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AUGUST 4 - AUGUST 10, 2018

VOLUME 68, NUMBER 16

\$1.00



**LeBron James' legacy goes beyond  
basketball, solidified with opening of I  
Promise School. Story, page 8**

**Fla. Church Appoints  
First-Ever Black Pastor  
to Lead Congregation**

By Christian Post

A Florida congregation that once refused to allow African Americans to attend worship services recently appointed its first African-American pastor.

The Rev. Juana Jordan is now serving as pastor of First United Methodist Church of St. Augustine, a congregation with about 500 members.

Jordan officially began her appointment at the church on July 1. In an interview with The Christian Post on Monday, she explained that while she "feels good to be the pastor of any church appointment," this particular appointment is "an awesome privilege."

"I'm humbled by it because I'm always thinking about how God makes decisions and works within the minds and with the hands of people in order to put us exactly where we need to be," said Jordan. "God will orchestrate and say 'this is where you're supposed to be.' You may not know exactly why you're there and what all this entails in you being there, but there is something in that placement that is going to allow for your growth as well as going to allow for the greater glory of God to be seen."

Jordan told CP that thus far "like any new job," the appointment has been "beautifully chaotic" as she gets used to leading the FUMC.



The Rev.  
Juana Jordan

**2 killed, 4 Injured in I-95  
Crash Near Georgia coast**

Authorities say two people are dead and four others are injured after an SUV crashed into a tractor-trailer on Interstate 95 in coastal Georgia.

Georgia State Patrol Cpl. R.A. Sikes said the fatal crash early Tuesday killed a 50-year-old woman and a 6-year-old boy in the SUV. He said both vehicles were traveling

south on I-95 when the SUV ran into the back of the tractor-trailer near Brunswick, about 60 miles south of Savannah.

Four others from the SUV were taken to a hospital. Sikes said he did not know their conditions or whether any of them were seriously hurt.

State troopers are investigating what caused the crash.

**JEA Warns  
Customers of  
Phone Scam**

Scammers continue to call local businesses and residents claiming to be from JEA and threatening to disconnect their service if a payment isn't made. **THESE CALLS ARE SCAMS.** If you receive such a call, hang up and call 904-665-6000 to report it.

**A Yes on Amendment  
4 Gives Floridians  
Eligibility to Vote**

By Dan Evans

**Amendment 4**

Amendment 4 restores the eligibility to vote for Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole, probation, and restitution. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or felony sexual offenses.

Now is the time to return the eligibility to vote to Floridians who have done their time and paid their debts.

**Voting Restoration**

The Florida constitution grants the Governor and a 3-person Cabinet (the Clemency Board) authority to restore civil rights on a case-by-case basis. There are no standardized guidelines to allow for prudent and objective decision making. Reports are the current application process could take up to seventeen years. A 5-7 year waiting period after the sentence has been completed and the courts satisfied to apply. An administrative 6 to 10-year application processing time. Seven years after his election Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet voted to end the state

policy that automatically restored the civil rights of nonviolent offenders after they completed their sentences.

Florida lost an estimated \$385 million a year in economic impact, spent millions on court and prison costs, had 3,500 more offenders return to prison, and lost the opportunity to create about 3,800 new jobs.

Those are just some of the conclusions of an economic research report prepared by the Republican-leaning Washington Economics Group of Coral Gables for proponents of Amendment 4, the proposal on the November ballot that asks voters to allow the automatic restoration of civil rights for eligible felons who have served their sentences.

The report was commissioned by the Alliance for Safety and Justice, a national criminal justice reform organization that works with crime survivors, to show the economic impact of approving Amendment 4.

Gov. Scott, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam,

*Please see Vote, page 8*

**Bishop McKissick Jr.  
Returns to the Pulpit**



Bishop Rudolph McKissick Jr. of Bethel Institutional Church in Jacksonville returns to the pulpit after a couple months out. He had to undergo surgery which temporarily silenced him. He returns to church with a new preaching style. His recent sermon was called "You've Been Verified".



**City Council Member Joyce  
Morgan Files For Re-Election**

Flanked by family members, District 1 City Council Member Joyce Morgan officially filed for re-election. During her tenure, Morgan has consistently brought City Hall directly to the neighborhood, through informative and constituent-friendly monthly town hall meetings. With the overall vision of revitalization of the district, she institutes



Joyce Morgan

a hands-on approach to collaborating with potential investors.

Morgan's passion to combat blight, is demonstrated through initiatives that encourage monthly clean ups in Arlington. Currently she is working on legislation for a fully funded, more comprehensive and coordinated policy on blight and litter citywide.

Morgan believes that open

*Please see Morgan, page 6*

**POLITICAL FORUM & BUSINESS EXPO 18**  
Free Event  
Food Trucks  
**August 18, 2018**  
Saturday 11:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Riverside North  
2711 Edison Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32254  
904-766-8834  
thefloridastarnewspaper@gmail.com

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# Church News

Listings are due the Tuesday before the next issue.  
Email submissions preferred. Send to: [Info@TheFloridaStar.com](mailto:Info@TheFloridaStar.com)

## Edward Waters College Black Male College Explorers Program



The Black Male College Explorers Program (BMCEP) is an intervention program designed specifically for black males who are potential high school dropouts. The goals of the program are to prevent these students from dropping out, facilitate their admission to college, and significantly increase their chance of earning a college degree.

The mission of the Black Male College Explorers program is to provide each student a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline, motivation, and excellence in learning. The Black Male College Explorers staff join with the parents and community members who assist these students in developing skills to become independent and self-sufficient adults who will succeed and contribute responsibly in a global community.

The Goals of the Program:  
Provide experiences that will prevent this demographic from dropping out of school, facilitate preparedness to enter the work force or engage in some type of secondary training/education; facilitate their admission to college and lastly, significantly increase their chances of earning a college degree.

The program recruits middle and high school students from all over Florida enrolled in grades 7 through 11 who are identified as at-risk males. The selected students receive additional counseling and mentoring from school officials and community leaders throughout the school year. In addition, Edward Waters College provides five weeks of highly concentrated developmental experiences, which includes weekly seminars, workshops and motivational trips during the summer. Food, books, and classroom supplies and materials are provided at no cost to the students involved in the program. Edward Waters College provides several in-kind contributions including housing for the program. Students reside in the Morris Cone Residential Complex and are under the supervision of the staff. Mentors and instructors develop one on one relationships with the parents during the program to ensure progress made during the program can be continued and supported.

Students participate in a STEM curriculum while they are on campus. They also attend a variety of programs on subjects that cover everything from hygiene to personal development. The comprehensive program is designed to build them up to become successful members of society.

The degree to which the program goals and expected outcomes are met are determined by the concerted efforts of the staff and guided by the counselor who monitor and document student progress and achievement in the program and in the public school milieu; design appropriate formative and summative evaluation procedures and implement; and track student performance in both the program components and on standardized performance and achievement indicators used in Duval and St. Johns counties and the state of Florida. Data collected and evaluated are both qualitative and quantitative and used to make program decisions.

### OBITUARIES:

**Willie Scott Jr.** passed away Monday, July 30th, 2018. Arrangements in Care of: Funerals by C.L. Page Mortuary, 3031 Moncrief Road, Jacksonville, FL 32209 (904) 353-4434

**Millicent Annette (Hargrove) Ruff** passed away Monday, July 30th, 2018. Arrangements in Care of: Funerals by C.L. Page Mortuary, 3031 Moncrief Road, Jacksonville, FL 32209 (904) 353-4434

**Clara Brown** passed away Sunday, July 29th, 2018. Arrangements in Care of: Funerals by T.S. Warden, 4315 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206 904-765-1234.

**Debra Caul** passed away Sunday, July 29th, 2018. Arrangements in Care of: Funerals by T.S. Warden, 4315 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206 904-765-1234.

**Carl Weston** passed away Saturday, July 28th, 2018. Arrangements in Care of: Funerals by T.S. Warden, 4315 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206 904-765-1234.

**Callie C. Brabham** passed away Friday, July 27th, 2018. Arrangements in Care of: Funerals by T.S. Warden, 4315 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206 904-765-1234.

**Marion Denise Young** passed away Thursday, July 26, 2018. Arrangements in Care of: Funerals by C.L. Page Mortuary, 3031 Moncrief Road, Jacksonville, FL 32209 (904) 353-4434

**Selena Letrese Smith** passed away Thursday, July 26th, 2018. Arrangements in Care of: Funerals by T.S. Warden, 4315 N. Main Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206 904-765-1234.

### Community Events:

**CRC** hosts a food giveaway every Tuesday from 1pm to 4pm. No qualifications required. CRC is located 623 Beechwood Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206.

**Total Beauty Institute** hosts *Back to School Giveaway*. Free haircuts (1st 100 boys), free shampoo & set (1st 100 girls), free school supplies, hot dogs, soda. August 7-11 at Pearl Plaza Shopping Center, 11:00 am

**El-Beth-El Development Center** presents a *Back to School Giveaway* on Saturday, August 11, 2018 from 11 AM to 1 PM. The event will be held at Greater El-Beth-El Divine Holiness Church on 723 W 4th Street, Jacksonville, FL 32209. Food and school supplies will be issued until quantity is exhausted.

**Mt. Siani Missionary Baptist Church** will host a combined choirs concert Sunday, August 19, 2018 at 3PM. Location: 2036 Silver Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206. (904) 354-7249. R.L. Gundy, Pastor.

**Pastor Nikki Ministries** to host: A Family that Prays Conference on August 31, 2018 7PM at The Legends Center 5054 Soutel Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32208.

**Historically Black College & University College Fair** Saturday, September 15, 2018 at Kingdom Plaza, 5310 Lenox Ave, Jacksonville, FL, 32205 from 10 AM to 2 PM.

## Staff Directory

### OWNER/PUBLISHER

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Opio Sokoni  
LAYOUT

Denise J. Williams

Also, thanks to all the other important staff members and volunteers that are not listed here.

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## The Church Directory "Come and Worship With Us"

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#### Bishop Lorenzo Hall, Pastor

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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3575  
Jacksonville, Florida 32206

Telephone: (904) 359-0661

Home: (904) 358-8932 Cell: 710-1586

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

Email: [Gospell75@aol.com](mailto:Gospell75@aol.com)

Website: [Greaterethel.org](http://Greaterethel.org)

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



#### Senior Pastor

Dr. Landon L. Williams, Sr.



1880 W. Edgewood Ave.  
Jacksonville, FL 32208.

Phone: (904) 764-9257 \* Fax: (904) 768-1736  
[www.gmbc.net](http://www.gmbc.net)

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

Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.

### SUNDAY MORNING

Intercessory Prayer .....10:45 a.m.

Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.

### YOUTH CHURCH

2nd & 3rd Sundays (Old Sanctuary)

Tuesday - Pastoral Bible Study .....7:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Marion A. Wise, Senior Pastor

Rev. Joe Calhoun, Pastor Emeritus

(904) 764-5727 - Church

Email: [newbethlehemmb@att.net](mailto:newbethlehemmb@att.net) \* Web: [newbethlehemmb.com](http://newbethlehemmb.com)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! 2018 Election Dates

**Primary Election:** August 28, 2018. Sample ballots are available. Deadline to request a ballot to be mailed is August 22, 2018

**General Election:** November 6, 2018  
Deadline for new registrations is October 9, 2018  
Deadline to request a ballot to be mailed is October 31, 2018

**Early Voting begins:** August 13 - August 26, 2018  
Supervisor of Elections Main Office  
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sat-Sun 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
All Other Locations  
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

### NEED HELP? CITY SERVICES MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST

#### SHERIFF OFFICE (JSO)

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: (904) 630-0500

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION

HOTLINE (800) 273-8255

HOUSING (904) 630-3820

SOCIAL SERVICES (904) 630-0696

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES (904) 630-6300

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (904) 630-4740

VICTIM SERVICES (904) 630-6300

FOOD STAMPS (866) 762-2237

MEDICAID (904) 353-2100

WIC (904) 253-1170

VETERANS SERVICES

(904) 630-3680

DUVAL COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF

ELECTIONS (904) 630-1414

DUVAL COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

(904) 630-1916

DUVAL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(904) 390-2000

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

(904) 630-2469

# History-Making Nuclear Scientist, FAMU Grad Mareena Robinson Snowden to Deliver Summer Commencement Speech



This past year, Florida A&M University alumna Mareena Robinson Snowden, Ph.D., made national headlines after she became the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate in nuclear science and engineering from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

On August 3, Robinson Snowden will return to the "Hill" to share her history-making journey with approximately 400 graduates during the University's summer commencement exercise, which will take place at 6 p.m., at the Alfred L. Lawson Jr., Multipurpose Center and Teaching Gymnasium, located at 1800 Wahnsig Way.

Her doctoral research at MIT focused on the detection of passive warhead signatures via a verification tool that could be used to support the U.S. in future nuclear arms reduction agreements. Warheads are explosive or lethal materials that are dispensed by a missile, rocket, torpedo, etc. Signatures are detectable, tangible properties that are helpful in determining if an item is a nuclear

warhead or is a component of a warhead. Currently, Robinson Snowden works as the Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C. Her research interests include nuclear arms control verification, nonproliferation and modernization issues.

Robinson Snowden's impact in STEM and inspirational role in promoting diversity in science on behalf of women, minorities and youth, have been highlighted by such international platforms as MARVEL Comics, CNBC, ESSENCE Magazine, NewsOne, Yahoo!, The Root and Blavity. Robinson Snowden was awarded the MIT Graduate Woman of Excellence Award in 2015, as well as the MIT Community Excellence Award in 2016 for her leadership and dedication to equity.

In 2012, she was awarded the National Nuclear Security Administration Stockpile Stewardship Graduate Fellowship, a four-year fellowship that supported her graduate work in the Laboratory for Nuclear Security.

Robinson Snowden received her bachelor's degree in physics from FAMU in 2011 and graduated with a 3.8 GPA.

While a FAMU student, her impact in STEM could be seen early on, according to Charles Weatherford, Ph.D., interim Title III executive director and physics professor.

"Dr. Robinson Snowden was an excellent student and a student leader in the physics department," he said. "Her motivation to succeed was evident from the start. She worked very hard and the physics faculty was certain she would accomplish much. She has already done so, but she is just beginning. We anticipate more great things from her."

# Entrepreneur Creates Doll Collection to Help Black Girls Overcome Depression



TiffanyJ, an artist and entrepreneur, suffered from depression and suicidal thoughts when she was young. So, in hopes of helping young Black girls that are battling depression, she has created an avenue to boost their confidence and self-esteem through a new superhero doll called "Super Beauty".

At 12-years old, TiffanyJ started to experience depression that is considered common to young Black girls. At 14-years old, she realized that she can share her feelings through songwriting. But by the age of 24, she became self-employed and became the author of her first published book titled It

All Starts With Me: An Interactive Guide To Discovering Self and Loving.

Through her book, she shared her own experiences and gave some advice to those who have been battling depression like how she used to be. She also held an annual Beauty, You Are Boot Camp. It was such a great advocacy and she saw that she can do more to reach more.

"For a while, I had been on a mission with self-esteem advocacy, but that book did not reach the audience and mentees I had that were young girls," she told Black Enterprise.

Now, she has created Super Beauty Pep Talker, a speaking doll that says positive and inspiring messages such as "Nobody Do Me Better Than Me." She hopes to let young Black girls know that they are unique and beautiful.

TiffanyJ hopes to sell the Super Beauty Pep Talker in Wal-Mart and other retail store chains.

For more information about her doll collection and/or to pre-order online, visit [www.iamsuperbeauty.com](http://www.iamsuperbeauty.com)

# The Upside Down of Diversity at the State University of New York

By Paul Cronkite, Jr.

Recently, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo asked the State University of New York (SUNY) to reexamine its existing diversity plans to ensure these plans are furthering New York's goals of diversity and inclusion. He requested SUNY to prepare a report due by August 15, 2018 outlining how it will expand and increase diversity representation on its campuses.

In September 2015, the SUNY Board of Trustee passed a new "sweeping" diversity and inclusion policy. The hallmark of the policy was that there would be a chief diversity officer appointed on all 64 campuses that reported directly to the campus president or provost. However, three years later not all campuses have complied with the policy.

One campus that has not complied with SUNY's Diversity Policy is Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. In the past six years it has had five presidents, including two that were African-American men, John Williams and most recently Wayne Riley. Their appointments, however, seem to have had more to do with improving SUNY's diversity numbers for black male presidents than selecting the best candidate for president. For example, Williams appointed in 2012 as president by SUNY's chairman of the board of trustees served three years without a formal presidential search ever being conducted.

Enter Wayne Riley the current president who was appointed from a presidential search committee, however his last employment as a college president, at Meharry Medical College, (from 2010 to 2013) was more than five years ago and ended with an abrupt "sabbatical." Riley's administration is being sued by the former campus chief diversity officer for non-compliance with state and federal diversity and non-discrimination laws.

Court records describe Riley as an amateurish president who on his third day on the job issued an organizational chart that removed the chief diversity officer (a black heterosexual male) and the Assistant Vice President (AVP) for Labor Relations (a black heterosexual male) from reporting to the president. The university diversity policy and New York state law mandate the chief diversity officer report to the president, provost, or the head of the state agency. Riley then assigned the duties and responsibilities of the chief diversity officer and the AVP of Labor Relations to a female employee that he then promoted to vice president. According to court

documents the female employee, Judith Dorsey, had been on the job less than 12 weeks. All of this happened with approval from the SUNY Chancellor and board of trustees.

According to anonymous sources within the Downstate administration when the former chief diversity officer informed Riley and SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson, that Riley's actions violated SUNY diversity and affirmative action and the New York State Civil Service Appeal Act Program, Riley fired the chief diversity officer the next day... with the SUNY Chancellor's Office approval. Since the firing of the chief diversity officer, the Director of the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and Title IX Officer, and the Director of Talent Management have resigned leaving Downstate's Office of Diversity and Inclusion understaffed resulting in further non-compliance with university diversity policy and New York State Civil Service Affirmative Action Program non-discrimination laws.

The non-compliance includes not using search committees to fill vacant professional and senior staff positions. Also all final reviews of personnel transactions, by the chief diversity officer to ensure that the transactions complied with university, state, and federal non-discrimination policy and laws has been suspended.

The SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson remains silent and on the sidelines as the Downstate campus president openly defies, according to court documents, university diversity and personnel policies.

To complicate matters, the New York State Attorney General's Office has to represent Downstate in court because Downstate is a state agency. What makes this upside down is that the State Attorney General's Office is New York State's top law enforcement agency that is defending a state agency that openly defies laws... that the New York State Attorney General Office is charged with enforcing.

Now New York State Governor Cuomo has mandated SUNY to prepare a report due by August 15, 2018 outlining how it will expand and increase diversity representation on its campuses. Chancellor Johnson will submit a report to Governor Cuomo, that her tenure at SUNY already demonstrates, she has no intention of enforcing.

Welcome to the Upside Down of Diversity at SUNY.

Paul Cronkite, Jr. is freelance journalist. He can be contacted by email at [paulcronkite9@gmail.com](mailto:paulcronkite9@gmail.com)

# First Ever Black Woman-Owned Real Estate Academy Launches Online and On-Site Real Estate Courses



Lanessa Pettigrew, founder of Apex Real Estate Academy

The online courses are in session now, with flexible daytime and evening times. On-site courses will begin in early August.

instructors who have over 50 years of combined experience. The organizations are purposeful about encouraging the entrepreneurial vision of aspiring and seasoned real estate agents. They also recognize the need to remain relevant in the competitive real estate industry.

"It's mandatory for agents, within their first year, to have a 25-hour post-license course," says Lanessa Pettigrew, founder and owner of Apex Real Estate Academy. "I decided to develop a course titled I Have My Real State License, Now What? because of the growing changes in the real estate market."

Agents are in high demand, with a waitlist of classes ready to hone their skills. Participants can save over 70 percent on a 75-hour class via Groupon. There are also discounts for veterans. Visit Apex Real Estate Academy online at [www.apexrealestateacademy.com](http://www.apexrealestateacademy.com), for more information. Register now for the on-site pre-license course.

About Apex Real Estate Academy  
Apex Real Estate Academy is an approved school by the Georgia Real Estate Commission. Structured to be an extension to the community, there are future plans for the school to service the community, beyond real estate courses. For more details, visit [www.apexrealestateacademy.com](http://www.apexrealestateacademy.com).

# NOW HIRING

## SALES PROFESSIONAL

The Florida Star and The Georgia Star has an excellent opportunity for a qualified candidate who excels in sales. This opening is for an experienced or novice sales professional, who exceeds monthly goals. If you enjoy sales, know how to network, and thrive in a fast paced environment this may be the job for you. In this role, you will be responsible for cultivating leads, setting appointments and following up with potential clients.

This is a commission based opportunity. If you feel you would be a fit, please submit your resume today.

The Florida Star is the oldest and most widely read African-American newspaper, with an audience that covers Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. In addition to print media, the company owns STAR TV-18.2 television station and sponsors a radio show (IMPACT) twice a week on WCGL FM 94.7 and 1360.

If you meet the listed requirements: Submit your resume with cover letter, and two written recommendations.

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## The Florida Star Seeks Journalism Interns

You will be required to write weekly articles as assigned for a year long internship

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Social Security Column

# Social Security When You Are Self-Employed



By Todd Price  
Social Security District Manager in Jacksonville

Most people who pay into Social Security work for an employer. Their employer deducts Social Security taxes from their paycheck, matches that contribution, sends taxes to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and reports wages to Social Security. However, self-employed people must report their earnings and pay their Social Security taxes directly to the IRS. These taxes will help determine your eligibility for benefits later.

You're self-employed if you operate a trade, business, or profession, either by yourself or as a partner. You report your earnings for Social Security purposes when you file your federal income tax return. If your net earnings are \$400 or more in a year, you must report your earnings on Schedule SE, in addition to the other tax forms you must file.

Net earnings for Social Security are your gross earnings from your trade or business, minus your allowable business deductions and depreciation. Some income doesn't count for Social Security and shouldn't be included in figuring your net earnings.

You can read more about self-employment, paying your Social Security taxes and figuring and reporting your net earnings at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10022.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10022.pdf).

Social Security has been a cornerstone of American security for over 80 years. As a self-employed person, your small business is another cornerstone in the foundation of our economy. Working together, we make this nation stronger.

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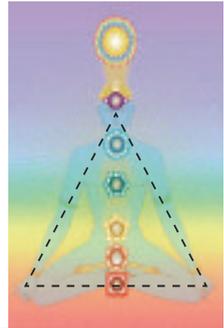
# mind-body-yoga

DATE: LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH @1PM  
829 N. Davis St., 32202

## EXPAND YOUR HORIZON

- 1 relax
- 2 sleep
- 3 focus
- 4 create
- 5 renew
- 6 explore
- 7 manifest
- 8 meditate
- 9 energize

## THINGS TO DO



The literal meaning of the word YOGA is to "YUKE" or to "LINK" back. The implication is: to link back to the original source, the original essence, that which transcends all mental and intellectual attempts at comprehension, but which is the essential nature of everything in CREATION.

Reclaim the power that already rests within you  
MARK (11:23)

RETURN TO YOUR NATURAL STATE, HEALTHY SERENE, HAPPY ENTERTAINED BY THE WONDER & GRACE OF LIFE

# Opinion

## GIVE HIM A CHANCE

By Dan Evans Florida Star Reporter

During a town hall community meeting, unhappy with the appointment of Terrance Freeman by Gov. Rick Scott to represent City Council District 10, residents voiced their concerns but ended with "GIVE HIM A CHANCE".

Councilman Freeman opened the meeting with a prayer and presented an agenda that outlined a plan of action to get things done in the District. Mr. Freeman talked about the programs Mr. brown already has on the table that must be completed. Infrastructure, blight/maintenance of neighborhoods, pedestrian safety, public safety, hurricane shelter, and parks were the topics Councilman Freeman chose to discuss

The distraction, a valid and real situation, is the controversial issue over the interpretation of the city ordinance concerning residency and the fact that Councilman Freeman is a Republican. With the indictment of Councilman Reginald Brown and his refusal to resign from office Gov. Scott appointed Terrance Freeman. District 10 is listed as a heavy democratic voting block. Residents voiced concern about equal representation. Questions asking how can someone that has not lived in the district have a real concern about what happens in the district. "Distrust, distrust, we do not know you, don't like how you got here, ...we do not accept you, now you

will get your shot but we are watching you. During the public comment section resident after resident echoed the same challenges over and over. City municipal code Section 5.04... {Every member of the council shall be continuously throughout his or her term in office, a resident and quailed elector of Duval County, and of his or her district or resident area} ...A lawsuit has been filed seeking clarity. There is a short time frame before the next election. The courts may not give a ruling before the term ends. The term is July 1,2018 to June 30, 2019.

Malik Jackson, a FAMU law student, declared." I did not recognize the legislation surrounding the appointment and swearing in of Councilman Freeman."

Brenda Jackson joined others asking "... what is your opinion of District 10 before your appointment" ...

Others, including Janet Jackson, Hazel Gillis, Gilliam Haywood, Mary Dunbar, Helen Bailey put in on record the same issues of safety, community maintenance has been an issue since 2014 and wanted to know what he intended to do about it...

Lana Suggs, Sarita baker, Velma Roundsville, Lillian Thomas, Sharon Kirkland, echoed each other with." Let's give him a chance" ... Denise Hunt went on to say..." Councilman Freeman be a Blackman First, we expect you to get the work done. We expect you to follow and complete the legislation already



on the table. Mary Dunbar wants someone to represent District 10 that lives in the District with roots. On a lighter side someone yelled out "... we can get speed bumps on Ken Knight Drive? Improvements that need to be improved must be improved.

Councilman vowed to show up every day, answer calls, work to complete the projects facing District 10 and earn the trust of residents.

The mood and conversation of those attending the meeting indicated unhappiness, dissatisfaction, miss-trust, but a willing to work with Councilman Freeman and let him make or break his own destiny.

## 3D-Printed Guns

Starting Wednesday, August 1st, the Trump administration is going to allow people to start posting online blueprints and detailed instructions showing how to make fully-functioning 3D-printed guns at home. This is an extremely dangerous decision by the administration and we are doing everything we can to stop it.

These 3D-printed guns can be just as deadly as any other firearm sold today, but what makes them even scarier is the fact that they are made of plastic - which means someone can easily bring them into a school, airport or any other secure area without setting off a metal detector.

These guns are also untraceable, because unlike a firearm that's

purchased legally, these guns are often printed without any serial numbers or identifying markers.

Despite all of our efforts to strengthen background checks and keep guns out of the hands of terrorists and felons, this decision by the Trump administration paves the way for anyone - including those who aren't legally allowed to purchase a gun - to simply print their own at home.

I am calling on the U.S. Department of Justice and the State Department to immediately suspend this decision, and I am filing legislation tomorrow to block these plans from being released before it's too late.



If you're interested, here are the letters I sent to DOJ and the State Department last week. And here's what I said about this important issue on the Senate floor:

As always, please feel free to reach out on this or any other issue.  
Sincerely,  
Bill Nelson

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# CARING FOR CAREGIVERS

## How to prevent caregiver burnout

### FAMILY FEATURES

While caring for an older family member – whether it be a spouse, parent or grandparent – can be a rewarding experience, it can also be a difficult and overwhelming task. This is especially true if your loved one lives with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia-related illnesses.

Whether it's out of love or obligation, caring for a chronically ill or disabled family member (and potentially his or her financial and legal interests) can come at the expense of the caregiver's quality of life. In addition to maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle outside of caregiving responsibilities, it is important for those caring for a loved one to learn ways to avoid health hazards and stay well-informed of any changes in their loved one's condition. Add work and children to care for to the equation and it's a formula that can lead to stress, exhaustion and even potential health issues.

The additional duties often required to provide care for a loved one can lead to physical or emotional fatigue, often referred to as "caregiver burnout." If you're caring for an older adult, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America recommends these tips to help manage stress before caregiving leads to burnout.

**Know the signs of burnout.** By the time many caregivers suspect signs of burnout, they're likely already suffering symptoms related to their responsibilities. Being aware of some of the warning signs can help caregivers properly manage stress and protect themselves. Warning signs include:

- Overwhelming fatigue or lack of energy
- Experiencing sleep issues
- Significant changes in eating habits or weight
- Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Neglecting personal physical and emotional needs
- Becoming unusually impatient, irritable or argumentative
- Having anxiety about the future or a feeling of hopelessness
- Suffering from headaches, stomachaches or other physical ailments

### Tips for Managing Caregiver Stress

Stress can affect anyone and caregivers may find themselves faced with additional stressors. To help manage stress and avoid caregiver burnout, keep these tips from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America in mind:

- Maintain a positive attitude
- Be flexible and accept the circumstances
- Be honest and open about your feelings
- Take it one day at a time
- Get a good night's sleep
- Incorporate stress management techniques, such as meditation or deep breathing, as well as exercise into your daily routine
- Drink plenty of water and eat a healthful diet full of fruits and vegetables
- Set realistic goals and go slow

- Experiencing depression or mood swings
- Having difficulty coping with everyday tasks
- Lower resistance to illnesses

**Educate yourself about the disease.** It's likely the loved one you care for has several health problems, takes multiple medications and sees multiple health care providers to manage his or her conditions. As a first step in learning more about Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related illnesses, visit [alzfdn.org](http://alzfdn.org) or [nia.nih.gov/alzheimers](http://nia.nih.gov/alzheimers) for information. Support groups, educational workshops, community resources and professionals can also help increase your understanding of the disease and what to expect so you can be a better-informed and prepared caregiver.

**Be prepared for important decisions.** Take care of financial, legal and long-term care planning issues early on to help reduce stress later. Try to involve the individual in decision-making if he or she is capable, and consider personal wishes regarding future care and end-of-life issues.

**Build your care skills.** Key skills for any caregiver include communication, understanding safety considerations and behaviors, and managing activities of daily living such as bathing, toileting and dressing. Some organizations and local hospitals may even offer classes specific to your loved one's disease that can aid you in the process.

**Develop empathy.** Try to understand what it is like to be a person living with Alzheimer's or dementia. Put yourself in the affected person's shoes while also recognizing your own losses. Manage your expectations of your loved one and remain patient.

**Ask for help when you need it.** Reach out to medical and mental health professionals as well as family and friends. They can assist you when things get tough. In addition, there are typically programs, agencies and organizations in your community that



can help manage the challenges of caring for older parents, grandparents, spouses and other older adults.

**Advocate for and connect with your loved one.** Take an active role in the individual's medical care. Get to know the care team, ask questions, express concerns and discuss treatment options. Also remember to connect on a personal level through kindness, humor and creativity, which are essential parts of caregiving and can help reduce stress.

**Think positive.** Focus on the capabilities and strengths that are still intact and enjoy your relationship with your loved one while you are still together. Look for ways to include him or her in your daily routines and gatherings to make as many memories as possible.

Find more caregiver resources and tips at [alzfdn.org](http://alzfdn.org).

### GETTING HELP WITH CAREGIVING

Everyone needs a break from time to time, even caregivers. Look into respite programs for a chance to care for yourself. Types of respite include:

#### Home Care

- Home care is often initiated by a doctor's order or hospital stay and administered by medical professionals who come into the home and help with personal care and housekeeping functions.
- Medicare covers some home health services.

#### Adult Day Programs

- Social-model programs offer stimulation, socialization and therapeutic activities in a

community-based group setting and often include meals.

- Medical-model programs (adult day health care programs), offer health-based services as well as social activities in a group setting.
- Some programs include assistance with activities of daily living and transportation.
- Adult day services charge per hour and may be covered under some long-term care insurance policies.
- Medicaid covers some adult day health programs.

#### Facility-Based Respite

- Provide a short stay for your loved one in a nursing home or another facility.

- Facilities typically charge for each day your loved one is in their care.

- Medicare or Medicaid may cover some costs of an inpatient facility.

#### Family and Friends

- Identify responsible family members and friends who can lend a hand in providing supervision for your loved one and create a rotating care schedule, if possible.
- Enlist the help of family members living in different states by assigning them tasks such as legal or financial paperwork.

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# Duval County Sample 2018 Primary Election Ballot

## Representative in Congress District 5

- Alvin Brown
- Al Lawson

## Governor and Lt. Governor

- Andrew Gillum
- Gwen Graham
- Jeff Greene
- Chris King
- Philip Levine
- Alex "Lundy" Lundmark
- John Wetherbee

## Attorney General

- Sean Shaw
- Ryan Torrens

## Commissioner of Agriculture

- Nicole "Nikki" Fried
- Jeffrey Duane Porter
- Roy David Walker

## Tax Collector

- Doyle Carter
- Mia L. Jones
- Jim Overton
- Lake Ray

## Circuit Judge 4th Judicial Circuit Group 18

- Maureen T. Horkan
- Charles McBurney

## County Judge Group 3

- Michael Bateh
- Gerald L. Wilkerson

## County Judge Group 8

- La'Rae H. Hendrix
- Kimberly A. Sadler

## School Board District 4

- Linda M. Butler
- Erdine Johnson
- Charis Scurry
- Timothy L. Sloan
- Cynthia Smith
- Darryl Willie

## 2018 Primary Election Election Date

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

### Registration Closes

Monday, July 30, 2018

### Early Voting Starts

Monday, August 13, 2018

### Early Voting Ends

Sunday, August 26, 2018

*This sample ballot was created by The Florida Star*

## 30 Million Taxpayers Will Owe More Due To Low Withholding

Congressional auditors say about 30 million people — 21 percent of U.S. taxpayers — will have to come up with more money to pay their 2018 taxes next year because their employers withheld too little from their paychecks under government tables keyed to the new tax law.

New tax withholding tables for employers were put

together by the government early this year. About 30 million workers received pay that was "under-withheld" — making their paychecks bigger this year but bringing a larger bill at tax time next spring, according to the Government Accountability Office's report.

About 27 million taxpayers would have been affected

even if the new law hadn't been enacted.

The changes, however, added an estimated 3 million to that number.

Millions of American workers started getting fatter paychecks early this year, as employers withheld less money in anticipation of lower income taxes under the law.

## Morgan

*Continued from page 1*

dialogue with law enforcement is vital to creating a culture of partnership and respect. Citizens and police connect at the Sheriffs Watch meetings each month and Morgan has regular meetings with Sheriff Mike Williams seeking strategic solutions to crime in Arlington and across the City.

Currently, Morgan has been slated to serve as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee and as a member of the Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health & Safety committee. She will retain assignments with the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, the Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission, and the Public Service Grants Council, while assuming additional duties on the Value Adjustment Board, the Personnel Committee, and Sister Cities.

Recognized for her fairness and commitment to her constituents, Morgan served on the Transportation, Energy

and Utilities Committees and the Rules Committee and appointed to the original 5-member committee seeking information on the possible sale of JEA.

Morgan's leadership was immediately recognized as a newly elected City Councilman. Her first year, she served as the City Council Floor Leader. Morgan's uncompromising leadership garnered her the "Charles D. Webb Award", the City Council's most prestigious internal award, bestowed annually by the outgoing President to the Council Member that best exemplifies extraordinary commitment to public service. Her second year she was appointed as City County Chaplain.

Coming to Jacksonville in 1988, Morgan was a television personality in Atlanta and Macon, Georgia, and was a news anchor here at Channel 17 (WJKS). She departed for a short stint in Dallas but returned to Channel 4 (WJXT) becoming a media staple since 1993. Her nearly three decades in broadcasting have helped sharpen her

knowledge and understanding of what is essential to a strong community and city.

She has been a lifelong community servant using her communication and public relations experience to work and volunteer with dozens of organizations. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Morgan has a host of honors ranging from media awards to Girl Scouts Women of Distinction.

Morgan is married to Dr. Richard Danford, Jr. CEO of the Jacksonville Urban League. They have three children, Faith, Morgan, and Richard Danford III. Joyce and her family are members of Bethel Baptist Institutional Church.

Morgan says "I am running for re-election to continue the partnerships and initiatives that we started together to fight crime, fight blight, and revitalize our neighborhoods and businesses. We're on the verge of a breakthrough and there's no turning back. We're in this together."

The election is next March 19, 2019.

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Blessing of the Students and Teachers  
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Meet the Wolfson Children's Health Center Team

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# FLA/GA

# LOCAL

National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.  
Alpha Gamma Chapter - Jacksonville, Florida

## Induction of Krinon Club

Friday, June 29, 2018, 6:00 p.m. in the afternoon; at the Queens Harbour Yacht and Country Club. Alpha Gamma Chapter of the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., held its Induction Ceremony. Alpha Gamma Chapter is proud to introduce nine (9) young energetic, enthusiastic and vibrant young women to the community of sisterhood. The new Sorors are Mrs. Kenya Smarr-White, Ms. Jordan Speed-Johnson, Mrs. Sharon Gallon, Ms. Leticia Newman, Ms. Samantha Newman Westbrook, Mrs. Roseland Johnson, Mrs. Cynthia Smith, Ms. Ajuna Williams, and Mrs. Elandra Wilkins Jones. There were over forty (40) Sorority members, family, friends and well-wishers in attendance. After a closed ceremony the new Sorors were photographed and introduced to all in attendance.



New Sorors - Left to right: Sorors Ajuna Williams, Roseland Johnson, Leticia Newman, Sharon Linton Gallon, Kenya Smarr-White, Samantha Newman Westbrook, and Jhordan Speed-Johnson. Not shown: Sorors Elandra Wilkins Jones and Cynthia Smith.



Sorors - Back row Left to right: Basileus E. Trudy Dixon, Sorors Maggie Jones, Mary Smith, Clara Smith, Lonnye DeSue (Dean of Pledges), Tiauna Thorbs, Martha Johnson, Doretha Smith, and Jacquelyn Williams. Middle Row left to right: Sorors Carolyn V. Adams, Edith Witherspoon and Jeanette Ali. Seated: Sorors Barbara Green and Ovida Hardy

## African-American, Haitian, and Latinx Floridians Launch New State PAC To Add to Gillum's Surge to Elect Him as the First Black Governor of Florida

New Florida Vision PAC to Engage over 100,000 Black, Latino, Haitian Inrequent Voters at the Doors, Via Text & Through Social & Paid Media

a candidate that is motivating people to turn out," explains

Andrea Cristina Mercado, director of the New Florida Vision PAC. "Andrew Gillum has a track record of opening doors for Florida's communities. We deserve a seat at the table and with Gillum in office, we'll have it."

Dwight Bullard, chairperson for the New Florida Vision PAC, adds, "Black and Latino voters don't want to miss the chance to be part of making history. We have the opportunity to not just elect Florida's first Black governor, but a governor who is unapologetically progressive and who will put our communities first."

With Florida's governor's elections frequently within 1% point, many believe the winner will be determined by who can expand the electorate and motivate new and infrequent voters who

sometimes sit out to come to the polls. That's exactly who the PAC will be reaching out to in its efforts over the next month.

The organization will be centering its conversations with voters on Gillum's working class roots, investment in public education and affordable housing, strong stance against the gun lobby, commitment to criminal justice reform and unwavering defense of Florida's immigrant communities from Trump's deportation force.

Voters who need to find where to cast their ballot or who want to get involved in getting Gillum elected can text Andrew to 90975.

Donations to the effort can be made at [newfloridavision.org](http://newfloridavision.org). Follow [facebook.com/NewFloridaMajority/](https://www.facebook.com/NewFloridaMajority/) and [twitter.com/newflmajority](https://twitter.com/newflmajority) for updates.

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		Amputations

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# LeBron James' Legacy Goes Beyond Basketball

*Solidified with opening of I Promise School*

By Chris Fedor

AKRON, Ohio — Shortly after being announced as the No. 1 pick in the 2003 NBA Draft, LeBron James — wearing an all-white suit — walked off stage at Madison Square Garden and made a promise to the city of Cleveland and Cavaliers fans across the country.

His 11-year run, one that was briefly interrupted by a four-year trip to Miami, officially ended on July 1 when James announced his decision to leave Cleveland a second time and join the Los Angeles Lakers.

But during that decade-plus, James held up his end, with countless individual accolades, a plethora of banners, MVP ceremonies, a drought-ending championship and an unforgettable title parade that spilled into the streets of downtown Cleveland.

Even after all those accomplishments, James is most proud of what happened on July 30, 2018, when his I Promise School officially opened its doors in Akron.

"I do mean it," James told ESPN's Rachel Nichols in a sit-down interview Monday afternoon. "I can sit here and be at a loss for words, which I am now. This is my first time here, walking these hallways and seeing, when I was driving here, just the streets that I walked, some of the stores are still up when I was growing up. It's a moment I'll never forget and hopefully the kids, starting with the 240 kids that we have going in here right now starting today, will never forget it either."

Forget rings. This is James' true legacy. It goes beyond basketball.

He vowed to give back to the community, to be more than an athlete — a phrase that is on the wall of the Uninterrupted office. He promised to use his mighty platform to spark change — even when he was told to "shut up and dribble." He wanted to help kids. He said he would never forget about where he came from, always reserving a special place for Akron, Ohio.

And right when it looked like James couldn't possibly do anymore during his Cavaliers run, he delivered once again, this time in front of friends, family, students, faculty and a handful of others that flocked to the entryway of his new public school that hopes to influence kids facing the same problems James did when he was a troubled youngster looking for guidance.



LeBron James speaks to the crowd during the grand opening of the LeBron James Family Foundation and Akron Public School's I Promise school Monday.

"For these kids, for the whole city of Akron, this is a huge moment for all of us," James said. "I remember walking these same streets and riding my bike throughout the rest of the city. When people ask me why a school that's part of the reason why. Because I know exactly what these 240 kids are going through. I know the streets they walk. I know the trials and tribulations they go through. I know the ups and the downs and everything that they dream about. I know all the nightmares they have because I've been there. I know exactly what they are going through. They are the reason why this school is here today."

In coordination with the Akron Public Schools, the I Promise School is designed to help at-risk children. For now, it's open to 240 third- and fourth-graders, but will gradually fill to grades 1-8 by 2022.

Starting with third- and fourth-graders isn't a coincidence. James missed 82 days of school in the fourth grade because he and his mother, Gloria, lived on the other side of town and she didn't have a car. There was no day-to-day stability in his life and he didn't know where he was even going to live.

"It was a surprise to me when I woke up and I was actually going to school," James said. "So, I just felt like every day I

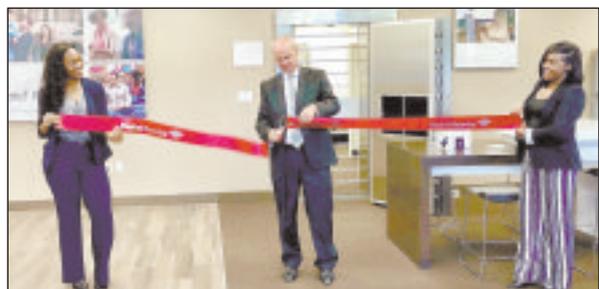
was just waking up and I had just a bunch of time of nothing. I didn't have any siblings. I had a lot of family members that were going in and out and things of that nature but there were just a lot of empty days, empty nights and just kind of a no future thought process. I was just kind of living in the moment, so that's just how it was."

What could've been his downfall turned into transformative years.

Now James is trying to provide that structure and support for others. With the help of Michele Campbell, executive director of The LeBron James Family Foundation, the I Promise School's curriculum is centered around the foundation's "We Are Family" philosophy, one that pushes for student growth and family development.

The school will operate on a non-traditional schedule, running from July 30 through May 17 followed by seven weeks of camp. That is designed to avoid the "summer slide" months. The school day is longer, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m.

But James' impact goes far beyond any of that. He will always be defined by more than basketball. He's solidified himself as one of the most influential athletes ever — just as he pledged.



Greg Smith, Northeast Florida market president for Bank of America, cuts the ceremonial ribbon marking the rededication of the bank's renovated Moncrief Road Financial Center. With Smith are Bank of America associates Ashley Kendrick-Owens (left) and Latasha McDonald. The center is located at 5859 Moncrief Road, Jacksonville.

## Bank of America Rededicates Moncrief Road Financial Center

In keeping with a commitment to invest in the communities it serves, Bank of America, on July 17, celebrated the completion of renovations to its Moncrief Road Financial Center in Jacksonville. Upgrades to the center include Wi-Fi for customers, new ATMs and other technological enhancements that make banking more convenient. The center also offers new customer services, such as Better Money Habits® education and Certified Digital

Ambassadors who help customers experience the full capabilities of Bank of America's mobile and digital banking tools. "We've reinvested in our Moncrief Road Financial Center to show our commitment to the surrounding community," said Greg Smith, Northeast Florida market president for Bank of America. "The new features and services this facility offers will help clients with money management, which is key to realizing economic mobility."

## Vote

*Continued from page 1*

and then-Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater repealed the automatic restoration of rights that had been in place for four years and replaced it with a plan requiring a minimum five-year waiting period before offenders could start the application process to have their voting and civil rights restored.

This action reversed the policy approved in 2007 by the Cabinet and then-Gov. Charlie Crist. Now, the only way a convicted felon can regain his or her civil rights is to wait five years and apply for a review at the state Office of Executive Clemency.

Under the Florida Constitution, a convicted felon cannot vote, serve on a jury, or hold public office until his or her civil rights have been restored. Some professions, like insurance, also restrict felons from obtaining a license unless they have had their rights restored. A 2011 law banned some state agencies from disqualifying some felons from obtaining permits or licenses unless the offender remains on probation.

Amendment 4 would restore rights automatically, except for those convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense. The data gathered from 2007 to 2011 focused on the recidivism rate, the number of released felons who returned to prison after being released and projected the costs and the impact those felons would have on the economy if they went to work instead.

Before 2007, the recidivism rate for all felons was 33 percent, according to a 2011 report by the Florida Clemency Board. After Crist's policy, the average two-year recidivism rate for felons who had their rights restored was 12.4 percent, lower than the three-year average recidivism rate of all felons, which was 26.3 percent.

Under Crist, 155,315 offenders who were released got their rights restored. Under Scott, just 4,352 offenders have had their rights restored. Of those felons who have had their rights restored, less than 1 percent of them returned to crime and the average three-year recidivism rate for all felons in Florida in 2013 — the last year available — was 25.4 percent.

The governor's office disputes the claim that recidivism rates dropped when more felons had rights restored. It argues

the recidivism rate has been dropping in recent years despite the restrictive approach to rights restoration. Scott's office notes that the three-year recidivism rate has decreased from 30.5 percent for inmates released in 2007, the first year of Crist's policy, to 25.2 percent for inmates released in 2013, which is the latest data available and includes the last year of Crist's policy.

"We can do whatever we want," Scott had boasted to his three Cabinet colleagues in voter suppression.

This quotation is on page two of U.S. District Judge Mark Walker's 43-page order overturning the Cabinet's practice of slowing down the process of people who would like their voting rights restored after having served felony sentences.

Scott and the Cabinet have restored voting rights to fewer than 3,000 residents in seven years. The average wait is 14 years. A voter initiative that would make restoration automatic — except for murder and sexual felonies — has made the November ballot. To pass, 60 percent of voters must approve.

Judge Walker issued a follow-up order to Scott and the Cabinet to replace Florida's "fatally flawed" system. He implied no one should have to wait more than one four-year election period. He all but accused Scott and the Cabinet of rigging the system, as opponents charged, to suppress minority — and Democratic — voters.

"There are problems of potential abuse, especially when members of the board who are elected on a statewide basis and who may be running for re-election or another office, have a personal stake in shaping the electorate to their perceived benefit," the judge said. Some 1.5-million people are waiting to have their civil rights restored. Gov. Scott and the Cabinet have restored voting rights to fewer than 3,000 in seven years.

Florida voters should endorse Walker's defense of democracy by voting for Amendment 4. Gov. Rick Scott wants a federal court judge to let him and fellow Cabinet members rewrite state rules for restoring voting rights to convicted felons who have served their time.

U.S. District Judge Mark Walker of Tallahassee ruled Feb. 1 the state's system for restoring rights to felons was arbitrary and open to the potential for bias in granting clemency.

The Scott administration

argued the court shouldn't set up a new system on its own but leave it to elected officials. The filing also stated the administration would likely appeal the ruling.

"Officials elected by Floridians, not judges, have the authority to determine Florida's clemency process for convicted felons," Scott spokesman John Tupps said. "This is outlined in Florida's Constitution and has been in place for more than a century and under multiple gubernatorial administrations

The Fair Elections Legal Network, the Washington D.C. based voting rights group that brought the lawsuit on behalf of nine ex-felons, wants the court to restore the right to vote for all eligible felons as soon as the five-year waiting period required by state law has passed.

"Plaintiffs propose that this court order the restoration of the right to vote to all persons with felony convictions immediately following the completion of any waiting period of a specified duration of time set forth in Florida state law or the Rules of Executive Clemency," the filing from FELN states.

There's a current backlog of more than 10,000, and the board meets just four times a year. The Executive Clemency Board — comprised of Scott and Cabinet members Attorney General Pam Bondi, Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater and Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam — reviews cases on an individual basis and can grant or deny voting rights for any reason.

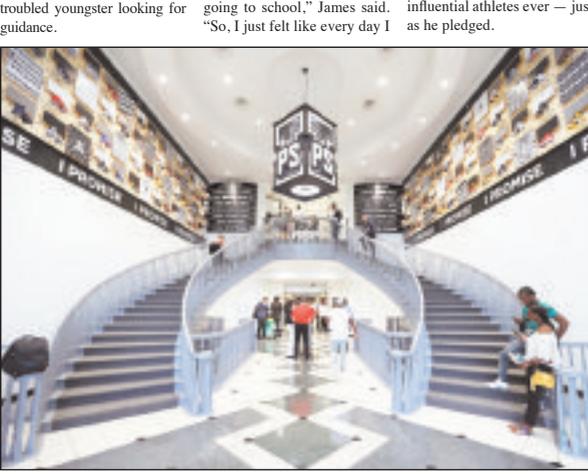
### 60 PERCENT OF VOTERS NEEDED

Voters' rights groups gathered enough petitions to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to restore the rights of felons, except those convicted of murder or a sexual offense.

The measure needs the support of 60 percent of voters to become law. Judge Walker ruled Florida's system gives "unfettered discretion in restoring voting rights" to Scott and the Cabinet and violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments of felons.

"If any of these citizens wishes to earn back their fundamental right to vote, they must plod through a gauntlet of constitutionally infirm hurdles," wrote Walker, who has not given an indication on when he will rule on the case. "No more."

Read the full story online at [thefloridastar.com](http://thefloridastar.com)



An interior look at the entrance of the LeBron James Family Foundation and Akron Public School's I Promise school Monday, July 30, 2018. (Photos by Joshua Gunter)

## Philip Levine, Leading Democratic Candidate for Governor

The race for the Democratic nomination for governor is heating up, with five candidates angling to be the first progressive to occupy the office in two decades. While many candidates have laid out policy proposals on the issues of gun reform, criminal justice, affordable healthcare, and education, there has been a recent shift in the dynamic of the race, with one candidate pulling ahead.

Former Mayor of Miami Beach and current frontrunner Philip Levine has energized communities throughout Florida and has pulled into a 16-point lead in the Democratic primary. A successful businessman before running for office, he has adopted a 67-county strategy to reach every corner of the Sunshine State.

Raised by a single mom, Philip Levine grew up in Broward County in Hollywood, attending Broward public schools and working multiple jobs, from washing cars and scrubbing dishes to scooping ice cream at a local Baskin-Robbins. His efforts paid off when he became the second person in his family to graduate from college.

## Levine Takes on Police Reform

Across the nation, communities of color are policed at disproportionately high rates. Racism plagues many police departments, and loose gun laws like "Stand Your Ground" enable this violence and brutality. While increased police presence in minority neighborhoods is often attributed to higher levels of violent crime, the reality is that most of the arrests in these communities are for minor drug offenses.

As Mayor of Miami Beach, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Philip Levine recognized these systemic issues and fought to

At a young age, he started his own company with \$500 in the cruise ship industry in Miami Beach, which became very successful.

After years of private-sector success, Levine ran for Mayor of Miami Beach to give back to his community, winning two consecutive terms. As Mayor, Philip tackled sea-level rise, reformed Miami Beach's police department, decriminalized marijuana, and fought to raise the city's minimum wage.

As he runs for Governor, Philip Levine has made it his mission to level the playing field and make sure that there is opportunity for all Florida families. His platform includes expanding Medicaid to ensure that all Floridians have access to affordable healthcare, banning assault weapons and repealing "Stand Your Ground" laws, and raising the minimum wage statewide.

The former Mayor points to his record in Miami Beach as evidence of why he is the best qualified to lead Democrats to victory in November. So far, it's been working according to plan.

## Mayor Levine Raises Living Wage in Miami Beach

As families across Florida continue to grapple with stagnant incomes and a lack of affordable housing options, wages may become one of the defining issues of the gubernatorial election.

Many of Florida's families are stuck earning wages that aren't making ends meet. The cost of living is too high for people to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. Despite low unemployment rates, reports show that workers throughout the state are earning wages below pre-recession levels. In many cities, the picture is bleaker, as Florida's minimum wage of \$8.25 per hour hardly covers the cost of rent or even transportation.

One solution to the problem: raise the state's minimum wage.

Higher wages could attract more workers into Florida's labor force and speed up efforts to

diversify the state's economy. But efforts in Tallahassee to do so have been nonexistent.

All five major Democratic gubernatorial candidates have laid out plans to support a wage increase.

However, only one of the five candidates, Philip Levine, has fought to raise the minimum wage while in office.

Under his tenure, Miami Beach was the only city in Florida to take action against Governor Scott's ruling that prevented local communities from setting their own minimum wages.

As soon as Levine passed a city ordinance that would raise the wage to \$13.31, the city was sued by the Governor and the Retail Federation. That fight is expected to be settled in the Florida Supreme Court, but Levine is confident that the city will prevail.



remedy them by reforming his city's police department. During his tenure, Levine immediately acted on criminal justice reform by replacing leadership, including appointing the city's first African American Deputy Police Chief, Laurretta Hill. Levine also revised the department's use-of-force policy by replacing shotgun shells with beanbags and required officers to wear body cameras in 2013, before the call to do so after the tragic events in Ferguson. Additionally, in 2015, Levine took steps to keep nonviolent offenders out of prison by decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana in Miami Beach.

As he now leads the Democratic field for governor, Levine has elevated criminal justice reform as a central component of his campaign platform, along with fellow candidates Gwen Graham, Andrew Gillum, and Chris King. Across the country, criminal justice reform issues have shaped the narrative for recent elections. There has been a stark reversal of support for "law-and-order" policies that have targeted minority communities for decades.



**PHILIP LEVINE**  
FOR GOVERNOR 2018

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## Leadership Begins with Action

Florida currently spends four times as much to incarcerate an individual in a state prison as it does to educate a child in public school. Florida's public schools are struggling to finance improvements to their facilities, curriculum, and long-overdue increases in teacher pay while tax dollars get funneled into state-funded prisons clogged with nonviolent offenders.

With over 100,000 inmates, Florida's state prison system leads the nation in the disenfranchisement of voters and ruins the lives of individuals with minor drug offenses, making it nearly impossible for many to find employment or even vote after paying their debt to society. Yet state officials have done little to reform it.

Locally, however, leaders such as former Mayor of Miami Beach and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Philip Levine have acted to improve the corrections system by decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana at the city level. By replacing jail time with a fine in Miami Beach, Levine decreased the number of individuals incarcerated and disenfranchised because of nonviolent drug offenses. The 2015 decision leveled the playing field in a system in which black Floridians are four times more likely than whites to be charged with drug possession.

In his campaign for Governor, Philip Levine recently laid out a detailed plan for the legalization of recreational marijuana in Florida. According to Levine, his decision to support legalization was founded upon extensive research and reasoning, particularly regarding the impact it could have on reducing the over-policing of minority communities.

According to his plan, legalization of recreational marijuana could produce an estimated \$602 million dollars in revenue, which could fill holes in the current state budget for investments in community health, healthcare, education, and marijuana research. Additionally, the legalization of marijuana will help to fight back against the opioid epidemic, as states that have legalized recreational marijuana have experienced a 6.4% decrease in opioid prescriptions.

Used recreationally, marijuana poses fewer health risks than alcohol. Marijuana is also a safer option for pain management and the only option for the suppression of life-threatening seizures. Currently, the lack of funding for marijuana research places a burden directly on the shoulders of patients and caregivers seeking treatments; the legalization of recreational marijuana will remove this stigma and stimulate necessary funding.

## Levine to Invest in Florida's Education

A recent report found that Florida public schools are some of the most underfunded in the entire country, both in terms of teacher salary and in per-pupil funding. According to EdWeek, Florida is 45th in school financing and 29th in overall quality, with teachers earning more than \$9,000 below the national average.

This has largely been a consequence of Governor Rick Scott's initiatives to tie funding to student performance on standardized exams. As a result, the Sunshine State also has one of the largest achievement gaps across socioeconomic levels.

In the crop of Democratic candidates who seek to replace Governor Rick Scott, all have pledged to reverse the current trend, with ambitious plans to give teachers a pay raise and improve schools. Currently leading in the polls is the former Mayor of Miami Beach,

Philip Levine, a product of Broward County Public Schools who has outlined a plan to pay teachers \$10,000 more a year while ending the siphoning of money out of public schools.

Levine has pledged that if elected governor, he will end the redirection of state funds into privately run for-profit charter schools and end high-stakes testing. If successful, it would be a stark difference from 20 years of Republican rule and the gradual defunding of public education.

Many believe that the Florida Legislature must commit to traditional public education for Florida's short-term and long-term success, and Philip Levine has made it a central point of his candidacy to stress that investing in Florida's students is perhaps the most important investment that a state government can make.

## Levine Gets Tough on Guns

In the months since the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, there has been an undeniable change in Florida on the issue of guns. The survivors-turned-activists from Parkland have led a movement to end gun violence. We've seen students also taking action in Miami-Dade County, including a major walkout organized by Northwestern High School students, which garnered significant media attention, after the tragic shooting of two children in Liberty City.

The issue of gun violence will be central to this election year, serving as a crucial test for Democrats running for office throughout a state often called the "Gunshine State." The candidates running for governor have all made gun reform a main platform in their campaigns, with the current frontrunner Philip Levine leading a rally of over 1,000 people in Tallahassee to demand the legislature pass reforms.

Recently, news that a Republican candidate for Governor, Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam, oversaw the approval of concealed weapons permits without running proper background

checks has dominated the news cycle and led to several candidates calling for an investigation or his resignation.

Yet Florida is no stranger to controversy over guns, especially following the fatal shooting of Trayvon Martin and the debate over the state's "Stand Your Ground" laws. In communities like Broward County, which had the third-highest number of gun crimes in Florida from 2010 to 2016, gun violence has plagued residents, who are frustrated and ready for government officials to take action on the issue.

Florida's next governor will have to work with a legislature in which the influence of the National Rifle Association has been a constant for years. Each Democratic gubernatorial candidate has made guns a key issue, from Philip Levine, who speaks about his record of passing a resolution to ban assault rifles in Miami Beach, to businessman Chris King, who proposed a bullet tax. Whoever the nominee is, they will have their work cut out for them, but they are counting on strong support from communities throughout Florida, which are strongly in favor of tougher laws and increased regulation.

**Democrat Philip Levine for Governor.**

# Youth | Back to School Special

## 6 Ways to Prepare for a New School Year



Want to ensure the transition from summer to school goes smoothly for your family? Check out these six tips.

1. Make a smooth transition. Been sleeping in all summer? Now's the time to get your body back into the routine of early mornings. Start slowly, setting the alarm earlier until you reach the time you'll be waking up for the school year. Parents can assist younger kids with this transition.

2. Get the right education tools. From highlighters to USB drives to loose-leaf paper, be sure you have a comprehensive list of all the school supplies and education tools you'll need for a successful year ahead. As far as tech tools like graphing calculators are concerned, opt for those that are jam packed with all the latest features. For example, the Casio fx-CG50 offers the ability to draw three dimensional graphs, such as planes, cylinders and spheres, and view them from various angles in order to better analyze their shape. It also features a cross-section option and a special zoom function for in-depth analysis.

3. Organize your agenda. Make sure everyone is ready for the busy year ahead. Plan your children's participation in after school activities. Then, display relevant items on a calendar where the whole family can see it to ensure no one

misses a club meeting, rehearsal or team practice.

4. De-stress. The hectic back-to-school season can create tension and stress. Encourage hobbies that help students unwind as the school year gets back into full swing. For beginners of music, check out new tools that can make the learning process fun and easy, such as Casio's LK-265 keyboard, which features an LCD display that shows both music notation and correct hand positioning.

5. Get healthy. Crowded classrooms are a good place to pick up germs. Keep kids healthy with a daily multivitamin, plenty of fresh fruits and veggies and lots of sleep. Regular exercise is also an immunity booster, so encourage kids to get active.

6. Adapt to new school resources. Families aren't the only ones getting ready for back to school. Districts are incorporating the latest tech into classroom learning. Such tools include Casio LampFree Projectors, an eco-friendly technology that gives educators the ability to control the projector from a smartphone or tablet, expanding their ability to create and deliver dynamic lesson plans.

(StatePoint)  
PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Monkey Business/stock.Adobe.com



## 5 Ways to Head Back to School in Style

When it comes to back-to-school fashion, it's all about the intersection of form and function. Here are five ways to stylishly accessorize and gear up for school.

1. Get covered. Ensure the longevity of pricey tablets, phones and other mobile devices with durable, waterproof cases. This is an opportunity for students to not only take better care of their items but to also express themselves. Cases come in all styles and prints these days, replicating favorite paintings, landscape photography and more, and many online retailers even allow you to design a unique case by uploading your own image.

2. Make math fun. Strut your stuff in math class with a stylish calculator such as the Casio fx-9750GII. It comes in pink, blue or white and has 200+ hours of battery life and a variety of graphing functions, making it both an item you need, and one that you'll want.

3. Pump up your kicks. This back-to-school season, do a quick audit of family footwear, even for feet that are no longer growing. Worn out shoes can cause discomfort and foot issues down the line and of course, everyone wants to start the school year looking sharp. Put your best foot forward with new pairs for all your needs: sneakers for sports and gym class, loafers, oxfords or your style of choice for everyday use, and looking ahead, boots for when the weather gets cold.

4. Keep time. Keep time with a stylish timepiece that looks great with any outfit while keeping you organized. Check out those from the Vintage Timepiece Collection from Casio, which have a classic design and a variety of useful features, including alarms, stopwatches and auto-calendars. Water resistant and EL-backlit, they're a practical accessory for getting to class on time.

5. Set your sights. The back-to-school season is the ideal time of year to get vision checked. An out-of-date prescription can make focusing on the blackboard a challenge. Stay ahead of the class with the right pair of lenses. As for frames, these days there are more choices than ever when it comes to finding a pair that matches your style. To get an idea of what you like, check out online tools that offer sizing and style guides and let you upload your photo to envision what different frames will look like on your face.

6. Carry it all. Your backpack or satchel is what you'll use all day, every day, so let it display your personal style. But be sure to select a bag that's not only big enough to carry all your books, binders and supplies, but one that's also ergonomic. The right choice will distribute weight in a way that helps avoid shoulder, neck and back strain. Another factor to keep in mind is water-resistance and its ability to protect laptops and other tech gear. After selecting a bag, consider personalizing it with patches, pins or whatever speaks to you.

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

### Back to School Dates

#### FLORIDA

- Alachua County Public Schools: Monday, August 13
- Baker County School System: Friday, August 10
- Bradford County School District: Monday, August 13
- Clay County Schools: Tuesday, August 14
- Columbia County School District: Monday, August 13
- Duval County Public Schools: Monday, August 13
- Flagler County Public Schools: Friday, August 10
- Nassau County School District: Friday, August 10
- Putnam County School

District: Thursday, August 14

- St. Johns County School District: Friday, August 10
- Union County School District: Monday, August 13

#### GEORGIA

- Brantley County School System: Monday, August 6
- Camden County Schools: Friday, August 3
- Charlton County Schools: Monday, August 6
- Glynn County School System: Thursday, August 9
- Pierce County Schools: Monday, August 6
- Ware County School District: Monday, August 2
- The back to school sales tax holiday is coming Aug. 3-5.

#### Duval Schools

School starts on August 13, 2018.  
<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/backtoschool2018>

Back to School Bash  
What:  
Free School Supplies | School Physicals | Haircuts | Resources  
Free school supplies, physicals, haircuts, community resources, and fun for the whole family! Everyone is invited to attend. Students MUST be present to receive supplies.  
When:  
Saturday, August 11 | 9:00 a.m. - Noon  
Where:  
Jacksonville Fairgrounds | 510 Fairground Place, Jacksonville, FL 32202  
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<https://dcps.duvalschools.org/Page/24703>

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mtlasbtrhniitrt  
agymmmarkerslon  
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asaepense lfwtoi  
ifriendsnem mcey  
eerdrc trmaaa oae

- binders
- cafeteria
- desk
- gym
- markers
- pencils
- posters
- teacher
- friends
- whiteboard
- workbook
- pens



# BACK TO SCHOOL



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**\$60 or Less**

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- Footwear
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# August 3-5, 2018

[floridarevenue.com/backtoschool](http://floridarevenue.com/backtoschool)



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## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Free Students Physicals in Glynn and McIntosh**  
Coastal Community Health Services in Southeast Georgia is offering free school and sports physicals for all students in Glynn and McIntosh Counties, from July 16 through September 7.

The exams cover all the required testing and wellness checks to get your student off to a great start this year—and they are absolutely free. To schedule an appointment call 912-275-8028.

**New Town Success Zone Hosts its 10th Annual Back to School Giveaway**

New Town Success Zone in partnership with Edward Waters College (EWC) will host its 10th Annual Back to School Giveaway Event on Saturday, August 4th, 2018 at 9 a.m. There will be over 75 vendors present addressing employment services, education, medical and behavioral health services, child development services, as well as housing. Families will be able to receive FREE school physicals and immunizations from St. Vincent's medical providers, book bags stuffed with back-to-school supplies and groceries to the first 300 families. JEA will be there for

any questions about utilities or services.

City of Jacksonville, along with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, will also be in attendance to share useful information that impact our communities.

New Town Success Zone focuses on the two generational models to foster a positive impact on individuals, children, and families.

The 10th Annual Back to School event will not only positively impact the children of our community, but will benefit the entire family, also. This event will be held at the Adams-Jenkins Sports & Music Complex located at 1859 Kings Road, Jacksonville, FL. 32209.

**JTA Gameday Xpress Season Pass and Single Game Shuttle Tickets**

The Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) is pleased to announce that Gameday Xpress Season Passes for the 2018 football season are now available for purchase on the MyJTA mobile application.

The shuttle service kicks off at the preseason game on Thursday, August 9 as the Jacksonville Jaguars take on the New Orleans Saints at 7 p.m. Buy a Gameday Xpress

Season Pass now and ride to all nine games for the price of seven.

**The Greater El-Beth-El Divine Holiness Church Unity Conference**  
Theme: The People Had A Mind To Work Nehemiah 4:6  
**AUGUST 22- 26, 2018**

Come out and be the Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall Sr. special guest nightly. Bring the sick, those that want to be blessed financially, mentally and spiritually, Wednesday night – 7:00 p.m. Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall Sr.

Thursday Night – 7:00 PM, Bishop Thomas D. Blue, Madison Florida.

Friday Night – 7:00 p.m., Bishop Marcus Seward, Leesbrug, Florida.

Saturday Morning Prayer Breakfast Scottish- Rite Building, 29 W 6th Street, Jacksonville, Fla. 32206 – 8:00 A M, Pastor Emanuel C. Quinones, Jacksonville, Fla. Saturday night- 7:00 p.m.,

Speaker -Pastor Effie Slaughter, Madison Florida. Sunday Morning -11:00 a.m., Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall Sr., Jacksonville,Florida

Sunday Evening – 4:00 p.m., Speaker - Bishop Kyle Alex Lowe, Lake City Florida.

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Wednesday night – 7:00 PM Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall Sr.  
Thursday Night – 7:00 PM Bishop Thomas D. Blue Madison Florida  
Friday Night – 7:00 PM – Bishop Marcus Seward, Leesbrug, Florida  
Saturday Morning Prayer Breakfast Scottish- Rite Building 29 W 6th Street Jacksonville, Fla. 32206 – 8:00AM, Pastor Emanuel C. Quinones, Jacksonville, Fla.  
Saturday night- 7:00 pm, Speaker- Speaker - Pastor Effie Slaughter, Madison Florida  
Sunday Morning -11:00 aM, Bishop Dr. Lorenzo Hall Sr.Jacksonville, Florida  
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