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MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 21, 2018



Town Council selects local resident Edward Pidermann as new Town Manager

By David L. Snelling

The Miami Laker staff

A year long search for a new town manager for Miami Lakes has concluded, as a local resident was chosen over a selection committee's top choice for the job.

The Miami Lakes Town Council tapped Edward Pidermann, an assistant chief of management service for Broward County's fire department, over the front runner, Ana Garcia, a city manager for North Miami Beach following resident's pleas that a town resident should be given the job.

The selection committee ranked Garcia its top choice over Pidermann, who initially was an alternate candidate but became one of the five finalists after several hopefuls dropped out of the running.

Miami Lakes resident and Bay Harbor Islands new Town Manager JC Jimenez; Bell City, California Manager Howard Brown; and Miami Lakes' Chief Financial Officer Ismael Diaz, were also among the five finalists to replace Alex Rey, who's retiring to take advantage of the government Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP).

But Jimenez withdrew his candidacy after he was appointed the new town manager for Bay Harbor Islands.

The decision drew the ire of several residents, who accused council members of violating the town's charter by choosing Pidermann behind closed doors, indicating the requirements for the position didn't include residency for the town manager.

Pidermann's start date is February 4 following a transition period with Rey and the new town manager's staff.

Mayor Manny Cid said he picked Pidermann, who served on the original town charter committee, since he's the only candidate who's a resident among other qualifications the town is seeking in a town manager.

ager.

Cid said he sat down with the four finalists and asked each of them the same question which was a deal breaker for him.

"Would you move to Miami Lakes? Some of them didn't give a clear answer," Cid said at the December 4 regular meeting. "The caveat for the position was moving to Miami Lakes."

Cid said the town manager should be a resident since he's the CEO of the town and managing a budget worth about \$30 million.

"The new town manager should have an investment in Miami Lakes, he said. "I saw the type of structure in picking a town manager to move here or someone who already lives here."

But Vice Mayor Nelson Rodriguez, who nominated Garcia, disagreed.

The Coral Gables firefighter said the town manager doesn't need to be a resident to be effective in running the day-to-day operations of the 6.5 square-mile town.

"I work and participate in events in a city where I don't live in," he said.

Rodriguez also said it's unfair for the candidates to buy a home in Miami Lakes when they can be terminated at any time.

"It only takes 72 hours to terminate the town manager and to ask or request that person to move to Miami Lakes is unreasonable," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said Garcia was the best candidate for the job considering her track record of municipal experience and residents embraced her during the selection process.

"During the meet and greet, residents were high on Ana Garcia," Rodriguez said. "I have huge respect for Ed Pidermann. He's a class act to the community, but I'm using my analogy for football and the best draft pick I see is a super

(Please see Page 2)



EDWARD PIDERMANN



Pace High School cheerleaders are prepping for National title



PACE HIGH SCHOOL'S cheerleading team recently captured the Florida Cheer and Dance Association championship qualifying the team to compete in a series of events to determine if they will compete in the National Championship in April at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The Spartans took home first place in most of the cheerleading and dance events during the state championship at Palm Beach Central High School in Wellington. They competed among the best teams in Florida, showing off their cheerleading and dance routines that scored high on the judges' score cards. The Spartans will compete in the upcoming Sunfest competition, the East Coast Challenge, Miami Meltdown, Showdown, the Florida State Championship and hopefully the Show of Champions, the national championship event.

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Ed Pidermann named manager in final 6-0 vote

(Continued from Page 1)

star and I can't give that up. And that person is Ana Garcia."

Councilmember Marilyn Ruano also picked Garcia because she can pick up where Rey left off without missing a beat.

"All four candidates are fantastic but Ana Garcia has all the qualifications we are looking for and then some," she said. "In my opinion, she's a shining star in this field and I support her appointment."

But Rodriguez and Ruano were out numbered, as Cid and new Council members Josh Dieguez, Jefferey Rodriguez and Carlos Alvarez picked Pidermann over Garcia.

Councilmember Luis Cozallo recused himself citing a conflict of interest.

Besides being a Miami Lakes resident, Dieguez said he picked Pidermann who accumulated a stellar career in public service, and he's capable of managing a budget and town staff.

"He wasn't my initial choice but when I got to know him, he understands the town," Dieguez said. "He has a plan in place to ensure a strong team and keep the strong institution of knowledge. He has earned my respect and my nomination."

Jeffrey Rodriguez said Pidermann, who manages a

\$100 million budget for the fire department, knows the ins and outs of Miami Lakes.

"He has the confidence and ability to work with the council and residents for the betterment of Miami Lakes," he said.

Alvarez echoed similar sentiments. "A town manager tells people what to do but a leader leads by example," he said. "Ed Pidermann would be that person who would lead by example."

Following his colleagues' support for Pidermann, Nelson Rodriguez voted for him, saying the new town manager should have council members' unanimous vote. Ruano voted for Pidermann as well.

"I think our new town manager should have our full support," Nelson Rodriguez said.

Some residents cried foul over the caveat the town manager must be a resident, and Garcia was more qualified for the position.

"Ana Garcia was solid and the only choice to replace an outgoing professional like Alex Rey. Huge mistake by the Town Council tonight," said Yudy Pineriro Coll.

Dr. David Bennett, who chaired the Miami Lakes Charter Revision Committee, said he may lead a recall effort for council members who were accused of violating the town's charter.

"The town council violated the intent of the town's charter and the will of the people of Miami Lakes," he said. "Beginning in January, we will be calling for the recall of those council members who have violated the intent of the town's charter."

Abel Fernandez, a retired firefighter, said: "This decision was cut and made before this meeting. Such utter nonsense."

But some residents and Pidermann's former firefighter colleagues said he was the best choice since he's been a part of the Miami Lakes community for years.

Jim Hamilton, a longtime Miami Lakes Optimist Club member, told council members Pidermann has been involved in a lot of his organization's activities for years.

"He's been engaged in this community and he has a strong resume," Hamilton said. "We want a town manager who lives here and shares the same experience as residents."

Maurice Kemp, a deputy mayor for Miami-Dade County and a retired fire chief for Miami, said he worked with Pidermann throughout the years and knows he can get the job done.

"Ed Pidermann has worked on every level of the fire department," he said. "Every success

we had, Ed was a part of it and we endured some challenges. He can manage and handle anything."

Former Miami-Dade fire chief and resident Herminio Lorenzo also endorsed Pidermann for the job.

"Mr. Pidermann is an asset to the town and can carry out the duties of a town manager and do an excellent job," he said.

Following his confirmation for the town manager's job, Pidermann told council members he's grateful they picked him. "It's been a long time and a lengthy process but I thank it produced the right results," he said. "Thank you for your confidence in me."

Pidermann began his 30-year professional career with the City of Miami Fire-Rescue Department in 1985, retiring in March 2016 after holding a multitude of positions culminating with his final management position as Deputy Fire Chief of Operations. He served as president of the Miami Association of Fire Fighters (I.A.F.F.) Local 587 from 2001-2006.

He holds a Master of Public Administration, Bachelor of Arts in Accounting, Associates of Science Degrees in both Emergency Medical Services and Fire Science Technology.

Together with his wife Martha of 34 years, they have

resided in Miami Lakes for over 26 years and raised their three adult children (Michelle, Eddy Jr. and Jennifer) in the town.

In addition to serving as a member of the initial Town Charter committee in 2000, he also served on the Town's Youth Activities Task Force.

In other Town Council news:

• Council members approved Alvarez's request to have the county conduct a speed study on Balgowan Road, starting from the guard gate and stretching to Ardoch Road to determine the best traffic calming device in the area.

• Council members approved Jeffrey Rodriguez's proposal to instruct the town manager to ban or restrict the use of glyphosate-based herbicides in public parks, lakes and other town property to protect children and pets.

Lawmakers also approved Rodriguez's request for a measure to reduce the speed limit on Miami Lakeway North and Miami Lakeway South from 35 MPH to 30 near residential neighborhoods.

• Council members approved Nelson Rodriguez's proposal to change the council meeting date back to the original second Tuesday of each month.

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Main Street Players opens 2019 schedule with *Superior Donuts* at Main St. Playhouse on January 3

The Main Street Players will open *Superior Donuts* to enthusiastic audiences on January 3 at the Main Street Playhouse, 6766 Main Street.

From Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tracy Letts, the show was originally scheduled to run September 28 through October 21, but had to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances.

Arthur Przybyszewski owns a decrepit donut shop in the uptown neighborhood of Chicago. Franco Wicks, a black teenager who is his only employee, wants to change the

shop for the better.

This comedy-drama explores the challenges of embracing the past and the redemptive power of friendship. The show is directed by Danny Nieves, and the production manager is Dennis Lyzniak.

The cast includes.

Arthur is portrayed by Mark Kroczyński, Franco is portrayed by Roderick Randle, Max is portrayed by Bob Sharkey, Luther is portrayed by Danny Nieves, Lady is portrayed by Joanne Marsic, Officer Randy is portrayed by Laurie Tanner, Officer James is portrayed by Leo Jasper Davis, Kevin is por-

trayed by David Gonzalez, and Kiril is portrayed by Danilo Rocha.

Superior Donuts runs January 3 through January 20 with performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$25 for students, seniors and military personnel. Theatre League and Industry tickets are \$20 with I.D. at the door. Tickets may be purchased in advance at www.mainstreet-players.com, or at the door an hour before show time.

Rich Purpura's comedy show returns to Main St. Playhouse Dec. 29 and 31

Hilarious comedian and Miami Lakes resident Rich Purpura will bring magic and non-stop laughs back to the Main Street Playhouse on December 29 and 31, following his successful show from November 17.

Purpura has been leaving crowds howling with laughter for years, as evidenced by his many friends who were in the audience to lend their support, some of which came from out of town. Quite a few audience members had never seen him before, and good times were had by all.

Purpura is ready to expand his one-man show "The Joke

Jukebox." Audience members provide topics for Purpura to instantaneously come up with a joke. Audience members who stump "The Joke Jukebox" win a prize.

The comedy show will be held at the Main Street Playhouse, 6766 Main Street, on Saturday, December 29 and 30. The adult comedy show (18 years or older) will be at 9 p.m. December 29 and at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. December 31, and tickets will be \$25, but includes \$5 towards concessions. Tickets for December 31 at 9 p.m. will be \$40, but includes a \$10 concession voucher and champagne toast.



THE CAST of *Superior Donuts* pictured (standing from left) Danny Nieves, Laurie Tanner and Bob Sharkey (seated from left) Leo Jasper Davis, Mark Kroczyński, Roderick Randle and David Gonzalez. Photo credit Dennis Lyzniak

Reward offered for information about killer of popular Miami Lakes librarian

A 21-year veteran employee of the Miami-Dade Public Library System was shot and killed in an attempted robbery at a bank in Miami Gardens on December 10.

Jaime Humet, 47, was most recently a Librarian Assistant at the Miami Lakes Branch Library.

Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez pledged \$10,000 to be added to the \$3,000 Crime Stoppers reward for information leading to the arrest of Humet's killer.

Information may be given anonymously by calling 305-471-8477, or visiting www.crimestoppers305.com and select "Submit A Tip."

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Resident Jose Oliva is new Speaker of Fla. House



JOSE OLIVA

State Representative Jose Oliva (R-Miami Lakes) was sworn in as the new Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives on November 20 during the first day of the organizing session in Tallahassee.

"I have been a Republican my entire adult life and I can't tell you how honored I am," he said.

Oliva praised former Speaker of the House Richard Corcoran and other Republican leaders for a job well done in the past four years.

"During the last four years, you have navigated the Republican Party in an amazing way," he said. "You've overseen us return to the White House, you

defended a Senate seat, we won another one and we kept the governor's mansion. And you did it under some difficult circumstances."

He also thanked former minority leaders for working hard on behalf of the Republican Party with a shoe string budget.

"Your legacy will never be forgotten," he said.

Though the event was partisan, Oliva said lawmakers must understand who they are and "our mission, which is extremely important."

"I don't have to tell you that Abraham Lincoln was the first Republican president, you all know that," he said. "But what we should remember is that he willingly tore the country ascender in order that all people would live to be free. It was the greatest risk undertaking since

independence."

The following are excerpts from his welcoming speech to the Florida Legislature, which drew standing ovations from his fellow Republicans:

"Members, it was a spirited and contentious election cycle, but the campaigns are over and we turn our attention to governing. In each of your desks i have placed a blank journal. It is my hope that when your time here is done, it will be filled with an account of your struggles, your challenges and your triumphs. Above all, i hope it will tell of your restraint.

"Members, the powers now entrusted in you are capable of doing great good, they are equally capable of causing great harm. I ask that you judiciously budget your time in favor of searching over acting. For it is only when you have properly

searched that you may properly act. And if your search is thorough and sincere, it will reveal to you that more often than not, it was a well-intended person in your capacity who worsened the matter.

"An open and honest search will expose that the power which stood between you and the outcome you most wanted for your state was your power.

"And so our work begins. In this chamber the people's representatives will debate the way forward. A majority with the obligation to lead and a minority with the right to participate and dissent. Let us remember to honor and respect this institution and one another. And let our debate lean on the strength of our argument rather than the volume of our voice."

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Shula's Athletic Club's Exercise for a Cure raised funds for Women's Breast Health

Shula's Athletic Club held a charity event in October called Exercise for a Cure. During the event the Club sold t-shirts, donated money with bracelets, bandanas and more.

The Club also held a Zumba party to help raise money for a local non-profit group called The Women's Breast and Health Initiative.

The event raised \$3,100. The head of the foundation, Andrea Ivory (pictured on the left) was presented a check by Anthony Artilles, Shula's Athletic Club general manager.



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JC Jimenez named Bay Harbor Islands manager

By David L. Snelling
The Miami Laker staff

Three weeks before Miami Lakes hired a new town manager, a candidate for the position withdrew from the running after he was appointed the top executive administrator of Bay Harbor Islands.

Bay Harbor's town council voted last month to appoint JC Jimenez as the new town manager to replace Ron Watson, who resigned to become the city manager in Aventura.

Jimenez, who was the assistant town manager for 13 years, began his new job on November 14.

The Miami Lakes resident said he was overwhelmed by the town council's support when it immediately appointed him the new town manager.

He said Ron Watson announced his resignation at a meeting in October and council members moved to negotiate a contract with Jimenez on the same night.

"It happened in October when my boss said he was leaving and I thought council members would take up the issue in November," Jimenez said. "I was surprised and overwhelmed by their support that they approved an item to negotiate a contract."

Jimenez said he's now the chief executive Bay Harbor Islands, where he runs the day-to-day operations with 80 full-time employees and managing a \$25 million budget.

He said he learned a lot under Watson, whom he worked for for 11 years.

"He was a great boss and a great town manager," he said.

As for the town manager's position in Miami Lakes, Jimenez said he's exactly where he needed to be following the support from Bay Harbor Islands.

"I know Bay Harbor is the place for me," he said. But Miami Lakes will always be his home, he said.

"I plan on living in Miami Lakes," he said. "I'm perfectly happy in Miami Lakes and my wife and I are staying to raise our son. I love Miami Lakes."

Jimenez made the final cut for the town manager's position in his hometown but withdrew his candidacy following his appointment as Bay Harbor Islands new town manager.

The Miami Lakes Town Council picked town resident Edward Pidermann, an assistant chief of management services for Broward County's fire department, to be the new town manager over North Miami Beach City Manager Ana Garcia, a selection committee's top choice for the position; Bell City, California Manager Howard Brown; and Miami Lakes' Chief Financial Officer Ismael Diaz.



MIAMI LAKES RESIDENT JC JIMENEZ is the new town manager for Bay Harbor Islands.

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St. Thomas University plans start of construction in early 2019 for Gus Machado Business School

St. Thomas University president David A. Armstrong announced construction will begin in January on the Gus Machado Business School Complex.

“By the Fall of 2020, we’ll be prepared to offer our new and returning business students enhanced degree programs in technologically-equipped facilities with modern 21st century

functionality,” Armstrong said. Included in the complex will be the Gus Machado School of Business Academic Building, the Business School Administration Building, and the Center for Career Development.

The complex will boast an open-air design flow with a trading floor, global conference auditorium, video telecast room and a sky bridge.

Renowned architectural firm Bermello Ajamil & Partners created the award-winning complex design.

Legendary Ford dealership owner Gus Machado and his wife Lilliam generously donated the naming gift to the Business School to support the future career success of young people in South Florida.



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Miami Lakes attorney Ubaldo J. Perez relocates to Senate Square Office site

By Kayleen Padron
The Miami Laker staff

Ubaldo J. Perez has been practicing law for 30 years. His current office at 6710 Main Street in suite 238 has moved over to the Senate Square Office Building at 14361 Commerce Way in suite 201.

“We provide excellent service, we’re very responsive and we know what we’re doing,” Perez said.

Perez’s practice focuses mainly on insurance defense. With big-name clientele, Perez has been successfully serving the Miami Lakes area for the past eight years. Perez and his wife have also been Miami Lakes residents since 1989, until his very recent move to Davie. His children also attended school in Miami Lakes as well.

“It’s home, pretty much,” Perez explained about the town.

Perez even went to school locally. He completed his undergraduate studies at Florida inter-

national University and earned his law degree at University of Miami. However, Perez didn’t always see himself as a lawyer. His original plan was to become a teacher, he even majored in English literature.

“I looked up the salary for a teacher in Miami-Dade County back in 1982, and I realized there no way I could have a family and support kids if I became a teacher,” Perez explained. “Law school was a good option, and I haven’t looked back. I don’t regret it, and I’ve enjoyed and still enjoy what I do.”

Perez’s practice is small, but growing. With two attorneys and two legal assistants, Perez plans on expanding his staff.

“We’ve moved because we’re expanding, so we’ll be adding one other attorney,” Perez said.

For more information about Perez’s practice, visit upere-zlaw.com.



ATTORNEY UBALDO J. PEREZ (left) with his staff Jennifer Augstin and Daniella Klein.

Young Miami Lakes actor Armando Bernal IV wins Suncoast Chapter EMMY



ARMANDO BERNAL IV and CAROLINA DELEON

Miami Lakes resident Armando Bernal IV and co-star Caroline DeLeon won an EMMY at the Suncoast Regional Chapter ceremony for their work in “Kid Stew.”

This award was one of the five EMMY Awards for the series.

RESULTS
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News and Notes from the Town of Miami Lakes

Not too late for a holiday gift of Miami Lakes Food and Wine Festival tickets

Looking for the ideal gift for a loved one? Give the gift of Miami Lakes Food & Wine Festival tickets. There are still a few tickets left for the March 2, 2019 event at Miami Lakes Optimist Park.

The classy event is sponsored by Miami Lakes AutoMall, Palmetto General Hospital and The Graham Companies. All proceeds will benefit the Miami Lakes Town Foundation, a 501(c)(3).

Fine food, wine and specialty beer will be provided by local restaurants and establishments. Guests will sample culinary delights and a selection of fine wines.

The restaurants participating include:

Anacapri Italian Restaurant, Shula's Steak 2, Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza, Ben & Jerry's, Boss Burger & Brew, Café 4 U, Cancun Grill Dr. Limon, Chef Andrew Platt Catering, El Novillo Restaurant, Frosty's Lab Nitrogen Frozen Yogurt & Ice Cream, Gaucho's Gourmet Market and Gerardo's Marketplace.

Others include Kindred Kitchen, LA Sweetz, Mayor's Cafe, NQC Craft Beer & Grub, Miller's Ale House, Salsa Fiesta, Sushi Bombs, Trattoria Pampered Chef, Vicky Bakery and more restaurants to come.

For information on ticket purchases, visit www.MLFoodWineFest.com.

Mayor's Casino Night Charity gala helps fund Special Needs Board



MIAMI LAKES SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD received a \$18,044.47 check from the funds raised at the Mayor's Casino Night Charity Gala held in September at the Roberto Alonso Community Center. These funds will provide much needed assistance to the special needs community. Pictured during the presentation at the recent Town Council meeting are members of the Special Needs Advisory Board along with Councilmembers Jeffrey Rodriguez, Josh Dieguez, Carlos O. Alvarez, Luis Collazo, Vice Mayor Nelson Rodriguez and Mayor Manny Cid.

Town officials welcome AE Media Group to M. Lakes



MIAMI LAKES OFFICIALS including Mayor Manny Cid and Councilmember Nelson Rodriguez along with members of the Town's Economic Development Committee welcomed AE Media Group and its owners Mari Cambo and Carlos Messir in early November. AE Media Group is a full-service marketing agency that works on all platforms including TV, radio, online, social media and production. The firm is located at 15175 Eagle Nest Lane Suite 108.

Elderly Affairs Committee seeks sponsors for Health/Fitness Fair

Miami Lakes Elderly Affairs Committee will host the 5th annual Family Health and Fitness Fair on Saturday, February 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mary Collins Community Center, 15151 N.W. 82 Avenue.

Last year's fair drew over 500 attendees to the completely sold out Health and Fitness event.

More than 60 local businesses educated attendees on preventive healthcare, sound health practices and local access to these services.

Health and fitness related agencies, organizations, businesses and providers are encouraged to have an exhibit in the 2019 Fair to distribute literature, provide health screenings

and acquaint the public to their services.

Registration is required by visiting <https://tomlhealthfair.eventbrite.com> by Tuesday, January 29. Space is limited. For more information, contact Committees and Special Events coordinator William Sanchez at sanchezw@miamilakes-fl.gov or by calling 305-364-6100.

Annual Parks maintenance

Miami Lakes will be performing annual maintenance to the athletic fields at Miami Lakes Optimist Park and Royal Oaks Park from now through January 14. During this period, athletic field areas will be closed.

Residents and family members will have access to one area of Optimist Park north of the basketball courts for play in addition to the perimeter berm area for exercises. Residents

may also take advantage of the open play field area, the green space just east of the picnic shelters and the walking trail at Royal Oaks Park.

Pick up games and other non-organized activities are encouraged to take advantage of the open play field areas at Royal Oaks Park and the fields at Barbara Goleman High School.

For more information, call the Community Services Department at 305-558-0382.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with peace and joy.

Les deseo una Feliz Navidad y un Feliz Año Nuevo lleno de paz y alegría.



Miami-Dade County Commissioner
Esteban Bovo, Jr.
District 13




M.L. Soccer Club girls 15U team wins PGS Thanksgiving Classic



THE MIAMI LAKES SOCCER CLUB'S girls' 15U team captured the 32nd annual PGS Academy Plantation Thanksgiving Classic championship, where the group dueled it out with some of the best teams during the three-day tournament. The girls brought home the gold medal and championship trophy in their age division, which was among the highest level of competition the tournament offers. The Miami Lakes United Soccer Club (boys and girls) has been competing in the event over the years, having much success bringing home gold, silver and bronze metals and championship trophies.

Bob Graham Education Center hosts TODAY Principal Alison Hunt



ALISON HUNT, branch manager at South Florida Educational Federal Credit Union, served as Principal TODAY at Bob Graham Education Center (BGEN) on Thursday December 6. Hunt is intimately familiar with BGEN as her daughter and son are alumni of BGEN. Principal TODAY engages the private sector to take a leadership role in public education. The goal of the program is for each participant to translate their one-day experience into a long-term relationship that enhances the learning environment of their partner school and supports student achievement. Principal TODAY is an initiative of the Miami Dade County Public School Office of Community Engagement. Hunt is pictured with BGEN principal Yecinia Martinez.



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MIDDLE ROW: Elizabeth, Yeni, Carmen,
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STANDING: Laura, Martha, Dr. Zambrano Jr.,
Dr. Zambrano, Dr. Acuna, Dr. Trentacoste, Joey,
Liz and Naybelline

Miami Lakes Eye Care Center
305-825-2020
15600 NW 67 Avenue, Suite 210

Bobcat Dancers compete at American Dance Alliance



AMERICAN DANCE ALLIANCE hosted the first competition of the season on Saturday December 8. The Bob Graham Education Center's Bobcat Dance Team and their coach Mayri Martinez had the opportunity to participate in several categories. The team received three superior awards for jazz, lyrical and contemporary. They also took home 3rd place and 4th place for their duets and 4th place for ensemble. They were awarded best costume for the jazz routine, "Be Our Guest." Overall, the girls looked beautiful and had amazing performances. Coach Martinez was commended for all of her hard work and leadership, it most defiantly paid off!

Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High hosts annual Feeder Pattern Expo

On Wednesday December 5, Hialeah Miami Lakes Senior High School (HML) hosted its annual Feeder Pattern Expo. The event serves as an opportunity for the HML feeder pattern elementary schools, K-8 center and middle schools to show off their magnet programs, clubs, sports and performance groups.

These include Bunch Park, DuPuis, Golden Glades, Nathan B. Young, North Dade, North Twin Lakes, Palm Lakes, Rainbow Park, and Twin Lakes elementary schools, Miami Lakes and M.A. Milan K-8 Centers, and Miami Lakes, North Dade and Palm Springs Middle Schools.

Miami Dade County Public Schools offers magnet programs in six areas of study including international programs, liberal arts, STEM, virtual learning and visual and performing arts. Specific magnet programs from the feeder pattern schools provided program information and admissions criteria to prospective middle and high school students.

It was a night of showcasing the feeder pattern schools, from



HML cheerleaders and band members are pictured at the annual Feeder Pattern Expo.

elementary performances to middle school bands playing side by side with the HML band. Parents had the opportunity to take a "Trojan Journey" of HML magnet programs and listen to the students speak about their experiences in the iPrep, Legal Studies, Digital Media and Entrepreneurship

and AP Capstone magnets. The night was highlighted by a grand finale with the HML top performing band, cheerleaders and Sapphires.

Students can apply to any of the featured magnet programs by visiting yourchoicemiami.org. The application deadline is January 15, 2019.

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Celebrating Our Traditions

St. Thomas University president joins the Orange Bowl Committee

By Marlen Lebish

Special to The Miami Laker

St. Thomas University president David A. Armstrong has been named as a member of the Orange Bowl Committee.

Armstrong was formally introduced as a committee member at the September monthly meeting of the OBC on Sept. 11. The OBC headquarters is located in Miami Lakes.

Armstrong will play an integral role in the Committee's continued commitment to the South Florida community, including upcoming events such as hosting the College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Capital One Orange Bowl on December 29, the 25th annual MetroPCS Orange Bowl Basketball Classic on December 22 and numerous other sporting events and community activities throughout South Florida.

"I've always admired the work of the Orange Bowl Committee, and I am excited and honored to be joining such a prestigious organization," said Armstrong. "As a former athlete, I know firsthand the impact sports has on the youth and the community. And, that is why it is so humbling to be part of a committee that not only supports organizations and events benefiting numerous charities, but encourages South Florida



ORANGE BOWL COMMITTEE president Sean Pittman welcomes St. Thomas University president David A. Armstrong as a new member of the OBC.

youth, education, and sports."

The Orange Bowl is a 360-member, primarily-volunteer non-profit sports organization that promotes and serves the South Florida community. With its primary mission since being created in 1935 to bring tourism to South Florida through an annual football game and events, it has also maintained a legacy of charitable contributions and community outreach.

"We are excited to welcome President Armstrong to the Orange Bowl Committee and welcome him to the South Florida community," said Sean Pittman, president and chair of the Orange Bowl Committee.

"His background in education and athletics fits perfectly with the Orange Bowl's mission, and we look forward to his future contributions."

Armstrong, who recently announced the launch of STU football and marching band, kicked off his first year at STU in August becoming the University's 10th president. Armstrong comes to St. Thomas University from Thomas More College, a Catholic liberal arts school belonging to the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, where he was been president since 2013.

Miami Lakes Branch Library schedules events for the rest of December

Miami Lakes Branch Library announced the following programs that are available for the public during December:

For Children and Families:

Movies and Stories for Kids – Watch favorite movies with family and friends. Movies being shown this month are "Paddington 2," "Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas," and "Arthur Christmas." Events made possible by the Town of Miami Lakes Education Advisory Board at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19.

Talking is Teaching. Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers – Stories, songs and activities for toddlers. Best for ages 18 months to 3 years old at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 20.

Holiday Movie Marathon – Join the branch for a marathon of classic holiday movies and shows. Contact the branch for movie titles. Made possible by the Town of Miami Lakes Education Advisory Board. All ages are welcome at 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, December 24.

For Teens:

Technobus Visit – Enjoy a visit and hands on demonstrations with the library's Technobus at 10 a.m. on

Saturday, December 29

For Adults:

Strum the Lute: Tai Chi for Beginners – Practice this ancient tradition and learn gentle movements to increase strength, flexibility and balance. Class is led by library staff. Best for ages 18 and up at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays, December 19 and 26.

Meditation – Join in meditation derived from Raja Yoga, a discipline that helps develop inner calm, clear thinking and personal well-being. Meets at 11 a.m. on Fridays, December 21 and 28.

Mario Diaz-Balart Outreach Table - A member of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart's staff will be available to discuss federal issues and address any concerns a constituent may have with a federal agency, at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 26.

Miami Lakes Branch Library is located at 6699 Windmill Gate Road and is open Monday and Tuesday from noon to 8 p.m., and Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The branch is closed on Sundays. For more information, call 305-822-6520.

Santa only makes house calls once a year ... and not for clogged sewer pipes.
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In Memoriam: Guido H. Inguanzo Sr.

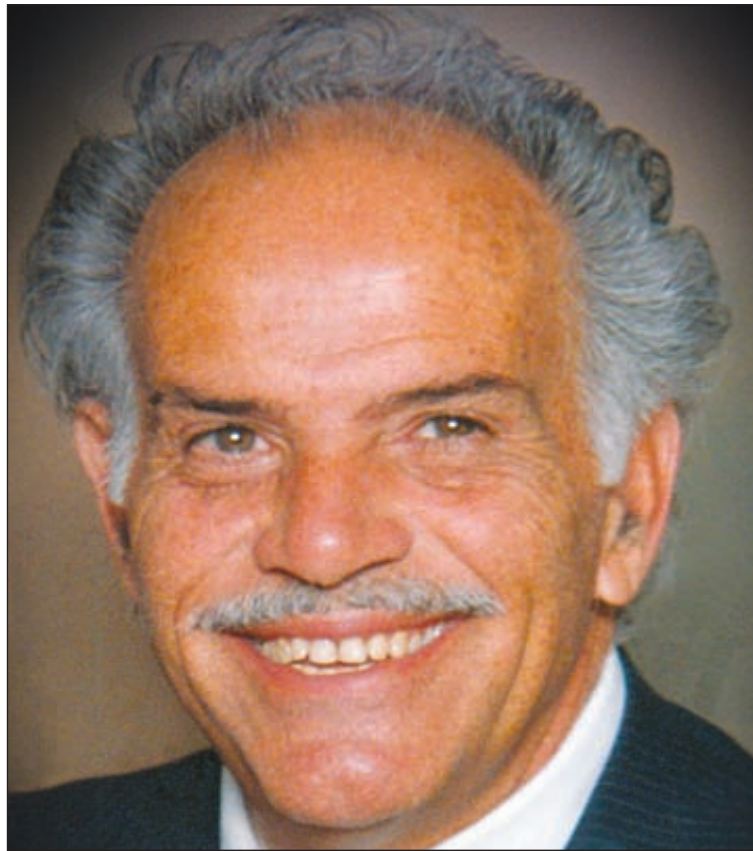
Longtime Miami Lakes resident Guido H. Inguanzo Sr. passed away at his home on December 6 at the age of 86. He was born in Viñales, Pinar Del Rio, Cuba and was a pioneer and leader in the telecommunications field in his homeland.

In 1962, Inguanzo fled Cuba's totalitarian government for freedom in the United States and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1977. He was married to his wife Pilar for over 53 years.

Inguanzo worked for TRT Telecommunications from the mid-1960s until the late 1980s. He then had a second career as a public servant working to the City of Hialeah where he was a civilian employee of the Police and Fire departments. He considered his work in the public sector was his most important because he was able to help people. He retired from Hialeah in 2000.

His commitment to public service inspired his two sons to seek government careers. His son Guido Jr. is the Village Clerk for the Village of Pinecrest and his son Ramiro is the assistant Village Manager for Bal Harbour Village. His daughter-in-law Gina is the Town Clerk for the Town of Miami Lakes.

Inguanzo was an active participant in the Town of Miami Lakes' Elderly Affairs Committee activities and events, and was a founder and organizer of the Town's Domino Tournament. Several years ago, in the



GUIDO H. INGUANZO SR.

help of Town officials, he created the Miami Lakes Domino Club where friends could gather nightly at Royal Oaks Park to play dominos.

Inguanzo was a longtime parishioner of St. John the Apostle Catholic Church and then Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church. A funeral mass was held for him on

December 6 at Our Lady of the Lakes and was officiated by the Reverend Rolando Medina, a longtime family friend.

Anyone wishing to honor Inguanzo's memory may make a donation in his name to the Miami Lakes Domino Club. Details can be found on the Town of Miami Lakes website, www.miamilakes-fl.gov.

First Community Bike Ride of New Year planned for Saturday, January 19

Miami Lakes Neighborhood Improvement Committee will host the first Community Bike Ride of the New Year on Saturday, January 19.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. for the 5.5-mile family-friendly loop with the ride start-

ing at 8 a.m. from Miami Lakes Picnic Park West, 15151 N.W. 82 Avenue.

Pre-registration is recommended by visiting <http://bit.ly.January2019Registration>. For more information, visit www.miamilakes-fl.gov/nic.



Classes and Recreation Calendar

The Town of Miami Lakes has scheduled the following classes and recreation activities during **December**:

(Youth Programs)

(All classes are free unless noted by [\$])

Archery Juniors [\$] Ages 11-17	Mondays	4:30 pm MLOP
Ballet 1 Ages 5-7	Mondays	4:30 pm MCCC
Ballet 2 Ages 7-9	Mondays	5:30 pm MCCC
Ballet 3 Ages 9-11	Wednesdays	4:30 pm MCCC
Ballet 4 Ages 11-16	Wednesdays	5:30 pm MCCC
Bricks4Kidz [\$] Ages 5-12	Thursdays	6:15 pm MLYC
Just Run Ages 5-14	Tues./Thurs.	4:30 pm MLPW
Code Explorers [\$] PK Coding Ages 4-5	Wednesdays	4:00 pm MLYC
Code Explorers [\$] Engineering Toy Making Ages 6-13	Wednesdays	6:00 on MLYC
Code Explorers [\$] Game Design Ages 6-13	Tuesdays	6:00 pm MLYC
Code Explorers [\$] Coding for Homeschoolers Ages 5-10	Tuesdays	10:00 am MLOP
Guitar [\$] Ages 7-12	Tuesdays	6:00 pm MLOP
Jazz 1 Ages 5-7	Tuesdays	4:30 pm MCCC
Jazz 2 Ages 7-9	Tuesdays	5:30 pm MCCC
Jazz 3 Ages 9-11	Thursdays	4:30 pm MCCC
Jazz 4 Ages 11-16	Thursdays	5:30 pm MCCC
Martial Arts Tots Ages 6-8	Mon./Wed.	4:30 pm MCCC
Martial Arts Beginners Ages 7-9	Mon./Wed.	5:30 pm MCCC
Martial Arts Intermediate Ages 8-10	Tues./Thurs.	4:30 pm MCCC
Martial Arts Advanced Ages 11-16	Tues./Thurs.	5:30 pm MCCC
Open Hang Nights (Themed Nights)		
Ages 11-17 Select Wed./Fri.		6:00 pm MLYC
YMCA After School Care [\$]		
Ages 6-8th Grade		2:00 to 6:00 pm MLOP
YMCA After School Care [\$]		
Ages K-5th Grade		2:00 to 6:00 pm RACC

(Adult Programs)

Open Play Dominoes	Mon. to Fri. 18+	6:30 pm RACC
Painting 1 18+	Fridays	9:30 am MCCC
Painting 2 18+	Fridays	12:30 pm MCCC
Painting 3 18+	Wednesdays	10:00 am RACC
Spanish Advanced Conversational 18+	Mon./Wed.	6:00 pm MCCC
Spanish Intermediate 18+	Tues./Thurs.	6:00 pm MCCC
Yoga 1 18+	Mon./Wed.	7:45 am MCCC
Yoga 2 [\$] 18+	Tues./Thurs.	7:45 am MCCC
Yoga in the Park 18+	Saturdays	9:00 am MLPW

(55+ Senior Programs)

Computers (English)	T/Th (Ages 55+)	9 & 11:15 am MCCC
Computers (Spanish)	M/W (Ages 55+)	9 & 11:00 am MCCC
Knitting/Crocheting	T/Th (Ages 55+)	1:00 pm MCCC
Sewing	T/Th (Ages 55+)	1:30 pm MCCC
Tai Chi	Mon.-Th. (Ages 55+)	9:00 am MCCC

MCCC: Mary Collins Community Center, 15151 N.W. 82 Ave.
RACC: Robert Alonso Community Center, 16500 N.W. 87 Ave.
MLOP is Miami Lakes Optimist Park, 6411 N.W. 162 Street
MLYC is Miami Lakes Youth Center, 6075 Miami Lakes Drive E.
MLPW is Miami Lakes Picnic Park West, 15151 N.W. 82 Avenue
Shula's GC is Shula's Golf Club, 7601 Miami Lakes Drive

Upcoming Miami Lakes Meetings Calendar

The Town of Miami Lakes, homeowners associations, professional and volunteer groups have scheduled meetings during **December**:

Town of Miami Lakes

Planning & Zoning Board Meeting	Dec. 19	6:00 pm M.L. Govt. Center
Veterans Committee	Dec. 20	6:00 pm M.L. Govt. Center
Neigh. Improv. Com.	Dec. 20	7:00 pm M.L. Govt. Center

Homeowners Organizations

Serenity Point	Dec. 19	7:00 pm MCCC
Royal Oaks	Dec. 19	7:30 pm MCCC
Gramercy Park	Dec. 20	7:00 pm MCCC
Regatta Pointe	Dec. 20	7:00 pm MCCC
Villa Vizcaya	Dec. 26	7:30 pm MCCC
Lake Sandra	Dec. 27	7:00 pm MCCC
Anchorage	Dec. 27	7:30 pm MCCC
Fountain Park	Dec. 31	7:30 pm MCCC

Miami Lakes Clubs, Professional & Volunteer Groups

M.L. Bridge Club	Mondays	11:30 am MCCC
MLCA Bridge Club	Thursdays	11:00 am MCCC
M.L. Quilting Club	Tuesdays	11:15 am MCCC
M.L. Kiwanis	2nd/4th Thurs	6:30 pm Pamper.Chef
M.L. Toastmasters	1st/3rd Tues.	ML Educ. Center
M.L. Lions Club	1st/3rd Tues,	7:00 pm Bev. Hills.

MCCC: Mary Collins Community Center, 15151 N.W. 82 Ave.
RACC: Robert Alonso Community Center, 16500 N.W. 87 Ave.
MLOP is Miami Lakes Optimist Park, 6411 N.W. 162 Street
MLYC is Miami Lakes Youth Center, 6075 Miami Lakes Drive E.
MLPW is Miami Lakes Picnic Park West, 15151 N.W. 82 Avenue

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HOMESTEAD (305) 245-5533 28800 SW 152 AVE (0-5) VPK / KINDER - 12 ESE AND REGULAR C11MD2026	(305) 969-0285 9401 SW 168 St. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD0491	(305) 882-7676 1725 E 4 AVE (0-5) PRE-K/KINDER C11MD 1350	(305) 324-7322 1001 SW 1 St. (K-12) ESE AND REGULAR EDUCATION C11MD2026	(305) 643-6658 812 NW 22 Ave. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD0993	(305) 227-2277 890 SW 143 Ave. (0-5) VPK / K C11MD1510
(305) 248-7666 15198 SW 288 St. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD1492	KILLIAN (305) 253-5535 13301 SW 117 Ave. (0-5) VPK / K-1 C11MD1386	(305) 883-1222 90 W 11 St. (0-5) VPK / KINDER - 4 SPECIAL AND REGULAR EDUCATION C11MD0740	(305) 326-8885 221 NW 8 Ave. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD0600	(305) 326-7776 1550 NW 14 St. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD0598	(305) 229-5777 15600 SW 8 St. (0-5) VPK / K C11MD1760
(305) 246-0666 510 N Krome Ave. (0-5) / KINDER C11MD0610	HIALEAH (305) 556-4111 3580 W 84 St. (K-12) ESE AND REGULAR C11MD2283	(305) 887-3217 110 W 11 St. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD0696	(305) 285-7270 880 SW 8 St. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD1258	(305) 324-0099 1521 NW 13 Ct. (Ave.) (0-5) VPK C11MD0029	MIAMI BEACH (305) 673-9130 1700 JEFFERSON Ave. (0-5) VPK / K-1 C11MD1832
(305) 246-2223 137 NW 10 St. (0-5) VPK / K - 4 C11MD0411	(305) 826-4214 7665 W 32 Ave. (0-5) VPK / K - 8 ESE AND REGULAR C11MD0079	WEST MIAMI (305) 264-7529 1335 SW 67 Ave. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD0372	(305) 643-2626 450 SW 16 Ave. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD1422 EARLY HEAD START	(305) 696-2511 2111 NW 103 St. (K-6) ESE AND REGULAR C11MD0823	(305) 865-3207 2217 Normandy Dr. (71 St.) (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD1593
CUTLER BAY (305) 259-8888 22121 SW 112 Ave. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD0581	(305) 825-0599 14 W 45 PL (Street) (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD1499	(305) 643-6443 904 SW 23 Ave. (0-5) VPK / K - 6 C11MD0889	(305) 643-2626 450 SW 16 Ave. (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD1422 EARLY HEAD START	(305) 693-3441 10285 NW 21 Ct. (Ave.) (0-5) VPK / KINDER C11MD0830	KISSIMMEE (407) 530-5000 2244 Fortune Road (0-5) VPK - 5 C090S0136

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Bryan Morgado named Athletic Director at Dade Christian

Dade Christian School has a new athletic director.

Bryan Morgado, a former baseball head coach at John A. Ferguson High School, is now in charge of overseeing the work of coaches and related staff involved in athletic programs.

Under Morgado, the girls' varsity volleyball team finished third in their district, and is headed for the states' FCAA League along with the school's flag football team.

Morgado praised volleyball head coach Aaron Vargas for a job well done.

"Coach Vargas has done an excellent job preparing our girls throughout the course of the season," said Morgado. "He's a great teacher of the game and knows how to get the best out of our girls. He's motivated and strides for excellence, our girls have taken a big step forward in their development as a volleyball program."

At Ferguson, Morgado compiled a record of 27-19 in 2 seasons with the Falcons with wins over top programs such as Columbus, Braddock and Southwest. A graduate of Florida Christian in 2006, he was named first team All-State, first team All-American and pitcher of the year for Miami-Dade County. Leading the Patriots to two state appearances and one state title. He was drafted by the Boston Red Sox but decided to attend the



BRYAN MORGADO

University of Tennessee.

At Tennessee, Morgado was named a Freshman All-American and a Team USA invitee. In 2009, Morgado was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the third round but decided to return to school for his junior season.

In 2010, Morgado signed with the Philadelphia Phillies in the fourth round and began his professional career. He spent three seasons in the Phillies minor league system before needing surgery on his left

shoulder, which ended his run with the Phillies.

He spent the following three years playing in Atlantic League where he was signed as a free agent by the Miami Marlins in 2015 and Atlanta Braves in 2016.

Morgado retired at the end of 2016. He returned to school and received his Bachelor's Degree in sports management and a minor in Business from the University of Tennessee in 2018.

Alberto Ruiz named winner of Roland Gomez Optimist Club scholarship for 2018

Alberto Ruiz is the recipient of the Miami Lakes Optimist Club's Roland Gomez Scholarship, which is awarded to one boy and one girl annually for their contributions and participation to the organization and at school for community service.

Ruiz earned his Associate's degree from Miami Dade College before he graduated from Mater Academy High School. He finished high school with a 5.0 GPA and is currently studying world recreation physical therapy at Florida International University.

Ruiz, 19, said he was very happy when he learned he won the Roland Gomez Scholarship Award for \$1,000 to use for college expenses.

"I was really happy because the first time I finished third and the last time I finished second in the contest," said Ruiz. "So, I

was really hoping to win it this time around."

Ruiz played basketball at the Optimist Club and Mater Academy. He said the Miami Lakes organization played a key role in his life as a student and an athlete.


"It gave me a lot of experience where I met a lot of people," he said. "I'm going to miss going there. The Optimist Club symbolized my childhood."

Ruiz said he may return to the organization and give back to the people who helped him. "I may coach my brother's basketball team," he said.

Jim Hamilton, a longtime member of the Miami Lakes Optimist Club, said Ruiz leads by example. "He's an outstanding young man who actually graduated from college before graduating from high school," he said. "Unbelievable commitment and work ethic."



ALBERTO RUIZ receives the Roland Gomez grant from Optimist Club's Jim Hamilton.



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STU baseball coach Jorge Perez named NAIA top Coach of the Year

St. Thomas University head baseball coach, Jorge Perez, has been named as the 2018 Diamond Sports ABCA Regional Coach of the Year at the NAIA level.

This is the second-time Perez has been recognized for this award, having been nominated in 2015 following a runner-up finish in the NAIA World Series.

The 2018 season was Perez's most successful over the course of his 11-year tenure as the head baseball coach. The STU baseball team went 56-9 under the guidance of Perez, which established a new program record for wins in a single season; breaking the previous record of 54 wins in 1998.

St. Thomas won the regular season Sun Conference Championship with a 22-2 record in Sun Conference play. The Bobcats went on to the NAIA World Series for the sixth time in program history, sweeping through the Hattiesburg Opening Round tournament.

Perez coached four-NAIA All-Americans, which included First-Team members: Elis Marrero, Nelson Mompierre and Orlando Rodriguez, as well as Second-Team NAIA All-American, Jackie Urban.

Following the NAIA World Series-run, Perez was named as an assistant to the Team USA Collegiate National Team coaching staff and worked under St. Thomas University alums, Paul Mainieri and Jim Hendry.

Perez was part of a staff that competed against Chinese-Taipei, Japan and the Cuban National Teams and coached the top-collegiate talent from around the country.

St. Thomas University begins the 2019 season on January 22, taking on Taylor University (Ind.) from Paul Demie Mainieri Field with first pitch scheduled for 6:30 p.m.



STU head baseball coach Jorge Perez named NAIA Coach of the Year.

Pace hosts first annual Alumni Softball game

By Raquel Edmundson

Special to The Miami Laker

On Saturday, December 1, Monsignor Edward Pace (PACE) welcomed back former Spartan baseball players to the school's first annual alumni softball game. The event was organized by PACE'S Alumni Association and PACE Athletics to bring former players back to the place they once called their second home. After reaching out to PACE alumni, dozens of former Spartans returned to play on the field of their beloved alma mater.

As the former players arrived, they were welcomed by PACE baseball head coach Tom Duffin, who is a 1985 alumnus and PACE'S newly named athletic director. The day was filled with excitement and nostalgia



PACE welcomed back former baseball alumni to the first annual PACE baseball alumni softball game on December 1.

as the players and their families experienced the legacy of Spartan baseball.

Several returning alumni were members of PACE State championship teams, while others continued in college and

beyond to have professional baseball careers.

The game concluded with a Spartan team huddle as Duffin expressed his gratitude and invited them back for future games with the hopes of having

even more alumni in attendance. The event was followed by a delicious lunch and all participating players received Adidas bags, wrist bands and a commemorative t-shirt of the event.

MLK-8 coders finish on top



MIAMI LAKES K-8 Center's team of present and future coders, Armando Diaz and Daniel Simeon, won first place in the Mobile App Competition at the Innov@te Career and Technical Education Challenge on December 1.


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MSGR. EDWARD PACE HIGH SCHOOL

Merry Christmas from the Pace Family

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HML's Ray Parris named Teacher of the Year for MDCPS North Region

Ray Parris, Hialeah Miami Lakes (HML) Digital Media and Entrepreneurship teacher, has been named Miami Dade County Public School North Region Teacher of the Year. Parris' teaching career spans over 20 years at middle school, high school and community college levels.

At HML, Parris has created a unique, experiential classroom through project-based learning, challenging his students to take ownership of their own progress and their future. Students learn about and compete in the areas of STEM, gaming simulation, digital media, app design and robotics.

Last summer, Parris recruited 25 HML students for a summer entrepreneurship camp to provide exposure and business opportunities for students entering HML this fall. His own work has been featured at a variety of venues, including Art Basel Miami and Artscape Baltimore.

Most recently, Parris was selected from 90 applicants at the national level to be the National Foundation for



RAY PARRIS

Teaching Entrepreneurship Model Teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. This award including a \$20,000 top prize was given to Parris for his effective classroom management, sound pedagogical content knowledge, data driven decision-making and belief that growing a student's entrepreneurial mindset can change their life trajectory.

Parris will continue to the district-wide Teacher of the Year competition, proudly representing HML and the North Region.

A Spartan Holiday as Pace High prepares for Christmas

By Raquel Edmundson
Special to The Miami Laker
Students, faculty and staff at Monsignor Edward Pace (PACE) enthusiastically prepared to celebrate the Christmas season this month. As the students arrived to school in late November, they began to spread holiday cheer throughout campus by trimming Christmas trees, hanging garland and setting up Nativity scenes.

In early December PACE employees were invited to bring their own children or grandchildren to the school's annual Tykes Christmas Party. The young children had the opportunity to participate in fun crafts, enjoy Christmas treats and even had a special visit from Santa.

The Christmas joy continued on December 10, when members of Pace's Fine Arts Department held special performances during the lunch periods and presented their

Christmas Nativity Program. Finally, the Spartans participated in NBC6 and Telemundo 51's, Caravan of Joy toy drive - which has become a Pace holiday tradition over the past eight years. Members of PACE'S Spartan Ambassador Society, Health and Medical Society, National Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society motivated the school community to collect over 600 unwrapped toys for families across South Florida.

The event culminated on Friday, December 14 with a live Caravan of Joy television broadcast with PACE Spartans and principal Ana Garcia in attendance. Throughout the morning, PACE's Spartans in Harmony chorus sang traditional Christmas carols as the community was invited to bring their toys to Miramar Fire Station #84 near the NBC6 studios.



MEMBERS of Pace High's SAS Spartan Ambassadors, NHS Officers and the Spartans in Harmony chorus at Miramar Fire Station #84 for the NBC 6 and Telemundo 51 Caravan of Joy Toy Drive. Pace collected over 600 toys.

Mater Lakes teacher awarded Teacher and Librarian grant

Mater Lakes high school teacher Michelle Alonso has been awarded a Teacher and Librarian Scholarship to attend the Key West Literary Seminar, "Under the Influence: Archetype & Adaptation from Homer to the Multiplex."

Alonso joins 20 other teachers and librarians from 13 different states who have been chosen to receive financial aid packages totaling more than \$22,000 to attend the 37th annual event January 10-13, 2019.

During their attendance at the seminar, scholarship recipients will expand their professional network and be exposed to leading contemporary authors such as Margaret Atwood, Marlon James, Victor LaValle, Joyce Carol Oates, and Kevin Young. They will also have the opportunity to meet with colleagues at the Monroe County Public Library and Key West High School.

Alonso teaches language arts to tenth graders and composition to students at Miami Dade College. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Florida International University. In her master's thesis, she discussed translation and influence in the work of Anne Carson, Canadian translator, poet, and novelist. She runs the National English Honors Society chapter at Mater Lakes Academy and has been a Florida High Impact Teacher for the past three years.

The Key West Literary Seminar Scholarship Program aims to nourish a vibrant literary culture by providing support to a diverse group of teachers, librarians, readers, and writers. Since 2008, the program has provided 470 individuals with nearly \$460,000 in fee waivers and lodging and travel assistance.



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Pace High School inducts 55 new NHS members

By Raquel Edmundson

Special to The Miami Laker

Monsignor Edward Pace (PACE) celebrated some of its brightest students as the school's annual National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony took place on December 4.

The traditional induction ceremony and dinner took place in the school's Spartan Center where students were joined by family members, Pace administration, faculty and staff. A thorough selection process took place to identify current students in grades 10-12 with a 3.5 grade point average or higher, who have proven to be well-rounded students and members of their community.

Eligible inductees were then invited by a committee of teachers and staff, all considered candidates must have exhibited excellence across 4 key pillars: academics, leadership, service and character. The selection process included student submitted applications and written essays describing their personal accomplishments as PACE stu-

dents and how they represent the qualities of the NHS.

Among those inducted were 20 sophomores, 14 juniors and 21 seniors. The dinner event presentations included speeches from PACE principal Ana Garcia, NHS adviser Luis Mayo as well as members of the school's Student Government Executive Board and NHS alumni – all congratulating the students and their parents on their journey to this proud moment.

Isabella Cardoso, a Pace High School sophomore stated "being a part of this prestigious organization will, from now on, serve as a constant reminder of my responsibility." She continued "I have to be an example of scholarship, service, leadership and character to my peers and

all those I meet."

During the ceremony, the 55 new inductees were asked to stand and recite the NHS induction pledge. Each student was then presented with their certificate and individual lighted candles, a traditional symbol of the organization's distinguished honor. All students ended the evening with a lovely dinner alongside their family members and posed for photos with their new NHS peers.

The NHS is a prestigious organization dedicated to honoring well-rounded students and its current members work hard and dedicate a great deal of time to help their school and community. NHS members are among the brightest and most successful students PACE has to offer.



PACE HIGH SCHOOL'S 55 National Honor Society Inductees pictured during the December 4 dinner and ceremony.

Mater's Kevin Mendez wins UCF Pegasus Scholarship honor

Mater Academy senior Kevin Mendez recently won the University of Central Florida's Pegasus Scholarships Award making him the first student from his high school to win the award.

Pegasus Scholarships Programs are awarded to entering high school graduates by undergraduate admissions to recognize outstanding academic performance.

Mendez qualifies for scholarship programs including the National Merit Scholarship, National Achievement Scholarship, National Hispanic Scholars Scholarship, Knights Achievement Waiver and the Provost Scholarship.



KEVIN MENDEZ



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Let Us Slow Down!

By Father Joseph Lucas,
Rector
Christ the Saviour
Orthodox Cathedral



FATHER JOSEPH LUCAS

In olden days, the Christmas season was a time to slow down, reflect and experience the joy of the holiday with family and friends. But the world in which we live seems to grow ever more hectic and chaotic. Because of our frantic pace, we often forget what Christmas is about.

An old Russian carol tells us, 'Heaven and Earth now celebrate / Angels and men joyfully feast / Christ the Savior is born / God in the flesh.' Folk songs such as this remind us of what we're missing.

We gather together as a family, as a community, because heaven and earth first gathered around the manger. We celebrate because all of creation celebrated the birth of our Savior. We give gifts because God has given us the greatest gift of all: redemption.

The festivities we take part in and the joy we experience, are rooted in a miracle that occurred over two millennia ago. But if

we forget the reason for our celebration, the light of Christmas will eventually fade, leaving nothing but consumerism in its place.

As we approach the Nativity of our Lord once more, let us rekindle the feast, let us slow down, take time to reflect, to be charitable and to embody the Christmas spirit. May all of you have a blessed Christmastide.

Sunrise Presbyterian Church plans special holiday events

Peace, Joy and Happiness to all for the New Year and always.

Sunrise Presbyterian Church is inviting everyone to the Christmas Eve service starting

at 7 p.m. and to the Christmas Cantata on December 30 at 10 a.m. located at 18400 N.W. 68 Avenue.

By Pastor Al Pino
Palm Vista Community
Church



PASTOR AL PINO

There is a longing inside every man and woman to recapture the glory that seems to escape us in this sad and fallen world of sickness, corruption, betrayal, addiction, harsh bosses and broken relationships.

Perhaps like no other holiday, Christmas captures this longing for glory.

This is the time of year when we express our longing for that glory in parties and family gatherings, where presents are given and families come together to eat and drink while enjoying warm feelings and fond memories.

It is a time of year when we try to be kind to one another, when nations call Christmas truces and we wish for a moment of good will and peace to all. We express this in the songs we sing, the good feelings we enjoy and the holiday movies we watch with heart-warming endings.

These all express our longing for glory, and are a small foretaste of the true, eternal glory that arrived with Christ's first advent and will be consummated for all eternity at his second advent.

But true eternal glory is only possible in Jesus Christ.

Only Christ fulfills our longing for glory, because only He can restore the glory we lost.

We lost the glory of God in the Garden of Eden. That's right, we lost the glory of God

Glory!

Ever since then, we have been laboring under the curse of death, longing for the glory and life of God.

Here's the good news – God promised Adam and Eve that He would one day restore that glory through a Savior who would crush the head of evil. That Savior is none other than Jesus Christ whose advent, or coming, we celebrate this Christmas season.

Glory is the theme of our advent sermon series this Christmas season at Palm Vista Community Church. It's God's glory that we were created for, and that we lost at the fall in the Garden of Eden and it's God's glory that Jesus recaptured.

We invite you to come hear more at our Christmas service December and 23, at 10:30 a.m. in the Miami Lakes Middle School auditorium, located at 6425 Miami Lakeway North.

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During the holiday season, my thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made this year a very successful one. Wishing you peace, joy, health and prosperity throughout the coming year. I look forward to working with you in the years to come. Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! Let's make 2019 the best year ever!!



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PENDING SALE

ROYAL OAKS - \$635,000
Chic & elegant turn-key home. All modern baths, custom kitchen & all impact doors/windows. Home sits on oversized lot w/an expansive covered terrace & salt water heated pool. 3 Bed / 2.5 Bath / 4,090 sf. A10558561.

JUST SOLD

ROYAL OAKS - \$780,000
Custom home built in 2008. Impact doors/windows. Spacious eat-in kitchen. Marble flooring. Grand master bed/bath. Large terrace/balcony. Pool. New Gazebo / BBQ. 5 Bed / 4 Bath / 4,090 sf. / A10530513.

JUST SOLD

ROYAL PALM ESTATES - \$795,000
Rare opportunity to live in one of the best locations in Miami Lakes. Oversized lot, grand master bed/bath, private balcony, resort-style pool. 4 Bed / 3.5 Bath / 3,459 sf. A10545444.

JUST SOLD

ROYAL OAKS - \$507,000
Corner home situated in a 4-home cul-de-sac. High volume ceilings. Tile flooring. Expansive backyard. Two covered terraces. All spacious bedrooms. 4 Bed / 2.5 Bath / 2,494 sf. A10495880

JUST SOLD

ROYAL OAKS - \$540,000
Corner-lot home. Custom finishes. Modern master bathroom. Renovated open-concept kitchen. Expansive backyard. Tiki-hut. Large covered terrace/balcony. 4 Bed / 2.5 Bath / 3,016 sf. / A10527762.

Call or text us for more information on these homes or any of our other featured homes. Happy Holidays!!

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Neighbor Fred Senra & Miami Lakes Auto Mall wishes you and your family a very happy holiday! We thank you for letting us serve you, the Miami Lakes community and surrounding cities.

Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year!



Here are some of the customers that helped make 2018 a great year!



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