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FEBRUARY 17 - FEBRUARY 23, 2018 VOLUME 67, NUMBER 45 $1.00

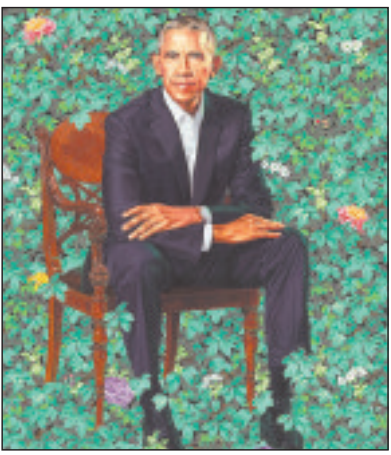
Glynn create drug testing for students

This week in Brunswick, the Glynn County Board of Education members voted 6-0 to begin randomly drug test students who participate in extracurricular activities

"We just hope to educate our students and help them realize the dangers of this and keep them from making those bad choices because, when they go down that road, it becomes very hard sometimes for those children to get off of it," said, Glynn County Schools Superintendent Dr. Virgil Cole.

Duval County Public Schools and St. Johns County School District does not have random drug testing for students participating in extracurricular activities.

THE OBAMAS' OFFICIAL PORTRAITS



Official portrait of former President Barack Hussein Obama II as realized by artist Kehinde Wiley will hang in the National Portrait Gallery.

Official portrait of former First Lady Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama as realized by artist Amy Sherald will hang in the National Portrait Gallery.

Portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama Unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery

By Denise Williams

On February 12, 2018, the official portraits were unveiled of 44th president of the United States Barack Hussein Obama II and former first lady Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama at a ceremony hosted by the National Portrait Gallery. They are the first paintings of the first African-American president and his spouse to hang in the National Portrait Gallery which is part of the Smithsonian Institution. The gallery was founded in 1962 but opened to the public in 1968. It will for the first time in its history display portraits of the first African American leader of the free world Barack Obama and his wife Michelle by African-American painters.

Artists Kehind Wiley and Amy Sherald from left to right who were selected to produce the official portraits for both former president Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama.

The former president chose 40-year-old artist Kehinde Wiley to capture his likeness while Michelle Obama selected 44-year-old artist Amy Sherald.

While the former first lady described her meeting with Sherald by declaring, in part "There was an instant sister-girl connection", her husband had a different first reaction upon meeting with his artist. The former president connected with Wiley on a familial level and was quoted as saying "both of us had American mothers who raised us with extraordinary love and support. Both of us had African fathers who were absent in our lives"

Kehinde Wiley's father is Nigerian and he was raised by his mother with his siblings in South Central L.A. Wiley is an established artist and no stranger to capturing images of notable Americans. He has portrayed Michael Jackson, LL Cool J and the Notorious B.I.G. before working with the former first couple. His portrait of Obama is set in a floral atmosphere with an expression on his face that could be interpreted anywhere from determined to discerning. The leaves in his painting are not just a muted background but a vivid spectacle

Please see Portrait, ***page 6***

18 SCHOOL SHOOTINGS IN 45 DAYS

Florida massacre is one of many tragedies in 2018

There have been 18 school shootings in the first 45 days of 2018, according to a nonprofit group.

The attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Wednesdsay in Parkland, Florida, is the first this year in Florida and the 18th within the first 45 days of the year in the U.S., according to data from Everytown for Gun Safety, a gun control advocacy organization.

Nikolas Cruz

The suspect was identified as Nikolas Cruz, 19, who had been expelled from the school. He used an AR-15 rifle and had multiple magazines, the sheriff said. Investigators have begun analyzing Cruz's social media accounts, which the sheriff said contained material that was "very, very disturbing."

Cruz was charged with 17 counts of premeditated

Please see Shooting, ***page 6***

Inmates Need Fair Treatment Too

Mainstream media sides with two inmates against Corrine Brown over special treatment claims

By Opio Sokoni

Anyone who has worked in media knows that inmates send in letters in attempts to inform the public about maltreatment of inmates. Major media seems to back away from inmate letters even if what they are claiming is horrifying. However, it is interesting that mainstream media sources would quote inmates about someone receiving proper treatment in prison. The media lead the story stating that two inmates says that Corrine is getting special treatment.

Two inmates stated that Corrine is getting special treatment from the corrections officers as well as inmates. It seems that the mainstream white media want Corrine to receive the type of treatment that has become popular when thinking about prison life. Many think that rapes, violence from guards and inmates will be Corrine's experience. A media report before she went to prison quoted a so-called expert that stated that the inmates would hate Corrine because she is well known. The expert also stated that she is going to have a hard time.

Corrine has the mind to see what is going on in prison and the wherewithal to ensure that negative expects of prison life is changed. In addition, Corrine is a folksy

Please see Brown, ***page 6***

INSIDE

Editorial.....1
Church.....2
Youth News.....3
Community.....10
Columns.....10
Local-Florida.....7
Sports.....8
Local-Georgia.....9
Classified.....11
Business.....12

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Community

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

How the Average Citizen Can Help Bring About Friendlier Politics

(StatePoint) At a divisive moment in our nation's history, you may be wondering how average citizens can help bring about friendlier politics.

Experts suggest that it starts with finding common ground among those whose opinions differ from you. Ira Shapiro, a former ambassador who has held senior positions in the U.S. Senate, recently authored "Broken: Can the Senate Save Itself and the Country?" in order to explore the state of U.S. politics and its future.

Of the U.S. Senate, his area of expertise, he says, "America is deeply divided. But the men and women of the Senate should not mirror -- or worse, inflame -- the nation's divisions. Their job is to overcome them, finding common ground to take collective action in the national interest."

Citizens can apply this principle in a number of ways:

• Get involved. Attend city council meetings and town hall meetings. Join the PTA. But don't just show up -- make your voice heard. Make friends on all sides of the issue. Be a coalition builder. Discover where your beliefs overlap with others before debating about the issues on which you disagree.

• Get in touch. From petitions to postcards to calls and texts, there are numerous ways to get in touch with your elected officials at every level of government. Encourage your representatives to work constructively with their colleagues in an effort to de-polarize politics and ultimately be more effective at their jobs.

• Speak out. Organize or attend a rally. Raise money for a political cause that mattes to you. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper. Take advantage of the channels available to you.

"The best remedy of all, on both the national and local levels, is to support candidates who are problem solvers and consensus builders, not partisan warriors. Look for the candidates who put the country, or the community, first -- above party allegiance or personal aggrandizement," stresses Shapiro, who also serves as a trade law and global policy consultant. More thoughts from Shapiro are available on his consultancy's website at www.shapiroglobal.com.

Shapiro believes that the Senate is in trouble, but it can be saved. Likewise, everyone, including average citizens, can be a champion for a climate of healthier politics, whether it's around the dinner table, on a social media thread or at a city council meeting.

PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Rawpixel.com / stock.Adobe.com

In Your Memory

THOMAS DOW

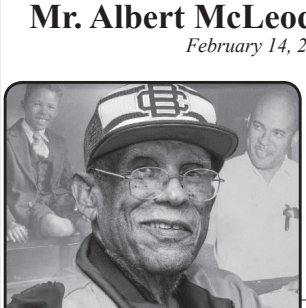
02/19/1930 - 04/29/2014

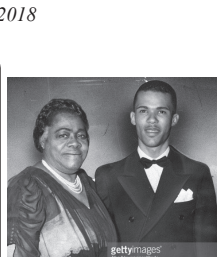
We did not have a chance to say goodbye; but, our father, Thomas Dow, forever lives in the hearts of those he touched. As he rests, he continues to be loved and remembered. For nothing loved is ever lost ~ Love leaves memories no one can steal. We love you, your children.

The Passing of Mr. Albert Bethune, Jr., B-CU Archivist and Historian

Mr. Albert McLeod Bethune Jr.

February 14, 2018





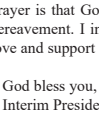
No words can express the depth of our sympathy and condolences after hearing of the passing of Mr. Albert McLeod Bethune Jr. on Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Mr. Bethune was grandson and adopted son to our beloved founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, and he served as the first archivist and historian of Bethune Cookman University.

Mr. Albert Bethune was a proud Wildcat! Throughout life, he has garnered respect as a stalwart for the legacy of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, strengthening the University through timeless efforts to honor our core values and sacred heritage. He served as B-CU's first mascot and was founder of the Bethune-Cookman University Inspirational Gospel Choir.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students, I extend heartfelt condolences to his wife, Marion and children and the entire Bethune family. Our prayer is that God will strengthen and encourage the family during this time of bereavement. I invite members of our community to pray for and offer signs of love and support for the Bethune family.

God bless you,
Interim President, Dr. Hubert L. Grimes

2018 Traveling Exhibit
THE NATIONAL GREAT BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM Inc
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



Dr. Joanne Martin, Founder

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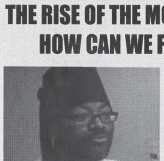
HOW CAN WE FREE OUR SELF?



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ARE ISLAM AND FREEMASONS AN ANCIENT MYSTERY SYSTEM?*

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The Church Directory

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Tuesday.....Prayer Meeting & Bible Study,7:00 p.m.
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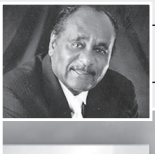
Come join Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall, Sr. every Wednesday and Thursday from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM for Prayer Meeting and Bible Study

Greater Macedonia Baptist Church of the Northside



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Rev. Joe Calhoun, Pastor Emeritus
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The HELP/HOPE/LIVE Ministry of the Tru-Way Church of the Risen Christ, MInister Elwyn W. Jenkins, Pastor, will present a Spiritual Musical Extravaganza in honor of our own Evangelist Barbara Williams. This event will be held Saturday, February 17th @ 6:00 P.M. The Church is located at 2297 Edison Ave.

The public is cordially invited to come and enjoy a worship experience that wll be long remembered and appreciated. HELP us petition God for a successful kidney transplant for our dear sister, Evang. Barbara Williams.

The Masonic Family and Tillman Valentine Consistory #22

We the pastor, officers and members of the Greater El-Beth-El Divine Holiness Church 723 W. 4th Street Jacksonville, Fla. 32209, wish to invite you to worship with us and be our special guest on our Black History Day Program, February 18, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

A great program has been planned for this occasion. Elder Beverly Clark from Bethel Baptist Church will be our guest speaker. There will be several civic and political leaders to share with us and inform us about the community. If you have any questions, please contact our pastor, Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall Sr. at 904710-1586. Dinner will be served after service.

Respectfully yours,
Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall Sr. - Pastor

Photos courtesy of Getty Images

Tips for *Family* Safety

How to keep your busy, adventurous family safe

FAMILY FEATURES

Families are seemingly always on the go. From soccer games and school trips to excursions with friends and vacations with the family, people are constantly on the move, exploring new places and experiencing new things.

In fact, a study by Sfara shows that kids today are using public transportation, going on field trips and taking long-distance road trips at much younger ages compared to 30 years ago. As exciting as these new opportunities can be, it's equally as important to make sure families – and kids – stay safe and protected at home and on the go.

AROUND THE HOUSE

Know your neighbors

Whether you live in an apartment building, cul-de-sac or the countryside, make it a point to get to know your neighbors. Building these relationships isn't only neighborly, but can help keep you safe. Not only can you have a stronger community of people to lean on for small crises, like borrowing forgotten ingredients, and larger emergencies, such as weather-related disasters, but you'll also have a better understanding of your surroundings.

Help in an instant

While security systems deliver some peace of mind, they're not always fool-proof, and they also aren't transferable to the office, school or your summer getaway. Always on and always available, an app such as Sfara Guardian can help keep you and your family safe, no matter where you are. By just triple-tapping your phone, even while it's in your pocket, the app connects you to a live emergency manager who can provide the help you need. If you're unable to respond, it will dispatch local responders to your exact location immediately.

Accessibility

While baby-proofing starts in your children's earliest years, limiting their access to certain areas or items is important throughout their childhoods. When you have a young child, locks on cabinets and gates across steps may be your focus when it comes to home safety. As kids get older, ensure they do not have unsupervised access to dangerous items like cleaning supplies, prescription medicine or kitchen knives. Make sure to also have open conversations with kids about the dangers of seemingly safe home products so they are equipped to make appropriate choices outside the home.

Fire safety

Take the time to ensure your home is properly equipped in case of fire. Check that you have working fire extinguishers and that windows and fire escapes are not blocked by heavy furniture or other objects. Be sure everyone in your family knows the plan in case of a fire or similar emergency at home, and is aware of how to contact help, if needed.

AWAY FROM HOME

Tools to take on the road

In the past, families brought the essentials with them when on the go – a first aid kit, snacks and water bottles. Now, in addition to the basics, make sure you add modern essentials to your packing list when you're away from home, whether you're going on a day trip or a long vacation. Carry a portable phone charger in your bag or in your car to ensure you can always connect to family, call for help if needed or just use your phone's flashlight in case of a blackout.

Help on-the-go

Today, virtually everything is available at your fingertips, right through a smartphone. Now, safety is that accessible, too. Apps, like Sfara Guardian, can connect you to live experts who can help you in virtually any kind of situation. For example, if you've been in an accident, the app can detect you need help and send local responders even if you can't speak. Learn more at sfara.com.

Stranger danger

When in public, be hyper-aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Talk with your kids about how they should respond if they are approached by a stranger. It's a good idea to practice at home so your child feels comfortable giving an emphatic "no" if the need arises. If you'll be at a crowded location where you may become separated, use your phone to take a photo of your child so you have a current photo and clothing description ready if the unthinkable happens.

DRIVING SAFELY

Most families spend an ample part of every day in their vehicles, between transport to school, activities, work and various errands. Keeping everyone safe is easier than ever with a slew of safety features that are increasingly available, either straight from the factory or as add-ons to your in-car experience.

Advanced Navigation: While built-in navigation systems in cars may just seem like an added convenience, they are also a key safety feature. Navigation systems offer easy access to directions and points of interest on the road, which can help eliminate distractions and reduce the possibility of accidents. Features like voice control can make navigation hands-free and allow you to concentrate on the road.

Smartphone Crash Detection: Today, the technology in your pocket is often more advanced than the cars you drive or ride in. Apps like Sfara Guardian can detect a car crash or incident and dispatch help. Because the technology is on the phone, it works whether you are the driver or passenger and in your car or someone else's. Roadside assistance has a modern twist, too. If you need help with a flat or a tow, you can request service on your app and map the driver in real-time as he or she heads your way.

Lock Controls: In some vehicles, an adjustable setting allows you to control which car doors unlock depending on which door you open first or how many times you press the unlock button. This feature can allow a driver to safely enter the car on the driver's side without unlocking other doors and potentially giving access to an intruder. Similar controls can keep mischievous kids from pushing buttons in the back and unlocking or opening rear doors or windows without your knowledge.

The Duval/Nassau Alumni Chapter of Bethune-Cookman University invites you to attend the

Annual
Dr. Mary McLeod
Bethune Community
Leadership Breakfast
Benefits~Alumni Chapter Scholarship Fund

Saturday, February 17, 2018
Doors Open @ 8:30 AM
Program Starts @ 9 AM
Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church
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Keynote Speaker:
Hubert Grimes
Retired Judge
Interim President, Bethune-Cookman University

Theme: "State of the University"

Individual Tickets ~ $35 & Corporate Tables ~ $260

Sponsorships Available. For additional information and tickets, contact Darrell Brown @ 904.307.8492 or email duvalnassaualum@yahoo.com.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

DON'T **OVERPAY** YOUR TAXES

Commonly overlooked credits and deductions

FAMILY FEATURES

With tax season in full swing, take time to consider how to get the most out of your tax return, which includes finding all the credits and deductions available to you. While many taxpayers claim common deductions, such as home mortgage interest and self-employment expenses, there are additional tax deductions that can lessen your final tax bill or increase your refund. These often-overlooked tax breaks could potentially save you hundreds – maybe even thousands – of dollars if you itemize deductions.

To start, get to know the difference between tax credits and tax deductions. Tax credits reduce the amount you owe in taxes. In some circumstances, tax credits allow a refundable credit, meaning you may not only reduce the amount you owe to $0, but you can also get money back. Deductions, on the other hand, simply reduce your taxable income. Both can have a potentially significant impact on your taxes and are often worth the extra effort to include on your return.

Some commonly overlooked credits include:

1. **Child and Dependent Care Credit**
   You can claim a credit of up to $2,100 for day care for your dependents so you and your spouse can work. Qualifying dependents include children under 13 and parents who are no longer able to care for themselves.
2. **Earned Income Tax Credit**
   The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax credit based on your income and the number of qualifying children living with you. Nearly 1 in 5 people who qualify fail to claim the credit, worth up to $6,318. Just because you didn't qualify last year doesn't mean you won't this year; one-third of the EITC-eligible population changes each year based on marital, parental and financial status.
3. **Saver's Credit or the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit**
   Make sure you "pay yourself first." Even if it is only $20 each pay cycle, make sure you are putting some money into a retirement fund. If your company offers a retirement savings plan, like a 401(k), it is usually in your best interest to participate. If your income is lower than $60,000, you can receive a credit of up to $1,000 for a contribution of up to $2,000 into an IRA or an employer-provided retirement account, such as a 401(k). The credit is in addition to any deduction or exclusion from income for the contribution.

Some tax deductions that allow you to reduce your taxable income include:

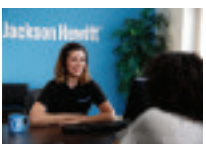
1. **Moving Expenses**
   If you moved for a job that is at least 50 miles away from your home and held this job for at least 39 weeks, you can claim your moving expenses even if you don't itemize deductions.
2. **Tax-Preparation Fees**
   Plan for tax time. Tax laws change and so do life circumstances. Using a professional to help you file your return may be a wise investment. For example, the tax pros at Jackson Hewitt can help you get every deduction and credit you deserve and the biggest refund possible. Plus, the cost of preparing your taxes can be claimed if you itemize your deductions. In fact, one missed credit or deduction could more than cover the cost of having your taxes prepared by a tax professional.
3. **New Moms**
   Breast pumps and lactation supplies are considered medical equipment, which means they qualify for a possible deduction.
4. **Career Corner**
   Job hunting often means investing both time and money. However, you may be able to deduct some of the job-search expenses you incur. Costs such as preparing resumes, creating and maintaining websites, business cards, agency fees and travel expenses may be eligible.
5. **Wedding Bells**
   If you were married in a church or at a historical site during the past year, you may be able to deduct fees paid to the venue as a charitable donation.
6. **Medical Fitness**
   While general toning and fitness workouts to improve general health are considered personal expenses, you may be able to deduct your gym membership as a medical expense. If a doctor diagnoses you with a specific medical condition, such as obesity or hypertension, or a specific physical or mental illness, and prescribes workouts or participation in a weight-loss program to treat your illness, the membership dues may be tax-deductible.
7. **Road Warriors**
   If you travel for business and aren't reimbursed by your employer, those costs can qualify as a deduction.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Every possible tax credit and deduction can help when money is tight. You might qualify for at least one overlooked credit or deduction – and maybe more than one. Consult a tax professional to discuss how you can maximize your refund and learn more at JacksonHewitt.com.

Refund Advance

If you're getting a refund, you typically want it as soon as possible, but that isn't always an option, especially if you are one of the millions of Americans who claim either the Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional Child Tax Credit. You could access up to $3,200 with a no-fee Refund Advance loan at zero percent annual percentage rate (APR), offered by MetaBank, at participating Jackson Hewitt locations. Terms apply, visit JacksonHewitt.com for details.



Did You Know?

1. The IRS, as well as many states, allows taxpayers to catch up on missed credits or deductions, offering a three-year window for filing an amended tax return. You can secure unclaimed credits and deductions by filing amended tax returns to avoid losing any unclaimed funds from as far back as 2014.

2. With locations across the United States, including kiosks in 3,000 Walmart stores, the tax professionals at Jackson Hewitt make it easy to stop in when it's most convenient for you.

3. If you are a single parent, you can file as Head of Household instead of Single. This filing status can provide better deduction options and a lower tax rate schedule.

TAX Season is HERE!

100+ 7th GRADERS AND PARENTS ATTEND "GEAR UP" COLLEGE FAIR

Event Kicks off I'm A Star Partnership with DCPS, Funded By Federal Grant

100+ children and their parents got in the college spirit for I'm A Star Foundation's Family Empowerment Forum & College Fair tonight.

The event was held inside the gym at Ribault High School from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., for a select group of 7th graders in the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP).

Edward Waters College's Marching Band kicked off the festivities. Then, tweens and teens surveyed the following 11 colleges/universities: Bethune Cookman University; Edward Waters College; Fayetteville State University; Florida A&M University; Florida Memorial University; Florida State College at Jacksonville; Florida State University; Savannah State University; Tuskeegee University; University of Florida and University of North Florida.

In partnership with Duval County Public Schools, funded the GEAR UP grant, I'm A Star will follow this group of 7th graders through their first year of college. GEAR UP is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education.

I'm A Star Foundation will mentor a cohort of 7th graders once every two weeks and provide parenting empowerment forums two times a month. The non-profit organization will work with the same students for 7 years, in an effort to ensure their academic success and college readiness.

ABOUT I'M A STAR FOUNDATION I'm A Star Foundation is a volunteer program that transforms middle and high school students into the next generation of servant leaders. An acronym for "Smart, Talented And Resilient" students, the Foundation draws kids ages 12-18 from schools across Duval County. Students meet on weekends to creatively co-work on solutions to problems affecting their peers. Since its establishment in 2010, the organization has maintained a 100% graduation rate. Founder and Executive Director Betty Seabrook Burney is a former Duval Co. School Board Chairwoman who achieved the distinction of having all chronically low-performing schools exit the state of Florida's intervene list by the end of her term.I'm A Star Foundation students have been featured in various press outlets, including Florida Times-Union, ABC7Chicago and The Huffington Post.

For more information, please visit www.imastarfoundation.org.

Students gathering information at the Florida State University table.

Carla Jones of Carla Mechele Media and University of Florida representative were on hand to answer student questions.

Recruiters from Florida State Tallahassee attended to help student explore options with their university.

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Portrait

Continued from page 1

of foliage that engages the viewer; the greenery creates a live environment as if they were continually falling around his subject. The former president was quoted at the unveiling ceremony as saying, "What I was always struck by whenever I saw his portraits was the degree to which they challenged our conventional views of power and privilege." Wiley expressed humble gratitude to President Obama for the opportunity to be part of a unique legacy by saying, thank you "for giving this nation a chance to experience your splendor"

Georgia-born artist Amy Sherald resides in Baltimore, MD. This talented artist chooses to only create portraits of African-Americans and is very well known for her portraits that speak to social inequality. Sherald's painting of the former first lady was realized by Sherald as she was arrayed in a gown designed by Michelle Smith for Milly. It boasted a strong geometric print that was colorful and fitting for her session. This timeless pattern offered a current look that will remain relevant throughout the generations to come. Although Sherald described herself as a "conceptual" artist, some critics weighed in negatively on her painting of the former first lady citing the extremely muted tones in Michelle Obama's skin detract from her overall beauty. The controversy over whether or not Sherald showcased enough of the former first lady's "blackness" however, faded into the background as Mrs. Obama expressed nothing but adulation in the way Sherald seized her likeness. Mrs. Obama had an emotional reaction to the piece which prompted her to say in part, "I'm also thinking about all the young people — particularly girls and girls of color — who in years ahead will come to this place and they will look up and they will see an image of someone who looks like them hanging on the wall of this great American institution," She also stated "I know the kind of impact that will have on their lives, because I was one of those girls."

Renowned filmmaker Steven Spielberg and his spouse, Kathleen "Kate" Capshaw Spielberg were among the many prominent guests in attendance. The Spielbergs assisted in funding the commission of the Obama portraits. Other esteemed guests included: Eric H. Holder former attorney general; Jay Carney former press secretary and David Axelrod form senior strategist.

Brown

Continued from page 1

and down to earth person that most people take to once they meet her. She has a magic about her that makes even the highest of office holders pay attention. Several U.S. presidents have said that whatever Corrine wants she gets. Nevertheless, Corrine has an endless line of people in all lifestyles that testifies to her helping them when no one else will. She is special.

Recently, a report was posted about Hip Hop rapper C Murder (Master P's brother) who has gone on a hunger strike because of treatment he and others are receiving in Angola prison. He has gone on a hunger strike and complained of an incident where his handcuffs were so tight that a device had to be used to cut them off his wrist due to the enormous swelling. He also reported beatings and murders in the Louisiana prison. However, the mainstream media seems to be silent on this and other issues concerning horrible prison conditions. The same media worked openly with all who had negative things to say about Corrine Brown – before, during and now after her trial.

Reporting fair treatment of a prisoner as a negative story is bizarre to say the least.

Trump wants to replace food stamps with 'Blue Apron-type program'

President Donald Trump wants to drastically scale back food stamps and replace them with a "food box" delivery program — like Blue Apron.

On Monday, the Trump administration proposed cutting food stamps, formally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, by $17 billion in 2019 and more than $213 billion over the next decade.

Instead of receiving assistance in the form of an electronic benefit card (EBT), recipients receiving more than $90 in monthly aid would get about half that amount in the form of government-provided, nonperishable food items.

The proposal is also likely to enrage food retailers — particularly Walmart, Target and Aldi — that stand to lose billions if food stamp benefits are cut, analysts say. On Monday, the Food Marketing Institute, a trade association for grocery stores, condemned the Harvest Box proposal as expensive, inefficient and unlikely to generate any long-term government savings.

Ramaphosa elected as South Africa's new president

Cyril Ramaphosa has been elected president of South Africa by a parliamentary vote less than 16 hours after the resignation of his rival Jacob Zuma, following days of defiant refusal to leave office.

Ramaphosa – who, as deputy president, became interim leader immediately after Zuma's late-night resignation on Wednesday – is being sworn in as head of state by South Africa's chief justice in Cape Town.

Cyril Ramaphosa

The ruling African National Congress has a substantial majority in parliament and the vote is effectively a formality. Though deeply divided, the ANC has already closed ranks after the crisis of recent days and has rallied around Ramaphosa, 65, who was pictured jogging and posing with local residents on the Cape Town seafront early on Thursday morning.

Shooting

Continued from page 1

murder Thursday morning after being questioned for hours by state and federal authorities following the deadliest school shooting in the U.S. in five years.

Rep. Al Lawson (FL-05) released the following statement in response to Wednesday's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.:

"My heart breaks for the teachers and students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School following today's mass shooting in Parkland, Florida. Our children go to school to learn, but are now faced with this reoccurring epidemic. It is unfortunate we are at this place again, and these senseless tragedies are happening far too often. There have been multiple school shootings in just the last two months and it is imperative that we do more to keep our children safe. Gun violence should not be tolerated and our government has to do its part by providing resources and proper security measures to ensure the safety of our children. My thoughts and prayers are with all of the victims' families and the entire Broward County community."

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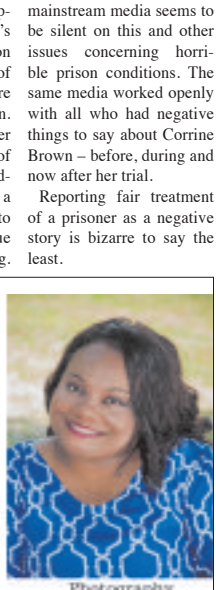

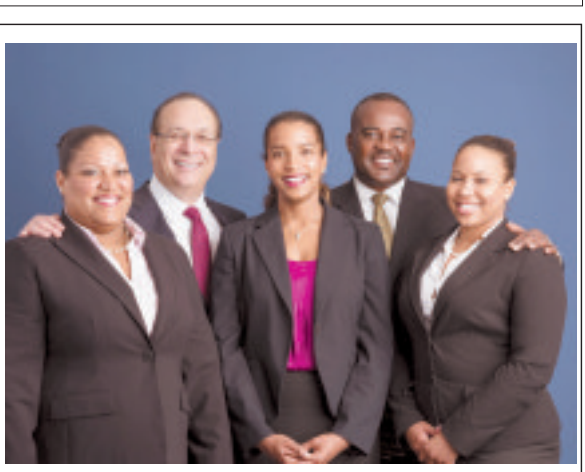

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LENNY CURRY
MAYOR

NOTICE TO PUBLIC
February 16, 2018

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO CONSOLIDATED PLAN

The 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan for the City of Jacksonville has been substantially amended. This amendment includes an update to the Market Analysis and Needs Assessment have with improved data and analysis. Additionally, the Strategic Plan and Goals have been amended to better reflect and address the needs of the jurisdiction. 24 CFR Part 91.505 requires an amendment be made to the Consolidated Plan when changes occur in the way the jurisdiction carries out its activities, and the changes be made available for public comment. In compliance with this regulation, the Neighborhoods Department, Housing and Community Development Division announce the following revisions that may include the following Federal Grant Programs:

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

Citizens are encouraged to participate in the development of the Consolidated Plan and to attend the public hearings to receive information about current year activities, to express housing and community development needs and to make recommendations for activities to be undertaken.

Hearings will be held on:

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.
Ed Ball Building
214 N. Hogan Street, 1st Floor Training Room, Room 110
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.
Legends Center
5054 Soutel Drive, Multi-purpose Room
Jacksonville, FL 32208

The original Consolidated Plan is available for review at the Housing and Community Development Division, 214 N. Hogan Street, 7th Floor, Jacksonville, Florida 32202, and at all city public libraries. Comments from affected citizens regarding the revisions are welcome and should be submitted in writing to Diana Seydlorsky, Chief, Housing and Community Development Division at the above address **no later than March 19, 2018**. Once the 30-day comment period has passed, these activities will be amended into the document.

Stephanie Burch, Director
Neighborhoods Department

Diana Seydlorsky Chief
Housing and Community Development Division

Congressman Lawson Introduces Bill to Designate James Weldon Johnson's Jacksonville Home as National Landmark

U.S. Representative Al Lawson (FL-05) introduced the James Weldon Johnson Historical Preservation Act – to designate the Jacksonville, Fla. birthplace of James Weldon Johnson as a national landmark. Johnson is most notably recognized as an activist, educator and songwriter of "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing."

"I am pleased to introduce a bill designating James Weldon Johnson's birthplace as a national landmark and memorialize his legacy as a leader for our community," Rep. Al Lawson said. "Johnson contributed integrity, knowledge and dedication to our nation through his life's work. Since his passing in 1938, he has remained an icon and inspiration not only to the city of Jacksonville, but throughout the United States."

Born in 1871, Johnson grew up in Jacksonville's LaVilla neighborhood with his brother, composer John Rosamond Johnson. After earning his college degree in Georgia, James Weldon Johnson returned home and became the principal of Stanton Grade School, where he improved the educational standards of the school's curriculum. In 1897, while serving as the principal, Johnson became the first African American admitted to the Florida Bar Exam since Reconstruction.

At the Stanton School, he wrote "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" as a poem to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday. His brother later composed music to the poem, which was adopted by the NAACP and the rest of the nation as the Negro National Anthem.

"Both brothers made significant contributions to the country for African Americans that still have a positive effect in the community," said Lloyd Washington, president of Jacksonville's Durkeeville Historical Society. "Every time the music for 'Lift E'vry Voice and Sing' is played, and the audience stands and the words are sung, it evokes a feeling of admiration and respect for the history and strength of our forefathers and mothers. The designation of the birth site as a National Register Site would validate that African-American history matters every month of the year – and the proof lives at the northwest corner of Jacksonville's Lee and Houston streets."

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Johnson to diplomatic positions in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He later became a leader within the NAACP, where he challenged the disfranchisement of African Americans.

"The recognition of the contributions of the Johnson brothers may be long overdue, but it is also right on time," said Tony Allegretti, executive director for the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville. "Jacksonville natives are very much like the Johnsons – diverse, multicultural, innovative, determined, ambitious and relentless in our pursuits. Celebrating these heroes and making sure their stories are told is something this city will embrace and cherish. Keeping James Weldon Johnson and John Rosamond Johnson's legacy alive through historic designation and ultimately memorials befitting these great Americans will inspire future Jacksonville leaders for years to come."

"I think it is wonderful that Congressman Lawson is introducing this legislation for such an outstanding statesman," said Marsha Phelts, a Jacksonville historian. "This recognition is long overdue. Jacksonville is the only place on the planet that can claim him as its own. His impact and contribution orbits beyond America. He made his mark in Jacksonville, with the Stanton School, and went beyond to do even more."

Lawson has 19 co-sponsors for the James Weldon Johnson Historical Preservation Act legislation: Rep. Ted Deutch (D-Florida); Alcee Hasting (D-Florida); Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-Florida); Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Florida); Bill Posey (FL-08), Kathy Castor (D-Florida); Stephanie Murphy (D-Florida); John Rutherford (R-Florida); Rep. Lois Frankel (D-Florida); Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-Florida); Daniel Webster (R-Florida); Gregory Meeks (D-Florida); Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-District of Columbia); Hank Johnson (D-Georgia); Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon); Jim Costa (D-California); Darren Soto (D-Florida); Rep. Donald Payne (D-New Jersey).

Congressman Al Lawson U.S. Representative for Florida's 5th Congressional District

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SPORTS

Fournier leads Magic to comeback win over Hawks

By Adesina O. Koiki

ORLANDO, Fla. – Even with a shakeup of the roster right before the trade deadline, the Orlando Magic kept up their winning ways.

Point guard D.J. Augustin, starting in place of the recently-dealt Elfrid Payton, had 18 points and nine assists while Evan Fournier keyed a late push by scoring eight straight points as the Magic defeated the Atlanta Hawks 100-98 at Amway Center, Orlando's third consecutive win.

"I think I did my part to help the team get a win," said Augustin, making his first start since Dec. 22. "When you get opportunities to play more minutes, obviously you have a chance to do better."

It was a struggle for both teams all game, as neither side shot above 43 percent from the field, but it was the Magic – specifically Fournier – who made the decisive plays to edge the Magic ahead.

After a dunk by John Collins gave the Hawks an 87-86 lead with under three minutes remaining, Fournier started his scoring spurt by making a jumper while being fouled, as he completed his three-point play with a free throw to give the Magic the lead back. On the next possession, Fournier hit a three-pointer from the right wing to extend Orlando's lead to 92-87 with 2:08 remaining.

Two possessions later, Fournier made a 20-footer to give the Magic a 94-89 lead with a minute left.

"We just never could find a rhythm the whole game, but we had some guys step up and make plays down the stretch and get us a win," Fournier said.

One of players who also stepped up for the Magic was reserve forward Marreese Speights, who scored 14 points in just 17 minutes of action, including hitting four three-pointers.

The Magic were playing shorthanded as Payton, Orlando's first-round selection in 2014, was traded to the Phoenix Suns for a second-round draft pick earlier on Thursday as the trade deadline neared. Payton, drafted by former Magic GM Rob Hennigan out of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, never materialized as the starting point guard of the future Orlando had envisioned, finishing his Magic career averaging 11.1 points and 6.4 assists in 281 career games.

"We added a draft pick, we retained a little [salary cap] flexibility. That's what we got to do today," said Jeff Weltman, Magic president of basketball operations.

Atlanta was able to keep up with the Magic despite shooting just 28 percent in the first half, as the Hawks were even with Orlando at halftime at 39-39. Dennis Schröder and Taurean Prince each scored 19 points to pace Atlanta, with Prince scoring 14 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter.

The Hawks' loss ended a two-game winning streak.

"We got a lot of stops and gave ourselves a chance to win," said Prince after the game. "These are the kind of games you want to be in. We just needed to make one more shot."

Orlando will look to extend its winning streak to four on Saturday when it hosts the Milwaukee Bucks, while Atlanta plays the second of a back-to-back tonight as it will host the new-look Cleveland Cavaliers, the most active team at the trade deadline on Thursday.

Orlando Magic small forward Evan Fournier goes up for a layup against the Atlanta Hawks on February 9, 2018 at the Amway Center in Orlando, Florida. (Photo: Chris Tello/The Florida-Georgia Star)

Duke Blue Devils Defeat Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, 80-69

By Brandon M. Patterson

ATLANTA -- Even without the ACC's leading scorer and rebounder, Marvin Bagley III, No. 9 Duke managed to defeat the Yellow Jackets at McCamish Pavilion, 80-69.

Duke head coach, Mike Krzyzewski, had nothing but high praise for the Yellow Jackets' second half performance. "(Georgia Tech has) been hurt," Krzyzewski said. "It really shows the character of the program. In some respects, they played the second half better."

With Bagley out with a minor right knee sprain, Coach Krzyzewski started sophomore center Marques Bolden and freshman guard Alex O'Connell. But it was the performance from senior guard Grayson Allen that was stellar, making all 10 of his free throws and scoring a team high 23 points.

Duke's freshman forward, Wendell Carter Jr., an Atlanta native, also performed well against the Yellow Jackets by posting a double-double (19 points and 10 rebounds) along with four blocks.

Unfortunately for the Jackets, freshman guard Jose Alvarado, was injured on a play at the 8:14 mark of the first half and would miss the remainder of the game with a dislocated elbow. The Devils would extend their lead throughout the first half, going up by as many as 16 points and ended the half with a 43-26 lead.

During the second half, Georgia Tech head coach Josh Pastner would look to freshman forwards Evan Cole and Moses Wright off the bench. In addition to scoring some clutch points, Cole scored 10 points and made a put-back dunk that brought the crowd to their feet. Wright added nine points.

At one point, Duke's lead was as much as 26 points, but Tech continued to make runs to close that gap. Sophomore guard, Josh Okogie, who scored a total of 29 points, contributed to the Yellow Jackets' comeback efforts.

Although the Yellow Jackets outscored their opponents in the second half, it wasn't enough for a win at home. After the game, Pastner stated his team played their hearts out. "I felt over the last 15 minutes, we really competed and showed great energy, which was shown by how the crowd was appreciative of the effort," Pastner said. "We've just been a little snake-bitten this year with injuries and everything else but we got down and then those young guys [Evan Cole and Moses Wright] came in and gave us a great lift."

Pastner added, "There's two things. One - our guys always fight, even when they get down, they always find a way to come back," Pastner said. "They scrap and claw and fight and kick to find a way to give ourselves a chance to get back into the game. The issue is, why are we getting down to get to that point? Part of that, I would say, is because it's a major rebuild job and year two is the hardest."

Georgia Tech has now lost seven out of their last eight games, and is 11-14 overall and 4-8 in the ACC. Their next game is Saturday, February 17 against Virginia Tech at 12 noon, ET at McCamish Pavilion.

OLYMPIC WATCH

As of this printing, Team USA has won 100 gold medals in Winter Olympics history. Snowboard halfpipe medalist **Shaun White**, 31, received #100 at these Games. Speed skater **Dan Jansen** picked up #50.

Team USA figure skater **Mirai Nagasu,** 24, became the first American woman to land the triple axel during an Olympic competition, just the third woman ever to do so.

Jamie Anderson, 27, is the the first American woman to win back-to-back gold medals in snowboarding slopestyle. She will have a chance for a third gold medal on February 21 in the big air competition.

Jamie Anderson

South Korean figure skater **Kim Yuna** lit the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremonies at the Pyeongchang Winter Games. She won gold at the Vancouver Games in 2010.

Red Gerard, 17, became the first American to win a gold medal in the men's snowboard slopestyle event. He nearly missed the finals after oversleeping because he was up late watching Netflix the night before.

American speed skater **Maame Biney,** 18, was eliminated during the quarterfinals of the Ladies 500 meters in short track last week. However, she will still compete in the Ladies 1,500 meters.

Maame Biney

Speed skater **Shani Davis** (USA) finished 19th in the Men's 1,500 meter race. He boycotted the opening ceremonies because he lost the coin flip to be flag bearer.

Another historic first in U.S. Olympic history: Luger **Chris Mazdzer,** 29, won a silver medal and became the first American to do so.

Olympic skeleton racer **John Daly (USA)** is on the road to redemption at these Winter Games. In the 2014 Sochi Games, he hit the wall at the start of his run and did not medal.

The 30 steel rings that led up to the path to ignite the cauldron at the climax of the opening ceremony symbolized the 30 years since the 1988 Summer Olympic Games that held in Seoul, South Korea.

Chloe Kim, 17,(USA) landed back-to-back 1080s in the snowboard halfpipe competition to win her first gold medal.

Chloe Kim

"Black Panther" Stars and Creators Reflect On Its Arrival

By **Ronda Racha Penrice, Urban News Service**

Fans, who bought a record-setting number of advance tickets, weren't the only ones anticipating the Feb. 16 opening of "Black Panther," Marvel's historic first black superhero film.

"I've been waiting a long time. I was just so, so excited because this was a movie [where] we all felt a lot of ownership, that we thoroughly enjoyed making," said Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o during the film's January 30 press conference at the Montage Beverly Hills the morning after its glitzy purple carpet premiere. Nyong'o plays Nakia, T'Challa/Black Panther's love interest.

Although T'Challa/Black Panther, whose superpowers include speed, strength, night vision, claws and more aided by his country's powerful metal, Vibranium, was first introduced in the "Fantastic Four" comic book series in 1966, months before the founding of the iconic freedom-fighting Black Panther Party, "Black Panther" is the character's first-ever live action film. Reportedly Jack Kirby, who created T'Challa/Black Panther with Stan Lee, took the name from the all-black U.S. Army 761st Tank Battalion of World War II dubbed "the Black Panthers." Chadwick Boseman, well-known for his roles as such real-life heroes as Jackie Robinson and James Brown, is the first to ever play him on film, appearing in 2016's "Captain America: Civil War" to great enthusiasm. He returns in "Avengers: Infinity War" May 4.

"Black Panther" follows T'Challa/Black Panther's journey, in the aftermath of his father's death, to lead his technologically advanced nation, Wakanda, which the world believes is impoverished. Featuring black actors from the United States, England and various parts of Africa, "Black Panther" is the first Marvel film set in a black-ruled nation. As such, the film challenges the negative stereotypes in which the world typically views African nations. It also raises larger questions about what a successful never colonialized African country might look like and what role it would play in today's global landscape.

The film's larger significance was clearly important to Nyong'o and her fellow cast members – who included Boseman, Michael B. Jordan (Erik Killmonger), Forest Whitaker (Zuri), Angela Bassett (T'Challa/Black Panther's stepmother Ramonda), "Get Out" Oscar nominee Daniel Kaluuya (W'Kabi) and more – during the Hollywood press conference where Marvel Studios head Kevin Feige and Ryan Coogler, the film's co-writer and director, were also present.

Jordan, who plays the main villain Erik Killmonger that challenges T'Challa/Black Panther's ascension as Wakanda's king, said he only truly grasped the film's importance after seeing it for the first time at the premiere.

"I couldn't describe that feeling before actually sitting down and watching that film and seeing yourself on screen, not just me personally, but people that look like me in power and having those socially relevant themes but in a movie that you want to sit down and watch and enjoy," Jordan said.

As someone from both the United States and Zimbabwe, Danai Gurira, who plays Okoye, leader of the female warriors known as the Dora Milaje who protect the king, had an even more positive response to the fictional Wakanda and its very real continent. Gurira shared that she appreciated the departure from the usual depictions of African countries as impoverished.

"You see the power and potential of where you're from, but you see how skewed it's viewed by the world and how misrepresented it is and how distorted it is or besieged by the world so often," she said. "["Black Panther" is] kind of a salve to those wounds to see this world brought to life this way and to see all the potential and power of all the different African culturalisms and aspects of our being that's actually celebrated," she said.

"Black Panther" is also noteworthy for its elevation of black women in the superhero genre, be they strong like Gurira's Okoye, humanitarian like Nyong'o's Nakia, royal like Angela Bassett's Ramonda or STEM geniuses like Letitia Wright's Shuri who is T'Challa/Black Panther's sister. That elevation was also present behind the scenes through the work of production designer Hannah Beachler, Oscar-nominated costume designer Ruth E. Carter and hair department head Camille Friend.

"How it was written is that the men are always behind the women as well so no one is undermined," said Wright of the film and her character. "The men are not like 'you shouldn't be in technology, you shouldn't be in math.' T'Challa is like 'go ahead sis, this is your department, this is your domain, like kill it.'"

Boseman attributes that gender balance to the vision that is Wakanda. "The idea of the next generation being smarter, being better than you, is a concept that they would have evolved to," said Boseman. "So even though she's reared in the same generation, she's my younger sister, she benefits from whatever I have. So you want your sons and daughters to be better than you were. So that concept is a Wakandan concept."

Coogler, previously known for his independent social justice film "Fruitvale Station" and the latest installment of the Rocky franchise, "Creed," both starring Jordan, said he was cautious not to tamper too much with the "Black Panther" spirit so well established by the comic books in the script he wrote with Joe Robert Cole.

"You can go through our film and see something in there probably from every writer that has touched T'Challa's character and the "Black Panther" comics, from Stan Lee and Jack Kirby's initial runs to Don McGregor to Christopher Priest, Reginald Hudlin, Jonathan Hickman and Ta-Nehisi Coates," he said, naming most of the franchise writers. "The character has got a long history and such rich stuff to mine and each writer left their own mark."

When the film's radicalism was singled out, Feige reminded those in the room that "Black Panther" was born radical. "Stan Lee and Jack Kirby and the whole Marvel bullpen created Wakanda and created T'Challa and created Black Panther and made him a smarter, more accomplished character than any of the other white characters in the mid-1960s," he said.

That integrity, Feige continued, guided this Marvel team. "If they had the guts to do that in the mid-1960s," he said, "the least we [could] do is live up to that and allow this story to be told the way it needed to be told and not shy away from things that the Marvel founders didn't shy away from in the height of the Civil Rights era."

More News

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

Lawson Statement on School Shooting in Parkland, Florida

WASHINGTON DC — Rep. Al Lawson (FL-05) released the following statement in response to today's shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.:

"My heart breaks for the teachers and students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School following today's mass shooting in Parkland, Florida. Our children go to school to learn, but are now faced with this reoccurring epidemic. It is unfortunate we are at this place again, and these senseless tragedies are happening far too often. There have been multiple school shootings in just the last two months and it is imperative that we do more to keep our children safe. Gun violence should not be tolerated and our government has to do its part by providing resources and proper security measures to ensure the safety of our children. My thoughts and prayers are with all of the victims' families and the entire Broward County community."

High School Poetry Contest:

Jacksonville, Florida (February 12, 2018):

All high school students 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 blackout poetry. The content of the poem may not be vulgar, offensive or contain profanity. Open to both public and private high school students. Poems must be original, individual work of the entrant. Go to hopeathand.org to apply and submit by March 9, 2018.

Hope at Hand is a 501(c)(3) charity that provides poetry lessons for at-risk youth populations in North Florida. Founded by veteran educator Steffani Hendricks Fletcher in 2009, Hope at Hand combines poetry and art to help youth process life, love, and progress in a changing world. Hope at Hand partners with over 15 youth agencies in North Florida. Hope at Hand programming instills confidence and independence while improving social connections and emotional growth through poetry. All poems presented incorporate the concepts of choice and change. To make a donation or to learn more about Hope at Hand and its partners, visit www.HopeatHand.org. Hope at Hand is registered with The United Way of Northeast Florida.

FSCJ BlueWave Women's Cross Country Team Recognized for Academic Achievement

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) BlueWave Women's Cross Country Team was recognized by the National Junior College Cross Country Coaches' Association as second in the nation for the 2017 Women's Cross Country Academic All-Scholar Team. The team was added back into FSCJ's athletic offerings during the summer of 2017.

The rankings are determined the same way cross country meets are scored. The top five runners with the highest Fall Term compilation gave FSCJ a score of 3.916. Four of the five FSCJ GPAs selected were from student athletes who had earned a 4.0 during the term.

Additionally, the following members of the 2017 FSCJ BlueWave Women's Cross Country Team received Scholar All-America awards: Gabriella Garcia (Bishop Kenny High School), Haley Grayson (Bishop Kenny High School), Nicole Maza (Mill Creek High School, Hoschton, GA), Lynn John (FSCJ Adult High School), Kari Raae (Mandeville High School, Mandeville, LA), and Mary White (Bishop Kenny High School).

"The athletic and academic achievements this team has accumulated, both individually and collectively, is quite remarkable, especially in our first season to compete as a team," said Coach Jody Hale. "I am incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to their continued growth."

The Office for Civil Rights Needs to Listen to Teachers Like Me on School Discipline

By Tynisha Jointer

As a school-based social worker for over eight years, I know firsthand how punitive discipline practices impact students both in the short and long term. In the short term, students are often harshly punished-missing valuable instructional hours and, more often that not, fast-tracked to special education services. I've also seen long-term impacts in which students begin to view themselves as bad, aggressive and hopeless.

Currently, school discipline policies encourage staff to move from "What's wrong with this student?" to "What happened to this student?". Many of our students come to us with traumatic experiences that often manifests in public behaviors. And while traumatic exposure is not an excuse for inappropriate behavior, it can set the stage for a conversation that works to support the whole child.

Like all skills, positive behavioral skills also need to be learned. In Chicago Public Schools (CPS), students learn these skills through evidence-based social and emotional learning techniques and restorative practices.

Beyond the need for students to learn these skills, it is imperative that we as educators check our own personal and professional biases as it relates to the students we serve.

While most people come to the profession with the desire to educate children, we often do not consider how our personal experiences shape how we approach children and their families. We may let assumptions, preconceived notions or even ignorance guide our engagement or instruction.

SPEAKING TRUTH TO SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AT THE OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Right before the new year, I, along with fellow Educators for Excellence, had the chance to share my experience on school discipline guidelines with Candice Jackson, the Acting Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR).

I had 4 minutes-and I poured my heart into each and every second.

While I didn't feel like I represented the voice of all Black educators-or all educators for that matter-I was able tell my story, and share my experiences and hopes for how we discipline children of color.

I expressed hope that we would one day see the classroom as a shared space for learning and not one for adults to control children. I expressed faith in their leadership to continue to protect students through federal guidelines.

Lastly, I shared my greatest hope: that we as adults check our own biases and realize how they impact our work. While I understand that most teachers come into the profession wanting to teach children but as we should know by now you can't teach them if you can't reach them.

So I say to you fellow educators, your voice and story matters! As you grow in your profession, be open to having courageous conversations with colleagues and administrators about how we educate children. Reflect on your current practices, challenge yourself to be a student and allow yourself to learn from them. Seek to understand their traumas and adjust your approach accordingly.

I know none of this is easy and we may backslide in moments of frustration but you're human and it's OK. Just commit to being your best, and giving your best to your students. At the end of the day, our children are our future. So lets nurture them today.

Tynisha Jointer, LCSW, ME.d, is a Chicago native and product of Chicago Public Schools. Jointer is passionate about educating all children, staff and school leaders around developing a holistic approach to support student achievement.

JEA Should Not Be Sold

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President

City Council Assert Yourselves and Protect The Citizens of Jacksonville

After a called meeting and careful review of evidence of a letter submitted to Honorable Lopez Brosche, Jax City Council President dated February 9, 2018 and her reply of February 12, 2018 and feedback from other Pastors, Community Leaders, and citizens of Jacksonville; the JEA should not be privatized for any reason.

1. It will take away the authority of the city council and accountability to the citizens
2. Mayor Lenny Curry apparent disrespect and bully tactics against our city council persons, its president and others in the community must cease immediately.
3. The staking of the deck of the children commission is reflective in the stacking of the deck in the JEA board and resignation of Mr. Tom Petway is suspicious at best, and unethical as sources have indicated that Mr. Tom Petway may have a vested interest in the sale either directly or indirectly, is this true?
4. The funds from the sale long-term will not benefit this community just like the penny sales tax extension law, it will hurt our grand and great grandchildren, and this city. JEA is a community owned utility company and a rush to sell; a rush to pass a bill without the input of the citizens of Jacksonville and normal processes of City Council is sinful, disrespectful and the current process that was employed should be a call for the JEA Chairman to resign and the Mayor not be re-elected for a second term.
5. For the Mayor who micromanages to not have knowledge of letters or what is taking place sounds "Trumpian" at best. Someone is telling a lie about this entire deal and process and the entire process needs to be stopped by the City Council.
6. The privatization will hurt the Citizens of Jacksonville, employees of JEA and ultimately could place a debt burden on the City, and its citizens while removing accountability.

The legal questions is beyond the scope of General Council for the sale of a non-profit that in fact belong to the Citizens of Jacksonville, therefore, research, discussion, dialogue and a vote is the proper approach if the City Council will not stand up to the Mayor on this issue and assert their authority and protect the citizens of Jacksonville. The letter sent to all City Council persons on February 12 2018 from Jim Minion is on point. The search for 7 votes to over ride the President of the City Council is another bullish approach by the Mayor and both the Mayor and Chairman of the JEA should resign for this unethical approach and what looks like an apparent back room deal. JEA SHOULD NOT BE SOLD and if it is a need to sell JEA that should be citizens of Jacksonville decision and not a Currian dictatorship approach. Enough is enough Mr. Mayor, we have had enough. City Council Assert your selves and Protect the Citizens of Jacksonville. Listen Wednesday, but do your own research, this is too big of a deal to not have all the facts.

Pastor Robert LeCount
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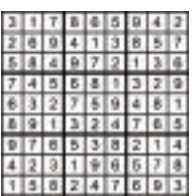

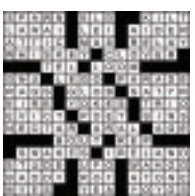

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ACROSS

1. Salmon deposit
6. Old age, archaic
9. Bagpiper's garb
13. Hawaiian veranda
14. Big Island flower necklace
15. Helper
16. V.C. Andrews' "Flowers in the _____"
17. Uno ___ or one more
18. 4 x 4 race
19. *"Water of life"
21. *Shamrock
23. ____ Aviv
24. Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
25. Wildebeest
28. Mega Bloks competitor
30. *Outdoor St. Patrick's Day event
35. Starting point on way to riches
37. Clump
39. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
40. *Ireland, once
41. Ox connector, pl.
43. Quartet minus one
44. Put out on a curb
46. *William Butler Yeats, e.g.
47. Cardinal vices
48. Bee's favorite drink
50. Russian mountain chain
52. Go gray
53. Period of illness
55. Workout unit
57. *These never lived in Ireland
60. *Hibernia
64. Musician's exercise
65. Flying saucer acronym
67. Cleveland's controversial chief
68. Villain
69. Decompose
70. Do penitence
71. Parting words
72. Pro vote
73. "Walk the Dog" toy, pl.

DOWN
1. Deli side
2. Beaten by walkers
3. Nay sayer
4. Middle measurement
5. Jefferson coin
6. Lined with elm trees
7. "Back To The Future" actress
8. ABBA's genre
9. Capital of Ukraine
10. Like some rumors
11. Shakespeare's tragic monarch
12. "Don't give up!"
15. Olfactory property, pl.
20. Funereal lament
22. Chop off
24. ____ tower
25. *"The wearing of the ____"
26. Evian, backwards
27. Finno-____ language
29. Lump of stuff
31. Refuse visitors
32. Skylit lobbies
33. Faulkner's "As I Lay____"
34. Irregular or jagged
36. Religious offshoot
38. *Stout, e.g.
42. Liverpool star
45. Cursor-moving button
49. Wade's opponent
51. Wiggle room
54. Shylock's line of work
56. Socrates' famous pupil
57. Dog command
58. Classic art subject
59. Puts two and two together
60. Itty-bitty bit
61. Call to a mate
62. Unacceptable
63. "Nobody ____ It Better"
64. Flow alternative
66. *British to the IRA

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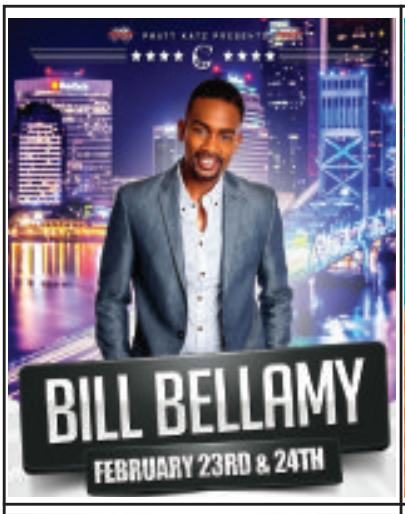
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