

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Savannah State to Observe Shannon Sharpe Day on Oct. 17



Shannon Sharpe

Savannah State University (SSU) will observe Shannon Sharpe Day on Saturday, Oct. 17, prior to the 5 p.m. Tiger football game against Bethune-Cookman University. SSU President Earl G. Yarbrough Sr. will preside over the jersey retirement and unveiling ceremony, which will take place at 3 p.m. in Tiger Arena. At 4:45 p.m., university officials will present to Sharpe his #2 jersey during pre-game ceremonies at Wright Stadium, prior to the kickoff against Bethune-Cookman University. A native of Glennville,

Ga., Sharpe entered the NFL out of Savannah State in 1990.

His NFL career spanned 14 years: 12 seasons with the Denver Broncos and two with Baltimore Ravens. A three-time Super Bowl champion, Sharpe holds the NFL post-season record for longest reception, a 96-yard catch and run for a touchdown in the 2000 AFC Championship Game.

He played in 12 post-season contests as a Bronco, all starts, and ranks No. 2 in franchise playoff history in receptions (47) and No. 3 in receiving yards (505).

Sharpe is a member of the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame, Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and the Broncos Ring of Honor.

The former NFL tight end joined CBS Sports in 2004 as a studio analyst for the CBS Television Network's NFL pre-game show, THE NFL TODAY.

Williams to Keynote Second Saint John's Men's Day Program

The officers and members of Second Saint John Missionary Baptist Church invite the entire community to come and celebrate their Annual Men's Day Program at 11:00 a.m. October 18, 2009.

The guest speaker for this grand occasion will be the Honorable Al Williams.

Representative Williams is the former chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, the largest state black legislative caucus in the nation. His active memberships also include the National Association of State



Rep. Al Williams

Legislators, the National Association of Black State

Legislators, and the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials. He is also a dedicated Christian, Al serves as chairman of the Deacon Board of the Calvary Baptist Church of Richmond Hill and president of the Laymen, Zion Missionary Baptist Association. Representative AL Williams has a word to bring, that is suitable for this day and time and we invite you to come and reach the message.

The word is still alive and Second Saint John is still on the move. Come join us as we continue our mission and dedication to God's Word.

Savannah Receives New ATMS

Savannah is the first city on the East Coast to receive ATMs developed by Wells Fargo that can accept stacks of cash or checks without envelopes and even sell postage stamps around the clock.

"Envelope-Free ATMs will save our customers time and hassle," said Doug Fuentes, retail community bank president for East Georgia for Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company. "They don't need to write on an envelope, do any math, or key-in a deposit amount. The ATM does all the work."

Chatham County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis hailed the move as another step toward making Chatham the "greenest county in Georgia."

"This is a valuable addition to the efforts of the Chatham Environmental Forum and many others who have been working for years on a number of fronts, including reducing waste," Liakakis said. "We congratulate Wachovia and Wells Fargo

for this step."

Already, the new ATMs in other parts of the country have saved an estimated 255 tons of paper or the equivalent of 4,284 trees.

The installation of 19 new deposit-taking machines across the Savannah area was scheduled to be completed by yesterday (Sept. 29). In addition, the company put in 10 ATMs with all the upgrades except that, as in the past, these machines dispense cash but don't take deposits.

The new machines are the most visible sign of the conversion under way as a result of the merger of Wachovia and Wells Fargo late last year.

To take advantage of the new ATMs, customers simply slip a stack of cash - up to 50 bills in different denominations - into the ATM slot and the machine sorts, counts and verifies the amount.

Customers may also deposit a stack of up to 30 checks into the machine and the ATM sorts and reads each check and displays a digital

image of the check on the ATM screen and on the receipt. Many other banks require consumers to feed checks into the machine one by one-like vending machines - which can be slow and cumbersome.

"The new machines are a big time saver compared to primitive machines which only take one check at a time," said Jenny Gentry, Savannah Market President for Wachovia.

She noted that Wells Fargo has just been named the "greenest" bank by Newsweek magazine and that Savannah Magazine named Wachovia as the best bank in Savannah.

Other features of the new ATMs include a "bread crumbs" function that allows customers to backtrack easily to previous steps and make easy changes.

The machines also have a "What You Do Most" feature that displays a customer's top three transactions in order to go straight to them.

Hungry Club Forum Explores Fostering Accountable Community

At its October 3, 2009 breakfast, The Hungry Club Forum of Savannah, Inc.(HCFS) heard from the last the community-wide study groups involved in an examination of Tavis Smiley's The Covenant With Black America.

The Covenant IV Study Group, chaired by Zaphon Wilson, PhD., chairman of the Political Science Department at Armstrong Atlantic State University, and co-chaired by Larry Stokes, PhD., chairman

of the Criminal Justice Department at Savannah State University, made its preliminary presentation on Fostering Accountable Community-Centered Policing.

By the year's end, and after public input the presentation will be one of ten that will be compiled into a local action plan for community improvement tentatively titled, The Covenant With Black Savannah.

The gist of the presentation centered around the com-

munity taking a more proactive role in maintaining a safe and secure environment and law enforcement rethinking and retraining for working for and with the community to accomplish these goals.

Other presenters for this study group included Maj. Mark Gerbino of the Savannah-Chatham Metro Police Department, Rev. Thurmond N. Tillman, Pastor of First African Baptist Church, who also has a background in criminal probation, former prosecutor Lloyd Johnson, Esq. (ret.), community developer Dr. Barbara Allison-Simpson and Fr. J. Lloyd Angus (ret.), HCFS Board member.

The next Hungry Club Forum will be held on Saturday November 7, 2009, at 9:30 AM, in the West Broad Street YMCA Annex, and feature a presentation on opportunities for community development and pride afforded in the proposed W. W. Law Plaza, a housing, hotel and retail complex, to be located on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

The public is invited. For more info., call Julia Wright at 233-0855 or Diana Harvey Johnson at 927-8425.

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Deadlines for news releases and advertisements:
Fridays 4pm

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The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the publisher.
Third class postage paid at Savannah, Georgia

Member:
National Newspaper Publishers Association
NNPA - Washington, D.C.

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Savannah Chatham Council of PTA's Fundraising Campaign to Develop Scholarship Program

For the very first time, the umbrella group that represents all the PTA's in Savannah and Chatham County is holding a major campaign to raise money for a scholarship program to help area students.

Students from every school in the county will be selling discount coupon books and the proceeds will be used to help pay for the

scholarships. In addition, each school PTA will keep a portion of the money they raise to pay for special projects at their own school.

The "Enjoy the City" coupon books that the students will be selling offer about \$3,000 worth of coupons in every book. For example, the book contains coupons for a free oil change for your car as well as

coupons for 2-for-1 pizzas and scores of other restaurant deals.

"This fundraiser has the potential to greatly assist PTA's as well as increase the funding for PTA's that are struggling financially," said Georgette Backman, president of the Savannah-Chatham Council of PTA's. "This is another relevant and functional tool to assist in fostering student success and build partnerships within the community who serve along side the PTA to benefit children and youth and their families."

The fundraiser kicks off on October 1 and will last for 10 days. The books sell for \$20 and every student in the Savannah-Chatham school district will be taking orders, according to Kelly Powers, vice president of the Savannah-Chatham Council of PTAs. Powers first broached the idea of selling the books as a fundraiser last spring because she thought it was the best way to raise the most money for the scholarship fund.

For more information, contact: Georgette Backman PTA Council President georgettebackman@comcast.net Kelly Powers PTA Council Vice President 912 713-4828 or PTA Fundraising coordinator David Boul 773 551-6242.

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