

# FAMU Towers floods, forcing students to relocate

Delores Battle

Staff Writer

FAMU Towers opened its doors in August to students moving in for the semester with high expectations that the \$56 million, 700-bed facility would be a top-tier dorm. But while President Larry Robinson was holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony not long ago outside in the courtyard between the towers, some students were dealing with the repercussions of some internal damages.

Recently, Towers North residents were hit with a massive flood on the second floor of the building that leaked onto the main level study room. According to the developer and contractor of FAMU Towers, the flood was caused by a burst pipe. Director of University Housing Jennifer Wilder said she has been in contact with the contractors and the rest of the housing staff to ensure the construction and maintenance issues are being resolved.

"The developer and contractor brought in additional resources to help with getting the water up and drying out the affected space," Wilder said. "University Housing responded immediately to this incident. It is our goal to provide transparency, timely responses and education if needed to ensure our students have a safe and positive stay."

Despite the university's best efforts to make sure students were unaffected by the flood, some students experienced the damages firsthand. Arianna Cromarty, a second-year secondary education major, had to relocate because the water damage affected her dorm room.

"The day during the flood I was actually in the middle of taking an exam," Cromar-



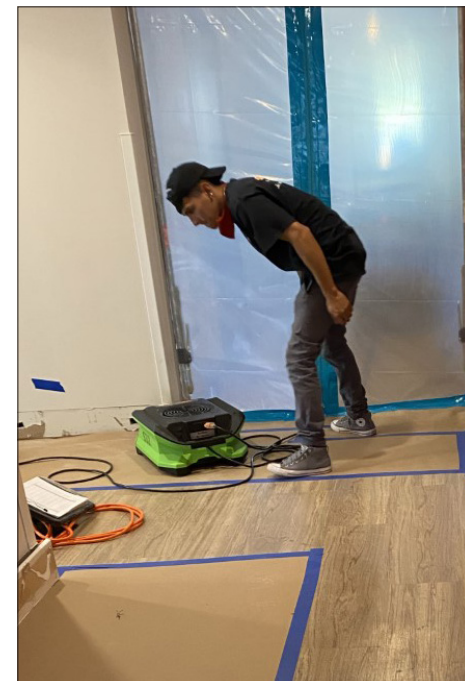
FAMU Towers contractors and developers dry the water and repair damages to the first floor study room.

ty said. "I got up and noticed the water by the sink and I thought it was coming from my bathroom and it wasn't there. But once I checked outside, it was water down our whole floor and people were yelling."

Cromarty and a few other residents were told to pack a bag and a blanket for a few days and were relocated to another part of FAMU Towers. Three days after being sent to a new room, Cromarty and the other residents were told they were being moved permanently and they had until the end of the day to pack their belongings out of their old rooms and move into the new ones.

"I didn't like the new rooms because there wasn't enough time to grab food and other stuff," Cromarty said. "But people did come help us move stuff out of the way in our rooms, so that was helpful."

According to a statement issued by the FAMU Towers contractors, the repairs will take about three to four weeks to ensure the building is dried out completely and the damaged materials are replaced. The three to four week timeline is also to make sure the repair does not cause future problems because it was rushed. "While it is unfortunate that we experience a major flood in the building, I know from expe-



Photos by Delores Battle

rience that things happen in new buildings," Wilder said. "Our developer and contractor have been very responsive and have instituted all corrective measures and precautions to repair the building back to its original state."

When FAMU's Polkinghorne Village East and West was first constructed, residents and housing staff experienced similar problems with burst pipes or faulty repairs.

Updates on construction and maintenance have been sent to affected students and damage claims have been filed for students affected firsthand.

# How students and teachers are maintaining through the semester

Sierra Lyons

Opinions Editor

This fall semester has presented new challenges for college students, teachers and administrators all across the globe.

Thanks to technological innovations such as Zoom, Khan Academy and Hippo-campus, the virtual teaching and learning process has become a bit easier, yet it's still not the same as in-person classes with real human connection.

In a survey conducted by Strada Education Network, 43% of survey participants between the ages of 18-24 said they have changed their education plans as a result of COVID-19.

Students at Florida A&M University have definitely had to readjust their learning and studying habits to accommodate the changes that the COVID-19 pandemic has created. With the majority of students unable to knock out assignments on campus or study outside on the quad like before, many are eager for classes to return to campus.

Jaciah Lumpkins is a senior sociology major with a minor in psychology who is trying her best to stay organized with due dates and assignments for this semester. Yet, finding the motivation during this semester has been a challenge for her.

"I think the biggest challenge is staying focused," Lumpkins said. "Since I'm not in the classroom or library, I'm not motivated to do anything and I feel lazy because when I see my bed I just want to get in it. My grades are still good but it's very tempting not to go to class because like I said, I'm just not focused enough."

Lumpkins has implemented the use of a color-coded calendar to help her stay organized with upcoming due dates for assignments. By implementing this strategy, it has helped her to not have any surprises about what her school schedule looks like for the semester. She believes the majority of her professors have been doing a good job at accommodating their



Photo courtesy cedefop.europa.eu.

Virtual learning has made it difficult for students to be motivated this semester.

classes because they are aware that not everyone is in Tallahassee and not everyone has the same resources at home.

As for teachers, it is clear to see that their students are having a bit of difficulty adjusting to sitting in front of a computer screen at home and being fully engaged.

Professor Gamero had to rearrange his classes, which were much more communal and interactive in previous semesters. Zoom is not as exciting to his students but he is working diligently to meet the needs of his students while trying to keep them engaged.

"While I haven't really seen a significant drop in grades in my classes, I think

that students are finding it hard to stay motivated, which can affect their participation in any class," Gamero said. "With traditional classes, students would get up, get ready, pack their bags (mostly), then go to the classroom where they would sit down and face me. Virtually, though, you have to unmute to speak, which restrains some students, and then not to mention the internet issues. Then, there are those who would Zoom into the class while doing anything else. Not to mention the constant reminders to turn videos on. These might sound nit-picky, but they play a major role in how faculty and students see the class and engage, which is a bulk of

what my class does. I don't just lecture."

Gamero said he has to be more coercive in getting students to participate but he simultaneously understands that many students are disappointed by the lack of social interaction that they were looking forward to on the hill.

For now, students and teachers can only hope that the spring semester will bring back some sense of normalcy to the classroom and learning experience.

Students can visit <http://www.famu.edu/index-landing-clean.cfm?coronavirus> to stay up to date on statements from the university on the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Student Senate fails to set date for new elections

**Tykeem McCray**  
Staff Writer

Florida A&M University's Student Senate struggled during Monday's weekly meeting as senators tried to decide when new elections will be held for freshmen senators.

Chief Justice Titilayo Okuwa was subpoenaed by the senate to explain the decision made on the discrepancy regarding freshmen candidates for the senate that took place earlier in the semester. Okuwa entertained questions from Senate President Shanel Brown, who inquired about the decision by the Judicial branch.

"The written decisions were sent out to all parties involved and we anticipate them being loaded on to the SGA website, As far as Chapter 600 goes, it gives the process of appeals and the type of appeal. We got questioned the whole election and it requested a new election," Okuwa said.

"Our statutes enable a new election and the students asked for it because they felt disenfranchised, The elections have to start over because of a statute. The same people can declare for candidacy, but no new people can run in the elections."

Okuwa went on to explain that any write-ins will be able to declare themselves again.

Following the update on the elections, the senate began trying to find a date to hold them. When trying to come up with new dates for the elections, following the two-week rule, that would put the student and national elections on the same day — Nov. 3.

Student senators tried to come up with solutions, some wanting to waive the two-week rule and others wanting to hold a special election. The senate must approve

elections two weeks out from declaration of candidacy.

Senator Theresa Jean Louis found early November to be the best time to vote.

"I would say to start in November that would be the safest option that we have now, unless you can shorten campaign days," Louis said. "The freshmen have already seen the flyers, they already know who's running."

Senator Bria Calvin said she believed it was important to hold elections immediately. She said she was open to whatever had to be done for that to happen.

"We need new senators. We don't have a full senate and we have a lot of decisions to make and a lot to do," Calvin said. "We have a lot of things happening. Lets just get it done, the earliest that it could happen. I think students would want to have



Photo courtesy FAMU SGA

this election and get it over with because they have been waiting for this."

# Architecture student determined to beat 'terminal' breast cancer

**Nikyya Smith**  
Staff writer



Photo courtesy Florence

Jessica Florence is an architecture major.

Jessica Florence considers herself a creative and artistic person. She says that's the reason why she changed her major from industrial engineering to architecture.

Florence, a native of Jacksonville, is now a fourth-year architecture student at Florida A&M University. She is also a breast cancer advocate and battling the cancer that affects 1 in 8 women in the United States.

The American Cancer society reports that breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed among women in the United States.

Florence was first diagnosed with Stage

3 breast cancer in May 2016. In April of this year she received her second diagnosis of Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, which is when the cancer spreads from beyond the breast to other parts of the body. Her cancer had spread to her brain.

"I was in shock when I received my diagnosis, I was first diagnosed at 22. When I think about breast cancer, I think about older women in their 40s, 50s and 60s — but not a 22 year old," Florence said.

In a study done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 11 percent of all new cases of breast cancer in the United States are found in women younger than 45 years of age.

Florence is a proponent for spreading awareness of self breast cancer exams and what Black women go through dealing with health care.

"Self-exams and getting mammograms are very important," Florence told The Famuan. "My cancer was detected through self-examination. Being an advocate for your own health is important as well as knowing that Black women receive a different treatment when going through things like this, so you also have to be aware of your genetic makeup as a Black woman. What you're going to go through is not the same as another women or race going through cancer."

# CASS slated to open in December

Rachel Daniels

Staff Writer

The Center for Advancement and Student Success' initial opening date was going to be in August.

After delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic, that date was pushed back to Oct. 31. Now, the CASS center is in its final months, projected to be fully completed in December.

In 2017, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University broke ground marking the beginning of the CASS center. The CASS center, funded by the Legislature, cost approximately \$40 million. FAMU was provided \$16 million from the Legislature in 2017, but did not receive additional funding the following year, which caused the initial opening date to be pushed back.

With FAMU's perseverance, Governor Ron DeSantis and the Legislature approved the remaining \$25 million to complete the CASS center in 2019.

The CASS center is located north of Gaither Gym, where it is designed to be

a "one-stop shop" for students to receive all they need, including health services, financial assistance, counseling and tutoring.

FAMU President Larry Robinson believes the CASS center is essential to students.

"For us, this building is far more than a building. It is crucial to something we have been speaking about at Florida A&M University all the time: Student success. FAMU is on the rise, and the statistics tell the story, but the resources we offer to the students are the most vital piece," Robinson said after providing Gov. Ron DeSantis with a tour of the facility in August.

More than 300 staff members will be relocated to the CASS center from eight units on campus to serve students. The center will house undergraduate admissions, cashiers office, Student Financial Services, Financial Aid, New Student Orientation and enrollment.

FAMU is the highest-ranked public

historically Black college and university by U.S. News & World Report and has a retention rate above the national average.

Vice President for Student Affairs William Hudson believes the CASS center has the potential to be a game-changer for the university.

"The goal is to provide a one-stop-shop for student services and to increase student recruitment, retention, persistence and graduation rates," Hudson said. "Typically, a project this size can take years due to funding, and the COVID-19 epidemic has had a significant impact on obtaining the supplies needed to complete the project. The original date for CASS to be open was October 31, but COVID-19 created several delays. The students can expect the completion of the CASS building by December."

The CASS center will also house freshman advisers to assist freshmen successfully transition from high school to college. It will have 55 advisers and



Photo courtesy FAMU SGA

The CASS building is expected to open in December.

academic coaches.

The center is located in the heart of everything: the café, the Lawson Center, Bragg Stadium, residence halls, Gaither gym, Army ROTC building and the Robert "Pete" Griffin track complex.

# Regal movie theaters close

Mariah Wiggs

Staff writer



Photo by Mariah Wiggs

Tallahassee Regal Theater parking lot a ghost town after second shut down of 2020.

No lights, cameras or action will be taking place at Regal Governor's Square after the company shut down for a second time this year, effective Thursday. More than 350 theaters were affected by the company-wide closing.

The theaters experienced a short-lived reopening in August after being ordered to close along with many other businesses due to the pandemic.

Despite the effort to "support a safe and sustainable reopening in the U.S.," CEO of Regal's parent company, Cineworld, Mooky Greidinger, said in a release that the original closing of the theaters put a hold on movies that would have been released and provided revenue for the Regal chain. Even after their reopening in late August, most of the year's mov-

ies had been released for home viewing making it "simply impossible to continue operations in our primary markets."

College students in the area were disappointed to hear the news as they relied on Regal and its convenient location for date nights, movie premiers and fresh, movie theater popcorn.

The theaters' sudden closing came to a shock to frequent visitors like Robyn Farrington, who found out about the closing earlier Thursday.

"I was not too happy to hear about the closing of Regal Theatre because there is not much to do in Tallahassee," Farrington said. "It is an inconvenience because I normally come over here to go to the movies and the mall."

Tallahassee is not the only city expe-

riencing Regal shutdowns. The Regal theater chain is closing all 536 of its theaters across 42 states at close of business on Thursday, until further notice. As a subsidiary of Cineworld, Regal is the second-largest film exhibitor in the U.S. following AMC Theatres.

AMC on North Monroe Street at the former Tallahassee Mall is now the closest theater option for most college students in Tallahassee. Some young adults are dreading going the extra mile to watch a movie.

"Regal was closer to my apartment complex, so it was nothing for me to come and catch a movie," said Kennedy Anderson. "Now, I have to drive about 10 extra minutes if I want to go to AMC Theatre."



# Mr. and Miss FAMU inspire with 'Bigger'

**Chamarya Roberts**

Staff Writer

Mister and Miss FAMU, Kimani Jackson and Erika Nicole, have used their melodic voices to spread a powerful message. They performed "Bigger" from Beyonce's "Black is King" project, live at this year's 2020 election and pageant.

They chose the song "Bigger" because they wanted to relay a multi-dimensional message that would be relatable to everyone. In the background the phrase "you're part of something way bigger" is repeated throughout the song, which is the main message.

"We love Beyonce's 'Black is King' project," Jackson said. "That spoke to us on many different levels but as I begin to listen to it for myself. I started thinking about like how that means so many different messages."

Nicole said, "This one is going to hit home for everyone. Whether you go to FAMU or you're just a product of an HBCU. The message is for us as being more of ourselves, always because we are more, and we can't let people define who we are."

The video of their performance went viral with more than 50,000 views on Instagram alone.

"The Mr. and Miss FAMU cover of bigger really touched me because it made me see, even more, just how excellent FAMU is as a whole. It made me feel like I was more than just a student; I have potential and a purpose and as a part of this institution I am on a path to success. We all have a purpose and truly are part of something bigger, and we have the ability to defy boundaries and make changes that impact lots of people," said Kasia Janey, a student at FAMU.

They tried to personalize the song. Nicole sang one of her verses in opera, while Jackson gave the song an R&B flair. They

also changed some of the song's lyrics.

Jackson added a phrase, "I'll fight and win whatever the battle be."

"I just put that in there because that's a reminder that like, no matter what's going on, no matter what the battle is whether it's COVID, whether it's justice, whether it's the presidential election or voting or whatever. We've got to fight and win whatever that'll be because we're part of something way bigger," Jackson said.

"And that resonates with any HBCU student. And we wanted them to know that they are a part of a rich legacy. The historically Black colleges and universities were built for us to prosper. And so we're here and we've got to prosper because we're part of something way bigger."

Music has been called the universal and this song arrangement by Mister and Miss FAMU proved it to be.



Photo by Darien Bolden  
Mr. and Miss FAMU.

## 2020 GENERAL ELECTION



### EARLY VOTING

October 19 through November 1

Early Voting (10 sites)

**Courthouse 8 am - 4 pm**

**All other sites 10 am - 6 pm**

**DROP  
BOXES  
AVAILABLE!**

Elections Office (2990-1 Apalachee Pkwy)

**10 am - 6 pm November 2**

**7 am - 7 pm November 3**



## VOTE-BY-MAIL

**Request your Vote-by-Mail ballot by October 24. Mail ballots are due to the Elections Office November 3 by 7 pm.**

## ELECTION DAY

**Tuesday, November 3,  
Polls open 7 am to 7 pm**

**To check the status of your mail ballot, visit [LeonVotes.gov](http://LeonVotes.gov) or call (850)606-8683 Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.**

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# COVID-19 is changing Halloween

Jashawn Johnson

Staff writer

With the holiday season approaching many families have found themselves trying to navigate upcoming celebrations in a traditional but safe way with COVID-19 still raging.

Halloween is the next holiday that invokes large gatherings, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have rolled out a list of guidelines that mark traditional Halloween festivities under terms of low-, medium- and high-risk.

As the year progresses COVID-19 continues to take opportunities away from people of all ages such as graduations, weddings and holidays. Halloween — which is meant to be filled

with spooky costume parties and haunted hay bale rides — will look a little different this year around.

The list of guidelines for the upcoming holidays provided by the CDC covers ways people can practice ongoing traditions while reducing the spread of COVID-19.

“Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters,” according to the CDC.



Photo courtesy publichealthinsider.com

Halloween Jack-o-lantern wearing a surgical mask.

Under these guidelines traditional trick-or-treating from door to door is deemed a “high-risk activity” alongside various Halloween traditions such as crowded

indoor costume parties, traveling to rural fall festivals, and indoor haunted houses.

Dr. David Hirschwerk, an in-  
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# Bringing awareness to lives lost too soon

Ahriyan Adams

Staff writer



Photo courtesy newscastlebeach.org  
Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness ribbon.

Last Thursday, Oct. 1, model, television personality, author

and entrepreneur Chrissy Teigen grieved the loss of her newborn child. The wife of singer John Legend took to social media, sharing the sad news as they hoped to soon be leaving the hospital with their newborn son.

“Driving home from the hospital with no baby. How can this be real,” Teigen tweeted.

On Instagram, Teigen shared in more detail what had occurred, sharing heart-wrenching hospital photos of an unforgettable and unforeseen moment to the world.

“We are shocked and in the kind of deep pain you only hear about, the kind of pain we’ve never felt before. We were never able to stop the bleeding and give our

baby the fluids he needed, despite bags and bags of blood transfusions. It just wasn’t enough.”

Chrissy Teigen in recent years has become known for being very open with her life and opinions, becoming personable through her social media. For many, it is not a shocker for her being vocal and transparent during this time. Teigen is among very few who are able to publicly go through personal hardships of this nature while sharing encouraging words to others.

The month of October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. During the entire month, time is taken to honor and remember those who have lost a

child during pregnancy or lost a child in infancy. Many of these stories are often not talked about due to the lack of awareness. Although being disturbingly common, it is not typical for families to be as open when going through such experiences.

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan first declared this month of awareness. “When a child loses his parent, they are called an orphan. When a spouse loses her or his partner, they are called a widow or widower. When parents lose their child, there isn’t a word to describe them,” Reagan said in his declaration speech.

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# Must-try cafes in Tallahassee

**Noella Williams**

Lifestyles Editor

College towns are frequently known for a few things — clubs, lively nightlife and coffee shops. Cafe culture is important in college, whether it's for a first date or for a study spot away from home. A quality coffee shop with quality coffee can be your second home during a busy semester.

It might be a coffee shop's atmosphere and setting, or maybe it's the aroma and taste of the coffee. Either way — it should be an experience every time you stroll into your town's caffeine hot spot. If you need to switch up your drink of the week, here's four shops that you may want to check out.

## Serenity Coffee and Kava Bar

Located near Railroad Square Art Park, Serenity is home to a one-of-a-kind experience in Tallahassee. Between the plant-filled cozy corners and numerous customers, Serenity gives college students the chance to mingle with each other in its calm ambiance. Unlike the other coffee shops in town, Serenity offers kava and kratom, two stimulants/sedatives infused in their menu options.

Florida State University student Max Gloth frequently visits Serenity to study and balances between drinking their special kratom or an oat milk latte.

"I love all of the natural light that pours in — it puts me in a great mood," Gloth said. "They make it a super safe space for queer people, and that is very important to me. The community is so sweet, and it is literally a big happy family."

Gloth is not the only student who is a major fan of Serenity. FSU student Loraine Segura tends to visit the popular cafe with her friends about three times a week.

"Our favorite barista, Turner, makes an iced London fog with extra vanilla and oat milk, exactly how my friends and I like it," Segura said. "I go to Serenity because it's a place where my friends and I feel comfortable in. Upon walking in, there were a bunch of people, which made us nervous,



Photo courtesy Noella Williams

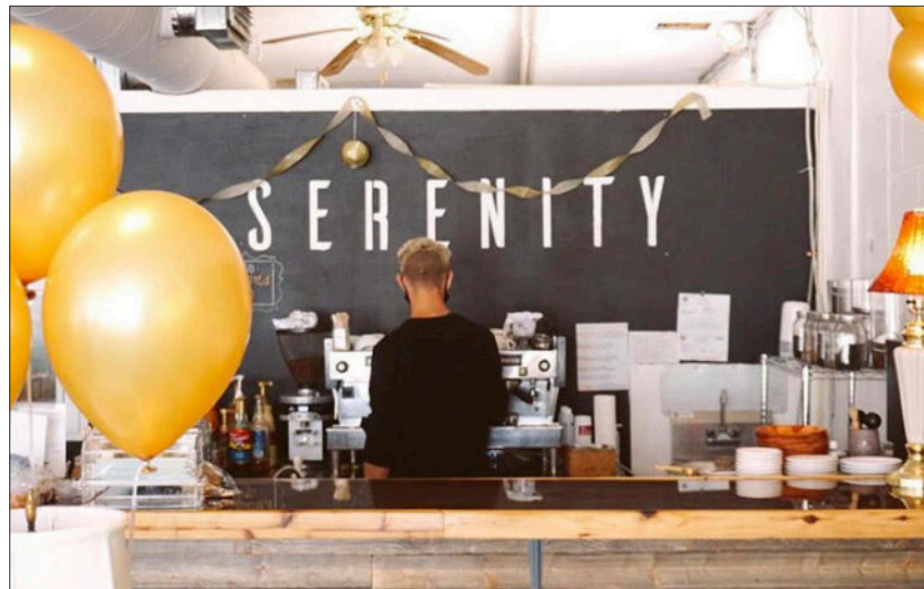


Photo courtesy @serenitycoffeekava

## Serenity Coffee Bar.

but after talking with the baristas there, they made us feel welcome."

You can find Serenity Coffee and Kava Bar at 915 Railroad Avenue.

Coffee shops seem to be popular around the Railroad Square area, which

happens to include Catalina Cafe.

Just a short walk away from College Town lies Catalina Cafe, which is also next door to popular pizza joint Gaines Street Pies. Besides their exceptional seasonal pumpkin spice flavored drinks, Catali-

na offers hand-crafted sandwiches and several roasted beverages. At their quaint location, Catalina is also home to an Instagram-friendly, picturesque background to compliment your coffee. Their menu offers a wide range of opportunities for its customers wanting to spice up their life with a chai latte.

You can find Catalina Cafe at 603 W.Gaines St.

## Paper Fox Coffee

A plaza located a little farther away from College Town is home to Paper Fox Coffee. All of their signature lattes have a creative name inspired by an animal and pair extremely well with their heart-warming bakery items.

FSU student Jenna Ward considers herself a coffee connoisseur and casually visits Paper Fox.

"I usually order an iced coco-mocha with oat milk," Ward said. "I love that they are local, and they also have games to play, books to read or origami to fold. They also did an awesome fundraiser in June that benefitted several organizations that were affiliated with the Black Lives Matter."

Besides coffee, Paper Fox offers delicious sparkling beverages, like craft sodas and kombucha.

You can find Paper Fox Coffee at 2020 W.Pensacola St.

## All Saints Cafe

Steps away from GVO and Serenity Coffee and Kava Bar lies All Saints Cafe, another eccentric coffee shop in the Railroad Square area.

Their shop has a hidden menu filled with their recommended lattes, but don't forget to order food while you're purchasing a drink. Their menu features daily vegan/vegetarian friendly selections, including "salmon lox" on a bagel, which is a watermelon based lookalike with dairy-free cream cheese.

Its charming and welcoming energy makes it a safe haven for many students

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# Celebrity mothers are real moms too

**Kailyn Rhone**  
Online Editor

Celebrities are steadily in the public eye, therefore making it inescapable to hide their most traumatic or celebratory experiences from the critical media. If celebrities don't share with the public, conflicting rumors and allegations spread like wildfires. However, if stars do share those moments, they risk receiving backlash and criticism from that same populace they willingly confided in.

These are dilemmas that two celebrity mothers faced last week as triple platinum rapper, Nicki Minaj, welcomed her newborn into the world, and American model, Chrissy Teigen, unfortunately, mourned the loss of her son. These two heartfelt stories stimulated much controversy on both mothers' parenthood as having a screen instead of in-person interaction seemingly brings out the worst in people.

"The celebrity world is so strange to me ... why would a picture be taken at this moment," tweeted @jnsbaby, on a post in reference to Chrissy Teigen's post about her miscarriage.

Seemingly unmindful that celebrities are indeed humans too, many view the married couple – John Legend and Chrissy Teigen – as oversharing who shouldn't have disclosed the loss of their child so soon or at all. Experiencing one of the most unimaginable tragic events a mother can go through and then sharing that vulnerability with the world should be viewed more as heroism than a lack of censorship.

The couple, having had two children ages one and four already, used this tragic event to identify with many of those mothers and families who have experienced miscarriages as well in the past. Despite the renowned mother's parent-shaming, many sent their heartfelt messages to the family and even shared their own miscarriage experiences on



Photo courtesy Chrissy Teigen's Instagram/The Wave St. Lucia  
It's time to destigmatize the child birthing process.

social media.

"Absolutely heartbroken for you and your family. You're brave to share your story with other families who have had to endure this heartache, too. We suffered two miscarriages, and I know firsthand the toll it can take. Sending you all a lot of love in these dark times," tweeted the Youtube star, Ryan Watt.

Momentarily before, Nicki Minaj's newborn baby arrived on Sept. 30 with many fans and celebrities congratulating the 'Queen' rapper. However, all good things must come to an end as Twitter users were ready to comment on the star's potential parenting skills and her husband Kenneth Petty. Since Nicki hasn't publicly

released her post-pregnancy announcement yet, many Twitter users expressed their commentary of the star's parenting and public image on social media outlets.

"Good luck explaining that wig, then heels, and then fake body parts when the baby grows up and asks questions," tweeted @sixfootslim13, when Nicki first released her pregnancy on social media.

At the time, Nicki's pregnancy-reveal photos stirred a lot of controversy in the media based on her choice of attire. Yet, pre-judging any motherhood from photos or rumors isn't how one should justify a mother being a shameful parent. Many people are also taking to account that her husband and child's father is a registered



Photo courtesy @Bat20One on Twitter

sex offender and served jail time for manslaughter. Although Nicki has defended her relationship in the past, her words apparently aren't satisfactory to the public.

"I hope she'll protect her child better than she did her niece," tweeted @Rosa\_taxdriver.

These aren't the only two celebrity moms who are constantly judged for based on motherhood. Kim Kardashian, Christina Aguilera, Kehlani and many more have also been criticized in the past and present for their parenting.

Many people have experienced successful pregnancies, and many have experienced unfortunate miscarriages. Being a well-known celebrity does not change that feeling or emotion those mothers experience, because they are human. Tweeting or expressing derogatory comments about stars on their parenting is not the appropriate way to deal with the situation, especially if it's fresh and disheartening news.

It's the celebrity lifestyle to be in the

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# Our Black LGBTQ+ youth deserve better

Tanasia A. Reed  
Staff writer

Growing up as a Black and openly gay woman almost always feels like I have three strikes against me. Racism, homophobia, and sexism all play a part in the harsh reality of society and the scared thoughts I have had about being open with my sexuality. As society becomes more understanding, unapologetic and accepting because of the younger generations, we can only hope that young, Black LGBTQ+ individuals receive more support during these trying times.

After the May 27 spectacle involving Tony McDade, a 38-year-old transgender Black male shot and killed by the Tallahassee Police Department, protests emerged as the LGBTQ+ community and allies became outraged that another transgender individual lost their life. As my heart sank to my stomach after reading stories on McDade’s last moments, I can



Photo courtesy pridenation.lgbt  
LGBTQ+ flag and Black Lives Matter fist graphic.

only think of how violence plagues the LGBTQ+ community and its effect on the mental health of young people.

According to npr.org, LGBTQ+

youth living in fear due to unsupportive households during quarantine is not only problematic but triggering psychological harm. While being terrified of rejection or retaliation from their own families, our youth now continue to be even more terrified of being open about their sexuality outside of their homes.

National Public Radio quotes psychologist Megan Mooney, saying that “we are most concerned about is seeing increases in anxiety and depression including suicidality,” because of discouraging and discriminatory environments in lockdown.

The 2019 Black and African American LGBTQ Youth Report by the University of Connecticut and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) reported that being Black, LGBTQ+ and young can increase the risk of experiencing discrimination.

Sixty-three percent of Black transgen-

der and gender-expansive youth avoid using the school bathroom, and 82% of LGBTQ+ youth have been verbally abused because of their identity. Eighty percent of those surveyed typically feel “depressed, down, worried, nervous or panicked.” This list of negative statistics around discrimination faced by our Black youth because of their sexual orientation continues to be lengthy and unsettling.

“While there is immense power in being both a person of color and LGBTQ, holding multiple marginalized identities can magnify discrimination,” stated the HRC report. “This reality can have a devastating impact on Black and African American LGBTQ youth’s mental health and overall well-being.”

The Trevor Project is the “leading

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# So much is at stake and who knows what to believe

Vynessah Dasher  
Staff writer

President Donald Trump mocked his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, for “wearing the biggest mask I’ve ever seen.” That comment is now being considered retrospectively following Trump’s announcement Friday that both he and First Lady Melania Trump had tested positive for COVID-19.

The president has just been released from Walter Reed hospital and says he “feels better than he has in the last 20 years.”

President Trump boarded Marine One back to the White House on Monday where he plans to spend the remainder of his quarantine period.

It is not clear if the president was stricken during the debate with Biden last week. Presidential debate moderator Chris Wallace revealed on Fox News that Trump allegedly, showed up too late to be tested before the presidential debate Tuesday night, so it is not known for



Photo courtesy New York Magazine  
President Trump says he is looking forward to a second debate.

certain. However, former White House communications director Hope Hicks was one of the latest to have contracted COVID, testing positive on Thursday.

During a press release in May Trump confirmed he had been receiving COVID-19 testing every 2 to 3 days.

The left-wing narrative that the spread of COVID-19 has punctuated an incompetence particular to the Trump administration, has been apparently validated by the president’s announcement. But his news was also is a source of skepticism for many members of his base.

This decision to willfully cast his “misfortune” into the spotlight, following the leaked Bob Woodward interview in which Trump admitted to outwardly downplaying the virus, is boarder-line self-sabotaging.

On the other hand, the rapid unfolding of events has led to doubts as to whether he’s contracted the Coronavirus. It’s possible Trump rolled out a plan for a 14-day self-quarantine, 15 days before the next presidential election to garner sympathy from undecideds. But the more obvious and pointed strategy behind this, showcasing his COVID-19 recovery before America in real time, may be exactly what

he needs to thrust him over the finish line Nov. 3.

Widespread coronavirus developments have been a looming dark cloud; should Trump successfully dissipate the worries surrounding COVID — which has killed more than 210,000 Americans — it may earn him a second term.

White House officials reported that Trump developed a low-grade fever and fatigue early Friday. Out of “an abundance of caution” the president was transported to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where he has reportedly taken an 8-gram dosage of an antibody drug cocktail in its final stages of clinical trials.

It’s all eyes on Vice President Mike Pence as his debate draws near. Constituents will be closely considering the vice president as potentially the next commander-in-chief while the president is

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# The Black dollar doesn't circulate like it should

**Kamryn Marshall**  
News Editor



Photo courtesy San Francisco Bayview National Black Newspaper

It's time to put your money where your mouth is. The racial wealth gap isn't going anywhere.

In the wake of the pandemic and protests for racial and social justice, Black businesses continue to remain a fragile coterie in the eyes of the economy. The dollar in the Black community is inconsistent and the racial wealth gap could take decades to bridge.

The common recurring statistic in money circulation within communities, according to the NAACP and other organizations, suggest that the Black dollar is unregulated. Studies say that the average lifespan of the dollar is approximately 28 days in Asian communities, 19 days in Jewish communities, 17 days in white communities — and just six hours in Black communities.

These statistics have been largely argued over the last two decades, yet the massive gap of wealth is still clear within communities. The Black dollar is extremely limited potentially leaving Black businesses in the dust.

Cheryl Grace is Nielsen's senior vice president of community alliances and consumer engagement and co-creator

of the DIS Report. In a report posted by Nielsen, Grace spoke about the buying power among Black Americans.

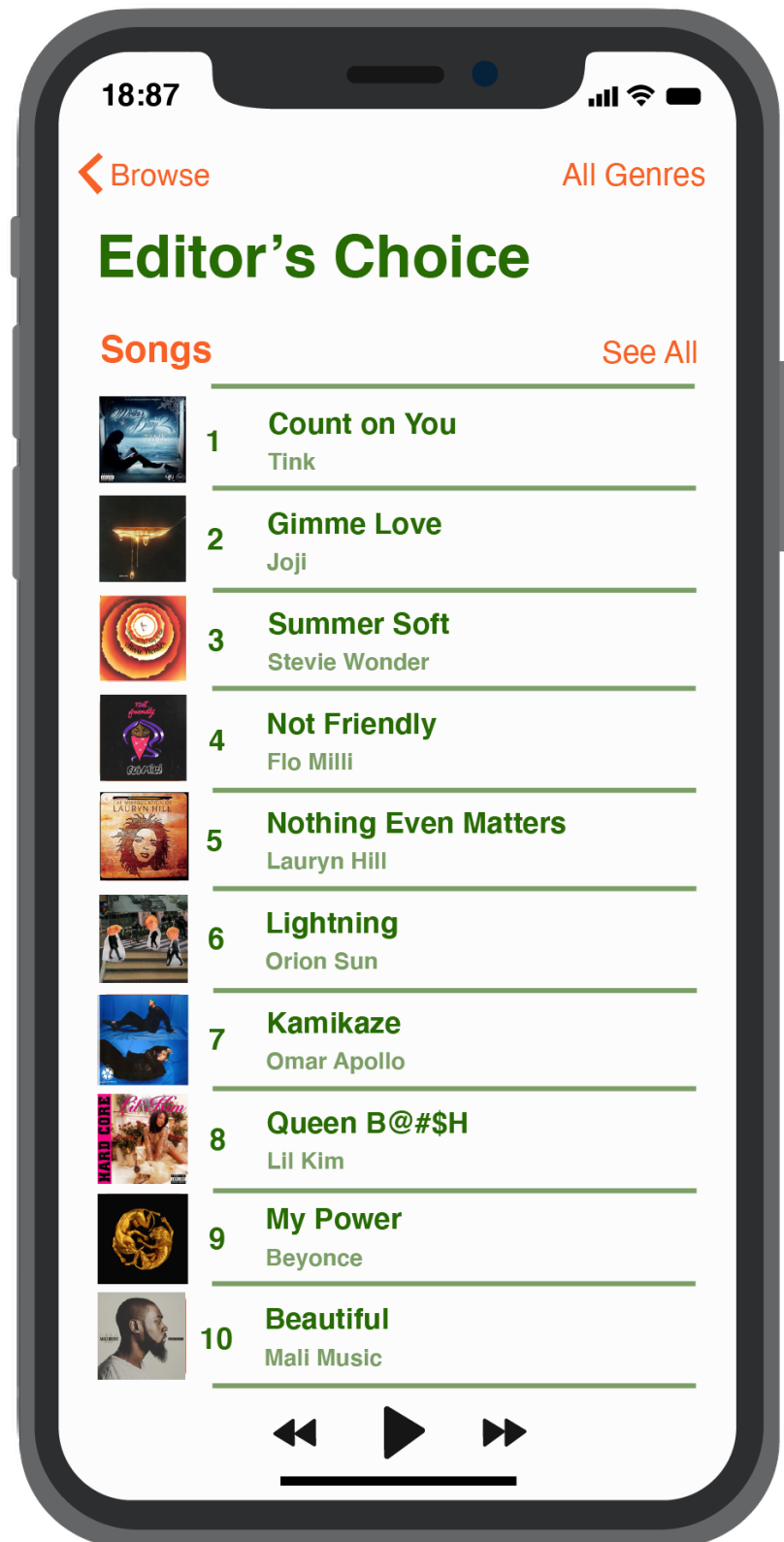
"At 47.8 million strong and a buying power that's on par with many countries' gross domestic products, African Americans continue to outpace spending nationally," Grace wrote.

The national buying power of Blacks in 2019 was \$1.4 trillion, according to a report by Selig Center for Economic Growth. However, this number has nothing to do with the wealth within the community since that money was already accounted for and spent. By definition, buying power consists of the exchange of goods and services and the needs within our communities.

Black Americans must do a better job at extending the lifespan of the dollar back in the community. Buying Black is one of the simplest ways to continue that circulation, yet it can be a struggle to live completely Black in a society post-segregation. Michael Santiago Render, better known by his stage name "Killer Mike," went on a quest to live completely Black for three days in a docuseries on Netflix called "Trigger Warning with Killer Mike."

That included buying daily essentials from Black owned brands and reducing the money spent in other communities. During his journey, Render chose to sleep on a park bench the night before a show after learning there were no nearby Black owned hotels in Athens, Georgia. He had soon come to realize that living completely Black is harder than it should be.

"Your protest signs and internet posts are nice," said Render. "But what we need is for allies to put your money where your tweets are."



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# Rihanna's Savage X Fenty Vol. 2 wins in inclusivity once again

**Noella Williams**

Lifestyle Editor

Rihanna has done it once again with her second installment of the Savage X Fenty lingerie fashion show, which was made available to stream via Amazon Prime on October 2.

By combining visuals, storytelling and creativity, Ms. Fenty's show was an experience that made its audience feel as if they were in the front row. In a breath-taking interlude, Rihanna began the show with a sensual voiceover matched with equally sensual graphics.

"Storytelling is the last part of any journey," Rihanna said in her voiceover. "There is experience, and then there's that emotion connected to that experience. Whether it's a scent, whether it's the sound – that emotional connection to that particular moment, is the thing that makes it worthy of telling in a story."

The episode featured live performances from Rosalía, Ella Mai, Roddy Rich, Lizzo, Bad Bunny and Miguel. Celebrity appearances included cameos by Cara Delevingne, Indya Moore, Bella Hadid, Demi Moore, Normani, Willow Smith, Laura Harrier, Luenell, Rico Nasty, Nazanin Mandi, and many more.

In the beginning scene, model Parris Goebel is performing on the screen while the voice in the background repeats the phrase "a savage, a beast." These words are familiar to those who have purchased or worn Savage x Fenty.

In addition to the lingerie featured on the Savage X Fenty website, the fall collection from the Vol. 2 show is now available to purchase on Amazon. Along with the release of the collection on Amazon, Savage X Fenty also released an exclusive line of men's boxers and boxer briefs, which have already sold out. The boxer briefs were seen on celebrities Christian Combs and Big Sean in the fashion show.

FAMU alum and fashion expert Kat Marlew enjoyed the show, specifically the representation of unknown talent and the addition of men.

"My expectations were blown out of the water, honestly, and it just amazes me how Rihanna and her team showcase different walks of life," Marlew said. "She gave underrated talent a chance to shine. It was nice to see men in the show with different body types, as well. I was reading some tweets from plus size men that felt represented and confident once they saw men like them feeling confident in the Savage x Fenty boxers. Men like to feel confident about themselves, too."

In this tweet similar to the one Marlew mentioned, and in many replies, it is noticeable that many men feel the same about the newfound confidence they have due to Rihanna's inclusivity.

This level of inclusivity isn't new to Savage X Fenty. Throughout the show, models of different ethnicities, sizes and sexualities, were featured in eccentric lingerie, makeup and some models even stunted their hair in a mullet-like style. These observances led its viewers to compare it to the bland energy of the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show.

"Quite frankly, when it comes to Victoria's Secret Fashion Shows, before I was enlightened, I thought that was just the standard of body image," Marlew said. "Seeing the angels that were very slim, only a sprinkle of Black women, maybe one Asian woman, but I didn't see much diversity on the runway and was only excited for the show."

On November 22, 2019, Victoria's Secret's parent company, L Brands, decided to end the well-known fashion show, seeing it "not fit for television anymore." Whether this was a cover in response to the controversy surrounding their statement on transgender women, a lack of diversity or the growing competition with Savage X Fenty, Victoria's Secret has not moved forward with any plans for another show.

"When you look at Victoria's Secret compared to Savage X Fenty, you see



Photo courtesy Getty Images.  
Rihanna in the Savage X Fenty Vol.2 show.

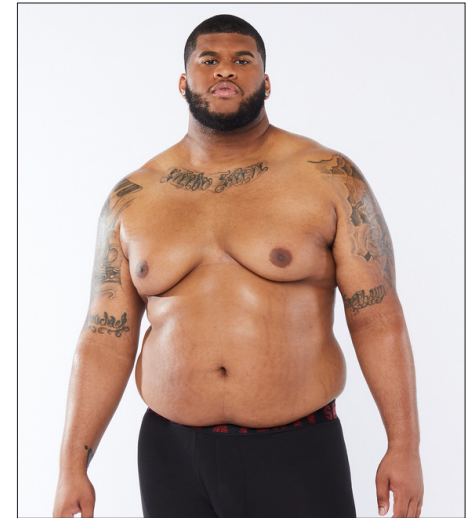


Photo courtesy SavageX.com  
Savage X Fenty model Steven in the size 2X Savage X Trunks.



Cast of Savage X Fenty show

Photo courtesy @SavagexFenty Twitter account

the stark difference in how models are treated," Marlew said. "It just really made me proud to see a Black woman, in her own words, was carrying this brand on her back and really setting the standard on how future runway shows should approach diversity – instead of talking about it, be about it."

Whether it was the countless nods to diverse models, the shimmering visuals, the stunning drag show, or the electric choreography, Savage X Fenty did exactly what it had to do. Robyn Rihanna Fenty

is teaching lessons in how to successfully master inclusion and diversity.

The Root's Corey Townsend wrote it best in *The Root*, saying "She doesn't just 'talk that talk'—she's the savage that backs it up."

You can stream the Savage X Fenty Vol. 2 episode here on Amazon Prime.

# Leon County resumes youth sports

**Marissa Stubbs**

Sports Editor

Children in Leon County are ecstatic as fall sports safely resumed under CDC guidelines. Leon County made this plan effective on Sept. 29.

Recreational centers and parks all across the county are now open for sports activities. However, these facilities are required to follow strict protocols.

Leigh Davis, director of the parks and recreation, says the safety precautions being practiced have exceeded her expectations.

"I've been very impressed with our sports providers and how they are diligently working to make sure our kids are safe and the coaches are safe. Our sports providers are aware and conscious, so I feel very certain everyone has the best interest in our kids," Davis said.

I9 sports, a local after-school program, resumed its activities on Thursday. At I9 Sports children engage in homework time, indoor activities and have a chance to learn a weekly value. The program also focuses on cultivating a fun and relaxed

environment where kids can learn all kinds of sports.

Erica Cucinella, program director at I9 Sports, said the program emphasizes sportsmanship.

"What we do with I9, we share the experience and excitement of sports, playing together and cheering on your teammates. I'm so excited I get a chance to do this with these kids," Cucinella said.

On Friday Cucinella and her staff played a wide range of games with the children. These games included; capture the flag and swim-fishy-swim. All sports activities are played outside, allowing social distancing. Each week the program highlights a sport and a full scrimmage is held on Friday.

While playing the games, children are split into groups, where they practice team building skills and character skills. The children range in ages from 5-13 and are split up in groups based on age.

Coaches and staff members are required to wear masks when engaging in



Photo Courtesy Marissa Stubbs

Children at I9 split into two groups before playing capture the flag.

activities with children. Children are also encouraged to bump elbows instead of clapping hands.

With safety protocols intact, coaches like Khalia Garvey are enjoying the fresh air.

"It's a good feeling, the kids get to be outside and not have to worry about if they will get sick. We can just have fun, that's what I missed the most," Garvey said.

The I9 Sports after-school program, offers youth sports leagues, camps and clinics for ages 3 and up in local communities. During the fall season the center offers basketball, volleyball, soccer, flag football and baseball.

For more information, visit [i9sports.com](https://i9sports.com).

Watch the full video here:  
<https://youtu.be/h9--y5Qfk28>

# Nationally ranked Vivert ready for action

**Gabriela Holmes**

Staff writer

Florida A&M's nationally ranked wrestling team began practicing this week under strict guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

This means that Jaden Vivert, a third-year sociology major at FAMU, is ready to get back on the mat. Vivert has been wrestling since the age of 14. He is now nationally ranked heavyweight.

Vivert, like many other nationally ranked wrestlers, took up the sport in high school in Tampa. He sometimes wishes he had gotten involved in wrestling ever earlier.

"I decided to start wrestling because I was tired of getting pushed around by my older brother," Vivert said.

Vivert's record in his first year of wrestling his record was three wins and nine

losses. That was a low winning percentage at his high school, but he continued the next year. Pushing past his defeats, during Vivert's second year of wrestling his record improved to 27 wins and 12 losses.

His personal progress was a win in his eyes.

"I became much more confident not only as a wrestler but in my daily life as well," Vivert said.

His record continued to improve throughout his high school career. In his junior year his record was 38 wins and 7 losses, and in Vivert's senior year his record was 37 wins and 5 losses.

Devon Smith, a wrestler for FAMU, vouches for Vivert's work ethic. "Jaden attends practice faithfully, shows up on time and is always ready to work.



Photo by Jaden Vivert's FAMU Wrestling photoshoot

FAMU wrestler Jaden Vivert.

Vivert's growth was impressive and universities took note of that as well. He received offers from Bacone College in Oklahoma, and Simpson University in Ohio.

These universities were investing in his future as a wrestler, but he knew the distance from his family would take a toll on him. So he turned them down.

Fredrick Simmons, FAMU's assistant wrestling coach, reached out to Vivert. Simmons helped Vivert get into FAMU and also helped him become acquainted with the university.

Simmons said he "fell in love with aiding the students not only in academics but a sport that both parties enjoyed."

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