

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Black in America



Taqwaa Saleem

It's been a while since I had the zest to write after graduate school graduation. I've spent a great amount of time observing and increasing my circum-spect awareness.

This summer has reminded me of countless realities of being Black in America. Racism isn't dead. Education remains our ticket to freedom. Service to all mankind is paramount.

And, the power in our black voices is more resounding than ever. Being Black in America is being vocal.

I've never been one who was short on words ...

Wasn't raised to embrace a hushed voice. Writing my thesis for my Master's program over the last year reaffirmed my truth that there is personality and perspective in my words.

I have to constantly embrace my voice. Two years ago this nation was all fired up supporting candidates like now President Barack Obama during their campaigns for office.

We were shouting as loud as we could for people to vote and vote with reason. We were proud of our voices because we saw potential for change and prosperity as a result of our speaking.

Part of being Black in America in 2008 was about being vocal. Where did that go? Did we lose our voices? Did we think the voices were no longer needed after that particular election. Not so!

We need our voices more now than ever. Being Black in America is about remembering our voices and knowing when to speak.

Major campaigns are currently running in our state of Georgia. Huge positions are open that will decide of education reform, state taxes, and countless other hot-button issues. We need to remain active in politics.

We must make our presence known. The people deserve and must exercise the right to be part of who becomes our Governor, Attorney General, U.S. Representatives in Congress. How can we evaluate the persons who win the seats if we are not active in the election process?

The time to speak is now. The time to vote is now. The time to invigorate and re-energize our voices is and always will be now.

Being Black in America is being aware of the importance of the now!

SCCPSS Initial Adequate Yearly Progress Results 2010

Georgia Department of Education released the initial Adequate Yearly Progress determinations for school year 2009-10.

Thirty one of our 49 schools made AYP on the initial release of results, which equates to 63% of our schools. With increasingly tougher federal testing goals, the impact was felt statewide. As you may already know, the academic goals used for NCLB/AYP determination continue to rise toward 100% proficiency for ALL students by 2014. This year, the academic goal for grades 3-8 was increased in mathematics as well as the high school graduation rate.

As a result, 29% of schools statewide were unable to meet this year's much tougher requirements on the initial determination.

This information is an initial release and does not factor in summer retesting and summer graduation. The final report will be released in October and will include those statistics.

SCCPSS is expecting to see a favorable improvement in the

final report. The initial release shows, 24 out of 31 elementary schools made AYP, 5 out of 10 middle schools made AYP, and 2 out of 8 high schools made AYP. While the Superintendent is disappointed in the number of schools not meeting AYP, he remains encouraged by the gains being made by the district. For example, solid growth can be seen in our graduation rate. This year, our graduation rate climbed from 72.2% to 76.4%, a one year jump of 4.2 percentage points (a 14.4 percentage point gain since 2007).

Also on grades 3 through 8, all schools demonstrated positive gains in all subject areas. The average pass rate in math has increased by 5 points over the past three years. Such gains are indicative of the hard work and dedication of our teachers, support staff, and administrators at all levels.

Other 2010 highlights include: -SCCPSS outperformed its comparison group of demographically similar districts. Comparison group includes Atlanta City Schools, Clarke, Clayton, DeKalb,

Dougherty, Liberty, Muscogee, Richmond, Spalding and Troupe counties. Comparison group percentage includes the 45 Atlanta public schools whose AYP results have been released; 58 additional Atlanta schools' results are pending.

-Over the past three years, the district has achieved gains on the elementary and middle school AYP measures (CRCT Reading/ELA and Math) within each subgroup meeting minimum size criteria and for all students as a whole.

-More than half of SCCPSS schools (55%) achieved "Distinguished" status, which is earned by meeting/exceeding the AYP criteria for three or more consecutive years.

The entire district remains focused on increasing the academic rigor and improving the outcomes for ALL of our students. SCCPSS continues the work on implementing the comprehensive district transformation plan - Passport to Excellence - and looks forward to demonstrating continuous improvement and even greater gains in the years to come.

Miller Named Public Information Administrator for Savannah Police Department

Julian Miller has been named Public Information Administrator for the Savannah Chatham Metropolitan Police Department.

Police Chief Willie Lovett made the announcement at his weekly Comparative Statistics meeting with his upper staff.

As administrator, Miller will lead a three-member staff that serves as liaison between the public and the police department, providing information through the news media, maintaining and updating the department web site and leading the department's community outreach.

"I have worked with Julian on community issues in the past and I am looking forward to working with him as a representative of our department," Chief Lovett said. "His experience and his enthusiasm will allow him to hit the ground running."

West Broad Street "Y" gets Pre K Program

The West Broad Street YMCA is excited to announce that it has been selected as an expansion site for the Lottery Funded State Pre-K Program for the Fall of 2010.

"This is a great opportunity for us to increase services to the families in our community" says Deborah Enoch, Program Director. "Our focus is to help children grow and learn so that they are ready for school and to be productive adults."

The program is open to children who are 4 by September 1. Registration opens Monday, August 2 and classes start Monday, August 30. There is no charge for the program. Only 20 openings are available on a first come first served basis.

Contact Deborah Enoch at 233 1951 for more details.

Construction Apprentice Program Recruits for Carpentry, Masonry Training

The Construction Apprentice Program will be recruiting in August for training programs open to men and women interested in gaining construction skills for jobs in the field.

The training, which leads to a Technical Certificate of Credit in Concrete Forming/Carpentry or Masonry, is free to adults (18 years and older) through a partnership among Chatham County, Savannah Technical College, and Step Up Savannah, Inc. There is no cost to participants for training, books or equipment.

The program includes assistance with job search for

successful graduates.

To find out how to register, and to learn more about CAP, interested individuals must attend one of these information sessions:

- 1 p.m., Aug. 10 St. Pius X Resource Center, 705 E. Anderson St.
- 10 a.m., Aug. 12 St. Mary's Community Center, 812 W. 36th St.
- 3 p.m., Aug. 16 W.W. Law Center, 900 E. Bolton St.
- 3 p.m., Aug. 17 St. Pius X Resource Center, 705 E. Anderson St.
- 11 a.m., Aug. 18 W.W. Law Center, 900 E. Bolton St.
- And 3 p.m. St.

Mary's Community Center, 812 W. 36th St.

For more information about CAP and these training sessions please call Tara Sinclair, program manager, at (912) 604-9574.

Since 2004, Step Up's dedicated volunteers have worked to boost the capacity of job training and education programs, to build upon financial education and wealth-building programs, and advocated for more resources for affordable housing and transportation, and access to affordable, quality childcare. Find out more about Step Up at its Web site: <http://www.stepup-savannah.org>

Euthalee Jackson Coleman

November 30, 1929 - July 29, 2009



Please don't mourn for me
I'm still here, though you don't see.
I'm right by your side each night and day
And within your heart I long to stay.

My body is gone but I'm always near
I'm everything you feel, see and hear.
My spirit is free but I'll never depart
As long as you keep me alive in your heart.

I'll never wander out of your sight.
I'm the brightest star on a warm summer night.
I'll never go beyond your reach
I'm the warm, moist sand when you walk on the beach.

I'm the colourful leaves when winter comes 'round
And the pure white snow that blankets the ground.
I'm the beautiful flowers of which you're so fond.
The clear cool water in a quiet pond.

I'm the first bright blossom you see in the spring.
The first shiny raindrop that storm clouds bring.
I'm the first ray of light when the sun starts to shine
And you see that the face in the moon is mine.

When you start thinking there's no one to love you
Talk to me and I will listen.
I'll whisper my answer through the leaves on the trees.
And you'll feel my presence in the soft summer breeze.

I'm the hot salty tears that flow when you weep
And the beautiful dreams that come while you sleep
I'm the smile you see on a stranger's face
Just look for me.....
I'm every place!

From your
Children, Grandchildren, Great grandchildren,
Great Great grandchildren and Jerome M. Coleman Sr.

The only 50,000 watt FM Contemporary Gospel Station In the Coastal Empire

Let Us Brand Your Business In the Minds of our Listeners Call Camellia Today

(912) 691-1935 ext. 104

Visit www.myjoy100.com
Serving Savannah and the Low Country