

Wal-Mart partners with Smiley on Black exhibit

Museum exhibit will tour U.S. over next four years

Special to Sentinel-Voice
NEW ORLEANS — Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is serving as the title sponsor of Tavis Smiley's "America I AM: The African-American Imprint" traveling museum exhibition, which will feature a collection of historically significant African-American documents and artifacts, music and cultural memorabilia that highlight every period of U.S. history.

The announcement was made in New Orleans by Bill Simon, chief operating officer of Wal-Mart Stores U.S., at the 2008 State of the Black Union, hosted by national radio and television personalities Tavis Smiley and Tom Joyner.

Through more than 150 extraordinary artifacts and photographs, multimedia presentations and enthralling stories, the show endeavors to open visitors' eyes to the role African-Americans have played in the nation's history.

The exhibit is a historical continuum of pivotal moments in courage, conviction and creativity that collectively illustrate the undeniable imprint of African-Americans across the nation and around the world. In ad-

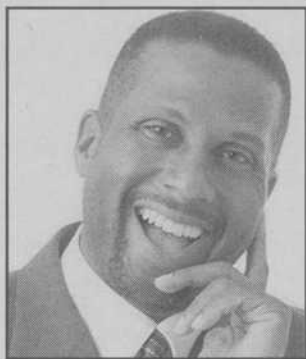
dition, the exhibition will feature a one-of-a-kind "America I AM" experiential super truck that will cross the United States stopping at African-American museums and places of historical significance.

The goal of the exhibition and its accompanying educational programs, pamphlets, lectures, film series, and other activities is to highlight how African-Americans have made an indelible mark on the life, history, and culture of the United States and the world.

Over the next four years, the exhibit will make its journey across the country, stopping in nine other major museums before reaching its final destination at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

"As our country continues its celebration of Black History Month, it's important to remember that African-American history is, in fact, America's history, and we are excited about the potential of this exhibit to enlighten and empower Americans across the country," Smiley said.

"We appreciate the vision and support of Wal-Mart to help bring this historic



"...It's important to remember that African-American history is, in fact, America's history."

— Tavis Smiley
Radio/TV personality, author

project to life."

"The lessons and examples of this collection are

more important, and more relevant, than ever," Simon said in making the announce-

ment. "Only after looking back with honesty, can we as a country move forward with hope. And only by fully understanding the choices of the past can we make better choices for the future."

In 2007, The State of the Black Union examined the impact of African-Americans on the nation as our country celebrated the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, Va., the first permanent English settlement in North America. The "America I AM" mu-

seum tour is an extension of this discussion, and part of Smiley's commitment to bring information and inspiration to communities nationwide.

The Smiley Group, Inc. and Arts and Exhibitions International, a division of the Anschutz Entertainment Group, have worked together to develop the "America I AM" touring museum exhibit of the African-American imprint on the United States and its culture.

Rapper's daughter died in Ga. shooting

LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. (AP) — A teenage boy is accused of fatally shooting his mother and her two little girls, one of whom was the 4-year-old daughter of rap star Juvenile.

Anthony Tyrone Terrell Jr., 17, was charged with murder in the deaths at the family home near Lawrenceville, where the bodies were found, said police spokeswoman Illana Spellman.

She identified the victims as Gwinnett County Sheriff's Deputy Joy Deleston, 39, and her two daughters, Micaiah, 11, and Jelani, 4. The motive was still unclear.

Deleston brought a paternity suit in 2004, claiming that the 32-year-old rap star Juvenile, whose real name is Terius Gray, was Jelani's father, Gwinnett County court records show.

Attorney Randy Kessler, who represented Juvenile in the proceedings, said the case

was resolved peacefully by consent order in 2006. Both parties agreed Juvenile was the father.

Terrell was taken to jail in neighboring DeKalb County to avoid any potential conflict because Deleston worked for Gwinnett County, Spellman said.

He is being held without bail.

Because of his age, prosecutors cannot seek the death penalty against Terrell.

A preliminary hearing will be set next week in Gwinnett County Superior Court, said prosecutor Danny Porter.

Defense attorney Lyle Porter did not return a call Friday, and a number was not immediately available for Juvenile or a spokesperson.

Authorities later found the gun used, going by information provided by Terrell. Spellman said she could not confirm whether Deleston's service weapon was used.

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