

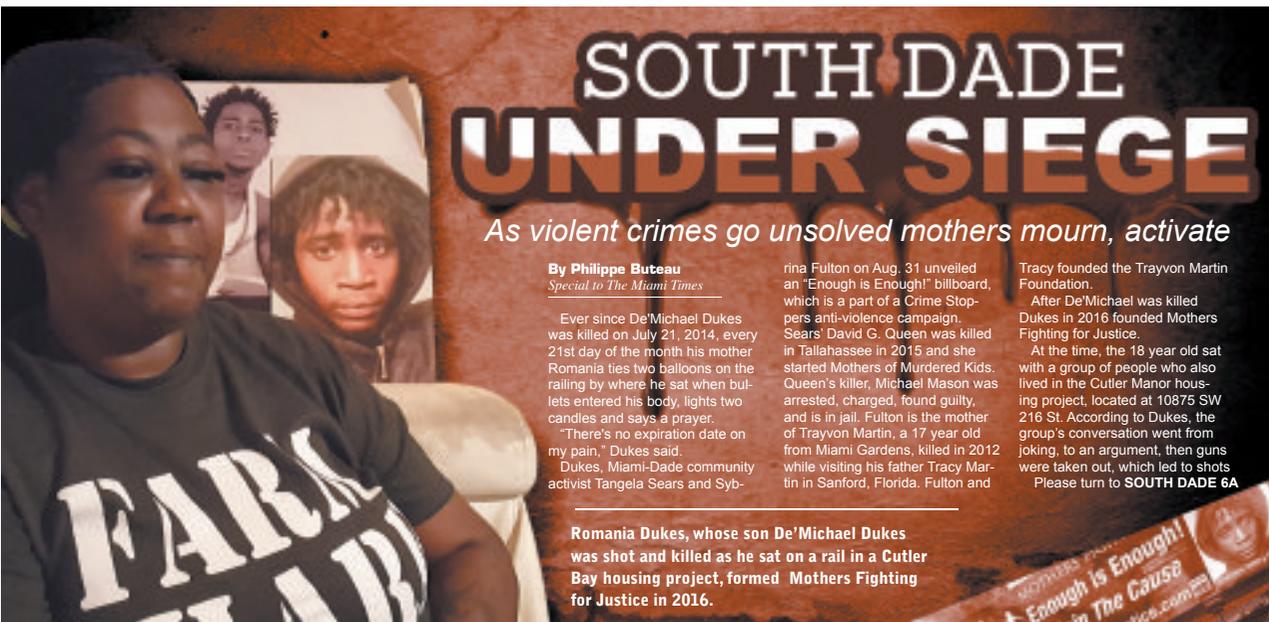
# The Miami Times

Tempora Mutantur Et Nos Mutamur In Illis

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50 CENTS



## SOUTH DADE UNDER SIEGE

As violent crimes go unsolved mothers mourn, activate

By Philippe Buteau  
Special to The Miami Times

Ever since De'Michael Dukes was killed on July 21, 2014, every 21st day of the month his mother Romania ties two balloons on the railing by where he sat when bullets entered his body, lights two candles and says a prayer.

"There's no expiration date on my pain," Dukes said.

Dukes, Miami-Dade community activist Tangela Sears and Syb-

rina Fulton on Aug. 31 unveiled an "Enough is Enough" billboard, which is a part of a Crime Stoppers anti-violence campaign. Sears' David G. Queen was killed in Tallahassee in 2015 and she started Mothers of Murdered Kids. Queen's Killer, Michael Mason was arrested, charged, found guilty, and is in jail. Fulton is the mother of Trayvon Martin, a 17 year old from Miami Gardens, killed in 2012 while visiting his father Tracy Martin in Sanford, Florida. Fulton and

Tracy founded the Trayvon Martin Foundation.

After De'Michael was killed Dukes in 2016 founded Mothers Fighting for Justice.

At the time, the 18 year old sat with a group of people who also lived in the Cutler Manor housing project, located at 10875 SW 216 St. According to Dukes, the group's conversation went from joking, to an argument, then guns were taken out, which led to shots

Please turn to **SOUTH DADE 6A**

Romania Dukes, whose son De'Michael Dukes was shot and killed as he sat on a rail in a Cutler Bay housing project, formed Mothers Fighting for Justice in 2016.



The Miami-Dade Emergency Operations Center was at a Level 1 activation during Hurricane Irma — the highest — by Mayor Carlos Gimenez but most of the services that should have mobilized at the level, were not.

## Activists: We need a better disaster plan

Tempers still hot over hurricane response

By Andrea Robinson  
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

As county officials plan to huddle this week to review their response to Hurricane Irma, activists from the top to bottom of Miami-Dade County met near Overtown Monday to formulate a plan of their own so they won't depend on government to feed the people in a disaster.

An array of community groups and organizers are proposing a network of "emergency action centers" that will activate before a storm to check on residents in vulnerable neighborhoods, and provide food and supplies to them afterward.

The neighborhoods include Liberty City, Allapattah, Homestead, Florida City, Richmond Heights, Perrine, Opa-locka, Coconut Grove, Little Havana and Little Haiti. The organizations involved

include New Florida Majority, Dream Defenders, Miami Workers Center and Catalyst Miami.

Former state Sen. Dwight Bulard said the need for the plan is in response to the county's lack of preparedness to reach people after Irma. He said Miami-Dade

County in particular "failed miserable" in getting help to the public and was particularly critical of Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

The county's official emergency response plan relies heavily on FEMA guidelines that say families should have three days of food, water and supplies after the

Please turn to **PLAN 7A**



### OPA-LOCKA

## City Manager fires finance director; she files lawsuit

Lawsuit claims retaliation, host of improprieties in city

By Andrea Robinson  
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

The former head of Opa-locka's finance department, who weathered months of questioning from the state-appointed financial oversight board, has been fired and has filed a whistle-blower lawsuit against the city and interim City Manager Ed Brown.

Charmaine Parchment alleges that Brown fired her in retaliation of her refusal on Aug. 20 to approve retroactive pay for work he did prior to the oversight board approving his salary. In 2016, she also refused a \$30,000 contract for consulting work, the lawsuit states.

The complaint, filed Sept. 6 in circuit court, outlines a host of allegations allegedly involving Brown and Opa-locka. It

cites instances where Parchment cooperated in investigations by the city, county auditor and state inspector general on the city's "illegal" use of transportation (CIT) funds, "illegal transfer of funds set aside to cover bad debt and improprieties in the water" utility, and "malfeasance in the hiring own no-show employees in the public works department."

Parchment claims she was in a hostile work environment and that Brown and William Green, a new assistant city manager brought in by Brown, ordered her to give Brown retroactive pay without approval of the City Commission or state oversight board. Green also, the suit says, physically stopped Parchment and her staff from compiling records in response to a federal grand jury subpoena, and told her that cooperating with the FBI was "not important." She also was ordered to stop cooperating with the oversight board or providing

Please turn to **LAWSUIT 4A**

## Black women rally to voice their concerns

Event coincides with large March in Washington

By Andrea Robinson  
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

Black women will speak out about their treatment and launch a national movement that focuses on their interests at rallies in Miami on Saturday and throughout the country.

The Miami rally and others coincide with a larger March for Racial Justice in Washington, D.C. The rallies are overdue, some say, because Black women are not part of the equation during the movements launched in the 1920s and 1970s.

"The whole Suffrage Movement or the feminist movement didn't involve Black women," said Valencia Gunder, a Miami

activist and community organizer. "We're not included in that conversation at all. There's a lack of caring when it comes to our issues."

The Florida March for Black Women rally will be 3 p.m. Saturday at the Women's Detention Center, 1401 NW Seventh Ave. in Miami, from where walkers will walk about 2 miles to the Wynwood area.

Among those issues up for discussion, Gunder said, are Black women's work, education and health; youth and reproductive justice; immigrant women and criminalization; and gender-based violence.

Organizers are calling for Florida policies that support the safety, stability and

Please turn to **RALLY 5**



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## VIEWPOINT

### We're not North Korea. NFL players can choose to take a knee

By Montel Williams

As reporters counted more than 200 NFL players who did not stand during the national anthem before their games on Sunday. Six refused to stand the week before, mainly protesting police brutality. AP

This isn't about patriotism. It's about Trump dog-whistling to his base that a bunch of Black athletes need to be put in their place.

One of the many things President Trump doesn't appear to understand is that what separates our republic from North Korea is that our Constitution forbids forced displays of patriotism. No one can seriously be surprised that yet again, he's yelled "fire" to please a crowded theater full of his ill-informed, almost entirely white devotees. Trump's "presidency" has already failed spectacularly, and it is predictable that he's picking a fight with Black professional athletes. He knows that as long as he plays to "white grievance," his supporters will ignore the fact he's accomplished nothing for them.

I served 22 years in the military, and I choose to stand and sing when the anthem is played because I love the fact I live in the country where doing so is my choice. Having attended a great deal of Sunday School growing up, we did a lot of kneeling — when we prayed, when we took communion — we did so out of respect. I fail to understand why kneeling is a sign of respect sufficient for God and yet so disrespectful during the playing of a song. I'd remind those serving and my fellow veterans that none of our fallen brothers and sisters took an oath to a piece of cloth sewn by Betsy Ross or a song written by Francis Scott Key. We swore absolute allegiance to the Constitution which bars forced displays of patriotism.

Before Trump poured gasoline on this fire in his rambling speech Friday night, there weren't that many players kneeling and certainly there were no teams staying in the locker room for the anthem. His supporters, and conservatives generally, should take a deep breath, stop acting hysterically on social media and look inward. This president creates crises when he feels insecure. He's about to go down to yet another humiliating defeat in his attempt to take a Black man's name off a health care policy, and his ego needed a distraction. That is why he did this.

The irony of Trump being taken seriously about issues of "respect" for anything after the Access Hollywood tape shouldn't be lost on us — especially respect for the uniform, given that the president seems proud enough of dodging the draft to write about it in his books. This isn't about "respect." This is about dog-whistling to his base that a bunch of Black athletes need to be put in their place.

These players are raising a very important issue. There are serious racial disparities in our criminal justice system so profoundly obvious that everyone from the Koch brothers to Bernie Sanders agrees that serious reforms are needed. I have criticized Colin Kaepernick on many occasions for behavior I consider childish — wearing anti-police socks comes to mind. I think he's done a poor job explaining what he's protesting and what sort of change he wants to bring about to address the problems that he correctly identifies. But I admire the integrity inherent in his willingness to risk everything to stand up to injustice.

It's naive to think this is an issue of patriotism. We need to understand it's not. This is about fear, often times subconscious — fear of losing control when a group of very famous Black people use their platforms together to try and make change. I don't think pursuing racial and social justice should cause people to be afraid, unless they are motivated by hate. This kneeling business is indisputably dripping in racism.

The truth of the matter is Trump is ill-equipped to do battle with Stephen Curry, LeBron James or the NFL athletes who protested Sunday. They are more popular than he ever will be. We can do better than this as a country. Together we can rise above "leaders" who would exploit the deep-seated bias and resentment of those who know no better to distract from their own lack of accomplishment.

Montel Williams, a 22-year Marine Corps and Navy veteran who served primarily as a special duty intelligence officer, went on to start the Emmy-award-winning *Montel Williams Show* that ran for 17 seasons. Follow him on Twitter @Montel\_Williams

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BY VALENCIA GUNDER, Founder Make The Homeless Smile

## An unequal disaster preparedness exposed

When I talked about equity in climate and disaster preparedness in various rooms around Miami-Dade County this year, people looked at me sideways, made fun of me, and some acted like I was making things up.

Miami has been flipped upside down due to Hurricane Irma. And in the searing hot sun since the storm passed, so much of what I talked about in those rooms has come to light for all to see.

They say we got off easy in Miami; that we had relatively little damage; that we dodged a bullet. But let's look at the devastation that happens even when we don't lose our roofs or homes, or suffer from contaminated water.

What does this damage look like?

In Liberty City, where I was born, raised, and live, it was almost a week after the storm and there were no emergency services; no disaster relief; no emergency supplies of water, food, ice; there's no power and no cooling in the punishing heat since the storm. In Little Haiti, in the wake of the storm,

elders were found who had been left alone inside without being moved for two days, with swollen limbs and kidney ailments causing pain.

This is not just in Miami. In Northwest Jacksonville, when my colleagues brought out food for an afflicted neighborhood after the storm had passed, they were approached by sev-

water, a pack of batteries and a flashlight (if you're lucky).

Back at home, you look at your walls and windows, and you know you're not prepared for the storm. Now you're thinking: plywood, shutters — where do I get these things? How can I afford to buy them? Then you think: after this storm, I'm gonna be out of work probably for

no children and in most situations I can afford to purchase emergency supplies for a storm — but that's not the reality of many of my neighbors. What does resilience mean when, as a taxpayer, you still have no access to emergency help, supplies or protection?

The neglect of communities like mine needs to be exposed and discussed now that the storm has passed. What can we do to make sure there is equity in emergency and disaster planning, preparedness, resources, services, relief and recovery? The damage here is man-made and has only been multiplied, not caused, by Hurricane Irma. Valencia Gunder, founder of Make The Homeless Smile and South Florida Coalition organizer with The New Florida Majority, originated the Community Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) in Liberty City that has been replicated by partner organizations around the state of Florida to provide grassroots emergency relief and recovery services to people in marginalized neighborhoods in the days since Hurricane Irma.



**M**iami has been flipped upside down due to Hurricane Irma. And in the searing hot sun since the storm passed, so much of what I talked about in those rooms has come to light for all to see.

eral children who hadn't eaten in two days, because they rely on school feeding programs and schools were closed.

Imagine watching the 5 p.m. news and you see a category 5 storm heading directly for your city — and it's the beginning of the month. You just spent your last penny to pay your rent. You scramble for a few more pennies to walk to the store to buy food that you already know won't last you through the storm: a loaf of bread, a couple of canned goods, a few bottles of

a week, so my paycheck will be short, so next month's rent will be late.

What if my windows fall? Who is going to come and help during the hurricane? What about afterward? How am I going to make it? How will I feed my children? In America, we consider ourselves lucky, but when you are a second-class citizen with third world problems, you have a lot to stress about.

That's why equity must be the topic of our conversation today. I am a 33-year-old woman with

BY AUDREY M. EDMONSON, Vice Chairwoman, Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners

## Hurricane Irma: Aftermath or after math?

When it comes to disasters, there is no economic discrimination. Storms, fires, floods or earthquakes have no particular zip codes in mind when ravishing areas where people live, work and play. Even with the best preparations or plans, when disasters occur, it is the unforeseeable issues that arise that need to be addressed as swiftly and expeditiously as humanly possible.

Hurricane Irma affected all areas of Miami-Dade County, especially due to widespread power outages. For almost a week after the storm, there were areas left without electricity or the ability to live with some level of normalcy.

Our most vulnerable populations, our seniors and those with meager means, were left to fend for themselves for at least three days until the community was able to help each other. Govern-

ment is part of that community. We cleared main roadways so that those with recovery efforts, including fuel for generators, could get in and out of our streets. We placed public transportation back on the roads to get people to grocery stores. We provided food to our senior homes that we had

**H**urricane Irma affected all areas of Miami-Dade County, especially due to widespread power outages. For almost a week after the storm, there were areas left without electricity or the ability to live with some level of normalcy.

direct jurisdiction over meal programs. We provided ice and water to many of our elderly apartments and created a staging area for all the community to pick-up ice. We helped coordinate food distributions through the Red Cross and the Southern Baptist Conference and then we relied on our community partners.

It was through these partnerships that I witnessed the hu-

manity and resiliency of our community. Churches, Community Based Organizations, homeowners associations and just good ole' neighbors helping neighbors stepped in to provide much needed services to our most vulnerable populations. I felt a sense of urgency and then relief as

made sure that there was ample notice and that we didn't take the potential impact of the storm for granted. I believe we opened shelters and the residents that needed shelter were served. However, the aftermath strategies could have been sounder. Especially in populations that rely on government assistance already.

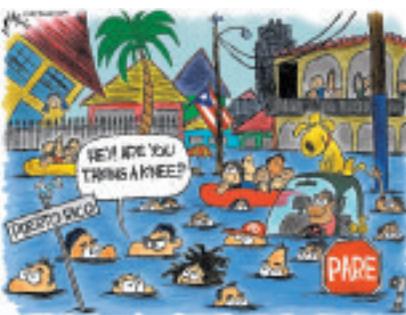
There are many takeaways from this experience that we must immediately address. I believe there is not one entity that should take credit, nor one entity that should take the blame.

All of Miami-Dade County was impacted in one way or another. Hurricane Irma created many inconveniences for us all. No one particular community was damaged more than another, but we realize in the aftermath that certain communities suffered more.

It is imperative that our new plan map out strategic ways to address the needs of our most vulnerable communities.



## CARTOON CORNER



### The Miami Times

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## Letter to the Editor

### 'Word on the Street' column misstated facts

Dear Editor,

I was greatly disturbed by the recent column in 'Word on the Street' that was headed "Civil War Within the Democratic Party." The column contained misstatements of history, fact, and law. I sincerely utilize this reply to educate, enlighten, and unify our community.

Most perplexing is the statement "Democrats falsely claim that the Republican Party is the villain." Since the merging deflection among angry southern whites during the mid-1960's led by George Wallace and Strom Thurmond angered by the civil rights policies of the new Democratic Party and opposition to a frivolous war (Vietnam), GOP continuity of Dixie-crat policies has been equally, if not more culpable, in vehemently implementing the roll back of the many gains African Americans

achieved through Brown v. Board of Education, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In Regan v. Wright, 82LEDZD 556,468 U.S. 737,104 S. Ct. 3315, President Regan filed a brief to the Supreme Court to advocate stoppage of denying tax exempt status to private segregated schools and colleges which held "Parents of Black public school children held not to have standing to challenge grant of tax-exemption to racially discriminatory private schools." This was implemented under a Republican Court led by Justice William John Rehnquist. The Republican court has played a critical role in tightening the noose. A series of cases beginning in 1968 but escalating dramatically in the Burger and Rehnquist eras, legalized racial discrimination, affirmed that police can stop anyone without probable cause;

approved racial profiling in U.S. v. Brignoni-Ponce; ruled police could use discretion instead of probable cause in their searching motorists for drugs; approved and openly admitted "ridiculous peremptory strikes to eliminate Blacks from a jury; shielded the district attorneys from disclosing the role the defendants' race played in prosecutorial discretion, and recently under Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Clarence Thomas, struck down Section 5 of the hard fought for stalwart guard of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Lastly, the disturbingly absurd and incomprehensible statement that "politically correct policing has left our neighborhoods defenseless against crime," is preposterous given the rampant police abuse and murders of unarmed Black men and women. Moreover, the very party Mr. Dennis is advocating for is responsible for the current state

of voter disenfranchisement, as Gov. Rick Scott's first action in office was an executive order to repeal the automatic restoration of rights to ex-felons upon sentence completion. I can only come to one conclusion, Mr. Dennis has an ax to grind politically, but we must not let those with selfish or misguided motives deter our efforts. Thomas Jefferson said "It is a tragedy to love your oppressor." Martin Luther King Jr. said "shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will."

Let's be resilient, steadfast, and vigilant, unified by common goals and objectives, and most importantly, continuing to strive for justice for minority people of color.

Sincerely,  
Bernard E. Gyden III



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# Fired city official files lawsuit

**LAWSUIT**  
continued from 1A

members with city-related information because there was a new "sheriff in town."

The lawsuit alleges that Green ordered Parchment to improperly use and pay for wire transfers to make payments to off-duty police officers without money in the budget or with approval of the city commission or oversight board.

On Aug. 18, the suit states, Parchment filed a memo complaining of mistreatment and seeking whistleblower protection to Brown, Mayor Myra Taylor and city commissioners, state inspector General Eric Miller, the county ethics commission, the oversight board and the state attorney's office.

The lawsuit says that Brown decided to terminate Parchment in retaliation for her seeking protection and that Brown sent out a memo containing false statements that were sent to the city and the state that she "did not possess the skill set to perform proficiently" as finance director and that she fabricated events.

The lawsuit also raises Brown's history with controversial Opa-locka officials, convicted former city manager David Chiverton and lobbyist Dante Starks, who is believed to be a subject of the ongoing federal corruption case in the city. It says Parchment participated in an investigation in which Chiverton took \$39,000 without proper approval and that in May 2016, she blew the whistle on a "phony" consulting job for Brown.



**Yvette Harrell**



**Ed Brown**



**Mike Pizzi**

Parchment began work in Opa-locka in 2009 as a grants writer and moved up the ranks as an accountant and, ultimately, finance director. The lawsuit states her reputation in the city was impeccable.

Along with former city manager Yvette Harrell, Parchment faced serious questioning before the state-appointed oversight committee to justify the city's spending and the status of its financial accounts.

Reached Tuesday morning, Brown did not respond to questions about the lawsuit, citing pending litigation. He said he was

preparing for a meeting on Wednesday with Florida Chief Inspector Eric Miller to discuss the city's financial state.

The previous inspector general Melinda Miguel oversaw the oversight committee. Miller has taken a more hands-off approach.

Parchment has a legal team consisting of Mike Pizzi, the former Miami Lakes mayor who has several current and former Opa-locka employees as clients, and the law firms of Douglas Jeffrey PA and Reiner and Reiner as counsel.

"Charmaine Parchment was a hero for upholding the financial integrity of the City of Opa-locka during difficult times and refusing to cave in to corruption. She deserved a medal and a raise for her courage. Instead, she was fired for telling the truth and being honest," Pizzi said. "Eddie Brown has confirmed everyone's worst fears about him being a puppet for corrupt officials. As long as the current administration is in power, Opa-locka is not a safe place to work for people of integrity."

# WORD ON THE STREET

## Do the right thing, Mayor Gimenez

Part II  
By Brian Dennis

In The Word on the Street column entitled "Do the right thing, Mayor Gimenez," I wrote the following statement: "Not one person from this county opened their mouths and said anything about the outrageous events that took place in the state of Virginia. Not one." Well I stand corrected; the mayor's office did release a statement on Aug. 16, 2017, that was posted on the mayor's web site.

I usually get what I thought was all of the mayor's press releases, but this one was no where to be found in mine or my editor's e-mailbox. For all that was said in the Aug. 23 edition of the Miami Times' column about the injustice to Cpt. Faye Davis, the only incorrect statement the mayor's staff could point to was the one on Charlottesville.

I believe had President Donald Trump not been insensitive about the events of Charlottesville, the mayor wouldn't have issued any statement. The statement that was released wasn't about what happened in Charlottesville but more about what Trump said about the events that occurred in Charlottesville. To release a hollow statement four days after the tragic events doesn't get the mayor any brownie points.

For the mayor to say that, "The president is divisive and should promote

love and understanding," is a far cry from the love and understanding that he has not shown to Davis or Maritza Dupree, who was unjustly let go from the Miami-Dade Police Department after an arbitrator ruled that she should get her job back. The mayor fired Dupree anyway. Talk about being divisive, unloving and having no understanding. As the elders say, "the pot can't talk about the kettle, when both of them are black."

What Carlos "Rude Strong Mayor" Gimenez fails to realize is that he mirrors Trump. They both seem as if they are never wrong, petty, arrogant and egotistical who are not upstanding to the oath of offices that they swore to uphold. Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. People are beginning to look at 111 NW First St. as the substation to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, D.C. The Miami-Dade County Commissioners mirror a weak

and spineless U.S. Senate, House and Congress — timid in action, refusing to check the dictator on the 29th floor.

When it was time to stand up to the bully Trump, Senators John McCain of Arizona, Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, stood up for the American people. There are several qualified candidates currently sitting on the county commission who could be vying to be the next county mayor. Commissioners Joe A. Martinez, Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Rebecca Sosa and Jean Monestime, who will be the one to stand in the gap and do the right thing for the employees and citizens?

Whether you like it or not, it pays to have someone tell you the truth all the time than some of the time. We all know that the truth will set you free. I have no problem with apologizing, taking constructive criticism or being corrected on any matter. What about you, Mr. Mayor?



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# Black women unite to march on significant issues

**RALLY**  
continued from 1A

sancity of Black women and girls. Their demands touch policies implemented by major municipal institutions including education, law enforcement and housing. They want to:

- Redirect the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Budget from policing, security, and surveillance toward counselors, staff training, human development curriculum, and other restorative services.
- Invest in curriculum that acknowledges and addresses students' material and cultural needs, physical activity and recreation, high quality food, free day care, and freedom from unwarranted search seizure or arrest.
- Reallocate funds toward affordable housing for families living at or below the poverty line.
- Invest in restorative services, mental health services, job programs, and other programs that address prevention, specifically supporting those impacted by the sex and drug trade.
- End the privatization of criminal justice services and the shackling of pregnant people.
- Decriminalize marijuana and sex work.

Gunder said those concerns historically have been placed on the back burner throughout our social, racial or political movements.

A common refrain, Gunder said, is "we're going to get to y'all next" with no follow through.

"During the Civil Rights movement, women were second to the men. When it comes to fair housing, reproductive issues, gun violence, Black women are put in front of cameras," Gunder said. "No one cares about her feelings or is willing to assist in that capacity. We're trying to get people to understand and listen to our issues for a change."

Organizers announced the rally last month at an event to mark a countdown to the march. School Board Member Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall

said the women were there to make a change.

"School Board District 2, which you're in now, is not a place just to sit and relax ... It is a place to do what you need to do to take care of our children," Mindingall said. "So rise up, decide that today will be your day to save little Black girls, why, because they do matter."

The protests come as Black women are becoming disenchanted with U.S. institutions. In a recent poll of the Black Women's Roundtable conducted with Essence Magazine, a majority of Black women — 61 percent — said they were active in their community. Six in 10 of women identified as community organizers, a bulwark of the activist movement.

A majority of women polled — 74 percent — said they support the Democratic Party. But that figure is down 11 points from a survey conducted in 2016. That 11-point drop, researchers said, is sig-



—Photos courtesy of Valencia Gunder

**Women from several organizations promise to flex their power on Saturday at the Florida March for Black Women. The march begins at the Women's Detention Center near downtown Miami.**



**School Board Member Dorothy Bendross Mindingall pledges support during an Aug. 31 kick-off event to announce the Florida March for Black Women.**

nificant shift in trust among Black women.

The results were released on Sept. 20 to coincide with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation annual legislative caucus in Washington, D.C.

In a statement, Melanie Campbell, a Florida native and president of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, said Democrats should take note of the findings.

"We found this survey to be

quite revealing, regarding the shift in the attitudes Black women have toward the current political environment. These results may well be a 'wake-up call' for our mainstream political parties and the folks currently holding office," Campbell said.

At the same time, support of the Republican Party remained unchanged at one percent. Support for Donald Trump was just as bad. Respondents said Trump, who was inaugurated earlier this year, is not addressing issues that are important to them. Eighty percent gave Trump a score of F, and another 12 percent gave him a D. Only

two percent gave him a C and one percent gave him a grade of B. Trump did not receive any A grades in the survey.

Also, for the first time, the rise in hate crimes is now a top-five issue for Black women, according to the poll, which was conducted in July during the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans. The top concerns among respondents were affordable health care, criminal justice reform, quality public education, living wage jobs, and the rise in hate crime.

This marks the first time that hate crimes came up in the survey, which is in its third year.

## Puerto Rico emerges from storm; essential resources are scarce

By Ben Fox  
Associated Press

Puerto Rico (AP) — Supermarkets are gradually re-opening in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico, but the situation is far from normal and many customers are going home disappointed.

Most food stores and restaurants remain closed, largely because power is out for most of the island and few have generators or enough diesel to power them. The shops that were open Monday had long lines outside and vast empty shelves where they once held milk, meat and other perishables. Drinking water was nowhere to be found.

Mercedes Caro shook her head in frustration as she emerged from the SuperMax in the Condado neighborhood of San Juan with a loaf of white bread, cheese and bananas.

"There is no water and practically no food," she said. "Not even spaghetti."

Maria Perez waited outside a Pueblo Supermarket in a nearby part of San Juan, hoping to buy some coffee, sugar and maybe a little meat to cook with a gas stove that has enough propane for about another week.

"We are in a crisis," Perez said. "Puerto Rico is destroyed."

The fact that some stores and restaurants have re-opened for the first time since Category 4 Hurricane Maria roared across the island Sept. 20 is welcome in a place where nearly everyone has no power and more than half the people don't have water.

Puerto Ricans are trying to make contact with relatives and friends after Hurricane Maria knocked out power and



—AP Photo/Ben Fox

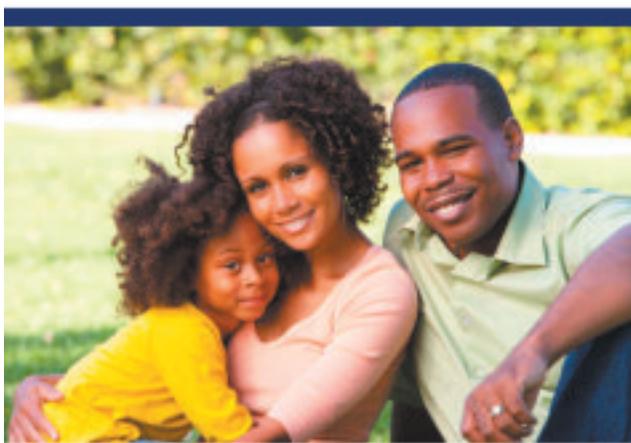
**People wait in line outside a grocery store to buy food that wouldn't spoil and that they could prepare without electricity, in San Juan, Monday, Sept. 25. Most stores and restaurants remained closed Monday. Nearly all of Puerto Rico was without power or water five days after Hurricane Maria.**

telephone services. Hundreds of other residents and tourists packed San Juan Airport on Sunday, which is barely functioning. (Sept. 25)

Gov. Ricardo Rossello and other Puerto Rican officials said some ports have been cleared by the Coast Guard to resume accepting ships, which should allow businesses to restock. But the situation remains far from normal.

SuperMax opened on a reduced schedule for several stores in the San Juan area as well as in the hard-hit towns of Caguas and Dorado. Walgreens has reopened about half of its 120 locations in Puerto Rico on a limited basis. Walmart says it has a "handful" of its 48 stores

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**Equal Housing Lender**

# Community feels overlooked by majority of North Dade

**SOUTH DADE**  
continued from 1A

fired and DeMichael was killed in the crossfire. She went to the scene of the shooting to find out what happened to DeMichael.

"It's normal to hear gunshots but they sounded like they were in our hallway," Dukas said. "I saw the yellow tarp over a body but it didn't immediately register. When I realized it was DeMichael, I collapsed, then remember waking up at a hospital."

Stories like the Dukas' happen often in Miami-Dade.

A study published in 2017 conducted by researchers from the University of Miami School of Medicine from 2002-2012 found that young Black men were the primary victims of gun violence.

The study surveyed patients treated for gunshot wounds at Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center. Seventy percent of gunshot wound victims were young Black men, but that population only represents 19 percent of Miami-Dade County.

The researchers' analysis found that gunshot-wound incident locations and patients' home addresses are grouped in predominantly poor, Black neighborhoods near downtown Miami. The patterns were maintained throughout the 11-year study period.

Dukas also said poverty is a factor that leads young people to commit crime. She said media overall are somewhat of influence, but not rapping.

"Today it's more about Gucci or new jeans, and before rappers like Nas talked about gang life," Dukas said. "And kids sometimes try to get the new brand by robbing."

Young people bully each other over material possessions and take beefs to social media, but physical fights are not like what they used to be, Dukas said.

"It's not like the old days when fights were just with fists; now people go get a gun or pull one out," she said. The crime narrative is not all bad news.

Certain crimes have decreased in Miami-Dade, according to a 2012-2016 comparison report by the Miami-Dade Police Department. Homicides, robberies and burglaries have gone down by 2, 8 and 41 percent, respectively.

But within the Dukas' community of Southwest 216 Street in Cutler Bay, crime is still a part of the story. Between Aug. 25 and Sept. 21 there have been incidents involving drugs and alcohol, assaults, burglaries, thefts, robberies and vehicle break-ins, according to Crimemapping.com, a web service used by MDPD.

Crimemapping.com lets people see incident types and where they occurred but not the race, age or gender of the alleged perpetrators.

Dukas feels her community is overlooked by a majority of people who can help, citing that there were no summer programs.

"They seem to forget kids in South Dade," she said referring to the Miami Marlins, Miami Heat, celebrities and politicians.

#### 'START SNITCHING'

Dukas said people should not get mad at police officers. But she did get mad at her "friends" on Facebook (she used air quotes during the interview) who wouldn't say who shot DeMichael, which is why she worked with Sears on a witness protection bill. The bill was signed by Gov. Rick Scott and went into effect in July.

State Rep. Cynthia Stafford, who helped Dukas and Sears get the bill passed, was unavailable for comment.

Even though Dukas listens to rap music, she said she never believed in "Stop Snitching,"



**Restore Joy & Trust Foundation Inc., another organization that supports women and families who have lost their children to violent crimes, shares information with the community.**

a campaign against speaking to police officers to help them solve any kind of crime. Rapper Cam'ron popularized it.

"Everybody needs to start snitching," Dukas said. "Stop stealing and stop shooting." She said the same applies to police.

"If you're partners, someone should say something," Dukas said referencing illegal police behavior. "It defeats the end of [the] stop snitching [message] if you maintain a double standard."

And she said although she supports Black Lives Matter "100 percent," she feels it should expand.

"Black on Black crime doesn't get the same response as it does when police shoot Black people," Dukas said. "But real crime is all over; Black on Black, white on white or Hispanic on Hispanic."

Sgt. Joseph Bermudez of the Miami-Dade Police Department said crime reduction is traditional police work, such as patrols and investigations, while crime

prevention involves teaching citizens to avoid becoming victims.

Bermudez said a key piece in preventing crime is to educate young people to stay away from crime at a younger age.

"There is more of a need for youth prevention programs because times have changed," said Bermudez, a 25-year-veteran of MDPD. "Kids nowadays face a lot more challenges than when I was growing up. There are different types of drugs and different types of peer pressure."

The youth crime prevention programs are run out of the MDPD's Public Education and Information Bureau.

The office coordinates all community relations between department and county residents. The programs are run in conjunction with Miami-Dade Public Schools: Drug Abuse Resistance Education, Students Together Against Negative Decisions, the Police Explorer Program, and the Police Athletic League.

"It's more than something to keep young people busy," Bermudez said. "It's about mentoring and showing there are alternatives to getting into gang life. We tell young people to join a team not a gang by encouraging involvement in sports."

The PAL is for children 8-14 years old and the explorer program is for youth 14-17.

Bermudez said MDPD does not have program for college-aged young people but can conduct a presentation if asked.

What the agency has at the college level is an internship program for people interested in a long-term career in law enforcement.

"We hope by that age people are making positive choices," Bermudez said. "Hope [is] by 18 you know what the laws are and what the consequences are."

Carmen Caldwell, executive director of Miami-Dade Citizens Crime Watch, said there's been plenty of improvement in crime prevention. She's been executive director of the community-based non-profit organization for 17 years and has 30 years of experience in crime prevention.

She said when compared to the 1980s and '90s crime overall has reduced in part because there is more communication between communities and police departments.

"Information sharing helps prevent crime," Caldwell said.

The Youth Crime Watch is a program of Citizens' Crime Watch of Miami-Dade County. It is a small program in schools that helps up to 30,000 students out of the 345,000 students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Principals decide whether to have YCW on their campuses.

The program receives funding from the County Commission and Miami-Dade Schools Police.

The youth crime watch is for schools as a way of helping law

enforcement officers, not like the Neighborhood Watch Program. The Youth Crime Watch program does no patrolling.

Caldwell said they have different avenues for kids to get involved and learn about crime prevention, such as how not to be victims, gun violence and cyberbullying.

"We teach kids to report other young people who have guns to teachers," Caldwell said. "We go by the saying of 'see something say something.' If you know someone in neighborhood that is armed, tell an adult, tell a parent, whether elementary or high school."

Dukas did acknowledge the work of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis Moss, whose district includes Cutler Bay.

Moss attended the unveiling of the "Enough is Enough!" billboard and was the prime sponsor of a resolution that created the Miami-Dade Millennial Task Force, made up of people born in the early 1980s to the early 2000s. The task force was created for young people in Miami-Dade who face financial, career or housing difficulties.

"The primary focus was not crime prevention but if we can provide better opportunities for people who are millennials than they're less prone to commit crime. Jobs are a crime prevention tool. People being able to afford housing is a crime prevention tool."

"But it's important for people who are on that street corner to come down to a meeting and say we need to be a part of this conversation too," Moss said. "And I make sure I have that conversation with task members."

Dukas said gun violence affects us all so if someone "sees something they should say something."

"I don't want any mother to join Mothers Fighting for Justice the way I joined."

## FRANCIS SUAREZ

### A PROVEN LEADER FOR THE FUTURE



# Inadequate disaster planning comes to light after Irma

**PLAN**  
continued from 1A

storm. Irma's size was so large that South Florida felt the effects Saturday and Sunday. Many residents were unable to access whether they suffered any property damage.

By that time, said Bullard, many residents had gone through their hurricane supplies and needed assistance that was not there.

"There are so many people in the county who cannot do it," said Bullard, now political director of New Florida Majority. "For the mayor and the commissioners to fail to recognize that that is reality in 2017, I find that faulty, immoral and almost criminal."

Some county officials expressed frustration at the county's slow response after the hurricane. Miami-Dade Commissioner Audrey Edmonson said resources that should have been staged were never ordered, which caused the delay in getting food and ice into neighborhoods.

Commissioner Xavier Suarez said the county should have had quicker response especially went getting first responders to people in need.

"We're a little too conservative on how high the wind speeds have to be" in order for emergency vehicles to assist residents. County rules state that emergency vehicles and buses must stop running when wind speeds reach 39 miles per hour.

Suarez said he relied on his personal resources and those of the city of Miami to reach people. He said he took calls about water and wind entering into a new senior residence center in Coconut Grove, Stirrup Plaza. "I got the county housing guy out there, but we mostly used city resources," Suarez said.

Commission Chairman Este-

ban "Steve" Bovo is holding a meeting Thursday afternoon so he and colleagues can debrief about the county's response. Some commissioners said privately they want changes in the emergency management plan.

Bovo said all 13 commissioners would weigh in with their concerns and observations. He said Gimenez had been invited, as was Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho. He said the meeting would last about three hours. However, there won't be public comment.

"I want us to assess what we did and how we can do it better," Bovo said. He added this is not the time to bash anyone, but to prepare for future storm events. "We need to make sure that whatever lessons learned are in a book some place. In the future, these are the things that we need to make happen."

He noted that county officials thought supermarkets would reopen after the hurricane with sufficient food and supplies. However, many of the stores reopened with empty shelves. Also, he said, the county had to consider a plan for getting supplies to inner-city and smaller neighborhoods that don't have larger grocery stores.

Bullard said the county had a better response in 1992 after Hurricane Andrew. "There was no internet, we dealt with landlines, and contacted people by mouth and door to door. But the government response was better," he said.

The difference, Bullard said, is the attitude of government. "It's pervasive, from [Donald] Trump down that government does not have to be the first responder," he said. "There's a belief that people should be left to fend for themselves, pull themselves up by their bootstraps. But if the people don't have boots how are you going



Shelves that once held bottled water are empty as Miami prepares for the approaching Hurricane.

—Getty Images/Mark Wilson

to pull yourself up?"

Regarding the organizations, Bovo said he welcomed the extra help for residents in East Hialeah from members of the Kiwanis Club and Latin Builders Association.

"I applaud community organizations for coming out and not waiting for government. I don't have a problem with that," Bovo said. He said he would consider reaching out to Bullard. The two worked together with the Miami-Dade delegation when both were in the state House of Representatives.

While Bovo didn't want to place blame, activists did. At a Sept. 19 county budget hearing, Gimenez applauded the county's response. That drew ire.

Bullard later said Gimenez should apologize for the poor

response. "The mayor is talking about how great the response was. It rubs you the wrong way," he said. "It was frustrating to comprehend that no one at the local level took [planning] into account. There's no reason to feel like we're in the Third World."

Valencia Gunder of New Florida Majority said the Overtown meeting was mostly upbeat. Irma was a wakeup for many activists that they needed to quickly mobilize.

She said the groups would organize by neighborhoods, and develop plans on how to get supplies to people before and immediately afterward. They also will identify gaps they had in reaching people.

"People in our community don't expect the large institutions to come to our rescue anyway," Gunder said. As a community we just know to be prepared ... for next season. We have to check on elders, and see if people are OK. This is our responsibility."

## Hardemon runs unopposed

District 5 commissioner will keep his elected position for four more years

By Clayton Guzmore  
digital@miamitimesonline.com

Miami Commissioner Keon Hardemon has won the election unopposed for District 5. Hardemon represents Overtown, Wynwood and Liberty City. He has been in his position since November 2013. The deadline for candidates to file to run in the November elections was Saturday, Sept. 23. No one submitted anything so Hardemon now has four more years as commissioner.

Some of Hardemon's accomplishments as commissioner are leading the

commission to enact a responsible wage ordinance. He prioritized the hiring of low-income communities in major development projects. Finally, Hardemon granted millions of dollars to residents for housing renovations, provided grants to local businesses. Recently, Hardemon along with Chef Teach of House of Mac and Headliner Market Group gathered at Charles Hadley park for a barbecue to feed families affected by Hurricane Irma. About 1,500 meals were given out to the locals who came. Another popular project Hardemon is a part of is the



Keon Hardemon

Overtown Music Festival, an annual, free summer concert.

This reelection will be Hardemon's second term as commissioner and he remains the only Black man among the current officials of the city of Miami.

### The Miami Times

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## Disaster Recovery Centers open

Everything you need to know about state and federal services for Hurricane Irma

Miami Times staff report

Two Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) opened Monday, Sept. 25, in Miami-Dade and Sarasota counties to help Florida storm survivors. The DRCs will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Disaster Recovery Centers offer in-person support to individuals and small business owners. Recovery specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and the state, will be available to provide assistance to anyone with

filling out applications or updating their status. Voluntary organizations are available and offer a variety of services to help survivors recover.

The DRCs are at the following addresses:

**Miami Dade College  
Kendall Campus Building K**  
11011 SW 104th St.  
Miami, FL 33176

Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week until further notice

**Venice Community Center  
(Sarasota County)**  
326 Nokomis Ave. South

Venice, FL 32092  
Open from Sept. 25 through Sept. 28  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
As more centers open, survivors may locate one near them at <https://www.fema.gov/disaster-recovery-centers> or by calling FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362, (TTY) 800-462-7585. Helpline numbers are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week. DRC information is also available on the FEMA Mobile App. You can visit any open DRC to get your questions answered about the federal assistance process.

Registration is the first step in recovery and requires information such as insurance policies, and bank information for possible direct transfer of funds. Survivors Please turn to **DISASTER 10B**



The Dominican town of Canefield is seen in this picture taken Friday, four days after Hurricane Maria.

## Dominica Prime Minister implores climate change action

"To deny climate change . . . is to deny a truth we have just lived"

By Ryan Grenoble  
Huffington Post

As prime minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerrit has witnessed the terror of climate change firsthand.

The Caribbean island nation suffered great damage as a result of hurricanes Irma and Maria, the latter of which killed at least 15 people on the island and destroyed "all that money can buy and replace," including the roof of Dominica's State House.

In light of that havoc, Skerrit addressed the United Nations on Saturday, pleading for world leaders



Roosevelt Skerrit  
Prime Minister of Dominica

to take action on climate change. He described a scene of "pure Please turn to **SKERITT 10B**

## New Birth and partners support families

Thousands helped as post-Irma community events continued

Miami Times staff report

More than 1,800 families on Sunday, Sept. 17, received hot meals at New Birth Baptist Church Cathedral of Faith International, located at 2300 NW 135th St. The following day, Monday, hundreds received ice, water, meats,

groceries, baby resources at WMBM offices, located at 13242 NW Seventh Ave.

"It is our charge and mandate to follow Jesus and serve and we will with a grateful heart," said Bishop Victor T. Curry.

New Birth Baptist Church Cathedral of Faith Interna-

tional and Gospel AM1490 WMBM under the leadership of Bishop Victor T. Curry, in partnership with NAN and along with Commissioner Jean Monestime, the Office of Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, Feeding South Florida, McCray and Associates, Greater Holy Cross MBC, FPL

and a host of other community leaders, partners and volunteers provided the community relief.

The partners hope to continue support, after Hurricane Irma knocked out power to more than 1 million customers in Miami-Dade. Families with electric appliances were not able to cook or maintain perishable items at home.



—Photos courtesy of New Birth

## An insight, revelation into the Muslim faith

Dr. Abdul Hamid Samra explains his religion and invites Miami Gardens to worship

By Gregory W. Wright  
g.w.wright@hotmail.com

Amid the hustle and bustle of cars and trucks flying back and forth along busy Miami Gardens Drive, sits the Islamic Center of Greater Miami. Led by Imam (Pastor) Dr. Abdul Hamid Samra, prayer services are held Fridays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. We sat down with Dr. Samra to

discuss the teachings of the Muslim faith, the false perceptions, and reach out to the citizens of Miami Gardens, where more than 75 percent of the population is African-American.

The congregation of the Islamic Center, says Samra, comes from all walks of life, including African-Americans of the local community. "But I would say, maybe the highest



percentage is from East Asia, which is Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. Of course, some come from different Arab countries like Turkey, Malaysia and all kinds of nationalities."

Born in Damascus, Syria, he told us, "In my early age, my family were not very religious. I went to a religious school. It was there that I memorized the entire Quran, which is the holy book of the Muslims. I sat with two Please turn to **SAMRA 10B**

## Pastor of the Week

Imam Dr. Abdul Hamid Samra

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# Obamacare consumer facts to know

ACA IS STILL THE LAW OF THE LAND, HERE'S SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Maureen Groppe  
USA TODAY

Bipartisan attempts to fix some of Obamacare's problems have also stalled.

Here's what that means for you:

## Who is affected?

Despite all the attention Obamacare has gotten this year, the lack of action by lawmakers won't affect most Americans' health care coverage. The problems are centered in the health insurance marketplaces created by the ACA for people who don't get coverage through an employer or a government program like Medicare or Medicaid. Only about 7 percent of the population buys insurance on the individual market. An average of 10 million a month have been getting those plans through the subsidized marketplaces this year.

## Will people still be able to buy Obamacare insurance?

As insurers filed their initial coverage plans for 2018 earlier this year, there were dozens of counties without an insurer. But other providers stepped in to fill those gaps. That could still change before 2018 enrollment begins in November. Wednesday is the deadline for insurers to finalize their contracts with the federal government. (States that run their own marketplaces have their own set of rules.)

Still, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected this month that, over the next decade, fewer than half of 1 percent of people live in areas where no insurers will want to participate.

## Will people have a choice of insurers?

Nearly half of counties could have only one insurance provider, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said last week. Because many of those counties are rural, the share of people using the exchanges would lack choice is closer to one quarter. Still, participation by insurers has declined.



Demonstrators gather near Trump Tower in Chicago to celebrate the defeat of President Donald Trump's revision.



## How much will the insurance cost?

Prices won't become public until later this fall. But CBO projects the average premium for a benchmark plan — those used to determine a consum-

er's subsidy — will be about 15 percent higher than this year. The average benchmark premium for a 45-year-old is projected to be \$4,800 a month.

Most people are insulated from premium increases be-

cause of the premium subsidies available to those earning up to about \$48,000.

People earning up to about \$30,000 can also get help paying for deductibles, co-payments and other out-of-pocket expenses. But the Trump administration has not said how long it will continue to reimburse insurers for providing these discounts. That's a main reason premiums are going up and insurers' participation is going down.

## So will the subsidies continue?

The administration has been making the payments to insurers on a month-to-month basis. This doesn't directly affect the customer, however, because the law requires insurers to provide the assistance. What remains to be de-

termined is how long insurers will be compensated. A challenge to the payments brought by congressional Republicans after the ACA's passage is pending in federal court.

## How could a bipartisan bill help?

Most of the focus of bipartisan efforts to improve the individual insurance markets has been on funding and flexibility. Democrats want to continue the cost-sharing subsidy payments and want to provide new funds to help offset the costs of the sickest customers. Republicans want to make it easier for states to change insurance regulations and to allow more people who either can't afford or don't want full insurance to buy plans that cover only about half of medical costs.

## Could lawmakers still agree on a bipartisan set of fixes?

Maybe. Democratic Rep. Josh Gottheimer of New Jersey and GOP Rep. Tom Reed of New York, co-chairmen of a bipartisan group called the House Problem Solvers Caucus, said Monday the only way to get something passed is if both sides come together. "Now is our moment," Gottheimer said. But there's still plenty of opposition. Many Republicans don't want to look like they're "bailing out" insurance companies or shoring up Obamacare. And Democrats are worried about changes they worry could undermine patient protections.

## What else could affect the Obamacare marketplaces?

The administration has shortened the open enrollment period to less than half the time people have had to sign up. Officials also significantly reducing spending on advertising and on paying "navigators" to help people enroll.

As a result, CBO projects that while participation will increase next year, it won't go up as much as previously expected. And because the dropoff is likely to be heaviest among the young and healthy, insurers are likely to seek higher rates for 2019.

## What about Medicaid?

The failure of the GOP repeal bills means the ACA's funding for states to expand Medicaid eligibility continues. Of the 19 states which haven't gone along, CBO expects many could still wait for more funding predictability. But within a decade, 70% of people made newly eligible by the ACA will live in states that have expanded Medicaid, CBO predicts.

Some states could be induced to expand by the Trump administration's eagerness to waive some Medicaid rules. But advocates for the poor could challenge any actions like work requirements that they think go beyond what's allowed without changing the law.

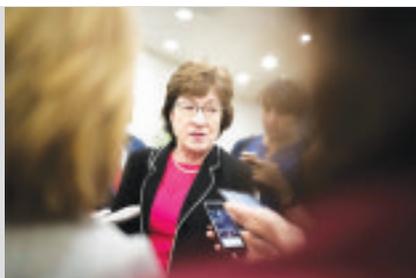


—Photo credit: Al Drago for The New York Times

Senator Bill Cassidy, Republican of Louisiana, listens during a Senate Finance Committee hearing on the Graham-Cassidy health proposal.



John McCain declared his opposition to the GOP's last-ditch effort to repeal and replace "Obamacare," dealing a likely death blow to the legislation.



—Photo credit: Tom Brenner/The New York Times

Senator Susan Collins, Republican of Maine, at the Capitol this month.

## Republicans' last-ditch effort on health care is dead

By Susan Page  
USA TODAY

A last-ditch proposal by Senate Republicans to unwind the Affordable Care Act collapsed Tuesday, leaving Obamacare's critics nearly out of time to meet a procedural deadline this weekend and notably short on ideas for a consensus that could pass.

So after seven years of promising to expunge President Obama's signature domestic initiative from the books — a commitment that helped the GOP take control first of the House and the Senate and finally of the White House — Republicans are left with hard choices about what to do now.

And how to explain it to their voters.

Republicans now face the prospect of going into next year's elections with Obamacare intact and the immigration law for so-called DREAMers enacted through a bipartisan deal

now being negotiated between President Trump and congressional Democrats.

Republicans have roundly denounced the DACA program, an Obama initiative that provided some protection from deportation for young people brought illegally to the country as children.

They risk sufficient disenchantment by the GOP's base voters that they would stay home from the polls next November, or perhaps embrace anti-establishment candidates urging them to throw the current bums out.

An early test: Tuesday's special Senate election in Alabama. Sen. Luther Strange, the appointed incumbent backed by Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., trailed in final polls against provocative conservative challenger Roy Moore.

The one-two punch of setbacks on health care and in the Senate election, if that happens,

would underscore questions about the president's clout, the GOP's unity and the prospects for the legislative agility needed to enact other initiatives coming down the pike, including a tax bill the president plans to pitch on Wednesday.

McConnell had planned to bring the bill, crafted by Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy, to the floor for a vote this week. But the bill did not have enough GOP votes to pass it, with Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, John McCain of Arizona, and Rand Paul of Kentucky all announcing their opposition.

With those defections, there was no apparent credible path toward delivering on the campaign promise that has long been shorthand as "repeal and replace."

After Saturday, the parliamentary maneuver that would allow approval with no Democratic votes is set to expire. Even some new legislative de-

vice that might bypass a Democratic filibuster would do nothing to address the fundamental disagreement within the GOP's ranks about what, precisely, ought to be done on health care proposals that are live-or-die issues for millions of Americans.

Trump famously noted to the nation's governors in February that campaigning against Obamacare was easier than actually doing something about it in office. "Nobody knew that health care could be so complicated," he complained plaintively to them.

Of course, health care is notoriously complicated, not to mention politically dangerous. A vote along partisan lines by Democrats to enact the Affordable Care Act was a major factor behind the party's loss of the House in 2010 and the Senate in 2014.

For Republicans, similar perils loom in next year's midterm elections.

The health care terrain has

become more treacherous for Republicans by the impact of the Affordable Care Act over the last half-dozen years.

One of Obamacare's core principles — that the government has an obligation to guarantee that individuals with pre-existing medical conditions are able to buy affordable health insurance — is now so widely accepted that Republicans were unable to unite behind any legislation that failed to do that.

Some of the protesters who disrupted a Senate committee hearing Monday sported T-shirts that read: "I am a pre-existing condition."

The nonpartisan Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that more than one in four American adults under the age of 65 have medical conditions that could preclude them from buying health insurance under the rules that prevailed before Obamacare.

That means just about ev-

erybody has a family member or a friend or a co-worker who could be priced out the market if the Affordable Care Act was repealed.

Democrats note a certain irony that it took the realistic prospect that Obamacare might actually be repealed to convince a majority of Americans that they liked the law.

Kaiser's most recent monthly poll, in August, found 52 percent approved of the law, up 9 percentage points from Election Day last year.

McConnell on Tuesday didn't signal much energy or optimism on the health care front. On the Senate floor, he called it "an important debate for our country and one that will certainly continue."

Trump sounded resigned to defeat. "We're going to lose two or three votes," he said on the "Rick & Bubba" radio show, "and that's the end of that."

Because health care is complicated.



Dr. Abdul Hamid Samra in front of mosque with members.

## Discussing the Muslim faith

**SAMRA**  
continued from 8B

teachers for two years, like one-to-one to teach me how to pronounce and how to read, and of course I studied the interpretation of it. I felt that it was gifted from God, and I wanted to give this gift to other people."

Samra came to the United States in 1986. He received his doctorate in Electrical Engineering. Now married for 34 years, with two daughters and two sons, Samra, the 65-year-old is a professor at the University of Miami, where he teaches Electrical Engineering. He has also taught at Florida International University.

"The predominantly Christian readership of the Miami Times newspaper, we asked Samra to explain the Muslim religion, especially that news reports continuously describe the religious in the context of terrorism and travel bans on the nightly news.

"Allah, he explains, "is the Arabic word for God, similar to Spanish, where the word used is Dios, but still referring to the same God. "Even in Arab countries, we have Christians when they refer to God, they say 'Allah,' beginning their prayers, "in the name of Allah.

Allah, of the Muslim faith, is viewed as the same God worshipped by Christians, he said. "The One who created the universe, the most powerful, most gracious. Part of our faith is to believe in all the prophets, and the Messenger came before Prophet Muhammad; we believe he [Prophet Muhammad] was the last messenger. It is part of our faith, that we should believe in Jesus; we believe in Moses, Abraham, and all the prophets, from the time of Adam, to the time of the Prophet Muhammad."

"And," continued Dr. Samra,

"part of our faith is to believe in the books that is revealed by those prophets, especially the Torah of the Prophet Moses, the Bible or the Gospel that has been given to Prophet Jesus. And, of course, some books given to David, and some books given to Abraham, that is an essential part of our faith."

The Muslim faith does not teach the ideology of terrorism, Samra explains. "This is happening, not only with the Muslims, but with all religions. There are some fanatics, some extremists that have a different agenda. The first thing it says in the Quran is to be good to other people. Anyone who is not good to other people, I don't care whatever religion he claims, is not true religion. So we see some Muslims, they call themselves Muslims religion, but using it to serve some of their agenda, some of their purpose, some of their interest, and they are not true Muslims. Islam is clear, especially in the Quran, invite for peace, invite for respect of other people, and guarantees of freedom of religion. We are the sons of Adam and Eve, and we were created free, and God is the owner of all of human kind, and He is not the God of the Muslim, but He is the God of all people. He is not merciful to just the Muslim, but he is merciful to all the people. People should see from the Muslim only good things."

Samra said there are some situations that may arise where a person must stand for a cause, or for their rights, and against injustice, that may cause them to defend themselves, but nowhere in the Quran, or in the teaching of Islam it says you should force people to follow your religion, or believe in what you believe. "God made it clear in the Quran, saying, 'the truth

came to you. Who want to believe, let him do so,' and God is the one who will be the judge."

Muslims are forbidden from judging his fellow man. "We cannot claim that this person is going to hell or this person is going to heaven. This is none of our business."

At death, "when we go to the last world, and stand before Allah, every person will be asked what he or she has done with their life. Everything will be recorded, and based on that, there will be reward, and there will be punishment."

Like any other house of worship, in addition to praying five times a day, with a main service on Friday, and Sunday School, the Islamic Center participates in community activities, including hosting interfaith basketball tournaments with Christians and Jews. On Sunday, Sept. 17, the Islamic Center held an open house to distribute food to the local community to people who suffered losses due to Hurricane Irma. The mosque operates the free UHI Clinic six days per week to all people on Northwest 47th Avenue and Miami Gardens Avenue. "Most of the patients are not Muslim. We also have a shelter house for women and children, those who may have been subject to violence. We have our team, especially our youth team, sometime they go downtown and deliver food to the homeless. During the holy days of Ramadan, we open the mosque to feed people every day.

He invites other religious leaders to come to the mosque or he is invited to speak at churches.

"Everybody is welcome here. Sometimes people are in need of help. We may be able to help. Our main service is Friday. Come worship with us," Samra said. "Come and see what's happening inside."

Siders, 786-530-2825.

■ **Florida Independent Restoration Ministries (FIRM)** offers family assistance with drugs and alcohol. Call 800-208-2924 ext. 102 or prayer line, ext. 104.

■ **A Mission with a New Beginning Church Women's Department** provides community feedings. Call 786-371-3779.

■ **Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church** holds bereavement sharing groups every second Sunday from 3 to 4 p.m. Call 305-634-2993.

■ **Street Outreach Ministries** conducts free courses on evangelizing without fear. Call 786-508-6167.

■ **MEC Ministries** holds healing services every fourth Friday at 7:30 p.m. Call 305-693-1534.

The deadline for the Faith Calendar is on or before 2 p.m. Mondays.

# CHURCH LISTINGS

**AFRICAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**  
St. Peter's African Orthodox Cathedral  
Bishop George W. Sands Oct. 2017  
4841 NW 2nd Avenue • 786-360-3302

**BAPTIST**  
New Philadelphia Baptist Church  
Pastor Rickie K. Robinson Sr. Aug. 2018  
1113 NW 79th Street • 305-505-0400

**MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
New Christ Tabernacle Church  
Rev. Harold Harsh Sept. 2018  
1305 NW 54th Street • 305-835-2578

**Walking in Christ M.B. Church**  
Rev. Larry Robbins, Sr. Aug. 2018  
3530 NW 214th Street • 305-430-0443

**New Mount Calvary M.B. Church**  
Rev. Bernard E. Lang, Pastor/Teacher Dec. 2017  
7103 NW 22nd Avenue • 305-691-8015

**New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church**  
Elder William Walker April 2018  
5895 NW 23rd Avenue • 305-635-3866

**New Christ Tabernacle M.B. Church**  
Rev. Harold Marsh Aug. 2018  
1305 NW 54th Street • 305-835-2578

**MISSIONARY BAPTIST**  
Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church  
Elder Johnnie Robinson Feb. 2018  
1395 NW 69th Street • 305-835-8316

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL**  
Metropolitan A.M.E. Church Jan. 2018  
Rev. Michael H. Clark, Jr., Senior Pastor  
1778 NW 69th Street • 305-696-4201

**New Resurrection Community Church**  
Rev. Dr. Anthony A. Tate Aug. 2018  
2167 NW 64th Street • 305-342-7426

**PENTECOSTAL**  
New Faith Deliverance Center COGIC  
Pastor Dr. Willie Gaines Aug. 2018  
3257 NW 7th Avenue Circle • 305-335-4389

**NON DENOMINIAL**  
Yahweh Ministries  
Minister Job Israel Nov. 2017  
Youtube: job yahweh vs3

**MORAVIAN CHURCH**  
New Hope Moravian Church  
Pastor Gregorio Moody Nov. 2017  
6001 SW 127th Avenue • 305-273-4047



An aerial view of Roseau, the capital of Dominica, shows the destruction on Thursday, three days after passage of Hurricane Maria.

## A plea for the island of Dominica

**SKERRITT**  
continued from 8B

devastation" made possible by the warmer air and sea temperatures that fuel superstorms.

"Heat is the fuel that takes ordinary storms — storms we could normally master in our sleep — and supercharges them into a devastating force," he said.

"To deny climate change is to procrastinate while Earth sinks," he continued. "It is to deny a truth we have just lived. It is to mock thousands of my compatriots who, in a few hours, without a roof over their heads, will watch the night descend on Dominica in fear of sudden mudslides and what the next hurricane may bring." Skerritt noted the fundamental injustice that small island nations like Dominica suffer the most from climate change, yet are the least responsible for its cause.

"We are shouldering the consequences of the actions of others," he said. "Actions that endanger our very existence, and all for the enrichment of a few elsewhere."

"In the commonwealth of Dominica, we have long pursued and respected an existence that preserves our



Damage caused by Hurricane Maria in Roseau, Dominica

little Eden," he said, adding later: "Mr. President, fellow leaders, the stars have fallen. Eden is broken."

"Our homes are flattened. Our buildings roofless. Our water pipes smashed. And road infrastructure destroyed. Our hospital is without power. And schools have disappeared beneath the rubble. Our crops are uprooted. Where there was green, there is now only dust and dirt. The desolation is beyond imagination."

Skerritt thanked world leaders for the aid they've extended to Dominica and the other island nations devastated by recent

storms, but implored them to see the bigger picture.

"The time has come for the international community to make a stand, and to decide whether it will be shoulder to shoulder with those suffering the ravages of climate change worldwide."

"Whether we can mitigate the consequences of unprecedented increases in sea temperatures and levels. Whether to help us rebuild sustainable livelihoods. Or whether the international community will merely show some pity now, and then flee, relieved to know that this time it was not you."

## Recovery specialists give assistance

**DISASTER**  
continued from 8B

are encouraged to register before visiting a DRC.

If you have phone and/or internet access, you may register in one of the following ways:  
Online at DisasterAssistance.gov.

Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 for voice, 711 and Video Relay Service (VRS). If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and use a TTY, call 800-462-7585. Information on the registration process is available in ASL at: fema.gov/medialibrary/assets/videos/111546.

Help is available in most languages.

Download the FEMA Mobile App and apply.

You may have other needs while visiting a DRC:

Disaster Survivor Assistance (DSA) crews are canvassing affected areas and are able to register survivors for FEMA assistance, if needed. Telephonic Interpretation Services are available in many languages to assist survivors with translation needs. When residents require further assistance, the teams may refer them to a DRC.

If you're already registered, it is not necessary to visit a DRC, but you may still want to go

to update your status or find help from the other organizations.

FEMA grants do not have to be repaid. FEMA assistance is nontaxable and will not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid or other federal benefits.

Survivors should register even if they have insurance. FEMA cannot duplicate insurance payments, but underinsured applicants may receive help after their claims have been settled.

For more recovery information, visit fema.gov/hurricane-irma.

**Faith CALENDAR**  
Compiled by The Miami Times staff editors@miamitimesonline.com

■ **Greater Harvest Baptist Church** will hold a "Praise Concert" on Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.

■ **St. Peter's A.O.C. Church** invites you to a Vintage Tea Party on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. Call 305-297-2327 or 305-923-2533

■ **Sistah to Sistah Connection Women's Empowerment** meetings are held every second and fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Parkway Professional Building in Miramar. Women only. No children allowed. Free breakfast. Call 954-260-9348.

■ **The Elks Historical Business and Conference Center** invites you every Sunday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. for Gospel Kickback entertainment and fine dining. Call 305-224-1890.

■ **Metropolitan A.M.E. Church** hosts a food and clothing giveaway every third Saturday. Call 786-277-4150.

■ **Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church** has a food and clothing distribution every Wednesday at 4 p.m. Call 786-541-3687.

■ **First Haitian Church of God** hosts a food drive every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 786-362-1804.

■ **New Day N Christ Deliverance Ministry** holds free mind, body and soul self-improvement and Zumba fitness classes. Call 305-691-0018.

■ **New Miami Super Choir** invites interested persons to audition. Call Dr. Tony



Gogo Power! Don't mess with granny Zodwa Twala. She may be 95, but she still packs a punch.

# BOXING grannies

"My grandsons tease me," she says. "They tell each other: 'Talk to gogo nicely or she will punch you.' But there is no punching at home, just joking. Punching is for exercise."

— Maria Mokhine

## The new fountain of youth

By Sue DeGroot  
Sunday Times

Light particles dance in the dusty brightness of a Highveld morning, their giddy shimmer seeming at odds with the mood of the people, mostly women with babies, who wait in a long, inert line outside the clinic at Cosmo City Multipurpose Hall. More people lean on walls or sit on benches in static contemplation. Unmoved by the winter sunlight, they wait for friends, for family, for opportunity.

Across the way, on the other side of the complex, the sun swoops around a corner and onto a paved quadrangle where it flickers in surprise at an entirely different scene. Here faces glow with vigour and the wintry air thrums with the stamping of feet and the chanting of voices: "One! Two! One! Two!"

Four women march in a row with blue soccer balls in their outstretched arms as a nimble young man skips in front of them. "One! Two! Knees up!"

Please turn to **BOXING 13B**



—Photos credit: Simphive Nwala

Take That! Volunteer trainer Nqobile Khimalo blocks a jab from Ngenya.

## Dr. Novara gives life to critical care

Emergency care, pulmonary physician at North Shore, brings hope to critical patients

By Alex Blencowe  
Special to The Miami Times



Vincenzo Novara

For nine years, Vincenzo Novara has served at North Shore Medical Center as a physician, specializing in pulmonary and critical medicine.

Many of his patients are in critical condition, on life-support systems, or are otherwise incapacitated, Novara said. "Most of our patients come in critically ill through the emergency department or the [operating room], and they end up in the intensive care unit because the patient has a life-threatening injury or condition," he said. "We try to get them through those physiological arrangements."

Helping people recover from near-death isn't easy, but is a testament of a job well done.

"I don't think that there's anything more rewarding than knowing that a patient is on the brink of death, and in a few days... they're walking out of the intensive care unit," he said. Although, Novara admits critical care can more often be a high-paced, stressful situation, especially when dealing with seeing the best, and worst, in incredibly sick patients struggling through tough recoveries.

"You have the opportunity for professional and personal growth everyday," said Novara.

Always attracted to science, the Puerto Rican-born physician attained a bachelor's degree in biology before pursuing his medical career, attending medical school at the University of Puerto Rico. After completing specialty training in pulmonary care, critical care and internal medicine at the University of Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami became home for Novara.

Novara started his own practice in 2008, but the North Shore Medical Center called to him as a unique place around his residence in North Bay Village.

North Shore's extensive pathology and in-depth coverage of critical and

pulmonary care were also a draw, Novara says.

"North Shore offers a multicultural community very similar to where I grew up," he said, noting downtown and the surrounding areas' cosmopolitan-Caribbean vibe and immigrant population.

Novara uses his bilingual skill to speak English and Spanish to serve patients from Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, as well as locals from areas such as Little Haiti and North Miami.

The areas of pulmonary practices and emergency specialists have been growing since his start at North Shore. "And we have become the provider of choice for those services," he said.

Working at North Shore offers new experiences everyday and one never knows into what they may walk, whether it is dealing with survivors of serious in-home accidents to severe injuries from car crashes, according to Novara.

The Florida Department of Motor Vehicles' 2005 Crash Data for Miami-Dade County saw 48,537 traffic accidents with 37,879 injuries, 1,484 pedestrian injuries, and 444 bicycle injuries. The state of Florida saw a total of 268,605 traffic crashes in 2004, according to Florida DMV data.

"It challenges you to be better in a field that you feel you can make a difference," said Novara.

For more information on North Shore Medical Center and Dr. Vincenzo Novara, please visit [www.northshoremedical.com](http://www.northshoremedical.com). You may reach Alex Blencowe at [alexblencowe17@gmail.com](mailto:alexblencowe17@gmail.com).



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IN MEMORIAM • HAPPY BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES • DEATH NOTICES • OBITUARIES • CARD OF THANKS

**Hadley Davis Miami Gardens**

**REGINALD TURNBULL, JR.**, 28, laborer, died September 16. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.



**MARTHA KATE MORGAN, 76**, retired, died September 16 at Jackson North Medical Center. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



**STARR L. THURSTON, 87**, air conditioner tech, died September 9 at home. Service 10 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



**Richardson**

**ERIC THOMPSON, 46**, community activist, died September 15 at University of Miami Hospital. Service noon, Saturday at Mount Olive Primitive Baptist Church.



**JAA-RAN ARLINGTON NESBITT, 74**, bus operator, died September 19 at University of Miami Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Saint Matthews Baptist Church.



**GEORGE GIBSON, 78**, truck driver, died September 18 at University of Miami Hospital. Service noon today in the chapel.

**SHIRLEY ANN MATHIS, 68**, dispatcher, died September 22 at home. Final rites in Fitzgerald, Georgia.

**The Mortuary Group**

**REBECCA ANNE SNELL, 52**, homemaker, died September 19 at home. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Jordan Grove Baptist Church.



**Mitchell**

**DEACON OVERTON BROOKS, 81**, retired sanitation worker, died September 3 at University of Miami Hospital. Services were held.



**Gregg L. Mason**

**JOSEPH NATHAN OLIVER, 52**, died September 18. Survivors include daughters, Shanika L. Janae J., Brittany A., Breanna N., and Jasmine T. Oliver; mother, Barbara Ann Oliver; grandchildren, Janiyan and Journee Bridges, Carlton Wright, Jr., and Brooke Hampton; brothers, Rev. Jeffery Oliver and Shawn Carter; sister, Miriam Martin; and a host of other relatives. Viewing 2-9 p.m., family hour 7-9 p.m., Friday. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Entombment: Caballero Rivero Dade Memorial.



**MILICENT WILKINS, 59**, died September 23. Arrangements are incomplete.

**Premier**

**MILICENT WILKINS, 59**, died September 23. Arrangements are incomplete.

**Hadley Davis MLK**

**GLORIA BOGAN, 77**, died September 12 at Mount Sinai Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at New Jerusalem.



**ROSA BANKS, 63**, died August 24. Service 11 a.m., Friday in the chapel.



**JAMES EDWARD JONES, 56**, forklift driver, died September 23 at home. Leaving to mourn his wife of 24 years, Jacqueline Jones and five children: Jacqema, William, Jacqeesha, James Jr., and Jacqesha. Memorial services 2-4 p.m., Saturday at Hadley Davis Funeral Home following the wake at 1442 NW 73 St. Final rites in Alabama.



**Wright and Young**

**KIARRI BEACH, 4**, died September 7. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at International Deliverance Center.



**CAROLINE BROWN, 90**, died September 20. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at The Church of Incarnation.



**MAE DEAN M. REID, 69**, died September 25. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Antioch Baptist Church of Brownsville.



**LARRY MANNING, 61**, laborer, died September 14. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Way Praise and Worship Center.

**Eric L. Wilson**

**GERALDINE GIBERT, 74**, homemaker, died September 20 at Memorial Regional. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at House of God Miracle Revival Fellowship Hollywood, FL.



**PATRICIA L. WIMBLEY, 71**, caregiver, died September 18 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Friday in the chapel.

**SABRINA BRABHAM, 45**, LPN nurse, died September 11 at North Shore Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Centurion Apostolic Int'l Ministries.

**LASHAWNDA D. FLENNORY, 22**, attendant, died September 14 at Memorial Regional Hospital. Service noon, Saturday in the chapel.

**KEITH ERIC WHITE, 61**, laborer, died September 3. Private services were held.

**Royal**

**JAMES ALAN SMITH, 81**, jazz musician, died September 22. Memorial Service 4-6 p.m., Saturday in chapel.



**Eric S. George**

**VALERIA SWEET, 55**, driver, died September 22 at North Shore Hospice. Service 1 p.m., Thursday in the chapel.



**In Memoriam**

In loving memory of,  
  
**EDYTHE KATHRYN GRAHAM**  
09/07/1931 - 09/15/2013  
We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday and days before that too. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name. All we have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memories are our keepsake with which we'll never part. God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts. Charmaine Sutton, Karen Steiner, Felicia Perkins, Glenda Harris, Deloris Collier and the Graham family.

**In Memoriam**

In loving memory of,  
  
**JAMES T. MCCRAY**  
12/05/1939 - 09/24/2016  
We will hold you in our hearts until we hold you in heaven. You are truly missed. The Family

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN?**

Have you forgotten so soon about your departed loved one? Keep them in your memory with an in memoriam or a happy birthday remembrance in our obituary section.

305-694-6225  
The Miami Times

**Happy Birthday**

In loving memory of,  
  
**CORNEISHA MILLER**  
09/26/1990 - 03/18/2010  
Happy Birthday, Neisha! From your immediate family. We love and miss you. Your two sons are very smart and doing well in school. You would be so proud of them. We are going to get justice for you. Your loving father, Cornelious.

**Happy Birthday**

In loving memory of,  
  
**MARY JEAN HAMPTON-NELOMS**  
10/01/1960 - 07/09/2013  
With an ache in my heart I whisper low, Happy Birthday, Mary Jean I miss you so. From your loving husband, Lexxie; your mother, Carrie; niece, Portia; family and friends.

**In Memoriam**

In loving memory of,  
  
**CHAUNDRA Y. RUSSELL**  
10/06/1975 - 09/30/2016  
Forever in our hearts. Forever remembered. Forever loved. Your son, Victor; mom, Sarah; dad, Eric; brother, Cedric and family.

**In Memoriam**

In loving memory of,  
  
**PHILIP J. MARTIN**  
01/02/1937 - 09/27/2016  
Annie Martin and Family.

**Eric Thompson, Liberty Square fixture, dies at 46**

*Miami Times staff report*  
Eric Thompson, a Trinidad-born community activist who was embraced by the Liberty Square community died Sept. 15, at University of Miami hospital surrounded by his family. His niece, Cherry Johnson said Thompson would help anyone and he fought for the rights for people in Liberty Square and throughout the state. His memorial service will be 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29 at Johnson's home, 528 NW 97th St., Miami FL 33150. There will be a viewing there until 9 p.m. Funeral Service will be noon Saturday, Sept. 30 at Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church, 6931 NW 17th St., Miami. Thompson's good friend Mae Christian said she was saddened that his memorial service couldn't have been held at the community center in Liberty Square, where he helped so many people to use the computer. It's such a shame, she said from her hospital bed Tuesday. Eric Thompson was born to the late Sylvia Thompson and Hugh Griffith. Eric was educated in Trinidad. After graduating high school he furthered his education at New York University. In college he was introduced to community activism. This began a lifetime of helping others. Eric became a lead organizer in the Bronx in New York. He organized tenant groups in Queens and in the Bronx. He worked on large-scale borough-wide projects, and supervised a staff of 15 organizers, Campaign organizers for the Family working party of New York. He served on the University of Miami Advisory Board, of which his duties included making recommendations to the Miami Sylvester Cancer staff on health issues in the Liberty City/Model City community. He was also involved with the Florida Institute of Justice as a head organizer for



**Eric Thompson**

the Civic Engagement and Involvement Project. He was also the coordinator of the Liberty Square Small Business Computer Training Center. He was also the Community Liaison for the Liberty Square Resident Council. Thompson was also the Vice President of the Liberty City Trust. He was the Vice President of the Liberty City Community and Economic Development Agency, served in Miami Gardens and helped to re-elect State Rep. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall. He was also the state field director for the Florida Minimum Wage Campaign, and the executive director of the Dade-County Overall Tenant Advisory Council.

Left to mourn his wonderful memories are his father Hugh Griffith, Trinidad Tobago, four aunts and one uncle (Deceased), two sisters Margaret (Eli) Thompson, Angie (Allison) Sawm, three brothers Stephen Thompson, Carlos Griffith, and Errol Thompson (Deceased). One nephew Izzy (Cedric) Parris. One goddaughter Caren Medly. One Goddess Stella Myles. Eric will also be missed by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, also a very dear friend Jeffrey Wells. Donations are accepted for the Model City Advisory Board Community Development. Call Cherry Johnson at 786-458-5376 for more information.

**Charles Bradley, 68, a late-in-life soul music star, dies**

*By Joe Coscarelli The New York Times*  
Charles Bradley, the journeyman soul singer whose beleaguered rasp and passionate live performances turned him from an itinerant worker and small-time James Brown impersonator into a late-in-life headliner, died on Saturday in Brooklyn. He was 68. The cause was liver cancer, said Shazila Mohammed, a publicist for the singer. Bradley had stomach cancer diagnosed in the fall of 2016. He underwent treatment and returned to touring this year, but canceled his remaining live shows earlier this month and announced that the cancer had spread to his liver. "I love all of you out there that made my dreams come true," Bradley said at the time. Known as the Screaming Eagle of Soul for his serrated cries of pain and longing, Bradley released his first album, "No Time for Dreaming," in 2011 at the age of 62. The New York Times critic Jon Caramanica wrote that the LP "wants to be part of no movement, heralds no shift in the sonic landscape; it just wants to be. It has the feeling of childbirth, messy and noisy and urgent." Bradley followed that with two more albums — "Victim of Love" in 2013 and "Changes" last year — all for Dunham Records, a division of the modern Brooklyn soul label Daptone. In a statement, Gabriel Roth, a founder of Daptone who discovered Bradley as the James Brown tribute act Black Velvet, said: "Charles was somehow one of the meekest and strongest people I've ever known. His pain was a cry for universal love and humanity." Like his idol Brown or his fellow soul revivalist Sharon Jones, whose career closely mirrored his own, Bradley sang wearily of personal travails and social concerns, often emphasizing the overlap between the two. "Why is it so hard to make it in America?" he cried on his debut. On "The World (Is Going Up in Flames)," he added: "This world is going up in flames/and nobody/wants to take the blame."

**In Memoriam**

In loving memory of,  
  
**REV. DR. EARL PONDER, SR.**  
02/11/1935 - 09/28/2016  
Remembering the Life and Legacy of our Family Patriarch, Rev. Dr. Earl Ponder, Sr. A Devoted Pastor, Husband, Father and Grandfather. It has been one year since the Master saw fit to call you home but, yet it still seems like yesterday. We will always cherish and value the precious memories we shared together. Gone from our sights but, never gone from our hearts...missing you. Loving wife, Emma and Ponder Family.

# Punching is good for the spirit, relieves stress and worry

**BOXING**  
continued from 12B

Two others, hands laced into red boxing gloves, display impeccable footwork as they rhythmically thump their fists into a punching bag. "One! Two!"

Supervised by a second muscled youngster, two more women spar in a roped-off boxing ring, circling and jabbing, carefully not to land a blow. Another four surround a tall man with pads strapped to his hands. "One! Two! Punch!" He holds the pads high above each woman in turn. They throw punches and in a continuous fluid movement bob down as he swings at their heads. "Left! Right! Duck!"

The instructor is former bodybuilding champion Claude Maphosa and the women in this class are all senior citizens.

Zodwa Nwala, 95, is so tiny she has to stretch on tiptoe to reach Maphosa's pads, but she raises heavy gloves at the end of wispy arms and

"I wanted to mix with other ladies and I found them here," she says. "We started doing gym and gardening and sewing and drawing. . . We visit together, we have tea together, we share." She lifts her arms with the spry delight of a much younger woman. "I was alone here but now I have family. Claude is very strict with us but he looks after us."

Just over three years ago, Maphosa moved his A-Team gym to Cosmo City. "My father was a pastor and my mother believed in prayer, so the A stands for Anointing," he says. "On my first day, the gogos saw me putting machines in and they said: 'Hau, it's a gym.'" I said: 'Yes.' They said: 'Can we join?' I said: 'OK.'

"I was a bit nervous about training them, but I realised there was a lot more to them than what you see. Since then they have come here without fail every Tuesday and Thursday, unless they have to collect their pension."

There are about 15 in the core

tions, some had breast cancer . . . and if you see them now you can't believe it," he says. "If I take these gogos and compare them to other gogos who don't exercise, there is a big difference."

Maria Mokhine, 77, had high blood pressure before she joined the group. "After I started boxing it went down to normal," she says. "Before, we were sick, we were tired. Now that we box we are not tired any more. When you are boxing, you feel all right, you feel fit, gardening is easier, you are stronger."

Lydia Letswalo, 70, was recovering from broken bones after a taxi accident when she started boxing. "I was sick, but now I don't take any tablets, I'm very healthy. After three months here I went to the clinic and they couldn't believe it, they said: 'How did you improve so much?' And I said: 'I am exercising.'"

Outsiders assume this is a self-defense class. They imagine supergrannies patrolling the streets of Cosmo City, knocking muggers senseless at every corner. But these gogos box for fitness, not for combat. Letswalo giggles when asked if she has ever punched someone to protect herself.

"My grandsons tease me," she says. "They tell each other: 'Talk to you gogo nicely or she will punch you.' But there is no punching at home, just joking. Punching is for exercise."

"If these women are anything to go by, punching seems to do as much for the spirit as it does for the body. Despite its flowery name, life in Cosmo City is no picnic. Like any township in South Africa, its streets are awash with unemployment and those who have a little must make it go a long way.

At 66, Mabel Mokgosi is the baby of the group and one of its newest members. She has diabetes and high blood pressure, both of which have improved since she started boxing.

"When I come here I have no stress," she says. "It keeps me fit and I'm happy here." Born in Pretoria and raised in a rural area, Mokgosi and her family lived in a squatter camp for many years. "Then they brought us here and gave us the RDP house. So now I have my own house," she says. "But I am a pensioner and so is my husband, we have no jobs any more. My three sons live with us and they also have no work, they eat our money. Sometimes I can't buy electricity, sometimes we are short of food. I am in debt because I have to borrow money, then when I get my pension I have to pay it back. It is tough. The boxing helps with the stress and the worry."

**LIFE IS GOOD**

Gladys Ngwenya was born in the place now called Cosmo City in 1941. She married and moved to KwaZulu-Natal and later moved back with her daughters and grandchildren. "Life is good here except for the totosis," she says. "They get in the houses and break things and take things, our phones, TV, everything. They are a problem. But I go to church and pray every Sunday. Here at the gym I feel safe. It is a good place."

Most of Ngwenya's friends have come from elsewhere. Mokhine was born in Nootgedacht in 1940. "I stayed with my parents on the farm, got married there, had four children there and then, you know, apartheid. They moved us to Zewenfontein in the homeland, where we stayed for many years. My parents passed away, my brother moved to Pretoria. Then on November 22 2006, they moved us here to an RDP house." Mokhine grows roses in her own garden now. But her favourite place is the gym. "I love boxing," she says. "You don't feel cross with people any more, you are nicer to them."

Letswalo was born in Randburg

in 1947. "There was a bantu location at Ferndale before they called it Ferndale. I was born there, then my parents moved to Soweto, but they didn't like Soweto, so in 1956 they moved to the farms. Now I live here in Cosmo City Extension 2. It's . . . well, it's home."

Letswalo was born in Randburg in 1947. "There was a bantu location at Ferndale before they called it Ferndale. I was born there, then my parents moved to Soweto, but they didn't like Soweto, so in 1956 they moved to the farms. Now I live here in Cosmo City Extension 2. It's . . . well, it's home."

Letswalo says she is lucky be-

cause she lives near the gym. Others have to walk several kilometres to get there. "From Extension 8 it is R7 for a taxi one way," she says. "The women do not have R14 for a return fare. They walk. It would help the ones who stay far away if Claude had some way to fetch them."

Maphosa echoes this wish. "These grannies come here faithfully but they also have to survive, they've got their kids to look after, grandkids. Some of them have to come from far. If we had a bakkie or something to carry them that would help. We could bring others, which would help the community, because these women are role models."



Dynamite in a small package, Gladys Ngwenya.

lands a wellaimed clip on each pad. "Time to swap," calls Maphosa in his lionine voice, and the groups rotate. "Awla, too small and frail to climb between the ropes, drops to her knees and crawls unselfconsciously into the ring, where she springs up again like a blade of grass missed by the mower.

"Bring that group out of the sun," Maphosa tells his assistant. "They are cooking already."

**ENERGY FOOD**

He hands out cloves of peeled garlic, cubes of fresh ginger and wedges of kola nut. "For energy and detox," he says. Instead of removing their boxing gloves, the women open their mouths and Maphosa gently places food on their tongues as though giving communion.

In a way, communion is exactly what Maphosa dispenses to this group of grannies. Proof of this is Constance Ngubane, 79, who moved to Cosmo City from Soweto because she had reached the top of a housing list. She arrived knowing no one.

group, Maphosa says. "More want to join but I have to limit it. We train the seniors for free and we have to buy food; they must eat before they exercise and afterwards they are a bit fragile, so we give them something."

Nobile Khumalo hands around a bowl of quartered apples and the grannies munch, mopping their brows. Khumalo is a 29-year-old bodybuilder who met Maphosa when the A-Team had a gym in Soweto. He now travels to Cosmo City to help with the gogos. "I love working with them," he says. "They have so much life and they are curious to try things."

Boitumelo Mootane, 23, another volunteer, says the gogos have taught him respect. "The more you help them, the more grace and blessings they give you," he says.

**BIG DIFFERENCE**

For Maphosa, the improvement he has seen in the women's health is reward enough. "Some of them have had opera-

By Carolyn Gunnis  
cgunnis@miamitimesonline.com

Helping children develop a love for reading at a young age is what author Anna McQuinn aims to do in the children's book, "Lola at the Library."

Illustrator Rosalind Beardshaw made a sub-theme of inclusion and integration with the images of racial tolerance and connection throughout the short, simple, colorful book.

Young Lola already has a routine. She knows if it is Tuesday, it's library day.

She's organized and knows that she needs to have her books, backpack and library card with her when she goes.

Along the way, Lola greets friends she has had made on her walk with her mommy to library. When she arrives at the library, she is all business, ready to return books from the previous weeks.

Then she heads to the children's section of the library, where she can talk with other children who like reading! Sometimes someone reads to the children or they get to recite verses that they have

learned from their books. Then Lola gets to choose the books she loves. She likes stories about animals and shoes.

Her mother sets a good example by checking out books of her own.

Lola also enjoys having a snack with her mom after the visit to the library. Mom makes reading a part of their lives. She reads to Lola before she goes to bed.

So many nuances are in the short soft-covered book, first published in 2006.

In a time when everyone uses a tablet, an e-reader, books on tape, a computer or a smartphone to read and do research, the "Lola at the Library" is a reminder that there is nothing like touching a book and hearing it read by

someone you know and love. "Lola at the Library" shows parents that they should expose children to different races as a way of socialization. The book underscores that children should be taught to be concerned about and interested in animals. It also shows that it's not the daycare's responsibility to teach children how to read; it's parents.

Above all, the story says that through the love of books, parents and children can develop a strong bond of friendship.

The Miami Times has a few free copies of the book "Lola at the Library" available. Call the newspaper at 305-694-6210 between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday to request one.

## The Miami Times Church Directory

<p><b>Apostolic Revival Center</b> 6702 N.W. 15th Avenue 305-836-1274</p> <p>Order of Services Wed. Interspersed Prayer 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Morning Service 11 a.m. Sun. Ev. Worship 7:30 p.m. Thurs. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Fri. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Dr. &amp; Mrs. G. S. Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Liberty City Church of Christ</b> 1263 N.W. 67th Street 305-836-4555</p> <p>Order of Services Sunday Morning 8 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Evening 5 p.m. Tue. Bible Class 6:30 p.m. Thurs. Fellowship 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Evangelist Eric W. Doss</b></p>	<p><b>New Vision For Christ Ministries</b> 13650 N.E. 10th Avenue 305-899-7274</p> <p>Order of Services Early Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Evening 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service - 6 p.m. Sunday Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Rev. Michael D. Screen</b></p>	<p><b>Brownsville Church of Christ</b> 4561 N.W. 33rd Court 305-634-4830/Fax &amp; Messages 305-634-6604</p> <p>Order of Services Lead Day Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 5 p.m. Thursday Night Bible Study 7:30pm Thurs. Mon. Bible Class 10 a.m.</p> <p><b>Min. Harrell L. Henton</b></p>	<p><b>93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church</b> 2330 N.W. 93rd Street 305-836-0942</p> <p>Order of Services 7:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship 11 a.m. Morning Worship Evening Worship 1st &amp; 3rd Sunday 6 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study 7 p.m. www.cmc.org</p> <p><b>Pastor Rev. Carl Johnson</b></p>	<p><b>St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church</b> 1470 N.W. 87th Street 305-691-8861</p> <p>Order of Services Sunday 7:30 and 11 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday 7 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting</p> <p><b>Rev. Dr. C.A. Ivory, Pastor</b></p>
<p><b>Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church</b> 5946 N.W. 12th Avenue 305-751-9373</p> <p>Order of Services Early Worship 7 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. Bible Class 10:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Worship 4 p.m. Mission and Bible Class Tuesday 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Pastor Douglas Cook, Sr.</b></p>	<p><b>New Birth Baptist Church, The Cathedral of Faith International</b> 2300 N.W. 135th Street 1 (800) 254-NBCC 305-685-3700 Fax: 305-685-0705 www.newbirthbaptistmiami.org</p> <p>Order of Services Sunday Worship 7 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Tuesday (Bible Study) 6:45 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 10:45 a.m.</p> <p><b>Bishop Victor T. Curry, D.Min., D.D., Senior Pastor/Teacher</b></p>	<p><b>Pembroke Park Church of Christ</b> 3707 S.W. 56th Avenue • Hollywood, FL 33023 (Office) 954-962-9327</p> <p>Order of Services SUNDAY Bible Study . . . . . 9 a.m. Morning Worship . . . . . 10 a.m. Evening Worship . . . . . 6 p.m. www.pembrokeparkchurchofchrist.com <b>Minister Kevin D. Jones, Sr</b></p>	<p><b>Hosanna Community Baptist Church</b> 2171 N.W. 56th Street 305-637-4404 • FAX: 305-637-4474</p> <p>Order of Services Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible Study, Thursday 7:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Mon. Wed. 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins</b></p>		

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# WHERE ARTS & POLITICS COLLIDE

NEW EXHIBITION AT ARTCENTER/SOUTH FLORIDA EXPLORES LYNCHINGS AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Miami Times staff report

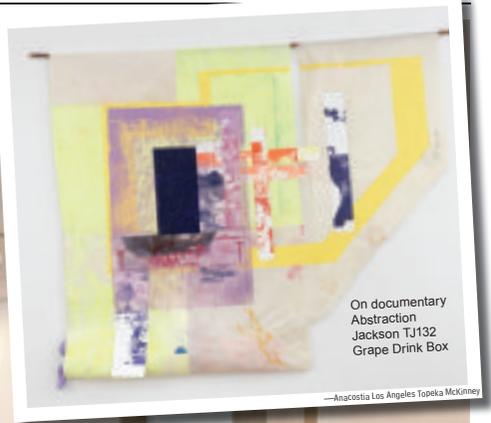
A new art exhibition at ArtCenter/South Florida will feature works that explore the history of lynching in the United States.

Two of the artists, Torkwase Dyson and Tomashi Jackson, use abstract art to explore lynchings in the south and civil rights legislation.

The exhibit opens 1 p.m. Sept. 30, with a conversation between curator Rachael Rakes and Jackson, followed by a brunch reception at the ArtCenter's Miami Beach location, 924 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. The event is open to the public with RSVP.

Please turn to **ARTS 6C**

On Documentary Abstraction Ibghy Lemmens Post injury Productivity Losses- Absentee and Earning Effects



On documentary Abstraction Jackson TJ132 Grape Drink Box

—Anacostia Los Angeles Topeka McKinney

# GO ALL WHITE FOR RICHMOND HEIGHTS



Marcine and Ben Fuller are seen at a previous screening of "The Richmond Heights 49ers" documentary with Johnnie Hinson, left, who is in the movie.

—Photos courtesy of The Historic Society



## HISTORIC SOCIETY TO RAISE FUNDS FOR VETERANS, SCREENS FILM

Miami Times staff report

Old school hip-hop artist Chubb Rock will be the emcee and performing artist at the Historic Society of Richmond Height's All White Affair, the first of a two-day event.

In its fifth year, the wear-

white-to-impress event will be on Friday, Sept. 29, at the Black Archives Historic Lyric Theater, 819 NW Second Ave., Miami, FL 33136. Doors open at 8 pm.

Chubb Rock is best known for his '90s hip-hop hit, "Treat 'Em Right." He has since

Please turn to **HEIGHTS 6C**

## The star-studded closeout for Black Archives' 40th bash

Yearlong festivities end with comedian Rickey Smiley, SOS Band and George Clinton & the P-Funk All-Star, Soul Basel

Miami Times staff report

The Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South Florida Inc. has tapped comedian Rickey Smiley to closing out its 40th Anniversary celebrations, which began a year ago.

Smiley will take the reins as host for the three-day party for Soul Basel, Dec. 6, 7, and 8, at the Lyric Theater Cultural Arts Complex, 819 NW Second Ave., Miami, Florida 33136. Dubbed Funk. Art. Soul, the 40th anniversary events will pay homage to community pillars during the kick-off celebration on Dec. 6, 2017.



Rickey Smiley

Please turn to **BASH 2C**

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# THE STUDIO MUSEUM HAS A VISION FOR ITS HOME

## THELMA GOLDEN AND A POWER PLAYER AT THE HELM

By Robin Pogrebin  
The New York Times

It was evening in Harlem. At 144 West 125th Street, between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard and Lenox Avenue, people fiercely embraced one another in greeting. Bartenders poured wine as a D.J. spun tunes and a machine spouted popcorn.

This wasn't a block party or a family reunion. It was the recent opening of an exhibition at the Studio Museum in Harlem, the city's premier showcase for African-American art. And at the center of the swirl — combining the forces of anchor, magnet, den mother, big sister and art world celebrity — was the museum's director and formidable steward, Thelma Golden.

The infectious, informal atmosphere is what Ms. Golden hopes to capture in the museum's new building by the architect David Adjaye, whose design is to be unveiled on Tuesday and is the impetus for a \$175 million capital campaign.

As the Studio Museum prepares to break ground here next year, coinciding with its 50th anniversary, Ms. Golden, 52, is overseeing the institution at a turning point in its history.

The museum will finally have its first purpose-built space on the site of its current cramped home in a former bank building. Despite persistent doubts about the financial capacities of predominantly black boards, the Studio Museum has succeeded in raising 70



—Photo credit: Brad Ogbonna for The New York Times

**Thelma Golden, director and chief curator of the Studio Museum in Harlem, which is expanding out of its cramped space into its first built home. Other institutions look to Golden's stewardship for lessons in how to build a racially diverse audience, staff and board.**

percent of the money for its building project, cementing the institution's stature as a model of how to develop racially diverse trustees, staff members and audiences. Ms. Golden's name, meanwhile, keeps coming up for top posts, like those at the Brooklyn Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

At the same time, Golden must defend the Studio Museum's importance in an age when the work of African-American artists is increasingly making its way into mainstream institutions. She must find new ways to attract visitors when even major institutions on Manhattan's Museum Mile are struggling to compete

with digital media for patrons' leisure time. And she needs to raise the rest of the money for a new building when many institutions are also trying to secure donations.

"She's now considered a superstar in the art world," said Michael Govan, the director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, who last year brought Golden onto his board. "Some people have said, 'Mission accomplished; why do you need a big building?'" he added. "Well, why does MoMA need a new building, why does the Whitney need a new building? Somehow the Studio Museum is supposed to stay in an unkept, un-air-conditioned building. Why shouldn't they have the same institutional ambition?"

The Studio Museum's dual identities — as local community hub and an international champion of African-American artists and curators — are evident at its overflow openings, like the one for this month's emerging artists show "Fictions," where the gallery owner Gavin Brown and the artist Marilyn Minter rubbed elbows with Jonelle Procope, the president and chief executive of the Apollo Theater, and Dr. Edgar Mandeville, an esteemed obstetrician at Harlem Hospital.

About \$125 million has been secured toward Studio Museum's \$175 million goal (which includes reserve and endowment), including a substantial \$53.8 million contribution from the city, with another \$9 million commitment anticipated over the next



SOS Band



George Clinton & P-Funk

## Lyric Theater celebrations

BASH  
continued from 1C

Soul Basel will feature the unveiling of the new exhibition called "Funky Turns 40: Black Character Revolution." The exhibition will showcase cartoons and animated images with all African-American casts from the 1970s. Guests will reminisce on days gone by with cartoons from The Jackson 5, Fat Albert and The Cosby Kids, I Am The Greatest: The Adventures of Muhammad Ali, The Brown Hornet, Verb from School House Rock and Lt. Uhura from Star Trek: The Animated Series.

The Black Archives kicked off its 40 years of chronicling Black life by celebrating former president Barack Obama and his legacy. A traveling art ex-

hibition, called "Visions of Our 44th President Barack Obama," opened Dec. 1, 2016.

Forty-four busts were created by artists from a blank canvas, which gave each artist free reign to portray the president in life-sized, three-dimensional form.

The music for the three-day celebration will feature live performances by the SOS Band and George Clinton & the P-Funk All-Stars. The SOS Band broke into the industry with the sultry funk guitar-fueled hit, "Take Your Time." George Clinton was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997 and is a music icon. "Atomic Dog,"

Tickets for the kick-off event Dec. 6 are available now at BAF40.eventbrite.com.

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# 'Lightning Men' by Thomas Mullen will strike you

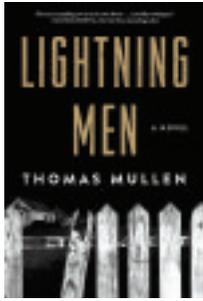
By Terri Schlichenmeyer  
The Bookworm Sez, LLC

It struck in a second. If you'd have blinked, you would have missed the flash but you'd've known it was there by the rumble that followed. There's nothing like the power and beauty of a summer thunderstorm to put respect into you — except, as in the new novel "Lightning Men" by Thomas Mullen, maybe the crack of a gun. Even from the front of the truck, Officers Lucian Boggs and Tommy Smith could see that this was trouble. They'd known for a time that if anyone was going to stop illegal substances from flowing into the part of Atlanta known as "Darktown,"

it would have to be them. White police officers wouldn't bother arresting "Lightning Men" who brought drugs and moonshine in; they didn't care, but Boggs and Smith knew what those things were doing to the people of their



community. And so, there they were, approaching a delivery truck in a narrow alley one night, guns in hand. The subsequent lack of support from fellow officers came as no surprise, nor did the release of the men Boggs



and Smith had arrested. That was the latest in a long line of slights from White Atlanta, which was busy being

outraged that Black families were moving into formerly white neighborhoods.

One of those neighborhoods was where Officer Dennis Rakestraw lived. Rake really had no issue with "Negroes" moving into his neighborhood, but he knew his brother-in-law, Dale, did. Dale was an idiot, that was sure, and Rake was dismayed to know that he was also Klan. It was that part that got Dale into trouble before — but never as much trouble as Dale was in now, and he'd pulled Rake straight in the middle of the storm.

As tension heated up over neighborhood segregation, a similar tension simmered within the APD over "the

colored experiment" within the department, a white banker assaulted by Klansmen, shoot-outs, beatings, and the return of someone who should've stayed away. Trust in Atlanta that summer was a rare commodity — between man and woman, between relatives-by-marriage, and even between two APD partners.

There's a lot going on inside "Lightning Men" — which is good, and it's not.

Rich in detail and flavored by the presence of real-life people, this novel, set in 1950, also contains snippets of authentic racism, Jim Crow laws, and social mores of the post-War American South. This offers readers a fine tale with an atmos-

phere of confusion, beauty, and horror, in which author Thomas Mullen inserts two officers, both of whom are likeable characters and fit perfectly into this story.

But oh, it's a long story. Too long, in fact; plot lines stretch forever before tying up; dead characters strut on the sidelines; and a rotating cast numbers in the dozens, which can make a reader disoriented. A too-convenient ending is no fun, either.

And yet, readers of noir crime dramas might relish tackling this book and its meticulously-written lushness; if that's your, this is your kind o'book. For lighter readers or cozy-mystery fans, though, "Lightning Men" probably won't strike you.

## Harlem Museum gives space and showcase African-American art

MUSEUM  
continued from 2C

two years. Golden has raised the museum's international profile by popping up all over the world — leading trustees on art trips to Los Angeles or London; at the Venice Biennale to celebrate the artist Mark Bradford; in the pages of Vogue, in those unmistakable colorful dresses designed by her husband, the London-based Duro Olowu; and on the board of the Obama Foundation, where she is helping to plan the presidential library.

"What she has done is to simultaneously foreground the Harlem-ness in Studio Museum but also enabled it to become a national institution," said Glenn D. Lowry, the director of the Museum of Modern Art.

Still Golden's connection to Harlem, where she also lives, is visibly strong; she can regularly be seen chatting with street vendors; eating branzino with her board chairman, the financier Raymond J. McGuire, at Vinateria; and convening the heads of the Dance Theater of Harlem and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at Red Rooster to welcome a new cultural leader to the neighborhood.

"The community is a part of that museum," the artist Julie Mehretu said. "You feel that."

Despite Met speculation, Golden said she is focused on her building project, which will increase the Studio Museum's space for its exhibitions and artist in residence program by 115 percent, invite visitors through a new glass entrance and hold events on its roof terrace.

"Right now, there is very little about what it means to be the director of the Studio Museum that I would trade," Golden said. "It feels like this is what I am supposed to be doing."

Moreover, she must help the museum stay vital while itinerant — closing in January 2018 and planning to reopen in 2021 — during which it will pursue projects in various spaces.

Golden is known for a zealous development of artists, many of whom have become world renowned, including Kehinde Wiley, Njideka Akunyili Crosby and Glenn Ligon, with whom Golden talks every day.

"She immediately gives them a platform," Bradford said. "She doesn't just say, 'they're great' at a cocktail party. She goes to work."

This enthusiasm for art animated Golden early on. "Art was my favorite thing," she said, recalling how she devoured the hefty textbook "Janson's History of Art." "It just gave me a sense of the world."

While still a high school student at New Lincoln, Ms. Golden — who grew up in St. Albans, Queens — worked as an intern at the Met, stop-



—Photos credit: Adjaye Associates

A view of the sculptural new home of the Studio Museum, in a plan by David Adjaye. It features precast concrete frames with polished black aggregate panels, brass, terrazzo, wood, and glass.



A design for the Studio Museum's lobby.

ping regularly at the Whitney Museum of American Art. "I loved being in spaces with artwork," she said.

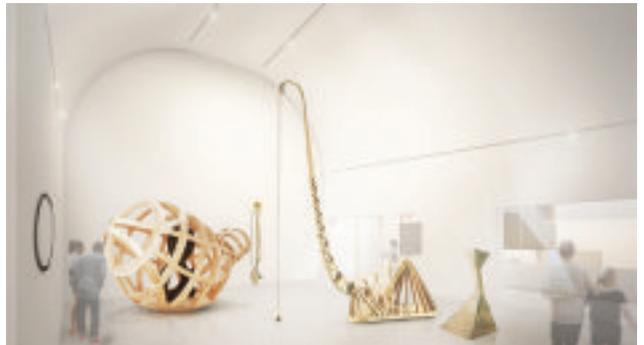
As a sophomore at Smith College, she was an intern at the Studio Museum, and, after graduation, a curatorial fellow there. She then went to the Whitney, where she worked on the 1993 Biennial and curated the exhibition "Black Male" (1994), which provoked considerable debate with its images of masculinity.

"So many of the shows she did were not just great shows but reframed art history," said Adam D. Weinberg, who worked as an intern at the Met, stop-

in making possible the whole rethinking of not just African-American art but American art."

While Golden could have publicly chided her institutional colleagues over the years for being slow to diversify their ranks and collections, she instead has led by example.

"I'm sure she must have personal moments of frustration, but she always takes the high road," said Anne Pasternak, the director of the Brooklyn Museum, adding that Ms. Golden "revolutionized my whole idea of what a cultural institution could do."



The Studio Museum's building is to increase the space for exhibitions and the artist in residence program by 115 percent. Here, a double-height gallery.

Golden said she readily accepts her role as a symbol of change. "I take seriously the responsibility to represent

what it means to believe in the power and the possibility of diversity and inclusion in our cultural world," she said.

"I see it as a privilege to be able to represent what that means. And I don't take it lightly at all."

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FDOT project managers will be on hand to hear your comments and answer your questions including Florida's Turnpike Enterprise. Representatives from the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority will also be available with information for their planned projects.

These public hearings are being held in accordance with Section 309.105, Florida Statutes and to offer the public an opportunity to comment on all projects for the highway systems and public transportation within Florida Department of Transportation District Six Tentative Five-Year Work Program. District Six comprises Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. The Tentative Five-Year Work Program covers the period 09/30/2018 - 09/30/2023.

Send written comments by October 18, 2017, to: Fah Burger, District Public Information Officer, by mail: 1800 NW 111 Avenue, Room 634, Miami, Florida 33172, or email: Fah.Burger@dot.state.fl.us. These comments will also be incorporated into the public document. All comments please.

are invited to attend and to be heard. The proposed improvements have been developed in accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1968.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (due to language) should contact Doug Berling, a lead seven days prior to the meeting by telephone: 305-476-5219 in writing: 1800 NW 111 Avenue, Miami, Florida 33172, or via email: Doug.Berling@dot.state.fl.us





The Little Rock Nine being escorted by the U.S. Army at Central High.

—Photo: U.S. Army Wikimedia Commons



—Photo: Bettmann/Contributor via Getty Images

Elizabeth Eckford ignores the hostile screams and stares of fellow students on her first day of school. She was one of the nine Black students whose integration into Little Rock's Central High School was ordered by a Federal Court following legal action by the NAACP.

# ‘LITTLE ROCK NINE’: 60th anniversary of Central High Integration

By BIO staff

On September 25, 1957 nine Black students courageously started their first full day at an all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, amid an angry mob of students, pro-segregationist groups and a defiant governor. The students would become known as the Little Rock Nine.

Led by Arkansas NAACP Pre-

sident Daisy Gaston Bates, nine Black students took on the task of testing the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 landmark ruling of *Brown v. Board of Education*, which declared that segregation was unconstitutional in American public schools.

Under the glare of an angry mob of white students, 1,200 armed soldiers, media cameras, and pro-segregationist governor Orval Faubus, the Little Rock Nine made their way to Central

High. The students were: Minnijean Brown, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershed, Gloria Ray, Melba Pattillo, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Carlotta Walls, and Elizabeth Eckford.

Eight of the students carpooled together, but because her family didn't have a phone, Eckford couldn't be reached. Thus, she arrived by herself,

vented them from attending classes. It was only when President Dwight Eisenhower sent 1,200 armed soldiers from the 101st Airborne to keep the peace that the Little Rock Nine were able to complete a full day of school.

But their lives were difficult. For the rest of the school year, they faced constant verbal and physical harassment — Mel-

tral High. He was the first African-American to walk out of the school with a diploma. As for the rest of the students, they either received their diplomas through correspondence programs or from other high schools.

The Little Rock Nine went on to accomplish great things in their professional careers, some of them serving in the

areas of higher education, mental health, and the criminal justice system. Green served under President Jimmy Carter as his assistant secretary in the Department of Labor. Pattillo became a reporter for NBC. Brown worked under President Bill Clinton in the Department of the Interior as the deputy assistant secretary for workforce diversity.

In 1999 President Clinton awarded the Little Rock Nine with the Congressional Gold Medal for their important role in the Civil Rights Movement. Ten years later, President Barack Obama invited them to his inauguration.

Of the Nine, Jefferson Thomas was the first to pass away. He died in 2010 from pancreatic cancer.



—AP Photo/Kelly P. Kissel

Surviving members of the Little Rock Nine, the students who integrated Central High School in 1957, speak with the media Friday, Sept. 22, 2017, at the Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock, Ark. From the left are Thelma Mothershed Wair, Minnijean Brown Trickey, Terrence J. Roberts, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Gloria Ray Karlmarm, Ernest G. Green and Elizabeth Eckford. Melba Pattillo Beals attended and is off the camera to the right. Jefferson Thomas died in 2010.

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## Profiles of the Little Rock Nine

By The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Surviving members of the Little Rock Nine, the students who integrated Central High School in 1957, speak with the media Friday, Sept. 22, 2017, at the Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock, Ark. From the left are Thelma Mothershed Wair, Minnijean Brown Trickey, Terrence J. Roberts, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Gloria Ray Karlmarm,

Ernest G. Green and Elizabeth Eckford. Melba Pattillo Beals attended and is off the camera to the right. Jefferson Thomas died in 2010. (AP Photo/Kelly P. Kissel)

The nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock's Central High School in September 1957 all went on to seek higher education. Eight remain alive.

While they're most known for their collective story, they have their individual achievements as well.

Here are their stories, as provided by organizers of the 60th anniversary of the Little Rock Nine's desegregation of all-white Central.

**MELBA PATTILLO BEALS**  
Melba Pattillo Beals currently lives in the San Francisco

area. Her mother, Lois, had been among the first Black graduates from the University of Arkansas.

Beals earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from San Francisco State University, a master's at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and a doctorate at the University of San Francisco. She worked as a reporter in public television and at an NBC affiliate and also wrote "Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High."

**ELIZABETH ECKFORD**  
Because all of Little Rock's high schools were closed a year after the desegregation battle, Elizabeth Eckford Please turn to **PROFILES 10D**

# THE LIFE OF A TOP MODEL AT NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Jamaican model Danisha Carmala Scott, the 2009 Miss Jamaica World Model Past Track Winner, traveled more than 1,500 miles, all the way to the Big Apple, for New York Fashion Week (NYFW) on a mission to get signed by a top modeling agency.

As NYFW kicked off, Scott made the trek from her home in Jamaica hoping to catch the attention of elite agents and scouts, while they were fixated on the world's top models on the runways, draped in the latest styles of iconic fashion designers and household brands.

Scott, affectionately known as "Lady Dani" to family and friends, said that she would love to be the face of Maybelline or model for Louis Vuitton.

"I'm a girly girl, I love make up," Scott said. IMG, New York Model Management, Next and Wilhelmina Models are also on her wish list.

Scott has already achieved global success in her own right. Not only did she win the Miss Jamaica World Model title, her impressive resume also includes modeling for the Saint International Jamaica Limited, Fusion Models Cape Town South Africa and the Poise Model Agency.

Although, the 5-foot 10-inch Jamaican beauty, whose 32-22-35 measurements are perfectly-sculpted to pursue a modeling career, she has faced and overcome a myriad

of challenges off the runway. One of those challenges has been her life-long battle with dyslexia, a learning disorder that makes it difficult for sufferers to learn to read or interpret words, letters and other symbols.

"I've suffered badly from dyslexia and even though I knew, at 14, I could model, my dyslexia held me back and I knew that if you're going to be great at something, you have to be able

"Failure is not an option. I'm a late bloomer and I'm the type of person, who lives by faith and the drive that I have is endless," she said. "I come from a humble background and when you come from a background where there's temptation, modeling has been my getaway."

Scott never stops working. As "Lady Dani" remains laser-focused on her big break, she said that she can still reflect on all of the good

## Danisha Carmala SCOTT

to express yourself, not just through your body, but Please turn to scotthrough your speech," Scott said. "I had to work on myself, get myself together, where I could communicate, as well."

Scott attended the Institute of Academic Excellence and the D'Marie School of Makeup Artistry.

Although, she's passionate about her modeling career, Scott said that she also enjoys cooking and one day hopes to open a pastry shop or restaurant.

Still, modeling remains her dream and, as she hustles during New York Fashion Week, Scott is confident that she'll achieve her goal.

things that have come from her career, so far.

Although confident in her ability and her beauty, Scott conceded that Fashion Week isn't the ideal time to look for a talent agent.

"Everyone is enjoying the shows and seeing the fresh talent, although you might get lucky and someone will walk up and say how gorgeous you are," the former Miss Jamaica World Model said, adding that it's a struggle sometimes to know exactly what industry insiders want.

"You never know, sometimes they say, 'you don't fit in our client base,'" said Scott. "But, I guess when it's my time, it will all come together."



Donald Glover



Lena Waithe

## Blacks make history at the recent Emmys

Donald Glover and Lena Waithe take home wins amid celebration

By the trio

Recently Emmy Awards saw two major wins for Black Hollywood, with Atlanta creator and star Donald Glover and TV writer Lena Waithe making history.

Waithe's Emmy win for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series made her the first African-American woman to do so, while Glover became the first African-American director to win for Best Directing in Comedy Series.

Glover also won for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series, only the second African American to accomplish this feat following Robert Guillaume's 1985 win for his role in TV series Benson.

Waithe, alongside co-writer Aziz Ansari, took home the Emmy for the "Thanksgiving" episode of the Netflix series, Master of None. The episode, which stars Angela Bassett and Kym Whitley, tells the story of a young, Black lesbian woman (played by Waithe) whose mother (Bassett) struggles to accept her sexuality.

While accepting her award, Waithe says the story was loosely based on her mother's real life story.

"I want to thank my mother

for inspiring the story and allowing me to share it with the world. I love you Ma," the Chicago native said.

She also used the historical moment to shine a spotlight on the LGBTQIA community. "I see each and everyone of you. The things that make us different... those are your superpowers. Everyday when you walk out the door and put on your imaginary cape and conquer the world, because the world would not be as beautiful as it is if we were not in it."

For his Lead Actor win, Glover jokingly thanked President Donald Trump for "making Black people number one on the most oppressed list."

"He's probably the reason I'm up here," he added. Other notable wins were Sterling K. Brown for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, whose acceptance speech was awkwardly cut off.

As for the disappointing losses, Viola Davis was beat out by Elisabeth Moss (The Handmade's Tale) for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series, while Black-ish stars Tracee Ellis Ross and Anthony Anderson failed to win in their categories for Outstanding Lead Actor and Actress in a Comedy Series.

**THE FUTURE LOOKS EMPOWERING**

This year's McDonald's® 365 Black® honorees are a living testament to the power of inspiration. With every personal victory, they've used their success to lift their community to new heights. To learn more about the achievements and contributions of this group of extraordinary women, visit [365Black.com](http://365Black.com)

**Mc 365BLACK POWER OF INSPIRATION**

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Chastely Hale, Sanya Richards-Ross, Margaret "Marty" Gills, Walesha Butterfield-Jones, Tiquine Arnok

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# Lifestyle HAPPENINGS

Compiled by The Miami Times staff editorial@miamitimesonline.com

■ **Tennessee State Alumni Association/ Miami-Dade Chapter**, meets every 3rd Saturday, 9 a.m. at The African American Cultural Arts Center. Call 305-336-4287.

■ **The Morris Brown College Miami-Dade/ Broward Alumni Association** monthly meetings are held at North Shore Medical Center, Room C each 3rd Saturday from 9:30-11 a.m. Call 786-356-4412

■ **Miami Edison Sr. High Class of 1977** is celebrating their 40th year class reunion, Oct. 6 - 7. Call 305-342-1136 or email dhamold49@att.net.

■ **The Miami Jackson Class of 1968** meets every second

Monday at the VFW located at 11911 West Dixie Highway and is planning for their 50th Reunion June 14-18, 2018. Call 305-336-7663.

■ **The Miami Carol City Class of 1968** meets every 4th Sunday at 4 p.m. Call 305-494-6265.

■ **The George Washington Carver High School Class 1966** meets the 2nd Saturday each month at 1234 N.W. 79th St. at 12 p.m. Call 305-300-7630.

■ **The Miami Carol City Class of 1968** meets every 4th Sunday at 4 p.m. We are planning our 50th Reunion for September 14-16, 2018. Call 305-494-6265.

■ **The Gold Coast Chapter**

of **Florida A & M University** meets every 3rd Saturday at The Urban League of Greater Miami McDuffie Center at 10 a.m. Call 305-370-9026.

■ **Women in Transition of South Florida** offers free computer classes for women. Call 786-477-8548.

■ The date for the **Adult West African Senegal Slave Departure Tour** will be June 10-22, 2018. Call 305-332-6365.

■ **The Surviving Twin Network** welcomes the support of twins or siblings, who have experienced such loss, to share with others, as a source of comfort. Call 305-504-4936.

■ **Inner City Children's Touring Dance** will have free Introductory Classical Ballet Workshops for girls ages 6-8 and 9-12 on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Call 305-758-1577 or

visit [www.childrendance.net](http://www.childrendance.net).

■ **The Northwestern Class of 1962** meets every 2nd Saturday at 3 p.m. at The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center. Call 305-681-3330.

■ **Florida A & M University (FAMU) National Alumni Association (NAA) South Dade Chapter** invites you to join them the 4th Wednesday of each month at Community Health Center of South Florida at 6 p.m.

■ **Booker T Washington Class of 1967** meets every third Saturday from 4-6 p.m. at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center East Portable #1. Call 305-333-7128.

■ **Karate Classes** at Range Park on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 6-8 p.m. Call 305-757-7961.

■ **Top Ladies of Distinction,**

Inc. meets 10 a.m. every second Saturday at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center. Call 305-439-5426.

■ **The Miami Central High Alumni Association** meets every second and fourth Wednesday in Miami Central High library at 7 p.m. Call 305-370-4825.

■ **Northwestern Alumni Class of 61** meets at YET Center every second Tuesday 12 p.m. Call 305-696-1154.

■ **The South Florida Alumni Chapter of North Carolina Central University** meets 11 a.m. every second Saturday at Denny's in Miami Gardens.

■ **The North Dade/ Miami Carol City H.S., Class of 1967** invites you to join them aboard the Carnival Conquest Sept. 24-30, as they celebrate their 50th Class Reunion. Call 305-336-

6293 or 305-333-7613.

■ **The Miami Jackson Class of 1971** meets 3 p.m. every first Saturday at Gwen Cherry Park NFL / YET (meeting area). Call 305-305-0290.

■ **Unspoken Dance Company** is now recruiting dancers ages 5 and up. To register call 305-409-7490 or email [unspokendanceco@gmail.com](mailto:unspokendanceco@gmail.com).

■ **The Northwestern Class of 1959** meets every third Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center. Call 786-897-2646.

■ **Division of Blind Services Vocational Rehabilitation Program** provides services to the visually impaired. Call 305-377-5339.

*The deadline for the Lifestyle Calendar is on or before 2 p.m. Fridays.*

## New exhibit explores the history of lynching in the United States

ARTS continued from 1C

On view through Dec. 17, the exhibit features works in "On Documentary Abstraction," which will be discussed during a series of talks and film programs, about the connection between politics and art.

Jackson's series of works, on view last year at New York's Tilton Gallery in the solo exhibition titled "The Subliminal is

Now," combines painting, sculpture, textiles, embroidery and printmaking to form sculptures that simultaneously reference past and present civil rights abuses in the U.S. and the history of American art abstraction. The resulting works are colored and mixed media sculptures that blend into a meditation on racism and color theory.

Recently featured in Hyperallergic, Jackson's work was described this way: "She uses gau-

ze, canvas, paper, cotton, wood, and other elements to make colorful mixed media assemblages that look like sculptures intentionally migrating towards the wall, or paintings wanting to come down to engage the solidity of the ground."

Dyson's contribution consists of two paintings from her Strange Fruit series, which respond to the more than 4,000 lynchings that occurred in the U.S. between 1877 and 1950.

The backgrounds in Dyson's "He She, 2015" and "She He, 2016" are inspired by landscape architecture plans, geometric maps and statistical reports, while the foregrounds are treated with washes, glosses and gradients.

The exhibition also features 13 small sculptures from Richard Igbly and Marilou Lemmens ongoing series, "Each Number Equals One Inhalation and One Exhalation." These works continue the duo's examination of

the infiltration and impact of economic thinking on everyday life.

"This exhibition emerged from an idea: What would an image-less documentary look like?" said curator Rachael Rakes. "At first, the term Documentary Abstraction might seem contradictory, but documentary approaches continuously evolve. These artists are pushing the boundaries around both documentary and abstract art and,

in doing so, they are merging form with function and finding new ways to communicate the issues of our times."

Established in 1984, ArtCenter/South Florida is a non-profit that creates opportunities for experimentation and encourages the critical exchange of ideas through residencies, exhibitions, public programs, education and outreach.

For more information, visit [www.artcentersof.org](http://www.artcentersof.org).

## 'All White Affair' will benefit historic society in Richmond Heights

HEIGHTS continued from 1C

been hosting events across the country, along with his DJ, Hitman Howie Tee.

Chubb Rock's routine includes an interactive performance showcasing artists such as Earth Wind and Fire, Kool and the Gang, The Commodores

and George Clinton & the P-Funk All Stars.

Proceeds are used to help preserve the history of the Black World War II veterans who moved into Richmond Heights in 1949. Tickets are available at [MiamiAllWhiteAffair.Eventbrite.com](http://MiamiAllWhiteAffair.Eventbrite.com).

Black World War II veterans will be focus of a documenta-

ry that the historic society will screen the day after the fundraiser. "The Richmond Heights 49ers" on Saturday, Sept. 30, will be shown to guests free at the Lyric Theater in Overtown. Show time is at 3 p.m.

Based on the book, "Images of America: Miami's Richmond Heights," by co-authors Patricia Harper Garrett and The

Historic Society's founder and executive director Jessica Garrett Modkins, the documentary explores the lives of early settlers in detail and the rationale of the white developer Captain Frank C. Martin who perpetuated social change during Jim Crow. Martin made a bold and unpopular decision to build a self-contained community for

Black World War II veterans.

The documentary features intimate conversations with the community's pioneering residents in an effort to understand their experiences firsthand. It delves into Martin's mindset to build homes specifically designed for Black military. The film will also take a closer look at the socioeconomic

fabric of this time, segregation and civil rights. Limited tickets are available for free at [rh49ers.eventbrite.com](http://rh49ers.eventbrite.com).

For more information on the Historic Society please visit [www.TheHistoricSociety.org](http://www.TheHistoricSociety.org) or call 305.744.5760. Join the conversation at <https://www.facebook.com/thehistoricsociety>.

# Live, Learn, Work, Eat and Play

*the Healthy Way!*

Did you know that four out of five Miami-Dade County residents are at risk for a chronic disease (Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes and Cancer)?

And you know why? It's because too many of us are overweight, have high blood pressure, high cholesterol and get no physical activity.

By making a pledge to eat healthy, stay active and live tobacco free, we can fight chronic diseases. Healthier lifestyles make strong families. Let's Make Healthy Happen Miami!

**MAKE HEALTHY HAPPEN MIAMI**

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

#MakeHealthyHppn

Visit [HealthyMiamiDade.org](http://HealthyMiamiDade.org) and connect to a healthy place near you.

Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A message from the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County.



## Fund created for Caribbean Diaspora relief



### SOUTH FLORIDIANS URGED TO DONATE, VOLUNTEER TO HELP RAVAGED ISLANDS

By Gregory W. Wright  
 g.w.wright@hotmail.com

In an urgently called community forum, a large gathering of South Florida's Caribbean community came together to send a clear message to the people of their hurricane ravaged homelands: Help is on the way. Moderator Francis Ragoo, a native of Trinidad, told the audience that the devastation that has taken place in the Caribbean is not about one nation over another. "This is about the survival of

the Caribbean Diaspora," he said on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at Holy Family Episcopal Church in Miami Gardens. "It is our collective responsibility to come together as one to help everyone." Marlon Hill, a native of Jamaica, and an attorney with the law firm Hamilton, Miller and Brithsel, like many islanders now living in South Florida, still has family and friends throughout the Caribbean islands. Hill made a call for South Florida to mobilize to donate and send aid to the



## South Florida accesses damage after Irma

Initial insurance filings show Florida took a \$3.1 billion hit from Irma; Keys residents made the most claims

By Ron Hurtbise  
 Sun Sentinel

Nine days after Hurricane Irma left Florida with a giant mess but less structural damage than expected, policyholders have filed 496,532 insurance claims worth an estimated \$3.1 billion.

The numbers released Thursday are based on reports by property and casualty insurers to the state Office of Insurance Regulation of losses

to both residential and commercial properties. They include claims to private companies that underwrite flood coverage but do not include roughly 17,000 claims filed in Florida as of Thursday to the National Flood Insurance Program for damage from storm surge or local flooding.

Jeff Grady, president and CEO of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents, says he thinks the influx of Irma claims have peaked, and he'd

be surprised if damage totals reach levels projected by major catastrophe modeling firms, such as AIR Worldwide and CoreLogic.

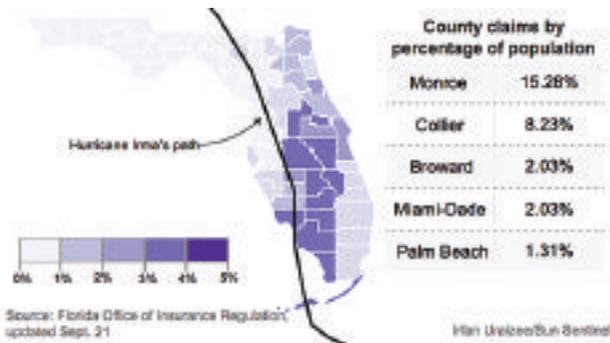
"It seems the initial damage estimates might have been high based on the lack of structural damage in many parts of the state," Grady said.

A majority of the total claims tallied by the state likely will not result in any payoff to policyholders because they will not exceed their hurricane de-



—John McCall / Sun Sentinel

Debris from a fallen tree after Hurricane Irma in Pompano Beach, Sept. 11. Insurance claims totals have been running at a high rate, but some experts say most involves property not covered or that won't exceed policyholders' hurricane deductibles.



ductibles — typically equal to 2 percent of 5 percent of their insured value, he said.

Most claims that agents are reporting are minor, such as trees falling on fences and broken gutters, Grady said. Claims counts are high because policyholders want to get their damage on record so their annual deductibles will be reduced if another hurricane comes, he said.

Outside of the Keys, structural damage occurred primarily in Marco Island and Naples, and a few places along northern east coast beaches, such as in Flagler and St. Johns County, he said.

"We were really lucky it took that right [eastern] turn at Naples then stayed east of Tampa as it went north. The winds didn't materialize like they were forecast and I'd like

to think the building codes are better than they were years ago."

The statewide claims total includes 428,269 for residential properties and 18,239 for commercial properties.

Only 46,060 have been closed, and of those, 17,784 were closed with no payments.

Not surprisingly, the largest number of claims — 55,012 Please turn to **DAMAGE 8D**

## Blacks, Latinos are still short-changed in mortgage market

By Charlene Crowell  
 NMPA Columnist

Financial security can often feel like a tug of war with earnings and income on one side and the cost of living and debt on the other. Which side wins can determine whether a household is mired in insurmountable debt or gains the financial ability for a better life.

For many families, the path to that better life is through homeownership. If

you're Black or Latino, however, wanting and getting are often two different things.

In 2014, borrowers of color and families with low-to-moderate incomes continue to be shortchanged in the mortgage market, according to the newly-released Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) report. One of the few reports that tracks data by race and income, the HMDA report tallies how many mortgage loans were approved and by type.

To put it another way, the HMDA numbers reveal whether Black America is getting its fair share of mortgages. In 2014, the numbers show that communities of color got a lot less:

- Out of 1,736,000 conventional mortgage loans for purchases last year, Black borrowers received only 45,544; Latino borrow-



CROWELL

ers fared better, receiving 87,570. Only 2.6 percent of these loans, typically the most affordable and widely available, were made to Blacks and just 5 percent for Latinos.

The more costly government-backed loan programs such as FHA, VA and USDA were the primary mortgage vehicles for consumers of color. For

Blacks, 96,780 home loans receiving 87,570. (9.7 percent of all government-sponsored loans) were made, and again Latinos received slightly more with 128,653 (12.9 percent) of these loans.

"These stark disparities in mortgage lending to borrowers of color and low-wealth families occur to the very people hardest hit by abusive lending and the foreclosure crisis. These disparities also come at a time when our nation's demographics

are changing," said Nikitra Bailey, executive vice president with the Center for Responsible Lending. "The future health of our mortgage market, a major driver of the economy, relies on closing these gaps."

Bailey continued, "By 2025, the population will be even more diverse with households of color representing nearly half of all first-time homebuyers. Lenders and Fannie Mae Please turn to **MARKET 11D**

# Target to boost minimum wage to \$15 by end of 2020

The Associated Press

Target Corp. said Monday that it is raising the minimum wage for its workers to \$11 an hour starting next month and then to \$15 by the end of 2020.

The company said the move will help it better recruit and retain top-quality staff and provide a better shopping experience for its customers.

The initiative is part of the retailer's overall strategy, announced this year, to reinvent its business, including remodeling stores, expanding its online services and opening up smaller urban locations.

Target quietly raised entry-level hourly wages to \$10 last year, from \$9 the previous year, following initiatives by Wal-Mart and others to boost

wages in a fiercely competitive marketplace. But Target's hike to \$15 an hour far exceeds not only the federal minimum of \$7.25 an hour but the hourly base pay at Wal-Mart, the nation's largest private employer, and plenty of its other retail peers whose minimum hourly pay now hovers around \$10.

As part of its \$2.7-billion investment in workers, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. had raised its entry-level hourly pay for workers to \$9 in 2015 and then to \$10 in 2016. With Target's outsized influence in the retailing world, its increase could force rivals to match the pay in order to compete.

"We see this not only as an investment in our team but an investment in an elevated experience for our guests and the

communities we serve," Brian Cornell, Target's chief executive, told reporters during a conference call Friday.

Target is hiring 40 percent more holiday-season workers than last year.

Target's planned minimum-wage increases outpace those mandated by California: Statewide, the minimum wage at medium and large employers is \$10.50 an hour, and it's not scheduled to reach \$15 until 2022. Los Angeles, however, already has a minimum wage of \$12 an hour at those employers, and the city requires a boost to \$15 by mid-2020.

The changes come at a time when there's growing concern for hourly workers. Thousands of workers have staged protests to call attention to their finan-

cial struggles and to fight for hourly pay of \$15. The November election of a Republican-controlled Congress dampened hopes of an increase in the \$7.25-an-hour federal minimum wage. But advocates have continued to press for boosts on the state and local level.

At the same time, competition for lower-skilled workers has heated up, and retailers, likely hobbled by the threat of e-commerce, are falling behind. As shoppers get more mobile-savvy, retailers are seeking sales staff who are more skilled at customer service and in technology, such as using iPads to check out inventory. But with the unemployment rate near a 16-year low, the most desirable retail workers feel more confident in hopping from job to job.

Thirty-two percent of all first jobs in the U.S. are in retail, according to the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail group, and stores overall have more job openings now than they did a few years ago.

Hourly pay at restaurants and hotels is up 3.5 percent from a year earlier, a much better raise than the 2.5 percent gain for all employees. For workers at transportation and warehousing companies, where e-commerce growth is fueling hiring, pay is up 2.7% in the last year. Retailers, however, have lifted pay just 1.8% in the last year. That may be spurring more workers to leave for better opportunities: Separate government data show the number of retail workers quitting their jobs this year and last is at the

highest in a decade.

The average hourly pay for cashiers is now \$10.14, according to the Hay Group's survey of 140 retailers with annual sales of at least \$500 million. The survey was conducted in May. A year ago, the hourly pay was \$9.79.

Target said its minimum hourly wage of \$11 is higher than the minimum wage in 48 states and matches the minimum wage in Massachusetts and Washington. It said the pay increase will affect thousands of its more than 300,000 workers, but it declined to quantify the percentage of its workforce. It said the increase to \$11 an hour will apply to the more than 100,000 hourly workers that Target will be hiring for the holiday season.

## Hurricane Irma claim reports released by insurers on Thursday

**DAMAGE**  
continued from 7D

— were filed in Miami-Dade County, the most populated county in the state with 2.7 million residents. The next two largest number of claims also are from counties with large populations — Orange (1.3 million residents, 44,696 claims) and Broward (1.9 million residents, 38,836 claims).

Palm Beach County, which has 1.4 million residents, had the ninth-largest number of claims — 18,930.

But as a percentage of population, claims in the tricity region are running disproportionately low.

While 2016 census data estimates 29.4 percent of all Florida residents live in Broward, Palm Beach or Miami-Dade counties, just 22.7 percent of Irma claims have been filed from the region.

Comparing claims as a per-

centage of population, Monroe County, which includes the hard-hit Keys, emerges as the most heavily impacted so far with 15.3 claims for every 100 residents. That number could increase, as many Keys residents only recently returned to their homes, and insurance adjusters are still assessing damage.

Rural Highlands County, which is northwest of Lake Okeechobee, follows with 10.2 claims per 100 residents; and that's followed by Seminole County, northeast of Orange County, with 8.5 claims for every 100 residents.

In Collier County, which includes Everglades City, Marco Island and Naples on the southwest coast, 8.2 claims have been filed per 100 residents.

Rounding out the five most impacted counties is Okeechobee County, located north of Lake Okeechobee, with 6.0 claims per 100 residents.

Ranked by claims per capita, Broward County becomes 24th most impacted with 2.0 claims per 100 residents; Miami-Dade County is 25th with 2.0 claims per 100 residents; and Palm Beach County is 33th with 1.3 claims per 100 residents.

Irma claims have been filed in all 67 Florida counties, the data shows. The storm's 350-mile width put all of the state under a hurricane watch for the first time in history.

Counties in the western Panhandle seemed to have escaped most of Irma's damage. Just six claims have been filed in Liberty County, west of Tallahassee; nine have been filed in Gulf County, northwest of Apalachicola; and 11 have been filed in Holmes County, along the Florida-Alabama border.

Yet the claims total to-date represent a fraction of what researchers and catastrophe modeling firms are projec-

ting will be the total cost of Irma's damage.

A report released Thursday by Florida International University's College of Business estimates that wind losses in Florida will reach \$19.4 billion, but insurers will only have to pay out \$6.3 billion of the total. Property owners will absorb \$13.1 billion, thanks to the fact most damage won't exceed hurricane deductibles, according to FIU professor Shahid Hamid, who heads the team that produced the estimates. They are based on the Florida Public Hurricane Loss Model, which the state uses as a benchmark in setting hurricane insurance rates.

CoreLogic, an analytics firm, expects total insured and uninsured losses from wind and flood will range from \$42.5 billion to \$65 billion.

AIR Worldwide projects insured losses in the five states impacted by Irma — Florida,

Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina — will total between \$25 billion and \$35 billion. Before the storm hit, AIR estimated IRMA's U.S. damage would cost insurers as much as \$50 billion. The model does not break down its estimates by state.

Jay Neal, CEO of the Fort Lauderdale-based Florida Association for Insurance Reform, said he doesn't see insured losses reaching those levels. In Florida, "I think it's probably close to \$10 billion," he said.

Still, that's a powerful storm. Hurricane Matthew in 2016 caused an estimated \$1.2 billion in insured wind losses in Florida while Hurricane Wilma cost \$10.3 billion in 2005 dollars.

Most Irma claims by county through Sept. 21:

1. Miami-Dade — 55,012
2. Orange — 44,696
3. Broward — 38,836

4. Lee — 33,893
5. Polk — 33,339
6. Collier — 30,041
7. Brevard — 23,802
8. Duval — 22,794
9. Palm Beach — 18,930
10. Osceola — 18,012
- Irma claims per capita by county through Sept. 21
1. Monroe — 12,082 — 15.3 per 100 residents
2. Highlands — 10,262 — 10.2 per 100 residents
3. Seminole — 14,546 — 8.5 per 100 residents
4. Collier — 30,041 — 8.2 per 100 residents
5. Okeechobee — 2,426 — 6.0 per 100 residents
6. Osceola — 18,012 — 5.4 per 100 residents
7. Hendry — 2,014 — 5.1 per 100 residents
8. Polk — 33,339 — 5.0 per 100 residents
9. Glades — 689 — 4.9 per 100 residents
10. Lee — 33,893 — 4.7 per 100 residents

## Important safety information from Florida City Gas

Every day, underground pipelines safely transport natural gas to homes and businesses throughout the area. **Florida City Gas** is responsible for the security and maintenance of pipelines in our service territory.

Natural gas is colorless and odorless so we add an odorant with a distinctive, rotten-egg type scent for easy detection. It is non-toxic, lighter than air and displaces oxygen. In severe cases, if not used properly, it may lead to asphyxiation and has a risk of ignition near a spark.

### Call before you dig

Before digging around your property, state law requires you call **811** to have your utility lines professionally marked — for free! You must wait the required amount of time before you begin your project.

Pipeline markers indicate the presence of pipe and right-of-way. While they're not present in all areas, it's always best to call **811**. If right-of-way is adjacent to your property, it is your responsibility to ensure no new landscaping or physical structure interferes with access to the pipeline, and with our ability to keep it safe through routine monitoring and maintenance.

Information about transmission pipelines operating in your community is available through the **National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS)** and is available online at: [npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://npms.phmsa.dot.gov).



### Water heater safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urges all users to lower their water heaters to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

### Carbon monoxide

Incomplete combustion of any fuel — produces carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is poisonous and has no odor, taste or color. Carbon monoxide detectors are helpful, but they are no substitute for using equipment safely. This includes having it inspected once a year by a certified contractor.

### Appliance safety

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- It's important that you have your furnace inspected by a qualified specialist.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Keep trash and other combustible material away from your air heating and water heating systems.

Visit [floridacitygas.com/](http://floridacitygas.com/)

**integritymanagementplan** to learn about our emergency response plan which recognizes and mitigates threats and also sustains the integrity of the pipelines.

### If you smell gas, act fast

Although natural gas pipeline incidents are uncommon, these tips will help you identify a possible leak and know what to do.

**LOOK** for blowing dirt, discolored vegetation or continuous bubbling of standing water.

**LISTEN** near a natural gas appliance or line, there may be a hissing or roaring sound when natural gas is leaking.

**SMELL** the distinctive, rotten egg odor associated with natural gas. Natural gas is colorless and odorless so we add an odorant with this scent for easy detection. You should take action any time you detect even a small amount of this odor in the air.

**AVOID** touching anything that may cause a spark. This includes starting a car engine or using cell phones, lighters, matches, cigarettes, light switches or landlines. Natural gas is non-toxic, lighter than air and displaces oxygen. Keep away from ignition sources because natural gas can burn near a spark, possibly causing a fire or explosion. In severe cases, if not used properly, it can kill or lead to asphyxiation.

**LEAVE** the area **IMMEDIATELY** if you detect a natural gas leak. Don't try to identify the source or stop the leak.

**CALL** Florida City Gas at **888.352.5325** or **971** once you are safely away from the possible leak site. Stay away from the area until an Florida City Gas representative or emergency personnel indicate it is safe to return.

*Note: Always wear eye protection. Do not rely on sense of smell. Be aware that some persons may not be able to detect the odorant because they have a diminished sense of smell, olfactory fatigue or because the odor is being masked by other odors in the area. Certain conditions may cause the odorant to diminish so that it is not detectable.*

Florida City Gas

For more information, visit:  
[floridacitygas.com/safety](http://floridacitygas.com/safety)  
or call 800.991.7546.



# Pursuing her passion in ice cream

**PARLOR**  
continued from 9D

the most confectionary wine they carried. She was satisfied with a syrupy dessert riesling that tasted more like honey than wine.

A store that sold sugar (ice cream) was a better fit than the hookah lounge.

Last summer she found the space, in a part of Atlanta that she said used to be a "dorp." It had previously been a hair salon. She needed a year to build out the ice cream counter, get city permits, redo the wiring and paint, and decorate the interior. Opening day was June 1.

McCoughtry said she did not have any financial backers in the store and was hoping to see a return on all the money that she has put into getting it up and running. But, it is a passion project, and she is committed to keeping it open, regardless of costs.

Brandee Serrano, her fiancée of three years, said McCoughtry had been happier since starting her own business.

"Opening up the ice cream shop is showing herself that she can be responsible for something else outside of basketball," Serrano said. "That's huge, because then she feels more fulfilled. More



—Photo credit Melissa Golden for The New York Times  
**McCoughtry's Ice Cream is in the Castleberry Hill neighborhood in the shadow of downtown Atlanta's new football stadium.**

purposeful." McCoughtry's only frustration, she said, was that the WNBA has not promoted her venture.

"If you go look on the W.N.B.A. page, I don't think you'll see me and the ice cream shop," she said. "Why not? I've done so much for the

league. Why am I not on there? Why haven't you guys posted something about the ice cream shop? Is it because I'm sitting out? Who cares? I'm getting rest. Give me something. Nothing else against the league or the WNBA, but you guys have to promote us and what we're doing to show people she's doing something in her community."

(In an email statement, Lisa Borders, the league's president, said: "WNBA players are not only world-class athletes but they're also multidimensional people with varied passions and skills off the court. Sharing their unique stories across our assets continues to be a priority.")

"The ice cream shop is a step toward building McCoughtry's post-retirement life. She will report to Russia for her final international season in October and plans to return to the Dream to play in the WNBA at least until the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. (She has played for two Olympic teams.) Then she will re-evaluate.

"I feel like a lot of people play ball and that's the only thing they know how to do. And so after they retire, they're lost," she said, but "not Angel McCoughtry. I got an ice cream shop."

# Help coming to islands

**RELIEF**  
continued from 7D

people on the islands who now have no food, water, no homes, all which were destroyed by the recent storms.

Hill announced the establishment of the U.S. Caribbean Strong Relief Fund, the purpose of which is to organize efforts, to expedite aid to the effected islands, as well as coordinate volunteer efforts here in South Florida.

A website has been set up, www.sfcaribbeanstrong.org, to receive donations and to sign up volunteers. People with trucks and vehicles and time, who are able to pick up donations are needed. For those who donate through the website, Hill says, there will be full transparency.

"Those who donate will receive written confirmation of their tax deductible contribution," he said, "as well as updates on the amount of funds that have been received, and how those funds have been used."

Congresswoman Frederica Wilson sent word on efforts to aid the people of the Caribbean.

"A \$9.7 billion hurricane relief funding bill was passed in early September with support of from the entire House Democratic Caucus. My staff and I had a meeting with representatives from the cruise line industry in my D.C. office, specifically Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. I am working with them to ensure affected Caribbean Islands receive supplies including food, drinking water, medical supplies, plywood, tarps, blankets and pillows. These supplies are being shipped on cruise ships and cargo planes as we speak. I hope to get all the cruise lines involved in this effort. Additionally, residents of the affected U.S. territories can be evacuated on cruise ships so that they can be reunited with family here on the mainland. Congresswoman Stacey Plaskett, who represents the U.S. Virgin Islands, is on the FEMA calls every week and keeps us abreast on the needs of her constituents."

Congressman Wilson went on to say that she is working with the U.S. territories, the U.S. Department of Education, the House Appropriations Committee and Florida Memorial University to make sure that college students who were displaced by the hurricanes can transfer to Florida Memorial University without any interruption in their college coursework. "We have a weekly call with FEMA to address these issues. This is an ongoing process. As travel opens back up to these islands, we will be able to better assess the damage to determine

how much aid is needed to recover and rebuild."

## BLOW TO TOURISM

The devastation to the Caribbean islands means more than the loss of business from cruise ships and income from sightseeing tourist. The financial impact will have a ripple effect here in South Florida and across the nation, as the Caribbean is one of the major banking centers in the world.

Also in attendance were organizers and promoters of a number of the Caribbean-themed events held in Miami-Dade and Broward counties during this time of year, including Miami Broward Carnival.

The event promoters discussed ways their events can contribute, including setting up donation stations. "The Jerk Fest is also looking to be supportive," said Hill.

Pastor Horace Ward of Holy Family Episcopal Church is allowing the group to hold meetings and accept donations. Shipping supplies are being organized to get the donated supplies to the islands where needed at no charge. However shoes and clothing are not being accepted at this time. In the past, large donations of shoes and clothing have hurt the businesses in devastated areas that sell such products, further hindering the growth of businesses in the areas.

There is need for food, water, deodorant, female products, batteries, flashlights, solar-powered phone chargers, diapers, medicines like Pepto Bismal and aspirin, tents and blankets.

"My sister island Barbuda doesn't exist anymore," said Desiree Barnes of the Antigua-Barbuda Association of South Florida. Prime Minister Gaston Browne, speaking before the United Nations General Assembly lamented, "The island of Barbuda is decimated. Its entire population left homeless." The U.S. Caribbean Strong Relief Fund is administered by the Miami Foundation.

"Listen, our Caribbean family needs us," said Hill. "Anything greater than zero, you need to give. You need to decide what you are going to give, and what you can give. We live in a hurricane disaster zone and must prepare ourselves to overcome these challenges. This means we will have to make more investments to protect our lives, communities, and our most-vulnerable citizens, here in Florida and the Caribbean region."

For more information, go to www.sfcaribbeanstrong.org and make direct contribution to give.miamifoundation.org/caribbean. To have someone answer your call via telephone, the number to call is 305-482-3660.

# Meet historic 'Little Rock Nine' students

**PROFILES**  
continued from 4C

Ernest Green was the first of the Little Rock Nine to earn a diploma at Central High School. He worked in public finance for Lehman Brothers in Washington and was listed in Black Enterprise Magazine's 2006 list of the "75 Most Powerful Blacks on Wall Street."

Ernest Green was the first of the Little Rock Nine to earn a diploma at Central High School. He worked in public finance for Lehman Brothers in Washington and was listed in Black Enterprise Magazine's 2006 list of the "75 Most Powerful Blacks on Wall Street."

Green has a bachelor's degree in social science and a master's in sociology from Michigan State University, plus honorary doctorates from Central State University, Michigan State and Tougaloo College.

**GLORIA RAY KARLMARK**  
Gloria Ray Karlmark is the granddaughter of a former slave. After leaving Little Rock for Missouri, she graduated from the newly integrated Kansas City Central High School in 1960. After graduating from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, she joined IIT's research institute as an assistant mathematician.

In the 1970s, she and her husband immigrated to Sweden and she joined IBM's Nordic Laboratory. She retired in 1994.

**CARLOTTA WALLS LANIER**  
Carlotta Walls Lanier is the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine, entering Central High School at age 14. She graduated from Central in 1960 and attended Michigan State University for two

years and later graduated from the University of Northern Colorado.

She received an honorary doctorate from Northern Colorado and is in the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame and the National Women's Hall of Fame. She wrote "A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School" and is a real estate broker.

**TERRENCE ROBERTS**  
Terrence Roberts entered Central High as a junior, completed the school year and moved with family to California, where he graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1959. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from California State University, Los Angeles, a master's in social welfare from the University of California at Los Angeles and a doctorate in psychology from Southern Illinois University.

He was on the faculty at Pacific Union College in California in the 1970s and was assistant dean at the UCLA School of Social Welfare from 1985 to 1993. He has written the books "Lessons from Little Rock" and "Simple, Not Easy: Reflections on Community, Social Responsibility and Tolerance."

**JEFFERSON THOMAS**  
Jefferson Thomas was running track at all-black Dunbar Junior High School when he volunteered to help integrate all-white Central High School as a sophomore in 1957. He graduated from Central in 1960 and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration from Los Angeles State College. He worked as an accounting clerk at Mobil Oil and then became a supervisor for the company. He joined the Department of Defense when Mobil moved its credit card operations out of Los Angeles. He moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 1989, after the Department of Defense relocated parts of its Los Angeles operations to Columbus.

The 27-year federal employee retired in 2004 and died in 2010.



**Jefferson Thomas**  
**MINNIJEAN BROWN TRICKEY**

Minnijean Brown Trickey was the first of the Little Rock Nine to be suspended, after retaliating against her tormentors. She moved to New York and lived with a pair of social scientists who had played a role in the Brown v. Board of Education case and graduated from the New Lincoln School in 1959. She studied journalism at Southern Illinois University

and later received a bachelor's of social work in native human services from Laurentian University and a master's of social work at Carleton University, both in Ontario. She worked in President Bill Clinton's administration as deputy assistant secretary for workforce diversity at the Department of the Interior.

**THELMA MOTHERSHEAD WAIR**  
Thelma Mothershead Wair completed her high school work through correspondence courses and summer school in St. Louis. She received her diploma from Central by mail. Wair graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in home economics education and earned a

master's degree in guidance and counseling from Southern Illinois. She worked in the East St. Louis, Illinois, school system for 28 years — 10 as a home economics teacher and 18 as a counselor — before retiring in 1994. She now lives back in Little Rock.

This story has been corrected to show that Jefferson Thomas retired in 2004 after 27 years of federal work, not in 2002.

Little Rock Central High School 60th Anniversary website: www.centralhigh60th.org  
For more on the Little Rock Nine, including historical stories and photos, and video interviews with people who lived through the era, visit <http://www.apnews.com/tag/LittleRockNine>.



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### FOR COTS SECURITY CREDENTIALING AND IDENTIFICATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, RFP NO. MDAD-05-17

Miami-Dade County, Florida is assessing the suitability of the above referenced advertisement, which can be obtained by visiting the Miami-Dade Auction Department [www.miamidade.com/auctions](http://www.miamidade.com/auctions) or by calling (305) 375-5504. The cost for each solicitation package is \$50.00 (non-refundable check or money order payable to: Miami-Dade Auction Department).

This solicitation is subject to the "Code of Silence" in accordance with section 3-111.005 of the Miami-Dade County Code.

For legal ads online, go to <http://legalads.miamidade.gov>



## OMNI REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PLEASE ALL TAKE NOTICE that a Board of Commissioners Meeting of the Omni Redevelopment District Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is scheduled to take place on Tuesday October 3rd, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at Temple Israel of Greater Miami, 137 N.E. 19th Street, Miami, FL 33136.

All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information please contact the OMNI CRA office at (305) 679-6868.

#29046 Jason Walker, Executive Director  
Omni Redevelopment District  
Community Redevelopment Agency

Public Health Trust

## Jackson Health System

Miami, Florida 33136

### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Bids are hereby solicited and will be received on behalf of the Public Health Trust/Jackson Health System of Miami-Dade County in the Procurement Management Department on the date indicated below. The Invitation to Bid (ITB) solicitation document can be obtained from the Contracting Officer mentioned below. This competitive process is governed at this time by the "Code of Silence" in accordance with County Ordinance No. 98-106.

The following Invitation to Bid (ITB) is due by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2017.

ITB 17-14957-SW, Pre-Qualification for JMH Elevator Modernization Program

Contact Name: Steven Williams, Senior Procurement Contracting Officer  
Email Address: [steven.williams@jhs.miami.org](mailto:steven.williams@jhs.miami.org)  
Contact Number: 305-585-8286  
To view bid documentation, visit [JacksonSupplierPortal.org](http://JacksonSupplierPortal.org).



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## Rescheduling of Second Public Budget Hearing

NOTICE IS GIVEN that at the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners' ("Board") Public Budget Meeting of Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 5:01 PM, by motion duly made, seconded and carried approved the rescheduling of the **Public Budget Hearing** previously scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 5:01 PM. The rescheduled Public Hearing will be held on **Thursday, September 28, 2017, at 5:01 PM, regarding the finalization of the County's Budget and adoption of millage rates for Fiscal Year 2017-18**, in the Commission Chambers, located on the Second Floor of the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 N. W. First Street, Miami, Florida 33128.

All interested parties may appear and be heard at the time and place specified in accordance with the Board's Rules of Procedure.

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs or services. For material in alternate format, a sign language interpreter or other accommodations, please call 305-375-2035, or send email to: [agendco@miamidade.gov](mailto:agendco@miamidade.gov).

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK  
CHRISTOPHER AGRIPPA, DEPUTY CLERK

For legal ads online, go to <http://legalads.miamidade.gov>

# Adidas exec, 4 coaches charged in college bribery scheme

NEW YORK (AP) — In one of the biggest crackdowns on the corrupting role of money in college basketball, 10 men — including a top Adidas executive and four assistant coaches — were charged Tuesday with using hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to influence star athletes' choice of schools, shoe sponsors, agents, even tailors.

Some of the most explosive allegations appeared to involve Louisville, one of college basketball's biggest powerhouses.

Federal prosecutors said that while some of the bribe money went straight to athletes and their families, some of it went to coaches, to get them to use their influence over their potentially NBA-bound players.

Several top-tier college basketball coaches, sports managers and an executive at Adidas are facing corruption charges related to bribery and fraud schemes to pay athletes for sponsorships, and get kickbacks for signing management contracts. (Sept. 26)

The coaches charged are



Jim Gatto, director of global sports marketing for Adidas basketball.

three top high school recruits were promised payments of as much as \$150,000 — using money supplied by Adidas — to attend two universities sponsored by the athletic clothing company. Court papers didn't name the schools but contained enough details to identify them as Louisville and Miami.

"The picture of college basketball painted by the charges is not a pretty one," said acting U.S. Attorney Joon H. Kim, adding that the defendants were "circulating blue-chip prospects like coyotes" and "exploited the hoop dreams of student-athletes around the country" to enrich themselves.

Chuck Person of Auburn, Emanuel Richardson of Arizona, Tony Bland of Southern California and Lamont Evans of Oklahoma State. Person and Evans were immediately suspended.

Those charged also include James Gatto, director of global sports marketing for basketball at Adidas; Rashaun Michel, a maker of custom suits for some of the NBA's biggest stars; and various financial advisers and managers.

NCAA President Mark Emmert condemned the alleged misconduct, saying in a statement, "Coaches hold a unique position of trust with student-athletes and their families,



A combination photo shows NCAA coaches L-R, Lamont Evans, Emanuel Richardson, Tony Bland and Chuck Person in these USA Today Sports file photos.

and these bribery allegations, if true, suggest an extraordinary and despicable breach of that trust."

Since 2015, the FBI has been investigating the influence of money on coaches and players in the NCAA. Kim noted that a special FBI hotline has been set up and invited anyone aware of additional corruption to come forward.

Prosecutors said the coaches took bribes to use their "enormous influence" to steer players toward certain financial advisers and agents.

Most if not all of the 10 defendants were under arrest. Lawyers for Gatto, Person and Richardson did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Adidas said it was unaware of any misconduct by an employee and vowed to fully cooperate with authorities.

Among other things, Gatto and others were accused of bribing high school athletes and their families at least three times this year in exchange for a commitment by the players to play basketball for two Adidas-sponsored universities.

In one case, Gatto and others funneled \$100,000 to

the family of a high school athlete to gain his commitment to play at Louisville, and to sign with Adidas once he became a professional.

The player's name was not released, but details in the criminal complaint, including references to news coverage of his signing, make it clear investigators were referring to Brian Bowen. Bowen did not immediately return messages seeking comment, and Louisville declined to make coach Rick Pitino available.

The development comes as Louisville is appealing NCAA sanctions handed out in June following an escort scandal that unfolded nearly two years ago. The scandal could cost the school its 2013 national championship.

Louisville interim President Gregory Postel confirmed the university has been informed it is part of the investigation and said it will cooperate fully. "Any violations will not be tolerated," he said.

Miami likewise said it will cooperate, while USC said it appointed former FBI Director Louis J. Freeh to conduct an internal investigation.

Court papers portrayed the universities as victims of the schemes, saying they paid

off financial aid after their coaches falsely assured them they were unaware of any rules violations.

The investigation began after a financial adviser who ran a firm that catered to pro athletes began cooperating in 2014, providing information corroborated by recorded conversations and surveillance, authorities said.

That person, not identified in court papers, pleaded guilty this month to fraud and other crimes.

Person, associate head coach at Auburn, was drafted by the Indiana Pacers in 1986 and played for five NBA teams over 13 seasons.

Prosecutors said Person accepted about \$91,500 in bribes from the unidentified financial adviser in 2016 to steer clients to him when they reached the NBA. Some payments were alleged to have been arranged by Michel, a former NBA referee turned high-end clothier.

Person was quoted by prosecutors as telling one player: "The most important part is that you ... don't say nothing to anybody ... don't share with your sisters, don't share with any of the teammates, that's very important 'cause this is a

violation ... of rules. But this is how the NBA players get it done."

As for the suit-maker, Person told the same player: "Rashaun can get you suits and stuff. ... You'll start looking like an NBA ballplayer, that's what you are."

He also warned his player to be careful: "Don't flaunt the stuff you get."

Prosecutors quoted Evans as bragging about his ability to steer young athletes toward prospective agents and advisers, saying, "Every guy I recruit and get is my personal kid." He also allegedly boasted that he could "bury" any other advisers who tried to sign his players.

Prosecutors said Evans solicited at least \$22,000 over the past two years, while Richardson in February was paid \$20,000 in bribes, some of which he kept for himself and some of which he gave to at least one high school athlete to get him to play for Arizona.

Between July and September, two advisers arranged at least \$13,000 in bribes to Bland, who boasted, "I can definitely mold the players and put them in the lap of you guys," prosecutors said.

# There are very stark disparities in U.S. mortgage lending practices

MARKET continued from 7D

and Freddie Mac have a duty to serve more than just consumers with pristine credit and high levels of wealth. Homeownership must be available to all credit-worthy consumers so they can pursue their own American Dream."

An in-depth analysis of

2014 HMDA data is available on CRL's web.

Among mortgage professionals, it is widely held that owning a home is how many Americans build wealth. Because the private mortgage market has failed to make loans available to Black homebuyers, our community suffers from a limited ability to create wealth through this

reliable and proven method.

Demos, a public policy organization, published a report that demonstrated if the rate of homeownership by people of color would increase, the racial wealth gap would substantially reduce the racial wealth gap. "Black and Latino homeowners saw less return in wealth than their investment in homeownership: for every

\$1 in wealth that accrues to middle Black households as a result of homeownership, median white households accrue \$1.34," states the report.

Housing is critical to the health of our national economy. Excluding credit-worthy families from fully participating fully in the entire housing marketplace hinders the market's ability to continue

its steady improvement. This exclusion also systematically limits the total number of potential homebuyers. As America's retirees grow older, many will seek to downsize. Expanding the pool of homebuyers looking for their first home can help first-time buyers access a greater number of options.

Between historically and

broadly available low mortgage interest rates, coupled with strengthened consumer protections, today's lending climate is better able to create safe and successful lending for consumers and lenders alike.

It's also an opportunity to close the racial wealth gap in the name of economic fairness.

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# NFL owners defending 'Take A Knee' are missing the point

*Athletes began sitting out the national anthem last year as a way to call attention to racial injustice in American*

By Alana Horowitz Satlin  
Huffpost

NFL team owners have almost universally defended players who boycotted the national anthem over the weekend amidst criticism from President Donald Trump. However, nearly all of them stopped short of addressing the issue that inspired the anthem protest in the first place: systemic racism.

Trump on Friday called on NFL owners to fire players who take a knee or otherwise sit out the anthem, a trend that then-San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick spearheaded last season as a way of addressing racial discrimination and police brutality.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses Black people and people of color," Kaepernick told NFL.com last year. "To me,

this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

Trump doubled down on his remarks in a flurry of tweets over the weekend and on Monday morning, and claimed that "the issue of kneeling has nothing to do with race."

The vast majority of owners issued statements supporting their players, and many then directly rebuked the president. New York Giants owners John Mara and Steve Tisch criticized Trump's remarks as "inappropriate, offensive and divisive." Jed York, CEO of the 49ers, called them "callous and offensive." And Buffalo Bills owners Terry and Kim Pegulo said the president had been "divisive and disrespectful to the entire NFL community."



Miami Dolphins kneel for the National Anthem

Some of the owners referenced "issues" at the heart of the protests — including police brutality against people of color — but stopped short of actually naming them.

York praised the players' commitment to "social injustice." Joe Ellis, the chairman and CEO of the Denver Broncos, applauded athletes for "raising awareness for important societal issues." Detroit Lions owner

and chairwoman Martha Firestone Ford defended athletes for wanting to "highlight social injustices of all kind" and spoke out against "negative and disrespectful comments" without mentioning Trump.

"Our organization takes great pride in equality and inclusion and find the comments by the President disappointing and inappropriate relative to our players on this issue," the owners

of the New Orleans Saints said in a statement. Police killed at least 223 Black Americans in the year after Kaepernick's protest began, according to a recent *HuffPost* analysis.

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, a friend and supporter of Trump's, rebuked the "tone" of the president's remarks — but said nothing of the substance.

Many team owners applauded

athletes for wanting to make a difference, but also failed to mention the problems that need fixing, including the job discrimination, voting restrictions and other forms of oppression that Black Americans regularly face.

Green Bay Packers President and CEO Mark Murphy called Trump's comments "offensive" to players who "peacefully express themselves with the hope of change for good," and Los Angeles Rams owner and chairman Stan Kroenke said he supported players' "meaningful efforts ... to bring about positive change in our country."

Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross also called the protesting athletes "men of character" who "wanted to start a conversation" to "make our world a better place for everyone."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell remarked that "divisive comments like these demonstrate an unfortunate lack of respect for the NFL," but stopped short of naming Trump or the issues at hand.

## Atwell powers Northwestern win over Booker T. Washington

Miami Times staff report

When longtime rivals Northwestern and Booker T. Washington played on Friday, Booker T. ultimately lost 14 - 7 in an exciting game at Traz Powell Stadium.

Quarterback Chatarius 'Tutu' Atwell, Jr showed why he has been touted as best high school quarterback in South Florida. Atwell ran for two big touchdowns and the Northwestern defense forced multiple turnovers to power the win. Atwell is a very quick and instinctive athlete. Playing his unique game, and probably following

the path of his father who was one of the best receivers in the Big 10. (His father played for Miami High and then the University of Minnesota.)

Atwell is definitely a talent who won the Mastrole Passing Elite 7 competition this past December. At 5-foot-9, 155-pound Atwell is a powerhouse for Northwestern High School, just as another Northwestern alumnus and former U of L great Teddy Bridgewater. 247Sports, rated him three stars and in August he picked up a Louisville offer. He is the No. 131 'athlete' in Florida, according to 247.

The defeat dropped Booker T. Washington's record to 1-2. The win set Northwestern's season off to an optimistic 3-0 start.

Both teams are aiming to improve upon those records in their upcoming games. Northwestern will face off against IMG Academy Saturday at 7 p.m. Meanwhile, Booker T. Washington will battle it out against Edison on Wednesday at 7 p.m. The Louisville football team received a recruiting commitment on Monday night from small, fast multipositional athlete Chatarius "Tutu" Atwell of Miami.



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