

The Miami Times

Tempora Mutantur Et Nos Mutamur In Illis

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50 CENTS



Barbershop Speaks' first dialogue on education in August of 2016.

—Photos courtesy of Jefferson Noel

SHOP TALK

Miamian creates serious dialogue in between haircuts

By Nyamekye Daniel
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Jefferson Noel was at the barbershop for his routine haircut when he came up with an idea that would help the Black community.

In the middle of a heated argument about basketball, Noel said he decided that barbershops should become platforms for more constructive discussions.

"I was like you know what, this is an interesting argument," said Noel. "But I was thinking, 'what would be more interesting'. What if we had the same passion about something that mattered?" said Noel.

So, Noel started a series of barbershop conversations called Barbershop Speaks, where community leaders, residents and people of all ages could come together to express their opinions and spread information.

For over a year, Barbershop Speaks has covered topics such as politics, race, education and women empowerment in Liberty City, North Miami Beach, North Miami and Opa-locka.

Opa-locka City Commissioner Matthew Pigatt, who has participated in several of the events, said that Noel has accom-



Barbershop Speaks on civic engagement in Opa-locka.

plished an important achievement in his city.

"I applaud Jeff for creating a platform for people in the community that is preminent in our community," said Pigatt. "Barbershops and beauty salons are places that our people will come to discuss many topics that aren't that so positive. However, Jeff was able to focus

on issues that are important on a platform that is comfortable."

Pigatt also added that as a city official, community engagement is the most difficult obstacle, and he admires Noel for his ability to crack the code.

To get the forums going, Noel said he contacts the owners of the popular

Please turn to **SHOP TALK 6A**

Citizens speak, officials listen

Black Miami-Dade agency leaders seek support from Tallahassee

By Janiah Adams
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On Friday, South Florida organizations came before state Sen. Oscar Braynon II and other members of the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation to give their wish list on what should be on their priority list as they go into the 2018 legislative session.

Braynon, the Democratic leader in the Florida Senate, presided over a five-hour meeting in which county commissioners and leaders of Black organizations presented their wish lists. Among the hot topics were transportation, children and families, and social advocacy.

Miami-Dade County Commission Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, speaking on an issue important from Florida City to Miami Gardens, said the area needs assistance from Tallahassee with boosting its mass transit system. He said transportation would be

included in the list of issues the county submits to the delegation.

"Moving folks in our community is the most important issue we can tackle right now," Bovo said. "Transportation is the key to economic stability. It becomes the nexus on all these issues."

In particular, Bovo said the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan is priority number one for Miami-Dade County.

The SMART Plan was adopted by the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) in 2016. It plans to expand Miami-Dade County's transportation system by implementing six priority rapid transit corridors as well as eight complementary express bus routes.

Bovo said transportation needs to be addressed for economic growth in Miami.

"If we want to bring an Amazon or Google to Miami-Dade County, then this issue of transportation must be addressed," Bovo said. Please turn to **MEETING 6A**



BRAYNON



HARDEMON

Keep them fired?

Suarez, NAACP discuss firefighters scandal, reaction to union support

By Andrea Robinson
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

Following a union's favorable vote last week to help six firefighters regain their jobs, the Miami-Dade NAACP met with Miami Mayor Francis Suarez Tuesday morning to discuss the decision and

the future."

On Dec. 12, the Miami firefighters union voted 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. Those grievances now go to the city's labor department for negotiations. If a settlement is not reached, it then goes to arbitration.

Local NAACP members had urged the union to stay out of the matter on behalf of the six men — Captain William W. Bryson, Lt. Alejandro



Francis Suarez
Miami Mayor

voice their displeasure.

Suarez, who has been on the job as mayor for six weeks, said members of the civil rights organization had concerns about what happens now that the union will seek reinstatement of the six firefighters. One key request the NAACP leaders had, he said, is an examination of the culture inside the Miami Fire Department that led to the "lewd" actions that triggered the dismissals.

"They're concerned about how this process is going to work out," Suarez said. "We talked about how we can avoid this happening in

He personally went to the station at 2:30 a.m., he said, and was "disgusted and appalled" by the "graphic and obscene" images.

Sese, and firefighters Kevin Meizoso, David Rivera, Justin Rumbaugh and Harold Santana.

Union president Lt. Freddy Please turn to **SCANDAL 6A**

Police search for killer of 2-year-old

South Dade leaders beg for information

By Marcus Lim
Special to the Miami Times

Miami-Dade Police and South Miami-Dade leaders are urging people to come forward with information following the shooting death of 2-year-old Carnell Williams-Thomas.

State Rep. Kionne McGhee told the Miami Times that he was in contact with the mother, who was "understandably distraught." He is currently supporting her "through this horrible time."

"The community is completely shocked by the recent death. It is an unfortunate situation and we are looking for answers," McGhee said. "We need the community members to assist and locate

the shooter. Period."

Carnell was doing what any other 2-year-old boy would do, playing in his courtyard of a Goulds apartment complex on Friday night. He was enjoying a ride on his scooter, eager to learn how to ride a bicycle in the holiday season when he was fatally struck.

Officers from South District responded to reports of a child shot around 6:19 p.m. when they saw the wounded boy and his mother holding him. Carnell was airlifted to Kendall Regional Medical Center, where police said he was pronounced dead.

Police said that Carnell was not the intended target but was caught in the crossfire. The incident happened at



Carnell Williams-Thomas was doing what any other 2-year-old boy would do, playing in his courtyard of a Goulds apartment complex on Friday night

214th Street and SW 114th Court, close to U.S. 1 and Southland Mall, which was experiencing increased activity in preparations for Christmas. "Once again, we find ourselves mourning the death of

a child," said Sgt. Carlos Rosario of the Miami-Dade Police Department. "The Miami-Dade Police department will use every resource available to locate the person responsible." Please turn to **SEARCH 6A**



Editorial

A sobering holiday thought

We're in the season of holiday cheer and tidings. But for some families, gunfire, stray bullets and senseless death have taken the joy out of yet another Christmas in South Florida.

Alicia Roundtree, Claudel Pinder and Carnell Williams-Thomson did not know each other. Their paths never crossed. Yet, their untimely deaths — caused by bullets intended for Lord knows who — link their families into a steadily growing fraternity that no one should join.

They died within six days of each other. Both Miami Gardens and Miami-Dade Police Departments have issued pleas for clues into who took these precious lives. Crime Stoppers has issued rewards, and outraged community leaders are demanding answers.

It seems as if nothing is sacred any more, not even our personal space. Roundtree, a coupon enthusiast, was driving from a Miami Gardens store after purchasing a Sunday newspaper. Carnell was learning how to ride a bike in the courtyard of his South Miami-Dade apartment complex.

Once upon a time, even the gangsters and wannabe hoodlums had a code where they only went after their identified enemies. These days, shooters have no respect for the innocent. But how did we get here? Where can we be safe?

These are sobering questions we must ponder. As we gather together for holiday dinner, please remember the families of these three people and others who are no longer with us. While some homes will be merry, others will be consumed with grief. That should be a sobering thought for everyone.

Dear readers

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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 EUGENE ROBINSON, eugenorobinson@washingtonpost.com

Welcome to the 'Trump Family' swamp



The presidency was never meant to be a profit center for a nepotistic, money-grubbing family. But that was before the Trumps moved in.

This scandal is lying in plain sight, overlooked because of the constant stream of missteps, outrages and distractions that come and go at an exhausting pace. While everyone watches his Twitter feed, President Trump is using the White House like a marketing agency for his family brand.

Last week, Ivanka Trump opened a retail store inside Trump Tower, her father's New York skyscraper, to sell her eponymous foreign-made handbags and other items.

It's not a very big store — more of a glorified kiosk, really — but the conflict of interest is obvious. She and her husband, Jared Kushner, are in positions where they can influence U.S. policy toward the countries where her

products are made, such as China, Indonesia, Vietnam, India and Bangladesh. The store is located where it can siphon money from Trump-supporting tourists who make pilgrimages to Trump Tower while visiting the sights of Manhattan.

Consider this sequence of

The Trump International Hotel in Washington just down Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, has become what The Post called "a kind of political clubhouse" for Trump associates and organizations.

events: Trump is elected president in November 2016. The membership initiation fee at his Palm Beach club, Mar-a-Lago, doubles to \$200,000.

As is the case with other family members, including the president, Ivanka Trump has refused to divest herself of her business interests. Instead, the Trumps and Kushner have put them into

products — but in a way that provides not even a fig leaf of probity. That's because the businesses — including the Trump Organization, the president's umbrella enterprise — are still operating and are being run by family members whose aims are pecuniary, not patriotic, in January 2017. Fol-

lowing his inauguration, Trump spends 34 days thus far — fully one-tenth of his presidency — at Mar-a-Lago, mixing freely with members in a setting hidden from the prying eyes of the news media.

The Trump International Hotel in Washington just down Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, has become what The Post

called "a kind of political clubhouse" for Trump associates and organizations, such as political action committees, that support the Trump agenda. Last month, for example, the Trump 2020 campaign held a "VIP reception" there that cost \$30,000, according to The Post, and featured deviled eggs and lobster BLTs.

Do you believe for a moment that Trump pays no attention to how his sons, Donald Jr. and Eric are handling his company? Or that Ivanka Trump and Kushner are unaware of what his siblings are doing with the troubled Kushner family real estate empire and Ivanka's fashion line? I don't.

But the presidency isn't supposed to be a matter of pluses and minuses on a balance sheet. The president campaigned on a pledge to clean up Washington. Instead, he has created a huge new federally protected wetland — the Trump Family Swamp Inc.

BY CHARLES M. BLOW, The New York Times

Trump take heed of the Omen of Alabama



The political winds are shifting with all the subtlety of a hurricane.

Doug Jones' defeat of Roy Moore in the Alabama Senate special election is yet the latest signal that the accommodators of Donald Trump, those who have normalized and bolstered him, the gutless, schismatic conservatives who abandoned principle to follow a pariah, will have hell to pay in 2018.

Yes, Roy Moore was defeated, but it can never be fully erased from history or memory that he was endorsed by this president and supported by the Republican National Committee. All of Roy Moore's sins are their sins, and they will wear that scarlet R straight into the midterms.

We should also note that Jones didn't win by a landslide. The margin was thin as a rail. Moore still won the Republican vote and the white vote and, yes, the "white born-again Christian" vote. They made a mockery of Christian faith and moral fidelity.

The Resistance is marching on, emboldened, with a strategy and proof that the strategy can work.

The Alabama election has demonstrated once again that resisters aren't just angry; they are motivated and insistent that the past will not defeat the future.

It demonstrated once again that Black voters, particularly

suburban conservatives, there is a limit to their tolerance for regression, fallaciousness, bigotry, misogyny, homophobia and anti-scientific, ahistoric, truth-hostile positioning.

It demonstrated that the South is not necessarily solid. The Resistance has its own Southern Strategy.

And most important, it proved that people who believe in the

Republicans must brace for the reckoning. If the Resistance can maintain its intensity — and there is no sign of it weakening — the midterms may well amount to a purge.

Black women, have been summoned to save America from its worst impulses and to establish that they are the most loyal and crucial constituency of a Democratic Party that still doesn't grant them enough respect or deference, instead often pleading in the final hours after efforts to win more white voters fall short.

The election demonstrated that for many college-educated,

fundamental values of this country, in its ability to change, in the necessity of making the imperfect more perfect, are not the minority, but rather an inflamed majority.

It proved that Trump was a fringe candidate who tapped into an American ugliness and rode it to a fluke victory with the help of a foreign adversary.

Trump is both anomaly and abomination, and America

wants to carve him out like a cancer. Trump's approval rating is at record lows, and sinking.

Also, the unresolved accusations of sexual misconduct and assault against the president have resurfaced, and, as Politico reported Tuesday.

The president this week continued his crusade of cruelties against women and minorities, this time targeting Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York by essentially calling her a whore in a tweet:

"Lightweight Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a total funky for Chuck Schumer and someone who would come to my office 'begging' for campaign contributions not so long ago [and] would do anything for them, is now in the ring fighting against Trump. Very disloyal to Bill & Crooked-USED!"

The Alabama win was just the wind the Resistance needed beneath its wings to feel the true expanse of the possible.

Confidence is a compounding commodity. It builds on itself.

BY ANGELA PEOPLES, The New York Times

Don't just thank Black women. Follow us



When I joined the 470,000 other women who walked down Constitution Avenue toward the National Mall on Jan. 21, the day after Donald Trump's inauguration, I carried a sign saying, "Don't Forget, White Women Voted for Trump."

The point wasn't to antagonize the Women's March participants, who were mostly white. Rather, I wanted to highlight that on a national level, white women are not unified in opposition to Trumpism and can't be counted on to fight it. Instead, it's the identity, experience and leadership of Black women that we must look to.

Democrats want to position themselves as a pro-woman, pro-immigrant, pro-equality party. We do ourselves a disservice if we believe the myth that a majority of white women voting in the era of Trump are moved by that message. The numbers don't lie: For many white women, it's racial identity, not gender or party, that guides their choices

in the voting booth. As my sign pointed out, in 2016 more than half of white female voters chose Mr. Trump. A year later, in Virginia, 51 percent of white women voted for the Republican Ed Gillespie, who lost after running an anti-immigrant, white-nationalist-sympathizing, Steve Bannon-

I had to make another sign after the Alabama election, it would say this: "Bet on Black women. Follow Black women. Give power to Black women." I'd wave it in front of the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee and every political start-up's office.

backed campaign for governor.

Last week, by late Tuesday evening, we learned that two-thirds of white female voters in Alabama had once again voted for the Trump agenda, a casting ballots for Roy Moore, a man accused of sexually assaulting teenagers and one with a dismal record on civil rights who was on tape saying the country was last "great" during slavery.

Despite this, the Democratic candidate, Doug Jones, was

able to score an unlikely victory thanks to the historic turnout of Black voters — specifically, Black women. A full 98 percent cast ballots for Mr. Jones. Ninety-eight percent.

If I had to make another sign after the Alabama election, it would say this: "Bet on Black

these things. We're keenly aware that issues that affect us and our communities are always on the ballot, whether it's access to lifesaving health care, the fight to save public schools, or the imminent threat of police violence and harassment. We know we don't have the option to sit out elections.

We don't just vote; we lead as well by mobilizing our communities to vote.

BlackPAC, led by Adrienne Shropshire, was on the ground before the elections in Virginia and in Alabama, with an army of canvassers. Other groups led by Black women, like the Movement for Black Lives Electoral Project, Woke Vote and Southerners on New Ground, do this work across the country and need support.

Black women are being widely credited for saving the day in Alabama, and that credit is one small step in the right direction. But we don't need thanks — we need you to get out of the way and follow our lead.

CARTOON CORNER



The Miami Times

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Omarosa leaving White House

By Darlene Superville
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — True to form, former "Apprentice" star Omarosa is ending her time at the White House with a dose of drama.

Omarosa Manigault Newman, one of President Donald Trump's most prominent African-American supporters, was escorted off the White House grounds after resigning from her post as a presidential adviser, according to two White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Wednesday that Manigault Newman's resignation is effective Jan. 20, one year after Trump's inauguration. "We wish her the best in future endeavors and are grateful for her service," Sanders said.



Omarosa Manigault Newman

The president also bid her farewell, tweeting: "Thank you Omarosa for your service! I wish you continued success."

Manigault Newman was an assistant to the president and director of communications for the White House Office of Public Liaison, working on outreach to various constituency groups. But the office languished under her watch and White House chief of staff John Kelly had indicated that changes were forthcoming — including her dismissal, according to the two officials, who insisted on anonymity because

they were not authorized to speak publicly about personnel matters.

Better known by just her first name, Manigault Newman was escorted from the White House complex Tuesday night but was allowed to offer her resignation. The U.S. Secret Service, which provides security for the president, tweeted Wednesday that it was not involved in her termination or her escort from the grounds. Some published reports said Secret Service officers had physically removed Manigault Newman from the complex.

The agency confirmed that a pass granting her access to the complex had been deactivated.

Manigault Newman, who drew a top salary of \$179,700, was one of Trump's highest-profile supporters during the campaign. She also worked with Trump's transition team.

She enjoyed a close relationship with the president despite the fact that he once uttered the famous "You're fired!" line to her before dispatching her from the TV show. She held her April wedding at Trump's hotel blocks from the White House.

She had a knack for generating controversy. An African-American White House reporter earlier this year accused Manigault Newman of physical and verbal intimidation, including issuing a warning that the White House kept "dossiers" on Black journalists. The White House denied compiling such information.

Her appearance at the National Association of Black Journalists' convention in New Orleans in August devolved into a testy clash with a veteran news anchor during a panel discussion on policing in Black communities.

WORD ON THE STREET

Who is really doing the real work in the city of Opa-locka?

By Brian Dennis
Special to The Miami Times

The Opa-locka Commission has repeatedly made the same mistakes over and over again by not participating as a whole, when it comes to negotiating contracts in the hiring of city managers.

They must have forgotten the deal that the late Commissioner Terence Pinder negotiated for the city manager Steve Shiver, who came to the city with a \$150,000 annual contract September 2015. Commissioners fired Shiver two months later, after he sounded alarms to the state that Opa-locka was on the verge of financial collapse. But the city was on the hook because that same contract caused the city to pay out a severance of \$87,500.

Now the sad part about this is that current city manager Ed Brown was on staff then, and was part of the problem that nearly broke the city. To award him a contract is like hiring a thief as a banker. When it comes to Brown's track record, he is going to claim a lot of things that he has done since becoming city manager. But the person who is doing the work pro bono is former city manager Newell Daughtrey.

It is because of Daughtrey that the city was awarded a community redevelopment agency (CRA). In 2015, Daughtrey put together the package to help the city get the CRA. Shortly afterward, he was ousted in favor of Brown because of the influence that lobbyist Dante Starks had on members of the board of directors, which in turn fired Brown on Starks's orders. If the commission is going to give the

shyster who hold the position of city manager a contract then they might as well negotiate directly with Starks who's pulling the strings of the puppet city manager.

Brown is also a member of the crew of misfits starring Commissioner John Riley, Mayor Myra Taylor and Starks trying to bring disgraced former Miami Gardens Police Chief Antonio Brooklyn to the city as a police major. That would allow him to be promoted to chief of police after the firing of Chief James Dobson and Assistant Chief Sharon (Holmes) Gallimore. But what that crew of misfits didn't realize was that the word on the street was already around that Brown wanted to fire Dobson and Gallimore in order to hire Brooklyn.

If I were Vice Mayor Joseph Kelley, Commissioner Matthew Pigatt and Commissioner Timothy Holmes, I wouldn't approve any contract with Brown. I would consider bringing Shiver back, or strongly suggest they hire Miami Gardens Assistant City Manager Vernita Nelson as the city manager and put a contract on the table for her immediately. Nelson knows the city's financial woes because she sits on the State's Oversight Board, has no ties to anyone on the dais and would be fair to all. Or, give the real city manager Newell Daughtrey the position and the contract and let him continue to move the city forward.

If the commission is going to give anyone a contract they should give the city clerk Joana Flores a contract. While city managers and city attorneys have come and gone, Flores has been the one employee who has been steady.



DENNIS

Train derails causing multiple casualties

It was speeding 50 mph over the limit

By Rachel La Corte, Gillian Flaccus and Michael Sisak
The Associated Press

DUPONT, Wash. (AP) — The Amtrak train that plunged off an overpass south of Seattle, killing at least three people, was hurtling 50 mph over the speed limit when it jumped the track, federal investigators say.

Bella Dinh-Zarr, a National Transportation Safety Board member, said late Monday that the data recorder in the rear locomotive showed the train was going 80 mph in a 30 mph zone when it derailed along a curve, spilling some of its cars onto an interstate highway below.

Dinh-Zarr said it is not yet known what caused the train to run off the rails and too early to say why it was going so fast. She said investigators will talk to the engineer and other crew members. In previous wrecks, investigators looked at whether the engineer was distracted or

disoriented. The engineer, whose name was not released, was bleeding from the head after the wreck, and both eyes were swollen shut, according to dispatch audio.

The train, with 85 passengers and crew members, was making the inaugural run along a fast new bypass route that was created by refurbishing freight tracks alongside Interstate 5. The \$180.7 million project was aimed at speeding up service by bypassing a route that had a number of curves, single-track tunnels and freight traffic.

Positive train control — technology that can automatically slow or stop a speeding train — wasn't in use on this stretch of track, according to Amtrak President Richard Anderson.

Regulators have pressing railroads for years to install such technology, but the deadline has been extended repeatedly at the industry's request



A view of the Amtrak train that derailed onto Interstate 5 in DuPont, Washington on Dec. 18.

and is now the end of 2018.

The 7:34 a.m. accident left mangled train cars up on top of each other, with one hanging precariously over the freeway. The screech and clang of metal were followed by silence, then screams, as the injured cried out to rescuers and mo-

tors pulled over and rushed to help.

More than 70 people were injured, 10 of them seriously. Train passenger Emma Shaffer found herself at a 45-degree angle, staring at the seats in front of her that had come loose and swung around.

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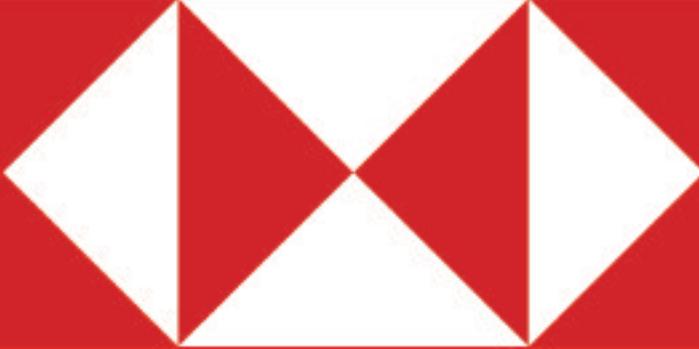
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Having important barbershop conversations

SHOP TALK
continued from 1A

barbershops in the area, and they create a strategy for community building.

"The barbershop is an interesting place in the community because that's a place... it doesn't discriminate on who you are," he said. "Whether you are old or young, rich or poor, Haitian, America, white—no matter what the case, the barbershop accepts you, and puts you all in one room."

The last event, in August, at a shop in North Miami, put a panel of educators such as Miami-Dade County Public Schools board member Steve Gallon III and assistant principal of North Miami High School, Diana Loubeau and Miami residents in one room.

"The goal of that dialogue was to dispel all of the negative

ideas that all of the people in the community have about education, but also to understand educational policy from an administrative level," Noel said.

Born to Haitian-immigrant parents in North Miami, Noel said he sees education as an important step in his path to success.

Right on track, Noel, 23, became the first male in his family to receive a bachelor's degree when he graduated from Florida International University on Saturday, Dec. 16. Next he plans to pursue his master's degree with hopes of becoming a professor and an international motivational speaker.

He already sees himself as a community educator who is



Jefferson Noel

"passionate about empowering individuals to lead a purpose-filled life."

Through Barbershop Speaks, Noel has given inspirational pep talks at local high schools and

at FIU and created a scholarship fund for high school seniors. He also self-published his first book on public speaking in November titled "Powerful Presenting: How to Overcome One of the Nation's Greatest Fears."

Noel said after his speeches, people from the audience would contact him for tips on how to become better speakers, so he decided to put all his advice in a book.

"Public speaking is one of the greatest fears that people have. More people are afraid of

the stage than they are of the cemetery," he said. "So I figured if I could help people with that craft, I could help them not only socially, but it will help them financially and academically."

Older sister Makisha Noel said that her brother always had the drive to help other people.

"He is not afraid to be there for people and even be a voice for other people," she said. "He has refined his thoughts and made it his mission to help other people," she said. For the next Barbershop Speaks, Noel will explore financial literacy with direction from a financial professional from New York Life. The event takes place at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 22, at Fweago Kutz, 11651 NE Second Ave. in Miami. He plans to continue the financial series of talks and expand to them to shops in Little Haiti.

Toddler killer on the loose

SEARCH
continued from 1A

Police urged the community to come forward with any information on the shooter, offering a reward up to \$25,000. This is an increase from the normal reward of \$3,000. As of press time, the police said that they have no new updates on the case, and McGhee said that there was still no indication who the shooter was or if it was a drive-by shooting.

This was the second incident of a stray bullet killing someone. Six days before, Alicia Roundtree was hit by random gunfire while driving home from a Miami Gardens Publix.

Two years ago in Southwest Miami-Dade in December, seven-year-old Ameer Castro was also the victim of a stray bullet, where he was shot in a drive-by shooting while playing outside.

"Anytime a child dies, the entire community should be concerned," McGhee said. "We still do not know who the shooter is. We are looking for answers and assisting the family with whatever resources they may need to bring closure."

On Saturday afternoon, members of the community and public officials gathered at Goulds Park, across the street from the apartment complex, to grieve.

"All I could picture was the mind of that child. The hope he had for the future," said Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez. "What was going through his mind as he took his last breath? That's all I kept thinking about."

Many officials expressed their sorrow and outrage on social media.

"Tonight, a family was robbed of the chance to ever hold their baby again because of someone's blatant disregard for human life," Miami-Dade Schools Superintendent

Alberto Carvalho, said. "Any child falling victim to gun violence is a tragedy. But a toddler? When does it stop? Let's keep this grieving family in our prayers."

In a statement, Miami-Dade Commissioner Dennis Moss blamed the shooting on "neighborhood terrorists."

"This is yet another senseless murder of a 2-year-old baby in our community by neighborhood terrorists," said Moss. "When will it end? How many children will have to die before all of us, and especially the community, say enough is enough?"

Moss said that at the scene, residents told him they were tired of the violence.

"We in the community know who is responsible for this act and many others that have occurred. Parents are harboring the very children and family members who are committing these horrible killings, and are allowing them to bring these guns into their homes," Moss said.

"As I scanned the crime scene, I was struck by the picture of the scooter that the little boy was riding on as it lay still on the ground. I thought about the fact that he was just 2 and had not even began life before becoming an angel in heaven. I wondered what he was thinking before his death."

Police said that anyone with information on the homicide should call 305-471-2400 or go to www.crimestoppersmiami.com. Anonymity can be granted.

"This is my plea to our community: Please, please, if you know something, anything, about this extremely tragic death of an innocent child, get on the phone and call Miami-Dade Crime Stoppers immediately," Miami Dade County State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle wrote on Twitter. "We owe it to the family. Please."

NAACP leaders want examination of firefighter culture

SCANDAL
continued from 1A

Delgado did not respond to phone calls or emails. The union released a statement about its decision.

"The Executive Board's meeting [Dec. 12] reviewed the testimony and evidence related to the termination of the six Miami Firefighter's for the drawings on a co-worker's family photographs. After long, arduous deliberation, and after consultation with our legal counsel, the Executive Board has taken the position of allowing the terminated individuals their due process," the statement said.

Ruban Roberts, first vice president of the Miami-Dade NAACP, said the local branch, does not want the firefighters to return to their jobs.

"It's back in the city's hall court. They have to come to some sort of an agreement or it

will go to arbitration. We don't want them to be rehired," Roberts said. "We want the firing to stand as it is."

The union decision also did not sit well with Black firefighters, most of whom are union members. More seasoned veterans say some members don't recognize the severity of the incident, and believe the terminated colleagues were punished too severely.

Maturity may be a factor. Lt. Darren Davis, a 24-year veteran with the department, said the department lost 300 members due to retirement. As a result, Miami Fire Rescue has a large number of young, inexperienced firefighters who were trained by members with less experience.

"The problem with our department [is] we are very young, inexperienced and immature," said Davis, vice president of the Professional Black Firefighters Assoc-

iation. "We were hiring kids that came in, but didn't come under people with experience."

The firings were triggered by 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 Zahraban said he got an early morning phone call on Friday, Sept. 9, about offensive behavior that occurred at Fire Station 12, just south of Mod 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.

Zahraban 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.

Outgoing City Manager Daniel Alfonso and Zahraban announced the dismissals at a City Hall press conference on Nov. 8.

Suarez said he supported their decision. He added that his choice to replace Alfonso, Emilio T. Gonzalez, would share that view.

Gonzalez, the former director of Miami-Dade County Aviation Department, is awaiting confirmation by the Miami City Commission.

Suarez said he would discuss the matter with the new manager. "We need to review to see if we have the right procedures in place."

"This is not acceptable behavior. We have to take the right action, support the action," Suarez said. "If there's policies and procedures that led to an incorrect decision we need to take a look at that."

Local organizations present their needs

MEETING
continued from 1A

addressed in Miami-Dade County," Bovo said.

Other issues that the county finds critically important include funding the courts and opioid addictions. Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava of District 8 requested financial support for hurricane power lines to be buried. Cava previously submitted legislation that was approved by the county commission in November to urge the Florida Legislature and the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) to place overhead electrical distribution facilities underground and to have the FPSC reimburse the state's power companies that would be required to carry out the work.

The Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation has 24 members, six state senators and 18 state representatives. It was created to unite some state elected officials in order to exercise greater political influence over the creation, direction and enforcement of public policy. Delegation members work as advocates for different interests of their constituents and address the concerns of their own particular districts.

In addition to Braynon, members include Reps. Kionne McGhee, Roy Hardemon, Cynthia Stafford and Sen. Daphne Campbell. McGhee currently serves as the chair of the delegation.

Florida's regular legislative session will convene on Jan. 9 and end on March 9. After considering what is presented to them at public hearings and what the county submits to them, the delegation will decide on their critical/priority issues during the first week of the legislative session.

Other organizations were there to advocate for their own causes.

The Overtown Children and Youth Coalition (OCYC) along with Miami Children's Initiative (MCI) located in Liberty City, were there to request \$6 million to help improve their programming.

"Our goal is to continue providing the services that we're offering in Liberty City to all of our children and families," said Showanda Pagan, interim CEO and program director of MCI. "From the after school opportunities to the sum-

mer enrichment opportunities, building workforce opportunities that are reachable for our community in the areas of construction, in the areas of technology and in the area of hospitality for our residents of Liberty City."

MCI offers early childhood programs, K-12 programs as well as health and wellness programs. Pagan said they have seen great results.

"When we first started working in Liberty City, we saw children who were young not in a school program setting and we've seen 91 percent of our children in the community in early care education settings," Pagan said. "We've had children who did not have access to after school programs, we now see 98 percent of our children in after school programs. During the summer, we try to make sure that they're fully engaged and not in idle time and so we've made sure that we presented to them opportunities either through our current schools - Charles R. Drew or Miami Northwestern - but also through partner agencies in the community."

OCYC Executive Director Graylyn Swilley-Woods said she feels confident about their request.

"It would just be so incredible if we receive those dollars. I feel very confident," Swilley-Woods

said. "We've done a lot of advocacy in Tallahassee. I've been back and forth a couple of times. But it will help to increase the quality of life, it would help with our sustainability. It'll take us away from being solely concerned about fundraising but more about providing services and collectively being able. And it would give us a big boost of confidence that we're on the right track."

OCYC and MCI are both organizations under the Florida Children Initiative. They are two of five locations in Florida.

Hardemon said the programs that OCYC and MCI offer are good for the community.

"The program is such a great program," Hardemon said. "It would be robbery if Liberty City and Overtown could not take advantage of this."

Other organizations such as The New Florida Majority (NewFM) and League of Women Voters appealed to the delegation to use them as a catalyst to get to the community.

Former Sen. Dwight Bullard, now NewFM's political director, spoke on behalf of the organization.

"Use us as a resource to help fully guide some of your decision making over the next two months," he said.

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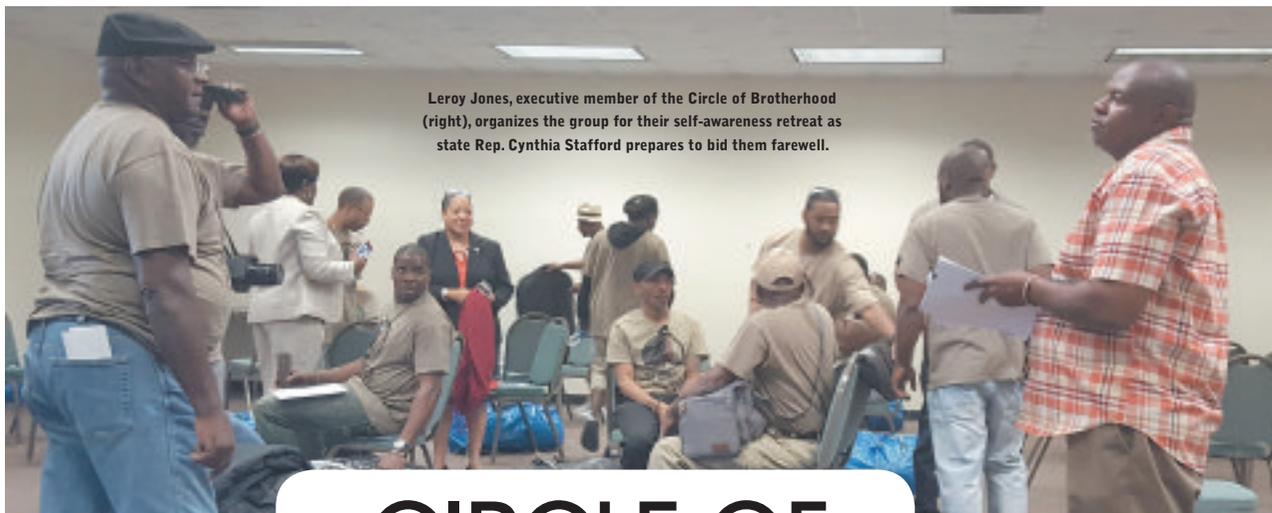


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Leroy Jones, executive member of the Circle of Brotherhood (right), organizes the group for their self-awareness retreat as state Rep. Cynthia Stafford prepares to bid them farewell.

—Miami Times photos/Philippe H. Buteau

CIRCLE OF BROTHERHOOD

Black men empower each other to develop their neighborhoods

By Philippe H. Buteau
Special to The Miami Times

The Circle of Brotherhood is out to restore Black communities one Black man at a time.

The Brotherhood, a male empowerment organization based in Miami, recently returned from a three-day cruise to Nassau, Bahamas. Leaders say the trip was to help their members better know themselves as they set

forth to better their communities.

"It's for a deeper sense of camaraderie," said President Jeffrey Mack. "A better understanding of we are — individually as well as collectively. We're as strong as our weakest link."

Mack, who's also a founding member of the brotherhood, said the group formed out of a communal effort to reduce and prevent the issues

plaguing Black communities. He said he met with different young men including friends from the Nation of Islam and an organization called Save Our Sons and realized they all had the same focus: to save Black neighborhoods.

"We have to save our neighborhoods from itself, from dilapidation," Mack said. "Which means bringing jobs and brining housing."

When Black men are in an

area where they feel there's no purpose, Mack said, they fall into a stream of normalcy, as in going through the motions.

"But if you give someone a purpose they can change their Please turn **EMPOWER 10B**

Michael Lowe Sr. and Michael Lowe Jr., sit and wait to board the bus to the Circle Brotherhood's self-awareness retreat.



Americans say religious aspects of Christmas are declining in public life

Shrinking majority believe biblical account of birth of Jesus depicts actual events

As long-simmering debates continue over how American society should commemorate the Christmas holiday, a new Pew Research Center survey finds that most U.S. adults believe the religious aspects of Christmas are emphasized less now than in the past — even as relatively few Americans are

bothered by this trend. In addition, a declining majority says religious displays such as nativity scenes should be allowed on government property. And compared with five years ago, a growing share of Americans say it does not matter to them how they are greeted in stores and businesses dur-

ing the holiday season — whether with "merry Christmas" or a less-religious greeting like "happy holidays."

Not only are some of the more religious aspects of Christmas less prominent in the public sphere, but there are signs that they are on the Please turn to **CHRISTMAS 10B**



Pastor Bryant talks Christmas spirit

Leader of Antioch Baptist of Liberty City says it is a season of advent

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

When I went to visit Pastor Jimmie Bryant of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Liberty City, the first thing I noticed was he was busy, so I had better make this quick.

Standing amongst boxes of donated food and bags of packaged meals, Pas-

tor Bryant was dressed in sweat pants and a T-shirt. He worked arm-in-arm with members of his congregation to prepare meals for people in one of Miami's most impoverished communities.

Located at 1899 NW 64th St. in Liberty City, "Antioch is a small church, but we believe we have something here for everybody," Bryant said. "My



joke is: 'Either you are coming here, or you're lost!' But when you come, you find that it's such a fantastic place, that you stay."

Bryant's background shows a trend in common with the people of the surrounding area: he was born in the former James E. Scott housing projects; educated at Gladeview Elementary and graduated from Miami Central High School.

He is connected with family. Please turn to **BRYANT 10B**

Pastor of the Week

Pastor Jimmie Bryant and his wife, Stella,

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#MeToo creator to drop New Year's Eve ball

Tarana Burke founded the #MeToo movement 10 years ago in Alabama

By Alanna Vagianos
Huffington Post

Someone very special will drop this year's New Year's Eve ball in Times Square.

Tarana Burke, who founded the #MeToo movement, will push the ceremonial Waterford Crystal button that will begin the 60-second countdown and release the iconic ball in New York City on Dec. 31.

Burke, a 44-year-old youth organizer who founded Just Be Inc., created the "Me Too" campaign in 2007, long before hashtags even existed.

"I am delighted to be partici-

padding in this momentous occasion," Burke said in a press release. "I think it's fitting to honor the Me Too movement as we close a historic year and set our intentions for 2018.

With the new year comes new momentum to fuel this work and we won't stop anytime soon."

The #MeToo movement helped lead to the recent wave of sexual harassment and assault allegations against powerful men like Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Roy Moore and Louis C.K. The campaign sparked a public reckoning of how we handle sexual violence

Activist Tarana Burke started the #MeToo movement after working as a youth counselor 10 years ago.



—Chelsea Guglielmino Via Getty Images

in our culture. Time Magazine named "The Silence Breakers" its "2018 Person of the Year," citing change-makers like Burke along with actresses Ashley Judd and Alyssa Milano.

"New Year's is a time when we look at the most significant cultural and political moments of the last year, when we look for inspiration by honoring and giving a global platform to those who have made a difference," Tim Tompkins, the president of the Times Square Alliance, said in the press release. "Tarana Burke's courage and foresight have changed the world this year, and we hope, forever. We are honored to have her be part of the 2018 New Year's celebration."

Why Black colleges need more charter schools

Only 35 percent of students earn bachelor's degrees all because traditional public schools failed to prepare

By Allysia Finley
The Wall Street Journal

Charter schools are the "polite cousins of segregation," in the words of Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers. Last year the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called for a moratorium on charters. Film festivals are screening "Backpack Full of Cash," a pro-union documentary narrated by Matt Damon that portrays charters as separate and unequal institutions.

Pushing back against these invidious attacks is the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, an organization that represents 47 historically Black schools. "We cannot afford this kind of issue-myopia in our society," the fund's president, Johnny Taylor, wrote in a syndicated op-ed this fall. "If the NAACP continues to reject the educational opportunities school choice provides them, they risk becoming irrelevant — or worse — an enemy of the very people they claim to fight for."

Taylor will step down next month after a seven-year tenure during which he has relentlessly promoted charters as a lifeline for Blacks students and a pipeline for historically Black colleges and universities, or HBCUs. On the heels of the fund's 30th-anniversary gala last week, Taylor sat down in a Washington hotel to chat about the challenges HBCUs face and why he thinks parental choice — he doesn't like the term "school choice" — is a solution.

First on the syllabus is a short history of HBCUs, which were established during the Jim Crow era to educate Blacks who were then barred



from many colleges and universities.

Lately HBCUs have been struggling with enrollment and recruitment because they no longer have a "captive market," as Taylor says. Over the past 40 years, the high-education landscape has significantly changed as more schools have sought to diversify their student bodies. In 1977, 35 percent of Blacks college graduates received bachelor's degrees from HBCUs. By 2015 that had declined to 14 percent.

Other schools are now offering generous financial aid and superior facilities to recruit Blacks students, while the demographics of "economically fragile" communities have shifted. Five of the Marshall Fund's members — West Virginia State University, Bluefield State College, Lincoln University, Kentucky State University and the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science — now

enroll more white than Blacks students.

"Sometimes you have to be careful what you pray for," Taylor says. "You wanted diversity, and guess what happened? You got diversity. We have two schools in Missouri, Harris-Stowe State University and Lincoln University of Missouri. Well, while people are screaming bloody murder for the University of Missouri to be more diverse, guess where it's going to get its students? It's cannibalizing our campuses." Here in the nation's capital, he adds, "Georgetown is going to Howard to pick off their best students."

Thus HBCUs tend to educate predominantly low-income populations, while well-to-do and better-educated Blacks students attend more-prestigious schools. That makes it harder for HBCUs to raise money for scholarships and campus improvements. Taylor says he donates to his alma mater, Florida's Univer-

sity of Miami, which is not an HBCU: "All of my money goes to Miami. I have no reason to give it to Howard. I didn't go to Howard."

A related challenge is low retention. Just 35 percent of HBCU students graduate in six years, compared with about 60 percent for all colleges. At seven HBCUs, less than 20 percent of Blacks students earn a bachelor's degree in six years.

The root problem, Taylor explains, is that traditional public schools are failing to prepare students. In "economically fragile" communities, many low-income students graduate from high school without basic literacy, and those admitted to HBCUs often need remedial classes. That presents HBCUs with a dual challenge. "When you show up to my college, I'm in trouble and you're in trouble," Taylor says. "I can't get you through, and the feds are holding me accountable for graduation rates. And you're frustrated because you feel like you were shafted for 12 years by the

secondary-school system — and you were."

Charter schools, he says, can do better, which would help HBCUs succeed in turn. Many charter networks, such as the Knowledge Is Power Program (often called KIPP), have placed a special emphasis on ensuring that their students finish college. Overall, only 9 percent of students from low-income families earn college degrees within six years; the rate for many major charter networks is three to five times as high.

The dapper and upbeat Taylor attributes his personal success to having attended a magnet public school — a charter prototype — in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "I can tell you now where everyone else in my neighborhood ended up and where I ended up, because I was bused out of my neighborhood," he says. "My mother wanted me to get a better shot than my public school and my neighborhood."

Thus Taylor takes the opposition to such opportunities personally: "The notion that someone sitting at the

NAACP's headquarters in Baltimore could take that choice away from my mother is unacceptable."

He adds that "I don't suggest that charters or vouchers or any of the other options are the panacea." But he insists that if "you know that the traditional public school system is failing your children, to say, 'I'm not going to do anything but pour more money into something I know is not working,' should be criminal. And I know that's a strong word — but it should be criminal because you are stealing children's lives."

Several HBCUs have set up charters of their own, which serve as prep schools. "Howard University has a charter school, and the idea is to expose students to Howard University much earlier in their educational life cycle," Taylor says. "Nine or 10 of our schools actually operate charters. You have K-12 kids walking onto a college campus every day. So they can envision college as a real option." Please turn to **SCHOOLS 13B**

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Less of Christ in Christmas

CHRISTMAS
continued from 8B

wane in Americans' private lives and personal beliefs as well. For instance, there has been a noticeable decline in the percentage of U.S. adults who say they believe that biblical elements of the Christmas story — that Jesus was born to a virgin, for example — reflect historical events that actually occurred. And although most Americans still say they mark the occasion as a religious holiday, there has been a slight drop in recent years in the share who say they do this.

Currently, 55 percent of U.S. adults say they celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday, including 46 percent who see it as more of a religious holiday than a cultural holiday and 9 percent who celebrate Christmas as both a religious and a cultural occasion. In 2013, 59 percent of Americans said they celebrated Christmas as a religious holiday, including 51 percent who saw it as more religious than cultural and 7 percent who marked the day as both a religious and a cultural holiday.

To be sure, while the public's commemoration of Christmas may have less of a religious component now than in the past, the share of Americans who say they celebrate Christmas in some way has hardly budged at all. Nine-in-ten U.S. adults say they celebrate the holiday, which is nearly identical to the share who said this in 2013. About eight-in-ten will gather with family and friends. And half say they plan to attend.

But some of the ways Americans think about and commemorate Christmas appear to be moving in a more secular direction. For instance, while two-thirds of Americans continue to say that Christian displays like nativity scenes should be permitted on government property during the holidays, the share who say these displays should be allowed on their own (unaccompanied by symbols of other faiths) has declined by 7 percentage points since 2014. Meanwhile, the share of Americans who believe no religious displays should be permitted on government property has grown from 20 percent to 26 percent over the



past three years.

A rising share of Americans say they do not have a preference about how they are greeted in stores during the holiday season, while a declining percentage prefer to have stores greet them with "merry Christmas." Today, fully half of the U.S. public (52 percent) says that a business' choice of holiday greeting does not matter to them, while roughly a third (32 percent) prefers for stores and businesses to greet customers with "merry Christmas" during the holidays. When this question was first asked over a decade ago, and then again in 2012, roughly equal shares expressed a preference for "merry Christmas" and said it didn't matter.

When asked directly, most respondents in the new poll say they think religious aspects of Christmas are emphasized less in American society today than in the past. But relatively few Americans both perceive

this trend and are bothered by it. Overall, 31 percent of adults say they are bothered at least "some" by the declining emphasis on religion in the way the U.S. commemorates Christmas, including 18 percent who say they are bothered "a lot" by this. But the remaining two-thirds of the U.S. public either is not bothered by a perceived decline in religion in Christmas or does not believe that the emphasis on the religious elements of Christmas is waning.

Among the topics probed by the new survey, one of the most striking changes in recent years involves the share of Americans who say they believe the birth of Jesus occurred as depicted in the Bible. Today, 66 percent say they believe Jesus was born to a virgin, down from 73 percent in 2014. Likewise, 68 percent of U.S. adults now say they believe that the wise men were guided by a star and brought gifts for baby Jesus, down from 75 percent.

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, CSpS
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 DENOMINATIONAL
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

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Pastor says season is about goodwill

BRYANT
continued from 8B

His wife, Stella, is an administrative supervisor at Mercy Hospital, and a lifelong registered nurse; they have five daughters, five granddaughters and two grandsons. His mother will turn 82 on Jan. 12.

Bryant said he's been involved in the church all of his life.

"I felt 'the call,' probably around the age of 17. I answered the call at the age of 19," he said, noting that he's preached for nearly 42 years.

For the past 32 years, Bryant has been planted at Antioch.

I asked Pastor Bryant to help our readers understand Christmas, not just the meaning of the holiday, but also its benevolent spirit that seems so pervasive throughout the world.

"Christmas is what we call a time of advent, Bryant explained, "where the world is looking for help. When Jesus was born, He comes as redeemer for mankind. People look to that time, because it's a time of goodwill, people seem to be nicer, of course we wish you could use that same mindset throughout the year. I don't think you can just be a Christian only at Christmas [time]. Christmas is really the time when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. If we could keep that same attitude" throughout the year."

But, he said, that spirit

of goodwill has experienced a change as the culture has changed.

"It's so commercialized, that people think that's what it's all about. But those of us who are believers understand this is the time for celebrating the Christ child," Bryant said. "Christmas is just a time when people seem to be as nice as people can look at the worldwide effect that takes place that time of year."

Bryant said Christian believers should focus on Jesus. "The idea of goodwill and sharing, I don't have a problem with that. We should be sharing those gifts, sacrificial gifts, freewill gifts ... throughout the course of the year," he said.

"The problem is when we get caught up in the commercialization that the world does, and we make this big push and our kids grow up thinking Santa Claus is a real person. When we get with the world, and we get caught up in the commercialization, and as soon as Dec. 25 pass, and so goes our goodwill for one another. Believers should have that attitude throughout the year where you are constantly trying to share your good will."

At Antioch of Liberty City, Pastor Bryant explained that the last quarter of the year involves what is known as the church's Faith Journey. "We try to end the year strong," he explained. Church obligations, such as taxes are paid. Minis-

try to the infirm. Donations of clothing, food commodities are extended to the poor.

Each month, the BOAZ Group, the church's community development corporation (CDC), gives out clothing and food to the local community. Pastor Bryant estimates that annually, the members of Antioch and feeds and services between 15,000 to 16,000. Most of the work is in-kind services. "Our people are volunteers," he said. "This is a poor community, most of our people live below the poverty line. But God has blessed us to do tremendous work with people in this community, or for whoever comes by, and we do it on an ongoing basis every single month."

To the public, Pastor Bryant extends a hearty welcome. "Our doors swing open on 'welcome' hinges," said Pastor Bryant as he invites anyone to attend.

Antioch of Liberty City places a special emphasis on teaching the youth of the church. "We include our young people. We train our children to understand that it's important to give back. We are glad for the fact that most of our children finish high school, and go to college. Whether or not they come back to Liberty City, we just want them to be able to leave, become productive citizens, take care of themselves, if they choose to have families, take care of their families, and become a positive piece in this society."

Circle of Brotherhood holds retreat

EMPOWER
continued from 8B

situation," Mack said.

Before the brothers restore their communities, they must first go through self-awareness training. The training has been a part of the group since its founding in 2013.

Lyle Muhammad, spokesperson for the brotherhood and a founding member, teaches self-awareness for the group. Self-awareness — the conscious knowledge of one's own character, feelings, motives, and desires — "helps one realize, who they are and why they are," Muhammad said.

Muhammad owns Respect for Life Educational Services, an awareness and motivational speaking company. He said self-awareness can be an ongoing process if someone is

not satisfied with their life at the moment.

The focus of the retreat, now in its second year, is individual reflection, growth and development.

"When we came together initially we knew that we must first be brothers. Because we're a group of men that come from the streets and the suites," Muhammad said. "But we'll never be divided where it concerns our involvement in solving our own community problems."

Muhammad said the brotherhood has built a network of 200 men who focus on all family and community issues that involve either the absence of men or developing resources to help men secure their families.

The members range in age from 12 to 80; but membership is on invitational basis.

Michael Lowe Sr. invited his son Michael Lowe Jr.

Lowe Sr., who joined the brotherhood in 2014, said he felt it would be a great opportunity for his son.

"To go along with his growth and development," he said.

Lowe Jr., 20, a graduate of Miami Northwestern, said while he was in middle school he did 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, a support group in Miami-Dade County to help young Black men stay away from crime and violence.

He agreed with the group's fundamental idea of self-awareness before attempting to change anyone or anything else.

"You have to sweep around your own front door before you tell others theirs is dirty," Lowe Jr. said. "Otherwise you'll be seen as a hypocrite."

Faith CALENDAR

Compiled by The Miami Times staff editorial@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.

■ **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. Call 954-260-9348.

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

■ **Metropolitan A.M.E. Church**

hosts a food and clothing giveaway every third Saturday. Call 786-277-4150.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PRACTICE MINDFUL EATING FOR HOLIDAY SUCCESS

Dieting during the Christmas season doesn't have to be a daunting task

blackdoctor.org

The holiday season for many is time spent with family, friends, and tons of food. From large, spectacular meals to holidays treats around the house, food is present. This can present some difficulties when trying to eat healthy and not fill up on holiday sweets. Dieting itself can be very difficult, and even harder to stay consistent. Dieting during the holidays does not need to be a daunting task. With some

simple tips you can still enjoy your holiday guilty pleasures while not bringing on the excess weight. The American Heart Association provides readers with two main tips: avoid mindless eating and practice awareness.

Mindless eating is when people consume food simply because it is available and not because they are hungry. This is commonly seen when people are distracted, whether by TV, talking or while doing work. When we do not pay

attention to what we are eating, or how much of it we are eating, it becomes an endless, dangerous habit. It can become easy for people to over consume calories and leads to obesity.

Riska Platt, M.S., a registered dietitian and certified nutritionist tells readers, "Mindless eating has always been an issue... The key to mindful eating is awareness. Just paying more attention to what you eat, you're more likely to make beneficial changes."

As stated before, awareness refers to knowing what and how much of something you are consuming. Awareness is practiced in many different ways that can lead to more mindful eating.

Plan. Food preparations can be helpful, especially when it comes to snacking. If you usually get hungry between meals, having healthy snacks already made makes things easier. High-fiber snacks are a great choice because fiber Please turn to **EATING 13B**

Paralyzed woman is courageous

Enter Alexis does not let her disability stop her

black doctor.org

#WeSeeYou is BlackDoctor.org's new weekly series highlighting those unsung heroes of health who are doing something incredible that needs to be shown to the world. We acknowledge them, celebrate them and honor them. We see you!

"When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" is a common phrase that many people know and recite, but few actually live by it.

Enter Alexis, who by all means has every right to



—Photo credit: @alexixii, instagram

Enter Alexis pumps gas at a local gas station.

be sour at life for the lemons thrown her way, but she chose to bask in the sweet taste of life instead. Alexis was in a car accident just when she was a young girl that left her paralyzed from the waist down. She has taken that truth and made a great mark on her life by showcasing her ability and what she can do instead of what she

The beautiful recent college graduate shows her appreciation for life on her social media. Here's what and why she believed it happened in her own words.

"Today is special to me.. it's an anniversary and rebirth all in one... Today makes 17 years since I was in a car accident that resulted in me being paralyzed. These years have been life changing but it's not a bad change it's more of a life altering and the evolution of me becoming the woman I am today. Of course I look confident and happy to you but I face adversity everyday and have learned to tackle every obstacle with a smile on my face. So when you see my smile know that means I'm fighting everyday, for myself and to show everyone that they too can do anything."

"As December 9th comes every year, some may think it'd give me a bitter sweet feeling. It actually excites me... this is the day God planned to show his work to everyone as well as myself... God wanted to show me just how much he loved me and that was my second chance at life. I've learned so much throughout this journey and looking forward to learning more."

"From being told by the doctors that I will never be able to do anything for myself or live on my own to fighting everyday to prove them wrong is the reason why today means everything to me."

Ways to protect your mental health at work

blackdoctor.org

Mental health has been one of the most talked about topics of 2017. Many celebrities like Michelle Williams, Kid Cudi, Jennifer Lewis and more have been vocal about their battle with mental health, giving fans a sense of comfortability that they are not alone. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 1 in 5 adults in the United States experience mental illness in a year. This is an alarming statistic that shows many people suffer from mental illness. Causes of mental illness can be stress, traumatic experiences, genetics and more.

The workplace can be stressful for many people and be a trigger for someone dealing with mental health issues.

Please turn to **WORK 13B**





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Brazil fights HIV spike in youths with free preventive drug

Given out at 35 public health clinics

By Shasta Darlington
The New York Times

SÃO PAULO, Brazil — Seeking to stem a sharp rise in HIV cases among young people, Brazil began offering a drug this month that can prevent infection to those deemed at high risk.

Brazil is the first country in Latin America, and among the first in the developing world, to adopt the pill Truvada, under a program known as PrEP, short for pre-exposure prophylaxis, as an integral part of its preventive health care policy.

The blue pill — which drastically reduces the risk of contracting the virus when taken daily — will be made available at no cost to eligible Brazilians

the country's health officials particularly alarmed by the rise of the virus among young men and other groups considered at higher risk.

Between 2006 and 2015, the number of AIDS cases in men aged 15-19 almost tripled, to 6.9 cases per 100,000 people. Among men 20-24, the rate almost doubled to 33.1 cases per 100,000, according to U.N.AIDS, a United Nations agency that coordinates HIV prevention policy around the world.

Approximately 48,000 new cases of HIV were reported in Brazil in 2016 and about 14,000 deaths related to AIDS, the agency said.

While the transmission of the virus from mother to child



Piero Mori, right, and a friend both make use of the PrEP program, short for pre-exposure prophylaxis. "Condoms will always be the most complete protection," Mr. Mori said. "But for those who just can't or won't use them, PrEP is a salvation. It protects you against the most serious disease."

—Photos credit Dado Galderi for The New York Times

PrEP is being made available to prostitutes, transgender people, men who have sex with men, some drug users and people in relationships with partners who have HIV.

Brazil has long been recognized for its strong response to the HIV epidemic. It challenged pharmaceutical companies in the 1990s by producing generic versions of costly antiretroviral drugs, which lowered prices globally. Brazil's government buys and distributes more condoms than any other country, and in 2013 it started providing antiretroviral therapy free to all HIV-positive adults seeking care.

Proponents of PrEP say Brazil's experience will show the economic benefits of investing in prevention.

"With the addition of PrEP,

Brazil is using all of the strategies that we recommend," said Georgiana Braga-Orillard, the director of U.N.AIDS Brazil. "This is a large-scale operation, and Brazil could become an example to all of Latin America that we need to see an integrated approach."

Since the United States Federal Drug Administration approved Truvada as a prevention drug for HIV in 2012, several countries have sought to make it available and affordable to people at risk of contracting HIV.

For the first year of Brazil's program, the Health Ministry spent \$2.7 million for 3.6 million pills. Screening and additional care will be provided at no cost at public clinics.

Benzaken, the ministry official, said Brazil expected to spend less on this preventive

care next year as generic versions of the drug arrive in the market.

"It was a good deal," she said. "But we need to bring the price down even more."

She said two pharmaceutical companies, including Mylan, had applied to Brazil's health regulatory agency, Anvisa, for approval of generic versions of Truvada.

People have grown less concerned about HIV, leading to a decline in the use of condoms, said Jose Valdez Madruga of the São Paulo Health Secretariat, who was one of the coordinators of a PrEP trial in Brazil carried out ahead of its implementation. The drug provides an additional safeguard.

"With PrEP, it puts the decision in the hands of one person, said Madruga, the head of the secretariat's AIDS and

sexually transmitted disease center. "You don't need the agreement of the other partner, as with condoms."

According to a survey in Brazil by the gay-dating app Hornet and U.N.AIDS, 36 percent of respondents said they would probably use PrEP if it were available.

Critics of PrEP have said it incentivizes condomless sex, leading to the spread of other sexually transmitted diseases.

Marcio Pierazan, 29, a patient who participated in the trial, said those fears were overblown. He started taking the pill two years ago.

"It was at a time when four close friends had tested positive for HIV, and I was in an open relationship with someone who had tested positive," he said. "I was in constant fear that I would be next, even though I used condoms."

Pierazan says that the pill is as an added protection, but that he never stopped using condoms. "It became part of my routine," he said. "I take it with coffee in the morning, and it's been a huge relief for me, my friends, my mother!"

Piero Mori, 34, a systems analyst who is gay, says he never liked using condoms, which meant new sexual encounters often brought weeks of anxiety as he tested yet again for HIV.

"Condoms will always be the most complete protection," he said. "But for those who just can't or won't use them, PrEP is a salvation. It protects you against the most serious disease."

The new tool in Brazil's effort to contain the spread of HIV is being deployed as budget shortfalls in some states have led to personnel and medicine shortages that have crippled several hospitals. Additionally, public schools that provide comprehensive sex education have come under attack from conservative politicians.



Bottles of Truvada, the branded PrEP drug manufactured by Gilead.

at 35 public health clinics in 22 cities during an inaugural phase of the program.

The Brazilian Health Ministry is paying Gilead Sciences, the American manufacturer of the drug, about 75 cents a dose, a fraction of the price users pay in the United States, where the pill sells for upward of \$1,600 for a month's supply.

The drug is being rolled out at a crucial time in Brazil, with

has been significantly reduced, about one in 10 men who have sex with men in Brazil have HIV, the agency said.

"Our hope is that with PrEP and other measures we can reduce the rate of new infections," said Adele Benzaken, the director of the AIDS department at Brazil's Health Ministry. "But it's a big challenge."



Today the natural gas and oil industry supports nearly 10.3 million American jobs. Many of these well-paying jobs, which are all along the skills continuum, require a background in one or more of the STEM disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. In the coming decades, the industry could create almost two million job opportunities. Ensuring that our industry's workforce is comprised of the best talent from all regions, all demographic groups and every skill level is essential to creating the innovations of the future and continuing an energy renaissance that has made the United States the world's leading producer and refiner of oil and natural gas.

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Clarence Beavers, member of a Black paratroop unit, dies at 96

By Sam Roberts
New York Times

Clarence Beavers, the last surviving member of a groundbreaking group of Black paratroopers deployed during World War II against what were described as the world's first intercontinental-range airborne weapons — giant bomb-laden balloons launched from Japan and aimed at North America — died on Dec. 4 at his home in Huntington, N.Y. He was 96.

His daughter Charlotta Beavers said the cause was heart failure.

Beavers was one of 17 soldiers who formed what became the Army's first all-Black paratroop unit, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion.

The unit, which began training in 1944, was never as famous as the Tuskegee Airmen, the all-Black Army Air Forces group from Alabama, but it was pioneering nonetheless.

The paratroopers were nicknamed the Triple Nickels (the 555th conjured up the five-cent coin), but they also became known as the Smoke Jumpers after being dispatched to the American Northwest to be on hand to extinguish forest fires should the balloon bombs ignite fires.

The unit's mission, under the name Operation Firefly, was hidden from the public during the war to prevent panic over the balloons' ability to reach the United States.

The so-called Fu-Go balloons, 33 feet in diameter and buoyed

by hydrogen, floated on the jet stream and could travel the 5,000 miles from the Japanese mainland to the Pacific Northwest in three or four days.

Of the estimated 9,000 that were launched, about 1,000 reached the West Coast, where they potentially threatened crops and the country's strategic lumber supply.

One airborne bomb damaged a generator at the Hanford Engineer Works reactor in Washington State, where plutonium was being processed for the first atomic bombs.

An antipersonnel fragmentation bomb exploded on the ground in southern Oregon, killing a pregnant woman and five children in what were believed to be the only fatalities resulting from the low-tech attacks.

But because 1945 was rainy in the Northwest, the threat of wildfires kindled by the balloons' incendiary bombs was minimized.

Instead, the paratroopers were specially trained by the United States Forest Service to jump from C-47 transport planes and be deployed to fight fires ignited by lightning and other causes. The training helped modernize how fires in remote forests could be contained and extinguished.

Clarence Hylan Beavers was born in Harlem on June 12, 1921, the 15th of 16 children. (His middle name was given in honor of John F. Hylan, who was New York's mayor at the time and also his godfather.)



Clarence Beavers in 1941. In the racially segregated wartime military, members of his Black unit were "heartbroken" at being denied combat duty.

His maternal grandparents had been escaped slaves, and his maternal grandfather served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

His father, Tipp Garfield Beavers Sr., was a commercial artist who worked for Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The elder Mr. Beavers had moved the family north from Alabama after being arrested there for opposing segregation and sentenced to a chain gang.

Clarence's mother was the former Mary E. Martin.

After graduating from George Washington High School in Manhattan, Beavers enlisted in the National Guard. Drafted by the Army, he was assigned to a maintenance unit.

Blacks in the Army were typically relegated to menial roles, but in late 1943 an order barring them from serving as front-line paratroopers was rescinded.

Beavers was the first to volunteer for parachute training and was assigned to an all-Black barracks at Fort Benning in Georgia, a segregated state.

"Riding to parachute school," he recalled on the 555th Parachute Infantry Association website, "the driver of the Jeep sent to pick me up kept looking at me as we passed each streetlight. Under the fear of him having an accident, I told him I was a Negro and requested that he keep his eyes on the road and his mind on driving."

But without an all-Black unit to take him, his parachute training was delayed, until Beavers appealed to the Department of the Army.

Finally, in late 1943, an all-Black unit was constituted as an experiment. Of 20 original volunteers, 17 completed training and formed a prototype platoon that became the core of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion. Beavers was the only surviving member of those 17.

"Both officers and enlisted men were making bets that we wouldn't jump — we'd be too afraid," Walter J. Morris, another trainee, was quoted as saying in the book "Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickels, America's First Black Paratroopers" (2013), by Tanya Lee Stone.

We need charter schools

SCHOOLS
continued from 9B

But Americans still need convincing. A poll earlier this year by Education Next showed that public support for charters had dropped over the preceding 12 months, to 39 percent from 51 percent. Taylor attributes the decline in part to the deceptive claim by teachers unions that charter schools are private. They aren't: Charters are public schools free from union control and under independent management.

But poor communication by education reformers hasn't helped. "I don't like the term 'school choice,'" Taylor says, "because schools don't choose children. I believe in 'parental choice.' That is a far better phrase. Schools don't choose children because if that's the case, then it buys into this notion that 'Well, the kids that I don't want, I'm not going to accept into my school. I'll leave them at the public school.'"

In the District of Columbia, Taylor has witnessed firsthand how charter competition impels improvements at traditional public schools. Similarly, he hopes increased competition for Blacks college students will make "the entire HBCU sector step up and respond."

As an example of that competition he points to Georgia State University, which takes "Pell Grant-eligible kids and graduates them at double the rate of everyone else. The kids are coming out of school faster and with significantly less debt . . . and they have good jobs — relevant jobs to industry." He believes HBCUs like Clark Atlanta University will have to improve to prevent the likes of

Georgia State from poaching recruits. North Carolina A&T State University, an HBCU, has boosted its STEM curriculum to compete with nearby Duke and the University of North Carolina.

One impediment to progress, not unique to HBCUs, has been institutional inertia, Taylor says. Many colleges and faculty have resisted tailoring their curricula to the workforce needs of businesses. So even though companies aggressively recruit minorities, candidates graduate ill-equipped for jobs.

"Just because you finished a master's degree," Taylor says, "if what you learned in your curriculum was not rigorous or relevant, then Silicon Valley looks at you and says, 'Well, that's interesting that you have a degree, but it doesn't work for us. You're not prepared to do anything.'" Faculty at HBCUs need to understand, he adds, that "your syllabus is not totally yours; it has to be a partnership between industry and you the professor."

The conversation turns to what the Trump administration can do to help HBCUs. Taylor's priority is infrastructure: "I'm not necessarily talking bricks and mortar. The most important investment in HBCUs has to be technology — wiring these campuses and positioning them to compete in the 21st century. I don't need a larger Office of Civil Rights."

His other request is simple: "Talk with us, learn our community," Taylor says "I can't help myself" from pointing out that the Obama administration "made too many decisions for HBCUs without talking to HBCUs."

Expert advice for staying sane in the workplace

WORK
continued from 11B

Psychologist Irene Summers Temple recommends six ways to maintain your mental health in the workplace.

Change your outlook. Your outlook on work and stress affect your stress levels and can trigger mental health symptoms. Often when stressful situations arise thoughts shift more to the negative side than the positive side. By changing your outlook on stress and how you perceive stressful situations, you channel that energy into positivity and you are less likely to feel overwhelmed and more likely to receive different results.

Identify what is in your control. It is important to know that you do not have control over everything that happens. Sometimes situations occur at work that are out of your con-



Psychologist Irene Summers

rol and that in fact is ok. By learning what you can control in your work environment like your performance and decisions and what you cannot control like what others think and do, you relieve yourself of the

unnecessary stress of worrying about everything that happens. You are also able to perfect your skills and performance.

Prioritize your work and yourself. You are the most important key in maintaining your mental health. If you are not prioritizing yourself and your work, which means staying organized and on top of things, it is easy to get swept away by stress which will trigger mental health issues. Prioritizing your work includes managing emails, phone calls and projects and prioritizing yourself includes managing breaks, meals and start/end times.

Delegate tasks. Delegating tasks at work can be a huge time saver and stress reliever. There are two types of tasks. Tasks that ONLY you can do and tasks that can be handed off for someone else to complete. Figure out which tasks only you can do and delegate all

other tasks to other people.

Remember to breathe. This sounds super simple but many of us forget to take deep breaths while at work. This is a therapeutic technique that can be implemented during stressful times. Some of the benefits of deep breathing include enhanced problem solving skills, greater clarity, increased positivity, relaxation and more. When you begin to feel negative feelings, stressed or overwhelmed, stop where you are, take a deep breath in and slowly breathe out.

Find a mentor. A mentor can be very helpful in maintaining your mental health in your workplace. Have someone to talk to and release frustrations with helps to fight the urge to keep your emotions bottled inside. A mentor provides community which decreases feelings of isolation and increases job satisfaction.

Eating right at Christmas

EATING
continued from 11B

makes you feel full longer.

Control portions. During the holidays, food is everywhere. This makes people feel that they have endless access to food, so people often over eat. It is easy to go back for seconds, thirds, and even fourths. Eating smaller portions less frequently is a key practice in order to make it through the holiday season.

Eat when you are hungry. As stated before, do not eat simply because you are bored or because it is available. Eat when you are hungry. Even if it is lunchtime and you do not feel hungry, do not eat. You are forced to consume something at a specific time. If you are full from your first plate,

you do not need to go back for seconds. Also, do not wait until you are famished to eat. This will cause you to overeat.

Keep track. Keeping track of what you eat is helpful because you can visualize those items. It is also helpful in case you forget something you have consumed earlier. Being able to see the foods you ate, makes adjusting eating habits easier. You will be able to incorporate healthy changes. Platt states, "Keeping a food diary is really key to awareness. Most people are surprised at when they've consumed when they review what they've eaten." You can also rely on technology to help keep track. There are many apps to help recognize and adjust you are eating habits that is needed.

The Miami Times

Church Directory

<p style="text-align: center;">Apostolic Revival Center 6702 N.W. 15th Avenue 305-436-1224</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. & Mrs. G. S. Smith</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Liberty City Church of Christ 1263 N.W. 67th Street 305-886-4555</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Evangelist Eric W. Doss</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">New Vision For Christ Ministries 13650 N.E. 10th Avenue 305-899-7224</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Michael D. Screen</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Brownsville Church of Christ 4561 N.W. 33rd Court 305-634-1850 / Fax & Messages: 305-634-6004</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Min. Harrell L. Henton</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church 2330 N.W. 93rd Street 305-866-0942</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Rev. Carl Johnson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church 1470 N.W. 87th Street 305-691-8861</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Dr. C.A. Ivory, Pastor</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church 5946 N.W. 12th Avenue 305-511-9323</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Douglas Cook, Sr.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">New Birth Baptist Church, The Cathedral of Faith International 2300 N.W. 135th Street 1 (800) 254-NBCC 305-685-3700 Fax: 305-685-0705 www.newbirthbaptistministry.org</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bishop Victor T. Curry, D.Min., D.D., Senior Pastor/Teacher</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Pembroke Park Church of Christ 3707 S.W. 56th Avenue • Hollywood, FL 33023 Office: 954-962-9327</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Minister Kevin D. Jones, Sr</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hasanna Community Baptist Church 2171 N.W. 56th Street 305-637-4104 • Fax: 305-687-4174</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins</p>		

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

Trinity

FRANCES YOUNG, 36, died December 12 in Jacksonville, FL. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at First Baptist Church Of Bunche Park.



JASMINE DENISE GORDON, 32, died December 10 at Aventura Hospital. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Missionary Evangelist Outreach Center.



JOHN FRIPP II, 53, died December 12 at North Shore Hospital. Service 10 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



GERARD SAINTIL, 58, died December 9 at Select Nursing Home. Final rites in Port Au Prince, Haiti.



Wright and Young

MINNIE HERMITT, 68, postal worker, died December 8. Services were held.



NADRIAN LATEEF JAMES aka "BLACK BO", 45, died December 8. Viewing 4-8 p.m., Friday at Bethel Apostolic Temple Church. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at Bethel Apostolic Temple Church.



GEORGE HARRINGTON, JR., 67, manager, died December 13. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Antioch Baptist Church of Brownsville.



ANNIE BUTTS, 97, housekeeping, died December 10. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at 59th Street Pentecostal Church of God.



WILLIE LEE RICHARDSON, 80, retired, died December 17 at Jackson Memorial North. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

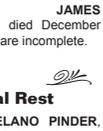


Eric S. George QU'VONTE ANDRE GRAY, 21, died December 9. Service 11 a.m., Friday in the chapel.



VIRGINIA BOXHILL, died December 11. Service 11 a.m., today in the chapel.

WILLIE MONTGOMERY, died December 7. Arrangements are incomplete.



Eternal Rest

CLAUDEL DELANO PINDER, 17, student, died December 15. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at House of God.

Richardson

KELVIN SCOTT, 62, chef, died December 9 at home. Survivors include: wife, Desire Upgrov Scott; son, Mustafa Scott; two daughters, Shantrell and Shana Scott; grandchildren, Jaden, Kaly, Leonel Scott; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends. Viewing 4-9 p.m., Friday at Richardson Mortuary. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at New Vision For Christ Ministries.



ARTIS LEE GRANT, 66, leasing agent, died December 14 at North Shore Medical Center. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church.



EDWARD LEE PINKNEY, 63, landscaper, died December 14 at Select Specialty Rehabilitation Center. Service 12 p.m., Friday at Saint Paul Africa Methodist Episcopal Church.



CHRISTINA YVETTE ROLLE, 58, security guard, died December 10 at Gulf Coast Medical Center. Service 10 a.m., Friday at First Baptist Church of Brownsville.



ARTHURINE SYMONETTE, died in Georgia. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church.



Haldey Davis MLK

FRANCES MCFARLEY, 41, nurses aide, died December 10 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 12 p.m., December 22 in the chapel.



JOHN ALEXANDER POLLOCK, SR., retired, died December 10 at Jackson North. Arrangements are incomplete.



Hall Ferguson Hewitt

CELESTINE WASHINGTON, 77, production inspector for Cordis Corp., died December 10. Survivors include: daughters, Gwennette (Derrick) Seldon, Gale (Clement) Dean; sisters, Hilda Arrington (Detroit, MI), and Earnestine "Twin" Canty (Pelham, GA); grandchildren, Jaela Seldon, Carrington Dean, and Corbin Dean. Final rites in Pelham, GA.



Mitchell

ALEXFORTSON, SR., 80, retired longshoreman, died December 15. Service 11 a.m., Wednesday, December 27 at First Baptist Church of Brownsville.



Gregg L. Mason

MILDRED MCLENNEN, 86, retired nurse assistant, Private Duty, died December 10. Survivors include: son, Clarence Montgomery (Sandra); other relatives and friends. Viewing 9-10 a.m., Thursday with service to follow at 11 a.m., at Butler Temple COGIC, 5701 Flagler Street, Hollywood, FL. Final burial in Eatonton, GA.



DANYA K. STEVENS, 41, leasing agent, Apartment Building, died December 14. Survivors include: mother, Debra Jay Daniels; father, Melvin K. Stevens; sisters, Ashli Jay and Dominique Stevens; grandparents, Willadeine Raines, Alma Marie Stevens and Gainus Carter (Shirley); other relatives and friends. Viewing 3-5 p.m., Friday at MEC Ministries, 1766 NW 95 Street. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at New 79 Street Word Church International, 2275 NW 79 Street, Miami, FL. Entombment: Caballero Rivero Southern Memorial.



MARTHA J. JACKSON, 70, retired lab technician, Jackson Memorial Hospital, died December 16. Survivors include: sons, James Rambeau (Angela), Jafri and Jason Rambeau; daughter, Lameisha Jones-Jackson; brothers, Glenn Thompson (Gail), John L. Thompson (Peggy) and Stanley Thompson; sisters, Lois McCollough (Paul), Janice Thompson, Arleane Clarke and Jacqueline McCollough (Rev. Brantley); and other relatives and friends. Viewing 5-8 p.m., Thursday at Stanton Memorial Baptist Church, 50 NE 119 Street, North Miami, Florida. Service 12 p.m., at the church. Entombment: Caballero Rivero Dade North.



Hall Ferguson Hewitt

CLIFFORD HENDERSON, JR., 94, retired bus operator, died December 13 at home. Clifford's animated and compassionate character, storytelling, and heart of gold will be remembered and cherished by his loving wife of 65 years, Mae; son, Anthony and a host of nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives and friends. Viewing 4-8 p.m., Thursday at Hall-Ferguson-Hewitt Mortuary. Service 11 a.m., Friday at Trinity CME Church.



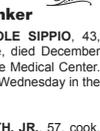
Bain Range

MATTIE MAE STRICKLAND, 79, environmental services, died December 12 at home. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Covenant Missionary Baptist Church.

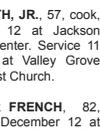


Manker

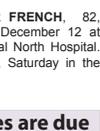
MARISA NICOLE SIPPIO, 43, costume designer, died December 11 at North Shore Medical Center. Service 12 p.m., Wednesday in the chapel.



ALBERT SMITH, JR., 57, cook, died December 12 at Jackson North Medical Center. Service 11 a.m., Thursday at Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church.



WILIE PETER FRENCH, 82, custodian, died December 12 at Jackson Memorial North Hospital. Service 12 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Hadley Davis

JAMES ANTHONY JONES, 56, laborer, died December 13 at North Shore Hospital. Service 11 a.m., today in the chapel.



AHMAD DAMES, JR., 34, construction worker, died December 10. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.



ELLEN POSTELL, retired, died December 11 at Arch Plaza Nursing Home. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at St. Matthews Missionary Baptist Church.



Range

DAISY DIANA STRACHAN, 92, retired dietician aide for Jackson Memorial Hospital, died December 14. Survivors include her cousins, Irene Beneby, Geneva Mobuta, Israel Andrews (Cassandra), Bryan Andrews (Elaine), Herbert Andrews, Michael Andrews (Jeanne), Helen Gordon, Lavanner Smith (Hilly); a host of other relatives and dear friends. Rosary/Viewing 9:30 a.m., Friday at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. Service 10:30 a.m., Friday at the church.



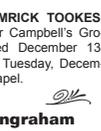
WILLIE ERVIN MCFADDEN, SR., 84, landscape technician entrepreneur, died December 12 in Dublin, Georgia. Survivors include his son, Willie Edward McFadden; daughters, Pamela Smith and Britany Snipes; sister, Minnie Lee Cox; three grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends. Public viewing 4-8 p.m., Friday in the chapel. Service 11 am Saturday at First Baptist Church of Brownsville.



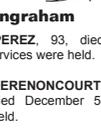
LINDA RENAE MOORE, 44, homemaker, died December 18 at home. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at New Jerusalem In Its Power Holiness Church, 1452 NW 58 Terr., Miami, FL 33142.



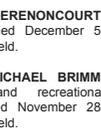
JAVARN EMMRICK TOOKES, 66, manager for Campbell's Grocery Store, died December 13. Service 3 p.m., Tuesday, December 26 in the chapel.



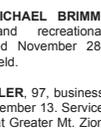
Nakia Ingraham DOMINGO PEREZ, 93, died December 5. Services were held.



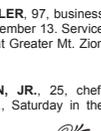
MAX DERENCOURT, 62, installer, died December 5. Services were held.



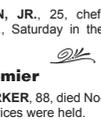
MAURICE MICHAEL BRIMM, 50, parks and recreational coordinator, died November 28. Services were held.



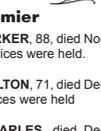
MATTIE BOHLER, 97, business owner, died December 13. Service 12 p.m., today at Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church.



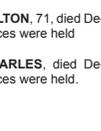
RUPERT LYN, JR., 25, chef. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Premier ATHALIE PARKER, 88, died November 28. Services were held.



ROLLY HAMILTON, 71, died December 1. Services were held.



PEARLIE CHARLES, died December 9. Services were held.

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,



REGINALD GISSENDANNER
12/25/1994 - 07/03/2014

We thought of you today but that is nothing new. We thought about you yesterday and days before that too. We think of you in silence. We often speak your name.

You left us three years ago now all we have is your memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is a keepsake which will never part. God has you in His arms. We have you in our heart forever.

From your loving daughter, Ah'Zariah and The Gissendanner family.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



DEBORAH PEARL JOHNSON
10/21/1950 - 09/25/2017

A loving mother, sister, aunt, classmate and friend. We will forever miss your infectious smile, joyful laughter, love and commitment to your family and friends.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



LUCY JUANITA SIMMONS
11/02/1949 - 12/17/2016

Lucy, its been one year. We miss you so much. We loved you, but God loves you more. Love always your husband, Robert; sons, Robert, Jr., Matthew, Austin and LaShan; daughters, Stephanie Jackson and Lynette Griffin; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and your best friends, Sandra and Terrie.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



CARL LEONARD JOHNSON
AKA "CJ"
03/09/1950 - 12/20/2014

C.J., It's has been three years, but it seems like yesterday. Oh, how I wish that I could turn back the clock, I'd find you sooner and love you longer.

Loving you Forever and a day

Dortell "Lois" Ragin Johnson

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



CHERYL C. BLUE
12/19/1950 - 08/28/2013

Never forget to tell your loved ones that you love them.

Sadly missed by your daughters, Sherry Robinson and Tangelia Jackson; sisters, Carmel B. Scott, Janie Blue, Nevada B. Washington and family.

Dear Readers

NEW YEAR!
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Obituaries are due 4:30 p.m., Tuesday 305-694-6210

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Carmen de Lavallade

She leads the pack decades off Broadway as an icon

86, AND STILL THE BEST DANCER IN THE ROOM

By Sarah L. Kaufman
The New York Times

"You gotta sliide into it," says Carmen de Lavallade, who, at 86, has no trouble showing three young ballerinas how to swish a hip with ease.

"Look: It's a jazz hip. Don't make a move out of it." The woman who seduced Paris in the 1960s with Josephine Baker rolls her pelvis. "Just put it out there."

De Lavallade, as usual, is the most arresting woman in the room. She is tall and slim, with a tranquil quality, from her warm, dark eyes and velvet skin to the fluid grace of her walk. Even the way she's dressed, in shades of aqua, suggests serenity: T-shirt, lounge pants, a string of prayer beads. A ponytail peeks out from her headscarf.

It's August, and de Lavallade is leading a rehearsal at the Richmond Ballet, where she has spent the afternoon getting the ballerinas to look less like ballerinas, to loosen up and lag the beat and ride it just a little. They're learning "Portrait of Billie," a 15-minute movement study of jazz legend Billie Holiday that choreographer John Butler, a former Martha Graham dancer, created for de Lavallade.

When the work premiered, in 1960, Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington watched from the wings in tears as de Lavallade brought Holiday and her agonies quietly to life. She'd slipped into Holiday's skin as she had done for countless other roles and characters.

De Lavallade's ability to express psychological meaning through her body, to disappear inside the choreography and mold herself to wildly different artistic styles, has been her life's work. Her career has been a tapestry of star turns in ballet, modern dance, West Indian works created by her Trinidadian husband, the late Geoffrey Holder, films, Broadway

Please turn to **CARMEN 6C**



—Marvin Joseph for The Washington Post

De Lavallade's ability to express psychological meaning through her body, to disappear inside the choreography and mold herself to wildly different artistic styles, has been her life's work.



—Photos courtesy of Ryan Holloway / Miami-Dade County

The Carole Ann Taylor Quartet performs at Commissioner Barbara Jordan's Music in the Park concert at the Betty T. Ferguson Recreational Complex in Miami Gardens.

Music in the park draws diverse crowd

Commissioner Jordan concert lead by the Carole Anne Taylor Quartet

Miami Times Staff Report

About 300 residents attended Music in the Park on Dec. 1 at the Betty T. Ferguson Recreational Complex in Miami Gardens.

The audience clapped their hands and tapped their feet as the Carole Ann Taylor Quartet and Dr. Edward G. Robinson featuring the Instant Attraction Band captivated the crowd during the free semiannual concert sponsored by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, the Sunshine Jazz Organization, Miami Gardens Councilman David Williams Jr., and the Miami-

Dade Cultural Affairs Department.

"I was happy to see people of different ages and backgrounds come together and enjoy great music at this family-friendly event," Commissioner Jordan said.

Concertgoers grooved to the sounds of Dr. Edward G. Robinson featuring the Instant Attraction Band who performed soulful R&B fan-favorite selections. Songstress Carole Ann Taylor featuring pianist Tal Cohen and percussionist Bobby Thomas Jr., impressed the crowd with their rendition of jazz classics.

The next Music in the Park concert is scheduled for May.



Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jordan, center, and Miami Gardens Councilman David Williams Jr., far left, greet Music in the Park concertgoers.

Art intersects with humanity

Art Beat Miami honors Chef Jose Andres

Miami Times Staff Report

Art Beat Miami gave added a humanitarian flare to Art Basel when producers honored Chef Jose Andres for his philanthropic work around the world.

The chef, known globally for his

cuisine, has attracted wide-scale attention for his relief efforts in Haiti and Puerto Rico.

During Art Beat Miami, Little Haiti was all abuzz as the best in Caribbean art were featured at Art Beat Miami, a Miami Art Week satellite art fair that takes place during Art

Basel. Chef Jose received accolades from Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jean Monestime, City of Miami Commissioner Keon Hardemon and the Little Haiti Optimist Club.

The event's presenters, the Little Haiti Optimist Club and the Northeast Second Avenue Partnership (NE2P), produced an event for the

Please turn to **ART 3C**



Art Beat Miami exhibit has art from South Florida, Haiti and other parts of the Caribbean.

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Women's HEALTH ISSUES

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Home for the holidays

Baby Deion born three months early

Expectant mother Jasmine Sterlin's blood pressure was soaring last September, so she rushed to the emergency room at Jackson North Medical Center. At 26 weeks pregnant, she was diagnosed with preeclampsia, a condition that could lead to serious, even fatal complications for both her and her baby.

Sterlin was then transferred to The Women's Hospital at Jackson Memorial, where she underwent an emergency C-section.

"When they told me they were going to deliver the baby, I was really scared," Sterlin said. "I kind of lost hope. I kept wondering, 'what's going to happen with the baby? What's going to happen with me?' Everything was happening so fast."



Jasmine Sterlin

Charles was born three months early, weighing just two pounds. He was immediately rushed

from delivery into the Schatzki and Stanley Kassal Project: Newborn Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

at Holtz Children's Hospital, one of the nation's largest and most well-regarded facilities dedicated to infant care.

One month later, baby Deion was finally breathing on his own. It was the first time that his mother was able to hold him.

"I felt so proud of him," Sterlin said. "To be able to see someone so little like him, fighting for his life, it was just so incredible."

Nearly 10 weeks passed as little Deion gained strength and an added three pounds, seven ounces. Only then was his mother was allowed to take him home on November 21, two days before Thanksgiving.

"I prayed that he would come home for Thanksgiving," Sterlin said. "I consider it my early Christmas gift."

A widow shares her pain and grief

By Jihan Haidar

There are many days, especially around the holiday season, when my thoughts take me to dreams of how my life would have been if my husband, Najj El Kadi, 48, was still alive.

The dreams include the likely birth of our first child by now. There would have been a tiny Christmas tree that fit perfectly in our cozy apartment with an ornament frame of our family photo.

By now, Najj would have finished graduate school, and he would have probably earned his 10th degree Tae Kwon Do black belt.

Suddenly, reality snaps in to cut my thoughts abruptly and it crashes into my dreams, just like how Jessica Araujo, the drunk



Jihan Haidar and Najj El Kadi

driver who killed him, crashed into our lives early in the morning of April 21, 2016.

The day before Najj was killed, he picked me up from my house to do our last-minute wedding shopping. We were already married in a civil ceremony, but our wedding celebration with family and friends was set to take place three days later on April 23, 2016.

Najj helped me choose a beautiful wedding tiara to wear with my dress, and the perfect shade of lipstick. He purchased my white heels and perfume. We joked, laughed, hugged, and lived the happiest moments like it was the last day of our lives together – not knowing that it actually would be.

We returned home at night to enjoy a dinner made by my mother, who Please turn to **HAIDAR 5C**



Chicken Piccata

Ingredients

- 8 ounces whole-wheat angel hair pasta (cooked to package instructions) OR 8 ounces whole-wheat spaghetti (cooked to package instructions)
- 2 tablespoons whole-wheat flour
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (all visible fat discarded, butterflied)
- Nonstick Cooking spray
- 1 1/2 cup sliced, fresh mushrooms
- 2 teaspoons garlic (jarred, minced)
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup low-sodium chicken stock
- 2 teaspoons salt-free, or, low-sodium Italian seasoning
- 2 medium zucchini (thinly sliced)

Directions

1. Prepare pasta to package directions – drain, rinse and set aside.
2. Mix flour and pepper in a shallow dish. One at a time, place chicken pieces in flour mixture and turn to coat.
3. Spray a large skillet with cooking spray, turn to medium heat and add chicken. Cook until no longer pink inside (3-4 minutes per side).
4. Transfer chicken to a plate and set aside.
5. Re-spray skillet with cooking spray, turn heat to medium-high, and cook mushrooms for 3-4 minutes, stirring occasionally.
6. Add garlic, lemon juice and chicken stock, stir and cook for 2 minutes.
7. Add Italian seasoning and zucchini, bring to a simmer and cook about 5 minutes until zucchini is tender.
8. Toss pasta in the skillet with sauce. Serve topped with chicken.

Source: American Heart Association

Drive sober or get pulled over: Be safe during these holidays

By Cindy Magnole

When it comes to alcohol consumption and driving – it's all bad news. Alcohol slows reflexes, impairs judgement, blurs vision, shrinks peripheral vision, diminishes night vision, decreases the ability to judge distance, and diminishes night vision. All of these increase the chance of a being involved in an alcohol-related car crash.

The holiday season is often a joyous time for family and friends. Sadly, the increased festivities also mean an increased number of impaired drivers traveling on our roadways. Driving drunk is

Please turn to **SAFE 5C**

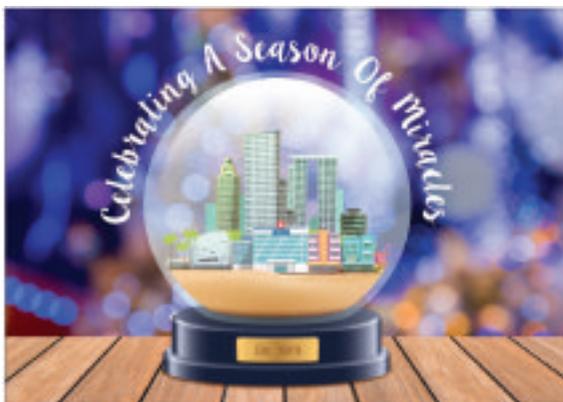


Cindy Magnole

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Best wishes for a wonderful year ahead.

Happy Holidays!

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MERRY CHRISTMAS



CLAUDETTE S. DE VEAUX
"SUGAR"
06/08/1944 - 12/22/2006
Missing you dearly!
Your husband



SARAH THOMPSON
We love and miss you.
The Deveaux Family



ELMIRA P. BROWN
06/11/1930 - 09/13/2013
We are missing you dearly.
The Deveaux Family



EVANGELIST T. DE VEAUX
12/12/1908 - 03/10/2010
We miss you and love you.
The Deveaux Family



DWAYNE G. HINES
01/09/1962 - 12/17/1987
Still missing you
With all our Love.
Your family.



MARY JEAN HAMPTON-NELOMS
10/01/1960 - 07/09/2013
Merry Christmas! We all miss you. Love, Lexxie and family.



ALKENYATTA WILSON
12/22/1973 - 07/27/2001
We love and miss you!
Happy 44th Birthday!
Wilson and Dabney Family



ANNIE R. WEST
12/19/1940 - 01/16/2017
Happy Birthday, Mother.
Your children and grandchildren



STANLEY AND PAULINE NEWBOLD
"Silent Night - Holy Night"
Christmas blessings upon our beloved parents. Your Children



VIRGINIA KNIGHTON
01/07/1951 - 12/04/2010
We miss and love you
Joe Johnson and Family



MILLIE H. CAMPBELL
12/21/1923 - 08/19/2000
Happy Birthday Mother!
Your children.



WILLIE JAMES GREEN
07/01/1924 - 01/16/2014
We miss you at Christmas time. Love, Sarah and children.



DAISY DAVIDSON
12/28/1928 - 02/04/2016
You will always be with us.
Remy, Davidson, Fincher, Kerr



ROGER POITIER
10/10/1956 - 12/01/2016
We love and miss you.
The Family



CYNTHIA A. HAMMETT
12/04/1962 - 07/21/2016
We miss you and love you.
The Family



WILLIAM E. HAMMETT, SR.
12/07/1932 - 10/13/2010
From your loving wife, children and grandchildren.



FREDDIE MAE TEDDLETON
12/23/1931 - 02/09/2017
Happy Birthday
Your daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and sister.



FLORA THOMAS
12/24/1925 - 09/26/2006
Happy Birthday and we miss you. The Thomas and Knight family.



DESIREE M. WALKER
08/20/1964 - 02/03/2016
Merry Christmas to our Angels in Heaven, you'll never be forgotten.
Denise, Ashley and family.



LEOLA WALKER
09/24/1924 - 04/12/2005
We love and miss you!
From The Family



CYNTHIA FORCER
03/10/1933 - 12/16/2016
We love and miss you!
From The Family



JEROME D. WILLIAMS
11/27/1965 - 08/27/2016
Love and miss you. Mom,
Annie Williams and family.



JIMMIE WILLIAMS SR.
02/13/1938 - 11/24/2010
Merry Christmas Dad!
Love and miss you.
Jimmie, Jr., Mitzi and Jamal



VERALDA CAMMOCK
Your spirit lives in us always.
We love and miss you.
The Family.



Merry Christmas
from
The Miami Times



'Friends of the Legacy'

Meek Foundation hosts reception for supporters

The Carrie Meek Foundation recently hosted its Friends of the Legacy reception to recognize supporters of the Foundation's community initiatives. The gathering took place on Dec. 14 at Stadium Hotel in Miami Gardens. During the event, with their mother the Honorable Carrie P. Meek in attendance, Lucia Davis-Raiford and former Congressman Kendrick Meek shared their thoughts and thanked leaders for supporting the foundation and its ongoing commitment to the community. Tony E. Crapp Sr., executive director of the Carrie Meek Foundation, gave special remarks and spoke about the foundation's mission and future community efforts.

Looking back on Dr. Dre

DRE
continued from 3C
studio Monday."

7 The Chronic helped launch the career of Snoop, who had appeared on Dr. Dre's Deep Cover but made an unforgettable showing on 11 of the album's 16 tracks — most memorably, "Nuthin' but a 'G' Thang.

8 The album also introduced the world to rapper/producer Warren G, who broke out with his own hit, "Regulate," featuring Nate Dogg in 1994.

9 The opening drums of Led Zeppelin's bluesy 1971 single "When the Levee Breaks" are sampled on Lyrical Gangbang.

10 James Brown's Funky Drummer also is sampled on Let Me Ride.

11 Kanye West touted the album's influence on his music in an interview with Rolling Stone, calling it "the hip-hop equivalent to Stevie Wonder's Songs in the Key of Life. It's the benchmark you measure your album against if you're serious."

12 Dr. Dre and his producers are credited with pioneering a new sound known as "G-funk" on The Chronic, whose live instruments and synth-laden melodies were "a sharp departure from the darker, sample-heavy East Coast-based sound that dominated hip-hop at the time," according to BET.

Help prevent alcohol-related tragedies

SAFE
continued from 2C

a deadly choice that too often carries deadly consequences. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), drunk-driving fatalities account for more than one-quarter of all vehicle-related fatalities. The choice should always be simple: never drive while impaired. Even one drink may be one too many.

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), nationally drunk driving takes an innocent life every 50 minutes. That's a total of roughly 29 lives daily. The devastation is spread even further, with someone being injured every two minutes.

Most of these senseless vehicle crashes could be avoided if impaired drivers simply do not get behind the wheel. By making the choice to drink and drive, drunk drivers put themselves, their loved ones, and others at risk for injury or death. Choosing this behavior is



selfish and reckless.

To help keep roads safe for holiday travelers, state and local law enforcement, in partnership with the NHTSA, will be looking for drunk drivers during a special Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over mobilization. The beefed up enforcement is taking place now, through December 31.

If you're celebrating the holidays with alcohol, be a part of the solution by planning for a sober ride home ahead of time, and never risk driving after drinking. Here are a few tips that will help you stay safe:

- Remember that it is never okay to drink and drive.

- Even if you've had only one alcoholic beverage, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation to get home safely.

- Never ride in a car with someone who is intoxicated. If you have a friend who is about to drink and drive, take their keys, and make arrangements to get your friend home safely.

- Download the NHTSA's Safer Ride mobile app, which allows users to call a taxi or a predetermined friend, and

identifies the user's location so he or she can be picked up.

- Save the phone number of AAA's Tow to Go program, which helps prevent impaired drivers from getting behind the wheel and risking the lives of other motorists. According to AAA's website it offers a free tow and ride for two people up to 10 miles, from Friday, December 22, to 6 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Call 855-2-TOW-2-GO or 855-286-9246, for more information.

- Immediately report impaired drivers to area law enforcement.

- Take the pledge: "None for the Road, One drink can be too many!"

Holiday festivities are meant to be enjoyed. If you choose to drink alcoholic beverages, do so responsibly — and never drive drunk. As you head out from your holiday parties, always remember: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

Cindy Magnole, MSN, RN, is injury prevention coordinator at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Holiday season brings about painful memories

HAI DAR
continued from 2C

came from Lebanon with my 7-year-old niece, our flower girl. My mother had cooked one of Najji's favorites: an authentic Lebanese dish from crushed wheat, and organic peanut butter and jelly for dessert.

We then went out to the backyard. It was a pleasant night, that last night of ours. We chatted, sitting side-by-side, with his arm wrapped around my shoulders. We talked about our big day, our honeymoon, our future kids, and the many happy years to come.

I never could have imagined that those were our last minutes together, and that there would not be many years to

come. And that the flowers we chose to decorate our wedding ballroom would instead decorate a funeral home, where my groom — wearing his wedding suit — would lay in a casket.

On April 21, at 1:20 a.m., Najji got in his car, and waved goodbye to me. I put my two hands in a heart shape, and blew him a kiss as he drove off for the very last time. One mile down the road, he crossed paths with Araujo at 1:23 a.m. Araujo was driving under the influence of alcohol and marijuana at an estimated speed of 70 mph in a 35 mph zone. She ran the red light and T-boned Najji's car, slamming into the driver-side door.

I was not aware of what happened at the time. But

some witnesses at the scene would later say that after the crash, Najji was responding by nodding his head, which felt like a dagger in my heart. The traumatic injuries he suffered were too severe. He was pronounced dead at 3 a.m. at an area hospital.

The next morning I was trying to reach him. I tried calling his cell phone, because he was not responding to my text messages. A police officer answered his phone. One hour later, four police cars pulled into my driveway to tell me what had happened, and to express their condolences.

"We are sorry, we feel your pain, we feel your loss, we understand your anger," they said.

The tragedy ripped into his

family as well. Twenty-five years ago, Najji left them in Lebanon, and never saw them again. They reunited with him on the day of his funeral.

I used to think that extreme tragedies only happened in movies, but it came knocking on my door just days before what was supposed to be the happiest day of our lives. No one is invincible and beyond reach, but some tragedies are preventable — like drunk driving crashes.

Please celebrate responsibly, take preventive measures, and plan a safe return back home before the party begins. Also take care of your friends, and don't allow anyone who is under the influence of alcohol, including yourself, to get behind the wheel.

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at the
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December 20-23
6:00 - 9:00 PM

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.

■ **Miami Jackson General Class of 1970** present a 'Christmas Party' on Friday, December 22 from 8 p.m. until 2a.m. Call 305-733-4674 or 305-546-3770.

■ **The Miami-Dade Chapter of Bethune-Cookman University**, meets the 2nd 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 Cultural 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, as they celebrate their 50th Class Reunion. Call 305-336-6293 or 305-333-7613.

■ **The Booker T. Washington Class of 1959** meets every first Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Golden Corral Buffet. Call 305-989-0994

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

De Lavallade receives Kennedy Center Honors after 70-year career

CARMEN continued from 1C

musicals and Shakespearean theater. It was just a year ago that de Lavallade wrapped up her tour of the one-woman show she launched in 2014, "As I Remember It," in which she blended small, beautiful flashes of movement with reminiscences and film footage from her 70-year career.

De Lavallade receives the Kennedy Center Honors on Sunday, and then she'll get back to business. She's a regular at Dance Theatre of Harlem and elsewhere, teaching master classes and speaking with students and professionals in studios such as this one, near downtown Richmond, passing on the credo that has guided

her since her teens: It's not about you. It's about the work.

"Awards are nice," de Lavallade said by phone from her home on New York's Upper West Side after she had found out she was being honored. "But it's the giving that matters. The audience is part of it. You don't leave them out. You're all there experiencing it together. For me, that's what the arts are about."

De Lavallade was never the kind of dancer who blasted technique at her audience. Her most obvious gift has always been an unearthly ease of moving, a corporeal legato. Her subtler skill is the way she has used that ease to etch a character, binding her body to the music to serve a dramatic purpose. This is what she's



—Margot Schuman

trying to convey to the young women in front of her in the studio.

She prods them to think about the expressive aim behind their moves. She tells them why the choreography calls for them to stroke their forearms at one point, and why the action must be light and quick, like an involuntary tic, recalling Holiday's heroin habit.

De Lavallade watches them from a chair at one side of the

De Lavallade and Holder on the red carpet at the 2004 Kennedy Center Honors. Holder designed de Lavallade's dress and coat every year they attended.

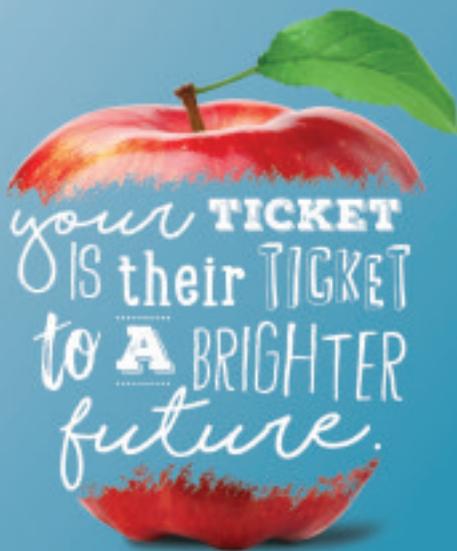
room, but she's on her feet a good deal to demonstrate the lunges and turns, the rolls of the neck, always urging the dancers to keep their movements clear and simple.

"This is storytelling. Real storytelling. Which you don't do anymore."

She drums her fingers in the air. "They gotta talk. Your hands gotta talk. Those are your words."

She repeats the split-second sequence she has been drilling: Arm shoots forward, hand to the hip, head snaps to the side. Measured against the jaunty piano music, the tension in her moves suggest Holiday's guardedness and contained frustration.

"You see?" It's not a question. "That's all you need to say."



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A MILLION DOLLAR LOOK FOR THE OPA-LOCKA HIALEAH FLEA MARKET

Arches in front of the Opa-locka Hialeah Flea Market, which were originally white, were repainted and then branded by graffiti artist, Goonz.



GRAND REMODELING FOR THE THREE-DECADE-OLD MARKETPLACE

By Nyamekye Daniel
 ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

The operators of the Opa-locka Hialeah Flea Market are giving the shopping landmark a million dollar makeover.

An official at RER Outdoor Marketplace LLC, which manages the site, said the company is investing \$1 million in renovations for the 72-acre flea market and auto auction site.

The renovation plans include revamping parking, restrooms and canopies and new exterior paint and signage, according to the property manager, Terence Huang, vice president and general manager of RER.

"If you look at people's idea of the flea market, people are stuck with the idea of what they saw in the 1980s," said Huang. "It was full and beautiful, but in the last 10 years, it has deteriorated. That's why we have the intention to improve it."

The Opa-locka Hialeah Flea Market represents the largest employer facility in Opa-locka with 1,100 employees working. Please turn to **FLEA MARKET 8D**



—Photos courtesy of RER Outdoor Marketplace LLC

Workers paving the parking lot of the Opa-locka Hialeah Flea Market during the first phase of renovations for the market.

Anita Hill to lead Hollywood commission on sexual harassment

A response to recent reports in entertainment

By Cara Buckley
 The New York Times

A commission headed by Anita Hill and composed of and funded by some of the most powerful names in Hollywood has been created to tackle widespread sexual abuse and harassment in the media and entertainment industries.

Called the Commission on Sexual Harassment and



The Hollywood commission will be led by Anita Hill.

—Photo credit: Willy Sanjuan/Invision, via AP

Advancing Equality in the Workplace, the initiative was spearheaded by Kathleen Kennedy, the president of Lucasfilm; Maria Eitel, the co-chair of the Nike Foundation; the powerhouse attorney Nina Shaw; and Freada Kapoor Klein, the venture capitalist who helped pioneer surveys on sexual harassment decades ago.

The commission's mission, according to a news release, is to "tackle the broad culture of abuse and power disparity."

"The commission will lead the entertainment industry toward alignment in achieving safer, fairer, more equitable and accountable workplaces

— particularly for women and marginalized people," according to a statement released Friday evening.

Kennedy, Eitel, Shaw and Klein called the meeting on Friday, and it included some of the titans of the media and entertainment industries: the agents Ari Emanuel and Bryan Lourd, Screen Actors Guild President Gabrielle Carteris, Dawn Hudson of the academy, Bob Iger of Disney, Jim Gianopolis of Paramount, Leslie Moonves of CBS and Ted Sarandos of Netflix.

"The commission will not seek just one solution, but a comprehensive strategy to address the complex and

interrelated causes of the problems of parity and power," Kennedy said, adding that the fact that so many industry leaders "came together, in one room, to explore solutions speaks to a new era."

Hill, who brought sexual harassment to the fore in 1991 during the Senate confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, said in a statement, that the commission was part of a "long overdue journey to adopt best practices and create institutional change that fosters a culture of respect and human dignity throughout the industry."

The commission is to reconvene early in the new year.

Is Secretary Betsy DeVos weak on student loan protection?

COMMENTARY

By Charlene Crowell
 Center for Responsible Lending

In case you haven't yet heard, Richard Cordray, the first-ever Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) resigned in late November. President Trump's unlawful appointment of Mick Mulvaney to serve as the Bureau's Acting Director signals a distinct shift in the Bureau's future. Since enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Re-

form Act, this column has chronicled how the consumer's "financial cop-on-the-beat" was working on their behalf. Besides powerful enforcement authority to bring nearly \$12 billion in restitution and forgiveness to financially-harmed consumers, CFPB's director is also legally empowered to promulgate rules that bring clarity and transparency over a range of financial services.

The ballooning and unsustainable debt of student

loans is a key area in which the CFPB took strong enforcement actions during the Obama Administration, but the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue pledged to curb CFPB's actions and appointed an Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos, to delay if not deny much of what CFPB accomplished, particularly in student lending.



CROWELL

For example, the "Gainful Employment" (GE) rule was finalized in 2014 and took effect in 2015. Even so, Secretary DeVos has called for a new negotiated rulemaking process for it and another key rule known as "Borrower Defense to Repayment" that was set to take effect this year.

With neither rule available

to financially harmed consumers, a series of negotiated rulemaking sessions on each was scheduled to revisit both rules. From November 13-15, the first negotiated rulemaking was held on the rule known as "Borrower Defense to Repayment."

Thousands of students who enrolled in now-defunct programs were left with debts that the Department's delay in rulemaking only worsens. What they do have are academic credits that no accredited

educational institution will accept, and/or certificates and degrees that do not provide the requisite skills and knowledge in the fields studied. Any delay in their ability to secure financial forgiveness adds only more stress to an already lengthy wait. Additionally, schools with poor performing records continue to enroll students and increase the scope of the national student debt crisis.

Currently, the Department Please turn to **DEVOS 10D**

Million-dollar repairs for Opa-locka Hialeah Flea Market

FLEA MARKET

continued from 7D

from the location. About 90 percent of the current merchants have operated at the site for more than 20 years, and African-Americans make up 40 percent of the overall merchant population, according to Huang.

Around 100,000 visitors venture to the market every week, according to the flea market's website. Patrons have access to fresh fruits, various restaurants and bars, clothing stores, grocery stores, dentists, tattoo shops, barbers, shoes, jewelry, electronics, home goods and more at the market.

Valery Ciccus, 19, has spent her entire life helping her mother run several small businesses at the flea market after school and on the weekends. Ciccus said that she loves the improvements.

Her mother, Evelyn Philladore, 56 has been selling a variety of used items, new women's clothes, home goods and linens in the flea market for 28 years. Ciccus' father and grandmother also once were vendors there before she was born.

At one point, Philladore had four stalls and two Haitian re-



—Photos courtesy of RER Outdoor Marketplace LLC

Workers clean part of a draining system during the first phase of the renovations of the Opa-locka Hialeah Flea Market.

staurants at the site, but she lost some of the stalls because of a three-year battle with cancer and during a time where Ciccus said the conditions of the flea market were at their worst.

"We did lose a lot of customers a few years before [RER] came," said Ciccus. [The previous operators] broke down a lot of stalls, so people stopped coming."

Ciccus and her mother now only have two stalls, a thrift store and women's clothing store for

which they hash out a total of \$750 in weekly rent.

On a good week, Ciccus said they could make well over \$8,000 from personal customers alone who buy their goods in bulk. She said she hopes the flea market's facelift will bring in even more revenue.

Huang said RER plans to enhance the "customer experience and merchant profitability" by converting the Opa-locka Hialeah Flea Market from "outdated to "impressive."

RER obtained the lease through investment companies, Gramercy Property Trust, Bodwin and SeaBase Florida Corp. after the group closed an \$80 million sale on the 72.10-acre parcel of land in July. Now, they plan to do a complete remodel of the market by spring 2018.

The property management company has already repaved and repaired over two acres of parking space, according to the VP, Huang. He said overcrowded parking lots have been an issue for the last 30 years, so with the aid of an engineer, RER has remapped the parking lot for customers which eases up the traffic flow and availability

of parking spaces.

In addition to parking, RER has invested \$50,000 into equipping the market with fire resistant, hurricane and mold proof canopies, and a part of the million dollars was also used to update and clean the market's drainage system, according to Huang.

Ciccus' favorite repairs so far have been to the bathrooms which were fully renovated and cleaned. She said before the changes, she would never use the bathrooms at the flea market.

"To be honest, they did a pretty good job," she said. "I would hold it from 7 a.m to 5 or 6 p.m., if I had to. Now, I don't mind using it at all."

Ciccus said that she is also impressed by the new look of the arches at the entrance of the flea market.

The property management group hired contractors to give the white arches a fresh layer of yellow paint. They also took it a step forward by employing Wynwood graffiti artist Goonz to spray paint the entrance in big, blue letters, "FLEA MARKET" and "THANK YOU."

"The colors they picked are bold, the flea market has been here for a very long time, but I am not sure if people knew it's open a lot," said Ciccus. "Now with the new sign, I feel like we are saying, 'come in, we are

still here."

City Commissioner Matthew Pigatt said the renovation of the flea market signifies the transformation that is taking place in Opa-locka.

As one of the largest streams of revenue for the city, the commissioner believes that growth of the city conjoins with the prosperity of the flea market.

"It brings jobs to the city, it brings business to the city, it brings commerce to the city, and those are the elements we need to have a thriving community," Pigatt said. "If our businesses succeed, then we succeed. RER has invested in Opa-locka, and they will get a return on their investment."



LEGAL NOTICE

Parasent to U.S. 95 87372, notice is hereby given to the voters listed below. Please be advised that your eligibility to vote in the coming local election is dependent on the information provided by the State of Florida. You are required to contact the Supervisor of Elections in Miami-Dade County, Florida, no later than thirty days after the date of this notice in order to receive information regarding the basis for the potential ineligibility and the procedure to resolve the matter. Failure to respond will result in a determination of a eligibility by the Supervisor of Elections and your name will be removed from the voter list. If you have any questions pertaining to this matter, please contact the Supervisor of Elections at 2708 NW 67th Avenue, Miami, Florida or call 305-490-8363.

AVISO LEGAL

Conforme a U.S. 95 87372, por el presente se notifica a los electores enumerados a continuación según información provista por el Estado de Florida, su elegibilidad para votar en las elecciones locales que se celebrarán en el Condado de Miami-Dade, Florida, no podrá ser mayor de treinta días después de la fecha de esta noticia, a menos que los electores se comuniquen con el Supervisor de Elecciones del Condado de Miami-Dade, Florida, con el fin de que se les informe sobre el fundamento de su potencial ineligibilidad y sobre el procedimiento para resolver el asunto. Si usted no responde a esta obligación de responder, se verá su nombre eliminado de la lista de electores, por parte del Supervisor de Elecciones, y su nombre se eliminará del sistema de inscripción de electores de todo el estado. Si tiene alguna duda acerca de esta noticia, por favor, comuníquese con el Supervisor de Elecciones, en 2708 NW 67th Avenue, Miami, Florida, o por teléfono, al 305-490-8363.

AVI LEGAL

De acuerdo con el artículo 95.87372, se le notifica a los electores de la lista a continuación que su elegibilidad para votar en las elecciones locales que se celebrarán en el Condado de Miami-Dade, Florida, no podrá ser mayor de treinta días después de la fecha de esta noticia, a menos que los electores se comuniquen con el Supervisor de Elecciones del Condado de Miami-Dade, Florida, con el fin de que se les informe sobre el fundamento de su potencial ineligibilidad y sobre el procedimiento para resolver el asunto. Si usted no responde a esta obligación de responder, se verá su nombre eliminado de la lista de electores, por parte del Supervisor de Elecciones, y su nombre se eliminará del sistema de inscripción de electores de todo el estado. Si tiene alguna duda acerca de esta noticia, por favor, comuníquese con el Supervisor de Elecciones, en 2708 NW 67th Avenue, Miami, Florida, o por teléfono, al 305-490-8363.

Notice is hereby given to: Por el presente se da aviso a: Top section	Last known address: Última dirección conocida: Bottom section last name	Notice is hereby given to: Por el presente se da aviso a: Top section	Last known address: Última dirección conocida: Bottom section last name
Alexander, Edgar B	11212 Gumpert Blvd	Knight, Michael K	17700 NW 37th Ave
Ans, Joshua	15402 NW 274th St	Koer, JH, Edward	2700 Brinkley Ave Apt 6
Anderson, Gary A	17025 NE 117th St	Kous, Glenn	500 South Dr
Arnyel, Kevin B	11070 NW 2839A St	Lewis, Miguel A	11344 SW 2839A St
Ayala, David	51 81 NW 297h St	Lorenz, George E	3874 NW 557h St
Beltrami, Jason J	9929 NW 187h Ave	Lynch, Louise L	728 W Palm Dr Apt 009
Bellamy-Piquero, Paula L	718 NW 1257h St	Libar SR, Jaime	5811 SW 1287h St Apt F
Bello, Rene	4344 SW 1307h Pl	Ludwick, Wendan	11850 NW 829A Ave
Brown, Thomas R	4312 NW 187h St	Madon, Mary M	1516 NW 457h St
Brown, Miguel P	5236 NW 1839A St	Mayero SP, Bernabeita E	1326 NW 1807h Ter
Bushart, Gerald P	4511 Cheesnut St Apt 6	McKinstry, Allen	118 NW 712h St
Calhoun, Ulrich	11211 SW 1547h St	Wendee, Luis A	8000 Grand Canal Dr
Canter, Dennis, Year 6	56 NW 367h Ave	Witchell, Malcolm	15425 SW 2887h St Apt E12
Cela, Felix D	15809 NE 117h Ave	Higiers, Juan	4740 NW 77h Ave Apt 3
Cobarrubias, Kelly	2386 NW 91st St Apt 1	Paul, Benson	1371 NE 1487h St
Comas, Casey D	1385 SW 147h Pl	Perkins, Noel	1820 SW 1297h St
Conwell, Andrew P	1432 NW 323d St	Prater, Frank D	71 15 W 363 St
De Ltd, Theodore	6924 SW 219 St	Quirago, Juan P	139 7386 St Apt 3
Del Palla, Maria L	3018 NW 457h St	Rivas, Candace	2585 NW 287h St
Edwards, John M	645 NW 297h St Apt 5	Flomen, Amy L	6308 SW 1529d Ave
Faliciano, Anthony	1108 NW 547h St	Flomen, Steven L	1181 W 387h Ter
Flaker, Paul	13621 NE 259 Ave	Floros, Anthony	14895 SW 2877h St
Floyd, Judith J	11765 SW 221st St	Fuhr, Assar E	568 NW 1247h St
Gaines, Tommy L	11840 SW 229d St	Semirami, Santiago	1428 SW 257h Ave
Garcia Fabra, Elena G	4811 E 97h Ln	Southern, Rufus B	601 NW 227h Ter
Garcia Gonzalez, Carlos R	1114 NW 379 Ave Road	Scott, JF, Samuel	5231 NW 1387h St
Garcia, Carlos A	356 Palmetto Ct	Shaw, Neil	443 NE 1057h St Apt 245
Gates, Manuel D	5381 NW 239d Ave Apt 293	Shaw, Joseph J	851 NW 1127h St
Gibson, Marshall L	1386 NW 547h St Apt 1	Sims, Lazzaro	15731 SW 1377h Ave Apt 182
Gilmore, John D	12880 NE 67h Ave Apt 6	Slater SR, Charles L	15125 Monroe St
Gilmore, Ramona C	11999 NW 183d Ln Apt 210	St Fort, Maria	508 NW 117h St Apt 1 E
Giorin, Terry P	20811 SW 129d Dr	Stewart, Miguel A	728 NE 104 Ave
Gonzalez, Victoria	6405 W 247h Ln	Sylvia, Willie S	6721 NW 210h Ave
Greer SR, Floyd R	61 NW 229d Ave	Tamayo, Albert L	3886 SW 1118 Ave
Harrison, Rose A	1425 NW 1347h St	Thompson, Kenneth D	1281 NW 547h St Apt 266
Hernandez, Roberto	421 SW 1807h Ave	Thompson, Antoni E	11131 SW 1547h St
Hernandez, Juan Carlos R	12145 SW 1857h St	Torres, Douglas	432 NW 97h St Apt 0
Herrera, Yohana	91 5 SW 1277h Ct	Valdez, Roberto E	13245 NW 87h Street Dr Apt 296
Hill SR, David M	527 SW 47h Ter Apt 7	Wallace, Clara E	5281 SW 77h St
Holmes JF, Kenneth L	13371 SW 2847h St	Wallis, Harry	13330 SW 2847h St Apt 37
Hunt, Tracy	3415 Opa Locka Blvd	Vigilias, Brian	11841 NE 21st St
Johnson, Sandy E	16258 NW 287h Ave	Williams, Franklin	125 NW 547h St
Johnson, Selicia S	421 NW 738d St	Williams, Jacqueline B	6428 NW 187h Ave Apt E
Jones, Thomas A	1058 NW 1547h St	Willis, Billy L	1628 NW 47h Ave Apt 13E
Jones, Charles	2911 NW 7387h Ter		

Christina White
Supervisor of Elections, Miami-Dade County
Supervisor de Elecciones, Condado de Miami-Dade
Specialist Elections, Korte Miami-Dade

For legal notice, visit us at <http://legaldocs.miamidade.gov>



City of Miami Notice of Solicitation

IFB No.: 786381

Title: Citywide Storm Sewer Repair and Installation
IFB Due Date Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 2:00 PM

Voluntary Pre-Bid Conference City of Miami

444 SW 2nd Avenue, 6th Floor South Conference Room
Miami, Florida 33130
Wednesday, December 27, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification:
Friday, January 5, 2018 at 5:00 PM)

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

For additional information, please contact Anthony Hansen at Amhansen@miamigov.com or visit our Procurement Opportunities webpage at: <http://www.miamigov.com/MiamiCapital/NewBidsandProposals.html>

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

DP# 29638

Daniel J. Alfonso, City Manager



City of Miami Notice of Solicitation

RFQ No.: 16-17-063

Title: Civil Engineering Services for Miscellaneous Projects
RFQ Due Date Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at 2:00 PM

Voluntary Pre-Proposal Conference City of Miami

444 SW 2nd Avenue, 6th Floor South Conference Room
Miami, Florida 33130
Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 1:00 PM.

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification:
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 5:00 PM)

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

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

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

DP# 29639

Daniel J. Alfonso, City Manager



The Bitcoin investment boom: In code we will now trust

By Tim Wu

The New York Times

You don't need brilliant financial analysis skills to notice that Bitcoin is in a bubble. It has grown in value from about 39 cents to over \$18,000 in just eight years and recently attracted broad media attention by doubling in just a few days. The conventional wisdom had been that illegal and illicit transactions — buying drugs or transferring money out of Argentina — accounted for much of Bitcoin's value. Today the mainstream view sees mere greed and speculation.

Yet as Bitcoin continues to grow, there's reason to think something deeper and more important is going on. Bitcoin's rise may reflect, for better or worse, a monumental transfer of social trust: away from human institutions backed by government and to systems reliant on well-tested computer code. It is a trend that transcends finance: In our fear of human error, we are putting an increasingly deep faith in technology.

Bitcoin may be in a bubble, but not all bubbles are created equal. Some are shimmering nothings, reflecting little more than an underlying pyramid scheme. But others are like ocean swells that could become enormous waves. Consider the tech stocks of the late 1990s — a bubble, to be sure, but in retrospect, was Amazon really overvalued?

What gives the Bitcoin bubble significance is that, like '90s tech, it is part of something much larger than itself. More and more we are losing faith in humans and depending instead on machines.

The transformation is more obvious outside of finance. We trust in computers to fly airplanes, help surgeons cut into our bodies and simplify daily tasks, like finding our way home. In this respect, finance is actually behind: Where we no longer feel we can trust people, we let computer code take over.

Bitcoin is part of this trend. It was, after all, a carnival of human errors and misfeasance that inspired the invention of Bitcoin in 2009, namely, the financial crisis. Banks backed by economically powerful nations had been the symbol of financial trustworthiness, the gold standard in the post-gold era. But they revealed themselves as reckless, drunk on other people's money, holding extraordinarily complex assets premised on a web of promises that were often mutually incompatible. To a computer programmer, the financial system still looks a lot like untested code with weak debugging that puts way too much faith in the idea that humans will behave properly. As with any bad software, it can be expected to crash when conditions change.

We might add that major governments — the issuers of currency, the guarantors of banks and enforcers of contracts — do not always inspire confidence. Governments can be tempted to print money recklessly or seize wealth brazenly from their citizens — Venezuelan hyperinflation and Indian demonetization are recent examples. But even the most trusted governments can be dubious. Europe, riddled by internal struggles among states, is still in shock about the planned departure of Britain from the European Union. China is a secretive authoritarian state that can lash out against its citizens and rivals when it feels insecure. The United States, perhaps the main guarantor of world solvency, is some \$20 trillion in debt, constantly on the verge of default and headed by a serial bankrupt who prizes unpredictability. It is little wonder that the world's citizens might be looking for alternatives.

Bitcoin's fans don't entirely distrust human institutions. It is rather that they'd prefer not to need to trust humans to keep their promises, when we know that we humans are deeply fallible. That might seem cynical, but perhaps it is ap-

propriately humble. As Satoshi Nakamoto, the pseudonym for the person or persons who invented Bitcoin, puts it, "the root problem with conventional currency is all the trust that's required to make it work."

This all helps explain the popularity of Bitcoin as an asset independent of government, mainstream banks and their various shenanigans.

But still, is it really worth anything at all? It is based on a "blockchain," a technology that creates a decentralized public ledger and rigorously tracks transfers. It is maintained by its users, and no government can mint more coins. Bitcoin isn't backed by any sovereign, and unlike a stock or a bond, it gives you a claim to nothing other than

Bitcoin itself. Yet that illusory quality is true of most forms of money, a shared hallucination that we tolerate as long as it works. If enough others value something, that can be enough to make it serve as a store of value. Sure, Bitcoin will crash again, but over its lifetime, it has already withstood multiple crashes, runs and splits. It actually feels tested.

This isn't to idealize Bitcoin. Despite its virtual nature, it is still a human institution, facing its own misdeeds and governance problems. Odds are that Bitcoin may never function well as a general medium of exchange (something you can buy things with) because of its wild fluctuations, but might work fine as a store of value that you can sell. It

may, like Netscape circa 1995, be portending changes to come. But Bitcoin has captured something. As much as we may love other humans, it is now in code we trust.

Tim Wu is a law professor at Columbia, the author of "The Attention Merchants: The Epic Struggle to Get Inside Our Heads" and a contributing opinion writer.

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DeVos backs away from student loan debt

DEVOS
continued from 7D

of Education has approximately 95,000 pending complaints seeking relief under the Borrower Defense rule.

When the negotiated rulemaking session for the "Borrower Defense to Repayment" rule was held, participating consumer advocates noticed a slant towards business interests compared to those who supported consumers and students. The rulemaking session included industry lobbyists, representatives of for-profit colleges, consumer advocates and government officials. Participant requests to make the proceedings publicly accessible were denied. The Department of Education refused to allow live-streaming of its rulemaking, despite its availability and that it is frequently utilized at every level of government.

"These sessions and rules will impact millions of Americans, most of whom do not live in the District of Columbia or cannot afford to miss days at work," noted Ashley Harrington, a policy counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) and a negotiated rulemaking participant. "Many of those left outside the meeting room and its process are the very same students who have been and will continue to be most affected by predatory practices at the institutions these committees are examining."

Harrington continued: "With over 44 million Americans in debt for \$1.4 trillion in loans, we all need as much transparency as possible."

This precedent set by the mid-November rulemaking does not bode well for the session on the GE rule. This rule would require that career and technical training schools lead to income levels that enable its

students to afford their student loan repayments.

Particularly for Black and other consumers of color, higher education has been preached as the best way to earn entry into America's middle class, and reach financial independence. To finance educational costs, many of these consumers borrowed more heavily than other consumers before unfortunately discovering what they were promised was not being delivered.

While student borrowers grapple with rising debts, a recent CFPB report showed that, during the past five years, more than 50,000 student loan complaints were filed. Additionally, more than 10,000 other related debt collection complaints were filed on both private and federal student loans. As the report details student loan complaints by state, it is proof that student debt is indeed a

national problem on multiple levels.

For example, CFPB's analysis found that the growth in the number of student loan complaints exceeded 100 percent in 11 states: Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington State and West Virginia.

The largest number of student loan complaints came from one of five states that tallied 2,600 complaints or more: California, New York, Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania. In these states and three others — Georgia, Illinois and Ohio — debt totals tallied by complaints ranged from a low of \$53 billion in Georgia, to a state high of \$129 billion in California.

Commenting on these findings, Seth Frothman, CFPB's Student Loan ombudsman said, "These complaints help us to recognize and work to

stop industry practices that harm consumers and can serve as the first step in a process that halted industry practices harming some of the most vulnerable individuals, saved hundreds of millions of dollars for tens of thousands of student loan borrowers, and strengthened aspects of the student loan repayment process to protect millions of consumers."

Transparency has been CFPB's watchword, not just in student loans, but in every lending area. Now with a new Acting Director, a slow drag on rules could turn into a stop. And all the while, consumers with any unresolved or pending complaints on file with CFPB are forced to wait to learn their financial fates.

"The 'Gainful Employment' and 'Borrower Defense to Repayment' rules work together to protect borrowers and their families at both ends of college attendance,"

noted CRL Policy Counsel Whitney Barkley-Denney, a participant in the GE negotiated rulemaking. "If properly enforced, GE would stop deceptive and predatory programs from enrolling new students."

Barkley-Denney concluded: "Borrower Defense to Repayment helps borrowers who have already been deceived get back on their feet. Borrowers and taxpayers deserve to know that the Department of Education is looking out for them from the time they are making their enrollment decisions until they finish paying their last student loan."

Public Health Trust
Jackson Health System
Miami, Florida 33136

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Bids are hereby solicited and will be received on behalf of the Public Health Trust/Jackson Health System of Miami-Dade County in the Procurement Management Department, 1500 NW 12th Avenue, Suite 814, Miami, FL 33136 on the date indicated below. The Invitation To Bid (ITB) solicitation document can be obtained at the same location at this time. This competitive ITB process is governed at this time by the "Cone of Silence" in accordance with County Ordinance No. 98-106.

The ITB (Invitation To Bid) is due at 2:00 PM Local Time on Friday, January 5, 2018.

ITB No. 17-14924-KG Maintenance Services for JHS Generators

Contact Name: Kevin L. Guhl, CFPB Procurement Contracting Officer
Contact Number: 305-585-7829
Email Address: kevin.guhl@jhsMiami.org

To view bid documentation, visit JacksonSupplierPortal.org.



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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY Notice of Special Elections

Pursuant to Miami-Dade County Resolutions, City Resolutions and Town Resolutions adopted on November 7, 2017, by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, Florida, notice is hereby given of Special Elections on January 23, 2018, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors residing in the proposed districts, for their approval or disapproval, the below proposals:

- Amended Kings Bay Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Pine Bay Estates Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Hammock Oaks Harbor Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Snapper Creek Lakes Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Biscayne Point Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Hammock Lake Banyan Drive Rowing Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Old Cutler Bay Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Cocoplum Phase I Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Sunrise Harbour Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Miami Lakes Section One Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Miami Lakes - Loch Lomond Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Lake Patricia Multipurpose Maintenance Special Taxing District Election
- Royal Oaks Section I Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
- Lake Hilda Multipurpose Maintenance Special Taxing District Election
- Royal Oaks East Security Guard Special Taxing District Election

Proposals

Transfer of the Amended Kings Bay Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Amended Kings Bay Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution No. R-1009-17 and City Resolution R2017-2307?

Yes 10
No 11

Transfer of the Snapper Creek Lakes Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Snapper Creek Lakes Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution R-1017-17 and City Resolution R2017-2237?

Yes 18
No 19

Transfer of the Cocoplum Phase I Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Cocoplum Phase I Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution No. R-1025-17 and City Resolution R2017-2307?

Yes 26
No 27

Transfer of the Lake Patricia Multipurpose Maintenance Special Taxing District

Shall the Town of Miami Lakes become the governing body of the Lake Patricia Multipurpose Maintenance Special Taxing District so that the Town, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution No. R-1033-17 and Town Resolution R17-1485?

Yes 34
No 35

Transfer of the Pine Bay Estates Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Pine Bay Estates Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution No. R-1019-17 and City Resolution R2017-2307?

Yes 12
No 13

Transfer of the Biscayne Point Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Miami Beach become the governing body of the Biscayne Point Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution No. R-1019-17 and City Resolution R2017-2909?

Yes 20
No 21

Transfer of the Sunrise Harbour Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Sunrise Harbour Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution No. R-1027-17 and City Resolution R2017-2307?

Yes 29
No 29

Transfer of the Royal Oaks Section I Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the Town of Miami Lakes become the governing body of the Royal Oaks Section I Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the Town, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution R-1035-17 and Town Resolution R17-1485?

Yes 36
No 37

Transfer of the Hammock Lakes Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Hammock Lakes Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution R-1013-17 and City Resolution R2017-2307?

Yes 14
No 15

Transfer of the Hammock Lake Banyan Drive Rowing Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Hammock Lake Banyan Drive Rowing Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution R-1021-17 and City Resolution R2017-2307?

Yes 22
No 23

Transfer of the Miami Lakes Section One Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the Town of Miami Lakes become the governing body of the Miami Lakes Section One Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the Town, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution No. R-1029-17 and Town Resolution R17-1485?

Yes 31
No 31

Transfer of the Lake Hilda Multipurpose Maintenance Special Taxing District

Shall the Town of Miami Lakes become the governing body of the Lake Hilda Multipurpose Maintenance Special Taxing District so that the Town, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution R-1037-17 and Town Resolution R17-1485?

Yes 38
No 39

Transfer of the Hammock Oaks Harbor Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Hammock Oaks Harbor Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution R-1015-17 and City Resolution R2017-2247?

Yes 16
No 17

Transfer of the Old Cutler Bay Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Old Cutler Bay Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the City, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution R-1023-17 and City Resolution R2017-887?

Yes 24
No 25

Transfer of the Miami Lakes - Loch Lomond Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the Town of Miami Lakes become the governing body of the Miami Lakes - Loch Lomond Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the Town, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution R-1031-17 and Town Resolution R17-1485?

Yes 32
No 33

Transfer of the Royal Oaks East Security Guard Special Taxing District

Shall the Town of Miami Lakes become the governing body of the Royal Oaks East Security Guard Special Taxing District so that the Town, instead of Miami-Dade County, exercises ownership and control of the District as set forth in County Resolution R-1039-17 and Town Resolution R17-1485?

Yes 40
No 41

Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters residing within the proposed areas who will be eligible to vote Yes or No for the proposals. All marked ballots must be received by the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections by 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

These special elections will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Miami-Dade County and other applicable provisions of general law relating to special elections.

Christina White
Supervisor of Elections
Miami-Dade County, Florida

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



SOUTHEAST OVERTOWN/PARK WEST COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Miami ("SEOPW CRA") 2016 Annual Report is available.

In accordance with section 163.356(3)(c), Florida Statutes, the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Miami ("SEOPW CRA") have developed the annual report of their activities including a complete financial statement setting forth assets, liabilities, income, and operating expenses as of the end of Fiscal Year 2016. This report has been filed with the City of Miami's Office of the City Clerk and is available for inspection during business hours in the Office of the City Clerk, located at Miami City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive. In addition, the report is available in the office of the SEOPW CRA, located at 819 NW 2nd Avenue, 3rd Floor, Miami FL 33136.

It can also be found on the SEOPW CRA's website at www.seopwcr.com

For further information, contact the SEOPW CRA at (305) 679-6800.

#29098

Cornelius Shiver Esq., Executive Director
Southeast Overtown/Park West
Community Redevelopment Agency

Invitation to Bid CEP Renovation & Phase 2

Turner Construction Company, MCO Construction, and Jackson Health System cordially invites subcontractors to complete and submit their bids by **Tuesday, January 23, 2018 no later than 2pm EST** for the following project:

JACKSON SOUTH MEDICAL CENTER EXPANSION & RENOVATION CEP RENOVATION & PHASE 2 BID PACKAGES

The Invitation to Bid for the CEP Renovation includes the following packages.

- General Trades (Demo, Concrete/Reinforcement, Roofing, etc.) [SBE-C Set-Aside]
- Landscaping, Irrigation and Hardscape

The Invitation to Bid for the Phase 2 includes the following packages.

- Selective Demolition
- Concrete / Masonry
- Structural Steel / Misc. Metals
- Unistrut Framing
- Millwork
- Roofing [SBE-C Set-Aside]
- Applied Fireproofing
- Doors, Frames, and Hardware
- Interior Glass
- Drywall & Framing, Stucco, and ACT
- Tiling [SBE-C Set-Aside]
- Resilient Flooring & Base [SBE-C Set-Aside]
- Painting & Wallcoverings [SBE-C Set-Aside]
- Specialties and Wall Protection
- Window Treatments & Cubicle Curtain Track
- Fire Protection

Bid requirements, bid forms, specifications, drawings and other construction documents will be available through www.buildingconnected.com. Respond via www.tjacksonsouth.com website to get access to bid documents. Select the phase of interest and enter contact information.

All bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope to Jackson Memorial Hospital Facilities, Design and Construction Department trailer located at the corner of NW 12th Ave and NW 19th St. Complete address is listed below:

Jackson Memorial Hospital
Facilities, Design and Construction Department
FD&C Department Trailers
Attn: Mari C. Lopez
1611 NW 12th Ave Miami, FL 33136

The pre-bid walk-thru will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2018. The time for the walk-thru is to be determined.

Turner is committed to supporting the economic development of certified Miami-Dade county small business enterprise — construction (SBE-C) firms. Miami-Dade County certified SBE-C entities are encouraged to submit a bid package for this and future projects. Turner Construction Company and associated partners are an equal employment opportunity employer minorities/females/veterans/individuals with disabilities/sexual orientation/gender identity.

All questions can be directed to Eddy Rojas at erogas@tcco.com.

2018 brings pay boost to many low-wage workers

By Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

The movement to lift earnings of low-paid workers will gather force in 2018, with a growing number of states and cities raising their minimum wages as high as \$15 an hour.

Proponents say the initiatives can help narrow a widening income gap between the wealthy and poor. Business advocates say they're already leading to restaurant closings and layoffs.

On or about Jan. 1, 18 states and 20 cities, including many in California, will hike their base pay because of laws or ballot initiatives that mandate gradual raises over several years or automatic cost-of-living increases. Later in the year, another three states and 18 cities and counties will boost their pay floors, according to the National Employment Law Project, a worker advocacy group.

Twelve of the states and many cities are set for relatively large increases as part of a multi-year phase-in, while nine states are rolling out smaller cost-of-living bumps.

The pay hikes have been linked, at least in part, to nationwide fast-food worker demonstrations and demands for a \$15 wage since 2012. Those pleas were initially deemed far-fetched. But now California, New York and more than a dozen cities are moving toward that standard by 2022 in a wave that will cover one in five U.S. workers.

For example, the pay floor is set to rise from \$9 to \$10 in Maine and from \$11 to \$13 for large employers in New York City. In Florida, by contrast, an inflation-indexed rise will nudge base pay from \$8.10 to



\$8.25. (Many states and localities have lower base wages for tipped employees, such as waiters.)

A few months ago, Sarah Delte, a part-time cashier at a Jack in the Box in San Jose, got a raise from \$12 an hour to \$13.25 in anticipation of

a city-mandated minimum wage increase to \$13.50 on Jan. 1.

"I'm able to get my son Christmas presents (and a new pair of shoes), but I'm not able to save," says Delte, 37, who also receives a rent subsidy and food stamps.

Fast-food worker protests the past three years have helped drive a movement to raise wages to \$15 an hour in several states and cities.

She says a \$15 wage would allow her to begin socking away some money.

Some cities are pushing the envelope. In Silicon Valley, both Mountain View and Sunnyvale will lift their pay floors from \$13 to \$15 an hour Jan. 1, joining Seattle

(for large employers who don't provide benefits) at that benchmark. San Francisco and New York City (for firms with more than 11 employees) will join the \$15 club later in the year.

That full-time minimum wage worker in New York now earning \$22,000 a year would see his or her salary leap to \$30,000, assuming two weeks of vacation.

Meanwhile, four states — Colorado, Hawaii, Maine and Rhode Island — will boost their minimums to \$10 or slightly more on New Year's Day, with Maryland taking that step July 1. They'll join eight states already at or above that level — Arizona, California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Vermont and Washington

"The raises that workers have been fighting for the last five years are finally arriving in paychecks," says Paul Sonn, NELP's general counsel. "They're starting to get to a more meaningful level."

States and localities have acted as Republicans in Congress have blocked efforts to raise the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour in recent years. As a result, 29 states, with 60 percent of the U.S. workforce, now have pay floors that are above the federal government's.

Meanwhile, 16 states plan campaigns in 2018 to lift base pay even higher through legislation or the ballot. There are proposals for \$15 an hour in 10 states, including Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts and New Jersey. And among the 21 states still stuck at the federal minimum, Pennsylvania is expected to consider a bill that would more than double that floor to \$15.

The raises are broadly joining the paychecks of Americans on the lowest rungs of the income ladder. Workers in the bottom 10th percentile of hourly wages received an average 5 percent pay hike in the first half of 2017 compared with a year earlier, significantly more than any other group, according to an analysis by the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute.

"I'm so excited ... that I don't have to constantly choose between paying my bills or doctor's visits," Shantel Walker, 36, a Papa John's worker in Brooklyn, N.Y., said of her imminent raise from \$12 to \$13.50 an hour.

But Michael Saltsman, research director for the Employment Policies Institute, which is partly funded by the restaurant industry, says the hikes have increased business costs, especially for restaurants. In San Francisco, he says, dozens of eateries have shuttered as a result of the increases.

"You're seeing restaurants closing, you're seeing employees lose hours of work and their jobs and a slowdown in employment growth" as some outlets replace workers with ordering kiosks.

A University of Washington study in June found the second step of the minimum wage rise in Seattle, from \$10.50 to \$13 in January 2016, increased hourly pay in low-wage jobs by 3 percent but reduced the number of hours worked in such jobs by 9 percent.

Total earnings for those workers were cut by an average \$125 a month in 2016, according to the study. But a UC-Berkeley study of that pay hike found a negligible effect on employment.

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SKANSKA Invitation to Bid

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received on **Tuesday, January 9th at 2:00pm** by Jackson Health System (for Skanska USA Building) for the following independent Jackson Memorial Hospital project:

Jackson Health System – Project “D” – Pediatric Cardiology East Tower

All bids must be delivered via courier i.e. Fedex or hand delivered in a sealed envelope to Jackson Memorial Hospital Facilities, Design and Construction Department trailer located at the corner of NW 12th Ave and NW 19th Street. Complete address is listed below:

**Jackson Memorial Hospital
Facilities, Design and Construction, Trailer #1
Attn: Skanska
1611 NW 12th Ave
Miami, FL 33136**

There is a pre-bid walk-through scheduled on **December 20th at 10:00am**. Bid requirements and bid forms, specifications, drawings and other construction documents will be available on DocuPro. Bid packages include demolition, framing and drywall, acoustical ceilings, cubicle track & curtain, millwork, doors, windows, flooring, finishes, specialties, fire stopping, fire protection, plumbing, HVAC, and electrical.

Skanska is committed to supporting the economic development of Miami-Dade County "small businesses through the SBE – C program. Miami-Dade County certified "small" business entities are encouraged to submit bid proposals. All subs interested in bidding this project will need to have gone through Skanska's prequalification process. It can be initiated at https://apps.skanska.com/prequal_inquiry.

All questions can be directed to Bob Nidzgorski at Bob.Nidzgorski@skanska.com.

Skanska USA Building Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals in whole or part and to waive informalities and irregularities.

SBE Set Asides: Demolition, Acoustical Ceilings, Cubicle Track, Paint, Interior Windows, Toilet Accessories, Lockers.

Identify CSBE subcontractor classification:

- Level I (3 year average gross revenue \$0-\$2,000,000).
- Level II (3 year average gross revenue \$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000).
- Level III (3 year average gross revenue \$5,000,000 - \$10,000,000).

Each subcontractor is to identify their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, tier SBE participants as bid solicitation.

Each subcontractor is to provide a resume of prior health care experience with point of contact.

Please confirm that you have included the office of inspector general fee in your bid.

Please confirm that you have read and understand fee requirements associated with the Miami Dade Responsible Wage Act of 2017 and have made provisions for 2018.

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