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SEPTEMBER 23 - SEPTEMBER 29, 2017 VOLUME 67, NUMBER 24 \$1.00



State Attorney Nelson same as Corey in major police killing case

Prosecutor determined death of Bing justified by JSO officer Landreville

By OPIO SOKONI
The Florida/Georgia Star

State Attorney Melissa Nelson is turning out to be no different than former State Attorney Angela Corey when it comes to prosecuting Officers that kill black citizens. This week, her office determined that the killing of unarmed black man Vernell Bing by officer Tyler Landreville was justified. Bing was in a car chase where his vehicle hit a wall and came to a complete stop. Bing exited the vehicle injured and was limping away when Landreville sent bullets flying into the streets where children were playing nearby on 9th and Liberty Streets. Bing was struck in the head and died. Based on a major Supreme Court case, JSO officer Landreville was not justified.

In *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1 (1985), the U.S. Supreme Court held that when a law enforcement officer is pursuing a fleeing suspect, he or she may not use deadly force to prevent escape unless "the

Please see Case, page 6



THE FIRST COAST RECOVERERS

In Arlington, this home sustained extensive damage from Irma. (Photo by Denise Williams)



The garage of this home on the Northside suffered severe damage from the storm. The home of this family and its occupants were ok. (Photo by Denise Williams)

From Hurricane Irma's Fury

By DENISE WILLIAMS
The Florida/Georgia Star

Hurricane Irma ravaged the state of Florida beginning Sunday, September 10th at 9:10 am. Although the storm was its strongest as a category 5, it made landfall in Cudjoe Key, FL as a category 4 system. Irma's reach was wide as it covered 500 miles in width yet the state of Florida is 140 miles at its widest point. Although

Irma's intensity slowed to a category 2 before leaving the state of Florida, Irma touched every city and county. Irma left communities decimated with massive structural damage, loss of power and flooding. It was the second most powerful system only to hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the first major hurricane to hit Florida since Wilma in 2005.

Even before this storm touched the shores of Florida, it caused

Please see Irma, page 6

Georgia residents affected by Irma may register for FEMA

ATLANTA – Survivors with losses due to Hurricane Irma in Camden, Chatham and Glynn counties may now register for disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to state and federal officials.

Individuals can register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or through the FEMA App.

Another option for individuals, including those who use 711 relay or VRS, is to call 800-621-FEMA (3362) while those who use TTY can call 800-462-7585. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week until further notice.

Powerful Earthquake strikes Mexico

A powerful earthquake shook central Mexico on Tuesday, collapsing buildings in plumes of dust and killing more than 150 people. Thousands fled into the streets in panic, and many stayed to help rescue those trapped.

Dozens of buildings tumbled into mounds of rubble or were severely damaged in densely populated parts of Mexico City and nearby states. Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said buildings fell at 44 places in the capital alone as high-rises across the city swayed sickeningly.

Hours after the magnitude 7.1 quake, rescue workers were still clawing through the wreckage of a primary school that partly collapsed in the city's south looking for any children who might be trapped.

The quake is the deadliest in Mexico since a 1985 quake on the same date killed thousands. It came less than two weeks after another powerful quake caused 90 deaths in the country's south.



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Faith In Our Community

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

The Church Directory

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SUNDAY MORNING
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Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
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Tuesday - Pastoral Bible Study7:00 p.m.
Rev. Dr. Marion A. Wise, Senior Pastor
Rev. Joe Calhoun, Pastor Emeritus
(904) 764-5727 - Church



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

Holy Tabernacle Church Anniversary

Pastor Paul R. Cardona and Bishop R. L. Jones

It's that time again!
WHAT: Holy Tabernacle's 70th Church Anniversary
WHERE: 6416 Miriam Street, Jacksonville, FL 32219
WHEN: September 23-24, 2017
TIME: 11:00 am
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
Pastor Calvin A. Levy (Tampa, FL)
FURTHER INFO CALL: Evg. Pondeleia Williams:
904-729-7792 or HTC at 904-764-3754.

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Charles Jenkins & Fellowship Chicago Make Donation To Hurricane Harvey Survivors



Charles Jenkins & Fellowship Chicago Share God's Grace With Hurricane Harvey Survivors; Giving A \$10,000 Donation To HD Cares Relief Organization.

Singer, songwriter and producer Charles Jenkins is always looking for ways to help people. This past weekend Jenkins and his Fellowship Chicago congregation donated \$10,000 to Higher Dimension Church's HD Cares Hurricane Harvey Initiative that benefits the Houston hurricane recovery.

"I hope everyone is inspired to do something, whether it's great or small it all counts" says Jenkins. "Our brothers and sisters are in need, so this is the time for the church to step up and be visible as the survivors rebuild not only their homes but also their lives. Pastor Terrance Johnson and HD Cares is doing a tremendous work in Houston and we just wanted to be a part of their good work." Pastor Johnson responded saying, "It's all about rebuilding now and we are grateful for the support of people like Pastor Jenkins and others who will step up because the need is so great. It's going to take years to recover so we need the ongoing help for the families in need."

Additionally, Charles & Fellowship Chicago also donated their time joining

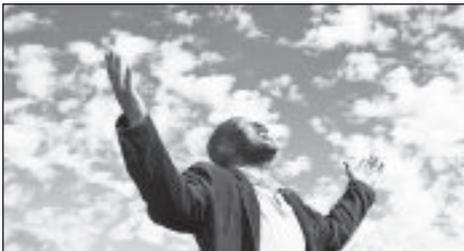
other great artists to perform in Houston for New Light Christian Center's Hurricane Harvey Relief Concert to raise money to help those displaced by the devastating storm. "The Hilliard's and The Light are helping people and meeting needs everyday so it was a blessing to support their effort to raise funds" says Jenkins.

In the meantime, Jenkins' latest recording with Fellowship Chicago ft. Le'Andria, "Grace" (Inspired People/Empire), is resonating around the world and serves as an inspiring message to all who are touched by the devastation of a particularly busy hurricane season. "By faith, my future is bright," the ensemble sings. "He's brought me from a mighty long way. I walk by faith and not by sight oh yeah, that's how I made it where I am today." The soulful song sits at No. 6 on this week's Billboard Gospel Airplay chart and No. 4 on the Mediabase Gospel Airplay chart.

For more information on HD Cares, view https://youtu.be/8iS7yF1_oku or log on at hdcares.org for details on the organization and ways to give to the cause.

AARP launches Faith-Based Initiative Tool Kit for African-American Clergy and Lay Leaders

New online tool kit provides guidelines and resources for faith-based organizations looking to reach older Americans



AARP announced today the release of their first African-American/Black Faith-Based Initiative Tool Kit. This self-service tool kit was created by AARP experts in collaboration with faith leaders from across the nation as a resource to aid in addressing the unique issues that affect many African-Americans aged 50+ in the faith-based community.

"From our conversations with a number of faith leaders from the Conference of National Black Churches, we learned they overwhelmingly felt that there were not enough resources provided to older African-Americans in their congregations on issues that mattered to them in the 21st century," said Edna Kane Williams, Senior Vice President of Multicultural Leadership at AARP.

According to a 2016 AARP survey, 80 percent of African-American adults age 50 and older were involved in religious or spiritual activities. The African-American/Black Faith-Based Initiative Tool Kit was designed to harness this aspect of the African-American cultural experience. The survey also implied that as adults aged, they became less involved in religious/spiritual activities. The new tool kit seeks to help engage those able to stay involved.

"It was very important for us to be involved with this project because we noticed our members transitioning from the choir stand to the sick and shut-in list," says Jacqueline Burton, President of the Conference of National Black Churches. "We want our members

to stay involved as they age, and this toolkit can serve as a framework to help refresh ministries that cater to older members."

"The ultimate goal of the Faith-Based Initiative Tool Kit is to assist clergy in building and enhancing their ministries by helping to educate their 50-plus parishioners on various topics from Medicare and Social Security to digital literacy and healthy aging," Williams said.

The tool kit is divided into four issue sections:
Key Learnings: Data and statistics about African-Americans in the United States and lists tips for organizing and sustaining an effective ministry.
Your Health: Information about adopting a healthy lifestyle, care giving and an in-depth guide to understanding Medicare and Medicaid.

Your Wealth: Resources designed to help older adults understand their finances. This section covers everything from keeping a competitive edge in the workplace to understanding Social Security benefits.
Your Life: Solutions for adopting a healthy perspective about aging and navigating life's transitions. Also includes an index of resources that promote digital literacy and fraud protection.

The full African-American/Black Faith-Based Initiative Tool Kit is available free online.
For more information about AARP's African-American multicultural initiatives, visit AARP Black Community online. www.aarp.org

OBITUARY

Florida & Georgia



Bernie Casey

Bernie Casey, best known for his scene-stealing role in *Revenge of the Nerds* and as the star of *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka*, has died at the age of 78. The actor's rep confirmed that he died peacefully in a Los Angeles hospital Tuesday, surrounded by loved ones. blackref.com



Mr. Nathaniel Anthony Kearse
December 31, 1965 - September 16, 2017 (age 51)



Mrs. Carletha Jenkins
November 12, 1944 - September 11, 2017 (age 72)



Ms. Juanita Emily Jones
January 12, 1944 - September 6, 2017 (age 73)



Ms. Maria Tirow Patrick
March 28, 1974 - September 10, 2017 (age 43)



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Then, as we end our celebration gather with us for a Holy Ghost Revival on Sunday 9:28 @ 10am with the pastor of New Hope, **Jarvis Jones**, as we recognize the miraculous works God has done throughout these 60 years of our church's existence!
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More News



Controversial Libre by Nexus Is Taking on Immigration System. . . And Winning

By Curtis Bunn
Urban News Service



Justin Kongueni Matadidi's first days in America were a far cry from the safe haven he had envisioned when he fled the Congo of Africa, fearing for his life.

Rather than basking in the glow of a new start, Matadidi was arrested by Immigration Custom Enforcement officials in Florida because of "faulty paperwork," and detained in jail for six frightening months that, he said, almost broke him.

The inhumanity of jail, the threat of violence and, significantly, the hopelessness of ever being free—or being sent back to certain death in Africa—made it hard to eat or even sleep. Neither could his two childhood friends who also escaped a death warrant in Kinshasa because of their opposition to the ruling political authority, they said.

America was his haven—or so he thought. He never imagined he would need to make a \$20,000 bail—or have collateral to serve as credit for bond—just to seek the safety of asylum.

"(Jail) was scary," Matadidi recalled through translator Jeanine Memmbila of the Congo. "Couldn't sleep or eat. I had no money. I had no hope. I didn't know what to do. I was running from death in Africa, but if they delivered me back to the people of my country, it would have been my death. So I was scared everyday at what could happen to me."

After spending six months in detention, from December 2016 through June 2017, Matadidi learned of Libre by Nexus, a rural Virginia-based firm that rapidly has evolved into a powerful—and controversial—immigration bond company.

Libre by Nexus (libre means free in Spanish) posted the \$20,000 bond, and Matadidi, who now lives in Atlanta, and his friends, were freed. And he said his world was saved.

"I had no family (here), no collateral," he said through Memmbila. "I cried everyday. Libre came in like a mother. They gave me a new life."

When he walked out of jail, the first person to greet him was Annette Padilla, a Libre Nexus case worker. "Matadidi was in tears," Padilla recalled. "(He) came out crying, pinching (his) cheeks and saying, basically, 'Oh, my

god. This is not real.' I picked up all three of the friends on different days and their reaction was all the same. It has been a long journey for them."

Padilla said she nearly was in tears, too, during the company's mandatory "pick up" to help the now-free client get settled. "It made me feel proud of what I do," she said.

Similar stories have been played out thousands of times by Libre clients. Those who cannot afford bail found Libre Nexus to be a sort of justice angel that bailed them out just when hope had been all but lost.

This action is not without a cost—or controversy. In three years, Michael Donovan's company has changed the landscape of immigration bonding by bonding out around 12,500 people across the country and requiring them to wear a GPS tracking device on their ankle at \$120 a week until the bond is paid off.

Detractors—and there are many—say the company, which employs more than 200 people in 20 locations across the country, is taking advantage of a flawed immigration system that has court cases backed up for months, making millions off of those who could not afford bail. Donovan said, simply, that freedom allows the released the opportunity to live and work and pay for the tracking device, as opposed to rotting in jail. And he added: "We don't care about profit. We believe profit doesn't have to control the day."

Matadidi, 30, who was an engineer in the Congo, said of the GPS payments: "The money is nothing for the life they saved."

While many have considered Libre as saviors, there are others, especially traditional bail bond companies, who bemoan the tactics. Some criticize that the company's clients often struggle for work, making it a struggle to pay the \$480 a month for the tracking device. There is no interest charge tacked onto the GPS monitor; clients wear it (and pay for it) until their bond is satisfied or case cleared.

There have been complaints that Libre employees have threatened clients with a return to jail or detention if the GPS payments are not made. Erik G. Schneider, a former bounty hunter who

is Libre's chief risk management officer, refuted that claim.

"We've never sent anybody back to jail—or threatened to send anyone back," Schneider said. "The reality is that we want them out of the bracelets. That means they have paid it off and are going on with their lives. That's why we work hard to help clients in any way."

Donovan insists his and co-founder Richard Moore's inspiration for the company was forged during their own harrowing jail experience. While in college, Donovan wrote two checks to a northern Virginia hotel that were returned. He ended up being arrested on six felony charges, including grand larceny and forgery, among others.

He spent seven months in jail because he was unable to make bail. He was freed only after pleading guilty, effectively killing his dream to become a lawyer.

But the loss of a dream inspired another.

Seven months in jail "was my college," Donovan said. "(Libre by Nexus) is all rooted in my jail experience. I'm trying to save the 19-year-old me. . . There needs to be bail reform. Our model is smarter about how we make bail available. This is not rocket science. The GPS system is insurance, but it allows our clients to live and work and to *not be in jail*. Mass incarceration is encouraging jails to destroy people. We're happy to help, but horrified that we have to."

Meanwhile, many of Libre's employees have experienced jail, are immigrants or are the children of immigrants—factors that the company espouses as virtues because they relate to those they help.

Julio Rodriguez, a case worker at Libre in Verona, Virginia who is from Honduras, said he fled his country through El Salvador and Guatemala and spent three days in the desert before making it across the U.S. border in Texas.

That experience gives him sensitivity to the clients he first meets on the phone as they seek help to get out of detention. "I take the job personally," Rodriguez, 30, said. "I was brought from the shadows into the world. So I know what the clients who call us are seeking, and I can be there for them the way I know they need me to be there."

Sergio Anselmo, another Libre by Nexus employee, said he recalls crossing the border from Mexico as a small child. He and his family worked in Florida, picking oranges and cucumbers before moving to North Carolina. He gained U.S. citizen but one of his brothers did not and was deported back to Mexico last year.

"If we had known about Libre by Nexus then, we probably would have had a better outcome," Anselmo said. "But I go on my 'pick ups' and see people we have freed, people I have spoken to on the phone, knowing their story and how scared they are. This is the perfect way to help people going through what I went through."

Still, the company has many critics. Some clients have lodged lawsuits, saying they did not understand they were to pay monthly rate for the tracking device and they thought the GPS fee would go toward the bond owed.

"We are rescuing many from a system that is designed to keep them in detention," Schneider said. "Most cases are asylum-seekers. They don't have money. They don't have collateral. They want freedom; that's why they came to America. We don't arrest people. We give them relief."

Libre is suing to protect its profile. It is fighting BuzzFeed in a \$5-million defamation case for reporting, among other things, that Libre was under investigation by ICE.

While all this is going on, the company says it has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars into a Civil Rights division, housing for felons and pro bono lawyers to adequately represent clients in court—and other projects that are aimed at giving clients a fair shot at freedom.

Additionally, Donovan, a former lobbyist, hires lobbyists to fight for immigration reform—odd for a company that exists because immigration system is faulty.

"We've created a paradigm shift in immigration release," Donovan said. "People on both sides are the problem. No one has anything to gain by freeing people. Jail is dehumanizing. But the system promotes warehousing to control large numbers of people. . . We want immigration reform. We want the problem fixed. We are the disruptors. And we aren't done yet."

Make Lunchtime Fun Time

Tips for creating back-to-school lunches



(Family Features) With school back in session, many families are beginning to focus on smarter eating habits. Packing your little learner's lunch is an easy way to help ensure his or her diet contains enough protein and calcium.

"By letting your kids play a role in planning and packing their lunches, while tossing in a variety of appealing, fun options, you can make sure your students are set up for success."

"For lunches, I like to include mini-foods, like blueberries, strawberries and Mini Babybel cheese, because there is no prep time needed and they are fun to eat with fingers," said Amy Bellgardt, mother of two and founder of the lifestyle blog Mom Spark. "When lunchtime is easy and enjoyable, my kids are more likely to eat what we've prepared together."

Bellgardt recommends these tips for creating tasty and fun back-to-school lunches.

Pick a theme

Coming up with daily or even weekly themes based on types of foods can be a great way to tap into your child's creative side. For example, try Taco Tuesday with walking tacos, or send along several foods that are dip-able, like chicken strips and honey mustard, apple slices and honey, or carrots and ranch dressing. Another fun theme could be Breakfast for Lunch with eggs, mini-pancakes and yogurt.

"I love to make lunchtime more entertaining for my kids by serving them in themed bento boxes," Bellgardt said.

Mix it up

For winning flavor combinations, pack small amounts of many kid-friendly items from different food groups like crackers, carrot sticks and grapes in colorful bento box-style containers. An option such as Mini Babybel cheese, a 100 percent real cheese with a rich and creamy taste, can be paired with colorful fruits and vegetables – as well as lunchtime staples like sandwiches – to create a balanced and tasty meal. A parent-pleasing choice, each serving of the snack cheese delivers at least 4 grams of protein and 15 percent of daily calcium needs in 70 calories or less, all in colorful red-wax-wrapped packaging with a signature pull tab.

Let kids help

Involving children in planning and packing their own lunches can be empowering. Place a note on the fridge to remind your kids what should go in their lunchboxes and lend a hand with the more difficult parts, such as slicing fruit and veggies or sandwich prep. Creating a routine with your little ones every night before bed can save you time in the morning, foster smart eating habits and create a sense of responsibility.

For more ways to make lunchtime fun, visit mini-babybel.com or find Mini Babybel on Facebook.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images



Samuel Raymond Scottron held five patents but most remembered for inventing the curtain rod.

Samuel R. Scottron was an inventor and activist who lived most of his life in Brooklyn, NY. One of his most noted inventions is the



Maurice William Lee, Jr. who became a business partner to his father Lee Sr. Together they received several patents for modified versions of the original Smokaroma

Maurice William Lee, Sr. created the aromatic pressure cooker/smoker in 1958 (Patent US3078783 A). The aromatic pressure cooker which was also called the smokaroma had three functions. It could

be used as a cold smoker, aromatic cooker, and pressure cooker. Williams' device had a unique variation from other devices that were created previously for pressure cooking. His cooker used a gas flame which

curtain rod. He was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1841 and one of his early occupation was that of a barber. He received his engineering degree from Cooper Union in 1878. He then began to create gadgets that would assist society by making it easier to perform everyday tasks.

Scottron received his patent on the curtain rod on August 20, 1892 (U.S. Patent #481,720). In addition to the curtain rod, he was granted patents to four other inventions. His improvements to the mirror were patented in March of 1868. He also received patents for the Adjustable Window Cornice (1880), the Cornice/ornamental

Black History Spotlight

By Denise Williams

Samuel R. Scottron

located 98 Monroe Street in Brooklyn, NY. Scottron was also an activist who focused his attention on creating an environment of racial harmony. He was also a prolific public speaker who also wrote articles on race relations. One of his more prominent platforms was his opposition to the brutal conditions of the enslaved in Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Scottron wed Anna Maria Willett in 1863 and the couple parented five children. He died in Brooklyn, NY on October 14, 1908, at the age of 67. He was also the great grandfather of world-renowned singer, Lena Horne who departed this life in 2010 at the age of 93.

Scottron was a sutler (a civilian merchant who sells supplies to the military in the field) for the U.S. 3rd colored infantry during the civil war and later owned retail outlets in both Fernandina and Jacksonville, FL. Later, he opened a barber shop in Springfield, MA where he patented his first invention, the adjustable window cornice. After relocating to Brooklyn, NY he fabricated his other inventions. He supported his family manufacturing products derived from these inventions and went on to develop the Scottron Manufacturing Company

permeated the food and utilized wood to add flavor to the meat. Pressure cookers, in general, were devices that used water or any other water based liquid to cook food in a sealed pot under pressure to preserve the moisture which is often lost through conventional preparation. Pressure cooking also prepares food in less time and saves energy. The trapped steam elevates the pressure within the apparatus, which allows the food to absorb the condensation producing more succulent meals.

Maurice William Lee

Maurice William Lee, Sr. filed for his patented in November of 1960. He was granted his patent for his invention on February 26, 1963. Later in his life, Williams partnered with his

son, Lee Jr. and together, they received several patents for other configurations of the pressure cooker-smoker. In the 1960's his device was introduced to citizens residing in Europe. Little is known about Maurice William Lee, Sr.'s early life however, it is known he was born July 18, 1903. At the time of his death in 1972, he was 69 years old and resided in Okfuskee County, Oklahoma. According to the inventors' late son, Lee, Jr. the smokaroma had been featured nationally in Life Magazine, Business Week, Ebony Magazine, Black Enterprise, The NY Times, and The Wall Street Journal. In addition, he was interviewed on CBS News with Dan Rather.

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A WORD OF THANKS

Another destructive storm, and another reminder
of what a positive difference people can make.
Publix extends heartfelt gratitude to the many
caring, selfless, and generous individuals who make
these tough times easier. Our dedicated associates
and business partners, our exceptional neighbors
and customers: you all remind us that we're better

t o g e t h e r .

Some of our stores may have been affected by
the hurricane, but Publix is working hard to get
things back to normal as quickly as possible.
At the same time, we're coordinating efforts
with local agencies to distribute basic necessities
within our community. We want to reach out
and help, just as so many others have.

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Keeping Food Safe During a Power Outage

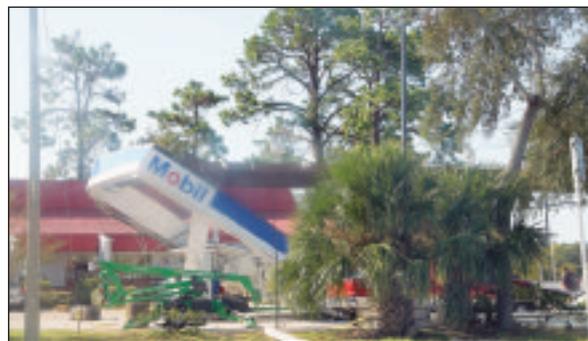
Items in a full freezer will stay frozen for about two days with the door kept closed; in a half-full freezer, for about one day.

Refrigerated foods can keep for up to four hours.

Discard any perishable refrigerated foods that have been above 40°F for more than two hours.

Discard any food with an unusual odor, color, or texture. Remember: "When in doubt, throw it out."

For additional information about food safety during power outages, call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline: 1-888-674-6854.



This MOBILE gas station on Phillips Hwy & Baymeadows Rd. sustained substantial damage from Hurricane Irma. (Photo by Denise Williams)

Irma

Continued from page 1

catastrophic damage in the islands. Irma made landfall as a category 5 system with winds reaching in excess of 185mph; affecting Barbuda, St. Barthelemy, St. Martin, Anguilla and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This system has taken 101 lives which included 44 in the Caribbean and 57 in the U.S. as of September 19th.

As the First Coast cleans up locally, a massive effort was launched to begin removing debris and restoring power to homes. JEA CEO Paul McElroy said in a statement that JEA has recruited 250 additional personnel to focus on clearing fallen trees so that linemen can assess damage and ultimately restore services. The utility company is working feverishly to restore power to its' 280,000 customers and has incurred \$30 million dollars directly related to Hurricane Irma. The power company has also issued a statement charging there will not be a rate increase or surcharge in the aftermath of Irma.



Lincoln car dealership on Southside Blvd. & Gate Pkwy. (Photo by Denise Williams)

Mayor Lenny Curry visited various neighborhoods in the Jacksonville area. He was on hand to answer questions from residents concerning their expectations on when power would be back on. The Mayor was seen in Arlington, the Ribault area on the Northside and in other areas devastated by Irma.

On September 19th, a hurricane relief center was stationed at the Prime Osborne to assist victims in recovering from the lethal storm. The one-day Irma Recovery Assistance Center was implemented by U.S.

Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL). The Senators staffers were manning booths from varying agencies and business to initiate the FEMA application process. FEMA workers were also in attendance to meet with hurricane victims.

The continued recovery from the effects of Hurricane Irma will be an exhaustive, tedious process which could take several years. During this very active hurricane season, Florida residents are advised to have supplies on hand until the end of the season.

Hart Bridge will see closure next three weekends in Jacksonville

Jacksonville's Hart Bridge will see closures the next three weekends beginning Friday, September 22 at 7 p.m. until Sunday, September 24 at 6 a.m., again on Friday, September 29 at 7 p.m. until Sunday, October 1 at 6 a.m. and another closure from Friday, October 6 at 7 p.m. until Sunday, October 8 at 6 a.m. The closures are necessary for bridge repairs and improvements.

Traffic attempting to travel westbound will be detoured to Atlantic Boulevard and signs will direct motorists to the Acosta Bridge then to Broad Street. Motorists attempting to take the Hart Bridge eastbound will be detoured to Jefferson Street and signs will direct traffic to the Acosta Bridge and



Hart Bridge, Jacksonville, Florida (Provided photo)

Atlantic Boulevard.

The improvements to the Hart Bridge include the replacement of wire rope, coating of structural steel, drainage work and steel plate rehabilitation.

Abhe & Svoboda, Inc. was awarded the \$4.3 million project. Construction is expected to be completed in

the fall of 2017, weather and schedule permitting.

The Hart Bridge was opened in 1967 to relieve traffic on the Main Street and Mathews bridges. The bridge is 3,844 feet long and spans 141 feet above the St. Johns River. Approximately 51,500 vehicles travel the bridge daily.

Case

Continued from page 1

officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others. This was decided under the Fourth Amendment. Use of deadly force to prevent escape is an unreasonable seizure under the Fourth Amendment.

The Fraternal Order of Police and other organizations serve to protect officers and often find language (false or otherwise) to fit into the narrative that prosecutors need to declare their decision to not prosecute officers.

The words "I was in fear for my life" are the go to language often used by police officers - even when the facts and evidence show the contrary. Officer Landreville and other officers were seen laughing that evening immediately

after the shooting.

Police officers enjoy a close relationship with prosecutors which has created major problems around the country.

Often, when officers are indicted, judges then step in to help killer officers. Just recently, protestors in St. Louis marched through an upscale mall protesting a racist killing of a black man. St. Louis cop Stockley made a racist-laced statement just before killing a black man but then said he did not remember making the statement or the context.

The officer received a bench trial. Forum shopping for a judge that will rule favorably for cops in these types of cases is typical. Judge Wilson said that the racist statement was made in stress. Then the white U.S. judge said that just because the dead black man's DNA was not on the gun and the cop's DNA was does not mean that the gun was

planted.

As racist monuments are beginning to come down around the country, police killings and racism are in the spotlight. Prosecutors doing things the old way are being challenged and removed from office by decent citizens who understand that there are major issues where officers are killing black men, women and children with impunity.

This is one case that will haunt Nelson due to the attention that it has received from local activists.

Prosecutors that are using courage to change the racism in the criminal justice system are being sought by many more voters than ever before. Another question is, where are our black local and state legislators on these issues?

More cops is not the answer - neither is trying to work with police organizations that have shown racism and disrespect towards the very community they serve.



A man and two children wade through a flooded street, after the passing of Hurricane Irma, in Havana, Cuba Sept. 10, 2017. (Photo by REUTERS)

Wells Fargo donates \$1.1 million for Hurricane Irma relief

Wells Fargo announced it is donating a total of \$1.1 million to support Hurricane Irma relief efforts in Florida and the Caribbean. The company's donation includes \$500,000 to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, \$500,000 to local nonprofits focused on relief efforts in the immediate future, and \$100,000 to International Medical Corps as that organization engages in relief efforts in the Caribbean. Wells Fargo will continue to monitor Irma's impact as the now tropical storm makes landfall in other states to determine how the company may assist there.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in Florida and the Caribbean who has endured Hurricane Irma and its destruction," said Tim Sloan, Wells Fargo CEO &

president. "Wells Fargo is committed to working with organizations and agencies to help our communities recover and we will determine the best way to support any additional efforts in the days and weeks ahead."

Wells Fargo Customers Impacted by Hurricane Irma

Wells Fargo will provide payment relief for the next 90 days on credit cards, student loans, auto loans, home mortgage, home equity and retail small business loans and lines of credit in FEMA declared areas. There will be no negative credit reporting for those customers who receive payment relief. Impacted customers who are not in a FEMA declared area are also able to receive similar benefits by contacting Wells Fargo.

The bank is also proactively waiving or refunding fees for impacted consumers in FEMA declared areas; this includes late fees and debit card over-the-counter cash disbursement fees, and our ATM fees for using non-Wells Fargo ATMs. Wells Fargo will also deploy mobile ATMs as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so. The company will share location information at the time of deployment.

After 90 days, customers who are still experiencing hardships should contact customer service to discuss additional relief options. Specific information regarding how customers should go about working with Wells Fargo on disaster assistance follows at the end of this release.

St. Johns County Property Appraiser Storm Damage Report

St. Johns County, FL - St. Johns County residents whose homes or properties sustained damage as a result of Hurricane Irma are encouraged to complete a Storm Damage Report through the Property Appraiser's Office. The damage reports will provide a County-wide assessment to assist in expediting recovery efforts.

Please visit www.sjcpa.us/storm-damage-report, call 904-827-5500, or send a detailed email to sjcpa@sjcpa.us to report home or property damage.

Once a report is submitted, the Property Appraiser's Office will schedule a time to visit the property and document any reported damage.



Donald Glover is first black director to win an Emmy in comedy

On Sunday, Donald Glover won his first Emmy at the 2017 Emmys and made history in the process.

With his award for outstanding directing for a comedy series for his show Atlanta, he is the first black star to win in that category.

"Man. Yo, first I want to thank the great algorithm that put us all here," Glover said in his acceptance speech. "I want to thank my parents who are in the audience. This is nuts." The actor is also known by his music stage name Childish Gambino.

FLA/GA

LOCAL

Putting Families First Farm Share hosted by State Representative Tracie Davis

Feeding Jacksonville
District 13

By Dan Evans Florida Star Reporter

Free Food Giveaway! FARM SHARE Free Food Giveaway! That's what the flyer read and was posted throughout District 13 telling residents that State Representative Tracie Davis and volunteers of Farm Share would be giving away food in the WELLS FARGO HISTORIC SPRINGFIELD Community Learning center parking lot. Although the giveaway was for residents of District 13 everybody was welcomed.

Although temperatures were high this did not deter those looking for assistance with food supplies. Lines began in the parking lot and zigzagged towards Hubbard Street near 7th Street. Friends were made and people fellowshiped while waiting to be served. The usually pushing, shoving and discontent was nowhere to be seen. Everyone appeared to realize there was enough provision for everyone.

The event appeared to be well organized and roughly three hundred people were present. For this report, a contact was made with State Rep. Davis's office. District Executive Secretary Kiaira Nixon reported that... "Representative Davis, Earl and I learned that our team served a total of 294 households, 818 individuals with a total of 13,890.75 pounds of food. In addition to our partnership with National Foundation of Women Legislatures and Office Depot Foundation, we gave away 140 sack packs and pencil pouches..."

Farm Shares, Lowes Store #1691, Haven of Northeast Florida Stop Our Children's Pain Jacksonville, FL Alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Upsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, Gamma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Pi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Jacksonville Florida Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated, Beta Alpha Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated, Theta Phi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, Gamma Mu Omega Iota Phi Theta UF Health TraumaOne88 Blessings, Riverside Avondale Preservation, TCDC, Jacksonville Urban League Northeast Florida LULAC, The Robert's Family, Councilman Sam Newby, JSO Director Tony Davis

Photo credit: Dan Evans



MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE FOR HOMEOWNERS AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS



By Coley Williams
Florida Star Contributing Writer

JACKSONVILLE --Homeowners impacted by recent hurricanes and tropical storms may be eligible for immediate assistance through federally regulated Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac mortgage programs. Eligible homeowners would be allowed to suspend mortgage payments for up to 12 months and not be charged late fees. Delinquencies will not be reported to credit bureaus and, most importantly, this program will not interfere with a family receiving most of the other assistance made available to homeowners, said Edward Gaston of Wealth Watchers Inc.

He said homeowners can work with a HUD Certified Counseling Agency like Wealth Watchers for additional assistance and to mediate issues with lenders.

"The goal of the program is to ease the financial burden of homeowners so that other areas can be addressed to stabilize their households," Gaston said while surveying damages to homes caused by Hurricane Irma this week in Jacksonville.

Homeowners in Florida and Georgia are encouraged to apply for mortgage assistance through these programs. Wealth Watchers counselors are available to determine eligibility by calling (904) 265-4736 or assistance can be requested by completing the contact form at www.wealthwatchersfl.com.

Ed Gaston COO
Call Wealth Watchers for Homebuyer Education (904) 265-4736

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Home-showings are **SCHEDULED EASILY.**

MORE HOME SELLERS ARE WORKING WITH AGENTS
89% of home sellers used a realtor to sell their home.

2015 was the lowest share of FSBO sales (8%) recorded since 1981.

SPORTS



No victory formation for Jaguars after 37-16 loss to Titans

By **MIKE BONTIS**
Florida Sports Day

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Marcus Mariota was 15-of-27 passing for 215 yards with one touchdown as Tennessee soundly defeated AFC South rival Jacksonville 37-16.

"Obviously I thought from the beginning of the game we started well, defense went out there and had a nice stop, we get the ball offensively, we drive down the field and wind up kicking a field goal, which is something you like to go and get that first score on the board. I thought after that we really didn't have much going offensively," said Jacksonville coach Doug Marrone. "I thought the defense was doing a good job. We gave up a sack-fumble. We had a play-action pass that shouldn't be tipped at the line of scrimmage that was tipped, and then we had a ball go off one of our receivers that was thrown. We had the three turnovers; we were able to overcome one."

Jaguars QB Blake Bortles finished 20 of 34 for 223 yards with one touchdown and two interceptions. Fourth overall pick in the year's NFL draft, running back Leonard Fournette posted 14 carries for 40 yards and one TD and caught two passes for 21 yards.

Wide receiver Allen Hurns led the team with 82 receiving yards on six receptions and caught a seven-yard TD pass from Bortles in the final quarter.

In the first quarter, Jason Myers converted a 43-yard field goal on the Jaguars' opening offensive possession.

Titan's coach Mike Mularkey was pleased with the overall performance.

"I'm proud of our team, com-



Tennessee Titans safety Da'Norris Searcy (21) tries to tackle Jacksonville Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette (27) during the game on September 17, 2017 at Everbank Field. (Photo by Debby Wong)

ing back, coming in here and getting a win, and playing well in all three phases," Mularkey said. "It was the difference. We hung in there, we came in the second half, and just kept playing. That's credit to those guys. They were ready to play before, and came in at halftime, and wanted to come out and make a statement, and I think they did. It's a good football team."

The Titans (1-1) forced turnovers on three straight possessions spanning parts of the second and third quarters, including an interception by defensive back Curtis Riley on a pass that was deflected near the line of scrimmage and an interception by Da'Norris Searcy on a pass that was tipped by Marqise Lee.

"Our O-line communicated," Titans tight end Delanie Walker said. "We talked about that all week — about them communicating and knowing who to block. They did a great job communicating with each other."

We just wanted to make sure we are all on the same page. They did that."

Along with the three turnovers, Jacksonville committed 10 penalties for 89 yards.

"It's always a concern. You know, it's funny, penalties, most people talk about from an analytical standpoint don't really coincide with winning or losing. I don't agree with that," Marrone said. "I think they do. That's something that we have to clean up, because I think when you look at this game and at the end of the year when they look at those statistics that they don't really win or lose, I always say, well look at this game. This does not give us the position that we want to be in from a standpoint of field position and a standpoint of being able to run the football the way we want to."

The Titans limited the Jaguars to 99 rushing yards on 15 carries. Jacksonville fell to 1-1.

JAGS NOTES: For the sec-

ond consecutive week, the Jaguars defense forced a three-and-out on the opponents' opening offensive possession.....linebacker Telvin Smith intercepted Mariota in the second quarter.....cornerback A.J. Bouye has registered six passes defended in his last four games. He finished the game with six tackles and needs eight tackles for 150 career tackles.....linebacker Myles Jack totaled six tackles (five solo), and registered a third-down sack..... The Jags have 11 sacks through their first two games, the Jaguars allowed two sacks of QB Blake Bortles and have now surrendered two or fewer sacks in five consecutive games dating back to last season...safety Barry Church totaled six tackles against the Titans and has registered at least five tackles in seven consecutive games..... Dawuane Smoot, Tommy Bohannon, Corey Grant and Keelan Cole each registered a special teams tackle against the Titans.



Tennessee Titans linebacker Jayson Brown (55) tackles Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Marqise Lee (11) during the game on September 17, 2017 at Everbank Field. (Photo by Debby Wong)



Tennessee Titans cornerback Adoree' Jackson (25) intercepts the ball from Jacksonville Jaguars wide receiver Arrelious Benn (17) during the game on September 17, 2017 at Everbank Field. (Photo by Debby Wong)

QB SIGNED TO ACTIVE ROSTER: Jacksonville signed fifth-year QB Ryan Nassib to the 53-man active roster. To make room on the roster, the Jaguars placed fourth-year safety Calvin Pryor on the team's reserve/injured list. The Jaguars also waived Doran Grant from the team's reserve/injured list. Nassib, 6-2, 223, has appeared in five NFL

games and has completed 9 of 10 passes for 128 yards and one TD. Nassib was originally drafted by the New York Giants in the fourth round of the 2013 NFL Draft and he played under Jaguars Executive Vice President of Football Operations Tom Coughlin for three seasons (2013-15) while Coughlin served as the head coach for the New York Giants.

GREEN BAY PACKERS VS ATLANTA FALCONS

By **DARRELL BAKER**
The Florida/Georgia Star

Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons got off to a hot start in their new home against the Green Bay Packers, Sunday night in Mercedes-Benz Stadium. It took just nine plays for the Falcons to show its fans in primetime that there's no Super Bowl hangover with Matt Ryan finding Julio Jones early for 19-yard and 34-yard catches on their first scoring drive of the game. Devonta Freeman would cap off the drive with a 1-yard run to strike first against their NFL Championships opponents from last season.

The Falcons were equally efficient and quite successful at putting the clamps on the Packers run offense, making sure that every time that Ty Montgomery had the ball, he'd know that rushing yards wouldn't be handed out for free. Montgomery could only muster just 14-yards and a 1-yard touchdown run for his efforts in the first half of the game.

As the Packers were trying to find out what could jumpstart their offense, Matt Ryan would lead another scoring drive that included a short 24-yard pass to Mohamed Sanu and another short 2-yard run from the goal



#11 Wide Receiver Julio Jones (Falcons) 15-yard pass being defended by #24 Quinten Rollins - Corner Back (Packers) 1st qtr. (Photo by Paul McPherson Jr.)

by Devonta Freeman behind the right side of the offensive line for his second touchdown of the night giving the Falcons a 14-7 lead and after a 51-yard field goal by Matt Bryant and another touchdown catch by Tevin Coleman, after an interception by Desmond Trufant with 47 seconds left in the half, the Falcons looked set for easy street at the start of the third quarter with a 24-7 lead. The Falcons defense set out to pressure and harass Aaron Rodgers all night with that

consistency showing just at the start of the third quarter with the defense as Vic Beasley Jr. smashed Rodgers as he throws a wobbly backward pass that was picked up by Desmond Trufant who zigzagged to the end zone for a defensive touchdown, making it 31-7.

The Packers would finally jumpstart and make a few scores in the fourth quarter but it was just three quarters to late as the Falcons take the win 34-23, starting off their

season at 2-0.

Milestones: Matt Bryant's first field goal of the night was his 200th of his career. He joined the Falcons in 2009.

Aaron Rodgers' first touchdown pass was his 300th of his career.

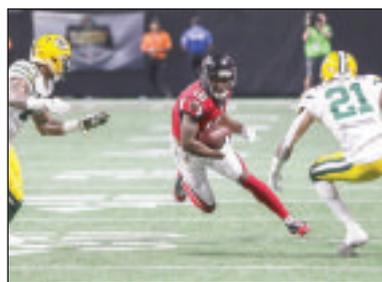
Player Injuries

Falcons: T Ryan Schraeder, DT Courtney Upshaw, LB Vic Beasley

Packers: DT Mike Daniel, CB Davon House, S Kentrell Brice, WR Randall Cobb, WR Jordy Nelson



#88 Ty Montgomery Wide Receiver - (Packers) -2-yards being defended by Keanu Neal - Safety (Falcons) 1st qtr. (Photo by Paul McPherson Jr.)



#18 Wide Receiver Taylor Gabriel (Falcons) for 2-yards being defended by #21 Ha Ha Clinton-Dix - Safety and #42 Morgan Burnett - Safety (Packers) 2nd qtr. (Photo by Paul McPherson Jr.)

The Diaspora

Will Africa's Richest Man 'Make America Great Again'?



A. Dangote

Alhaji Aliko Dangote, the 60-year-old Nigerian cement tycoon, has his eye on new investment prospects and is tempted by U.S. opportunities in renewable energy and petrochemicals.

"Let's say that by 2025, I'm looking at (investing) between \$20 billion and \$50 billion outside Africa. Mind you, we don't do small things," said Dangote, who is worth \$11.1 billion, according to Bloomberg's Billionaires Index.

Dangote Group will consider investments in Asia and Mexico, but will focus mainly on the U.S. and Europe, he said. "I think renewables is the way to go forward, and the future. We are looking at petrochemicals but can also invest in other companies."

Over the last five years, Dangote diversified both geographically and into new industries. Dangote Cement Plc, which accounts for almost 80 percent of his wealth,

has expanded into nine African countries aside from Nigeria. In 2015, he began building a 650,000 barrel-a-day refinery near Lagos, Nigeria's main commercial hub, and he's constructing gas pipelines to the city from Nigeria's oil region with U.S. private equity firms Carlyle Group LP and Blackstone Group LP.

His refinery and pipelines are slated for completion in December 2019 - not soon enough for Oil Minister Ibe Kachikwu who has asked for an earlier date.

But pipelines and oil refineries, fought by U.S. green groups, have also dismayed Nigeria's environmentalists. Dr. Godwin Uyi Ojo, head of Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria, calls investments in oil and gas short-sighted and overlook the transition worldwide from fossil fuel dependence to renewable sources of energy.

In Nigeria's federal government budget of over US\$53 million to buy generators and fuel, he pointed out, "there is no budget line for renewable energy. Nigeria is not thinking of energy transition and when we signal 'leave the oil in the soil,' we are talking about Nigeria beyond oil."

"Although Nigerians may point to some of the infrastructure built from oil proceeds," Ojo said, "the monumental damage done to the environment, the conflicts that have emanated from the communities and the political arena, as well as the killings in the country from the 1960s followed the do or die politics to ensure control of the oil."

Dangote says, "Meanwhile, expert investment dollars to flow from the U.S. to Nigeria. Profit margins there "are huge". (TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN)

Statement in Response to Anti-Immigrant Messages in Somerville, MA

In Somerville, MA, virulently anti-immigrant messages threatened students with deportation this week. These racist messages foster a climate of fear that interferes with students' social and academic progress. The messages push already vulnerable families and children deeper into the shadows. We condemn messages of racism and hate. We are encouraged by the swift response of Mayor Joseph Curtatone and the Somerville Police Department. We urge other cities to act with similar urgency in responding to manifestations of hate.

Since the November election, communities in Massachusetts and across the country have experienced an unprecedented wave of hate. At the Lawyers' Committee, we are rapidly mobilizing in response to hate crimes. We are distributing thousands of bilingual know-your-rights palm cards (see below). Please report hate incidents to 1-844-9-NO-HATE (1-844-966-4283). For more information on Massachusetts law and additional resources please visit 8449nohate.org.

Intimidation, Harassment and Bullying:
Are you at risk?
Did you experience or witness hate speech or a hate crime?

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS:

- SAFETY FIRST:** If you feel unsafe, walk away.
- RESPOND:** If you feel safe, respond calmly and firmly to let them know that their actions are unwelcome.
- DOCUMENT:** Capture all the details about what happened, including the date, time, location, and contact information for any witnesses.
- REPORT:** Tell the proper authorities. Call 911 if you feel you are in danger.
- GET HELP!** Contact the Lawyers' Committee at 617-482-1145 or www.lawyersusa.org

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SAFETY

National Preparedness Month: Keep Your Family Safe in an Emergency

When it comes to emergency and natural disaster preparation, clean, uncontaminated water should be top-of-mind. September, which is National Preparedness Month, is an ideal time for individuals and families to make certain that they will be able to hydrate safely throughout the duration of an emergency.

Natural disasters, such as tornadoes, floods and hurricanes, can compromise local water sources. Flooding can be especially dangerous, when harmful bacteria and contaminants that transmit life-threatening diseases can be present in nearby waterways. Unfortunately, flooding can occur after a number of emergency scenarios, from heavy rains to hurricanes to situations when snow melts too quickly.

"Contamination in fresh water sources continues to be a public health problem domestically and worldwide. During emergency scenarios, the issue is amplified as water can become unreliable for consumption," says Allison Hill, managing director of LifeStraw, a manufacturer of water filtration systems.

Consumers need to have the ability to filter their water following an emergency situation. Be sure your emergency supplies include a portable filter which can fit onto a wide variety of popular water bottle brands such as LifeStraw Universal. This versatile filter fits on most bottles you already own and offers two-stage filtration to remove 99.999999 percent of bacteria and 99.999 percent of protozoa, while also reducing chemicals, bad taste and odors. The LifeStraw Universal kit is available online and at specialty retail stores.

"We've developed portable filtration technology to give consumers greater confidence that, in an emergency situation or natural disaster, they can have access to safe water for days, weeks, even months following a situation where their water supply is compromised," says Hill.

While most people don't like to dwell on worst case scenarios, the right preparation can help you remain healthy and safe during an emergency. This National Preparedness Month, be sure that you equip your family with practical means to have safe drinking water. (StatePoint)

Okwahu United of North America holds Congress & 30th Anniversary Celebration



Atlanta representation at Ohio Congress for Kwahus

The 2017 Okwahu United North America (OUNA) annual Congress was held in Columbus, Ohio, USA. The event was hosted at the Double Tree by Hilton off Hutchinson Avenue by the Ohio Chapter of OUNA under the theme 'Education! A Promise for All Obooma'.

President and Board Chairman of Ohio Chapter Rev Isaac Anim told TheAfricanDream.net — who were media partners for the event — that he felt very honored to have been chosen with Kwahus in Ohio to host the 30th-anniversary festivities. He said "even though it was a big responsibility, it was also a bigger honor. We are glad OUNA President Mr. Frederick Ansong-Dwamena and members all over gave us the support we needed to make this a success."

The 3-day event which coincided with OUNA's 30th Anniversary Celebration was from September 1-3, 2017 with the first day involving a reception followed by a socializing and networking night. Day-2 involved executives updating members on the progress of respective projects OUNA is embarking on, it was ended with a dinner dance.

A non-denominational church service and picnic climaxed the last day of the occasion which was attended by some 400 participants from respective US states including Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington DC and Massachusetts. Obomenghene from the Kwahu District of Ghana flew in for the event while some OUNA members traveled from Toronto — Canada to attend.

Highlights of Okwahu United North America Congress

- RECEPTION/NETWORKING:** Mr. Peter Ennin opened the morning session with a prayer that was followed by Rev Isaac Anim's welcome address and that of OUNA President Frederick Ansong-Dwamena. The OUNA President in his address touched on how far the union has come since 1987 and progress made to better lives and institutions among Kwahus in North America and Ghana. He also announced the association would head to Ghana for "Homecoming 2018 from March 23 – April 3 because this is very necessary as we look at newer and better ways to move Okwahuman forward." The first ever OUNA President is Ernie Kwabena Oware.
- Dr. Alexander Anim-Mensah, OUNA General Secretary in his presentation touched on how Kwahus should look at the bigger picture when proposing solutions to help the Kwahu district. He cited the need to have an ultra-modern cultural center and said: "...it will attract tourists AND others to the Kwahu District which will automatically lead to improving the economic situation of the area while contributing to resolving problems like lack of potable water, education, and quality health needs in some areas."
- DINNER DANCE:** The dinner dance was opened with a prayer by Elder Kwabena Boamah-Acheampong while Elder Bismark Omani Somuah the MC of the event introduced the event chairman Dr. Yeboah. Mrs. Florence Ofori introduced the keynote speaker Nana Effah Opinamang III, Obomenghene from Kwahu District who represented Daasebre Akuamoah Agyapong II; Kwahumanhene (paramount King of Kwahus) in Ghana. In his speech, Dr. Yeboah commended Kwahuman of Ohio for the great work done in organizing such an event and encouraged other Chapters to emulate the Ohio Chapter example to continue the tradition of hosting precise and well-organized events. Nana Effah Opinamang III stressed the importance of such events to the Kwahus and the Kwahu District. He told TheAfricanDream.net that he fully supported "Homecoming 2018" idea proposed by OUNA President.
- "This is going to be a nice way for Kwahus in the Diaspora and Ghana to come together under the Okwahu United spirit to look into the future and develop ways to move Kwahus forward all over so it has a positive effect on Ghana and the world at large. By the way, I am so impressed by the number of attendance in Ohio. I look forward to an even larger number at the 2018 congress and during the Kwahu

Easter festivities" — Nana Effah Opinamang III.

- Fundraising was led by Mr. Enoch Ahenkora (Ohio Chapter) and supported by Mr. Raymond Ansong of Massachusetts Chapter, to support education for needy students in the Kwahu District. Nana Opoku Fosu was awarded a plaque at the fundraiser from Ohio for his contribution to Okwahuman Association of Ohio joining OUNA. Mr. Sam Safo, President of Okwahuman Massachusetts also received a plaque on behalf of his association's quick responses that helped facilitated and prepared a successful congress in Ohio.
- CHURCH AND THEN FUN IN THE PARK:** After the non-denominational church service at the Double Tree By Hilton all roads led to the Highland Metro Park off the Columbus Pike also in Ohio. The entire park was besieged by an army of Kwahus bent on having fun, making merry, playing games and eating traditional foods. In an interview with TheAfricanDream.net at the park, Mr. Francis Sarpong; President of the Washington, DC Okwahu United Chapter said "it is so nice to see so many Okwahu adults and children here. I want to take this opportunity to also invite everyone to join our association, noting that you don't necessarily need to be an Okwahu to be a member."

Okwahu United North America Chapters/ Executives at 2017 Congress

At the event were the current OUNA Executive and the various Chapter and State Presidents in the persons of Mr. Fred Ansong-Dwamena (President from New York (NY)), Dr. Alexander Anim-Mensah (General Secretary from Ohio (OH)), Dr. Wilson Akuamoah Boateng (Asst. General Secretary from Toronto Canada), Ms. Joana Achanfuo- Yeboah (Treasurer from New Jersey (NJ)), Mr. Derrick Mintah (Organizing Secretary from Connecticut (CT)) and Mr. Kofi Dankwah (Fundraiser, NY).

Other Chapter and State Presidents presents included Rev Isaac Anim (OH), Dr. Alex Boateng (NY), Mr. Derrick Mintah (CT), Mr. Francis Sarpong (DC), Mr. John Kesse (Illinois (IL)), Mr. Lord Ansong (NJ), Nana Dickson Obeng (Canada), Mrs. Queenstar Kyeremanteng (Texas (TX)), Mr. Sam Sarfo (Massachusetts (MA)), Mr. Rexford Anson-Dwamena

Also present were past OUNA Mr. Stephen Somuah (IL) and Nana Opoku Fosu (NY) and past state/chapter presidents Ms. Margaret Tabiri (DC), Mr. Sunku-Sunku Donkor (DC), Mr. Henry Ofori-Kru (DC), Philip Siaw (NJ), Mr. Peter K. Ennin (CT), Mr. Kofi Saka Owusu (VA) and Mr. Fred Ansong-Dwamena (NY). The others were Mr. Nana Opoku Fosu (NY) and Mr. Nana Asomani, Mr. Yaw Mensah, Mr. Sam Boateng, and Mr. Joseph Yeboah all respectively of Ohio.

Notable guests at the event included Akwasihohene Nana Dafuor II, Tafohene Nana Asomani, ceremonial Okwahumanhene of Chicago-IL Nana Asamoah, ceremonial Queen Mother of Kwahus in CT Nana Adoma Kyerekua, Dr. Ofori-Attah of Columbus Asanteman and his wife, and Dr. & Mrs. Nyamikeh Mensah of Indiana. Associations that came to support Kwahuman included Asanteman, Okyeman, Mfantseman, Ga- Adangbe, and the larger Ghanaian community friends of North America.

Kwahu is an Akan group and area, dubbed 'Asaase Aban' or the natural fortress, in view of its national position as the highest habitable elevation. Kwahu lies in the Eastern Region of Ghana, on the west shore of Lake Volta.

Washington DC and Virginia Chapters of OUNA will host and jointly organize the 2018 congress around the Labor Day weekend from August 31 – September 2. To find out more about next that event, explore sponsorship or collaborative opportunities and donate to non-profit OUNA causes, send an email to alexraymonda@yahoo.com, fangsongdwamena@gmail.com or contact@oralofori.com. Follow Okwahu United activities on social media via Facebook pages of respective Chapters.

Source: TheAfricanDream.net / OUNA
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News You Can Use from
State Senator Audrey Gibson

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Dear Constituent and Friend,

Did you know September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month?

Prostate Cancer is one of the most common occurring cancers in men. According to the Florida Prostate Cancer Advisory Council in Florida, one in four men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. At higher risk are African American men and men with first-degree relatives (defined as a close blood relative, which includes parents, full siblings or children) and second-degree relatives (defined as a blood relative, which includes grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces or half-siblings) with prostate cancer.

There are several major factors that influence the risk of developing prostate cancer.

- Age: The older you are, the more likely you are to be diagnosed with prostate cancer. African American men should begin screening between the ages of 40-45.
- Race: African-American men are more likely to develop prostate cancer compared to Caucasian men, and are nearly 2.5 times more likely to die from the disease.
- Family history/genetics: If your father or brother developed prostate cancer you may be twice as likely to develop the disease.

This year, the **100 Black Men of Jacksonville, Inc. (J100)** (<http://100blackmenjax.org/>), Florida Blue (<https://www.floridablue.com/>) and the Jaguars Foundation (<http://www.jaguars.com/foundation-community/foundation/foundation.html>) kicked off National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, partnering in "Men Tackling the Big C" Prostate Cancer Awareness and Education (MTBC) initiative. The MTBC program will provide coordinated outreach to inform men and their families about risk factors, screening, diagnosis and treatment options related to prostate cancer.

The initiative features a prostate cancer risk assessment website, outreach during 2017 Jaguar home games, health fair screenings, system of care referrals, prostate cancer support groups, speaker's bureau network and other sponsored events.

The goal of the collaborative is to reduce the number of men getting prostate cancer through prevention, and the number of men dying from prostate cancer. The MTBC initiative encourages men to discuss early detection evaluation options with their healthcare provider to determine the best patient care preferences.

I encourage all men to talk to a physician about prostate cancer risks and screening.

For more information on prostate cancer screening, contact:

- UF Health:
<http://ufhealthjax.org/cancer/prostate/> or (904) 244-0411
- Baptist Health:
<http://www.baptistjax.com/services/cancer-care/prostate-cancer-care> or (904) 202-2273
- Cancer Center:
<http://www.cancercenter.com/prostate-cancer/> or (800) 615-3055

If for any reason you have difficulty locating a facility for screening, please contact my office at (904) 359-2553.

As always, it is an Honor and a Pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!

Sincerely,
Audrey Gibson
State Senator
District 6



OPINIONS

The views and information expressed in this column are not necessarily the views of the publisher or advertisers.



www.childrensdefense.org

Medicaid and the ACA are once again at risk! Please make a call TODAY.

Despite the groundswell of resistance over the spring and summer months that helped defeat the worst threats to health care we have ever seen, repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and slashing Medicaid funding are back on the Senate agenda. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA), along with co-sponsors Dean Heller (R-NV) and Ron Johnson (R-WI), are racing the clock to secure enough votes to pass their "Graham-Cassidy bill" by the end of September, before Republican leadership loses its ability to pass it in the Senate with just 50 votes.

The Graham-Cassidy bill is even more harmful than the previous Senate bills defeated this summer. In addition to fundamentally restructuring Medicaid by establishing a per person cap on spending, it would also replace the ACA's market place subsidies and the Medicaid expansion with a block grant. Federal funding for the Medicaid expansion would be eliminated entirely in 10 years. It also allows states broad waiver authority to exclude coverage of essential health benefits and health coverage for children and adults with pre-existing conditions. The Graham-Cassidy bill would leave millions of Americans uninsured, destabilize the individual insurance market, and end Medicaid as we know it. Medicaid is a lifeline for more than 37 million children, more than 40 percent of all children with special health care needs and more than 40 percent of all births. While all states would eventually face deep and growing cuts under Graham-Cassidy, states that have been the most successful at enrolling people in newly available coverage under the ACA would be most severely punished. See state by state estimates of funding cuts.

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/like-other-aca-repeal-bills-cassidy-graham-plan-would-add-millions-to-uninsured>
There is enormous and growing pressure for a vote on Graham-Cassidy before the end of the month – likely the week of September 25th. Please raise your voice now, and ask others to call too! Keep the pressure on.

Call (877) 233-9025 TODAY and tell your Senators to vote NO on Graham-Cassidy to #ProtectMedicaid and #KeepKidsCovered!

Here's what you can say:

I am a concerned constituent from (Hometown, State). I urge Senator _____ to vote NO on the Graham-Cassidy Senate Health Care bill, which cuts Medicaid, undermines coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, and will result in millions more uninsured Americans. The Graham-Cassidy bill fails to #KeepKidsCovered and must be defeated. At a time when 95 percent of children in America have health coverage, we cannot move backwards. I ask the Senator to vote NO.

Contestants Sought to Represent their City at Miss Georgia Pageant

LOGANVILLE, GA - The USA National Miss (UNM) Scholarship Pageant is seeking young ladies ages 4-25 to represent their city at the annual Miss Georgia state pageant. The Miss Georgia state pageant will be held November 4-5 at the Henry County Performing Arts Center. Contestants will compete in evening gown, interview and runway fashion to claim the six divisional Miss Georgia state titles and advance to the national competition in Florida with fees paid. Winners will also receive a prize package that includes photo shoots, prizes and gifts. As a charity-oriented organization, USA National Miss' national platform is The Crown CARES (Creating a Respectful Environment in Schools) and state winners will become ambassadors for this 501c3 organization to promote the anti-bully message across schools in Georgia.

For more information about the USA National Miss Georgia state pageant, or to register as a contestant, go to www.USANationalMiss.com/georgia or email georgia@usanationalmiss.com.

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Age Now: 16
Sex: Male



Brittany Bedeau

Missing Since: Aug 9, 2017
Missing From: Hampton, GA
DOB: Nov 10, 2000
Age Now: 16
Sex: Female

Shaping the Bright Future of America: MBDA Celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month

WASHINGTON (September 19, 2017) -- The U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency is proud to celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month September 15 - October 15. This year's theme is "Shaping the Bright Future of America."

"This is a special time for our Nation and for the many generations of Hispanics and Latinos who have added so much to the fabric of America and to the forming of our national culture," said MBDA Acting National Director Chris Garcia. "Our diversity is one of the most beautiful things about America, and as a Mexican-American, I am especially proud to celebrate the numerous contributions of the Hispanic and Latino community. From government and education to business and entertainment and beyond, our culture is indeed helping to shape the bright future of America. I'm looking forward to a wonderful observance."



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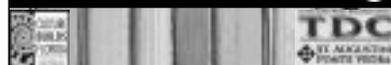
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