

The Miami Times

Volume 95 Number 42 | JUNE 6-12, 2018 | MiamiTimesOnline.com | Ninety-Three Cents

Colorism

JANIAH ADAMS
jadams@miamitimesonline.com

Being Dominican in Miami can be difficult, especially if your father is a white Dominican and your mother is a Black Dominican. Enter Melissa Guzman – the product of a white and Black Dominican, which resulted in her identity crisis.

"I was always told I am not Black. I think there's such a distance between Blacks and Latinos in Miami," she said.

Guzman did not to be dark-skinned or sport her curly
SEE COLOR 8A

col-or-ism

prejudice or discrimination against individuals with a dark skin tone, typically among people of the same ethnic or racial group.

Commission fails Jordan on override vote

The living-wage law of \$15 to be considered at Miami International

CAROLYN GUNISS
cguniss@miamitimesonline.com

Saying a living-wage legislation would adversely affect projects such as Liberty Square Rising and Amazon's fulfillment center in Opa-locka, Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez on Tuesday urged commissioners not to vote to override a veto he made last month.

Liberty Square will have some retail space for lease and Gimenez said "mom and pop stores" who sublet space in the redeveloped communi-

ty will have to pay their workers \$15 per hour.

The potential negative impact on the local economy could be \$25 million, Gimenez said.

"Those numbers are not hysterical," he said.

Gimenez won the latest round in the ping-pong of the legislation that asks tenants such as those at Miami International Airport and PortMiami to pay their workers in accordance with the county's living wage already required of vendors. The ordinance passed May 15 with a 7-5 vote,



“

The sky is not falling. There are things we can do to hold it up. Win or lose, victory is mine.”

Barbara Jordan

but Gimenez blocked it.

The state minimum wage is \$8.25 per hour. Under the current policy, all employees who work for, or are contracted to the county must be paid the \$15-per-hour wage. The ordinance would allow workers on county-owned property to receive that same pay.

On Tuesday, commissioners voted the same 7-5 in support of the legislation but the vote to override the mayor's veto takes two-thirds of the commissioners present voting yes.

Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz said he could support the legislation if it were amended to only include the businesses at MIA.

"This is very far-reaching," Diaz said of the legislation, citing unknown consequences. "If we limit this to the airport, and as time goes on the program could be extended," he could support that legislation, he said.

Commissioners Rebeca Sosa, Joe Martinez and Esteban "Steve" Bovo cited economic disparity, government meddling in the private sector and fairness as reasons why they couldn't support the legislation.

Commissioner Jean Monestime said that the county should have some leverage when it comes to leasing spaces. "Leveraging our assets gives us stronger footing.

Wages and property are the only things we have as leverage," Monestime said.

Commissioner Xavier Suarez made a motion to override the veto, which was seconded by Daniella Levine Cava.

"Employees who work on taxpayer-owned property should not be subjected to poverty wages," said Levine Cava. "As a local government, the tone we set matters. Our workers deserve a government that has their back and will give them the peace of mind that they can make ends meet based on their own hard work. I will continue to strive for a community where

SEE VOTE 6A

OPA-LOCKA

Payments to fired city manager questioned

Concerns arise over thousands of dollars in retro-pay to former staff

NYAMEKYE DANIEL
ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

Fired Opa-locka city manager Eddie Brown is keeping everyone busy.

In one case, Brown has the interim city manager following a paper trail that leads to raises that no one seemingly authorized.

In another, Brown confesses to firing a whistleblower during a deposition.

Brown himself has filed a \$15,000 lawsuit alleging

breach of contract by his former employer, who fired him.

Interim City Manager Newell Daughtrey said while he was combing through pages of financial records in his office at the City Hall, he stumbled upon payment discrepancies and decided to investigate further.

In a May 23 memo, Daughtrey said Brown changed his own salary and approved himself back pay of \$7,302.13. Brown was appointed city manager on July



Former City Manager Opa-locka Eddie Brown, left, Opa-locka Mayor Myra Taylor, right, speak to reporters at Opa-locka City Hall.

17, 2017, with an annual salary of \$112,500. October 17, 2017 - three months later - Brown changed his salary to \$125,000

without the required approval from the City Commission or a Financial Oversight Board put in place by Florida Gov.

\$42K

According to the payroll documents obtained by *The Miami Times*, Brown, Reyes, Green and Carney received a total of almost \$42,000 of back pay dating back to October 2017, while the city struggled financially.

Rick Scott, said Daughtrey. He was fired on April 11 for backing Klub 24, a strip club that opened illegally in the city.

On the paperwork for the Oct. 17 raise to \$125,000, there was just one signature, Brown's as city manager. Daughtrey also states that the Brown later approved himself retroactive payments equivalent to an annual salary of \$139,000.

Brown received two back payment checks: A check for \$1,921.13 was issued on Dec. 20, 2017, for Nov.1 to Dec.13 based on the \$125,000 salary.

SEE CRISIS 8A

INSIDE	BUSINESS.....	11B	YOU & YOURS.....	7D
	CLASSIFIED.....	15B	FAITH CALENDAR.....	8D
	IN GOOD TASTE.....	1C	HEALTH & WELLNESS.....	9D
	LIFESTYLE HAPPENINGS.....	5C	OBITUARIES.....	12D

Miami-Dade Technical College partners with Braman to make auto careers

11B



Today 88°



VIEWPOINT

Editorials
Cartoons
Opinions
Letters

BLACKS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY | JUNE 6-12, 2018 | MiamiTimesOnline.com

EDITORIAL

Guns and teachers shouldn't mix

It is uncanny that the conversation about teacher safety has just now gotten loud enough for legislators to hear. But the truth is teachers have been dying on school grounds from the 1800s. In recent years, teachers died during school shootings at Columbine High School, Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut, North Park Elementary in San Bernadino, California, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland and, most recent, Noblesville West Middle, in Indiana.

It was hard to find a comprehensive number, tragic as that statistic would have been. The reality is teachers, who are already under pressure to take care of themselves and their families economically because of low wages vis a vis cost of living, are dying during school shootings. Teachers' pay and resource allocations are always at the center of debate, and yet lawmakers demand a well-educated workforce to support economic development efforts.

The governor of Florida, Rick Scott and the Legislature hastily put together a bill that, in essence has created an even more unsafe work environment. Schools are supposed to be weapons-free zones. Not any more.

The Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program, named after a fallen Stoneman Douglas coach, who died while protecting students, will allow some teachers - those with other duties on campus - to have access to weapons. This is so fraught with problems, the idea should be thrown out. Lack of training, nervousness, malfunctioning weapons or worse than being overtaken by the active shooter who now has another loaded weapon are some obvious concerns.

The resource officer and now other personnel will have access to guns. Guns are deadly weapons. They cause death.

There needs to be real a conversation about how to protect teachers as well as students.

Teachers already have anxiety over performance-pay raises and unmanageable students. Wondering when a bullet will find them in their classroom should not be an added stressor.

The Miami Times

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

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Subscription Rates: One Year \$52.99 - Two Year \$99.99
Foreign \$75.00
7 percent sales tax for Florida residents

Periodicals Postage paid at Miami, Florida
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE MIAMI TIMES, P.O. Box 270200, Buena Vista Station, Miami, FL 33127-0200 • 305-694-6210



The prison reform bill isn't perfect

EUGENE ROBINSON, *The Washington Post*

When it comes to prison reform, a little something is better than a lot of nothing. That is why the bipartisan First Step Act, passed last week by the House, deserves to be approved by the Senate and signed into law.

Progressives are sharply divided on the measure, mostly because of what it doesn't do. The bill - sponsored by Reps. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) and Douglas A. Collins (R-Ga.) and strongly pushed by President Trump's son-in-law and adviser, Jared Kushner - does nothing to address the main problem, which is that this nation sends far too many people to prison and keeps them locked up far too long.

Truly meaningful change would involve sentencing reform, for which there is some bipartisan support in Congress - but not enough to get such legislation through both chambers. It is hard to imagine that Trump, who tries so hard to project a tougher-

than-thou image, would sign a bill significantly reducing sentences. And Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who believes in throwing away the key, would have a conniption fit.

The First Step Act ignores the "front end" of the problem - sentencing - and focuses exclusively on the "back end." It would provide \$50 million a year for five years in new funding for education and rehabilitation programs in federal prisons, encourage inmates to participate in those programs by giving them credits for early release, and allow some prisoners to serve the balance of their sentences in halfway houses or home confinement.

Proponents estimate the bill would allow up to 4,000 inmates to be released from prison immediately. This is a small fraction of the total federal prison population of nearly 184,000. But try to explain that disparity to those 4,000 men and women and

“ We send to prison far too many men and women whose nonviolent or minor crimes should be handled without incarceration

their families. The bill also requires that inmates be housed at prisons within 500 miles of their homes, that inmates not be shackled during childbirth and recovery, and that sanitary products be provided to female prisoners. It is appalling that such basic humanity has to be compelled by legislation, but here we are.

The House vote on the First Step Act was 360 to 59, with Democrats sharply divided. Some of the most

progressive members of the Democratic caucus supported the bill, and some voted against it. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund lobbied against the bill; the National Urban League urged approval.

Based on the experience of the past 16 months, I start from the general premise that anything proposed by the Trump administration probably should be fought tooth and nail. Then I look more closely to see if this usually sound assumption holds up. In this case, it doesn't.

It is true that we will never begin to reform our shameful system of mass incarceration and warehousing until we address sentences. We send to prison far too many men and women whose nonviolent or minor crimes should be handled without incarceration. Black and Hispanic men are unfairly targeted by sentencing rules and biased police practices.



Taking the moral high ground on race

CHARLES M. BLOW, *The New York Times*

Racist comments don't hurt my feelings. Not at all.

However, I find that people assume that they are hurtful, both the persons spewing them and those empathic about the perceived pain.

But I register no such pain. I'm from the Toni Morrison school of morality on the subject of race. As she once told Charlie Rose:

"I always knew that I had the high ground, all my life. I always thought those people who said I couldn't come in the drugstore, and I had to sit in this funny place, and I couldn't go in the park..."

Rose interjects: "You felt morally superior to them from Day 1."

Morrison continued: "I did. And I thought they knew that I knew that they were inferior to me, morally. I always thought that, and my parents always thought that."

Although it doesn't hurt my feelings, it does enrage me when racists are granted power in society to allow their id-



Tom Brenner/The New York Times

"Trump is a walking, talking permission slip for the white supremacist," Charles Blow writes.

ocy to have a negative impact on other people, whether that be culturally, psychologically and spiritually, or materially and physically.

It enrages me when ignorance is elevated and empowered, when historical truth is eschewed, when current realities are denied.

But this moral rage is separate and apart from emotional distress, the former being active and energetic while the latter is passive and plaintive.

In this context, Roseanne Barr's recent racist tweets, including one suggesting that the Obama-era White House official Valerie Jarrett was the offspring of apes, were not emotionally injurious, but

were rage-inducing. When asked if she agreed that Donald Trump had set a tone that has made people feel increasingly empowered to make racist statements, Jarrett said: "Tone does start at the top, and we like to look up to our president and feel as though he reflects the values of our country."

The blunt fact is that while racism and racists predated Trump's presidency, he has clearly relieved a lot of the guilt and shame some may otherwise have felt about having their hatred and intolerance on display.

Trump is a walking, talking permission slip for the white supremacist. He had the gall to tweet on Wednesday: "Bob Iger of ABC called Valerie Jarrett to let her know that 'ABC does not tolerate comments like those' made by Roseanne Barr. Gee, he never called President Donald J. Trump to apologize for the HORRIBLE statements made."



CARTOON CORNER



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

NFL owners miss a chance at greatness

KAIA WRIGHT, *founder of Courage Under Fire, a website dedicated to the national anthem protests against racism*

At the conclusion of its annual Spring League meeting, the NFL announced that players will be required to "stand and show respect" for the national anthem if they are on the sidelines. In doing so, owners have squandered an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate courage, dedication to challenging racism, and respect for the principles of freedom this country purports to uphold.

Whether a player stands for the national anthem is an individual decision. Participation in the nationalistic ritual marked by the singing or playing of the national anthem is essentially a personal invitation extended to every citizen of this country. It is akin to attending a non-religious event in which attendees are invited to pray. The

decision not to participate is an personal one that it is not anyone's prerogative to even question, let alone either demand an explanation, or, worse, attempt to compel participation.

Anger from fans was an issue raised by owners as a basis for their decision; as polls clearly reflect, views on the protests are divided along racial lines, with Black people overwhelming in support, and white people overwhelmingly against. Thus, it appears the NFL prioritized the racist sensibilities of its white fans over its Black fan base, many of whom boycotted the NFL over its black-balling of Colin Kaepernick.

Further, even if white fans' anger over protests did affect the NFL's revenue due to reduced television ratings - a

contention that is far from definitive - this would not absolve the NFL of its responsibility to stand by the principles of equality and respect for this nation's rights and freedoms ostensibly afforded Blacks in America.

The final issue affecting owners' decision is the contention that failing to stand for the national anthem disrespects our nation's veterans and the flag. This argument is illogical. A nation's anthem and flag's primary purpose is to represent the entirety, 100 percent, of its citizenry. Any other symbolism to subgroups such as veterans, police, civil servants, etc., must be subordinate and secondary to its primary representation. Further, as veterans take an oath to support and defend the constitution,

it is nonsensical to then declare that the actual exercise of those rights is disrespectful to this very group. Finally, the statute which delineates actions disrespectful to the flag does not include kneeling or remaining seated during the anthem.

NFL owners missed an opportunity for greatness by failing to resolve this issue in a way, which boldly reflects commitment to equality and justice. Instead of standing with the very individuals whose labor and talent have so enriched the lives of the owners themselves, the league as a whole, and football fans the world over, owners have opted for the path of cowardice, racism, and the literal conceptualization of their titles as owners of Black bodies.



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Racial slur shows lack of diversity

Bar association mounts campaign against Millan for 'moolie' remark

ANDREA ROBINSON
arobinson@miamitimesonline.com

The push by local Black lawyers to remove a local judge from office calls attention to the use of an antiquated racial slur, but also to the makeup of the Miami-Dade bench.

Trelvis Randolph, the president of the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association, said the comments attributed to Circuit Court Judge Stephen Millan have no place in a courtroom.

"We don't believe the statements he made should ever

be uttered by a judge over a case where he's impacting and directing the lives from people who expect a fair and impartial analysis," said Randolph, an attorney with Cole, Scott & Kissane.

However, Randolph argued that chances are greater that an incident like that would be less likely to happen before a Black judge.

The 11th Judicial Circuit is the largest in the state and covers all of Miami-Dade County, one of Florida's most diverse areas. There are about 100 judges in the circuit and county court divisions. Of those, just six are Black.

Circuit court judges hear the more serious cases: felonies and civil incidents involving more than \$15,000. Their verdicts greatly determine the ramifications of a defendant.

Millan was elected to the circuit court in 2014, after unsuccessful attempts in Miami-Dade circuit and county judge elections in previous years. His term expires in 2020.

He faces suspension by punishment. The Florida Supreme Court will determine his sanction.

But the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association wrote to the commission and asked that Millan lose his seat. Randolph said they want him removed.

"Those words should never come from the bench," Randolph said. "They have no place in our court system."

Randolph said the bench should reflect the diversity of the community in which it serves. "One of the reasons is so that the people who are making the decisions about the community actually have an understanding of the community," Randolph said.

Added Pearson: "I believe

when we talk about judicial appointments from the governor, and when we talk about having qualified candidates whose name go up to the governor for appointments who are not approved," Randolph said.

Handfield said the federal bench with three Black judges is more diverse because at least one of the judges is female. There are none in Miami-Dade County. The only Black female circuit judge was Melvia Green, who was appointed in the late 1980s by former governor, Bob Martinez. Green subsequently was appointed to the state's Third District Court of Appeals in 1994.

This fall, two Black female attorneys will appear on the ballot for judicial posts in the 11th Circuit. Renee Gordon is seeking a position with the circuit court, while Olanike Adebayo is seeking a seat on the county court.

Pearson said that in 16 years as a prosecutor, she witnessed racially insensitive behavior by defense attorneys toward their clients. "This happens more than we know," she said.

"We need more Black judges on the bench, and we need more training for judges on the bench on implicit bias and how to interrupt unconscious bias," Pearson said.

"We really need to create a culture of if we see something, say something."

Miami-Dade County currently has six Black judges in the circuit court division: William Thomas, Rodney Smith, Daryl Trawick, Eric Hendon, and Orlando Scott. There are five in the County Court: Tanya Brinkley, Renatha Francis, Fred Seraphin, Teretha Lundy Thomas and Gordon Murray, who was recently sworn to the bench after being appointed by Gov. Rick Scott in October.

That number might decrease next month when Smith is expected to be confirmed to the federal court system.

State judges are elected or appointed by the governor.

The lack of diversity creates a disconnect in understanding from the person on the bench and the situation of the person standing before the judge, Randolph said.

"We've raised this before

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY MIAMI TIMES EDITORIAL DEPT.

Miami special City Commission meeting

The Miami City Commission will hold a special meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, June 8, at Miami City Hall, located at 3500 Pan American Drive. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and take actions toward the modification of the lease between the City of Miami and ESJ J Leasehold LLC., and to discuss and take actions associated with the allocation of funds for improvements to Charles Hadley Park, 1350 NW 50 St. No business will be conducted or a vote taken at a special City Commission meeting other than the subject for which the special meeting is called. Anyone interested may attend the meeting.

National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County recognizes June 8 as the annual observance of National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The goal of the day is to provide Caribbean-Americans with the resources they need to reduce the spread of HIV, including health education and testing. In commemoration of National Caribbean-American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the Miami-Dade Department of Health will host HIV and STD

testing outreach. One will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on June 8 at Caraf Gas Station, 13705 NW Seventh Ave., in Miami. Another event will be from 6 to 10 p.m. on June 29 at Viernes Culturales, 1400 SW Eighth St., in Miami.

Farm Share food distribution

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 9, State Rep. Cynthia Stafford and Opa-locka Vice Mayor Joseph Kelly will partner with Farm Share for a food distribution from 9 a.m. to noon at Sherbondy Pavilion, 215 Peruvia Ave. Supplies will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 305-953-3086.

TechHire summer boot camp

TechHire will offer courses in cybersecurity, compTIA+, Gaming, programming/coding, web applications, web development June 18 to July 27. Participants must be a Miami-Dade County resident or a Miami-Dade County Public Schools student, between the age of 15 and 22, receive free or reduced lunch, or your family receives temporary assistance for needy families. Offer. Upon completing program, students will receive a \$300 stipend and upon obtaining a credential, students will receive \$200 stipend.



Melba Pearson



Trelvis Randolph



Stephan Millan

retrieve his wallet from the courtroom because "I don't trust it in there with those thugs."

According to the Judicial Qualifications Commission complaint, the cases involved the same attorney.

Melba Pearson, assistant executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, said she was surprised at the JQC report. Pearson is a former prosecutor with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. She said she tried cases where Millan was the defense attorney, and never witnessed the behavior outlined in the report.

"I don't know all the facts around the events, but the JQC is privy to that information," said Pearson. "The statements that have come to light are incredibly disturbing. If those are his views, that is incompatible with how we want those who administer justice to behave."

The commission recommended Millan be suspended for 30 days, and pay a \$5,000 fine and be reprimanded. Millan has agreed to accept the

that diversity only makes the criminal justice system better," she said. "If you don't have inclusion and diversity in the criminal justice system, you will be guaranteed that there will be injustice."

Miami-Dade County currently has six Black judges in the circuit court division: William Thomas, Rodney Smith, Daryl Trawick, Eric Hendon, and Orlando Scott. There are five in the County Court: Tanya Brinkley, Renatha Francis, Fred Seraphin, Teretha Lundy Thomas and Gordon Murray, who was recently sworn to the bench after being appointed by Gov. Rick Scott in October.

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"We've raised this before

STREET Talk

COMPILED BY JAYDA HALL, digital@miamitimesonline.com

Who do you think is missing in your community for the youth?



Cari Scott, 29
Miami



Simeka Hamilton, 39
Plantation



Frank Wyche, 48
Miramar

We need to implement programs that would help get kids active in the community, prepared for their future and off the streets. I think a good initiative that would help the youth is one where they can find jobs or learn how to write their own resumes. These both can keep them proactive and also help them in their personal lives.



Chas Williams, 26
Miami

I don't think that my community is missing anything regarding the youth. Where I live in Plantation, the community is very engaging and active. Parks are always filled with sporting and volunteering activities for the kids. And if you go by any pool or running area, you see everyone participating. The city of Plantation has something for everyone so no one is ever left out.



Candace Lowe, 33
North Miami Beach

Where I live, my city is not that bad. But I think other cities like Liberty City and Opa-locka could use more government programs for the inner-city youth. Back in the days, we use to have jobs. When there are no jobs for these kids, they are left with nothing but gang-related activities to engage in and breaking into houses. All they have is time on their hands, so we need to give them something to do.



Jessica Victor, 30
North Miami

I think we need to reach out to the youth more, communicate and show them that we support them. I believe this will keep them off the streets and also teach them that if they see something, they should say something. And, if we adults are being vocal about what's going on in the 'hood, then it will give the youth the courage to speak up — whether at school or in life in general. They just need the right people to look up to.

I think involvement and engagement is missing. The youth don't have enough support from the city nor from schools as far as extra-curricular activities to keep them busy. And then there are activities that some parents cannot afford to put their kids in, so it leaves the youth wandering. If the community and city can come together and find ways to help low-income families keep their kids involved, there can be a reduction in crimes involving these kids.

I think the community definitely is missing unity, sympathy, compassion and just caring for the next person. Everyone is going through their own issues, and people don't want to deal with other people's issues. So I think we just need to come together and really help one another understand that it's not just your neighbor's child, but it's your child, too. It takes a village to raise a child, and I think that's what is missing today.

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Wells Fargo launches \$60 billion plan to increase African American homeownership

After years of racing and renting, novelist Randy Camp, recently became a first-time homeowner at age 25.

"It feels good," said Camp, a resident advisor at a youth services agency in Des Moines, Iowa. "There's this idea of this place is yours, so now make sure you take care of it and enjoy it." I also did it for my children. As I get older, I realize the importance of leaving an asset for them."

In an effort to make homeownership dreams a reality for others like Camp, Wells Fargo has launched a 30-year diversity initiative to provide \$60 billion in home loans, supporting at least 250,000 African American homeowners by 2027. As part of the plan, the company also intends to significantly increase the diversity of its mortgage sales force.

Working with the National Urban League and the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, Wells Fargo announced the initiative Feb. 28 at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta.

The company aims to help reverse the decreasing homeownership rate in the African American community, said Brad Blackwell, head of housing policy and homeownership growth strategies for Wells Fargo.

Blackwell added that the company also plans to invest \$15 million in a wide range of initiatives that promote financial education and counseling for African American homeowners over the next 30 years. The company will also boost its recruiting, hiring, and retention of African American home mortgage officers, he said.

Year of transformation at Wells Fargo

In a letter published in the 2017 Wells Fargo Annual Report, CEO Tim Sloan had this to say about the past year:

"This was a year of transformation at Wells Fargo. We achieved a great deal in 2017 and look forward to building on our momentum in the months ahead. Our top priority remains rebuilding the trust of our customers, team members, communities, regulators, and shareholders. We have made foundational changes to identify and fix problems so they do not happen again and achieved significant progress in our commitment to make things right for our customers and build a better bank. Our transformation is grounded in our vision of satisfying our customers' financial needs and helping them succeed financially. While we have more work to do, I assure you that the Operating Committee and I are fully committed to building on our accomplishments. In addition, we take very seriously the consent order we entered into with the Board of

Governors of the Federal Reserve System in February 2018, and we will work diligently, yet swiftly, to meet the requirements.

In response to feedback from our team, we introduced a streamlined Vision, Values & Goals of Wells Fargo in late 2017 — replacing what previously was a 37-page expression of our culture. Today the wallet-sized booklet focuses exclusively on our guiding principles and goals, clearly expressing the beliefs that guide every team member as we work together to build the best Wells Fargo possible.

We have overcome challenges many times during our history. We have a solid foundation, exceptional businesses, and an outstanding team. Our more than 260,000 team members are dedicated, talented, and committed — and, without a doubt, they are our most important resource. Thank you for placing your trust in Wells Fargo and for your support. Our commitment to you is unwavering as we continue our transformation into a better, stronger company.

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New Wells Fargo structure focuses on customer experience "Change for the Better"

After a successful pilot in select locations across the U.S., Wells Fargo branches have rolled out the first phase of changes designed to transform the customer and team member experiences.

One of those changes is to put in place a new compensation program for retail bank team members to focus on the customer experience within its branches. The new compensation program took effect on Jan. 1, 2017, and applies to all branch team members, including managers, tellers, and personal bankers.

The changes have also streamlined complicated processes, replaced required questions with tips and suggestions relevant to customers, eliminated sales pressure, and allowed bankers and tellers to simply talk to their customers, ask questions, listen, and meet their financial needs by offering the right products and services or referring them to the right partners.

A celebration of black entrepreneurs

Celebrity chef Robbi All joins Wells Fargo in a salute to African American small business owners who are working to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

As early as middle school, Mandy Bowman knew she wanted to be an entrepreneur. The Brooklyn, New York, native went on to study entrepreneurship and global business management at Babson College in Massachusetts, and then took a job as a social media manager by day, while she worked on developing her own business at night.

By October 2017, Bowman was a full-time entrepreneur and had launched her business — the Official Black Wall Street app. "I wanted to support black-owned businesses in my local area, but was unable to find a directory that was current or easy to use — so I created my own," said Bowman. The app is now the largest directory of its kind in the world, according to Black News, and allows users to find and rate black-owned businesses in their neighborhoods and nationwide.

Bowman's business, like other small businesses, required hard work, dedication, and, most of all, support to succeed. Currently, there are more than 2.6 million black-owned businesses in the U.S.,

according to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Survey of Business Owners Facts (PDF). In support of these businesses, and in an effort to strengthen communities, Wells Fargo is saluting and highlighting Community Builders — the African American small business owners who go above and beyond to make things better for their businesses, their customers, and their neighborhoods.

"Initiatives like Community Builders help encourage and inspire black entrepreneurs, and we hope this initiative will encourage others to seek out and support the Community Builders in their neighborhoods," said Candace McCullum Gainer, Wells Fargo's head of African American integrated campaigns. Wells Fargo launched the Community Builders initiative in 2017 by spotlighting the stories of African American business owners nationwide who were working to give back to their local communities. In honor of Black History Month, Wells Fargo is once again celebrating Community Builders.

"Supporting small business owners is critical to the success of our communities and a priority Wells Fargo takes seriously," said Lisa Prisco, multicultural segment strategy leader. Wells Fargo has helped small businesses in local

communities through focused investments and by providing small business tools and resources.

The company also supports small businesses through Wells Fargo Works for Small Business® and the Wells Fargo Works for Small Business: Diverse Community Capital program. The Diverse Community Capital program, established in 2015, provides capital to Community Development Financial Institutions, or CDFIs. CDFIs provide technical assistance, financial services, mentoring, and other resources for diverse small businesses that may not qualify for conventional bank loans.

Throughout February, Community Builder recognition events are taking place in Atlanta, Houston, and New York City. The marquee event in New York City will feature Bowman and special host, entrepreneur, and celebrity chef Robbi All.

"I'm excited to work with Wells Fargo to celebrate Community Builders," All said. "Simply trying to run a business as an entrepreneur takes a lot of work, so going above and beyond that takes even more effort, but also brings even more rewards. I am proud to be in a position to acknowledge other entrepreneurs who are doing great business and serving as Community Builders for their neighborhoods."



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CRB focus on racial profiling and calling police

End of 2018 school year initiatives to prevent youth violence discussed

Miami Times Staff Report

A meeting that focused on how people use law enforcement to racially profile minorities was held recently by the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board.

Under the Office of Community Advocacy, the CRB held its Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Committee meeting on Thursday, May 31 at the Stephen P. Clark Center in Miami.

In recent weeks several incidents have occurred where white people have called law enforcement on Black people who are not committing a crime, such as when two men were waiting at Starbucks; a

group of women were leaving an Airbnb rental; a black man was cooking in a park; and a student was sleeping on campus in a public space.

None of the incidents took place in Miami.

"Most people in Miami-Dade County have experienced some sort of racial profiling or they have seen others being profiled, which is unacceptable," said Gus Barreiro, chairman of the Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Committee.

"Racial profiling may be happening in Miami-Dade County and it just has not gone viral yet," said CRB Program Director Shirley Plantin. "People have the right to



CRB Program Director Shirley Plantin answering questions from the press.

call the police but when you call the police, do people understand the after effects and who are we calling the police on?"

End of school year initiatives to prevent an increase of youth violence during the summer were also discussed.

"When the kids are bored, they will find better ways to be entertained," said Miami-Dade Police Chief Ariel Artime. "It's important to keep them out of trouble and out of harm's way."

All CRB meetings are open to the public and the Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Committee meets on the last Thursday of the month.

For more information, please contact Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board Director Shirley Plantin at 305-375-1406.

CRISIS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

While a check for \$5,381 was issued on March 9 for Nov1 to March 7, 2018 based on the \$139,000 salary.

It turned out that Brown was not the only employee who received unapproved retro-pay. Opa-locka human resources director, Kierra Ward in a May 1 memo said assistant manager Ernesto Reyes, former William Green and public works supervisor Owen Carney received payments of which she was unaware. "The payments were brought to her attention by finance director, Brian Hamilton.

According to the payroll documents obtained by *The Miami Times*, Brown, Reyes, Green and Carney received a total of almost \$42,000 of back pay dating back to October 2017.

Hamilton stated in his own memo that Brown,

Green and Reyes marched "documents from door to door within finance, payables and payroll, demanding accounts payable checks for their retroactive payments."

Even though Daughtrey stumbled on his findings, the attorney for the former finance director in a whistleblower suit against Opa-locka, said he is not surprised at all that Brown and his former team are being accused of the suspicious behavior.

THE WHISTLEBLOWER
Attorney Michael Pizzi said his client Charmaine Parchment was fired from her position for reporting some of the same behavior. Then she was replaced by Hamilton, someone "Brown and his gang could control."

"Charmaine warned them, and no one investigated," said Pizzi.

On Aug. 18, 2017, Parchment wrote in a memo: "Payroll is also being pres-

“My job is to protect the citizens of Opa-locka and their revenue, if anyone does anything inappropriate, regardless of who it is.”

sured to pay a retroactive payment for the interim city manager's position on July 17, 2017, despite the fact that this would require the approval of the commission and financial oversight board."

The memo was addressed to Brown, the mayor, city commissioners, state inspector General Eric Miller, the county ethics commission, the corruption unit, the over-

sight board and the state attorney's office. Parchment was fired by Brown four days after the memo was filed.

In a video deposition taken on May 17, Brown confirms - then denies - then confirms again that he fired Parchment for reporting what she evidenced as corruption.

"She said that she was resigning and then I accepted her resignation, I mean, I accepted her resignation," said Brown. "... I just didn't feel like the things she put in any one of those memos added up and that contributed to me terminating her employment."

Attorney Pizzi said that his client deserves an apology because Opa-locka "allowed her to be punished for exposing corruption." He also added that Hamilton should be "fired immediately."

"Brian Hamilton said he was told not to tell anyone, and he gets to keep his \$100,000 job. While Char-

mainé Parchment chose to do the right thing, and she is out on the street, with no job and no money. What kind of message does that send?"

City Manager Daughtrey said besides reading articles about Parchment's firing, he did not know the contents of her August 2017 memo, but he will be reviewing it.

Under consultation with the city attorney, Daughtrey said he has forwarded his findings to Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the state attorney's office, the county ethics commission and the corruption unit.

"My job is to protect the citizens of Opa-locka and their revenue, if anyone does anything inappropriate, regardless of who it is," Daughtrey said.

In an interview with *The Miami Times*, Brown said that "nothing out of the ordinary occurred" in the pay raise and that it was part of the "terms of his contract.

Now, everyone is trying to do act like they're dumb-founded."

According to Brown, the allegations are just a ploy for retaliation against him by Commissioner Timothy Holmes, who his a co-defendant in the \$15,000 suit against the city. In his lawsuit, Brown's attorney, Raven Liberty, said Holmes failed to appear to vote on Brown's contract. With that contract, Brown would have received an annual base salary of \$137,500.

The suit, filed on May 10, claims that instead Holmes invited Brown into his office and coerced him "to procure" contracts for Holmes' daughter, Assistant Police Chief Sharon Gallimore, and Police Chief James Dobson.

"So now he's retaliating out of desperation and using the interim manager to carry out his devious plan. Opa-locka will continue to be in a downward spiral as long as these two are in leadership," said Brown.

COLOR

CONTINUED FROM 1A

hair because of negative comments from people within her own community. This is what colorism is defined as - "prejudice or discrimination against individuals with a dark skin tone, typically among people of the same ethnic or racial group."

As Guzman embarks on a quest to point out and debunk colorism, the Black and Afro-Latino communities struggle with the harsh effects of it. In the Black community, colorism stem as far back as slavery. A Pew Research Center survey of Latino adults shows that many Afro-Latino identify as white, underscoring the identity crisis this group faces.

Guzman was born in New York City, but was raised in Miami. She graduated from Miami Jackson Senior High School. It was during her time in Miami that she suffered from her identity crisis the most, she said.

"I have beautiful curly hair. I love my curly hair now. I just let it shine. Before, when I used to live in Miami, I was encouraged to straighten my hair and people would always make little comments," she said. "Also growing up in Miami I avoided the sun because I didn't want to be too dark. I got dark and tan very quickly. That would make me want to stay out of it. So I would go to school with a hoodie or something ridiculous because I didn't want to get my arms so dark."

Guzman then went on to Howard University in Washington, D.C. to study film and



continued her studies at the University of Southern California. It was at Howard University, a Historically Black College or University, that she learned what her identity was through taking classes that explained the slave trade.

"After I graduated, I went to Africa and there was so many similarities to our culture - the drumming, the way we eat our food," she said. "So I realized we are Black people but we don't want to accept it because of all the issues Black people have in this country."

Guzman also minored in theater arts and was cast in productions at USC. After graduation, she was also cast in short films and the UP-TV family movie, "If You Really Love Me" directed by Roger Melvin.

"My agents sent me to all of these castings for Latinos and I would get there and look nothing like the other girls," she said. "It would frustrate me and eventually I could either keep playing the game or

I could do something about it and that's where I started my own projects."

Guzman's latest project is "Complexity," a scripted web-series that follows four families from different backgrounds and their journey towards self-acceptance. Guzman is currently in the process of raising money for the project through crowdfunding.

The topic of colorism recently came about in mainstream media when "Love and Hip-Hop Miami" star Amara La Negra let the world know about her struggles with colorism.

"In my own [Dominican] community they would offend you by saying 'la negra esta,' (this Black woman)," Amara La Negra said in an interview with NBC News.

The music star's original name is Dana Danelys De Los Santos, but adopted the name Amara La Negra, which is Spanish for Amara the Black Woman. She told NBC News that the name is an act of de-

fiance against those who criticize her Blackness.

While on the show, "Young Hollywood," a Miami music producer told the singer she needed to look "less Macy Gray and more Beyoncé." His words brought attention to colorism within the entertainment industry and sent Black Twitter in a fury.

Recently in Miami, a play called "Tres Viudas en un Crucero" (Three Windows on a Cruise) had Miami's Afro-Latino community in an uproar when one of the actresses, Marta Velasco, used blackface to make herself look like an Afro-Latina. *The Miami Herald* reported that the director, Pedro Roman, simply shrugged and didn't think it was racist to use blackface. The blackface was eventually taken out of the play.

Olivia Almagro, a member of the Afro-Latino association in Miami, said she thinks "Complexity" can help to blur the lines of colorism.

This issue does not just plague the Afro-Latino community but has affected Black Americans for centuries.

"The more conversations we have within the Latino community and the more visibility we see with Afro-Latinos in TV and roles, people will have a greater understanding that Latinos come in all different colors," Almagro said, who is half Cuban and half Jamaican.

This issue does not just plague the Afro-Latino community, but has affected African Americans for centuries.

Marvin Dunn, a historian, takes colorism all the way back to the days of slavery.

"With an intent to breed mixed-race people so you could have them sold as servants, domestic workers, and people who had more contact with white people," he said. "Sometimes these mixed-race children with white fathers gave them education that was not available to darker-skinned field workers. It mattered to be light-skinned then and now."

Dunn said while attending Moorehouse College in the '50s, they elected their homecoming queen from

Spelman College, which was right across the street.

"We never had a dark-skinned queen," Dunn said. "That's changed now, but going back to the '50s, that was apparent throughout the south."

Dunn said Miami is a special place when it comes to colorism.

"If you speak about Blacks in Miami, even if you're talking about Haitians in Miami, Jamaicans in Miami, African-Americans in Miami, all these ethnic groups have differences in their skin color or in their ethnic group," he said. "The lighter you were, the more privileges you had historically than people with darker skin."

Not long ago, rapper Trick Daddy took to Instagram to tell Black women to "tighten up" or else Spanish and white women would replace them. In 2011, American filmmaker Bill Duke and D. Channiss Berry produced a documentary called "Dark Girls" that exposed colorism within the Black community. In the documentary, one woman described the pain she felt as a child when her one would play with her because her skin was dark. An African-American man in the documentary said he only dates light-skinned women because dark-skinned women are not attractive.

The struggles of Afro-Latinos, African Americans and other ethnic groups is why Almagro and Guzman feel "Complexity" is a story that needs to be told.

"Its like the darker you are, the lower you are on the totem pole," Guzman said. "And that's where 'Complexity' came from."

CLASS OF 2018: BEATING THE ODDS

MIAMI CAROL CITY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS GRADUATE

JAYDA HALL

digital@miamitimesonline.com

Lights flash from the phones and cameras of dozens of parents and supporters.

Collective cheers shake the Ocean Bank Convocation Center at Florida International University.

This was no sporting event. Instead, more than 200 students were about to begin a new chapter in their lives after walking across the stage at Miami Carol City's 53rd annual commencement ceremony on June 2.

Principal Ja Marv Dunn shared a few words of encouragement with the class of 2018 before wishing them the best.

"If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. But by all means, keep moving," he said.

These words came after he shed light on several students he commended for pushing past adversity.

And 18-year-old Rickia Clark was one of them.

Clark graduated top of her class as valedictorian with a 4.6 GPA and a superintendent's diploma of distinction to show for it.

And while she conquered school, she was a victim of sexual abuse at 11 years old.

"It was my grandmother's boyfriend at the time," she said. "He was very nice, took us out a lot and my family ultimately liked him. But then one day that all switched."

Clark kept the encounter to



Miami Times photos/Jayda Hall

Miami Carol City Senior High School graduating seniors at their school's 53rd annual commencement ceremony on June 2 at the Ocean Bank Convocation Center at Florida International University.

herself for four years before she "finally" shared it with her parents.

"It was very emotional for my mom and dad," she said. "I started to go to therapy to talk about it a lot."

Seven years after the incident, Clark said she is "very motivated" by it.

"Today, I speak up against sexual abuse, and I intend to do great things in that nature," she said.

Sometimes it's an "issue" being around new people, especially older men, according to Clark. "But for the most part, I'm OK, and I get through the day," she said.

"It has been a roadblock that hasn't gotten in my way at all," she added.

Clark's dream, she said, is to become an anesthesiologist. She gained inspiration from an anesthesiologist she met in the ninth grade after she was di-

agnosed with appendicitis, an inflammation of the appendix.

The valedictorian will attend the University of Florida, also known as her "dream school from the time she could spell the name," she remembered. "I love the campus, and I think it will be a really good fit for me in Gainesville."

Jessica Derival was another student recognized by Dunn.

The 17-year-old summa cum laude Silver Knight graduate

leaves Carol City with a 4.3 GPA.

Jessica battled with mental depression starting her eighth-grade year. She attended Lucille M. Brown Middle School in Richmond, Virginia, a predominantly white school.

"A lot of my classmates did not look like me," she said. "Because of that, I was bullied."

That experience made it "hard" for Derival, she said when she arrived to Miami

Carol City Senior High School for ninth grade.

"Most of my classmates described me as weird because I would isolate myself and sit by myself all the time," she said. "But people just thought, 'oh, Jessica is always like that.'"

Jessica was named Miss Carol City for the 2017-2018 school year. She also held the secretary position for her senior class.

"So no one expected me to be depressed," she said. "They think I have it all together and I'm good, but deep down inside it was someone battling."

But Jessica started to fight back with depression. She launched a project at her school called Students Handling and Accepting the Dimensions of their Existence. SHADE was designed to bring awareness to mental illnesses and offer students a place to discuss anything not mentioned at home or in class.

The more students are able to talk about their problems, "the more power you gain back," Jessica believes.

"A lot of people don't take mental issues seriously in the Black community," she said. "They feel like it's a race thing like only white people get depressed, but it's really not like that."

Jessica will pursue a political science degree at the University of Miami. She hopes to enroll in law school, become a politician and advocate for mental illness clinics in her community.

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A FAST TRANSITION INTO A SERVICE TECHNICIAN

Miami-Dade Technical College partners with Braman to make auto careers

JULIANA ACCIOLY
Special to The Miami Times

At Braman Miami's service department, 21-year-old Brian Martinez has his eyes fixed on an intricate BMW engine. He gazes up only for a couple of minutes to share that even though he has only graduated from high school two years ago, he's already working on hybrid, high-voltage cars.

"My grandfather was an engineer, and I always thought of becoming a technician," he says. "This is what I like to do. I welcome its challenges."

Martinez still works under supervision. Mentors are readily available to help him at the entire wing of the downtown Miami service center, on Biscayne Boulevard and 20th Street. The location is dedicated to the Braman Automotive Training Center Program, a vocational school that helps high school graduates ages 18-25 become service technicians.

The concept was launched by Norman Braman in 2011, founder and CEO of Braman Motors, with the purpose of helping residents of the surrounding communities.

"We are located in the inner city," says Braman, who's been in business for more than 50 years. "This is an area where in the '80s and '90s, there were riots and a very high unemployment rate. Technical training helps tackle youth unemployment, gives them a greater chance of success if they are not interested in going to college."

With the innovative vocational program and funds set in place, Braman decided to join forces with Miami-Dade County Public Schools' adult and career education arm, Miami-Dade Technical Colleges. Curriculum Support Specialist Indira Jadoonandan

SEE FAST 14B



The Braman Automotive training program accepts 25 applicants from each Miami-Dade County Public Schools' graduating class. Recruits can be pipelined into careers that can pay them an average of \$17 an hour.

Miami Times photo/Gregory Reed

Callender joins local wellness research group

Experienced analyst to help Miami firm with tourism study

Miami Times staff Report

Miami-based Global Wellness Institute has accepted experienced research expert Tonia Callender as a research fellow.

In the newly created position, Callender will work alongside senior research fellows Katherine Johnston and Ophelia Yeung on analyzing diverse markets within the nearly \$4 trillion global wellness industry.

Callender specializes in conducting economic and legal research and analysis to support decisions about projects, strategy and investments. Previously, she worked with the nonprofit research institute SRI International and consulted for a diverse range of international clients, and is currently focused on wellness, spa and other tourism sectors across the globe.

Callender received her master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School, her law degree from the University of Virginia and her undergraduate degree in Economics from Yale University.

"I've had the privilege of working with Tonia in the past on projects spanning the tourism, financial services and technology industries," said Yeung. "She is sharp and thoughtful, an excellent researcher and colleague. I'm thrilled that she is joining the research team and will be contributing to our research on all wellness economy sectors."



Tonia Callender

SEE SPA 14B



AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS

DANIELLA PIERRE, affordablehousingmatters@gmail.com

The slum and blighted housing has got to go

The residents of Cordoba Courts Apartments, located at 13875 NW 22 Ave., in Opa-locka have had it with the slum and blighted living conditions. From mold, mildew, termite droppings, infestation

of large rodents, faulty ventilation systems, cracks in tiles, peeling paint, inaccessible wheelchair ramps and damaged walls, according to residents, they described a modern-day shantytown. Residents at Cordoba Courts Apartments have been complaining about the housing conditions to city officials, U.S. Department of Housing



Pierre

and Urban Development and even the management company dating back to 2016, documents show. Since that time, living conditions appear to have gotten much worse. After hearing the concerns of the residents and reviewing the photos of such unsightly damages, it is clear that not all aspects of the Fair Hous-

ing Act - passed back in 1968 and still in effect - are being adhered to federally, statewide or locally.

Shalonda Rivers, longtime resident and president of the Cordoba Courts Tenant's Association held a meeting on May 31, with residents, the Miami-Dade Branch NAACP Housing Committee; Nathaniel Wilcox of People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality (P.U.L.S.E.); Jeffrey Hearne with Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc.; Opa-locka Commissioner John Riley; and representatives from the Opa-Locka Police Department. An invitation to the management company was not extended

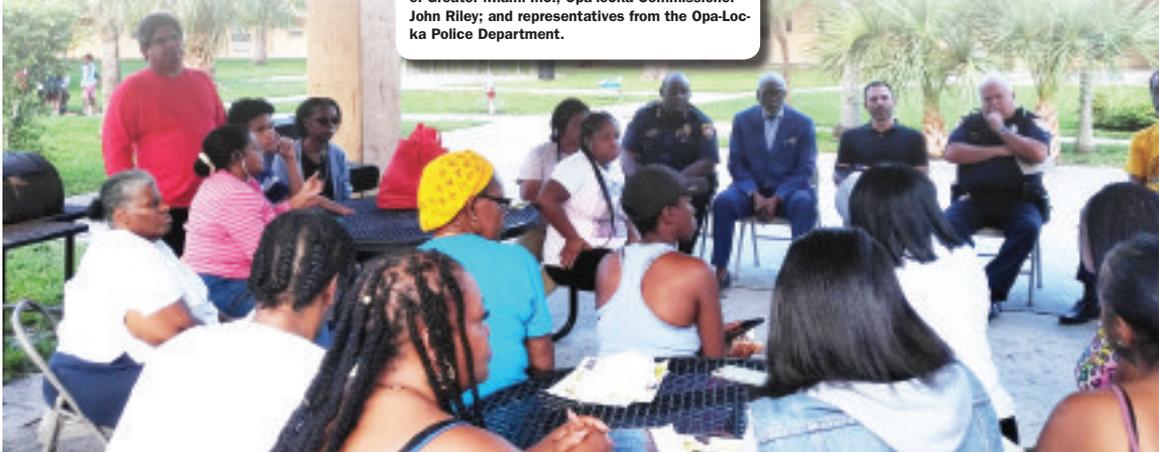
because, according to Rivers, the last time it came to a meeting was only to be recognized, not to address the ongoing concerns.

RESIDENTS DEMAND FAIR HOUSING

During the meeting, residents voiced their concerns about the ongoing violation, illegal towing of cars, safety-to-life issues, lack of after-school activities for youth, inoperable swimming pool, ragged maintenance repair, flooding and "unlawful" housing inspections toward Black tenants. In response to residents' concerns Riley, who used to live in the very

SEE PIERRE 12B

Residents of Cordoba Courts Apartments in Opa-locka meet with Miami-Dade Branch NAACP Housing Committee; Nathaniel Wilcox of People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality (P.U.L.S.E.); Jeffrey Hearne with Legal Services of Greater Miami Inc.; Opa-locka Commissioner John Riley; and representatives from the Opa-Locka Police Department.



Marilyn Holifield elected to Harvard board

Partner at Holland & Knight is a class of 1972 graduate of the Ivy League school

Special to The Miami Times

Holland & Knight partner Marilyn Holifield was elected to Harvard University's Board of Overseers.

Holifield is a class of 1972 graduate of Harvard Law School, has served as elected director of the Harvard Alumni Association for three years and has sat on its Executive Committee for six years. She is also a director of the Harvard Club of

Miami and a member of the Harvard Black Alumni Society of South Florida.

Holifield is one of six new overseers elected from a slate of eight candidates nominated by the Harvard Alumni Association and the first person from South Florida to be elected to this board.

By charter, Harvard has two governing boards — the President and Fellows of Harvard Col-

lege (also known as the Corporation) and the Board of Overseers. The primary function of the Board of Overseers is to encourage the university to maintain the highest attainable standards as a place of learning. Drawing on the diverse experience and expertise of its members, the board exerts broad influence over the university's strategic direction and provides counsel to the



“Holifield is a class of 1972 graduate of Harvard Law School, has served as elected director of the Harvard Alumni Association for three years and has sat on its Executive Committee for six years.”

university's leadership on priorities and plans.

Holifield practices in the general litigation area, with a specific emphasis on representing corporate clients at Holland & Knight, a global law firm with more than 1,250 lawyers and other professionals in 27 offices throughout the world. Her practice includes employment, business litigation, corporate governance, trade secrets, covenants-not-to-compete, class action and intellectual

property litigation.

Holifield is a recipient of the Anti-Defamation League's Jurisprudence Award and the National Bar Association's Gertrude E. Rush Award. She also serves on the executive committee of the board of trustees of the University of Miami and board of managers of Swarthmore College. She has served on the board of trustees of Pérez Art Museum Miami and is co-founder of the Miami Museum of Contemporary Art of the African Diaspora.

PIERRE

CONTINUED FROM 11B

same housing development years ago, Opa-locka Housing Authority lapsed in

da Housing Finance Corp. Riley says "living conditions can be addressed by the minimum housing standard that was passed this year by Miami-Dade County," to safeguard residents against both

tion to make it better — starting with all Opa-locka elected officials to the feds — ought to do so immediately. And for Millennium Management,

take another look at the Fair Housing Act because what appears to be happening, just isn't fair. Are you tired of living in slum and blight?

Does your landlord or management company fail to care? If so, contact Daniella Pierre affordablehousingmatters@gmail.com

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. 898382 RE-SOLICITATION IFB TO REMOVE & RE-INSTALL AWNING COVERS AT CITY OF MIAMI PARKS

CLOSING DATE/TIME: 1:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Monday, June 18, 2018 at 4:00 PM)

VOLUNTARY: Pre-Bid/Pre-Proposal Conference: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 10:00 AM. Location: City of Miami Building (MRC) 444 SW 2nd Ave., Miami, FL 33130, 6th floor North Conference Room

Detailed specifications for this bid are available at the City of Miami, Department of Procurement, website at www.miamigo.com/procurement or contact the Procurement Contract Officer Teresa Soto at tsoto@miamigo.com

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

AD NO. 26774 Emilio T. González, Ph. D. City Manager



Nathaniel Wilcox, PULSE

2012 to address the issues and conditions. I'm looking to bring it back."

As it stands now, Millennium Housing Management is the company responsible for making sure that all 175 apartment units are properly maintained, up to building code, in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, federal Fair Housing laws and functionally equipped to live in. But sub-standard conditions appear to be the norm throughout all eight buildings of this establishment.

Occupants of Apartment 104 and other residents expressed the same concern of having only one working electrical outlet per room; causing them to use extension cords to "power-up" other rooms, appliances and televisions. Wilcox, executive director of PULSE, has compiled a detailed report of slum living conditions, some of which were mold, leaks, sewer back and rodent intrusion.

BETTER HOUSING CONDITIONS NOW

The building receives some subsidies and credits from the state through Flori-

blight and decay.

But when residents tell management about their housing conditions they face unlawful unit searches, inspections, harassment and evictions. Rivers said she was just "served" an eviction notice, and she believes it is partly due to retaliation. The notice of eviction said it is due to failure to comply with inspection and allow management inside her unit. Legal Services of Greater Miami offered information on inspection and provided information on the eviction process.

The Miami-Dade Branch NAACP Housing Committee provided information about their legal redress committee for possible investigative assistance. And although the management company already has two armed security guards on site, to address the ongoing concerns about violence, Opa-locka Police Department has vowed to start a crime watch at Cordoba Courts, said Chief James Dobson.

This affordable housing community and the people who dwell therein, deserve better. Those who are in the posi-

A public hearing will be held by the City Commission of the City of Miami, Florida on Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 9:00 AM at City Hall, located at 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida, 33133 for the purpose of granting the following:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION, WITH ATTACHMENT(S), BY A FOUR-FIFTHS (4/5THS) AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, AFTER AN ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING, RATIFYING, APPROVING, AND CONFIRMING THE CITY MANAGER'S FINDING, ATTACHED AND INCORPORATED AS ATTACHMENT "B," THAT COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION METHODS AND PROCEDURES ARE NOT PRACTICABLE OR ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE CITY OF MIAMI ("CITY"), PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 29-B(A) AND 29-B(C) OF THE CHARTER AND SECTION 18-182(C) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS AMENDED; WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SAID PROCEDURES; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TRANSFER WITH AUTOMATIC REVERTER PROVISIONS A CITY OF MIAMI ("CITY") OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1302 NW 54 STREET, MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN ATTACHMENT "A," TO THE ARK OF THE CITY, INCORPORATED, A FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION, FOR JOB TRAINING; FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, IN A FORM ACCEPTABLE TO THE CITY ATTORNEY, AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE AFOREMENTIONED TRANSACTION, OF WHICH THE TERMS MAY BE AMENDED BY THE CITY MANAGER IN ORDER TO MEET THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY, SUBJECT TO ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS THAT REGULATE SUCH TRANSACTIONS.

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

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



Todd B. Hannon City Clerk

CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Miami City Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, June 14, 2018 beginning at 9:00 A.M. regarding the addition of the Beach Express Trolley to the City's Miami Trolley System. The new circulator would make connectivity from the existing Biscayne and Coral Way Trolley routes to the new Beach Express Trolley, traveling within the areas of Downtown and Miami Beach along major arterials such as Biscayne Boulevard, MacArthur Causeway, and Alton Road.

The Public Hearing will be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled City Commission meeting of June 14, 2018 at Miami City Hall located at 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida, 33133

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

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Todd B. Hannon City Clerk

#31277

CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

A public hearing will be held by the City Commission of the City of Miami, Florida on Thursday, June 14, 2018, at 9:00 AM at City Hall, located at 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida, 33133 for the purpose of granting the following:

A RESOLUTION OF THE MIAMI CITY COMMISSION, WITH ATTACHMENT(S), BY A FOUR-FIFTHS (4/5THS) AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, AFTER AN ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING, RATIFYING, APPROVING, AND CONFIRMING THE CITY MANAGER'S FINDING, ATTACHED AND INCORPORATED AS ATTACHMENT "B," THAT COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATION METHODS AND PROCEDURES ARE NOT PRACTICABLE OR ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE CITY OF MIAMI ("CITY"), PURSUANT TO SECTION 29-B(A) OF THE CHARTER AND SECTION 18-182(C) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA, AS AMENDED; WAIVING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SAID PROCEDURES; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TRANSFER WITH AUTOMATIC REVERTER PROVISIONS THE CITY OF MIAMI ("CITY") OWNED PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 551 NORTHWEST 71 STREET AS WELL AS 7142 AND 7148 NORTHWEST 5 COURT, MIAMI, FLORIDA (COLLECTIVELY THE "PROPERTY"), AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN ATTACHMENT "A," ATTACHED AND INCORPORATED, TO THE ARK OF THE CITY, INCORPORATED, A FLORIDA NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION, FOR JOB TRAINING; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, IN A FORM ACCEPTABLE TO THE CITY ATTORNEY, AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE AFOREMENTIONED TRANSACTION, OF WHICH THE TERMS MAY BE AMENDED BY THE CITY MANAGER IN ORDER TO MEET THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY, SUBJECT TO ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS THAT REGULATE SUCH TRANSACTIONS.

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Todd B. Hannon City Clerk

#31278

Small biz workshop series cracks the best marketing techniques

More than two dozen entrepreneurs learned how to use their website, social media and online advertising to drive business growth at an event in Opa-locka on May 23. The OLCDC Business Fund, a subsidiary of the Opa-locka Community Development Corp., hosted "Seven Ways to Use Digital Marketing to Grow Your Business" as part of its Small Business Workshop Series. The two-hour session covered the most important concepts, tips and tricks to attract new customers and grow revenue through digital marketing.

The session was led by Dan Grech, the founder of BizHack Academy, a Miami-based training center that runs hands-on courses in digital marketing. During the session, Grech covered topics such as using Facebook and Google to acquire customers, audience targeting techniques, live demonstrations of the ad platforms and useful software tools. The next event will be mid-July.



Photo courtesy of Opa-locka CDC

SPORTS

What to do to beat the summertime blues

Sporting camp fun for kids during the upcoming school break in Miami

JENNY ZIEGLER

Special to The Miami Times

It's that time of the year, summer vacation is here.

Kids are out of school, wondering what to do.

There's video games, beaches and those sorts of things, but Miami has lots of sports camps that are just waiting on little ones.

Here's a camp, there's a camp - all around Miami camps that are ready to enlighten and entertain for the summer.

Ruth Casado, a parent of one teen and one preschooler; says she checks with her children's school for things to do, "but the problem is that not all schools have programs," she said.

South Florida transplant and parent, Jodi Laureano is glad to escape the traffic she faces every day trying to get her daughter to and from school, but now she faces a new dilemma - how to alleviate her daughter's boredom.

Laureano says, "I look forward to more family time with my daughter, but it is always a challenge to find summer activities to keep her active throughout the day."

Well, Miami has a plethora of sports camps that are ready, willing and able to tackle the summertime blues.

Sports has long been a valued part of our culture. We value them because we believe that the students who are involved in sports are taught valuable life lessons through participation.

And who better to speak to that "culture" than the Miami Heat's own summer camp director, Tony Fiorentino. Coach as he is affectionately called, tells The Miami Times about the "hottest" sports camp in Miami.

"One of the things we enjoy with the camp is that we don't

just teach basketball, we teach life skills. And one of the things I enjoy doing is finding quotes.

We give out quotes every day to the kids and ask them to go home and look up the person that made the quote and learn something about them. I've got quotes over the years from Colin Powell to Maya Angelou to Aristotle, to Pat Riley, Erik Spoelstra and Dwyane Wade. It's sports, and it is other people that are important and what they have to say. The kids not only learn about basketball but in our camp, they become more well-rounded. They learn some discipline," said Fiorentino.

Miami Heat's Summer Camp is a day camp that goes from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., and it welcomes campers ages 7-16 at all skill levels. A combination of learning and having fun is what kids are in store for at Heat Camp.

"A mind expanded never returns to its original state," said Coach.

The Heat aren't the only ones that are looking to give back to the community by way of summer camp activities. Check out the list of other camps below.

THE MIAMI DOLPHINS - JUNIOR DOLPHIN PROGRAM

Description: Junior Dolphins camps focus on football training, teamwork building and the importance of education. The goal of the Miami Dolphins Football Camp is for children to develop skills that will help them succeed on and off the field.

For more information: <http://junior dolphinsfootball.com/camps>

THE MIAMI MARLINS - MARLINS RBI

Description: Marlins RBI is an invitational sports-based youth program designed to



Photo courtesy of NBA.com

Students take part in a Miami Heat Summer Camp activity with the team's coach Erik Spoelstra.

promote interest in baseball, academic achievement and social responsibility in underserved areas of South Florida.

For more information: <https://www.mlb.com/marlins/community/rbi>

And, if you are looking for a way for your kids to stay cool in the South Florida heat, have them spend a little time at the Florida Panthers' Camp Incredible.

THE FLORIDA PANTHERS - CAMP INCREDIBLE

Description: Campers have a chance to work on the basics of skating and receive mentorship and education.

"Here at Camp Incredible, we don't just skate for the full time. There is a lot of extra-curricular activities that we offer. We do a lot of teamwork-building skills, allowing friends to build their relationships. There are different activities that take people out of their comfort zones, allowing them to open up as an individual both on and off the ice. We take great pride in our work here at the Ice Den. It's not about building hockey players or figure skaters; it's about building friendships," said Marco Spisso, hockey

coach, mentor and educator for the Ice Den.

For more information: <http://www.panthersiceden.com/public-skating/camp-incredible.html>

FUNDIMENSION

Description: A 15,000-square-foot youth haven that boasts everything from arcade games to bumper cars and even has children's fitness classes and day camps. Sensory-based activities and STEM activities are a focus to keep camper's minds and bodies active.

For information: <http://fundimensionusa.com/summer-camp/>

COACH FUJIBASKETBALL CAMP

Description: Skill development, strength and conditioning, coaching, daily half- and full-court games. Certified teacher offers academic tutoring. Staffed by former and current college basketball players. Free lunch and a camp T-shirt.

For information: www.coachfui.com

IK GYM SUMMER CAMPS

Description: Multi-sports fun summer camp and home

to South Florida's Advanced Rhythmic Gymnastics Intensive program.

For more information: www.ikgymiami.com

NEIGHBORHOOD TENNIS

Description: A tennis academy focused on technique, fitness and fun for all ages.

For more information: www.NTennisMiami.com

HERO MARTIAL ARTS SUMMER CAMP

Description: Camp will focus on overall physical fitness training and all aspects of Taekwondo competition (sparring, board breaking, poomsae and martial arts weapons training).

For more information: www.arenahero.com

ALM SPORTS CAMP

Description: Providing sporting opportunities for young people ages 4-20 years to participate in programs that develop and promote the acquisition of appropriate knowledge, skill and attitude as the young person matures into adolescence/young adults.

For more information: www.almssports.com

FIT CLUB SUMMER CAMP

Description: High-quality academic support, specialized youth-fitness training, nutrition education and a myriad of other services.

For more information: www.fitkidsclub.com

CAMP UNBEATABLES

Description: Camp Unbeatables combines life coaching with sports, artistic, creative and educational activities.

For more information: www.campunbeatables.com

P.A.L. ATHLETICS

Description: This eight-week summer program builds confidence in self-expression through arts and craft illustration, music and dance performance. Currently, it offers basketball, football, cheerleading, dance, martial arts and track and field.

For more information: <https://miamipal.org/programs/>

FLAMINGO PARK

Description: Nearly 40-acres of park located in the heart of South Beach that has an eight-lane swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, football/track and soccer fields and even a climbing wall. For more information: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/parks-and-recreation/parks-facilities-directory/facility-info-flamingo-park/>

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL RIDING CAMP

Description: A full day camp for children ages 7-14 includes riding lessons, horsemanship and lessons about nature and horse care. They play games on and with horses, do horse-related crafts, plus other outdoor games.

For more information: www.MIRC-Horses.com

Miami Gardens residents keep it moving in Senior Games

Based on the concept, "A body in motion stays in motion," Miami Gardens Vice Mayor Erbarbor Ighodaro hosted Senior Games on Saturday, June 2 at the Betty F. Ferguson Recreational Complex in Miami Gardens.

Senior Games offered a holistic approach to health. The activities focused on the body, mind and spirit, with opportunities for friendly competition with family, friends and other Miami Gardens residents.

Senior groups, clubs, churches and local senior residence facilities were all invited to take part in the event and compete for awards. Residents participated in a number of sports and gaming activities such as bingo, horseshoe games, line dancing, Zumba, table tennis, tug-of-war and dominoes. Senior residents with special needs also participated.

The event was supported by grand marshal, Godfrey Murray; retired Olympic high hurdler, and guest host Twan Russell; former Miami Dolphins linebacker.



Miami Times photo/Philippe Buteau

Starbucks customers doubtful training will end bias

Local partners react to recent call for a diversity course for baristas

PHILIPPE H. BUTEAU
Miami Times Contributor

After a Starbucks "partner" called police on two Black men who sat waiting for a meeting, the Seattle-based coffeehouse held a mandatory training to get rid of as much bias as they can through conversation.

Partners, as Starbucks calls its employees, were required to close 8,000 locations early at 2 p.m. for an anti-bias training their employer held on May 29. The training took four hours, included messages from corporate, a rapper as host, a documentary and a discussion that allowed the employees to give their experiences and opinions on resolving racial bias.

The employees were shown day-to-day examples of stereotyping that is overlooked, according to Chanel Van, a shift manager at a Starbucks near Palm Avenue and Pines Boulevard.

President and CEO Kevin Johnson said in a video message that the "disheartening situation that unfolded in Philadelphia" is bigger than Starbucks.

"The reality is prejudice

in public spaces is rooted in America's history," Johnson said.

Starbucks held the training to reinforce its mission of "creating a culture of warmth and belonging," Rossann Williams, executive vice president of U.S. Retail, said in the video.

She warned that conversations about race lead to feelings of racial anxiety and to ask for a pause if needed.

"When we're anxious, we can't always think clearly," Williams said.

Rapper and actor Common was the host of the training; he also spoke via video after Johnson and Williams.

"This work is close to my heart: helping people see each other fully, completely, respectfully," Common said.

He reiterated and personalized Starbucks' message.

"It's a life skill to make others feel welcome," he said. "I know welcoming people in my life starts first with sharing who I am and then listen closely to where someone else is coming from."

The employees — 174,000 across the U.S. — formed groups of three to five people and each group had a guidebook,



Michael Bryant / Staff Photographer

Jack Willis leans over his sign and takes in the scene at the protest of the Starbucks at 18th and Spruce Streets on Sunday.

an iPad and individual members had notebooks for private annotation of their feelings. They were asked to group with people with whom they don't normally work. They were asked to write down ways they are different, encouraged to ask questions and held group discussions.

Van said they were shown a Black man whose voice caused others to be frightened, and he decided to alter it through his daily life, and a woman who advised a Black man that there was no loitering in the area, but the man was actually another patron's husband.

The Starbucks partners were

also given openness training, which Van said was unnecessary at her store.

"We're in such a diverse place, the store and the city," Van said.

There was also a pamphlet according to Van and Valerie Vandoren, a Starbucks manager in an unincorporated part of Northwest Miami-Dade.

Vandoren said she and the other partners watched the documentary, but they were not told to do anything as a part of the training. She said the documentary was about how race has affected everyone's lives.

"It was a great training beneficial for all partners," Vandoren said.

She said the tools to handle a situation are what's needed and that's what Starbucks provided.

"That's all you can ask for to have understanding," Vandoren said. "It was amazing for an employer to give us that and our partners and people will benefit from things that are enlightening like that."

An email was sent to Starbucks asking for more specificity on the documentary and pamphlet given out during the company's anti-bias training. Starbucks' third response included the full curriculum and links to the videos Starbucks partners watched.

Leslie Edgecombe, 56, said he's a Starbucks person while waiting in line for his coffee and pastry at a location in Miami Gardens.

"Though it may not fix everything, he said he's happy Starbucks took ownership and did what they did. He said it was better than no training at

all, so it doesn't matter that it wasn't an all-day training.

"It's important they made sure employees know how to treat every customer," Edgecombe said.

Edgecombe isn't sure if discrimination can be prevented. "A lot of it is who you are as a person," he said. "Hopefully we can do a better job with our kids."

Tanya Smith said the initial incident in Philadelphia was about an individual who "wasn't raised right," and it had nothing to do with the company.

Smith also doubts whether discrimination will ever be solved. Even if people are taught the facts to dispel their biases and stereotypes, she thinks discrimination will remain because training starts at home.

"It's not only about education," Smith said. "It starts at the home."

Vandoren said half of education is awareness.

"The other half is accepting."

CITY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA NOTICE OF SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING



Pursuant to Section 2-33(l) of the Code of the City of Miami, a special meeting of the Miami City Commission will be held on Friday, June 8, 2018, at 10:30 a.m., at Miami City Hall located at 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida. The purpose of this special meeting is to 1) discuss and take any and all actions associated with the modification of the lease between the City of Miami and ESJ-III Leasehold, LLC, including but not limited to potential amendments to the Charter of the City of Miami, Florida and 2) discuss and take any and all actions associated with the allocation of funds for improvements to Charles Hadley Park, 1350 NW 50 Street, Miami, Florida. No business shall be conducted or a vote taken at a special City Commission meeting on business other than the subject for which the special meeting is called.

All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting. Should any person desire to appeal any decision of the City Commission with respect to any matter to be considered at this meeting, that person shall ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including all testimony and evidence upon which any appeal may be based (F.S. 286.0105).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodations to participate in this proceeding may contact the Office of the City Clerk at (305) 250-5361 (Voice) no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding. TTY users may call via 711 (Florida Relay Service) no later than three (3) business days prior to the proceeding.

#31276

Todd B. Hannon
City Clerk

FAST

CONTINUED FROM 11B

said the system is excited to have the automotive program. "We have other industry partners like Toyota, Honda and Whirlpool but this program is unique in that students are attending on the site where the business is functioning," she said. "I am sure it is exciting for the students."

Under the partnership, M-DCPS aids in the recruitment and provides part of the teaching staff. The program accepts 25 applicants per graduating class and is orchestrated to lead to a fast transition into the workplace, incorporating theory and practice in three semesters. Braman takes care of the 18-month tuition, the classroom, equipment, tools, uniforms and a paid internship that provides hands-on experience alongside dealership technicians.

“

I'm a first-generation American citizen myself, it makes me feel special to provide an opportunity for others to have a good quality of life."

Richard Lotito, a teacher who has been involved in the project from its outset, says that students are required to devote themselves wholeheartedly. Strength of character is needed and commitment, a centerpiece. They must be willing to learn skills, aptitudes and work ethics.

"This is a career choice," he says.

"They have to wake up in the morning and fix cars for a living."

Gianni Jean-Louis, 19, a graduate of North Miami Beach Senior High School, advises car enthusiasts to take a thoughtful look at how the program matches their interests. Being a gearhead, he says, is not enough to succeed. "You have to be serious about your career. Some people like cars but don't like working on cars," Jean-Louis said.

Since its inception, the training center has graduated more than 56 students. More than 77 percent have been hired for various technical

positions within the automotive industry. Average hourly wages and salary earnings, including commission, are \$17 per hour. Master-level technicians can earn between \$24.04 and \$38.46 per hour. At the end of the program, graduates can work at Braman, but they can also choose to move forward and enjoy the ride somewhere else.

"I don't believe in noncompete agreements and forcing people to work where they don't want to," he says. "It makes us happy that they have the qualifications."

Braman makes no bones about his wishes to build up the num-

bers of students and grow the program. He shows as much, if not more, willingness to invest in training. He stresses that quality improvement is a must-do by the auto industry to respond to growing demand in the future. "With the complexity of cars nowadays, the knowledge of high technology gives them the opportunity to become six-figure technicians. This industry is recession proof; there will always be a great demand for them."

"I'm a first-generation American citizen myself, it makes me feel special to provide an opportunity for others to have a good quality of life."

Invitation to Bid JHS Christine E. Lynn Rehabilitation Center

Turner Construction Company, Foster Construction of South Florida, and Jackson Health System cordially invite subcontractors to complete and submit their bids by Friday, June 29, 2018 no later than 2pm for the following project:

**JACKSON HEALTH SYSTEM
CHRISTINE E. LYNN REHABILITATION CENTER
CM: TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
PROTÉGÉ: FOSTER CONSTRUCTION OF SOUTH FLORIDA**

The Invitation to Bid includes the following packages.

- General Trades (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Masonry (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Millwork
- Interior Glass & Glazing
- Resilient Flooring & Base
- Terrazzo
- Specialty Coatings (Seamless Epoxy Flooring)
- Misc. Accessories (Toilet, Lockers, Etc.) (SBE-C SBE-G/S Set-Aside package)
- Cubicle Curtains
- Operable Partitions
- Tiling (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Metal Panels
- Buck Hoist
- Bulk-Fold Doors
- Carpet (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Painting & Wallcoverings Levels 1-2 (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Painting & Wallcoverings Levels 3-10 (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Fire protection Specialties (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Wall protection & Corner Guards (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Window Treatments (SBE-C SBE G/S Set-Aside package)
- Site Furnishings (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Therapy pool
- Treadmill pool
- Linen chute
- Fences & Gates (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Sitework (SBE-C Set-Aside package)
- Site Concrete (SBE-C Set-Aside package)

Bid requirements, bid forms, specifications, drawings, and other construction documents will be available through www.BuildingConnected.com. Respond via www.tjackson.com website to gain access to building connected and bid documents.

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

Jackson Memorial Hospital
Facilities, Design and Construction Department
ATTN: Isa Nunez
1611 NW 12th Ave
Miami, FL 33136

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

All questions can be directed to Ben Baron at BBaron@tcco.com

SPA

CONTINUED FROM 11B

The Global Wellness Institute is a nonprofit that provides research and educational resources for the \$3.7 trillion global wellness economy.

Over the next two years, the Global Wellness Institute will update the Global Wellness Economy Monitor, the Global Wellness Tourism Economy and release a report on the Global Fitness and Mind-Body Sector.

The inaugural Global Wellness Economy Monitor report was released in 2014.

"I'm delighted to join the team at GWI to examine forward-looking trends in the wellness industry," said Callender. "This is an ex-

citing time for this sector, with dynamic changes taking place across the globe, and I am pleased to be able to contribute to GWI's examination of the wellness economy."

KEY SECTORS

INCLUDE:
Beauty & Anti-Aging (\$999 bil.)
Healthy Eating, Nutrition & Weight Loss (\$648 bil.)
Wellness Tourism (\$563 bil.)
Fitness & Mind-Body (\$542 bil.)
Preventative & Personalized Medicine and Public Health (\$534 bil.)
Complementary & Alternative Medicine (\$199 bil.)
Wellness Lifestyle Real Estate (\$119 bil.)
Spa Industry (\$99 bil.)
Thermal/Mineral Springs (\$51 bil.)
Workplace Wellness (\$43 bil.)



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75 percent of adults say they are doing OK financially

The number is up from about 70 percent, according to the Federal Reserve report

PAUL DAVIDSON
USA Today



Eighty-seven percent of white people with a bachelors degree or higher were at least doing OK financially, compared with 79 percent of Black people and 78 percent of Hispanics with a college degree.

Nearly three-quarters of American adults said they were doing OK financially or living comfortably in late 2017, according to a Federal Reserve report, a share that has climbed steadily as the unemployment rate has fallen in recent years.

The 74 percent of Americans reporting that level of economic well-being was up from 70 percent the year before and 62 percent in 2013, when the Fed first conducted the survey.

One-third said they're living comfortably and another 40 percent said they're doing OK, according to the survey of 12,000 people in November and December.

The improving economy and labor market have boosted Americans of all races and educational backgrounds. But more white people and those with higher education levels were financially content than minorities and people with high school degrees or lower.

"This year's survey finds that rising levels of employment are translating into improved financial conditions for many but not all Americans," Fed Governor Lael Brainard said.

The nation's unemployment rate tumbled to 4.1 percent in December from 4.7 percent a year earlier and 6.7 percent in late 2013. Unemployment is currently 3.9 percent, lowest since December 2000. The low jobless rate has helped lift annual wage growth somewhat to 2.6 percent in April but pay increases are expected to pick up as employers struggle to

find workers.

Forty percent of adults said they would not be able to cover a \$400 emergency expense, or would have to do so by borrowing money or selling something, an improvement from 44 percent a year earlier and 50 percent in 2013. And 7 percent of those surveyed found it difficult to get by financially last year, about half the portion in 2013.

For the first time, the Fed tried to gain a better understanding of how the opioid epidemic relates to economic well-being. About a fifth of those surveyed knows someone who has been addicted to opioids, and they have a less favorable assessment of the economy.

• Eighty-seven percent of white people with a bachelors degree or higher were at least doing OK financially, compared

with 79 percent of Black people and 78 percent of Hispanics with a college degree. Meanwhile, 69 percent of white people with a high school degree or lower were doing OK, vs. 60 per-

cent of Black people and 62 percent of Hispanics.

• Most workers were satisfied with their wages and benefits, but one in six have irregular work schedules that they didn't request and one in 10 receive their schedules less than a week in advance.

Three-fifths of workers would prefer a job with stable pay over one with varying but somewhat higher pay.

• Three in 10 adults have household income that varies from month to month, a situation that causes hardship for one in 10.

• Last year, three in 10 adults took part in

the gig economy — marked by temporary or contract jobs — up slightly from 2016 as a result of an increase in non-computer or

Internet-based activities such as childcare or house cleaning.

• Two-thirds of graduates with bachelors degrees felt the

investment in their education paid off, vs. less than a third of those who started college but didn't get their degrees.

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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. 881382 ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES AT POLICE FACILITIES

CLOSING DATE/TIME: 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2018

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 4:00 PM)

Detailed specifications for this bid is available at the City of Miami, Department of Procurement Teresa Soto at tsoto@miamigov.com

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

AD NO. 26776 Emilio T. González, Ph. D. City Manager



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IFB NO. 877382 COMMERCIAL DOOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR SERVICES AT POLICE FACILITIES

CLOSING DATE/TIME: 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 4:00 PM)

Detailed specifications for this bid is available at the City of Miami, Department of Procurement Teresa Soto at tsoto@miamigov.com

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

AD NO. 26775 Emilio T. González, Ph. D. City Manager



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY Public Notice

Notice is hereby given of the following temporary polling place changes. These changes have been made by the Supervisor of Elections pursuant to Section 101.71, Florida Statutes.

**TEMPORARY
POLLING PLACE CHANGES
Special Run-Off Election
June 19, 2018**

Precinct Number	New Location
025.0	Miami Beach Fire Station #3 5303 Collins Ave
036.0	Fienberg Fisher K-8 Center 601 14 Pl
524.0	Coral Way K-8 Center 1950 SW 13 Ave
530.0	Jack Orr Senior Center 550 NW 5 St
541.0	Jose Marti Park Gymnasium 434 SW 3 Ave
545.0/997.0	Miami Fire Fighter Benevolent Association 2980 NW S River Dr
562.0	The Universal Church of The Kingdom of God 3501 W Flagler St
571.0/667.0	Shenandoah Branch Library 2111 SW 19 St
987.0/987.1	H U D 1407 NW 7 St

Christina White
Supervisor of Elections
Miami-Dade County, Florida

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

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(Certified and Non-Certified)**

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Additional Pay Incentives are Available
Trainee Rate: \$39,162**

The Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department will be accepting online applications for the position of Firefighter, beginning Monday, June 4, 2018 through Sunday, June 24, 2018. Applicants must possess a high school diploma or GED and must be 18 years of age at the time of application. Applicants must also possess a valid Florida Driver License at the time of hire.

There will be no paper applications for this hiring process. All applications must be submitted online at www.miamidade.gov/jobs, using Job Opening Number 49250. All previous applicants must re-apply.

ALL SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED; APPLICATION PROCESS IS NOT FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

Applicants must apply and submit application online by Sunday, June 24, 2018, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, at www.miamidade.gov/jobs. Job Opening Number 49250.

Preferences

Preference will be given to qualifying U.S. Veterans, qualified graduates of the Miami-Dade County Academy of Fire Rescue (MDCAFR) in accordance with Resolution R-480-07, and graduates of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Junior Cadet Program. Preference may also be given to applicants who possess a current State of Florida Firefighter II certificate, State of Florida EMT certification or State of Florida Paramedic (EMT-P). These certification numbers and dates should be entered in the online application under licenses and certifications.

EOE/VeteransPreference



CHEVROLET AND NNPA JOIN TOGETHER TO OFFER HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS A \$15K FELLOWSHIP!

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) is excited to partner with the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox to present Discover the Unexpected (DTU) – an amazing journalism fellowship.

Selected DTU Fellows from Historically Black Colleges and Universities earn a \$10,000 scholarship, \$5,000 stipend and an exciting summer road trip in the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox.

Join our DTU Fellows on this multi-city journey as they discover unsung heroes and share stories from African-American communities that will surprise and inspire. DTU is back and better than ever! Are you ready to ride?

#ChevyEquinox, #Chevy, #NNPA

#DTU2018

GRACING THE RED CARPET

The American Black Film Festival brings Hollywood to Miami Beach

NYAMEKYE DANIEL
ndaniel@miamitimeonline.com

It has been two years since the OscarsoWhite hashtag shined a light on the lack of diversity in Hollywood. Yet, one Black film festival has been giving Black talent the recognition they deserve for the last 22 years.

The American Black Film Festival will be returning June 13-17 to Miami Beach.

Although, Hollywood has come a long way since the 2016 hashtag with movies like "Black Panther" and TV shows like "Power" and "Insecure," there is still a need for a platform for Black entertainment.

Dubbed ABFF, the festival has been hailed as the largest gathering of film and TV professionals in the country. Each year, the biggest and brightest Black stars flock to Miami Beach for five days of red carpet premieres, master classes, celebrity conservations and more.

One of the main highlights this year includes a conversation with the director and co-writer of "Black Panther," Ryan Googler. Googler got

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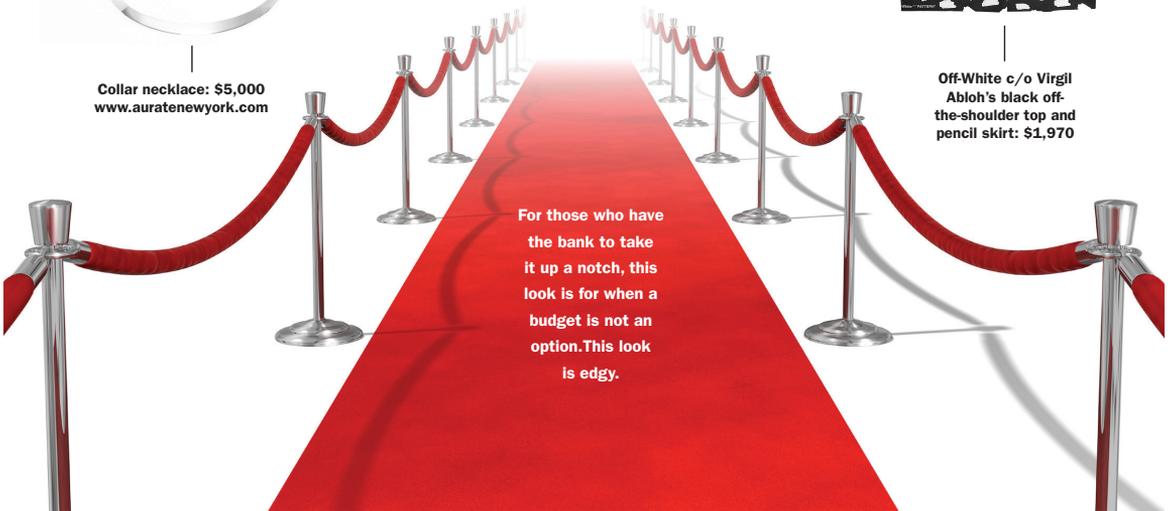
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the-shoulder top and
pencil skirt: \$1,970



For those who have the bank to take it up a notch, this look is for when a budget is not an option. This look is edgy.

South Florida gets a taste of the islands

Plenty of food and drink including jerk chicken, griot and rum

6C



Peace, love, music and miniature golf

MUCE, People Matter fest ignite cultural events for the summer

4C





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THE SOCIAL WHIRL

VENNDA-REI GIBSON | VENNDAL43@GMAIL.COM

'Tis the season for commencements, awards and notable beginnings. This week our local high schools hold graduation ceremonies. We are proud of the people who continue to make a difference collectively and individually in the lives of our young people, helping to build for them a better future. It bespeaks of the poem written by R. L. Sharpe which goes:

"Isn't it strange, that princes and kings, and clowns that caper in sawdust rings, and common-folk like you and me, are builders for eternity? To each is given a bag of tools, a shapeless mass and a Book of Rules; and each must make 'ere time has flown, a stumbling block or a stepping stone."

One such organization, the **Booker T. Washington** (BTW) High School Foundation Inc. continued its legacy as **Booker T. Washington** Senior High last week concluded its 2018 Annual Awards Ceremony. During the ceremony, **John D. Glover**, the foundation's president and CEO awarded 22 scholarships and two grants, valued at \$27,500. The following 2018 graduates received scholarships: **Angellita Dieudonne** received the \$2,500 Dr. **Geraine Lewis Gilyard** Memorial Scholarship; **Jelani Scott** was the recipient of the \$2,000 **Herbert Carter** Memorial Scholarship; **Brianna Bibbs** received the \$1,500 Dade County Federal Credit Union Scholarship; **Taneacha Brown** received the **James and Elsa Hunt** Community Scholarship; and



From left sitting are Mary M., Jean P., Pauline G., Clement M., Elsa H., and Edith A. Standing are Walter P., Dolores M., Joyce M., Georgina F., Margaret G., Donald J., Herman A., David R., Carrie M., Rodney R., Carol R., John G., Juanita M. and Toby G. at a **Booker T. Washington High School Foundation meeting Saturday, May 19**. Photo courtesy of Wylene Robinson

Jada Curry was the recipient of the \$1,500 **Anthony and Adela Glover** Scholarship. **Glover** also presented an additional 17 \$1,000 scholarships from individual donors to 2015-2017 **Booker T. Washington** graduates who remain enrolled and in good standing with their respective universities and colleges.

The two academic grants were \$1,000, presented to the school's principal, **William Aristide**, and \$500 presented to the **Booker T. Washington** 2017-2018 Teacher of the Year, **Tia Ellis**.

Stepping stones of history **Gregory Gay**, a member of Beta Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. shared this news, which I share with you: "On November 19, 1937 eight visionary men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity chartered the Beta Beta Lambda Chapter in Miami. The men,

who met at the home of Dr. **William H. Murrell** were; Drs. **Felix Butler**; **Nathaniel Colson**; **Ira P. Davis**; **Samuel H. Johnson**; and **Frederick Johnson** and **Leo Lucas**. And thus was born the second graduate chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in Florida."

In this its 71st year, Beta Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha in conjunction with the Beta Beta Lambda [BB] Alpha Education Foundation announced their scholarship recipients at their Scholarship Dinner held at **Ivan's Cookhouse** in North Miami. Five scholarships were awarded to some very deserving young men in the Greater Miami-South Broward communities.

The 2018 Scholarship winners are: **Cornelius Handfield**, from Miami's **Booker T. Washington** High School and the Miami Alumni Chapter's Pan Hellenic Scholarship

nominee. **Handfield** will attend Florida A&M University (FAMU) and major in Architecture; **Malachi Mullings**, from Miramar High School, who will attend University of Central Florida to major in Engineering; **Jermame Rose**, from Miramar High School who is going to attend Florida Atlantic University and major in Sports Management/ Health Science/Business; **Terrence Gray**, from Miramar High School, who plans to attend Florida Atlantic University to major in Architecture/Business; and **Rashaan Taffe**, from Miami Norland High School who will attend Florida International University, majoring in Political Science. Also at the Scholarship Dinner, the chapter recognized the seniors from Miami Northwestern, Miami Norland, and Miramar High who have been with the Beta Beta Lambda Chapter's **Knights of Gold (KOG) Mentoring Program**. These 12 high school seniors, along with their parents, were recognized for the scholastic achievement in their respective high schools. The seniors were enlightened and inspired by words of wisdom by a member of Beta Beta Lambda Chapter, **Miramar Mayor Wayne Messam**.

The **Knights of Gold (KOG) Mentoring Program** is based on the **Sankofa** Principles of the African Rites of Passage to Manhood. Life skills, self awareness, moral principles, and motivation towards success are the keys for moving our boys to men. The

nationally renowned Project Alpha program, supported by the March of Dimes of America, is one of the core education components for the program. The mentoring program is closely associated with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's National "Go to High School, Go to College" Initiative, supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, geared towards motivating students from underserved communities to continue their education, and helping them succeed in high school and their future endeavors.

The **Knights of Gold (KOG) mentoring program** includes workshops on the following topics: goal setting, time management, career navigation and interviewing skills, college life and development, financial aid for college/secondary education, study skills, test-taking skills, financial literacy, money management, social interaction, personal hygiene, dress/appearance management, and leadership. Some of the activities and events KOG mentees experienced this year included a special viewing of the Blockbuster movie, "Black Panther," with Actress **Sope Aluko**; service projects including roadway cleanup on Miami Gardens Drive between Northwest 37-47th avenues, school cleanups, step exhibition in the Liberty City's **Martin Luther King Day Parade**, **Project Alpha - held at Booker T. Washington** High School with presentations from many local professionals and experts covering relevant topics; **HBCU College Fair - held during the South Atlantic Regional Conference of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.** Some of the schools present were Florida Memorial University, Tuskegee, Hampton, **Bethune Cookman**,

Tennessee State, Howard, Clark Atlanta and others. Indeed, we all have been given "a bag of tools" with which to build our lives and the lives of others. Congratulations to all.

It was a new beginning for **Tiffany Dawn Anderson, Karen Ash, Kimberly Bankhead, Jacqueline Berry, Jamisha Bethel, D'Bria Bradshaw, Lakeatha Brown, Nichelle Haymore, Katina Perry-Birts, Arin Phillips, Terry-Ann Monique Ramjus, Annetta Thomas, Ottolia Thompson and Chenique Wilcox**. These ladies "Captured A Vision Fair" at a Spring 2018 new member luncheon held at the Miami Airport Hilton. The speaker for the luncheon was Sylvia Blackmon-Roberts, president and CEO of Blackmon Roberts Group Inc., a public planning and management consulting firm founded in 1992. **Ann E. Walters-Pope** is the current president of Pi Delta Omega Chapter, which was chartered on February 8, 1986. In its 32 year existence, the chapter has provided more than \$300,000 in scholarships to students attending HBCUs.

Indeed, we all have been given "a bag of tools" with which to build our lives and the lives of others.

In this Whirl and on this journey it is more vital now that we continue to share and document our history and our stories. This African proverb reminds us that "If the lions don't tell their stories, the tale of the hunt will be glorified by the hunter." We are our own historians; no one will write nor can they write our stories as accurately as we can. We must keep the records straight to maintain our legacies. And, so it is, as we Live, Pray, Love, Laugh, Sing and Dance in the Whirls. Blessings to all.



Brad McClenny/The Gainesville Sun

Sherry Dupree, 71, founder of the Rosewood Heritage Foundation, talks with Gregory Dichtas, 59, whose mother-in-law owns the John Wright home in Rosewood.

Florida home with ties to race riot now for sale

The owner was a white merchant, John Wright, who helped Blacks

ROSEWOOD (AP) — A home believed to have sheltered Black Americans hiding from a week of mob violence in 1923 is up for sale.

Known as "The John Wright House" in Levy County, it's one of the few remaining original structures of Rosewood, the small town that was once a thriving community of Black homeowners.

The community was the site of a deadly race riot that ended with homes being burned down and at least eight people killed — six of them Black. It was one of the more well-documented atrocities African-Americans endured in Florida.

The Gainesville Sun reports the two-story home and 35-acre property is

just too large for the elderly owner. Her daughter and son-in-law are real estate agents and say they want to ensure the new owner appreciates its significance.

Inside the home lives Fujiko Scoggins, an 84-year-old Japanese woman who survived the Battle of Saipan during World War II. She bought the home in 1977 for \$90,000 with her then-husband Doyal Scoggins, a retired Air Force major.

They liked the house for its appearance and quiet surroundings, but knew nothing of its history.

Five years later the story of the Rosewood massacre surfaced.

It is believed that Wright house was used to shelter blacks hiding from the turmoil unfolding, as they escaped to other towns on a nearby train. People hid in the surrounding woods, homes, wells and swamp, sometimes using dogs to transfer written notes back and forth.

Since the deadly events were reported in 1982 by Gary Moore, a journalist for the then-St. Petersburg Times, the home hasn't been up for sale, until now. It is believed that Wright house was used to shelter blacks hiding from the turmoil unfolding, as they escaped to other towns on a nearby train. People hid in the surrounding woods, homes, wells and swamp, sometimes using dogs to transfer written notes back and forth.

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Peace, love, music and miniature golf

MUCE, People Matter Fest ignite cultural events for the summer

Miami Times Staff Report

mer Series.

Miniature golfing and attending a family-friendly hip-hop festival will be among the things to do in Miami this summer.

Miami Urban Contemporary Experience (MUCE), a company that specializes in providing access to interactive pop-up arts, brings back its third annual MUCE Sum-

The series is a monthly art activation in heritage neighborhoods throughout South Florida's tri-county area. This year, the company will create a Caribbean-inspired golf course in Little Haiti and add an artistic flair to a hip-hop festival in Liberty City.

The Little Haiti Cultural Complex will have a cus-



Miami Times File photo

The People Matter Fest took place last year on June 17 at M. Athalie Range Park. This year's festival will be held at Gwen Cherry Park on June 18.



One of Serge Gay Jr.'s pieces. Gay is a Grammy nominated illustrator, fine artist and graphic designer currently based out of San Francisco, California. He will be one of the artists designing a miniature golf course in Little Haiti.

tom-designed golf course that showcases iconic locations in Haiti through artistic murals, paintings and scenic art. Muralist Serge Gay, photographer Isaie "Zeek" Mathias and painter Belina Wright are some artists involved in the course's design. Architectural designs are by Jason Francois. The golf course will be open Saturday, June 9-Aug. 31 at 212 NE 59th Terrace, in Miami.

The second annual People Matter Fest, a hip-hop inspired festival that promotes peace, love and fatherhood, will be headlined by Miami rapper Rick Ross, June 16, at Gwen Cherry Park.

Presented by 103.5 The

“

Not only did we accomplish our cease fire, the police informed us that it lasted weeks after and was their slowest reports on shot spotter for any summer. This year we are taking it a step further with a Miami-Dade County wide cease fire.”

Beat's Papa Keith, it will also feature local performers, bands, youth dance troupes and more. A key component of the People Matter Fest is a call for a cease-fire or an end to gun violence in some communities. According to organizers, the festival has expanded its focus from only the Liberty City area. "Not only did we accomplish our cease fire, the police informed us that it lasted weeks after and was their slowest reports on shot spotter for any summer," organizers reported. "This year we are taking it a step further with a Miami-Dade County wide cease fire."

MUCE will present a pop-

up art exhibition, interactive paint and play and hype game stations.

It will also present a pop-up fashion experience called LOCD UP, celebrating the beauty and diversity of men with dreadlocks. The LOCD UP fashion show serves as an awareness campaign to promote the beauty of hair culture and serve as a conversation starter on creative ways to undo the school-to-prison complex. The festival also features a father and son flag football tournament. People Matter Fest is free to the public and will take place at 1 p.m., at Gwen Cherry Park, 7090 NW 22nd Ave., in Miami.

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1130 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, FL 33139

Coral Gables Art Cinema

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O Cinema Miami Beach

500 71st St., Miami Beach, FL 33141

O Cinema Wynwood

90 NW 29th St., Miami, FL 33127

Celebrate with screenings from Miami filmmakers, film festivals and special hotel offers throughout June.

For more information, visit MiamiFilmMonth.com

*Coupon is required to take advantage of Miami Film Month offers. Please visit MiamiFilmMonth.com for restrictions, details, and to download your coupon.

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EDITORIAL@MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS:

■ **Booker T. Washington Alumni Class of 1964**
8 p.m. - midnight on June 8 there will be an annual Triangle Dance hosted by Class of 1964; the event takes place at The Church of the Open Door Ballroom, 6001 NW 8th Ave.; bring your own food and drinks; Info: Call 305-632-6506 or 954-551-8314

■ **Farm Share**

9 a.m. - noon on June 9 there will be a food distribution held by State Rep. Cynthia Stafford and Opa-locka Vice Mayor Joseph Kelley in partnership with Farm Share; the event takes place at Sherbondy Pavilion, 215 Perviz Ave.; Info: Call 305-953-3086

■ **City of Miramar**

6 - 10 p.m. on June 9 there will be a Caribbean-American Heritage Month Celebration, featuring stilt walkers, local Caribbean bands and a kids zone; the

event takes place at Shirley Branca Park, 6900 Miramar Pkwy.; Info: Call 954-602-3178

■ **City of Miami Gardens**

5 - 9 p.m. on June 9 there will be a senior prom for attendees 55 years and older with a live band and dinner served; the event takes place at 901 NW 183rd St.; RSVP required on Eventbrite; Info: Call 305-622-8000 ext. 2708

■ **Jackson Health System**

12:30 p.m. on June 9 there will be a brunch dedicated to all former employees, retirees and the families of Jackson Health System; the event takes place at Biscayne Gardens Civil Center, 15000 North Miami Ave.; RSVP by May 25; Info: Call 305-965-8205 or email dhppig@att.net

■ **Booker T. Washington Alumni Class of 1962**

On June 15-17, the class will celebrate its 55/56 reunion. For more information, please call 305-372-1284 or 305-733-7794.

■ **Coconut Cay Citizens' Crime Organization**

5:30 - 7 p.m. on June 21 there will be a discussion about topics including home ownership and stabilizing wealth in Black communities; the event takes place at Maranatha Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 18900 NW 32nd Ave.; Info: Call 786-617-4988

■ **The Surviving Twin Network**

First Twin-S Luncheon on June 23. Info: Call 305-504-4936

■ **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**

6 p.m. every second Monday to plan 50th reunion on June 14-18; African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave.; 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 786-285-2533

■ **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

■ **ASSOCIATION/ CHAPTER MEETINGS:**

■ **The Citizen Advisory Committee**

7 p.m. every second Thursday to discuss general community issues; Northside Police Station; 799 NW 81st St.; Info: Call 786-512-3641

■ **Women on the Move, Inc.**

Every fourth Saturday for women 55 and older who are interested in traveling and networking; Location and time: TBA; Info: Call 305-934-5122

■ **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**

12:30 p.m. every third Wednesday; Community Center in Coconut Grove, 220 Florida Ave. (near USD); 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 305-439-5266.

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 Touring Dance**

Class: Free introductory classical ballet workshops for girls ages 6-8 and 9-12; Time and date TBA; 1550 NW 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. Mondays.

FEST

CONTINUED FROM 1C

his first push in the industry with ABFF when he won the HBO Short Film award in 2011 for his film "Fig."

The competition is one of the industry's most prestigious. Five finalists are selected to compete for the award and a cash prize of \$10,000.

In addition to Googler, ABFF will also feature panels and other opportunities to rub elbows with celebrities.

Jesse Williams, Sherri Shepherd, Essence Atkins, Kofi Siroboe, Mekhi Phifer, Omari Hardwick, LeToya Luckett, Natori Naughton and Niecy Nash will be among the roster of actors and actresses in attendance.

Festivalgoers will get the chance to get a sneak peek at the upcoming mini-series "Bobby Brown Story" followed by a conversation with Bobby Brown himself. There will be also being a screening of Jay-Z's "Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story" based on the life of the late Miami Gardens teenager.

The festival will also offer many other first looks, insight and educational panels for those aspiring to pursue and further entertainment careers.

Hollywood could not be transplanted to Miami without the red carpet.

This year's red carpet arrivals will be showcased at 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13 at the Fillmore Miami Beach.

Here is your guide to the trends that are in this summer and what to wear for your photo-op on the red carpet.

With the help of Miami designer Marquita Moore of Wamuiru Couture, located in Miami Gardens, here are two looks guaranteed to turn heads on the red carpet for fashionistas on a budget.

"Don't be afraid of bold prints or colors. They make a statement that says you are confident," said Moore.

For more details on this look and other ABFF looks at miamitimesonline.com, visit wamuirucouture.com.

For more information about ABFF and for the full schedule of events visit abff.com



Opt for a pop of color with a wide-leg jumpsuit paired with beaded fringe earrings, gold cuff, an Ankara clutch and gold pump shoes as an option.



Gold pumps: \$725
www.christian-louboutin.com

Wide-leg jumpsuit: \$165
www.loft324.com



Ankara clutch: \$45
www.wamuirucouture.com



Beaded fringe earrings: \$39.95
Deepa Gurnani



Gold cuff: \$42
www.baublebar.com

South Florida gets a taste of the islands



Plenty of food and drink including jerk chicken, griot, conch and rum

Miami Times Staff Report

Hundreds of attendees got to savor the Caribbean at the Taste The Islands Experience on Saturday, June 2 on the grounds of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.

The event offered foods, drinks and music from islands such as Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti and Jamaica, as part of Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

Attendees crowded around the stage to watch a cooking demonstration by "Taste the Islands" TV show host Cynthia "Chef Thia" Verna on how to season chicken tenders with a Haitian seasoning called Epis, without drying out the meat.

Participants also watched demonstrations by "Taste the Islands" TV show host Hugh "Chef Irie" Sinclair of Jamaica; Amit Raval, head chef of

Amtar Fine Foods in Trinidad; and Philip Casanova Antoine, a mixologist from Barbados.

After tasting jerk chicken, curry chicken, griot and coconut rice from the chefs, participants also got a sample of Haitian ice-cold coffee, Bahamian conch salad and seafood rice from other participating vendors at the event.

Some attendees received a back massage after dancing to reggae and dancehall throughout the night. Several ladies received makeovers at a makeup studio that sold different products, including hair products from Jessie's, a haircare partner at the event.

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society co-presented the celebration with Island Syndicate, a media company. The Jamaica Tourist Board and the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. were two other sponsors that contributed to the event.



Miami Times photos/Jayda Hall

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Broward students want answers now

Miramar mayor gives youth a platform to ask about violence

Carol Porter
Miami Times Contributor

As a father, Miramar Mayor Wayne Messam said after the Valentine's Day shooting in Parkland, he showed up to his daughters' school.

The thought that an active shooter situation can occur at any school in the country has continued to raise alarm since the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre in February.

Students from a number of Broward County high schools joined together to host a youth-led forum in response to the recent school shootings in Parkland, Texas and Indiana.

The Broward Speaks – Students say #NeverAgain event was a result of a collaboration between Miramar High, Everglades High, West Broward High and American Heritage school students and more.

The teens contacted Messam's office with a request for a chance to debate, discuss, perform and provide recommendations to the shootings that have taken place

SEE YOUTH 8D

The youth-led event, **Broward Speaks – Students say #NeverAgain**, included student performances, musical acts, Q&A with a panel of local and law enforcement officials on May 25 at the Miramar Cultural Center.



Miami Times photos/Carol Porter

MEMORIAL DAY LOVE

Miami Gardens honors fallen native Sgt. Johnson

Philippe H. Buteau
Miami Times Contributor

A service to celebrate the lives of every soldier who died for the United States especially Miami Gardens' own Sgt. La David Terrence Johnson was held on Memorial Day Monday.

Johnson and his family were the focus of the city's annual event, which it renamed the Sgt. La David T. Johnson Memorial Day breakfast. The service at the Betty T. Ferguson Recreational Complex included a keynote speech from retired Command Sgt. Maj. Harry "Bo" Stanfield and a performance from Zondre and the Unstoppable Praise.

More than 200 people attended and heard an invocation from Pastor Wantworth Heron of the Love Fellowship Ministries before the Miami Gardens Police Department's Honor Guard presented the colors.

Miami Gardens Police Chief Delma Noel-Pratt said Memorial Day is about the many who have given their lives "so we can have the freedoms that we have."

SEE LOVE 8D



(left) Command Sgt. Maj. Harry "Bo" Stanfield attends Memorial Day Breakfast in Miami Gardens.



(right) Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver G. Gilbert III and Myeshia Manual, the widow of Sgt. LaDavid T. Johnson and her two children.



Photos courtesy of Miami Gardens

Two guests greet at the Sgt. La David T. Johnson Memorial Day breakfast at Betty T. Ferguson Recreational Complex.

LOVE

CONTINUED FROM 7D

"We honor them and their sacrifice so we never forget," Noel-Pratt said.

Memorial Day means everything to Lula Greaves, an honorary marine. Lula's husband, Franklin A. Greaves, was a corporal in the Marines. He received a purple heart for his efforts during Vietnam.

"I'm very humble to be a part of this," said Greaves who lives in Palm Bay.

Girl Scout Troops 347 and 880 led the pledge of allegiance. Humphrey Allen sang both the National Anthem and the Negro National Anthem.

Mayor Oliver G. Gilbert III said Memorial Day is about the people who served and the sacrifice they made. He said the sacrifice is important, and he made sure to include that distinction when speaking about Memorial Day.

"We have Veterans' and Memorial Day for a reason," Gilbert said. "It's something special to have that sacrifice." Councilman David Williams Jr. said Memorial Day is an opportunity for people to come together as a community and as a country.

Williams agreed that teachers, nurses and doctors also fight and die for the country.

"Teachers are on the battle lines every day," he said. "There's plenty of honor to go around."

Councilwoman Felicia Robinson is also an educator with 24 years of experience. She decided to teach "to give back to her community."

She said Memorial Day is important as an opportunity to show gratitude and for her as an educator, because it's important to remember the impact of service.

"Service pushes us forward," Robinson said.

The guests of honor, veterans and their families, were seated throughout the complex's auditorium on tables with red, white and blue floral arrangements. They ate a pre-paid breakfast of potatoes, sausages, eggs, grits with shrimp and biscuits.

Former Miami Gardens City Council members Aaron Campbell and Melvin L. Bratton started the Memorial Day breakfast. Campbell was in the Air Force and Bratton the Army.

"They said Memorial Day is meant to recognize and honor deceased veterans who gave their lives."

"This event gives local vets a chance to meet and recognize those who gave the ultimate sacrifice," Bratton said.

Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Harry "Bo" Stanfield taught Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Miami Carol City Senior High for 20 years after 30 years of active duty with the Army. Stanfield enlisted in July 1964 and was with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. He said those who want to recognize the service of those who served have to make it an everyday affair.

"That duty goes beyond recognition of two to three holidays per year," Stanfield said. "Those who serve need to believe the American people are behind them every step of the way."

Myeshia, his children Ah'leeysha Jones and La David Johnson Jr. and La David's aunt and uncle, Cowanda Jones-Johnson and Richard Johnson, sat front and center closest to the stage.

La David Johnson grew up in Miami Gardens and graduated from Miami Carol City Senior High School in 2010 and attended ATI Career Training Center for mechanical engineering. On August 22, 2014, he wed his best friend, Myeshia Manuel.

She was presented with a crystal flying eagle statue to commemorate Johnson's service and sacrifice.

"This recognizes all the hard work that he did and everything that he put his hard work to accomplish," Myeshia said.

Johnson enlisted in the Army on January 28, 2014, and he left for his second deployment to Africa on Aug. 28, 2017. He died Oct. 4, 2017 in Niger. His awards include but are not limited to the following: Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

"My husband always told me he was going to be famous. I didn't think it'd be under these circumstances," Myeshia said of Johnson after the service.

She was solemn when mentioning Memorial Day.

"I wouldn't celebrate it in these circumstances," Myeshia said. "But I'm always there for my husband. I'll celebrate this with my kids as a tradition in honor of my husband."



Dozens of people eat and converse at a special Memorial Day breakfast in Miami Gardens.

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 Doriscar
8025 NW Miami Court 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 Sharar 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 Church COGIC
Pastor Dr. Willie Gaines
3257 NW 7th Avenue Circle • 305-335-4389

New Life Christian Center

Rev. Bruce Payne
5728 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 Leonard Assembly of God
Pastor Leonard Shaw
2085 NW 97th Street • 305-693-1356

YOUTH

CONTINUED FROM 7D

all around them.

Local residents and elected officials turned out May 25 at the Miramar Cultural Center.

The roundtable discussion of panelists included Messam, City Attorney Jamie Cole, Miramar Police Chief Dexter Williams and Andrew Dohlborg, a candidate for state representative.

The students moderated the event. They had questions on the Second Amendment, school safety and changes to gun control.

The young moderators wanted to know why was it so easy for people to bear arms or gain access to them. Messam said the Second Amendment allows people to bear arms. However, he believes there should be some restrictions when it comes to children having access to guns.

Chief Williams said that he was working on a better way to secure weapons so that children and teenagers could not get guns.

He said he was a big proponent of "if you see something, say something."

"Children who are 10 years old and 15 years old, they are putting the guns in their book bags," Williams said. "Nobody is

saying anything."

Dohlborg encouraged the audience to vote for change in the upcoming elections. Messam also urged them to talk to their elected representatives.

"If you like the policy, let them know," said Messam. "To sit back and not do anything is not an option. It will be the status quo. You should not think of our houses of government as places that you cannot touch or reach."

Cole spoke about how liberal Broward County seemed, as compared to other areas of the State of Florida.

Other parts of the state, or of this country, Cole said, some people reacted in a very visceral fashion. They felt threatened that the government will take their guns away.

Williams said that "change did not come overnight," and people had to keep fighting and staying strong with the message, and he felt they would win.

"The kids at Marjory Stoneman Douglas have one chance to make a difference. They are trying to make their voices be heard loud and clear. They have been making that message be heard loud on the Hill. If we continue this momentum forward, we will make some change."

The students wanted to know if the White House

would intervene in the gun control issue.

But Messam said that he was not focused on changing the attitude of the president, but of pushing the voices of those in his community. He said the issue was not a partisan one.

"I know a lot of Republicans," said Messam. "They want gun safety in our community. I know a lot of Democrats who want gun control. It's a community issue. It's not a red issue. It's not a blue issue. It's a community issue. The question is: What type of community do we want to have, and what are we willing to do to keep our communities safe?"

The students also asked about the option of putting metal detectors in schools.

Messam said that metal detectors are a capital expense and had to be added to most cities budgets. Cole agreed with the mayor that funding had to be set aside for metal detectors and that it was a balancing act, of privacy versus public safety.

Chief Williams, who came from the New York City school system, said he was supportive of having metal detectors.

"We have to do everything we can to keep our kids safe," said Williams. "As far as convenience or safety, I'll take safety every day. I'm on the ground. That is what we are looking for."

FAITH CALENDAR

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

■ Gathering All Parents to Prayer

Prayer for youth; noon every third Saturday; 835 NW 119th St.; Call Apostle Thelma Knowles at 305-332-1736 for more details.

■ Greater New Bethel

■ Baptist Church

Provides behavioral health, 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 every second and fourth Saturday; Parkway Professional Building in Miramar. Call 954-260-9348 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 second 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.

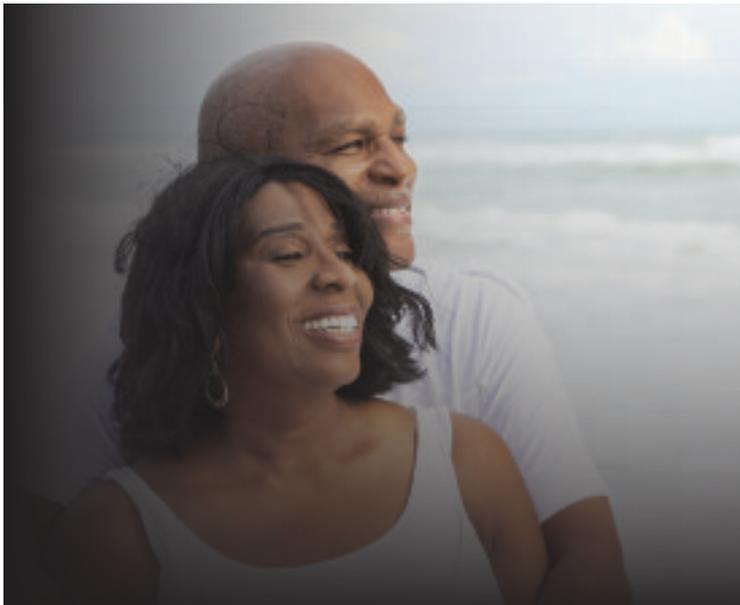
■ Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church

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.



HEART FAILURE in the BLACK COMMUNITY

THE FACTS THAT NEED TO BE KNOWN

NAREISSA SMITH
Atlanta Black Star

The liver can regenerate. A lost arm or leg can be replaced with a man-made prosthetic. But the heart cannot be so easily fixed. Heart cells do not regenerate or repair themselves. And while artificial hearts do exist, they can only be used for a short period. Because the heart cannot be easily repaired or replaced, heart failure is a serious issue. Black people are more likely to experience heart failure and more likely to die from it.

Heart failure does not mean that the heart has stopped beating. Rather, it means that the heart is not working properly. It beats but does not efficiently distribute blood throughout the body.

There are several different types of heart failure, generally characterized by which side of the heart is affected (left or right) and whether the issue concerns the heart's ability to pump out blood or its capacity to take in blood from the body. If the heart is compromised for too long, fluid will build up around it. This stage is called congestive heart failure and requires immediate medical attention.

During heart failure, the body compensates for the heart's weaknesses in several ways. The heart may stretch to enable it to contract more vigorously. After being repeatedly stretched, the heart becomes enlarged. In addition, after pumping harder for longer periods, the heart's cells become larger.

SEE HEART 11D

In a study of 5,115 individuals over 20 years, 26 of the 27 participants who developed heart failure under age 50 were Black people.

Healthier Glades gets a \$1 million investment deal

Funds to tackle behavioral health over five years in Palm Beach

Miami Times Staff Report

The foundation behind the Healthier Together initiative and host of the Healthier Together Community Leadership Conference in West Palm Beach is providing a funding source for behavioral health.

The Healthier Glades initiative will receive \$1 million over the next five years from Palm Healthcare Foundation Inc. to tackle the root causes of behavioral health issues facing the residents of all of the Glades communities - Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee.

In addition to traditional health services and resources, Healthier Glades will address issues such as neighbor-



Inger Harvey, the new project director of Healthier Glades.

hood safety and race equity.

Community Partners Inc. will serve as the fiscal agent for the initiative. Community Partners is home to Housing Partnership Inc. and Parent Child Center Inc. Together, these nonprofit organizations offer an array of housing, community, and child and family mental health services.

"We are thrilled to be launching Healthier Together in the Glades. Ensuring that the program reflects the diversity of the Glades residents is of utmost importance for true, lasting and transformative change," said Patrick McNamara, president and CEO of Palm Healthcare Foundation.

Inger Harvey has been named the project director of Healthier Glades. Harvey brings more than 25 years of success to creating shared visions; facilitating cooperation among diverse groups with conflicting agendas; and engaging nontraditional partners. Most recently, she was employed at the Office of Community Revitalization, Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

"Inger Harvey's passion and willingness to listen and learn from resident-lived experiences is critical to the success of the initiative," said McNamara. "She models the concept of 'leading from behind,' empowering residents at the grassroots level to foster innovation in community engagement. These are outstanding traits for a project director for Healthier Glades."

Palm Healthcare Foundation hosted its annual Healthier Together Community Leadership Conference in West Palm Beach on April 14. This year's conference focused on race equity, collective impact and the power of community. Residents from across the community, including

SEE HEALTH 11D



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Miami Gardens mayor gives new laptops to 120 students

Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver G. Gilbert held his 10th annual laptop giveaway May 30 at Miami Gardens City Hall. He handed out 120 laptops to 120 students from Miami Carol City Senior High School, Miami Norland Senior High School and Miami Northwestern Senior High School. Forty students from each school were represented.

Many of the students were graduation seniors going off to college.

Antania Coney, a senior from Miami Norland Senior High School, was accepted into Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University.

Demetreus Mayes Jr. will graduate from Northwestern and play football for the University of Central Florida. He received a full scholarship.

Photos courtesy of Miami Gardens

Ray Allen gifts computers to Lake Stevens

New learning tool to bridge digital divide for Miami Gardens students

RICKY RIBEIRO
Ed Tech

There's nothing new about kids going wild for a basketball superstar. Names like Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal, LeBron James and Kobe Bryant can stir up feelings of delight, awe and inspiration in children when mentioned.

But the palpable excitement and energy in the auditorium at Lake Stevens Middle School in Miami Gardens seemed different. Ray Allen, a retired basketball player in his 40s who last played for the Miami Heat in 2014, was visiting the school on behalf of his Ray of Hope Foundation, not to scout the next great ball player, but to bring a gift: a classroom computer lab outfitted with modern technology.

Allen isn't a technologist by trade or hobby, but he believes students must have access to modern tools for learning because education is essential to keeping American kids competitive.

"Our classrooms still look the same as when most of us adults went to school," said Allen. "I spent a lot of time in Asia, and a lot of the kids in Asia have computers."

This investment in children isn't just about technology for Allen. He sees this form of investment as a way of combating some of the broader problems that plague society.

"So many different issues — homelessness, obesity, etc. — if we put money into our infrastructure and our kids, that will shore up a lot of the problems we get on the back end," he said.

For Lake Stevens Middle School Principal Jorge Bulnes, the gift of 30 Acer Veriton desktop computers and flat-screen monitors is a way of putting his students on equal footing with those who go to school in wealthier parts of the country.

"I want to say thank you for your accomplishments and

“
“So many different issues — homelessness, obesity, etc. — if we put money into our infrastructure and our kids, that will shore up a lot of the problems we get on the back end.”
Ray Allen

your efforts to close the digital divide,” Bulnes told Allen. “Your contribution will more than help to close that gap and remind students that we have people outside of the school and outside of the community who are willing to make tangible, sound investments in them.”

While Principal Bulnes was beaming with pride at the all-day event, he wasn't the only Miami-Dade County Public Schools official expressing his gratitude to Allen for the technology donation. Superintendent Alberto Carvalho also attended the unveiling of the computer lab and commended Allen, his wife, Shannon Walker Williams, and the Ray of Hope Foundation for committing to the community in this impactful way.

New Computers Open Up New Possibilities for Students

If you ask Principal Bulnes, the change that has taken place over the past two months is on par with those incredible home makeovers, where a shabby shack is transformed into chic living space. “To take room 203 — which two months ago was an old lab that needed repair, filled with dust, the lights weren't working very well — and to renovate it into a 21st-century state-of-the-art computer lab was humongous for our school,” he said.

When it comes to pushing

boundaries, Acer, which co-sponsored the event and supplied the technology for the lab, has focused on empowering students with the most flexible and adaptive tech possible. Derek Shealy, an Acer representative who was on hand at the computer lab unveiling, knows that equipping kids with technology can change the trajectory of their educational journey.

“We partner with Microsoft, we partner with Google to make a lot of different form factors, such as desktops and laptops, that roll out in schools districts,” said Shealy. “The handwriting and touch capabilities are built into a lot of them too.”

Acer isn't stopping at touch screens — the company is looking ahead to emerging technologies such as virtual and augmented reality for the education market.

“We actually are doing VR, which is something we'll be seeing very soon in education. I think it's absolutely amazing to think about students being able to go to the moon or to the top of Mt. Everest, and they can already do some of that, but VR is going to take it to another level,” he added.

The effect that this new computer lab will have on students isn't felt just by school administrators. Drew Singer, the school's microsystems technician, knows that having access to modern computers on a daily basis will be a game changer for Lake Stevens students. The school district has done a decent job of keeping up with the network infrastructure, but getting funding for classroom technology can get lost in the shuffle.

“Sometimes, it's difficult to get the financing for computers to match what we're capable of doing,” said Singer. “We all know technology can change from year to year, and some of our computers that were previously in this lab couldn't do some of the required online tests. So to get updated technology here that will take us into the future is the greatest thing that could happen to this school.”



Lake Stevens Middle School students celebrate their computer lab at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 29.

Photos courtesy of Miami Dade County Public Schools

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MIAMI DADE TECHNICAL COLLEGE
STATE'S SENIOR COLLEGE

Parents rise up despite pain

Florida Parents of Murdered Children, a support group for parents who have lost children by homicide, fellowshipped together on Saturday, June 2 at New Birth Baptist Church. The group's second annual All White Prayer Breakfast was led by Bishop Victor T. Curry and Reverend Shirley Brown. State Attorney Aramis D. Ayala shared a message with the crowd. While parents shared words and expressed gratitude, Sirena Harrell, whose 15-year-old son was killed in August 2016, also performed a spoken word poem. Harrell received the Mother of the Year award.



Photos courtesy of Sirena Harrell

HEALTH

CONTINUED FROM 9D

those engaged in Palm Healthcare Foundation's Healthier Together communities and a delegation from the new Healthier Glades, were invited to attend.

The conference opened with a welcome from West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio and proceeded with a day full of workshops.

Workshop topics ranged from "Recognizing the Power of Neighbors" to "Mobilizing Youth for Community Engagement." For the first time, largely people who live and work in Palm Beach County led conference workshops.

Bonita Telford, a Palm Beach County resident for 10 years, heard about the conference through the Health Council of Southeast Florida. "The breakout sessions at the conference were

on target for me," she said. "I connected with a group of professionals who are very passionate about the work they do in the community and who they serve. I left feeling energized, with new contacts made, and bursting with new ideas."

Palm Healthcare Foundation has invested more than \$75 million in Palm Beach County health since 2001. For more information, visit palmhealthcare.org or call 561-833-6333.



Photos courtesy of Healthier Glades

Inger Harvey with the Healthier Glades delegation at the annual Healthier Together Community Leadership Conference in West Palm Beach.

HEART

CONTINUED FROM 9D

eventually causing the heart muscle to become more rigid. The heart will also pump faster to counteract the fact that less blood is being pumped. Amazingly, the heart will also try its best to conserve what little blood is being pumped by prioritizing key parts of the body (the brain) while diverting needed blood from "less essential" body parts (the kidneys).

Symptoms of heart failure include shortness of breath, fatigue, coughing or wheezing after physical activity, swelling in the lower body, rapid heart rate, fluid weight gain, or confusion. While any one of these signs alone might not be cause for concern, the American Heart Association says anyone who experiences more than one of these symptoms should seek medical attention.

Heart failure is deadly. It

cannot be cured, it can only be managed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that half of those diagnosed will die within five years of the diagnosis. Only 10 percent will survive longer than 10 years.

For most people, heart failure is an avoidable condition. Sometimes, heart failure develops from causes beyond the individual's control. A person may be born with a heart defect or the heart may be weakened by a virus. However, these causes are rare. According to the American Heart Association, "The most common conditions that can lead to heart failure are coronary artery disease, high blood pressure and previous heart attack." These conditions make the heart work harder and therefore more likely to fail.

Beyond these, the Mayo Clinic notes that there are risk factors that increase the probability of heart failure by making one of the above conditions more likely to

occur. The risk factors include diabetes, certain diabetes medications, sleep apnea, obesity, and arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat). The CDC states that smoking, failure to exercise regularly, and eating a diet with too much fat, cholesterol, or sodium also increase one's risk of heart failure.

Heart failure is as common as it is serious. According to the CDC, nearly six million Americans currently live with heart failure. Other sources indicate that as many as 960,000 new cases are diagnosed each year.

Not only are Black Americans more likely to experience heart failure, they are more likely to experience it at a younger age. A New England Journal of Medicine paper reported that African-Americans are twenty times more likely than whites to go into heart failure before age 50, with researchers finding that, in a study of 5,115 individuals over 20 years, 26 of the 27 participants who developed

heart failure under age 50 were Black people.

Why are Black people so predisposed to heart disease? American Heart Association research led by Dr. Mercedes Carnethon found that "The incidence, prevalence, and prognosis of heart failure are less favorable among African-Americans and are largely attributable to the higher burden of traditional risk factors among African-Americans."

There is yet another barrier to overcome: racism. Racism in health care is not a new topic. While some studies have found that African-Americans are less likely to attend follow-up appointments, racism may be part of the reason. Doctors, like other members of American society, may harbor implicit racial bias that causes them to view their Black patients differently on a subconscious level. With a disease as serious as heart failure, this bias is literally a matter of life and death.

16th Anniversary Prayer Luncheon

Apostolic Revival Center Women's Auxiliary presents its 16th Anniversary Prayer Luncheon, benefiting home and foreign mission. Featuring "Women of God Determined to Meet the Challenge" Psalms 46:10. Speaker: First Lady Geneva O. Smith on Saturday, June 9 at 11 a.m. Donation is \$40. Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel, 400 SE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33131.

Please contact Sister Ernestine Cowart for reservations, 954-558-8444. Sis. G.O. Smith, President; Dr. G. S. Smith, pastor.



First Lady Geneva O. Smith

Happy Birthday Mama Joyce

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Joyce Roach Barry on your 88th Birthday, June 4th.

From your daughter, son, granddaughter, grandson, great grandchildren, family and friends.

May God bless you with many more.

Mrs. Joyce Barry

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Apostolic Revival Center

Services
Wed. Intersession Prayer 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sun.-Eve. Worship 7:30 p.m.
Tues. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Fri. Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Gilbert S. Smith

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

Liberty City Church of Christ

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

Evangelist 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. Screen

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

Brownsville Church of Christ

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

Min. Harrell L. Henton

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

93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church

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

Website: 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. Ivory, Pastor

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

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

Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Services
Early Worship 7 a.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m.
NBC 10:05 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Mission 12 a.m.
Ministry 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-NBC
305-685-3700
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 p.m.

Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins

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

Wright and Young

CECELIA ANN CLARK, 69, customer service representative, died May 25. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Birth Baptist Church.



ETHEL MAE LEWIS, 90, died May 28. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Greater Israel Bethel Primitive Baptist Church.



CARMAN RAWLS, 51, cashier, died May 31. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at First Baptist Church of Bunche Park.



WILLIE JAMES GANT, JR., 62, retired BellSouth supervisor, died June 2. Born to Willie James Gant, Sr. and Lillian Gant. Survivors include mother, Lillian Gant; wife, Karen Weaver Gant, who he was married 39 years, three beautiful children, Willie James Gant, III (Amanda), Eugenio Gant and Alicia Gant; two grandchildren, Londyn Sanders and Willie James Gant, IV; sisters, Betty McCray, Sara Hankerson, Barbara Cobb and Faye Lewis. He was a faithful member of New Way Fellowship Baptist Church. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Way Fellowship Baptist Church.



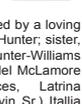
GRACIE MAE HUNTER, 66, retired bus driver, Miami Dade County Public Schools, died June 4 at Hollywood Memorial Regional Hospital. Survived by a loving son, Tierney E. Hunter; sister, Ernestine Hunter-Williams (Larry); aunt, Edell McLamore (William); nieces, Latrina Hunter-Floyd (Alvin, Sr.), Italia Hunter-Clarke (Andrew); Goddaughter, Brittney Hepburn and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins. Public viewing 5-8 p.m., Friday at Christian Fellowship Baptist Church. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at the church.



MATTIE ALLEN, 92, died June 2 at home. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Naranja.



ANDREW BRYANT, SR., 70, died June 2 at Homestead Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Church of Christ Written in Heaven of Goulds.



Paradise

YUGINE SMITH, 70, died May 29 at Jackson Memorial. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Full Deliverance Baptist Church.



WILBUR E. KING, 70, died June 6 at UM Hospital. Final rites in Manning, S.C.



DENNIS COLLINS, JR., 2. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Glendale Baptist Church.



Hadley Davis Miami Gardens

BYRON CONRAD CLARKE, 69, chef, died May 26 at Miami Veterans Hospital. Services were held.



WILLIE EDD POWELL, 87, railroad worker, died May 31 at Miami Veterans Hospital. Service 11:30 a.m., today in the chapel.



ELAINE SIMMONS, 69, homemaker, died May 30 at Memorial Regional Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Thursday at Antioch Miami Gardens.



JOHN LEE SIMMONS, 60, carpenter, died May 29 at Aventura Hospital. Service 2 p.m., Friday in the chapel.



HAROLD MITCHELL, 71, staging worker, died May 30 at Miami Veterans Hospital. Service 2 p.m., Friday in the chapel.



ELIZABETH JOHNSON, 73, head cook, died May 30 at Palm Gardens of Aventura. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



CURTIS LEE JOHNSON, 61, construction worker, died May 25 at Miami Veterans Hospital. Services were held.

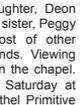


Range

LARRY A. HALL, 94, custodian/environmental specialist for Charles R. Drew Middle School, died June 2. Survivors include his son, Terence Hall; daughter, Deon Williams (Harold); sister, Peggy Ann Davis; a host of other relatives and friends. Viewing 4-8 p.m., Friday in the chapel. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Greater Israel Bethel Primitive Baptist Church.



DOROTHY E. HOLMES, 84, waste enforcement for Metro Dade County, died May 31. Survivors include her daughter, Linda Atkinson (Morris); five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends. Viewing 3-7 p.m., Thursday in the chapel. Service 11 a.m., Friday at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, 816 NW 1 Avenue; Hallandale Beach, FL 33009



LILLIE ROSE BROWN, 76, homemaker, died May 30. Survivors include her son, Robert B. Davis (Denise); sisters, Lois Davis and Betty Spann; and 11 grandchildren; a host of other relatives and friends. Viewing 4-8 p.m., Friday in the chapel. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church.



Trinity

ROBERT PETERSON, 59, construction worker, died May 31 at Mercy Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Brownville.



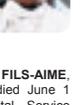
PAULETTE AUSTIN, 55, caretaker, died May 25 at Jackson Main Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Hosanna Community Baptist Church.



JERMAINE ANDERSON, 20, died May 21 at Jackson Health Systems. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Pentecostal Tabernacle.

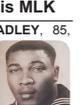


ARGENTINE FILS-AIME, 88, homemaker, died June 1 at Promise Hospital. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at St. Mary's Cathedral.



Hadley Davis MLK

THEODORE HADLEY, 85, truck driver, died May 30 at Franco Nursing Home. Service 2 p.m., Monday, June 11 in the chapel.



MAGGER RHODES, 79, retired housekeeper, died May 28 at Hialeah Hospital. Service 12 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



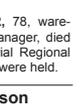
ALICIA OWEN-MARTINEZ, 50, correctional officer, died May 7 at home. Service 1 p.m., Friday in the chapel.



BUTCH FLAGLER, 52, laborer, died June 2 at Jackson North Medical Center. Service 2 p.m., Friday in the chapel.



JAMES BAKER, 78, warehouse shipping manager, died May 30 at Memorial Regional Hospital. Services were held.



Richardson

LACIE HANKS, 53, retired security monitor, died June 4 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at House of God Miracles Revival Fellowship.



EARNESTINE GREEN, 81, retired, died June 1 at home. Service 12 p.m., Wednesday, June 13 at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

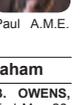


Range - Coconut Grove

WILLIE D. SCOTT, SR., 82, retired solid waste driver, died June 3 at South Miami Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church.



Nakia Ingraham
MS. WILLIE B. OWENS, 71, homemaker, died May 26. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Gregg L. Mason

CLARA HOWARD LOPEZ, 76, retired maintenance administration, BellSouth Telecommunication, died June 1. Viewing 10-11 a.m., with service to follow at 11 a.m., today in the chapel.

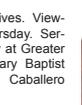


LEASTER BARNES, 90, retired business owner, Garden Nursery, died May 31. Survivors include: wife, Frozena; son, Lester Barnes, Jr. and other relatives. Viewing, 6-9 p.m., Thursday, Service 11 a.m., Friday at Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church. Interment: Caballero Rivero Dade North.



Grace

WILLIE EDWARD SIMS, III, 47, auto retailer, died May 31. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Haisten - Georgia

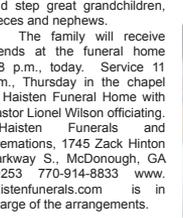
MRS. JUANITA FORD GATEWOOD, 84, of McDonough, GA by way of Miami, FL died May 31. Juanita was born in Donaldsonville, GA the daughter of the late Elise Johnson-Rhines and C. B. Rhines. She was also preceded in death by a sister, Bernice Duncan and a brother, Howard Jones. Juanita graduated from Seminole High School in Donaldsonville, GA. She worked most of career in banking and accounting. She was a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Locust Grove, GA and a member of the local AARP chapter. In her spare-time she enjoyed gardening, fishing, being a zoo keeper for her animals (cats, parrots, rabbits, birds and chickens), sewing, music, singing, and being a volunteer for Westbury Nursing Home. Juanita was a member of the Henry County Community Senior Choir and prior to her move to McDonough in 2007 she was a volunteer grandma with the Miramar Elementary School in Miramar, FL. Survivors include her loving husband of 43 years, James Gatewood of McDonough; daughter, Bettye Battles of Locust Grove; grandchildren, Shavon Griffin of McDonough, LaShanika Hunter of Miami, Georgia; Battles of Miami, Kathrine Nicolas of Locust Grove. Her great-grandchildren, Kennard Paramore, Nathaniel Goldwire, Alkeyra Lavalliere, and Jamari Hunter all of Miami; step children, Larry Gatewood, Willie James Gatewood, Amy Moore and Derrick Gatewood all of Richland, GA; brothers, Connie B. Rhines of Orlando and Joseph Rhines of Miami; sisters, Margaret Bell and Ernestyne Johnson of Miami; several step grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home 6-8 p.m., today. Service 11 a.m., Thursday in the chapel of Haisten Funeral Home with Pastor Lionel Wilson officiating. Haisten Funerals and Cremations, 1745 Zack Hinton Parkway S., McDonough, GA 30253 770-914-8833 www.haistenfunerals.com is in charge of the arrangements.

Allen & Shaw
SAMMIE L. POLLARD, 67, died May 18 at Claridge House Nursing Home. Services were held.

Royal
CARL BRYANT, 78, died June 4. Service 4 p.m., today in the chapel.

Happy Birthday
In loving memory of,



GOLDIE CLARIT
06/08/1923-11/19/2013
Happy Birthday, Mom. There is not a day that we don't think about you. Forever, you are missed and loved forever.
From Patricia, Walter, Jr., Gregory and grandchildren.

Mitchell

CHARLES E. SPANN BENEBY, 64, died May 12 in Atlanta, GA. Memorial Service 4 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



A.J. Manuel
JEFFREY ALONZO GIBSON, 53, retired, died May 25 at North Shore Hospital. Viewing 5-8 p.m., Friday at Jordan Grove Baptist Church. Service 3 p.m., Saturday at the church.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



WILLIE JAMES MILLER
08/30/1941 - 06/12/2017

... My Dad ...
A father's touch
Daddy's kiss,
A loving daughter,
The Dad I will always miss,
An empty house,
An empty chair,
A father's love, no longer there,

A broken heart,
tear filled eye,
Another soul in the sky,
The times we shared,
The laughs we had,
Things I miss when I think of
MY DAD,
Love Lisa

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



SUSIE BONAPARTE YOUNG
06/07/1934 - 06/09/2017

A dignified woman of God, who was a trailblazer in the city of Opa-locka. Thank you for exemplifying the love of God to everyone you came in contact with. We honor you and share in your memory, happy birthday Mommie. Willie (Punchie) Jr., Katie, Robert, Donnell, Mark; devoted grandson, Demetrius Bush and family.

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,



GOLDIE CLARIT
06/08/1923-11/19/2013
Happy Birthday, Mom. There is not a day that we don't think about you. Forever, you are missed and loved forever.
From Patricia, Walter, Jr., Gregory and grandchildren.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



IRENE BEAL FORD
06/29/1911 - 06/06/2005

Thirteen years ago, you departed this earth but it seems like only yesterday. We love and miss you, Mother!
Juanita, Betty and Ivory.

Mildred Council, a pillar of southern cooking, dies at 89

KIM SEEVERS
New York Times

Mildred Council, a slave's granddaughter who opened a North Carolina restaurant that proved so successful she caught the attention of presidents, publishers and sports stars, died on May 20 in Chapel Hill, N.C. She was 89. The cause was complications of a stroke, her daughter, Spring Council, said.



Mildred Council

Most people call Council Mama Dip, a variation on Dip, the nickname she acquired while growing up on a sharecropper's farm. Mildred was such a tall youngster — she grew to 6 feet 2 inches — that she could reach her long arm down to the bottom of a rain barrel and dip out a drink when the family well went dry. Michael Jordan and James Worthy also picked up on the nickname and spread it when they were playing basketball for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the early 1980s; they were frequent visitors to her restaurant in town, at the time an 18-seat diner called Mamma's Kitchen.

The name Mama Dip went on to become a brand. Besides a restaurant, now known as Mama Dip's, it graced cookbooks and a line of food products, including a cornbread mix and barbecue sauce. Council called her approach in the kitchen "dump-cooking." She never used recipes, she explained; instead, she measured flour with the palm of her hand and then dumped in seasonings and other ingredients until a dish tasted right. The phrase belied her finely tuned culinary skills, however, which she began to develop when she was 9, a few years after her mother, Effie Cotton, died. Mildred so impressed her father.

"He told me to go pick something to eat," she said in 2014. Council, who had eight children of her own, was of a generation of Southern country cooks who inherently understood the importance of food as a way to build and sustain a community. She was cooking farm-to-table food long before the phrase became the vogue among urban chefs.