.

The near success of Roy Moore's candidacy gives us an excellent window into the soul of many white Southern evangelicals, and we should not look away.

The "religious right" came to prominence in the 1980s, claiming to be the "moral majority" of America. It soon found particularly fertile ground in the deeply red former slave holding Confederate states.

The religious right raised its banner throughout the South in support of prayer in schools and against sex education, the Equal Rights Amendment, abortion rights and a host of other issues. But embedded in the social DNA of many of these Southern Christians is the soul of a white supremacist. And in the white South, race still trump's all else.

White Christian voters in the South may have told exit pollsters that they voted for Roy Moore as a stand against abortion, but it is not credible to say that you want to support unborn girls at the expense of those who walk among us.

During Bill Clinton's first presidential campaign a popular saying was coined. "It's the

economy, stupid," was said repeatedly to assure the nation that concerns about the economy were driving American politics. But again, the suggested motive animating Southern voters did not take race into account. Looking at voter behavior today it is clear, despite what the polls say, concerns about the economy are not the only motivators when ballots are cast.

Southern white evangelical voters root for a Republican Congress that pushes for tax laws that reduce taxes for large corporations and the very rich while placing greater burdens on lower and middle-class Americans.

These voters cheer the rising averages of the stock markets as a sign that the Republicans have the country on the road to recovers while they and their neighbors try to survive on stagnant wages.

These voters fervently advocate the sanctity of life while giving full throated support to the death penalty.

These Southern white Christians are not simply "voting their wallets," nor are they simply drawing a line in the sand against abortion. They are also voting their hatred and fear of people of color, and of people they do not understand.

Their arguments about economics and the sanctity of life are not made absent considerations of race and diversity. Simply put, their votes are predicated upon the notion of white supremacy. They see America as a meritocracy, where whiteness is the overriding merit.

It was this world view of white supremacy, not simply economics or Christianity, that allowed Pat Robertson, (who has been termed "Christianity's crazy uncle) and the late Jerry Falwell to garner support and political power in the 1980s. It had nothing to do with any legitimate sense of morality.

These same voters, who wring their hands over the rights of the unborn child, justified their attempt to send a pedophile to the halls of Congress to represent them by claiming that it would be better to have a child molester than a Democrat represent them in Congress.

In the former slave holding Confederate states the term "Democrat" has become a "dog whistle" warning many Southern whites that people of color are gaining too much at the expense of whites. Just as "liberal" has become a dirty word in conservative America, "Democrat" is becoming a term of scorn. Liberal Democrats are the people most associated with civil rights and the progress of Black folk.

Southern white evangelicals are willing to throw over their self-proclaimed moral superiority to secure supreme Court justices that will interpret laws and the U.S. Constitution with a world view that is close to theirs – a world view that would bring a halt to the progress of civil rights for people of color.

The Gantt Report-Dead Witch Walking



By Lucius Gantt

For all of Donald Trump's first year as POTUS, he has been referring to investigations of him, his campaign, his transition team and the Oval Office as fake news or a "witch hunt"!

Well, the man that CALLED Black professional football players sons of "bitches", in my mind, has witch, snitch and bitch problems in Washington, D.C.

Despite all of the Presidential pushback, anyone with eyes can see that many of the so-called best, most talented people hired by the President have been fired, replaced, indicted and jailed or put on house arrest. A couple of the President's advisors have plead guilty to crimes such as lying to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and also on government security clearance forms and documents.

Don't worry about what has been reported about investigations by the FBI and the Congressional committees in the U.S. House and Senate.

Worry about Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller!

When the White House says Mueller's investigations have produced nothing, the fact is evidence has surfaced to show the lies, the distractions, the cover ups, the back drafts and back channels and the far too many meetings

with the Russians that did everything they could to undermine American elections and undermine American Democracy!

Take my word for it. It seems Mueller has all he needs to have to bring charges on everybody in the West Wing. I believe Mueller has audio tapes, emails, photos, memos, documents, bank statements and tax returns of some politicians that have refused to release them.

So, why are investigations continuing?

Mueller appears to be trying to nail the whole kit and kaboodle! He wants "Ali Baba", and his forty political thieves!

Ok! Mueller is trying to cut off the "pardon" possibility at the pass! He is amassing federal crime information but also information about violations of state laws that can be used to bring state charges that cannot be pardoned by the President.

As I've written before, collusion, obstruction, perjury and false statements are not enough for Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller.

Mueller is following the money!

When you follow the money it will lead to Russia's desire to end American and American allies' economic sanctions that hurt the Russian oil businesses, banking businesses and other businesses so much.

The money trail will also lead to money laundering, exorbitant real estate deals, payoffs, kick backs and maybe even bribes!

Yes, if all of the investigations going on in the nation's capital are merely "witch hunts", the witch has been spotted, surrounded and is about to be apprehended!

Nothing less than a political death in the form of an impeachment for the President and possible jail time is in store for his snitches and bitches.

Politically speaking, perhaps, President Donald Trump is a "Dead Witch Walking"!

Renewed Hope Alabama Special U.S. Senate Election



By: Duvalier Malone

Doug Jones (Democrat) defeated Roy S. Moore (Republican) in a bitterly fought special U.S. Senate election in Alabama on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. This defeat was one of the most unlikely upsets in recent election history. I must admit that I had no hope of Doug Jones winning the special U.S. Senate election in Alabama. As a young boy born and raised in Mississippi and living in Mississippi until my late 20s, I had lost faith and hope of being able to break barriers. I must say that the victory for Senator-elect Doug Jones has given me a renewed hope for my home state of Mississippi and the South.

Change is always discussed and planned during an election year. It allows us an opportunity to lay out our views and values on the table to ensure our voices are heard in the democratic process. The people of Alabama rejected status quo and refused to play politics. They reclaimed their seat at the political table of power by sending a more progressive candidate to Washington, D.C. While the rest of the country is erupting in action by using the power of the vote to elect more progressive elected officials, it seems that apathy has gripped a large portion of the state of Mississippi. Where Mississippians once led at the forefront of the movement for change, it looks as if we have now become content and reliant upon others.

In my journey for change, I must admit that I had become weary and tired and the journey seemed hopeless at times. When we see injustices in our communities, we need to step up and speak truth to power. We can no longer rely on others to keep speaking and doing the work of the community. It is all of our responsibility to use our circles of influence to initiate change within our community. We must

see the plight of Mississippi as "our" responsibility.

This is a historic time, and we must join the rest of the world in progress.

We have the highest poverty rate in the entire country. Our educational systems are failing. Mississippi is the only state in America flying the Confederate flag as its official state flag. Mississippi's HB 1523 bill discriminates against the LGBTQ community. There is still no justice for Emmett Till, a 16-year-old African American male kidnapped and murder in 1955. There is still a dire need for racial reconciliation.

It's time to ask ourselves: Why is this? Why does it take Mississippi so long to move more progressively? The blame for this, as well as other issues, rest squarely on the shoulders of every Mississippian and citizens in the Deep South. Mississippi's educational system is suffering because of a lack of funding. Many Mississippi school systems are at risk for a state takeover. Many corporations are now even refusing to do business in the state — all because of the decisions made by politicians whom you elected or enabled to be elected by sitting home and not voting. We must call for our political leaders to create initiatives and programs aimed at improving our communities, creating jobs and enabling our children to receive a quality education. If the political leaders can't guarantee any of these things, then we must "Vote Them Out." It is time for all Mississippians to accept change and stand with the rest of the world. The only way we can fix these problems that we face is not to be afraid to buck the norms and make bold, radical decisions in our voting booths.

We can't depend on those who are not residents of Mississippi to lead the state forward. They can help, but for the state to make progress it needs, we must take the reins. We can't lead from behind. Mississippians have to be the face of the change and the standard-bearers for progress.

I'm asking Mississippians at all levels to get involved. It doesn't matter if you're a coach or a mentor, Mississippi needs your help. If you are in a position of leadership within the faith-based community, we need you. It is time to move forward with action. It starts with getting people registered to vote and engaged in their community. We must be willing to spread the message of progress and community.

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More News

NewFM on Doug Jones' Victory: Local Voter Mobilization Matters



The New Florida Majority (NewFM) released the following statement after the Doug Jones' win in the federal special election to fill the Alabama U.S. Senate seat formerly occupied by current Attorney General Jeff Sessions:

"Last night's results in the Alabama U.S. Senate race is a victory in the battle against sexual harassment, assault, and bigotry. It is also a testament to the power of voter outreach. Record turnout, especially in black metropolitan areas, not only helped turn the election

for Doug Jones, but should also provide a model for next year's gubernatorial and federal Senate contests in Florida.

Communities win when time and money is spent collaborating with local organizations, and animating volunteers, to register and engage voters on the issues that directly impact their lives. The political reality is that the impact of the work that so many of us do to push back against issues like white supremacy, sexual harassment & assault will be limited if we cannot win elections.

That is why the job that

volunteers and under-resourced groups like the Ordinary Peoples Society did to increase the turnout by nearly 50% from the primaries, cannot be overstated. Neither can the turnout of black women, who have spent generations being underappreciated and overlooked and the last year alone in the cross hairs of a misogynist President. That they, as a group, would help turn the tide of someone so enthusiastically supported by that predatory President is both poetic justice and a preview of a potential greater reckoning when are not afraid to we follow their lead.

Make no mistake -- Senator-elect Jones still has to go out and see through on the promise of democracy that these efforts sparked tonight. What tonight's victory reminds us is despite efforts to suppress the vote, people will turn out --- if you ask them."

Black Preschoolers Suspended More Than White Students



A study from the U.S. Department of Education found black children represent 19 percent of preschool enrollment but make up 47 percent of all suspensions. The study also found black K-12 students are 3.8 times more likely to be suspended than white students.

A study from the U.S. Department of Education shows black preschoolers at public schools are 3.6 times more likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions than white preschoolers. White students represent 41 percent of preschool enrollment but only make up 28 percent of all preschool suspensions.

The data used for the study was collected during the 2013-2014 school year and included 16,758 school districts (99.2 percent of all public school districts), 95,507 schools (99.5 percent of all public schools) and 50,035,744 total public school students.

The group broke down the numbers by males and females as well. It found black males

represent 19 percent of male preschool enrollment but make up 45 percent of male suspensions. Black females represent 20 percent of female preschool enrollment but make up 54 percent of female suspensions.

The study also found similar racial disparities in suspensions for students in grades K-12. Of the 2.8 million K-12 students surveyed, 1.1 million were black and 610,000 were Latino. Six percent of total students surveyed had received one or more out-of-school suspensions. Of that percent, 18 percent were black boys, 10 percent were black girls, 5 percent were white boys and 2 percent were white girls.

"Expulsion in early childhood education is not an intervention. Over a decade of research and data tell us that the policies and practices of suspension and expulsion in early childhood, which disproportionately affect children of color, are causing harm to children and families," the National Association for the Education of Young Children

wrote in a statement regarding CRDC's findings.

In the statement, NAEYC also references a twelve-year-old study from Yale University, which determined preschoolers are three-times more likely to be expelled than school-aged children, reports American Progress. More recent data from the National Survey of Children's Health shows 50,000 preschoolers were suspended at least once in 2016. Another 17,000 preschoolers are estimated to have been expelled, equaling out to approximately 250 preschool suspensions or expulsions each day in 2016.

Yale University Professor Walter Gilliam, a contributor to the 2005 Yale study, says the best three predictors of preschool expulsion are the three B's: "big, black or boy". An additional study was released by Yale in 2016 and looked into implicit racial bias among early educators, suggesting it is a large reason for the disproportionate punishment received by black boys.

In the study, teachers watched a video of preschoolers and were later asked to point out potentially troublesome behaviors. Overall, black boys were watched more closely and were sometimes flagged for challenging behaviors. However, the video actually did not feature any challenging behavior, indicating many of the underlying causes of preschool discipline are rooted in adult bias instead of child behavior. - Amy Rock

TBTNEWS REPORT

Black History Spotlight Janet Emerson Bashen



Janet Emerson Bashen is the first African-American to hold a U.S. software patent

By Denise Williams

Janet Emerson Bashen was the first African-American female to secure a patent for her software to process Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) which manages intake, tracking, and management of a claim in order to track the claim's lifecycle in addition to making data available to compile reports.

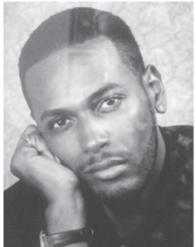
Janet Emerson was born in Mansfield, Ohio on February 12, 1957. She came from a working-class family, her father was employed as a sanitation worker and her mother was their city's first African-American emergency room nurse. Bashen is a graduate of the University of Houston and pursued advanced degrees in legal studies & government while there.

After completing her studies, Bashen became employed in the insurance field after graduation. She was actively involved in the formulation of third-party teams to scrutinize Equal Employment Opportunity claims that arose in her firm. After several of her recommendations were not received from upper management, Bashen borrowed a mere \$5,000.00 from

a family member to fund her own EEO complaint management firm. Her firm focused on investigating EEO claims as a third party fact-finder to address any hint of discriminatory action based on race, religion, color, sex or national origin. The Bashen Corporation has been contracted to work for companies not limited to but included Compaq Computers, Goodyear Tires, and General Motors.

The growth of her company presented a new problem of how to securely store and retrieve documented information relating to EEO cases. Her software, developed with her cousin entitled, LinkLine was her first proprietary web-based application to address her need. After the development phase of the software was completed, Bashen was approved for patent #6,985,922 on January 10, 2006, making her the first African-American to hold a software patent in the United States. Her patent details a method apparatus & system for processing compliance actions over a wide-area network. Since then she has developed several software programs that assist businesses in processing affirmative action disputes.

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Charles Perry Partners, Inc. (CPPI) and HCA are currently seeking bids from qualified Subcontractors and Suppliers for the Memorial Hospital- Jacksonville and Orange Park Medical Center construction projects. Jacksonville, Florida and other surrounding area businesses are invited to attend a pre-construction Meet & Greet to learn more about opportunities associated with these two upcoming projects.

Memorial Hospital- Jacksonville Project

The project will consist of 24,584 square feet of major construction, building out the fifth floor West tower shell space for a 36 bed medical/ surgical unit and will include but not limited to the following bid packages: *Selective Demolition • Medical Equipment Support • General Trades • Door & Hardware Install • Fireproofing • Firestopping • Waterproofing • Plastic Laminate Doors • Door Hardware • Glass & Glazing • Metal Studs/Drywall • Tile • Acoustical Ceilings • Resilient Flooring • Fiberglass Reinforced Wall Panels • Painting • Signage • General Specialties • Toilet Accessories • Hospital Casework • Pneumatic Tube System • Fire Protection*

Orange Park Medical Center Project

The project is an expansion of the current facility that will add 10,000 square feet, incorporate two new Electrophysiology Labs along with four Post Anesthesia Care Unit rooms and five recovery rooms. Once the addition is completed, renovations will be made in the current Cardiovascular OR suite for the tie-in to the new addition and will include but not limited to the following bid packages: *Sitework/Paving/Site Utilities • Site Demolition • Selective Demolition • Deep Foundations • Cast-in-Place Concrete • Structural Steel • Roofing • Fireproofing • Firestopping • Waterproofing • Storefront • Door Hardware • ICU/CCU Sliding Entrances • Plastic Laminate Doors • Louvers • Metal Studs/Drywall/EIFS • Tile • Resilient Flooring • Acoustical Ceilings • Paint • General Specialties • Toilet Accessories • Hospital Casework • Aluminum Canopies • Fire Protection*

What: Preconstruction Meet & Greet
When: Thursday, December 21, 2017
11:30 am - 1:00 p.m.
Where: Memorial Hospital- Jacksonville
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Charles Perry Partners, Inc. (CPPI) and HCA are strongly committed to the development and implementation of initiatives which promote the inclusion of all local construction related businesses with an emphasis on minority and women-owned enterprise firms. Please join us at the Preconstruction Meet & Greet to explore more opportunities.

For information regarding the aforementioned projects, please contact:
David Lowe, Chief Estimator at (352) 333-9292; Email: david.lowe@cppi.com

To RSVP for the upcoming Meet & Greet, please contact:
Rhea Kinnard at (615) 941-8396; Email: kinn0167@aol.com

****Lunch Will Be Provided****



FAMILY FEATURES

The next best thing to baking cookies for many home chefs is baking cookies with friends. Dust off your favorite recipes, create a festive playlist and fill your home with the tantalizing aroma of baked goodies for the ultimate Christmas cookie party.

Turn things up a notch and swap classic sugar cookies for these festive Red Velvet Crinkle Cookies, Peppermint Truffle Cookies and Almond Gingerbread Cookies. Along with those tasty treats, don't let your guests go thirsty. Add peppermint extract to a slow cooker hot chocolate so guests can sip and be merry throughout the party.

Find more holiday recipes at McCormick.com.

Peppermint Truffle Cookies

8 ounces bittersweet baking chocolate
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
1 cup sugar, divided
1 egg
1/2 teaspoon McCormick Pure Peppermint Extract
2 cups flour

36 milk chocolate kiss-shaped candies, unwrapped

Heat oven to 350 F.

In large, microwavable bowl, heat chocolate and butter on high 1-2 minutes, or until butter is melted. Let stand 10 minutes to cool slightly. Add 1/2 cup sugar, egg and peppermint extract. Beat with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Gradually beat in flour on low speed until well mixed.

Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Press chocolate candy into center of each ball, forming dough around candy to enclose it. Roll in remaining sugar to coat. Place 1 inch apart on greased baking sheets.

Bake 9-11 minutes, or until cookies are set. Cool on baking sheets 5 minutes. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

Throw a *Christmas Cookie* Party



Red Velvet Crinkle Cookies

1 2/3 cups flour
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
1 1/4 cups granulated sugar
2 eggs
1 1/2 teaspoons McCormick Red Food Color
1 teaspoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
nonstick cooking spray

In medium bowl, mix flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt;

set aside. In large bowl, beat butter and granulated sugar with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs, food color and vanilla extract; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Refrigerate 4 hours.

Heat oven to 350 F. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in confectioners' sugar to completely coat. Place 2 inches apart on baking sheets sprayed with nonstick cooking spray.

Bake 10-12 minutes, or until cookies are puffed. Cool on baking sheets 2 minutes. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

Almond Gingerbread Cookies

3 cups flour
2 teaspoons McCormick Ginger, Ground
1 teaspoon McCormick Cinnamon, Ground
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon McCormick Nutmeg, Ground
1/4 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened
3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 cup molasses
1 egg
1 teaspoon McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract
1 1/3 cups sliced almonds

In large bowl, mix flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, nutmeg and salt.

In separate large bowl, beat butter and brown sugar with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add molasses, egg and vanilla extract; beat well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Press dough into thick, flat disk. Wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 4 hours, or as long as overnight.

Heat oven to 350 F. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in sliced almonds, pressing almonds into dough. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets.

Bake 8-10 minutes, or until edges of cookies just begin to brown. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Store cookies in airtight container up to 5 days.



Slow Cooker Peppermint Hot Chocolate

1/2 gallon (8 cups) whole milk
1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
1 package (12 ounces) dark chocolate chips
1/2 teaspoon McCormick Pure Peppermint Extract

Place whole milk, condensed milk, chocolate chips and peppermint extract in slow cooker. Cover. Cook 60-70 minutes on high, or until chocolate is melted and mixture is heated through, stirring every 15 minutes.

Reduce heat to warm or low to serve.



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LIFE STYLE

Hip Hop Nutcracker - Blending of Hip Hop and the Classic Nutcracker

William Jackson, My Quest To Teach Edited By Aida C.

schools and even some churches that Hip Hop as a way of community connection and unity. There is a cross generational connection of memories when the 80's Hip Hop is heard. The Nutcracker has international acclaim which combined with the athletic artistry of dancers, gymnast and those that appear to defy gravity if just for a brief moment excites and

Woven into a story decades old and combining with not just a dance style, but a way of life in Hip Hop. The melodious manipulations of Hip Hop songs and classical music as manifested by a DJ (disc jockey), collaborated "scratches" building on the tempo scales and instrumentation of accompaniment and unity.

The music radiates a yearning to connect with the finest details related to instrumentation on an electronic scale. If you're a child of the 70's and 80's you will enjoy the show and want to tell your children about the simpler time when there were arguments and conflicts that were many times solved by dance offs or creating on the fly raps that were creative, innovative and allowed the brain to flow using language not bullets to settle disagreements. Parents should take their kids to see Hip Hop Nutcracker to show them the power of a musical genre still shared around the world and as powerful and moving as classical music. The combination is so Dope and Lit it can carry you way, back to a time when life seems built on music, love and family.

The Hip Hop Nutcracker was a musical explosion combing old school Hip Hop with classical music and the grace, elegance and power of Hip Hop dancing. The back drop story line of the Nutcracker provided the framework on a story that is relevant generationally dealing with the diversity of relationships and family. Using music to transcend dialogue, the dancing of the actors showed that emotions, passions, fears, desires and love help to form our humanity and used to tell a unique story. In its own right Hip Hop has cultural and generational significance, inspiring musical artistry allowed story-telling to be told in a dynamic and electrifying production that literally has the audience reflecting on their memories of Hip Hop in the 80's.



William Jackson and Aida C.

Photo Credit: Instagram/WilliamDJackson

Kurtis Blow still has a masterful way of getting the audience hyped and providing avenues of remembrance through the decades. The 80's when real Hip Hop was formed and had audiences of all ages dancing in the streets, in house parties,

brings true the abilities of youth, teens and young adults as artists.

Building a unique musical journey that draws in a generation that may not even know about the classical Nutcracker story that has many variations.

Mother of Rapper T-Pain Launches Private Catering Company, Goldfire Private Chefs

ATLANTA— Originally from the Bahamas, Aliyah "Mamapain" Najm found her passion for cuisine while working at her parents' restaurant. She eventually moved to Tallahassee, Florida where she and her then husband opened a seafood restaurant. Aliyah quickly became an indispensable asset to the restaurant, bringing her exquisite palate and creativity to everything she touched.



Aliyah "Mamapain" Najm

In November 2016, Aliyah showcased her culinary talents on the Food Network's hit television show, 'The Clash of the Grandmas', a role in which she wowed the judges and audience members with her refined, contemporary cuisine. Aliyah's creativity, spontaneity, and colorful personality won her first prize on the cooking show.

As part of her job to inspire and educate, she is now representing some of the most experienced and talented chefs in Atlanta with the launch of her new company, Goldfire Private Chefs.

"As I maintain my independence, creating Goldfire Private Chefs allows me to capture the hearts of people through great food and professional service. I am confident and proud of our team of extraordinary chefs. We are here and ready to serve you," stated owner, Aliyah Najm

Goldfire Private Chefs offers a range of services for its clients: dinner/cocktail parties, birthday/wedding celebrations, catering services, in-home/group cooking classes and meal prep services. Their team is trained to treat your special event as an extension of their own—where food is shared, memories are created, and souls are fed.

"This was an opportunity for me to support a dream of my mother. Gold Fire Private Chefs catered my birthday party and all of the guests loved the food as it was full of flavor. In addition, they provide daily meal plans for me. The chefs are professional as they provide various cuisines with exceptional presentation," T-Pain said.

All services accommodate dietary restrictions of our clients which can include meals for special diets for illnesses or weight loss. Their specialty is helping clients entertain guest through their superb culinary dishes.

GOLDFIRE PRIVATE CHEFS

Goldfire Private Chefs provide incredible dinner and meal solutions to a variety of satisfied customers. Our chefs help eliminate the stress of meal planning, shopping, cooking and preparing for that special event or occasion. We offer customized menus to meet our client needs. We provide referrals to companies that are affiliated with Goldfire Private Chefs for bartenders, servers, before and after clean up, photography, DJ and security services. Goldfire Private Chefs are available for cooking classes with a touch of gourmet flare. Let us create a delightful culinary experience for your next dinner party, cocktail party, family gathering, business luncheon or romantic dinner for two. Learn more at <https://www.goldfireprivatechefs.com>.

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Robert Battle, Artistic Director

Masazumi Chaya, Associate Artistic Director

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Times-Union Center · 7:30 p.m.

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December 17, 2017

NOTICE TO PUBLIC FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION AVAILABLE

The City of Jacksonville's Neighborhoods Department, Housing and Community Development Division, announces that the 2018 - 2019 universal applications will be available beginning **Wednesday, January 17, 2018** for the following City of Jacksonville Consolidated Plan state and federal grant programs:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

Applications for the above mentioned funds are available online at www.coj.net and search words "universal application". Online proposals for non-housing related activities will be accepted from public and private nonprofit 501(c) (3) agencies until **Friday, March 9, 2018 at 11:59PM**. Projects must meet the CDBG national objectives of:

- benefiting low and moderate income persons, or
- aiding in the elimination or prevention of slum and blight.

MANDATORY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND BUDGET WORKSHOPS

All non-profit 501(c) (3) agencies applying for funds are required to attend one technical assistance and one budget workshop. The budget workshop must be attended by the agency's financial staff responsible for managing the grant. At the workshops, Housing and Community Development Division staff will review the grant application process, project eligibility and provide information to assist with application preparation. Please call the HCDD office at (904) 255-8200 to register for a workshop.

Technical Assistance Workshops will be held on:

Monday, January 22, 2018 - 4:00 p.m.
MPSS Division of Florida State College at Jacksonville
101 West State Street, Auditorium Room A1068
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Thursday, January 25, 2018 - 3:00 p.m.
Highlands Regional Branch
1826 Dunn Avenue, Auditorium
Jacksonville, FL 32218

Thursday, February 8, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.
Ed Ball Building
214 N. Hogan Street, 1st Floor, Room 110
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Budget Workshops will be held on:

Monday, January 29, 2018 - 3:00 p.m.
MPSS Division of Florida State College at Jacksonville
101 West State Street, Auditorium Room A1068
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 - 6:00 p.m.
Ed Ball Building
214 N. Hogan Street, 1st Floor, Room 110
Jacksonville, FL 32202

No applications will be accepted from agencies that have not attended one mandatory technical assistance and one budget workshop. If, after attending a workshop, applicants need additional assistance, HCDD staff will be available, by appointment only, at 214 N. Hogan Street 7th floor. Please call (904)255-8200 beginning January 22, 2018 to schedule an appointment.

If any non-English speaking persons or persons with mobility, visual or hearing impairments wish to attend the workshops and have special needs, please notify the Housing and Community Development Division at (904) 255-8200 in advance so accommodations may be made.

Stephanie Burch, Director
Neighborhoods Department

Diana Seydlorsky Chief
Housing & Community Development Division

Brown

Continued from page 1

something as simple and life-enhancing as college football. When Brown appeared on the floor of the House in January 2009 wearing a tangerine Florida Gators dressing gown — with a tasteful black pantsuit underneath, of course — and gave a speech congratulating Tim Tebow and Urban Meyer, she secured my affection forever. In her wide-ranging remarks, she also heaped scorn on the then-embryonic notion of a college football playoff system. "One, two, three, four, five / Then the Gators don't take no jive," she said before yielding back the balance of her time.

The charges that eventually sealed Brown's fate are not the first time she has been accused of wrongdoing in her long political career. What is remarkable is how thin the record now looks. In 1998 she accepted a \$10,000 check from a Baptist minister that may or may not have been used to bus supporters to a rally. Two

years later she helped secure the release of Foutanga Dit Babani Sissoko, a somewhat eccentric West African millionaire once alleged to have used black magic to obtain a \$240 million deposit into his account at a Dubai bank, from prison. Sissoko, a gregarious man by all accounts, thanked Brown by buying her daughter a Lexus. "And," the Washington Examiner adds breathlessly at the end of its rap sheet, "in 2008, Brown took heat from the mayor of Jacksonville after she had sandbags delivered by the city to protect her home from Tropical Storm Fay. The congresswoman eventually pledged to pay the city \$886."

The sanctimonious remarks of the law enforcement officials who successfully prosecuted Brown are a window into the world of liberal elites for whom the empty formalism of process and clichés about governance matter more than right and wrong. "Former Congresswoman Brown chose greed and personal gain over the sacred trust given to her by the community that she served for many years," said U.S. Attorney Stephen Muldrow. "Former

Congresswoman Corrine Brown violated the public trust, the honor of her position, and the integrity of the American system of government when she abused one of the most powerful positions in the nation for her own personal gain," added Kenneth Blanco of the Justice Department.

What integrity and whose sacred trust? Brown's crimes pale in comparison with what many white congressmen in wealthier districts probably get away with every day. The law says that bringing home the bacon for one's poor constituents while quietly scheming with one's staff to put away a slice of it — well shy of a million dollars, to be split three ways — is a crime and that accepting 10 or 50 or 200 times that amount from Wall Street and Silicon Valley and pharmaceutical companies in order to implement their agenda is politics.

"If the law supposes that," said that distinguished legal scholar Mr. Bumble in Oliver Twist, "the law is a a** — a idiot."

— Story was published in *TheWeek Publication*

Election

Continued from page 1

Moore, recording a robocall for the former judge, and convincing the Republican National Committee (RNC) to back the man who was possibly banned from the local mall in Gadsden for badgering young women, according to "The New Yorker."

On the day of the special election, #RoyMoore trended all day on Twitter with some straight-forward and emotional posts.

"That White Supremacist #RoyMoore rode in on a horse to vote. Kudos to him," tweeted Greg Carr, chair of Howard University's Department of Afro-American studies and frequent guest on "NewsOne Now" on TV One. "As White Supremacy dies, this is what it looks like. It won't go without a fight. Bannon. Trump. Moore. All of their comrades and enablers. They're daring humanity to respond."

One of Wisconsin Representative Gwen Moore's posts was retweeted more than 30,000 times:

Already facing numerous accusations of sexual misconduct with children, Moore, in recent weeks, further aligned himself with the old South with his racially insensitive comments.

When asked by a reporter to explain the last time America was great, Moore didn't hesitate to respond with stunning clarity with an answer that seemed to out-Trump the president's comments when he was on the campaign

trail. "I think it was great at the time when families were united—even though we had slavery. They cared for one another," Moore said. "People were strong in the families. Our families were strong. Our country had a direction."

Later, he added: "The greatness I see was in our culture, not in all our policies. There were problems. We had slavery; we've overcome slavery. We've had prejudice; we still have prejudice, but we've turned the tide on civil rights. We've done a lot of things to bring this country around, and I think we can still make it better."

Moore's wife, Kayla, even got into the controversial fray.

One day before the election, Kayla Moore argued that her husband isn't a bigot.

"One of our attorneys is a Jew," she said. "Fake news would tell you that we don't care for Jews. And I tell you all this, because I've seen it and I just want to set the record straight, while they're here," she said gesturing to mainstream media outlets that were in the room. "One of our attorneys is a Jew. We have very close friends that are Jewish, and rabbis, and we also fellowship with them."

Moore has never been one to stay above controversy.

Even before the allegations that he pursued sexual relationships with teens, Moore was the most controversial major-party U.S. Senate nominee in recent memory, according to CNN.

He was booted off the Alabama Supreme Court bench when he served as chief justice for refus-

ing to remove a two-ton statue of the Ten Commandments that he'd ordered placed on state property. He was elected back to the job, but ousted again in 2016 for refusing to abide by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage.

Moore said that homosexual activity should be illegal and argued against removing segregationist language from the state constitution.

One of Moore's accusers said he molested her when she was 14; another said that he tried to rape her and she fought him off. Still, Trump and the RNC threw their support behind him.

Fifty percent of voters said the allegations against Moore were definitely or probably true, while 44 percent saw them as definitely or probably false, according to preliminary exit poll results reported by ABC News.

A majority of voters (54 percent) said the allegations were a minor factor or not a factor at all.

Chris Cillizza wrote that, "Jones' victory means that for now Democrats are only two seats away from the majority—Vice President Mike Pence casts the tie-breaking vote when it is 50-50. While a Democratic move into the majority still looks like a long shot, it's now not out of the question."

Jones, an attorney and prosecutor, served as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama, and won acclaim for prosecuting the remaining Klansmen responsible for the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing that killed four African American girls in 1963.



LENNY CURRY
MAYOR

December 17, 2017

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City of Jacksonville's Neighborhoods Department, Housing and Community Development Division will hold public hearings concerning a substantial amendment in converting \$1 million Neighborhoods Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and the 2018 - 2019 Jacksonville Annual Action Plan that includes the following Federal Grant Programs:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)
- HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the development of the Annual Action Plan document and to attend the hearings to receive information on the amendment of NSP funds to CDBG, about current year activities and to express housing and community development needs to make recommendations for activities to be undertaken during the October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019 program year.

Hearings will be held on:

Monday, January 8, 2018 - 5:00 p.m.
Olga L. Bradham and Etta L. Brooks Branch
1755 Edgewood Ave. W., Multipurpose Room
Jacksonville, FL 32208

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 - 5:00 p.m.
Westbrook Branch
2809 Commonwealth Road, Community Room
Jacksonville, FL 32254

All applicants for CDBG, ESG and HOPWA program funds for FY 2018-2019 will be required to attend a mandatory technical assistance workshop and a mandatory budget workshop. Locations, dates, and times of workshops will be advertised at a later date. Visit our website at www.coj.net and search word "timeline" for more information.

If any non-English speaking persons or persons with mobility, visual or hearing impairments wish to attend the public hearing and have special needs, please notify the Housing and Community Development Division at 255-8200 in advance so accommodations may be made.

Stephanie Burch, Director
Neighborhoods Department

Diana Seydlorsky, Chief
Housing & Community Development Division

LOCAL | FLORIDA

Jacksonville Jaguars Wide Receiver Allen Robinson Hosts Christmas Program for Deserving Kids in

A community outreach program of Allen Robinson's Within Reach Foundation

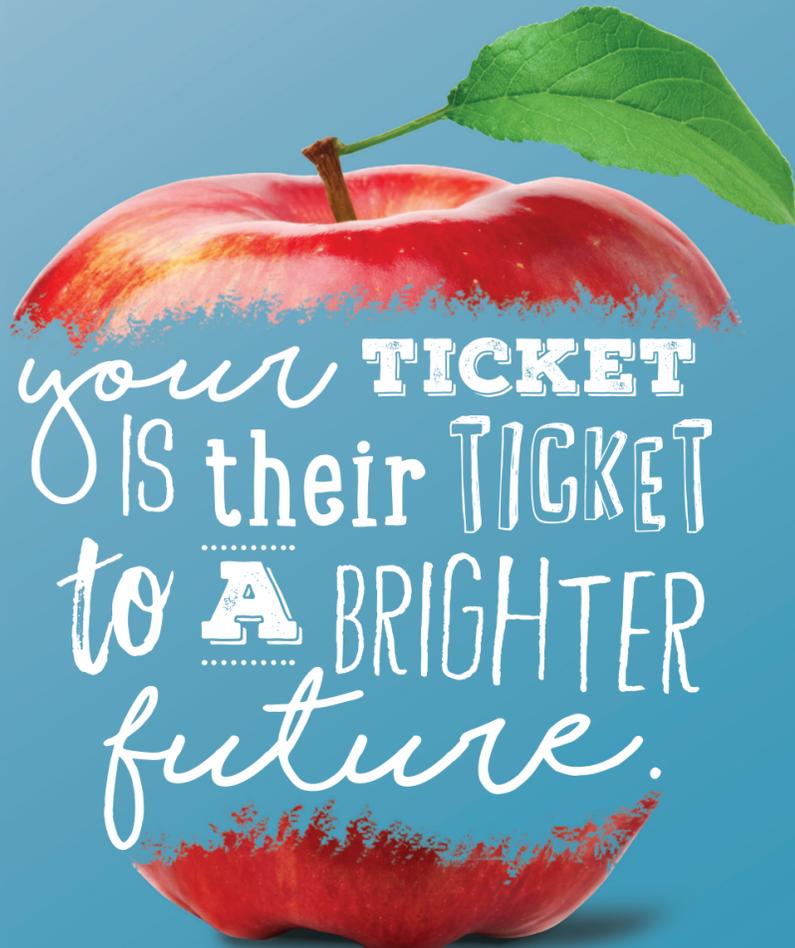


Jacksonville Jaguars' Wide Receiver Allen Robinson hosted his 3rd Annual Operation Elf program on Wednesday, a community outreach initiative of Allen Robinson's Within Reach Foundation. The Within Reach Foundation partnered with Academy Sports + Outdoors to provide a festive holiday event for children in-need who would otherwise have little or no Christmas at all.

Robinson spent the evening with 50 Jacksonville-area kids from The Bridge Boys & Girls Club at Academy Sports + Outdoors, where each child received autographed items, a Jaguars jersey and new pair of tennis shoes from Allen and a new bicycle and helmet thanks to Academy Sports + Outdoors.

For more information about Allen Robinson's Within Reach Foundation, please visit allenrobinson15.org.

About Allen Robinson's Within Reach Foundation | The Mission of Allen Robinson's Within Reach Foundation is to provide educational opportunities and resources to low-income and inner city Jacksonville-area students to help put success within their reach.



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Just Imagine®

SPORTS

“This is not the old Jaguars team”
— Jaguars running back, Leonard Fournette



Jacksonville Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette (27) is knocked out of bounds by Seattle Seahawks safety Earl Thomas (29) on December 10, 2017 at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Florida. (Photo by Laurence Greene/The Florida Star)

Jaguars Defense Collects Three Interceptions While Offense Shines In Win Over Seahawks, 30-24

By Adesina O. Koiki

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Whether they considered Sunday's matchup a “statement game” or not, the Jacksonville Jaguars let their actions speak louder for themselves during their game against the Seattle Seahawks. If you don't think the Jaguars are a serious contender, you better think again.

Jacksonville's defense recorded three interceptions of MVP candidate Russell Wilson, while his counterpart, Blake Bortles, continued his improved play at quarterback with two touchdown passes as the Jaguars defeated the Seattle Seahawks 30-24 at a sold-out EverBank Field. The win clinched the team's first winning season since 2007 and also marked the Jaguars' fourth consecutive victory at home.

With Tennessee's loss on the road to Arizona, the Jaguars (9-4) move into sole possession of first place in the AFC South

with three games remaining. Jacksonville will clinch a playoff spot with a victory at home next Sunday against the Houston Texans.

Though the first half only featured three points — a Josh Lambo 38-yard field goal for Jacksonville in the first quarter — the biggest play of the half came when Jalen Ramsey intercepted a deep Wilson pass in the end zone to extinguish a Seahawks second-quarter drive and preserve Jacksonville's lead.

On the first two plays of the third quarter, Jacksonville forced Wilson into an intentional grounding penalty, then intercepted him as cornerback A.J. Bouye came away with the pick along the right sideline at Seattle's 42-yard line.

Jacksonville needed just five plays to cash in on Wilson's second interception, with Bortles throwing an 18-yard touchdown to rookie wide receiver Dede Westbrook to give Jacksonville a 10-0 lead. The touchdown was the first of three con-

secutive drives for the Jaguars offense that ended in touchdowns.

Seattle scored 10 unanswered points to tie the game. Wilson led the Seahawks on a nine-play, 65-yard drive ending with a Blair Walsh 28-yard field goal. The ensuing kickoff was fumbled by Jags kicker returning Corey Grant, and Seattle recovered the ball at Jacksonville's 25-yard line. Two plays later, Wilson lobbed a pass deep right to Doug Baldwin for a 26-yard touchdown to tie the game at 10-all.

Jacksonville's special teams then atoned for its error from earlier in the quarter to help it open up a two-touchdown lead. On a Seattle punt, Jaguars receiver Jaydon Mickens returned it 72 yards down to the Seahawks' 1-yard line. On the next play, Fournette scored on a run to give the Jaguars a 24-10 lead with 5:37 remaining in the third.

Bouye then came away with his second interception of the game, on a deep pass from Wilson at the Jaguars' 2-yard line.

Despite being backed up in its own territory, the Jaguars were able to drive 65 yards to set up a successful 51-yard field goal by Lambo to open up Jacksonville's biggest lead, 27-10, with 10:04 remaining in the game.

Wilson, who came into the game leading the NFL with 15 touchdown passes in the fourth quarter, threw two more in quick succession to get Seattle back in the game.

After another Lambo field goal made it 30-17, Seattle scored on its second play on the drive with a 74-yard touchdown with 3:42 remaining to pull the Seahawks within six, 30-24.

The Jaguars were able to close the game out when it stopped Seattle's final drive on fourth down with under a minute to go.

Jacksonville plays its next game on Sunday Dec. 17 against the Houston Texans at EverBank Field. Game time is at 1 PM EST.

Game-Saving Interception Preserves Falcons Win Over Saints, 20-17

By Adesina O. Koiki

ATLANTA — Not only did the Atlanta Falcons defense have its back against the wall late against New Orleans, the team's season was virtually on the line, as a loss would have been a damaging blow to its playoff hopes.

Falcons linebacker Deion Jones made sure the defense made the biggest play of the season to keep those playoff hopes alive, as his interception in the end zone saved the game for the Falcons, as they defeated the Saints 20-17 on Thursday night at Mercedes-Benz Stadium. With the win, the Falcons (8-5) move within one game of the Saints for first place in the NFC South, and, with wins in their final three games, the Falcons are assured the NFC South title for a second consecutive season.

New Orleans was marching its way toward the game-winning score, inside of the Falcons' 15-yard line with 90 seconds remaining, before Jones cut in front of Saints tight end Josh Hill and made a leaping interception of a pass from Drew Brees in the end zone to extinguish the Saints' last chance at victory.

“I knew I was isolated and I thought Drew [Brees] knew that,” said Jones when describing the game-saving interception. “When the tight end looked back, I looked back and the ball was right there. I just tried to make a play on the ball and I happened to catch it.”

Catching the ball was one thing. Surviving the fall to the ground and keeping possession of the ball, after leaping high in the air to make the interception, brought its own issues.

The Falcons are still standing and accounted for in the race to win the NFC South despite an uncharacteristically poor game at home from Falcons veteran quarterback Matt Ryan, who threw three interceptions — all coming on con-

secutive drives between the second and third quarters.

Ryan's second interception on the first play in the third quarter was a pass that tight end Austin Hooper initially caught, but then bobbled into the hands of safety Chris Banjo at the Atlanta 29-yard line. Four plays later, Brees threw a 1-yard touchdown to wide receiver Michael Thomas to give New Orleans a 17-10 lead.

Atlanta responded by marching down the field, reaching the Saints' 9-yard line, before disaster struck once more. On a third down, Ryan rolled out of the pocket to his left before lobbing a pass into the end zone for Julio Jones that was intercepted by safety Marcus Williams.

Fortunately for the Falcons, their defense continued to force the Saints to punt before the offense found its footing in the fourth quarter.

On the 69-yard scoring drive for Atlanta that led to the tying score, the Falcons were aided by three Saints penalties that gave them automatic first downs. Ryan finally threw a touchdown pass in the game after hitting Mohamed Sanu on a pass up the middle from eight yards out to tie the game at 17 with just under 10 minutes remaining in regulation.

After Atlanta forced another New Orleans punt, Ryan connected with Sanu for 22 yards to start the drive. It ended with a Matt Bryant 52-yard field goal with 3:54 remaining to give Atlanta a 20-17 lead.

New Orleans, on its potential game-winning drive, started it with a 35-yard pass from Brees to Thomas to get the Saints into Falcons territory. A few plays later came



Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Mohamed Sanu (12) on the field after scoring a touchdown during the game against the New Orleans Saints on December 7, 2017 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia. (Photo by Paul D. McPherson, Jr./The Florida-Georgia Star)

a controversial decision from Atlanta Falcons head coach Dan Quinn, who decided to decline a holding penalty that occurred on an incomplete pass when the Saints were facing a third-and-1 from the Falcons' 24-yard line. On fourth-and-1, New Orleans decided to go for it, and Brees converted when he gained two yards on a quarterback sneak.

Atlanta will now have 10 days off before taking the field once again, taking on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa on Monday, Dec. 18 at 8:30 PM EST.



Florida Gators guard Chris Chiozza (11) dribbles the ball during the game against the Cincinnati Bearcats on December 9, 2017 at The Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. (Photo by Debby Wong/The Florida-Georgia Star)

Late Run Sparks Gators Victory over No. 17 Cincinnati in New Jersey

By Adesina O. Koiki

NEWARK, N.J. — Staring a third consecutive defeat in the face, Florida guard Chris Chiozza made sure the Gators snapped out of their funk.

The senior guard scored the Gators' last six points, as well as assisted on a crucial three-pointer late in the second half, as No. 5 Florida edged No. 17 Cincinnati 66-60 in the second game of the Never Forget Tribute Classic at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

Florida (6-3), after taking a six-point lead into halftime, opened the second half with guard Egor Koulechov's two free throws to open up its biggest lead of the game at 36-28. The rest of the half was close, with the final 20 minutes featuring nine ties and seven lead changes.

The game was tied at 55 with four minutes remaining when Chiozza backed down his defender, Justin Jenifer, into the lane before zipping a pass to a wide-open Jalen Hudson in the right corner, who hit

a three-pointer to give the Gators a 58-55 advantage.

A jumper by Kyle Washington and two free throws from Cane Broome gave Cincinnati a 59-58 lead. With the game tied at 60, Chiozza once again drove to the basket and finished with a runner in the lane to give the Gators a two-point lead with 1:12 remaining. He then hit two free throws with 20 seconds left to build Florida's advantage to four, before providing the final score of the game on a breakout layup off a Cincinnati turnover with 10 seconds remaining.

Chiozza scored or had an assist on every Florida-made basket in the final 5:18.

Florida's Koulechov led all scorers with 21 points and also had seven rebounds, while the Bearcats' Hudson chipped in with 17 points while hitting three three-pointers.

Florida has a week until its next game, a matchup against the Clemson Tigers in Sunrise, Fla. on Saturday Dec. 16 at 4:30 PM EST.

Walter Payton Man of the Year Awards

By Debby Wong

One of the NFL's most prestigious awards, the Walter Payton Man of the Year Award recognizes an NFL player for their outstanding service and excellence on and off the field. This year, Atlanta Falcons offensive lineman Ben Garland and Jacksonville Jaguars sixth-year DT Malik Jackson are the team picks for this outstanding award.

Garland, a graduate of the Air Force Academy, is involved in the Atlanta Falcons military outreach and has dedicated his personal time to honoring veterans, service members and their families for their service. In his three seasons with the Falcons, Ben has participated in more than 60 community events. He has a passion for teaching youth to be ac-

tive and has met with youth football teams, participated in PLAY 60 camps, taught proper football techniques at Gatorade Junior Training Camps, visited hospital patients, and more.

Malik Jackson's foundation, Malik's Gifts, supports military, at-risk youth and their families, as well as pet adoption. In 2017, Jackson committed \$5,000 to Jacksonville's Five Star Veterans Center that provides safe and secure housing for displaced veterans facing homelessness and unemployment. In addition Jackson hosted Gold Star Wives Day which honored 50 widowed women of service members who have died while serving their country. Jackson's \$2,000 donation provided child care, dinner and a special night out for these 50 women.

Starting in Week 14, the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year trophy silhouette will appear in uniform elements to further recognize past award winners and current nominees. Garland and Jackson will wear a Man of the Year helmet decal through the end of the season, in recognition of their accomplishments.

Each year, a winner is selected from each of the 32 different teams. A panel of judges, which includes Roger Goodell (NFL Commissioner), Connie Payton (widow of Walter Payton), the previous year's winner, and a number of former players select the winner of the award.

A total of Five hundred thousand dollars will be donated in the name of the 2017 winner. \$250,000 will be donated to the winner's charity of choice and

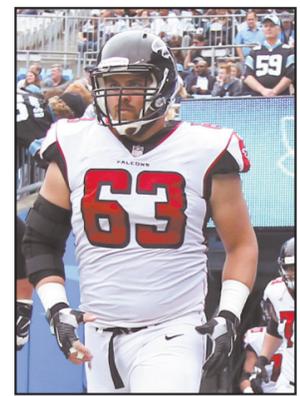


Jacksonville Jaguars DT Malik Jackson (97) reacts on the field at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, Florida. (The Florida-Georgia Star/Laurence Greene)

\$250,000 will be donated in his name to expand Character Playbook across the country. The two other finalists will each receive a \$100,000 donation to their charity of choice and a \$100,000 donation in their names to expand Character Playbook. All other 29 nominees will receive a \$50,000 donation to their char-

ity of choice and an additional \$50,000 donation in their name to expand Character Playbook. All donations are courtesy of the NFL Foundation and United Way Worldwide.

Three of the nominees will be selected as finalists for the national award in January 2018. The winner will be announced in



Atlanta Falcons guard Ben Garland emerges from the tunnel before the game against the Carolina Panthers on November 5, 2017 at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina. (Photo by Debby Wong)

Minneapolis at the annual NFL Honors, a two-hour primetime awards special to air nationally on Feb. 3, the night before Super Bowl LII, at 8 PM (ET) on NBC.

The African Village International 4th Annual Kwanzaa Celebration

Date: 12.26.2017
Time: 6:00 – 8:00PM

The African Village International invites the greater Jacksonville area to our Annual Kwanzaa Celebration on Tuesday, December 26th at the Ritz Theatre and Museum, 829 N Davis St, Jacksonville, FL 32202. This event will be held from 6:00-8:00PM. Participants can sign up to attend at <http://www.eventbrite.com/> and search for "African Village International, Kwanzaa Celebration."

KWANZAA is celebrated from December 26 to January 1. It was first celebrated in 1966-1967 and is neither political nor religious in nature. It was created to foster pride and unity among African-Americans. Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration honoring universal African-American heritage, family life, and culture. Its focus is on seven core principles from African Heritage. Our celebration falls on the First Day, UMOJA- Unity. This year we will hear from Jacksonville community's thought leaders and focus on projects that bring the community together. The celebration will continue throughout the week with the following events located in Jacksonville, FL:

- Wednesday, Dec 27 - Kujichagulia (Self-Determination):
Guided meditation (30 free meditation sessions and a Kemet Yoga Experience)
11am to 1pm
Ritz Theatre 829 N. Davis St, 32202
- Thurs Dec 28 - Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility):
Volunteering in your community (Senior Centers and Community Clean Up!)
10am to 5pm
Email africanvillageinc@gmail.com
- Fri Dec 29 - Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics):
African Village Bazaar (small business marketplace, live entertainment, and workshops)
12pm to 6pm
Ritz Theatre 829 N. Davis St, 32202
- Sat Dec 30 - Nia (Purpose):
IDEA Temple will host at Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church from 12:30-2:30 pm.
The address is: 8447 Manresa Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32244
- Sunday, Dec 31 - Kuumba (Creativity):
#Zawadi2017 Celebrating our creativity by being thankful for who/what has been #Zawadi2017 in 2017. #zawadi2017 is a campaign for positivity around the diaspora, counting our blessings.
- Mon Jan 1 2018 - Imani (Faith):
Libation Ceremony 3pm- 4pm
Ritz Theatre 829 N. Davis St, 32202

www.africanvillageinc.org

Edward Waters College Addresses the Disparity in STEM Robotics

By Josetta Arnold, MAEd / Department of Teacher Education



Two EWC students trained as Referees assisting Mr. Frank Robinson during Robotic performance judging.



Head Referee Lisa Lovelace assisting EWC student.

On Saturday, December 9, 2017 over 200 elementary and middle school students, parents, Edward Waters College students, faculty and members of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church BEST Academy participated in a First Lego League Robotics Tournament. The event which was held in the Adams- Jenkins Sport and Music Complex and offered more minority students an avenue to hone their robotic skills.

The joint efforts of Mr. Frank Robinson of the Northeast Florida STEM2Hub, and a retired NASA engineer, Mark McComb, Founder of Renaissance Jax Robotics and Josetta Arnold, STEM Coordinator for the EWC Department of Teacher Education and Urban Studies made the event a success. Usually minority students must travel out of the city to participate in such a tournament but the EWC location offered teams from Mathew Gilbert Middle, BEST Academy, Ribault Middle school, teams from the Boys and Girls Club and BGCNF St. Augustine TPC Bots more opportunity for participation.

Overall, 22 teams participated, engaged in and displayed the required research to solve a real world water problem; Bolles Bots Whitehurst, Bolles Bots Bartram, Bolles PV Bot, Chief Lego Extenders, Landrum Blue, Landrum White, Lego Lions, Mind Masters, Mysterious Minds, Oakleaf Village Elementary, Pinedale Elementary School, Robo Tigers, Robotic Trojans, Robros, Row, Row, Row your Bots!, Technical Trojans Black, The Programmers, and West Riverside Elementary School showed excitement and expertise

as they maneuvered their Lego robots through the Lego obstacle course!

Research maintains that African Americans and women remain an underserved and underrepresented group in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM). The Edward Waters College Teacher Education and Studies Department is working to increase STEM exposure in the community. November 30th at S.P. Livingston Elementary School, EWC faculty, Dr. Marilyn Mack and Ms. Arnold participated in CODE.org training. The Department also collaborated with the Principals of S.P. Livingston, R.V. Daniels and Rufus Payne Elementary Schools to offer this training to a few of their teachers to prepare for the December 8th National Hour of CODE. The Teacher Education Department recognizes that future teachers are a key to influencing minority students to participate in STEM. To prepare the Department's students, Kathleen Scofield and Robert Copeland of the STEM2HUB provided Math and CODE.org training throughout the fall semester. Dr. Maria Fosset Snow, EWC Teacher Education and Urban Studies Department Head, plans to extend this collaboration into the next semester to prepare more teacher graduates with STEM skills set. Edward Waters College was the first to offer CODE.org to pre-professional teachers in Duval County.

For more information about forming a First Lego League at your child's school contact Mr. Frank Robinson of the STEM2 Hub at frank@stem2hub.org

For information about First Lego League Teams and competitions contact Mark McComb at mark@rjax.org.



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Announcements

Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall asking all his friends to support the event.

Mission Statement
We are a faith based nonprofit humanitarian organization committed to empowering underprivileged communities by providing access to educational tools, economic development and safe communities, one person, one community at a time. We work to revitalize the lives of adults and children in our urban communities through aid and awareness to create empowering solutions together.

El-Beth-El Church, Cathy Wilensky and Abraham Hassan

**Christmas Give Away
Theme: We Can Do Better As A Community**

Dear Supporters and Friends:

The El-Beth-El Development Center is a 501c3 non-profit organization that empowers communities to be self-reliant. The development center engages the residents of its surrounding community in discovering independence, enhance self-worth, and make positive contributions towards making the world a better place. It is our goal to provide training, activities, community resources, and social services to empower actions based on values and convictions that promote the well-being of their community and its people.

Our center is a place where residents can enjoy close relationships and explore answers to questions important to the people of today--the leaders of tomorrow. We foster a wholesome environment where residents can learn new skills, develop self-confidence, and work towards achieving their full potential. The development center has sponsored food and clothing giveaways, book and toy drives, employability skills training, and community referrals. Additionally, the center has served as an after-school classroom for neighbors in the community and surrounding area. We also talk to our youth concerning drug awareness, job training and other "after school" programs.

To achieve our vision of preparing today's children with the skills of tomorrow's leaders, El-Beth-El Development Center has developed activities that build self-confidence, creative decision-making skills, and teamwork that help children develop real-world leadership abilities that will last them a lifetime.

We are asking you to assist us in our Christmas Community Give Away on December 17, 2017 by giving a donation of your choice for this event. Last year we helped over 1,000 youth receive gifts, cloths etc., this year our goal is to help 1500 or more children to have a better Christmas.

- Currently, we are seeking funds (Donations) or a NEW UN-WRAPPED TOY, for Children ages 4 to 12, \$15.00 gift cards for children ages 13 to 17 for this event.
- We would like to collect 5,000 Can Goods and Nonperishable

items to give away to the community. Again, we are asking for your support to help us in our mission and accomplishments towards achieving our goal.

Thank you for reviewing this correspondence. For further information please contact Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall, Sr. at 904-710-1586, or Office 904-374-3940.
Hope To See You There!!!!

A Gospel Christmas Toy & Gift Giveaway

Jacksonville it's time for the most exciting toy giveaway this city has ever seen! That's right it's time for the 16th Annual "A Gospel Christmas Toy & Gift Giveaway" sponsored by First Lady Productions and One Accord Ministries International, Inc.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma families are still struggling to recover from the devastation of the storm.

Dr. Vera Goodman, CEO of First Lady Productions, says, "We especially want to bless the community this year.

This may very well be the most important Christmas Toy & Gift Giveaway we have ever sponsored."

The event is FREE to attend, so parents bring your children, infants to age seventeen, for an evening of singing, dancing and gift giving.

Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 6:30p.m. at the Temple of One Accord Ministries International, Inc. Bishop, Dr. Jan D. Goodman, Sr. is pastor.

The church is located at 2971 Waller Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32254.

Again there will be singing, dancing, special drawings and fun for all! And oh yeah...toys,

toys, toys, and more toys!

This event will be hosted by the First Lady of One Accord herself, Dr. Vera Goodman, along with other special guests.

For more information or to make a donation call One Accord Ministries Int'l at 904.389.7373 or email: firstladyproductions@yahoo.com.

The Jacksonville Children's Chorus Annual "Cool Side of Yuletide" Concert

JACKSONVILLE, FL - The Jacksonville Children's Chorus is pleased to present "The Cool Side of Yuletide," Saturday, December 16, 2017, 2:00pm and 5:00pm at Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church, located at 4001 Hendricks Avenue, 32207. The performance will feature holiday favorites by the JCC choirs with special performances by ChoRuss, a cappella group from St. Petersburg, Russia.

Publix Super Markets Charities is the sponsor for this concert event. Peterbrooke Chocolatiers will also be giving the audience a little sweet treat and will be available in the lobby to pick up some gifts for those chocolate lovers on your list. There will also be a drawing at each show for a gift basket full of Peterbrooke goodies.

"It's a fun-filled concert of music-making by our singers. Even our audience takes part in singing holiday favorites!" said Darren Dailey, President and Artistic Director of the Jacksonville Children's Chorus.

General admission tickets are \$21 each. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Jacksonville Children's Chorus ongoing programming and scholarship funds.

Please note that tickets for the 2:00pm show generally sell out quickly. Tickets

may be purchased from the Jacksonville Children's Chorus office at 353-1636, ext. 2 or online at www.JaxChildrensChorus.org.

SANTA AND MRS. CLAUS TO JOIN FEEDING NORTHEAST FLORIDA TO DELIVER CHRISTMAS TO FAMILIES IN

LOCAL FOOD DESERT

Feeding Northeast Florida, the community's largest hunger-relief organization, will be accompanied by Santa and Mrs. Claus for a food distribution event in one of Jacksonville's food deserts. The Feeding Northeast Florida truck will arrive with Santa at 7 a.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Mayport.

Every day, 283,140 people in our community go to bed hungry. More than 81,000 are children. Jacksonville has among the highest food insecurity rates in the state, with much of the need lying within food deserts. This mobile food pantry will provide local families with healthy holiday meals. Santa and Mrs. Claus will help pass out the food to the community.

WHAT: Santa and Feeding Northeast Florida Deliver Christmas to Local Families

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 16 7:00 a.m. - Truck arrives with Santa to unload food

8:00 a.m. - Distribution to families begins

WHERE: St. John's Catholic Church

2400 Mayport Rd., Atlantic Beach - 32233

VISUALS:

Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in the Feeding Northeast Florida truck, with an elf at the wheel

Children in attendance will have an opportunity to take photos with Santa

Families will receive boxes of food for holiday meals, with Santa and Mrs. Claus helping distribute

To learn more about Feeding Northeast Florida, visit feedingnefl.org.

Bible Day Outreach Ministries

Physical Address:
2025 W. 45th Street
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Pastor number: 904-334-4204
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Rev. Joe Calhoun, Pastor Emeritus
(904) 764-5727 - Church



Email: newbethlehemmb@att.net * Web: newbethlehemmb.com

HopeAtHand.org

#JaxPoetryFest

#HopeAtHand

High School Poetry Contest

ATTENTION: 9th - 12th Grade Students!

Students, you are invited to be an active part of the 3rd Annual Jax Poetry Fest! Each April, Hope at Hand hosts a poetry festival to celebrate National Poetry Month. Students may submit **one poem** of no more than 15 lines on any subject and in any style except concrete or black out poems. The content of the poem may not be vulgar, offensive or contain profanity. Poems must be original, individual work of the entrant.

Submissions - March 9, 2018

All submissions become the property of Hope at Hand and Jax Poetry Fest and may appear on social media. First name, age, and high school will be shared with the winning poem. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Send poetry submissions to HopeAtHand@HopeAtHand.org by March 9, 2018.

Prizes:
\$50 1st Place
\$40 2nd Place
\$30 3rd place

HopeAtHand.org

Hope at Hand is a local 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides poetry sessions for at-risk youth populations including Department of Juvenile Justice, Children's Home Society, Gateway Steps to Recovery, Hope Haven Children's Clinic, Youth Crisis Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and more. For more information, find us on Facebook at [JaxPoetryFest](https://www.facebook.com/JaxPoetryFest) or Hope at Hand, Inc. Hope at Hand is sponsored in part by the Delores Barr Weaver Fund, Cummer Family Foundation, FL Division of Cultural Affairs, City of Jacksonville/Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, TPC, Meniak Club, the University of North Florida and many more. Hope at Hand is registered with United Way of Northeast Florida.

JAX POETRY FEST.

Include the following information with your poem submission:

First Name:

Last Name:

Student's Email:

Age:

Grade:

Poem Title:

School Name:

Teacher's Name:

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