

The Miami Times

Tempora Mutantur Et Nos Mutamur In Illis

VOLUME 95 NUMBER 17

MIAMI, FLORIDA, DECEMBER 13-19, 2017

50 CENTS

Union caught in the midst of the raging fire

NAACP urges them not to intervene

By Andrea Robinson
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

The Miami firefighters union late Tuesday continued to debate whether to take up the cause of the six members who lost their jobs last month after defacing family photos belonging to a Black colleague's family members.

The favorable decision by the International Association of Firefighters means the union will join with the six

men who filed grievances against the city of Miami contesting their terminations.

Local NAACP members urged the union to stay out of the matter on behalf of the six men — Captain William W. Bryson, Lt. Alejandro Sese, and firefighters Kevin Meizoso, David Rivera, Justin Rumbaugh and Harold Santana. The men are trying to get their jobs back.

The union held a daylong hearing in Miami before its



Six Miami firefighters were dismissed for defacing a Black colleague's pictures with lewd drawings. However, none of them has been held accountable for placing the noose in the work station.

19-member executive board, which is comprised of 17 voting and two non-voting members. Of the 17, just five are Black.

Lt. Freddy Delgado, president of the union, did not return calls for comment. The Miami-Dade NAACP Branch and members of the Professional Black Firefighters Association decried the decision as a slap in the face. Earlier the NAACP urged against intervening in the matter, and sent a letter asking union officials not to

Please turn to **FIRE 4A**

MIAMI GARDENS



—Photo courtesy of Sherrell Roundtree

Alicia Roundtree surrounded by her children; Isaih, Hailey and Johnathan.

'Coupon Mom' shooting victim

Police are seeking suspect in her death

By Nyamekye Daniel
ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

Alicia Roundtree had a passion for collecting coupons. Family members say she was returning home Saturday night from buying newspapers to support her coupon hobby when she was fatally struck by a bullet.

"She enjoyed 'couponing,'" said the victim's sister, Sherrell Roundtree. "She was coming from picking up coupons from the store. She wasn't even too far from home."

Now Roundtree's eight surviving siblings say they've lost the stronghold of their family.

Police say Alicia Roundtree, a 43-year-old Miami Gardens mother of three, was traveling westbound near the North Dade Regional Library when she was struck with a bullet, resulting in a car crash right before 8 p.m.

"Our police officers re-

sponded to 183rd and 27th Avenue. When we got there, there were multiple cars in an accident," said the Miami Gardens Police Chief Delma Noel-Pratt. "And that's when we realized she had a gunshot."

Roundtree was later transported to Aventura Hospital struck by a bullet. Alicia Roundtree . . . was traveling westbound near the North Dade Regional Library when she was struck with a bullet, resulting in a car crash right before 8 p.m.

where she was pronounced dead.

The shooting set off panic, shock, and social media buzz about a possible sniper in the

Please turn to **MOM 4A**



—Photos courtesy of the City of Miami

Christmas on 15th Avenue

Parade, festival comes to heart of Liberty City

Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and Commissioner Keon Hardemon join Liberty City activists for the 10th annual Christmas on 15th Avenue

parade and festival. The event attracted hundreds of children and their families for free food, music and toys giveaways.



Protestors make a demand for TPS renewal.

Go hard or go home?

Advocates for Haiti TPS extension call on government officials to act

By Janiah Adams
jadams@miamitimesonline.com

South Florida Haitian Americans, still adjusting to the Trump administration's decision to end protections for Haitian nationals, are shifting their attention to strategies they believe will help at least in the short term.

The announcement by Wash-

ington to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian citizens triggered protests and stoked fears that countrymen would have to return home in 2019.

Instead of giving up and packing their bags for a reluctant return home, activists argue their countrymen and women should continue to fight.

"We believe that it's too

early to ask people to pack their bags," said Marleine Bastien, executive director of Haitian Women of Miami (FANM). "We're raising the level of awareness for people."

TPS recipients receive temporary protection against deportation and are able to temporarily work in the country. Countries may receive TPS status if they're in turmoil, or have been ravaged by natural disasters, such as in the case of Haiti. The majority of current TPS holders

Please turn to **TPS 4A**

Editorial

Union plays with fire

At press time, the Miami firefighters union was still deliberating on whether to assist the men who filed grievances against the city for their firing last month.

The incident that led to their dismissals sparked outrage across the city. The men were fired for sexually explicit and racially offensive conduct against a Black co-worker. Their behavior is troubling on several levels.

The city of Miami rightfully fired the men — one captain, one lieutenant and four firefighters — for deliberately defacing personal family photos owned by Lieutenant Robert Webster. Their dismissals followed a police department investigation at the request of Miami Fire-Rescue Chief Joseph Zahralban.

These men were in positions of public trust in which they are to protect and serve. As noted by the Miami-Dade NAACP, they violated that sacred honor that goes with the job. It is difficult to see how their Black colleagues, and worse, Black residents, would feel comfortable or safe in their presence.

Against that backdrop, we question why the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) would take up their cases. This is the same union where in the 1990s its leader, Shorty Bryson, booted 62 Black firefighters from membership when they complained they weren't being promoted because of their race.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission later ruled in favor of the Black members. The union was ordered to restore their membership and pay unpaid benefits.

Miami has made positive strides, to be sure. But in this case, the IAFF is playing with fire.

CARTOON CORNER



The Miami Times
The Miami Times welcomes and encourages letters on its editorial commentaries as well as all other material in the newspaper. Such feedback makes for a healthy dialogue among our readership and the community. Letters must, however, be 300 words or less, brief and to the point, and may be edited for grammar, style and clarity. All letters must be signed and must include the name, address and telephone number of the writer for purposes of confirming authorship. Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Miami Times, 900 N.W. 54th Street, Miami, FL 33127, or fax them to 305-757-5770; Email: editorial@miamitimesonline.com.

The Miami Times

(ISSN 0739-0319)
Published Weekly at 900 NW 54th Street, Miami, Florida 33127-1818
Post Office Box 270200
Buena Vista Station, Miami, Florida 33127
Phone 305-694-6210

H.E. SIGISMUND REEVES, Founder, 1923-1968
GARTH C. REEVES, JR., Editor, 1972-1982

GARTH C. REEVES, Sr., Publisher Emeritus
RACHEL J. REEVES, Publisher and Chairman

Member of National Newspaper Publisher Association
Member of the Newspaper Association of America
Subscription Rates: One Year \$45.00 — Six Months \$30.00 — Foreign \$60.00
7 percent sales tax for Florida residents
Periodicals Postage Paid at Miami, Florida
Postmaster: Send address changes to The Miami Times, P.O. Box 270200
Buena Vista Station, Miami, FL 33127-0200 · 305-694-6210

CREDO OF THE BLACK PRESS

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, creed or color, his or her human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all persons are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



BY CHARLES M. BLOW, The New York Times

Ghost of Steve Bannon in the oval office



Steve Bannon may no longer be physically in the White House, but his spirit lingers there as the guide of the Donald Trump administration and the soul at the core of its beliefs.

Bannon is Dickensian in the way his presence — and nominal absence — haunts the Trump presidency, defining its past, dictating its present and damning its future.

Bannon is the author of Trump's ideology.

It is always worth remembering that Bannon, who departed the White House in mid-August and returned to his right-wing website Breitbart the same day, last year proudly told Mother Jones: "We're the platform for the alt-right."

Alt-right is just a new name for Nazis and racists.

Maybe more important, the Nazis and racists believe that Breitbart is a welcoming platform for them. A few days before Mother Jones published its interview with Bannon, the Daily Beast published this:

"Richard Spencer, who heads the white supremacist think tank National Policy Institute, said he

was also pleased. Under Bannon's leadership, Breitbart has given favorable coverage to the white supremacist Alt Right movement. And Spencer loves it."

Yes, that Richard Spencer, the one who has led three tiki-trorch

result of "elective affinities," the two are drawn to each other out of shared interests and a shared worldview.

Even the phrase "elective affinities" is likely taken from the title of an 1809 novel by famed Ger-

manial Protection Bureau, to be acting director of that bureau, Trump continued his Trojan Horse strategy of implanting enemies in government agencies to disable or even destroy them.

When the desperate-for-a-win Republican Senate last week passed their 11th-hour disaster of a tax bill that will eventually prove a jackpot for the donor class and an albatross for the working class, Trump ensured that working people would most feel the pain from the bill, in cutbacks to government services like education and the social safety net.

Trump's continued attacks on the media — and on truth itself — is an attempt to weaken the watchdogs, to grease the skids toward more oligarchy, more authoritarianism, more fascism.

Even as the special counsel, Robert Mueller, picks Trump's inner circle apart, Trump is fully focused on doing as much damage as possible before reaching his ever-more-likely demise.

Trump may one day have to abandon the post he inhabits, but he plans to reduce the village to ashes before he exits.

Earlier this year at the Conservative Political Action Conference, Bannon outlined them: national security and sovereignty; economic nationalism; and deconstruction of the administrative state.

hate marches in Charlottesville, the second of which resulted in the killing-by-car of counter protester Heather Heyer. That was the same protest about which Donald Trump insisted that there "were very fine people on both sides."

The Daily Beast quoted Spencer saying: "Breitbart has elective affinities with the Alt Right, and the Alt Right has clearly influenced Breitbart ... In this way, Breitbart has acted as a 'gateway' to Alt Right ideas and writers. I don't think it has done this deliberately; again, it's a matter of elective affinities."

Whether it was deliberate or the

man writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, although its usage traces back earlier.

That established, it is important to recall the three pillars of the Bannonic "America First" philosophy.

Earlier this year at the Conservative Political Action Conference, Bannon outlined them: national security and sovereignty; economic nationalism; and deconstruction of the administrative state.

Everything Trump does or says falls into one of those buckets.

Last month, when Trump appointed Mick Mulvaney, a man who despises the Consumer Fi-

BY KIMBERLY ATKINS, The Boston Herald

Same-sex ruling is really no piece of cake



In the legal clash between state laws barring businesses from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and the First Amendment's protection of religious exercise and speech, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy is in the familiar position of being the decider.

But this case may be more of a struggle for the court's so-called "swing voter" than most, as he'll have to wrangle with past decisions — many authored by him — that gives support to both sides.

On one side is Colorado, which — like more than a dozen other states including Massachusetts — passed an anti-discrimination law that prohibits businesses from refusing service on the basis of sexual orientation, among other things. On the other side, Jack Phillips,

a baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because he said doing so would amount to compelled speech in favor of something he opposes on religious grounds.

Gay marriage cases are not unfamiliar to Kennedy. He penned the court's seminal

there's basically an ability to boycott gay marriages."

"If you prevail, could the baker put a sign in his window: 'We do not bake cakes for gay weddings.'" Kennedy asked U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco, who argued in support of the baker.

Tolerance is essential in a free society. And tolerance is most meaningful when it's mutual. Kennedy said. "It seems to me that the state in its position here has been neither tolerant nor respectful of Mr. Phillips' religious beliefs."

2015 decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide, and focused heavily on the dignity and rights of gay couples and their families.

His concern about that dignity was apparent during arguing yesterday, when he wondered if a ruling in favor of Phillips would mean "that

When Francisco said gay couples could buy other products, Kennedy replied: "And you would not think that an affront to the gay community?"

But Kennedy's concerns cut both ways, and he frequently expressed the view that Phillips' religious views were not being respected by the state's civil

rights commission, which ruled against him.

"Tolerance is essential in a free society. And tolerance is most meaningful when it's mutual," Kennedy said. "It seems to me that the state in its position here has been neither tolerant nor respectful of Mr. Phillips' religious beliefs."

He's also voted to protect free speech and religious exercises of individuals and companies, from the Hobby Lobby case challenging the Obamacare contraception mandate, to Citizens United — another case he authored — which recognized free speech rights of companies in addition to the individuals who run them.

The ruling in the current case — one of the biggest on the court's docket — lies in which one of his own competing principles sways him the most.

BY ROCHELLE RILEY, Detroit Free Press

Conyers saga puts spotlight on Democrats



The Democratic Party's worst problem raised its ugly head once again during its mishandling of the Rep. John Conyers saga.

Meanwhile, behind closed doors, negotiations with Conyers and his family had been nearing a compromise, according to sources familiar with the process: Conyers announced on the radio Tuesday that he would retire, ending a 53-year career and endorsing his son, John Conyers III, to run for his seat.

But it is the Democratic Party that has the bigger problem — again — because it begs three questions:

Is the party, Pelosi, and Democratic leaders, treating the cases of Conyers and Franken differently because of race?

Where is Democratic resolve when it comes to Donald Trump and sexual harassment?

"We have one commonality

today and it is called due process," the Rev. Wendell Anthony, president of the Detroit chapter of the NAACP, said Monday at a rally for Conyers attended by more than 200 people. "Why is it that John Conyers is the only individual to be denied due process?"

"... There will never ever be another John Conyers the kind of individual who has the fighting spirit, who has the stamina, who will stand alone even when others are not with him. He spent 15 years bringing the King holiday to fruition when people laughed at him. He stood

or abuse, that position is vital for the continuing protection of a generation of civil rights and human rights and dignity and respect, and we must be very careful to make sure that whatever happens in that district will be for the benefit of the people and not for the advancement of an individual."

Conyers announced on the radio last Tuesday that he would retire. But if the Democratic Party thinks that people aren't upset about this, it is not spending enough time talking with Black and female voters, an apparent misstep that helped cost the party the presidential election last year.

And if the party thinks that Black and female voters won't remember this period during the 2018 and 2020 elections, they are wrong.

It will play. It will play big. Don't believe me? Just watch.

"It is apparent that if we're going to raise this unholy and unlawful guillotine, calling for the head of John Conyers, then in fairness we must begin with the president of the United States. Mr. Trump currently has 15 women who have accused him of sexual harassment. He has told the world and embarrassed the nation by telling how he treats women."

against Nixon, Reagan, Bush and Trump. The kind of person who will stand in the gap in relation to nomination of Supreme Court justices who will do harm to the nation, who will stand for workers and women and folks regardless of their race or station or sexual orientation. That's who John Conyers is and has been for 53 and a half years. Not excusing any kind of behavior



RING IN THE HOLIDAYS WITH BUICK AND GET UP TO

25% BELOW MSRP¹
ON MOST 2017 BUICK
LUXURY SUV MODELS

2017 BUICK
ENCORE ESSENCE



EXAMPLE OFFER:

\$7,720 BELOW MSRP²

\$6,797 PURCHASE ALLOWANCE
+ \$923 PRICE REDUCTION BELOW MSRP

THAT'S **25% BELOW MSRP**
ON THIS ENCORE ESSENCE

2017 BUICK
ENVISION ESSENCE



EXAMPLE OFFER:

\$10,481 BELOW MSRP²

\$8,694 PURCHASE ALLOWANCE
+ \$1,787 PRICE REDUCTION BELOW MSRP

THAT'S **25% BELOW MSRP**
ON THIS ENVISION ESSENCE

2017 BUICK
ENCLAVE LEATHER



EXAMPLE OFFER:

\$7,399 BELOW MSRP²

\$5,093 PURCHASE ALLOWANCE
+ \$2,305 PRICE REDUCTION BELOW MSRP

THAT'S **15% BELOW MSRP**
ON THIS ENCLAVE LEATHER



BUICK FIND YOURS NOW AT BUICK.COM

Excludes all EV models and Drive Assist. Offer includes purchase cash and price reduction below MSRP. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take delivery by 1/31/18. See participating dealer for details. ¹Based on MSRP of \$30,995. Encore based on MSRP of \$41,995. Enclave based on MSRP of \$49,325. Take delivery by 1/31/18. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. See participating dealer for details. ©2017 General Motors. All rights reserved. Buick® Encore® Envision® Outback®

Haitian TPS experts say returning to the island could be "ugly"

TPS
continued from 1A

have jobs, pay taxes and contribute to the economy. TPS status for each country must be renewed every 18 months. Haiti's date for renewal is Jan. 22, however, Elaine Duke, acting secretary of Homeland Security, made the decision to terminate.

TPS recipients from Honduras, El Salvador and some African nations are also approaching their renewal date.

Bastien is currently working with local organizations including the Florida Immigrant Coalition, and the New Florida Majority. They hold strategic planning meetings every other Thursday.

Their strategy includes first raising awareness about TPS. Second, they plan to help TPS recipients assess their individual case. Bastien said she has found that at least 30 percent of TPS recipients may have another way to adjust their status. Thirdly, they want to make sure that legislation is passed that would produce a pathway toward permanent residency and towards U.S. citizenship not just for Haitians, but for other countries under TPS.

A few pieces of legislation have been introduced surrounding this issue. U.S. Rep. Carlos Curbelo has introduced the Extending Status Protection for Eligible Refugees (ESPERER) Act of 2017, which also is supported by South Florida Congress members Aleece Hastings, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Frederica Wilson, D-F.L. This bill is a bipartisan effort that would allow TPS recipients to become permanent residents.

Wilson has also introduced a separate bill that focuses solely on the Haitian Diaspora.

"The reason I separate Haiti out is because the United Nations took cholera into Haiti and there are thousands of sick people in Haiti with cholera, and there are thousands of people who died as a result of cholera," Wilson said. "So I see Haiti as a country like no other. It has been impacted by outside peacekeepers who came to Haiti to keep peace, but instead brought a lot of sickness and death and a lot of heartbreak and disease."

The bill includes extending Haiti's TPS designation and would have the U.S. Department of State to urge the U.N. to "fulfill its pledge" to treat the cholera epidemic and improve



Marleine Bastien, left, Commissioner Keon Hardemon, right, speak at rally.

clean water and sanitation conditions in Haiti. Wilson said the bill would allow Haitians to be permanent residents of the U.S. three years after its passage.

If TPS recipients were to leave Florida, it could have lasting effects on the state.

"We would lose \$1.2 billion from our state GDP because they would be pushed out of the Florida workforce," Wilson said. "And I think that over \$1 billion

money annually would be devastating for the state.

"It would affect our ability to provide social services, a depletion of community resources," Adelson said. "There's no question that losing that amount of money from our state would have a devastating effect on our economy."

Many political officials have shown their support for TPS legislation. However, TPS advocates are calling on Sen. Marco Rubio to lead the effort.

"We don't see Rubio's name in any of those bills and not the one introduced in the Senate," Bastien said on a press call. "Our call today is the Trump Administration asked for Congress to act, there are bills introduced, we believe it is time for Sen. Marco Rubio, who has such a powerful presence and direct line of communication, it is time we see him taking the lead to see him find the permanent solution."

The Haitian-American Grassroots Coalition has been involved in the TPS fight since 2003. Jean-Robert Lafortune, president of the coalition, said returning to Haiti is not a good picture.

"This possibility to returning

home is so ugly we don't even want to contemplate it because Haiti as we know is still in a state of crisis politically," Lafortune said. "Haiti is a land in where people have no peace. After the hurricane, after the earthquake, we had to face the situation and now we have to face conditions to repair the country again with Irma, so physically the country is in a state of repair."

Lafortune said he has not seen any signal from the Haitian government that they plan to accommodate Haitians who may have to return to the country. But as of now, Lafortune is helping to educate people on TPS.

Bastien said fighting for legislation will not be easy, but she has hope.

"We know that it's going to be an uphill battle especially in this very harsh political climate where immigrants are being criminalized, but we of FANM strongly believe that if we organize and reach out across voters, we fight hard, we meet with members of Congress, we share the important stories of our TPS recipients, we believe we will prevail," Bastien said.

Miami Gardens mother of three killed by stray bullet on her way home

MOM
continued from 1A

area. However, Miami Gardens police officials dispelled the rumors.

Noel-Pratt said that authorities are treating the investigation the same as other homicides, and the department is continuing normal patrols in the area, near Northwest 183rd Street and Northwest 24th Avenue.

"There are no facts to indicate that there is a sniper," said Noel-Pratt. "The area is still safe."

Roundtree shared a home with her two young adult sons and 11-year-old daughter for over a decade, only five miles away from the spot where she was killed.

Relatives said the single mother worked two jobs to support her family and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who was in

need. "She was very helpful to anyone that she came in contact with," said Sherrell Roundtree, the victim's younger sister. "She was a hard worker and very dedicated. You can say, she is a person who brought life into a room."

Alicia Roundtree was a social worker at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe and worked part-time as a teller at Priority One Credit Union.

During her spare time, family members said, Alicia Roundtree liked to travel, socialize with friends and family, and would often volunteer to help with the children.

Gregory Roundtree, one of the victim's eight siblings, said he remembered the last trip his sister took to Atlanta, on Labor Day weekend, to welcome his newborn-twin daughters. "It was a very special time

for me," he said. "She really adored those girls."

"She wouldn't put them down," Sherrell Roundtree chimed in.

The siblings said after their parents died more than 10 years ago, their now-deceased sister stepped in to emotionally support the family.

"She was strong, you would never know if she was down," said Gregory Roundtree.

Now, the family is trying to pick up the broken pieces that have been left behind by this tragedy.

"She had a smile that brightens up the room. She had a personality that brightens up the room," said Sherrell Roundtree. "She was very supportive."

As the relatives support each other, they are urging anyone with information about the crime to come forward.

"They took away a great person from this society away,



Siblings Sherrell, Gregory, Alicia and Fredrick Roundtree.

away from us all," said Gregory Roundtree.

Anyone with information about Alicia Roundtree's death

should contact Miami Gardens Homicide Detective H. Schneider at 305-474-1710.

If you wish to remain anonymous,

contact Miami-Dade County Crime Stoppers at 305-471-8477 (TIPS). Tips that lead to an arrest may be eligible for

Union debates whether to help firefighters who bullied Black colleague

FIRE
continued from 1A

appeal the city's action.

Ruban Roberts, the branch's first vice president, said the actions of the firefighters are contrary with their stated mission of protecting and serving the public.

"Hanging a noose around a photo of a commanding officer that happens to be Black? Now, how are you are going to serve the people who are Black? That's the worst thing you could ever do," Roberts said.

"We don't want them to be reinstated. They're not fit to serve if they conduct themselves in that manner," Roberts said. "Anyone who is that

insensitive to African-American history... this is not just an affront to the person they did it to, but to all African-Americans. It should be an affront to all people."

Jackson DeGlance, president of the Black firefighters group and former member of the union executive board, the grievance would go onto the city's labor department for negotiations. If a settlement is not reached, it then goes to arbitration.

DeGlance said the men were fired because of the sexually suggestive drawings. The noose was not a factor because the investigation did not uncover the culprit.

Because of that, he said, there's a high likelihood that at

least some of six will get their job back.

"That's my prediction. Somebody's going to get their job back," DeGlance said. "If it's all of them that's a slap in the face."

The hearings involves a Sept. 9 incident in which several firefighters went into a Black lieutenant's room at Station 12, and placed a noose around a family photo and replaced others with sexually suggestive drawings.

Fire Chief Joseph Zahralban said he got an early morning phone call on Friday, Sept. 9, about offensive behavior that occurred at Fire Station #12, just south of Model City. He personally went to the station at 2:30 a.m., he said, and was

"disgusted and appalled" by the "graphic and obscene" images.

Zahralban ordered an investigation that resulted in the termination of six firefighters for "sexually explicit and racially offensive conduct" against a Black firefighter, Lt. Robert S. Webster.

Bryson is the son of former Fire Chief William "Shorty" Bryson, who himself dealt with racial controversy.

In the 1990s Shorty Bryson came under fire when as head of the firefighters union he kicked 62 Black firefighters from the organization.

The Black firefighters had complained that they weren't being promoted because of race. The U.S. Equal Employ-

ment Opportunity Commission later ruled in favor of the Black members. The union was ordered to restore their membership and pay unpaid benefits.

The branch leaders hailed city officials for promptly dismissing the six men. President Shirley Johnson said she was impressed with how Zahralban handled the matter.

The civil rights organization offered to work with the city and the Black firefighters group to work on racial insensitivity issues within the department.

NAACP leaders raised their concerns in a letter to the firefighters union:

The Firefighters Union of the City of Miami faces a momentous decision on the case of the six firefighters dismissed for

their involvement in the racist and sexist harassment of Lt. Webster. This harassment rose to the level of direct attack on the African American community, all women and others of good will. Indeed it is not just Miami that is watching this as it is reverberating across the country.

"The choice of a noose clearly has significance beyond any individual dispute. The noose was used through lynching to force Black people to at least publicly, accept the white supremacy of segregation and to drive out of the south white supporters of racial justice and Black education. Lynching dominated the south from reconstruction all the way into the 1940s."

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUILDING SCHOOLS. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES



DELIVERED



THANK YOU

In 2012, Miami-Dade voters overwhelmingly approved a \$1.2 billion bond initiative to transform public schools into 21st century learning centers. We've made a lot of progress since then — technology upgrades completed at all our public schools, local businesses and workers hired to modernize them, classroom space added, and even some brand-new schools built. So far, our projects have been completed on-time and within budget.

Because of you, all students will have state-of-the-art places to learn. Together, we are giving our students the world. Thank you for helping make Miami-Dade County Public Schools the most innovative urban school district in the nation.

#GOProgress @MDCPS @miamischsols www.gobprogress.com




THE Times THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' ...



the legacy continues

01.03.2018

WWW.MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

Suarez announces choice for manager

Mayor wants to end red light cameras

By Andrea Robinson
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

Hoping to make bold moves in his new role, Miami Mayor Francis Suarez will ask commissioners to approve his choice of city manager and end the city's controversial red-light camera program.

Suarez wants Emilio T. Gonzalez as the next city manager, and will offer that name on Thursday at the regular city commission meeting.

At a Dec. 6 press conference, Suarez introduced Gonzalez as his choice for top city administrator. The mayor also announced that Commissioners Keon Hardemon and Ken Russell would return as chairman and vice-chairman of the city commission.

"This is a diverse team, that reflects diversity of the city," Suarez said. "We've worked together professionally and civilly for the eight years that I've been on the commission."

Gonzalez is the former director of the Miami-Dade Aviation Department, and 26-year U.S. Army veteran. At the Aviation Department, he oversaw a staff of 1,300 employees. His resignation from that position last month prompted speculation that he would be Suarez's choice for manager.

Suarez touted Gonzalez's managerial strengths as a good fit for the city. He said he wanted Gonzalez to play a role in a strong mayor charter review process. The mayor wants residents to vote whether Miami should have a strong mayor



—Miami Times photos/Andrea Robinson

Mayor Francis Suarez taps Commissioner Keon Hardemon of District 5 to continue as chairman of the city commission.

form of government, similar to that of Miami-Dade County.

The new manager also would have a say in the rollout of the

\$400 million general obligation bond that was recently approved by voters. The funds have been earmarked for affordable housing, sea-level rise and infrastructure improvements throughout the city.

Gonzalez's nomination must go through the five city commissioners, who must ratify the selection by a majority vote. At least one commissioner already expressed a desire for someone else. Newly installed Commissioner Joe Carollo, the former mayor, already has said he wants the city to conduct a national search for the position. It's not clear if Suarez has the backing of at least three commissioners to push his choice through.

At Thursday's meeting, commissioners also will hear competing pieces of legislation that would make the city's red light cameras a thing of the past.

Both Suarez and Carollo have filed proposals to eliminate the controversial program within the city of Miami boundaries. Both are on the agenda at Thursday's regular commission meeting.

Suarez previously attempted to halt the cameras while serv-

ing as commissioner. He said that during his mayoral campaign, the issue generated the second highest number of complaints, after affordable housing.

Suarez pledged to work with commissioners on the legislation, and said he already had

nearly unanimous backing. One notable holdout thus far, Chairman Hardemon.

"This goes to not taking advantage of the most vulnerable in our community," Suarez said, adding that the camera fines added to the impression of "two Miami's" — "one of glitz and glamorous and another with fixed incomes."

Hardemon said he hadn't signed on as a co-sponsor because he didn't want to give an impression that he was stuck in one position. Nor, he said, is it indicative as to how he will vote.

Ending the red-light fines would come at a cost. The program generates \$2 million annually for the city's general fund. Outgoing city manager Daniel Alfonso said that if the program ends, the fiscal impact would not be felt until 2019.

"This year won't be quite as painful ... next year will be problem," Alfonso said. "They'll have to figure out how to save the \$2 million."



Miami Mayor Francis Suarez introduces Emilio T. Gonzalez as his choice to become Miami city manager.

Season of Giving
Every Sunday till 2018 Raffle at
Flea-Market USA
Prizes include
Heat Ticket, Visa Cash,
TV, Laptop Smoker
and more
3015 NW 79th ST MIAMI FL 33147
305-836-3677

Yes, the sun will rise in the morning. Here's something equally certain.

With our high-yield savings promotion, HSBC offers certainty for you and your family. Speak with a Premier Relationship Manager today to take advantage of our promotional savings rate.

Earn **1.30% APY**

Offer applies to new and existing HSBC Premier customers who open an HSBC Promotional Premier Savings account with New Money. Limited time only.

Bring this ad to your local branch and mention code "PREM54V3" to start saving. To find your nearest branch, visit us.hsbc.com/findbranch

We focus on the most important economy in the world. Yours.

HSBC Premier

This offer requires each of the elements to be met: • HSBC Premier relationship required to open an HSBC Promotional Premier Savings account from 8 October 16, 2017 through and including December 29, 2017 with the stated Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective through September 4, 2018. Charges and fees may reduce earnings. • New Money is defined as deposits and investments not previously held by any member of the HSBC Group in the U.S. • HSBC Premier is a relationship product requiring a Premier checking account. Monthly maintenance fee will be incurred if minimum balance requirement is not maintained for your account relationship. Premier relationship requires the maintenance of \$25,000 in U.S. personal deposit and investment balances to avoid a monthly maintenance fee of \$50. Investment and certain insurance products, including annuities, are offered by HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. (HSI), member FINRA/SIPC. • HSI is an affiliate of HSBC Bank USA, N.A. • HSBC reserves the right to change or terminate this offer at its sole discretion. • Deposit products are offered in the U.S. by HSBC Bank USA, N.A. Member FDIC. © 2017 HSBC Bank USA, N.A.



This holiday, give more than just gifts.

Loving. Caring. And sharing with family and friends.
That's what it's all about. Happy holidays from AARP.

Go to aarp.org/blackcommunity

AARP[®]
Real Possibilities



Students are center stage as part of the Nutcracker performance.

—Photos courtesy of Gregory Reed

IN THE SEASON

Holiday dance productions mean opportunity for young Black students

By Janiah Adams
jadams@miamitimesonline.com

With the holiday season in full swing, many arts schools are putting on dance, music and theater productions. Many Black students are getting the opportunity to participate in these productions and sharpen new skills.

Recently, Thomas Armour Youth Ballet put on their rendition of the Nutcracker. Students from all five of their satellite schools in Miami Gardens, Perrine, West Coconut Grove and Little Haiti had the opportunity to participate.

Students began preparing for the production in August and rehearsed weekly. They had the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of being in a large scale, full-length ballet production.

Courtney Fudge, a ninth grade student at Miami Arts
Please turn to **SEASON 4B**



Students from the Thomas Armour Youth Ballet put on their rendition of the Nutcracker.



The holiday season productions give students experience as actors, musicians and dancers.

Dorie Miller, a navy World War II hero

Miami Times staff report

Last week, December 7th, America marked the 76th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The beginning of World War II. The day after the attack, President Roosevelt addressed Congress and the nation, calling Dec. 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy."

Serving in a noncombat role in the Navy, Dorie Miller responded heroically when the battleship West Virginia was attacked at Pearl Harbor. Doris Miller, known as "Dorie," was born in Waco, Texas, in 1919. He was one of four sons. After high school, he worked on his father's farm until 1938 when he enlisted in the Navy as mess attendant (kitchen worker) to earn money for his family. At that time the Navy was segregated, so combat positions were not open to Blacks, so Miller's adept ability to shoot down enemy planes was all the more remarkable.

On December 7, 1941, Dorie arose at 6 a.m. to begin work. When the Japanese attack occurred, he immediately reported to his assigned battle station. Miller was a former football player and a Navy boxing champ, so his job was to carry any of the injured to safer quarters; this included the mortally wounded ship's captain. Miller then returned

Please turn to **MILLER 4B**

Doris Miller, known as "Dorie," was born in Waco, Texas, in 1919.



Black faith leaders push Obamacare enrollment period

By Freddie Allen
NMPA

Faith leaders in the Black community are encouraging members of their congregations to sign-up for healthcare coverage during the Affordable Care Act's open enrollment period that ends on December 15.

Reverend Edwin Sanders, the senior pastor and founder of the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church in Nashville, Tenn., said that supporting positive dialogue about healthcare is a part of the faith tradition.

"We lift up healing as a benefit of our relationship to the God that we serve; we talk about the God who is a healer," said Sanders. "There is a way in which those of us who are disciples, especially in the tradition of Jesus Christ, have a commitment to trying to make sure that we sustain these kinds of opportunities for people to get healed in our communities."



Reverend Edwin Sanders

Sometimes, that commitment means working with political leaders.

Congressman James Clyburn (D-S.C.) helped to launch the "Soul 2 Enroll" campaign, a national healthcare initiative aimed at mobilizing faith communities during the open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare."

During a recent press conference on Capitol Hill, Clyburn said that faith is about much more than a relationship between you and the God you serve. Please turn to **LEADERS 4B**

Pastor Dennis Jackson II: Servitude

Veteran officer dedicated to Liberty City

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

As a police officer, Dennis Jackson II has seen some of the worst of human nature. Drugs, murder, "I've seen all kinds of things as it relates to this area," he said referring to Miami's Liberty City area.

"When I came on [to the police force] 24 years ago, things were worse. At that time, we had one of the

notorious drug gangs, who [were] wreaking havoc in Liberty City. There were bodies laid out on 15th Avenue, 61st Street you could barely drive down because the drug dealers had basically taken over the city," he said. "I've seen a lot of that, but I've also seen major change. Crime has been reduced. We do have incidents that make the news, and one life lost is one too many, but I have seen



major changes."

Yet in the mist of the carnage in Miami's inner city, officer Dennis Jackson found another way he could "protect and serve" the people in the community. In Liberty City, Jackson is also known as Pastor Dennis Jackson of the New Mount Moriah Baptist Church, located at 6700 NW 14 Avenue in Miami.

"The church has been located in the community for 88 years," said Jackson. "I've Please turn to **JACKSON 4B**

Pastor of the Week

Dennis Jackson II

PRESENTED BY

Jackson
HEALTH SYSTEM
Public Health Trust
Miracles made daily.

Civil Rights museum shares its stories

By Debbie Elliot
NPR

The museum promotes a greater understanding of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement and its impact by highlighting the strength and sacrifices of its peoples.

Visitors will witness the freedom struggle in eight interactive galleries that show the systematic oppression of Black Mississippians and their fight for equality that transformed the state and nation. Seven of the galleries encircle a central space called "This Little Light of Mine." There, a dramatic sculpture glows brighter and the music of the Movement swells as visitors gather.

The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum opened Saturday in Jackson as a testament to the state's complicated, often dark, racial and political history. This week, it became the setting of its own political dust-up, but organizers hope to stay focused on the museum's message.

Mississippi is a key chapter in the nation's ongoing struggle for equality, but the state has been slow to acknowledge the racism and violence in its past. The new museum now tells that difficult story.

Pamela Junior, director of the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, guided a group of guests through the galleries before the official opening. The tour starts with a look at Africans coming to the U.S. through the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

THE TWO-WAY

Next, museum guests journey through the Emancipation Proclamation and Reconstruction, when African-American communities begin to thrive. Then the tour takes a turn into a room dominated by a tree with limbs sprawling overhead.

"It's not only you think about the tree and lynching," Junior said. "But you look up and see the images — Jim Crow images — as leaves on the limbs of the tree."

There are five lynching monoliths, etched with the names of some 600 victims. Junior wants visitors to experience these dark, cramped spaces as they move through the museum.

"The [civil rights] movement was very uncomfortable," she said. "I want them to feel uncomfortable. So they can understand that once they come through this tunnel, they'll come to light."

Museum personnel said the goal is to take visitors through the darkness of the past into the light they hope for in the future.

"The challenge, she said, is to 'make Mississippi the best that [it] can be.'"

Junior said she and her colleagues will encourage visitors to travel across the state to learn more at key historical sites. And there are plenty — Bryant's Grocery store, where Emmett Till was fatefully accused of flirting with a white shopkeeper before he was abducted and brutally killed; the house where NAACP leader Medgar Evers was assassinated in his driveway; voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer's grave; the field where Stokely Carmichael of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee first called for Black Power; and the Neshoba County memorial to three civil rights workers killed by the Ku Klux Klan during Freedom Summer.

LONG TIME COMING

Mississippi state Sen. Hillman Frazier calls his state "ground zero when it comes to civil rights."

Frazier, of Jackson, was instrumental in getting legislation passed for the new museum and served on the planning committee. It was a long time coming, he said.

"Folks thought we should forget about that part of history. Don't tell the story. Don't bring up anything that is painful," he said. "But that's part of our history."

Civil rights tourism has taken off in other states. In



Harold Dahmer, whose father Vernon Dahmer was killed in 1966 by the Ku Klux Klan, smiles when he sees a photograph of his younger self on display at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.



Museum personnel said the goal is to take visitors through the darkness of the past into the light they hope for in the future.



Museum exhibits, including one on the assassination of Medgar Evers, take visitors through significant events that drove the fight for civil rights forward.

Alabama, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery are a big draw.

In 2006, then-Republican Gov. Haley Barbour helped push the Mississippi project forward, seeing the economic benefit. But to secure funding from the Legislature, Frazier said, the civil rights museum was paired with a state history museum, giving lawmakers political cover to approve it.

"Some just didn't want to vote for a straight-up civil rights museum because of the districts they represent," Frazier said. "They just didn't want to bring those issues up."

Some state officials, including Frazier, reject the idea that the dual museums represent a continuation of the "separate but equal" doctrine. Instead,

he said, they complement one another.

Set in downtown Jackson near the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the two buildings are joined by a common lobby. The Museum of Mississippi History gives a broad overview of the state's past.

"This museum covers the entire sweep of the state's history from the earliest times to the present," said state archives director Katie Blount.

It spans from the Stone Age and Native American cultures through the Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927 to Hurricane Katrina. Blount said the civil rights museum brings a deeper focus to the 30-year period when Mississippi was at the center of the movement. Both museums tap the

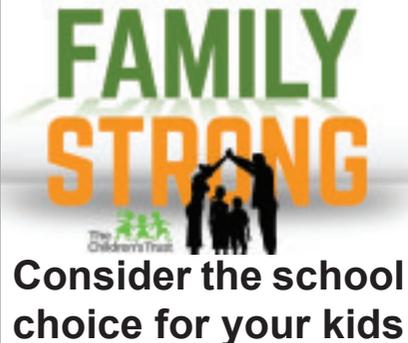
vast collection of the state archives, including the papers of Medgar and Myrlie Evers-Williams.

But Blount said there are gaps in the broader state museum, particularly from the civil rights era.

Museum exhibits, including one on the assassination of Medgar Evers, take visitors through significant events that drove the fight for civil rights forward.

"It was a more recent period, and people don't necessarily think of what they have as artifacts," she said. "And there was also some hesitation until the museum was built and people could see the approach we were taking. I think people were hesitant to let their treasures go."

Please turn to **MUSEUM 7B**



Consider the school choice for your kids

A focused approach to learning may be the key to academic success for some students

The Children's Trust
Special to The Miami Times

Learning isn't a one-size-fits-all experience for children, but a growing trend in education may be the answer for children struggling in classrooms across the nation. School choice, an extensive range of academic programs offering students and their families options to traditional public school, puts the decision where and how children learn in the hands of parents and kids themselves.

Is school choice right for your child? With open enrollment for the 2018-19 school year happening in Miami-Dade County now through January 15, you'll want to learn all you can to make the most educated decision.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

Special-interest programs (like engineering, math, and visual and performing arts) offered by magnet schools attract diverse students from multiple backgrounds.

"These schools integrate our communities and bring kids from all walks of life into one school, because they share a common interest," says Virna Kaufman, director of magnet budgets and operations, Miami-Dade County Public Schools School Choice & Parental Options.

Charter schools are independent public schools allowed the freedom to be more cutting-edge, while still being held accountable for improved student achievement. They foster partnership between parents, teachers and students to create an environment in which parents can be more involved, teachers are given the freedom to innovate and students are provided the structure they need to learn.

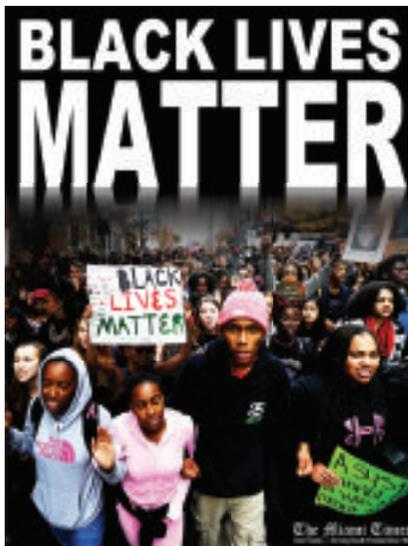
Thematic, curriculum-based programs offered at all grade levels and implemented during the regular school day, known as choice programs, are situated in traditional schools. Different from magnet programs, they are designed for and first offered to students who are assigned to and live within the boundaries of that particular school site.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

With school choice, "students are taking electives in a program of their choice, so they're more motivated," says Kaufman. Children are also able to experience a higher quality and level of education, as additional resources at these schools allow kids to be involved in more activities. For example, says Kaufman, "We've elementary school children coding a program into a robot to enable it to move."

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Different programs have different enrollment requirements, so it's best to contact the school of your choice directly to find out what they are. Proficiency in reading and math is typically a must, and most programs will accept students with a GPA and conduct code of 2.0 or higher. To learn more, go to yourchoicemiami.org or schoolchoicemiami.com.





Rising teen suicides

A SOCIAL MEDIA HEALTH THREAT

By Lindsey Tanner
Associated Press

An increase in suicide rates among U.S. teens occurred at the same time social media use surged and a new analysis suggests there may be a link.

Suicide rates for teens rose between 2010 and 2015 after they had declined for nearly two decades, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Why the rates went up isn't known.

The study doesn't answer the question, but it suggests that one factor could be rising social media use. Recent teen suicides have been blamed on cyberbullying, and social media posts depicting "perfect" lives may be taking a toll on teens' mental health, researchers say.

"After hours of scrolling through Instagram feeds, I



just feel worse about myself because I feel left out," said Caitlin Hearty, a 17-year-old Littleton, Colorado, high school senior who helped organize an offline campaign last month after several local teen suicides.

"No one posts the bad things they're going through," said Chloe Schilling, also 17, who helped with the campaign, in which hundreds of teens agreed not to use the internet or social media for one month.

The study's authors looked at CDC suicide reports from 2009-15 and results of two surveys given to U.S. high school students to measure attitudes, behaviors and interests. About half a million teens ages 13 to 18 were involved. They were asked about use of electronic devices, social media, print media, television and time spent with friends. Questions about mood includ-

ed frequency of feeling hopeless and considering or attempting suicide.

The researchers didn't examine circumstances surrounding individual suicides. Dr. Christine Moutier, chief medical officer at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, said the study provides weak evidence for a popular theory and that many factors influence teen suicide.

The study was published Tuesday in the journal *Clinical Psychological Science*. Data highlighted in the study include:

—Teens' use of electronic devices including smartphones for at least five hours daily more than doubled, from 8 percent in 2009 to 19 percent in 2015. These teens were 70 percent more likely to have suicidal thoughts or actions than
Please turn **SUICIDE 6B**

Six different ways that mobile devices hurt your body

Avoid harm by making a few minor changes

By Leslie Barrie
health.com

But with a few adjustments, you won't have to give up emojis or binge-watching.

NEW RULES FOR SCREEN TIME
You stare at them every day.

Probably for more hours than you gaze at your own kids, partner or dog. We're talking screens, and "all that hunching to look at them can put serious strain on your body," says Kenneth K. Hansraj, MD, chief of spine surgery at New York Spine Surgery and Rehab in New York City. See if your go-to position is a doctor's worst nightmare—and how to fix it for fewer aches and pains.

THE TEXT HUNCH

You know the position: Your head is down, phone at belly-button level and chin tucked in.

How it's hurting you: A study in the journal *Surgical Technology International* found that lowering your head to text puts the force of about 60 pounds (or four bowling balls) on your upper spine.

"Plus, what we're doing isn't a nice, smooth head tilt," says Michelle Collie, a physical therapist and founder of

Performance Physical Therapy in Rhode Island. Adds Dr. Hansraj, "Keeping your head down in this way can speed up your spine's degeneration."

THE LAPTOP SLUMP

You know the position: You're sitting on the couch cross-legged with your laptop on, well, your lap, while you round your back and look down.

How it's hurting you: Not only are you straining your neck, you're also taxing your

lower back. "Holding this position can cause the disks in your lower back to bulge backward, which could eventually lead to issues like a herniated disk," Moreside says. Besides, Dr. Hansraj points out, "if you can get into lotus position, you should probably know better—you've taken yoga or other similar classes and realize what good posture feels like."

THE IPAD THIGH REST

You know the position: You're

sitting in bed with your knees bent, tablet on your thighs and your head thrust forward to look at the screen.

How it's hurting you: "There's really no comfortable and ergonomic way to look at a tablet," Collie says. Sticking your head out to better see the screen creates too much of a neck flex, Moreside says, which can lead to pain. A study from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston found
Please turn to **MOBILE 6B**

CARING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

NORTH SHORE
Medical Center

QUALITY | COMPASSION | COMMITMENT
1100 N W 95TH ST | MIAMI, FL 33150

WWW.NORTHSHOREMEDICAL.COM
305-835-6000

Jackson vows to Liberty City

JACKSON
continued from 1B

recently celebrated my 12th year as pastor. In the middle of experiencing and seeing a lot of things, the Lord placed me right in the middle of it," he said. "We've had challenges, even in this area right around the church. Our church was broken into twice in the same week. We had to block in some of the first-floor windows because of some of the things that were going on. But we persevered, we prayed and we worked hard to establish a good relationship with the community.

Working side by side with his wife, Tanya Jackson, who also serves as executive pastor, the church's community outreach has been impactful. "We've done a tremendous amount work in terms of outreach," said Jackson. "A part of my vision was an academic aftercare for our young people. With all that has been going on with the school system in this area, and the test scores of the young people."

Jackson credits his wife with taking that vision and soaring. "We started an academic intensive aftercare. We prayed about it, my wife wrote a grant, and we received \$1.1 million over a five-year period to serve the children of this community. God is so good. Someone took prayer out of schools, but the Lord put the whole church in the school," he said. The church's program is based at nearby Holmes Elementary and serves the school's older kids. They also have a program here at the church where we work with the younger elementary school kids.

Pastor Tanya Jackson said the couple assessed prospects of the program for a year "to see whether or not, our mission would align with what the need was."

"With that one year, we realized that there was simply no consistency. It was difficult for parents, who don't have an education themselves, to also help children become academically proficient at home to do their part," said Tanya Jackson, a professor at Miami Dade College. "We discovered that basic consistency would help the students along."

Tanya Jackson said their assessment also showed a need for an anti-violence component.

"As children come into the program, and we evaluate them, we will divide them according to their specific needs," she said.

Pastor Dennis Jackson added, "The Lord laid on my heart, not so much to stay in the walls of the church, but to go out and to work with youth and families. So that's our goal!"

Growing up the son of a minister, in Miami, being a preacher was not what the young Dennis Jackson wanted to do. From his days as a student at Miami Norland High School, "I saw the challenges that my father had as a pastor in the inner city, and I saw the scrutiny that pastors get, and that was not one of my career goals or something that I wanted to do. But as I got older and rededicated my life to Christ, I felt a call from God to serve as a minister. The interesting thing, when I spoke to my father about it, he changed the subject, because he did

not want me to go through some of the things he went through. I just felt a restlessness until I yielded to what I felt like God had assigned for me to do."

Dennis Jackson went on to receive his bachelor degree in business management from Bethune-Cookman University. He also has a masters degree from Trinity International University, and now is working on obtaining his doctorate in criminal justice from Nova Southeastern University.

Now, at 48 and entering his 25th year with the Miami Police Department, Jackson is now an assistant police chief in charge of the field operations division. He said he has seen good coming from both the community and the Miami Police Department.

Regarding his church and ministry, Jackson said New Mt. Moriah, is "authentic."

"So much in ministry now is fake. If you are looking for a place to come where the people love the Lord, and the pastor believes in giving God his best, along with the congregation, then this is a place that you can consider," he said.

Whether in uniform, or in a pastor's robe, Pastor Jackson is optimistic about the future. "I have seen some good things from the community, as well as law enforcement," he said, "that give me some hope that all isn't lost."

Have news about a dynamic church ministry or worker? We want to know. Please submit the name of the ministry or the church worker to editorial@miamitimesonline.com. Include the phone number and email address so we can contact you for further discussion.

CHURCH LISTINGS

- AFRICAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**
St. Peter's African Orthodox Cathedral
Bishop George W. Sands
4841 NW 2nd Avenue • 786-360-3302
- CATHOLIC**
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Rev. Alexander Ekechukwu, CSSP
1301 NW 71 Street • 305-691-1701
- BAPTIST**
New Philadelphia Baptist Church
Pastor Rickie K. Robinson Sr.
1113 NW 79th Street • 305-505-0400
- Greater Harvest Baptist Church**
Rev. Kenneth McGee
2310 NW 58th Street • 786-717-5818
- MISSIONARY BAPTIST**
New Christ Tabernacle Church
Rev. Harold Harsh
1305 NW 54th Street • 305-835-2578
- Walking in Christ M.B. Church**
Rev. Larry Robbins, Sr.
3530 NW 214th Street • 305-430-0443
- New Mount Calvary M.B. Church**
Rev. Bernard E. Lang, Pastor/Teacher
7103 NW 22nd Avenue • 305-691-8015
- New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church**
Elder William Walker
5895 NW 23rd Avenue • 305-635-3866
- New Christ Tabernacle M.B. Church**
Rev. Harold Marsh
1305 NW 54th Street • 305-835-2578
- Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church**
Elder Johnnie Robinson
1395 NW 69th Street • 305-835-8316
- Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church**
Rev. Van Gaskins, Jr., Pastor/Teacher
7510 NW 15th Avenue • 305-418-0012
- True Faith Missionary Baptist Church**
Pastor John M. Fair
1890 NW 47th Terrace • 786-262-6841
- AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL**
Metropolitan A.M.E. Church
Rev. Michael H. Clark, Jr., Senior Pastor
1778 NW 69th Street • 305-696-4201
- New Resurrection Community Church**
Rev. Dr. Anthony A. Tate
2167 NW 64th Street • 305-342-7426
- PENTECOSTAL**
New Faith Deliverance Center COGIC
Pastor Dr. Willie Gaines
3257 NW 7th Avenue Circle • 305-335-4389
- NON DENOMINAL**
Yahweh Ministries
Minister Job Israel
Youtube: job yahweh v3
- New Life Christian Center**
Rev. Bruce Payne
5726 Washington Street • 786-536-9039
- MORAVIAN CHURCH**
New Hope Moravian Church
Pastor Gregorio Moody
6001 SW 127th Avenue • 305-273-4047
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Church of Christ at Coconut Grove
Minister William D. Maddox
3345 Douglas Road • 305-448-0504
- ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
Revival Tabernacle Assembly of God
Pastor Leonard Shaw
2085 NW 97th Street • 305-693-1356

Be apart of our Church Listing
Call Today!
305-694-6210

Students perfect the Nutcracker

SEASON
continued from 1B

Charter, just finished performing in the production for her second year.

"The Nutcracker is everything to me, and I just want to do it every year. I just love it so much," Courtney said.

Courtney started at the Miami Gardens site, and now studies at the main site in South Miami for her advanced work. She first started dancing when she was 11.

"When I was younger, me and my sister didn't have anything to do," Courtney said. "My mom wanted us to get out the house. I was 11 and my mom signed us up. I didn't really pay much attention to it, but once I kept going, I really started loving it."

Courtney said her favorite thing about dancing is that she doesn't have to use words to express how she feels.

"These days, it's really hard to express how you feel and with dance you can just get it out without having to use words and just use your body in dif-

ferent ways," she said.

Courtney's mother said she's happy she pushed her daughter to do ballet.

"When she blossomed, I was like 'oh my God, Courtney,'" Marisa Fudge said. "You didn't want to do this, but look at where you are now. Her mannerisms and her attitude and the way she carries herself has changed. That's why I pay for it. It was worth it. She's well-behaved, no problems, she gives 130 percent of whatever she does. It really blossomed her well."

Nicole Richardson's daughter Anaiiah also participated in the Nutcracker production for the second time. She started dancing at the South Miami site about three years ago.

Richardson said dancing has transformed her daughter.

"Yes, this girl was so clumsy!" Richardson said. "Now, everything has changed about her. Her confidence has changed. Overall, I would say on a scale of one to 10, I would say a 10. That's just how much she has improved."

The Nutcracker is a collaboration between Thomas Armour, Youth Ballet and New World School of the Arts. Only students from these two schools participated in the production.

Ruth Wiesen, the director of Thomas Armour Youth Ballet, said selecting dancers can differ by the age.

"All of the elementary age kids basically come to the audition, if they're interested, and we try to accommodate everybody so that it's not an actual audition, so no hearts are broken," Wiesen said. "We make sure there's a place for everyone that shows up."

For students ages 13 to college age, the audition is stricter.

"It's a more strict classical audition because the choreography is classical, difficult choreography, so we need to make sure they're capable of executing the technique," Wiesen said. "It's a serious audition and not everybody gets casted. But usually they go back and audition the next year and they usually get in."

invites interested persons to audition. Call Dr. Tony Siders, 786-530-2855.

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

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

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

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

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

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

World War II hero remembered

MILLER
continued from 1B

to deck and saw that the Japanese planes were still bombing the U.S. Naval Fleet. He picked up a 50-caliber Browning anti-aircraft machine gun on which he had never been trained and managed to shoot down three to four enemy aircrafts. (In the chaos of the attack, reports varied, and not even Miller was sure how many he hit.) He fired until he ran out of ammunition; by then the men were being ordered to abandon ship. The West Virginia had been severely damaged and was slowly sinking to the harbor bottom. Of the 1541 men on board during the

attack, 130 were killed and 52 wounded.

The original newspaper reports noted that a "Negro messman" had behaved heroically. The editors at the Pittsburgh Courier, one of the country's most widely circulated Black newspapers, pounced on that and sent a reporter out to identify the hero. Had this newspaper not been on the case, Dorie Miller probably would never have been identified.

On April 1, 1942 Miller was commended by the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, and on May 27, 1942 he received the Navy Cross for his extraordinary courage in battle. His rank was raised to Mess Attendant First Class on

June 1, 1942.

As happened with other war heroes, Dorie Miller was then sent on a tour in the States to raise money for war bonds, but Miller he was soon called back (spring '43) to serve on the new escort carrier the USS Liscome Bay. The ship was operating in the Pacific near the Gilbert Islands. At 5:10 a.m. on November 24, the ship was hit by a single torpedo fired from a Japanese submarine. The torpedo detonated the bomb magazine on the carrier; the bombs exploded, and the ship sank within minutes. Miller was initially listed as missing; by November 1944 he status was changed to "presumed dead." Only 272 men survived the attack.

Church leaders back Obamacare

LEADERS
continued from 1B

"We are instructed that 'faith without works is dead,'" said Clyburn. "If your brother or sister comes to you hungry or naked — and I believe if James were writing his epistle today, he would add sick — you feed them, you clothe them and provide them with healthcare."

Pastor Marquee Ball of Uplift Church in Laurel, Maryland said that healthcare is not a game to score political points.

"Healthcare is a whole life issue," said Ball.

Uplift Church is just one of the organizing faith partners for the "Soul 2 Enroll" initiative.

That group also includes: the National African American Clergy Network, Joseph A.C. Smith Ministries, the National Action Network, the Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, the Skinner Leadership Institute, The United Church of Christ and Values Partnerships.

During a discussion about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) between congressional and faith leaders, Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, the co-chair of the National African American Clergy Network, said that despite the budget cuts imposed on the ACA by the Trump Administration, the faith community is marching forward.

"The faith community knows how to do one thing: we know how to make bricks with no straw and we're going to do it again," said Williams-Skinner. "Healthcare is not a privilege; it is a right of every child of God." Williams-Skinner continued: "My Bible teaches that Jesus's



Pastor Marquee Ball
Uplift Church



Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner
Co-chair of the National African American Clergy Network

ministry was about healing and helping the afflicted and lifting up those that are wounded...we must do that with the Affordable Care Act."

Reverend De-Ves Toon, the national field director for the National Action Network (NAN) said that NAN has helped to sign people up for healthcare coverage through the ACA since 2013 in more than 100 cities.

"All of our chapters have health and wellness committees that are doing on-the-ground outreach in their respective cities," said Toon. "We just don't focus on this during the open

enrollment period, we do this year-round."

Toon added: "We will continue to do outreach to encourage people who might be afraid of the process to enroll for healthcare under [the Affordable Care Act]."

Sanders said that because of the rich oral tradition of the Black community, everyone from the American Heart Association to local community health centers comes to the doorsteps of the church to promote answers to health problems.

New Mt. Calvary prayer breakfast

The members of New Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 7103 NW 22 Avenue, cordially invites you to their Annual Pastor's Aide Prayer Breakfast, 8 a.m., Saturday, December 16.

The keynote speaker will be Sister Evelyn (Bethune) Elps of New Birth Baptist Church,

where Bishop Victor T. Curry is the pastor. This year's theme: "There is no need to worry, just pray" (Philippians 4:6-7)

Other churches will be participating in this special time of fellowship. All are welcome to attend. Rev. Bernard E. Lang is the senior pastor.

Faith CALENDAR

Compiled by The Miami Times staff editors@miamitimesonline.com

■ **Greater New Bethel Baptist Annex Bldg** in Miami Gardens provides behavioral health, intervention and treatment services for Black men at risk for HIV or substance abuse disorders. Call 305-627-0396.

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

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

■ **The Elks Historical Business and Conference Center** invites you every Sunday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. for Gospel Kick-

back 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.

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

■ **The Alpha Gamma Chapter of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.** invites the public to their 50th Annual Candlelight Vesper Service, Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m. at Mt. Taber Baptist Church.

■ **New Miami Super Choir**

Feeling lonely? It might make you feel sicker

Nine things you can do to help yourself

By Laura Petrecca
USA TODAY

In a candid post about his feelings of loneliness, writer and actor Stephen Fry told those who face the same struggle: "You are not alone in your being alone."

Indeed, the world has plenty of lonely people.

About 20 to 50 percent of us feel lonely at least some of the time, and 5 to 10 percent feel lonely frequently, says University of Chicago Center for Cognitive and Social Neuroscience Director John Cacioppo, citing a pattern from studies of industrialized nations around the globe.

Feelings of isolation can be distressing, distracting and potentially deadly. Studies show that loneliness and social isolation raise the risk for high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, cognitive decline and a host of other health issues.

Loneliness is also incredibly tough to shake. It comes from our own perceptions and desires, so objective numbers and logic don't always help us feel better.

"No matter how many friends one has or how close we are with our families, we all go through periods of intense isolation during which even the supporting words of those well-meaning friends and family aren't enough to lift us up from the mire," pro basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar wrote earlier this month in a column for The Hollywood Reporter.

And Charlotte Yeh, chief medical officer of AARP Services notes that you don't have to be alone to feel lonely. "Isolation and loneliness are two different things," she says. "You can have lots of

friends and be lonely and you can have no friends and not be lonely."

That makes loneliness hard to address. While there are no quick fixes, there are strategies that can help:

BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR MINDSET

Lonely people can automatically put up their guard, which can make it hard to establish those longed-for connections, says Cacioppo. "When you feel isolated, you feel as if there is no one who you can trust," he says. When seeking new relationships, do some introspection to see if "you are simply being overly protective and overly focused on yourself" instead of being open to connecting with new people, he says. While making new relationships, try to be as positive as possible and "expect the best" of others, Cacioppo says.

SEEK OUT LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE

It's often easier to establish a relationship with those who have things in common with you, says Cacioppo, so reach out to individuals and groups with similar "attitudes, interests, activities and values." Finding subjects you can align on will "increase the likelihood that you'll find someone who you can relate to in a positive fashion," he says.

FORTIFY EXISTING BONDS

"Nurture and strengthen existing relationships," advises the AARP Foundation on its Connect2Affect site, which addresses social isolation. "Ask people over for coffee, or invite them to join you for a trip to a museum or a movie." The site says to "schedule a time each day to call a friend or visit someone."



Loneliness is also incredibly tough to shake. It comes from our own perceptions and desires, so objective numbers and logic don't always help us feel better.

MIND YOUR HEALTH

"Take small steps to eat well, take gentle exercise and keep active, all of these things can help you to relax more fully in your own company," advises the United Kingdom's Campaign to End Loneliness. Connect2Affect also suggests that people get involved with group exercise classes and walking clubs.

VOLUNTEER

"For me, the path out of loneliness is to remind myself of my place within my community and to be inspired to do something to have a positive effect on that community," Abdul-Jabbar said in his column. The Campaign to End Loneliness suggests that

people offer time or the use of their skill sets to others. The AARP Foundation has a searchable database that provides volunteer opportunities.

PUT DOWN YOUR PHONE

"It's not that social media and electronics are bad — they are fantastic tools," says Jennifer Caudle, an osteopathic family physician and assistant professor at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. "Sometimes we think we can get by with just our phone and computers, but that's not all we need. We are humans, we need human interaction." For those who can't resist the urge to check their smartphones while with others, Caudle suggests deleting any potentially

addictive apps and setting technology-free times, such as dinnertime or bedtime.

ADOPT TECHNOLOGY WHEN IT'S BENEFICIAL

Communicating digitally can be "very helpful, very useful," for some, such as those who are housebound, says AARP's Yeh. "It doesn't fully replace touch and face-to-face, but it can certainly help." AARP offers online tutorials for those who want to learn more about using social media to connect with others.

SEEK OUT COMMUNITY RESOURCES

"Find out what local activities are being planned and book them up: walks, sing-

ing groups, book clubs and bridge," advises the Campaign to End Loneliness. Older people can find resources in their community via the www.n4a.org site from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, which is an umbrella organization that works as an advocate for older Americans.

CONSIDER PROFESSIONAL HELP

Doctors, psychologists and other professionals can provide assistance. "If you are worried about how you feel and you can't conquer this on your own, that's your signal to reach out for help," says Caudle. "There are things that we can do about this."

WE GOT THIS AD TO LIST THE PROS AND CONS OF QUITTING TOBACCO. WE ONLY NEEDED HALF.

PROS:

- Save \$2000 in 1 year.
- Take a vacation. You have an extra \$2000.
- And add an average of 10 years to your life.
- That's 70 in dog years.
- BTW... dogs lower blood pressure.
- So does quitting tobacco.
- And your risk of heart attack is cut in half after 1 year.
- So you can spend more time with family.
- Unless your family is the reason you smoke.
- In that case, just hang out with the dog.
- Dogs don't judge.
- They do smell bad sometimes.
- But you won't if you quit smoking.
- Neither will your car.
- Nor your clothes.
- Nor your hair.
- Even your nails will be healthier.
- No one likes yellow nails.
- Unless you're a vampire.
- Then it's kinda cool, otherwise...not so much.
- But overall, you'll just look better.
- And stop aging prematurely.
- Which means more swipe rights.
- And less ashtray breath.
- Which means more second dates.
- If you're a parent, your kids will be less likely to smoke if you quit.
- But if they do, you'll be more likely to catch them.
- Cuz your lung function will improve by 30% in 3 months.
- And if you're trying to have kids, it can help prevent low sperm count.
- So you can have the darling rugrats.
- Quitting will also decrease your risk of diabetes.
- And your risk of dying in a fire.
- Because of the whole falling asleep while smoking thing.
- It happens, trust us.
- These are only a few of the pros.
- We'll use both sides next time.

CONS:

Visit tobaccofreeflorida.com/quityourway to access free tools and services like Phone Quit, Group Quit and Web Quit to help you quit your way.



Managing the yearly seasonal blues

You'll be singing 'Jingle Bells' again

By Tina Donvito
Reader's Digest

For many people, "the most wonderful time of the year" is actually really difficult. There's just something about the holidays that seems to tap into all our inner woes and stresses. According to a survey by the American Psychological Association (APA), almost half of all women (44 percent) and a third of men (31 percent) reported an increase in stress around the holidays. Another survey found that almost half of those polled (45 percent) would prefer to skip Christmas altogether! So what can you do? Prioritize what's important, and don't tack on any additional tasks, suggests Margaret Wehrenberg, PsyD, psychologist and author of *The 10 Best-Ever Depression Management Techniques*. "Create a space and a plan for the important things, and then see what

else may fit in around them," she says. "Think ahead about what is always a waste of time in your life and then do not do those things. For example, if you always bake a lot but have most of the cookies and pastries left over, skip it this year." Follow these organizational skills to stress-proof your holiday season.

LET GO OF THE PICTURE-PERFECT HOLIDAY

Thanks to popular culture, we all have an idea of what the holidays are "supposed" to look like — sitting around a fire with family and friends and unwrapping plentiful gifts before a big feast. Unfortunately, this happy picture doesn't reflect many realities of the season. "Unrealistic hopes that everything will be perfect, and that everyone needs to be happy leads to disappointment and frustration, and raises levels of the stress hormone cor-



tisol, which will make you feel edgy and irritable," says Deborah Serani, PsyD, a psychologist, an award-winning author of *Living With Depression*, and a professor at Adelphi University. Instead, "focus on what's 'good enough,'" and make that your mantra. The more realistic you are about the true meaning of the holidays, which is about

celebration and togetherness — not perfection — the more you'll experience well-being." Consider making these unique traditions part of your own family's.

DON'T EXPECT THE HOLIDAYS TO FIX LONGSTANDING TENSIONS

We may want the holiday
Please turn to **BLUES 7B**

Internet is factor in suicide

SUICIDE
continued from 3B

those who reported one hour of daily use. —In 2015, 36 percent of all teens reported feeling desperately sad or hopeless, or thinking about, planning or attempting suicide, up from 32 percent in 2009. For girls, the rates were higher — 45 percent in 2015 versus 40 percent in 2009.

—In 2009, 58 percent of 12th grade girls used social media every day or nearly every day; by 2015, 87 percent used social media every day or nearly every day. They were 14 percent more likely to be depressed than those who used social media less frequently.

"We need to stop thinking of smartphones as harmless," said study author Jean Twenge, a psychology professor at San Diego State University who studies generational trends. "There's a tendency to say, 'Oh, teens are just communicating with their

friends.' Monitoring kids' use of smartphones and social media is important, and so is setting reasonable limits, she said.

Dr. Victor Strasburger, a teen medicine specialist at the University of New Mexico, said the study only implies a connection between teen suicides, depression and social media. It shows the need for more research on new technology, Strasburger said.

He noted that skeptics who think social media is being unfairly criticized compare it with so-called vices of past generations: "When dime-store books came out, when television came out, when rock and roll first started, people were saying 'This is the end of the world.'"

With its immediacy, anonymity, and potential for bullying, social media has a unique potential for causing real harm, he said.

"Parents don't really get that," Strasburger said.

Mobile devices can lead to some real serious, permanent health issues

MOBILE
continued from 3B

that people flexed their heads and necks more when using tablets than when using desktops or laptops.

THE TREADMILL LEAN

You know the position: You're cruising on the treadmill, craning your neck to watch the TV.

How it's hurting you: Angling your neck up to look at a screen on the wall can throw off your balance.

"That in turn can place higher demand on your joints, muscles, ligaments and bones, causing them to fatigue faster," says Jonathan R. Jezequel, director of physical therapy at NYSportsMed in New York City. "When our muscles are fatigued, they no longer reliably do what we perceive as good form may in



Sitting too long with your mobile devices can be detrimental.

reality be poor form."

And moving this way for a while can contribute to recurring injuries like ITB friction

syndrome, where the iliotibial band rubs up against the side of the knee, or patellofemoral pain syndrome, which happens when

the cartilage under the kneecap wears down. Not to mention, twisting to one side to watch a screen will stress muscles on the opposite side of the body, potentially leading to muscle strains in the back, Jezequel adds.

THE COUCH FLOP

You know the position: You're lying on your stomach on the couch, with your tablet on the floor and your head and neck hanging off the side.

How it's hurting you: You're using all your posterior neck muscles to keep your head up. "It's just not a normal position for your neck; gravity is trying to bend it more, and your neck is trying to fight it, so it can lead to a muscle or ligament strain," Collie says. Another likely side effect: back pain. A recent Australian study found that awkward body positions (not unlike this one) can significantly in-

crease a person's risk of lower-back pain.

THE ELBOW BEND

How it's hurting you: Placing all that weight on your elbows and significantly bending them puts direct pressure on the ulnar nerve, located in the groove of the funny bone, which is no laughing matter. "This position can contribute to or exacerbate ulnar nerve compression at the elbow, which is called cubital tunnel syndrome," says Steven Z. Glickel, MD, clinical professor of orthopaedic surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. What does that mean for you? You'll feel numbness and tingling in your ring and little fingers due to pressure on the nerve — and down the line, you might have a decreased ability to pinch your thumb and little finger. Plus, if you

A CASE FOR STANDING DESKS

You really can stand up to back pain. In a study in the journal *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, those who alternated between sitting and standing every 30 minutes when working reported fewer musculoskeletal symptoms in their lower back and 14 percent fewer in their ankles and feet, compared with when they sat all day. As a bonus, they also had more energy. Can't convince your boss to spring for one? Reap the same benefits by standing often at work, even taking calls on your feet; at home, move your laptop to the kitchen island so you can stand while you check email.

ATTENTION MEDICARE PATIENTS

An Important Message From Baptist Health South Florida

If you Snooze you could lose the Healthcare you love



The 2018 Medicare annual enrollment period runs through December 7.

Now is the time for Medicare beneficiaries to choose their coverage for next year. The first decision seniors need to make: choose Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan provided by a private insurance company.

Baptist Health accepts Original Medicare and Medicare Supplemental Plans (sometimes called "Medigap" insurance) offered by private companies that pay for out-of-pocket costs not covered by Medicare.

Baptist Health facilities in Miami-Dade and Broward counties will accept the following Medicare Advantage Plans in the coming year.



• AvMed Medicare Choice (HMO)



• Coventry Vita Medicare Plan (HMO)
• Coventry Vita Medicare Plan (HMO SNP)

Accepted by all Baptist Health entities except Baptist Hospital of Miami, Baptist Outpatient Services and Baptist Health Medical Group.



• BlueMedicare Classic (HMO)
• BlueMedicare Classic Plus (HMO)
• BlueMedicare Premier (HMO)
• BlueMedicare Complete (HMO SNP)



• Medica HealthCare Plans MedicareMax Plus (HMO SNP)
• Medica HealthCare Plans MedicareMax (HMO)

Medicare Advantage Plans are offered by private insurance companies and replace Original Medicare coverage. These plans generally offer benefits provided by Original Medicare, but they require that you obtain your healthcare through their private network of hospitals and doctors. There are no Medicare Advantage (HMOs) licensed in Monroe County, but members of Medicare Advantage Plans can use Mariners Hospital in Tavernier or Fishermen's Hospital in Marathon in an emergency.

Baptist Health does not accept members from noncontracted Medicare Advantage Plans for elective services. Baptist Health is not a provider for any Medicare Private Fee for Service (PFFS) or Medicare Advantage Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Plans.

Choose your insurance plan wisely. Choose a plan that includes Baptist Health.

Learn more about medical plans that include Baptist Health, Baptist Health Medical Group and Baptist Health Quality Network doctors at 786-662-7667 or visit BaptistHealth.net/InsurancePlans.

Baptist Health South Florida

Healthcare that Cares

Baptist Health joined Baptist Health South Florida on October 1. For the time being, Baptist Health hospitals and outpatient centers and the Baptist Health Provider Group will maintain separate participation agreements with insurance companies. You may view the list of Baptist Health's accepted insurance plans by visiting BaptistHealth.com/InsurancePlans/BBH.

*Baptist Health does not participate in or accept any Medicare Select Plans.

Any decision regarding a consumer's choice of a Medicare plan is solely that of the enrollee. For full details about your Medicare choices, visit Medicare.gov.

Museum let's you visit Mississippi's vivid, storied past

MUSEUM
continued from 2B

PAINFUL MEMORIES ON DISPLAY

Another major contribution came from the family of murdered Hattiesburg NAACP leader Vernon Dahmer. He was targeted for offering to pay the poll tax for African-Americans who wanted to vote.

Dahmer was killed in 1966 when the KKK firebombed his home and surrounded it, waiting to shoot anyone who tried to escape.

While her husband fought off the attackers with a shotgun from the front of the house, Ellie Dahmer busted a back window to get out with her children. The 92-year-old said she never thought she would see it documented in a museum.

"We lived it," she said. "And some of them died with it. The rest of Mississippi needs to know about it."

Museum director Junior showed the Dahmer family a photograph of the four oldest sons who returned from the military after their father was killed. They stood somberly by the remains of the family home.

"You see the brothers all with uniforms on," Junior said. "His sons were fighting for America, and Mr. Dahmer was here in Mississippi fighting to be an American."



Bettie Dahmer (left), with her mother, Ellie, said her father "was simply trying to make the world better for his children and other children."

Vernon Dahmer Jr., the eldest son, stopped to gather himself when he saw the picture.

"That was a tough day," he said. "To have to come home and look at where we were raised and reflect back on the memories of growing up. And it didn't need to happen."

He is moved by the museum's treatment of Mississippi's brutal past.

"We've come a long way, and it's something we can all be proud of," Dahmer Jr. said. "Got a long way to go."

He said he is pleased and proud to see the exhibit on his father and Mississippi's other civil rights martyrs.

"It represents well what Mississippi stands for and what we've gone through," he said.

His brother Dennis Dahmer was 11 when the KKK attacked. He said they came to send a message not long after passage of the Voting Rights Act.

To terrorize Black folks and people sympathetic to Black folks," he said. "This is still Mississippi, and this is the kind of stuff that can happen to you."

The Dahmers said Mississippi's state flag with its Confederate emblem sends just as chilling a message.

"We can't get rid of the flag," Ellie Dahmer said. "How can

they put up a museum like this?"

SLOW PROGRESS

Despite a confession from one of the Klansmen, it was more than 30 years before Mississippi convicted a KKK grand wizard for Dahmer's murder.

Ellie Dahmer said it's up to white people to see it through. "If as many of them will stand as the Blacks did in '66, we will change in Mississippi," she said. "But you all are going to have to stand. We've

already stood."

Her daughter, Bettie Dahmer, was burned in the January 1966 attack. She's thankful for the exhibit and thinks the museum is a powerful teaching tool. But she is not so sure her dad would approve.

"This is just not my daddy's thing," she said. "Accolades, no, he wasn't looking for that. He was simply trying to make the world better for his children and other children."

Now, a new controversy has put Mississippi in the spot-

light after Gov. Bryant invited Trump to the museum's opening. Lewis and Thompson of Mississippi said it's an insult for Trump to come given his response to white nationalist rallies and other racially divisive comments.

The White House issued a statement saying it's "unfortunate" that Lewis and Thompson won't join the president in honoring the "incredible sacrifice civil rights leaders made to right the injustices in our history."

Coping with those holiday blues

BLUES
continued from 6B

season to lead to making amends with loved ones, but it may not always be possible in such a short time, especially when holiday prep triggers stress. "People want the holiday time to make up for family and personal tensions that exist throughout the year," Wehrenberg says. "This myth of forgiveness and reunion is fed by numerous stories on TV programs and movies." Although there's nothing wrong with wanting to ease any conflicts, it's important to manage expectations with others—they won't just change overnight. "Avoid falling into old behavioral patterns with others by being aware of them before you arrive," Serani adds. Read more about the psychology behind sibling estrangement here.

PLAN AHEAD TO AVOID TRIGGERS OF LOSS

The season has a tendency to magnify the people or things we're missing in our lives. According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, feelings of grief and loss are heightened during the holidays. "Espe-

cially if it's the first holiday after a divorce or death, or if you're alone, you may be missing someone so much that it makes your holiday traditions feel empty," Serani says. "It can also be hard to feel like celebrating or get into a festive spirit if you're moving through a difficult time like illness, financial hardship, job loss, or other stressful experiences." If old traditions are too painful, Serani suggests planning new ones in order to take control and

move through the challenges you're facing. Volunteering is another way to feel needed again if you're alone for the first time. Most importantly, don't ignore the elephant in the room. "Talk freely about what you have enjoyed with your loved one in the past—for example ask, 'Wouldn't my mother have loved to be here for this?'" Wehrenberg says. "Preventing the loss did not occur tends to make it worse." Here are things you should avoid saying to a widow.

DEATH NOTICE

Death Notice

MINISTER MARCIA SCREEN, 64, co-pastor of New Vision for Christ and wife of Pastor Michael Screen died December 8. Viewing 6-9 p.m., Friday at New Vision for Christ Ministries. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at New Vision. Arrangements entrusted to Royal Funeral Service.




Grants for Youth Development Services

(Grades K-12)

The Children's Trust announces a competitive, public funding solicitation to award five-year grants in the following categories:

- After-school programs
- Summer camps
- Youth enrichment programs

For application details visit thechildrenstrust.org/grants

Register in advance for an application training on December 14, 15 or 18.

Application deadline: January 30, 2018

The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue Established by voter referendum to improve the lives of Children and families in Miami-Dade County. **Because All Children Are Our Children**

The Miami Times Church Directory

<p>Apostolic Revival Center 6702 N.W. 15th Avenue 305-836-1224</p>  <p>Dr. & Mrs. G. S. Smith</p>	<p>Liberty City Church of Christ 1263 N.W. 67th Street 305-836-4555</p>  <p>Evangelist Eric W. Doss</p>	<p>New Vision For Christ Ministries 13650 N.E. 10th Avenue 305-899-7274</p>  <p>Rev. Michael D. Screen</p>	<p>Brownsville Church of Christ 4561 N.W. 33rd Court 805-634-4300 / fax 805-634-6404</p>  <p>Min. Harrell L. Henton</p>	<p>93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church 2330 N.W. 93rd Street 305-630-0142</p>  <p>Pastor Rev. Carl Johnson</p>	<p>St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church 1470 N.W. 87th Street 305-691-8861</p>  <p>Rev. Dr. C.A. Ivery, Pastor</p>
<p>Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church 5946 N.W. 12th Avenue 305-751-9323</p>  <p>Pastor Douglas Cook, Sr.</p>	<p>New Birth Baptist Church, The Cathedral of Faith International 2300 N.W. 135th Street</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 (Office) 954-962-9327</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>Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins</p>		

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

Range-Coconut Grove

LLOYD B. BALLARD, 67, educator, died December 5 at Jackson South Community Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Glendale Baptist Church.



OLA LEE EDWARDS, 105, domestic, died December 6 at home. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at St. Mary First Missionary Baptist Church.



NATHANIEL EVANS, 80, maintenance worker, died December 1 at Mercy Hospital. Service 3 p.m., Saturday at Beulah Baptist Church.



Range

DOROTHY MULLINS TURNER, 74, retired postal worker for United States Postal Service, died December 7. Survivors include her husband, Abraham Turner, Jr.; son, William Robinson; daughters, Kimberly Brennan, Christina McNair and Leslie Houston; grandsons, Spencer Brennan and Andrew Brennan; granddaughters, Christa McNair, Victoria Houston, and Jordan Houston; a host of other relatives and friends. Graveside services were held.



LLEWELLYN S. MCKALLY, 62, laborer, died December 6. Private services were held.

EUGENNE M. MYRIE, 83, retired hospital management administrator for Service Master Industries died December 5. Service 8:30 a.m., today at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

CNNOR A. MINCEY, 22 months, died December 3. Service 10 a.m., today in the chapel.

PAMELA LAVERNE RECKLEY, 48, secretary, died November 30. Final rites in Nassau, Bahamas.

Gregg L. Mason

VINCENT THOMAS BANKS, 64, retired clerk, U.S. Postal Service, died December 6. Survivors include: wife, Gwendolyn; one daughter, Latavia (Vernon) Carey; four grandchildren, Vernon, Jr., Jaylen, Taelyn and Dwyer; one brother, Charles Jackson; three sisters, Joanne Mobley, Alfreda Felton and Diane Banks; other relatives and friends. Viewing 5-8 p.m., Friday at St Paul A.M.E. Church, 1866 NW 51 Terrace. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at the church. Entombment: Caballero Rivero Southern.



Hall Ferguson Hewitt

JOHNNIE LEE WALKER, 89, environmental supervisor, died December 7 at Franco's Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Westview Baptist Church.



ARDEAN CULMER, 57, case manager, died December 10 at home. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.



CHRISTINE

Richardson

SADIE LEE MORGAN, 83, homemaker, died December 6. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



DARKISHA HOLT, 23, sales clerk, died November 22. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church.



GUSTAVOUS DAMES, 39

laborer, died December 5. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.



Hadley Davis MLK

EUGENE FREEMAN, 67, custodian, died December 10 at home. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church.



HORACE MILTON BLACK, 78

battery technician, died December 10 at Vitas North Shore Hospital. Service 2 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Wright and Young

AUDREY ROLLE, 85, housewife, died December 7. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at Peace Missionary Baptist Church.



MINNIE HERMITT, 68, postal worker, died December 8. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Miracle Valley Temple Church.



STELLA WILL FAISON, 91

housewife, died December 11. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at 93rd St. Community Baptist Church.



LAURA LEE RENFROE, 77

environmental services, died December 1. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Cornerstone Bible Fellowship Church.



Eric S. George

BABY JAHNAI CLEMENT, 3, died December 5. Service 11 a.m., today at Vista Memorial Gardens.

VERECA WILLIAMS, 83, died December 5. Services were held.

SHANE BURGESS, 26, construction, died December 5. Services were held.

Eric S. George

IDA BELL MAJOR-BARKLEY, 5, died December 5. Service 11 a.m., Friday in the chapel.



Paradise

BEVERLY WILLIAMS, 81, died December 5 at home. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at St. John A.M.E. Church.



DERRIN JEMARCUS WARE, 28, died December 6. Service 2 p.m., Saturday, December 16 in the chapel.



Hadley Davis Miami Gardens

FAUSTINO MENDOZA, 81, died December 7 at home. Service 1 p.m., Friday in the chapel.



WILLIE ROGERS DARBY, 61

died December 5 at home. Service 12 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



RAUL ANTONIO GARCES, 60, driver, died November 27 at home. Services were held.

BABY NEELY, 6, died December 6 at Joe Dimaggio Children's Hospital. Services were held.

Boyd Panciera

MARGARET WILLIAMSON, 82, registered nurse/teacher, died December 7. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at The Sterling Aventura, 183 Street, Aventura, Florida 33160.



Manker

WILLIE MAE MONROE, 88, died December 3 at Jackson Memorial Medical Center. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Changing Life Deliverance Church.



THAD NOLAN COLLINS, JR., 63, pipe fitter, died December 2 at home. Services were held.

MARK ANTHONY ROJAS, 49, died November 4 at home. Services were held.

Caballero Rivero

JANICE COMMONS, 57, customer service representative, died December 4. Service 11 a.m., Saturday, December 16 in the chapel.



In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



MARY ALICE DAVIS
01/16/1941 - 12/13/2002

Fifteen years since we been apart. Missing and loving you, Mom, with all our hearts. Love, Robin and family.

Range-Homestead

LATONYA S. HOWARD, 42, human resources, died November 30 in Houston, TX. Services were held.

ANNETHER ROBINSON, 58, bus driver. Services were held.

Death Notice



ALICIA D. ROUNDTREE, 43, caseworker, died December 9. Service 11 a.m., Saturday, December 16 at Antioch of Miami Gardens. Arrangements entrusted to Grace Funeral Home.

A local, beloved warrior dies at 22

CARLTON LEE BUTLER was born in North Miami Beach, Florida on July 05, 1995, to Lisa Lee Butler. On November 25, the Warrior gates to Heaven, opened to receive Carlton Lee Butler as he was granted his wings.

Carlton was a very energetic, motivate, determine, lovable and kind young man. At an early age, Carlton became a member of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, where he received Christ.

Carlton started out his education at the very early age of three years old, where he attended Colonel Zubkoff Headstart. He moved on to Oak Grove Elementary school in August 2000. Following Oak Grove, he attended John F. Kennedy Middle in 2004, where he met a numerous of friends. While attending John F. Kennedy Middle his interest in the Military sparked.

Upon entering his freshman year of high school in 2008, Carlton joined the J.R.O.T.C. program where he excelled tremendously and made a lifelong impressions on those around him. During this time, he found his love for the Military life. On June 22, 2014, upon graduating from North Miami Beach Senior High School, Carlton began his career in the United States Army.

In December 2014, Specialist Carlton L. Butler was assigned to Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He performed excel-

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



GWENDOLYN JUMILLE ANDERSON ERWIN
05/04/1943 - 12/01/2016

It has been a year since you transcended, your life was a blessing. Your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond measure. You are forever in our hearts.

Your daughter, Margo; granddaughters, Brittnei Scott, Richee Scott; grandson, Richard Scott, Jr.; son-in-law, Richard Scott.

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,



YVONNE J. SMITH
12/12/1940 - 10/26/2015

It's been two years since you left and sadness is in our heart knowing you are no longer there.

We miss you much, your sons, Kevin and Ronald; sister, brother and grand kids. Deeply miss you.

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,



LEON ATCHISON
12/17/1949 - 11/27/2016

You will always be in our hearts forever. Sadly missed by your wife, Bella; daughter, Tamiya Brooks and grandchildren.

Card of Thanks

The family of the late,



JOHNNIE LEE BROWN

wish to express our appreciation to our friends, neighbors, church family, the men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Sister Elizabeth Brown and Nat's Catering for the love and many kind acts shown during our time bereavement.

From Mother Christine Heath; son, Kareem Brown and family.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



GLORIA L. GREEN
02/28/1925 - 12/14/2016

To some you are forgotten, to some you are of the past. But to us, the ones who lost you, your memories will always last.

Your Family

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



JOHNNY (JAKE) and MAE PINSON

Dear Mom and Dad, We often think of days gone by, how one year has come. God saw both of you getting tired, A curse was not to be. So He put His arms around the both of you and whisper "Come to my kingdom with me." With tearful eyes we watched the both of you fade away! Although we loved the both of you so dearly, we could not make the both of you stay! Two golden hearts stop beating and God took the both of you to prove to us He only take the best! You were soulmates in everyone eyes and God knows the both of you were the best. The both of you will be forever missed and will always remain in our hearts.

Love you always, your son, Derek; your daughter, Tawanna and grandson, Otis; sisters, Clarethia and Sandra; brother, James.

BLACK ARCHIVES TURNS 40

CELEBRATION INCLUDED MUSIC, NEW EXHIBIT ON BLACK COMIC STRIP CHARACTERS

Miami Times Staff Report



Legacy Award recipient Garth Reeves Sr. and founder of Black Archives Dorothy Jenkins.

For four decades, Miami's Black Archives has captured photographs, artifacts and snippets of history of the people and community.

On Dec. 6, the organization officially celebrated its founding, while honoring men and women who've contributed to Miami's growth and development.

Hundreds of people gathered at the Black Historic Lyric Theater Cultural Arts Complex in Overtown to salute key leaders and observe a milestone anniversary.

"Happy 40th Black Archives! Let's Celebrate," yelled host and emcee Rickey Smiley from the high tech stage at the Funk, Art & Soul Weekend Kick-Off event.

It was the vision of founder Dorothy Jenkins Fields in 1977 that has evolved into an Overtown staple as explained by executive director, Timothy A. Barber.

"The vision of Dr. Fields has brought us here to celebrate the Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South

Florida's 40th Anniversary."

It began as a repository to hold secure the story of Black leaders, families and historic events. For decades the Black Archives has been committed to identifying, collecting, preserving and educating the people of African descent in South Florida.

This premise has grown also into a thriving source of nightlife entertainment for Historic Overtown. The Black Archives added to its service of preservation by acknowledging South Florida's trailblazers with The Inaugural Black Archives Honor Awards Presentation.

The first award was for community development and was presented to Commissioner Keon Hardemon, City of Miami, District 5 and Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, Miami-Dade County, District 3.

The award for civic engagement was presented to Russell Benford, Vice President of Government Relations America for Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and former Miami-Dade County deputy mayor. The

Please turn to **ARCHIVES 4C**



Patricia Jennings Braynon, chairman of the Black Archives board of directors.



The award for civic engagement was presented to Russell Benford, vice president of government relations at Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.



Colbert bandleader Jon Batiste comes to Arsht Center

Musician featured in jazz performance

Miami Times Staff Report

Jon Batiste, the musician who leads Steven Colbert's house band on the Late Show each week night, will make his debut at the Arsht Center in Miami.

Hailed by critics as one of the most innovative and uplifting bands on the music scene today, Jon Batiste and Stay Human will perform 8 p.m. Dec. 15 at the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall.

Batiste is an internationally acclaimed musician, bandleader and composer. Born into a long lineage of New Orleans musicians, Batiste is a graduate of The Juilliard School with a master's degree.

As an educator and television personality, he spreads his unbridled optimism coupled with a profound understanding of the arts. After gradu-

ating, he toured globally with Stay Human, and currently appears nightly on national television as the bandleader and musical director on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." Jon is a Forbes 30 under 30 honoree, musical director for The Atlantic and creative director of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem.

He balances a demanding performance schedule with speaking engagements, curating events, occasional acting and producing opportunities, all while relentlessly composing new music. His latest album "Social Music," spent over a month atop the Billboard and iTunes jazz charts as the #1 jazz album in the world.

"We are very excited to present the extraordinary talent of Jon Batiste and Stay Human for the first time on our



Jon Batiste makes his South Florida debut at the Arsht Center.

—Photos courtesy of Sasha Israel

Knight Concert Hall Stage. He is carrying the torch for a new generation of jazz masters and the joyful atmosphere he creates at his concerts is sure to have everyone dancing in the aisles," said Liz Wallace, vice president, programming at the Arsht Center.

Shelly Berg, Jazz Roots artistic advisor said Batiste has become one of jazz music's great ambassadors and innovators, developing new expressions while drawing upon his New Orleans roots.

"Jon is devoted to America's art form as a musician, performer and educator which exemplifies the spirit in which the Jazz Roots program was established 10 years ago," Berg said.

Tickets can be purchased through the Adrienne Arsht Center Box Office at 1300 Biscayne Blvd., by calling (305) 949-6722, or online at arshtcenter.org/jazz.

ART + TECH

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

AT NO COST TO YOU

NOW THROUGH
DECEMBER 14

(MONDAYS - THURSDAYS)
3:30 TO 5:00 PM

ARTS ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE
190 FISHERMAN STREET, 2ND FLOOR • OPA LOCKA, FL 33064

GRADES 6-9

- ✓ MUSIC PRODUCTION
- ✓ DANCE
- ✓ CREATIVE WRITING
- ✓ ROBOTICS
- ✓ MOBILE APPS LAB
- ✓ MAKER
- ✓ VISUAL & MEDIA ARTS

GRADES 3-5

- ✓ DANCE
- ✓ MINI MAKERS

REGISTER NOW!

INFO@ARTSACADEMYNORTH.ORG • 786-534-4528



This is available on XFINITY Stream app

The best scene of all

The best action, comedy, and drama happen when screens are down, devices are off and you're tuned in to the ones you love. This holiday, connect with each other because with the X1 DVR, you can record up to six shows at once. Plus, enjoy instant access to the most free TV shows and movies with XFINITY On Demand -- you'll never miss a thing. Also, with XFINITY xFi, you get the speed, coverage, and control you need. XFINITY will change the way you celebrate the holidays.



Features apply to available services. XFINITY On Demand requires XFINITY Stream. XFINITY On Demand is available on XFINITY Stream services only. XFINITY On Demand is available on XFINITY Stream services only. © 2017 Comcast. All rights reserved.





IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU:

A raw, pointed revival at Alvin Ailey

Ghrai DeVore and Rachael McLaren (in red) rehearsing Jawole Willa Jo Zollar's "Shelter" at the Ailey studios.

—Photo credit: Andrea Mohin/The New York Times

By Brian Seibert
The New York Times

In the big, light-filled studios of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's luxurious Midtown home, many of the company's women have been playing games. A dancer falls,

and everyone else has to catch her: a trust-building exercise, common in acting classes and corporate retreats.

At a rehearsal last week, the raucously laughing dancers were having such a good time that anyone outside the studio might have been surprised to

learn that they were preparing "Shelter," a work that frankly addresses the pain and isolation of homelessness.

Created in 1988 by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar for her company, Urban Bush Women, "Shelter" was first performed by the Ailey troupe in 1992

and remained a popular work in its repertoire for much of the next decade. After a 15-year break, the company is bringing it back on Dec. 12.

That's right in the middle of the five-week Ailey season at City Center (Nov. 29 to Dec. 31), which, as usual, boasts a

few world premieres: "Victoria" by the Spanish choreographer Gustavo Ramirez Sansano; and "Members Don't Get Weary," the first piece for the company by one of its star dancers, Jamar Roberts. But for a repertory company like Ailey, revivals can be as important

as attention-grabbing debuts. The decades-old "Shelter" may be the work that speaks most strongly to the anxieties of the moment.

As Zollar recalled after coaching the Ailey dancers last week, the original Urban Bush Please turn to **AILEY 5C**

ONLY
THE Times
WILL TELL ...

the legacy continues

01.03.2018

WWW.MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM



Art Basel Miami Beach—plus rivals for attention

Museum debuts, vivid installations and the fair itself compete for hordes of collectors and millions of dollars

By Kelly Crow
The Wall Street Journal

As Art Basel Miami Beach celebrates its Sweet Sixteen, the parties down the block are louder than ever. This year, a glut of competing art events has put pressure on the fair to wrangle collectors' attention. Of course, the main event, which started in 2002, retains its art-world cachet as the year's last

Miami Beach, "Planet of the Apes"-style. Miami's museums have also jockeyed for time. The Institute of Contemporary Art in Miami is using fair week to open its new, expanded building. Earlier this week, the Bass Museum of Art opened an exhibition of the often-surreal work of Argentine Mika Rotenberg to showcase its own recent overhaul. But fair organizers said

rocks in oversize metal rings, and Ugo Rondinone piled rocks into colorful totems. At Revolver Gallery, artist Ishmael Randall-Weeks set chunks of silver and copper on a rotating, circular staircase that led to nowhere. Other artists like Carl Mannov toyed with furniture, turning sofas on their sides or attaching oversize claw feet to metal desks. Major sales included Hauser & Wirth's \$9.5 million sale of



Lucy Dodd's "Jupiter's Folly."

—Photo: Elizabeth Lippman For The Wall Street Journal



Serge Alain Nitegeka's "Found Form IV," left, and "Found Form V."

—Photo: Elizabeth Lippman For The Wall Street Journal

art-buying hurrah, drawing the usual hordes of collectors wearing chunky neon sneakers and flip-flops.

But all over town, artists have set up eye-candy installations. They range from a colorful neon-lined nightclub with a black-and-white interior designed by German artist Carsten Höller to a group of spindly turrets and gilded pianos that Miami artist Peter Tunney salvaged from an Atlantic City casino and half-buried in the sand beyond the Faena Hotel

collectors are still carving out time to shop. Hundreds lined up outside the Miami Beach Convention Center on Wednesday morning to attend the fair's VIP preview, including celebrities like actor Brad Pitt, supermodel Cindy Crawford and pop singer Ricky Martin. Organizers expect at least 70,000 people to attend the fair before it ends on Sunday. Boulders and rocks turned up in artworks throughout the fair this time around. Berlin artist Alicja Kwade suspended

Bruce Nauman's suspended foam creatures, "Untitled (Two Wolves, Two Deer), 1989," to an Asian collector. The gallery also sold a triptych by abstract painter Mark Bradford for \$5 million. Pace Gallery sold Yoshitomo Nara's 2012 painting of a "Young Mother" for \$2.9 million. With some exceptions, most of the first-day sales hovered around \$1 million or less.

Plenty of dealers also brought lesser-known artists, betting on the fair's reputation



Peter Tunney's "The Sinking of the Taj Mahal," installed at Faena Hotel Miami Beach.

—Photo: Elizabeth Lippman



The exterior of the new building for the Institute of Contemporary Art in Miami.

—Photo: Iwan Baan



Channing Hansen's "Software."

—Photo: Mark Blower

for transforming young or overlooked creators into international stars. A few highlights:

FRANCESCA DIMATTIO
The daughter of a New York ceramist, this artist first broke

through as a painter but has lately won raves for her topsy-turvy vases and ceramic sculptures that sit at the intersection of anthropomorphism and "Alice in Wonderland." Major collectors like Dennis Scholl,

Charles Saatchi and Anita Zabludowicz have purchased her work. For the fair, Salon 94 showed "Boucheruite V," a new glazed porcelain and stoneware piece that looks like a

Please turn to **ART 6C**

A night of celebration for 40 years of Miami's Black Archives

ARCHIVES
continued from 1C

Entrepreneurship Award was presented to writer and musician Luther Campbell. The Innovation Award went to Black Tech & Code Fever co-founder Felecia Hatcher. The Legacy Award was presented to Garth Reeves Sr. for the Miami Times on behalf of his parents Henry E.S. Reeves and Rachel Jane Cooper Reeves. The newspaper is South Florida's oldest news outlet serving the Black community.

Dorothy Jenkins Fields was presented with the Visionary Award in honor of her community foresight to preserve "our" history. The celebration featured the unveiling of the new exhibition "Funky Turns 40: Black Character Revolution." The exhibition showcased cartoons and

animated images with all African-American casts from the '70s. Guests reminisced and sang along with jingles from cartoons like "Fat Albert" and "The Cosby Kids" and "Verb" from "SchoolHouse Rock." Showcased in the exhibit are original drawings and original production cels from "I Am The Greatest: The Adventures of Muhammad Ali," "The Brown Hornet, and Lieutenant Uhura from Star Trek: The Animated Series."

"The Funky Turns 40: Black Character Revolution" represents 24 animated productions, including Saturday mornings, after school cartoons and animated feature films. With more than 300 pieces of Black animation art from the 1960s and '70s, "Funky Turns 40: Black Character Revolution" is part of that collection believed to be one of the world's most exten-



Miami Black Archives' executive director, Timothy Barber and founder, Dorothy Jenkins Fields.

—Photos courtesy of Adrian Freeman



R&B band Midnight Starr provided entertainment at the Miami Black Archives celebration.

sive in the field of art. The showcase includes original animations, posters, storyboards and other objects ce-

lebrating Black culture of the 1970s. The exhibition will be on display through February 2018.

THE Social WHIRL

By Vernda-Rei Gibson VerndaL43@gmail.com



This last month of the year has been filled with so many memories for so many in our Black community. **FAMU** alumni are so very proud of **Keisha Lance Bottoms**, daughter of the late R&B singer **Major Lance** who is known for the song 'Do the Monkey.' **Bottoms** is the new mayor of Atlanta and a **FAMU** grad. **Bottoms** is a lawyer and has been a member of the Atlanta City Council since January 4, 2010, representing part of Southwest Atlanta.



BOTTOMS

In 2017, she was a candidate in the Atlanta mayoral election, in which she finished in first place, with 26 percent of the vote. Because she received less than a majority of the vote, as required for an outright win, she faced and defeated the runner-up, **Mary Norwood**, in a runoff election that occurred on December 5. Congratulations. We certainly will watch out for Black women in 2018!

It was a celebration filled with nostalgia for **Andrea**

Robinson as she was recognized and thanked for her hard work and dedication as the 2016 and 2017 president of Gamma Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. The new president is **Tara Pasteur**.

Miami Northwestern are the new champs and the Bull nation has every right to boast. Class of '59 grad **Jackie Rawls** came up with an innovative idea for alumni, friends, family to show support and encouragement by purchasing jackets for members of the team. **Jackie** says, "Please make your checks out today for our football players if you, or yours attended or worked at the 'West'. Please write **BULL Jackets** on the memo line and send to Liberty Square Projects 1165 N W 109 St Miami, FL 33168. They have it all set up for you.

And please allow me to share a personal moment with each of you. On Saturday, my first grandchild, **Laura Marie Eve-Smith** and **Paul Lindsey**

were married at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Liberty City. You can only imagine the feelings and that flooded me. First of all, the rapid passing of time from her birth, 23 years ago until now, and all of the times. Our lives are marked with these passages of time.



PASTEUR

On the journey we make memories every day. Secondly, we cross thresholds and they are wonderful reminders of our personal growth in remembering and growing older gracefully. It was an evening filled with a spirit of support and love for my family and I. Old friends, family smiling a few tears, and many prayers. Reverend **James Bell** organist, filled the church with familiar songs and hymns prior to the service. **Kenneth Lindsey**, brother of the groom was best man, with groomsmen **Ryan Piggie**, **Michael Radar**, **Deshawn Bush** and **Michael Smith Jr.** Bridesmaids were **Wilmaide Charles**, **Ashley Juanita Clarke**, **Millicent Natalia Smith**, **Alexandria Poitier**, **Kourtney Butler**, **Stephanie Hawley**, **Quanik James**. Other members of the bridal party included the flower girl and my

youngest grandchild **Jasmine Malia Gibson** and ring bearers, **Masters David James Smith** and **Joseph Ernest Smith, II**, all entering to the **Bach's 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring**. The bride, escorted by her father, **Michael David Smith Sr.** entered with the traditional wedding march from **Wagner**.

The wedding service was performed by Interim Rector **Rev. Errol Harvey** while **Pastor Emeritus Rev. J. Kenneth Major** gave the homily, and **Laura's beloved** childhood priest, rector and pastor, **Rev. Richard L. Barry** read the gospel and gave the blessing to the **Laura and Paul** at the end of the service. Other members of the clergy present were **Father John Jarrett** and **Pastor Alice Hooker**, from **Paul's** church, **Works for Christ Christian Center** in Sanford, N.C. Participants during the ceremony were **Richard L. M. Barry II**, **Laura's Godbrother**, **uncle James M. "Jimmy" Gibson III** and **uncle Carolyn Denise Smith**. Coordinators **Dr. Ingrid Butler**, **Cheeseborough**, **Angenorina Paschal Powell**, **Mercita Wimberly** and **Marsha James** indeed did an admirable job, as did all hostesses and



Paul and Laura Lindsey

ushers which included **Caleb Burke**, **James H. Smith IV**, **Miss Maya Walker**, **Miss Lailah Rutledge**. Reception ceremonies were led by **Joni Poitier, Esq.** and **Cecelia Natalia Bland**. Myself, along with paternal grandparents **Mr. and Mrs. James (Carolyn) Henry Smith, Jr.** were filled and full surrounded by the many other relatives and guests and indeed, the night was filled with music and laughter.

Two families now connected in Florida and North Carolina. I'm picturing now enjoying a

Thanksgiving or Christmas in North Carolina. (SMILE) *Life is indeed a journey. Sometimes we don't know what to pack or what the weather will be like. We can over pack our lives with things that aren't necessary or important. The road are often twisted, or filled with pot holes. The best advice is to pack faith, filled with love and to always bring friends.* *Thank you, as we continue our journey Living, Praying, Loving, Laughing, Singing and Dancing in the Whirl. Continued Blessings.*

'Shelter' remake hits the Alvin Ailey stage after 15-year break

AILEY
continued from 3C

Women production of "Shelter," half of a larger work called "Heat," arose from her shock at the prevalence of homelessness in New York City — and more, from her shock at losing that sense of shock. "I realized that as a coping mechanism I had stopped seeing the people who were homeless," she said. "That was more dangerous, because it was a loss of humanity."

"Shelter" was a way of directing attention, and not just to the problem and the pain. "I would look at the same people for years, surviving," Zollar said. "I started to see a resilience." And so "Shelter," set to the sound of drums and



Jawole Willa Jo Zollar made "Shelter" for her own company, Urban Bush Women, in 1988. The Ailey company did it for the first time in 1992.

meant. Like anyone else, she was impressed by the Ailey dancers' power. When Jacqueline Green marched with her long legs and flexed feet scything instantly to the level of her head, over and over, even the air seemed to rush out of her way. Zollar greeted the sight with incredulous awe. But she wanted to push the dancers past their comfort and control; firmly and warmly, she did.

The fall-and-catch sequences, which are in the choreography as well as in the preparatory exercises, should not become rote, she said. The dancers must forget that the falls are coming. Even more important, she urged the dancers to use their own exhaustion, rather than hide it or "indicate" it.

"I ask the dancers to go beyond their endurance," she explained later. "We are ex-

hausted by the forces that try to crush us, but we push through. The exhaustion is very important."

The work is certainly demanding. Linda Celeste Sims, a member of the current cast and the kind of dancer who seems incapable of fatigue, said, "It seems simple at first, but I'm tired all the way through." She continued, "You get exhausted from being exhausted."



From left, Jacqueline Green, Samantha Figgins and DeVore rehearsing "Shelter."

poetry, became about that strength, too. It begins with six women in a pile, thrown together and yet isolated, and builds to explosions of power and solidarity.

But for the piece to be effective, the extremely successful Ailey company, with its fancy headquarters and glamorous galas, has to create a credible sense of "there but for the grace of God go I." If audiences are to feel that "it could happen to you" — as the work's recorded text insists while the dancers point implicating fingers at viewers — then the strong Ailey dancers must be believably beaten down. That's where the acting exercises come in.

They weren't part of the process for the first Ailey production in 1992, though it was greeted as a brave and welcome departure for the troupe. Along with the difficult subject matter, critics at the time no-

ted the rawness of the aesthetic — the unbound hair, the absence of makeup, the emotional exposure. Ailey dancers past and present are also quick to characterize the work as "raw." Danni Gee, a member of the first Ailey cast, remembered how she and her fellow dancers labored to "take the Ailey sheen off" and how they cried after every performance.

That didn't mean sacrificing Ailey projection and impact. On the wall of the childhood bedroom of Camille A. Brown, there was a photo of Toni Pierce in that first Ailey production of "Shelter," leaping with legs split and toes pointed with nothing but air beneath her. "When I grow up, I want to be like that," Brown remembered thinking. These days, Brown is a leading choreographer who has made work for the Ailey company.

And these days Zollar is a

reversed dance matriarch, honored for lifetime achievement at this year's New York Dance and Performance Awards, also known as the Bessies. But in 1992, her company was young and no other troupe had yet danced any of her works. The invitation from Ailey was a huge break.

"I was so intimidated," Zollar recalled. "I just gave the steps, and I didn't really know how to coach. It prompted me to figure out what the Urban Bush Women methodology is." Now she has a method: "I call it an actor's process through a dancer's physicality with a community organizer's analysis." The actor games are a crucial part of the approach, she said. "That's how we get to an authenticity, a truth, which is the most important thing for me."

At the rehearsal last week, it was easy to see what Zollar

KNIGHT MASTERWORKS SERIES DANCE

BILL T. JONES
ARNIE ZANE
COMPANY

JAN 6

ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER | KNIGHT CONCERT HALL

TICKETS! 305.949.6722 • arshcenter.org

KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Adrienne Arsht Center
Center for Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County

Lifestyle HAPPENINGS

Compiled by The Miami Times staff editorial@miamitimesonline.com

■ **The Miami Northwestern Class of 1968** meets every 4th Saturday at 2 p.m. at The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center. Call 305-218-6171.

■ **The George Washington Carver Alumni Association** meets the 3rd Wednesday each month at 4 p.m. in Rm. 6 at George Washington Carver. Call 954-248-6946.

■ **The Miami Northwestern Class of 1973** meets every 3rd Sunday at 4 p.m. Call 786-877-1176 or email msoguns@aol.com.

■ **Liberty Square Project Friends and Family Reunion Inc.** will host their 4th Annual Banquet/Dance on Sat. Dec. 2 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Call 696-1819 or 305-333-8539

■ **Miami Jackson General Class of 1970** present a "Christmas Party" on Friday, December 22

from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m. Call 305-733-4674 or 305-546-3770.

■ **The Miami-Dade Chapter of Bethune-Cookman University**, meets the second Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m. at the Omega Center.

■ **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

■ **The Miami Jackson Class of 1968** meets every second Monday at the VFW located at 11911 West Dixie Highway and is planning for

their 50th Reunion June 14-18, 2018. Call 305-336-7663.

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

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

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

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

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

■ The date for the **Adult West African Senegal Slave Departure**

Tour will be June 10-22, 2018. Call 305-332-6365.

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

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

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

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

■ **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.

■ **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 Cherry Park NFL / YET (meeting area). Call 305-305-0290.

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

■ **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, 2018, 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.

Miami Beach's Art Basel fair still retains its prominence and flare

ART
continued from 4C

woman covered in a black-and-white patterned tribal print. As of Friday afternoon, it was still available for around \$50,000.

SERGE ALAIN NITEGEKA

Born in Burundi and forced out of his home — and later, Rwanda — by civil war and genocide, Nitegeka is best known for arranging black planks of wood at odd angles that require visitors to tiptoe around them, a nod to the fragile instability of life as an immigrant. Newer works at the fair by the artist, who is now based in South Africa, involve thin, wooden sheets bent into curled, cleanly formal shapes. The Stevenson gallery booth



was selling them for \$22,000 apiece. "He's interested in tension," said Lerato Bereng, the South African gallery's associate director.

LUCY DODD

This New York painter might someday be sighted shopping for art materials at a farmers market: Her earthy abstractions contain a range of organic materials rarely combined, even on a plate. "Jupiter's Folly," her 12-foot-square work at the booth of New York gallery David Lewis, includes ingredients like charcoal, wild walnut, yerba maté, squid ink and kukicha, or Japanese tea. Last year, her career got a boost when the Whitney Museum of American Art gave her a show. "Jupiter's Folly"

sold the first day of the fair for \$125,000, and her gallery said the buyer has promised to give it to a U.S. museum.

CHANNING HANSEN

Crafts meets math for this Los Angeles artist, who hand-dyes and spins yarn, then knits it into patterns he's created using algorithms derived from research into his own DNA. Major museums own his work, including hometown institutions like the Hammer Museum as well as Amsterdam's Stedelijk Museum. For the fair, London dealer Stephen Friedman brought a group of Hansen's latest knit works, including 2017's "Software," a \$50,000 piece stretching across a pair of wooden frames.

Helping you is what we love to do.

Don't see the fish you want? We'd love to help you get it. Our Real Variety program gives us quick access to up to 80 varieties of fish you can special order—always fresh, never frozen. And if you want your selection steamed, we can do that, too! See how we serve you at publix.com/service.



The 12th Annual Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce Gala was held at the Hilton Hotel in Miami.

Gas prices at five-week low

Florida prices will keep getting lower, AAA says

By Robert Hurtibuse
Sun Sentinel

Don't be afraid to turn your car into that fancy neighborhood and marvel at all of the Christmas displays this week. Take your time, you can afford it.

Gas prices are at a five-week low and heading even lower thanks to bulging inventories and lower consumer demand, travel club AAA said in its weekly gas price update.

Florida's average per-gallon price had fallen

AVERAGES PRICES IN THE TRICOUNTY REGION ON MONDAY WERE:

Broward County	\$2.46
Palm Beach County	\$2.53
Miami-Dade County	\$2.52

to \$2.41 on Monday — three cents less than the previous week and 12 cents less than the same date a month ago, AAA said.

Fearing price increases spurred by OPEC's recent pact to extend oil production cuts through the end of 2018 failed to materialize. Although wholesale crude oil prices remain above \$55 a barrel, the OPEC agreement triggered an uptick in domestic crude oil production above the 9.7-million-barrel-a-day mark for the first time since 1971.

Increased supply and decreased demand typically leads to lower consumer prices, and analysts say crude oil prices could soon fall back to the \$50-a-barrel level — bad news for the oil industry but good news for everyone else.

"The first half of December is normally characterized by weak demand, as cold weather and shorter days cause Americans to drive less," AAA spokesman Mark Jenkins said. "Look for another week of declines as refineries continue to produce gasoline at a much higher rate than what is being consumed."

Florida's per-gallon average price was six cents below the \$2.46 national average, while South Florida prices, as usual, remained among the highest in the state due to higher local taxes and a higher cost of doing business.

The average gas price in Broward County on Monday was \$2.46, three cents less than the previous week. The \$2.53 average in Palm Beach County was also three cents less than the previous week. Please turn to **GAS 8D**

MDCC honors its best

MIAMI DADE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GALA DRAWS MORE THAN 700 GUESTS

Miami Times Staff Report

More than 700 hundred Miami power players in politics, business, and philanthropy celebrated the contributions of business and civic professionals in the greater Miami area at the annual gala by the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce.

The black-tie event was hosted by chairman Alvin West, senior vice president and CFO for the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, and honorary chairman Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez. They and others honored the efforts of business professionals who make a difference in the lives of South Floridians daily.

"I challenge each and everyone here tonight to remind ourselves why we are here. We are here to make a better tomorrow for those who are here. Please turn to **MDCC 8D**



The Miami Dade Chamber of Commerce presents a \$10,000 donation to the U.S. Caribbean Relief Fund.

—Photos courtesy of Howard Levy

Locals employers revisit harassment policies

In light of national allegations

By Marcia Heroux Pounds
Sun Sentinel

Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Charlie Rose, Matt Lauer. The list of powerful men in the private sector accused of sexual harassment seems to have no end.



"Baptist, which has 18,500 regional employees, takes any reports of harassment 'very seriously and responds immediately.'"

Adriene McCoy, chief human resources officer
 Miami-based Baptist Health South Florida

pervasive that Time magazine chose "The Silence Breakers," women who have bravely stepped forward to complain, as its "Person of the Year."

Closer to home, Jack Latvala, president of the Florida Senate, is on the hot seat over a staffer's allegations of sexual

harassment, which he has denied. And former state House member Ritch Workman bowed out of a state commission appointment, following accusations of vulgar and inappropriate gestures toward state Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto.

South Florida's employers are taking note. Some are contacting their lawyers to



This issue has become so pervasive that Time magazine chose "The Silence Breakers," women who have bravely stepped forward to complain, as its "Person of the Year."

ensure they have the best anti-harassment policies while refreshing compliance and awareness education for their employees.

"Almost every day you wake up and read about something new," said Brett Schneider, managing partner of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bier-

man in Fort Lauderdale and past president of the Human Resources Association of Broward County. "Clients are saying, 'we're really concerned about this. Can you come in and do training?'"

The *Sun Sentinel* reached out to a dozen major employers in South Florida— those with

workforces of 1,000 or more — to find out whether they have anti-harassment policies in place and whether they provide employee training on the issue.

About half responded, saying they have anti-harassment policies in place, though some said they are updating policies and stepping up education

programs in their workplaces.

JM Family Enterprises, an automotive company that has 1,600 employees at its Deerfield Beach headquarters and JM Lexus dealership, says employees are required to acknowledge its policy for a "workplace atmosphere free from hostility, harassment and discrimination" during its annual "code of conduct." Even so, JM Family's human resources and legal teams are updating training on sexual harassment and other issues that affect the workplace, spokeswoman Lauren Fyke said.

At Miami-based Baptist Health South Florida, chief human resources officer Adriene McCoy said Baptist, which has 18,500 regional employees, takes any reports of harassment "very seriously and responds immediately." The hospital has a no-tolerance policy that is covered in employee orientation and in annual education sessions. "In light of recent events, we are looking to expand our education about sexual harassment," McCoy said.

AutoNation's vice president of human resources Dan Best said the auto retailer provides Please turn to **EMPLOYERS 8D**

Rapper taps into beard business

Rick Ross introduces his own line

By Selena Hill
blackenterprisemag.com

William Leonard Roberts II, the rapper and businessman best known as Rick Ross, has tapped into the beard care market. After years of sporting a full, well-groomed beard, the 41-year-old hip-hop star has partnered with RICH Hair Care to introduce his own line of affordable luxury beard products.

Ross is slated to roll out his own line of RICH Hair Care beard-grooming products in January 2018, which will be sold at multiple Sally Beauty locations. The line will feature all kinds of oils, shampoos, and skin creams. The former correction-officer-turned-music-artist teased a bunch of the products on his Instagram account, including some that are currently being sold at the official RICH Hair

Care website.

The business move makes sense for the Maybach Music Group CEO. Not only is his beard a signature part of his brand, but the business of beards has exploded into a movement on social media with popular hashtags such as "#beardgang," "#BeardLife," and "beard-gods." November has even been dedicated as the month to "kill the shave" for 30 days. In turn, male grooming lines have made immense profits from the trend, earning billions of dollars each year. According to a DeWolf study, the U.S. men's grooming industry grew 5 percent in 2016, reaching sales of \$8.9 billion. The study also states that "men's skin care posted the highest growth (10 percent, \$312 million), driven by brands diversifying beyond men's shaving" and that "men's



hair care also had a strong performance in 2016 (8-percent growth, \$1.0 billion), driven by strong demand for beard care products, including balms and oils."

In addition to partnering with RICH Hair Care, Ross

recently teamed with Ewing Athletics for a new shoe line with the sports-wear brand. The rap star also has other business endeavors including chain restaurants Checkers and Wing Stop.

How your finances will change in 2018

By Ethan Wolff-Mann
Yahoo Finance

As we say goodbye to 2017, we look towards a year of increased uncertainty when it comes for your finances. Usually, the only things that change are the small things, often tied to inflation.

But with tax reform, health care uncertainty, and other changes, this is shaping up to be a year where you should probably be on your toes. So here's what you should be looking out for

in 2018:

INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS

A few things were set to change in 2018 thanks to inflation adjustments. Tax-wise, the personal exemption was set to go up to \$6,500 from \$6,350 (to \$13,000 from \$12,700 for married couples). Other changes were set to be made to the alternative minimum tax, tax bracket boundaries, and tax credits like the earned income credit.

The list is long, but there's

a great rundown from the Internal Revenue Service that you should scan. Of course, much of it could significantly change due to the tax bill, which has not been finalized by the House and Senate or signed by President Donald Trump.

Your finances might have a few changes this coming year.

YOU MAY HAVE A TAX CUT

The GOP's tax bill is not very good for lower- or middle-income people in the

next decade, but it will likely yield a tax cut for all tax brackets in 2018. According to the Tax Policy Center, a family earning an annual income of between \$48,600 and \$86,100 would get an annual federal tax cut of \$830.

However, it's hard to predict your tax bill. The tax plan is being rushed and is filled with glitches and loopholes, though GOP leaders have said they will iron it out in the conference committee. Please turn to **CHANGE 10D**

Local workforce enforces anti-harassment

EMPLOYERS
continued from 7D

compliance training on sexual harassment, and other forms of harassment, through its "business ethics" program, which is given to all employees who work at the Fort Lauderdale headquarters, dealerships and other stores nationwide. The company has 3,600 workers in South Florida.

Citrix Systems' chief people officer Donna Kimmel said the Fort Lauderdale-based software company just updated its conduct of conduct, which includes harassment, in June. She said victims of sexual harassment are encouraged to contact their manager, human resources contact, their local legal compliance officer, or call the anonymous Citrix Help Line.

Education is online: All Citrix employees, including the 1,600 employees in South Florida, are required to take an annual online course on different harassment scenarios, how to identify different types of harassment that may occur in the workplace, and how to address each situation.

Kimmel said the global company's harassment-free environment policy "extends to non-employees and suppliers who commit to partnering with Citrix."

American Express, which has 3,000 employees in Sunrise, also has a code of conduct policy that prohibits any employee or contractor from engaging in sexual harassment. Victims are asked to report incidents to their supervisor, human resources, the general counsel, or the Amex Ethics Hotline, which is an independent, confidential and anonymous phone and online resource.

The global financial company also provides "interactive training" on harassment, according to spokeswoman Elise Askenazi.

City Furniture's Janet Wincko, senior vice presi-

dent of human resources, the Tamarac-based retailer trains its more than 1,400 workers about harassment as they are hired and managers are trained and certified every year.

But like other employers where workers interact with the public, City Furniture also trains its sales workers and supervisors on dealing with a sexual harassment issue with a customer. One instance occurred in a store where a customer was asked to leave after an employee complained, but that's rare, she said.

Sales people are trained to immediately call their supervisor if they encounter such a situation. "You have to be prepared for everything. That's why we train our managers," Wincko said.

Harassment and discrimination in the workplace, as well as retaliation for reporting it, are a violation of the law: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Florida's Civil Rights Act, which covers employees with 15 or more employees.

Employment lawyer Michael Landen, a partner at Kluger Kaplan in Miami, said he's expecting an uptick in cases in the coming months as workers read and react to media reports about sexual harassment.

"There are likely employees out there who don't realize the behavior some of these individuals engaged in is harassment. Or, they feel more empowered. They're not worried about getting fired. [They say], 'I'm going to speak up,'" Landen said.

The lawyers say workplace policies against harassment are important to protect both workers and businesses. Harassment claims, whether settled or litigated in court, can be costly.

The state of Florida has paid more than \$11 million over a 30-year period to settle hundreds of cases brought by state workers who alleged they were sexually harassed by supervisors and co-workers, or were

forced to work in a hostile environment, the Associated Press recently reported.

Schneider said employers should have written policies prohibiting a "quid pro quo," such as "if you sleep with me, I'll give you a promotion." The policy should also address a hostile work environment, prohibiting inappropriate language and conduct, including staring, touching or whistling.

"A good policy should spell it out," he said.

An employer also should train workers every two or three years on sexual harassment to raise awareness, Schneider said. He argues online training does not do enough to get the message across.

Schneider suggests in-person training in small groups, and with role-playing, so workers are forced to pay attention and clearly understand what sexual harassment is, and isn't, he said. The group leader "doesn't have to be an attorney," he said.

Landen said that while it's necessary to have a company policy, it does little good "if people don't follow the procedures."

"You have to enforce it," he said. The lawyers say that workers who feel they are victims of sexual harassment, or of harassment or discrimination of any kind, should first submit a written complaint to human resources or a supervisor, unless the complaint is against that person.

Robert Weisberg, the EEOC's Miami District regional attorney, advises victims to be "specific about harassment" in a complaint. "This is what's been happening and I need it to stop. It's creating a hostile work environment for me," he said, citing an example. "This puts the employer on notice."

If the harassment doesn't stop, the victim can contact a lawyer who specializes in such cases or go to the

EEOC. The victim has 300 days from period of harassment to file a charge with the federal agency, which decides whether to grant a "right to sue." Then a lawsuit can be filed either by a private lawyer or by the EEOC.

Workers also can file a claim with the Florida Commission on Human Relations on its website, <http://fchr.state.fl.us>.

The EEOC's Miami district has resolved two sexual harassment cases in South Florida in the past two years.

Last year, McWhite's Funeral Home in Fort Lauderdale agreed to pay \$85,000 to settle a sexual harassment lawsuit filed against it by the EEOC in federal court. The agency claimed owner Albert McWhite Sr. created a hostile work environment with sexual innuendo, unwanted touching, showing female employees pictures on his cellphone of sex acts, requesting sexual favors, grabbing their breasts, and slapping a woman, according to the lawsuit.

McWhite, reached at his business last week, said the EEOC's lawsuit was based on lies by women employees. When there are sexual harassment allegations, he said, "people come out of the woodwork. None of that crap happened."

Fearing retaliation for reporting harassment has been an issue that has kept some women from following through on their complaints, experts say.

In a complaint, a housekeeping employee at Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort was fired after said she resisted and reported sexual harassment. The resort's manager, Vacation Resorts International, agreed to pay \$125,000 to settle the EEOC lawsuit against it in 2016.

The California-based company didn't respond to multiple requests this week on whether it has made any changes in its workplace policies or training.



—Photo Credit: Photos Courtesy Of Howard Levy

G. Eric Knowles and honoree Betty T. Ferguson

MDCC honors 2017 leaders

MDCC
continued from 7D

yet to be born, for those who are less fortunate," said G. Eric Knowles, president and CEO of Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce. Knowles spoke to a sea of guest at the chamber's 12th annual Holiday Gala held Dec. 2 at the Hilton Hotel near downtown Miami.

The gala honored various Miami-Dade residents who have this year's top honors were bestowed upon former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson, who received the H.T. Smith Lifetime Achievement Award.

Other honorees included Matthew Haggman, a former Knight Foundation executive, who received the Citizen of the Year Award; Lydia Muniz, CEO of Big Brothers, Big Sisters, who received the Distinguished Service Award; and film director and actor Elijah Wells, who received the David Fincher Young Innovator Award.

Florida gas prices drop fast

GAS
continued from 7D

Beach County was also three cents lower while the \$2.52 average in Miami-Dade County was two cents lower.

However, gas bargains are also available for motorists who know where to look, and thanks to the website and app GasBuddy.com, they're easy to find.

The lowest price in Palm Beach County was \$2.19 at Marathon at the intersection of South Congress Avenue and 10th Avenue North in Lake Worth, according

to GasBuddy.

Broward County motorists could also find the lowest price in that county at a Marathon — \$2.26 at North Federal Highway and Northeast 49th Street in Pompano Beach. Several other gas stations along Federal Highway also were selling gas below \$2.30 a gallon, as were stations along Sample Road.

In Miami-Dade County, the sweet spot for low prices was State Road 7 in Miami Gardens, between Northwest 215th Street and Interstate 95. Ten gas stations along that stretch were priced at \$2.29 or less, GasBuddy reported.



Advertisement of Overall ACDBE Three-Year Goal For Car Rental and Non-Car Rental Concession Contracts at MIA
Department of Transportation 49 CFR Part 23

ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERALL ACDBE THREE-YEAR GOAL FOR MDA'S AIRPORT CONCESSION PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 Through 2020

The Miami-Dade Aviation Department (MDAD) is preparing to establish an overall goal for participation by Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (ACDBE) in MDAD airport concession contracts for Fiscal Year 2018 through 2020 (October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2020). MDAD invites comments from small, minority and women, businesses, general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or stakeholders who may have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for ACDBEs, and what might constitute a "level playing field" for participation of ACDBEs in MDAD airport concession contracts. A "level playing field" is defined, as the area of participation against which a goal would have to be set for ACDBE participation if there were no discrimination against them.

MDAD is preparing an overall ACDBE three-year goal of 1.5% for car rental concession and 3.5% for non-car rental concession for participation by Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in MDAD airport concession contracts for fiscal year 2018 through 2020. Latest information currently available. The advance for this goal and supporting information will be available for public inspection for 30 days from the publication of this notice at MDAD's Minority Affairs Office located at 4296 S.W. 30th Street, Building 5-A, 3rd Floor, Miami, Florida 33122, Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

MDAD and the U.S. Department of Transportation will accept comments on the overall ACDBE three-year goal for 45 days from the date of this advertisement. The ACDBE Program may be reviewed at MDAD's Minority Affairs Office at the address above and a copy of the overall ACDBE three-year goal may be obtained by calling (305) 476-7221.

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



Holiday bots are stealing Christmas, driving up prices

By **Natasha Vaughn**
USA TODAY

Not only are there cyber scalpers when it comes to shows and concerts. Now there are "toy bots" that are scooping up all the hot toys and selling them on secondary websites at higher prices.

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer is calling on retailers to crack down on the "Grinch bots" that are spoiling the holiday season.

Online bots are able to go online and buy out popular holiday toys. That leaves parents having to shop on third-party sites like eBay and Amazon for the items and buy them at a markup from their original price, The New York Democrat said Sunday.

"Grinch bots cannot be allowed to steal Christmas, or dollars, from the wallets of New Yorkers," Schumer said in a statement.

Schumer wrote a letter to the National Retail Federation and the Retail Industry Leaders Association asking for their help investigating the bot issue on their members' websites, urging them to try to ensure consumers are given fair access to popular merchandise.

The groups said they support Schumer's efforts.

"We look forward to working with him and all interested parties to strengthen enforce-

ment against bad actors and take away the tools being used against innocent consumers, particularly during the holiday season," said David French, a spokesman for the retail federation.

Schumer cited some popular toys this year that have soared in price on the secondary market, such as Fingerlings toys

for as much as \$1,000 and a Barbie Dream House for as much as \$1,500.

The Retail Industry Leaders Association said many stores have policies that monitor and cap the amount of purchases of high-demand products both in the stores and online.

"Retailers want to ensure that items purchased from

their stores and online are purchased legitimately. The industry is committed to taking precautions to mitigate fraud and illegal transactions to ensure American consumers have a safe and secure holiday shopping experience," Christin Fernandez, the group's spokesperson, said in a statement.

With concert tickets, Broadway shows and sporting events, consumers are protected from prices being dramatically driven up by bots.

A New York law last year made it a misdemeanor to use bots to buy up tickets to in-demand events, and Congress passed a crackdown on the federal level. But Schumer

pointed out that there isn't any similar law when it comes to sought-after products.

"Middle class folks save up — a little here, a little there — working to afford the hottest gifts of the season for their kids but ever-changing technology and its challenges are making that very difficult," Schumer said.

Be wary of gift cards this holiday

You might need to change behavior

By **Daniel B. Kline**
The Motley Fool

Both a lazy present and one that nearly two-thirds of Americans actually ask for, gift cards have become as much a part of the holiday season as candy canes, Santa Claus, and Christmas music. In fact, gift cards have been the most requested present for more than a decade, with 61 percent of Americans hoping to get them this year, according to data from the National Retail Federation (NRF). Sixty-nine percent of women have gift cards on their list, compared to 53 percent of men.

The American public clearly wants gift cards, but getting them can lead to problems. That's good news for stores, but a big potential problem for people on a budget.

Where can gift cards go wrong?

Stores like selling gift cards for two reasons. First, a small percentage of them never get redeemed. That number has decreased in recent years due to laws aimed at giving consumers longer to use their cards, but some remain forgotten, lost, or otherwise not used.

The second reason retailers like gift cards is the more important one, and the more dangerous one for consumers. They generally result in people spending more money than the value of the gift card. In fact, 75 percent of consumers overspend the value of their gift card by an average of \$38, according to the 2017 Prepaid Consumer Insights Study released by First Data. That's a \$10 increase in overspending from the previous year's study.

"There is a tremendous opportunity for businesses to drive sales and build brand loyalty by implementing gift card strategies and solutions," said First Data Senior Vice President Dom Morea in a press release.

Gift cards can also drive shoppers to change their behavior in other ways. The First Data study, which is a survey of more than 2,000 U.S. consumers, also found "that 44 percent of consumers visit a store they would not have visited otherwise because of a gift card, and 53 percent are likely to visit a store more often.

Please turn to **CARDS 10D**



OUR ENERGY EXPERTS CAN HELP YOU BECOME AN EXPERT, TOO.

FPL smart tools and a free Business Energy Evaluation can help your business save up to \$500 a year. Schedule your evaluation today at FPL.com/BizEasyToSave.



CHANGING THE CURRENT FPL



UPS expects to deliver more than 750 million packages globally in the 25-day period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, a 5 percent increase from last year, the company announced in a news release.

Christmas shipping deadlines for 2017

Dates you need to know for guaranteed on time delivery

By Kelly Tyko
USA Today Network

Santa's best helpers — FedEx, U.S. Postal Service and UPS — are getting ready to gas up their sleighs.

To make sure they deliver your gifts on time, take note of key shipping deadlines.

Having Christmas on a Monday helps procrastinators shop for last-minute gifts in stores, but it doesn't do any favors for those sending gifts.

The nation's three biggest shipping companies expect to deliver record numbers of packages this holiday season.

• Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the Postal Service expects to deliver more than 15 billion pieces of mail, including 850 million packages, a 10 percent increase over last holiday season.

• UPS expects to deliver more than 750 million packages globally in the 25-day period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, a 5 percent increase from last year, the company announced in a news release.

• FedEx estimates it'll deliver between 380-400 million packages.

This year, the post office and companies have some new delivery options that could buy you extra time, but some come at a cost.

• New this year, UPS customers sending gifts to nearly 4,700 cities and towns have the added benefit of Saturday ground pickup and delivery service.

• The Postal Service anticipates delivering more than 6 billion packages on Sundays this December and in select locations mail carriers will also deliver packages on Christmas Day.

• Many Walgreens and other retail locations in the FedEx Onsite network will be open Christmas Day and packages delivered to these locations before Dec. 25 can be picked up on the holiday.

Deadline time
Here are the last days to ship for delivery by Christmas:

- FedEx
 - Dec. 15: Ground
 - Dec. 19: Express Saver
 - Dec. 20: Two-day
 - Dec. 21: Overnight shipping deadline
- U.S. Postal Service
 - Dec. 14: USPS Retail Ground shipments
 - Dec. 19: First Class
 - Dec. 20: Priority Mail
 - Dec. 22: Priority Mail Express
- Alaska: Deadline for First Class and Priority Mail shipments is Dec. 20; Priority Mail Express is Dec. 21.
- Hawaii: Deadline for First Class and Priority Mail shipments is Dec. 15; Priority Mail Express is Dec. 20.
- United Parcel Service
 - Dec. 18: UPS 3 Day Select
 - Dec. 20: 2nd Day Air
 - Dec. 21: Next Day Air

TRAVEL SMART

Travel to Grandma's house during the holidays can be a major budget buster. Try to plan as far in advance as possible for travel needs during the holidays. Shop travel websites like hotels.com or hotwire.com, and be as flexible as possible on travel days and times. These sites can save hundreds on your total travel package.

DECIDE BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE WHAT YOU WILL BUY

Do not go shopping without a gift plan. This will definitely lead to overspending. Know what you will buy for each person on your list. Don't be distracted by sales, upgraded electronics, or add-ons. Don't let kids drag you into different

TRY DISCOUNT STORES

Stores like Family Dollar and Dollar General have all of the same wrapping paper, tape, and bows that the department stores do, but at much cheaper prices. You can even try your first round of gift shopping there, too. If you are looking for toys for kids, baby clothes, board games etc., a dollar store can be a great place for these items, since they are non-specific. Save the department store and those prices for specific and unique gifts.

TRY LAYAWAY

Instead of running around and spending a large sum of money on gifts over a two week period, why not use layaway and spread the payments out over time? Layaway



aisles and stores. If necessary, shop alone.

FIND FREE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

During the holiday season, there are numerous ballets, plays, and concerts to attend, and they all cost. If you pay attention, you can find a lot of free Christmas activities to participate in, from from school plays to Christmas tree lightings to eggnog shares to music concerts and, of course, the free Santa at the mall.

HOLIDAY TIPPING

Holiday tipping can stress you and wipe you out if you let it. A few quick notes: set a limit; only tip those that you work with frequently like your hairdresser, dog walker, regular nail person and the butcher; don't be afraid to tip a homemade gift; let the cost of one visit or service be your guide.

Trapped in payday loan debt? Here's how you can escape

Americans owe \$1.02 trillion to creditors

By Gerri Detweiler
Credit.com

Nobody likes being in debt, but it's even worse when it seems like there's no way out.

That's how the 12 million Americans who take out payday loans each year usually feel. That's understandable, considering they pay out around nine billion dollars in loan fees. But there is hope — you don't have to be stuck in the payday loan debt cycle forever.

WHY IT'S SO EASY TO GET BURIED IN PAYDAY LOANS

Payday loans are unsecured personal loans targeted at people who need money fast but don't possess the type of credit or collateral required for a more traditional loan. Usually the only requirements to qualify for a payday loan are an active bank account and a job. Companies like MacLend, RISE Credit, and CashMax have made an art out of providing high-interest loans to people who feel desperate and out of options.

The very structure of payday loans is set up to keep people on the hook. Here's a breakdown of what payday loan debt looks like, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts:

- It's not short-term. Although payday loans are advertised as quick, short-term loans, the average payday loan borrower is in debt for a full five months each year.

- Loan fees are huge. Average loan fees are \$55 every other week, and the average borrower pays \$520 per year for multiple loans of \$375.

- People borrow for the wrong reasons. Most payday loan borrowers — 70 percent — spend the money on everyday expenses, like groceries, gas, and rent, rather than on emergencies.

- It's a vicious cycle. To totally pay off a loan, the average borrower would need to fork over \$430 the next payday following the loan. Because that's a big chunk of change, most people end up renewing and

extending the loan. In fact, 80 percent of all payday loans are taken out two weeks after another one was paid in full.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T PAY MY PAYDAY LOAN?

As with any other loan, if you default on a payday loan, it can result in growing fees, penalties, and possible legal action. Because many payday loans use automatic debit payments to take funds directly out of a bank or prepaid account, you can also end up with overdraft fees on top of everything else. This can leave you without the funds you need to pay for necessities like food, childcare, and utilities. To top it all off, you may also experience a barrage of calls and threats from debt collectors.

This all sounds extremely unpleasant, but there are ways you can get help with payday loans.

HOW TO GET OUT OF PAYDAY LOAN DEBT

As we've established, it's crucial to stop the vicious cycle of payday loan debt. There is payday loan help, but it can be hard to know where to start.

The best way out can depend on where you took out the loan. Laws governing payday loans vary from state to state. Some states, like Colorado, are currently working to change the way payday loans are administered in order to make it easier for customers to pay loans back and avoid the snowball effect of constant loan renewal. Other states require payday lenders to offer borrowers an Extended Payment Plan (EPP), which stops the accrual of fees and interest.

Here's a closer look at some of the options available to get rid of payday loan debt.

Extended Payment Plans (EPPs): If you borrowed from a lender who is a member of the Community Financial Services Association of America (CFSA), then you may

Please turn to **LOAN 11D**

Do not go so broke holiday shopping 2017

Stick to these tips and focus more on the spirit, not price of the season

By Jennifer Streaks
thegro.com

The holiday season means entertaining guests, decorating and, of course, gift buying. Stores definitely play their part offering deals and discounts to attract everyone to their stores, all to get you to spend more money than you intend to.

Just in time, here are a few tips so you can save more money than you spend this holiday season:

LEAVE THE PLASTIC AT HOME

Resist the urge to use your credit card for purchases. It is more difficult to keep track of what you spend, and that line of credit will only intensify your urge to buy. The worst part: the interest you will be paying on that purchase long after that present is unwrapped, used, and pushed to the back of the closet.

BUDGET

Many online websites offer tools such as spending worksheets and a calculator to estimate what you can afford to spend based on your income. Once you have determined that number, stick to it. Create a list of each person you need a gift for and include an amount to spend for them.

Stick to it and mark through each person as you finish shopping for them.

SHOP AROUND

Sales will be everywhere, so shopping around for the

best deal on an item makes sense and can save a lot of money. Compare prices online, and don't forget to shop the clearance and discount racks.

USE COUPONS AND DISCOUNTS

Major retailers offer sales books with coupons, special shopping hours, days with extra discounts and more. Often, company websites offer coupons and higher sales discounts for shopping online. Target these websites and stores for most of your shopping needs.

Watch your 2018 finances

CHANGE

continued from 8D

when the House and Senate meet.

YOU ALSO MIGHT HAVE A MUCH HIGHER TAX BILL

These tax cuts may, however, be neutered for residents of higher-tax states. Your taxes also might change considerably if you're a grad student. People who itemize deductions may find themselves paying more as many deductions have been struck from the new bill.

ESTATE TAX

The estate tax exemption stands to double if the tax bill is ironed out and signed by the president, which would allow \$11 million to be exempt from taxation upon a death. While the previous \$5.4 million exemption only touched about 5,200 families per year, this change will make it so that only the richest of the richest are taxed.

HEALTH CARE

There is a lot about health care that could change next year. The

GOP tax bill removes the tax penalty associated with the Obamacare mandate, which may destabilize the marketplace as it's considered one of the core pillars that keep the ACA afloat.

For the millions of people who get care through the public marketplace, there is a significant amount of uncertainty. However, 2018 plans should be locked in this open enrollment.

MEDICARE

Nothing major is changing for Medicare, but the tax bill may trigger significant automatic cuts in 2018.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security payments will increase 2.0 percent for 2018, due to a standard cost-of-living adjustment. On average, this comes out to an average monthly increase of \$27 per person.

The full retirement age also gets extended by two months to 66 years and four months in 2018. So if you were born in 1956, it's something to pay attention to.

Be aware of gift card usage

CARDS

continued from 9D

as the result of receiving one."

CONSUMERS BEWARE

Gift cards continue to gain in popularity. In 2017 consumers will buy an average of 6.5 physical gift cards (up from 5.9 last year) and 6.1 digital gift cards (up from four in each of the three previous years), according to First Data's information.

Chances are you are

going to get a gift card this holiday season and it's important to spend it wisely. Spending more than what is on the card is fine if it's part of a plan or budget. For example, if the gift card is used to pay for part of a planned purchase — maybe an appliance or a new suit — that makes sense.

If, however, having a gift card leads you to spend more money than you can afford, then it's important to resist the temptation. It's OK to wait when it comes to spending

your balance, even if it's tempting to rush right out after you receive the gift. Just make sure you're aware of if the gift card has an expiration date or other usage rules.

Laws vary by state, but all U.S. consumers have at least 12 months to use a store or bank-issued gift card before any charges can be applied to the balance. In many states, the terms are more generous, but a year is plenty of time to plan to use your gift balances wisely.

Firms and schools try to keep tax-free benefit

Nearly 40-year-old provision is under threat as Congress overhauls tax code

By Melissa Korn
The Wall Street Journal

Universities and companies are joining forces to lobby Congress to keep a tax provision that allows employers to give staff as much as \$5,250 in yearly tax-free tuition help.

The tax-overhaul package passed by the Senate earlier this month includes the provision, which has been part of U.S. tax law since the late 1970s. The House version would require employees to pay taxes on the benefit for the first time. Congressional leaders are working to send a final bill to President Donald Trump by Christmas.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co., Starbucks Corp. and others say offering tax-free tuition assistance makes it easier for them to keep and train employees.

Schools say they could lose thousands of students if the tuition program is taxed. The nation's economic development

would be stunted if employees shy away from pricey training programs, they say.

"It becomes a huge disincentive to take advantage of postsecondary education and training opportunities," said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of government and public affairs at the American Council on Education.

The association, which represents nearly 1,800 schools and education groups, is also part of a coalition of more than 80 schools, companies and trade associations, including Emory University, the United Auto Workers and Texas Instruments, that is lobbying to include the tax-free tuition benefit in the final version of the tax bill.

Many of these same groups had been pushing to increase the amount of tuition assistance that could be provided tax-free. The benefit has been set at \$5,250 since 1986.

Arizona State University, which is in the coalition, has



—Photo: Jason Getz/Zuma Press

Emory University in Atlanta, shown in August 2012, is part of a coalition of more than 80 schools, companies and trade associations that is lobbying to include the tax-free tuition benefit in the final version of the Republican tax bill.

been highlighting the economic case for the program in meetings with its local congressional delegation.

More than 9,000 Starbucks employees attend Arizona State online through its Starbucks College Achievement Plan, launched in 2014. The company covers full tuition for

all four years of a bachelor's degree in more than 60 subjects for employees who work an average of at least 20 hours a week.

United Parcel Service Inc. covers up to \$25,000 in college expenses — \$5,250 a year — for employees working at least part time. The company said

that since the program began in 1999, it has provided more than \$200 million in tuition assistance to upward of 120,000 college students. UPS said it supports the Senate language maintaining tuition assistance.

The House bill also would tax tuition breaks that many colleges and universities offer the families of employees including administrators, faculty and cafeteria workers. That tax-free benefit has gained attention because it would also apply to graduate students whose tuition is covered by their schools.

"The janitor is collateral damage," Mr. Hartle said.

Bucknell University, in Lewisburg, Pa., spends about \$4 million a year on tuition benefits for its employees and their families. The school covers 100% of tuition costs for employees' dependents who attend Bucknell and provides a benefit equal to 60 percent of its own tuition if the children decide to attend other institutions. Bucknell's listed tuition for the current school year is \$53,692.

About 160 faculty and staff use the benefit to cover costs for 175 dependent children or partners. President John Bravman said an initial analysis suggests that taxing the benefit could cost plan participants over \$600,000 in new tax liability.

On Thursday, Reps. Rodney Davis (R., Ill.) and Mike Turner (R., Ohio), both of whom voted for the House tax bill, circulated a letter urging colleagues to continue to exempt the employer tuition benefits and the tuition breaks for university employees' families from taxation, and to allow employers to cover staffers' student-loan payments tax-free.

The letter, signed by 24 other members of Congress, was sent to House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep. Kevin Brady (R., Texas) and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R., Utah), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

A spokeswoman from the House committee said Friday that Mr. Brady is working "to reach a positive solution on the treatment of tuition assistance."

Times Classified

FOR RENT

Apartment

156 NE 82 Street
Newly renovated two story two bedrooms \$1150 monthly. 786-325-7383

167 NE 59 Street
Two bdrms, one bath, \$1,150. One bdrm, one bath, \$950. Section 8 welcome. 954-914-9186

1745 NW 32 Street
One bdrms., \$1,050. Lights and water free! 305-879-1431

435 NE 121 Street Unit 403
One bedroom, one bath, \$1,100. Section 8 welcome. 954-914-9186

46 Street and 27 Avenue
Gated one bedroom, one bath, \$950 monthly. Call 786-423-0429

8475 NE 2 Avenue
One and two bdrms, Section 8 Welcome. 305-754-7776

ARENA GARDEN
FREE BASIC CABLE AND FREE WATER

Remodeled two, three bedrooms, air, appliances, laundry, gate. From \$725. 305-374-4412

CAPITAL RENTAL AGENCY
LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER
305-642-7080

Overturn, Liberty City, Brownsville, Alagabaha, Apartments, Duplexes, Houses, One, Two and Three Bedrooms. Same day approval. Call for specials. 305-642-7080 www.capitalrentalagency.com

FOR RENT

GRAND OPENING

NEW ARENA SQUARE
Walking distance to school from \$650. Remodeled one, two, three bedrooms, two baths. Central air, laundry, gated. Office 1023 NW 3 Ave. 305-372-1383

Churches

NW AREA
Renting church for services/meetings. Call 786-477-7723

Condos/Townhouses

191 Street NW 35 Avenue
Four bedrooms, Section 8 Welcome. 305-754-7776

Duplexes

1348 NW 55 Street
Three bedrooms, one bath, \$1200 monthly. Free Water. All appliances included. Call Joel 786-543-9094.

2145 NW 66 Street
Three bedrooms, one bath, Section 8 Ok. 305-720-7072

Efficiencies

5824 NW 21 Avenue
Newly remodeled, located in the rear. 786-458-3656

BROWNSVILLE AREA
Large, furnished, utilities included \$750 monthly. 850-451-6669

Furnished Rooms

83 Street NW 18 Avenue
Clean room. 305-754-7776

New Beginning Outreach
Share a room. Open door. \$15 a day. 786-443-7306

FOR RENT

Houses

17120 NW 10 Court
Three bedrooms, two baths, \$1750 monthly. Section 8 ok! 13690 NW 8 Avenue
Three bedrooms, two baths, \$1850 per month. Patrick. 305-542-5184

2237 NW 61 Street
Two bedrooms, one bath, nice large yard, washer and dryer. \$1250 monthly, first, last and \$300 security deposit. Section 8 welcome. Call Mr. Hunte 305-389-9028

2520 NW 141 Street
Four bdrms., two baths, new kitchen, Section 8, \$2,000 a month. 954-614-8932

41 Street NW 6 Avenue
Four bedrooms, Section 8 Welcome. 305-754-7776

760 NW 84 Street
Updated four bedrooms, two baths, tiled, central air, \$1,800. 305-962-5205

AVENUE AREA
Six bedrooms, good schools. Section 8 Ok. 305-653-1217

MIAMI GARDENS AREA
Spacious four bedrooms, two baths, central air, tiled, fenced yard, Plasma TV. No credit check. Section 8 Welcome! Call now 305-834-4440

REPAIRS

CHARLES REPAIRS
Air Conditioning, electric, plumbing, refrigerator, and all appliances. Dryer vent cleaning. Call 786-346-8225

REPAIRS

ROOFING

Roof Repair and New Roof (Flat and Shingle). Free estimates. Reasonable prices. J Palmer. 786-277-3434 and 305-814-3595

EMPLOYMENT

LIVING COMPANION
for ALF part time/full time. 49 Street and 5 Avenue. Call 954-415-5130

PRESTIGE TRANSPORTATION

Van/bus drivers, Miami, Dade and Hack PMC and/or CDL-B passengers endorse. Full time/part time. Call 954-571-0115

ROUTE DRIVERS

We are seeking drivers to deliver newspaper to retail outlets in Broward and Miami Dade.

Wednesday Only
You must be available between the hours of 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. Must have reliable, insured vehicle and current Driver License.

Apply in person at: The Miami Times 2525 NW 54th Street

Street Outreach Workers
Bethel Miami Men at Risk Project seek Outreach workers and counselors. Two years working with Black men at risk for HIV, Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders. Apply at Annex Bldg. 17025 NW 22 Ave

YOUR CLASSIFIED AD HERE

PERSONALS

Black male seeking a black female who loves music, theaters, movies, plays and sporting events. 786-675-7697

FUN, FLIRTY, LOCAL Women!

Call 786-364-785 Try Free! www.livelinks.com

SERVICES

GENE AND SONS, INC.
Custom-made cabinets for kitchens and bathrooms at affordable prices. 14130 N.W. 22nd Avenue. Call 305-685-3565

HANDYMAN WHO CARES
Moving, doors, pressure cleaning. 305-801-5690

GROW YOUR BUSINESS NOW!

305-694-6210

Tax bills treat disaster victims very unequally

By Nicholas Riccardi
The Associated Press

If the House Republican tax bill became law, victims of hurricanes in Texas and Florida who've yet to account for all their losses could deduct them on their 2018 taxes. Not so for victims of the California wildfires.

If the Senate version prevailed, victims of all federally declared disasters — a category that covers victims of both hurricanes and the wildfires — could deduct their losses. But people who lost homes in smaller-scale disasters couldn't.

Such disparities, seemingly arbitrary, show how political decisions have helped shape the tax legislation being crafted by Republicans, who insist they're trying to simplify the tax code, reduce rates and treat everyone fairly.

"I don't know that treating disasters differently makes sense as economic policy, but it's understandable as part of the political process," said Michael Simkovic, a tax professor at the University of Southern California law school. "That's how things work."

No one is sure which provisions of the House and Senate bills will end up in the final reconciled version that Republicans are working on and hope to finalize as early as this week. But whatever changes survive the recon-

ciliation process could have far-reaching consequences for a vast range of households, including victims of natural disasters.

The House bill was written by Rep. Kevin Brady, the chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means committee. His district adjoins Houston, which was thrashed by Hurricane Harvey in September. Brady's provision would end the personal loss deduction that has been used by taxpayers who suffer severe losses from fires, floods or crimes.

Yet the House bill would create an exception allowing victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria to use that deduction in the future if they haven't yet totaled their losses from the storms by the time they file their 2017 taxes.

"If they call out one kind of devastation over another, that stinks," said Larry Keyser, whose home was one of 3,500 structures destroyed in fires in Northern California in October as the tax bill began to move through the House of Representatives.

"The Senate side, that stinks too," added Keyser, a retired engineer who is struggling to total all the losses his family suffered. He doubts he will have determined his total financial loss by tax time.

Despite Brady's provision, Republicans have said they are trying to extend the deduction to California wildfire victims just as they did to hurricane victims.

Here's how to escape the payday loan trap

LOAN

continued from 10D

be in luck. CFSAs's Best Practices allow a payday loan customer the option of entering into an EPP. This means you'll have more time to repay the loan (usually four extra pay periods) without any additional fees or interest added for that service. Best of all, you won't be turned over to collections as long as you don't default on the EPP. Here are the steps to follow if you want to apply for an EPP:

- **Apply on time.** You must apply for the EPP no later than the last business day before the loan is due.

- **Sign a new agreement.** If you took out your loan through a storefront location, you'll have to go back to that location to turn in your application. If you took out a loan online, you'll need to contact your lender for instructions about how to sign your new agreement.

- **Credit Counseling:** If an EPP isn't an option, you may want to talk with a credit counseling agency. While credit counseling agencies spend their time helping

consumers get out of debt, these kinds of loans can present unique challenges. "It's not a traditional loan with set guidelines in terms of how they work with us," explains Fox. In spite of those challenges, there are things a credit counseling agency can do to help you get out of payday loan debt:

- **Restructure the payback.** Fox says that payday lenders who are members of the CFSAs "seem to be more lenient" and are "more apt to try to work with people." Those lenders will often "restructure to pay back (the balance) over six to twelve months when coming through our program." But he also adds that this applies in only about 40-50 percent of the payday debt situations clients are dealing with.

- **Negotiate a settlement.** If restructuring the payback terms isn't an option, the credit counseling agency will try to work with the lender to determine a settlement amount that will resolve the debt altogether. If you can pay off the loan with a lump-sum payment (this is the time to ask Mom or Dad for

help), the agency may be able to settle the debt for a percentage of the outstanding amount.

- **Adjust your budget.** If no other options are viable, the agency can work with you to come up with a budget that will help you find the money to get the loan paid off. Sometimes that means reducing payments on other debts, consolidating debts, or prioritizing other expenses.

- **Bankruptcy:** Nobody wants to resort to this option, but sometimes it's the only way to get out from under this kind of debt. There is a myth out there that you can't include payday loans in a bankruptcy. However, that is not the case: "For the most part, payday loans aren't treated any differently in bankruptcy than any other unsecured loan," writes attorney Dana Wilkinson on the Bankruptcy Law Network blog.

Another unsubstantiated claim is that you may be charged with fraud or arrested if you can't pay a payday loan back or if you try to discharge the loan. One of

the reasons this fear is so widespread is that payday loan debt collection scammers often make these kinds of threats, despite the fact that these threats are illegal.

WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU GET RID OF PAYDAY LOANS

After you get out of payday loan debt, you want to make sure you never go to a payday lender again. Some of the smartest things you can do to start cleaning up your credit include signing up for a free credit report. Regularly checking your credit is the best way to make sure you clear up any mistakes. Plus it's rewarding to see your credit score improve.

You can also sign up for credit repair or search for a consolidation loan to help you pay off all of your debt. This allows you to start moving in the right direction financially.

Getting out of payday loan debt can seem daunting, but it's worth the effort and hard work. Taking control of your finances — and actually being able to plan for the future — is a reward worth striving for.



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

MDX PROCUREMENT CONTRACT NO.: BQ2-18-01
MDX WORK PROGRAM NO.: 305-675-051

MDX PROJECT SERVICE TITLE: CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING AND INSPECTION (CEI) SERVICES FOR CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE MODIFICATIONS FOR TOLL ZONES ON SR 876, AND SR 214.

This Solicitation is subject to the Code of Silence in accordance with MDX's Procurement Policy.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Time on December 19, 2017.

The Deadline for submitting a Proposal is 2:00 P.M. Eastern Time on January 11, 2018.

For detailed information please visit the MDX Procurement Department website at <https://www.mdxy.com/business/solicitations>, or call the MDX Procurement Department at 305-675-5277 for assistance.

**NEED YOUR APARTMENT RENTED?
CALL OUR CLASSIFIED 305-694-6210**

Seffner Armwood senior Warren Thompson plows into Miami Northwestern defenders during the first quarter of FHSAA Class 6A state championship game on Friday at Camping World Stadium in Orlando.



—Bill Kemp/The Ledger

Northwestern is tops in 6A football

Miami high school wins a state title after a decade

Miami Times Staff, Wire Report

The Miami Northwestern Bulls are celebrating once again, after bringing home the FHSAA Class 6A football championship trophy on Friday.

The school's football team, under the direction of head coach Max Edwards, fought relentlessly for the

win in Orlando's Camping World Stadium Friday night. Northwestern's 21-16 defeat over Seffner Armwood gave the team their fifth state title, the first in 10 years.

"I am so excited for our students, staff, coaches, community, and alumni of Northwestern," expressed Northwestern's principal Wallace Aristide. "Everyone knows that these young men are a big part of what continues to be a miracle on 71st Street. I am just beaming because of the feel good positivity that is occurring around

Liberty City right now."

The constant motion of the title game kept fans on their feet.

Fighting an early lead by Seffner Armwood, Northwestern answered in the second quarter with a safety and a touchdown by Davonne Kendrick, taking both teams to a halftime score of 9-9.

Northwestern's offense moved smartly in the third quarter, pushing its score above Seffner Armwood for the first time. Kiaryn Davis's 46-yard touchdown

on a pass from quarterback Chatarius Atwell solidified Northwestern's lead to 21-9.

Northwestern's mighty defense held back the opposition's attempts near the end of the game to give Northwestern the win and the title.

Northwestern's trophy will share space with four other awards at the school, including those from 1995, 1998, 2006 and 2007.

More than 5,805 fans attended the game.

Armwood rallied in the closing minutes and nar-

rowed the score to a five-point game when senior quarterback Devin Black scrambled 11 yards for its final touchdown, and it also had one last desperation drive to pull out a win in the closing minute but it came up short when the drive stalled on its own 48.

Northwestern — ranked No. 2 in the final AP Florida High School Football Poll — took its first lead of the game with 3:41 left in the third quarter when Atwell zoomed 51 yards down the Armwood sidelines for a 15-9 lead after

the point-after attempt was blocked.

Both teams entered half-time deadlocked at 9-9 after Armwood opened the scoring with nine first-quarter points, riding a safety after a muffed punt snap and a 5-yard touchdown pass from Black to Warren Thompson.

Northwestern answered with nine second-quarter points, after a safety and a 12-yard touchdown run by Davonne Kendrick.

At halftime, Armwood had just 53 yards of total offense while Northwestern had 113.

Jay Cutler got his first victory over New England

Quarterback gets aid from Dolphins and places team in playoff hunt

By James Walker
ESPN.com

MIAMI GARDENS — There was a time in the 1970s and '80s when the Miami Dolphins were a consistently great franchise. Hall of Famers such as quarterback Dan Marino and tailback Larry Csonka were

past, the Dolphins produced a throwback performance in a 27-20 upset victory over the New England Patriots. This was by far the Dolphins' most impressive win of the season, which has otherwise been filled with distractions and inconsistency.

One has to wonder if the de-



—Chris Trotman / Getty Images

The Dolphins helped Cutler produce his first victory over New England, ending a personal three-game losing streak. Cutler was sharp most of the night, completing 25-of-38 passes for 263 yards and three touchdowns.

not help New England that All-Pro tight end Rob Gronkowski served his one-game suspension for a late hit last week against the Buffalo Bills.

New England looked lethargic for three quarters against Miami (6-7), which in contrast was energized and treated Monday's contest like its personal Super Bowl. The Dolphins improved to 1-3 in prime-time games this season after being outscored 112-45 in the three prior

night games.

"We gave them a taste of their own medicine," Dolphins Pro Bowl receiver Jarvis Landry said. "We found ways to make plays. We found ways [to show] our will is stronger than yours."

In an unexpected occurrence, Miami quarterback Jay Cutler significantly outperformed Patriots counterpart and future Hall of Famer Tom Brady. Cutler was the cooler, more effective quarterback and handled a

Patriots defense that's played well in recent weeks. He threw for 263 yards, three touchdowns and had a 112.1 passer rating.

Meanwhile, the Dolphins' defense rattled Brady early and often. He did not complete his first pass until the second quarter and threw a pair of interceptions to Miami cornerback Xavien Howard, who now has four interceptions in the past two games. Brady, who has had rough games in South Florida in

the past, finished with 233 passing yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. He had a 59.5 passer rating.

With two straight wins, the Dolphins quietly placed themselves back in the playoff hunt. Miami, which is one game below .500, has an important road game next week against the Bills (7-6), who currently hold the final wildcard spot in the AFC. The Dolphins will play the Bills twice in the final three weeks of the season.



—Jim Rossol / Sun Sentinel

The Patriots were locked down on third downs by Miami as they went 0-for-11. The previous time New England hadn't converted a single third-down play into a first down was Sept. 29, 1991, when it went 0-for-6 against the then-Phoenix Cardinals.

among the most recognizable players and Miami was one of the league's marquee teams.

On a night when Miami donned its throwback uniforms and honored many of its great players from the

fending Super Bowl champion Patriots (10-3) were thinking ahead to next week's matchup against the Pittsburgh Steelers (11-2) that could determine home-field advantage for the AFC playoffs. It also did