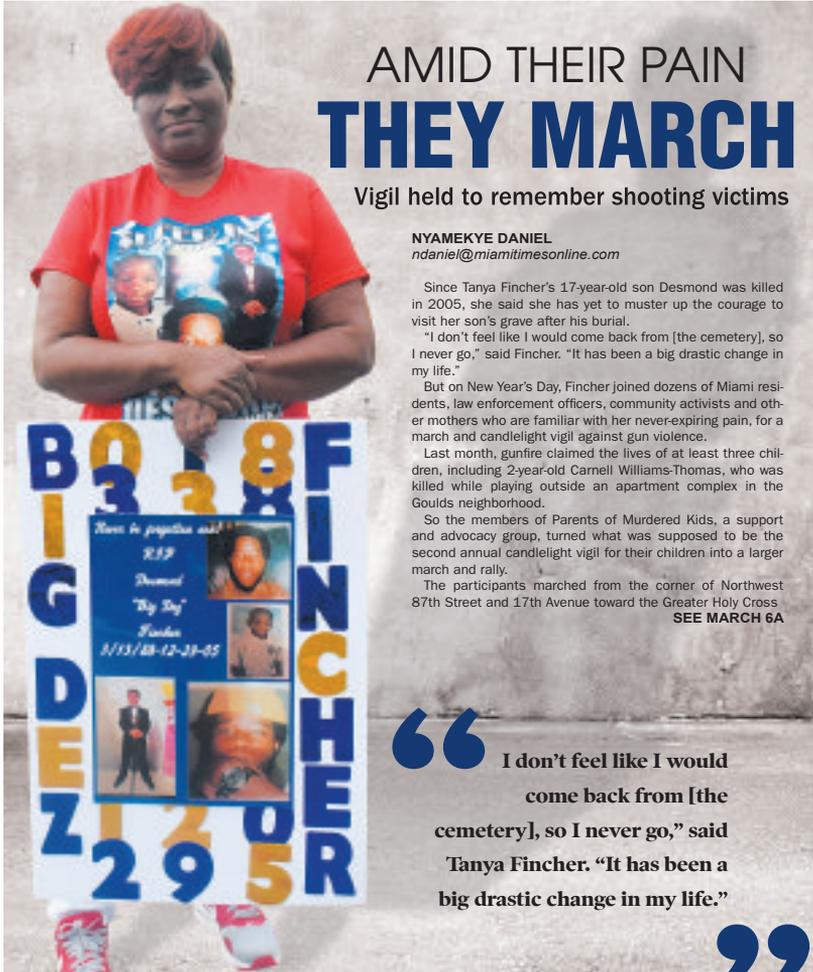


The Miami Times

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Miami Times photo Nyamekye Daniel

AMID THEIR PAIN THEY MARCH

Vigil held to remember shooting victims

NYAMEKYE DANIEL
ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

Since Tanya Fincher's 17-year-old son Desmond was killed in 2005, she said she has yet to muster up the courage to visit her son's grave after his burial.

"I don't feel like I would come back from [the cemetery], so I never go," said Fincher. "It has been a big drastic change in my life."

But on New Year's Day, Fincher joined dozens of Miami residents, law enforcement officers, community activists and other mothers who are familiar with her never-expiring pain, for a march and candlelight vigil against gun violence.

Last month, gunfire claimed the lives of at least three children, including 2-year-old Carnell Williams-Thomas, who was killed while playing outside an apartment complex in the Goulds neighborhood.

So the members of Parents of Murdered Kids, a support and advocacy group, turned what was supposed to be the second annual candlelight vigil for their children into a larger march and rally.

The participants marched from the corner of Northwest 87th Street and 17th Avenue toward the Greater Holy Cross

SEE MARCH 6A

"I don't feel like I would come back from [the cemetery], so I never go," said Tanya Fincher. "It has been a big drastic change in my life."

Black Girl Magic in the ATL

Keisha Lance Bottoms
officially sworn in as mayor

ATLANTA (AP) — After emerging victoriously from a crowded field and a bitterly contested runoff, Keisha Lance Bottoms was sworn in Tuesday as Atlanta's mayor.

Bottoms took her oath of office during an inauguration ceremony in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College. She promised in her inaugural speech to work on fighting homelessness, to improve transparency at City Hall and to create a senior-level staff position for education, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.



Keisha Lance Bottoms is the 60th and current mayor of Atlanta, Georgia.

Bottoms reiterated many of her campaign promises in her speech Tuesday, which ran about 35 minutes, the Journal-Constitution reported. Those included supporting the arts, improving transit and working with state government to propel the city forward.

She announced an initiative to invest \$1 billion

SEE MAYOR 6A

MLK committee promises "enhanced security" at parade

Police are gearing up for the annual parade

ANDREA ROBINSON
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

Organizers of Miami's Martin Luther King Jr. Parade and Festival say they will have "enhanced" security along the parade route and at the park in hopes of avoiding a repeat of the violence that occurred last year.

That announcement comes as local law enforcement agencies figure out how to step up security for another headache: the swarms of motorcycle and bike riders who have infiltrated Liberty City and other South Florida neighborhoods.

Lady Jenkins and Gigi Tinsley, the leaders of the committee,

say they've had months of discussions with Mayor Carlos Gimenez and leaders of local law enforcement agencies.

"We're working with speaking with the city and county and Homeland Security," said Tinsley.

She and Jenkins said they've met over the last few months with members of Miami-Dade Police, City of Miami Police, Broward Sheriff's Office, Fort Lauderdale Police, Miami-Dade Corrections and the Department of Homeland Security.

The departments,
SEE MLK 6A



The Hurricanes gets Badgered

University of Miami fans and cheerleaders showed spirit at the Capital One Orange Bowl at the Hard Rock Stadium. The Miami Hurricanes took an early 11-point lead over the Wisconsin-Madison Badgers in the Dec. 30 game, but lost it. They were defeated 34-24.

SEE PAGE 20D

Miami Times photos Gregory Reed

Dunn ends candidacy for Ros-Lehtinen's US House seat

Younger person should run, he says

JANIAH ADAMS
jadams@miamitimesonline.com

Two months after announcing plans to run for an open U.S. House seat, local professor Marvin Dunn said he's stepping down.

Dunn had entered the Congressional House District 27 race as a Democrat. The seat is currently held by Republican Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who has served since 1989. The district includes Coral Gables, Miami Beach, Cutler

Bay, parts of the City of Miami and parts of Homestead, and is 60 percent Hispanic, and leans Democratic.

Dunn, 77, and a retired Florida International University professor and history expert, said he believes someone younger should take the seat.

"I thought about it, and I think that seat needs to be

"I thought about it, and I think that seat needs to be taken by a younger progressive democrat..."

Marvin Dunn



taken by a younger progressive democrat who can hold it for 30 years," Dunn said. "It needs someone who can and will be willing to hold it much longer."

Dunn has not yet made a decision on a specific candidate that he will support, but he said he will support

SEE SEAT 6A

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VIEWPOINT

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BLACKS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY | JANUARY 3-9, 2018 | MiamiTimesOnline.com

EDITORIAL

Let's adopt a new day

A popular song heard on New Year's Eve at Black churches and among Gospel music fans includes the lyrics "it's a new season, it's a new day. A fresh anointing is flowing my way."

Those words are universal, as they hold the promise of what is possible and what can come to any person. This is regardless of your faith or spiritual belief.

Greater Miami has a chance to reset from the horrific ending of 2017 with senseless, needless gun violence. The Parents of Murdered Kids started off 2018 with a vigil and rally to remember their children. They also gave all of us a charge to get involved. That means residents, elected officials and so-called leaders.

How does that look? For starters, there must be a visible presence of mayors, commissioners, council members, city managers, clerks and business leaders in neighborhoods where people do not have hope, or have lost hope. Those are the same streets where the shootings have occurred.

For citizens, when leadership reaches out, meet them at least half way. Okay, start with a quarter of the way. But at least make a start. There are serious lack of trust issues that impede the communications process.

For the people harboring those who have these weapons, visit your local district police station and have a heart-to-heart. We know you love your relative. Nipping bad behavior will save other lives, possibly your own.

Indeed, it's a new season, and a new day. If we all adopt this mentality, we'll have better outcomes and a brighter 2018.

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One terrible choice for the judiciary

WILLIAM BARBER II, Op-ed contributor, The New York Times

Among President Trump's worrisome nominees to the judiciary, perhaps none is as alarming as Thomas Alvin Farr, a protégé of Jesse Helms, the former North Carolina senator, and a product of the modern white supremacist machine that Mr. Helms pioneered.

Mr. Farr, nominated to serve on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, began his career as counsel for Mr. Helms's Senate campaigns, where he participated in racist tactics to intimidate African-American voters. This alone is reason to reject his nomination, as is his apparent lying on the topic to the Senate Judiciary Committee. But Mr. Farr's connections to Mr. Helms's white supremacist causes and political network go much deeper.

Having lived in North Carolina since childhood, I know Mr. Helms's racist legacy and I hold no doubts that Mr. Farr perpetuates it. An unabashed segregationist, Mr. Helms was affiliated with the Council of Conservative Citizens, an outgrowth of the White Citizens' Councils that promoted white suprem-

acy. Mr. Helms, who served in the Senate for 30 years, used his honorable seat to support the apartheid regime in South Africa while opposing desegregation, civil rights legislation and the creation of the Martin Luther King's Birthday holiday

in this country. Mr. Helms also belittled Carol Moseley Braun, the only Black senator at the time, by singing "Dixie" to her in the Senate elevator. Mr. Farr's former law partner, Thomas Ellis, was Mr. Helms's top deputy for decades. Together, Mr. Helms, Mr. Ellis, and their protégé Mr. Farr unleashed a huge propaganda machine that incited hostility

toward African-Americans. Mr. Farr served as a lead counsel to Mr. Helms's 1990 Senate campaign, which ran the now-infamous "White Hands" TV television ad, designed to inflame white voter anxiety over Mr. Helms's Black oppo-

nent, Harvey Gantt. The same campaign also sent more than 100,000 intimidating postcards to North Carolinians, most of whom were Black eligible to vote, wrongly suggesting they were ineligible and warning that they could be prosecuted for fraud if they tried to cast ballots. A straight line runs from the racial polarization inflamed

for decades by Mr. Helms and his political machine to the re-emergence of violent white supremacists in the past year in places like Charlottesville, Va.

Most recently, Mr. Farr has carried on Mr. Helms's legacy by helping North Carolina's Republican-led Legislature create and defend in court discriminatory voting restrictions and electoral districts, which were eventually struck down by numerous federal courts that found them to be motivated by intentional racism. This is particularly the case in the Eastern District of North Carolina, which covers an area where about half of the state's Black residents live and is often referred to as its Black Belt. The Eastern District has not had a Black judge in its 145-year history. Senators from both sides of the aisle must condemn the experience Mr. Farr brings with him. Having practiced white supremacy for decades, Mr. Farr is not likely to withdraw. Every senator who condemned the racism on display in Charlottesville must vote to prevent it from having power in the federal judiciary.



Chris Kindred



CARTOON CORNER



Racism and the #MeToo movement

JULIANNE MALVEAUX, NNPA Newswire Columnist

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) was the first member of the Congressional Black Caucus to leave his job after the "MeToo" hashtag galvanized women to speak up about sexual misconduct, harassment and more. Too bad that impetus did not float up to the top, where an avowed grabber of women's genitals occupies the White House. It's also unfortunate, that members of Congress have paid sexual assault accusers out of a taxpayer-funded slush fund have not been unmasked.

As a woman, I am cheered by the #MeToo movement, although I am also annoyed by the myopia about women of color and sexual harassment, assault and rape. The high-profile, white women who are talking about workplace sexual harassment and assault really need to acknowledge the many ways that Black women have been systematically abused, and systematically ignored (and sometimes conspired against) by their white "sisters."

Perhaps I quibble, but this overwhelming stand against sexual misconduct and beyond



Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.)

(getting nude in front of your staff, forcible kissing, grabbing women by the you know what, etc) makes me wonder when there will be a similar groundswell against racism and racial harassment in the workplace. Numerous cases of nooses being displayed in workplaces have been reported in the last decade. What about one unwanted kiss or one abusive grop? Why do nooses get to be seen as "jokes," while unwanted kissing is seen as an occurrence of zero tolerance?

I'm not ever, ever, ever go-

ing to excuse sexual perfidy (and more) in the workplace, but I do wonder why we can wink, nod, and grin about racial workplace misbehavior while we stand our ground about gender. I wonder why so many say accept the "just kidding" or "I didn't know" excuse when people are racially insensitive, but are now willing to hold press conferences and speak out against sexism in the workplace. Perhaps racism and racial harassment are a little more complicated than sexism and sexual harassment. Half of

the population, after all, is female, and while women make the slow climb up the hierarchy in corporate America, politics, the media, and entertainment, the pace has been steady enough that powerful women are now able to call men out on their misbehavior, with women demanding resignations of (some) misbehaving men. However, too few white women and men have been willing to apply the same "zero tolerance" to employment matters regarding race.

There should never be another noose laid on a Black employee's desk or displayed in a workplace. There should never be another intimidating Confederate flag flying in a Black person's face. There should never be another opportunity for an employee (or fellow student, or faculty member) to talk about picking cotton. There should never be another backface performance, anywhere. And there should never be another person who talks about zero tolerance around workplace sexism to accept any whisper of workplace racism.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This snitch on the street

Dear Editor:

Brian Dennis has written several articles that were no more than personal attacks, innuendoes, suppositions and conjectures that were directed at my character, job performance and my ability to manage the City of Opa locka. In his article on Dec. 20, he referred to me and two members of the City Commission as misfits. Apart from him writing his unverified facts in his articles, he also visits the city offices to receive what he believes to be intelligence to fuel his investigative reporting, which is no more than gossip.

him up close and personal at commission meetings when he positions himself behind the podium and spews out his venom during his tirades, which are full of lies and half-truths and upon completion he waltzes out as if he has captivated the audience. In another one of his articles he stated that Dante Starks was calling the shots at City Hall and that Mr. Starks and I are the same person. How ignorant is that statement?

[Dennis] also stated that I would be involved in the corruption at City Hall and that I was using my assistant city manager to do my dirty work. How passé. By the way I have [his] rap sheet. My so-called

brother, take off that mask and tell the real story, but this time talk about yourself, and how you ran a criminal enterprise for 20 years and as recent as 2012 you were arrested. Talk about the over 50 charges and arrests you amassed during this period while you appeared for your infamous 3-minute performances before the commission.

Criticizing me has no effect upon me because I accepted the fact that everybody will not like me since I was a child. It was wrong for you to sell dope to people. Now, you're feeding them more poison to cover up your dark past. How selfish of you. House Negro, you got a lot of growing up to do, but you can't do it simply by talking. I guess for the

most part, you can stay out of jail by writing your articles, which is your disguise to infiltrate the ranks and hide under a cloak that's the equivalent to dry snitching.

Get yourself some real business, and stop hating on real people because you are victimized by your past transgressions. If you continue to write your "FAKE News," know the facts before you dry snitch dispersing those ill-fated rumors you conveniently write, or as you so conspicuously put it "The Word On The Street".

Ed Brown
Miami Gardens

[Editors note, Brian Dennis is a freelance columnist and is not an employee of The Miami Times]

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



Black fraternities and sororities show their skills during a step and stroll competition at Florida International University's Biscayne Bay campus.

FIU halts Greek life activities

Ban comes as Black fraternal groups plan celebrations

ANDREA ROBINSON
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

15 statement.

Sorority and fraternity life, a staple at U.S. colleges and universities, has been halted at two of Florida's public universities, as campus leaders grow weary of hazing accusations.

Florida International University ordered a halt to its Greek life activities, effective Jan. 1. The announcement by the Miami-based campus follows a similar push last fall at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

President Mark Rosenberg said the suspension would last at least one month.

"After serious consideration, and keeping the safety of our students top of mind, I have decided to pause all Greek activities on our campuses for at least one month starting Jan. 1," Rosenberg said in a Dec.

He wrote that there were growing concerns about the state of fraternity and sorority life at FIU as well as around the nation, and is consistent with decisions made at other universities.

"The purpose of this pause in Greek activities is to allow time for the Greek community and university administrators to review and strengthen policies and procedures with the goal of enhancing safety and promoting behavior that is consistent with FIU's values and our Student Code of Conduct," Rosenberg wrote.

In November, FSU president John Thrasher ordered the suspension of all of its fraternities and sororities, after the death of a pledge.

Andrew Coffey of Boynton Beach, a Pi Kappa Phi pledge died after an off-campus party.

Alcohol may have been a contributing factor.

"For this suspension to end, there will need to be a new normal for Greek life at the university," Thrasher said in a news release. "There must be a new culture, and our students must be full participants in creating it."

Thrasher said the suspension is indefinite but requires student cooperation.

"They must work with us and demonstrate they fully understand the serious obligation they have to exercise responsible conduct," he said.

For Black Greek Letter Organizations (BGLOs), the ban at FIU comes just as several sororities and fraternities prepare to observe the anniversary dates when their organizations started.

The university currently has five fraternities — Alpha Phi

Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Phi Beta Sigma and Iota Phi Theta — on campus. There also are two sororities: Alpha Kappa Alpha and Sigma Gamma Rho.

Three of those organizations will observe the anniversaries of their founding dates, beginning with Kappa Alpha Psi on Friday, Jan. 5. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity celebrates its founding on Jan. 9, followed by Alpha Kappa Alpha on Jan. 15.

Local representatives from those organizations would not comment on the record. Those who are knowledgeable of the situation said they were caught off guard by the decision.

Roy Edmond, the Southern Region Director for Phi Beta Sigma, did not return calls for comment.

Leona Dotson, the international spokeswoman for Alpha Kappa Alpha, released a statement that said the sorority re-



spects the decision.

"Like other Greek letter organizations, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. operates on collegiate campuses at the approval of the university," Dotson wrote. "Further, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has a strict risk management and anti-hazing policy. Hazing in any form will not be tolerated."

The statement noted that hazing has been prohibited in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority since the organization was founded in 1908, and that in 1999, the organization pub-

lished a tougher anti-hazing policy and implemented new procedures to identify, investigate and punish incidents.

"Any individual or chapter violation of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Risk Management policy will result in suspension, expulsion or revocation of the chapter's charter. A fine may also be imposed," Dotson wrote. "In addition, hazing activities may result in official discipline by a college/university or the imposition of civil and criminal penalties for individuals and/or chapters."

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NATIONAL POLITICS 

More women prepare to throw hat into politics

US sees surge of interest for public office

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Inside a classroom at a community college in Dallas, about two dozen women took turns sharing their names, hometowns and what they hoped would be their future titles.

Congresswoman, State representative. County judge.

It was part of a training held by EMILY's List, an organization dedicated to electing women at all levels of government who support abortion rights. One of the presentation's PowerPoint slides flashed a mock advertisement on the projector screen: "Help Wanted: Progressive Women Candidates."

A record number of women appear to be answering that call, fueled largely by frustration on the Democratic side over the election of President Donald Trump and energized by Democratic women winning races in Virginia in November. Experts say 2018 is on track to be a historic year, with more women saying they are running at this point than ever before.

"I've never seen anything like this," said Stephanie Schriock, president of EMILY's List. "Every day, dozens more women come to our website, come to our Facebook page and say, 'I am mad as hell. I want to do something about it. What should I do now?'"

In the four weeks after the 2016 election, 1,000 women came to the group's website to learn about running for

office. That number has now surpassed 26,000. By comparison, the group was in contact with 960 women for the previous election cycle.

Although women are more than half the American population, they account for just a fifth of all U.S. representatives and senators, and one in four state lawmakers. They serve as governors of only six states and mayors in roughly 20 percent of the nation's most populous cities.

For Sarah Riggs Amico, the executive chairwoman of a major auto hauling company, last year's Women's March in Atlanta ignited her interest in running for office.

"It was something that really lifted me up and made me want to demand better from my government," said Amico, who recently announced plans to run for lieutenant governor in Georgia.

Sol Flores has been walking in marches with her mother in Chicago since she was a little girl, but never thought she would run for office. Now 44, Flores said she was enraged by policies put forward by the Trump administration and decided to jump into a crowded Democratic primary for Illinois' 4th Congressional District.

Flores said her network of friends has been crucial to helping her navigate the realities of being a first-time candidate and the challenges of gathering signatures for qualifying and fundraising.

"Women are really good at this, saying, 'Let's sit down

and figure this out. You raised your hand, and let's win. Let's go to Washington, D.C.," said Flores, the executive director of a nonprofit helping homeless families and at-risk youth.

The last time the U.S. saw a surge in women running for office was 1992, in the wake of Anita Hill's testimony before an all-male U.S. Senate committee weighing the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court. It was called the "Year of the Woman" because women were elected to the U.S. House and Senate in



AP Photo/LM Otero

In this Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 photo, Letitia Plummer, a Houston dentist and candidate for Congress to represent Texas District 22, is applauded during a women's candidate training workshop at El Centro College in Dallas.

record numbers.

The number of women in office has held steady in recent years, but experts say conditions are ripe for an increase in 2018 — especially if more politicians are forced to step down or retire amid the growing #MeToo movement that began with accusations of sexual misconduct against Hollywood mega-producer Harvey Weinstein.

One U.S. senator and four congressmen have so far announced plans to retire or not seek re-election following allegations against them, presenting a prime opportunity for women to compete for their open seats.

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NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY MIAMI TIMES EDITORIAL DEPT.

Juvenile arrests drop to historic 42-year low

Gov. Rick Scott announced that the number of juvenile arrests declined in 2016-2017, according to the latest delinquency report released by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Juvenile arrests dropped another seven percent in the last fiscal year across the state, a five-year decline of 24 percent, and a historic 42-year low in juvenile arrests.

The five counties with the largest populations in Florida continue to show decreases in juvenile arrests over the last fiscal year. Both Miami-Dade and Broward counties had a seven percent decrease. The current report, covering a five-year period, shows an overall decline in felony offenses, including a 15 percent decrease in murder/manslaughter arrests and a seven percent decrease in aggravated assault arrests.

North Miami Baseball Academy

North Miami Baseball Academy is accepting applicants for its Winter/Spring session for children ages 4 to 14. The deadline to register is Feb. 16. Practice will start on Monday, Jan. 8 and will end Saturday, May 26. Everyone must bring athletic clothing and baseball gloves. Participants must pay \$150, which includes the uniform fee. There is also a sibling discount of \$25 per participant. Practices will be held at Claude Pepper Park, 1255 NW 135th St. in North Miami. Parents can register their children at the Joe Celestin Center, 1525 NW 135th St., the Parks and

Recreation Administration Office at 12300 NE Eighth Ave., or online at NorthMiamiFL.gov/Parks. For more information call 305-895-9840.

New Year, New Works

Fantasy Theatre Factory at the Sandrell Rivers Theater invites you to its "New Year, New Works!" play reading series every Friday in January. This play reading series seeks to promote the creation of new works by South Florida playwrights. Attend the event to support local, upcoming artists and enjoy a display of play readings covering a wide variety of diverse subjects. Admission is free, however organizers suggest attendees give a donation. Attendees are welcome to donate any amount they would like to. The donation will help to support free and low cost programming within the community. This series starts 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 5 at the Sandrell Rivers Theater, 6101 NW Seventh Ave.

The Color Purple movie screening

Fantasy Theatre Factory at the Sandrell Rivers Theater invites the community to its very first Film@SRT event. As part of its first event, organizers will host a free showing of "The Color Purple." The movie is a 1985 American period drama classic directed by Steven Spielberg and written by Menno Meyjes. The movie is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker. The event will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Sandrell Rivers Theater, 6101 NW 7th Ave., Miami, FL, 33127.

NATIONAL 

Deadly, bone-chilling cold grips wide swath of US

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Bone-chilling cold gripped much of the U.S. as 2018 began, breaking century-old records and leading to several deaths that authorities attributed to exposure to the dangerously low temperatures.

The National Weather Service issued wind chill advisories and freeze warnings Tuesday covering a vast area from South Texas to Canada and from Montana through New England. Authorities opened warming shelters in the South as temperatures dipped notably close to zero in Alabama and Georgia.

The bitter cold wave enveloped much of the Midwest on Monday, yet that didn't deter hundreds of people from ringing in the new year by jumping into Lake Michigan. Throngs of people took part in the Polar Plunge in Milwaukee, despite sub-freezing temperatures and a warning of potential hypothermia from the local fire chief. Organizers canceled a similar event on the Chicago lakefront, after the temperature there dipped below zero and thick white steam rose from the lake. Organizers said the arctic blast made jumping into the lake too dangerous. An annual New Year's Day water ski show on Pigeon Lake in western Michigan was canceled for the first time since the event was launched in 1980 because the water was frozen solid.

Temperatures plunged below zero elsewhere in the Midwest, including in Aber-

deen, South Dakota, where the mercury dropped to a record-breaking minus 32 (-36 Celsius). The city's previous New Year's Day record had stood for 99 years.

In Nebraska, temperatures hit 15 below zero (-26 Celsius) before midnight Sunday in Omaha, breaking a record low dating to 1884. Omaha officials cited the forecast in postponing the 18th annual New Year's Eve Fireworks Spectacular that draws around 30,000 people.

It was colder in Des Moines, Iowa, where city officials closed a downtown outdoor ice skating plaza and said it wouldn't reopen until the city emerged from sub-zero temperatures. The temperature hit 20 below zero (-29 Celsius) early Monday, with the wind chill dipping to negative 31 degrees (-35 Celsius).

The weather service said temperatures in Indianapolis early Tuesday tied a record low of minus 12 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 24 degrees Celsius) for Jan. 2 set in 1887. Indianapolis Public Schools canceled classes for Tuesday on all its campuses due to the predicted sub-zero temperatures. Students had been scheduled to return from winter break.

In northeastern Montana, the wind chill readings dipped as low as minus 58 (-50 Celsius). And in Duluth, Minnesota, a city known for its bitter cold winters, the wind chill dipped to 36 below zero (-38 Celsius).

Plunging overnight temperatures in Texas brought rare snow flurries as far south



Enduring cold snap creates headaches at home, on highways.



People pose for photographs in front of a frozen water fountain at Bryant Park, Thursday, Dec. 28, 2017, in New York. A large swath of northern New York is encased in ice and snow after days of lake-effect storms followed by an arctic cold front sending temperatures well below zero.

as Austin, and accidents racked up on icy roads across the state. In the central Texas city of Abilene, the local police chief said more than three dozen vehicle crashes were reported in 24 hours.

It's even cold in the Deep South, as temperatures plummeted early Tuesday to 14 (-10 Celsius) in Atlanta and 26 (-3 Celsius) as far south as New Orleans. Temperatures fell to 8 degrees near Cullman, Alabama, and 20 degrees in Mobile, Alabama. Georgia saw one of its coldest temperatures of the winter: 2 degrees shortly before dawn at a U.S. Forest Service weather station at Toccoa, Georgia. Warming shelters were opened across the South as freeze watches and warnings blanketed the region, including hard freeze warnings for much of Louisiana, Missis-

sippi and Alabama.

The cold is blamed in at least nine deaths in the past week. Most recently, police in St. Louis said a homeless man found dead inside a trash bin Monday evening apparently froze to death as the temperature dropped to negative 6 degrees (-21 Celsius). Sheriff's officials in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, said a 27-year-old woman whose body was found Monday evening on the shore of Lake Winnebago likely died of exposure.

The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office said two men whose bodies were found Sunday showed signs of hypothermia. Police believe the cold weather also may have been a factor in the death of a man in Bismarck, North Dakota, whose body was found near a river.

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THE WORKSHOP
AT MACY'S

SEAT

CONTINUED FROM 1A

whichever Democrat wins the primary.

"I'm going to work as hard as I can for the Democratic Party and for the person who wins this primary," Dunn said. "I will contribute money, time, I will suggest to vote for this person. Like I said, it's not about me, it's about change."

Dunn said this decision first came about after watching Ralph Northam, a Democrat, defeat Ed Gillespie, a Republican candidate, in Virginia's race for governor. As Dunn continued to decide if he would remain in the race, Doug Jones, another Democrat, overpowered Republican nominee Roy Moore, to win a U.S. Senate in Alabama, a Republican state.

Alabama's race occurred on Dec. 12 and Dunn submitted his request for withdrawal to the Federal Elections Commission on Dec. 14.

Dunn said what happened in Alabama was a big part of his decision.

"When I saw a Democrat win in red state Alabama, I realized that the blue wave was coming to Florida and I don't have to be the one to ride it," Dunn said. "What's happening there is a sign of what's coming to

Florida."

So far, six men and women have officially filed to run, including Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, a Democrat, and Miami Beach commissioner; Dr. Maria Peiro, a Republican and veteran educator of Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Mark Anthony Publica, a Democrat; Mayra Joli, an immigration attorney with no party affiliation and Michael Hepburn, a Democrat and senior advisor for the University of Miami Business School.

Some of Dunn's supporters were disappointed to hear the news of his withdrawal but understood his reasons.

Melissa Sorokin, who both helped Dunn to campaign and contributed funds to his campaign, said his decision made sense.

"I was really looking forward to supporting him as someone who aligned with my values and love of Black history in South Florida," Sorokin said. "It was definitely a big disappointment, but at the same time, I understand that maybe it was not in his best interest to run. He mentioned it might be for someone younger in the progressive movement and that makes sense to me. But I really love him and I have for years."

Sorokin does not live in District 27 but said she was going

to help him campaign nonetheless.

James Swain, who used to work in Miami but has now moved out of state, also supported Dunn.

"I guess I agree with him that a lot of good people are running for [the seat], but I'm disappointed that he won't be one of them," Swain said. "I think he had a lot to offer the people who live in that district."

Swain also made a monetary contribution and said he would have done a lot more as the election got closer.

Linda Faber, a Coconut Grove resident and a member of the board of directors of the Actor's Playhouse, said both her and her husband love Dunn.

"I have great respect for him and his decision to withdraw," Faber said. "I think he's a wonderful leader and intelligent and I would like to see him in that role, but maybe it's not the right time for it. He had his reasons and I respect his reasons, but I would go listen to him speak anywhere anytime and I know he will maintain his leadership role in the community. He is a real gem."

Sorokin, Swain and Faber all said the money they contributed to the campaign was returned to them.

"I was surprised, I didn't know that they would return the money because I would

have assumed they had expenses already," Swain said.

Dunn did not publicly release the amount of money he raised. His amounts are not listed on the Florida Division of Elections (FDOE) website, neither the FEC website. However, there is a document for Dunn's withdrawal on the FEC's website that states the campaign has not spent nor raised \$5,000.

Dunn said his campaign was doing well with raising funds, however he will not be making the amount public. He said his campaign did not hold a single fundraiser, but was able to still bring in money. He was considered to be "testing the waters" by reporting less than \$5,000 and would have had to do another level of reporting for a larger amount, Dunn said.

According to Christian Hilland, an FEC spokesman, Dunn's campaign didn't have to report to the FEC until they crossed the \$5,000 threshold. At that point, that individual becomes a candidate under federal campaign finance law, Hilland said.

"Some committees tend to provide disclosure of their activities for the sake of transparency," Hilland said. "Whether or not that's the case, I don't know, but it's probably leaving the record for the public."

MLK

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Tinsley said, are "making a concerted effort to not let [criminals] stop the families who want to come out."

Miami's MLK Parade has been around for more than 40 years; organizers say it is the oldest and largest in the nation. Dozens of bands, floats, cars and dance groups travel along the eight-mile route from Northwest 54th Street between 10th and 32nd avenues before heading into Martin Luther King Park, 6000 NW 32nd Ct. for a festival.

"We want the people to come out. Don't be afraid to enjoy your community," Tinsley said. She added that residents should not be deterred, and that units from non-Black neighbor-

hoods had more than 40 officers in place, and upwards of 50 at the point of the shooting.

This year, he said, there will be a greater presence of law enforcement officers, and that his agency was working with Miami Police Department.

He said the department would "use technology to help us as well during the event. There will be cameras and so forth to have a better view from top of what's going on," Perez said.

"We don't want a repeat of last year," Perez said.

Law enforcement also hopes to stop — if not slow down — the hundreds of motorized bicycles that flood into South Florida during the MLK holiday. The motorcycle enthusiasts have coined a term for their movement, Bikes Up, Guns Down as a way to encourage youth to put away



Miami-Dade police officers come to the aid of a woman after gunfire breaks last year out during the festival at Martin Luther King Park in Brownsville. Eight persons were injured, and all survived.

hoods will be there from Hialeah and Florida International University.

"Other ethnic groups are coming into our community. Are we going to be afraid to come into our own community?" she said.

Police blamed gang violence for the gunfire that broke out in the park last year. Eight people ranging in age from 11 to 30 were struck. One of the victims was critically injured but also survived.

Investigators said the victims were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez said his department is still formulating its plan for Jan. 15. He said county officers will be out in force along the parade route and in the park.

Perez said that last year,

their weapons.

Perez doesn't buy that explanation.

"They came up with a catchy name to publicize it," Perez said. "It's causing havoc for our motorists and themselves, and it occupies our time."

Perez said some cyclists are local, but it also attracts bikers from "all over, especially the northeast."

Last year, at least one person died and dozens others were arrested for taking part in Bikes Up, Guns Down on the King holiday. The one fatality occurred near Northwest 54th Street in Miami.

According to one published report, 35 total arrests were made in Miami-Dade and Broward counties, and another 74 vehicles were towed.



Miami Times photos Nyamekye Daniel

Part of the crowd of community activists, parents, children and law enforcement who took part in an anti-violence rally on Jan. 1, on Northwest 17th Avenue between 87th Street and 93rd Terrace.

MARCH

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Missionary Baptist Church, 1555 NW 93rd Terrace.

They called on the community to spit out the bad seeds, the criminals, from their neighborhoods. Some mothers and even children carried signs.

"Enough is enough," said Romania Dukes. "We just can't take it anymore."

Dukes' 17-year-old son wanted to be rapper. He was learning how to be a young father to his newborn daughter, according to Dukes, when he was killed by a stray bullet near the Cutler Manor Apartments, 10875 SW 216th St.

It takes community involvement to stop the violence in the Black Miami neighborhoods, said Dukes.

"We are losing too many kids. We are losing our grandkids, our sisters and brothers," she said. "These are our kids, and we need to get more involved! We are not living in 1980s anymore when we believed in no snitching."

Parents, law enforcement, church leaders and other community residents chanted at times. At other points, mothers stopped and pleaded for people to come forward with information. The group also formed a circle and prayed over the children right before heading to 93rd Street.

In front of Holy Cross for the vigil, on display, were small drawings on black boards illustrated in white chalk of the 72 children that were killed. Some of the mothers and rela-



Regina Talabart, mother of slain teenager, Noricia, let's her voice be heard as she pleads for the community to come together against gun violence at a rally.

tives turned away in pain.

Regina Talabart whispered something softly to her daughter Noricia's picture and gazed away holding back tears.

Noricia was an honor student, who had just received her acceptance letter for the University of Central Florida, when she was killed by a drive-by shooter in 2015.

Talabart still keeps her daughter's dirty clothes, clinging to the only thing of her child she has left — her scent.

"I have sleepless nights. I am trying to make a change in our community to get the other kids to put the guns down, so regular kids could go to college, could come out and play in the yard," she said.

"IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING"

Earlier last year, Parents of Murdered Kids put pressure on state lawmakers to pass a law

that makes it easier for witnesses to testify.

The HB 111 or "witness protection" bill, passed on July 1,

that most of the crimes happen in plain sight in front of several witnesses, but people are afraid to speak.

"I understand the thought that nothing good could come to me...But you have to have some courage," said Colina. "You can't accept that in any neighborhood."

"THERE IS NO EXPIRATION DATE ON OUR PAIN"

"You don't want to lose a loved one. You don't want to be in this group I'm in," said Dukes. "I don't want to be in this group. We cry every day, constantly."

Fincher said she joined Parents of Murdered Kids last year, 12 years after her son's murder because she was finally ready to talk about it and longed for support. Her son Desmond left behind an unborn son, whom she helps raise.

Miami activist Tangela Sears started the group after her son, David G. Queen Jr., was killed in Tallahassee in 2015.

"I wanted to reach out to parents that go through the same thing, so maybe we can draw from each other," said Fincher. "Some are weaker than others."

"Talabart urged other parents to be active in their children's lives to guide them in the right direction, so that all of them could stand a chance to have a future.

A luxury that her daughter never got.

"My daughter didn't give me a daughter or son, she didn't get a chance to marry. He took all of that away from me and my family," said Talabart. "And all I am asking and pleading to community is, if you see something say something."

MAYOR

CONTINUED FROM 1A

in housing affordability, and said details would be offered in the coming months.

Her swearing in makes her Atlanta's 60th mayor and the city's sixth consecutive black mayor since Maynard Jackson was elected in 1973.

"Only in Atlanta could a girl named Keisha, who attended Frederick Douglass High School on the west side, grow up to become the 60th mayor of the great city of Atlanta," she said.

Bottoms defeated Mary Norwood in a Dec. 5 runoff election to succeed Kasim Reed as Atlanta's mayor.

The bitterly contested runoff campaign between the two city council members was marked by political grudges and allegations of corruption. Norwood requested a recount after initial certified vote totals showed her losing to Bot-

tombs by 832 votes, a margin of less than 1 percent.

Speaking at the inauguration, former Atlanta mayor and civil rights leader Andrew Young noted that all mayors face challenges and have to weather bad times along with the good, the Journal-Constitution reported.

"It took me a while to see it," Young said, remembering Bottoms learning to swim as a young girl. "We are putting the city in great hands."

Other former Atlanta mayors attending the inauguration included Sam Massell and Bill Campbell, the Journal-Constitution reported. Democratic Congressman John Lewis, whose district includes part of Atlanta, was also there.

City council members, council President Felicia Moore and municipal court judges were also sworn in Tuesday, and the city council was expected to convene at 5 p.m. for its first organizational meeting of the new session.

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Miami Gardens scores Topgolf

The mega golf complex has its grand opening

NYAMEKYE DANIEL
ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

Miami Gardens is the new home to the first South Florida location for an international sports entertainment franchise.

Topgolf, a golfing entertainment complex headquartered in Dallas, Texas, opened the doors to its

newest location, off of U.S. 441 near the intersection of I-95 and Florida's Turnpike on Friday, Dec. 29.

"Topgolf set sights on a South Florida location years ago, so this is a highly anticipated location for our company and the community," said Matt Barkelew, the company's Miami Gardens director of oper-

ations. "South Florida is a thriving, vibrant area with an ideal climate for outdoor entertainment. We look forward to providing residents and tourists with a new social destination for interactive fun."

The sporting chain combines technology, socializing, food, beverages and music with golf. It was

started by twin brothers Steve and Dave Jolliffe, who wanted to develop a technology that would make golf scoring fun, in the United Kingdom in 2000.

Up to six guests can play digital-monitored golf with microchipped balls that automatically score themselves in a secured hitting area referred to as bays.

Dozens of media personnel, business executives and Miami residents attended a preview event on Dec. 20, where they were guided through a tour of the facility and treated to cocktails, samples of the menu and a swing at a different version of golf.

The new three-level location includes up to 3,000

square feet of private-event space and 102 hitting bays. Each floor features full kitchens, bars and big screen TVs, and one floor has pool tables.

The facility's staff said the main highlight of Topgolf is not the sport itself, but the customer service.

"You take away the game. You take away the food, not that I would want to, but the best part of the Topgolf is the people we work with. They're really the ones that cater to the experience of the individual guests," said Barkelew.

Just like any other gaming venue, a walk-in guest gets a player's card that will give them access to one of the high-tech bays ranging from \$25 to \$45 depending on the time of day.

The food and drinks can be ordered and served right in the bays overlooking the range.

It's an experience Miami Gardens resident Christina Duren, who attended the preview event, said she is looking forward to having again.

"This is fun, and I don't feel like I am on [Highway] 441 at all," said Duren. "I can see the whole of Miami Gardens coming out here."

The Topgolf representatives said they estimate the Miami Gardens location will serve approximately 450,000 visitors in its first year of operation.

According to representatives, half of all guests describe themselves as "non-golfers."

SEE TOPGOLF 8B



Indoor golf and entertainment franchise, Topgolf opened its first South Florida location in Miami Gardens on Dec. 29.

Apple offers battery rebate

After being sued for admittedly slowing down aging iPhones

HAYLEY TSUKAYAMA
The Washington Post

Apple apologized to customers Thursday for not being clear that the company slows down phones with aging batteries. Apple promised that it will "give users more visibility into the health of their iPhone's battery" and let people see whether their battery's age affects their phone's performance.

Apple is offering a discount on battery replacements to anyone with an iPhone 6 or later, the company said in a statement. A battery replacement will cost \$29 instead of \$79 starting in late January. The cheaper price is more in line with third-party repair shops.

While Apple's message was apologetic, it still rejected allegations that the company slowed down phones with older batteries as a way to push people into buying new phones. "First and foremost, we have never — and would never — do anything to intentionally shorten the life of any Apple product, or degrade the user experience to drive customer upgrades," Apple said.

The company said previ-



A salesman checks a customer's iPhone at a mobile phone store in New Delhi, India, July 27, 2016.

ously that unless it reduces the performance of its phones, the older batteries run a higher risk of spontaneously shutting down. This explanation makes technical sense, many experts have said.

Apple's disclosure last week that it slows down phones has sparked criticism and lawsuits. A French consumer rights group filed a suit Wednesday that accuses Apple of degrading its old phones to sell new ones. In France, it's illegal to degrade

old products to promote the sale of new ones, meaning that the suit filed in France by the group Halte à l'Obsolescence Programmée carries the possibility of up to two years in prison.

The group, which lays out its case in an online statement, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. It has also previously sued printer companies, including Epson, over claims that they violate the same law. The printer case is under investigation.

Apple also faces at least eight lawsuits from iPhone owners in places such as California, New York, New Jersey and Israel that claim Apple owes its customers money for not previously disclosing the slowdowns. The suits ask the company to pay iPhone owners varying amounts. One California suit seeks nearly \$1 trillion in damages.

South Korean government telecommunications officials also have said that they will look into the reports, according to the Korea Herald.

Critics' arguments largely have rested on two claims — that Apple hurt the performance of the phones in secret and that doing so made it more likely that someone would buy a new iPhone rather than fix their old one.

That, argues one lawsuit filed in the Eastern District of New York, amounts to a sort of fraud: "Had Plaintiffs been informed by Apple that a simple battery replacement would have improved the performance of their iPhones, Plaintiffs would have chosen to replace their batteries which was clearly a more cost effective method

SEE APPLE 9B

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS

BY DANIELLA PIERRE

Miami's housing market

Investor's paradise, desert for buyers

There are tons of properties, lots and even acres listed for sale all over South Florida, especially in the Black communities. However, unless you have the cash upfront to purchase, you won't be signing any deeds or getting any keys.

More than 10 percent of the properties listed either on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS); Realtor.com; Zillow; or Trulia are considering cash-only terms. So this means, those individuals and families who are already pre-approved and duly qualified for a mortgage loan — even with a down payment, grants or other subsidies — won't be able to purchase those properties leaving it exclusively for developers and big corporations. Now let's be real here, there ar-

en't many individuals and families in our communities with \$50,000, \$60,000, \$70,000 of disposable income, legally. And the way financial institutions are set up these days, they are not lending large amounts of cash our way. And the irony about all this is after investors grab our land for cash they turn around and make more money by either renting out to the government, flipping it for large profits, or they just sit on it waiting for another investor or big corporation to make a proposition. These investors and spectators come into our communities not to invest in us, but to profit off of us and price us out of living here. Their tactics aren't new by any means, but they are trending very fast

SEE PIERRE 8B

TOPGOLF
CONTINUED FROM 7B

"Over half of our guests have never swung a club in their lives...There's just so much excitement around it because it is not just the game of golf as most people traditionally 'know it,'" said Barkelew. The game is much more vibrant than the regular game played at traditional golf courses. The players still hit the balls downrange. But holes on the range have bright-colored lights and the scoring monitors give feedback for each play which adds a competitive edge and a social aspect, said Barkelew.

Duren, also a first-time golfer was skeptical at first, but she said she enjoyed the music, food and the overall ambience of the venue.

For each game, after the player swipes the card, he or she selects a club then gets access to the golf ball from a motion-detecting kiosk at the edge of the bay.

The score is monitored by an electronic screen in the bay, where the players can keep track of their progress.

"I compare it to bowling. Remember in the '80s, everyone went bowling, but no one was a bowler. It's



—Photos by Nyanneve Daniel/Miami Times

Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert III plays golf at the Topgolf Miami Gardens.

the exact same concept. It's so much fun, it's so unique," said Barkelew.

The Miami Gardens Topgolf complex is only a few blocks away from where Cloverleaf Lanes, a popular bowling alley, once stood. The site is now a church.

Topgolf Miami Gardens is located at 17321 NW Seventh Ave, adjacent to a housing complex,

close to a private school and the three major roadways.

Aniyah Outler lives in the Sollabella Condominium, right next to Topgolf, said she likes the fact that she has easy access to a "hang-out" spot, but she is not looking forward to the potential traffic and noise her new neighbor may bring.

"I used to stay by the stadium, and when there was an event, there would be noise. There is a school right across the street also, so, at 3 p.m., there is already a lot of traffic," she said. "At my complex, sometimes the line to enter extends all the way to where Topgolf is."

The site has been pursued by developers for truck stops and less attractive venues, said Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert III. He said those ideas did not fit the vision he said he has for the

city, which is also home to Calder Race Course and Casino and the Hard Rock Stadium.

"We imagined greater for Miami Gardens, and we would do more in Miami Gardens," said Gilbert. "We pursued ourselves on finding people who

would bring quality facilities to an area I believe is the best place in the world. It's my hometown."

Both Gilbert and company officials say the new entertainment complex has brought about 450 jobs to Miami Gardens.

Clifton Taylor, a

Topgolf employee said he is grateful for a fun and fresh place to work.

"I believe that it's going to be the hot spot for 2018. Whoever came up with the idea is just wonderful," he said. "It makes you look at golf in a whole different way."

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

The Miami City Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 9:00 A.M., to consider the award of a contract to the non-profit organization listed below through Anti-Poverty grant funds from the District 5 share of the City of Miami's Anti-Poverty Initiative Program. Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation operates the Kitchen Incubator Program which assists food-based business owners with the expense of buying and maintaining a commercial kitchen, and to consider the City Manager's recommendations and finding that competitive negotiation methods are not practicable or advantageous regarding these issues:

- Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation – Kitchen Incubator Program

Inquiries regarding this notice may be addressed to Malissa Treviño, Project Manager for the Office of Community Investment, Office of the City Manager, at (305) 416-1005.

This action is being considered pursuant to Section 18-85 (A) of the Code of the City of Miami, Florida as amended (the "Code"). The recommendations and findings to be considered in this matter are set forth in the proposed resolution and in Code Section 18-85 (A), which are deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and are available as with the regularly scheduled City Commission meeting of January 11, 2018 at Miami City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33133.

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

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



Todd B. Hannon
City Clerk

#29105

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

The Miami City Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 9:00 A.M., to consider the award of a contract to the non-profit organization listed below through Anti-Poverty grant funds from the District 5 share of the City of Miami's Anti-Poverty Initiative Program. Foundation of Community Assistance and Leadership, Inc. (FOCAL) (the organization) is a not for profit company that focuses on assisting those in need of educational assistance, and to consider the City Manager's recommendations and finding that competitive negotiation methods are not practicable or advantageous regarding these issues:

- Foundation of Community Assistance and Leadership, Inc. (FOCAL) – educational, vocational, and social services

Inquiries regarding this notice may be addressed to Malissa Treviño, Project Manager for the Office of Community Investment, Office of the City Manager, at (305) 416-1005.

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Todd B. Hannon
City Clerk

#29106



INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

MDX PROCUREMENT/CONTRACT NO.: TITL 18-01
MDX WORK PROGRAM NO.: 8864-000
MDX PROJECT/SERVICE TITLE: CONSTRUCTION SERVICES OF THE CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE MODIFICATIONS FOR TOLL ZONES ON SR 874, SR 878, AND SR 924

This Solicitation is subject to the Code of Silence in accordance with MDX's Procurement Policy.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled at 10:00 A.M. Eastern Time on **January 04, 2018. ATTENDANCE AT THIS PRE-BID CONFERENCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL BIDDERS.**

The Deadline for submitting a Bid Package is **2:00 P.M. Eastern Time on February 6, 2018.**

For detailed information please visit the MDX Procurement Department website at <http://www.mdxway.com/business/solicitations>, or call the MDX Procurement Department at 305-637-3777 for assistance.

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

The Miami City Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 9:00 A.M., to consider the award of a contract to the non-profit organization listed below through Anti-Poverty grant funds from the District 5 share of the City of Miami's Anti-Poverty Initiative Program. Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation, Wheels to Work Program addresses transportation issues for low-income City residents by affording them an opportunity to purchase vehicles at lower interest rates, and to consider the City Manager's recommendations and finding that competitive negotiation methods are not practicable or advantageous regarding these issues:

- Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation – Wheels to Work Program

Inquiries regarding this notice may be addressed to Malissa Treviño, Project Manager for the Office of Community Investment, Office of the City Manager, at (305) 416-1005.

This action is being considered pursuant to Section 18-85 (A) of the Code of the City of Miami, Florida as amended (the "Code"). The recommendations and findings to be considered in this matter are set forth in the proposed resolution and in Code Section 18-85 (A), which are deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and are available as with the regularly scheduled City Commission meeting of January 11, 2018 at Miami City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33133.

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Todd B. Hannon
City Clerk

#29104

HOUSING
CONTINUED FROM 7B

in the Black communities, causing gentrification and rapid displacement.

THIS IS OUR LAND, TOO

After surveying the local housing conditions in the rental and homebuying markets, it is clear that more of us need to be at the table when policy decisions are being made about our communities.

Let's not forget, we are the true stakeholders of the community, and we must demand that affordable housing funding and pathways to homeownership are at the forefront of everything. We cannot continue to allow decisions to be made about our communities or squandered away by others who don't even live here.

For if we do, cash buyers in Miami will continue to double the national average and outpace first-time homebuyers, right in our very own communities.

And, if this keeps up, we won't have any options or any real buying power and Black people will really become the new renters.

Reasons why, this is the year that we collectively take a stand and demand more equitable economic development that is reflective of today's wages, fair housing opportunities and lending strategies that's inclusive of all our communities once and for all.

LESS TALK, MORE AFFORDABLE

HOUSING NOW

Affordable housing was the most feverish topic discussed in 2017. I facilitated more than 10 related workshops and it seemed like every other week there was a forum, article or some sort of study being released. But what I didn't see were any policy changes or action that would really address our housing crisis and the growing imbalance between housing affordability and today's wages. What we need more of is innovative lending strategies and a closer look at what's available from the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the federal agencies that work together to make homeownership possible. Our local approach to solve the housing crisis must include public/private partnerships and these top-rated employers deemed as the best places to work for as a strategic force along with leadership from all of our elected officials. We need all policymakers from the state, city, county, including the League of Cities and the School Board, to boldly speak up for affordable housing. By doing so, this will not only bridge the gap between accessibility and affordability but enable people who work here, to live here and thrive.

Tired of being priced-out? Share your affordable housing story or solution today! For more information, please contact Daniella Pierre at affordable-housingmatters@gmail.com.



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We are seeking drivers to deliver newspaper to retail outlets in Broward and Miami Dade. Wednesday Only
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Apply in person at: The Miami Times 2525 NW 54th Street

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Bethel Miami Men at Risk Project seek Outreach workers and counselors. Two years working with Black men at risk for HIV, Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders. Apply at Annex Bldg, 17025 NW 22 Ave

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APPLE

CONTINUED FROM 7B

rather than upgrading to a new iPhone that was extremely costly."

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the suits or the investigation.

The suits cap off a rocky year for Apple, which saw a lot of financial success but also a number of small controversies — including a bug that prevented iPhone owners from typing "i" and several software issues. It also faced criticism over a lukewarm

reception for its iPhone X and had to delay the release of its smart speaker, the HomePod, until 2018.
That said, Apple's not hurting on the business front. Chief executive Tim Cook earned a \$9.33 million end-of-year bonus thanks to strong

stock market performance.
And Apple appears to be finishing the year strong, with more people starting up new iPhones and iPads than devices from any other gadget maker this year, according to the research firm Flurry Analytics.

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	Cocoplum Phase I Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
Pine Bay Estates Security Guard Special Taxing District Election	Sunrise Harbour Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
Special Taxing District Election	Miami Lakes Section One Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
Hammock Oaks Harbor Security Guard Special Taxing District Election	Miami Lakes - Loch Lomond Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
Snapper Creek Lakes Security Guard Special Taxing District Election	Lake Patricia Multipurpose Maintenance Special Taxing District Election
Biscayne Point Security Guard Special Taxing District Election	Royal Oaks Section I Security Guard Special Taxing District Election
Hammock Lake Banyan Drive Roving Security Guard Special Taxing District Election	Lake Hilda Multipurpose Maintenance Special Taxing District Election
Old Cutler Bay Security Guard 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?	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 No. R-1019-17 and City Resolution R2017-2237?	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?	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 10 No 11	Yes 18 No 19	Yes 26 No 27	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 R-1011-17 and City Resolution R2017-2307?	Transfer of the Biscayne Point Security Guard Special Taxing District Shall the City of Miami 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 R2017-2990?	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?	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 12 No 13	Yes 20 No 21	Yes 28 No 29	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?	Transfer of the Hammock Lake Banyan Drive Roving Security Guard Special Taxing District Shall the City of Coral Gables become the governing body of the Hammock Lake Banyan Drive Roving 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?	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 R-1037-17 and Town Resolution R17-1485?	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 14 No 15	Yes 22 No 23	Yes 30 No 31	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?	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?	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?	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 No. R-1039-17 and Town Resolution R17-1485?
Yes 16 No 17	Yes 24 No 25	Yes 32 No 33	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://legalsads.miamidade.gov>

Invitation to Bid Elevator

W. G. Yates & Sons Construction Company and Jackson Health Systems cordially invite subcontractors to complete and submit their bids by Friday January 26, 2018 no later than 2pm for the following project:

**Jackson Health System
JHS West Medical Campus**

The Invitation to Bid includes the following packages:

- Conditions of the Contract and Specifications – Issued for Construction – December 11, 2017
- Architectural Drawings – December 11, 2017
- Small Business Enterprise (SBE) & Responsible Wages – Attached Form A-6, A-14 & A-16

Bid requirements and bid forms, specifications, drawings and other construction documents will be available through www.ISQF.com. Respond to Jessica Miller at jmiller@wgates.com to get access to bid documents.

All bids must be delivered in a sealed envelope to Jackson Memorial Hospital Facilities, Design and Construction Department trailer located at the corner of NW12th Ave. and NW 19th St. Complete address is listed below:

Jackson Memorial Hospital – FD&C Command Center Trailer 1
Attn: Mike Posey
1811 NW 12th Ave.
Miami FL 33136

Yates 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. W.G. Yates & Sons Construction Company and associated partners are an equal opportunity employer minorities/females/veterans/individuals with disabilities/sexual orientation/gender identity.

All questions can be directed to Mike Posey at mposey@wgates.com.



The Wisconsin Badgers played the Miami Hurricanes at the Capital One Orange Bowl at the Hard Rock Stadium on Dec. 30. Hurricane fans and cheerleaders were in good spirit until the upsetting win by the Badgers.

Gregory Reed/Miami Times photos

The 'U' fumbles big at bowl game

Wisconsin Badgers defeat the Miami Hurricanes

ERIC SINGLE
Sports Illustrated

Paul Chryst seemingly never blinks. His emotionless sideline demeanor sticks out so dramatically against the tapestry of head coaching characters in the Big Ten. TV crews might as well skip the obligatory Chryst close-up after big swings in Wis-

consin games and just use a stock clip of the 52-year-old Madison native, resplendent in crew-neck warm-weather gear, calmly directing his team.

We make jokes about his monolithic public persona to distract ourselves from the sobering reality that Wisconsin as a program will never stop being Wisconsin: stur-

dy, disciplined, homegrown, efficient. The 2017 Badgers proved to be an especially pure distillation of these values, going 12-1 in the regular season with just a few plays against Ohio State separating them from a College Football Playoff appearance.

And of course, if Chryst and the Badgers never blink, that means more often than



not the opponent does. And in Wisconsin's 34-24 Orange Bowl win over Miami, when the Hurricanes blinked, they were never quite able to re-adjust their eyes.

Miami led 14-3 in the first half, and then all of a sudden found itself down 17-14, with Wisconsin driving to add onto its lead in the final seconds of the first half. With the tide turning, Hurricanes head coach Mark Richt did something he almost never does. Mark Richt got really, really mad.

Richt appeared to be heated over an uncalled hold on Badgers right tackle David Edwards on defensive end Trent Harris, but his disproportionate response—showing away an assistant who tried to restrain him, then grabbing an official as he vented his frustrations, then walking off into the locker room seven words into his halftime interview with ESPN's Molly McGrath—sealed the Orange Bowl for the Badgers, who kept coming at a

Miami team that had grown accustomed to putting opponents away with a knockout punch, either very early or very late in the action.

After Miami came out of the gate flashing the swagger that propelled them to an 11-2 regular season, forcing a fumble on Wisconsin's opening drive, it was the Badgers who more efficiently capitalized on mistakes by turning two of Malik Rosier's three interceptions into 10 points to bridge that early gap. Wisconsin quarterback Alex Hornibrook rebounded from a shaky Big Ten title game performance with his most impressive effort of the season, considering the stakes and the quality of opponent. Hornibrook finished 23 for 34 for 258 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions, spreading the ball around to six different receivers before hitting tight end Troy Fumagalli for a pair of critical first downs on the scoring drive that put Wisconsin up by 10 with half a quarter

to play.

On Saturday night, Wisconsin was the team who found a gamebreaker out of nowhere: Freshman receiver Danny Davis III, who caught only 21 passes and two touchdowns all season, hauled in three scores on Saturday. Even senior fullback—of course, a fullback—Austin Ramesh rose to the occasion with a high-light-reel hurdle of a would-be tackler in the first half.

As for the opposite sideline, Saturday was far from the first time Richt has shown emotion—he blew up at his own players in September for pantomiming digging up the Florida State logo after a last-second win in Tallahassee—but it's one of the few times in his long and decorated career he's strayed from the path of the righteous. Richt is not the first and won't be the last to know the unique frustration of losing control in the face of Wisconsin's unrelenting sameness.



Luke Cage

Black Panther

Storm

BLACK SUPERHEROES COME TO OPA-LOCKA

JANIAH ADAMS
jadams@miamitimesonline.com

Sci-fi buffs Tony Bernier and Jeff Carroll have been wandering around Miami for a little over a year, looking for a place to host their idea of a sci-fi convention focused on diversity.

Bernier and Carroll's idea came to fruition on Friday when they hosted the first South Florida Comic Book and Sci-Fi Expo at the Opa-locka Community Development Corporation

(OLCDC). Dressed in the costumes and wearing T-shirts of their favorite superheroes, attendees got the chance to meet and interact with several Black sci-fi writers and illustrators.

Nikisha Williams, OLCDC's chief operating officer, said this sort of event is something unusual to Opa-locka.

"You would usually see it in other cities, not Opa-locka," Williams said. "So we're bringing something that has

interest to Black kids, and now with "Black Panther" coming out, it's in their backyard. Our kids don't get out of the community very often and now we get to bring this for them."

Carroll believed Opa-locka was the right place to house the event.

"The sci-fi community is thirsty for diversity," Carroll said. "Black characters, Latino characters, and they want a change. Opa-locka was that perfect city for us. It brought everything we

want, especially high interest in sci-fi."

Residents of Opa-locka were exempt from the small fee to get into the convention. That is something that OLCDC tries to implement into their events to make it accessible for people who live in the community, Wil-

liams said.

While giving attendees the chance to participate in trivia games to win tickets to see "Black Panther", a sci-fi movie with a Black cast premiering in February, the convention also exposed Black Miamians to a whole community of Black sci-fi

fanatics. Panel discussions considered diversity and the challenges of being Black in the genre.

Carroll said Blacks have been token characters in sci-fi. He hoped the event would open the imagination of Blacks and would help

SEE HEROES 12C



Ismael and Isaac Fernandez, left, talk with Glaifer Ormsby, right.



An illustrator shows his work.



An attendee scans a vendor's table.

Lionel Richie reflects on his career, writing

'I'm a hopeless, disgusting romantic,' the singer says

cbnews.com

From "Hello" to "Can't Slow Down," four-time Grammy-winning artist and Oscar winner Lionel Richie's latest recognition is a Kennedy Center Honor.

"You hear about these awards for your entire lifetime," Richie told "CBS This Morning: Saturday" co-host Alex Wagner. "And then when it finally happens, it's almost disbelief. ... It's one of those things that will make you walk in the backyard, sit down quietly, and go, how did this happen?"

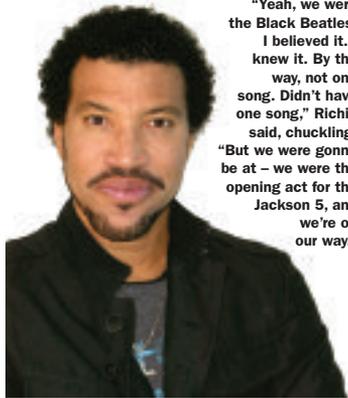
said. "We're the Black Beatles. We're The Commodores, and we're going to take over the world."

"Did you believe you were the Black Beatles?" Wagner asked.

"Yeah, we were the Black Beatles. I believed it. I knew it. By the way, not one song. Didn't have one song," Richie said, chuckling. "But we were gonna be at - we were the opening act for the Jackson 5, and we're on our way."

The Commodores ruled the charts in the 1970s. But the attention Richie was getting as a songwriter convinced him it was time

"Yeah, we were the Black Beatles. I believed it. I knew it. By the way, not one song. Didn't have one song," Richie said, chuckling. "But we were gonna be at - we were the opening act for the Jackson 5, and we're on our way."



It happened because of a decade's worth of massive hits - especially ballads.

"You've been called 'The King of Love Songs.' My question is, are you a romantic?" Wagner asked.

"I'm a hopeless, disgusting romantic," Richie said. "I can fall in love in 15 seconds on anything and everybody. ... When I walk on stage, I meet the people I've never met before ... they know me forever. I walk out on stage and they're my old friends right away."

Richie found music growing up in Tuskegee, Alabama. His grandmother, a classical pianist, taught him how to play, though he wasn't formally trained to write music.

"My grandmother - God bless her - tried her best to teach me how to play. She would show me how to play the piece properly on the piano with the hand movement. And instead of watching the music, I would watch her hands. She would leave and say, 'Go rehearse and I'll be back in a moment.' And I could play by ear - not knowing that that was special," Richie said. "As soon as she walked away, I wouldn't play anybody else's music. I'd only play my stuff - not realizing that that's called songwriter."

He took those writing skills to college and joined a band.

"This was a college band, how-can-we-meet-all-the-girls-in-the-dormitory-band. You know, it was not supposed to be the career," Richie said.

"Did you ever doubt that you could achieve success?" Wagner asked.

"When you're 19 to 25, everything is possible," Richie

to go solo.

"Fourteen years of amazing times. I always tell people every day, 'Thank God for The Commodores, because without them, I never would've discovered Lionel Richie,'" he said. The world discovered a superstar.

His #1 hit song "Hello" was inspired by a joke.

"My producer, James Anthony Carmichael, he was coming by the house," Richie said. "And he walked around the corner and I said, 'Hello, is it me you're looking for?' And I'm falling out laughing. And he turned to me and said, 'Finish that.' I finished the song, and we lushed it up with strings, forever and forever."

But one of Richie's crowning achievements was anything but a solo project. Teaming up with Michael Jackson in 1985, the pair wrote "We are the World" and recorded it with more than 40 singers, including the biggest stars of the day. The single raised more than \$60 million for African famine relief.

"Every time I hear the song, it's even larger than I could ever imagine. At the end that night, we finally played it back at 7:30, 8:00 o'clock in the morning, it was another planet. It was another planet," Richie said.

Looking back on his career, Richie said, "It's not where you start; it's where you end up."

"But when I want to go get grounded, I go back to Tuskegee, Alabama. I still have that home," Richie said. "I was born and raised by the Tuskegee Airmen. I am standing on the shoulders of those people. And when a kid sees me pick up this Kennedy Center Honor, I want him to understand that this is possible."

LIFESTYLE HAPPENING

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.

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

■ **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 Coral Buffet. Call 305-989-0994

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

HEREOS

CONTINUED FROM 11C

people to see sci-fi differently.

"As much power as Lando Calrissian had and Nichelle Nichols in Star Trek, you know, they weren't central," Carroll said. "Now, they're central. Now we see Finn as a main character that contributes to the success of the story of 'Star Wars,' we have [Michael Burnham] in 'Star Trek: Discovery' - she's the main focal point and that's the same thing with fiction. Our books have been building."

Carroll said "Black Panther" will have an impact on the genre as a whole.

"The public is going to see 'Black Panther' and they're going to want diversity in everything and they're not going to settle for a throwback to the all white stories with token Blacks," Carroll said. "Now, the fear that if you gave a Black storyline to a story that people wouldn't be interested in it, there would have never been a Luke Cage on Netflix with as much success because there weren't any white characters in that. No storylines, he wasn't taking on a white villain, it was Black on Black crime, Black on Black solutions. Same thing with Black Panther. So once you go there, you're never going to be able to talk people out of putting diversity into things."

Glaifor Ormsby, whose pen name is Silverback, said being Black in the sci-fi industry is a unique experience.

"There are times when I would do a show and I would be the only African-American there and it felt odd in the beginning," Ormsby said. "Now I take it as a badge of honor. Especially when I have kids come to my table and ask, 'well, how do I draw,' or 'how do I get better?' It feels good knowing I'm able to talk to them and cultivate the next crop of artists."

Ormsby is the founder of The Silverback Group, a



Jeff Carroll, left, with his son, right.

Miami Times photos/Janiah Adams



Vendors sell their work at the convention.

conglomerate consisting of a publishing, fashion and media division. Ormsby is also an illustrator, cartoonist, clothing designer and will have a movie studio coming soon. He considered the convention to be a family reunion.

"This is fun," he said. "It feels good not to be the only one. It feels good to know that there's a community of us and we can actually get together and talk about what we do and what we love and exchange notes. It's kind of like a family reunion with the family you never met. It's just a wonderful feeling."

Ismael Fernandez, an Opa-locka resident, brought his son to the convention.

"This is the first comic book event that happens in our city of Opa-locka," Fernandez said. "We try very hard to bring a lot of great things to the city and he changes that are happening here, and this is amazing to happen over here. So it was just the right thing to do to make sure that this city has something showing for my kid."

Fernandez's 10-year-old son Isaac, said the convention was a good experience for him.

"I'm having fun," Isaac said. "This is honestly a really good experience for me because it encourages me to read more and to draw a lot. [I love]

and to draw a lot. [I love]

NBC names Hoda Kotb as Lauer replacement on 'Today'

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC News opened the new year Tuesday by appointing Hoda Kotb as co-anchor of the "Today" show's first two hours with Savannah Guthrie, replacing Matt Lauer following his firing on sexual misconduct charges in late November.

Kotb, 53, will continue to co-host the show's fourth hour with Kathie Lee Gifford.

It will be the first all-female team headlining "Today" in the show's 65-year history. Diane Sawyer and Robin Roberts blazed that path for ABC's "Good Morning America" in the 2000s, but morning shows have traditionally paired a man and a woman as host. With an audience dominated by women in an era where news of badly behaving men is frequent, the Guthrie-Kotb pairing



Hoda Kotb joins Savannah Guthrie as co-anchor of TODAY!

may be particularly timely.

"Today" won't be an all-female zone in its first half, however, with longtime weather forecaster Al Roker and correspondent Carson Daly as regulars. Megyn Kelly hosts the show's third hour.

"This has to be the most popular decision NBC News has ever made and I am so thrilled," Guthrie said on Tuesday, announcing the appointment on the air.

"I am pinching myself," said a beaming Kotb, sitting beside her. "I think we should send some medics to Alexandria, Virginia, where my mom has likely fainted."

Lauer's eventual replacement had long been the subject of internal angst but with a sudden decision forced upon the network, Kotb's performance made it easier. She's subbed for Lauer since the day he was fired and "Today" has won four straight weeks in the ratings, after having spent much of the past few years in second behind ABC.

"Hoda has seamlessly stepped into the co-anchor role alongside Savannah, and the two have quickly hit the ground running," NBC News Chairman Andy Lack said in a memo to staff on Tuesday. "They have an undeniable connection with each other and most importantly, with viewers, a hallmark of 'Today.'"

Lack said Kotb "has the rare ability to share authentic and heartfelt moments in even the most difficult news circumstances. It's a tribute to her wide range and her innate curiosity."

It's common for television shows with job openings to

hold informal tryouts of potential hosts. With Kotb's immediate success, potential replacements like Willie Geist or Craig Melvin didn't get that chance.

Lauer had been a fixture at "Today" since the mid-1990s before his abrupt firing for what NBC called "inappropriate sexual behavior" with a colleague. Other complaints and reports of crude behavior followed.

He was the second television morning host fired in a week, after CBS News axed Charlie Rose just before Thanksgiving on sexual misconduct charges. Rose was one of three "CBS This Morning" hosts with Gayle King and Norah O'Donnell, and CBS has yet to name his replacement. Substitutes have included Vladimir Duthiers, Bianna Goldodryga, Dana Jacobsen, John Dickerson and Anthony Mason.

Kotb joined NBC News in 1998 as a "Dateline NBC" correspondent, after working in local news in New Orleans. Her public profile increased with her wine-soaked pairing with Gifford on the show's informal fourth hour.

She was born in Norman, Oklahoma, to parents of Egyptian descent, and raised in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Ben Bogardus, a journalism professor at Connecticut's Quinnipiac University, said Kotb's selection was a good one "because it reinforces the sense of a family coming together after a shared trauma." The timing is important for NBC, because "Today" will get a burst of attention next month with the Winter Olympics.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

BY VENNDA-REI GIBSON | VENNDAL43@GMAIL.COM

The holidays have poignantly reminded us unfortunately, that we can't forget some of the senseless acts of violence that seem to be

a part of our lives nationally and locally. For this reason Parents of Murdered Kids held their Second Annual Candlelight Vigil on January 1, joined by Hot 105 host Rick Party, who served

as moderator alongside parents and members of the community. Many dressed in red and white as they met at NW 87th Street and 17th Avenue and proceeded to Greater Holy Cross Church. It was indeed Rally Time: Enough is Enough! Tawana Akins was among the organizers of the event. Equal Opportunity Publications, career-guidance and recruit-

ment magazine that empowers college students and professionals to move ahead in their job search and/or career environment. Denese

Blake Waiters was recently featured on the cover: Top Priority at Carnival. She's one of the top young professionals in our community.

Legacies are a part of the journey of life. We will all leave footprints. And so it is that family, friends and classmates celebrated the life and legacy of native Miamian Samuel P. Rolle, Jr. on December 30 in Ft. Pierce at St. Simon The Cyprianian Episcopal Church. He was remembered as very gifted and talented academically and especially in music throughout his school days at Liberty City Primary and

Elementary Schools, Dorsey Junior High and as he graduated proudly in the Class of 1959 from Northwestern. At Saint Augustine University in Raleigh, Sammy majored in Piano and Voice. After graduation he began a thirty-six year career as a music education teacher in the Indian River County School District, starting at Gifford Junior High in Vero Beach. Additionally, his love of music naturally led to serving as music and choir director for many local churches including: Friendship Missionary Baptist, Mount Olive Primitive Baptist, New Bethel A.M.E. and Saint Simon The Cyprianian. During his outstanding career, he also left a legacy as the founding director of the Indian River County Interdenominational Youth Choir.

As one of his North-west-

ern classmates said, "Now Sammy's gone at 76. Check-out time gets closer." Our journey in faith requires that we remember that no matter what lies in our past, God's grace offers us fresh starts. And that is a great cause for hope. So here's to a brand new start on the journey. Perhaps making adjustments and doing things in different ways, while keeping the traditions we hold dear, and packing these quotes as we begin our 2018 journey.

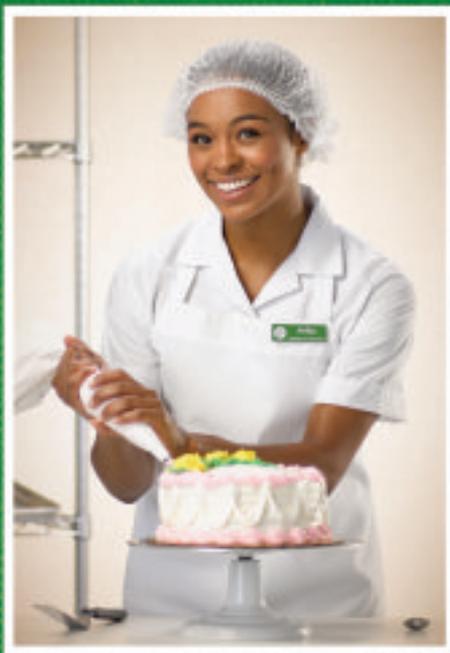
"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been: Rainer Maria Rilke

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right"; Oprah Winfrey.

In closing, here's to a fresh start as we continue to Live, Love, Pray, Laugh, Sing and Dance in the Whirl. Many Blessings



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INSIDE

Congressman Rangel to speak at MLK Service



HEALTH

A diet strategy that counts time, not calories



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PASTOR OF THE WEEK

Pastor foresees the Second Coming of the Christ



18D

RETIRED CHEF MELISANDE COLOMB ENROLLS AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY WHERE HER ANCESTORS WERE SLAVES 19D



Left to right Jezila Brenis, Fabius Loudena, Delimont Nathalie and Roselyn Chery in the kitchen of the small house that serves as a workshop for MyaBel. The company employs 18 people here and in its restaurant. It has plans to expand in Haiti and then into the United States.

Photos by Eddie Coleman, Round Earth Media

HAITIAN RETURNEES ARE REVIVING THE ISLAND

These women were doing great in the U.S. and then returned to aid quake-hit nation

AMY BRACKEN
Round Earth Media

"Wake up and repeat," she recalled. "I was very much a corporate lawyer — very straight-laced; not very adventurous."

Then on Jan. 12, 2010, a magnitude-7.0 earthquake struck Haiti, killing hundreds of thousands of people. And the child of immigrants who left Haiti for greater opportunities did something shocking. She traded her comfortable life in Boston for the chaos of the poorest country in the Americas.

Aid groups and volunteers from around the world also poured into



Corinne Joachim Sanon studied industrial engineering at the University of Michigan and business at Wharton.

Haiti. Most have left. But eight years later, Theodat is still here.

She is among a small army, most of them women, who returned to Haiti and started businesses. Theodat makes food and cocktails. Another woman supplies castor oil beauty products to North American stores, including Whole Foods. Some of the others sell fruit smoothies, jewelry and chocolate.

More Haitians may soon be returning from the U.S., but not voluntarily. The Trump administration announced in November that "temporary protected status" for 59,000 Haitians
SEE REVIVE 16D



Regine Theodat (right), with some of the products that her company, MyaBel, produces in Haiti. Theodat left Boston and the start of a promising career in corporate law to return to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. She found out that what Haitians wanted more than anything was work.

Trump fires members of HIV and AIDS Council

BY MATT STEVENS and DANIEL VICTOR
The New York Times

The Trump administration this week dismissed the remaining members of a federal advisory council on H.I.V. and AIDS. The group's executive director said the move was a common occurrence in new administrations, but others questioned that.

Six members of the body, the Presidential Advisory Council on H.I.V. and AIDS, resigned this year in protest

of President Trump. Kaye Hayes, the council's executive director, confirmed in a statement on Friday that the remaining members had received a letter saying the administration was ending their appointments. "Changing the makeup of federal advisory committee members is a common occurrence during administration changes," she said.

She added that the Obama administration ended the appointments of members ap-

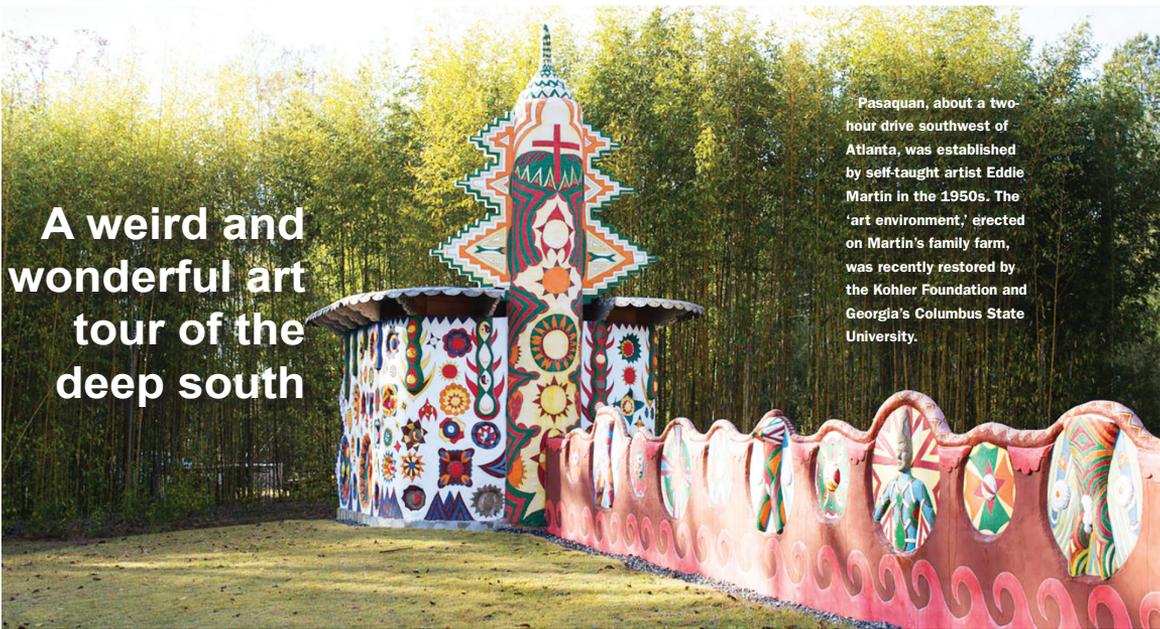


pointed by President George W. Bush "in order to bring in new voices," noting that the dismissed members could apply to serve on a new council to be convened in 2018.

SEE TRUMP 16D

Photo credit: Saul Loeb/Agence France Presse
The White House honored World AIDS Day this month. The remaining members of the Presidential Advisory Council on H.I.V. and AIDS were dismissed this week.

A weird and wonderful art tour of the deep south



Pasaquan, about a two-hour drive southwest of Atlanta, was established by self-taught artist Eddie Martin in the 1950s. The 'art environment,' erected on Martin's family farm, was recently restored by the Kohler Foundation and Georgia's Columbus State University.

Jarrett Christian for The Wall Street Journal

Rural Georgia produced a bumper crop of eccentric Outsider artists. See their work in the wild on trippy day trips from Atlanta

BY CAMERON MCWHIRTER
The Wall Street Journal

About a two-hour drive southwest of downtown Atlanta — set amid red-clay hills and pine forests well beyond the highway sprawl — lies one of America's strangest outdoor art sites. Pasaquan, a wild architectural mashup, looks like some ancient Cambodian temple complex as reimagined by an uninhibited Marvel superhero. Its series of buildings and outdoor walls range across several acres of former farmland, blanketed with vivid paintings of crosses, Buddhist mandalas and astral beings—many with coneheads and multihued complexions. Some visitors find Pasaquan entrancing, others disorientingly bizarre.

Eddie Martin, who began building it in the 1950s, was one of two granddaddies of outsider art (a more eccentric form of folk art) who once called rural Georgia home. The other, Howard Finster, first planted his Paradise Garden, a cartoonish biblical hallucination, in the 1970s. After the two men died—the former in 1986, the latter in 2001—the art sites fell into disrepair. But extensive preservation efforts, fueled by a renewed interest in Southern folk art, have revitalized both properties in recent years, as well as a few other installations throughout the state.

It's always been dodgy to identify someone as an outsider artist. Most candidates' work is so idiosyncratic that even fans aren't quite sure who fits into the category. Though rejected by the "legitimate" art world as untrained and lacking pedigree, several of these artists rose to national prominence over the years, often after they died. Henry Darger, for instance, spent three decades isolated in his Chicago apartment painting watercolors and collages of an imaginary world; a construction worker named Simon Rodia built the monumentally whimsical Watts Towers in his Los Angeles backyard from the 1920s to the 1950s.

The Deep South, and especially Georgia's countryside,



Detail view of a Pasaquan face, created by artist Eddie Owens Martin (St. EOM) in Buena Vista, Georgia.

produced a bumper crop of these Outsider artists, many of whom turned nondescript rural properties into startling creations. Here, a guide to a few of the sites in and around Atlanta that are well worth checking out or planning a day trip around.

HIGH MUSEUM OF ART, ATLANTA, GA.

Home to one of the South's largest art collections, Atlanta's High Museum devotes several rooms on its top-floor "Skyway" to works by leading outsider (or "self-taught") artists. In addition to pieces by Finster, you'll find works by Bill Traylor (1853-1949), an Alabamian painter whose simple silhouettes keenly document rural life, and Nellie Mae Rowe (1900-1982), a Georgia native, who specialized in vivid paintings of fantastical people and animals.

PASAUQUAN, BUENA VISTA, GA.

Eddie Martin's 7-acre psychedelic art installation reopened in 2016 after a me-

diculous restoration—a joint effort between the Wisconsin-based Kohler Foundation and Georgia's Columbus State University. Born on this farm, just outside the small town of Buena Vista, in 1908, Martin moved to New York City in 1922, fleeing an abusive father. He eked out a living as a male prostitute, soothsayer and marijuana peddler, before moving back to Georgia in the 1950s, inheriting the farm after his parents had died.

For decades, Martin, festooned in an Indian headdress, transformed the property, turning the humble 1885 farmhouse into a tangle full of odd sculptures and murals awash in neon-bright oranges, yellows, greens, reds and blues. He told a biographer: "I built this place to have something to identify with, 'cause there's nothin' I see in this society that I identify with or desire to emulate."

The artist produced thousands of works, from paintings to jewelry—many still on view at the property. To



'Pasaquan Man with Ritual Headdress and Levitation suit, ca. 1965-1975,' by artist Eddie Owens Martin, is part of the permanent collection at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

earn money for paint and building supplies, Martin, who called himself St. EOM (for Eddie Owens Martin), held seances and exorcisms, and gave psychic readings. "He was a guru with no followers," said Charles Fowler, the property's current caretaker, who insists Martin still haunts the farm. A two-hour drive southwest from Atlanta, pasaquan.columbusstate.edu

created more than 46,000 pieces of art in his lifetime. Like Martin, Finster converted his 2.5-acre swampy property into a collection of art-covered buildings and inscrutable sculptures, from small houses made from discarded Coca-Cola bottles to a mound of snakes fashioned out of concrete. Everywhere he could, he hung his childlike paintings with biblical phrases and religious musings.

"It's much more unruly [than Pasaquan]," said Katherine Jentleson, curator of the High Museum's folk and self-taught collection, referring to the messy conglomeration of works strewn about Paradise Garden. That unruliness attracted a few notable rock bands to the property over the years. R.E.M. shot its "Radio Free Europe" video at Paradise Garden (Finster makes an appearance in the video), while Talking Heads used a Finster painting for the cover of its 1985 album "Little Creatures." Despite Finster's relative fame, the upkeep of Paradise Gardens languished after his death 16 years ago. Some of the stone sculptures had sunk into the mud and buildings were teetering, according to one of the caretakers. County officials eventually took over the site and set about making repairs. Today the Paradise Garden Foundation manages the property, fueled by donations, an annual art and music "Finsterfest," and an Airbnb rental building next door. About a one-hour-and-45-minute drive northwest of Atlanta,

paradisegardenfoundation.org

WHERE TO SLEEP AND SNACK NEAR RURAL GEORGIA'S OUTSIDER ART SITES

Staying there: Atlanta has many fine hotels, but to experience outsider art in the evening, too, rent the cottage next to Howard Finster's Paradise Garden. Finster includes a key to visit the garden after hours (from about \$130 a night, airbnb.com/rooms/5338048).

For a more upscale option, try the Barnley Resort, a luxury complex set amid the ruins of an old plantation (from \$259 a night, barnleyresort.com).

To stay closer to Pasaquan, try Mountain Top Inn and Resort in Warm Springs, Ga., the town where President Franklin D. Roosevelt endeavored to recuperate from his paralytic illness (from \$126 a night, mountaintoppinga.com).

Roosevelt's cottage, called "the Little White House," is worth a peek while you're in the area (gastateparks.org/LittleWhiteHouse).

Eating there: After visiting Paradise Garden, head to the Harvest Moon Cafe in the quaint city of Rome, between Summerville and Atlanta for a plate of excellent shrimp and grits (234 Broad St., Rome, Ga., myharvestmooncafe.com).

En route to or from Pasaquan, stop in Columbus to gorge on what many consider the best fried chicken in Georgia at Minnie's Uptown Restaurant (104 Eighth St., Columbus, Ga., minniesuptown.com).

MUSEUM OF WONDER, SEALE, ALA.

Across the Chattahoochee River, in the tiny Alabama town of Seale, sits artist Butch Anthony's Museum of Wonder. It's a free, drive-through art installation, a collection of shipping containers turned into window displays of found art, taxidermy, animal horns and old photographs. Don't expect the spit and polish—or helpful explanations—you'll find at the High Museum or even Pasaquan. The Museum of Wonder is a little rough around the edges, but if you're lucky, the artist himself might be wandering around to field questions. About a two-hour drive southwest of Atlanta, museumofwonder.com

PARADISE GARDEN, SUMMERVILLE, GA.

In the foothills of Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains, Paradise Garden occupies an old homestead in Summerville, a sort of hard-luck Mayberry. There, Finster, a retired Baptist preacher born in 1916, said he was moved, in 1976, to "paint sacred art" and he did so with gusto. He

REVIVE

CONTINUED FROM 14D

will end in 2019. Many will have limited opportunities back home.

What's more, remittances make up almost a third of Haiti's GDP, so for each person deported, several local people suffer. For those with education, drive and money, however, moving back is a chance to create jobs and help change practices that may believe perpetuate poverty.

Family members thought Theodat was insane for going back to a country they'd left in the 1980s.

"They said, 'She'll be back. The first demonstration that happens, she'll be back,' she said. 'The first rocks she sees thrown, she'll be back.'" She has indeed seen a lot, but she has stayed.

Theodat spent her first year running a human rights clinic, until she found out that Haitians really wanted something else. "People kept asking me for jobs," she said.

So she teamed up with two collaborators from her human rights work, including a man she later married. They launched MyaBèl, a restaurant and cocktail bar in Croix-des-Bouquets, the hometown of Theodat's family located northeast of Port-au-Prince.

Then they started bottling drinks and sauces in a middle-class house on a dirt side street, and began a farm to supply fresh ingredients.

MyaBèl now sells products at more than a dozen Haitian supermarkets and boutiques. It employs 18 people and works with 65 farmers. This year, Theodat was nominated for an entrepreneur of the year award.

Jezila Brunis, 37, a single mother of three, makes minimum wage, about \$5.50 a day, in the workshop. She's able to send her children to school, and she likes the process of washing and chopping ingredients, feeding them into mixers and cooking them on a stovetop. "I'm always learning new things," she said.

Even paying the minimum is a challenge because other costs — generators, fuel, imports and wear-and-tear on vehicles — are extremely high, Theodat said. Hiring and managing people is difficult because



Edine Celestin, Round Earth Media

Vivalde Gustave sorts cacao beans for Askanya, Haiti's first chocolate company that takes the process from raw beans to finished chocolate bar. The company sells its bars at scores of locations in Haiti and the U.S., and has expansion plans.

so few held jobs before, and they often fail to do basics, such as keeping kitchen doors closed, getting to work on time and finishing tasks quickly. Five out of the restaurant's original six employees lost their jobs.

Most Haitians subsist in part on farms or work informally, so unemployment is hard to measure. But the World Bank says almost 60% of Haiti's 11 million people live in poverty. In May, the insurance company FM Global rated Haiti the worst place to do business among 130 countries it studied.

Theodat came face-to-face with endemic corruption the first time she went to pay taxes. She was told she needed to pay someone to speed up the process. "I refused," she said. "And then I just sat there until I was able to do it the way I was supposed to do it." She did the same with immigration and customs.

Some of the émigrés couldn't cut it. "They came, they tried, Haiti pummeled them, and they left," said Isabelle Clérié, who came home to work with local entrepreneurs after studying anthropology in the U.S. "Some were able to

stick it out, and through some truly big challenges." "One of the most valuable exports from Haiti is our brains," she said. "It's been really great to see these people come back."

Unlike Theodat, Corinne Joachim Sanon planned to start a business in Haiti. She grew up in Port-au-Prince, graduated from high school at 16 and headed to the University of Michigan to study industrial engineering. She was in Wharton's business program when the earthquake struck, destroying her family home and killing her grandmother.

She launched Askanya, Haiti's first bean-to-bar chocolate company, in her grandmother's childhood home in Ouananinthe, a town on the border with the Dominican Republic. The company works with cacao and sugar cooperatives representing more than 3,000 growers and employs to people full time.

One of them is Jocelyne Diomètre, 34, who had been a maid in the Dominican Republic and hated the hassle of crossing the border every day. At Askanya, she is working in her own country for the first time.



USA Today

Askanya sells bars at scores of locations across Haiti and the U.S. Boosted by recognition at festivals in Seattle and Paris, Joachim Sanon is looking to expand production and double its number of growers.

MyaBèl is also growing, clearing and planting more than 30 acres of idle land. It is planning to hire local people to make machines for the workshop. Theodat said the company must increase production to meet local demand and

then start exporting to the U.S., creating more jobs.

Theodat and Joachim Sanon know that returning émigrés can't end poverty in Haiti. "I don't think I'm going to go to bed and wake up and Haiti is going to be totally different," Theodat said.

Refusing to take part in corruption might result in incremental change. Theodat also believes the more collaborative style of émigrés has been rubbing off on their local counterparts.

Joachim Sanon is encouraged that a Haitian company is now competing with Askanya by selling high-end chocolate bars. "Sometimes you want to see someone else succeed first before you try to put your toe in the water," she said.

"It's definitely changing the image of Haiti," she said. "It creates a momentum."

CHURCH Listings

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

CATHOLIC

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

BAPTIST

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

Greater Harvest Baptist Church
Rev. Kenneth McGee
2310 NW 58th Street • 786-717-5818

MISSIONARY BAPTIST

New Christ Tabernacle Church
Rev. Harold Harsh
1305 NW 54th Street • 305-835-2578

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

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

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

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

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

Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Van Gaskins, Jr., Pastor/Teacher
7510 NW 15th Avenue • 305-418-0012

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

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

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

NON DENOMINATIONAL
Yahweh Ministries
Minister Job Israel
Youtube: job yahweh vs3

New Life Christian Center
Rev. Bruce Payne
5726 Washington Street • 786-536-9039

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

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

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

TRUMP

CONTINUED FROM 14D

Established by President Bill Clinton in 1995, the council can have up to 25 members who are appointed to four-year terms by the secretary of health and human services in consultation with the White House.

Chief executive of TruEvolution, an advocacy group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and an H.I.V. and AIDS services organization, who was among those dismissed, said federal officials could have removed him and his colleagues when Trump was inaugurated or at one of the two meetings the council held this year.

During those meetings, he said the council had voiced concerns over the Trump administration's position on the Affordable Care Act, among other issues.

Six members announced their departure in June. Writing in Newsweek, one of the former members, Scott A. Schoettes, who is counsel and H.I.V. project director at Lambda Legal, said that "the Trump administration has no strategy to address the ongoing H.I.V./AIDS epidemic, seeks zero input from experts to formulate H.I.V. policy, and — most concerning — pushes

legislation that will harm people living with H.I.V. and halt or reverse important gains made in the fight against this disease."

Maldonado said he also found it strange that Trump issued an executive order in September continuing 32 advisory committees — including the council on H.I.V. and AIDS — whose operating authorities had been set to expire. That would have been an appropriate time to relieve the remaining members of their appointments, he said.

David Kilmnick, the president of the LGBT Network, criticized the dismissals. "We have finally made significant progress in trying to end the epidemic once and for all and the irrational and immature moves by Trump will only set us back," he said in a statement.

Patrick Sullivan, a professor of epidemiology at Emory University in Atlanta who studies H.I.V. prevention and was among the council members terminated, said the move came as a surprise, but added that he thought it was a "positive sign" that Mr. Trump had signed the executive order continuing the council.

He urged the administration to formally affirm the National H.I.V./AIDS Strategy drawn up during the Obama administration, which he said would help

ensure "we're all pulling in the same direction toward a common goal."

The strategy's basic premise is that everyone old enough to be sexually active should be tested for H.I.V. regularly, either as part of routine care or through special offers. Everyone who tests positive should be put on triple-therapy treatment immediately and kept on it for life.

It also recommends that anyone at high risk — gay men with many sexual partners, people who inject drugs, people whose regular partner is infected, and so on — should be offered pre-exposure prophylaxis, a daily antiretroviral pill that, if taken faithfully, reduces the chances of infection almost to zero.

The domestic strategy on the disease is overseen by the director of National AIDS Policy, a White House post created by Mr. Clinton in 1992. The advisory council helps with that strategy.

But since 1993 — around the time that antiretroviral triple-therapy cocktails turned H.I.V. infection from a death sentence into a manageable illness — the White House job has been fairly low profile.

Eleven people have held the post since 1993, none for more than three years. Mr. Trump has left the job vacant since January.

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 assis-

tance 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.



A diet strategy that counts time, not calories

You can eat whatever you want with time-restricted feeding, just not whenever you want. The weight-loss regime limits eating to a 12-hour window each day and is good for diabetes prevention, longevity and blood pressure

SUMATHI REDDY
The Wall Street Journal

Stop counting calories. It's the clock that counts. That's the concept behind time-restricted feeding, or TRF, a strategy increasingly being studied by researchers as a tool for weight-loss, diabetes prevention and even longevity. In TRF, you can eat whatever you want and as much as you want—just not whenever you want. Daily food intake should be limited to a 12-hour window, and ideally cut down to eight to 10 hours. But you can pick the hours you want to eat. (Note: This doesn't mean you should stuff your face with cupcakes.

HOW TO EAT IN UNDER 12 HOURS

Vivian Rootness started following a regular TRF schedule about five months ago, eating during a 10- to 12-hour window each day and occasionally restricting herself to eight hours a day. Here's a sample schedule of her routine:

- 7 a.m.** - Coffee with cream (no sugar)
- 10 a.m.** - Frittata with cheese and a vegetable like cauliflower
- 1 p.m.** - Salad with apples, chicken and brown rice. Slice of sourdough bread with butter
- 3 p.m.** - Biscotti and coffee
- 5 p.m.** - 6 oz. piece of steak with roasted broccoli with garlic and gnocchi with butter sage, and a glass of wine
- 6 p.m.** - Chocolate chia pudding with berries

Experts say you should dine as you normally would. Only non-caloric drinks like water and black coffee are allowed during fasting hours.)

Despite a lack of dietary restrictions, most people following TRF end up consuming fewer calories and lose weight, according to studies and experts. Preliminary evidence also shows other health benefits of fasting for 12 hours or more, including lower blood pressure and improved glucose levels, and physiological changes linked to slowing the aging process. Researchers believe that when the body kicks into fasting-mode it more efficiently breaks down food and fat,

in particular. Satchidananda Panda, a professor at Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, first tracked the effects of time-restricted feeding in mice. In 2015, he expanded his studies to include humans, using a free research app he created, called "MyCircadianClock," to follow 156 people. Dr. Panda found that 50 percent ate over the course of 15 hours and only 10 percent restricted meals and snacking to the recommended 12 hours or less. The findings, published in the journal *Cell Metabolism*, showed that when eight overweight people who naturally

SEE DIET 19D



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Food swamps are the new food deserts

It's not just a lack of grocery stores that's making Americans fat; It's an overabundance of fast food

OLGA KHAZAN
The Atlantic

The term "food desert" conjures the image of a forlorn citizen, wandering through a barren landscape for miles and miles (or, by definition, for more than a mile) to reach the nearest fresh-food market. Populating food deserts with grocery stores is a favored cause among nutrition advocates, but the concept became controversial after some recent studies found the distance to the nearest grocery store doesn't correlate with a region's obesity rate.

(Because it's nutrition, other studies have shown the opposite. Either way, most people would agree it's nice to be able to buy produce with relative ease, even if doing so doesn't make you fit into your high-school jeans again.)

Now, new research suggests

food deserts might not be the culprit — or at least not the only one — for the high prevalence of obesity in certain areas. Instead, food swamps might be to blame.

In addition to being low on grocery stores, food swamps are also crammed with unhealthy food options like corner stores and fast-food places.

For a study published in November in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, researchers from the University of Connecticut's Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity compared the obesity rate of U.S. counties to their ratio of fast-food restaurants and convenience stores to grocery stores and supermarkets—their level of food-swampiness, in other words.

The food swamps had about four unhealthy options

for each healthy one. Food swamps were a strong predictor of obesity rates—even stronger than food deserts were. The relationship between food swamps and obesity was especially strong in areas where people lacked both their own cars and access to public transportation.

Similarly, a 2011 longitudinal study found that nearby supermarkets didn't improve people's diets much overall. But people — low-income men in particular — did eat more fast food when there was more fast food nearby.

Fast-food restaurants are more prevalent in areas where large numbers of people of color live. African Americans and Latinos also have higher obesity rates than whites, and this research suggests the two trends might be related.

As a potential remedy, the food-swamp study authors



Shawn Best / Reuters

suggest counties could introduce zoning restrictions that would reduce the number of fast-food joints while simultaneously increasing the number of grocery stores. But they should do so carefully. Los Angeles banned new fast-food restaurants in a low-income part of the city in 2008, but the

measure was considered a failure after obesity rates there continued to rise. New, healthier restaurants didn't enter the area, and since the ordinance only targeted stand-alone restaurants, strip-mall restaurants were free to sling all the burgers and fries they wanted. If there's anything the

food-desert research shows, it's that there's no one silver bullet to fight health disparities. The food environment can contribute to poor health, as the grease-laden food swamps show, but changing it alone won't immediately reverse a community's health problems.

Pastor OF THE WEEK



Prophetsess Felicia Parramore

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Reformed Prophetsess tells her testimony of recovery

Pastor talks the Bible and future

GREGORY W. WRIGHT
g.w.wright@hotmail.com

Happy New Year is a salutation cordially expressed worldwide this time every year. Yet in spite of the niceties expressed at the beginning of each new year, world conditions seem to

grow increasingly darker.

Prophetsess Felicia Parramore of The Kingdom Agenda Worship Center in Opa-locka sat down to discuss the coming new year, Bible prophesy and the signs that could foretell the future of man and the second coming of Christ.

Pastor Parramore, a Milwaukee, Wisc., native, has spent a number of years in the Miami area, from street evangelism, to feeding the homeless on Lincoln Road on Miami Beach, to teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sixteen years ago, she said her spirit lead her to begin the 'The

SEE PASTOR 19D

Obesity.

It's not always about willpower.
It's not always about exercise.
It's not always a choice.

Obesity is a real medical condition with life-threatening side effects. We understand, and we may be able to help you become healthier.

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Jackson North Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
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North Miami Beach, FL 33163

Jackson South Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.
9333 S.W. 152nd Street
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Women enrolls where her ancestors were slaves

JESSICA CHIA
New York Daily News

A 63-year-old retired chef is now a college freshman at Georgetown University after receiving a fateful Facebook message last summer.

A genealogist messaged Mélisande Short-Colomb to ask if she was related to Mary Ellen Queen — a woman who was sold in 1838 alongside 271 other slaves to help pay off the steep debts Georgetown had incurred.

More than 175 years later, the university offered legacy admission status to the slaves' descendants as part of a wider effort to confront its role in profiting from the sale.

Short-Colomb's grandmother always told stories that Queen had been freed and receiving news that the opposite had been true was a nauseating realization, she told the Washington Post.

But the initial discomfort turned to curiosity, and with some encouragement from



Melisande Colomb, 63, is a descendant of slaves sold by the Jesuits to fund a struggling Georgetown University.

her roommate and Richard Cellini, the founder of the Georgetown Memory Project, Short-Colomb decided to fill out an application.

With the help of a grant and financial aid from the school's scholarship program, Short-Colomb headed back to school more than 45

years after she first enrolled in college.

"It feels right. I want to go back to the source of my family in America," she said.

really need to come together as one, not as Black people, but as [mankind] of God. I'm coming from a pastoral point of view. If churches could

"I was in a living room smoking a joint, high on crack cocaine, living a lesbian lifestyle, reading the Gospel of John, trying to figure out who God was. Then I realized He died, and He rose."

Prophetess Felicia Parramore

just come together, we might just call save the community."

Just as boldly, Parramore gives her testimony of 35 years ago, when she said she was delivered and called

into ministry.

"I was in a living room smoking a joint, high on crack cocaine, living a lesbian lifestyle, reading the Gospel of John, trying to figure out who God was. Then I realized He died, and He rose," she said.

"And I said, 'How do I meet this Jesus?'" Parramore got on her knees, and began to ask for forgiveness. When she stood up, she was instantly delivered, flushing all her drugs down the toilet. Today, at 56, she has not touched illegal drugs in thirty-six years.

From that day, her life and career took off. She worked for the Trinity Broadcasting Network, one of the nation's leading Christian broadcast networks.

The Kingdom Agenda Worship Center, a nondenominational ministry, is involved in

With the help of a grant and financial aid from the school's scholarship program, Short-Colomb headed back to school more than 45 years after she first enrolled in college.



With one semester now behind her, Short-Colomb has made a home out of her dorm room, where she sleeps on a twin bed and keeps a stash of microwavable noodles, CNN reported.

While Short-Colomb has been met with welcoming students and professors who are keen on making sure she finds her way, she jokes that she feels "like an alien in a nice place."

But Short-Colomb, who plans to major in Afri-

can-American studies, said, "I'm not here to live the 18- to 22-year-old experience. I'm here for a very specific reason...to know more."

Walking through Georgetown, Short-Colomb sees the physical labor of her ancestors when she visits the oldest buildings on campus.

Her history professor told CNN having her in class "is a reminder that it's not an abstract history and it's not a distant history, that it is our history."

and clothing ministries, tutoring for drug abuse and in conjunction with the Jessie Trice Health Center.

Parramore is a chaplain for the Opa-locka Police Department, where she calls for prayer and support for those officers. "We need to back up our police officers. I'm not saying that they are all good," she explains. "In any profession, there are good and bad. We cannot stereotype everyone and put them in the same blanket. There are some good officers that are out there. We need to back up our officers because when we're in trouble, we're calling you. If we can come together as a nation, not as a color, then we can heal the land."

For Parramore, it is about the people, and getting ev-

eryone ready for the Rapture, which in her estimation can come at any moment, and at any time. "I love souls. It's highly time we start taking it seriously," she said. "I love telling people about Jesus Christ. It's one thing to proclaim, 'Happy New Year,' but what are you going to do now that it's a new year? Are you going to dedicate yourself to God even more? What's your resolution? All resolutions are broken."

For the year 2018, Parramore highly recommends this one resolution for all: "That we get closer to God. Give God all their heart, mind, soul and strength. Seek His face and turn from our wicked ways. We go to everywhere, but we never come to Christ, the One who died for us."

PASTOR

CONTINUED FROM 18D

Kingdom Agenda Worship Center. The church has about 75 members. Services are held in the Opa-locka United Methodist Church, 630 Sharar Ave.

After the holiday pleasantries, Parramore said, then come, unrest, fear and hatreds of past years.

"Well that's what the Bible says," said Parramore. "That's why the church needs to rise up. The pastors need to rise up and be pastors instead of like the saying, 'pimps and players' and stop trying to get everything from the people, but give them eternal life, which only comes through Christ."

DIET

CONTINUED FROM 17D

ate for 15-plus hours a day restricted their eating to a 10-hour window for 16 weeks, they lost 4 percent of their weight. A year later, they reported sticking to the plan, even though they didn't have to, and had kept the weight off.

"All of them said they slept better, and they felt more energetic throughout the day," said Dr. Panda. "They were actually feeling less hungry."

TRF studies of mice — which provide the bulk of research on the strategy — have found that the body, when fasting for half a day or more, has more time to produce the components for cellular repair, break down toxins and coloring agents in food, and repair damaged

DNA in the skin and stomach lining, according to Dr. Panda. There is also some evidence that TRF may reduce the risk of breast cancer.

Most of the repair processes peak around 12 hours after fasting starts, said Dr. Panda.

Julie Shatzel, a family medicine doctor at Mercy Medical Group in Folsom, Calif., said she became a proponent of TRF after coming across Dr. Panda's study in mice from 2012. She started recommending that her overweight patients restrict their eating to 11 to 12 hours a day. Since then, she's recommended TRF for patients who need to lower their blood pressure or blood glucose levels.

"Many patients have gone off of blood-pressure medications," she said. "In some cases, I've seen the reversal of prediabetes."

Dr. Shatzel is now running a weight-loss study with the Salk Institute, tracking patients through Dr. Panda's app for four months.

Vivian Rootness is among them. For the 66-year-old El Dorado, Calif., resident, dinner parties now start at 4 p.m.

"I've just told all my close friends that I have to eat before seven o'clock and they've accommodated," said Ms. Rootness, a hair stylist, artist and biodynamic gardener who had tried countless other diets.

Since restricting eating to 10 to 12 hours a day about five months ago, she has lost around 6 pounds.

Her typical schedule begins with coffee at around 7 a.m. and always ends before 7 p.m. While she tends to eat a healthy diet, Rootness said she has indulged in dessert more often since starting

TRF — and still lost weight.

"I don't have to count calories or think about what I'm eating now," she said. "It's not as easy because you're not depriving yourself of things... This doesn't feel like a diet to me."

Preliminary findings from one study show that what time participants start eating may be irrelevant, and that health benefits may be independent of weight loss.

Leonie Heilbronn, an associate professor at the University of Adelaide in Australia, is studying the effects of TRF in 16 overweight men at risk of developing type-2 diabetes. The men followed two schedules, eating from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or from noon until 9 p.m. for one week and then, after a two-week break, eating on the other schedule for another week.

"Both improved their glycemic responses," Dr. Heil-

bronn said, referring to the effect food has on blood sugar levels. While the men lost weight, she said, it wasn't enough to account for the improved glucose levels. "There's something else going on that's not just

driven by weight change," she said.

Courtney Peterson, an assistant professor in nutrition sciences at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, found similar results in a pilot study of eight prediabetic men.

Congressman Rangel to speak at MLK Service

Charles B. Rangel, one of the longest serving members of the United States Congress will be the speaker at a service commemorating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Miami. The 30th annual worship service will take place at the Church of the Incarnation, 1835 NW 54 Street on Sunday, January 14, beginning at 9 a.m.



Charles B. Rangel

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Apostolic Revival Center

Services
Wed. Intercessory Prayer 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sun. Eve. Worship 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Fri. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

G. S. Smith

6702 N.W. 15th Avenue
305-836-1224

Liberty City Church of Christ

Services
Sunday Morning 8 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Evening 5 p.m.
Tue. Bible Class 6:30 p.m.
Thurs. Fellowship 10 a.m.

Evangelist Eric W. Moses

1263 N.W. 67th Street
305-836-4555

New Vision For Christ Ministries

Services
Early Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
Tuesday Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Michael D. Screen

13650 N.E. 10th Avenue
305-899-7224

Brownsville Church of Christ

Services
Lord Day Sunday School 9:45am
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5 p.m.
Tuesday Night Bible Study 7:30pm
Thurs. Mom. Bible Class 10 a.m.

Min. Harrell L. Henton

4561 N.W. 33rd Court
305-634-4850

93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church

Services
7:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship
11 a.m. Morning Worship
Evening Worship
1st & 3rd Sunday 6 p.m.
Tuesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Website: cm93.org

Pastor Rev. Carl Johnson

2330 N.W. 93rd Street
305-836-0942

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church

Services
Sunday 7:30 and 11 a.m.
Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday 7 p.m. Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting

Rev. Dr. C.A. Ivory, Pastor

1470 N.W. 87th Street
305-691-8861

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. — Romans 8:28

Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Services
Early Worship 7 a.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m.
NBC 10:05 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Worship 4 p.m.
Mission and Bible Class Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Douglas Cook, Sr.

5946 N.W. 12th Avenue
305-751-9323

New Birth Baptist Church, The Cathedral of Faith International

Services
Sunday Worship 7 a.m., 11 a.m., 7 p.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday (Bible Study) 6:45p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 10:45 a.m.

1(800) 254-NBCC
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Fax: 305-685-0705
www.newbirthbaptistsmi.com

Bishop Victor T. Curry, D.Min., D.D., Senior Pastor/Teacher
2300 N.W. 135th Street

Pembroke Park Church of Christ

Services
SUNDAY Bible Study 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.

TUESDAY Bible Study 10 a.m.
WEDNESDAY Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

www.PembrokeParkChurchOfChrist.com

Minister Kevin D. Jones, Sr.
954-982-9327
3707 S.W. 56th Avenue, Hollywood, FL 33023

Hosanna Community Baptist Church

Services
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study, Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Youth Ministry Mon.-Wed. 6 p.m.

Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins

2171 N.W. 56th Street
305-637-4404

Richardson

JAMAAR GLOSTER, 33, transporter, died December 22 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



RESHARD

PHILLIP LEE WILLIAMS, 26, laborer, died December 26. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church.



WILLIAMS

ELNORA TAYLOR, 83, retired manager, died December 28 at Villa Maria Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Ebenezer United Methodist Church.



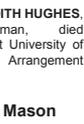
TAYLOR

RUTHA MAE AUSTIN, 81, dry cleaner presser, died December 27 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 2:30 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



AUSTIN

BRENDA ALDITH HUGHES, 55, saleswoman, died December 31 at University of Miami Hospital. Arrangement are incomplete.



HUGHES

Gregg L. Mason

MAEBELLE FERNANDEZ, 77, retired register nurse, Hospital, died December 27. Survivors include: husband, Ernest L. Fernandez; children, Bruce Fernandez (Karo), Renee Mason (Brett); grandchildren, Samiyah, Azana, Kaila, Brooke and Bruce; sisters, Dimple Dean, Francis Shoates, Ernestine Mackey, Gerri Martin and Jerry Brown; aunt, Naomi Brown and a host of other family and friends. Viewing 2-9 p.m., family hour 5-7 p.m., Friday. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 2001 NW 35 Street. Interment: Vista Memorial Gardens.



ROLLE-FERNANDEZ

Cabellero

ELLA LORRAINE PUYOL GOWDY, 65, unit secretary from Jackson Memorial Hospital, where she worked for over 30 years, died December 31 at home in Atlanta, GA. Survived by her husband, Johnny Gowdy, Jr.; mother, Antonia (Puyol) George and three loving daughters, Tracy Puyol, Sheria Sanchious and Janel Gowdy. Arrangements are incomplete.



PUYOL GOWDY

Mitchell

VICTOR T. RODGERS, SR., 55, retired, died December 31 at Jackson North Memorial service 2:30 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



RODGERS

Hall Ferguson Hewitt

RENAARD DOWDELL, 57, musician, died December 27 at Mercy Hospital. Repass 4-8 p.m., Friday at 1511 NW 93 Street. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church.



DOWDELL

Hadley MLK

CERISE GARDNER, 54, team member, died December 20 at Jackson Main Hospital. Service 2 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



BOBBY JEAN GORDON, 60, homemaker, died January 2 at Larkin Community Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.



LINDA WILLIAMS, 60, retired, died December 31 at Jackson Hospital. Service 2 p.m., Saturday at Word of Truth Worship Center.



ROBERT LEE CALEB, 75, retired longshoreman, died December 29 at Aventura Hospital. Service 10 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Wright and Young

JONATHAN SOTO, 23, cook, died December 23. Graveside Service 2 p.m., Tuesday at Flagler Memorial Cemetery.



DOROTHY TYLER, 90, domestic engineer, died December 26. Service 11 a.m., today at House of God Miracle Temple.



JASMINE FAIRELL, died December 28. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



SAMMIE WILLIS, died December 30. Private services were held.



Hadley Miami Gardens

CHARLES POWELL, 65, laborer, died December 16 at Memorial Regional Hospital. Service 2 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



MYRTLE WELSH, 74, retired, died December 23 at Memorial Regional Hospital. Service 10 a.m., Friday at New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.



QUINTZ A. EXUM, 35, correctional case manager, died January 1 at home. Service 2 p.m., Saturday at Antioch of Miami Gardens.



GLADYS TRIBBLE, 83, administrative assistant, died January 1 at Aventura Hospital. Viewing 12-5 p.m., Thursday at Hadley Davis Funeral Home, 2321 NW 62 Street, Miami, FL. Service 11 a.m., Friday in the MLK chapel.



KAREEM THOMAS, 16, student, died December 22. Service 2 p.m., Saturday at New Providence M.B.C.



Bain Range

RYNITA A. POWELL, 56, homemaker, died December 27 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Viewing 5-7 p.m., Friday at Range Funeral Home (Miami Chapel). Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



Royal

TERRY MORRIS, 52, died December 28. Viewing 4-9 p.m., Friday at Royal Funeral Home. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at New Vision For Christ Ministries, 13650 NE 10 Ave., North Miami.



Range

BERTHA L. KIMBROUGH, 94, homemaker, died December 28. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church.



Range Homestead

DEACON WILLIAM C. CRIGLER, 84, died December 29 at Homestead Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Covenant Missionary Baptist Church.



HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE WITH AN IN MEMORIAM IN THE MIAMI TIMES 305-694-6225



Civil rights activist Erica Garner, the daughter of police chokehold victim Eric Garner, has died after suffering a heart attack.

Activist Erica Garner, daughter of late Eric Garner, dies at 27

VIVIAN WANG
The New York Times

Erica Garner, the daughter of Eric Garner who became an outspoken activist against police brutality after her father's death at the hands of a New York police officer, died on Saturday, according to her mother. She was 27.

Garner had been placed in a medically induced coma last week after an asthma episode precipitated a major heart attack. She was being treated at Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center in Brooklyn, and died there. No official cause of death has been given. "The only thing I can say is that she was a warrior," Garner's mother, Esaw Snipes, said on Saturday. "She fought the good fight. This is just the first fight in 27 years she lost."

Garner became a central figure in the charged conversation about race and the use of force by the police after a New York Police Department officer placed her father into an unauthorized chokehold on Staten Island in 2014 while responding to complaints he was selling untaxed cigarettes.

As Mr. Garner, who also suffered from asthma, was being choked by the officer, Daniel Pantaleo, he repeated the words "I can't breathe" 11 times—a phrase that became a rallying cry for the Black Lives Matter movement and other activists. An autopsy by the city's medical examiner ruled Mr. Garner's death a homicide. No charges were brought against Pantaleo.

Garner was initially ap-

prehensive about becoming a face of the movement for police accountability, according to her website. But she became outspoken, organizing a "die-in" on the same corner where her father was placed in the chokehold, and accusing Mayor Bill de Bl-

al voice for the Black Lives Matter movement, said in an interview on Saturday that Garner had inspired other activists.

"Erica took the truth with her everywhere she went, even if that truth made people uncomfortable," he said,



Erica Garner in 2016. She rose to prominence as an activist after the death of her father, Eric Garner, became a flashpoint in the national debate over police brutality.

sio of not caring about African-Americans.

In a tweet on Saturday, de Blasio praised Garner's "unshakable sense of justice and passion for humanity."

In an interview this month with Benjamin Dixon, the host of a progressive podcast and YouTube show, Garner described the frustrations and physical toll of her activism.

"I'm struggling right now with the stress and everything," she said. "This thing, it beats you down to where you can't win."

Garner had an 8-year-old daughter and a 4-month-old son, whom she named after her father.

DeRay Mckesson, a nation-

recalling her willingness to confront President Barack Obama and demand that he take a stand against racially charged policing tactics.

Civil rights activists and celebrities flooded social media with tributes to Garner.

Even as Garner pressed politicians and law enforcement officials to hold the police accountable for her father's death, she was emphatic that her personal tragedy was also a public one.

"Even with my own heartbreak, when I demand justice, it's never just for Eric Garner," she wrote in The Washington Post in 2016. "It's for my daughter; it's for the next generation of African-Americans."

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,



LEON JAMES, JR.
01/06/1950 - 11/12/2004

It has been 13 years, yet it seems like yesterday. We love and miss your smiling face. The James and Brown families.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



EMMAE LEE HOPKINS "YATE"
12/04/1933 - 12/26/2016

One year has passed since you left us. We miss and love you always. Your husband, Leonard; sons, Michael, Stephen, Kenneth and Kalvin; the Hopkins family.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



CHERRY B. BARFIELD
12/7/1960 - 01/02/2016

Gone but not forgotten. Love, husband, daughter and grandchildren.