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BLACKS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY | MARCH 7-13, 2018 | MiamiTimesOnline.com

EDITORIAL

Common sense, not emotion needed, when it comes to guns

The more people we talk to about allowing some school personnel to have access to guns on school campuses, the more clear it becomes that it is more than a bad idea.

The flurry of legislation proposed since the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre has been impressive and mind-boggling at the same time. As the Florida legislative session winds down, lawmakers are pushing through half-baked ideas and perhaps burying good ones based on emotional decisions and reinforced relationships with the National Rifle Association.

Why does it matter that the librarians, coaches and other personnel at school can have access to guns, but teachers in the classroom do not? Once the weapons are on campus, they will find their way into the wrong hands. Besides, apart from Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program or members of the U.S. military or former police officers, most librarians or coaches are not used to having someone shooting at them nor do they shoot at other people on a regular basis.

Bringing guns into the midst of a pool of people dealing with different types of stressors daily, including difficult students, is a recipe for more shootings at school. Is this the way the Republicans reward the NRA? Raise the age to purchase the gun, but provide a way to arm more people — that sounds like a win for the gun lobby.

What's worse, Black students, teachers and staff are at a greater risk if the House of Representatives make it legal to have guns on school campuses. Time and again, Black people who legally are allowed to have guns or say they are not armed have still been shot — based on racial bias. Personnel that have racial bias may shoot a Black student who is making a threat or is caught with a real or fake weapon at school.

Civil and human rights organizations need to challenge these laws, poke gaping holes into them and denounce them as unconstitutional.

After the emotions settle — and make no mistake it will be a while before they settle — common sense must come to roost. Or else the relatively safe haven that are schools will be another breeding ground for gun violence.

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Black people: GOP not for you

RENÉE GRAHAM, *The Boston Globe*

Funny thing about Black Republicans — they're always the last to know that the party to which they've pledged their political devotion will never fully accept them.

That's not to say that Republicans won't cynically embrace Black conservatives as proof of their party's inclusivity. To be a Black Republican is to always be seen as Black first, and as Republican a very distant second.

Michael Steele is now having his getting-of-wisdom moment. At a Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) dinner last week, American Conservative Union communications director Ian Walters said, "We elected Mike Steele as chairman because he was a Black guy; that was the wrong thing to do." Walters was referencing 2009, when Steele became the first Black person to head the Republican National Committee.

Jim Greer, then-Florida Republican Party chairman,



Former RNC chairman Michael Steele

called a vote for Steele, who won on the sixth ballot, "the greatest contribution you will have ever made to the Republican Party." After Obama's historic election, Steele's selection seemed painfully obvious. For the prior 40 years, Republicans had turned demonizing Black people and scaring white folks into a political strategy. By 2009, Steele was a fresh coat of paint on a house rotting from the inside.

Reportedly, Walters' comments about Steele elicited a gasp from the CPAC audi-

ence, likely because he'd said aloud what was generally a whispered narrative. Steele refused Walters' bland apology. When asked by MSNBC's Joy Reid whether the Republican Party has a racism problem, Steele said, "Yes ... and I think we need to be honest and acknowledge it."

On his radio show, Steele later said he hoped Walters' comments are "not a reflection of the leadership of CPAC." In truth, Steele is likely being punished because he's been a frequent critic of President Trump. In a tweet after the recent school shooting in Parkland, Fla., he called the president's absurd desire to arm teachers "delusional." He also used the hashtag #ICallBS, echoing the call of Emma Gonzalez, a Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School student and one of the founders of the student-led #NeverAgain movement.

Matt Schlapp, the American Conservative Union

chairman, all but admitted that the GOP isn't pleased with its former RNC chairman. On Steele's radio show, Schlapp told his host, "You have not been very graceful to the Republicans and conservatives in this room for a very long time."

Never mind Steele's decades of loyalty to the Republican Party. At the end of the day, the GOP just wants Steele to "shut up and dribble," to borrow conservative yakker Laura Ingraham's failed attempt to silence the political activism of NBA superstar LeBron James. To the GOP, Steele is just another Black person who doesn't know his place.

It's a lesson every Black Republican, all 2 percent of them, eventually and painfully learns. While they belong to the party, the party will never belong to them. They can serve the master, but that doesn't mean they'll always be welcome in the master's house.

Effort needed between cops, youth

GREG KING, *mentor, 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project*

Just when we thought our nation was making progress in police/community relations, the highest-ranking law enforcement official in the land, Attorney General Jefferson Sessions III, reminded the nation that there is much more work to be done. His recent remark that "the office of Sheriff is a critical part of the Anglo-American heritage of law enforcement," is stark and chilling to countless thousands who, like me, have dedicated their lives to mentoring our next generation of great citizens and leaders.

As we work to assuage the fears of boys and young men of color who have serious concerns regarding police, which is sometimes developed through their personal experience, it is archaic rhetoric of a bygone era that impedes our ability to eliminate the barriers between police and youth. That barrier perpetuates the disunity of both groups and can lead to tragic

Misconceptions, whether political, social, or racial, often thwart efforts for law enforcement agencies to better connect with their community.

results.

In 2016, several NFL players decided to "Take A Knee" in peaceful protest for what they saw as unfair treatment of minorities by police. While the protests have brought attention to the issue, voices of derision and discord have attempted to commandeer the conversation. The dialogue has devolved into a debate on athlete activism instead of sparking a real exchange on what many Americans see as a major problem.

Interestingly, I frequently interact with law enforcement officials and, contrary

to the yelps of a dastardly few, they invite opportunities to work closely with the residents they serve. They look forward to addressing their concerns. They know that it is better to interrelate than it is to incarcerate. They understand that getting to know their constituency is the foundation of policing and only helps to make their jobs safer and easier.

Misconceptions, whether political, social, or racial, often thwart efforts for law enforcement agencies to better connect with their community. Perspectives about police change when young people know that although they are duty-bound to make arrests many of them come from tough backgrounds, have families, and are former athletes. Truth be told, they do not enjoy making arrests. However, they take an oath to ensure societal safety by whatever rationalization that may be.

Conversely, the ideas police have about youth change dramatically when they learn that the young people are hardworking students, have aspirations of going to college, and many times have aspirations of being law enforcement professionals. There is one unfortunate variable to the equation of police and youth relations — most times they come into contact when a criminal act is suspected to have happened.

Recently, the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, Miami Dolphins and local criminal justice and law enforcement agencies convened at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens for a police and youth Conference, which is the Role Model's annual event to instigate communication between police and students.

The stories, transformations and growth that have resulted, are remarkable.

CARTOON CORNER



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Trump: Incompetent king of chaos

CHARLES BLOW, *The New York Times*

Chaos. That seemed to be the descriptor most tossed around last week to capture the circus around Donald Trump.

But I think chaos is the fruit of this poison tree, not the root of it. That is to say that I don't believe that Trump desires chaos because he feels most at peace when the world around him is experiencing pandemonium.

Rather, I believe that this chaos is the perpetual result of the absolute incompetence and idiocy of a preening philistine who has faked his way through life pretending that he knows more than he does and is tougher than he is.

He has two diametrically opposed impulses.

On the one hand, he latches on to outlandish ideas, or simple, emotional aspects of complicated issues, or conspiratorial drivel, and he

vests the whole of his emotional energy into proving their veracity, often against overwhelming evidence to the contrary. President Obama wasn't born in America. There were good people on both sides in Charlottesville. The "fake news media" is the enemy of the American people. He's doing a good job as president.

On the other hand, and with other issues, his convictions are not fixed at all, but ephemeral and fleeting, changing from moment to moment, like the pattern of fog on a glass.

This is when you can see that he is clearly faking it. He wants so desperately to be right that he says whatever he wants to hear and will respond to.

This is how you can get wildly vacillating positions and bold, empty promises in

bipartisan meetings with the man — whether those meetings are about addressing DACA and immigration or about addressing gun control after the school shooting in Florida.

And one thing that clearly comes across in those meetings is how much he talks rather than listens. It's all about what he believes, what he would do, how courageous he is, how smart he is about the subject.

That is precisely how you know that none of it is true, and that he is simply stringing together a jumble of words into conflicting ideas. You see a fear of being exposed as an idiot and fraud. As Friedrich Nietzsche once put it: "Talking much about oneself can also be a means to conceal oneself."

So Trump simply bulldoz-

es his way through, boasting and bragging, distracting and dissembling, making promises without making sense.

People used to dealing with a sane, logical person who generally doesn't lie and generally makes sense are left scratching their heads, wondering whether to believe what they have heard, whether to make plans and policies around it.

Believing anything Trump says is a recipe for a headache and heartache. The old rules no longer apply. We see the world as through a window — as it is, even if we are a bit removed from the whole of it.

Trump sees it as if in a house of mirrors — everything reflecting some distorted version of him. His reality always seems to return to a kind of delusional narcissism.

Acknowledging urban neglect

Hardemon apologizes to District 5, looks forward to changes in the future

ANDREA ROBINSON
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Two of Miami's top elected officials laid out their ideas for moving the city forward in recent speeches that struck some similar chords on bringing progress in the Magic City.

District 5 Commissioner Keon Hardemon used his annual State of the District address to apologize for past mistakes of the government, but also to predict a stronger emphasis on homeowners in neighborhoods that he said previously have been neglected.

He said the positive changes happening in other parts of the city will come this year into neighborhoods that have long been neglected.

"The district is going to do ... a lot of great things are happening in our community. We can do all things in all districts," said Hardemon.

Days earlier, Mayor Francis Suarez offered kudos to the city's "unsung heroes" — community organizers, volunteers and city employees — who have toiled without recognition.

"In the past, some have said that Miami isn't a 'civically engaged' city. I would challenge those that make that claim to look out into these chambers today, at all of you, the hundreds of individuals who came here today because you care about the state of your city," said Suarez, giving his first State of the City address. "It is all of you that give me the confidence to say, definitively and without reservation, that the state of our city is strong."

Suarez offered a technologically focused blueprint for Miami, driven in part, he later explained, by the inclusion of the city as a finalist for Amazon's second headquarters. He urged administrators to embrace technology more into the city's operations and processes.

"I envision a Miami where you can pull a permit from your smartphone, and we are going to make that vision a reality. Miami must be a tech-savvy city to prepare our residents for the jobs of tomorrow. This starts with education, continues with job training, and culminates with attracting top-tier brands to Miami," Suarez said. "This includes tech companies like Tesla, WeWork and Spotify, who can help redefine what Miami will look like in the future. If we want to remain competitive in the global marketplace, technology must be the economic driver of this city."

But with all the promises for the upcoming year, Hardemon started his speech by acknowledging the shared pains of urban neglect in District 5.

"You are not alone. You're not the only one who feels that pain," Hardemon said, speaking to a packed crowd at the Sandrell Rivers Theater in Liberty City. "We are all hurting."

Hardemon said those pains were caused by the government. "We are hurting and the government hasn't had the decency to apologize," he said. "This government will lead in the healing of its people. The state of District 5 is one of healing."

The commissioner later said that in order to heal, the government has to acknowledge the pains it has created.

Hardemon said he will fo-

cus on shoring up existing housing stock in the district's neighborhoods. Many of the projects Hardemon envisions would be funded through the \$400 million bond that was approved by Miami voters in November.

It's not clear when tax revenues from the bond would begin to flow into city coffers. Calls seeking clarification on that matter to the city budget director were

not returned.

Hardemon said he wants to use \$35 million from that pot to add affordable housing in the district. He said some of those funds should go toward major renovations for existing homeowners who have lived in the neighborhoods for decades but can't afford improvements.

Hardemon said that in some neighborhoods "there are homes with bars on windows." Hardemon said those windows are not high-impact. "People live in

them, that's OK. We want to make sure the assets in our neighborhood are just as protected as those homes in Brickell," he said.

Later, Hardemon said he wants to protect existing homeowners who don't have the funds to purchase storm-impact windows like the ones on newly constructed townhouses and condos in more-affluent areas.

"I want to protect them and their property values. The government owes that to them," he said.

District 5 Commissioner Keon Hardemon prepares to give his address.



Photos courtesy of the city of Miami

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In the shadow of a stadium, slum living

Culmer housing projects are in need of attention, maintenance, renovations

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“

We just want to know if this going to be a good thing for us. We just want a proper place to live.”

Residents of the housing projects Culmer Place and Culmer Gardens say they feel overshadowed by talks of a Major League Soccer stadium, and wonder what happened to a 2016 agreement to renovate their run-down townhomes.

They point to a time when public housing officials, a deputy mayor and others from the not-for-profit world came to Culmer Place in Overtown to listen to their grievances, walk the grounds to see their pain and make promises for improved living conditions.

But residents say after a couple of months of sprucing up the grounds and only a few units renovated, rehab activities have stopped.

And now that investors soccer star David Beckham and businessmen Jorge and Jose Mas have said the Overtown site may be too small for their plans, residents are confused about what that means for the public housing stock that was built in 1977 and 1984.

Charles Haynes grew up in Culmer Place at 623 NW Eighth St., right across the street from the planned stadium site.

Haynes' mother, Clay Francis Adams, still lives there after some 40 years.

So, in January when an “eviction notice” appeared on Adams' door, the 82 year old asked to be wheeled to a community meeting, so she could find out more.

The notices, which were issued to residents of both Culmer Place and Culmer Gardens, turned out to be fake but scared Adams and many of her neighbors, Haynes said. “She was panicked; I had

to push her to the meeting,” Haynes said.

The eviction notice piled on anxiety for the residents of the two housing projects who say there is a lot of conversations about them and around them but not with them.

Culmer Place resident Vera Brownlee said she and several residents were so tired of living with “rats that are baby cats,” dirty buildings, broken



Photo courtesy of Culmer residents

County and public housing officials and members of Miami-Dade's not-for-profit community visited with residents of Culmer Place and Culmer Gardens in 2016, after residents say they complained about their poor living conditions.

sidewalks, rusted pipes, insect infestation and out-dated appliances, that January of 2016 they requested a meeting with Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development officials, the department who oversees the federal housing program.

“They came,” said Brownlee, who has been a part of the Culmer community for more than 20 years. “They came, and we told them about our concerns, and then we walked around the property.”

Then-Deputy Mayor Russell Benford encouraged them to form a resident council to speak on behalf of the tenants, according to a meeting recap dated Jan. 11, 2016.

“Deputy Major [sic] Russell gave his input on setting up Resident Councils for the complex where there could be five positions created with a MOU agreement,” the document read.

Shortly after, some rehab began. Some sidewalks were fixed and lighting was installed. About 16 of the 151 units got new appliances and a makeover.

“Culmer Gardens has 75 units to be worked on and Housing will commit to the

same number for Culmer Place. The inspections will start immediately, but there is a challenge with all public housing, but will look at all of them. The answer was always ‘Money is short’ to do these places, but the committee stood by what they wanted to happen,” the report submitted by Laurestine Bass said.

After about two months of steady progress, everything stopped. The ballot box to elect the officers for the resident council disappeared. Calls to the county were no longer returned.

The noise about a soccer stadium being built in the community started to surface, said Brownlee.

“We just want to know if this going to be a good thing for us,” Brownlee said. “We just want a proper place to live.”

Right before the walk-through, on Dec. 4, 2015, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez announced that Miami Beckham United was being Overtown for a soccer stadium after the deal had been kicked around unsuccessfully at three other sites. To build the stadium, the soccer investors need a 2.8-acre

track of land that belongs to the county, to go along with the 6-contiguous acres purchased from private owners.

But no one has said anything to public housing residents about what this all means for them, said Brenda Kale, who has lived in Culmer Gardens in a three-bedroom apartment for four and a half years.

Kale said if the stadium moves, an assisted-living facility could be built for all the seniors living in the townhomes. Haynes sees economic development, such as what used to be on the vacant lot — Royal Bakery. “It had two shifts, so there was plenty of jobs,” Haynes recalled.

Residents want to re-start the conversation.

Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development Director Michael Liu said the work that was done at Culmer in 2016 and 2017 was “routine maintenance.”

He said his department visited the Culmer apartments to “hear what the residents have to say. We do that normally.”

He said if residents want to have maintenance done on their apartments, they need

to submit work orders. Response time to these requests used to be 20 days, but now it's down to nine, Liu said. Liu said Culmer manager Danny Joseph doesn't have many work orders.

Liu said HUD inspects the housing projects, and so repairs must be done and cited a time when the housing stock managed by the county was deemed sub-standard.

“This agency has a history of not following through,” Liu said. The mayor was concerned about compliance issues that's why he was hired, Liu said.

Liu blames a lot of the anxiety at Culmer on the fake eviction notices, issued by Bishop James Adams, who has since apologized.

Liu said PHCD alerted the residents that they were not being evicted. He said the Culmer apartments have been a part of an overall public housing rehab plan, but funding is scarce. Once funds are identified, the apartments will be rehabbed and “we will engage the residents as we did in Liberty Square. Everyone will be able to live there after the renovations — if they want to.”

Activists: Weapons ban won't work

Miami Gardens mayor says tougher penalties on criminals are needed

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Residents and advocates from Black communities in Miami-Dade County demanded solutions from elected and government officials on how to curb gun violence at a town hall meeting in Liberty City.

“We want to enforce the law for violent offenders, but we also want to help our children as well,” said host and organizer Tangelia Sears.

The Feb. 26th meeting, which was a follow-up to a January meeting Sears spearheaded to create a five-point plan to solve gun violence in inner-city communities, featured a five-person panel of advocates that included Luther “Uncle Luke” Campbell, Valencia Gunder and Leah Wilcox.

Sears, who lost her only son to gun violence in 2015, expressed her sympathy and solidarity with the families of the tragic Parkland school shooting on Valentine's Day. However, she told the government officials in attendance that banning assault rifles alone would not combat crime in the inner cities.

“It will stop killing in public places but not in our communities,” said Sears.

Elected officials from various municipalities, police from different agencies and government officials from across the county crammed into the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church that evening to provide information requested by the community group at the January meeting.

Sears, who founded Parents of Murdered Kids, had given everyone at least 30 days to

bring back answers. Questions, which included statistics on convictions of criminals who commit gun violence crimes and how many programs are receiving county funding to keep kids active and productive, needed answers.

The meeting kicked off with the State Attorney's office, whose representative did not have answers for questions that were emailed to him. When Miami-Dade Police Director Juan Perez came to the U.S. attorney's office defense, Sears shut down the overprotecting and demanded that each agency wait their turn to speak.

Panelist and Liberty City resident, Leah Wilcox, showed proof that she has continued to contact the State Attorney's office for information, but the staff has not been helpful.

“This is a horse and pony show that they are doing with us,” said Campbell.

From there, the discussion shifted to the school board's role in combating gun violence. Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho and school board members Steve Gallon III and Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall attended the meeting. Carvalho updated the community on the Together for Children program, one of the initiatives the school board has implemented to keep students safe and productive.

Later in the meeting, Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert spoke on how he would support legislation on the state and national level that would help stop gun violence. He mentioned that



Janey Tate for Miami Times

Community members host town hall meeting with elected officials and government agencies at Mt. Calvary Baptist church on Feb. 26 to discuss ways to curb gun violence.

tougher penalties needed to be implemented for criminals so that a message is sent that you go to jail when you commit violent crimes.

He and Sears also mentioned that many of the guns on the streets in Black communities are purchased by “straw buyers,” people who buy guns, report them stolen and sell them illegally.

“We need to find a way to make straw buyers go to prison,” Gilbert said. “They are going to gun shows, they are buying guns legally and then reporting them stolen. There have to be fewer guns on the street.”

“We need to be real honest as a community. Sometimes as a community we'll say why are y'all pressing charges on these young Black boys,” said Gilbert, in reference to tougher prosecution on repeat offenders. “They need to go to prison before they

commit the murder, so they understand there are consequences to their actions.”

Sears and Campbell also demanded that Miami-Dade County does more financially to help residents trying to curb gun violence and murder in their communities. They also asked for the county to work with State Rep. Kionne McGhee, who requested a declaration of a “County of Emergency,” similar to a “State of Emergency,” to trigger a release of funds that could help combat gun violence.

Miami-Dade County Deputy Mayor Maurice Kemp told the crowd that the county would not declare a “County of Emergency” because it would not bring dollars to assist with gun violence and crime.

“This is not the answer,” said Kemp. “This is a societal problem.”

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY MIAMI TIMES EDITORIAL DEPT.

Legislation to save taxpayer dollars

On March 6, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners passed legislation that provides a process for merging contiguous street lighting special taxing districts. Miami-Dade County administrators and operates more than 900 street lighting special taxing districts, many of which are contiguous to each other. The ordinance provides a process for residents to request merging those districts and for the county to analyze the benefits of a proposed merger. The ordinance passed unanimously and will become effective in 10 days.

FANM's Annual Fundraising Gala

Fann Aiyisyan Nan Miyami (Haitian Women of Miami) will gather 400 members of the South Florida community, including funders, donors, and political, corporate and philanthropic leaders for its annual gala at Florida International University's North Campus at 7 p.m. on Saturday, March 10.

This year's gala is themed “Upholding the Promise: Justice For All.” The gala will consist of the launch of the Global Justice Fund; the revealing of FANM's new name; a silent auction of famous Haitian artists Turgu Bastien and Louis Rosemond's work; live auction by famous auctioneer Andre Pierre, who is the former mayor of North Miami; a full course dinner; songs by Christina Ponthieux and Princess Merriah Dessous; folkloric dance by Sosyete Koukou Dance Group; music by Arozze Twoubadou with special guest, Kapi of Tabou

Combo.

FAMU Statewide Recruitment Tour

Florida A&M University (FAMU) President Larry Robinson will launch his first statewide recruitment tour on Friday, March 9. During the tour, Robinson will give a special presentation to high school students and their families about why they should choose FAMU, and accomplished alumni in their respective fields will give personal testimonials about how FAMU impacted their lives. They will be joined by other alumni, student representatives, faculty, deans, administrators and recruiters who will interact with potential students as well as admit top scholars on the spot. In preparation for the tour, FAMU is launching three new online platforms for incoming students, including a new virtual reality tour, a customized social media network for admitted students and an admissions landing portal.

The tour will come to South Florida at 9:30 a.m. on March 12 at Broward College, 7200 Pines Boulevard and 6:30 p.m. at Miami Jackson High School, 1751 NW 36th St. in Miami.

Students and parents can RSVP for the tour stops by calling the Division of Student Affairs at 850-599-3183.

Coconut Grove Walking One Stop

Walking One Stop will host a gathering at 9:30 a.m. on March 19 at the Miami Police Department's Coconut Grove District Station located at 2200 West Flagler St. After the gathering, participants will be dispatched to a Coconut Grove neighborhood until noon.

Tillerson heads to Africa to explain Trump's comments

WASHINGTON (AP) — As far as Africa's concerned, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and the Trump administration have some explaining to do.

President Donald Trump's description of "shithole countries" in January was greeted with a mix of horror and outrage in Africa, where many don't know what to think about the U.S. president — or what he thinks of them. He's rarely spoken about priorities for the continent, which garnered a mere seven paragraphs on the very last pages of Trump's National Security Strategy.



President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson confer during a working lunch with African leaders during the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Sept. 20, 2017.

It falls to Tillerson to mend the damage as he travels to the continent on Tuesday, becoming the most senior U.S. official to set foot there since Trump took office more than a year ago.

Tillerson, in a speech laying out the administration's Africa policy, said the continent's rapid economic growth and fast-rising populations mean its future is increasingly linked to America's. He said the U.S. was committed to helping, but that prosperity and basic stability would be impossible until the security situation is brought under control.

"My firm belief is that there is ample opportunity on the continent for economic growth, for greater prosperity, and for responding to global challenges through mutually respectful partnerships," Tillerson said.

It's a starkly different message from the one Trump delivered in a meeting with U.S. lawmakers this year that soon became public, forcing humiliated U.S. ambassadors to

apologize and Trump to send a letter to African leaders affirming his respect.

Making Tillerson's job harder, he's showing up on the continent with few concrete goals or new actions to announce. As one senior State Department official briefing reporters on condition of anonymity put it: "There's really no deliverables."

Trump hasn't announced a signature initiative to help the continent, such as the PEPFAR program for HIV/AIDS that George W. Bush started, and many of his sweeping budget cuts affect overseas programs that disproportionately help Africa. Tillerson did announce Tuesday an additional \$533 million in humanitarian assistance to help with famine and conflict-related needs in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria, but it was unclear exactly where the money would come from.

For Tillerson, who did not visit Africa during his first

year as the top U.S. diplomat, it may be that the best way to show deference to a continent suspicious of Trump is to listen. State Department officials said Tillerson wanted to hear from leaders in Africa in what ways they're most eager to collaborate with the United States.

"It may be a listening tour for him, but it's also a watching tour" for everyone else, said Witney Scheidman, a former Africa official at the State Department now at the Brookings Institution. "When do we get to see the outlines of what the Trump Africa policy is?"

Fueling skepticism that Trump's administration has thought much about Africa is a long list of vacancies that made planning for his visit all the more difficult. Trump has not named an assistant secretary for Africa to oversee the continent, nor an ambassador to key countries like South Africa.

CRA

CONTINUED FROM 1A

CRA chairman Keon Harde-mon hailed the purchase decision. "Town Park represents thousands of people in Overtown," he said, calling it one of the options for lower-income residents to own.

Overtown residents who usually criticize the CRA say they like the plan.

"They have to do something to keep it affordable. They have no other choice," said activist Irby McKnight. "I've been saying all along [the CRA] is gentrifying the community. Now they realized their wrongs and are trying to rectify them. I give them high marks."

The workforce housing rental development contract went to Downtown Retail Associates LLC, which will construct Sawyers Landing, at 249 NW Sixth St. The CRA-owned 3.4-acre parcel is in the southern boundary of the redevelopment district.

The principal investor in Downtown Retail Associates is developer Michael Swerdlow of the Swerdlow Group. The other managing partner is Alben Duffie, a former Miami-Dade County housing official.

The parcel was previously awarded to Black developer R. Donahue Peebles for a transit-oriented development that would have connected with the All Aboard Florida railroad project, which eventually will link Miami and Fort Lauderdale with Orlando. That construction project reportedly was to have a mix of market-rate and retail space.

However, the CRA and Peebles could not agree on



what the project should be, and the deal fell through.

The redevelopment agency reopened a competitive bidding process last summer. Two companies submitted proposals — Downtown Retail Associates LLC and Lancelot River Miami LLC. A selection committee reviewed the proposals and ranked Downtown Retail first.

The CRA board accepted the selection committee's recommendation. Members authorized Executive Director Cornelius Shiver to negotiate a development agreement with the winning company.

The proposal calls for an 860,000-square-foot mixed-use project with 15,000 square feet of ground-level community, retail and restaurant space; 50,000 square feet for entertainment space, 125,000 square feet of large national discount retailers, a 30,000-square-foot fitness center and a municipal parking garage.

In addition to the workforce housing units, the project will include office space

for the CRA and more than \$500,000 worth of improvements to Sawyers Walk, a nearby pedestrian walkway named after a Black family who once owned the land.

According to a blog called The Next Miami, Sawyer's Landing has Letters of Intent for 71 percent of its space, with tenants rumored to be Saks Off Fifth, PetSmart and LA Fitness.

The CRA estimates the development is projected to create numerous construction jobs and more than 390 permanent jobs for the local community.

In the second project, the board voted for CRA administrators to purchase 19 vacant units at Town Park Plaza North, one of three housing developments in historic Overtown that comprise the largest sources of homeownership, officials say.

Miami officials said the purchase of the units is the first step in implementing a CRA Neighborhood Stabilization and Homeownership Program. It isn't clear how the program would affect the remaining 150 units in the complex.

Shiver said that the program is to save affordable housing and make it available to lower-income residents for purchase.

"You are not a true stakeholder in this community until and unless you own a piece of the rock," Shiver said in a statement.

"[Chairman] Keon Harde-mon has directed me to take deliberate and strategic measures to ensure that the residents of Overtown, those who have suffered the most under slum and blight, have an opportunity to own their homes during these transforming times in Overtown."

AUDIT

CONTINUED FROM 1A

The appointment of the interim chief auditor comes just as a School Board advisory committee authorized a yearly audit of the \$1.2 billion general obligation bond that was approved in 2012. Additionally, the school board voted last November for a comprehensive independent audit of all expenditures of the bond, and to also publish regular updates about expenditures until all the money is spent.



Betty T. Ferguson

In Broward and other Florida school districts, the chief auditor reports directly to the superintendent. In Miami-Dade, "there is a strict distinction between the superintendent and audit function," said board Vice Chairman Chris Norwood. "Why? Because in the field of auditing that's what you want."

The school board is expected to launch a nationwide search to fill the position. That process has not yet begun.

Norwood said he's familiar with both Williams and Mendez-Cartaya.

"I admire and respect Iraida for her service," Norwood said. "I support the recommendation of the auditor for Trevor being the interim. He's been assistant chief auditor for many years. I just don't see why he's not worthy of being the interim while the school board is in the process of selecting a permanent auditor."

Norwood added that over the past 30 years in Miami-Dade County Public Schools there has not been a time when the interim auditor has not been the assistant chief auditor.

Former Miami-Dade Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson said Williams should have been a shoo-in for the position. She and other members of the Unrepresented People's Positive Action Council (UP-PAC) sent to each board member a letter supporting

Williams. "I read his resume. I could see why the retiring chief auditor would recommend him," Ferguson said.

Both Williams and Mendez-Cartaya are longtime employees of the school district, and both are certified public accountants. Their work experience with audits diverges wildly after that.

Williams is the assistant chief auditor, a position he has held for 10 years. He also has worked in the district's Office of Management and Compliance Audits in various roles for more than 25 years. He also has conducted or overseen various audits within the school district and for Miami-Dade County, the city of Homestead and several local agencies.

Mendez-Cartaya is an associate superintendent with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Grants Administration and Community Engagement — the position Carvalho held before he was named superintendent — and serves as the district's chief lobbyist.

She has held that position since June 2014 and served as assistant superintendent between 2008 and 2014. She worked with the Office of Budget Management from 1989 through 1994, and rose up the ranks as staff auditor and senior auditor to budget analyst.

In her current role, Mendez-Cartaya reports directly to Carvalho and has regular contact with school board members. Williams does not. Neither Carvalho nor

School Board Chairman Perla Hantman returned calls for comment.

Attorney Stephen Hunter Johnson, a member of the district's Audit and Budget Advisory Committee, said at the Jan. 30 meeting, the committee agreed to accept de Oca's recommendation and nominated Williams as interim chief auditor.

But before a vote could be taken, Johnson said, Carvalho raised his hand with an unreadiness, and said the committee should have consulted with him as per outlined in district procedures. The matter was deferred until a special meeting on Feb. 5.

The School Board policy calls for the committee to consult with the superintendent on the regular chief auditor position. It does not mention consultation about the interim chief auditor position.

Johnson said Carvalho's action was unusual. "He interjected himself into the discussion. That's not common," Johnson said.

He added that only the chairman of the committee, Erick Wendelken, met with Carvalho. "There was no sit-down meeting" of the committee, Johnson said.

At the Feb. 5 follow up committee meeting, two items were on the agenda — the selection of the interim auditor and the job description for the permanent auditor.

Johnson said Mendez-Cartaya's name emerged as a possible replacement for the position. He didn't remember who nominated her. Minutes of the meeting are not yet posted to the school district website.

"Literally it came down to one of the board members saying 'why don't you recommend two?' That's what happened," Johnson said.

Gallon said he will present an item at the March 21 meeting to remove the consultation provision. "The position does not report to the superintendent," he said.

WELLS FARGO

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New deposits of \$25,000 • Wells Fargo's highest savings interest rate • Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New deposits of \$25,000 • Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits

¹ Special promotional deposit-based savings rate (APR) of 1.25% is available for Platinum Savings Account opened on or before 03/31/18. APY is 0.32%. Minimum deposit is \$25,000. Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ² Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is based on the promotional savings rate. ³ Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is based on the promotional savings rate. ⁴ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ⁵ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ⁶ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ⁷ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ⁸ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ⁹ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ¹⁰ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ¹¹ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ¹² Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ¹³ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ¹⁴ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ¹⁵ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable limits. ¹⁶ Funds are FDIC-insured up to the maximum allowable 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BREAKING INTO THE **CANNABIS MARKET**



ARE BLACK ENTREPRENEURS BEING LOCKED OUT OF THE BURGEONING MARIJUANA BUSINESS?

NIAJA SMITH
Howard University News Service

The market for marijuana is booming. Seven states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for recreational use. An additional 22 states have made medical use of marijuana lawful.

Along with buying marijuana to smoke, customers can now get cannabis-infused candy, cookies, brownies, sodas and cuisine prepared by specialized marijuana chefs, like Andrea Drummer in Los Angeles.

Customers can even get marijuana when they buy art, as they do when purchasing art from District C, created by a group of Gallaudet students. The \$60 paintings are delivered to the buyers' front door along with an eighth of an ounce of cannabis.

According to ArcView Group research, revenues from the U.S. marijuana industry are expected to grow to more than \$21 billion by 2021.

Even as the marijuana market grows, the faces of dispensary operators, growers, cultivators, suppliers and other marijuana-related businesses are overwhelmingly white. According to Amanda Lewis, who covers drug policy at BuzzFeed, Black people own only about 1 percent of the nation's more than 3,500 marijuana dispensaries.

Getting in the marijuana business is difficult. First, prospective merchants need to lay down the groundwork. That includes preparing a business plan. A business plan will help you find investors by providing them with a clear description of the prospective company's goals, as-

“
Revenues from the U.S. marijuana industry are expected to grow to over \$21 billion by 2021. So far, Black entrepreneurs make up only 1 percent of the cannabis business owners.”



sets, plans and projections.

Next, secure the necessary funding, buy or rent a suitable place, then you can get your permit or license to open a dispensary.

The main barrier to entering the cannabis market, according to experts and Black entrepreneurs is money. Race, they explain, is still a factor.

The type of licensing and documentation a marijuana business requires depends on the location of the operation and the sort of marijuana business the owner plans.

A company that grows and sells marijuana to retail businesses may require different licensing and permits than one operating a dispensary or a restaurant using marijuana in its cuisine.

In Maryland, the application fee is \$8,000 and the licensing fee is \$80,000. In Texas the application fee is \$7,356, the license fee is \$488,520 for a two-year period. In Philadelphia, the application fee is \$5,000. The licensing fee is \$30,000.

Chicago lawyer William Koffie took interest in the dispensary industry in 2014 but faced a few hurdles.

“I thought the process wasn't too hard; it just took time and effort,” Koffie said. “You really need to put in the effort to find out the information. In addition, a lot of the information needed is on the internet, just have to type it in Google.”

“I also did a lot of research with other dispensaries that were operational in California and Colorado. They were more than willing to share information while other places

SEE MARKET 8B

1 in 5 Black men did not work in 2016, study says

More than 21 percent of them were unemployed

PATRICK GILLESPIE
CNNMoney

Labor Department data that goes back to 1972. And since then, President Donald Trump has taken credit for the feat.

Black unemployment is near an all-time low, but that only tells part of the story.

One in every five working-age Black men in the United States did not work at all in 2016, nor earn any income.

"It's staggering that this level of Black men are disconnected from the workforce," says Janelle Jones, an analyst at the Economic Policy Institute who co-authored a recently published, wide-ranging report on hours worked by all workers ages 25 to 54. EPI is a left-leaning research group.

The share of prime age men not working varies considerably between races. For white and Hispanic men between the ages of 25 and 54, the figure was 10 percent and 11 percent in 2016, respectively.

More than 21 percent of Black men did not work at all in 2016. That's up from 12.8 percent in 1979, the first year of EPI's analysis.

In December, Black unemployment hit an all-time low of 6.8 percent, according to the

After Jay-Z criticized Trump in an interview with CNN's Van Jones, Trump tweeted, "Somebody please inform Jay-Z that because of my policies, Black unemployment has just been reported to be at the LOWEST RATE EVER RECORDED."

Janelle Jones, the analyst, argues that the fall in Black unemployment is a welcome sign, but it's not anything to get excited about. The white unemployment rate is 3.5 percent, Hispanic unemployment 5 percent, Asian unemployment 3 percent.

"If the white unemployment rate was 7 percent, nobody would say 'mission accomplished,'" says Jones. "In any other context, this is not that great."

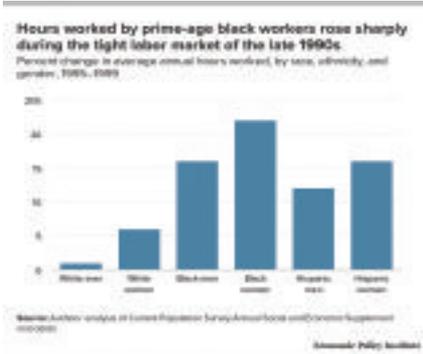
As for the high number of out-of-work Black men in their prime working years, Jones says a collage of factors are at play. The disproportionate number of incarcerated Black men is one reason. A

Women account for all of the increase in prime-age adults' annual work hours from 1979 to 2016

Average annual hours worked, and changes in hours worked, men, women, and all workers ages 25-54, 1979-2016

Age group	1979		2016		Change
	Hours	Rate	Hours	Rate	
All prime-age adults (25-54)	1,233.0	1,007.7	1,415.0	1,181.0	172.0
Men	1,214.1	1,007.7	1,214.1	1,007.7	0.0
Women	1,251.9	1,007.7	1,415.0	1,181.0	407.3
All prime-age women (25-54)	1,251.9	1,007.7	1,415.0	1,181.0	407.3
Men	1,214.1	1,007.7	1,214.1	1,007.7	0.0
Women	1,251.9	1,007.7	1,415.0	1,181.0	407.3

Notes: Hours worked on non-subsidized time (not including hours worked on the basis of military service).
Source: Authors' analysis of Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement microfiles.

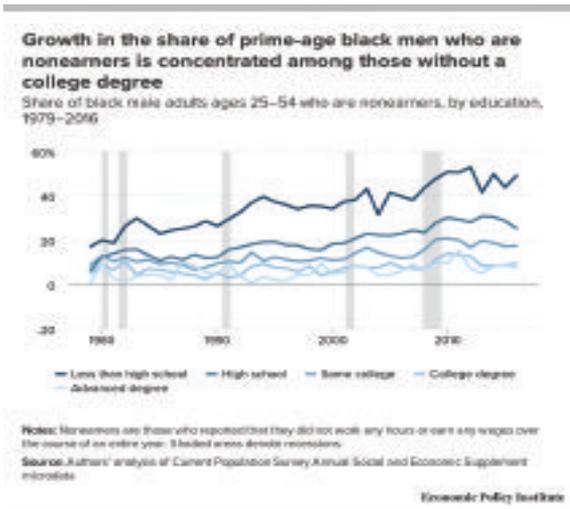


lack of job opportunities for formerly incarcerated Black men is another.

"When they come back into their communities, what are we doing? What can they do? What are their economic prospects?" Jones asks rhetorically.

Additionally, education levels have a key role in a person's ability to find any kind of work, even if some jobs don't require high school diplomas or college degrees. Of the Black men who didn't earn any income in 2016, 75 percent had a high school degree or less.

The majority of nonworking, prime age Black men are out of a job involuntarily — that is, they want to work. But ill-



ness, disability or an inability to find work hold them back. That trend is true for the same demographic of white and Hispanic men, but the issue is less acute.

The EPI study examined hours across demographics and gender between 1979 and 2016. Overall, it found all working-age men are working fewer hours, or at all, than they were in 1979. Nearly a third of all working-age men are working fewer hours, or at all, than they were in 1979. That figure dropped to 19 percent in 1999, but has since drifted back up to 24 percent.

Female participation in the U.S. economy was a major area of interest for former Fed Chair Janet Yellen.

TheGrio.com's editor moves to NBC BLK

Todd Johnson is the new editorial manager

JENNA AMATULLI
HuffPost

NBC BLK is getting a new editorial manager: Todd Johnson, formerly the managing editor at theGrio.com, assumed the role on March 5.



Todd Johnson

According to a newsroom memo obtained by HuffPost, Johnson will be joining the NBC News digital team under Executive Editor Catherine Kim. Kim's memo to the newsroom Tuesday morning expressed her excitement about Johnson's role in NBC BLK's coverage:

"We're thrilled to have his ideas, talent and energy lead and shape the voice and journalism of NBC BLK as it enters its third year.... As we continue to raise the ambition of our digital journalism, NBC BLK, NBC Latino, NBC Asian America and NBC OUT will play a key role in expanding the breadth of our news coverage and our audience."

NBC BLK, launched in 2015, produces stories by, for and about the Black community in an effort to further the conversation about social issues, culture and more.

Johnson joined theGrio.com not long after its launch in August 2009 as a video journalist and reporter. The stories he's covered include the earthquake in Haiti, Hurricane Katrina's impact on New Orleans and the racial justice protests in Ferguson, Missouri. He also spent time as the site's sports editor before becoming managing editor.

MARKET

CONTINUED FROM 7B

in Illinois seemed a little bit recalcitrant.

"So, what stopped the process for Koffie?"

"Finances, period," he said, nothing else. Everything else was in place.

"I think African-Americans have organizational issues coupled with the fact that USA has an agenda against having us succeed. Most investment groups I went to felt that they were not willing to risk the application fees when they thought the chances of them being approved were slim to none. That was frustrating and I felt that was a 'N-word complex.'"

Regardless whether the system is set up to weed us out, we still need to find ways to overcome those barriers."

George Allen is the co-founder of Comfy Tree, a marijuana consulting company. According to the company's website, the focus is helping entrepreneurs in emerging markets who are nervous about introducing cannabis into their community. Allen said that most Blacks and Latinos interested in the cannabis industry need is information.

"I don't think minorities are properly informed on what it requires to have a dispensary," Allen said. "Many people don't have the proper funding, and it's not like you can walk into a bank and say, 'Hey, I need a loan for this amount to open a dispensary.'"

"That's one of the many reasons why we help minorities get the proper funding as well as knowledge on the marijuana industry through virtual classes online stocked with in-depth, interactive training on all subjects of cannabis."

In April 2016, none of several Black applicants who applied for marijuana licenses were among the 15 companies approved in Maryland to grow marijuana for medical use. The state's Legislative Black Caucus criticized the lack of racial diversity. In response, the state's Cannabis Commission hired a consultant seven months later to improve diversity.

CITY OF MIAMI ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

IFB NO. 781382 CITYWIDE SIDEWALK REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

CLOSING DATE: 2:00 PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018.

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Tuesday, 3/20/18 at 5:00 PM)

VOLUNTARY Pre-Proposal Conference Monday, March 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM Location: Miami Riverside Center (MRC), 444 SW 2nd Ave., 8th Floor North Conference Room, Miami, Florida, 33130.

Detailed specifications for this IFB are available at the City of Miami, Department of Procurement, website at: www.miamigo.com/procurement Telephone No. 305-416-1912.

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

AD NO. 26749

Emilio T. González, Ph.D.
City Manager

MCM

MIA - Interior Wash Rack for Swissport Facility MCC-P-256-B

MCM is soliciting bids for this project under the MCC-8-10 Program at Miami-Dade Aviation Department:

Scope: Installation of new interior wash rack system for Swissport Facility

Packages Bidding: **SBE/Const Trade Set-Aside Packages - "A"** Miscellaneous General Work, **"B"** Tile, **"C"** Drywall, **"D"** Painting, **"E"** Fire Sprinklers, **"G"** Plumbing, **"H"** HVAC, **"I"** Electrical. Package **"E"** Wash Rack System - OPEN (No Contract Measure).

Pre-bid Conference (Mandatory): Thursday, March 22, 2018 @ 10:00 AM
Location: MCM 4301 NW 22nd Street, Building 3030, 2nd Floor, Conference Room #1
Sealed Bids Due: Tuesday, April 3, 2018 @ 2:00 PM
Bonding required for bids of \$200,000 or higher

For information, please contact MCM's MIA offices (305)869-4563

CITY OF MIAMI

City of Miami Notice of Solicitation

ITB No.: 17-18-008
Title: Miami Woman's Club Baywalk Project, D2
ITB Due Date Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 2:00 PM

Voluntary Pre-Bid Conference
City of Miami
444 SW 2nd Avenue, 6th Floor South Conference Room
Miami, Florida 33130
Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Friday, March 23, 2018 at 5:00 PM)

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

For additional information, please contact Anthony Hansen at 305-416-1895 or visit our Procurement Opportunities webpage at: <http://www.miamigo.com/MiamiCapital/NewBidsandProposals.html>

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

DP# 29641 Emilio T. González, City Manager



Parterre gardens at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens

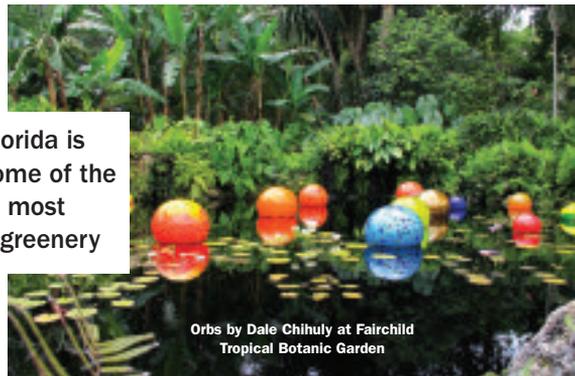
Great gardens to visit

Miami-Dade County



The Shinden Garden at Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens

South Florida is home to some of the state's most beautiful greenery



Orbs by Dale Chihuly at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens

Flickr

GERALDINE FABRIKANT

New York Times

Although many tourists flock to South Florida for its glorious palette of white beaches, blue-gray waters and yellow sun, the area is also home to lush and exotic gardens in every shade of green. Here are four of South Florida's most enticing green oases.

MORIKAMI MUSEUM AND JAPANESE GARDENS

The land for Delray Beach's Morikami Garden was the gift of the Japanese immigrant George Morikami, a successful farmer who in the mid-1970s donated 200 acres to Palm Beach County. That land now features six discrete gardens created by the designer Hoichu Kurisu, whose credits include the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, Ill. His vision in Florida was inspired by gardens in Japan; each of Morikami's six gardens reflects a style from a different epoch, beginning with the 9th century.

In Kurisu's words, which are featured on the park's website, the intention is for visitors "to lay aside the chaos of a troubled world." He has accomplished that with the use of small lakes and paths that wind among pine forests, bamboo groves and rock arrangements throughout the gardens.

The gardens at Morikami are informed as much by religion as by plant life.

With its two landscaped islands joined by a bridge, Morikami's Shinden Garden was inspired by the gardens that were adapted for the estates of Japanese nobles from Chinese garden design. The park's Paradise Garden has paths for strolling the perimeters of its two small lakes in a style that recalls gardens that appealed to the new Samurai class of the 13th century.

In Morikami's Early Rock Garden, rocks are set vertically and spaced to suggest a waterfall — an arrangement that reflects the rise of Zen and its asceticism.

Karesansui Late Garden features rocks that are artfully placed on expanses of gravel. That style — karesansui means dry landscape — was meant to serve as an aid to meditation from within a temple.

400 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach, Fla., morikami.org. Open Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on major holidays.

NAPLES BOTANICAL GARDEN

What do towering bamboos, crepe myrtle, jack fruit banyan trees, orange bromeliads and bougainvillea have in common? They all thrive in ecosystems between the 26th parallel north and the 26th



Hummingbird LEGO sculpture The Naples Botanical Garden

Sean Kenney, LEGO artist

parallel south. Specifically, at the Naples Botanical Gardens, where the landscape designers include the Miami-based Raymond Jungles, known for his exuberant tropical gardens.

Next to the cool, elegant Lea Asian Garden with a replica of a Javanese temple ruin is the rollicking Kapnick Brazilian Garden: Jungles's tribute to his mentor, the celebrated Brazilian landscape architect

Roberto Burle Marx, who died in 1994. The centerpiece of the Brazilian garden is a mosaic by Marx: bromeliads in pink, purple, yellow and orange mirror his colors.

The Caribbean Kapnick Garden, designed by Bob Truskowski, has a laid-back vibe: Among the lush mango and banana trees are hammocks, a cottage and a bocce court that help transport you to island time. The Scott Florida Garden is notable for its bougainvillea and a date palm with a triple trunk. Last year the Naples Botanical Gardens, which opened in 2009, became the youngest to win the Garden of Excellence award from the American Public Gardens Association.

4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples, Fla., naplesgarden.org. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Tuesday, when it opens at 8 a.m.

VIZCAYA MUSEUM AND GARDENS

The glories of great French and Italian gardens have been recreated at Miami's Vizcaya, once the home of the International Harvester executive James Deering.

Vizcaya's grounds were the brainchild of Diego Suarez, the landscape architect who began his career in the early 1900s collaborating with Arthur Acton, the English expatriate and art collector, to help restore La Pietra, the Acton

villa near Florence. Suarez became enamored of the elaborate stone work, statuary, fountains with soaring sprays and fountains that gave Italian gardens of the 18th century both elegance and fantastical whimsy.

Vizcaya's grounds were built on fill that had once been a mangrove swamp, now held back by a retaining wall. On level land Suarez created French-style parterres: formal gardens of neatly trimmed plant beds that are laid out in symmetrical patterns with paths for walking.

The Fountain Garden includes a plaza with a fountain from the Italian town of Sutri, which once provided water for its residents. Amid the strangler figs and oaks dripping with Spanish moss, Suarez added a two-story "Secret Garden," as it is now known, where succulents and cactus flowers bloom in pots built into the stucco walls.

3251 South Miami Avenue, Miami, vizcaya.org. Open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except Tuesday. Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

Fairchild, in Coral Gables, has a vast collection of tropical plants that were initially gathered from around the world by David Fairchild, a well-known plant collector.

SEE VISIT 10B

A first: Black woman owns NASCAR team

Meet Melissa Harville-Lebron, the history making mom-entrepreneur

SELENA HILL
Black Enterprise

Melissa Harville-Lebron never imagined that her entrepreneurial pursuits and ambitions would lead her to make history as the first Black woman to own a race team licensed by NASCAR.

Harville-Lebron, a 47-year-old single mother raising her three biological children as well as her siblings' four kids, started her career in the entertainment industry as an intern at Sony Music. In 2005, she launched her own music label while working for New York City's Department of Correction office. Nearly a decade later, she suffered from a severe asthma attack that forced her into early retirement and inspired her to take the risk of launching a multifaceted entertainment company, W.M. Stone Enterprises Inc., in 2014.

A RACE TO HISTORY

Harville-Lebron says her journey into auto racing began unexpectedly when she took her sons to a NASCAR experience event at

Charlotte Super Speedway in hopes of deterring them from taking up such a dangerous hobby. Instead, the experience only piqued her sons' interests and eventually led to her investing hundreds of thousands of dollars to develop her own team.

"I got invited to a NASCAR experience, and I brought my boys along thinking that it would discourage them from driving," she told Black Enterprise. But "it did not work that way." They drove 149 mph and 150 mph during their first session and loved every minute of it while she watched in awe.

Nonetheless, seeing the passion and joy that her sons had for racing compelled Harville-Lebron to want to help them follow their heart. However, as she explored the sport's history, she noticed its notorious lack of diversity. There were little to no drivers of color, let alone an owner. That motivated her all the more to fill the gap.

She created E2 Northeast Motorsports under the umbrella of W.M. Stone Enterprises, Inc. The E2 Northeast



Melissa Harville-Lebron and her sons Eric and Enico Lebron

Motorsports team became the first multicultural team to race competitively in NASCAR, with four Black and

Latino drivers — two in the camping world truck series and two in NASCAR's Whelen All-American Series. Two

of the drivers are brothers and Harville-Lebron's sons, Eric and Enico.

Besides making history,

Harville-Lebron celebrated another victory on Feb. 16, when her team ran its first official race in the Camping World Truck Series (NCWTS) at Daytona. Scott Stenzel started the race in an E2 Northeast Motorsports Chevrolet, marking his return to the NCWTS following a three-year hiatus. He came in 15th place at Daytona International Speedway.

In a statement released earlier this month, Harville-Lebron called it an "honor" to partner with Stenzel and the NCWTS team, Copp Motorsports. "This team truly exemplifies diversity, that is sure to attract a younger multicultural fan base. It's an honor to announce that Stenzel is now a part of this racing family."

In addition to granting opportunities to people of color, Harville-Lebron wishes to see more become sports owners, particularly of NASCAR teams. "It's important for our culture to push generational wealth to our children. It's important to lead by example. All too often our children see negative images of our culture, and I think it's very important for people of our culture actually succeeding in business," she said.

Legacy of 'Mr. Phil' preserved by \$35,000 check

Philando Castile charity pays off lunch debt for hundreds of students

MATTHEW HAAG
The New York Times

Before Philando Castile became a household name in July 2016, when his deadly encounter with a Minnesota police officer was streamed live on Facebook, students at J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School knew him simply as Phil. He was the school nutrition worker who often swooped in to pay for their lunches when they could not afford them.

Now, a year and a half after his death, a fundraiser created in Castile's memory is continuing his legacy. Last week, the creator of the charity, Philando Feeds the Children, delivered a \$35,000 check to St. Paul Public Schools — enough to finish paying off the debt owed by every student enrolled in the National School Lunch Program at the district's 56 schools, including Castile's former campus.

"We are merely trying to continue Phil's kind spirit,"



A memorial for Philando Castile at the Minnesota governor's residence in July 2016.

Castile was known to buy for needy students' lunches at the school where he worked.

said Pamela Fergus, a psychology instructor at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul who started the fundraiser. "He loved those kids."

Fergus created the charity last fall as a class project with her students in Psychology 212. It had a more modest goal then: to raise several thousand dollars to cover students' cafeteria debts at J.J. Hill. But the donations came rushing in, easily surpassing their expectations and raising tens of thousands of dollars in a few months.

In October, Fergus delivered the first check, a \$10,000 payment to St. Paul Public

SEE PHIL 11B



AP Photo/Ron Jenkins

Cynthia Marshall joins the Mavericks after a career at AT&T spearheading programs promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion.

Doing it for the sisterhood

Cynthia Marshall will be the Dallas Mavericks' interim CEO

CAROLINE CLARKE
Black Enterprise

Cynthia Marshall, named interim CEO of the Dallas Mavericks in the wake of a scathing article exposing the basketball organization's culture of sexual harassment against women, is about to give a whole new meaning to the idea of March Madness.

She laid out a plan for the next month. It includes completing the internal investigation already launched by Mavericks owner Mark Cuban; personally meeting with

each of the organization's 141 employees; and formalizing a detailed process for transforming the organization's dysfunctional culture and refining its operational effectiveness, with an emphasis on all systems and policies related to reporting and addressing employee complaints.

"We are committed to running a business of excellence," said Marshall, in a phone interview with Black Enterprise. "Clearly we have work to do, and I walk in knowing that there's a lot that I don't

know. But I do know how to lead, and how to effect necessary change in an organization."

CHANGING WHAT IS POSSIBLE

Named as one of the Top 50 Most Powerful Women in Corporate America by Black Enterprise in 2015, Marshall is a quick thinker, straight talker and highly respected leader who was senior vice president, human resources and chief diversity officer at AT&T before she retired in 2017 to launch her own consulting firm.

With more than 30 years of telecommunications experience, in addition to HR, she has held

positions in operations, network engineering and planning and regulatory/external affairs. Admittedly, however, Marshall says she has never experienced sexual harassment herself. "From the minute I walked into AT&T in 1981, when it was just 'the phone company,' safety was critical to the culture," Marshall recalls. "It took precedence over all else. We need that same kind of mindset everywhere in corporate America."

ANSWERING THE CALL FROM CUBAN

A San Francisco Bay area native, Marshall was

SEE CEO 11B

VISIT

CONTINUED FROM 9B

When his friend Robert Montgomery, a retired accountant and also a plant enthusiast, opened the 83-acre park in 1938, it was named for Fairchild. The garden includes the stunning Lin Lougheed Spiny Forest of Madagascar, named for the art collector and donor. Because Fairchild is at the same latitude as that country, it is able to nurture the spiny octopus trees, swollen baobabs, cactuses and desert roses found on the world's fourth largest island.

Fairchild also has a butterfly

conservatory, housed in the Paul and Swanee DiMare Science Village, which includes a metamorphosis laboratory where visitors can watch butterflies emerge from their chrysalises. Twice daily the staff releases butterflies into the conservatory; visitors may find several sitting quietly on their arms. Fairchild's William F. Whitman Tropical Fruit Pavilion, named for a rare fruit collector and garden benefactor, offers everything from jackfruit vines to miracle fruit. It also boasts mangosteens, a favorite of David Fairchild's, according to Carl Lewis, the garden's director.

10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, Fla., fairchildgarden.org. Open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every



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GUARANTEES FADING AWAY

In an era of disposable products, fewer stores are sticking to once-generous return policies

CHARISSE JONES
USA Today

Some lifetime guarantees last longer than others. A small minority of shoppers who have returned items salvaged from yard sales or purchased decades ago to get an upgraded version or a cash refund have left some retailers saying enough is enough. More retailers are changing once-generous return policies. Lifetime guarantees were thrust into the forefront last month when L. L. Bean said that in the wake of increasing abuse, it was putting a cap on its legendary open-ended pledge, limiting most returns to one year—move that prompted outrage and at least one lawsuit by a customer who said the company was now “breaking ... its promises.”

Bean follows outdoor gear and clothing retailer REI, which dropped its lifetime guarantee in 2013. Membership warehouse retailer Costco began limiting its lifetime returns policy to just 90 days for certain major electronics like TVs and computers. Car maker Chrysler and jewelry maker Silpada have also pared back open-ended policies.

“Part of the reason is that retailers are very cost-con-



2011 Photo by Pat Wellenbach/AP

L.L. Bean recently announced it would no longer replace items that are more than a year old.

scious and have become increasingly concerned about the amount of abuse associated with lifetime guarantees,” said Neil Saunders, managing director of the retail consultancy GlobalData. Such lifelong guarantees

are becoming casualties of an era of disposable products and fast-changing fashion. And with competitive pressures only rising, companies don't want to bear the costs of endlessly replacing an array of dated products.

“I think it was a sincere view that sellers inspired confidence in their products in the minds of prospective purchasers,” said Edgar Dworsky, founder and editor of Consumer World, an online consumer education site and

resource guide. But today, lifetime guarantees, from open-ended return policies to unending warranties, “are a dying breed.”

Yet several retailers—Lands' End, Eddie Bauer, Nordstrom, Patagonia, to

name a few — are holding firm. “Our policy is guaranteed period, and we mean every word,” said Michele Casper, spokeswoman for outdoor retailer Lands' End. “It is unconditional, and it's part of how we do business.”

PHIL

CONTINUED FROM 10B

Schools, the district said. Combined with the \$35,000 donation last week, Philando Feeds the Children has covered the debts of at least 1,788 students, the district said on Sunday night.

“This fundraiser demonstrates the kind and generous spirit our community members hold in their heart for the students of S.P.P.S.,” Toya Stewart Downey, a school district spokeswoman, said in an email.

Castile knew firsthand the hardships many students face. In 2002, at 19, he joined the nutrition services department of St. Paul Public Schools. He became a supervisor in

2014 and had been working at J.J. Hill for several years at the time of his death. On Sunday, his mother, Valerie Castile, shared a news article about the charity's work on her Facebook page.

“GOD Gave US Your Spirit Of Love And Kindness,” wrote Ms. Castile, who did not return a call seeking comment on Sunday. “Your Legacy Will Live Forever!”

In the school district, about 70 percent of the roughly 37,000 students are enrolled in free or reduced-price lunch, a federal program that pays for a student's entire meal or a large part of it. Students whose families are part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps, automatically receive free lunch-

es at school. Others are eligible based on income: A student in a family of three would qualify for free lunch if the household made less than \$26,546 a year.

Every St. Paul student who goes through the cafeteria line receives a meal, and those who are charged a full or reduced price have the amount withdrawn from a personal account. If that account is insufficiently funded, a debt accrues. But the school district, not the families, is ultimately responsible for the bill. If an account balance is never paid, the district relies on donations or digs elsewhere into its budget to cover the cost. Although the donations from Philando Feeds the Children have covered the debts of students enrolled in the federal program, the

district still has \$100,000 in lunch debt, said Stacy Koppen, its director of nutrition services. Additional students could qualify but have not turned in their applications, and others just miss the financial cutoff for eligibility.

“Our goal is to enroll them in the lunch program if we can,” Ms. Koppen said in an email on Sunday. “Donations are used to cover unpaid meal charges, but that amount of money is finite.”

Six months after the fund-raiser started, people have donated more than \$148,000, according to its website. The organizer's ambitions have grown, too: Ms. Ferguson wrote on the site that she now hoped to collect \$999,999, raising enough to pay lunch debts in schools across Minnesota.

CEO

CONTINUED FROM 10B

on a visit to her hometown when her phone rang. It was a former colleague, calling on behalf of Maverick's owner, Mark Cuban, who was eager for the opportunity to speak with her directly.

Cuban was facing a crisis, the colleague told her, adding, “You are uniquely positioned to be helpful to him.”

In a week dominated by head-

lines on the horrific Parkland, Florida, school massacre and Russian indictments, Marshall had not yet heard about the scathing expose on the Mavericks organization published by Sports Illustrated, tipping off the latest sexual harassment scandal in corporate America — and one of the worst.

The results of a month-long Sports Illustrated investigation paints the Mavericks environment as one of the most outrageous and egregious exposed to date.





500 Miami student-athletes get training

Young sportspeople learn leadership and life lessons

Special to *The Miami Times*

Former Kansas City Chiefs defensive back DaJuan Morgan has helped train 500 student-athletes in Miami-Dade County.

Morgan is a member of the Student ACES team, a leadership and training initiative for high school students.

Student ACES has trained third- and senior-year high school students from public and private educational institutions in Miami-Dade, through a sponsored Florida Power & Light Company initiative.

They are taught the values and principles of leadership, such as honor, humility and integrity, through interaction with sport figures, entrepreneurs and community leaders.

"Our athletes gained valuable insight into how to be team leaders, how to motivate players within their teams and how to work together," said Paula Raflowitz, athletic director, at South Miami Senior High School. "The team bonding activities were fantastic; it was such a pleasure to see these athletes having fun outside the scope of their teams."

Participants also received the book "Building Blocks of Leadership for Young Adults," written by Buck Martinez, founder of Student ACES, as a resource guide.



Photos courtesy of Florida Power & Light Company



Pictured, extreme left on stage: Buck Martinez, founder of Student ACES and DaJuan Morgan, extreme right on stage, leads a group of student-athletes at South Miami Senior High School through a leadership initiative.

(Above) DaJuan Morgan, a former NFL defensive back with the Kansas City Chiefs, recently participated in Student ACES.

Ernie Tabeteau, a former defensive back with the University of South Florida and a Student ACES representative, takes student-athletes at South Miami Senior High School through a recent role-playing exercise designed to teach the importance of making good judgment.

NAQUAN IS BACK

MIAMI CAROL CITY CHIEFS RUNNING BACK IS BETTER THAN EVER

LARRY BLUSTEIN
South Florida High School Sports

There are very few high school athletes who have that "think out of the box" mentality like Miami Carol City Class of 2019 standout running back Naquan Wright has.

One of the top youth football prospects in the past decade, Wright was going to be the player who would turn the fortunes of the Chiefs back around - and in some strange way - he has.

As a freshman, this gifted young man ran, caught and blocked his way into the hearts of football fans across South Florida - even though he was a Chief through and through. Many had watched him for years, predicting stardom - on and off of the playing field.

He showed, along with running mate Camron Davis that this was going to be a backfield that many across the country would take notice of. But things have not worked out that way for this all-around student/athlete who is admired by his teachers and classmates for being a supportive and caring per-

son - let alone potentially one of the best backs in the country.

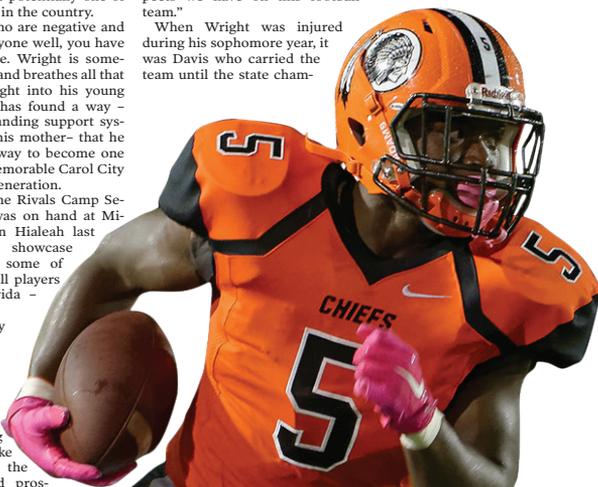
For those who are negative and never wish anyone well, you have no choice here. Wright is someone who lives and breathes all that God has brought into his young life - and he has found a way - with an outstanding support system - led by his mother - that he will pave his way to become one of the most memorable Carol City Chief of this generation.

As part of the Rivals Camp Series, Wright was on hand at Mi-lander Park in Hialeah last month for a showcase that featured some of the top football players in South Florida - and beyond.

"I am ready and getting in the best shape I have been in," said Wright. "It's time to get this thing going and take advantage of the many talented pros-

pects we have on this football team."

When Wright was injured during his sophomore year, it was Davis who carried the team until the state cham-



ampionship game - and that is where Wright turned heads with a solid performance against Lakeland Lake Gibson in the state 6A title game.

After that game, every Carol City fan from Los Angeles to Lauderdale - looked forward to 2017. It was a year when the entire offensive backfield returned, and the anticipation was amazing. But as he found out the year before, being injured was certainly not going to stop him from those lofty goals that were set almost a decade ago.

An injured ankle sidelined Wright for his junior year - and living by the very words he has preached before, he channeled his emotions into positives.

"I have really devoted much of my life to put me in this position today," Wright said. "I know some people may have forgotten me, and that's fine, but they will remember - quick enough."

As Wright continues to work toward being 100 percent, he was still a player many wanted to watch, which means nothing has changed. Everyone is cheering for this ambassador of the game.

THE MIAMI TIMES | MIAMI, FLORIDA | OCTOBER 6, 2017 | MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

BLACK BALLERINA

returns to Miami

Dance Theatre of Harlem artists Nicholas Rose, Chrystyn Fentroy and Jordan Kindell in "Return of the Black Ballerina."

South Miami-Dade goes beyond ballet with program

JAYDA HALL
digital@miamitimesonline.com

Grab your leotards and tights because members of the cast of Dance Theatre of Harlem are coming to South Miami-Dade, and they want to dance with you.

The troupe will present two "The Return of the Black Ballerina" shows but not before teaching locals how to dance.

The company will host "Dancing in the Streets," with guests at a free community party from 6 - 9 p.m. on Friday. Residents can also move in a master class open to dancers of all levels at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, which is located at 10950 SW 211 St. in Cutler Bay.

Bringing "The Return of the Black Ballerina" is part of an effort by the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center to highlight, expand and engage cultural diversity in dance within its community that includes Black residents of western Caribbean descent.

The plan, however, to create a deeper connection between residents and the Dance Theatre of Harlem was no easy task, said Eric Fliss, who has been managing director of the cultural arts center since it opened in 2011.

"It was quite challenging because they are a little bigger than a typical dance company," Fliss said. "We wanted to have meaningful engagement, and that takes time."

After three years of negotiation, the plan prevailed. And the center secured a two-year grant through the Knight Arts Challenge, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

"We want to broaden the definition of classical ballet," he said. "We want the community to understand that American media like to tell us what is the proper look of a ballerina. Size and looks do not exclude you from participating in this dance form."

The Dance Theatre of Harlem — founded by Black ballet dancer Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook — returns to South Florida for the first time in nearly 20 years. The company went on a hiatus in 2004 due to financial difficulties and wasn't revived until 2012, according to Virginia Johnson, artistic director of Dance Theatre of Harlem.

"We're happy to be back in Miami," she said. "The thing about Dance Theatre of Harlem is we're about getting people to see classical ballet in a new light."

The company is known as the first-ever Black classical ballet company with a mission to show aspiring artists that ballet can be done by anyone with no restrictions to what is seen every day, Johnson added.

The performance and residency program will include shows, master classes and a discussion

SEE DANCE 4C

“

We want the community to understand that American media like to tell us what is the proper look of a ballerina. Size and looks do not exclude you from participating in this dance form.”



Eric Fliss, managing director of SMDCAC



(left) Dance Theatre of Harlem artist Lindsey Croop stands on pointe during company's photo-shoot.

Dance Theatre of Harlem artist Ingrid Silva in "Return of the Black Ballerina."

A new focus on hip-hop at the Kennedy Center

Place dedicated to mostly white American culture now shifts focus

ASHRAF KHALIL
Associated Press

It was late October 2017 and a packed house of VIPs had gathered at Washington's Kennedy Center to watch David Letterman receive the Mark Twain award for a career in comedy. A stream of comedians took the stage to sing Letterman's praises, and several couldn't resist taking good-natured shots at the crowd.

Martin Short deadpanned,

"It says a lot about America when people from different white backgrounds can gather together like this."

Jimmie Walker - JJ, from the 1970s sitcom "Good Times" - put it more bluntly: "Look at the diversity in this crowd! I feel like Ben Carson at a Trump Cabinet meeting."

Walker may have been going for the easy joke there, but he spoke to a deeper belief — that the Kennedy Center exists to serve an elite white

SEE FOCUS 4C



This Oct. 6, 2017 photo provided by the Kennedy Center, shows Q-Tip performing at the Kennedy Center in Washington. Long considered a bastion of upper-class white elitism, the Kennedy Center is making an overt play to embrace hip-hop music and culture. America's pre-eminent performing arts institution has gradually introduced rap music into its programming.

Oscar Moments

Lakers Kobe Bryant wins an Oscar

Kobe Bryant, winner of the award for best animated short for "Dear Basketball", poses in the press room at the Oscars on Sunday, March 4, 2018, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.



Award for 'Dear Basketball' is 'better than winning a championship,' NBA great says

SCOTT GLEESON
USA TODAY

Los Angeles Lakers legend Kobe Bryant added another trophy to his large collection of career accolades Sunday. Except this one has a much different feel than the five Larry O'Brien trophies the future Hall of Famer won over his storied basketball career.

Bryant's "Dear Basketball" won an Oscar for best Animated short film at Sunday's Academy Awards. The six-minute film is based on a poem Bryant wrote that

“

I don't know if it's possible. I mean, as basketball players, we're really supposed to shut up and dribble, but I'm glad we do a little bit more than that.”

Thank you, Molly Carter, without you, we wouldn't be here. And to my wife Vanessa, our daughters Natalia, Gianna and Bianca. Ti amo con tutto il mio cuore. You are my inspiration. Thank you so much, guys, thank you.”

Backstage, Bryant got a healthy applause, a bit unusual for an Oscar winner in the media room.

"I feel better than winning a championship," Bryant said. "It's crazy."

As for his strong start to his post-NBA career, Bryant acknowledged it wasn't an easy transition.

"It's a hard thing for athletes to start over. You have to begin again."

He called Williams a "real-life Obi-Wan Kenobi." Fitting, after receiving the award from Mark Hamill, who of course plays Luke Skywalker in the "Star Wars" franchise.

Bryant, 39, who was accompanied Sunday by his wife Vanessa, previously told *The Undeclared* that the Oscar nomination served as validation that he was more than just a basketball player.

"I've always been told that as basketball players the expectation is that you play. This is all you know. This is all you do," he told the outlet. "Don't think about handling finances. Don't think about going into business. Don't think that you want to be a writer—that's cute. I got that a lot."

"What do you want to do when you retire? Well, I want to be a storyteller. That's cute. This is ... a form of validation for people to look and say, 'OK, he really can do something other than dribble and shoot.'"

Bryant, who retired in 2016 after 20 years in the NBA—all with the Lakers—also won two Olympic gold medals, two NBA Finals MVP awards, one regular-season MVP and was an 18-time All-Star.

was published in *The Players Tribune* in 2015 when he announced his retirement from the NBA.

Glen Keane, who has animation credits for "Aladdin" and "Beauty and the Beast," helped direct the film.

"I don't know if it's possible. I mean, as basketball players, we're really supposed to shut up and dribble, but I'm glad we do a little bit more than that," Bryant said as he accepted the Oscar.

"Thank you, Academy, for this amazing honor. Thank you, John Williams, for such a wonderful piece of music. Thank you, Verizon, for believing in the film.

Jordan Peele makes Oscar winners history

The first Black screenwriter to win the best original screenplay award

SANDRA GONZALEZ
CNN Entertainment

Jordan Peele's "Get Out" has placed him in the Oscar history books.

Peele was crowned the winner in the best original screenplay race at Sunday's Academy Awards, making him the first Black screenwriter to receive the honor.

In his speech, Peele thanked the people "who raised my voice and let me make this movie."

Heading into Sunday, Peele and his film were nominated for a total of four awards, in-

cluding best picture.

Only four Black film writers have been nominated in the best original screenplay category in Oscars' 90-year history: Suzanne de Passe ("Lady Sings the Blues," 1972), Spike Lee ("Do the Right Thing," 1989), John Singleton ("Boyz n the Hood," 1991) and now Peele.

In the adapted screenplay category, three films with

SEE PEELE 4C



Jordan Peele at the Oscars on Sunday.



Tiffany Haddish made a royal entrance on the red carpet, wearing a dress that was a tribute to Eritrea, where her father lived until he died last year. The actress and comedian also entered the Oscars red carpet doing a traditional Eritrean dance.

Haddish breaks the dress code

The actress' fashion choices made some memorable Oscar moments

HEIDI STEVENS
Chicago Tribune

Tiffany Haddish's white dress accomplished what 1,000 ham-fisted Oscars skits could never do: Make it a show for regular folks.

With Maya Rudolph, Haddish presented the Oscars on Sunday night for animated and live action short films, and she did so wearing the same white gown she wore to host "Saturday Night Live" in November and to the "Girls

Trip" premiere the previous summer.

"I wore it on the red carpet for 'Girls Trip' and my whole team, they told me, 'Tiffany, you cannot wear that dress on 'SNL.' You already wore it. It's taboo to wear it twice,'" she said on "Saturday Night Live." "And I said, 'I don't give a dang about no taboo.'"

"I feel like I should be able to wear what I want, when I want, however many times I want," Haddish said on "SNL." "As long as I

Febreze it."

She paired it Sunday night with bedroom slippers.

On a night that saw host Jimmy Kimmel and a handful of stars carry sub sandwiches and hot dog cannons into a movie theater filled with regular moviegoers; on a network that tripped all over itself to remind us that the upcoming "Roseanne" reboot is a show about people who look like us; on a show that clumsily poked fun at Hollywood being out of touch—"each of the 45 million Swarovski crystals on this stage tonight represent humility," Kimmel joked—Haddish pulled a

dress three-peat.

Remember when Sharon Stone wore a shirt from the Gap to the 1998 Oscars and became, overnight, a woman of the people? Haddish blows her out of the water.

On "SNL," Haddish joked that she'd be wearing her \$4,000 Alexander McQueen to any and all formal events she's invited to in the future—bar and bat mitzvahs, a praise-and-worship service at a Baptist church, future weddings if she decides to marry again (and again).

"I might Elizabeth Taylor this thing," she said. "You don't know."

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

VENNDA-REI GIBSON | VENNDAL43@GMAIL.COM

We welcome the month of March, but I must finish February as I continue to share our history. Beta Tau Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was chartered Feb 24, 1946. The chapter was chartered by twelve outstanding, committed, college educated and community conscious action-oriented women: **Eugenia Brooks Thomas, Pauline Styles Willis, Corintha Mae Wilson, Theodora Carey Williams, Ethel Manning Braynon, Wilhelmina Ross Page, Glendena Carey Edwards, Ireta Martin Crosby, Lovely Finlayson Houston, Alma Lucille Crawford, Dorothy Jenkins McKellar and Ellen Styles.** The chapter has grown since that time to be the largest and most prestigious chapter in Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

We should always celebrate families educators and teachers who make a difference in the lives of children. As we follow the recent news and watch high school students articulate, plan and communicate with adults, we realize the impact that teachers and family have. Perhaps many of you will recognize the names of these ladies as former teachers, neighbors and friends, church members and members of families that you knew or know. Their influence is still making a difference, they left a legacy.

The sorority is also honored to have five schools in the Miami-Dade District School System named for members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated: **Zora Neale Hurston ES, Laura C. Saunders, ES, Lenora Braynon Smith ES, Eugenia B. Thomas K-8 Center and Dorothy M. Wallace C.O.P.E. Center South.** The current chapter officers are:



Black History Month honorees

President, **Lois Lee**, 1st Vice-President, **Sonya W. Gardner**, 2nd Vice-President, **Tarese Joseph Mars**, 3rd Vice-President, **Felicia**



Epps

Greggs-McRae, Secretary, Rochelle Mercer, Treasurer, Keysha Coley, Financial Secretary, Olga Van Beverhoudt, Parliamentarian, Lona B. Matthews, Reporter, Lulu Orange Tyson, Executive Board Chairperson, Darlene T. Sparks, Chair of the Trustee Board, Marietta Bullard, Trustee, Arleace Carrion, Trustee, Michelle Johnson, Trustee, Engalue Caldwell, Trustee, Tangela Wilson

Coria Coleman Portee is the Immediate Past President. Members will host their Annual Finer Womanhood Community Fellowship Awards Luncheon 11a.m. Sat. March 17 at the Hotel InterContinental at **Doral Miami.**

Congratulations ladies for your 72 years of service to the community and beyond.

The 30th annual **Louie Bing** Athletic Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, March 3 at Florida Memorial University. This event raises money to

provide scholarships for our youth. Each year the Athletic Awards Banquet also honors persons who diligently work with the Historic Hampton House Community Trust, Inc. (HHHCT)

Congratulations are extended to the newly elected officers of the Historic Hampton House Community Trust, Inc. at their recently held annual meeting. Commissioner **Audrey M. Edmonson**, Miami Dade County Commissioner for District 3 conducted the installation. The newly elected officers are: **Cecilia Stewart**, Chairperson, Bishop **Howard E. C. Dean**, Vice Chair, **Deborah George**, D.D.S. Secretary, **Juanita Johnson**, Treasurer, **Dr. Enid C. Pinkney**, Founding President/CEO. Members are **Ruby Rayford**, **Dr. Richard Strachan**, **Claudia Slater**, **Michelle A. Prescott**, **Esq.** and **Gera Ruben Peoples**, **Esq.**

The Advisory Board members are: **Betty Ferguson**, **Jean D. Fils, Jr.**, **Kathy Hersh**, **Dr. Gay F. Outler**, **Leslie Rivera**, **Arva Moore Parks**, **Melba V. Pearson**, **Esq.**, **Harvey Ruvin**, **Rev. Dr. Gaston A. Smith**, and **Weidner Maxime**.

There were numerous events and celebrations



T.Y. Hilton and parents

all over the South Florida community during February. Documentaries on PBS gave us historical facts about HBCU'S, Blacks who served in this countries wars, and the legacy of those who struggled in the Civil Rights Movement. And, there was the movie, **Black Panther** with its profound messages, and we are proud. The 2018 Black History Month Honors Luncheon sponsored by County Commissioner **Jean Monestime** was held on Sunday, February 25, at Arcola Lakes Senior Center. The luncheon honorees were: **Rodney Baltimore**, **Julia E. Adams-Brown**, **Vanessa Woodard Byers**, **Thema Campbell**, **Beatrice "Bea" Hines**, **Leroy Jones**, **Gordon Eric Knowles**, **Lonnie Lawrence**, **Lovette McGill**, **Wayne Rawlins**, and **Gregory Reed**. Entertainment for the program was provided by the very talented vocalist **Maryel Epps**.

Congratulations to these people who make a difference in our community.

Also there was another celebration as this community welcomed a new member of the clergy to South Florida when the new rector of The Church of the Incarnation, **Rev. Roberta (Rev. Bobbie) Knowles** was installed on Sat. March 3 by The Rt. Rev. **Peter Eaton**, Bishop of Southeast Florida.

Our community and the legacies here are awesome. We can't forget our history, ever. So many memories held in our hearts and minds. They are unforgettable.

It's been 54 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Blacks have done so much and made so many contributions to American society. Our history, Black History is a history and a legacy built everyday not just during the month of February. We share our stories and create our legacies to be passed on for generations. We still sing **Kumbaya** and hum our songs on the journey as we keep telling our stories and making sure that we set the records straight about us.

So, as we welcome the month of March, I am certainly cognizant of the saying "How time flies."

March is Women's History Month and there are many stories I want to share. There are some phenomenal women who have been and are a part of this community. Women who are gone but left a legacy. Quietly they served, and their legacy... They gave love. Women who are serving in some way. Ordinary people who do extraordinary things and give love to many.

So we continue our journey as we Live, Love, Pray, Laugh, Sing, Dance in this wonderful Whirl. Thank you my friends always and Blessings.

Mary J. Blige to co-star in new Netflix series

The singer will play an assassin in upcoming 'Umbrella Academy'

JOE OTTERSON
Variety

Mary J. Blige has signed onto the upcoming Netflix series "The Umbrella Academy," Variety has confirmed.

The live-action series follows the estranged members of a dysfunctional family of superheroes (The Umbrella Academy) - Luther (Tom Hopper), Diego (David Castañeda), Allison (Emmy

Raver-Lampman), Vanya (Ellen Page), Klaus (Robert Sheehan), and Number Five (Aidan Gallagher) - as they work together to solve their father's mysterious death while coming apart at the seams due to their divergent personalities and abilities.

Blige will play Cha-Cha, a ruthless and unorthodox hitwoman who travels through time to kill assigned targets. Even though she has a few



Mary J. Blige

Blige will play Cha-Cha, a ruthless and unorthodox hitwoman who travels through time to kill assigned targets. Even though she has a few gripes about the bureaucracy of her employers, this job is her life.

gripes about the bureaucracy of her employers, this job is her life. She is sadistic, sociopathic, and her reputation

precedes her. The role will mark Blige's first regular foray into series television, having previously appeared in guest roles on numerous shows.

The role reunites Blige and Netflix, with the iconic musician having appeared in the streamer's Oscar-nominated film "Mudbound." Blige is nominated for best supporting actress for her role in the film.

She is represented by APA, Flavor Unit Entertainment, and Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks "The Umbrella Academy"

series is based on the graphic novels of the same name created and written by Gerard Way, illustrated by Gabriel Bá, and published by Dark Horse Comics. The series will be produced by Universal Cable Productions. Steve Blackman will serve as executive producer and showrunner, with additional executive producers Bluegrass Television and Mike Richardson and Keith Goldberg from Dark Horse Entertainment. Way will serve as co-executive producer. The pilot script was adapted by Jeremy Slater.

NASA's Katherine Johnson made into a Barbie

The famous mathematician is a historic women honored by Mattel

ALANNA VAGIANOS
HuffPost

Kids around the world will soon be able to own a Barbie doll bearing the likeness of Frida Kahlo, Amelia Earhart or Katherine Johnson.

All three women made history in different industries: Earhart was the first female aviator to fly across the Atlantic Ocean; Mexican artist Kahlo was known for her unique painting style and feminist activism; and Johnson, who was highlighted in the 2016 film "Hidden Figures," broke boundaries for Black women in mathematics and calculated dozens of trajectories for NASA, including the 1969 Apollo 11 flight to

the moon.

The dolls, which are part of Mattel's new series called "Inspiring Women," will be mass produced and sold in stores. The toy company does not have an exact date for when they will hit shelves but said each will come with educational information about the woman who inspired it.

"As a brand that inspires the limitless potential in girls, Barbie will be honoring its largest line up of role models timed to International Women's Day, because we know that you can't be what you can't see," Lisa McKnight, the senior vice president and general manager of Barbie, said Tuesday in a press release. "Girls have always been



BARBIE

Amelia Earhart, Frida Kahlo and Katherine Johnson — in Barbie form.

able to play out different roles and careers with Barbie, and we are thrilled to shine a light

on real-life role models to remind them that they can be anything."

Johnson, now 99 years of age, worked closely with Mattel to create her doll and en-

sure it looked as much like her as possible.

Ahead of International Women's Day on Thursday, Barbie's "Shero" line is also honoring 14 modern-day role models from around the world. These dolls celebrating women who have recently broken boundaries in their fields aren't meant to be sold, but some particularly popular ones have ended up in stores before.

The 14 new women Barbie is celebrating with its Shero line includes Olympic snowboarder **Chloe Kim**, "Wonder Woman" director **Patty Jenkins** and Australian wildlife conservationist, **Bindi Irwin**. The line already honors women including director **Ava DuVernay**, actress **Emmy Rossum**, ballerina **Misty Copeland** and Olympic gymnast **Gabby Douglas**.

BOOK REVIEW

Attention and red ink missing from 'Black Fortunes'

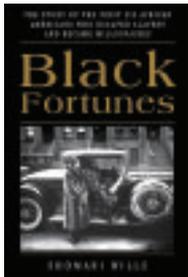
TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
Special to The Miami Times

A dollar doesn't buy as much as it used to.

Once upon a time, you could get a good steak and a drink for under 10 bucks. You could buy a house for less than five figures, and it was big enough to raise a good-sized family in it. A dollar used to stretch farther, last longer, buy more, and in the new book "Black Fortunes" by Shomari Wills, it took fewer dollars to make someone rich.

Growing up, Shomari Wills heard many stories about his uncle, "the millionaire" son of a slave who became a rich man. Such a tale, says Wills, is an "overlooked subject" in American history.

Strictly speaking, he says,



the first Black millionaire in America was William Alexander Leidesdorff, a real-estate mogul, philanthropist, and friend to the powerful, who lived in San Francisco well before the Civil War.



Shomari Wills

But this book isn't about Leidesdorff.

It's about Mary Ellen Pleasant, who received an inheritance from her late first husband and parlayed that "small fortune" into a much larger

one that she used as an activist. It's about O.W. Gurley who bought land in Oklahoma and built a predominantly Black town that was exceptionally prosperous — especially for Gurley.

It's about Annie Turnbo Malone and her protégée, Sarah Breedlove. After Emancipation, Malone made it her mission to create hair and beauty products that worked specifically for Black women. Once her business was successful, she hired salesladies — one of which was Breedlove, who married C.J. Walker and created her own product to rival her mentor.

It's about Robert Reed Church, a former slave, favorite son of Memphis, and the richest Black man of his time. Even now, more than a

century after his death, his legacy can still be seen in his adopted hometown.

And it's about Hannah Elias, who spent most of her life in scandal and built her wealth with the money of her lovers, then disappeared. To this day, says Wills, nobody knows where Elias landed — or how much of her ill-gotten fortune was intact.

"Black Fortunes" is a good idea in bad need of an editor.

Over and over, I found dates that didn't match, incorrect information, statements that conflicted with other statements, silly repetitions, and a lot of "huh?" moments. After a while, these errors superseded any information I was gleaning.

Still, Wills offers inter-

esting, thoughtful tales that basically show readers how Black entrepreneurs — some of whom could barely read or write — changed U.S. economics and paved the way for later wealth-builders and, in some cases, for overall equality. Wills admits in his introduction that he brought these stories forth, even though "few records exist" from his subjects' times, and diaries and letters were largely non-existent.

That would explain the deep novelization of the tales, which is not the bigger distraction; lack of attention and a red pen are more the issue. Even so, with a dose of patience, this book is worth a look. Just be aware that "Black Fortunes" isn't what you may be used to.



Author Ta-Nehisi Coates is known for his books on race, but now he will authoring for "Captain America" comics.

Ta-Nehisi to write 'Captain America'

The essayist admits he is not convinced he can tell the story

DAVID MOYE
HuffPost

Author Ta-Nehisi Coates is turning a page in his career by becoming the new author of "Captain America."

Coates is best known for his essays about race and culture in America, but now he will also be writing for the Marvel character's comic book, according to The New York Times.

It's not his first stab in the comic book field: In 2016, Coates wrote stories for "Black Panther." But he admits he's a little intimidated writing for a comic book icon like Captain America. "I'm not convinced I can tell a great 'Captain America' story which is precisely why I want so bad to try," he said in an essay for The Atlantic.

Coates explained the challenge of writing for the character is that Steve Rogers is "a man out of time."

He elaborates: "[Captain America] is a walking emblem of great-great-grandfather propaganda brought to life in this splintered post-modern time," Coates said. "Thus, [he] is not so much tied to America as it is, but to an America of the imagined past."

Though some might think Coates wants to put his words into Captain America's mouth, he said it's actually the opposite.

"Captain America, the embodiment of a kind of Lincolnesque optimism, poses a direct question for me: Why would anyone believe in 'The Dream'?" he said. "What is exciting here is not some didactic act of putting my words in Captain America's head, but attempting to put Captain America's words in my head."

His first effort at that is to debut July 4. Coates said he will continue to write for "Black Panther," as well.

DANCE

CONTINUED FROM 1C

with the Dance Theatre of Harlem from March 9 - March 11.

The Dance Theatre of Harlem's two performances will take place at 8 p.m. on Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

From 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on the evening of the Saturday performance, there will be a pre-show discussion about the challenges and triumphs of the Black Ballerina led by Johnson and WLRN Public Radio reporter Nadege Green, who is an alumna of Dance Theatre of Harlem's summer initiative.

When Carla Hill, SMD-

CAC's outreach manager, asked Green to take part in the discussion, "of course" she committed, Green said.

Green reminisced about her two summers in New York spent with ballerinas "who looked just like her" with kinky afros and braids. She said she wants participants to get the same experience she experienced.

"I was the lucky kid," she said. "So we must uplift dancers, specifically those of color, and provide access to ballet that can be limited."

Tickets for the performances range between \$25-\$65 for the general public and \$5 for those between ages 13 through 22. To purchase visit SMDCAC.org or call 786-573-5300.

Watch the new Netflix Series on Flint

Documentary series chronicles the water crisis

YESSENA FUNES
The Root

The story of Flint, Michigan, begins long before the lead-tainted water crisis that threw the city into a national spotlight in 2015. And it'll continue long after the ongoing crisis ends.

That's the premise of the new Netflix docuseries "Flint Town" that came out Friday. The eight-episode show has little to do with the water crisis that left the predominantly Black city of nearly 100,000 exposed to lead poisoning — yet, at the same time, it has everything to do with it. And it's necessary viewing for anyone who considers themselves an environmentalist or



Officer Bridget Balasko holds a small child while her father is being searched and questioned.

ally to the environmental justice movement, in particular.

The cinematic show follows the actual Flint Police Department, an underfunded public

service agency (like most others in the city), from 2015 to 2017. The riveting high-speed ride-alongs — which include calls to murder scenes or

drug busts — give the viewer an exclusive look into the world of policing and, more importantly, the humans who make it up.

FOCUS

CONTINUED FROM 1C

audience despite its presence in a largely Black city. That perception may linger for a while, but the reality is changing.

One of America's pre-eminent performing arts institutions, the Kennedy Center is embracing hip-hop culture in a major way. The center has gradually introduced rap music into its programming, with rappers like Nas and Kendrick Lamar performing with the National Symphony Orchestra. Hip-hop has also been showcased regularly at the center's daily Millennium Stage concerts.

The process is accelerating. The center has tapped two members of hip-hop royalty to act as bridges into the rap world. Q-Tip from A Tribe Called Quest has been named artistic director for hip-hop culture. Last year, LL Cool J became the first rapper inducted into the elite ranks of Kennedy Center Honors recipients.

"I consider them as important to our culture as Bach or any other composer," said pianist Jason Moran, the center's artistic director for jazz.

Moran is credited with pushing for this change. He

was part of the committee that chose Q-Tip to found the hip-hop department.

"He's the perfect person to advocate for us," Moran said. "It had to be someone from the bedrock of hip-hop."

Equally important was the hiring of a full-time staffer, Simone Eccleston, as director of the new hip-hop culture department.

This is not a diversity effort. We're not just checking boxes," Eccleston said. "This is a firm commitment to having hip-hop as an ongoing program."

Last year's Kennedy Center Honors program — an annual centerpiece event — may have been one of the Blackest nights in the history of the institution. In addition to LL Cool J — whose program included a speech by Queen Latifah and a performance by rapper Busta Rhymes — the honorees included singer Lil-onoie Richie. The only white honoree was TV producer Norman Lear, the man who helped bring Black family life into mainstream culture with shows like "Good Times" and "The Jeffersons."

The 2017-18 season, Q-Tip's first at the helm, kicked off with a performance by him and Moran. The veteran rapper calls it "just a flash of our potential."

He plans to appoint a "brain

"I have to grow into the position, and the Kennedy Center has to get acclimated to the nuances that exist in our thing."

trust" council of fellow rappers and says the real impact will be felt around year four or five when both sides are more comfortable with each other.

"I have to grow into the position, and the Kennedy Center has to get acclimated to the nuances that exist in our thing," Q-Tip said.

Inside the building, staffers refer to the traditional programming staples by the acronym SOB: symphony, opera and ballet.

"Some people get a little nervous," President Deborah Rutter said. "They ask, 'If you do this other stuff, will there be less of what I love?'"

As far back as 2008, rapper Mos Def performed at the Kennedy Center, as part of the jazz programming. But the idea of a dedicated hip-hop department didn't come together until more recently. In 2014, the center sponsored

the two-week One Mic hip-hop culture festival, which culminated in Nas performing with the NSO. The festival was already planned when Rutter joined the center, but she said its success made her focus on deepening the relationship.

"That was a tipping point for us to say that this hunger for a connection between this art form and the Kennedy Center is very real. This is too good to let go of," she said.

The dual choices of Q-Tip and LL Cool J are particularly crucial. Both have achieved mainstream popularity and name recognition while still retaining respect within hip-hop circles. That legitimacy will be important, as they're expected to act as ambassadors in both directions. They won't just be asked to help introduce hip-hop to the Kennedy Center; they'll be asked to help introduce the Kennedy Center to the hip-hop community.

The ultimate goal is to draw younger and more diverse audiences, showcasing what Rutter calls "a truly American art form" while also bringing new blood to the 46-year-old institution.

Q-Tip says his message to the core SOB-loving Kennedy Center audience is not to worry.

PEELE

CONTINUED FROM 2C

Black writers have won in the past — "Precious," "Twelve Years a Slave" and "Moonlight."

This year, Peele made history, becoming the first Black director to receive nominations in the writing, directing and best picture

categories for his directorial debut.

Only two other people have accomplished that feat, according to the Academy — Warren Beatty with "Heaven Can Wait" (1978) and James L. Brooks with "Terms of Endearment" (1983).

Beatty walked away empty handed in his nominated categories and Brooks won all of his.

"Get Out," a social thriller that received praise for its thought-provoking take on race in America, grossed \$176 million domestically.

Speaking to CNN recently, Peele explained that part of "Get Out's" success came from its ability to put viewers in the shoes of Daniel Kaluuya's character, Chris.

In the film, Kaluuya, who earned a best actor nomination, plays a Black man

whose weekend getaway to meet his white girlfriend's parents takes a disturbing turn.

"I think the biggest thing 'Get Out' taught me about the power of story is that one of the few ways we can promote empathy is by seeing the world through somebody else's eyes, and that's what a great story does," he said. "That's what a strong protagonist does."

LIFESTYLE HAPPENINGS

COMPILED BY THE MIAMI TIMES STAFF
EDITORIAL@MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

SCHOOL MEETINGS:

■ **Miami Northwestern Class Of 1968**
2 p.m. every fourth Saturday; African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave.; info: call 305-218-6171

■ **Miami Northwestern Class of 1973**
4 p.m. every third Sunday; location TBA; info: Call 786-877-1176 or email msoguns@aol.com

■ **Miami Jackson Class of 1968**
Time TBA, every second Monday to plan 50th reunion on June 14-18; VFW located at 11911 W. Dixie Hwy.; info: Call 305-336-7663

■ **Miami Carol City Class of 1968**
4 p.m. every fourth Sunday to plan 50th reunion on Sept. 14-16; location TBA; info: Call 305-494-6265

■ **George Washington Carver High School Class of 1966**
Noon every second Saturday; 1234 NW 79th St.; info: Call 305-300-7630

■ **Northwestern Class of 1962**
3 p.m. every second Saturday; African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave.; info: Call 305-681-3330

■ **Booker T. Washington Class of 1967**
4 - 6 p.m. every third Saturday; African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave.; info: Call 305-333-7128

■ **Miami Northwestern Class of 1961**
Noon every second Tuesday; YET Center, 7090 NW 22nd Ave.; info: Call 305-696-1154

■ **Miami Jackson Class of 1971**
2:30 p.m. every first Saturday; YET Center, 7090 NW 22nd Ave.; info: Call 786-225-2533

■ **Miami Northwestern Class of 1959**
10:30 a.m. every third Saturday; African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave.; info: Call 786-897-2646

■ **Booker T. Washington Class of 1959**
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. ev-

ery first Tuesday; Golden Corral Buffet, 9045 Pines Blvd.; info: Call 305-989-0994

ASSOCIATION/ CHAPTER MEETINGS:

■ **The Miami Central High Alumni Association**
7 p.m. every second and fourth Wednesday; Miami Central Senior High School library, 1781 NW 95th St.; info: Call 305-370-4825

■ **The George Washington Carver Alumni Association**
4 p.m. every third Wednesday; Location TBA; info: Call 954-248-6946

■ **The Miami-Dade Chapter of Bethune-Cookman University**
6:30 p.m. every second Thursday; Omega Center, 15600 NW 42nd Ave.

■ **Tennessee State Alumni Association/ Miami-Dade Chapter**
9 a.m. every third Saturday; African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave.; info: Call 305-336-4287

■ **The Morris Brown College Miami-Dade/ Broward Alumni Association**
9:30 a.m. every third Saturday; North Shore Medical Center, 100 NW 95th St., Room C; info: Call 786-356-4412

■ **Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.**
10 a.m. every second Saturday; African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave.; info: Call 305-439-5426.

CLASSES:

■ **Women in Transition of South Florida**
Class: Free computer lessons for women; time, date and location TBA; info: Call 786-477-8548

■ **Inner City Children's Tumbling Dance**
Class: free introductory classical ballet workshops for girls ages 6-8 and 9-12; Time and date TBA; 1350 N.W. 50th Street; info: Call 305-758-1577 or visit www.childrendance.net

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

#creator's new fight for diversity

Hollywood execs no longer have any valid excuses to hide behind

TheGrio

April Reign, the creator of #OscarsSoWhite, is here to help Hollywood find the diverse actors it needs.

Her new website, Akaarel, launched on Friday as a digital database for historically overlooked groups in entertainment and creative industries.

"This answers one of the issues raised by #OscarsSoWhite when studios said, 'We want to work with people from marginalized communities, but we just don't know where to find them,'" Reign explained, according to Mic. "This is going to drop them right in their lap."

The database will allow

users to identify themselves by markers such as gender, sexual orientation and race. They will also be able to list their experience level and their location.

"Our main objective now is to get Akaarel populated by the talent and the stakeholders themselves," Reign said on Thursday. "The value to the studios will be once it's sufficiently populated. A lot of the studios were already partnering with us on sponsorship arrangements."

LACK OF REPRESENTATION IS 'NONSENSE'

Reign is befuddled by the notion that Hollywood still says they cannot find

diverse actors to fit diverse roles. Akaarel is the fix that will completely erase any excuses. In particular, she used the recent controversies surrounding Disney's live-action remake of "Aladdin," which sparked backlash when executives complained about how hard it was to find Middle Eastern stars for the lead roles.

"There are a billion Asian people in the world, but we can't find our Princess Jasmine?" she said. "To me that's nonsense."

Reign said that she came up with the name based on the French word "Aquarelle," representing the watercolor pencils her childhood friend used to use for drawing.

GAME CHANGER

David Morgan, president of the Multicultural Media

Correspondents Association, said that the site was created in partnership with the Motion Picture Association of America. Reign has been working on the site ever since her 2016 spike in popularity for the #OscarsSoWhite movement.

Media outlets, movie studios, television networks and theater directors can use the free subscription-based service to find talented candidates to fill key positions. Even better, creatives (including journalists, actors, writers and behind-the-scenes talent) looking for their big break will be able to search the Akaarel database for jobs.

Now more than ever, it's apparent that diversity and representation matters. And with no more excuses left, Hollywood has no other choice but to step up.



Photo by Iija Meefout

RZA (middle) and Cilvaringz (left) with Wu-Tang Clan's sole copy of "Once Upon a Time in Shaolin." Martin Shkreli (right) bought it in 2015.

Judge: Rare rap album can be seized

STEPHANIE CLIFFORD

The New York Times

Martin Shkreli walking into court last year. A judge on Monday authorized the government to seize Shkreli's assets. Credit Sam Hodgson for The New York Times

Martin Shkreli's prized Wu-Tang Clan album might end up on a government auction block.

A judge on Monday authorized the federal government to seize rare Wu-Tang and Lil Wayne albums owned by Shkreli, the former pharmaceutical executive convicted of fraud, if he can't come up with the \$7.36 million he owes the government.

Judge Kiyo A. Matsumoto

of Federal District Court in Brooklyn ruled Monday that Shkreli owes the money to pay back what he made from his fraud.

Shkreli's lawyers had argued that he owed nothing.

Judge Matsumoto also authorized the government to seize Shkreli's assets, including his one-of-a-kind Wu-Tang album, "Once Upon a Time in Shaolin," for which he reportedly spent more than \$1 million; a Lil Wayne album, "The Carter V"; a Picasso painting; his shares in Vyera Pharmaceuticals; and \$5 million in an E-Trade account securing Shkreli's bond, which makes up "the majority of Shkreli's liquid assets," according to a court filing by Shkreli's lawyers.

The government is allowed to access the other property because it showed that Shkreli had "transferred," "substantially diminished" or "commingled" the direct proceeds of his fraud, Judge Matsumoto wrote.

Shkreli is perhaps best known for hiking the price of Daraprim, a drug treating a rare disease, by 5,000 percent overnight when he ran a pharmaceutical company. Since then, he has become notorious for attention-seeking antics that he publicized online, including the purchase of the Wu-Tang album.

Shkreli initially avoided prison, staying out on bail. But less than a month after his conviction, Judge Matsu-

moto ordered him jailed after he offered his social-media followers \$5,000 if they could "grab a hair" from Hillary Clinton during her book tour. Since then, he has been held at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

Shkreli is scheduled to be sentenced on Friday.

His lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said in court filings that Shkreli had already seen at least one of his items seized by the government: Tax authorities in New York took, and auctioned off, his Enigma code-breaking machine.

If Shkreli's assets are seized by the government, the United States attorney general can dispose of them, potentially by auctioning them off.

Bumble dating app bans gun photos after massacre

TIFFANY HSU

The New York Times

A few swipes into the popular dating app Bumble, and the diversity of interests is obvious: Users post photos of themselves swinging from trapezes, playing French horns, posing with freshly caught fish and, occasionally, brandishing a handgun or aiming a semiautomatic rifle.

But following a string of mass shootings and nationwide calls for gun control in recent weeks, Bumble is setting plans in motion to ban images of firearms for its nearly 30 million users.

The company joins a long list of businesses that have cut ties with the National Rifle Association or sought to clarify their relationship with

the industry since a deadly shooting in Florida last month.

Some 5,000 moderators around the world will scour new and existing profiles and remove gun-related content, said Whitney Wolfe Herd, Bumble's founder and chief executive. Bumble will not censor images that appear in users' Instagram feeds, which can be integrated into Bumble profiles.

The new policy, which resembles how Bumble already handles nudity, fake photos, hate speech and other transgressions, will extend to dangerous weapons like knives as well as firearms, she said. Users with military or law enforcement backgrounds will be allowed to post photos of themselves carrying firearms



Draw Anthony Smith for The New York Times

"We just want to create a community where people feel at ease, where they do not feel threatened, and we just don't see guns fitting into that equation," said Whitney Wolfe Herd, chief executive of Bumble.

while in uniform.

"We just want to create a community where people feel at ease, where they do not feel threatened, and we just don't see guns fitting into that equation," Herd said.

Herd started Bumble in 2014 to create a "kinder, more accountable" online space where women initiate conversations. The app's user base has expanded to include a wide range of users, including gun control advocates as well as people who use firearms for recreation and hunting.

Herd acknowledged that most gun owners consider themselves to be hobbyists and do not endorse violence. She said that users — such as competitive sport shooters — could appeal to have their photos restored.

The Black girl magic of 'A Wrinkle in Time'

RONDA RACHA PENRICE
Urban News Service

LOS ANGELES and ATLANTA — “Black cinema” and “blockbuster” are suddenly becoming synonymous. “Black Panther” is already nearing a billion dollars in global box office receipts and Jordan Peele just became the first African-American to win an Oscar for best original screenplay for his surprise 2017 racially-tinged hit “Get Out.” And on March 9, Disney will release its highly anticipated film, “A Wrinkle in Time,” a \$100 million film with a Black female director and young black female star.

Unlike “Black Panther” or “Get Out,” “Wrinkle” is a mainstream movie with an intentionally African American face. Madeleine L’Engle’s 1962 science fantasy novel of the same title, from which it is adapted, centers on a middle school-aged white girl, Meg Murray, who is battling with self-esteem issues. Through the help of three celestial guides — Mrs. Which, Mrs. Whatsit and Mrs. Who — she tries to find her missing scientist father, whom she mourns desperately, by traveling through other worlds with her brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin.

On the big screen, Meg is an African American girl,



with Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon and Mindy Kaling portraying the guides.

What viewers see on the screen is the result in large part by decisions made behind the camera. That begins with trailblazing director, Ava DuVernay. Prior to being tapped to direct “Wrinkle,” whose \$100 million budget is the largest ever for a Black female director in Hollywood, DuVernay was known for quiet films like “Middle of Nowhere,” which garnered her the Best Director Award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, the first for an African-American woman. Before “Wrinkle,” “Selma” (2014) about the Voting Rights Act campaign led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was DuVernay’s biggest budget feature film at just \$20 million.



But DuVernay took the leap only because of the opportunity provided by a Black Disney executive.

“It wasn’t a likely marriage but when you have a brother inside, Tendo Nagenda, who said ‘I can see this happening’ and he imagined what it could be before I imagined what it could be,” DuVernay said of Disney’s executive vice president of production during her acceptance speech for the African American Film Critics Association (AAFC) Innovation Award in February. “The thing I really remember is Tendo saying, ‘Ava imagine the worlds you

can build.’”

That conversation she said “started to get me to ask questions about what I wanted to assert in that story and the real core of it was: who gets to be the hero? Because, right now, we’re in this space where we’re on the cusp of “Black Panther” and all its gloriousness and we get to re-imagine who is at the center of the story. This story, our story, she’s not a superhero; she’s not a princess. She’s just a girl with glasses in a plaid shirt who ends up saving herself and her family and the universe from darkness.”

The actress who plays that unlikely hero, Storm Reid, was familiar with the story but admits to not being personally invested in it until now. “I read the book in sixth grade for a book report and I never saw myself being Meg, especially because she was written as a young Caucasian girl, so I just really never thought about it,” she said during an interview at a posh hotel in her native Atlanta last week. “But once I got the script, it all clicked and I thought it was just an amazing take on Meg.”

Even as young as she is, Reid, whose previous

credits include “12 Years A Slave” (2013), “American Girl: Lea to the Rescue” (2016) and “Sleight” (2017), has felt the sting of Hollywood limitations for actresses like her. “There were fewer roles meant for me and fewer lead roles meant for me,” she said.

That reality is why Reid especially cherishes her role as Meg. “I feel like it was so important for me to play Meg because I’m basically representing little girls that look like me and I’m representing them in the right way because you don’t really get to see a little African American girl with glasses and curly hair save the world without superpowers,” she said.

Reid, who turns 15 in July, does see changes in Hollywood and hopes it will continue. “I feel like we are breaking barriers, slowly but surely, but there needs to be more representation. I don’t feel like diversity should just be a thing right now. I feel like it should be a normal thing.”

As for the “black girl magic” tag that’s now been extended to herself, but has long been attributed to “A Wrinkle in Time” director Ava DuVernay, Reid said, “I feel like people are just now recognizing our magic, but we’ve always been magic and it’s just recently became a hashtag.”

He-said-she-said key in Bill Cosby retrial

Jurors to hear case starting April 2; prosecutors eager to widen scope

MICHAEL R. SISK AND
MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Letting jurors hear from Bill Cosby’s dozens of accusers would strengthen prosecutors’ he-said-she-said case by showing the one criminal case against him fits an alleged five-decade pattern of sexual misconduct, legal experts said Tuesday.

Prosecutors are eager to widen the scope of Cosby’s April 2 retrial as they attempt to portray the once-beloved entertainment icon as a serial predator who made a sadistic habit of drugging and molesting women.

At Cosby’s first trial last year, which ended in a hung jury, Judge Steven O’Neill barred prosecutors from mentioning Cosby’s past and allowed just one other accuser to testify.

O’Neill did not rule Tuesday on arguments made over two days by prosecutors and defense lawyers on how many, if any, of Cosby’s other accusers will be allowed to take the stand. He’s also yet to rule on whether the defense can mention details of a financial settlement Cosby paid in 2006 to the accuser in his criminal case, Andrea Constand.

Cosby’s lawyers said jurors should only get to hear testimony about the alleged 2004 assault that led to the criminal charges against Cosby, not “ancient allegations” that would confuse, distract and prejudice the jury against the 80-year-old comedian.

Prosecutors want as many as 19 women, including model Janice Dickinson, to testify about allegations dating as far back as 1965 and as recently as 1990 or 1996. That’s at least eight years before Constand says he assaulted her at his suburban Philadelphia home.

“It’s not about what happened 50 years ago. It’s not about what happened with other people,” Cosby lawyer

“It’s not about what happened 50 years ago. It’s not about what happened with other people. The jury has to be focused on that one issue.”



Bill Cosby smiles as he arrives for a pretrial hearing in his sexual assault case at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Tuesday, March 6, 2018, in Norristown, Pa.

Becky James told O’Neill. “The jury has to be focused on that one issue.”

For prosecutors, having several accusers tell similar stories about Cosby would give them a chance to smooth over issues with Constand’s credibility and insulate her from attacks from his lawyers, who are keen to portray her as a money-grubbing liar.

Dave Zuckerman, a former prosecutor who practices criminal defense in the Pittsburgh area, said that “might help put the case over the edge in favor of the prosecution.”

“Now it becomes more than just one accuser against Bill Cosby,” he said. “Now you have a pattern of multiple women.”

Cosby lawyer Tom Mesereau said he wants to make Cosby’s settlement with Constand a focal point

of the retrial. He said jurors will learn “just how greedy” she was when they hear details about how much money she demanded from Cosby and what the star wound up paying her.

Constand sued Cosby after prosecutors in 2005 declined to press charges. Cosby testified over a decade ago as part of that lawsuit, eventually settling for an undisclosed sum. His deposition was sealed for years until a judge released parts in 2015 at the request of *The Associated Press*, prompting a new set of prosecutors to take a fresh look at the case and charge him.

Mesereau argued the settlement ties directly to a claim from Constand’s former co-worker who said Constand spoke about fabricating sexual assault allegations against a celebrity so

she could sue and get money. Cosby’s old legal team agreed with prosecutors to keep the settlement out of his first trial.

Dennis McAndrews, who prosecuted chemical heir John E. duPont for murder in 1997, said the new strategy could backfire.

“That settlement cuts both ways,” said McAndrews. “If it was a large settlement, why did Cosby pay such a large settlement for something that he says didn’t happen?”

Cosby has pleaded not guilty to charges he assaulted Constand, a Temple University women’s basketball administrator, while he was a powerful alumnus and trustee. He has said the encounter was consensual. He remains free on bail.

Pennsylvania allows prosecutors to present evidence of alleged past misdeeds if

they demonstrate the defendant engaged in a signature pattern of crime. Prosecutors argue Cosby used his power and appeal as a beloved entertainer to befriend younger women, then plied them with drugs or alcohol before assaulting them.

If additional accusers are allowed to testify, Zuckerman said, the jury would be instructed to consider the testimony only as possible evidence of Cosby’s pattern of behavior — not conduct that they should punish him for. But, he said, all that testimony is sure to carry an emotional wallop that could push jurors to convict.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand and Dickinson have done.

YOU & YOURS

Faith
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EDUCATION

THE MIAMI TIMES | MARCH 7-13, 2018 | MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM



HEALTH

Meet Sonal Mehta: Neuroscientist

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INSIDE

Pastor Welton Robinson III leaves the pulpit to preach

11D



SUPERINTENDENT ALBERTO CARVALHO REJECTS NYC OFFER DURING LOVE FEST BY SCHOOL BOARD AND RESIDENTS 10D

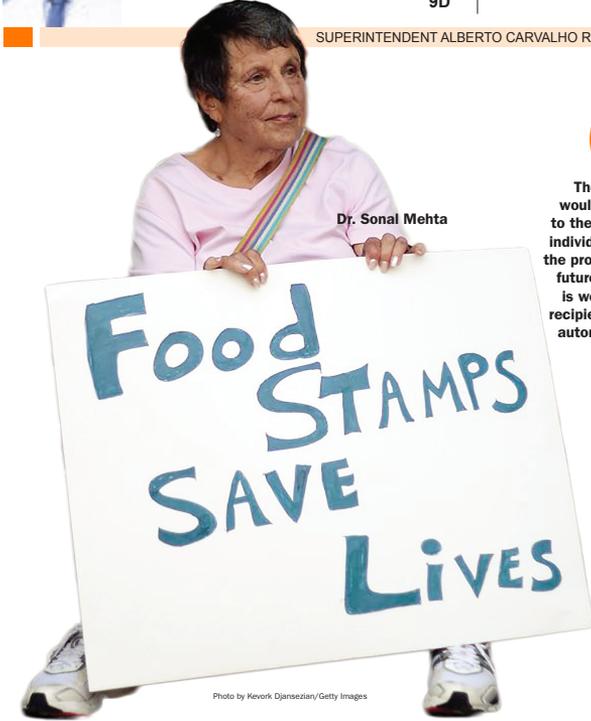


Photo by Kevork Djansetian/Getty Images

“

These new proposals would only create harm to the program and to the individuals who depend on the program now, and in the future. The way it works is we give [food stamp recipients] the dignity and autonomy to make their own decisions.”

Equality still lags study says

Country is still divided 50 years after ‘Kerner’ report

The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Barriers to equality pose threats to democracy in the U.S. as the country remains segregated along racial lines and child poverty worsens, according to study made public Tuesday that examines the nation 50 years after the release of the landmark 1968 Kerner Report.

The new report blames U.S. policymakers and elected officials, saying they’re not doing enough to heed the warning on deepening poverty and inequality that was highlighted by the Kerner Commission five decades ago and it lists areas where the country has seen “a lack of or reversal of progress.”

“Racial and ethnic inequality is growing worse. We’re resegregating our housing and schools again,” former Democratic U.S. Sen. Fred Harris of Oklahoma, a co-editor of the new report and the last surviving member of the original Kerner Commission created by President Lyndon Johnson in 1967. “There are far more people who are poor now than was true 50 years ago. Inequality

FOOD STAMP RECIPIENTS TARGETED

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP PROPOSES CUTS AND GIVING THE NEEDY BOXES OF FOOD ON THEIR DOORSTEPS, PUTTING SOME AT RISK

JASMINE HARDY

Howard University News Service

Angela Ford, Andre Hunter and La’Keshia Taylor-Tehrani. These three people are complete strangers, but they all have one thing in common: They depend on food stamps to feed their families, and President Donald Trump wants to cut how much food they can receive.

In his most recent budget proposal, President Trump proposes cutting billions of dollars from several social welfare programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP. This program, most commonly referred to as food stamps, provides an average of \$125 per month to 42.2 million Americans— about 8 percent of the population— to buy groceries.

Under his plan, the food stamp program would be cut by \$17.2 billion, 22 percent of the program’s total cost last year, by 2019, and over \$213.5 billion over the next decade, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The proposal also includes a complete redesign of the program. Instead of receiving their full benefits for the



Photo Courtesy La’Keshia Taylor-Tehrani

La’Keshia Taylor-Tehrani, 30, and her husband, Culen Taylor-Tehrani, have already experienced a decrease in money for their food stamps from \$300 to \$185, even before Trump’s proposed cuts.

month, SNAP recipients would only receive a portion of those benefits in addition to being sent a box of U.S.-grown commodities from the Department of Agriculture, a provision that would save the government money by obtaining common foods at a lower cost.

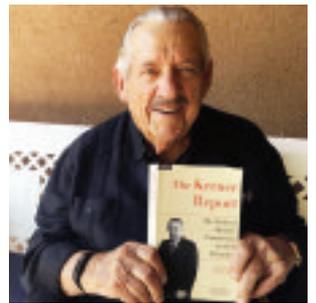
Craig Gundersen, a professor of agricultural and consumer economics at the University of Illinois, who has been studying food stamp programs for the past 20 years, said the program is fine the way it is.

The redesign “would be a disaster,” he said.

“These new proposals would only create harm to the program and to the individuals who depend on the program now, and in the future,” he said. “The way it works is we give [food stamp recipients] the dignity and autonomy to make their own decisions.

“This would give them a basket of food every month. People might not want it, and it’s stigmatizing. We’re telling them what they can and can’t consume. A lot of people would leave the program because the food they would get through the program would not be as useful as the food they would get on their own,

SEE STAMPS 8D



AP Photo/Russell Contreras

Former U.S. Sen. Fred Harris holds a copy of “The Kerner Report” as he discusses the 50th anniversary of the Kerner Commission.

of income is worse.”

The new study titled “Healing Our Divided Society: Investing in America Fifty Years After the Kerner Report” says the percentage of people living in deep poverty — less than half of the federal poverty level — has increased since 1975. About 46 percent of people living in poverty in 2016 were classified as living in deep poverty — 16 percentage points higher than in 1975.

And although there has been progress for Hispanic homeownership since the Kerner Commission issued its report, the homeownership gap has widened for Black Americans, the new study found. Three decades after the Fair Housing Act of 1968 passed, Black homeownership rose by almost 6 percentage points. But those gains were wiped out from 2000 to 2015 when Black homeownership fell 6 percentage points, the report said.

The report blames the Black homeownership declines on the disproportionate effect that the subprime mortgage lending crisis had on Black families.

In addition, gains to end school segregation were reversed because of a lack of court oversight and housing discrimination, the new report said. The court oversight allowed school districts to move away from desegregation plans and housing discrimination forced Black and Latino families to move into largely minority neighborhoods.

In 1988, for example, about 44 percent of Black students went to majority-white schools nationally. Only 20 percent of Black students do so today, the report said.

The result of these gaps means that people of

SEE REPORT 8D

Black youth can save the world

Young people are blending activism and beliefs with their career choices

FREDERICK JOSEPH
HuffPost

"A Wrinkle In Time" is a book (and now a major motion picture) about a fictional teenage girl who saves her father (and mankind) from evil forces in the universe. Taylor Richardson is a real-life 14-year-old girl in Jacksonville, Florida, who's trying to make sure other teens see

this story and get the power to save the world in their own way.

"I wanted all girls, especially girls of color, to know they can be whatever they want to be when they grow up and also can struggle and have flaws and still be successful in life," she said in an interview.

To date, Taylor has raised more than \$25,000 to take young girls to see the film.

This isn't her first time providing such an opportunity for girls; in 2017, she raised enough money to take 1,000 girls to see "Hidden Figures" for free. She knows and wants other teens to know that if they believe in themselves and see themselves succeeding, they can change the world.

Taylor is one of the many bright young stars in the Black community dedicating their time to activism and causes they believe will help

SEE YOUTH 11D

STAMPS

CONTINUED FROM 7D

which would lead to increases in food insecurity."

Andre Hunter, 54, of Washington, D.C., is on disability and has been using food stamps for the past few months. He receives \$90 a month in food stamps which, he says, is helpful since his social security is not a lot. He recalled how SNAP households would receive boxes of food when he was growing up, but is skeptical about how that would work today.

"Growing up it was crazy," Hunter said. "How would this work this day and age with all these allergies, which concerns me for other people, not just me. Not to mention obesity, it's like opening Pandora's box."

Lakeshia Taylor-Tehrani, 30, her husband, Culen Taylor-Tehrani, and their two sons are an example of how these cuts could affect a family. Taylor-Tehrani and her husband, Culen Taylor-Tehrani are disabled U.S. Army veterans. They live in Parkville, Md., near Baltimore. Their food stamps recently decreased from \$300 a month to \$158 a month. Because of these cuts, La'Keishia Taylor-Tehrani said she believes she will be forced to decide which bills will be getting paid on time to keep her family fed.

"Paying big bills like car, rent, phone and electric on time will be almost impossible," she said.

Taylor-Tehrani works as a healthcare administrator in Baltimore and her husband is currently unemployed and suffering from Crohn's disease, a chronic bowel disease characterized by inflammation of the digestive tract.

This disease, along with his severe post-traumatic stress disorder, keeps him from working. PTSD, by which Culen Taylor-Tehrani's condition is known, causes people to have difficulty recovering from experiencing or witnessing a



Photo Courtesy La'Keishia Taylor-Tehrani

Culen Taylor-Tehrani and his 5-year-old son suffer from Crohn's disease, a chronic bowel disease characterized by inflammation of the digestive tract. Trump's idea of delivering boxes of food to food stamp recipients' door would be an extreme hardship for him and others with food allergies because it would not accommodate their health restrictions.

terrifying event. Because of his Crohn's disease, her husband requires a very particular diet, she said, one that she is mindful of whenever she shops for her family.

In addition, her youngest son, Austin Taylor Tehrani, 5, has shown signs of the same disease.

"Our 5-year-old child is too young to be diagnosed, but he has the same symptoms," she said. "They can't have regular milk, so I have to buy almond milk. They can't eat red meat. So, I buy turkey. They can't have cheese."

"They need stuff that the average person doesn't pay attention to that I have to be very mindful of when I shop. The government is not going to take into account that some people have dietary restrictions."

Some SNAP recipients are already experiencing small

cuts to their benefits, and they said they don't know why. Angela Ford, who was sitting in the lobby of a D.C. facility to have her food stamps renewed, had her food stamps reduced from \$200 per month to \$190. Ford lost her job 12 months ago and has been on food stamps ever since. She is struggling to get by on the little money she receives each month, she said, so these potential cuts make matters more difficult.

"[The budget cuts] would really hurt me because it's the only supplement I have," Ford said. "It's the only government assistance I have where I can eat. I lost my housing (subsidy) and all I have is food stamps. They already cut them down from \$200 a month to \$190. We're living on \$6.40 a day. \$6.40 is not a lot, so we're already in trouble."

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

New Mount Calvary

Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Bernard E. Lang, Pastor/Teacher
7103 NW 22 Avenue • 954-433-2028

NON DENOMINATION

Lively Stone Church of Miami
Pastor David Doniscar
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

The Kingdom Agenda Worship Center
Prophetess Felicia Hamilton-Parramore
630 Shamar Avenue • 954-707-3274

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

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

PENTECOSTAL

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

New Life Christian Center

Rev. Bruce Payne
5726 Washington Street • 786-536-9039

MORAVIAN CHURCH

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

REPORT

CONTINUED FROM 7D

color and those struggling with poverty are confined to poor areas with inadequate housing, underfunded schools and law enforcement that views those residents with suspicion, the report said.

The new report calls on the federal government and states to push for more spending on early childhood education and a \$15 national minimum wage by 2024. It also demands more regulatory oversight over lenders to prevent predatory lending, community policing that works with nonprofits in minority neighborhoods and more job training programs in an era of automation and emerging technologies.

The late President Johnson formed the original 11-member Kerner Commission as Detroit was engulfed in a raging race riot in 1967. Five days of violence over racial tensions and police violence left 33 blacks and 10 whites dead, and more than 1,400 buildings burned. More than 7,000 people were arrested.

That summer, more than 150 cases of civil unrest erupted across the United States. Harris and other commission members toured riot-torn cities and interviewed black and Latino residents and white police officers.

The commission recommended that the federal government spend billions to attack structural racism in housing, education and employment. But Johnson, angry that the commission members did not praise



AP Photo, File

In this July 15, 1967 file photo, a National Guard officer passes the smashed window of a Black-owned flower shop in riot-torn Newark, N.J., after a night of looting and violence. The small sign in window reads, "Please!! Negro-Owned Business."

his anti-poverty programs, shelved the report and refused to meet with members.

Alan Curtis, president of the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation and co-editor of the new report, said this study's attention to systemic racism should be less startling to the nation given the extensive research that now calls the country's discriminatory housing and criminal justice systems into question.

Unlike the 1968 findings, the new report includes input from Blacks, Latinos, Native Americans and women who are scholars and offer their own recommendations.

Like the 1968 report, the new study also criticizes media organizations for their coverage of communities of color, saying they need to diversify and hire more Black and Latino journalists.

FAITH CALENDAR

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

■ **Adams Tabernacle of Faith ABE Church** first Mind, Body and Spirit Health Fair; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on March 10. Call 305-803-7493 for more details.

■ **Greater New Bethel Baptist Church** provides behavioral

intervention and treatment services for Black men at risk for HIV or substance abuse disorders. Call 305-627-0396 for more details.

■ **Sistah to Sistah Connection** Women's empowerment meeting; 10 a.m. - noon on every second

and fourth Saturday; Parkway Professional Building in Miramar. Call 954-260-9348 for more details.

■ **Northside SDA Church** Community Health Fair; 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on March 24. Call 305-613-

0994 for more details.

■ **Northside SDA Church** Food giveaway; 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on March 24. Call 305-613-0994 for more details

■ **The Elks Historical Business and Conference Center** Gospel Kickback with entertainment and fine dining; noon - 6 p.m. every Sunday. Call 305-224-1890 for more details

■ **Metropolitan A.M.E. Church** Food and clothing giveaway; Every third Saturday. Call 786-277-4150 for more details.

■ **Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church** Food and clothing distribution; 4 p.m. every Wednesday. Call 786-541-3687 for more details.

■ **First Haitian Church of God** Food drive; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday. Call 786-362-1804 for more details

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

■ **Florida Independent**

Restoration Ministries prayer for families dealing with drugs and alcohol. Call 800-208-2924 ext. 102 or prayer line, ext. 104.

■ **Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church** bereavement sharing groups; 3 - 4 p.m. every Second Sunday. Call 305-634-2993 for more details

■ **MEC Ministries** provides healing services; 7:30 p.m. every fourth Friday. Call 305-693-1534 for more details.

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



Physicians and health experts continue to see a rise in the percentage of American children with Type 2 diabetes, which usually affects adults. The leading cause for diabetes in children, they said, is obesity, which is still on the rise.

Diabetes

continues to climb among Black children

THE NATION'S OBESITY PROBLEM BLAMED FOR THE INCREASE

Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

SABRINA SHANGHIE
Howard University News Service

Meagan Charles is a nursing student at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York. She is also one of the rising number of Americans diagnosed as children with diabetes.

"I was 13 when I was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes," Charles, now 22, said. "It was one of those things I didn't understand at such a young age, I just knew that my father had it."

Diabetes, which can cause kidney failure, heart disease and amputations of legs and

toes and even death, is a condition in which the body does not properly process food for use as energy. Most of the food people eat is turned into glucose, or sugar, for their bodies to use for energy.

In diabetics, the pancreas can't make enough of the hormone insulin to help glucose get into the cells of our bodies.

Type 1 diabetes is usually diagnosed in children and young adults. It was previously known as juvenile diabetes. Only 5 percent of people with diabetes have this form of the disease. Actress Halle Berry is one of the small percentage of people with type 1 diabetes.



Megan Charles



Maureen Monaghan

Type 2 is usually diagnosed in adults. It can be genetically passed on by parents or grandparents. It is most often caused by obesity in children and obesity is the leading cause in adults. The prevalence of childhood type 2 diabetes jumped more than 30 percent from 2000 and 2009, according to a study by the Pediatric Academic Societies.

Additionally, childhood obesity continues to climb, the study found. Overweight or obese children in 2016 accounted for about 35.1 percent of U.S. children — a sharp 4.7 percent increase from just two years earlier, according to a study by Duke University.

Growing up, Charles said, she watched as her father struggled with diabetes and the health issues that can accompany the disease.

"If my mom didn't cook the right foods for my dad, or if he didn't eat on time, he would feel sick," she said. "Sometimes he would become so weak he wouldn't be able to do much for a few days."

After Charles was diagnosed, her mother, Maxiene Charles, found herself not only caring for her husband but her newly diagnosed diabetic daughter.

"It was scary knowing that my child was diabetic," she

SEE OBESITY 11D

MEET SONAL MEHTA: NEUROSCIENTIST

The North Shore doctor recently opened an office in Miami

Miami Times Staff Report

Dr. Sonal Mehta, an award-winning interventional neurologist of North Shore Medical Center, has joined Advanced Neuroscience Network Physicians in Miami, Tenet Florida Physician Services announced.

The Advanced Neuroscience Network Physicians work closely with referring doctors to diagnose and treat disorders of the nervous system including diseases of the brain, spinal cord and nerves.

Dr. Mehta specializes in vascular neurology and endovascular surgical neuro-radiology. He recently opened an office in Miami.

Prior to joining Advanced Neuroscience Network Physicians, Dr. Mehta completed medical school at B.J. Medical College, Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, India and completed an internal medicine internship at Michael Reese Hospital and the University of Illinois in Chicago. He then served as a resident in Neurology at University Hospitals



Dr. Sonal Mehta

Case Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. After completing his residency, Dr. Mehta moved on to Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he completed a fellowship in vascular neurology, followed by a two-year fellowship in endovascular surgical neuroradiology. He has been practicing medicine since 2007.

Dr. Mehta is fluent in four languages: English, Hindi, Punjabi and Gujarati. Dr. Mehta is a Fellow of the Amer-

ican Heart Association's Stroke Council, and a member of the American Academy of Neurology, Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology and the Advanced Neuroscience Network, a group of medical professionals and hospitals focused on offering neurological care throughout South Florida.

His prior administrative roles in the hospital setting, and with national health organizations, include vice chief of staff in neurology at Palmetto Health Richland Hos-

pital, co-director of Palmetto Richland Stroke Center, medical director of the Neurology Accountable Care Unit at Palmetto Health Richland Hospital and Neurology Clerkship director at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, South Carolina. Dr. Mehta currently serves as vice chair of the Endovascular and Interventional Neurology Section of the American Academy of Neurology.

Dr. Mehta has published

SEE MEHTA 11D



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Superintendent Alberto Carvalho greets Miami-Dade County Public Schools students after they implore him to stay in Miami.

Photos courtesy of Jimmy Abraham/Miami Dade Public Schools

Carvalho says he's staying in Miami

Superintendent rejects NYC offer during love fest by school board, residents

ANDREA ROBINSON
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

Alberto Carvalho, Miami-Dade County Public Schools superintendent, is staying in South Florida, after rejecting an offer to run the New York City public school system.

Carvalho announced his decision at an emergency meeting of the Miami-Dade School Board Thursday to discuss the "stability of the executive management leadership."

Carvalho said he was breaking an agreement that he made a day earlier with New York Mayor Bill de Blasio to accept the job as that city's chancellor. The New York City school district is the country's largest.

Carvalho said he wanted to "honor the passion I have for the children of Miami."

"The chancellor's position is the most coveted job in education... the most-impactful position that shapes and molds the future of education in America," Carvalho said. "Against my personal best interests... after speaking with Mayor de Blasio I shall remain in Miami-Dade as your superintendent."



A group of Miami-Dade County Public Schools students praise Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, and ask him to remain with the district.

The announcement brought loud applause in the room filled with Carvalho admirers.

The high-drama meeting stretched out over three hours and 40 minutes as district employees, residents and school board members mostly heaped praise on the veteran administrator. Among the supporters who spoke was entertainer, Luther Campbell.

"Whatever is going on to push this man out, y'all need to straighten it out," Campbell.

Several students from IP-rep Academy in Liberty City, where Carvalho serves as principal, stood together before the eight School Board members who were present to urge him to stay put.

"Losing Carvalho would be losing our voice. Independent of any outcome, he will always be our principal," one girl said.

Carvalho, 51, has been with the Miami school district for all of his career. He started in the classroom and rose through the administrative ranks. He was appointed superintendent in 2008, succeeding former superintendent, Rudy Crew.

The meeting also was extended by two lengthy breaks before announcing a decision, both requested by Carvalho. Before the second break, he said he owed a phone call to de Blasio before going public. "I want the opportunity to convey to him my decision," he said.

“Losing Carvalho would be losing our voice. Independent of any outcome, he will always be our principal.”

FAMU gets new chief ethics and compliance officer

University's president names Rica Calhoun

Special to the Miami Times

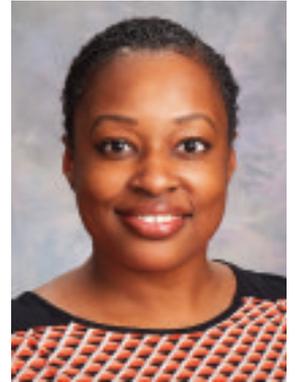
Florida A&M University (FAMU) President Larry Robinson, has named Rica Calhoun the university's new chief ethics and compliance officer.

Her appointment was effective as of March 1.

In her new role at FAMU, Calhoun will be responsible for providing leadership in offering guidance and communicating with the campus community about compliance risks. She will also advise the president and senior administrators on matters of compliance and ethics.

Calhoun's responsibilities also include exercising the authority and autonomy necessary to impartially review, evaluate and report compliance issues across the university. She will also design, implement or enhance programs that identify and avert compliance issues or unethical behavior.

"Mrs. Calhoun comes to FAMU with a wealth of experience that will serve us well as we continue our focus on strengthening and enhancing the performance of the university through



Rica Calhoun

the implementation of our new 'FAMU Rising' Strategic Plan," said Robinson. "We welcome her expertise and wealth of knowledge in law, ethics and compliance."

Calhoun comes to FAMU from Western Illinois University (WIU), where she served in a number of roles over her seven-year tenure. She began her career at WIU in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access as assistant director. She also contributed to the Student Services Division as interim associate vice president before becoming the first internal general counsel for the university.

As general counsel and the ethics and freedom of information officer at WIU, Calhoun represented the university in a wide range of legal matters. She advised the Board of Trustees, president and executive leadership team as well as administrative offices throughout campus to ensure compliance in many areas.

"Every member of the university community plays a role in ensuring compliance, thereby, creating an environment where every stakeholder can thrive," Calhoun said. "I look forward to joining the team and positively contributing to Florida A&M University's mission of excellence."

Calhoun has also served as a member of the American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity, the National Association of College and University Attorneys and is an Association of Title IX Administrators certified campus investigator.

Calhoun received her juris doctor from the College of William and Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law. She graduated from Florida State University with a master's degree in international affairs.



(below) School Board members join the audience in applauding Superintendent Alberto Carvalho at the emergency board meeting on March 1.

Pastor OF THE WEEK



Pastor Welton Robinson III

PRESENTED BY



Pastor Welton Robinson III leaves the pulpit to preach

Minister reaches out to the people any way he can

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

Welton Robinson II for example. He has all the right credentials. Born and raised in Miami,



a graduate of Miami Northwestern Senior High School, and later the Jacksonville Theological Seminary. Robinson was ordained as a min-

ister in 2000. But when it comes to actual preaching, you will not find Robinson ministering to the flock from a pulpit.

Robinson even has a pastor of his own. He attends Words of Life Fellowship Church, located at 20051 NE 16 Place, North Miami Beach, where Pastor Stanley L. Moore Jr. is the senior pastor.

At Words of Life, Robinson is heavily involved with the men's ministry.

But Robinson's ministry is more about community outreach.

He is a volunteer chaplain at Memorial Hospital at Pembroke, where he meets with patients, and give them what they need most - a listening ear and a prayer of hope.

Robinson also goes to several nursing homes, shelters and hospice facilities, praying with patients and praying for their families.

Sometimes, other pastors would call him, asking if he could go visit a church or family member who is in the hospital or in hospice care.

"Two parts of my ministry," said Robinson, "when I go into the hospitals, I'm a chaplain, I don't go in as a minister, so you don't always go in bringing the word, sometimes, you let the word come to you. I have a card that says, 'I said a prayer for you.' I ask them [the patient] to read it. Then I ask them if they would like me to say a prayer for them. But at the nursing homes, I can go in as a minister, and share the word with them."

As a young boy growing up in Miami, Robinson's mother had him in the Baptist church, but being young, he and his friends did, as he describes, "What young boys do."

"But I always said, 'When I get saved, I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that!' I don't know where it came from, but I spoke that into existence. God has always put me into a position of leadership. While at Miami Dade College-Wolfson Campus, I was the president of the Black Student Union; I was part of student government. I was a part of the

leadership team." For 35 years Robinson worked for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, coaching basketball for 20 of those years before he retired. Even today, he is still called "Coach Rob."

"I also got into alternative education," said Robinson. "For whatever reason, I was able to reach kids. I guess growing up in Liberty City, Brown Sub and Overtown helped me to relate to what the kids were going through."

Robinson is also known as a text minister. "I send out text messages to 650 different people anywhere from Miami, Chicago, California and New York," he said. "Some of my ministry partners in North Carolina, Georgia and different places, they also send out ministering text messages. One of my buddies has a partner in Australia who also gets our text word. I have been doing it for eight years now."

Robinson is working on developing a nonprofit organization to support his text and email ministries.

OBESITY

CONTINUED FROM 9D

said. "At times it got frustrating if she didn't want to eat what I had prepared. It's still a struggle, but we're getting there."

Charles had difficulty transitioning to her new diet to keep her diabetes under control. She ended up in the hospital at age 17 after not monitoring her diet properly, she said.

"I was on my way home from class when I started feeling dizzy," she said. "I actually drove myself to the hospital and my father met me there." Charles had almost slipped into a diabetic coma, which could have been fatal if she didn't go the hospital when she did, her doctors told her.

Charles' type 2 diabetes has followed her into adulthood. Dr. Shurla Charles-Gonsalves, a family medicine physician in New York City, said one of the leading causes

of diabetes in children is obesity, largely from consuming sugar-laden beverages, overeating or eating foods high in sugar - candies, cakes, donuts, brownies - or too many carbohydrates.

"We're seeing more and more children become overweight and obese at young ages; this will often set them up for diabetes now or later in life," Charles-Gonsalves said.

"We have to understand that socioeconomic issues are also leading factors when it comes to dealing with diabetes. "It is a privilege to be able to eat healthy and pay for medications and treatments for diabetic patients." Children are usually diagnosed with diabetes after displaying a symptom, the doctor said.

Maureen Monaghan a clinical and pediatric psychologist and certified diabetes educator said childhood diabetes can cause depression.

"That child may be always thirsty, always going to the bathroom and even eating

a lot of food but not gaining weight," she said.

We often see diabetes affecting children physically, whether it be weight gain, injecting insulin, or feeling any of the symptoms signaling diabetes, but rarely do we acknowledge the psychological effects this disease can have on people, especially children.

Monaghan said the effects of a diagnosis of diabetes on children varies from patient to patient.

"We have children as young as 1 and 2 that are diagnosed with type 1 diabetes," said Monaghan. "That is very different from a 14-, 15- or 16-year-old with Type 1 diabetes. We have to think about the family and their ability to cope and adjust. There may be some grief and in-denial thinking, but some families are also impressed with how their child is handling their diagnosis."

As diabetes diagnosis rates are increasing, deaths among children are also occurring, Monaghan said.

"We have lost a few of our patients to diabetes, I wouldn't say a lot, but thankfully it is fairly rare," she said. "If patients do pass away due to type 1 diabetes, it is either because of an extreme high glucose level or an extreme low glucose level."

Or, she said, they can die because they can't afford the insulin they desperately need.

A month's supply of insulin typically costs a few hundred dollars for those without medical insurance, and diabetes cannot survive without insulin injections or pills.

Last year Meagan Charles got a wake-up call when her father lost a limb to diabetes.

"When my dad got his foot amputated, I knew things had to change," Charles said.

Charles suggested people who suspect they or someone they know might be diabetic, to schedule an appointment with a doctor to be screened.

"I think everyone should get screened for diabetes," she said. "It's better to know now than be sorry later."

MEHTA

CONTINUED FROM 9D

numerous scientific publications relating to vascular neurology, neurology and endovascular surgical neuroangiography in peer reviewed journals and medical books. He has written numerous research abstracts and participated as an invited lecturer in several national and international conferences, meetings and symposiums. He has additional experience as a co-investigator in several multicenter clinical research studies.

Dr. Mehta is an award-winning physician; in 2017 he won the "Teacher of the Year" award from Palmetto

Health University of South Carolina Neurology Residency Program; in 2016 was selected as "Top Doctor" in Columbia, South Carolina, by Castle Connolly Medical; and in 2014 won the American Society of Neuroimaging Qureshi Award for research in diagnostic angiography or endovascular procedures. He was selected as advisor for the 2017 Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forum organized by the American Academy of Neurology and as advocate of the same forum in 2016.

Mehta's interventional neurology office is located at Advanced Neuroscience Network Physicians, 1190 NW 95th St., Suite 303, Miami, FL 33150. For more information visit www.ANNPhysicians.com or call 786-502-9196.

Lincoln Memorial Park clean up

Coral Gables Museum presents hands on History Community Clean Up!

Lincoln Memorial Park is a historic, African-American cemetery that has been in use for nearly 100 years. Due to years of disrepair, this historic site is in need of a caring touch by community members. Join us Saturday, March

10th from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at Lincoln Memorial Park, 3001 NW 46 Street, Miami, FL 33142. Please bring your own rake, gloves and trash bags to put your hands on history. Please join us: our ancestor deserve a beautiful resting place.

For more info contact: malcolm@coralgablesmuseum.org.

YOUTH

CONTINUED FROM 8D

create change, while navigating the hardships of youth.

Actress Yara Shahidi is another example of a young agent of change. While many know her from her role as Zoey Johnson on the hit shows "Black-ish" and "Grown-ish," Yara also balances her time as a freshman at Harvard University and an activist. For her 18th birthday, she decided to spend it launching her Eighteen18 campaign, a storytelling platform encouraging young people to be active in politics and

vote in midterm elections. "It's just such a scary time, especially coming from the dream that was the Obama administration," Yara said about the current political landscape.

Many young people like Yara are channeling their energy into action. Marsai Martin, 13, another "Black-ish" star, has become executive producer of her own series. Marley Dias, 13, has been spotlighted for her collection of books about Black girls and now is creating her Black girl book club. Mozhiah Bridges, 15, continues to make waves in the business and fashion world with his company Mo's Bows.

These young leaders are not only changing the false narratives about Black youth, they are writing their own futures.

Our youth are also dealing with many of the same issues we fought and continue to fight, as well as some new ones. They see people who look like themselves being murdered by police on a regular basis. They're watching our own community leaders and celebrities supporting young white activists and leaders in ways they often don't receive. Black girls are suspended from school at high rates in every state. Our young people carry a great deal of the weight of the

world on their own shoulders.

But there is hope, a metaphorical light at the end of a tunnel that often seems endless. Our Black youth are defending and supporting one another and subsequently defending and supporting the generations that came before them. That makes it easy for us to lean-in on them when they display natural greatness and fortitude. But that is exactly why it is our job as adults to protect them, even if sometimes it means protecting them from their own propensity to work more than play, to resist more than relax, to become rather than just be. We need to let kids just be ... kids.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Apostolic Revival Center
Services
Wed. Interspersed Prayer 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sun. Sac. Worship 7:30 p.m.
Tue. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Fri. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
Rev. Dr. Gilbert 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 8:30 a.m.
Thurs. Fellowship 10 a.m.
Evanagelst Eric W. Doss
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. Scream
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. Hemton
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: cmcnc.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. Ivey, 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) 254-188C
305-685-3700
Fax: 305-685-0705
www.newbirthbaptistmiami.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. 2:45-3:00 p.m.
Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins
2171 N.W. 56th Street
305-637-4404

Wright and Young

LEON CLIFFORD DAYS, SR., 89, mechanic, died February 26. Services were held.



EVON MONROE, 57, educator, died February 28. Service 12 p.m., Friday at Antioch Baptist Church of Miami Gardens. In lieu of flowers, family request donations be made to Extra Ordinary Productions Co. PO Box 965 Lithia Springs, GA 30122 www.paypal.me/epandance.



MASTERDONNELLE BRON STALLWORTH, JR., four days old, died March 3. Service 2 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



ARNEX AUGUSTIN, 44, rental car agent, died February 28. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church.



JUNE F. BROWN WIMBERLY, substance abuse counselor, died March 5 at home. Arrangements are incomplete.



JULES DEFREITAS, 88, died March 5. Services were held.

Hadley Davis Miami Gardens

RICHARD SYLVESTER JOHNSON, 64, handyman, died February 26 at Jackson Memorial Hospital North. Services were held.



JERNARD MILLER, 41, laborer, died February 27 at North Shore Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Vision For Christ Ministries.



TERRY WILLIAMS, 64, roofer, died February 27 at North Shore Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



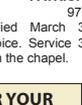
M.A. Hall

MONIQUA "NIKKI" KIRKLAND, 45, security officer, died February 23. Viewing 4-8 p.m., Friday at Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 8100 NW 17 Avenue, Miami. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at the church.



Manker

STANLEY PATRICK BEDMINSTER, 97, phlebotomist, died March 3 at Hialeah Hospice. Service 3 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



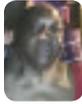
ASK FOR YOUR COUPON TO PLACE YOUR CARD OF THANKS IN THE MIAMI TIMES 305-694-6210

Richardson

SAMMIE LEE DEMON, 92, retired cook, died March 3 at home. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.



EDITH PEARLINE DERIS, 73, homemaker, died February 23 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.



Trinity

RODERICK D. WILCHER, 36, died February 27 at North Shore Medical Center. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at New Birth Baptist Church.



VELDA FRANCIS, 57, died February 27 at Baptist Hospital of Miami. Services were held.

BRENDA STANLEY, 53, died February 20 at home. Services were held.

Range Coconu Grove

WILMAL HASSAN, property clerk specialist, 68, died February 26 at Baptist Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church.



DEACON WILLIAMS, JR., park and recreations supervisor, 82, died March 3 at South Miami Hospital. Service 2:30 p.m., Saturday at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.



Range Homestead

DEACON CLARKE, 86, park and recreation supervisor, died February 27 at home. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Covenant Missionary Baptist Church.



Royal

EDDIE MICHAEL PERDUE, 30, died February 28. Survived by mother, Karen Perdue Clark; grandmother, Adranah Perdue; daughter, Yaniece Perdue; brothers, Melvin Moore, Emory Mallory, Semy Charles and aunt, Kimberly Perdue Cleare. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at The Fountain.



A Mortuary Service

ANTHONY ADAMS, 26, entrepreneur, died February 26 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Viewing: 3-8 p.m., Friday at Manker Funeral Home. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Holy Temple Missionary Baptist Church.



Hall Ferguson Hewitt

VIOLA MARTIN, 76, died February 28 at University of Miami Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church.



The Mortuary Service

SHARON DENISE WRIGHT, 59, patient care representative, died March 1 at home. Survivors includes her common law partner, Jerome Nichols, son, Jerome Corey Wright; daughters, Marouetta and Precious Wright; a host of relatives and close friends. Viewing 5-8 p.m., Friday at The Church of the Open Door, 6001 NW 8 Ave., Miami, FL. Service 2 p.m., Saturday at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



Grace

JAMES AKINS, 73, died March 1. Service 11 a.m., Friday at House of God Miracle Temple Apostolic.



Eric L. Wilson

SCZEZAR LAMARI BOLES, 17, student, died February 23 at Joe DiMaggio Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Hallandale Beach, FL.

HENRY THOMPSON, 69, died February 28. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Miami, FL.

STEVENS JEAN GILLES, 32, died February 26 at Broward Health Medical Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.

Nakia Ingraham

RUBY PEARL BRAY, 61, died February 20. Services were held.

ROSA MARY MARTINEZ, 72, died February 28. Services were held.

JAMES CONRAD BASS, 70, driver, died February 24. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.

MARGARET LYNCH, 55, CNA, died February 28. Service 4 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.

Eric S. George

SILAS WHITE, died March 1. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Friendship Baptist Church.

JOYCE T. MCKENZIE, died February 28. Service 1 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.

Range

REVEREND MOSES LEE PASCHAL, SR., pastor of New Cornith Missionary Baptist Church died February 28. Services were held.

JEREMI A. BARNES, 10 months old infant, died February 23. Service 2 p.m., Thursday in the chapel.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



JESSIE B. WESLEY
02/26/1960 - 03/09/2017

To some you are forgotten, but to us, the ones who loved and lost you, your memories will always last.
Wife, Cassandra Welsey; daughter, Markesha Brunson and loving family.

Card of Thanks

We the family of the late,



MINNIE LEE STALLWORTH

extend sincere thanks to all family and friends for your prayers, numerous acts of love, kindness and support shown during this time of our bereavement.

For whatever you did to console the family, your cards, and monetary gifts, covered dishes and floral arrangements, we thank you so much.

Special thanks are extended to Mr. Terry Wright, Mrs. Jacqueline Hill Young and the entire staff of Wright & Young Funeral Home Staff for their superior services rendered. To Pastor S. Robert Stewart and the Pentecostal Tabernacle family; Pastors Drs. Henry and Teresa Daniels and the Cornerstone Christian Center Church family and all supporting churches, Broward Sheriffs office, Miami Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department, Nat's Catering & Staff for a job well done.

Abundant blessings, we love and appreciate you all.
The Stallworth Family

Death Notice



AURIENTA PINDER WARE, 91, retired teacher, Broward County School System, died March 5. Survivors include: daughters, Kellyn Johnson (Anthony) and Kim White; five grandchildren; other relatives. Viewing 6-8 p.m., Friday with Litany at 7 p.m. at Church of The Transfiguration, 15260 NW 19 Avenue, Opa Locka, FL. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at the church. Arrangements entrusted to Gregg L Mason Funeral Home.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



IDELLA REESE PRICE
02/27/1920 - 03/01/2016

It's been two years since you have been resting in the arms of the almighty.

You are always in our hearts and spirit.

You will never be forgotten for the gates of memory will never close.

Forever grateful for a beautiful life of 96 years.

Your loving family, we miss you



Bill Cosby and his late daughter Ensa

Bill Cosby's daughter Ensa, 44, dies from renal disease

ANDREA MANDELL
USA TODAY

Bill Cosby's daughter Ensa Cosby has died from renal disease, USA TODAY has confirmed. She was 44. She died Feb. 23.

According to TMZ, which broke the news, Ensa had a history of medical problems and was possibly awaiting a kidney transplant.

Cosby spokesperson Andrew Wyatt confirmed Ensa's cause of death to USA TODAY.

"The Cosby Family thanks many people for their prayers for their beloved and beautiful Ensa, who recently died from renal disease," he said in a statement.

Ensa was a strong defender of her father, last year saying that though she had chosen to live her life out of the spotlight, "for my child, my niece, my nephew, and my father, I cannot sit quietly anymore."

"The accusations against

my father have been one-sided from the beginning. When he tried to defend himself, he was sued in civil court. I've seen the accusations become more horrific and extreme with time, and I've witnessed my father's reputation and legendary works be dismissed without any proof."

Ensa declared her father had been "publicly lynched in the media."

"I strongly believe my father is innocent of the crimes alleged against him, and I believe that racism has played a big role in all aspects of this scandal," she stated.

Daughter Evin Cosby, 41, came out in their father's defense at the same time.

Bill Cosby and his wife, Camille, married in 1964 and are also parents to Erika, 52 and Erin, 51, who also issued a statement defending her father.

Their son Ennis was murdered at the age of 27 in a failed robbery attempt in Los Angeles in 1997.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



HAROLD L. CHARLOW
03/10/1930 - 03/08/2002

To some you are forgotten, to some you are of the past.

But to us, the ones who loved and lost you, your memories will always last.

Your loving son, Frederick; daughter, Sandra; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In Memoriam: Celebrate a Life

Memorialize and celebrate a loved one on the pages of The Miami Times.

For more information, call
305-694-6225

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,



AURA CAMILLE FYNES
03/07/1973 - 04/27/2015

It's been three years and not a day has gone by that we haven't thought of you.

Your warm heart and love for others will always be remembered.

You will Live In Our Hearts Forever.

Your brother Adrian; sister, Pamela and family.