

Jones Says Thank You

I, Ruby D. Jones, would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Dorothy Pellot, former Georgia State Representative, my Campaign Manager, The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and IRMA PAC, The Savannah

Federation of Teachers, Rev. Edward L. Ellis, Jr. and First Bryan Baptist Church and all of my many supporters, The Savannah Morning News, The Savannah Herald, The Savannah Tribune, The Community Leaders, ILA 1414, The Chester Dunham

Report, The NAACP, all workers, poll watchers and voters for all you did to help me to be successful in winning the Savannah Chatham School Board Seat - District 8. I am accessible and accountable to you. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Black in America



Taqwaa Falaq Saleem

The Savannah Tribune announces the third in a series of articles written by guest columnist Taqwaa Falaq Saleem. Taqwaa is a 2008 honor graduate with the B.A. in English Language and Literature from Savannah State University where she was also awarded the coveted President's Second Mile Award at the commencement ceremonies. She is currently a graduate student and teaching assistant at Georgia Southern University. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

On my drive back from Atlanta a few weeks ago, I was pulled over by Statesboro Police. My sorority sister was in the car with me, and when I noticed the flashing lights, we both wondered why he was pulling me over. The officer cited me for speeding in an area I travel daily and know very well. He would not entertain my

questions as to whether he was sure it was indeed me he thought was speeding but he did inform me that if I refused to sign the citation, he arrest me. Steaming with anger, I signed a citation for an offense I knew I had not committed and listened to this officer rattle off a speech on when I could go to court to contest the ticket should I choose. His tone and demeanor with me were not of a person speaking to another human being. I was nothing to him beyond the number at the top of my citation. Contesting the wrongful speeding charge was not an option for me as the officer advised, it was the only decision to make. Nothing may come of my contest in the local municipal court but I will be present, nonetheless, to let my voice be heard and defend for myself.

Being Black in America means using our voices to speak against injustice and wrongdoings. My mother raised me to speak up. Even if nothing changes, at least I have the peace of knowing I was not silent in the face of wrong. To simply pay a citation without argument for something I know I did not do would be my conceit to the injustice. Being black is using the same vitality and motivation we use to celebrate exciting, positive news when speaking out against something we feel is wrong. We need not accept

poor service in restaurants or stores. We need not be silent when we feel we've been disrespected on our jobs.

Being black in America means having the zest and zeal to be comfortable in our opinions and intuition. If something does not seem right, does not look right, or just does not feel right, something is not right. When your instinct gives you a signal to speak up against what bothers your intuition, do not hesitate. Be like the late Rosa Parks who was amongst countless others speaking out against the unjust segregation on public transportation in Alabama. Change did not come instantly from those taking a stance but change eventually came. Being black is being like legendary dancer and choreographer Katherine Dunham who took on a hunger strike protesting discriminatory policies against Haitian people. Being black is being like Nelson Mandela, spending years in prison because of his passion to end apartheid in South Africa. Being black in America right now means possessing the grace and humility of Sidney Portier and Cicely Tyson who base their lives on uncompromising principles and believe in the power of their voices and places in humanity. Being black in America is about being heard. Speak!

Taqwaa Falaq Saleem

Richmond Hill Roadies Running Club

This chartered running club, which will begin accepting memberships in January, will be a place for area runners to come together and not only train and enjoy the spirit of running but also provide some stability in structured running organization.

The Richmond Hill Roadies, who will be a member of the Road Runners Association of America, will offer something for runners of all ages and will stress the instructional aspect of the sport. For a nominal annual fee, members will receive

monthly training sessions and seminars during which they will receive instruction from running coaches. In addition to the monthly meeting and other major events, the Roadies will also have weekly runs of various distances to accommodate the wide range of experiences and abilities of their membership.

The roadies will not be competing with the running club in Savannah; it will just give runners here an easier way to get involved in running.

For more information,

please contact Kathy Ackerman (Founder) @ 912-756-5865 or Billy Tomlinson (Co-founder) @912-596-5965.

FVSU Names Search Committee for Head Football Coach

Fort Valley State University has named a 14-member search committee to assist in the selection of its next head football coach. A decision could be announced before Christmas. The panel is comprised of a retired FVSU coach, Georgia officials, former Wildcat football players, FVSU athletic supporters, Middle Georgia entrepreneurs and faculty and student representatives.

"We have the utmost confidence that this diverse search committee will assist FVSU in selecting the best candidate to lead our football program in a new direction while instilling discipline and stressing the importance of being a student-athlete," said

Dr. Terrance Smith, FVSU vice president of student affairs and enrollment management.

The deadline to submit applications for the position was Nov. 25. So far, 40 candidates will be considered from as many as ten states including New Mexico, Georgia, the Carolinas, Texas, Maryland and Delaware. The committee will review packages, identify three top candidates and interview finalists by mid December. The panel's recommendation will be sent to FVSU President Larry E. Rivers for a decision.

"At our first meeting, President Rivers specified a set of guidelines for the selection committee to consider.

Sports With Walter Moore

Tigers Rally Past Bowling Green

Savannah State overcame a 21 point halftime deficit with a big second half performance in a 57-54 win over Bowling Green in Tiger Arena on December 1. SSU sliced their deficit to seven with just over six minutes left and then went on a 10-0 run to take a 55-52 lead with 18 seconds left. Jovonni Shuler had 15 points, six rebounds and five steals for the Tigers. Anthony Jones had 11 points and Raye Bailey added 10 points and five assists. SSU fell to 5-3 with a 55-37 loss at St. Louis on Dec. 6. The Billikins used a 19-2 run in the first half to take control of the game. USL led by as many as 31 in the second half. Bailey led SSU with 17 points.

SSU Baseball Signs Three

Savannah State baseball



Walter Moore

coach Carlton Hardy has signed three baseball players during the early signing period. The trio from the Atlanta metro area are left handed pitcher Kevin Herlihy of Roswell High School, right handed pitcher/infielder Corey Meek of Dunwoody High School and third baseman/outfielder Joseph McCrary III of Redan High School.

Former Lady Tiger Gets Married

Former Savannah State

women's basketball player Donna Scott became the wife of Marchmon Ross on November 22 at St. Philip AME Church in Atlanta. The bride, who graduated in 1992 with a degree in computer science is a senior electronic data interchange analyst at Becton Schantz while the groom is the owner/operator of Ross Boys Trucking. The couple honeymooned in the western Caribbean and will make their home in Snellville, GA.

SSU 4x400m Relay Places Second

The Savannah State men's 4x400m relay team finished second in at the Holiday Open hosted by Christopher Newport University on December 6. The relay team of Vernon Williams, Tyrone McCoy, Marcus Stallworth and Eric Plump finished with a time of 3:24.84. Also having

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