



A local resident in downtown Miami as Hurricane Irma arrives in south Florida on Sept. 10.

—Carlos Barria/Reuters

IRMA

SETS OFF SCRAMBLE FOR HOUSING

HUD ranks South Florida at bottom in report

By Andrea Robinson
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Eric Bason usually fights against issues that afflict the Black community. Since Hurricane Irma, however, Bason has been in his own fight for a dry place to stay in a city where affordable housing for low-income people is in rare supply.

Bason, an activist who can't work and receives disability income, said it took him a week to find a hotel room after his apartment flooded during the hurri-

cane. A FEMA assistance grant provided for a room. But he couldn't move in until a friend provided monies for unexpected upfront costs.

"They wanted credit card, resort fees, and security deposit. I have none of these things," Bason said. "How this doesn't lock out Black people I don't know. You get there and they're asking for all this money."

Hurricane Irma, which tore through large swaths of Florida last month, also wrecked finances of people like Bason. Though the storm caused more damage in the state's west coast, it set off a scramble by low-income South Floridians to find

units in a market deemed as the nation's worst for affordable housing.

A report presented in August to U.S. congressional leaders said that the Miami-Fort Lauderdale metropolitan area is in a category unfavorable to poor people when it comes to housing options. The market was deemed the worst for housing among the top 15 most populous metro areas in the country.

In the Worst Case Housing Needs report, presented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, researchers found that more than one-half of the very low-income renters residing in and

Please turn to HOUSING 6A



—Miami Times photo/Andrea Robinson

Mayor Myra Taylor and interim City Manager Ed Brown meet with reporters at Opa-locka City Hall after their meeting with Eric Miller, Florida's chief inspector general.

Residents: Where is the oversight board?

State mostly mute after meeting with leaders

By Andrea Robinson
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After months of bruising meetings with the city manager and financial officials, the board charged with overseeing Opa-locka's finances is silent. Residents wonder if the oversight board appointed by Gov. Rick Scott is still on the job.

The board appointed at the

request of Mayor Myra Taylor in summer 2016 under the watch of Melinda Miguel as Florida's chief inspector general. But the board has not met regularly since Miguel stepped down in April.

Resident Alvin Burke, a critic of the City Commission, said he's unhappy with the changes.

"It's like they're nonexistent now. We don't know if we still have an oversight board. It has been a while. Nothing has been done by state," Burke said. "We thought we would

Please turn to BOARD 6A

The Las Vegas massacre: Shots, chaos and a nation in mourning

By The New York Times

A man unleashed a barrage of gunfire from a hotel room onto an outdoor music festival in Las Vegas, in what is now one of the deadliest mass shootings in American history. The events played out on two stages on Sunday: the streets and festival grounds that became a killing field, and the halls of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino where the police sought the gunman.

SCENES OF CARNAGE AT A CONCERT

As the gunman sprayed bullets from the 32nd floor of the hotel, concertgoers began to flee. In a video taken near the concert stage, panicked screams can be heard amid bursts of continuous gunfire.

The gunfire interrupted the performance of Jason Aldean, a singer at the Route 91 Harvest Festival, a three-day country music event.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CONCERT VENUE

Videos showed chaos unfolding

among concertgoers, while multiple rounds were being fired.

People took cover under the bleachers.

Vehicles stopped to pick up victims and carry them away.

Many victims lay on an area covered with synthetic grass.

A video showed people climbing over a fence about eight feet tall.

Multiple victims were brought here on metal security barriers, used as makeshift stretchers.

Police officers told people to take cover near the festival grounds. Sunday night's performance was the festival's last scheduled show.

Bloodied victims were seen lying on the ground at the festival.

Concertgoers described hearing round after round of gunfire. "This shooting was going on for at least 10

Please turn to SHOOTING 7A



Paddock



Charles James and Rick Spiegel with their wives —Miami Times Photos/Janiah Adams

Veterans remember and care for forgotten

So Fla Vietnam veterans receive thank you after never being welcomed home

By Janiah Adams
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It's 1968 and the Vietnam War rages on.

When combat medic Charles James gets off of his plane, he's apprehensive about wearing his uniform amid protests outside the airport.

"When I came back, I had to pull off my uniform because they were protesting in the '60s and I had to change to civilian clothes," James said.

"It was crazy because college campuses were rioting. People were protesting outside the airport. The people didn't like it. They didn't think we were supposed to be there. Don't shoot the messenger — I went because I was told to."

The nation's attitude toward the war dwindled but still leaving its imprint on Vietnam veterans.

"Vietnam, we were never welcomed home," James said. "That's one of the problems.

So we kind of came in and a lot of veterans are resentful about that."

James finds solace when he meets with a group of like minds on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in West Park. The group is part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8195 Stone of Hope Military Outreach and Wellness Center, located on 4432 Pembroke Road. Their services are open to all veterans, but their members are predominantly Black.

He reminisces about not intending to go into the war. James went to college on a

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Vietnam veterans honored, remembered and welcomed

VETERANS continued from 1A

baseball scholarship and graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology and physical education. Those degrees were supposed to land him a job as a baseball coach, but he ended up working as a medical inspector at the health department. While taking his friend to sign up for the military, James was introduced to a program that fit his qualifications. He filled out an application and, a month and a half later, he was enlisted.

After his first tour from 1967 to 1968, James completed his master's degree then went on his second tour from 1970 to 1971. When he came back from his second tour, the blatant public disapproval wasn't as strong.

"When we came back the second time, they didn't care," James said. "It was winding down, then."

Recognition also comes through the Honor Flight Network, a non-profit dedicated to honoring veterans, including those from the Vietnam tours. The flight program even provides new experiences.

James served as an escort for Korean War veteran Richard Spiegel, on a flight to Washington, D.C. recently.

"The big thing is that first of it honors the Vietnam veterans and it lets us know that our sacrifices were not in vain," James said. "It's also a way of helping another veteran."

James and Spiegel visited war memorials along with 140 other veterans. Spiegel is not Black, which reminded James about how being in the military isn't about race.

John Davis, a Vietnam War veteran and a member of the VFW, also served as an escort for a Korean War veteran.

"This is the best, like I tell people, this is what should've happened in 1970," Davis said.

After getting off the plane, veterans were met with a crowd of cheering people, music, and handshakes.

"I wasn't quite ready for this, but when I came out in '70, it was not like this," Davis said.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

What James and Davis missed when they arrived home, they get in benefits from the VFW in West Park.

"I think the VFW does do a good job," James said. "We were the lost children. Nobody wanted us to be there and nobody appreciated what we did and nobody cheered for us when we got home. So we got zero, zero, zero."

Through all of this, James will never forget those who were lost during the war.

"We had 58,000 Americans lost their life in the war," James said. "Over 300,000 wounded. You can't just ignore it. You can downplay it, but you can't ignore it."

Everyone who participates on Tuesday nights is between 68 and 78 years old and they talk strictly about Vietnam. It's not just a group - it's a brotherhood.

"Everybody kind of does a spill session and you find out, hey I'm not alone," James said.

The group checks up on its members and helps them function in society.

"If we don't see anybody in two to three meetings, we check on each other," James said. "We try to at least check with him and make sure they're OK. And we have a phone tree that is ran and keeps everybody informed about what's new from the VA and what's going on in the government."

The support arm, Veterans Affairs (VA), could step up compensation and provide better access to health care, James said.

"One of the complaints that people have is that now that

I've spent my time in combat, all I want is some medical care," James said. "For a routine appointment, you make me wait 90 days, 120 days, but when you call me to go into combat, I come right away. But now that I got medical problems, I got to get in line and wait for my turn. But when you call me for combat, I went in willingly, and I gave my all. So, a lot of veterans, it doesn't bother me, feel like they're forgotten, their sacrifice in vain."

During group sessions, James has heard stories from other veterans about their sufferings.

"98 percent of veterans suffer from post-traumatic disorder," James said. "One guy was telling us about how he gets up to check the door 10 times a night, even after he just got up to do it ... You interview some of those wives and they'll tell you that [veterans] can't sleep at night. They'll get up and walk around."

Not only do Vietnam veterans suffer from these problems, but so do many others. The West Park location holds meetings for veterans who suffer from substance abuse, veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, and is currently developing a group for LGBTQ veterans.

PTSD: 'IT'S REAL'

Robert "Bobby" White, the executive director of the center and a Vietnam War veteran, believes that Vietnam veterans were swept under the rug.

"That was all a part of that time period," White said. "They drafted many of us and sent us over there, fought a war they couldn't win. Then they swept the veterans under the rug and didn't recognize them as heroes of this country. It was damaging to the minds of them to the point where many of them committed suicide."

White has helped to put these programs together. His struggles with PTSD and 32 years of

working with the VA as a psychologist has given him enough experience to craft programs that aid veterans.

"I've counseled thousands of veterans over that 32 year period in reference to PTSD and helping them get through it," White said. "It's real, very real."

White has been a member of VFW for almost 45 years. He served as a commander of the VFW for about 10 years, which gave him an opportunity to develop the wellness program. His journey of trying to under-

stand his PTSD - from studying psychology, to seeking counsel from his minister, to studying meditation and creative intelligence - has given him ammunition to fuel the program.

"I formed all of these group therapy sessions and shared my wisdom of creative intelligence and got involved with the VFW and established a support group and wellness group for them where they can come by and do meditation, acupuncture, massage and tai chi," White said.

These methods have helped White to stabilize his own mind, he said.

"My story turned into that very positive story, a person who was on the edge and could have went the wrong way,"

White said. "Now we're putting in motion for the veterans who are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and the war on terrorism to establish them into this program that we have. So it worked out quite well and we're trying to pass this knowledge on to the next generation."

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'When Black women get free, everybody gets free'

Marchers gather to bring awareness to issues plaguing Black women

By Jannah Adams
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At one point, Mason Vincent wanted to bleach her skin.

"It's the classic, why are you so dark, so I want to bleach my skin," Vincent said. "Why is your hair so curly, so I want to straighten it."

Over time, Vincent's desire to bleach her skin faded. She now celebrates herself and desires for other Black women to do the same. "There's not just one type of beautiful, there's not just one type of this, like, we have our own and we can be powerful in that," she said.

Vincent and others gathered near Booker T. Washington High School in Overtown before marching two miles to Wynwood as part of the Florida March for Black Women.

Participants marched and chanted to bring awareness to issues plaguing Black women such as sexual assault, injustice in the public school system and mental

health. Women of every hue from organizations such as Power U Center for Social Change, Soul Sisters Leadership Collective, and Miami Workers Center came together to voice their concerns and be proud of who they are.

Lead organizer Jasmen Rogers said it took two months to map out location, march route and pulling together the diverse group of organizations to pull everything together. Rogers said she wanted Black women to feel a sense of community.

"I hope for Black women, they feel community, they feel safety, they feel like they got people that got their back," Rogers said. "I never felt like giving up on Black women. Ever. Because that would be giving up on myself."

Tiffany Burks, a community organizer with Power U Center for Social Change, and the Black Lives Matter Alliance Broward, felt proud of being a Black woman.

"It means a lot for me to be here today," Burks said.



Many different people march at the Black women's march



Melissa J., left, and Amanda James, right, hold up their signs at the Black women's march.

"And knowing that the struggle to fight oppression, we can't get free until Black women are free, and so this is what being here means to me today. Women from all different walks of life and allies and support systems coming together to fight for the liberation of Black women."

Amanda James attended to bring attention to Black girls in the public school system.

"Black girls are six times more likely to be suspended compared to white girls in school, and it has nothing to do with repeated be-

havior, or absences or anything like that," James said. So, I'm here for that. That's what I'm here for. And I feel like that doesn't get a lot of awareness, too."

After a sexual assault, Amber Meeks ran into mental health issues.

"I was assaulted and that affected me in a lot of different ways," Meeks said. "One of those ways was post-traumatic stress that resulted from it. And so the experiences that I had in healing through that and at the same time having to deal with the pressures external-ly of just being a Black wom-



Amber Meeks was at the march to show her support for Black women.

an everyday, that was something that just continues to be formative in my life."

Meeks believes that mental health has a stigma attached to it in the Black community.

"I know that mental health is not something that the Black community discusses openly all the time," Meeks said. "There's sometimes a taboo associated with it and I hope to use my experience and use my voice to take away some of the shame associated with it because we have the capacity to heal as Black women and we can

heal one another as Black women, you know? But we have to open up and talk about it."

The march attracted white and Hispanic women, and Rogers wanted them to get something out of it as well.

"For the folks that are not Black women, I hope that they understand, like, there's a struggle going on that all of us need to be fighting for because when Black women get free, everybody gets free," Rogers said. "So they need to understand that they have a piece to play in getting free."



March attendees listen to speakers.



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Hurricane Irma exacerbates lack of affordable housing

HOUSING

continued from 1A

around Miami, Riverside, Calif., Phoenix, and Los Angeles experienced worst case needs in 2015.

Renters classified as worst-case needs under federal guidelines have incomes of 50 percent or below of the area median income. Many of them spend more than half of their monthly wages on rent, and some live in unsafe housing.

Miami-Dade Commissioner Xavier Suarez said he's not surprised that Bason faced so many challenges.

Suarez held a community forum to help residents with housing and other needs at the Frankie Shannon Rolle Center in Coconut Grove. Suarez said people from as far away as Hialeah came for help. He said single mothers needed fares for public transportation to get to their temporary locations, and others needed to find places to live.

"A lot of people don't have the money to pay the initial fees. People were begging for the least amount of help," Suarez said. "That's why we had the forum. Help is available, [but] it comes with red tape ... things that require special attention."

Suarez said the county doesn't do enough to ease the affordable housing situation. The bulk of the funds come from federal and state sources, he said.

"Mayor [Carlos Gimenez] says we have \$200 million for housing, which is misleading," Suarez said. "We get \$45 million to a year to build affordable housing." He said then \$200 million is the amount that the county received over a four-year period, and that the funds translate into approximately 1,000 units — meaning single-family or apartments — for 1,000 families. Suarez said that building rate is too low.

"We should be [building] 5,000 per year," Suarez said. "The county isn't putting a penny in general revenue into affordable housing."

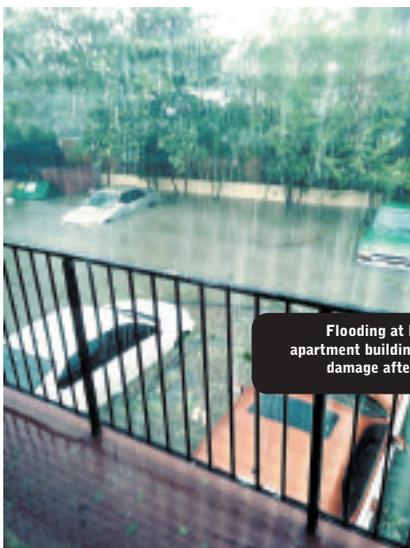
Gimenez could not be reached for comment.

FEMA officials say thus far they have paid out \$116 million in grant money for rental assistance to Miami-Dade homeowners and renters whose dwellings are uninhabitable. Recipients do not have to repay those fees. In Broward County, homeowners and renters have received \$56 million.

Officials said recipients can apply for additional assistance if their home is still uninhabitable, but they must show how previous funds were spent.

But FEMA does not dictate guidelines for hotels that participate in the program. And the agency specifically states it doesn't cover things such as resort fees.

That lack of oversight set off Bason's frustration and anger. First he had to take public



Flooding at Eric Bason's Miami apartment building resulted in extensive damage after Hurricane Irma.

transportation from Little Haiti to Miami Dade Kendall Campus to meet with a FEMA counselor. He received approval for transitional shelter assistance, which provides temporary help for renters until their unit is fixed. That was the easy part. Bason

got a list of available hotels, and looked at places closest to his neighborhood. All on the list were in Miami Beach. He was ill-prepared.

"I went to four hotels. They told me I had to pay a \$25 resort fee, give them a credit card



and pay \$200 deposit up front," Bason said. He said the nightly rate fluctuated some nights. A friend paid the unexpected expenses this time. Bason's Miami apartment remains uninhabitable, he said. That means he will have to visit the FEMA

center again.

Mason said despite his inconveniences, he was more concerned for single mothers who are in similar circumstances. "I'll come out okay," he said. "After 60 years of living I can weather this."

Oversight board takes a low-key approach to Opa-locka's issues

BOARD

continued from 1A

have seen some changes but nothing has changed."

Eric Miller, who previously served as inspector general at the Agency for Health Care Administration, was appointed as her successor. On Sept. 27, Miller visited Opa-locka for the first time, but he did not meet with the oversight board.

Instead he met in a closed door session with Taylor, city commissioners and interim city manager Ed Brown. The city billed the meeting as an opportunity to discuss the city's finances.

Miller refused to speak with reporters after the meeting. Other state officials were

state and the board in a way that will help the city's operations going forward.

"Mr. Miller will streamline the process," Taylor said. "There was an extra layer needed for approval for the city to do business."

Brown said Miller met with all the city's department heads to get their take on how things are going.

"It was a good exchange. There's an immediate impact in terms of turning around the city's financial forecast," Brown said. "The inspector general has taken a hard look at the figures. He had a nice exchange with the department directors. I allowed them to speak to him because you can't do this by yourself."

the city's material will go to the oversight board, then the inspector general, and then back to the city. Brown said he and the commissioners requested the change.

"We will be able to get a quicker response back so there's no lag time," Brown said. "When you have things that are time sensitive, the process won't interfere with the flow of business."

The financial oversight board stepped in after Scott finally declared a financial emergency in Opa-locka at Taylor's request.

Such a designation means that a board appointed by Tallahassee will oversee the city's financial matters. City administrators must get

a resolution declaring a financial emergency and asking the state for help.

The news brought a mix of cheers and catcalls. Burke said he was happy with the declaration, but he criticized the mayor's announcement taking credit. "It's not true. This is the problem with this city," Burke said. "Enough is

enough."

The emergency declaration marks the second time the embattled city of 16,000 has sought state help. The first time was 2002, during the Jeb Bush administration. The city had a budget deficit that was created because of mounting water and sewer expenses.

Now Burke's attitude has changed. He wonders if the city's racial composition played a factor in the state's new approach.

"[The state] brought no help. They just turned and walked away," Burke said. "If it were a white community, the state would have been more forceful."



Frank Rollason, member of the state-appointed board that oversees Opa-locka's finances, reviews city invoices and payment requests. Rollason is the city manager of North Bay Village.

mostly mute. Lauren Schenone, a spokeswoman for Scott's office in a statement said the state is still committed to Opa-locka's well-being, and is in the process of reviewing the city's proposed fiscal budget, which should have been finalized.

"The board and the Chief Inspector General are solely focused on the financial recovery of the City of Opa-locka and will review any action by the city to ensure the taxpayer dollars are protected," Schenone said. "The Chief Inspector General are in the process of reviewing their preliminary approved budget and have until Oct. 19th, 2017 to provide revisions."

Taylor and Brown said the discussions with Miller were at their request. They asked the state to change the document review process between the

Frank Rollason said he didn't know why the board had not met or the reason for the change in the meeting schedule.

"I was informed there won't be a meeting of the board until November," Rollason said. "I would assume that Eric Mills is modifying the process."

Brown said under the old way of doing things, the city would submit documents to the oversight board and those members would send them to Tallahassee with recommendations to approve or deny. The inspector general would send a determination to the board, which would pass along to the city.

Brown said the process was cumbersome and caused delays for both the city administration and the City Commission. Under the new process,

written approval of proposed budgets and spending. The city also has to cooperate with state officials who will provide assistance with bringing Opa-locka's accounting systems, reporting and financial procedures into compliance with state requirements.

Commissioners had hoped that the state also would loan Opa-locka money to pull the city out of massive debt, which according to some estimates is at least \$4 million.

U.S. Congresswoman Frederica Wilson and Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez and Commissioner Barbara Jordan each had urged Scott to intervene in Opa-locka to avoid a financial collapse.

The executive order declaring the emergency was issued shortly after the City Commission voted 4-0 June 1 to pass



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Breaking down the massacre

SHOOTING
continued from 1A

minutes," said Jake Owen, a country singer who was on stage with Mr. Aldean when the shooting began.

A Frantic Search for the Gunman

[The account below is based primarily on recordings of police communications, captured by Broadcastify.com and some individuals.]

At 10:08 p.m., an officer on the scene sounds the alarm. "We got shots fired," he says. "Sounds like an automatic firearm."

"There is confusion over the next few minutes as officers arrive to scenes of death and mayhem.

"It's coming from upstairs in the Mandalay Bay. Upstairs in the Mandalay Bay, halfway up I see the shots coming from Mandalay Bay, halfway up."

"We have an active shooter — we have an active shooter inside the fairgrounds!"

At 10:12 p.m., the scale of the attack becomes more clear as an officer, using law-enforcement shorthand for gunshot wounds, reports in an agitated voice: "We have multiple casualties. G.S.W.'s in the medical tent. Multiple casualties!"

But the confusion over the source of the gunshots continues: "Shots are coming from Gate 7."

"We're in front of Mandalay Bay. We're trying to see where the shots are coming from. If anyone can advise if they're coming from Mandalay"

"It sounds like it's either Mandalay or Luxor, we cannot tell."

At 10:13 p.m., the manhunt begins to focus.

"It's coming from like the 50th or 60th floor, north of the Mandalay Bay! It's coming out a window."

"We're seeing local flashes in the middle of Mandalay Bay on the north side, kind of on the west tower but towards the center of the casino, like one of the middle floors."

The gunman had smashed two windows that have a broad view of the festival ground, the sheriff said later at a news conference.

Even with pandemonium on the streets, one officer has clearly identified where the shooting is coming from:

"I'm inside the Mandalay Bay on the 31st floor, I can hear the automatic fire coming from one floor ahead, one floor above us."

"Repeating, just be advised it is automatic fire. Fully automatic fire from an elevated position. Take cover."

"That is correct, it's fully automatic fire. I'm right below it."

Outside, frustration grows. "We're taking gunfire. It's going right over our heads. There's debris coming over our heads. We're pinned down here with a bunch of civilians."

"We can't worry about victims, we need to snuff the shooter before we have more victims! Anybody have eyes on him, on this shooter?"

"Hey officers, please stay calm, just relax, we're trying to get this set up."

By 10:20 p.m., there are some indications the shooting has stopped, although it is not clear.

"It's been awhile since we've heard any shots. Does anybody have eyes on the shooter?"

A later transmission indicates that the shooting may have ended about 10:25.

At 10:24 p.m., officers report from the stairwell just outside the gunman's door.

"I'm on the 32nd floor. The room is going to be 135."

"It's room 135 on the 32nd floor. I need the SWAT."

At 10:28 p.m., as SWAT teams gather on the 32nd floor and the 29th floor, where there have been erroneous reports of another gunman, an officer says that a hotel security officer has been shot.

The gunman was at one point in a large suite on the 32nd floor, with windows facing the concert grounds. The diagram below shows the typical floor plan.

Over the next 50 minutes, officers secure the floor and ready several SWAT teams.

At about 11:20 p.m., they explode a door-breaching device, and enter to find the suspect dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The man, who was later identified as Stephen Paddock, 64, had an arsenal of firearms in the room, officials said.

Gimenez appoints former Chief Maurice Kemp as deputy mayor

Miami Times Staff Report

Deputy Mayor, Russell Benford, has accepted a position as vice president of government relations with Royal Caribbean Cruises and will be stepping down from his role effective next week.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez has appointed former City of Miami Fire Chief Maurice Kemp to serve as Deputy

Mayor overseeing public safety, public housing and community development, and community action and human services departments.

"Maurice has all the attributes that make up a great Deputy Mayor. He is kind, honest, intelligent, and a team player," said Mayor Gimenez. "I



Maurice Kemp

had the honor of being one of Maurice's mentors when I was the fire chief for the City of Miami and I can personally attest to his qualifications."

Kemp joined the Miami Fire Department in 1985, and in 2009 he was appointed as the city's first African-American Chief of Fire-Rescue.

Gimenez also applauded Benford on his new career move.

"I couldn't be happier for Russell," said Gimenez. "I have known Russell for years and consider him to be a personal friend. He is an extraordinary public servant and has served Miami-Dade County very well for six years."

"Russell was a great part of this team and he will be missed," added Gimenez. "I wish him luck

and success in his new position."

Benford has worked in government for over 20 years, having held several city manager positions: North Miami from 2010-2011; West Park in Broward County from 2005-2010; and the village manager of Hawthorn Woods in Illinois from 2000-2005.

Kemp will assume his new role as deputy mayor on Oct. 11.

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AVOIDABLE TRAGEDY?

Do you have a plan of action in case you're caught in the crossfire?

By Virginia Lowman
Essence Magazine

With the threat of a nuclear attack seemingly looming and mass shootings like the horrific scene that's still unfolding in Las Vegas becoming more and more frequent, national security and personal safety concerns have everyone on edge.

While it's good to have a set place to meet up with family and friends in the event of a crisis, it's also crucial to prepare yourself with the knowledge of how to handle a situation properly in the moment. Whether you're at the office or at the club, it's important to always be prepared and have a plan of action for times when first response is not a viable option. Here are a few military and FBI approved tips to bear in mind if you are caught in a mass shooting or instance of terrorism.

Creating a Safe Zone and Preparing for Crisis

1) Adopt a "war gaming" mindset. US Air Force Lieutenant, Xavier Jones, advises, "Drop the belief that

terrorism and shootings only happen in certain areas, and adopt the mentality that a threat is always present, you just aren't fully aware of the details." He recommends that people follow a practice that the Dallas SWAT team implements called "war gaming," which is more of a lifestyle than a habit. War Gaming involves remaining alert at all times and not becoming complacent or lax in any location or situation; remaining ever aware that crisis can occur at any time. Awareness and mental preparation are crucial, and the first steps toward security.

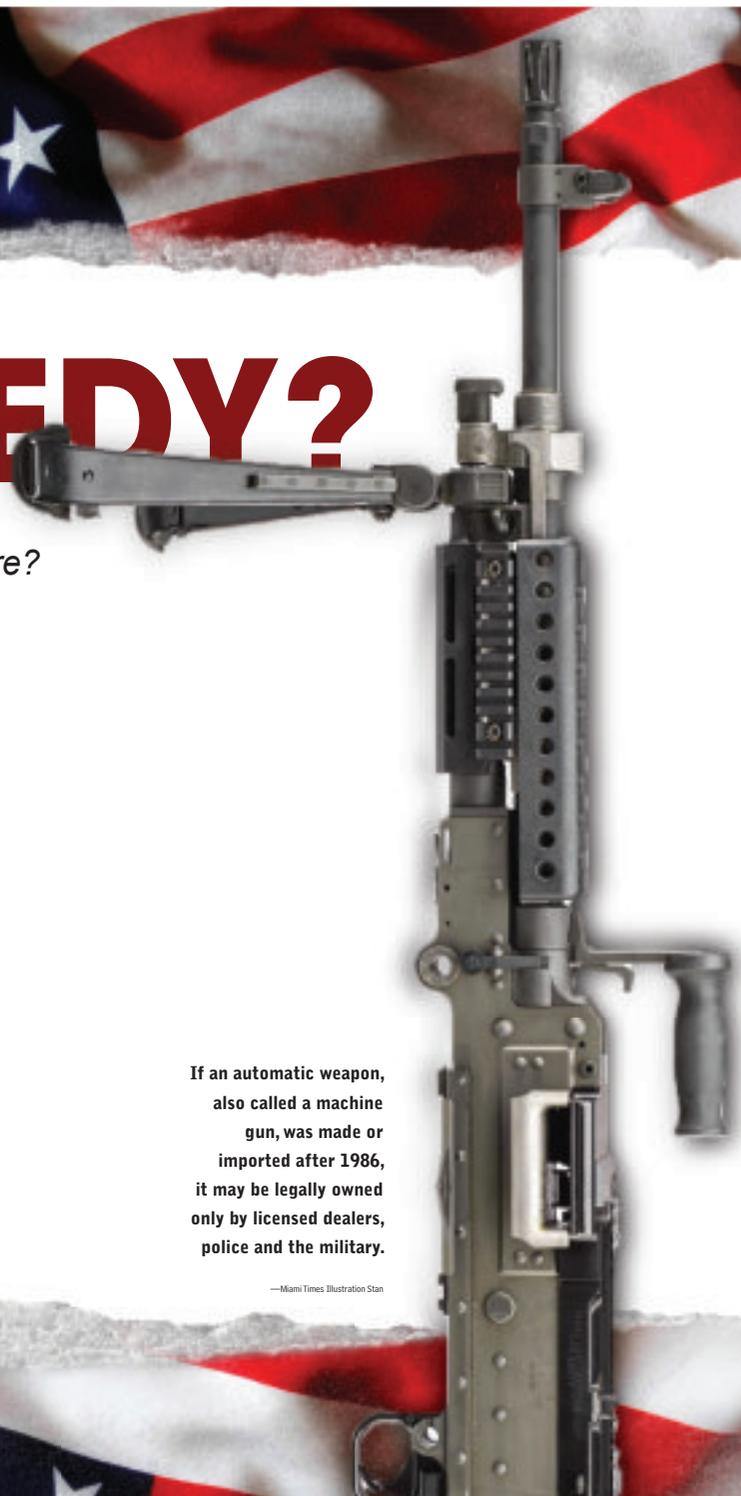
2) Have a plan. Keep it simple. The plan doesn't have to be complex; it just has to be effective. It is wise to devise a plan for all areas where you spend a great deal of time i.e., your home, place of work, gym, etc. You should also share these plans with your family so they are equally prepared in case of emergency.

3) Know your exits. In order to draft an escape plan, you need to be aware of all possible escape routes.

Please turn to **TRAGEDY 10B**

If an automatic weapon, also called a machine gun, was made or imported after 1986, it may be legally owned only by licensed dealers, police and the military.

—Miami Times Illustration Stan



Speaking with Minister George Ellis Jr.

Story of his 25 years of ministry

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

Sometimes, the testimony of a minister will amaze you. The way they speak so upfront, so unapologetic, and so unashamed. As if they were retelling the tale of another person, from another time.

"Creating Hope for Many Through Love and Char-

ity" That's the vision God gave Minister George E. Ellis Jr. almost twenty-five years ago, when his Pastor Cecil Lamb of The Spirit Christ Center and Ministries supported and blessed what God had spoken to the born again believer's heart several years before.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, to the Late Dr. George W. Ellis and his wife Alvalia, the family moved to Miami



in 1968, where Ellis graduated from Miami Edison High School, and then on to Florida A&M University.

An opportunity arose for the young George Ellis to work at Florida Memorial University, the place where his great grandfather was a founder. "It was a faith-based place," he said. "A lot of the guys who I worked with were aspiring to be pastors and were into the ministry."

One day, Ellis met a young Please turn to **ELLIS 10B**

Pastor of the Week

Minister George Ellis

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It is estimated that there are about 300,000 sports-related concussions every year and an athlete in contact sports may have the likelihood of suffering a concussion at about 10 percent per season.



NFL & CONCUSSIONS

FOR THE LOVE OF THE BRAIN

By Dr. Regina Bailey
www.drreginamdjd.com

As an NFL cheerleader, on the field I firsthand witnessed injuries, including head injuries. Now as an emergency medicine physician I frequently treat patients in the emergency room that have potentially suffered a brain injury after trauma.

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that can result after trauma, like a blow to the head, and can affect brain function. Symptoms can vary from mild headaches, nausea, vomiting, to confusion, memory problems, and many more. A single concussive episode likely does not cause permanent damage, however a second concussion, especially soon after the first, can cause permanently disabling or deadly effects.

It is estimated that there are about 300,000 sports-related concussions every year and an athlete in contact sports may have the likelihood of suffering a concussion at about 10 percent per season.

Some athletes suffer from long-term sequelae of concussions, like in post-concussive syndrome or may even develop progressive degenerative disease as in chronic traumatic encephalopathy, that has features similar to Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease.

There has been increa-

sed awareness in this area as many NFL players who suffered brain injury after concussion have been part of a lawsuit against the NFL to help them recover for their brain injuries resulting from football-related trauma. Over 11,000 former NFL players who have suffered long-term brain injury have pre-registered for benefits under this lawsuit.

Recently, former NFL player Warren Sapp announced that he is already suffering from memory loss, likely from concussion-related injuries during his NFL career, and has pledged to donate his brain to concussion research. The NFL has since developed very strict guidelines, a "concussion protocol" to help prevent these types of injuries, identify and treat affected players early and to prevent worsening of their injuries.

Despite these efforts, there has been little change in the injuries. Statistics on NFL-related concussions have been publicly available for the past five years, but it has only been the latest year's results that have showed a noticeable decline in concussions.

The medical experts working with the NFL recognize that more work still needs to be done. The number of concussions in preseason games has declined the most, however, numbers in regular season games have only declined slightly,



perhaps reflecting underreporting of the injuries or not identifying the injuries at the time of injury during the regular season games.

NFL teams can be fined for violating the concussion protocol, and they have also hired independent medical staff to watch the games to look out for concussive-related injuries.

Overall, compliance has been difficult.

The protocol does have practices for monitoring all players throughout the season and intervention when necessary, but its screening tools still has flaws. It is still difficult to identify injuries when they happen. The player may not want to voluntarily let

the team know they have been injured or are having symptoms, they may want to keep playing, not understanding the extent of their injuries, and may also feel pressured to continue to play.

Because of the type of injury, this is a difficult area to diagnose, regulate and enforce. A lot more

research needs to be done, along with improved education and support for the players. Improved public awareness of this issue will help to improve and encourage research in this area. The NFL seems to be headed in the right direction to fix this problem, but much more needs to be done.



Dr. Regina Bailey

HOW TO NARRATE YOUR LIFE STORY



Good – by which is meant fair-minded and judicious – narrators know that lives can be meaningful even when they involve a lot of failure and humiliation.

By The School of Life

Good – by which is meant fair-minded and judicious – narrators know that lives can be meaningful even when they involve a lot of failure and humiliation.

At moments of sorrow and exhaustion, it is only too easy to look back over the years and feel that our lives have, in essence, been meaningless. We take stock of just how much has gone wrong; how many errors there have been; how many unfulfilled plans and frustrated dreams we've had. We may feel like the distraught, damned Macbeth who, on learning of his wife's death, exclaims at a pitch of agony that man is a cursed creature who:

...struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more.
[Life] is a tale

Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing.

No life can avoid an intermittently high degree of 'sound and fury.' The question is whether it must also, ultimately, signify nothing. As Macbeth's lines hint, this will depend on who is telling it. In the hands of Shakespeare's (bracingly termed) 'idiot,' the story of a life may well turn into unintelligible and dispiriting gibberish. But with sufficient compassion and insight, we may equally be able to make something different and a great deal more meaningful and redemptive out of the same material.

The difference between despair and hope is just a different way of telling stories from the same set of facts.

The difference between despair and hope is just a different way of telling stories from the same set of facts.

Only a small number of us ever self-consciously write our autobiographies. It is a task we associate with celebrities and the very old – but it is, in the background, a universal activity. We may not be publishing our stories, but we are writing them in our minds nevertheless. Every day finds us weaving a story about who we are, where we are going and why events happened as they did.

Many of us are strikingly harsh narrators of these life stories. We hint to ourselves that we've been morons from the beginning. We've stuffed up big time. It's been one disaster after another. That's how we go about narrating, especially late at night, when our reserves of optimism run dry and the demons return.

Yet there is nothing necessary about our self-flagellating methods of narration. There could always be ways of telling very different, far kinder, and more balanced stories from the very same sets of facts. You could give your life story to Dostoevsky, Proust or Jesus and come out with a rather bearable, moving, tender and noble story. Mistakes do not have to be absurd; they can be signs of how little information we have on which to base the most consequential decisions. Messing up isn't a sign of evil; it's evidence of what we're up against.

Not all the disasters were wasted anyway. Maybe we spent a decade not quite knowing what we wanted

to do with ourselves professionally. Maybe we went through a succession of failed relationships that left us confused and hurt a lot of people. But these experiences weren't meaningless because they were necessary to later development and maturity. We needed the career crisis to understand our working identities; we had to fail at love to fathom our hearts. No one gets anywhere important in one go. We can forgive ourselves the horrors of our first drafts.

The good storyteller recognizes – contrary to certain impressions – that the central character of the story isn't always responsible for every calamity or triumph. We are never the sole authors of anything that happens to us. Sometimes, it really will be the economy, our parents, the government, our enemies or simply the tragic dimensions of human existence. Good narrators don't over-personalise.

Every day, we are induced to narrate a bit our life story to ourselves: we explain why there was pain, why we forgot to seize a chance and why we're in an unhappy situation.

It does not need to be a tale told by an idiot signifying nothing. It can be a tale told by a kind, intelligent soul signifying rather a lot: like almost every life story, it is in truth a tale of a well-intentioned, flawed, partially blind, self-deceived but ultimately dignified and good human struggling against enormous odds and, sometimes, on a good day, succeeding just a little in a few areas.

Prepare yourselves 'just in case'

TRAGEDY continued from 8B

Take some time to scope out every space that you enter to formulate the best plan(s) of action.

4) Be mindful of your surroundings at all times. If you are waiting until an emergency to assess your environment, then 5) Implement the practice of "5 and 25." Know what is going on five feet around you and twenty-five feet around you. If an aggressor is within five feet of you, you are already in a danger zone. If you're mindful of what's occurring around you in a 25-foot radius, you can be adequately prepared to make a swift exit in the event of an emergency.

6) Implement pre-emptive counter measures. That's a fancy way of saying "beat the bad guy before he can strike." Simple measures such as backing into a parking spot instead of pulling in, can shave precious seconds off of your escape time. Thinking and preparing for moments of crisis can make all the difference.

7) Turn down your music and look up from your phone. Texting, social media and that addicting game can wait. You cannot be fully conscious of your surroundings visually or acoustically if you are distracted by other stimuli.

THE 5 C'S OF PREPARATION AND SURVIVAL

Lt. Jones suggests five things that you can and should keep on your person or in your car at all times to ensure your safety and survival in dire circumstances:

- Cutting: Always have a knife or multi tool that will allow you to defend yourself or cut away from/at materials or surfaces.
- Container: Carry a bottle or canteen for water to maintain hydration.

- Combustion: Having matches or a lighter on hand can come in handy in a number of situations—setting off an alarm in times of crisis and of course, starting fires when necessary.
- Cordage: While a rope can always come in handy, Jones recommends 550 Paracord, a lightweight nylon rope used by military, civilians and astronauts in suspension cords that can be bought in bulk and found in shoeboxes.

- Cover: Having some form of shelter, whether it is in the form of a coat, an abandoned building or a large piece of furniture to shield yourself from harm.

WHAT TO DO IN EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY OR MASS SHOOTING

Run, Hide, Fight. The Federal Bureau of Investigations rec-

ommends that you do the following in the event of a crisis:

- Run. If you have the opportunity to escape and evacuate, take it. Leave your belongings and get yourself to safety. If possible, lead others to follow you, but do not linger if they are unwilling to do so. Time is of the essence.
- Evacuate whether others agree to or not.
- Help others escape if possible.

- Prevent others from entering the area.
- Call 9-1-1.
- Hide. If there aren't any safe escape routes, find a hiding place that is: out of the shooter's view, provides protection from fire and doesn't restrict your movement.

- Silence and dim the light on your cell phone.
- Turn off the lights in the area, if possible.
- If you find a safe room or closet, lock the door or conceal yourself behind large objects for protection.

- Fight. If running and hiding are not an option, then and only then should you become aggressive toward the shooter.
- Act with physical aggression and attempt to disable the shooter.
- Improvise weapons.
- Commit to your actions. Hesitating or cowering in fear could mean the difference between life and death.

CHURCH LISTINGS

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

CATHOLIC
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Rev. Alexander Ekechukwu, CSSp Dec. 2018
1301 NW 71 Street • 305-691-1701

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

Greater Harvest Baptist Church
Rev. Kenneth McGee Oct. 2018
2310 NW 58th Street • 305-725-6321

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

Waliking 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 Aug. 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

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

True Faith Missionary Baptist Church
Pastor John M. Fair Oct. 2018
1890 NW 47th Terrace • 786-262-6841

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 Oct. 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 DENOMINAL
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

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church of Christ at Coconut Grove
Minister William D. Maddox Oct. 2018
3345 Douglas Road • 305-448-0504

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Revival Tabernacle Assembly of God
Pastor Leonard Shaw Oct. 2018
2085 NW 97th Street • 305-693-1356

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Pastor with a given vision from God

ELLIS continued from 8B

lady named Marilyn, a Christian girl, who as Ellis describes it, "Wanted our first real date to attend church." Ellis suggested they attend a church then led by a friend of his from FAMU, Pastor Mike Mitchell. "That day, Pastor Mitchell preached a message on 'Reaching Your Full Potential Through Christ Jesus.'" That day," Ellis recalls, "I felt the message was really touching my heart, and Pastor Mitchell called me up to the altar, and I received Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. And that day, was the last day I used drugs. My life totally changed that day, and that was the beginning of a new life for me." That day in church would also change his life in other ways. The young lady who invited him to church would go on to become his first wife.

While working in the HIV/AIDS program at Bellafonte-TALCOLY Center, Ellis had the opportunity to pray on many occasions with Mr. John Bennett, Executive Director at the time, Alphonso Wright His supervisor and his co-worker and good friend. Minister Halsey Gray, III, who also worked at the TALCOLY program. "This had a tremendous impact on my faith," Minister Ellis recalls, "to work with my Boss. After praying with these great brothers in the Lord, God spoke to me saying, 'One

day, you are going to be over a faith-based organization.' I told my boss Rev. Wright, what God had just spoken to me, and that the Lord also said that he would be working with me when that day came, Rev. Wright worked with me until the day he retired.

"I see myself as a minister, Ellis says. "Everyone is not called to preach only from the pulpit. There is a lot of ministry need out here on the streets. What opened my heart, and opened my mind was to be over a faith-based organization that will work with youth and families."

But that opportunity would come later. Ellis then worked as a legislative aide to then State Representative Beryl Roberts. Thinking back, Ellis believed that the Lord used him in that position to learn the legislative process, for what was to come later. Another opportunity arose, a faith based organization from Tampa called Faith House was looking for a director after Hurricane Andrew, to operate its Miami foster care program. Faith House later experienced operational trouble. But with his experience and knowledge of the program, Ellis was encouraged to begin his own Faith Based program.

"I am the founder of Miami's River of Life, along with pastor Cecil Lamb, Dr. Reginald Thompson and my ex-wife Marilyn. My ministry has been working with kids since July

28, 1993. This is our twenty-fifth year of operation. My ministry is dealing with foster kids, and dealing with kids in their dependency and delinquency. I provide shelters for them. I have two shelters, one for girls, one for boys. The organization's motto is "Hope for many through love and charity."

"Most of the people we deal with have broken spirits. A broken spirit can only be healed through God. Over the last twenty-five years, I've served thousands of children. I've served thousands of families. I've employed hundreds of people. God didn't give me this vision to become wealthy. He gave me this vision to help the community.

Ellis went on to lament the current condition of our community. "We don't have that village concept, we don't have that community concept that was spiritually developed through our faith. Miami's River of Life is about that.

Today, the fifty-nine year old Ellis, is married to his wife Tranika Ellis, and the father of seven children, as well as four or five nieces and nephews he helped to raise. Minister Ellis is a certified chaplain for the State of Florida. He also serves as Chairman of the State of Florida's State-wide Faith Initiative for the Juvenile Justice System. The future for him, as he describes, "The future for me is to get more deeper into ministry."

Faith CALENDAR

Compiled by The Miami Times staff editorial@miamitimesonline.com

■ **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.

■ **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.

■ **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.

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

■ **New Miami Super Choir** invites interested persons to audition. Call Dr. Tony Siders, 786-530-2825.

■ **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 786-580-6167.

■ **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.



Health & Wellness

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SECTION B

MIAMI, FLORIDA, OCTOBER 4-10, 2017



OPIOIDS LIMITED

Florida Governor proposed 3-day limit on opioids

Gov. Rick Scott is introducing new legislation that will place stricter guidelines on opioid prescriptions

By **Alexa Lardieri**
usnews.com

Florida Gov. Rick Scott announced a new proposal for a three-day limit on prescribed opioids in his state. Scott said Tuesday he will propose the legislation and more than \$50 million to next year's budget to combat opioid abuse, WPTV reported. The legislation would require all health care providers who prescribe or distribute medication to participate in the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, a state-wide database that monitors prescriptions for controlled substances. The legislation includes reforms to combat unlicensed pain management clinics and require continuing education courses on responsibly prescribing opioids, and would also

Please turn to **OPIOIDS 12B**

CVS to limit opioid drug prescriptions amid epidemic

Pharmacists will be able to cap dosages, call doctor if needed and limit initial patient prescriptions

By **Nathan Bomey**
USA TODAY

Drug-store chain CVS Health announced Thursday that it will limit opioid prescriptions in an effort to combat the epidemic that accounted for 64,000 overdose deaths last year alone. Amid pressure on pharmacists, doctors, insurers and drug companies to take action, CVS also said it would boost funding for addiction programs, counseling and safe disposal of opioids. The company's prescription drug management division, CVS Caremark, which provides medications to nearly 90 million people, said it would use its sweeping influence to limit initial opioid prescriptions to seven-day supplies for new patients facing

Please turn to **CVS 12B**

North Shore Medical Center donates beds to Haitian clinic

North Shore Medical Center donated 30 hospital beds to Project St. Anne, part of a Clinic of Camp-Perrin located in Haiti. Project St. Anne is a non-profit that was founded by a group of women in 2008. The goal of the organization is to help the less fortunate. The 30 beds are going to be used by patients at the local hospital. "Receiving medical care in a comfortable environment can help speed up the healing process," said Manny Linares, Chief Executive Officer of North Shore Medical Center. "The donation of these beds is part of our commitment to helping those who have been affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters and are in need of medical supplies."

Randolph Gornail, President of St. Anne; Manny Linares, Chief Executive Officer at NSMC; Shana Crittenden, Chief Operating Officer at NSMC; Gwen Hartzog, Interim Chief Nursing Officer at NSMC; Arianna Urquia, Chief Financial Officer at NSMC; Katherine Avendano, Associate Administrator at NSMC; and Belle Valladares, Director of Business Development at NSMC.



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Miami Times Publisher Emeritus honored

Ancient Spanish Monastery held recent event at Turnberry Isle

Special to The Miami Times

Miami Times Publisher Emeritus Garth C. Reeves, Sr. was one of citizens honored by the Ancient Spanish Monastery Foundation at its recent annual gala at Turnberry Isle.

More than 200 guests braved post-Irma conditions to attend the event, an important source of funding for the 884-year-old Ancient Spanish Monastery.

The event was timely. Proceeds are being used to repair Hurricane Irma damage to the Monastery.

In addition to Reeves, this year the Foundation recognized Tracy and Alonso Mourning, Founders — The Mourning Family Founda-

tion; the Honorable George Vallejo, Mayor — City of North Miami Beach; Ranjan Dura, M.D. — Medical Director Wien Center for Alzheimer's and Memory Disorders at Mount Sinai Hospital; Youth Legacy Award honoree, Ariel Swedroe Weinberg, Founder and CEO — Swedroe Art to Wear by Ariel.

In 1964, Colonel Robert Pentland, Jr., a banker, philanthropist and benefactor of many Episcopal churches, purchased the Cloisters and presented them to the Bishop of Florida. Today, the parish church of St. Bernard de Clairvaux is an active and growing congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida. Services are held on Sundays and weekdays.



Honorees from left to right include: The Honorable George Vallejo, Mayor - North Miami Beach, Tracy Wilson Mourning, Co-Founder - The Mourning Family Foundation, Youth Legacy Award Recipient; Ariel Swedroe Weinberg, Founder & CEO Swedroe Art to Wear by Ariel, Garth C. Reeves, Sr., Publisher Emeritus - The Miami Times Newspaper, Ranjan Dura, M.D., Medical Director - Wien Center for Alzheimer's & Memory Disorders at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

New rules for prescriptions

OPIOIDS continued from 11B

create new opportunities for federal grant funding, according to a statement from the governor's office.

A highlight of the legislation is a three-day limit on prescribed opioids, unless strict conditions are met that would require a seven-day supply.

The proposed \$50 million budget would include funding for substance abuse treatment, counseling and recovery services, and the Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council.

"These proposals will make a major impact on limiting the chance of drug addiction, reducing the ability for dangerous drugs to spread in our communities, giving vulnerable Floridians the

support they need, and ensuring our hard working law enforcement officers have the resources to protect Floridians," Scott said in a statement.

Scott declared the opioid epidemic in the state of Florida a public health emergency in May and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports deaths from prescription opioids and heroin have more than quadrupled since 1999.

Senate President Joe Negron and House Speaker Richard Corcoran are both supportive of the legislative. In a statement from the governor's office, both said they are committed to working to combat opioid abuse and are "dedicated to protecting our families and communities from the national opioid epidemic."

CVS Caremark uses its influence to combat opioid epidemic

CVS continued from 11B

acute ailments. The rise of the opioid crisis is complicated, but doctors and hospitals trying to keep patients happy were a big factor. Some CVS hope that's changing. Video provided by Newsy Newslook

It will instruct pharmacists to contact doctors when they encounter prescriptions that appear to offer more medication than would be deemed necessary for a patient's recovery. The doctor would be asked to revise it. Pharmacists already reach out to physicians for other reasons, such as when they prescribe medications that aren't covered by a patient's insurance plan.

The plan also involves capping daily dosages and initially requiring patients to get versions of the medications that dispense pain relief for a short period instead of a longer dura-



CVS said it would also empower its pharmacists to proactively educate patients about the dangers of opioids and encourage shorter prescriptions to prevent addictions.

tion. CVS CEO Larry Merlo told USA TODAY that the company had often been asked to fill prescriptions of 30 to 60 of the powerful pills at a time for con-

ditions that required a much more limited amount.

Listen to learn more about the hunt for deadly opioids illegally entering the U.S.

"We see that all too often in

the marketplace, and we believe it's appropriate to limit those prescriptions to a much more moderate and appropriate supply," he said. "We think this can help make an impact."

He declined to wade into the debate over the role of drug companies, physicians and others in causing the crisis.

"From my perspective, it's not a blame game at this point," he said. "I think as health care stakeholders we all play an important role in being part of the solution."

Separately, CVS rival Walgreens announced plans for a new marketing campaign aimed at educating teenagers about the danger of opioids.

Taken together, the initiatives reflect an increasingly active role on behalf of two of the nation's largest retailers in combating a deadly epidemic.

The White House has declared this week as Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week.

President Trump recently announced plans to declare the opioid crisis as a national emergency, though the official declaration was still under a legal review as of last week. The move could free up certain federal resources to tackle the epidemic.

With more than 9,600 locations, CVS said it would also empower its pharmacists to proactively educate patients about the dangers of opioids and encourage shorter prescriptions to prevent addictions.

"The whole effort here is to try to reduce the number of people who are going to end up with some sort of opioid addiction problem," CVS Chief Medical Officer Troyen Brennan said in an interview.

Pharmacists are the front lines of prescription drug distribution and so can play key roles in educating consumers about the dangers of opioids, said Mohamed Jalloh, spokes-

man for the American Pharmacists Association.

"Pharmacists are going to be stepping up their role to be able to spot questionable behavior," he said.

One area where the nation's largest drug-store chains are increasingly active is in providing safe ways to dispose of excess opioids. CVS said it would add safe disposal kiosks to 750 of its stores.

Walgreens, which does not have a pharmacy benefits manager like CVS and thus cannot limit prescription dosages on its own, has already stationed disposal kiosks at about 600 pharmacies throughout the country, spokesman Phil Caruso said.

Walgreens on Wednesday also launched a new marketing campaign dubbed "#ItEndsWithUs," featuring actor Brandon Larracuente highlighting the risks of opioids and new online resources.

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Fla. nursing homes challenge order to install generators

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A group that represents nursing homes and assisted living facilities is challenging Florida Gov. Rick Scott's order to install generators at the facilities by Dec. 1, saying the deadline is impossible to meet and the order is simply a reaction to one incompetent nursing home where 11 people died in sweltering heat after Hurricane Irma.

LeadingAge Florida filed the legal challenge with the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings on Tuesday claiming Scott's order went beyond what's necessary to protect residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. "There is no emergency that requires the imposition of an impossible deadline and the imminent revocation ... on assisted living facility and nursing home licenses," the complaint said. "The Emergency Rules would create an emergency rather than solve one." Scott issued his order after 11 residents at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills died in the days after Irma wiped out power to much of South Florida. A criminal investigation has begun and the facility has been criticized



Gov. Rick Scott and McKinley Lewis

for not taking the residents to a hospital directly across the street.

LeadingAge Florida, which represents more than 100 nursing homes and assisted living facilities, noted that the deadline to install generators is the day after the hurricane season ends.

"Thus the Emergency Rules cannot be intended to address an emergency created by the current hurricane season," it said.

In a separate statement, LeadingAge Florida President Steve Bahmer said the group is willing to work with the governor on eventually meeting the directive.

"Let us be clear, this is not a lack of willingness to carry out the governor's directive. It is a timing and logistical issue. Completing the governor's directive in 60 days is simply not possible, as there are many factors that are outside of our members' control, such as obtaining permits, updating and installing electrical systems, ordering generators and storing fuel," he said.

McKinley Lewis, a spokesman for Scott, said in an email that the governor's rule is solely focused on saving lives. "This association should focus solely on keeping seniors safe and not on lawsuits," Lewis said.

12th death from nursing home that lost power, AC during Irma

MIAMI (AP) — A 12th patient has died after being taken from an overheated Florida nursing home that lost its air conditioning during Hurricane Irma, officials confirmed on Friday.



BIAMONTE

Dolores Biamonte, 57, died Thursday night, according to a statement from the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office. Hollywood police are treating all 12 deaths from the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills as part of a criminal investigation, spokeswoman Miranda Grossman said in a statement. Eight patients died Sept. 13, three days after the storm knocked out the nursing home's air conditioning. Others died in the following days. Some who died had body temperatures as high as 109 degrees Fahrenheit (48 Celsius). Investigators want to know why the patients died af-

ter the storm even though a fully functioning hospital sits just across the street from the nursing home, Grossman said.

Since the storm, Gov. Rick Scott gave nursing homes and assisted living facilities 60 days to comply with new rules that require them to have generators capable of providing backup power for four days. The home has been shut down.

Biamonte's niece, Roberta Biamonte of Fort Lauderdale, told the Sun Sentinel she spent time with her aunt and said her goodbyes late Thursday, just before the storm died.

"It's sad, but she's not suffering anymore," Roberta Biamonte said. "She's missed deeply."

She said her aunt suffered from a lifelong disease that affected her vision and ability to walk. She had been at the Hol-

lywood facility for more than three years and had been in hospice care since the nursing home evacuation.

The dead range in age from 57 to 99. No one has been charged.

The death toll, while large, is exceeded by some other deadly incidents at nursing homes in the U.S.

When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in August 2005, 34 elderly patients drowned in floodwaters after the owners of the St. Rita's nursing home failed to heed warning to evacuate the facility. Husband and wife owners Salvador and Mable Mangano were acquitted in 2007 on charges of negligent homicide and cruelty.

Other deadly nursing home incidents in the United States include the deaths of 63 patients at the Golden Age Nursing Home in Fitchville, Ohio, on the same day President John Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 and the deaths of 31 patients in a Marietta, Ohio, convalescent home in 1970.

Dunn celebrates ninth pastoral anniversary



Richard P. Dunn, II and Richard P. Dunn III

The Faith Community Baptist Church cordially invites you to its Pastor's 9th Pastoral Anniversary for Richard P. Dunn II, his son in the ministry and biological son, Richard P. Dunn III, senior pastor of Cathedral of Christ Baptist Church of Prince George County, Maryland near Washington, D.C. will close out the anniversary this Sunday, October 8 at the 9:30 A.M. Worship Service.

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- OCTOBER 12 Healthy Happy Hour
- OCTOBER 14 Survivor's Retreat
- OCTOBER 22 Zan's Doin' Presents The Living Doll Experience
- OCTOBER 29 The Pink Tea

The Miami Times Church Directory

<p>Apostolic Revival Center 6702 N.W. 15th Avenue 305-836-1274</p> <p>Order of Services Wed. Intercessory Prayer 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Morning Service 11 a.m. Sun. Serv. Worship 7:30 p.m. Tue. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Fri. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Dr. & Mrs. G. S. Smith</p>	<p>Liberty City Church of Christ 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>Evangelist Eric W. Doss</p>	<p>New Vision For Christ Ministries 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 Morning Worship 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m. Tuesday Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Rev. Michael D. Screen</p>	<p>Brownsville Church of Christ 4561 N.W. 33rd Court 305-634-4850/Fax & Messages: 305-634-6604</p> <p>Order of Services Lord Day Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship 5 p.m. Tuesday Night Bible Study 7:30pm Thurs. Mon. Bible Class 10 a.m.</p> <p>Min. Harrell L. Henton</p>	<p>93rd Street Community Baptist Church 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 & 3rd Sunday 6 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study 7 p.m. website: cbcc-ny</p> <p>Pastor Rev. Carl Johnson</p>	<p>St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church 1470 N.W. 87th Street 305-691-8861</p> <p>Order of Services Worship 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>Rev. Dr. C.A. Ivory, Pastor</p>
<p>Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church 5946 N.W. 12th Avenue 305-751-9373</p> <p>Order of Services Early Worship 7 a.m. Worship 9 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Mission and Bible Class Tuesday 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Pastor Douglas Cook, Sr.</p>	<p>New Birth Baptist Church, The Cathedral of Faith International 2300 N.W. 135th Street 1 (800) 254-NBCC 305-685-3700 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>Bishop Victor T. Curry, D.Min., D.D., Senior Pastor/Teacher</p>	<p>Pembroke Park Church of Christ 3707 S.W. 56th Avenue • Hollywood, FL 33023 (Unit) 305-976-2937</p> <p>Order of Services SUNDAY Bible Study 9 a.m., Morning Worship 10 a.m., Evening Worship 6 p.m. TUESDAY Bible Study 10 a.m. WEDNESDAY Bible Study 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Minister Kevin D. Jones, Sr</p>	<p>Hosanna Community Baptist Church 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>Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins</p>		

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

Range

ARNOLD BROWN, 91, ice cream maker for Sealest Dairies, died September 23. Survivors include his wife, Tereatha Brown; daughter, Grisella Brown; son, Alvis Brown; one grandson; a host of other relatives and friends. Viewing 4-8 p.m., Friday in the chapel. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at The Historic Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



JUDY BLOCKER, 57, retired administrator secretary for Mt. Sinai Hospital, died September 27 at University of Miami Hospital. Survivors include her mother, Georgia Mae Jacobs; grandson, Raheem; and a host of other relatives and friends. Viewing 4-8 p.m., Friday in the chapel. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.



GLORIA J. SCAVELLA, 85, homemaker, died September 25. Survivors include her daughter, Gloria Patterson (Rev. Charles); sons, Alvin Grant, Pedican, Timothy A. Pedican and David C. Pedican; a host of other relatives and friends. Viewing 4-8 p.m. and Memorial service 6-7 p.m. both are Friday in the chapel. Service 1 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



DORETHA BARNES, 96, retired teacher assistant for Charles R. Drew Middle School, died October 1. Survivors include her sons, Clarence Barnes (Patricia), Terry Barnes (Helen) and Warren Barnes (Gloria); daughter, Brenda Barnes; sister, Eolyn Ruff Jones; sister-in-law, Albertha Ruff; grandsons, Alexander Barnes; Warren Barnes, Jr. Courtney Barnes, Noell Barnes and Gerald Barnes; granddaughter, Britney Barnes Jodor, and Ashley Barnes; several great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends. Service 11 a.m., Monday, October 9 in the chapel.



WYNTON KYLE ANDERS, 57, information representative for the Public Information and Education Bureau at Doral Dade County Police Department, died September 23. Survivors include his mother, Elsaida D. Anders; sister, Janis Anders Lindsay (Bruce); nephews, Kyle Steven Lindsay and Drew Lindsay; father, James W. Anders (Barbara); a host of other relatives and friends. Services were held.



CURTIS J. DOZIER, 79, retired auto mechanic, died September 29. Service 10 a.m., Thursday at Greater New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

LAURETTA DINGLE, 77, retired CSR technician, died September 7. Service 2 p.m., Saturday at International Church of Christ.

Wade

MARTHA KEMP, 69, retired, died September 26 at home. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at New Mount Olive Baptist Church.

JOHN WHITFIELD, 79, security guard, died September 17 at home. Arrangements are incomplete.

ROBERT RUIZ, 24, unemployed, died September 19 in Pompano Beach. Services were held.

NATHANIEL EASON, SR., 77, self employed, died September 3 at Hialeah Hospital. Services were held.

Hadley Davis MLK

MELVIN JACSON, SR., 76, longshoreman, died September 21 at North Shore. Service noon, Saturday in the chapel.



MARY TAYLOR, 69, worker, died September 24 at North Shore. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Greater Harvest Baptist Church.



DAVID HILL, 56, cook, died September 21 in Cape Coral. Service noon, Saturday at Hope for Tomorrow Outreach Ministries.



JOELETHA CALEB, 57, retired sales clerk and the daughter of the late Joseph Caleb, died September 28 at North Shore. Service 2 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Paradise

PATRICIA ANN GUERIN, 73, died September 28 at Baptist Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Thursday at Christ The King Catholic Church.



ANNETTE HALL, 68, died September 26 at home. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Second Baptist Church.



ELIJAH McCRAY, JR., 64, died September 27 at Jackson South Community Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at St. Paul Baptist Church of Homeslead.



Manker

ANTHONY McNEIL, 38, warehouse worker, died September 27 at Memorial West Medical Center. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



CHERYL PARKER, 54, died September 26 at Claridge House Nursing Home. Memorial services were held.

TAMEKA K. SANDIFER, 40, sales associate, died September 25 at Jackson Memorial Medical Center. Memorial noon, today in the chapel.

FLOYD LYONS, 69, automotive mechanic, died September 25 at Jackson Memorial Medical Center. Service 1 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.

VIEW YOUR OBITUARIES ONLINE AT
www.miamitimesonline.com



Wright and Young

TYRONE T. CHANDLER, 62, died September 27. Service 2 p.m., Saturday at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



GARY MILLS, 63, died September 26. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Antioch Baptist of Brownsville.



ARTHUR EWING, 61, laborer, died September 23. Service 10 a.m., Sunday at Northwest S.D.A. Church.



GEORGE HEATH, 64, self employed, died September 23. Service 2 p.m., Saturday at 59th Street Pentecostal C.O.G. Church.



ERIC SMITH, 51, laborer, died September 30. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



Hadley Davis Miami Gardens

BETTY ANN MOBLEY, 77, retired, died September 16 at Jackson Hospital North. Service 10 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



PEDRO JOSE LUNA, 82, retired, died September 26 at home. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Miami Gardens Church of Christ.



Eric S. George

JOHN T. SAUNDERS, 82, died September 25. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at St. James in the Hills Episcopal Church Hollywood.



WILLIE EARL DAVIS, 43, died September 21. Services were held.

EDWARD BLACKSHEAR, 46, died September 27. Services were held.

IRA LOCKHART, 52, died September 13. Services were held.

Richardson

MAUDINE SMART, 86, homemaker, died September 17 at Claridge House Nursing Home. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



DEACON TOMMIE LEE ADDISON, SR., 57, custodian, died September 25 at home. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.



In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



JOHNATHAN WILLIAMS
08/15/1982 - 10/04/2014

It broke our hearts to lose you, for part of us went with you, the day God called you home. Your loving family.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



JOSEPH S. HILL
05/04/1925 - 10/09/2008

It's been nine years since you left us but you live on in our hearts. The Hill and Thomas Family.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



MARCUS M. ANTOINE
06/12/1980 - 10/07/2010

Gone but not forgotten rest in Peace. Your Mom, Claudette

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



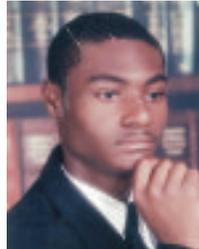
AURELIA GRIER
10/18/1955 - 10/08/2016

One year has passed since that sad day, when the one we loved was called away. God took her home. It was His will, but in our hearts she liveth still.

No one know how much we miss you. No one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you. Life has never been the same. In our hearts your memory lingers. There is not a day, dear Aurelia, that we do not think of you. Your husband, Clifford and family.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



TRAVIS RIGGINS
01/09/1986 - 10/07/2015

Two years has passed and it seems like it was yesterday. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone. Part of us went with you the day God call you home. Forever in our hearts. Mom, dad, brothers and sister.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



LOUISE L. FLOWERS
01/16/1941 - 10/02/1996

It's been 21 long years since you've been gone. It seems like a life time. Words can't express the way we feel. We miss and love you.

Love, your husband, Willie T. Flowers; daughters, Vanessa, Dorothy, Loretta, Jackie, Angela, Nita, Mary, Cynthia and Cassandra; sons, Willie, Jr., Thomas and Joe; grands and great grands.

CeDell Davis, 91 bluesman who played guitar with a knife, dies

By Jon Pareles
The New York Times

CeDell Davis, a Delta bluesman from Arkansas who used a knife for a guitar slide, died on Wednesday. He was 91.

His Facebook page confirmed the death. He had been hospitalized since Sept. 24 after a heart attack.

Davis spent decades performing around the South at juke joints and house parties before a broader audience got a chance to hear his electrified rural blues in the 1980s.

His voice was a grainy moan as he sang about woman troubles and hard luck; his guitar could drive dancers with boogie and shuffle beats or play leads that were lean and gnarled, gliding smoothly and then coiling into a dissonant sting.

After childhood polio constricted his hands, he developed his own technique of using a knife along the fretboard of his guitar. The *New York Times* critic Robert Palmer called it "a guitar style that is utterly unique, in or out of the blues."

Davis was born Ellis CeDell Davis in Helena, Ark., on June 9, 1926, though some sources say it was 1927. His mother was known as a faith healer, and his father ran a juke joint. Although his mother thought



—Photo credit: Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

CeDell Davis at his home in Pine Bluff, Ark., in 2001, using a butter knife to play the guitar.

the blues was devil's music, he took to the style early, starting on diddley-bow, a one-stringed instrument made by nailing a wire to a wall. He moved on to harmonica and guitar, often sneaking into juke joints to listen to music.

He contracted polio when he was 10, leaving him with partly paralyzed arms and legs and requiring crutches to walk. But he was determined to stay with music. He told Palmer: "I was right-handed, but I couldn't use my right hand, so I had to turn my guitar around. I play left-handed now. But I still needed something to slide with, and my mother had these knives, a set of silverware, and I kind of swiped one of them."

He reinvented his playing using the handle of a table knife. "Almost everything that you could do with your hands, I could do it with the knife," he told David Ramsey this year in the magazine *The Oxford American*. "It's all in the way you handle it. Drag, slide, push it up and down."

As a teenager, Davis played street corners and juke joints around Helena, which at the time was a bustling Mississippi River port, "wide open" with gamblers, bootleggers and honky-tonks. Davis recalled in the 1984 documentary "Blues Back Home."

There he met some of the era's leading blues musicians and started appearing on two live blues radio shows on KFFA in Helena: "King Biscuit Time" with Sonny Boy Williamson and "Bright Star Flour" with Robert Nighthawk, a fellow slide guitarist. From 1953 to 1963, he and Nighthawk performed together, and they moved for a time to St. Louis.

Card of Thanks

The family of the late,



SGT. DARIAN EUGENE HUNTER

extends our gratitude for your prayers and expression of sympathy during our time of bereavement. Special thanks to the Wright and Young Funeral Home, New Birth Baptist Church under the leadership of Bishop Victor Tyrone Curry, Dr. Stephanie E. Russell, pastor of Our Father's House of Prayers Church, and the entire family of the Miami Dade County Corrections Department.

Thank you from Stephen Hunter, Sr. and family.

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KNOW



Soaring from 'A Moment of Madness'

Izzy Bizu tackles world stage

By Darren Paltrowitz
The Inquisitr

The year 2016 was big for British recording artist Izzy Bizu, who was chosen as the voice of the 2016 Euros and named as BBC Music's Introducing Artist Of The Year. 2017 has also proven to be just as special for Izzy Bizu, who recently supported Coldplay on the quartet's summer stadium tour. Bizu also received a lot of attention this year for her performance on the Milky Chance song Bad Things.

Izzy Bizu may no longer be on the road with Coldplay, but she is still touring the world in support of last year's A Moment Of Madness. Single White Tiger did well all over the world — now with over 75 million global Spotify streams — while Talking To You proved to be her highest-charting song yet in her native England. Nike, Filtr, and Sebastian Professional are some of the brands that have recently featured Bizu. Coldplay's Chris Martin performed with Izzy Bizu at the Wynwood Yard last month.

On behalf of the Inquisitr, I had the pleasure of conducting Q&A with Bizu herself. She kindly entertained a few questions about the members of Coldplay, yet it is obvious that she herself is on the track towards long-term stardom. More on Izzy Bizu and her Epic Records debut — which featured collaborations with Jimmy Hogarth, Paul Herman and Ian Barter — can be found at her website.

If I understand things correctly, your career started to take off after an open mic appearance in February 2013. How often were you performing at open mics? What were you performing back then?

Izzy Bizu: Yes it did! I went to a few and the second one I went to was a competition and the prize was to do your own set the month after. I won and spent all month practicing with my good friend Mika. It was a lot of fun! We performed the tracks

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It's 'I Do', for Mayor Gilbert

Congratulations to Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert and and EcoTech Founder Dr. Pandwe Gibson-Gilbert, who were married October 1 in Wynwood.



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By Vennda-Rei Gibson VenndaL43@gmail.com



As the month of September ends, we're prepared to welcome October with gratitude as journeys in the whirl continue. On Friday evening Sabrina Jones Morgan and hubby Lee, hosted a 70th birthday party for her mother Edith Smith Reeves at Mindwarehouse



JOHNSON

Club in Downtown Miami. It has been a long time since I have been downtown, as we used to say, and I was lost. The club is located on the seventh floor of a building at 111 N.E. 1st Street.

I can remember that Richards Department Store was on 1st Street and that's about all. With the theme Put on your dancing shoes, guests were dancing to the music provided by DJ Ralph Williams. Family, friends and members of the Northwestern Class of '65, Edith's beloved classmates, were among the many who attended the fabulous and fun-filled birthday celebration.



BETHEL

Guests were invited to wear black, white and/or purple, and the room was decorated with splashes of all three colors. Knowing Edith's passion for shoes, Sabrina provided centerpieces of shoes adorned with sequins in various heel heights. (Of course I marveled at some of the heel heights worn by the guests which I have NEVER been able to wear at any age.) And indeed the night was filled with music among the many guests which included: Sammy and Linda Payne, Nezzie Stewart, Laura Jones, Phillip and Hattie Williams Walker, Clarence and Sherry Jones, Laurestine Porter Hamm, Willie Clark, Desiree Hewitt, Wanda Hewitt, Lola Clark, Emma Curry White, Bernice Miller, Dawn

Johnson, Phyllis Kirland, Sylvia Williams Garner, Delores C. Lockett, Beth Reddick, Carolyn Blake, Mercita Dalia Wimerly, Cecelia McMillan, Stephinia Willis, George Butler, Sherry Rusley, Brenda Joyce Freeman. All joined in singing Happy 70th Birthday to Edith. On Saturday, Queen Sugar author Natalie Baszile inspired and shared her story with the over 500 guests who attended the 2017 Book & Author Luncheon presented by The Greater Miami Chapter of the Links at Miami Airport Hilton. This was the 13th year for the auspicious event which was chaired by Christie Ogbu Sabir with Co-Chairs Pearl Bethel and Angela Robinson Bellamy. Local celebrity guests were Niki Mohan, ABC WPLG Channel 10 anchor/reporter along with Terrell Forney, also a reporter at Local 10 ABC News here in Miami. Music adding to the ambiance of the day was provided by guest artists Paul Lewis, a performer with the Old Skool Gang, and the Bayou Soul Jammers, who had guests rocking like we were on Canal Street in what the program listed as 'Laissez les bon temps Rouléz' which means 'Let the good times roll'; and Edward G. Robinson, leader of the Instant Attraction Band. Vocalist Alecsys Proctor-Turner, the chapter recipient of a 2016 Links scholarship also performed. During the program Juanita Bennett Ross Johnson and Florence Simkins Brown were honored by the chapter as Links Living Legends for their numerous achievements and contributions. It was an afternoon full of numerous sightings, greetings and

sounds and a fitting closing for the month of September with music and much more.

Natalie Baszile's story resonated with many who grew up and had parents who grew up in Jim Crow America. It gave us all a connection somehow, in our experiences as we grew up and came of age. As I am fond of saying, "Sweetheart, you had to have experienced it for yourself to really understand how it felt." For those who don't know, her father was born in Elton, Louisiana and like many during the great migration, left the south for opportunities that he didn't have in Louisiana. On the day of his high school graduation, he left Louisiana for California. If you have read "The Warmth of Other Suns" by Isabel Wilkerson, you know that Blacks migrated from the south and traveled geographically by car, bus or train on the highways that moved through their towns going north. So from Louisiana routes would take them westward to states like California, or from the east coast southerners landed in New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia. Roads from Mississippi found migrations of Blacks to the midwest cities like Chicago, Detroit, etc. All seeking opportunities and privileges were denied. As a student majoring in English at Berkeley in California, Baszile loved books, and visiting bookstores where she noticed that many of the Black women authors with whom she was familiar, were no longer featured in bookstores, perhaps replaced by authors whose stories lacked some of the depth of the Black experience in our history. Which is why I am passionate and excited that Natalie Baszile has joined the ranks of the many outstanding Black writers like Lorraine Hansbury, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Zora



BELLAMY

Neal Hurston, Paul Marshall, Tananarive Due, Lucille Clifton, Terry McMillan, Gwendolyn Brooks, Gloria Naylor, Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, Audre Lorde and Ntozake Shange. I salute her, and say to her "You have taken your place in history and blessings to you. We celebrate together Black life and our Black literature and stories as we share and pass it along with generations to come." Our power, educating others, empowering others serving our communities. At the luncheon I was pleased to have as fellow table guests Dannie Augustin who owns a bakery, 'Nothing But Cake' in Sunrise, Aubrina Mumford, who is now the CEO of Breakthrough Miami, and Carol Taylor, entrepreneur extraordinaire; Barbara Walker Foster, Carolyn Blake, lifelong friend and Links 9th National President Regina Frazier and Ron Frazier, Diana Barry Frazier, and Cleo Jollivette. Barbara, Carolyn, Regina and I were all Northwestern Class of 61 graduates. Meeting and greeting were so many people moving along both outside and inside the ballroom. I glimpsed Elsie Hamler, Alexandria Holloway, Janice Sanders, Thomas McKinney, Mildred McKinney, Maud, Gloria and Shirley Newbold Funches, Althea Coleman, Sandy Sear, Brenda Smith, Mary Jessie, Leona Cooper Baker, Debra Owens, Shirley Archie, Mattie Owens, Shirley Nicole Archie, Patsy Graham, Lavonne Moore, Lois and Parnell Lee, Jeanette Tullis, Agenoria Paschal Powell, Lela Powell, Ingrid Cheeseborough, Dolores Washington, Clarissa Willis, Juanita Miller, Evelyn Davis, Bernadette Poirter, Oliver Spicer Jr., Miami Dade Board of County Commissioners Vice Chair Audrey M. Edmonson,



BROWN

Dewey Knight III, Juanita Ambriester, Karen Bullard Jordan, Juliet King, Charlie Albury, Luvernice Croskey Tom Jones, Ruby Adams, Cupidine Davis, Delores Hills, Lorie Ford Bailey, Shelaine Welters, and her sisters Rita Eberhart, Sheila Davis, Dr. Dorothy Bendross Mindingall, Joyce Barry, and a longer list. Very heartwarming to greet so many people, and in addition to greeting members of the Greater Miami Chapter, it is always special when I see members Linda Johnson and Eunice Davis. A Little Something Extra was added as guests were given copies of 'Queen Sugar, given tickets to take a picture and presented with a bag that was filled with useful goodies; some 'Lagniappe Largesse' indeed. As October entered, Sunday services were, as always, uplifting, beginning with the opening hymn, 'Fight the Good Fight', and a message filled with the wisdom and humor of Father Terrence Taylor. Sunday was also the 43rd Annual Women's Day observance at Church of the Transfiguration which was a presentation of The International Countries, with the ladies competing by country. The countries represented were: France with Beverly Burns, Captain assisted by Ada Barnes, Aulone Baines, Paulette Booker, Keishesha Booker, Emma Burnside, Edwina Burrows, Krishonna Edwards, Grace Fleming, Arnett Hepburn, Gwe Johnson, Agnes Kemp, Charlie Mae Smith Pauline Woods, Cupidine Davis and Honorary member Crystal Williams. Next was Italy, chaired and co-chaired by Gloria Clausell and Villeta Howard, respectively, with members Virla Barry, Gloria Evans, Joan Johnson,

Carolyn Mond, Mary Robbins, Gwen Sims, Mary Ann Storr, Verna Ann Tremble, Aurienta Ware and Honorary Member Eadron Legair. The good old U.S.A. with Dolores Miller as captain along with members Beverly Blatch Clark, Lillie Clarke (ECW President at Transfiguration) Gloria Dennis, Karin Gibson, Alma Lewis, Mary Mitchell, Deborah Smith, and Sheryl Troutman. Gayle Sweeting chaired the country of China along with the Honorary Chairlady, Clara McCoy and members Alicia Casey, Patricia Davis, Deborah Hearn, Lauretta Henderson, Doris Lynch and Pat Lynch.

It's better in the Bahamas according to Captain Bloneva Taylor and Co-Captain Myra Clarke who were assisted by members Regina Clarke, Teresa Rigby, Marsha Deliard, Sadie Williams. Jamaica led by Kathy Johnson and Shantay Sharpe with members Deidre Bethel, Catherine Daniel, Tarnisha Dunn, Robyn For, Thelma Newton, Stephanie Phillips, Elaine Sharpe, Shanesha Sharpe, Jane Walker, Aiyce Martine and Honorary Members Lloyd Bethel Sr. and Tai Bethel. Last but not at all the least was the country of Darfur with Kimberly Clake Cadet as captain with member Vennda Rei Gibson. It was a fitting end to a beautiful first Sunday with representative refreshments for all guests. I left to go home and thought of the lines from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. 'The day is done and the darkness falls from the wings of night....' And I was reminded of the African Proverb, A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

Blessings to all of you, continue to fight the good fight, We are not alone as we Live, Pray, Love, Laugh, Sing and Dance on the journey.

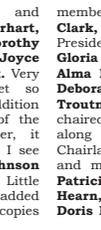
Carlynn Mond, Mary Robbins, Gwen Sims, Mary Ann Storr, Verna Ann Tremble, Aurienta Ware and Honorary Member Eadron Legair. The good old U.S.A. with Dolores Miller as captain along with members Beverly Blatch Clark, Lillie Clarke (ECW President at Transfiguration) Gloria Dennis, Karin Gibson, Alma Lewis, Mary Mitchell, Deborah Smith, and Sheryl Troutman. Gayle Sweeting chaired the country of China along with the Honorary Chairlady, Clara McCoy and members Alicia Casey, Patricia Davis, Deborah Hearn, Lauretta Henderson, Doris Lynch and Pat Lynch.

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REEVES



SABIR



SABIR

Izzy Bizu shares a talk about herself and her rising career

IZZY continued from 1C

that were on my first EP, including White Tiger.

A Moment Of Madness really opened things up for you internationally, but it took a while to get a proper U.S. release. Had you performed in the U.S. before landing the Coldplay tour?

Izzy Bizu: Oh yes it did!

Had you performed in the U.S. before landing the Coldplay tour?

Izzy Bizu: Well, it wasn't my first time, as I did a BBC Introducing Tour last November. But it was certainly the biggest audience I ever played in front of internationally!

How did you get connected with Coldplay? Did you have a mutual contact?

Izzy Bizu: Well, they are very in tune with all the new stuff that is coming out. So when they heard White Tiger and Someone That Loves You, they kindly got in contact and asked me to join them on-tour! I am so grateful and appreciate how supportive they were of us. It always makes me smile and giggle when I think of that tour

Do you enjoy performing in stadiums? Or does it make you long for intimate shows?

Izzy Bizu: I absolutely loved it, and I certainly didn't think I would have been as relaxed as I was; it is a minimum of 20,000 people. But the vibe backstage was so calming, and the kind and supportive words from Coldplay really made us all feel so comfortable!

Chris Martin performed with you during a recent show in Miami. How far in advance did that get planned?

Izzy Bizu: [laughs] Yes he did! I couldn't stop smiling. Well, we decided this at an after-show party and I woke up in the morning and my tour manager Ben said, "so Izzy there's talk of you doing a headline



show and Chris will perform with you!" With great help from both of our teams a week later, we did the show together — in the rain — at this beautiful pop-up venue. He was so kind to agree to jam with me and I hope to have many more!

A Moment Of Madness features a variety of co-writers and producers. Around how many songs did you write for the album?

Izzy Bizu: I wrote all of the lyrics on the album and they are all very, very personal to

me. In fact, it was quite hard sharing some of my innermost thoughts in the early days. I had the privilege to work with some amazing composers and music producers to bring them to life!

Do you have a favorite song



on A Moment Of Madness?

Izzy Bizu: Yes, it's What Makes You Happy. I love the cymbal crashes, and it was a good way for me to say something to someone that I couldn't in-person.

Have you begun work on your next album? Are there plans to keep touring in support of A Moment Of Madness?

Izzy Bizu: Yes, I've just started writing the new album, but am also doing a radio tour in America in support of the old one! A Moment Of Madness will always be a special one for me, but I'm also really excited about my new material. I've actually been playing a few new songs in my live shows since the beginning of the year.

You were a featured vocalist

on a track by Milky Chance earlier this year. Do you like performing on other people's recordings?

Izzy Bizu: Yes I do, especially when it's two friends that I adore. They are such nice guys and a joy to write with. I actually wrote the song with them at their studio in Germany. I can't wait to see them again!

When not busy with music, how do you like to spend your free time?

Izzy Bizu: I like to skate, cook, see friends...

So far, what has been your favorite album of 2017?

Izzy Bizu: Anderson.Paak and Michael Kiwanuka.

Finally, Izzy, any last words for the kids?

Izzy Bizu: Don't smoke — it's tough to quit.



Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall attends and talks to students at a gun awareness event at Orchard Villa Elementary.

Guns and schools don't mix

Police talk to students about awareness at Orchard Villa

Special to The Miami Times

Miami-Dade Public Schools Police Chief Ian Moffett on Sept. 28 held a gun awareness event at Orchard Villa Elementary, located at 5720 NW 13th Ave.

The event was to reinforce lessons taught to children about gun safety and awareness.

District 2 school board member Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall presented the item to the board back in January, when it was approved unanimously. Board members selected the month of September to remind

students in lower grades the potential dangers of guns and the importance of letting adults know if they see a gun during activity at Orchard Villa.

Lessons such as guns are not toys and that they are not things to wish with which to play were shared.

Statistics show that on average, every other day, an American child under the age of 10 is killed or seriously injured by a gun.

The Miami -Dade Schools' police officers and local law enforcement agencies visit schools and speak about gun violence on a daily basis.

They teach students ways to prevent gun violence and ways to become educated about the dangers associated with guns.

The Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Program is one of those tools used by school resource officers. It was developed through the combined efforts of qualified education, medical and law enforcement professionals. Through the program, students take an oath not to use guns and receive a certificate of participation. The event is held in all elementary, K-8 Centers and middle school during the month of September.



Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall shakes hand of Orchard Villa's Principal, Tony Ullivari.



—Photo: Pablo Martinez Monsivais / AP

In this Feb. 27, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump meets with leaders of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

White House Black college heads to meet amid strained their ties

By Jesse J. Holland
Associated Press

President Donald Trump on Monday named a lawyer and former NFL player as executive director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, as the administration faces criticism from those institutions of promises unkept.

Jonathan Holifield, who also writes and consults on the topics of innovation and inclusiveness, told leaders and students that HBCUs must contribute more to the American economy.

"There is no path to sustain new job creation, shared prosperity and enduring national competition without the current and increased contributions of historical Black colleges and universities," Holifield told students at the Old Executive Office Building next to the White House.

His appointment answers one complaint from the lea-

ders HBCUs, who are making their second visit to the White House this year amid strains with the Trump administration over unfulfilled promises. Trump has said he would move the office of historically Black colleges and universities from the Education Department to the White House. He promised support for the schools during his presidential campaign and Black History Month meetings, when college presidents posed for pictures with Trump in the White Office.

But the annual gathering in the nation's capital for those schools has been reduced to a two-day summit, further aggravating college officials. And Trump was not in Washington to receive the visitors Monday. Instead, he was in New York for the U.N. General Assembly.

"Everyone's uptight in this day and age with our current president and with what's going on," said Ty Couey, president of the National HBCU Alumni Associations. "Things

are out of control."

Advocates for the schools say there has been little to no action from the Trump administration. The institutions have not seen increases in their funding in Trump's proposed budget, and they had to beat back a White House push to call construction money for historically Black colleges and universities unconstitutional. All that followed the backlash after school presidents posed with Trump for a photo in the Oval Office.

"That led to calls from the colleges' major advocates to postpone the annual National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week Conference.

"It has become painstakingly clear that these promises are not being kept," said Rep. Alma Adams, D-N.C., who leads the Congressional HBCU Caucus.

"In this current environment, and with zero progress made on any of their priorities, it would be highly unproductive Please turn to **COLLEGE 10D**

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DRAIN COVER

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
www.miamidade.gov/mosquito

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 dharmold49@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.

■ **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.

■ **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.

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

■ **Booker T Washington Class of 1967** meets every third Saturday from 4-6 p.m. at the African Heritage Culture 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 Miami Jackson Class of 1971** meets 3 p.m. every first Saturday at Gwen Chery 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.

■ **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.

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

The new face of R&B

By Sydney Scott
essence.com

WHO'S NEXT!
In the past few years, R&B has experienced a change. Though the genre still has its roots in the sounds of yesterday, it's now blended with more complicated production, various other genres and singers whose influences are pulled from unexpected places. Daniel Caesar is the latest artist to set the musical style aflame. With his intimate lyrics, smooth melodies and fusion of the best in pop, R&B and gospel—he jokes that "Kirk Franklin is the Michael Jackson of gospel"—Caesar is poised for a breakout. The Toronto-born singer

already counts Mary J. Blige, whom he recently worked with on Strength of a Woman's "Telling the Truth," as one of his fans. Blige even admitted on ESSENCE's Yes, Girl! podcast that she can't get enough of Caesar's 2016 single, "Get You."
"I don't do writing for other people very well," Caesar, 22, says of his collaboration with Blige, "but that one definitely worked." It's no wonder Caesar's debut album, *Freudian*—which includes standout tracks "Best Part" featuring H.E.R. and "We Find Love"—is full of praise. Now, with Blige in his corner and a headlining tour set to kick off, Caesar is riding a wave with no end in sight.

UPPER SCHOOL ADMISSION INFORMATION SESSION
Thursday, October 5, 8:30 a.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMISSION OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, October 21, 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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- Jackson North** | Thursday, October 12th at 6:30 p.m.
160 N.W. 235th Street
North Miami Beach, FL 33169
- Jackson South** | Thursday, October 12th at 6:30 p.m.
8333 S.W. 152nd Street
Miami, FL 33187

Call 305-485-TRIM or visit JacksonCantHelp.org to register.

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FIND OUT THE INS AND OUTS HOMEBUYING

THE REGULAR MEETING MOVES TO ONEUNITED BANK

By Carolyn Guinis
cguinis@miamitimesonline.com

County-selected real estate developer Related Urban Development Group has partnered with Black-owned OneUnited Bank, to provide families with the tools necessary to qualify for homeownership.

Monthly, residents attend the Liberty Square Homebuyers Club meeting, which is open to anyone interested in purchasing a home.

In the sessions, prospective homebuyers learn about credit repair and the importance of improving their credit score. They are also taught

how to qualify for mortgages, balance their budgets, reduce debt and how to save money. "The homebuyers program

"Myself, along with so many people, have heard horror stories of trying to buy a home but the horror stories is

who wait' is a true statement. The program is hands on face to face personal contact with staff who really get joy out of seeing people become homeowners and the best thing about this is we have had to opportunity to gain great knowledge about all the steps of purchasing a home for free."

Global Empowerment Development Corp. Inc., a HUD-approved housing counseling agency, presents the program. The agency sends certified credit and financial literacy counselors to conduct the sessions. "We guide first time home Please turn to **HOME 8D**

"We guide first time homebuyers through the complex process of homeownership by providing coaching on budgeting, credit, working with lenders and real estate agents identifying down payment and closing cost assistance program."

Debra Johnson-King
Co-founder and executive director



is excellent and very informative," said Tyrone Thompson, a program participant.

far from the truth. The process is lengthy but the saying 'good things come to those

Lawmakers seek end to triple-digit interest on payday loans

By Charlene Crowell
Center for Responsible Lending

A group of Capitol Hill lawmakers are combining efforts and influence to legislatively crack down on predatory lending nationwide. Seventeen Members of the U.S. House and eight U.S. Senators are supporting companion bills that would slash the cost of payday and car-title loans from their typical 300 percent annual interest rate to no more than 36 percent

the same rate protection that Congress first provided military families in 2006.

Today 90 million Americans living in 15 states and D.C. benefit from enacted rate caps of 36 percent or lower. But in the other 35 states, residents remain vulnerable to triple-digit interest rates that average 400 percent nationwide on an average loan of only \$350. When consumers use their car titles as collateral for a larger and equally costly loan, a loss of

personal transportation occurs when borrowers can no longer keep up with the spiraling high costs.

If enacted, the legislation is expected to have an immediate impact on payday and car-title loans; but would ensure that all consumer financial services would end cycles of debt that trick and trap unsuspecting consumers



CROWELL

sylvania and Steve Cohen of Memphis, Tennessee. "Predatory lending disproportionately harms people

who are already struggling financially," noted Rep. Cartwright where in Pennsylvania these types of predatory and high-cost loans are already banned by state law. "This consumer-friendly legislation would provide relief from exorbitant fees for many low-income consumers across the country."

Rep. Cohen, Cartwright's House colleague felt similarly.

"Throughout my career, I have always worked to shield

people from those who would take advantage of them through predatory lending practices that can wreak havoc on people's lives and perpetuate a cycle of indebtedness," said Rep. Cohen. "Both justice and morality dictate that reasonable caps on interest be enacted to protect borrowers from devious lenders."

From the Deep South, to the Pacific Coast, and westward to the mid-Atlantic and Please turn to **HILL 8D**

Equifax, the Black money chronicles

By Daniella Pierre

Credit is almost like the lifeblood to a higher socioeconomic status and a vehicle to build generational wealth. Let's face it, having bad, fair, good or even great credit, determines a lot, sometimes too much.

For example, if you apply for job, they check your credit; if you apply for a car loan, they review your spending and credit habits; if you looking for an insurance quote, for a better rate, they check your credit; and if you attempt to get a mortgage or lease an apartment, they check your credit out, too.

So when Equifax, one of the major credit reporting agencies, announced Sept. 7 that computer hackers had breached it, many panicked. Black leaders should have sprung to action, pointing out that in communities of color, where inequities run rampant, Black people are more adversely

affected than others. Why? Because African-Americans still lag behind all racial groups on the economic ladder. As a group Black people today make less than they did in 2000, as reported by the Washington Post. So if the breach adversely affects scores, that directly impacts spending ability.



PIERRE

WE'VE BEEN BREACHED

The cyber security breach was announced when several natural disasters nosily crowded out a forest fire, an earthquake and Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

What the noise was the cover was that the initial discovery of the breach happened on July 29. Because of this, more than 143 million American consumers are at risk of having their social security numbers, dates of birth, addresses and other highly confidential information exposed and comprised. This is unacceptable; too many people have to rely on the Please turn to **EQUIFAX 8D**



—Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA

Cheryl Grace, the senior vice president of U.S. Community Strategic Alliances and Consumer Engagement for Nielsen, says that marketers must recognize the intercultural influence of Black women on the general market. In this photo, Grace (née Pearson-McNeil) speaks during the 2017 NNPA Mid-Winter Conference in Fort Lauderdale.

Nielsen study reveals growing financial power of Black women

They are driving spending power toward a record \$1.5 trillion by 2021.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A new report detailing the record-setting spending power of African American women has further buoyed the confidence of Black female entrepreneurs, who said the information proves their undeniable value to the United States and the global economy.

The report titled, "African-American Women: Our Science, Her Magic," was released

by Nielsen during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's annual legislative conference; it revealed that African American women's consumer preferences and brand affinities are resonating across the mainstream culture, driving total Black spending power toward a record \$1.5 trillion by 2021.

The report also noted that Black women comprised 14 percent of all females in the U.S. ("24.3 million strong") Please turn to **NIELSEN 8D**

COMMENTARY

Black women are becoming the driving force in U.S. spending

NIELSEN
continued from 7D

and 52 percent of all African-Americans.

With an average age of 35.1 years (versus 42.8 for non-Hispanic white women and 39.4 for all women), Black women have enjoyed steady growth in population, incomes and educational attainment.

Sixty-four percent of Black women currently enroll in college right out of high school and 23 percent over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher, up from 18 percent in 2005.

Further, the report noted that the number of businesses majority-owned by Black women grew 67 percent between 2007 and 2012, more than all women combined.

The latest U.S. Census figures show African-American women have majority ownership in more than 1.5 million businesses with over \$42 billion in sales.

"This report is helpful to show banks and brands that Black women are highly qualified to be recipients of fair lending and to be fairly represented in advertising campaigns," said Samantha Gregory, the founder of

the website richsinglemomma.com, a platform developed to help single mothers earn extra cash. "As a Black woman in technology and personal finance, who is also a business owner, those statistics are useful, when I am making a case for working with brands for my blog and business."

Gregory continued: "However, if the powers that be are not educated about these statistics, it is still challenging to get a seat at the table, where all the prime contracts are being handed out."

Briana Santirosa, the founder and CEO of online retailer, Casa de Reinas, said that after working in retail for four years, she made the decision to start her own business.

Santirosa said that fashion and beauty industries often chose to ignore the purchasing power of Black women.

"I do see the market beginning to recognize Black women more and cater to our spending preferences," Santirosa offered.

In Nielsen's new Diverse Intelligence Series report, the global researcher paints a portrait of Black women as trendsetters, brand loyalists and early adopters, who care about projecting a positive self-image.



Samantha Gregory

As they wield that #BlackGirlMagic, Black women play an increasingly vital role in how all women see themselves and influencing mainstream culture across a number of areas, including fashion, beauty, television and music, the report's authors said.

"Black women have strong life-affirming values that spill over into everything they do. The celebration of their power and beauty is reflected in what they buy, watch and listen to, and people outside their communities find it inspiring," said

Cheryl Grace, the senior vice president of U.S. Community Strategic Alliances and Consumer Engagement for Nielsen. "Understanding how Black women's values affect their buying decisions has long been a marketing necessity."

Grace continued: "Now, marketers must also recognize the intercultural influence of Black women on the general market, as an increasingly vital part of how all women see themselves, their families and the rest of the world."

The African American woman's independent mindset is present in her growing confidence, self-awareness and rising income, according to the report.

Black women are not only redefining what it means to be a woman for themselves, but are at the vanguard of changing gender roles and unlimited possibilities for African women of all ages and races.

The report noted that 64 percent of Black women agree their goal is to make it to the top of their profession; 58 percent agree that they don't mind giving up their personal time for work — 20 percent higher than non-Hispanic White women.

Further, 14 percent of Black women have annual incomes of \$50,000 or higher with ages 35-49 enjoying the highest income within the Black female cohort.

For millennial women, 81 percent have never been married, up from 71 percent in 2005 and, with an average household size of 2.47, 29 percent of total Black American households contain a married couple.

Black women also have embraced the social media movement #BlackGirlMagic, a term that describes a cross-platform gathering of empowered Black women who uplift each other and shine a light on the impressive accomplishments of Black women throughout the country.

According to the report, Black women "over-index by 29 percent for spending three to four hours each day on social networking sites and by 86 percent for spending five or more hours each day on social networking sites."

Especially aided by using technology and social media to trade opinions and offer recommendations, Black women 18 and older, more than any other demographic group, have

taken social media and adopted it for higher purposes, the report found.

Whether they are buying cars, jewelry, smartphones or beauty products, the advice, referrals and feedback they receive from friends and community play an important role in Black women's purchases, the report said.

Forty-three percent of Black women say they like to share their opinions about products and services by posting reviews and ratings online; 47 percent agree that people often come to them for advice, before making a purchase.

"The trend of Black women becoming increasingly educated and driving the buying power of Black households, means that they are making purchase decisions that historically they didn't make," said Bianca Blake, a marketing specialist. "Couple that with trends of the millennial generation marrying and starting families later, the Black woman becomes an independent decision maker for much more of her journey through life, as opposed to abiding by decisions made by her parents, husband or heavily influenced by her children."

Were Blacks more adversely impacted by the recent Equifax breach?

EQUIFAX
continued from 7D

integrity of their data products and their credit reports, which play a major part in economic upward mobility. In communities of color, many individuals and families work so hard to

not only establish credit but to maintain it. If the "mother of all credit reporting" is flawed, then where can we look for accurate and timely reporting.

SAFEGUARDING OUR COMMUNITY

Financial website Market

Watch on Monday reported that about 423 law school, university and college professors are sending a letter to two senators, encouraging them to support a rule the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has passed.

The rule would ban companies from putting "mandatory

arbitration clauses" in their contracts, language that prohibits consumers from bringing class-action suits against them. After the breach, consumers filed numerous class-action suits against Equifax. So what are Black civil rights organizations doing for

Black consumers?

The NAACP should consider taking a stand against this cyber attack because many of its members may be at risk. The NAACP should also demand that all individuals impacted have their credit reinstated or reset. It should also demand a

full investigation from Equifax and the Federal Trade Commission about this incident, along with answers on how to safeguard consumers from data breaches.

Daniella Pierre is the housing chairwoman of the Miami-Dade Branch NAACP.

Cracking down on predatory lending groups

HILL
continued from 7D

Midwest states, state payday interest rates range as high as 662 percent in Texas to California's 460 percent, and Virginia's 601 percent. Likewise in the Midwest, the states of Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin have comparable high interest rates that all exceed 400 percent. In Alabama and Mississippi, two of the nation's poorest states when it comes to per capita incomes, payday interest rates are respectively 521 percent and

456 percent. "What we have encountered across the country," said Yana Miles, Senior Legislative Counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending, "is that when voters are given the chance to support a rate cap, large majorities consistently say no to debt-trap lending. Conversely, when it comes to state legislatures, reform efforts are often thwarted by the industry.

Already more than 40 national, state and local organizations have jointly written their Members of Congress in support of the

legislation. Signers of the correspondence include civil rights organizations, labor, consumer advocates, and research institutes.

In part the letter states, "Veterans, seniors, women, and communities of color are most often targeted for exploitation by these unaffordable high-cost loans. . . While the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is expressly

prohibited from setting a rate cap, Congress is not and should do so. A federal rate cap puts all creditors on a level playing field without undermining any additional consumer protections in the states."

"Despite the economic gains we have made as a nation in recent years, many working families continue to struggle," noted Illinois' Sen. Durbin. "For some, payday lenders offer a quick way to make ends meet, but their outrageous interest rate caps and hidden fees can have crippling effects on the people who can least afford it."

"This bill's simple, straightforward approach will protect consumers and ensure that families aren't bankrupted by high interest rates and hidden fees," noted Sen. Merkley.

Home buying guide

HOME
continued from 7D

buyers through the complex process of homeownership by providing coaching on budgeting, credit, working with lenders and real estate agents, identifying down payment and closing cost assistance program. Most importantly, we "hold their hand" throughout the entire process," said Debra Johnson-King, co-founder and executive director.

OneUnited Bank will provide financial literacy for two years as well as make loans when customers are ready to purchase.

The next Liberty Square Homebuyers Club meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. at OneUnited Bank, 3275 NW 79th St., Miami, Florida 33147. "We are honored to partner with Related Urban and the Liberty Square Coalition on this initiative," says Teri Williams, President & COO, OneUnited Bank. "The Liberty Square Homebuyers Club provides residents with a unique opportunity to prepare for home own-



Teri Williams

ership under the guidance of professionals, in a supportive environment."

Liberty Square public housing complex is undergoing a \$307 million redevelopment. When completed the community will include public housing, rentals and homes for purchase.

"I live in Liberty City and got into the Homebuyers Club because, for the past 10 years, I've I want to buy a home," Melrose Bradshaw.

With this program, I've learned about budgeting, how to track and control my spending, understanding my overall finances and tools to improve and keep my credit on track. It's very informative and teaches me things I didn't know I needed to help me in the process."

**CITY OF MIAMI
ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS**

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Miami City Clerk's office located at City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, FL 33133 for the following:

IFB NO. 757381 INVITATION FOR BID TO FURNISH & INSTALL A CARRIER BACKNET WEB BASED SERVER

CLOSING DATE: 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Wednesday, 10/18/17 at 4:00 PM)

VOLUNTARY Pre-Proposal Conference Monday, October 9, 2017 at 10:00 AM Location: Little Haiti Cultural Center, 212 NE 59 Terrace, Miami, FL 33137.

Detailed specifications for this IFB are available at the City of Miami, Department of Procurement, website at www.miamigov.com/procurement Telephone No. 305-416-1919.

Daniel J. Alfonso
City Manager

AD NO. 26747

**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 "Cone 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@jhsmlmi.org
Contact Number: 305-585-8286

To view bid documentation, visit JacksonSupplierPortal.org.

Jackson
HEALTH SYSTEM
Miracles made daily.


**City of Miami
Notice of Solicitation**

RFQ No.: 16-17-057
Title: Architectural Services for Miscellaneous Projects
RFQ Due Date Monday, October 30, 2017; at 2:00 PM

Voluntary Pre-Proposal Conference
City of Miami
444 SW 2nd Avenue, 6th Floor South Conference Room
Miami, Florida 33130
Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 1:00 PM.

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification:
Friday, October 13, 2017 at 5:00 PM)

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Miami City Clerk's office located at City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, FL 33133

For additional information, please contact Sade Chaney 305-416-1903 or visit our Procurement Opportunities webpage at: <http://www.miamigov.com/MiamiCapital/NewBidsandProposals.html>

THIS SOLICITATION IS SUBJECT TO THE "CONE OF SILENCE" IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18-74 OF THE CITY CODE.

DP# 16871 Daniel J. Alfonso, City Manager

**CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing will be held by the City Commission of the City of Miami, Florida on Thursday, October 12, 2017, at 9:00 AM at City Hall, located at 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33133, for the purpose of granting the following:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION, DECLARING SURPLUS AND APPROVING THE SALE OF A CITY OF MIAMI ("CITY") OWNED CLUC 90 PROPERTY, IDENTIFIED AS 0 FOLIO NUMBER 01-3207-000-0680 ("PROPERTY"), TO ROSA ROMNEY, ("PURCHASER"), ESTABLISHING THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) AS THE AMOUNT TO BE PAID TO THE CITY OF MIAMI BY THE PURCHASER, FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE AND SALE ("AGREEMENT") AND TO EXECUTE SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CONSUMMATE SUCH TRANSACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT, WHICH TERMS MAY BE AMENDED BY THE CITY MANAGER AS MAY BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MEET THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY.

The Miami City Commission requests all interested parties be present or represented at the meeting and may be heard with respect to any proposition before the City Commission in which the City Commission may take action. Should any person desire to appeal any decision of the City Commission with respect to any matter to be considered at this meeting, that person shall ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including all testimony and evidence upon which any appeal may be based (F.S. 286.0105).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (305) 250-5361 (Voice) no later than five (5) business days prior to the proceeding. TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service) no later than five (5) business days prior to the proceeding.

Todd B. Hannon
City Clerk


#29047

APPLE TV 4K REVIEW: SPIFFY CATCH-UP TO AMAZON, ROKU

A worthy upgrade, but it's not the only 4K game in town

By Mike Snider
USA TODAY

Apple TV is ready to take on 4K.

The newest Apple TV devices, out Friday starting at \$179, deliver 4K video for the first time.

Why is that important? 4K Ultra HD TV provides a better picture: four times the resolution of traditional HD. So if you have one of these high-end TVs, you are not taking full advantage of its capabilities if your Internet streaming device only delivers HD resolution.

When it comes to 4K, Apple is playing catch-up, as competitors such as Amazon and Roku have had 4K-compatible devices in the market for nearly two years now.

However, Apple is notable for the panache its products deliver and Apple devotees who have already embraced 4K — or plan to do so soon — will certainly want to give the new Apple TV a look.

The new Apple TV 4K device looks just like its predecessor: about four inches square and one and a half inches tall, weighing about 1 pound. But its A10X Fusion chip promises twice the processing speed and four times the graphics performance — especially important if you plan to play

games or are a frequent app user.

Apple TV already had an elegant user interface. Now it's even spiffier with a higher-res sheen.

Within Apple's iTunes Movie store there's a growing selection of 4K movies available now, and some in high dynamic range (HDR) with improved contrast and a wider range of richer colors. Among them: Wonder Woman, and

Apple devotees who already have embraced 4K — or plan to do so — will certainly want to give the new Apple TV a look.

Baby Driver, with Spider-Man: Homecoming and War of the Planet of the Apes coming.

Movies in 4K and HDR will cost the same to buy or rent as HD versions. New releases such as Wonder Woman, Baby Driver, The Big Sick, and The Mummy cost \$14.99 to \$19.99 to buy (not available to rent yet), while Logan cost \$5.99 to rent. And any HD movie you have already purchased will be automatically upgraded for free when the studio makes a 4K version available.

Revisiting Wonder Woman,



—Photo: Apple

The new Apple TV 4K device (\$179-\$199) brings Ultra HD 4K video with high dynamic range (HDR) to the iTunes store and other apps. You can use Siri to search for movies with the remote.



—Photo: Roku

The Roku Ultra Net streaming device handles 4K video with HDR (high dynamic range).



—Photo: Amazon

playing on a 65-inch Samsung HDR-capable 4K TV, the video was, well, as wonderful as in the theater.

And Apple TV lets you stream 4K from apps that deliver high-quality video such as Netflix — its 4K series include Stranger Things and House of Cards — with content from Amazon Prime Video (Transparent, The Man in the High Castle) coming soon.

A rewatching on Netflix of The Defenders episode in which Iron Fist and Elektra spar in a dark, watery environment revealed impressive contrast with enveloping shadows broken up by reflections from the pools. And the fighting action, with cuts back and forth to another battle with Luke Cage, Daredevil and Jessica Jones, looked crisp and fluid.

Using the Apple TV's minimalist remote, you can ask Siri to search for 4K movies or specific movies, genres, apps or games. And you can continue watching a show or movie on your iPad or iPhone using the Apple TV app.

The \$179 Apple TV model comes with 32 gigabytes of storage, the \$199 model has 64 GB (recommended for those who plan to use a lot of apps or play many games).

In addition to a 4K TV — not all support the various fla-

vors of HDR — you will need a robust broadband connection. Apple and other providers recommend up to 25 megabits per second for 4K HDR movies.

As many as one in four U.S. homes may own a 4K TV by the end of the year, the Consumer Technology Association estimates. If you have been concerned about a lack of 4K content, that's starting to change.

For those who already have a 4K TV, are a regular in Apple's iTunes store and do plenty of binge-viewing of streamed content, the new Apple TV 4K is a worthwhile upgrade that makes plenty of sense.

But Apple TV is not the only option for 4K streaming video. The second-generation Amazon Fire TV device, released two years ago, handled 4K video, but that model is out of stock (you can find it on other sites such as Staples.com), leading to speculation Amazon has new Fire TV devices poised to launch soon.

Element and Westinghouse 4K TVs with built-in Amazon Fire TV began hitting the market in June. Fire TV devices make a good option for Amazon Prime members, because you can watch Amazon's original shows and movies such as Manchester by the Sea in 4K for free as part of your \$99 Please turn to **APPLE 10D**

Helping you is what we love to do.

In the Publix Pharmacy, we're ready to answer your questions about prescriptions or over-the-counter medications. And when it's flu season, you can get your vaccine here, on your next grocery trip. No appointment necessary.

See how we serve you at publix.com/service.

Report finds GOP tax plan benefits top 1 percent

Some in the lower brackets will pay more, according to financial analysts

By Erica Werner and Marcy Gordon
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The new GOP tax plan delivers a big tax cut to the wealthiest Americans while some in lower tax brackets would end up paying more, according to an analysis Friday from prominent nonpartisan researchers.

The plan being touted by President Donald Trump as the biggest tax cut ever delivers 50 percent of its total tax benefit to taxpayers in the top 1 percent, those with incomes above \$730,000 a year, according to the Tax Policy Center of the Urban Institute and Brookings Institution. For those wealthy taxpayers, their after-tax incomes would increase 8.5 percent next year.

For other taxpayers, though, the benefits are far more modest or non-existent, the report finds. Taxpayers in the bottom 95 percent would see tax cuts averaging 1.2 percent of after-tax income or less next year.

And about 12 percent of taxpayers would face a tax in-

crease next year, of \$1,800 on average. That includes more than a third of taxpayers making between about \$150,000 and \$300,000, mostly because of the elimination of many itemized deductions.

By 2027, taxes would increase for about a quarter of Americans, including nearly 30 percent of those earning about \$50,000 to \$150,000 a year, and 60 percent of people making \$150,000 to \$300,000, according to the study.

"The number of taxpayers with a tax increase rises over time," it said. That's because the Republican plan would replace personal exemptions, which are tied to inflation, with some tax credits that aren't tied to inflation.

The findings were certain to fuel the Democrats' main attack line against the GOP plan: That it's a giveaway to the rich at the expense of the middle class. Republicans immediately disputed the analysis.

"This so-called study is misleading, unfounded and biased," said House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas. "TPC ma-



The Associated Press

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., center, with Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, R-Wis., left, and other GOP members as they talked about the Republicans' proposed rewrite of the tax code for individuals and corporations, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday. President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans are writing a far-reaching, \$5-trillion plan they say would simplify the tax system and nearly double the standard deduction used by most Americans.

kes a variety of overreaching and unrealistic assumptions about policy decisions members of Congress still have to make as we draft pro-growth tax legislation. Republicans are unified in delivering tax reform that will lower taxes on middle-class Americans,

ensure they are able to keep more of their hard-earned money, and grow our economy."

The Tax Policy Center noted that its analysis was preliminary, based on a proposal that itself lacked key information, such as the proposed

income brackets that would correspond to the three new tax rates. Republicans envision replacing the current seven.

The findings came as Senate Republicans unveiled a budget plan that lays the groundwork for their effort to overhaul the nation's tax system. Provisions in the budget would allow Senate Republicans to pass the tax package with a simple majority of votes, preventing Democrats from being able to block the legislation and rendering Democratic votes unnecessary.

The Tax Policy Center's analysis was based on an ambitious framework released Wednesday by the Trump administration and congressional Republicans that aims to reform the loophole-ridden code and dramatically cut corporate rates, from 35 percent to 20 percent. It's the GOP's marquee legislative project this year, following the embarrassing failure on health care.

Trump described the tax plan Friday as a "giant, beautiful, massive, the biggest ever in our country, tax cut."

The tax legislation can advance only after House and Senate passage of the budget blueprint. The Senate Budget Committee intends to vote on its plan next week. A compa-

nion measure is headed for a House vote next week as well.

The new budget plan would permit the upcoming tax measure to add \$1.5 trillion over the coming decade to the \$20 trillion national debt. The Tax Policy Center finds the GOP tax plan would reduce federal revenues by \$2.4 trillion over the next decade.

Without the budget passage, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said in a statement, "Democrats will continue to play partisan politics and obstruct our efforts to get our economy flourishing and growing at its full potential."

More broadly, the Senate plan promises a balanced budget over the coming decade, but it relies on rosy projections of economic growth and spending cuts that Republicans have no plans to deliver. It would keep Pentagon spending mostly frozen at current levels, rather than the almost \$90 billion increase demanded by GOP military hawks.

The budget also contains a provision that could allow the Senate to approve legislation opening up drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. That's a longtime goal for Republicans, including Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a moderate whose vote will be needed on tax legislation.

Credit union merger boosts assets

Financial Federal-Tropical Financial deal completed

By Cindy Kent
Sun Sentinel

Miramar-based Tropical Financial Credit Union has completed its merger with Financial Federal Credit Union of Miami.

The boards of directors at both institutions approved the transaction earlier this year.

Financial Federal's

6,500 members voted "overwhelmingly" in favor of combining the two credit unions, according to a statement issued Friday by Tropical Financial. They became members of Tropical Financial, the surviving entity, on Sept. 1.

Joe Oglesby, Financial Federal's former vice chairman, joined the Tropical Financial

board of directors.

The merger boosts Tropical Financial's assets to over \$700 million and its membership to more than 60,000. The services available to members includes checking and savings accounts, consumer loans and money management assistance, and online and mobile banking.

"Everyone will now benefit from higher savings rates, lower loan rates and lower service fees ...," said Richard Helber, president and chief executive officer of Tropical Financial.

Prior to the merger, Tropical Financial had approximately \$650 million in assets and 54,000 members. They live or work in

Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and six other Florida counties. The institution was formed in 1935 by employees of the former Southern Bell.

Financial Federal had approximately \$50 million in assets and 6,500 members who are primarily employees from Macy's, the Miami Herald, Kansas City Star and Office Depot.

Roku keeps up with 4K pace

APPLE continued from 9D

annual subscription. You can also watch YouTube 4K videos, something the new Apple TV boxes currently do not support.

Roku has kept up the 4K pace, too, with its first 4K-compatible model, the \$129 Roku 4 launching about the same time two years ago as Amazon's improved Fire TV. Since then, it has released many lower-priced 4K-ready devices, starting at \$59.99, with a special

channel to help you find 4K content to watch.

Google Chromecast Ultra (\$69), an upgraded dongle that plugs into your TV's HDMI input, lets you watch 4K content on YouTube, Netflix and Vudu, and supports HDR on many TVs.

OTHER 4K STREAMING DEVICES:

—The current Xbox One S (starts at \$249) and the upcoming more-powerful Xbox One X (\$499, due Nov. 7) also deliver support 4K

video streaming and have built-in 4K Ultra HD Blu-ray players.

—Sony's PlayStation Pro (\$399) streams 4K video — and like the latest Xboxes runs 4K games — but plays standard Blu-rays and DVDs, but not Ultra HD 4K discs.

—Nvidia has just announced a new Shield TV (\$179, ships Oct. 18), which supports 4K and HDR and offers cloud gaming (you can add a controller or opt for pricier models starting at \$199).

HBCU leaders meet at the White House

COLLEGE continued from 4C

to ask HBCU presidents to come back to Washington," she said.

The week is normally planned by the White House HBCU Initiative's executive director along with a presidential HBCU advisory board, said Johnny C. Taylor, president and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, a non-profit organization that has supported public historically Black colleges and universities since 1987.

"Responding to 'feedback from key stakeholders,' the Education Department sent an email Sept. 5 saying it was 'postponing this year's National HBCU Week Conference' and replacing it with 'more intimate conversations.'"

Omarosa Manigault Newman, a HBCU graduate and assistant to the president and director of communications for the White House Office of Public Liaison, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview last week that the conference was simply scaled back. She said the White House intended to announce an executive director for the initiative on Monday.

Also announced recently was a lineup of 62 HBCU "All-Stars" — students who serve as the initiative's ambassadors to Black colleges.

sector and post-secondary degrees. Students are getting a tour of the White House, mentoring and a special tour of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

"President Trump's commitment to the HBCU Community remains strong and unwavering," Newman said in a statement. "Registration remains at capacity and we are looking forward to welcoming HBCU presidents, students and guests."

Trump received 8 percent of the African-American vote during the election. Since then, he has generated controversy through several statements, including saying last month said there were "very fine people" among the white nationalists, white supremacists and neo-Nazis protesting the possible removal of a Confederate statue in Charlottesville, Virginia.

people who actually get things done."

Adams now plans to hold an inaugural "HBCU Brain Trust" meeting during the Congressional Black

Caucus' annual meeting.

"Despite the ongoing drama and unnecessary distractions of the president's own making, we plan to move

forward with opportunities for HBCU leaders to engage in substantive dialogues that put our schools and students first," Adams said.

Director of Tourism and Business Enhancement

Our business is about selling Greater Miami and the Beaches as a premier leisure travel destination.

Seeking a dynamic individual to share our vision in seeing the Multicultural communities in Miami become leading destinations for lovers of multicultural tourism and showcase its diverse assets.

- Identify businesses, community organizations, institutions, industry partners and others to form strong partnerships
- Oversee the marketing, promoting and showcasing of the multicultural communities through the departments support and services
- Work with community organizations and local government to ensure heritage neighborhood tourism readiness and provide targeted education and support
- Plan and execute strategic initiatives to support and grow various Multicultural tourism programs to include tourist district development and Art of Black Miami.
- Organizer of Multicultural resource information both locally and nationally Point of contact for festivals and other projects as designated by the VP
- Work in conjunction with other GMCVB Departments to promote and market the destination with a targeted thrust on Multicultural tourism

Job Requirements

- Qualifications:
- Success in this position requires top-notch commitment to enhancing multicultural understanding internally and externally.
 - Have a broad experience in the development of educational, cultural, and social programs as well as the hospitality industry.
 - Possess a demonstrated history of success working both independently and as part of a team.
 - Proven ability to collaborate and work successfully with multiple constituents to deliver and improve programs and initiatives.
 - Possess superb communication skills.
 - Project management and organization
 - Knowledge of the visual arts world and/or economic business development background is important
 - Team Oriented
 - Tech Savvy in WORD, Excel, PowerPoint is a plus
 - Bachelor's Degree as well as 3 years minimum, overall work experience in the areas of hospitality, marketing, sales, public relations, community relations and multicultural initiatives.
 - Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English.
 - Ability to speak and understand an additional language a plus.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

We offer a competitive salary & benefits package in a dynamic environment. For consideration send your resume and salary requirements by 10/30/17: by email: employment@gmcvb.com OR mail to Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau.

CITY OF MIAMI ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids will be received by the City of Miami City Clerk's office located at City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, FL 33133 for the following:

IFB NO. 734385

INVENTORY AUDIT SERVICES FOR THE POLICE PROPERTY UNIT

CLOSING DATE/TIME: 3:00 PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 2:00 PM)

VOLUNTARY: Pre-Bid/Pre-Proposal Conference: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 9:30 AM

Location: City of Miami Police Department 400 NW 2nd Ave., Miami, FL 33128

Detailed specifications for this bid are available at the City of Miami, Department of Procurement, website at www.miamigov.com/procurement or contact the Sr. Procurement Contract Officer Tahliia Gray at tgray@miamigov.com.

THIS BID SOLICITATION IS SUBJECT TO THE "CONE OF SILENCE" IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY OF MIAMI CODE SECTION 18-74 ORDINANCE NO. 12271.

AD NO. 26753

Daniel J. Alfonso
City Manager



Public Notice

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES TRI-ANNUAL GOAL

The Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW) announces the establishment of their Disadvantaged Business Enterprises participation goal for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 at 26% for firms owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, including women. The goal methodology is available for public inspection for thirty (30) days from the date of this notice between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the address shown below. DTPW and the Federal Transit Administration will accept public comments concerning the goal for up to forty-five (45) days from the date of this notice.

It is DTPW's policy to promote diversity through the utilization of competent and qualified small firms, including those owned by minorities in its Transportation Improvement Program. For further information, please contact:

Office of Civil Rights
And Labor Relations
701 NW 1st Court, Suite 1700
Miami, Florida 33136
(786) 469-5405

DirecTV Sunday Ticket refunds could spread

NFL controversy creates dilemma for companies that depend on pro football

By A.J. Perez and Mike Snider
USA TODAY

DirecTV's practice of giving refunds to some NFL Sunday Ticket subscribers upset about players kneeling during the national anthem puts the company at risk of looking as if it's taking President Trump's side in the controversy.

The satellite TV service, owned by AT&T, has been the exclusive provider for the NFL Sunday Ticket since 1994. But some NFL fans who subscribed to the \$280 per season programming package, which lets viewers watch any game around the league, have contacted DirecTV seeking a refund in response to the NFL players' protests. DirecTV does not disclose its Sunday Ticket subscriber numbers, but Bloomberg has estimated as many as 10% of the satellite TV provider's 20.8 million customers subscribe to it.

Last week, Trump criticized the growing protests, saying NFL owners should fire players who do not stand during the national anthem played before kickoff. The protest began last season by then-San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick to bring attention to the oppression of black people by the criminal justice system. His supporters say teams have refused to sign Kaepernick because of his protest.

The stakes are high. Keeping long-term customers happy is important because subscribers to Sunday Ticket and premium sports programming are highly valued in a market place where many consumers are leaving traditional pay-TV services and moving to streaming options such as Netflix and Hulu.

DirecTV must "get a grip on this now in order to avoid

significant long-term losses," said Michael Greeson, president and principal analyst for The Diffusion Group, a research firm in Plano, Texas. "Politically this could be interpreted as DirecTV agreeing with Trump that the issue will ultimately be determined by the fans and their wallets."

This season, Kaepernick remains unsigned and more players began kneeling during the anthem in support. In the preseason, a protest initiated by people in the black community included a boycott of NFL games in support of Kaepernick, too. Celebrities such as artist and producer Sean Combs, actor Ed Asner and comedian and talk show host Ellen DeGeneres have expressed their support of the protesting players on social media.

Essentially the pay-TV giant is caught between two groups of football fans — those who support Kaepernick and the reasons for his protest and those who don't.

And the issue can continue to escalate for the league and its advertisers, too. "It is a very volatile and tricky place for the NFL ... no matter what they do they are going to offend a group of users," said Allen Adamson, a branding expert and founder of Brand Simple Consulting, a New York-based consulting firm.

And consumers on either side could opt to not attend or watch games, cut premium NFL channels from their pay-TV services and not buy NFL gear, he said. Some have documented their burning of team jerseys, hats and even season tickets on social media. "This is an incredibly raw and emotional issue on both sides," Adamson said.

During this past week's NFL games more than 250 play-



During this past week's NFL games, more than 250 players knelt during the national anthem, including several of the Miami Dolphins.

ers knelt during the national anthem at their respective games. Afterward, some DirecTV customers who subscribe to the Sunday Ticket package began contacting the company seeking to cancel and get a refund.

"I am tired of all of the protesting," said Renee Iaia, a long-time Los Angeles Rams fan and DirecTV customer for 25 years who said she called and was able to get a refund on her Sunday Ticket subscription. "I watch sports and especially football to relax and get away from all of the world strife."

DirecTV has historically shunned refunds for NFL Sunday Ticket once the season

gets underway. But the TV service is giving at least some customers a refund if they mention the ongoing protests, according to a person familiar with the refund process who is not authorized to speak publicly. *The Wall Street Journal* first reported the issue.

AT&T, which acquired DirecTV three years ago for \$48.5 billion, declined comment for this story. At the time, the telecom giant made the merger contingent on DirecTV's exclusive rights to the NFL package; its deal, which runs through the 2022 season, is worth \$1.5 billion annually. If many customers cancel, it could hurt AT&T's

revenue and the NFL, which has suffered a decline in ratings over the past few seasons.

Most likely, DirecTV is honoring the request for only its highest-paying and long-time customers, said Phil Swann, who covers the TV industry on his TVAnswers.com website.

"I don't think (the refunds) will be overwhelming, but subsequent events might increase that number," he said. "It depends on what the NFL does and what the players do. If this escalates and becomes a more contentious issue then maybe more people will do this."

If the anti-NFL movement

gains momentum, other pay-TV subscribers could ask their provider for refunds to downgrade their programming packages to punt premium channels such as the NFL RedZone channel, which provides real-time updates of NFL games, and the NFL Network, which carries broadcasts of NFL games.

"All NFL conduits ... are susceptible," Greeson said. Most pay-TV providers, when contacted about that potential, declined or did not return requests for comment. However, Cox Communications said it had not received "very many calls" as of Wednesday afternoon.

Liberty Square Homebuyers Club meets

Related Urban, OneUnited Bank, and Global Empowerment Development Corporation, Inc. have partnered on the Liberty Square Homebuyers Club to provide financial literacy in preparation for successfully becoming a home owner. Homeownership is part of the "American Dream," and the source of most generational wealth in America.

However, when it comes to the logistics and qualifications of owning a home, many Americans are left in the dark.

During the monthly meetings residents of Liberty Square in particular, and South Florida at large, are encouraged to engage in one to one sessions about credit scores and repair, qualifying for a mortgage, down payment and closing cost assistance programs, personal budgets, debt reduction and savings techniques.

The next Liberty Square Homebuyers Club meeting is Thursday October 26 at OneUnited Bank in Liberty City.



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Patrick Surtain Jr. keeps his eyes locked on the receivers before they run a play during practice.



Tyson Campbell, left, and Patrick Surtain Jr. kneel during practice.



Tyson Campbell, right, tries to knock the ball loose from Patrick Surtain Jr. during their practice.

CORNERBACK HIGH: FLORIDA SCHOOL HAS TOP RECRUITS

Tyson Campbell, left, and Patrick Surtain Jr. face off before running a drill at American Heritage School in Plantation, FL on Wednesday, August 16, 2017.

Patrick Surtain Jr., Tyson Campbell are the nation's best

By Timothy Bella
theundefeated.com

As his players grab handfuls of pregame gummy bears, Patrick Surtain tightens his belt and tucks in his black polo. NBA YoungBoy's "Untouchable" is blaring from the sweat box that is Miami Dade College's Nathaniel Traz-Powell Stadium and one of the best high school football teams in the nation bubbles in anticipation. Surtain, a former NFL All-Pro cornerback, recognizes these moments of nervous fury and anxiousness.

He also knows how unusual this team is: Two of these players — his son, Patrick Surtain Jr., and Tyson Campbell — are the nation's best cornerbacks, according to ESPN 300's Class of 2018 rankings. It is the first time in modern recruiting history that the nation's top two corners play for the same team.

"I've been to the highest level and went to Pro Bowls and was an All-Pro," Surtain Sr. said, "but seeing two guys in high school, two 17-year-olds — both over 6-foot-2, both over 180 pounds, both with great ball skills — it's unbelievable."

Surtain Jr., the nation's top-rated corner and the No. 6 overall prospect this year, has attracted interest from LSU, Alabama, Florida State, Florida and Ohio State. Campbell, the No. 2 corner in the country and the No. 8 overall prospect, also is looking at a who's who of national powers, including Alabama, Georgia, Ohio State, Miami, LSU, Florida and Florida State.

Their school, American Heritage, located in a suburb of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has won three of the last four Florida 5A high school football championships and is ranked in the top 10 nationally. Obviously, expectations are high again this year, something the coach says one more time to his team.

"A state championship isn't good enough," Surtain Sr., 41, tells his Patriots before the



American Heritage School head coach Patrick Surtain, center, talks with the offense during practice.

start of this August exhibition game against Miami's Booker T. Washington High School, another powerhouse. "We want a national title, and it starts today."

So far, it's in the conversation. The team was 2-0 before Hurricane Irma forced a break in the schedule. Like much of the state, the school lost power, and parts of it, including the football field, were flooded. Classes resumed on Sept. 18.

"Every day, we work to make each other better," the 6-foot-2, 192-pound Surtain Jr. said of his partnership with Campbell. "We bring the dog out of each other, that competitive nature out of each other. And we want to make our team better."

Campbell, a 6-foot-3, 181-pound senior, sees their national recognition as an honor and a blessing, but he also recognizes the pressure that it brings.

"We know with that title on our backs, it'll be harder to

maintain the hype," he said. "With each other's talent, I know he's going to lock down his side of the ball, so I have to lock down my side."

How exactly did this happen? How did an NFL great end up coaching a national high school power with the country's top two corners? It's a scenario that's been 16 years in the making. And it started shortly after the Surtains had their first child, when they moved to a neighborhood right across the highway from a school they initially didn't know existed.

In 2001, when Surtain Sr. was playing for the Dolphins, the family moved to Plantation, a community west of Fort Lauderdale. The couple had just had Patrick Jr., the first of their three children. Michelle Surtain thought of the area as a "very nice neighborhood" that had the advantage of being a short drive to the Dolphins' facilities. They had no idea they were around the corner from American Heritage, and they

certainly weren't aware of its reputation.

When the Kansas City Chiefs released Surtain Sr. in February 2009, the 11-year veteran didn't know what he wanted to do next. Chronic shoulder problems had plagued him that season, and Surtain Sr. returned home to Plantation knowing that he might not get a call from another team. Michelle Surtain was pregnant with their youngest child, and Surtain Sr. opted not to immediately look for a job in favor of spending time with his son and daughter. That included finding a park for Patrick Jr. to play Optimist football. Eventually, the father stepped up to coach his son.

"I saw things differently than some of the Little League coaches, and I just had to say something," said Surtain Sr. "I was the loud parent in the crowd."

The first time Campbell got the ball in an Optimist game, it was clear he was going places.

In this case, the 6-year-old had lined up at running back and ran for a touchdown. He still smiles remembering that season and touchdown.

Blessed with speed and size, Campbell played all over the field in the next few years. "I've seen him grow so much," said Lucious Campbell, his father. "It's been gratifying to see him excel at what he loves to do."

When Campbell was 9, he met Surtain Jr. at the park where both played Optimist ball. Although they were the same age, Surtain Jr. was playing up an age level. Campbell remembers catching the eye of the elder Surtain.

"We were probably the best players at the park," Campbell said. "Coach Pat said he liked my game a lot."

They fell out of touch when Surtain Jr. went to a different park to play ball. But Campbell recalled the experience years later when his Optimist coach talked to him about playing for a school called American Heritage.

American Heritage's rise to football prominence is another mark of accomplishment for a school that's achieved prominence in both academics and athletics. Heritage says it is Florida's No. 1 high school for National Merit Scholars for the past seven years — and No. 9 nationwide. Founded in 1965, the private school has 2,700 students from pre-K through 12th grade on its 40-acre campus. High school tuition ranges from \$27,023 to \$28,266, although financial aid is available.

The football team was good but not great, lacking the state championship banners the school has won in baseball, softball, track and field, women's soccer, women's tennis and men's golf. But its potential was enticing to Mike Rumph, then the defensive coordinator at Miami Carol City High School and a coach for West Miramar of the Optimist league.

"It was set up for success,"

said Rumph, a former NFL corner himself, who was on the University of Miami's national championship team in 2001. "I felt I was the piece of the puzzle that the football program needed at the time."

In the past five years, the school has become a destination in talent-rich South Florida. The former NFL and college stars on the coaching staff and a roster filled with some of the top recruits in the nation go a long way. That profile will only grow when Tarvarus McFadden, a Heritage alum currently starting at corner for Florida State, enters the NFL draft and when Surtain Jr., Campbell and the other seniors head off to major college programs next fall.

Rumph joined American Heritage as its defensive coordinator in 2011 and asked Surtain Sr., whom he knew from when both were playing in Miami, to be his defensive backs coach. When Rumph was promoted to head coach in 2013, Surtain Sr. became defensive coordinator.

As part of the Optimist coaching circle, Rumph was familiar with Campbell, whom he had coached as part of the West Miramar team, and discussed playing at Heritage with him and his family. In 2014, Campbell transferred to Heritage as a freshman and his father took a job in the school's library. All faculty and staff's children, including Surtain Jr. and Campbell, have their full tuition covered by the school.

Rumph took the team to two consecutive state championships in 2013 and 2014 before falling short in 2015. He left to be the cornerbacks coach at the University of Miami and recommended Surtain Sr. as his replacement. In 2015, the family moved to a house even closer to the school — so close that they can walk there when it isn't unbearably hot. Surtain Sr. said separating his responsibilities as coach and father has been easy. By letting his staff be the primary coaches for his son, he can be dad at home.

—Photos credit: Scott McIntyre for The Undeafated