

The Miami Times

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Sen. Braynon 'deeply regrets' affair

Democrat admits to fling with Republican Sen. Anitere Flores

NYAMEKYE DANIEL AND JAYDA HALL
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A pair of leading Miami-Dade state senators from opposite political parties, Oscar Braynon II and Anitere Flores, admitted to having an affair after video footage showed Flores leaving Braynon's Tallahassee apartment.

A website exposing the footage blasted the news on Tuesday just as Florida's annual legislative session began. The two married lawmakers responded and issued a joint statement apologizing for their indiscretion.

"As this 2018 session of the Florida Legislature gets underway, we do not want gossip and rumors to distract from the important business of the people," Braynon and Flores wrote in a

SEE AFFAIR 4A



Right: Sens. Oscar Braynon II and Anitere Flores at the Millennial Action Project's 2017 Future Summit in Boston.

Top: Sen. Oscar Braynon II, his wife Melissa and their two sons.

Bottom: Sen. Anitere Flores, her husband Dustin Anderson and their children.



Photos via Wikimedia Commons



Photo via Rep. Shevvin Jones' Twitter



Alvin Ailey artistic director shares his inspiring journey

The African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC) hosted an intimate gathering on Monday titled "Cocktails & Conversation With Robert Battle." Battle is a Liberty City native and the artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. During the event, Battle was the center of a discussion where he shared his inspiring and personal journey of success through the transformative power of the arts. The discussion was moderated by Cheryl Mizell and audience members were invited to participate in a Q&A afterward. The

evening also featured two performances by students from AHCAC, the showing of a short dance film, a reception with refreshments and hors d'oeuvres and networking opportunities. While there, attendees also learned about the Ailey company's upcoming event on Feb. 22-25, celebrating a decade at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. The performances feature the premiere of "Members Don't Get Weary" by Ailey company member and Miami native Jamar Roberts, set to music by jazz legend John Coltrane.

Miami Times Photo/Gregory Reed

Charter school for Liberty City

Urban League makes second attempt at choice options

MARGARITA SWEETING
Special to the Miami Times

The Urban League of Greater Miami is bringing the KIPP Miami Sunrise Academy (MSA) Charter School to Liberty City as it takes another step toward transforming attitudes about education within the We Rise Educational Village.

The school would be the second attempt by the Urban League to bring a charter school into Miami's urban core. T. Willard Fair, president and CEO, said this venture is part of the area's makeover.

"This is the beginning of the transformation of education in that village for the children of Liberty City," Fair said.

The management of the school falls to KIPP, a national network



The new KIPP Miami Sunrise Academy will be housed at the former Poinciana Park Elementary School in Liberty City.

of nonprofit charter schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia, educating students in pre-K through 12.

MSA will open for the 2018-2019 school year and is now accepting

online applications.

Housed within Poinciana Park Elementary School at 6745 NW 23rd Ave., MSA will offer 200 to 300 seats in kindergarten and first

SEE SCHOOL 6A

CITY OF MIAMI

Commissioners will vote on new manager

Emilio Gonzalez makes rounds in Black community during the holidays

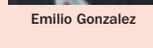
BY ANDREA ROBINSON
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

Francis Suarez's pick for city manager, Emilio T. Gonzalez, spent the Christmas holiday reaching out to various constituent groups within the city, including several stops in Black Miami.

In an interview, Gonzalez said he wants to bring innovation and opportunity to Miami-Dade County's largest city, and he wants to spread those things to all neighborhoods. But first he has to get past the five members of the City Commission.

Commissioners will vote Thursday, Jan. 11 on whether Gonzalez will get the job. A resolution by Suarez to make it official was postponed from the Dec. 14 agenda. One commissioner, Joe Carroll, wants the city to conduct a national search.

The new manager — whoever it is — will be charged with overseeing the \$400 million general obligation bond that was approved by Miami voters in 2016. That bond provides funds for affordable housing — a huge issue in Black neighborhoods. The monies also are supposed to be earmarked for improvements to the city's aged infrastructure and combat



Emilio Gonzalez

sea level rise.

Gonzalez visited several Black neighborhoods and civic groups over the last several weeks. He said he wanted to let residents and community stakeholders get to know him and what his vision is for the city where he hopes to be top administrator.



Francis Suarez

"I'll be able to add value, and make the right priorities" that will benefit everyone, Gonzalez said. "I want to make sure that everyone is taken care of."

Gonzalez, a resident of Miami since arriving to South Florida in 1994, said he has seen up close the tale of two cities, something Suarez frequently mentioned on the campaign trail.

"I live in eyeshot of multimillion condos, and I live five minutes away from neighborhoods that are in terrible shape," he said.

Among the stops were to the members of the Hadley Park civic association, several ministers, the Miami-Dade NAACP and Coconut Grove.

J.S. Rashid, president and CEO of the Coconut Grove Collaborative, said the discussion was fruitful.

"We come out of the same school of thought on things, in terms of developing businesses," said Rashid, an entrepreneur and West Grove homeowner who is fighting gentrification. "As city manager he would have influence in the city. That helps us to get things done."

Gonzalez, a Tampa native, also spoke of his connection to

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BLACKS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY | JANUARY 10-16, 2018 | MiamiTimesOnline.com

EDITORIAL

Oprah, go for it!

Oprah Winfrey's riveting acceptance speech at the recent Golden Globe Awards presentation set tongues afire around the Northern Hemisphere. She spoke truth to power on a variety of topics that inspired legions of men, women and children.

In short, she gave us hope. Now there's renewed speculation that the Queen of Talk will run for president of the United States in 2020. We say, go for it.

Yes, there are people who say the country has had enough of political amateurs. To an extent, we agree. But this country is in a tizzy stemming from craziness and uncertainty at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Every day, thousands of people head to social media, especially Twitter, and gasp at whatever message from the mind of President Donald J. Trump. Because of his behavior, we're becoming more anxious.

A poll taken last summer by the George Washington University showed that 71 percent of voters agreed that Trump's "behavior is not what I expect from a president," while another 68 percent agreed his "words and actions could get us accidentally involved in an international conflict."

Against this backdrop, Oprah Winfrey is a breath of fresh air. She inspires people to be better, and to want better. She is drama free, and appears to want the best for everyone.

Sure, she isn't perfect. But we don't believe she would pick unnecessary fights with dictators who have nuclear weapons like Kim Jong Un.

Ms. Winfrey, give this some serious thought. If you say yes, you will have support.

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Cornel West: The lone man arguing

TRE JOHNSON, *theorio.com*

Cornel West couldn't let 2017 end without injecting himself into another battle of the Intelligencia.

This time he had his sights set on writer Ta-Nehisi Coates.

West explained the nature of his now viral critique of the author Atlantic columnist on The Root. West reiterated his position that Coates was a "neoliberal darling" of the white media and a suspect thought leader that's too myopic about Barack Obama's legacy.

"What we have to do," he asserts in the video, "is be honest in private and public"—a curious sentiment for someone who has waged nothing but a public tirade against the journalist-writer Ta-Nehisi Coates for the last couple of weeks in places like The New York Times and The Guardian. These critical call-outs to Coates have taken on a bizarre appearance best exemplified by that two-minute interview: A lone man arguing with himself.

West definitely respects Coates. Yet as he goes on,



Cornel West

the loquacious West can't help but reveal his rather condescending and contradictory attitude. "...We (he and Coates) come from a tradition that lifts every voice" he says, and then in the same breath shares the shade all over again, "...but from what I can see, there's a difference between someone blowing on the saxophone sounding good and Coltrane."

And this is where much of this breaks.

Coates' work is out there for the consumption of the public and is rightly up for any type of scrutinizing. His

works are volatile in their content, tone and worldview and his pen has been one of many that have carried the torch on how we evaluate our backward, forward and sideways progress in this country. But that's because Coates is a journalist and historian with the passionate heart of a writer.

Brother West comes across as a caged, aging fighter still hungry for the type of gladiatorial battles that spawned the thought generation he came from: A political boxing ring that was on the streets, on talk shows, and in lecture halls. For West, much of this sort of spirited debating — this desire to "let's hash it out, Brother Coates," — is pat to his approach to public discourse.

West has made headlines before for his public recriminations on Melissa Harris Perry, Al Sharpton, and others that he's seen as cozying up to the Obama administration; going so far as to refer to Harris-Perry as a 'fraud' and saying that Sharpton too got in line and traded the good fight for a seat at

the table.

West's been as much a showman as a truth-teller, and as the culture has shifted away from such battles he thinks he needs to continue. This is evidenced by how a new generation of Black writers and thought leaders like Jelani Cobb and Nikole Hannah Jones have done the opposite of battle—they've chosen to instead embrace their peer and friend in a way that's reflective of how some Black journalists and writers have seen that there's more power in collectivism instead of individualism.

To coin Issa Rae, maybe now there's actually a stronger sentiment amongst a newer generation of Black folks that look around at the stagnant representation in key places and choose instead to be here "to root for all the Black people." It must anger West to some degree that Coates seems so disinterested; that for the foreseeable future, that dinner will continue to be a table for one.

But maybe that's what West wants anyway?



CARTOON CORNER



The Miami Times welcomes and encourages letters to 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.

'Like, really smart a very stable genius'

CHARLES M. BLOW, *The New York Times*

I resist applying clinical diagnoses to people, and that includes Donald Trump. I'm not a doctor, and a proper diagnosis would require a personal evaluation.

But I would be basking in false virtue if I simply pretended that I'm not aware that some of the behaviors displayed by this man line up with the symptoms of certain personality disorders.

So I must couch my concerns this way: There is no way for me to know for sure, but all indications lead me to believe that Donald Trump struggles to fit into the frame of what we call normal behavior, and he often fails at it in spectacular ways.

And it is not only you and I worried about the president's mental stability. According to Michael Wolff's "Fire and

Fury," the book that has gotten under the president's skin and into his mind, those closest to him also worry about his mental health.

Trump was so bothered by the book that he took to Twitter over the weekend to defend himself against the damaging portrait it contains: That of a mentally unstable simpleton.

Trump wrote that "throughout my life, my two greatest assets have been mental stability and being, like, really smart" and then used the self-accolades by writing that being elected would "qualify as not smart, but genius ... and a very stable genius at that!"

Whatever you say, Wilf E. Coyote.

The truth is that it appears that most of the conservative architecture in this country

— members of the administration, members of Congress, Fox News, the Republican National Committee and Trump's die-hard base — are all engaged in an exercise to defend, excuse, protect and absolve a man and his behaviors, which may well do irreparable damage to the country.

They have learned to praise him in order to steady him. His weakness is an unending need for affirmation. Anyone who provides it, he abides. It's simple. Also sad. Actually, pathetic.

Trump's defenders have bolstered his insistence that all questioning of his competence is purely political.

I will be the first to admit that everything in politics has a political component.

Would liberals relish more discord in the conservative

caucus? Yes. Would Democrats like to see Republicans dispirited going into the midterm elections? Yes. Would many people like to see Trump's political wounds worsen and possibly see him impeached? Yes.

Personally, am I opposed to his policies? Yes. Do I find his obsessive Obama-erasure quest both pathological and a poor policy mission? Yes. Am I offended to the highest order by his coddling of white supremacists, his clear hostility to minorities, his anti-Muslim and anti-Mexican rhetoric and his misogyny? You bet!

But can I also have legitimate, nonpartisan, nonpolitical concern about Trump's stability, fitness and basic intellectual capability? Of course I can, and so should everyone else.



Trump will have to walk a tight rope

KIMBERLY ATKINS, *The Boston Herald*

It could be a politically rough 2018 for the Trump administration — the fact that seems so clear that White House officials are readying a New Year's staff shake-up to prepare for it. But staffing changes alone won't fix the major obstacles facing Trump, his aides and the congressional Republicans they will rely on this year.

Getting a major legislative achievement will be tougher than it was in 2017. Hoping to keep up the momentum after passing the tax overhaul last month, Trump is focused on infrastructure — an issue for which Democrats have expressed a willingness to give bipartisan support.

But Trump is already off to a bad start: instead of the \$1 trillion plan he promised on the campaign trail, the White House said Trump will proffer a \$200 billion plan. Civil engineering experts estimate that it'll take upwards of 20 times

that much to address crumbling roads, bridges, tracks and utilities. That means Trump's plan will likely only spur a political fight over how and where the limited funds will be spent — chasing Democrats from the table in an election year.

likely realizing that even considering touching entitlement programs before midterms would be political suicide.

Speaking of which, Trump has not ruled out another stab at repealing and replacing Obamacare, an effort so unpop-



President Trump

ular that it thrice failed in 2017. It's almost if he wants Republicans to lose control of Congress in November — and if that's true, he's not alone. Polls show a growing preference for

Democratic congressional control, though Democrats still have to overcome an election map that heavily favors the GOP. But considering a Democrat just won a Senate seat in Alabama, perhaps the reddest state in the country, anything is possible. Without full control of both chambers of Congress, Trump's legislative agenda will be halted completely.

Those are just Trump's domestic problems. As Trump ally Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said yesterday on "Face the Nation," 2018 will be the year of "extreme danger" if the U.S. doesn't address threats from nations like North Korea and Iran head on. "Iranians are watching the way he engages with North Korea, and vice versa. So we've got a chance here to deliver some fatal blows to really bad actors in 2018. But if we blink, God help us all," Graham said.



AFFAIR

CONTINUED FROM 1A

joint statement issued shortly after news broke of the website.

The website — floresbraynonaffair.com — features content allegedly showing videos, photographs and additional research of the extramarital affair between Flores and Braynon taking place in April 2017.

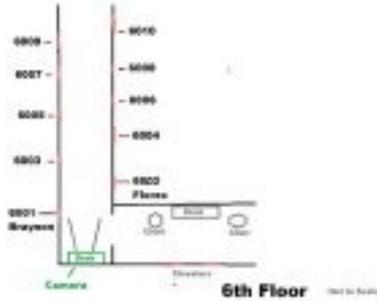
The anonymous website was created in December. It's unclear who owns the domain or uploaded the content.

In the footage, Flores, a Republican, is seen in pajamas entering and leaving Braynon's apartment unit, where she spent four consecutive nights, according to the surveillance collected from April 20 to April 25, 2017.

The two senators stayed in units right across from each other, according to detailed floor plans posted on the site.

A resident living in the complex helped the website's author obtain access into the building where the senators allegedly carried on the affair.

"The resident provided the author with a key fob and a traditional key to access their unit," the web-



The interior of The Tennyson condominium complex. Sen. Oscar Braynon II reportedly resides in unit 6001, and Sen. Anitere Flores resides in unit 6002, across the hall from each other.

site administrator wrote. "The resident also allowed the author to park in one of their two assigned parking spaces inside of the secured parking garage."

The investigator was also able to confirm the lodging arrangements through the assigned parking spots. He or she started the surveillance after receiving a tip about the affair on April 11, 2017.

Braynon is the Senate minority leader and the District 35 representative. He

has served in the chamber since 2011, and he will end his second term four-year term in 2020.

The district includes parts of Broward County and Miami-Dade cities such as Opa-locka, North Miami and Miami Gardens, where his office is located.

Braynon shares two young children with his wife Melissa.

Flores also has two children with her husband, and she represents District 39, which covers Florida City

and Monroe County.

"We have sought the forgiveness of our families, and also seek the forgiveness of our constituents and God. We ask everyone else to respect and provide our families the privacy that they deserve as we move past this to focus on the important work ahead," the pair wrote.

Neither one of the senators could be reached for direct comment.

Intergovernmental relationships are not uncommon, according to former Florida Rep. Arthur Simon.

"It is not unusual," said Simon, a political science professor at the University of Miami. "Sometimes relationships between legislators and persons around or in the legislative process can form because of the time they spend together and the excitement around the actual process."

Flores and Braynon's was the second senatorial confession of an extramarital affair since October.

Jeff Clemens, a Senate Democratic Leader from Lake Worth, confessed to an affair with a lobbyist and subsequently resigned in October, according to Politico Florida.

The publication also reported in October that state legislators were being targeted by private investiga-



A sketch of where the cameras were placed in the hallway of the 6th floor of The Tennyson condominium complex.

tors.

Florida Department Law Enforcement investigators reportedly found a camera installed on the floor where the alleged affair took place. Braynon told Politico that he believed a private investigator hired by former state Sen. Frank Artiles was responsible for the equipment.

There is a history of Miami-Dade state politicians

having relationships with other politicians, according to Simon.

While they were both serving in the state Legislature, Miami Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen met her husband, former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Dexter Lehtinen. The couple has been married since 1984, shortly after divorcing his previous wife.

VOTE

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Ybor City, an immigrant enclave in that city that is now a popular tourist destination. That tidbit struck a positive chord, Rashid said. "It harmonizes the haves and have nots in Coconut Grove."

"My takeaway is he would be supportive of our initiatives," Rashid said.

"I was impressed that he saw fit to reach out and get acquainted. I've been here 35 years, and no one had done that."

Gonzalez said his upbringing and work history helped him become accustomed to dealing with diverse communities. He is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, and the former director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez picked him to lead the Aviation Department, which includes Miami International Airport, as director in 2013. The aviation department is one of the largest in the county.

Gonzalez stepped down in November, after Gimenez stripped him of overseeing concessions and procurement.

As department head, Gonzalez had supporters, as well as critics. He bumped heads with some members of the Black community over contracting and procurement issues. One well-publicized issue occurred in 2015, when the county awarded a pair of no-bid contracts to two "iconic" companies led by Gloria Estefan and Perry Ellis.

Black county commissioners and business owners protested that decision. Commissioner Barbara Jordan eventually successfully sponsored a resolution to award space at MIA to Jackson Soul Food and Chef Creole.

Businessman Bill Perry, who does business at MIA, said those awards didn't level the playing field. He said Jackson Soul Food and Chef Creole were "iconic brands [that] should have been allowed to flourish at the airport a long time ago."

Perry also questioned Gonzalez's lack of working for city government.

"If they want somebody

with no municipal experience, and no familiarity with community based organizations, I guess he would be the perfect candidate," Perry said. "I think folks that have been around the block a few times and are more diverse should have gotten an opportunity for that position."

Supporters say Gonzalez made enemies because he would not acquiesce to desires of some lobbyists at MIA.

On Tuesday, members of the Miami-Dade NAACP met with Gonzalez at the request of Suarez. Mem-

bers of the leadership team said they raised concerns that had come from the Black community about contracting and inclusion at MIA.

Ruben Roberts, acting president, said they wanted to learn more about Gonzalez.

"The mayor said 'meet with him. He's not what you're hearing,'" Roberts said.

Also on the conversation were first vice president Darryl Holsendolph and second vice president Bradford Brown.

Among the topics were



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The CDC is preparing in case of nuclear blast

BRETT MOLINA
USA Today Network

As tensions between North Korea and the U.S. rise, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention want Americans to be prepared in case of a nuclear event.

The agency scheduled a briefing Jan. 16 titled "Public Health Response to a Nuclear Detonation," where federal, state and local officials will detail what preparations have been made in case of such an event.

"While a nuclear detonation is unlikely, it would have devastating results and there would be limited time to take critical protection steps," reads an excerpt from the CDC's website detailing the briefing. "For instance, most people don't realize that sheltering in place for at least 24 hours is crucial to saving lives and reducing exposure to radiation."

The briefing includes experts in radiation studies and public health officials who will explain how the U.S. has prepared for a nuclear event.

The timing of the briefing arrives as Americans grow concerned over heated rhetoric between the U.S. and North Korea. In October, a USA TODAY/Suffolk University poll found 56 percent of Americans disapproved of President Donald Trump's handling of North Korea. A December poll from YouGov found nearly half of Americans believe it's very or fairly likely the U.S. will use military force against North Korea.

Both polls came before the most recent spat between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un: During his annual New Year's Day speech, Kim said he had a nuclear button on his desk, with the U.S. mainland within the range of his weapons.

Trump responded a day later, saying he also had a button, but it was "bigger & more powerful."

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Why not Oprah 2020? Idea has Democrats buzzing

Many were stirred by recent speech**THOMAS BEAUMONT
AND STEVE PEOPLES**
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Oprah Winfrey's impassioned call for "a brighter morning even in our darkest nights" at the Golden Globes has Democratic Party activists buzzing about the media superstar and the 2020 presidential race — even if it's only a fantasy.

Even so, for Democrats in early voting states, and perhaps for a public that largely disapproves of President Donald Trump's job performance, the notion of a popular media figure as a presidential candidate is not as strange as it once seemed, given the New York real estate mogul and reality TV star now in the White House.

"Look, it's ridiculous — and I get that. But, at the same time, politics is ridiculous right now," said Iowa Democratic operative Brad Anderson, a former statewide candidate who also ran President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign in Iowa.

Winfrey's speech as she accepted the Cecil B. DeMille lifetime achievement award on Sunday touched on her humble upbringing and childhood wonder in civil rights heroes.

But it was her exhortation of the legions of women who have called out sexual harassers — and her dream of a day "when nobody has to say 'me too' again" — that

got some political operatives, in early voting states such as Iowa and New Hampshire, thinking Winfrey might be just what the Democrats need.

Speaking backstage at the Golden Globe Awards, Oprah Winfrey says the 'Time's Up' movement isn't just for the privileged, it's for every "culture, race, religion, politic or workplace." (Jan. 8)

"I think we need more role models like her that are speaking to young women and trying to restore some hope. The election of Donald Trump was a devastating setback for little girls," said Liz Purdy, who led Democrat Hillary Clinton's 2008 New Hampshire presidential primary campaign.

Trump's job approval rating sat at just 32 percent in December, according to an Associated Press-NORC

**President Donald Trump**

poll. And though polls show his approval up slightly since, Trump is the least popular first-year president on record. He has also been accused by multiple wom-



—Paul Drinkwater/NBC via AP

This image released by NBC shows Oprah Winfrey accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Sunday, Jan. 7.

en of sexual misconduct, though he has vehemently denied the allegations.

Winfrey, in September and October, publicly dismissed the notion of seeking the nation's highest office, though she noted that Trump's victory made her rethink the requirements of the office.

A representative for Winfrey did not reply to a request Monday for comment from The Associated Press. Winfrey's longtime partner, Stedman Graham, told the Los Angeles Times that "it's up to the people" whether she will be president, adding, "She would absolutely do it."

Winfrey, 64, has become a cultural phenomenon over

the past 30-plus years, born into a poor home in Mississippi but breaking through as a television news and talk show personality in the 1980s. Over 30 years, she became the face of television talk shows, starred and produced feature films, and began her own network.

Trump himself has lavished praise on Winfrey over the years, including in 2015, when he said that he would consider her as a running mate on his Republican ticket. "I like Oprah," Trump told ABC News in June 2015. "I think Oprah would be great. I'd love to have Oprah. I think we'd win easily, actually."

It echoed comments

Trump made in 1999, when he was weighing a presidential candidacy in the Reform Party. "If she'd do it, she'd be fantastic. I mean, she's popular, she's brilliant, she's a wonderful woman," Trump told CNN's Larry King.

Some operatives think she has what it takes to be a viable presidential candidate.

"She would be a serious candidate," said Jennifer Palmieri, former White House communications director under President Barack Obama and the communications director for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign.

Beyond her rise from poverty, Winfrey's success

as a multidimensional media figure has come from promoting ways for women to assert themselves, typically outside the political arena. That could soften what Palmieri describes as an enduring resistance among some voters to women with political ambition.

"I think lessons we all learned from watching Hillary's run, and how her ambition was unfavorably and unfairly viewed, coupled with Oprah's existing popularity, could give Oprah a strong start," Palmieri said.

That's not to say Winfrey can't claim any significant political influence. She notably headlined an Iowa rally for then-Sen. Barack Obama in the weeks leading up to his surprise victory in the state's 2008 lead-off nominating caucuses, which helped propel him to the presidential nomination.

Still, while some Democrats would embrace Winfrey's outsider-celebrity status as the party's answer to Trump, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., noted that Winfrey, like Trump, lacks any kind of experience in government.

"I think one of the arguments for Oprah is 45," Pelosi said, referring to Trump in shorthand for the 45th president. "I think one of the arguments against Oprah is 45."

Steve Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writer Andrew Taylor contributed to this report from Washington.

MACY'S JOINS THE WORLD
IN HONORING
THE LIFE
AND LEGACY OF
DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.



FLORIDA

Nursing home records forced into the sunlight

Candidate continues to demand answers for tragedy that cost 14 seniors their lives

Miami Times staff report

On Monday morning, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gwen Graham hand delivered a \$1,200 personal check to Governor Rick Scott's office for public records surrounding the 14 deaths at the Hollywood Hills nursing home in Broward County.

"It is troubling and totally unacceptable that Governor Rick Scott has refused to voluntarily release all the records surrounding Hollywood Hills and his office's role in the tragedy. Disappointing, but not surprising, given his history of hiding pub-

lic records and violating the Sunshine laws," Graham said. "This is a small price to pay for the people of Florida to know the full truth."

Graham first filed public record requests for information about the governor's role in the tragedy immediately following Hurricane Irma, when it was reported the nursing home had contacted a personal cell phone the governor distributed as an emergency contact line. She expanded the requests to include all communications between Scott's private phone number and the nursing home, and all



Governor Rick Scott

communications in the Governor's Office, the Agency for Healthcare Administration and Department of Children and Families concerning the deaths at Hollywood Hills. The Governor's Office

had gone months without an update on the request until Graham demanded them on Friday, at which point the Scott administration responded in just hours with a bill of \$1,200 to make them public.



Gwen Graham

"This isn't about me or Rick Scott. This is about the 14 seniors who died and the public's right to know the truth. We need to know exactly what went wrong so we can prevent an incident like this from ever happening again," Graham said. "I wish the governor or Legislature, with all the state's resources, was fully investigating

the tragedy and why the state didn't intervene to help — but if they won't do their jobs, I will."

Graham said she expects the records will be released online quickly for all of the public to see and said that if they do not meet her complete request and include the deleted voicemails, she will explore legal options to force the governor to fully comply with the state's public record laws.

This is not the first time Graham has challenged Scott for public records. In October 2016, Graham used public records to expose the role Scott's administration played in keeping a massive Central Florida sinkhole secret from the public.

SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM 1A

grade and is one component of the multi-faceted We Rise initiative designed to address the why behind the lack of success in the targeted area.

"Restoring the value of education, the importance of academic achievement is key to transforming that village," said Fair. Bringing in the charter school will also allow for "new instructional freedoms in the classrooms" that will add to student success.

The village is a geographical area bounded on the south by Northwest 46th Street, to the north by Northwest 73rd Street, on the west by Northwest 27th

Avenue, and on the east by Interstate 95. When identified, this area contained 13 failing schools, which is in part a reflection of the surrounding environment, Fair said.

"The focus has to be challenging parents and holding parents accountable. The attitudes and values of the parents to whom these children belong must be addressed. We need to empower parents to be advocates for their children," he said.

The original Liberty City Charter school, which actually was based in El Portal, shut down in 2009.

Fair said the closure was due to legal complications. The Urban League made several improvements to the property to better

protect the children. The landlord sued and they were forced to close down the school.

"When we went to court the judge basically said although we were morally right, it was legally wrong. We thought it would be OK because our concern was protecting the children," Fair said.

MSA Principal Leyla Bravo-Willey is a product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and a Harvard graduate. Throughout her career, she has been a teacher, a dean of students, and an assistant principal at schools such as the KIPP Infinity Middle School in Harlem, New York. Her goal is to make sure families and school staff feel empowered to grow, learn and achieve

“

Our goal is to give parents in this area more options for education. This may be a great fit for them since there aren't that many charters in the area . . .

Leyla Bravo-Willey

their potential.

"Our goal is to give parents in this area more options for education. This

may be a great fit for them since there aren't that many charters in the area," Bravo said. "Plus, there are no requirements. This is a completely free public charter school open to everyone."

Although open to everyone, some believe that the addition of a charter school in the area will have a negative impact on schools already suffering from wavering attendance and lack of resources.

"We're not against charter schools, especially if they're going to give students the skills they need. But, we know enrollment is down in that area, from that standpoint it does hurt our public schools. Also, charter schools tend

to take away from resources earmarked for public schools, and we already have trouble keeping our schools open," William DC Clark, ICARE (Inner City Alumni for Responsible Education) president said.

Urban League will be doing public service announcements, hanging flyers on doors and holding outreach meetings to recruit for the new charter.

Registrations are being accepted on a first come first serve basis at www.kippmiami.org or call 786-309-7697. If there are more applications than seats, there will be a student lottery, the first of which is scheduled for Feb. 13.

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Remembering MLK Jr.

A day to celebrate

Miami Times staff report

Although King was assassinated in 1968, legislation designating the third Monday in January—near his Jan. 15 birthday—as a legal holiday to honor him did not pass until 1983. The first year the U.S. observed the holiday was 1986, when the day fell on Jan. 20. This year the day actually falls on King's birthday. Across the nation the day will be marked with parades, acts of community service, worship services and other inspirational activities. As we prepare to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, we remember his trailblazing activism and soaring vision for a just America. We are left with the eloquence of his words that continue to guide us forward as we strive to become a more perfect union.

In honor of Martin Luther King Day 2017, enjoy 8 inspiring and aspirational quotes from the iconic civil rights leader.

1. "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."
— "The Purpose of Education" from Morehouse College student newspaper, The Maroon Tiger, 1947
2. "If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts. Be careful, 'brethren!' Be careful, teachers!"
— "The Purpose of Education" from Morehouse

College student newspaper, The Maroon Tiger, 1947

3. "True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."
—from Stride Toward Freedom, 1958

4. "Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge, which is power; religion gives man wisdom, which is control. Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values. The two are not rivals."
—from "A Tough Mind and a Tender Heart," August 30, 1959

5. "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
—from Strength to Love, 1963

6. "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed."
—from "Letter From Birmingham Jail," April 16, 1963

7. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."
—from "Letter from Birmingham, Alabama Jail," April 16, 1963

8. "Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope."
—from "I Have A Dream" speech, Washington, D.C., August 28, 1963



Miami Times newspaper from the week of King's death in 1968.

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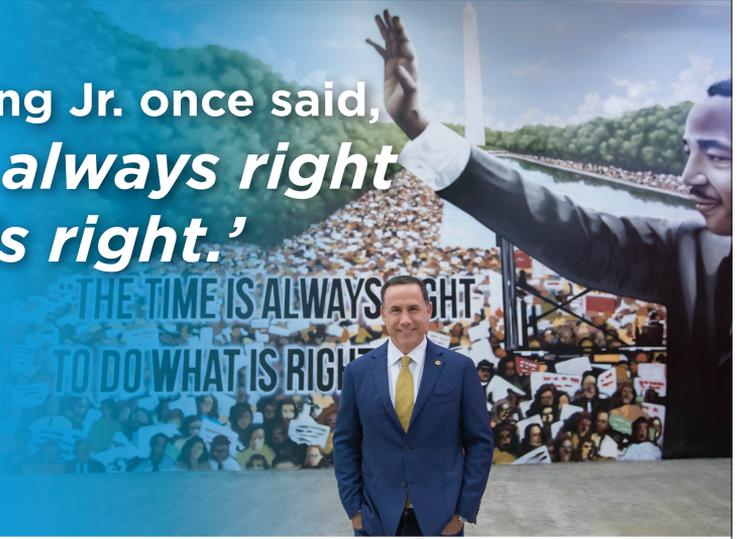
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As we honor and reflect on Dr. King's legacy this weekend, let us also look to the future and work to bring his dream to all of our sons and daughters.”

—Philip Levine, Former Mayor of Miami Beach



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The Overtown CRA names new director

Cornelius 'Neil' Shiver is veteran of Miami government

Miami Times Staff Report

The Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Overtown / Park West Community Redevelopment Agency has appointed Cornelius "Neil" Shiver as the new executive director of the redevelopment agency.

Shiver has over 20 years of experience in law, business management, public policy and community development. Prior to his appointment, Neil was a trial lawyer concentrating in civil and criminal litigation.

Additionally, he served as the chief of staff to two former Miami commissioners: Jeffrey Allen and Michelle Spence-Jones.

More recently, he served as the Assistant Director of the CRA where he implemented and oversaw various administrative tasks includ-



The neighborhood is located just north of Downtown Miami and is a historically Black community.

ing community development and community benefits negotiations in furtherance of the prevention and, or elimination of slum and blight in Overtown. Shiver also represented the agency at various settings including public hearings before both the city and Miami-Dade County commissions.

As the executive director, Shiver said he will continue to carry out the mission and purpose of the CRA; an independent government agency tasked with spearheading redevelopment in the Overtown / Park West neighborhoods.

His first priority on the job includes completing projects that

are currently underway.

"It's my vision going forward to complete the major projects on the books, mainly the three Town Parks rehabilitation projects, to develop block 55, the last developable lot on the borders of Overtown and downtown, and to bring homeownership opportunities to the residents of Overtown," said Shiver.

Shiver was born and raised in Coconut Grove, attended the University of Miami where he earned a bachelor's of business administration in finance, and he attended St. Thomas University School of Law where he earned a juris doctorate degree.



“

It's my vision going forward to complete the major projects on the books, mainly the three Town Parks rehabilitation projects, to develop block 55, the last developable lot on the borders of Overtown and downtown and to bring homeownership opportunities to the residents of Overtown.



J.S. Rashid reviews the current map that city officials have of Village West, also known as the Black Grove.

Black Grove may get a CRA

Residents fear getting left behind

ANDREA ROBINSON
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

Miami Commissioner Ken Russell will take the first official step to extending the Omni community redevelopment agency into the Village West section of Coconut Grove at Thursday's commission meeting.

Commissioners will discuss the findings of an official report that states the neighborhood meets the

criteria for a Community Redevelopment Agency designation. If approved by the commission, the matter will go to Miami-Dade County Commission, which under state law has the final say in CRA matters.

Russell, the District 2 commissioner, hopes the CRA designation will provide a source of revenue for affordable housing and other improvements in the historic, Black settlement.



Ken Russell
Miami Commissioner

"My job is to look at areas of slum and blight that

are getting left behind. The populations that have the greatest needs are receiving the least despite the city's growth," said Russell. As a candidate for City Commission in 2015, he campaigned heavily in Village West, also known as West Grove, about historic inequities.

"I've been fighting so hard over the last two years to get the city to do what it should for the West Grove."

Russell will present a document called a finding
SEE CRA 11B

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS

DANIELLA PIERRE

New year, same old housing crisis saga

2018 legislative session to offer mandate for Housing Trust Fund

Special to The Miami Times

For the next 60 days, policymakers and registered lobbyists will convene at Florida's Capitol to set our legislative agenda and priorities that could potentially impact all communities throughout the state.

This is the 196th session and is just as important as the very first, held back in 1822. This year's session will open with Gov. Rick Scott delivering the state of the state address. Besides issuing all those flowery statements we've heard from him over the last seven years and campaigning for his next move, what we need Scott to do for this year's speech is to announce and address an

implementable strategy along with an executive order to solve our affordable housing crisis once and for all.

Since this will be Scott's last such address as governor, we must take careful note and pay very close attention to not only what he says, but what is not being said. In one of Scott's recent letters which outlines his plans to secure Florida's future budget for 2018 to 2019, there's not one mention of housing affordability or his plans to fund or prioritize efforts to solve our statewide housing shortages in both markets. This is why I believe he's going to try to continue to do what he's been doing when it comes to the



Pierre

SEE PIERRE 11B

TECHNOLOGY

Why Uber can find you — but 911 can't

Accurate location data is on smartphones, so why don't more wireless carriers use it to locate emergency callers?

RYAN KNUTSON

The Wall Street Journal

Software on Apple Inc.'s iPhones and Google's Android smartphones help mobile apps like Uber and Facebook to pinpoint a user's location, making it possible to order a car, check in at a local restaurant or receive targeted advertising.

But 911, with a far more pressing purpose, is stuck in the past.

U.S. regulators estimate as many as 10,000 lives could be saved each year if the 911 emergency dispatching system were able to get to callers one minute faster. Better technology would be especially helpful, regulators say, when a caller can't speak or identify his or her location.

After years of pressure, wireless carriers and Silicon Valley companies are finally starting to work together to solve the problem. But progress has been slow.

Roughly 80 percent of the 240 million calls to 911 each year are made using cellphones, according to a trade group that represents first responders. For landlines, the system shows a telephone's exact address. But it can register only an estimated location, sometimes hundreds of yards wide, from a cellphone call.

"It is really frustrating to know that my kids can order pizza and they know exactly where they are, and I call for Uber and they know exactly where I am," said Christy Williams, who runs a 911 system in the counties that surround Dallas, "but that it can't be used for lifesaving methods."

That frustration is now a frequent source of ten-

sion during 911 calls, said Colleen Eymann, who oversees 911 services in Arvada, Colo., just outside Denver.

"The moment you pick up that call, you have to start interviewing: 'Where are you?' Eymann said. "All they want is to just get some help. They don't understand why you're asking all these questions. And it creates an angst and a lack of confidence."

U.S. regulators require wireless carriers to deliver cellphone location data to 911. In the 1990s, some carriers relied on triangulation among nearby cell towers. They later pushed phone manufacturers to install GPS chips for more accurate location estimates.

GPS relies on satellites and can take up to 30 seconds or more to establish a position, so it doesn't work well indoors, where rooftops interfere with the signal. That has become a problem as most Americans ditch landlines and use cellphones only.

That rough estimate of location that 911 responders receive is in contrast with the blue dot users see on Google Maps, which often shows a smartphone's location down to about 15 meters.

When smartphones came around in the late 2000s, Google and then Apple enhanced mapping technologies by corroborating the GPS location with data from inside the phone, such as proximity to Wi-Fi hotspots and cell towers, and the barometric pressure, which indicates altitude.

Smartphone sensors continually monitor this information and occasionally relay it back to

Finding Trouble Faster

New technologies are helping emergency responders pinpoint cellphones. In this instance, children in Estonia called for help after their toaster caught fire.

The wireless carrier's older technology determined the call originated in this area.



Technology using Wi-Fi hotspots determined the call actually came from this area.

Carriers often rely on GPS, but rooftops can interfere with the signal and provide an incorrect location.

The higher the hot-spot density, the more precisely the location can be determined.

Wi-Fi Hotspots*

The next challenge is determining the floor a person is calling from. New technologies might make that easier, but they're not readily available yet.

*Illustrations don't represent the actual locations. Source: WSJ reporting.

Google or Apple. As a result, the tech firms' mobility to determine a smartphone's location quickly surpassed that of wireless carriers. But carriers and the tech giants didn't immediately work to ensure that enhanced data was available to 911.

"I think there is an institutional reluctance by Telco to not want to formally enter into the public safety world," said retired Rear Adm. David Simpson, who oversaw emergency management and cybersecurity at the Fed-

eral Communications Commission during the Obama administration. "They will do all sorts of things, outside of any formal obligation, that are very useful," Simpson said, "but without it being formal, it's very difficult for a public safety organization — police, fire, ambulance, 911 — to really rely on its being there all the time."

Representatives of Google and Apple said they were committed to helping public safety.

In 2014, after talking about the 911 problem over lunch, a group of

Google engineers on the Android location team decided to look into it. One engineer, Akshay Kannan, decided to dedicate his "20 percent time," which is the free time Google allots employees to experiment, to find a way to provide the more precise location data to 911 operators. The project was code-named Thunderbird.

Kannan started by attending a 911 conference in Denver. "The first thing we heard everyone said was: 'Before we'll even ask, '911, what's your emergency,' now

the standard is to ask, 'what's your location,'" he said. "It was extremely clear this was a huge problem."

Officials at BT Group PLC, which manages the U.K.'s emergency response system, were already tackling the problem and quickly agreed to work with Google. In mid-2016, they jointly launched a technology that improved location accuracy of emergency calls down to a radius of just a few yards. It is now in use in at least 10 countries, including the U.K., Austria and Estonia.

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:

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- 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.ISQET.com. Respond to Jessica Miller at jmiller@wgates.com to get access to bid documents.

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

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

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CRA

CONTINUED FROM 9B

of necessity, which states that the West Grove meets the criteria established under Florida statutes to be designated as "slum" and "blight". The area meets two of the three of the criteria to be designated as slum (one is required), and eight of the criteria to be designated as "blight" (only two are required). The area also meets the "blight" requirement of the existence of deteriorated structures.

Russell, who chairs the Omni CRA, floated the idea of expanding into Village West last April instead of creating a new one. The two neighborhoods are miles apart and separated by tony areas such as the Roads and Brickell.

However, Russell said a Florida Atlantic University professor who is an expert in CRA operations supports the idea for such other agencies serving non-contiguous areas.

Russell believes that by expanding the existing CRA that already has \$8 million in tax revenue,



the city could begin to give incentives to developers to build affordable housing in West Grove. District 2, which he represents, is the most prosperous of all the five commission districts. So, he only receives about \$90,000 annually in anti-poverty funds.

"The irony is because of the wealth, it has put a bigger target on [non-wealthy] areas for gentrification and displacement," Russell said. "It needs more help, and I don't have the funds." He said a CRA could have an effect on what developers can do in Village West.

Although Russell was gung-ho on the idea, he had faced a community that was weary of empty promises. Initially, Black residents were skeptical. He and commission aides held discussions in the neighborhood to explain the concept of the CRA, and how it could help stave off gentrification

and bring affordable housing to the area. Russell said that he has received a letter of support from the local ministerial alliance.

J.S. Rashid, a businessman and president of the Homeowners and Tenants Associations (HOATA), said he likes what he has heard thus far. However, he

said, the city's track record is abysmal on initiatives that were created to "help" West Grove.

"We've been crying and demanding something be done about the displacement. They launch initiatives based on our needs, but they end up giving things to the developers," Rashid said.

Among the initiatives, Rashid said, were neighborhood conservation districts and neighborhood development zones.

"When they come along, we get nothing," he said. "We don't have anything meaningful to show for it," he said.

"They haven't fully addressed the problems we're trying to solve."

Rashid said he and other HOATA members will attend the meeting. They've created language they want to be inserted in the resolution "specifying that the long-termed

African-American/Bahamian, residents of the area, as beneficiaries" of the expanded CRA.

Without that language, Rashid said he would withhold his support.

"I'm preventing the same old shenanigans that always happen," he said.

OMNI REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Commissioners ("Board") of the Omni Redevelopment District Community Redevelopment Agency ("CRA") will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 17th 2018, at the Temple Israel of Greater Miami at 137 NE 19th Street, Miami, Florida 33136, to consider the award of grant funds to Morgans 2829 Inc., a legal entity authorized to transact business/render services in the State of Florida.

In accordance with the Board's 2009 Redevelopment Plan ("Plan"), the Board will consider the partial funding, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00, to underwrite the expenditures and costs associated with the rehabilitation of a building located at 130 NW 14th Street, Miami, Florida, 33136, critical in the rehabilitation of approximately 3,046 square feet of Building space, within the CRA, to now serve as a restaurant, envisioned to activate the area and reduce slum and blight.

Inquiries regarding this notice may be addressed to Jason Walker, Executive Director, OMNI CRA, at (305) 679-6868.

This action is being considered pursuant to Sections 18-85 (a) of the Code of the City of Miami, Florida as amended ("Code"). The recommendation and findings to be considered in this matter are set forth in the proposed resolution and in Code Sections 18-85 (a), which are deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, and are available as with the scheduled CRA Board meeting Wednesday, January 17th 2018 at the Temple Israel of Greater Miami at 137 NE 19th Street, Miami, Florida 33136.

The CRA Board requests all interested parties be present or represented at the meeting, and may be heard with respect to any proposition before the CRA Board, in which the Board may take action. Should any person desire to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter 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
Clerk of the Board

#29108

CITY OF MIAMI ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS

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

IFB NO. 804382

INVITATION FOR BID SWIMMING POOL/
LIFEGUARD EQUIPMENT AND
SUPPLIES

CLOSING DATE: 2:00 PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Monday, 01/22/18 at 2:00 PM)

Detailed specifications for this IFB are available at the City of Miami, Department of Procurement, website at www.miamigov.com/procurement Telephone No. 305-416-1916.

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

AD NO. 26748

Daniel J. Alfonso
City Manager



OMNI REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Commissioners ("Board") of the Omni Redevelopment District Community Redevelopment Agency ("CRA") will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 17th 2018, at the Temple Israel of Greater Miami at 137 NE 19th Street, Miami, Florida 33136, to consider the award of grant funds to 16 Corner LLC, a legal entity authorized to transact business/render services in the State of Florida, for their acquisition and rehabilitation of affordable housing units.

In accordance with the Board's 2009 Redevelopment Plan ("Plan"), the Board will consider the funding, in an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000.00 for acquisition and \$2,000,000.00, to underwrite the expenditures and costs associated with the rehabilitation of properties located at 1541 NW 1st Place, 1535 NW 1st Place and 1540 NW 1st Court, critical in the rehabilitation of approximately 44 units of affordable housing units, within the CRA, envisioned to reduce slum and blight.

Inquiries regarding this notice may be addressed to Jason Walker, Executive Director, OMNI CRA, at (305) 679-6868.

This action is being considered pursuant to Sections 18-85 (a) of the Code of the City of Miami, Florida as amended ("Code"). The recommendation and findings to be considered in this matter are set forth in the proposed resolution and in Code Sections 18-85 (a), which are deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, and are available as with the scheduled CRA Board meeting of January 17th, 2018 at the Temple Israel of Greater Miami at 137 NE 19th Street, Miami, Florida 33136.

The CRA Board requests all interested parties be present or represented at the meeting, and may be heard with respect to any proposition before the CRA Board, in which the Board may take action. Should any person desire to appeal any decision of the Board with respect to any matter 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
Clerk of the Board

#29107

PIERRE

CONTINUED FROM 9B

affordable housing crisis: absolutely nothing.

SADOWSKI ACT: IT'S NOW OR EVER

And it doesn't have to be like that. There is a State Housing Trust Fund that was established back in 1992 to be a dedicated resource for various affordable housing programs and to also provide homeownership assistance. But over time, the money from the fund has been raided and gradually diverted to fund other "priorities" of the governor and not for Floridians. Without the Housing Trust Fund, many programs that provide housing assistance to low-income households, special needs, seniors and residents who are homeless wouldn't exist. These are reasons why I applaud Rep. Sean Shaw (D-6) of Tampa for proposing HB191, which prohibits the transfer of the Housing Trust Fund monies and states that deposits into the fund cannot be used for any other purpose. I was surprised to see that the bill already has 10 co-sponsors. And what was even more surprising was to see that four of our very own state representatives from Miami-Dade joined in: Joseph Geller (D-100); Sharon Pritchett (D-102); Roy Hardeman (D-108); and Nicholas Duran (D-112). Hopefully, the other 109 representatives along with the 40 members of the Senate, will join

in and support, too. If passed, HB191 goes into effect July 2018.

WAY TO ENGAGE IN THIS YEAR'S SESSION

Since the meetings are public, various advocacy groups including Underrepresented People's Positive Action Council, Florida's PTA/PTSA, Miami Dade College and many others will make their way to our state's capital to share information and highlight their collective needs. And if you're not able to join in person, you can follow the 60-day session by downloading the free Florida House App. There you'll be able to get updates, stay on top of what's going on the floor and in committees. It gives you the opportunity to see who's really working for the people. And if you're like me, you can also express your concerns on Twitter; be sure to use #FLHouse2018Session and #AffordableHousingMatters and tag your state representative about your concerns. You can find all the information about the 60-day legislative session and find out who your state representative is by visiting: www.myfloridahouse.gov.

Are you following Florida's 2018 Legislative Session? Got an idea for the state's Housing Trust Fund? Let's hear about it! Contact Daniella Pierre, affordablehousingmatters@gmail.com.

Elections Notice

The Miami-Dade County Canvassing Board will convene at the Office of the Supervisor of Elections, 2700 NW 87th Avenue, Miami, Florida. The Canvassing Board is convening on these dates for the following Special Taxing District Elections (Mail Ballot) to be held on January 23, 2018:

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

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY
Thursday, 1/18/18 10:00 a.m.	1. Logic and Accuracy Test of the optical scan voting systems to be used for vote-by-mail ballots
Monday, 1/22/18 10:00 a.m.	1. Pre-count Logic and Accuracy Test of the optical scan voting systems to be used for vote-by-mail ballots 2. Vote-by-mail ballots opening and processing (as needed) 3. Duplication of ballots (as needed)
Tuesday, 1/23/18 3:00 p.m.	1. Vote-by-mail ballots opening and processing 2. Duplication of ballots (as needed)
7:00 p.m.	3. Tabulation of results 4. Unofficial results
Wednesday, 1/24/18 Canvassing: 10:00 a.m. to completion	1. Canvassing of presumed invalid vote-by-mail ballots 2. Tabulation of results completed 3. Certification of Official results by the County Canvassing Board 4. Post-count Logic and Accuracy Test of the optical scan voting systems used for vote-by-mail ballots 5. Manual post-election audit process starts to completion

All proceedings will be open to the public. For a sign language interpreter or other accommodations, please call 305-499-8405 at least five days in advance. In accordance with Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, a person who appeals any decision by the canvassing board with respect to any matter considered at a meeting, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and therefore will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made.

Christina White
Supervisor of Elections
Miami-Dade County, Florida

Alabama
quarterback
Jalen Hurts



Photo Courtesy of David Siskinew / AP Photo

Crimson Tide bounces back

ALABAMA DEFEATS GEORGIA IN OVERTIME FOR TITLE

Associated Press

Alabama found its way out of a temporary title drought after freshman quarterback Tua Tagovailoa jumped in during the second half, leading the Crimson Tide to its fifth College Football Playoff national championship title against the Georgia Bulldogs on Monday in Atlanta.

Tagovailoa hit freshman wide receiver DeVonta Smith with a 41-yard touchdown pass, and Alabama defeated Georgia 26-23 in overtime after trailing 13-0 to start the

third quarter.

The quarterback mentioned that all of the quarterbacks were gathered in the locker room at halftime, and that's where he soon found out that he would start the second half under center, as part of a rotation.

Head coach Nick Saban had a reason behind that plan.

"I just thought we had to throw the ball, and I felt he could do it better, and he did," Saban said about Tagovailoa. "He did a good job, made some plays in the passing game. Just a great win. I'm

so happy for Alabama fans. Great for our players. Unbelievable."

Tagovailoa threw for 166 yards and three scores after halftime to lead the Crimson Tide to the win, while Calvin Ridley, Henry Ruggs and Smith each caught a touchdown pass.

"I don't know how Coach [Nick] Saban found me all the way in Hawaii from Alabama," Tagovailoa said. "Thank God he found me and we're here right now."

Tagovailoa is a dual-threat quarterback from Ewa Beach,

Hawaii. He played at Saint Louis School in Honolulu just like Tennessee Titans quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota.

"This is very big for us kids back home," Tagovailoa said. "Making our state proud is the biggest thing."

The loss hit home for fans in the state of Georgia the most. Last year, the Atlanta Falcons blew a 28-3 lead in Super Bowl LI. And the Bulldogs haven't won a national championship in football since 1980.

Alabama wide receiver DeVonta Smith (6) celebrates his touchdown during overtime of the NCAA college football play-off championship game against Georgia, Monday, Jan. 8, 2018, in Atlanta.

Breaking a sweat with trainer Charles Glass

JACOB BERNSTEIN
The New York Times

Remember the episode of "Seinfeld" that features Elaine trying to return a dress to Barney's after she takes it home and realizes that it doesn't look nearly as good as it did when she was at the store, surrounded by mirrors that made her appear skinnier?

Well, it's the opposite at Gold's Gym in Venice, Calif., the longtime bodybuilding mecca frequented by Arnold Schwarzenegger and three subsequent generations of herculean he-men.

Here, lifters get stretched out horizontally not just by pushing heavy weights and ingesting supplements of varying legal statuses, but also through their own reflections on the walls.

And for those with a real interest in getting huge and \$225 an hour to burn, one trainer stands at the front of the pack.

He is Charles Glass, a bespectacled, beanie-wearing and dreadlocked former bodybuilding champion who got his start competing in gymnastics at the University of California, Berkeley. He won the middleweight championship with the International Federation of Bodybuilding in 1983, before giving up the sport professionally to train others.

His celebrity clientele, as listed on his website, has included the actor and former wrestler Dwayne Johnson, a.k.a. The Rock; the four-time Arnold Classic champion Kenneth Wheeler, known as Flex; the 2008 Olympia winner, Dexter Jackson; and big-



Charles Glass, left, a trainer at Gold's Gym in Venice, Calif., coaching Silvio Samuel.

name athletes such as Magic Johnson, George Foreman and Jose Canseco.

YouTube and Instagram have turned Glass into something of a national fitness celebrity. And here at home, in this land of thick necks, turbo tans and tattoo parlors, he is a tourist attraction unto himself.

On a recent Friday afternoon, bodybuilding legends like Kai Greene, a three-time runner-up in the Olympia contest, ambled over with camera crews for impromptu interviews. People with day passes took selfies with Glass.

Glass moved to a private area with Lionel Brown, a 5-foot-8, 240-pound competitive bodybuilder, and watched him practice his stage poses.

"This is what we call classic shape, nice form," Glass said, after instructing Brown to take off his shirt. "Show your abs. Do a double bicep. Squeeze your lats."

"See the separation there?" Glass said. "That's the difference between a professional and an amateur."

Most bodybuilding trainers emphasize low repetition with free weights and extreme poundage. Glass, who is in his

60s ("old," he said), makes essential tweaks to that, emphasizing form over maximum overload and unapologetically using machines — often in strange new ways that take handlebar and seat placement as mere suggestions.

There is also an earthy gracefulness about him, from the inconspicuous dark green sweatshirt and matching green cargo pants he wears to the way he avoids barking clichés like "come on, baby" and "let's go, cowboy" at his clients. (Among his favorites is an 80-something grandmother who works out with

him nearly every day and is, he says, "one of the hardest working people in the gym.") For the most part, he comes off less like mayor of the mesomorphs than their Yoda-ish therapist.

So this November, I went to Glass for a couple of workouts.

The first day, we did an intense pec workout in which he moved me around to a variety of chest press and fly machines. The weights we used were significantly lower than what I do on my own, but the workout was considerably more focused. And

difficult.

Putting a rectangular block behind my back on the incline press pushed back my overdeveloped shoulders, forcing me to isolate my chest in ways I'd barely felt before.

The next day, we worked legs, where even the ordinary hamstring curl machine exercise was made exponentially harder by having me put my hands at the front of the pad and arching up slightly, as if I was doing a back extension.

Glass also had me do one of his signature exercises, a single leg press movement that is done by stepping into a horizontal leg press, turning the body to the side, and going one leg at a time with the other suspended in midair.

It was not only one of the most intense quad exercises I'd ever done, but also felt sort of like being forced to take a calculus test at the same time.

"Before we had a lot of machines, we all used free weights because that's what we had," Glass said. "But now, you can't get certain angles from free weights than you can get machines. They put a different kind of stress on the muscles. I try to work around what I have."

The way Glass tells it, he gave up his own bodybuilding career in the 1980s because of the toll it was taking on his body. "At my heaviest, I was 262 pounds," he said. "I was taking health risks, and I didn't want to do that. I couldn't walk without breathing like a madman. I thought, 'Do I really want to do this?' And that's when I realized I was done."

VETERAN JAZZ GREAT

DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER

SPANNING THE GENERATIONS IN JAZZ

Miami Times Staff Report

Veteran jazz great Dee Dee Bridgewater will take the stage with a 14-year-old piano Friday evening at the Adrienne Arsht Center.

This concert, billed as one for all ages, features piano sensation Joey Alexander and Lewis, an iconic jazz legend. The performance is part of the Arsht Center's Jazz Roots series, and takes place 8 p.m. Jan. 12, at the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall.

Bridgewater replaces jazz legend Ramsey Lewis as the co-headliner on the bill.

Lewis was admitted to the hospital for minor surgery on Dec. 29 and is currently home recuperating. He is expected to begin performing again in February.

SEE JAZZ 4C

Photo courtesy of Mark Ferguson



Joey Alexander, 14, is considered a master of improvisation.

Jazz vocalist Dee Dee Bridgewater replaces veteran performer Ramsey Lewis at Arsht Center concert.

Photo courtesy of Carol Friedman

Being the 'Last Jimmy'

Musical aims to break the chain of arrests

NYAMEKYE DANIEL
ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

A hip-hop musical that explores the mass incarceration of Black men in America is coming to Miami.

"The Last Jimmy," starring five-time Grammy Award-nominated rapper Karl "Dice Raw" Jenkins, an affiliate of the hip-hop group The Roots, will be coming to the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County on Jan. 12 and 13.

The play mixes live hip-hop music, dancing, acting

and singing in hopes of transforming the self-perception of Black Males, according to the writer, long-standing actor and screenwriter Phillip S. Brown.

"I want the people to understand we as a people have the power to create our own narrative, also to reconnect to our spiritual roots," said Brown.

"That's the only way we can rebuild families, and that's the only way we are not going to fall into the traps that society and America have set up for us to fall into."

The music and lyrics for the play come from Dice's 2013 al-

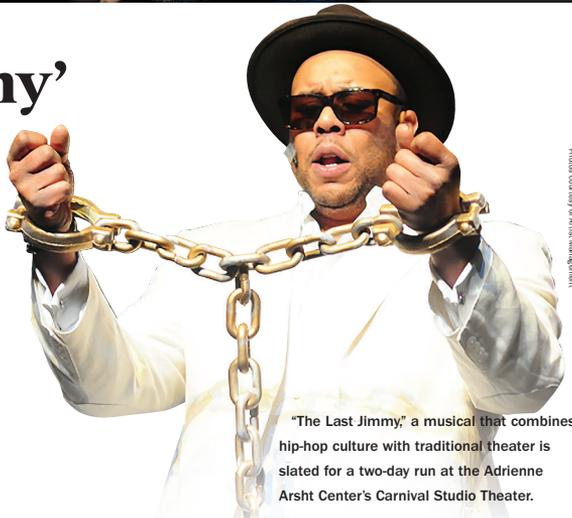
bum, "Jimmy's Back," which is based on the book "The New Jim Crow" by civil rights activist and professor Michelle Alexander.

The book paints the incarceration of Black males in today's society as a modern Jim Crow era, according to Dice.

"The biggest take away for me from the book was how I am so close and so affected by something that I felt disconnected to," said Dice.

Blacks are incarcerated at more than five times the rate of whites, according to the NAACP.

SEE PLAY 4C



"The Last Jimmy," a musical that combines hip-hop culture with traditional theater is slated for a two-day run at the Adrienne Arsht Center's Carnival Studio Theater.

Photo courtesy of Arshil Malik/Kenyon

INSIDE



Heroes in Black history

4C

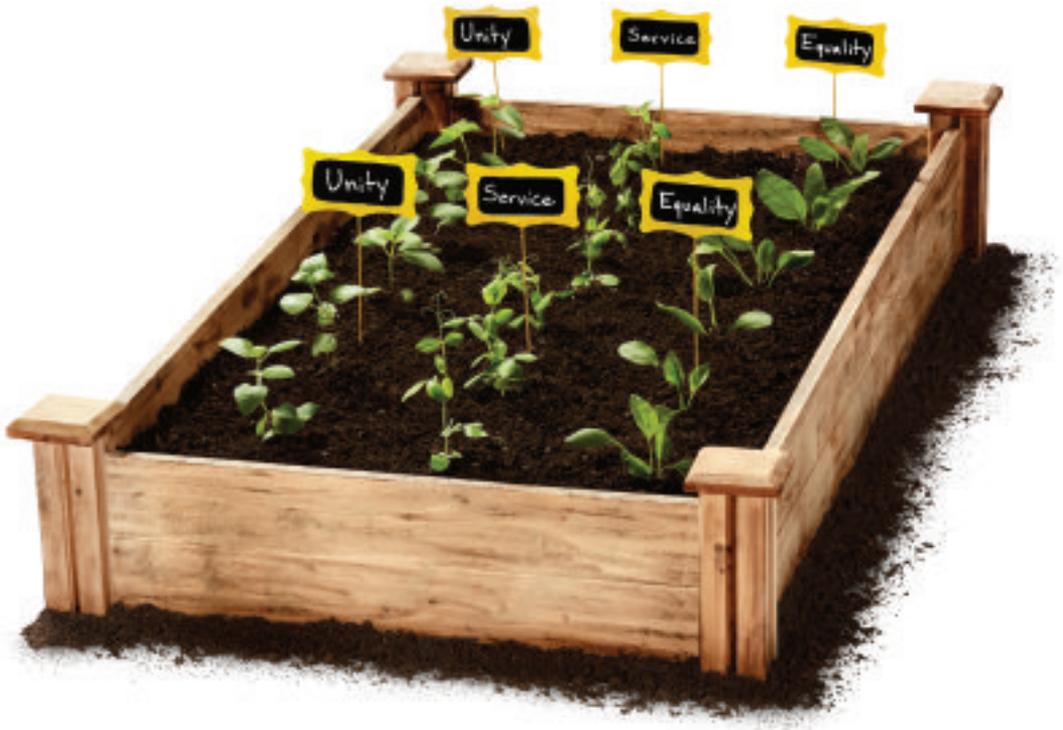


Daniel Kaluuya isn't waiting for your approval

3C

SOCIAL WHIRL

5C



He planted the seeds. Together, we can help his vision grow.

When we come together, we become better individually, as a community, and as a country. In honor of a legacy and vision that still inspires, celebrate this Martin Luther King Jr. Day by continuing to sow his seeds of service. To find volunteer opportunities near you, visit publix.com/mlk-day.



Publix.
SUPER MARKETS

Daniel Kaluuya isn't waiting for your approval

The breakout star of 'Get Out' says he can relate to his character: 'Being young, working class, Black, everything you do is policed'

BY ROSLYN SULCAS
New York Times

LONDON — Daniel Kaluuya, the "Get Out" star whose huge, tear-spilling eyes have imprinted themselves on our collective consciousness, was looking rather less vulnerable on a recent wintry day than he does in that memorable scene in which he is hypnotized into terrified, regressive submission.

Crunching nuts and drinking water during an interview here just before Christmas, the actor was in turn frank, guarded and intense: a movie star who hasn't yet acquired the smooth sheen of the experienced interviewee. Kaluuya, 28, is British and has been acting since he was in his teens, but "Get Out" — the Jordan Peele spine-tingler that has been described as a mash-up of "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and "The Stepford Wives" — has thrown him into an entirely new kind of spotlight. Which he is sort of ignoring.

"I am definitely not a household face, and I don't expect to be one" he said firmly. "I don't think you become a name with just one job."

Some might disagree. Kaluuya's performance



Photo credit Justin Lubin/Universal Pictures

Daniel Kaluuya in his breakthrough role as Chris in "Get Out."

in "Get Out" as Chris, a Black photographer, on an increasingly nightmarish weekend visit to his white girlfriend's parents, might as well be labeled "Break Out." Both he and the box office smash have figured prominently on 2017 best-of lists and in Oscar-worthy conjecture, and his performance has already earned Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award nominations. "He is victim and avenger, a surrogate for the filmmaker and the audience," A. O. Scott wrote in The

New York Times, adding, "He can't believe his eyes, and you can't take yours off him."

In person, Kaluuya seems physically tougher — he is built like a boxer, a role he has played — as well as warier than Chris, a photographer trying hard to believe that white people (probably? perhaps?) mean well. Born to Ugandan parents, Kaluuya grew up with his mother and an older sister on a council estate, the British equivalent of a housing project, in north London.

(His father lived in Uganda, he said, and he didn't connect with that side of his family until he was 15.) Although his mother wasn't particularly interested in the arts, a primary schoolteacher noted that he was a "very busy" child and recommended acting as an outlet. "So, I wrote a play," he said matter-of-factly. "The teacher said I was difficult, and I thought, 'I'll show you.'"

The play won a local competition and was performed at the well-known

SEE DANIEL 4C



At 9, Daniel Kaluuya wrote a play that went on to win an award. "The teacher said I was difficult, and I thought, 'I'll show you.'"

Photo credit: Tom Jamieson for The New York Times

MIAMI CRUISE MONTH .COM | **JANUARY**

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Learn some notable heroes of Black history

An easy read for children 8 and older

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
bookwormsec@yahoo.com

Who do you look up to?

Who is the person you most want to be like when you grow up? The one you go to when you need advice, a kind word, or a new direction? Is it a parent who puts your head on straight? Or a teacher that always knows what to say? Do you look up to someone close to you now or, as in "Time for Kids: Heroes of Black History," is it someone much bigger than that?

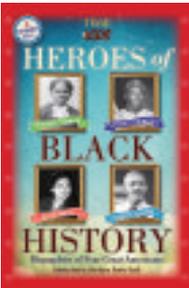
If you had to make a list of everything that happened in Black History, you'd have to put the year 1500 on the top of your list because that's where Black history began. On your list, there'd be a lot of names and dates, too, but four names may stand out for you.

Born in 1820, Araminta was a slave because her parents and grandparents were

slaves. Called by her mother's name, young "Harriet" worked hard at everything she did, but she was beaten because she was also "rebellious." It was that rebellion – and fear of being sold – that made her escape from her master. It was freedom that made Harriet Tubman want to help others to escape, too.

When Jackie Robinson began playing baseball, there were "rules" that told him where he could eat, live, and even get a drink of water. But Robinson wanted to play ball and so he smashed a few rules to be the first African-American major-leaguer.

Even before he was born, "Barry" Obama's mother believed in him: Barry's real name is Barack, which means "blessed" in his father's native language. Barry was a good student and had a sense of humor, but he was teased because he was the only Black kid in his school.



That was all just a memory when Barack Obama became the president of the United States.

And "On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks stepped onto a bus – and into history."

So your child has been given the assignment to read one biography this winter. Just one – but one will turn into four when you've got "Time for Kids: Heroes of



Charlayne Hunter Gault

Black History" on your shelf. The first thing kids will notice about this book is its easy-to-understand narrative and easy-to-read print; it's just enough of a challenge, but not overly so. Kids will also like the artwork in this book, including photographs from different eras in history. The four subjects

here are examined with a young audience in mind: each mini-chapter includes a bit about the childhoods of Tubman, Robinson, Parks and Obama, which keeps the information relevant for children. Parents will appreciate that there is a glossary and thumbnail bios of other Black heroes for plenty of

further learning. Though it can surely be read by anyone, "Time for Kids: Heroes of Black History" is really meant for kids ages 8 and older, especially those who love history. If you know a child like that, you might as well find it now. It's a book your kids will want to look up.

DANIEL

CONTINUED FROM 3C

Hampstead Theater, where Kaluuya would later write and perform as a teenager. But after that triumph at age 9, he dropped theater for soccer, later finding his way back through improvisation classes at the Anna Scher Theater, a neighborhood institution that offered inexpensive drop-in sessions.

"Being young, working class and Black, everything you do is policed," Kaluuya said. "If someone hits you and you hit back, you are aggressive. If you cry, you are weak. You are kind of always pretending to be something. But in those improv classes, there was no pressure to be anything except honest, and that made me happy." Although he knew he had "caught the bug," he didn't have the confidence, he added, to express a desire to act. "If you are from the estates, you don't say that," he said. "Actually, the biggest problem is that you don't know it's possible. You don't have the vocabulary, conceptually, to articulate that wish."

Seeing fellow students get parts on television shows, he began to attend auditions, and at 16 won a role in the BBC drama "Shoot the Messenger," starring David Oyelowo. Then came "Skins," the BBC's controversial, long-running series about hard-partying teenagers. Kaluuya didn't just co-star in "Skins," he was also part of the writing team for the first two seasons, even as he was writing plays for the Hampstead Theater's youth program and completing his A-levels, the graduating examinations in the British school system. (Drama was one of his subjects; his former teacher has written that he was the most talented actor



Daniel Kaluuya, right, with Michael B. Jordan in the forthcoming "Black Panther."

he has ever come across.) Kaluuya wanted to go to drama school but couldn't afford it. Instead he kept writing for "Skins," and in 2008 got a part in a play, "Oxford Street," at the Royal Court. "That was a breakthrough for me," Mr. Kaluuya said. "I couldn't get seen for theater because I had no training. But that play led to 'Sucker Punch,' which changed everything."

For "Sucker Punch," written by Roy Williams, Kaluuya played one of the two leads, both young boxers. "I'd always been overweight and out of shape, but for this I trained for months and lost three stone" or more than 40 pounds, he said. "I gave it my all." He won rave reviews and several awards, and drew the attention of a number of industry figures, among them the director Steve McQueen, who cast Kaluuya in his coming movie "Widows." "I had noticed him on 'Skins,' and then saw 'Sucker Punch,'" Mr. McQueen said in a telephone interview. "He

did this monologue while jumping rope which was amazing, and I was kind of mesmerized. He has that gift you don't see often, a presence even in his stillness. You feel what he is feeling, you see what he is seeing. When I was casting 'Widows,' I knew it was him."

After "Sucker Punch," Kaluuya was cast in, among other things, the television series "Black Mirror," but he felt frustrated by the response from the British movie and theater industry. "I wasn't trained, I was too big, they didn't want Black leads, I don't know," Kaluuya said, clearly exasperated even at the memory. "You end up thinking, it's just a glass ceiling, isn't it?" He decided to set his sights on the United States, found an American agent and won a part in the 2015 thriller "Sicario."

Before shooting "Sicario," he read the script of "Get Out," sent it to him by his agent. "I was like, how do I make this happen?" Kaluuya recounted. "I totally loved

it. I knew it spoke to me and my friends. That rage at the end; I know that." He thought for a moment. "I was fortunate that I had acting," he said. "If you had that anger on the street and let it out, you get arrested. I get applause."

As it turned out, Peele had seen Kaluuya in "Black Mirror," in the episode "Fifteen Million Merits." In an email, Peele wrote: "It's a soul-searching performance in which he brilliantly performs the full spectrum of emotions I needed for Chris. Through most of the episode he's restrained and subdued, but by the end his passion explodes into a primal unbridled monologue that is a thing of beauty."

Although Peele was initially hesitant about casting an American actor instead of a British actor (a decision subsequently criticized by Samuel L. Jackson), he said that Kaluuya convinced him over a Skype conversation. "He put to rest my fears of any cultural rift in regards to race relations," Mr. Peele said.

JAZZ

CONTINUED FROM 1C

"Ramsay Lewis has been a fan favorite and avid supporter of the Jazz Roots series. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to having him back at the Arshat Center in the near future," stated Liz Wallace, vice president programming for the Arshat Center. "We so appreciate that the sensational Ms. Bridgewater has been able to find time in her busy schedule to join us for this concert. It is a gift."

Wallace said audiences at the Arshat Center have loved Bridgewater's previous "Jazz Meets Gershwin and the Movie Music of Spike Lee and Terence Blanchard." "We are in for a treat with Dee Dee Bridgewater's Memphis; this is going to be a party. I know our Miami audience will greet her with open arms," Wallace said.

An homage to the music of Memphis, her hometown,



Ramsay Lewis has been a key leader of contemporary jazz for more than 50 years.

the concert will recapture the magic and history of blues, R&B and soul classics with Bridgewater's own fierce passion, originality and incredibly dynamic take. Bridgewater is an icon in the jazz world. She is a three-time Grammy Award winning vocalist, a Tony Award winner, UN Goodwill Ambassador and 2017 NEA Jazz Master honorée. Her latest album "Memphis...Yes, I'm Ready" was released in September 2017 to great critical praise.

The highly anticipated recording was in the works for several years as she returned to her birth city to continue the musical exploration of her roots and influences. In a recent New York Times feature written about her appearance at New York's Blue Note, it is reported she opened the set with a short, half-rapped

ready earned two Grammy Award nominations for his debut album, "My Favorite Things", plus unprecedented media coverage, which include segments on the "Today Show," "60 Minutes" and the Grammy Awards telecast. His sophomore album "Countdown" reflected the growth and maturity of Joey as an artist and his latest album "Joey, Monk, Live!" is a tribute to his mentor Thelonious Monk in celebration of his centennial.

"It is very special to be able to present these two jazz piano greats to our Miami audience," said Wallace. "The brilliance of a child prodigy on the same stage as a music icon promises to be not a to be missed concert this season and the perfect opportunity to introduce the next generation of jazz!"

PLAY

CONTINUED FROM 1C

The rapper said that he has grown accustomed to seeing his friends spend time in the prison system and even he would end up getting arrested every year like "clockwork." But reading the book was still an open-eyeing experience.

Alexander's book compartmentalizes all the issues that Black men face once they become a felon, such as re-entering society and the statistics behind the incarcerations, according to Dice.

Longtime friends, Dice and Brown have often used their art for Black social commen-

tary and wanted to put all of the information together in a simple and entertaining form in order to get their message out to others.

The play is centered around a courtroom and prison. Dice plays Jimmy, a Black man who is arrested and incarcerated and Brown plays his defense attorney.

The name "Jimmy" is also used in the musical as a play on the phrase Jim Crow, but it is also used as an idiom for a popular derogatory term.

"Basically, the character is the everyday Black male caught up in the system," said Dice. "Jimmy also is basically another word for [N-word]."

In addition to the criminalization of Black males, it

exposes how other problems within the Black community intersect with the issue, according to the performers.

"Criminality is a face that Black males have been wearing for a long time, but that's due to the media and not due to being able to make our own choice," said Dice. "When I say choice I am not letting the system off of the hook. The system is vile. The system is disgusting, but it takes a certain amount of effort to get caught up in the system."

"The Last Jimmy" also focuses on how the disconnection between Black fathers and sons, the broken relationships between Black males and females and police brutality fuel the cycle

of imprisonment.

Brown has had success in Hollywood writing for Disney and Black Entertainment Television shows and is the theater director at a prep school in Pennsylvania.

But he said that "The Last Jimmy" has been one of his most important projects.

Brown made it a point to take his 7-year-old son to see the play, and both performers hope that the play attracts young men and youth who are affected by the issues the most.

"The Last Jimmy" has been previously performed in Philadelphia and New York. The cast will take the stage in Miami at 7:30 p.m., this weekend at the Carnival Studio Theater.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

BY VENNDA-REI GIBSON | VENNDAL43@GMAIL.COM

January is the founding month for five of our Black Greek letter organizations. **Kappa Alpha Psi** Fraternity was founded on January 5, 1911 at Indiana University in Bloomington; **Phi Beta Sigma** Fraternity was founded on January 9th 1914 at Howard University; **Delta Sigma Theta** Sorority was founded on January 13, 1913 at Howard; **Alpha Kappa Alpha** Sorority was founded January 15, 1908 at Howard and **Zeta Phi Beta** Sorority had its founding on January 16, 1920. These organizations are still strong and serve in our communities. Happy Founders Day to all. While speaking of founders and history, and in preparing for a few columns for both Black and Women's History months, I was reading the biography of **Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander** the first Black woman to receive a



Rolle

Ph.D. in economics in the United States, and the first woman to receive a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She was also the first Black woman to practice law in Pennsylvania, and was the first national president of **Delta Sigma Theta** Sorority. Black women will certainly be in the forefront in 2018, but all certainly stand on the shoulders of many women who were 'first' and we must ensure that we continue to share their stories.

Over 120 people attended the annual Liberty Square Friends and Family Reunion banquet in December held at the Church of the Open Door. The program featured youth currently residing in Liberty Square Projects. The speaker was **Rev. Glenn R. Miller Sr.** from Bright Star Missionary Baptist Church.

In attendance was **Katja**

Esson, an Academy Award nominated filmmaker based in New York City who mixes documentary and narrative genres who was filming a documentary on Liberty Square. **Esson** began her career in Miami as a production assistant for the notorious rap group 2 Live Crew and she has directed a variety of award-winning documentaries and short films. Born and raised in Germany, **Esson** brings a quirky European sensibility to the distinctly American subjects she chooses.

Her documentary **Short Ferry Tales**, which turns the unlikely setting of the Staten Island Ferry Powder Room into a celebration of sisterhood, received an Academy Award-nomination in 2004 for Best Documentary Short and premiered on HBO.

Others in attendance at the



Esson

banquet were: Mr. and Mrs. **Aaron Campbell**, **Betty Comarrie**, **Delores Clarke**, **Betty Welch**, **Clementine Anderson**, Mr. & Mrs. **Elijah Woody** and Mr. & Mrs. **Keneth Kilpatrick** and **passionate and dedicated organizers Hattie and Phillip Walker**. It is exciting to know that an important history of Liberty City will be featured in a documentary. Our stories are so important to be told and shared as they make us proud. Speaking of history and pride, **Dr. Enid C. Pinkney**, Chair of The Lemon City Cemetery Community Corporation, Inc. has announced the sponsoring of its 23rd Annual Essay Contest on the topic "Why I Am Proud of My Heritage." The competition is open to students in Miami Dade County in grades 1-12. From January 4, through February 2, students in grades 1-12 are encouraged

to submit essays on this important topic to be judged. Trophies will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in the Elementary, Middle and High School categories.



Rangel

In addition, senior high school winners will receive monetary awards as follows: first place \$250.00, second place \$150.00, and third place \$100.00. Winners and participants will be recognized at the annual Commemorative Service at the City of Miami Cemetery, on February 18. **Retha Boone -Fye** and **Anita L. McGruder** are Co-Chairs for the Essay Contest. Hope that many students are being encouraged to enter the contest and write with pride.

In observance of the Rev. **Martin Luther King, Jr.** National Holiday, this year will mark the Silver Anniversary of the Annual **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Scholarship Breakfast which will be held on January 15, at 8:30 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Actor, producer and famed director **Tyler Perry** will be the keynote speaker for this annual event.

In my last column I wrote about Northwestern Class of

1959 grad **Samuel J. Rolle**, Jr. and his funeral service in Ft. Pierce last week. I am including a picture in this column as some of his classmates requested.

The Greater Miami Chapter of the Links, Inc. has announced that Congressman **Charles B. Rangel** will be the featured speaker at the 30th Annual Service Commemorating the Life and Work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 14, 9:00 a.m. at the Church of the Incarnation. He will be accompanied by his wife, **Link Alma Rangel**.

William Congreve coined the phrase "Music hath charms to soothe the savage beast. To soften Rocks, or bend a knotted Oak." As the Whirl turns, in spite of the turmoil, anxiety in our midst, music does soothe the spirit. There is a song with words that can describe all feelings: happiness, sadness, hopefulness, faithfulness, etc. Those who know me will know how much I love music of all genres. There is always music. So far all of us let us continue to Pray, Love, Laugh, Dance and Sing in the Whirl. Blessings.

Sex, drugs and books is surprise-ish in new series

'grown-ish' is a very 'black-ish' jolt

MALCOLM VENABLE
TVGuide.com

Fans of 'black-ish' might remember the time Zoey (Yara Shahidi) took her brother Junior (Marcus Scribner) to a party in Season 3: he was stunned to see kids drink-

lowed Denise Huxtable (Lisa Bonet) as she sojourned to the fictional college Hillman. But today's college students live in a world entirely different from the one of 1993 when ADW went off the air. Zoey and her new Gen Z friends grew up with all the information in the world in their hands. They grew up

with unfiltered exposure to movies and music and Vines referencing drugs and sex — not to mention images of terrorism, rappers becoming internet famous and the first reality show president. So while "grown-ish"'s PG-13 language and depictions of binge drinking, drug dealing, hooking up (as well as, yes,

realer than a network sitcom could, "grown-ish" presents an authentic view of what Zoey and everyone else like her had to do once leaving the nest: figure out how to be an adult.

"Honestly, as risqué as it is," Yara Shahidi told TV Guide at the premiere of the show in Los Angeles, "it is true to life and true to what they're navigating. What I appreciate about her story is that she's not perfect and yet you see her still find a way to thrive."

The departure from the source material is risky, and despite all the equity "black-ish" has earned — it's one of ABC's top five performers and has gotten eight Emmy noms and a Golden Globe for Tracee Ellis Ross — creator (of both shows) Jenya Barris has some jitters. "Going into this, it's scary for me because it's not like a laughy-laughy show," he told TV Guide. "People are expecting "black-ish" and that's not what it is. You watch and watch and you get more and more in. We want to see Zoey grow."

People are expecting "black-ish" and that's not what it is. You watch and watch and you get more and more in. We want to see Zoey grow."

Relationships, particularly with boys, factor into her matriculation too. She crushes way too hard on Aaron (American Crime's Trevor Jackson), clumsily hurling all her feelings at a guy whose bro-ish sensibility and hormonal underdevelopment makes for awkwardness all around. "Finding one's identity is the through line of the show — and that learning comes through mistakes that have consequences and repercussions that don't simply disappear at the end of the episode, like in typical network sitcom format."

"Grown-ish" premiered Wed. Jan. 3 at 8 p.m. on Freeform.



Chloe Bailey, Yara Shahidi, Trevor Jackson, grown-ish

ing and eating pot-infused potato chips; she was gone too. But when she goes to her first party as a freshman at the fictional Southern California University on grown-ish, the parties will look a bit different. She'll see peers pop pills, do molly and chop up thick lines of cocaine — and that's in the

with unfiltered exposure to movies and music and Vines referencing drugs and sex — not to mention images of terrorism, rappers becoming internet famous and the first reality show president. So while "grown-ish"'s PG-13 language and depictions of binge drinking, drug dealing, hooking up (as well as, yes,

with unfiltered exposure to movies and music and Vines referencing drugs and sex — not to mention images of terrorism, rappers becoming internet famous and the first reality show president. So while "grown-ish"'s PG-13 language and depictions of binge drinking, drug dealing, hooking up (as well as, yes,

Tiffany Haddish gives epic NYFCC Awards speech

Comedian gets emotional, flirts with Michael B. Jordan last week

PATRICK RYAN
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — Nobody had more fun at the New York Film Critics Circle Awards than Tiffany Haddish.

The gut-busting awards season break-out was on hand at Tao Downtown Wednesday night to accept best-supporting actress for Girls Trip, her first major prize for the hit comedy since a perceived snub by the Golden Globes nominations last month.

But the exuberant comedian didn't let any online outcry rain on her evening. Shortly after Phantom Thread director Paul Thomas Anderson gave her his number (during

a speech read by Phantom Thread actress Lesley Manville, in his absence), Haddish waltzed up to the stage holding a grapefruit-vodka cocktail named just for her: "The Tiffany Toast."

"I want to call it the 'Tiff-nicity-tini,'" Haddish proclaimed. "It's delicious. I've had two and I do feel like magic."

She then launched into a freewheeling, nearly 18-minute speech, in which she thanked God, her parents and best friend, and went on a hilarious tangent about the statue of a Hindu goddess looming behind her.

"She holding on to some seeds or a pine cone, which



Tiffany Haddish attends the 2017 New York Critics Awards at Tao Downtown on Wednesday in New York.

means she's trying to produce or create, and that's exactly what I'm trying to do," Haddish said. "I'm not trying to get pregnant yet, Michael, but I'm working on it, B. Jordan," jokingly referring to the Creed actor, who was in attendance.

Haddish proceeded to explain why she doesn't read reviews ("I'm super-sensitive") and admit that she wasn't familiar with most of the critics in the room ("All the critics I've ever known before this was Siskel and Ebert. And then when they passed, I was like, 'Oh well.'")

She also revealed an improvised bit that was cut from Girls Trip, in which her character, Tina, graphically detailed a plan to brand an unfaithful spouse's genitals with her friend Ryan's (Regina Hall) name.

"They took that out of the movie, but I like to tell everybody about it because these are the things I think about at night sometimes," Haddish said. "Don't hurt my feelings, Michael B. Jordan."

But Haddish's speech was frequently moving as well, as she talked about her climb from poverty to stardom, and thanked both her fans and haters.

"If you said something, thank you. I don't care if it's positive or negative — I appreciate you," Haddish said. "I'm glad you see me. 'Cause there were so many years nobody saw me. You know when you're a little kid going through the system, you wonder, 'Does anyone even know I'm alive?' And to be this example to youth."

Sterling K. Brown makes Golden Globes history

ERIN JENSEN
USAToday



Sterling K. Brown accepts the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series – Drama for "This is Us" during the 75th Annual Golden Globe Awards at The Beverly Hilton Hotel on Jan. 7, 2018 in Beverly Hills, California.

about the impact of the victory.

This is history-making. Sterling K. Brown became the first black actor to take the category for best performance by an actor in a television series drama at Sunday's Golden Globes.

Brown, who plays Randall Pearson on NBC's tear-jerking *This Is Us*, thanked his wife, Ryan Michelle Bathe, and their children and gave a special shout-out to the show's creator and writer, Dan Fogelman, during his moving acceptance speech.

"Dan Fogelman, throughout the majority of my career, I have benefited from color-blind casting, which means, you know what, hey, let's throw a brother in this role. Right? It's always really cool," he said. "But Dan Fogelman, you wrote a role for a black man that could only be played by a black man. What I appreciate so much about this is that I'm being seen for who I am and being appreciated for who I am. And it makes it that much more difficult to dismiss me, or dismiss anybody who looks like me."

The Twitter account for the awards show shared an interview with Brown following his win, where he talked

"I've never been the first person to win anything, so to be the first black man to win best lead actor in a dramatic series is kind of amazing to me," he said. "Hopefully it won't be another 75 years before another black man wins this."

Bus Trip to Plant City planned

Bus trip to Strawberry Festival, March 9 and 10, Plant City. Contact Rose 305-528-1395

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 2 a.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 1963** 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 Chery Park NFL / YET (meeting area). Call 305-305-0290.

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

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

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

■ **The North Dade/ Miami Carol City H.S., Class of 1967** invites you to join them aboard the Carnival Conquest Sept. 24-30, as they celebrate their 50th Class Reunion. Call 305-336-6293 or 305-333-7613.

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

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

Save the Date

2017/18

Transportation Summit

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JAN. 25-26, 2018

Thursday: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Friday: 8:30 am – 12 noon

Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus

Chapman Conference Center
300 N.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33132

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Take part in the discussion on developing a comprehensive public transportation system in our community.

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Additional Information:

- www.miamidade.gov/citt citt@miamidade.gov 305-348-3799
- People who require assistance and/or would like to request materials or other means of communication to participate because of their disabilities, can call 305-375-1357 or email m1ake@miamidade.gov. TTY users can call 711.

Registration:
www.miamidade.gov/citt

Take transit to the meeting!
www.miamidade.gov/transportation

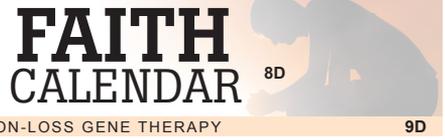
This event is organized by the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust in conjunction with Miami-Dade County, the Board of County Commissioners, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Miami-Dade County League of Cities, Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

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CANCER DRUG PRICED AT \$850,000 FOR VISION-LOSS GENE THERAPY 9D



PAY IT FORWARD WITH MENTORING



Closing the gap could save Blacks

NYAMEKYE DANIEL
ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

Elvis "Austin" Caines has dedicated a majority of his career to the juvenile justice system.

For more than a decade, Caines has seen hundreds of Black youth being processed into the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department, where he

works as a supervisor, with the knowledge that the detainees will not get the same treatment as their counterparts.

After doing research, Caines found a way to break the cycle — mentoring. "When I was in grad school doing research on the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system, I found that Black and Hispanic children would come into the system

“
The annual cost of mentoring a child is \$1,500 annually,” Gale Nelson said, “versus the cost to incarcerate a child that could be upwards into \$80,000.”

with the same offense as whites, but they are treated totally different,” said Caines. “But I also found out that mentoring was a solution.”

After getting a referral for mentorship training 16 years ago from his church, Norland United Methodist Church, Caines signed onto Big Brother Big Sister Miami as a mentor. It made a positive difference in two Miami Garden boys' lives.

Mentoring is a “practical, cost-effective and meaningful” way to make a change in society, said Gale Nelson, the president of Big Brother Big Sister Miami.

“The annual cost of mentoring a child is \$1,500 annually,” Nelson said, “versus the cost to incarcerate a child that could SEE GAP 8D



Elvis “Austin” Caines, Stephen Kelly and Morris Copeland, director of the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department.

Doctors-to-be celebrate milestone

They nearly lost it all in two hurricanes in the Caribbean

CINDY ARBOLEDA
Yahoo Lifestyle

A group of aspiring doctors is finally celebrating their white coat ceremony after enduring the devastation that Hurricane Irma and Maria brought to their University campus in Dominica. On a now-viral photo, the doctors-to-be are seen happily embracing the future after not knowing what would happen to them just a few months ago.

The Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, campus was destroyed, much like the island after the hurricanes in September. The university's administration quickly developed a “floating campus” on board a ship to house the students while they finished the fall semester.

One of the students, Charlie Spell IV, said that he is proud of his colleagues for remaining strong amid adversity.



“Got tired of convincing people Black Lives Matter, so we decided to save them ourselves.”

“Our white coat ceremony was long overdue considering the myriad obstacles we had to overcome to have the ceremony,” he said. “Hurricane Irma first postponed our ceremony because it delayed travels of our family members to the island. A week or so later, Hurricane Maria showed her face and wreaked havoc on the island of Dominica causing our entire campus to be evacuated via ferry to the neighboring island of St. Lucia,” he said.

Spell, alongside his 1,400 classmates, is now completing his fall semester medical sciences curriculum on a cruise ship ported off the island of St. Kitts.

Spell says the ship “has been an unparalleled experience itself.”

The 24-year-old graduated from Morehouse College in Atlanta, but calls Memphis his home. He plans on opening a practice in his hometown SEE DOCTORS 8D

13 little ways to make the world a better place

These simple actions will leave a positive impact in our community

STAFF O
The Oprah Magazine

Right now one thing is abundantly clear: The world could use a little more peace, love and understanding. There is suffering to be eased; there are wrongs to be righted. If you read the daily headlines and wish someone could just step in and make things better, we have good news: Someone can—and you already know just the

person for the job.

Inside you there's a mighty activist, even if you've never owned a bullhorn or chained yourself to an oil rig. To be an activist, all you have to do is exercise your power to, yes, act. You can be a force for good whether you're helping a neighbor, raising your voice, or calling attention to a problem in need of a solution.

Every person can make a difference, and no deed is too small to matter. Consider the Jewish concept of tikkun olam, which is commonly used to refer to acts of kindness or the pursuit of social justice. The Hebrew phrase translates to “repair the world”—not revolutionizing



or reinventing, just repairing: putting the world back together a little at a time, each of us, every single day.

Helping repair the world is your mission, should you choose to accept it. And we know you will.

1. COMPLIMENT FRIENDS AND STRANGERS

Try praising a new person each day for a month.

2. SPEND WISELY

Whether you're in the market for an oil change or a bottle of Merlot, think about where you're directing your dollars. Can you find a woman- or minority-owned retailer? Or can you opt for a SEE IMPACT 8D

GAP

CONTINUED FROM 7D

be upwards into \$80,000."

Nelson said that most people have the impression that mentoring is equivalent to adopting a child or can be time-consuming, but Nelson said it is easier than people think.

There are many available options for mentoring that

nect through basketball and just one-on-one conversations.

His first mentee is now 23 years old and his current, Stephen Kelly, is in the 10th grade at Barbara Goleman Senior High School.

Caines has mentored Stephen for the last six years, and said that he plays a very active role in the teen's life. He participates in after-school activities, although he lives miles away

and 'Fs' to 'As' and 'Bs,'" said Caines. "I helped him get in enrolled in Miami-Dade [College] courses, and he serves as the District I representative on the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission."

Stephen wants to follow in his mentor's steps and enter into the law enforcement field; he expressed his gratitude to Caines in an essay he wrote for a contest in April 2016.

In the essay titled, "Overwhelming Gratitude," Stephen thanked Caine for pushing him in the right direction.

"Since we met four years ago, I have made a noticeable change in the way I interact with others, and I know now how to express myself without feeling the need to get riled up," Stephen wrote. "I can only thank Elvis for always being there for me and supporting me."

When Caines finished his mentoring training those years ago, he wanted to make sure he was placed with someone who looks like him and was from the same neighborhood.

Nelson said that even though 65 percent of the children who participate in the program are Black, only 22 percent of the volunteers are. There is also a disparity in gender. For every three women who volunteer there is one man.

Most of the mentoring gaps are in the Brownsville, Miami Gardens, Liberty City and Homestead communities.

For the last six decades, Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami has matched children with mentors to help set a good example for them in the community.

January is the perfect time to reflect on the impact that mentoring has in society since it is National Mentoring Month. However, Nelson said, it always the perfect time to help reduce drop-out rates, poverty and incarcerations through mentoring.

"We see the results in terms of graduating...95 percent of our kids go on to graduate from Miami-Dade schools," said Nelson. "But there is a disparity, and I won't be doing my job if I didn't make it clear that we need more men and women of color to step up and get involved and help children who look like them and come from the neighborhoods they come from."



Photo courtesy of Elvis Caines

Elvis "Austin" Caines and his mentee Stephen Kelly in 2012.

can accommodate any lifestyle, according to Nelson.

"That could mean one hour a week in a school, that could mean once a month in a workplace where you don't even leave the job to be a mentor," he said. "That could mean face-to-face in a community-based program."

Caines and his "little brothers" were able to con-

nect from his school, which requires Caines to help with transportation.

The two first met when Stephen was 9. He had behavioral issues so severe that the boy required medication, both said. But after a few years of their mentorship, Stephen was able to stop being prescribed.

"His grades went from 'Ds'

CHURCH Listings

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 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

NON DENOMINATION
Lively Stone Church of Miami
 Pastor David Dorischar
 8025 NW Miami Ct 754-400-0899

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 Avenue • 305-342-7426

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

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

MORAVIAN CHURCH
New Hope Moravian Church
 Pastor Gregorio Moody
 6001 SW 12th 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

IMPACT

CONTINUED FROM 7D

small business over a chain? Challenge yourself to do all your shopping this way for a week — or a month.

3. TALK POLITICS PRODUCTIVELY

The initiative Make America Dinner Again, founded by Bay Area friends Justine Lee and Tria Chang in the wake of the 2016 elections, encourages citizens with different viewpoints to sit down and respectfully listen to one another's opinions over a nice lasagna. For details on hosting an evening of your own, download the instruction guide at makeamericadinneragain.com.

4. KEEP YOUR KIDS' VACCINATIONS UP-TO-DATE

Friends don't give friends whooping cough.

5. BROWSE FOR WORTHY CAUSES

Download a charitable web browser extension like Tab for a Cause, which uses ad revenue to donate to a partner nonprofit of your choice every time you open a new tab.

6. SWITCH TO TUBELESS TOILET PAPER

Unless you're super crafty, you won't miss those cardboard cylinders — and neither will the planet.

7. SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL WOMEN'S SHELTER

Donate new bras, which are always in short supply. Menstrual products are another high-demand item (for every box of its tampons you buy, ConsciousPeriod.com will donate a box of pads to a homeless shelter), as are hair products suitable for different textures. And don't forget books and board games for the kids.

8. KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

Only about 20 percent of Americans do — down from nearly 30 percent since the 1970s — and research has linked social connection with decreased depression and even a longer life.

9. BE PREPARED

Someone has to have a bandage, a pain reliever, a safety pin, floss — why not you? The Pinch Provisions Minimergency Kit contains all of these, plus double-sided tape, nail polish remover, and more must-haves. (\$18, pinchprovisions.com)

10. EAT YOUR LEFTOVERS

It's estimated Americans throw away 15 percent of the food they buy each year — enough to feed millions of people. Plus, all that trash produces loads of greenhouse gases. Not sure when it's time to toss? StillTasty.com tells you how long to safely keep thousands of products.

11. PLANT AN HERB, VEGETABLE, OR FLOWER GARDEN

Either way: The plants produce environmentally beneficial oxygen, you reap the meditative rewards of gardening, and you can savor the fruits of your labor — or gift them to friends and family.

12. GIVE AWAY YOUR UNWANTED STUFF

Put your goods on ad-posting sites and apps for free, so someone who actually needs them can have them at no charge.

13. BECOME AN ORGAN DONOR

About 95 percent of U.S. adults are in favor of organ donation, but only 48 percent are registered. You can sign up right now without leaving your couch, at organdonor.gov and potentially save eight lives — the number of vital organs you likely have to offer.

FAITH CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE MIAMI TIMES STAFF | EDITORIAL@MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

■ The annual Martin Luther King celebration service for West Grove will be held on Jan. 14 at 3p.m. at **Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church**. Call 305-775-5750

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

■ **Sistah to Sistah Connection Women's Empowerment** meetings are held every second and fourth Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon at Parkway Professional Building in Miramar. Women only. Call 954-260-9348.

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

dining. Call 305-224-1890.

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

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

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

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

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

■ **Florida Independent Restoration Ministries**

(FIRM) offers family assistance with drugs and alcohol. Call 800-208-2924 ext. 102 or prayer line, ext. 104.

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

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

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

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

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



The Dominica campus was destroyed by Hurricane Maria.

Photo: Charlie Spell

DOCTORS

CONTINUED FROM 7D

after graduation, as he wants to give back to his community.

"I decided to pursue a career in medicine because I have a passion for improv-

ing the general welfare of mankind and I recognize the impact of instilling positive health habits as a means of promoting preventative care."

The students will relocate to Knoxville, Tenn., to continue their studies come spring semester. Lincoln Memorial University will serve as the

new facility for the Ross University School of Medicine.

"I am proud of my colleagues and the Ross administration for remaining strong and not allowing a series of unfortunate events to deter us from achieving our goals," says Spell. "It has been a rough journey, but sustainable."

BACK TO ACTIVE

Your motivation to get fit

JASMINE DANIELLE
blackdoctor.org

"I'm too tired." "It's too cold." "I have no time to spare." "The gym is too far." "I don't own any workout clothes."

Sound familiar? They're all common excuses as to why we won't commit to starting a new workout routine. We all fall victim to our excuses from time to time, and while some excuses may be

valid, they should never keep us from executing a goal we established back in January 2009. It's a new year and the perfect time to step into a new mindset. We can overcome our excuses and finally make it through those gym doors, even if that means hacking our way there.

The first step is to set a goal. By setting goals, we're able to intentionally

SEE ACTIVE 11D



Costly cure: Cancer drug priced at \$850,000

The price is among the highest in the U.S.; treats rare form of vision loss caused by genetic mutation

PETER LOFTUS
The Wall Street Journal

Spark Therapeutics Inc. said it would charge \$850,000 a patient for a pioneering new treatment for a hereditary form of vision loss — below the \$1 million price tag the company had considered, but still a milestone for ever-rising drug prices in the U.S.

To address concerns about the cost of the drug, Luxturna, Spark said it is offering alternative payment arrangements to health insurers, including partial refunds if a patient's vision doesn't improve significantly after treatment. The company also is seeking U.S. government clearance to allow insurers to spread out payments for Luxturna

in installments.

U.S. regulators approved Luxturna last month, making it the first therapy in the U.S. to deliver a functional gene to replace a faulty disease-causing one.

The injected gene therapy treats a rare form of vision loss caused by an inherited genetic mutation, and it improved vision in a high proportion of patients in clinical testing. Spark intends it as a one-time treatment, though researchers don't know how long the benefit will last.

"We believe that price reflects the type of life-altering value we're seeing with Luxturna in clinical trials and will allow us to build on revolutionary science," Spark Chief Executive Jeff Marrazzo said

in an interview.

Marrazzo said late last year that he thought the treatment — Spark's first approved product — was worth more than \$1 million a patient. But based on feedback from insurers, the company arrived at a lower price — \$425,000 per eye injection.

Philadelphia-based



Spark Therapeutics/Associated Press

Spark said it has reached an agreement in principle with Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, a regional insurer in New En-

Spark Therapeutics' Luxturna drug treats a hereditary form of vision loss and is the first therapy in the U.S. to deliver a functional gene to replace a faulty, disease-causing one.

gland, under which Spark will pay partial refunds to Harvard Pilgrim if patients don't meet certain targets in light-sensitivity tests. The tests will be given within the first 90 days and again at 30 months following treatment.

The companies didn't disclose the exact size of the refunds, but Marrazzo said it wouldn't exceed the 23 percent mandatory rebate that drugmakers pay the government Medicaid health-insurance program for lower-income people.

Spark said it is in discussions with other health insurers to offer similar rebates tied to outcomes in patients. There is a growing wave of contracts between insurers and drugmakers that adjust the size of payments based on how well drugs work in patients.

Michael Sherman, chief

medical officer for Harvard Pilgrim, said in an interview that high price tags for new drugs like Luxturna create "a greater need for pharmaceutical companies to engage in these kinds of [deals] to balance access and affordability. I think these kinds of agreements eliminate barriers to providing coverage."

Prices for new drugs for cancer and rare diseases have been approaching the \$1 million threshold in recent years, including Biogen Inc.'s Spinraza for spinal muscular atrophy, which costs \$750,000 for the first year of treatment. A new cancer treatment introduced by Novartis AG last year costs \$475,000 a patient for a one-time treatment.

Spark Therapeutics also said it would pursue contracts to sell Luxturna to insurers rather than directly to the

SEE DRUG 11D

Thinking of weight loss surgery?

Maintaining a healthy weight is important for your overall health. It can lower your risk of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and high blood pressure and many different types of cancer. It's never too late to start healthy eating and exercise habits. However, if you've tried and failed to lose weight through diet and exercise, you may be wondering about bariatric surgery.

The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery estimated over 220,000 people in the Unit-

ARE YOU A CANDIDATE?

Most physicians suggest that candidates for bariatric surgery:

- Have a BMI of greater than 40, or are more than 40 pounds overweight
- Have a BMI of greater than 35 and at least one or more obesity-related conditions, such as:
 - Type II diabetes
 - Heart disease
 - Hypertension
 - Sleep apnea
 - Respiratory disorders
 - Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
 - Osteoarthritis
 - Lipid abnormalities
 - Gastrointestinal disorders
- Inability to achieve a healthy weight loss for a sustained period of time with prior weight loss efforts.

ed States had bariatric surgery in 2008 — more than double the number of just five years earlier. Insurance companies typically require patients to first try losing weight by eating healthy foods, cutting portions and exercising for at least six that months. If that doesn't work, speak to your physician about your options, but understand that weight-loss surgery is a tool to help you control your weight for the rest of your life.

What you need to know
SEE WEIGHT 11D

North Shore welcomes 2018 New Year's baby

North Shore Medical Center is proud to announce its 2018 New Year's baby. Parents Susette Joseph and Marc Erland-Dezluna rang in the New Year with the arrival of their baby boy, Abraham Dezluna, weighing 7lbs., 4oz., at 1:20 p.m. "From the staff at North Shore Medical Center, we wish all of our new parents and babies continued health and happiness in this New Year," said Manny Linares, CEO of North Shore Medical Center.






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Florida school testing study released (ACT)

ACT, SAT swap for Florida tests?

Not a good plan, not appropriate

LESLIE POSTAL
Orlando Sentinel

Allowing some school districts to opt for the ACT or SAT in place of the standardized tests Florida requires to earn a high school diploma is "not appropriate," a new study released this week determined.

The study was required by a sweeping education law passed by lawmakers last year, with the goal of determining whether the two national college admissions exams could be swapped for Florida's algebra 1 test and its 10th-grade language arts test — both required for high school graduation.

Educators, including those in Seminole County, have pushed for such a study for several years, hoping

to limit the number of standardized tests students take and the burden of test administration local high schools face. They argued that the ACT or SAT are taken by many students anyway and, with a long-standing national reputation, more acceptable to a public fed up with lots of new school tests.

But the Assessments Solutions Group, in its study submitted to the Florida Department of Education

on Monday, said such a plan likely would not work.

Neither of the national college admissions exams meet all of Florida's academic standards for algebra 1 or for 10th-grade language arts, meaning schools might need to give additional exam questions if they used the ACT or the SAT, adding "cost and complexity" to testing plans, the study said.

The two national exams
SEE TESTS 11D



Tips for juggling retirement, college savings

Here are some steps you can take

TANISHA A. SYKES
Special to USA TODAY

Every parent wants what's best for their child.

But ensuring that there is enough money to pay for retirement needs and education costs means planning ahead and finding the right balance.

"I use the 'airplane oxy-

gen mask' concept," advising parents to secure their own mask before assisting their children, says Delvin Joyce, a financial planner at Prudential. "Work with a financial planner to give you clarity on your retirement goals, which will help you figure out how much you can allot to education savings."

With college tuition in-

creasing and grants and aid decreasing, parents are figuring out new ways to finance costs.

In fact, families have become savvy higher education consumers, with 73 percent choosing an in-state school and 50 percent of students opting to live at home to reduce college costs, according to "How America Pays for College 2017," the national study from

Sallie Mae.

It's not too late to start planning for the future. Here are some steps you can take to successfully save for both retirement and college.

KEEP CONTRIBUTING TO YOUR 401(K)

"If your employer kicks in 50 cents for every dollar you contribute, that's an immediate 50 percent return on

SEE TIPS 11D



New year, new experiences

Easing kids outside their comfort zone is easier than you think!

Children can be creatures of habit — and that can make them very resistant to things that aren't familiar to them, like new foods or new people. That's especially true for little ones, often to the frustration of parents.

Some fears are simply a part of growing up. According to researchers, 90 percent of all children ages 2 to 14 have something specific that they're afraid of, notes Donna Pincus, Ph.D., author of *Growing Up Brave*. But 78 percent of the

something new is to do it bit by bit — what Pincus calls "bravery ladders." So instead of a whole new meal, just add one new side dish to their favorite dinner.

Tell kids what's coming. Otherwise, their imaginations can lead them to envision the worst. Educating your child about an unknown can clear up misconceptions and make them feel more in control, advises educational psychologist Michele Borba, Ed.D.



time, neophobia — fear of anything new — is genetic, say researchers at the University of London. So, odds are your children inherited at least some of their fears from mom or dad!

The good news is that most children outgrow such fears by age 5, becoming more open to trying new things. For those who don't, experts say parents can still help their children's worlds expand.

"It's in the interaction between parent and child that kids first and most powerfully learn critical lessons — that it's safe to try new things, that frustration and fear can be overcome and that the situations that make us afraid can be mastered," explains Pincus.

"Think baby steps. Sometimes the easiest way to encourage a child to try

Give them a gentle nudge. Pincus advises setting up a safe way for kids to try new things, like arranging a playdate where they'll know some, but not all, of the children. That'll ease them into making new friends, while in the comfort of those they already know.

Talk benefits. Whenever you introduce something new to your child, teach them about what we gain from adding people and experiences to our lives. Point out what wouldn't be in their life — a good friend, new pet or favorite hobby, for example — if they didn't try new things!

Be their strength. If your child hears you say, "It'll be ok," when they are about to take a new step, they'll feel secure enough to go for it, says Borba.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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

#EOPProgress @MDCPS @miamischools

www.gop4progress.com

TIPS

CONTINUED FROM 10D

money," says Beth Kobliner, author of "Make Your Kid a Money Genius (Even if You're Not)."

"Remember, your kid can borrow for college (ideally with federal student loans), but you can't borrow for retirement," she says.

Kobliner says parents should continue to save for retirement while their child is in college. Funds in a qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k), 403(b), IRA, or pension are not reported assets on the FAFSA (The Free Application for Federal Student Aid). "So contributing to a 401(k) not only helps you afford retirement, it may actually increase your child's financial aid eligibility," she says.



INVEST IN A 529 PLAN

These education savings plans are a great way to build savings while reaping tax benefits.

"They can be used for a four-year college, graduate programs, technical school or community college and the earnings are not subject to federal and state income tax," says Molly McCormack, a Durham, N.C.-based wealth management director at TIAA.

Some states even offer income-tax deductions or credits for contributions. Qualified 529 plan expenses include tuition, room and board, and books and supplies, and the plan can be transferred to a different qualified beneficiary without penalty or taxes, says McCormack.

With the passage of the Tax Cuts and Job Act in December, families can now withdraw up to \$10,000 per year tax-free to pay for K-12 education expenses.

SAVE EVERYTHING YOU CAN

Amanda and Matt Ponzar of Alexandria, Virginia, have been saving for retirement since their first year of marriage. "Everyone can save a little something," says Aman-

da, 40, a chief marketing officer at a nonprofit. Her husband Matt, 44, works for the Department of Defense. "We obtained advanced degrees and worked our way up the ladder before having children," she says.

Nearly 20 years later, they've saved a nice nest egg for retirement. Plus, the couple is saving for college for their two boys, now in elementary school. Each year, they contribute up to \$36,000 per year to their 401(k) and 403(b) plans, and save roughly \$4,000 per child annually in their boys' 529 plans.

"We also set up 529s for our godsons and contribute to those, too," says Amanda. In 2018, the max contribution limit increased to \$18,500 per person for 401(k)s and 403(b)s, and save roughly \$14,000 per child will not incur a gift tax.

For parents whose finances are a bit tighter, financial behaviorist Jacqueline M. Timmons advises: Follow the 80/20 split. "With 20 percent being the amount that represents your financial 'help,' whether that's 20 percent of the total college expenses, 20 percent of room and board, or

20 percent of your net pay," she says. This approach allows you to define how you'll help without sacrificing your future.

TELL YOUR KID TO WORK AND STUDY

Research published in the American Sociological Review shows that kids who kick in some of their own earnings toward college costs have slightly higher GPAs than those who don't.

"It makes sense: By contributing, these kids feel like they have skin in the game," says Kobliner. "So encourage your kid to get a part-time job (20 hours a week or fewer) to help pay for college."

An added bonus: Learning how to be a good worker is a valuable part of your child's education, she says.

LOOK FOR ALTERNATE WAYS TO PAY LESS TUITION

"AP [advanced placement] programs or transferrable online courses can help your child earn college credit early, speeding up the path to graduation," says Adrian Ridner, CEO and co-founder of Study.com, a site dedicated to making education affordable.

"Not only do you save on tuition, but you can also save on housing books, meals, and transportation," Ridner says.

Ridner estimates that taking this route can save you as much as \$1,000 per course at a public university, or \$3,000 per course at a private university. It's a good way for your child to get some of those pre-requisite courses out of the way. However, before your child enrolls in any course, make sure the desired college will accept the courses and count the credits toward graduation.

ONLY "HELP" IF YOU CAN

"When it comes to paying for kids' college, I see a lot of parents doing harm to their own financial situation in order to provide assistance," says Jim Keenehan, a senior consultant for AFS 401 (k) Retirement Services, LLC, in Bethesda, Maryland.

If you've got a retirement nest egg that's on track, adequate emergency savings and no high-interest debt, then you may be able to help your kids, he says. Otherwise, Keenehan advises: "Give them the gift of financially fit parents who will be able to afford their own retirement."

to be costly. Purchasing activewear that looks good and fits even better will inspire you to get moving if only to show off your new coordinates. Hey, at least you accomplished the hardest part, which is showing up!

Finally, don't be afraid to treat yourself! It's not a bad idea to have a system in place that rewards when milestones are met. Frozen yogurt, a bubble bath, a massage or facial, even a new (gym) bag are great ways to honor yourself for successfully executing your plans. Initiating a healthy lifestyle is challenging and following through takes the cake so celebrate your wins each time you've hit your mark!

TESTS

CONTINUED FROM 10D

produce different results than the Florida Standards Assessments, so it would not be fair to allow some Florida school districts to use the ACT or the SAT while others used the FSA, but have them all judged by the school-grading system, it added.

The authors said they had "serious doubts on the interchangeability of the three tests" and they felt it was "not fair to compare schools that use the state tests in their accountability system to those that use the alternate tests."

Finally, they said they doubted such a system would pass muster under federal law. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act allows local school districts to pick a national test in lieu of a state high school test, if they meet certain criteria.

The study, however, considered only a system under which some schools would use the ACT or SAT and others would stick with state exams. The study did not examine what would happen if Florida abandoned its high school exams completely and used either the ACT or the SAT instead.

The study, which cost \$420,338, was to be delivered to the Florida Legislature as well as the State Board of Education. A spokeswoman for the education department said officials did not yet know what might happen with it after that.

The assessment group includes experts from the Wisconsin Center for Education Products & Services, the University of Minnesota's National Center on Educational Outcomes and the University of Kansas' Center for Assessment and Research and Design.

DRUG

CONTINUED FROM 9D

treatment centers where the injection procedures are performed. Spark said this was to avoid the "buy-and-bill" practice in which some hospitals or physician practices buy drugs they administer to patients and then bill insurers for a marked-up price. The company will work with affiliates of Express Scripts Holding Co., a pharmacy-benefit manager, to make such arrangements.

Spark said it has proposed to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services a pilot project that would waive certain drug

price reporting rules for Luxturna. This would allow Spark to accept installment payments from insurers rather than a single upfront payment, and to increase the rebates Spark plans to offer insurers based on patient outcomes, Marrazzo said.

Under federal rules, drugmakers are reluctant to accept installment payments or offer significant outcomes-based rebates because that would require them to increase the discounts they offer Medicaid and a government drug discount program for certain hospitals, Marrazzo said.

He said Spark is in discussions with CMS about the proposal.

WEIGHT

CONTINUED FROM 9D

It's not a magic cure. After surgery, you'll need to practice mindful eating, eat slowly and listen to your body's signals of feeling hungry and full. The good news is that you can see significant results. Studies show that weight loss surgery can reduce Type II diabetes in patients, alleviate sleep apnea, and lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Monthly Surgical Weight Loss Seminars presented by Dr. Fernando Bayron, MD, FACS

On January 30, 2018 at 6:00 PM - at North Shore

Medical Center. 1100 NW 95 street

Miami, FL 33150 For more information please call 1-844-319-6838

Disclaimer: Weight loss surgery may be an option for adults with a body mass index (BMI) equal to or greater than 40, or equal to or greater than 35 with serious health problems related to obesity. Laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding may be an option for people with a BMI of 30 or more who have at least one serious obesity-related health problem. Weight loss surgery is considered safe, but like any surgery, it does have risks. Consult with your physician about the risks and benefits of weight loss surgery.

ACTIVE

CONTINUED FROM 9D

move through our fitness journeys, which is especially important when mapping out our workouts, maximizing our gym time, creating a realistic timeline and ultimately seeing results. Goals should be SMART, meaning they should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound. When listing our goals we must be clear and practical and we must be able to track our progress on a timeline.

Once we've set our goals it's time to decide on a plan of action! What fitness formats

will we choose to be part of our routine? How many days of the week will we work out? How much time are we willing to spend in the gym? It's important to be honest with ourselves. We're less likely to fall short and let ourselves down if we commit to a realistic number of days. If we decide on formats that we truly enjoy, we'll give ourselves something to look forward to those three or four active days of the week. This will also help eliminate some of the confusion surrounding our new fitness routine because we already know what to expect from ourselves and our workout before we even start.

Another great motivation

hack is choosing an accountability partner. Perhaps you know someone who desires a healthier lifestyle or maybe you know someone who's already submerged. Either way, it's nice to have someone to hold us accountable for executing our fitness plans. A good accountability partner is also going to be there for us when we're frustrated and ready to give up. They'll help to keep us motivated and push us to fight for our goals.

Sounds vain, but you may notice you're more enthusiastic about showing up for your sweat sessions if you do it in workout gear you actually like, and as long as you know where to look, it doesn't have

to be costly. Purchasing activewear that looks good and fits even better will inspire you to get moving if only to show off your new coordinates. Hey, at least you accomplished the hardest part, which is showing up!

Finally, don't be afraid to treat yourself! It's not a bad idea to have a system in place that rewards when milestones are met. Frozen yogurt, a bubble bath, a massage or facial, even a new (gym) bag are great ways to honor yourself for successfully executing your plans. Initiating a healthy lifestyle is challenging and following through takes the cake so celebrate your wins each time you've hit your mark!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Apostolic Revival Center

Services
Wed. Intersession Prayer 7 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. Dorris

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 5 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. Mon. Bible Class 10 a.m.

Min. Harrell L. Wenton

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: cmcb.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. Owen, 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

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) 254-686C
305-685-3700
Fax: 305-685-0705
www.newbirthbaptistam.org**

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

954-962-9327

3707 S.W. 56th Avenue, Hollywood, FL 33023

Hosanna Community Baptist Church

Services
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Bible Study
Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Youth Ministry
Mon.-Fri. 2:45-3:30 p.m.

Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins

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

Wright and Young

HEIDY JIMMIEKA BOWEN, 27, cashier, died January 3, Service 2 p.m., Saturday at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



DEBORAH HEATH, 54, telecommunication specialist, died January 3, Service 11 a.m., Saturday at 93rd St. Community Baptist Church.



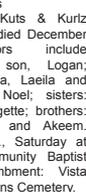
JULIA FULKS, 94, custodian, died January 3, Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Holy Faith Missionary Baptist Church.



ONIEL MANHERTZ, 42, surety agent, Owned: Manhertz Balls Bonds & Traffic School, Secret Operations & Investigations and Creative Kuts & Kurtz Beauty Salon, died December 28. Survivors include wife, Carrie; son, Logan; daughters: Oriana, Laeila and Malia; father, Noel; sisters: Kaye and Bridgette; brothers: Wayne, Omar and Akeem. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at 93rd St. Community Baptist Church. Entombment: Vista Memorial Gardens Cemetery.



WARREN C. WOMBLE, JR., 59, died January 4, Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.



BABY ANIYAH LYSTRA JAMOURIA LEWIS, 11 months old, died December 23, Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Life Changers Antoinette Church.



Richardson

JAMES JACKSON, 84, mechanic, died January 1, Service 9 a.m., Saturday at Mt. Zion Baptist Church.



DWAYNE EDWARD CANNON, SR., 58, cook, died December 31. Services were held.



HERSHEL WELLS, 77, forensic tech., died January 5. Remains shipped to Glenville, GA for final rites.



BRENDA HUGHES, 55, sales woman, died December 31. Remains shipped to Anguilla for final rites.



Range Homestead

ENGRITT S. CANON, 37, direct support staff, died January 7 at Baptist Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Full Deliverance Baptist Church.



ALBERTHA SCHAROUN, 67, assistant day care director, died January 1 at Promise Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Abundant Life Deliverance Ministries, Pembroke Pines.



Hadley Davis

Miami Gardens
HAROLD INGRAHAM, 91, retired, died January 5 at Sunrise Health and Rehabilitation Center. Service 10 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



ERVIN ESTES WILLIAMS, 48, construction worker, died December 28 at Memorial Park Care Center. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at Second Canaan Missionary Baptist Church.



BERNARD HICKMAN, 67, baker, died January 4 at home. Service 12 p.m., Friday at Forest Lawn Cemetery.



DAWN MCCUTCHEON, 41, waitress, died January 1 at Memorial Hospital West. Services were held.



KAREEM THOMAS, 16, student, died December 22. Services were held.



WILLIAM MCDONALD, 74, retired, died January 6 at Jackson North. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Jesus Christ True Church of the Apostolic Faith.



SANDRA JOE KING, 56, died January 6, Service 12 p.m., Tuesday, January 16 in the chapel.



Range Grove

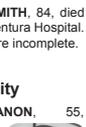
NANCY BROWN, 91, domestic, died January 4 at University of Miami Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at First Baptist Church of Brownsville.



CLARENCE T. CARTER, 51, restaurant manager, died January 4 at Mercy Hospital. Service 2:30 p.m., Saturday at St. Matthew Community Baptist Church.



MURLENE SMITH, 84, died January 4 at Adventura Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.



Trinity

DAVID SANON, 55, environmental service worker, died December 25 at Adventura Hospital. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Haitian Evangelical Baptist Church.



MICHEAL GREENE, 22, customer care, died December 28, Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Mt Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.



Hadley Davis MLK

FRANKIE TURNER, 69, retired mover, died December 31 at North Shore Hospital. Service 2 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



REDA JACKSON, 82, self-employed housekeeper, died January 4 at home. Service 12 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



KEITH WROMAS, SR., 60, retired nurse, died January 1 at home. Services were held.

BETTY KNIGHT, 66, retired airport bag specialist, died January 2 at University of Miami Hospital. Services were held.

Eternal Rest

JEFF LAMBERT BEDEAU, 52, electrician, died January 4. Service 12:30 p.m., Saturday at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church.



A.M. Hall

RODNEY BERNARD GRAHAM, JR., 46, died December 31 at North Shore Medical Center. He is survived by his daughter, Rodneisha; sisters, India, Terri, Patrice; brothers, RoShawn, Jamaal, Craig, Keith; host of other relatives and friends. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Greater Holy Cross Missionary Baptist Church.



Manker

KATTIE HENRIETTA TOOKES, 101, homemaker, died December 31 at home. Service 11 a.m., Friday at Greater Holy Cross Missionary Baptist Church.



Range

SADIE RUTH BENNETT, 85, retired rehabilitation technician for Jackson Memorial Hospital, died January 6. Final rites and burial in Metter, GA.



REBECCA STANLEY, 84, homemaker died December 16. Service 11 a.m., today in the chapel.

CHRISTOPHER LUKE, 22, shift manager, died January 4. Final rites in Philadelphia, PA.

Caballero Riverio

ELLA LORRAINE PUYOL GOWDY, 65, unit secretary at Jackson Memorial Hospital, died December 31 in Atlanta, GA. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.



AJ Manuel

JIM JONES, 73, appliances repair owner, died on December 20, at Jackson North. Viewing 6 - 8 p.m., Friday at Jordan Grove Baptist Church. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at the church.



SEE YOUR OBITUARY ONLINE
WWW.MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

Royal

GARFIELD YOUNG, JR., 83, retired bus driver, died December 29 at Palmetto General Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Birth Baptist Church.



Hadley Georgia

MURDIES RAY POWELL, 79, former co-owner of grocery store, died January 5 at South Georgia Rehab Center in Tifton, GA. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Pentecostal House of Prayer, Valdosta, GA.

Florida Cremation

MERING PRUITT, 50 caretaker, died December 31 died at Miami Jackson Hospital. Memorial service 11 a.m., Saturday at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 6900 NW 27 Ave., Miami, FL.

Card of Thanks

The family of the late,

BENJAMIN STANLEY, JR.
would like to thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with our family in Georgia. Your presence showed how much you care. We appreciate the entire staff of Grace Funeral Home, especially Vincent, Vanessa, Calvin, Donald and Bill. Your outstanding assistance during the funeral services will remain in our hearts forever. Love from, Clara Stanley, mother; daughters and granddaughters.

FAMU mourns loss of Former Dean, Ralph W. Turner

wtxl.com

FAMU officials report that Turner dedicated nearly 50 years of service to the university and retired as a distinguished chemistry professor in 2016.

He passed away on December 26, while visiting family in Philadelphia.

Turner was 80 years old. Turner's tenure at FAMU began in 1967 when he accepted a position with the Department of Chemistry as an associate professor.

He later became a full-time professor, department chair and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In 2006, Turner was promoted to interim dean of the college and served as dean from 2008 until 2012.

Former FAMU President Frederick S. Humphries, Ph.D., met Turner in 1959



Ralph W. Turner

when they both began graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh, where they earned doctoral degrees in chemistry.

"He was an extremely talented man," said Humphries. "He had tremendous discipline. He worked hard. He had an ability that sustained him when things got tough to stay in there and get a good resolution no matter the issue."

edie Jackson, writing for Your Turn said, "His dedication to excellence pulled him out of the classroom, away from the lab and up the administrative ladder to the deanship of the College of Arts and Sciences. Turner's most valuable contribution may have come in the spring of 1968, when FAMU was fighting for its life. The Florida Legislature was talking merger — not sometime in the future, but soon as possible. The FAMU College of Law was already doomed with written orders not to accept any new students and its law books being moved to the new law school at Florida State University.

FAMU President George W. Gore, Jr., decided the university was not going down without a fight. He called a meeting of the Faculty Senate and encouraged members to go on the offensive. Ralph Turner helped to save FAMU."

Family and friends are asked to come celebrate his life at his funeral on Saturday, Jan. 13 at 11 a.m. at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 839 Cedar Springs Highway in Jakin, Georgia.

Miami Times staff also contributed to this report.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN?

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

305-694-6225
The Miami Times

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,

FESTUS BROWN, JR.
03/24/1940 - 01/14/2017

It's been one year since God called you to rest. You are dearly missed by your loving wife, Remelda; son, David; step-son, Jeffery, sisters, brothers, Kayla and other family members.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,

DELVIN PATTERSON
10/01/1959 - 01/14/2013

It's been five years since you left us. It seems like it was yesterday. R.I.P., son. From your loving mother and family.

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,

SHIRLEY COCHRAN
01/09/1948 - 11/11/2007

Love always, Sherrianna, Willie, Shirlenia, and Willie, Jr.

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,

QUANISHA LAVON ARNOLD
01/11/1983 - 11/14/2015

We think of you always, but especially today. You will never be forgotten, although you are gone away. Your memory is a keepsake with which we never part. God has you in His keeping, we have you in our heart. We love and miss you, the family.

Death Notice

THEODORE L. MEADOWS, SR., 73, died December 25. He graduated from North Dade High School class of 1962. Larry, as he was often called, was known in Opa-locka as "the newspaper boy on the red scooter." Service in Victorville, California. Viewing 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, January 17. Service 1 p.m., Wednesday, January 17 at Showers of Blessings Faith City Worship Center, 16700 Green Tree Road, Victorville, CA, 92395.