

# The Miami Times

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## MENDING A BROKEN WING



Rebecca Vaughns is a Miami native.

### Black community speaks about comments on poet Butterfly Vaughns' Facebook timeline

**NYAMEKYE DANIEL**  
ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

A melancholy message written on the Facebook timeline of Rebecca "Butterfly" Vaughns set off a firestorm of well wishes on Facebook and a discussion about suicide, a topic only whispered or spoken of quietly in the Black community.

"Rebecca Maria Christina Vaughns ~ also known as Butterfly 03.25.72-06.25.18 There will be no funeral!!! I want nobody to waste their time!!! Remember me however you choose!!!!" wrote Vaughns on her Facebook timeline on Friday.

The note comes on the heels of several high-profile suicides, including that of celebrity chef and CNN TV personality Anthony Bourdain, that still have

**SEE WINGS 6A**

Miami Times Illustration/S. Caines

Suicide is the **10th** leading cause of death in the U.S.

Each year **44,965** Americans die by suicide

Suicide costs the U.S. **\$69 Billion** annually

Source: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

## Gillum picks up steam in South Florida

Candidates pledged to support whomever wins election primary

**K. BARRETT BILALI**  
Miami Times Contributor



“

I want to know how it is that you expect to represent the varied interests of the people of the state of Florida if you don't sit down with the varied interests with the people of the state of Florida?"

Andrew Gillum

Two of the five Democratic gubernatorial candidates shared their vision for a renewed Florida at a debate on Monday at the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum faced off against newcomer to the race, Palm Beach real estate developer Jeff Greene, in the small and intimate setting of the church. It was the first time Greene spoke in a public debate since becoming a candidate earlier this month. Former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham, former Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine and Orlando entrepreneur Chris King were all invited but opted not to attend the debate.

Gillum had a question for his opponents who were not there:

"I want to know how it is that you expect to represent the varied interests of the people of the state of Florida if you don't sit down with the varied interests with the people of the state of Florida?" asked Gillum.

Gillum and Greene shared their diverse backgrounds. Greene, who was born and raised in Massachusetts, saw his father lose the family's wealth causing both parents to have to work to make ends meet. While Gillum, who was born and raised in Richmond Heights, was the first of seven children to graduate high school and college.

Michael Putney of WPLG Local 10 moderated the debate, which was called Faith in Florida: Unlocking the Power of People and hosted by the Florida East Coast Baptist Association.

"I happen to be the only non-millionaire running," said Gillum, adding "no offense" to Greene, who has amassed billions of dol-

lars in real estate. "So we are running this race on the strength of our experience and the generosity of those who are helping us."

Gillum on June 18 filed his financial disclosure form and reports his net worth as \$334,000. Greene has said he is willing to spend more than \$200 million on his campaign for governor.

But as the only Black candidate in the race, Gillum has The Collective PAC — one of the nation's leading Black political organizations — behind him.

"They help close the financial gap," said Gillum's communications director, Geoff Burgan, of the Washington, D.C.-based group, which supports Black candidates running for political office. "Unlike the rest of the candidates, he can't write a million dollar check."

It is not clear how much The Collective PAC has given directly to the Gillum campaign, but it has funded political ads on their own behalf.

Greene and Gillum again showed a unified

**SEE GILLUM 4A**

## FMU taps 10-year FIU veteran to lead school

South Florida HBCU hires its third interim president in less than a year

**CAROLYN GUNISS**  
cguniss@miamitimesonline.com

A veteran of higher education administration has been selected as Florida Memorial University's interim president.

Jaffus Hardrick replaces interim president Castell V. Bryant, the Board of Trustees

announced Friday evening. Hardrick, who worked for 10 years at Florida International University, begins his tenure on July 16.

"Dr. Jaffus Hardrick is a visionary and transformational leader with 20 years of higher education experience in academic affairs, student services, human resources



Jaffus Hardrick

and diversity and community relations," FMU board chairwoman, JoLinda L. Herring said in a statement. "He has a strong community presence and involvement, and we look forward to his service to our students, faculty, staff and community."

Hardrick in 2014 was appointed FIU's first vice provost for Student Access & Success, a role cre-

ated to showcase the university to "economically disadvantaged students." Hardrick served as vice president of Human Resources and vice provost simultaneously.

"This appointment recognizes Dr. Hardrick's commendable efforts in support of our minority student population," said a statement issued at the time by Douglas Wartzok, FIU provost and executive vice president.

Hardrick had responsibil-

ties ranging from strategy and innovation in academics, policy development and governance to donor development and community relations. As vice president of Human Resources, he managed an \$800 million payroll, as well as a \$30 million operations budget.

Hardrick's last salary at FIU was \$281,000 per year.

Previous to his 10-year run at FIU, Hardrick served as

**SEE FMU 6A**

### Summer meal program provides spotty service



10D

Today 88°



<b>INSIDE</b> BUSINESS.....	8B	YOU & YOURS.....	7D
CLASSIFIED.....	11B	FAITH CALENDAR.....	8D
IN GOOD TASTE.....	1C	HEALTH & WELLNESS.....	9D
LIFESTYLE HAPPENINGS.....	4C	OBITUARIES.....	12D

# VIEWPOINT

Editorials  
Cartoons  
Opinions  
Letters

BLACKS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY | JUNE 27-JULY 3, 2018 | MiamiTimesOnline.com

## EDITORIAL

### System overhaul needed when it comes to child safety

Children's safety has been at the forefront of national news every since the tragic events at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. There is a real need to consider student safety, but their safety needs to be addressed in a holistic way.

Children face unsafe situations at home, on the bus, on the street and yes, even in the classroom. The primary focus seems to be about neutralizing potential active shooter situations on school campuses. Laws have passed that now extend the program of armed police officers to elementary and K-8 schools. And some personnel who are not law enforcement can have firearms at school.

But hardening schools against shooters doesn't help if when the student goes home he will be abused. Putting in metal detectors to reveal the presence of a gun in a book bag is nullified if when a child is walking on the street a stray bullet finds them.

The other focus seems to be on whom to blame for the senseless shooting that left 17 dead and a world to mourn them.

The blame should be placed squarely on society, and its indifference to its responsibilities.

There are plenty of programs in place to catch many of the issues that have been uncovered since Nicolas Cruz's rampage. But the running theme seems to be lack of follow-through or adhering to policy. In so many of these tragic situations, the lack of follow-up is cited concerning tips, treatment plans and the list goes on when the perpetrators are identified.

There is a breakdown in what people think their jobs are and the importance and potential consequences for not doing their job. If a student is recommended for a diversion program like Promise, and that student doesn't participate, there needs to be follow-up as to why. If a student is referred to get mental health services, there needs to be follow-up that things are executed.

South Florida is a very transient part of the state. People come and go, wages are low and company loyalty and work pride are things of the past. Gone are the days when people spent years in a role. That affects continuity.

So with those known challenges, all agencies dealing with children need to set up protocols that do not allow certain processes to continue once a recommendation or requirement goes unfulfilled. Take, for instance, payment systems. You can't get additional services if you have an outstanding balance. Students should not be allowed to re-enroll, graduate or join the track team if they have unresolved flags.

To further minimize dangers to children, there needs to be interdepartmental and interagency cooperation. There needs to be a comprehensive review of the systems in place, and checkpoints need to be added. How can you stop the danger outside when the system inside is facilitating?

## 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.

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## The racist trope that just won't die

BRENT STAPLES, *The New York Times*

The comedian Roseanne Barr resurrected one of the oldest and most profoundly racist slanders in American history when she referred to Valerie Jarrett, an Black woman who served as an adviser to President Barack Obama, as the offspring of an ape.

This depiction — promoted by slave traders, historians and practitioners of "scientific" racism — was used to justify slavery, lynching and the creation of the Jim Crow state.

The toxically racist ape characterization has been pushed to the margins of the public square. Nevertheless, a growing body of research shows that it has maintained a pernicious grip on the American imagination. It is especially problematic in the criminal justice system, where subhuman treatment of Black Americans remains strikingly visible.

That message comes through powerfully in research by several social scientists, but particularly in the work of the Stanford University psychologist Jennifer Eberhardt and Phillip Atiba Goff, president of the Center for Policing Equity at John Jay College in New York. In six studies published with collaborators a decade ago, Goff and Eberhardt found that even younger study participants who were born since the civil rights revolution and

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**”**

claimed to know nothing of the ape caricature of Blackness were swayed by it when making judgments about Black people. In one study, white male undergraduates who were subliminally exposed to words associated with apes — for example, “chimp” or “gorilla” — were more likely to condone the beating of those in police custody when they thought that the suspect was Black.

In another study, the authors analyzed death penalty cases covered in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* between 1979 and 1999. They found that Black defendants convicted of capital crimes were four times more likely than whites convicted of capital crimes to be described with labels associated with apes, such as “savage,” “brute” or “beast.” The researchers also discovered that defendants who were implicitly portrayed as more apelike in the newspaper were more likely to be executed by the state.

This process of dehumanization often leads Americans to view Black men as larger and more fearsome than they are. This pattern of misperception is troubling. Police officers are often exonerated for killing civilians on the premise that they fired their weapons out of fear for their lives. Goff and his colleagues published a striking set of studies the year Tamir Rice was killed. They found that when a group of mainly white college students were shown photographs of white, Black and Latino boys, they overestimated the ages of Black boys ages 10 to 17 by an average of 4.5 years. In other words, they perceived 13-year-old boys as adult men — and viewed Black children as more culpable for crimes.

The notion that the country might somehow move past this deeply complex, historically layered issue by assuming an attitude of “color blindness” is naïve.



## In praise of Black American men

DAHLEEN GLANTON, *Chicago Tribune*

I'm going to praise Black men.

The countless other Black men who strive, even under the most challenging circumstances, to be good dads.

Some people will argue that such men are rare, or that they do not exist.

They blame the violence and other social ills of impoverished communities on the absence of Black men in their children's lives. They pretend as though single-parent homes are exclusive to Black families, and use this misinformation to make moral judgments about Black women and the men who father their children.

They paint all Black men with one broad stroke, as chronic baby-makers who abandon their responsibilities even before their children are born. They ignore the accomplishments of men like Barack Obama, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Dr. Ben Carson, baseball great

Jackie Robinson, playwright August Wilson, Stevie Wonder and Malcolm X — all raised without their biological fathers in the home and became great men.

I could say that the common stereotype of the Black man as a deadbeat father is only a myth.

Could some Black men do a better job of raising their children? Absolutely. But so could some white men, Hispanic men, Asian men and others.

Studies have shown that a father's involvement increases a child's chances for academic success and reduces the chances of delinquency and substance abuse. But it is not a panacea for all the social issues that contribute to violence and other issues that plague poor Black communities. Factors such as joblessness, economic disinvestment and institutional racism are beyond any father's control.

It is indeed troubling, though, that nearly 70 percent

**“**  
It is a lie that was planted the moment Black men set foot on American soil as slaves, and it has been cultivated for generations with plenty of help from the media.  
**”**

of a third-floor window of a burning apartment with his baby daughter in his arms. He had tried in vain to rescue his 4-year-old, Madison, and her 7-year-old sister, Shaniya Staples, who were trapped in another room. But by the time he reached them, it was too late.

Watson's 3-month-old daughter, Melanie, died in the fall. Though Watson survived, he was critically injured with multiple broken bones and a spinal injury. He later recovered.

Outside the smoldering building that morning, Shaniya's father could not bear to look as firefighters removed his daughter's charred body from the building. The only thing he had left was the name, Shaniya, tattooed on his arm.

It should not require a story so tragic to prove that Black fathers love their children too.



## Trump's war against our civil rights

DERRICK JOHNSON, *President and CEO of the NAACP*

Recently, the NAACP, alongside members of the Congressional Black Caucus, gathered on the steps of Capitol Hill to demand a halt of the Trump administration's continued attempts to force Thomas Farr—a known racist with ties to the late segregationist Sen. Jesse Helms—into the federal judgeship of North Carolina.

Located in eastern North Carolina, this federal district under this judgeship has one of the highest densities of Black voters than any other part of the state, making Farr one of the worst possible candidates that could be considered. Sadly, instead of representing an anomaly, Farr instead represents the archetype for federal judge nominees put forth by the Trump Administration.

It cannot be ignored that Trump's White House is engaged in none other than a war against civil rights. We have waged war against the foes of



**It cannot be ignored that Trump's White House is engaged in none other than a war against civil rights.**

civil rights for over 109 years. We fought hard against the nomination of Senator Jeff Sessions to the office of Attorney General and we will continue to fight against Trump's nearly all-white and mostly male federal judge nominees. Sessions' redirection of the Department of Justice away from its civil rights commitment under the Obama Administration to an agency that condones police brutality and other racially based injustices is hardly surprising. We knew he would

push the DOJ to withdraw its support for our legal cases against voter suppression and he did. The simple point is that these moves against civil rights cannot be divorced from his boss — President Trump.

Over the past few months, the NAACP has sued the Trump administration on its failure to properly prepare for Census2020. We've also taken the fight to this administration on the decision by Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos and the Department of Education

to basically throw civil rights under the bus and arbitrarily determine that the department no longer has to investigate complaints of discrimination in our schools.

There is a direct correlation between the racism emanating from the White House and the expansion of attacks on the humanity of persons of color. This is clear not only from Trump's poisonous rhetoric that disparages people, cultures, and nations, but also in the policies that emanate from his office.

We've extended an invitation to Trump to attend our 109th Annual Convention July 14-18 in San Antonio, Texas, and once again he has declined. His refusal to address the nation's premier civil rights organization and its hundreds of thousands of advocates is, by default, a refusal to speak to the entirety of the Black Community.



# Felon's voting rights garner county's grand jury support

Citizen-led initiative on November ballot could lead to second chances

**K. BARRETT BILALI**  
Miami Times Contributor

The Miami-Dade County Grand Jury on Wednesday issued a report supporting the November ballot initiative to allow ex-felons to vote and participate fully in society.

Dubbed Amendment 4: Vote "Yes" for a Safer and Fairer Florida," the report supports the proposed change to Florida's constitution, an effort led by a citizen who, after serving out his time and making restitution, still cannot vote.

For the measure to pass in the midterm election Nov. 6, it needs 60 percent of the votes cast to be in favor of restoration. Then all former felons who have served their sentence, parole or probation will be able to vote, except those convicted of murder or felony sexual offense, who are excluded from regaining their voting rights.

"We believe in giving people second chances and where we are taught to forgive one another," the grand jury report said.

The report argues that felons are less likely to return to prison after being given the right to vote.

The report cites that average annual recidivism

rate was 33 percent from 2001 to 2008. But of the nearly 31,000 felons given their civil rights in 2009 and 2010, the rate of recidivism was only 11 percent.

"We found that the overwhelming majority of states to be way more forgiving to its felons than Florida; especially to first-time offenders and those who commit non-violent felonies," states the report. Florida is joined by Iowa



Desmond Meade

and Kentucky as the only states in the U.S. that permanently bars felons from voting.

In many other states, grand juries are convened only to indict suspects to face trial for a crime.

Ed Griffith, of the State Attorney's Office, said Miami-Dade grand juries are formed twice a year to indict or discharge solely first degree-murder cases.



Gov. Rick Scott

But, he added, the county's grand jury has a tradition of speaking out on issues of public concern.

"The Miami-Dade Grand Jury takes an activist role on issues of community concern," said Griffith. "Their reports have more of a persuasive value, not statutory value."

Desmond Meade, the man behind the constitutional amendment effort, was very pleased to hear of the release of the report.

Meade's experience with Florida's criminal justice system spurred him to spearhead getting the felon rights initiative on the ballot in November.

He is the founder and head of Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, which gathered volunteers to get signatures on a petition for this issue to reach a public vote.

"We needed to get 766,000 signatures," said Meade. "But we got 799,000."

Meade finished a prison sentence on felony charges 14 years ago.

Since then, Meade is employed, married with five children and a recent law school grad.

"I turned my life around and even graduated from law school, and I still can't practice law until I get my civil rights back," said Meade Thursday, while at the Peacemakers Summit in Los Angeles, a forum on data-driven ways of reducing gun violence in urban communities.

There is a clemency process in Florida for those who have served their time to apply for their civil rights, said Meade. "But it is extremely long," he said. "After they've completed their sentence, some people have been waiting like 10 years."

Gov. Rick Scott filed a lawsuit in April to maintain the state's 150-year-old system for issuing clemency to ex-felons. Restoring civil rights has been the purvey of the governor, and he seeks to keep it that way.

But Meade is confident the ballot initiative will pass in November because of "grassroots support."

"I believe it will pass because this issue crosses partisan lines and racial lines and impacts so many people from so many different walks of life," said Meade.

## NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY MIAMI TIMES EDITORIAL DEPT.

### Building department to launch Permit Concierge service

Permit processing in the city of Miami will soon be easier with a Permit Concierge service that will bring in-home services to the elderly, disabled persons and veterans. Permits eligible for the service are the residential permits eligible for the Expedited Permit Process. Commercial permits are not eligible. Additional details, including how to request the Permit Concierge service, will be released at a later date.

### Share your opinion

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County invites residents to share their opinion by completing the 2018 Miami-Dade County Wellbeing Survey. The survey will be available and open until the needed responses are received. The Wellbeing Survey is meant to identify the needs, opinions, and views of Miami-Dade County residents as it relates to the communities that they each reside. To take the survey, go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/RMD-CWellbeing](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RMD-CWellbeing).

### Spay and neuter event

Miami-Dade County Commission Vice Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson, in partnership with the Miami-Dade County Animal Services Department, will provide a free spay and neuter event on Saturday,

June 30 at Olinda Park, 2101 NW 51 St. Pet drop off is at 7:30 a.m. and owners will be contacted once pets are ready for pickup. The event is for Miami-Dade County residents only, and proof of low income is required for the service. Proof of current rabies vaccine must be provided for all dogs at the time of drop off. Dogs without current proof will be vaccinated at time of surgery (only dogs up to 50 pounds are eligible). Dogs must wear a collar and leash at time of arrival. Space is limited. Call 311 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### Maroon Poetry Festival

There will be a full day of festivities in Liberty City as elder poets of the Black Arts Movement are honored. The morning will begin with yoga and meditation. Local vendors will be present, and there will also be activities for children. Participants will listen to local musicians, DJs and poets that will open up for the Last Poets, Sonia Sanchez and Ntozake Shange. Emory Douglas of the Black Panther Party will discuss the role of art and culture in movements for change and freedom. The event is free and open to the public with registration. It will be from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 30 at the Belafonte Tacoloy Center, 6161 NW Ninth Ave.



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# STREET Talk

COMPILED BY JAYDA HALL, [digital@miamitimesonline.com](mailto:digital@miamitimesonline.com)

## What measures do you believe it will take to curb gun violence in the community?



**Dyshawn Rigby, 33**  
Fort Lauderdale

The problem with gun violence is there are so many guns already out. There has to be some way for guns to be taken off the streets. I know we have laws that recently passed, but we're focusing so much on rifles that we forget that handguns are doing the job on our streets.



**Mike Jean-Louis, 28**  
North Miami

I honestly don't think it can really be stopped. What did former presidents do when dilemmas like this occurred? If their initiatives helped, we should take heed. But if we find ourselves doing the same thing and nothing has changed, then we must take the time to find the necessary measures to deal with this problem in our community.



**Kevin Jones, 25**  
Plantation

I think that if we can get the illegal handguns off the street, then everything will be a lot better. I do believe that gun owners have the right to own a concealed weapon, but it's the illegal handguns that are the real problem.



**Briani Mattair, 25**  
Fort Lauderdale

I think we have done a decent job as far as creating after-school programs to keep kids out of trouble. But not every child is part of an after-school program, and some parents can't afford it. We should turn our focus to opening up dialogue in schools for kids to express themselves.



**La'Keisha Hughes, 41**  
Pembroke Pines

I believe if more mentorship programs are provided for men approaching teenage years, and even those who are missing a father-figure in their lives, then it can shape their mindsets early on. I think just checking up on these boys in the community, taking them to church or getting the mothers involved more, can help deal with gun violence.



**Denver Kirkland, 24**  
Miami

To be honest, you can't stop a person whose mind is made up from taking matters in their own hands. All you can do is get a village together to help raise the kids differently. We need to show them something else, other than the gangbanging and drug dealing.



Photo courtesy Steve Gallon III

Reverend Toby Philpart, Johnny Barber, Andrew Gillum and Steve Gallon III attend a gubernatorial debate Monday at the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.

## GILLUM

CONTINUED FROM 1A

Democratic effort to unseat the Republicans from controlling the state by their agreement on key issues. So far, all of the Democratic candidates side with each other on gun control, abortion rights, education, affordable housing and making Florida's economy a benefit all of its residents.

The two candidates at the debate ultimately agreed to support whomever of the five candidates wins the nomination. Greene even offered to help fund the effort.

"We've had Republican governors for 20 years," Greene told Local 10 News. "It's going to take the resources, and my wife and I are willing to put the resources up."

Miami-Dade School Board member Steve Gallon III attended the debate at Antioch. He threw his support behind Gillum for governor.

"Mayor Andrew Gillum again demonstrated why he is the most-qualified candidate to be Florida's next governor," Gallon said. "He clearly has the life narrative and professional pedigree to

not only understand the real issues impacting everyday Floridians but a vision and plan to offer plain, practical solutions to improve their lives."

Meanwhile, the New Florida Majority has joined the list of endorsements for Gillum.

The grassroots community organization seeks to make heard the voices and aspirations of sometimes marginalized and disenfranchised people for a more "equitable and just Florida."

"I'm honored to receive New Florida Majority's endorsement! They're on the front lines of taking back our state for working people, and I'm proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them in fighting for our families, jobs with living wages and dignity, a thriving public education system that pays teachers what they're worth, and quality, affordable health care as a constitutional right for every Floridian," Gillum said.

"That is why this is endorsement is so dear to me because this is an organization that reaches out to gain trust in the community."

Andrea Mercado, executive director of Florida New Majority, and the organization's

political director, Dwight Ballard, flanked Gillum at the announcement Monday.

"He's a bold and unapologetic voice for communities of color and progressive ideas," said Mercado, who has been leading the organization for a year.

"And that type of bold platform to bring about a new Florida, which is more equitable is what we need. We strongly believe he is the best candidate to energize the aspirations of a new majority."

The decision to endorse Gillum came from an endorsement committee, community residents and their board of directors.

"We have a diversity of voices on the board," said Mercado. Some of Gillum's other endorsements include:

U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson  
Miami-Dade County Commissioner Barbara Jordan  
Former Miami-Dade County Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson  
Miami-Dade School Board Member Steve Gallon III

North Miami Councilman Philippe Bien-Aime  
Miami Gardens Vice Mayor Erhabor Ighodaro  
Miami Gardens Councilman David Williams Jr.  
Miami Gardens Councilwoman Lisa C. Davis

## Dante Starks pleads guilty to corruption charges Monday

### Sentencing set for Aug. 31; faces up to six years in federal prison

Miami Times Staff Report

Tagged as a mastermind behind bribery and extortion in Opa-locka, Dante Starks pled guilty Monday to charges arising from his participation in the long-running municipal corruption conspiracy and his failure to file federal income tax returns.

Starks is facing one count of conspiracy to receive and accept bribes and committing extortion and one count of failure to file income tax returns. The feds indicted Starks April 20.

Starks is expected to be sentenced on 2 p.m. Aug. 31 before U. S. District Judge Jose E. Martinez, who was presiding on Monday. On the bribery charges, he faces a maximum sentence of up to five years in prison, followed by a supervised term of release that could last for three years, a fine of up to \$250,000 and could face forfeiture and restitution. For failing to file taxes, Starks faces one year of prison time and a fine of up to \$100,000, plus possible restitution and forfeiture.

Starks faces about six years in prison but could get less time if he cooperates with the government, his plea agreement said.

Starks is the seventh person to plead guilty in

an ongoing corruption investigation by the government into Opa-locka.

The other six people who pled guilty are: former Commissioner Luis Santiago, to charges of bribery and extortion. Santiago was sentenced



Dante Starks

to 51 months in prison; former City Manager David Chiverton, to charges bribery and extortion and was sentenced to 38 months in prison; former Assistant Public Works Director Gregory Harris, who was the first defendant to plead guilty, pled to bribery and extortion charges and received a sentence of probation; towing company owners Sosa Sr. and Sosa Jr, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery. Their

charges and received a sentence of probation; towing company owners Sosa Sr. and Sosa Jr, pled guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery. Their

Starks is expected to be sentenced on 2 p.m. Aug. 31 before U. S. District Judge Jose E. Martinez, who was presiding on Monday. On the bribery charges, he faces a maximum sentence of up to five years in prison, followed by a supervised term of release that could last for three years, a fine of up to \$250,000 and could face forfeiture and restitution.

cases are pending sentencing in August 2018 before Judge Martinez; and Opa-locka mayor Myra Taylor's son, Demetrius Corleone Taylor, who received a sentence of 10 months.

While Starks was not an elected official or an employee of Opa-locka, he influenced workers in several departments and is accused of conspiring with Opa-locka's Santiago, Chiverton and Harris, to use their city positions to solicit, demand and obtain personal payments from businesses and individuals in exchange for taking official actions to assist and benefit those businesses and individuals in their official dealings with the City of Opa Locka."

Starks didn't file federal income tax returns for the tax years 2014, 2015 and 2016, totally nearly \$40,000.

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**NORTH SHORE**  
Medical Center



Photos courtesy of Andre Soud Williams/Eye1ShotTV

A man unveils the name of a Brownsville resource center, Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall Social and Economic Institute during a ceremony on June 21. It is named after the first Black female vice chair of the Miami-Dade County School Board.



Sherria Elliott, School Board member Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson and Terry Elliott Sr. pose for a photo during a tour of a business resource room on June 21. The Elliotts, business owners, contributed to the opening of the Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall Social and Economic Institute, where The Audrey M. Edmonson Business Incubator is housed.

# Miami leaders honored during unveiling

## Names revealed inside and outside renovated building in Brownsville

JAYDA HALL  
digital@miamitimesonline.com

Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall stood outside of a once-abandoned Brownsville building in awe.

Her eyes gazed on words which read, Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall Social and Economic Institute, affixed in blue on the side of the building, located at 5120 NW 24th Ave.

The Miami-Dade County School Board member was being honored on June 21 at a grand opening, presented by the Neighbors and Neighbors Association (NANA).

The institute was designed to offer youth educational programs and career training opportunities for the community, according to Leroy Jones, executive director of NANA.

"Anyone having social, mental, legal or economic issues can come here," he said. "It will not be used as a school anymore. It's a career zone."

NANA is an organization that has been around for more than two decades, functioning as an alliance of inner-city businesses. It was interested in obtaining the building that was once a charter school, and Ben-

dross-Mindingall helped. Jones said Bendross-Mindingall pushed the item on a meeting agenda and helped NANA get the property once known as Corporate Academy North.

Bendross-Mindingall called the recognition "humbling." "Words cannot explain," she said fighting back tears. "Some people went to sleep on them and when they woke up, this is what they saw."

With a background in education, Bendross-Mindingall is known to be the first Black woman elected as vice chair of the Miami-Dade County School Board. She currently serves in the position for District 2.

And she was not the only one who received gratitude.

NANA named a space in the building after Miami-Dade Commissioner Audrey Edmonson.

The Audrey M. Edmonson Business Incubator will serve adults interested in the business industry. It will also be a place for youth to do homework, research or even search for jobs.

Once NANA received the property, Jones said Edmonson provided funding to renovate it.

"They are icons in the neighborhood," Jones said, "playing productive roles in getting things done. So I thought we needed to recognize that."

Edmonson has served on the Miami-Dade Commission since 2005 and served as

vice chair from 2016 to 2018. Representing communities including Liberty City, Overtown and Wynwood, she previously served as vice chair from 2010 to 2012.

More than 400 residents attending the dedication received a tour of the building that will also house community organizations, including CareerSource South Florida, Inner City Youth Enrichment Camp and Girl Power.

Local residents will have access to a full-time attorney offering free legal assistance, according to Jones.

He added that NANA plans to open up a culinary school with an orientation in August.

The free 14-week program would include culinary training, certification and a stipend for 20 students who complete it.

Made possible by Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez, classes are scheduled to start in September.

The idea came about due to a high demand in the culinary, construction and hospitality industries.

Participating partners include CareerSource South Florida, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and D.A. Dorsey Technical College.

Anyone interested can visit 5120 NW 24th Ave., or call 305-756-0605.

"The house is wide open," Bendross-Mindingall said. "Come in under the tent because there's plenty of space."

Nyamekye Daniel contributed to this article.

Love always knows what's best. But for a new parent, every piece of advice helps. At Jackson Health System, we offer prenatal classes, breastfeeding instruction, and support groups to help build your confidence. Jackson's dedicated maternity team is by your side — before and after you meet the newest love of your life.

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# WINGS

CONTINUED FROM 1A

the nation talking about depression, loneliness and where to seek help.

Vaughns, a Miami native, is the voice of the Black community. As a Grammy-nominated poet, she uses spoken word and beat poetry to illustrate and speak on the issues many Black Miamians face.

The poet could be often seen performing at fundraising galas, opening ceremonies and anywhere in the poetry circuit. But she would also lend her voice to the voiceless during anti-violence rallies and protests in the area.

She did just that at a march with parents, children and law enforcement officials down Northwest 17 Avenue on Jan. 1.

Vaughns urged others to speak up against a rash of homicides in the area.

"You would want somebody to come forth on your behalf, and speak for you, and say that they saw something," Vaughns said.

The weight of the cryptic Facebook post hit the cyber waves on Friday. Many of Vaughns' friends expressed concern for the poet/activist.

"Pray for another Facebook Friend of mine. She's contemplating suicide and I am nowhere near to reach out to her," Regine Bell wrote on Facebook.

The post on Vaughns timeline comes two weeks after Bourdain, the host of CNN's "Parts Unknown," hung himself in a hotel room in France on June 8.

His death rocked the world including the local Black culinary community.

Bourdain trekked through the globe tasting each destination's trademark cuisine and sampling its culture on the show that had an average of one million viewers in May.

"He made me believe I could be a rockstar with a knife this one hits home RIP, Anthony Bourdain," wrote South Florida celebrity chef Daniella "Danie" Abraham on Facebook, June 8.

Many on social media questioned how someone with the gift of talent and the ability to live an adventurous lifestyle could take his own life. But celebrity and wealth have not impeded the plague of suicide.

It is the second leading cause of death among people ages 15 to 34 in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. From 1999 to 2016 suicide

rates in Florida increased by about 11 percent, according to CDC. Suicide rates tend to spike after celebrities take their lives, referred to as the Werther effect; it can be bolstered by social media.

Fashion designer Kate Spade also succumbed to suicide by hanging three days before Bourdain on June 5. The public response was the same for Spade's death and followed for days leading up to Bourdain's death.

"If a woman worth 200 million commits suicide because of depression, imagine how it feels to be broke with it. Check on folks," wrote Starex Smith, a local food blogger and business developer, who goes by the moniker Hungry Black Man, on June 6.

Attorney and realtor, Ghenele Wright Muir also chimed in on the topic.

Muir shared a screenshot of an opinion piece in which she wrote that suicide and depression should be treated like an epidemic instead of a trending topic.

"Something comes in the news then we get consume with it," said Muir. "But then, something else comes along, and we forget about the people suffering every day. We should be treating depression like we do HIV or cancer—like an epidemic."

More than half of people who died because of suicide did not have known mental health problems, according to a report released by the CDC on June 7. Other reasons include substance abuse; loss of housing; a crisis in the past or upcoming two weeks; or criminal, legal, physical health or job/financial problems.

"Everrrrry death is to teach us how to live better. I feel that social media has made it harder for people!" a June 12 post on Vaughns' Facebook's timeline read.

In an interview with The Miami Times, Vaughns said that she has struggled with thoughts of suicide since June 30, 1995, the day that actress/singer Phyllis Hyman ended her own life. This time, a spiral of events led Vaughns down a speedy path to depression, including the death of a close friend.

Dozens of people sent prayers and posted pictures of Vaughns with words of encouragement throughout the weekend on social media.

"Releasing the anointing of God into the atmosphere on behalf of Rebecca MC Vaughns. I'm asking that the Angels of life would intercept thoughts of suicide and declaring that she shall live to declare the glory of the

Lord," wrote Sonia Chess.

Suicide rates are the lowest among Black Americans, but the number has tripled over the last 10 years, according to the CDC. Suicides among Black children have increased by 71 percent in the past decade, rising from 86 in 2006 to 147 in 2016.

Researchers say that cultural and spiritual beliefs

have to keep those issues inside of us."

Vaughns said that on Friday, she was "Baker Acted" — another name for the Florida Mental Health Act, which allows for intervention and temporary detention during a crisis.

Released on Monday afternoon, she was met with 94 Facebook posts, 19 social me-

dia messages and more than 200 text messages.

"Rebecca MC Vaughns, one of our favorite butterflies, we love you and we need you," wrote Rose Michelle Grand-Pierre.

The poet said the messages have given her a new meaning to life and reminded her of the impact that she has in the community and

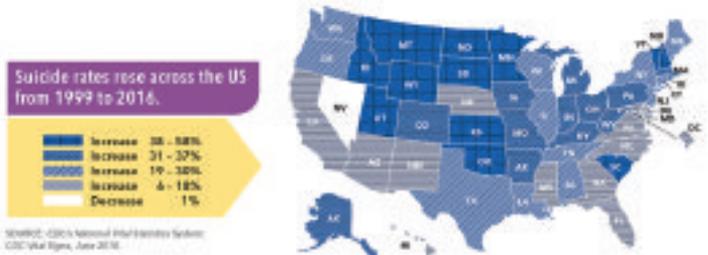
on others.

"Every post and text has referred to me as a light," Vaughns said. "Now, it's the reverse; these people are my light. The care and outpouring of prayers have been my light."

Those in need of support should contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.



In this May 26, 2017 file photo, poet Rebecca "Butterfly" Vaughns (standing in the center) recites a poem, at a tree planting ceremony at the Sherdavia Jenkins Peace Park.



play a role in a lower rate of suicide in Black Americans but also argue that it is not something that you can just "pray away!"

In addition, Blacks are 20 percent more likely to experience serious mental health problems than other populations, and they "may be reluctant to discuss mental health issues and seek treatment because of the shame and stigma associated with such conditions," according to the National Alliance for Mental Illness.

South Florida psychiatrist, Dr. Delvena Thomas said Black people believe that they are exempted from mental illness and suicide.

"We live on the illusion that we can't get sad or get anxiety," said Thomas. "We

shortlist to become a president of LeMoyné-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee. Friday evening he issued this statement regarding his FMU appoint:

"For over 140 years, FMU has been a key educational institution educating and preparing students to be globally competitive leaders. I am honored to serve FMU in this capacity in order to help move the university to the next level of excellence."

Hardrick will be the third interim president since the departure of Roslyn Clark Artis, who was named president of Benedict College July 1, 2017. Michelle Howard-Vital was named interim president shortly after and left for medical leave in November. Bryant assumed the role Nov. 20.

Bryant said she came out of a nine-year retirement to take the reins of FMU, and is heading right back in. She served almost six months and said she didn't expect for it to last as long.

The FMU board wished her well.

"We sincerely appreciate the service of Dr. Bryant during her time with us," said board chair Herring.

# FMU

CONTINUED FROM 1A

an assistant vice president of Human Resources and assistant provost for Academic Affairs at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

While at Baylor, he earned his doctorate in education, upgrading his education master's degree from Prairie A&M University. He earned a bachelor of arts in sociology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Hardrick is affiliated with numerous service and civic organizations including the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce and the 100 Black Men of South Florida.

Stephen H. Johnson, president of the 100 Black Men of South Florida, said Hardrick's extensive career in higher education helps to shape the group's educational and mentoring programs.

Johnson met Hardrick — who is a member of the group — four years ago and said he's a good fit for the organization.

"He couldn't be a member

**For over 140 years, FMU has been a key educational institution educating and preparing students to be globally competitive leaders. I am honored to serve FMU in this capacity in order to help move the university to the next level of excellence."**

of the 100 Black Men of South Florida unless he is a person of good character," Johnson said. "He certainly has been a person who was dedicated to students of FMU and, hopefully in the future, for the students of Florida Memorial University as its president."

In an 2016 interview with FTU Magazine, Hardrick said he worked 40 hours a week to put himself through college. He is the first in his family to earn a degree; mentors supported and guided him through his career, he told the interviewer.

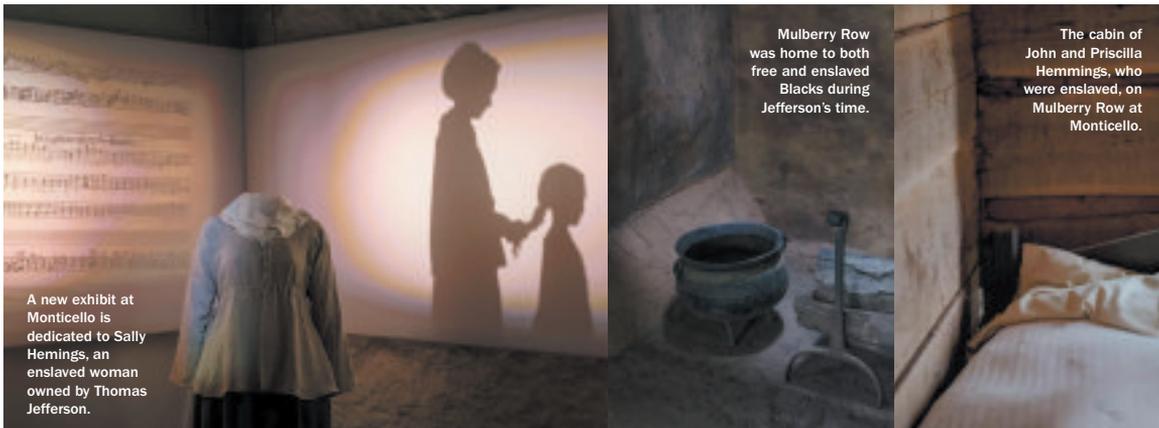
Hardrick in 2015 made the

# ARE YOU LIVING WITH LUPUS?

## SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:

- Skin lesions
- Fatigue and fever
- Joint pain, stiffness and swelling
- Butterfly-shaped rash on the face
- Headaches, confusion or memory loss

If you've been diagnosed with lupus, go to [www.LupusWarriors.health](http://www.LupusWarriors.health) to learn more about the disease. A clinical trial might be right for you.



A new exhibit at Monticello is dedicated to Sally Hemings, an enslaved woman owned by Thomas Jefferson.

Mulberry Row was home to both free and enslaved Blacks during Jefferson's time.

The cabin of John and Priscilla Hemmings, who were enslaved, on Mulberry Row at Monticello.

# SALLY HEMINGS HAS A PLACE AT MONTICELLO

A slave, Jefferson's lover part of new exhibit

**FARAH STOCKMAN**  
New York Times

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — The room — brick-floored, plaster-walled, empty — is simple.

The life it represents was anything but.

The newly opened space at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's palatial mountaintop plantation, is presented as the living quarters of Sally Hemings, an enslaved woman who bore the founding father's children. But it is more than an exhibit.

It's the culmination of a 25-year effort to grapple with the reality of slavery in the home of one of liberty's most eloquent champions. The Sally Hemings room opens to the public on Saturday, alongside a room dedicated to the oral histories of the descendants of slaves at Monticello, and the earliest kitchen at the house, where Hemings's brother cooked.

The public opening deals a final blow to two centuries of ignoring, playing down or covering up what amounted to an open secret during Jefferson's life: his relationship with a slave that spanned nearly four decades, from his time abroad in Paris to his death.

To make the exhibit possible, curators had to wrestle with a host of thorny questions. How to accurately portray a woman for whom no photograph exists?

(The solution: casting a shadow on a wall.) How to handle the skepticism of those who remain unpersuaded by the mounting evidence that Jefferson was indeed the father of Hemings's children? (The solution: tell the story entirely in quotes from her son Madison.)

And, thorniest of all, in an era of Black Lives Matter and #MeToo: How to describe the decades-long sexual relationship between Jefferson and Hemings? Should it be described as rape?

"We really can't know what the dynamic was," said Leslie Greene Bowman, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. "Was it rape? Was there affection? We felt we had to present a range of views, including the most painful one."

After a DNA test in 1998, the nonprofit foundation, which owns Monticello, determined that there was a "high probability" that Jefferson fathered at least one of Hemings's children, and that he likely fathered them all. The new exhibit asserts Jefferson's paternity as a fact.

**EXHIBIT**

The "Life of Sally Hemings" exhibit is perhaps the most striking example of the sea change that has taken place at Monticello, as the foundation has increasingly focused on highlighting the stories of Mon-

ticello's slaves. The foundation has embarked on a multiyear, \$35-million project aimed at restoring Monticello to the way it looked when Jefferson was alive. It rebuilt a slave cabin and workshops where slaves labored, and has hosted reunions there for the descendants of the enslaved population, including sleepovers. It removed a public bathroom installed in 1940s atop slave quarters.

Curators at Monticello had to wrestle with a host of thorny questions to make the exhibit possible.

And it is phasing out the popular "house tour" of the mansion, which made only minimal mention of slavery alongside Jefferson's accomplishments, radically changing what is experienced by the more than 400,000 tourists who visit Monticello annually.

Thanks to a short description given by one of Jefferson's grandsons, historians believe that Hemings lived in the slave quarters in the South Wing. But they aren't sure which room. Curators decided to tell Hemings's story in one of the rooms. Instead of making it a period room with objects that she might have possessed, they left it empty, projecting the words of her son Madison on the wall to tell her story.

**WAS IT LOVE?**

The 1995 movie "Jefferson in Paris" imagined that Hemings



Jefferson's suite at Monticello: Historians believe that Hemings lived in the slave quarters in the South Wing.

and Jefferson loved each other. But no one knows how they really felt. Their sexual relationship is believed to have started in France, where slavery was outlawed. Hemings wanted to remain in Paris, where she could have been granted freedom, but she eventually returned to Virginia with Jefferson after he offered her extraordinary privileges and freedom for any children she might have, according to an account by Madison Hemings. Her children, who were all fair-skinned and named after Jefferson's friends, were freed when they reached adulthood.

No portrait or photograph exists of Hemings. Even her skin tone remains a mystery, and a source of controversy. Cartoons in the 18th century, which aimed to derail Jefferson's political career, portrayed her as dark-skinned. But her father was a white plantation owner and her mother, an enslaved woman, was of mixed race. One account described Hemings as "mighty near white." Curators at Monticello opted not to recreate a physical image of her. Instead, they will project a woman's shadow on a wall.

At a time when sexual abuses by powerful men have dominated the news, curators struggled for months over how to describe the relationship between Hemings and Jefferson — and in particular whether to use the word "rape" in the

exhibit. The foundation held conference calls and meetings with historians, board members and descendants to discuss the question.

In the end, historians opted to use the word "rape" with a question mark, knowing that some would criticize them for including the word, while others would have criticized them for leaving it out.

The question is asked on a plaque on the wall outside the Hemings exhibit titled "Sex, Power and Ownership." It spells out the power dynamic between the two: Under Virginia law, Hemings was Jefferson's property.

Curators acknowledged that the question could be difficult for some visitors to digest, especially schoolchildren.

**WAS IT RAPE?**

Lucia "Cinder" Stanton, a retired historian who spent 25 years collecting oral history from the descendants of slaves at Monticello, said it remains to be seen how the public will react at a time when political views have become so extreme.

"The words 'rape' and 'rapist,' what it conjures up is not a nuanced situation," she said. "There were other relationships like theirs which were clearly love matches."

Some couples moved to Ohio, where slavery was outlawed, she said, adding: "Jefferson wasn't that. But he wasn't vio-

lently accosting Sally Hemings every day for 30 years."

At reunions of the descendants of Monticello's slaves, the question of whether Jefferson is guilty of rape has sparked heated arguments.

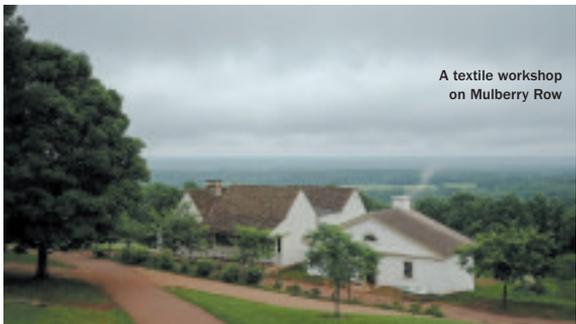
"I really don't think slaves had a choice," said Rosemary Medley Ghoston, a retired hairdresser in Ohio who discovered in the 1980s, through genealogical research, that she was a descendant of Madison Hemings. "Maybe it was not rape, it was a duty that she had to fulfill."

But her distant cousin, Julius "Calvin" Jefferson, whom she met at a descendants' event, feels differently.

"I think it was a love story," he said, noting that Hemings was the half sister of Jefferson's late wife, Martha, whose death had devastated him. "Did she look like Martha? I think she did."

The exhibit has divided the white descendants of Jefferson's acknowledged family, and stoked outrage among a small but determined group of Jefferson enthusiasts who insist that he didn't father Hemings's children.

John H. Works Jr., a descendant of Jefferson's who is among the founding members of the Thomas Jefferson Heritage Society, accuses the nonprofit organization that runs Monticello of bowing to political correctness, and insists that the entire premise of the exhibit is flawed.



A textile workshop on Mulberry Row



Curators at Monticello had to wrestle with a host of thorny questions to make the exhibit possible.



The new exhibit includes a room dedicated to the oral histories of the descendants of slaves at Monticello, and the earliest kitchen at the house, where Hemings's brother cooked.

# HAITI

## AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Entrepreneur offers taste of island through monthly subscription

JAYDA HALL  
miamitimesonline.com

Sanaa Pierre was always a lover of tea. And according to her mother Sandra Florvella, her daughter's favorite flavor is lemongrass.

"She's always drinking tea," Florvella said. "The hot, lemon-flavored drink connects Sanaa to her native island, Haiti."

And it wasn't until one day at the dinner table, she asked her mother to merge the two so others can be connected as well.

"Why don't we make tea and share this thing we know about Haiti with other people?" Her mother recalled her asking.

Florvella said she grew interested. Three years later, she co-founded Haitea, a Haitian tea company.

The company, which received its name from Sanaa, launched in March 2018 and grows its products in Haiti with the help of stationed farmers who are all women.

And maybe after a sip of the tea, buyers will want more of Haiti.

So starting July 14, you can purchase products such as Haitea — along with other Haitian products — without even traveling to Haiti.

The "Taste of Haiti" box will bring Haiti to each person's home through a delivery subscription.

Alnie Innocent, a Haitian entrepreneur, is behind the idea. She said she wants the world to "discover the richness" her island has to offer.

"I want people to embrace this idea as I work with other entrepreneurs to promote Haiti in a positive way," she said.

Before the subscription box was thought of, Innocent sold Haitian products every

Saturday at the Green Market in Delray Beach. The organic products would  
**SEE HAITI 10B**



Alnie Innocent, the founder of the "Taste of Haiti" box, which launches on July 14.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS

DANIELLA PIERRE, [affordablehousingmatters@gmail.com](mailto:affordablehousingmatters@gmail.com)

### Rentals, with a side of slum living in Miami

While the availability of affordable housing is decreasing, there appears to be no such shortage of what is considered slum housing. Residents from several multifam-

ily apartments in South Florida have reported an uptick in substandard living conditions. And while slum housing is not new in the South, the callous experiences are. Those providing slum housing and bad landlords have often been referred to by U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as committing a double-crime: one each against tenants and taxpayers.

Locally, the Neighborhood Regulations Division of Miami-Dade County's Department of Regulatory and



Pierre

Economic Resources is responsible for enforcing the Minimum Housing Code throughout all unincorporated areas. What that code does is not only enforce the 10 basic responsibilities of owners and tenants, but it requires that all houses and apartments be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. The code covers and applies to both rented homes and apartments. There is also a minimum housing code that applies to rooming houses with four units or less, too.

After you have informed

the owner or property manager about subpar housing conditions, be sure to document your concerns and get an estimated date of completion to resolve the matter. Should there be an issue after notifying the owner or manager, you may want to contact the 311 Call Center for an inspection by the Neighborhood Compliance Officer in your area.

#### WHAT YOU PAY EQUALS WHERE YOU LIVE

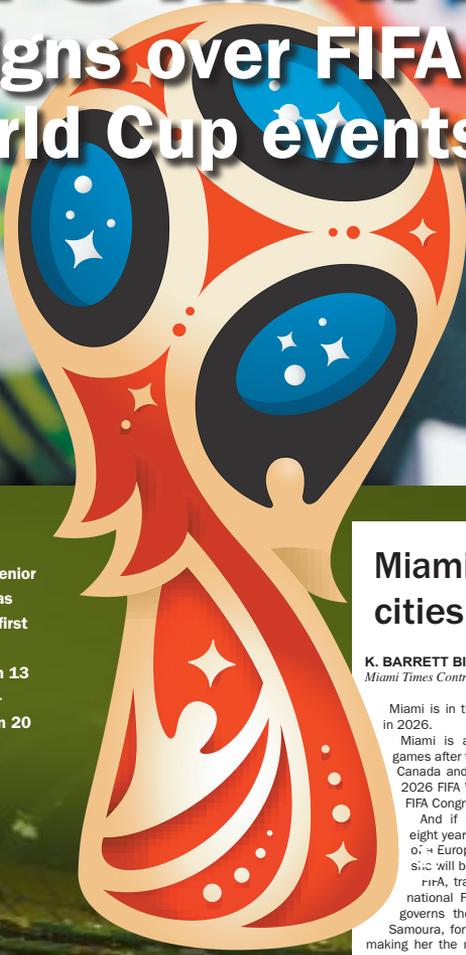
When it comes to a renting home or an apartment in Miami-Dade, it seems like the less you pay the further away you are from receiving what the basic standards

require — a dwelling that is safe, sanitary condition and contains certain basic equipment. A few weeks ago, the residents of Cordoba Courts Apartments in Opa-locka, provided detailed reports of slum and blighted living conditions dating to 2016 to today. Since then, I've been contacted about more. Most recently, some residents of Lakeshore Presidential Apartments located at 1260 NW 95th St., in Miami — situated in between two well-known churches — shared concerns about their current housing conditions.

They complained of an infestation of pigeons and an  
**SEE SLUM 10B**

# AFRICAN WOMAN

## reigns over FIFA World Cup events



**Fatma Diouf Samoura** (above) is a Senegalese senior executive. She was appointed as the first female Secretary General of FIFA on 13 May 2016 and assumed her post on 20 June 2016.

## Miami makes the list of potential host cities for the 2026 soccer games

**K. BARRETT BILALI**  
*Miami Times Contributor*

Miami is in the running for World Cup matches in 2026.

Miami is among 17 cities that could host games after the United Bid of the United States, Canada and Mexico was selected to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup on June 13 by the 68th FIFA Congress in Moscow.

And if Fatma Samoura remains another eight years as an African woman at the head of the Europe-based, male-dominated industry, soccer will be there, too.

FIFA, translates from French as the International Federation of Football Association, governs the world of soccer globally. And Samoura, for the past two years governs FIFA, making her the most-powerful woman executive in the international sports arena. Yet her position as the executive of an all-male club has not gone unnoticed nor unchallenged.

"There are people who don't think that a Black woman should be leading the administration of FIFA," said Samoura in a recent interview with the BBC. She was listed last month among the BBC's annual 100 Women — all recognized for being "influential and inspirational women around the world."

Forbes also ranked her the Most Powerful Women in International Sports earlier this year.

Samoura celebrated her second anniversary as FIFA secretary general on June 20. She was appointed by FIFA president Gianni Infantino when graft and corruption scandals created turmoil in the ranks and brought down top executives in the organization.

"She's used to managing big organizations, big budgets, human resources, staff, finance," Infantino said to an audience in 2016 announcing that Samoura would lead one of the world's largest sports organizations. "And she will bring a fresh wind to FIFA."

Samoura, 55, replaced Jérôme Valckewho was banned for 12 years from any and all soccer-related activity after he was convicted of misconduct.

Samoura, who ran a United Nations agency for most of her career, said being a woman executive of a male-dominated organization and industry is not an easy task, but the "glass ceiling" has been broken.

"It is something we are fighting on a daily basis on the pitch — I don't want any racist person around me."

Most recently some of those same men accused Samoura of having a conflict of interest surrounding the decision to choose a location for the 2026 World Cup. They said she failed to disclose her family relationship with El Hadji Diouf who served as an ambassador to promote Morocco's 2026 World Cup bid. Samoura had to prove that she was not related to

Diouf simply because her full family name is Fatma Diouf Samoura. Both Diouf and Samoura are natives of Senegal, West Africa but not related. Ultimately, Samoura was cleared of the charges by an internal FIFA investigation in April.

The United Bid — which consists of the U.S., Canada and Mexico — was able to secure 134 member nation's votes while Morocco received 65 votes to secure the honor of hosting the 2026 World Cup.

This is the first time three nations have been selected to co-host a FIFA World Cup and is the first time in 32 years that the games will be played in North America.

Miami is slated as a probable host among several other major cities within all three countries. The Hard Rock Stadium, which has held crowds of more than 70,000 spectators, is a major selling point for consideration as well as South Florida's location, infrastructure, hotels and entertainment sector.

"The economic impact to Miami-Dade is expected to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez. "In addition, the long-range benefits that will follow from the visibility of the area on the international stage is incalculable."

The Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau notes that Miami is ready for FIFA and other major sporting events, and has even gone so far as opening a private terminal for sports at MIA, adding another marketing tool.

"As a premier destination for sports' biggest and most prestigious events, including a record-breaking eleventh Super Bowl in 2020, and a College Football National Championship Game in 2021, Miami is certainly 'World Cup ready,'" said bureau's President and CEO William D. Talbert.

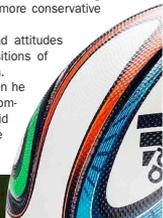
Meanwhile, Samoura is busy coordinating all aspects of a so far successful 2018 World Cup in Moscow and resolving issues related to the 2022 World Cup to be hosted by Qatar.

Her diplomatic skills were in full effect when she recently resolved some serious labor conflicts involving migrant workers building stadiums and infrastructure in preparation for the 2022 games.

"Over the past six months, we haven't heard anything negative about the worker conditions in Qatar," she said. "It is a strong sign that football can help change cultural behavior, even in the more conservative society."

And changing society and attitudes about Black women in positions of power is part of her mission.

"Nobody asks a man when he takes a position if he's competent to do the job," said Samoura. "They just assume that he can do the job."



# HAITI

CONTINUED FROM 8B

come in a box, packaged by the entrepreneur.

"I would sell out every weekend," she said.

And that's when one of her returning customers asked her for the name of the box she offered at the market. "I didn't have one," she said.

"I realized at that moment that it was much bigger than just Delray [Beach] and that the world needed to experience Haiti first-hand," she added.

Innocent took a break to brainstorm how she could turn an idea into a business. And one year later, she has a ready-made company with vendors from Rhum Barbancourt, Mel'Ange, Caribrew and Florvella's company, Haitea.

Florvella said when Innocent reached out to her she was "ecstatic" and "strongly supported" the idea.

"I'm honored to be included in the first box," she said. "It's such a superb idea to bring what entrepreneurs in Haiti are creating throughout the U.S."

Seven items will be inside the first box that's releasing in August, including Caribrew coffee and spicy peanut butter called Mamba from Haiti.

Innocent said it takes up to three weeks to receive products directly from Haiti, while local products are retrieved within a week.

Once the items are received, Innocent and her team meet up in Fort Lauderdale to put the box together. Putting together one box can take

**Sanaa Pierre, an 11-year-old tea enthusiast and mastermind behind Haitea, a Haitian tea company launched in March.**



up to 30 minutes, considering product placement and safety and crafting a hand-written note from Innocent, thanking buyers for their support.

Boxes are then sent out altogether at once for the month.

Innocent said since most of her clientele is outside of the Haitian community, the first subscription box will vary with food, drink and beauty products to offer a "full experience" of the island.

"When most people think about Haiti, they think about food like griot," she said. "People need to learn more about what we have. I want people who taste the box to actually want to go to Haiti after."

The entrepreneur said she hopes to collaborate with people from other

# “

I'm honored to be included in the first box. It's such a superb idea to bring what entrepreneurs in Haiti are creating throughout the U.S."



Haitea, a Haitian tea company, which launched in March.

countries and start a box for those locations.

So far, several entrepreneurs have launched a box to represent and provide buyers with a taste of Italy.

"I want this to be bigger than South Florida," Innocent said. "I want people to have my home with them."

Subscription for the "Taste of Haiti" box is \$39.99 bi-

monthly. An option to purchase a one-time box is available.

For more information on the product and how to subscribe visit [www.tasteofhaitibox.com](http://www.tasteofhaitibox.com)

## PUBLIC NOTICE OMNI REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY



Pursuant to Section 163.346, Florida Statutes, as amended, the Omni Redevelopment District Community Redevelopment Agency (the "Agency") hereby gives notice that it will consider a resolution authorizing the issuance of its note to exceed \$15,000,000 Tax Increment Revenue Note, Series 2018B (the "Note") payable from tax increment revenues received by the Agency, at its meeting on July 12, 2018 at Miami City Hall 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33133, commencing at 12:00 p.m., or soon thereafter. If such resolution is approved, the Agency will issue the Note on or about July 13, 2018.

Comments and questions with respect to the issuance of the Note should be addressed to Jason Walker, Executive Director, at 1401 N. Miami Ave., 2nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33016.

Copies of the proposed resolution authorizing the Note may be inspected by the public at the office of the Agency located at 1401 N. Miami Ave., 2nd Floor, Miami, Florida during regular working hours, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#31287

Jason Walker, Executive Director  
Omni Redevelopment District  
Community Redevelopment Agency



### INDUSTRY REVIEW MEETING NOTICE AND INVITATION COMMERCIAL BANKING SERVICES

The Miami-Dade Auditor Department (MDAD) is holding an industry meeting to introduce a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a qualified commercial bank to license, design, construct, manage, operate and maintain Commercial Banking Services at Miami International Airport (MIA). The County will be soliciting proposals from interested banks to enter into a Lease and Concessions Agreement with Miami-Dade County for the operation of this concession. The purpose of the meeting is to get industry related feedback regarding the proposed commercial banking services program and to encourage all interested parties to attend and participate in the meeting in an effort to ensure that the final RFP is attractive and economically feasible.

**MEETING: Wednesday, June 27, 2018**  
**TIME: 10:00 am**  
**WHERE: Miami-Dade Relation Department  
4290 SW 26 Street - Building 1A  
Fourth Floor - Conference Room "F"**  
Miami, Florida 33122

**TO RSVP, PLEASE EMAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO: FRIGOLA.FRIDE@MIAMI-DADE.MAIL-ADVISOR.COM BY JUNE 25, 2018**

For a copy of this notice, go to <http://www.miamidade.gov>

## YATES CONSTRUCTION

### Invitation to Bid Fire Suppression Package

W. G. Yates & Sons Construction Company and Jackson Health Systems cordially invite subcontractors to complete and submit their bids by Friday July 27, 2018 no later than 2:00 pm for the following project:

#### Jackson Health System JHS West Medical Campus

- The Invitation to Bid includes the following packages:
- Conditions of the Contract and Specifications – Issued for Construction – Dated February 2, 2018
  - Perkins and Will Architectural DD and CD Phased Construction Drawings – Dated February 7, 2018
  - Perkins and Will Structural Drawings – DD and CD Phased Construction Drawings – Dated February 7, 2018
  - Small Business Enterprise (SBE) & Responsible Wages – Attached Form A-6, A-14 & A-16

Bid requirements and bid forms, specifications, drawings and other construction documents will be available through W. G. Yates Construction Company. Respond to Mike Posey at [mposey@wgates.com](mailto:mposey@wgates.com) to get access to bid documents. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call Mike at 601-519-3121.

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

#### Jackson Memorial Hospital – FD&C Command Center Trailer 1

Attn: Mike Posey  
1080 NW 19th Street  
Miami FL 33136

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

A pre-bid meeting will be held onsite **July 13, 2018 at 1:00 pm** to familiarize bidders with the project requirements. The project site address is listed below. Please sign in at the onsite office trailer.

**W. G. Yates Field Office  
Jackson West Project  
7800 NW 29th Street  
Doral, Florida 33122**

All questions can be directed to Mike Posey at [mposey@wgates.com](mailto:mposey@wgates.com).

## YATES CONSTRUCTION

### Invitation to Bid Structural Concrete Package

W. G. Yates & Sons Construction Company and Jackson Health Systems cordially invite subcontractors to complete and submit their bids by Thursday July 26, 2018 no later than 2:00 pm for the following project:

#### Jackson Health System JHS West Medical Campus

- The Invitation to Bid includes the following packages:
- Conditions of the Contract and Specifications – Issued for Construction – Dated February 2, 2018
  - Perkins and Will Architectural Drawings – Dated December 11, 2017
  - Perkins and Will Structural Drawings – Phased Construction Building Superstructure Revision – Dated December 28, 2017
  - Small Business Enterprise (SBE) & Responsible Wages – Attached Form A-6, A-14 & A-16

Bid requirements and bid forms, specifications, drawings and other construction documents will be available through W. G. Yates Construction Company. Respond to Mike Posey at [mposey@wgates.com](mailto:mposey@wgates.com) to get access to bid documents. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call Mike at 601-519-3121.

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Jackson West Project  
7800 NW 29th Street  
Doral, Florida 33122**

All questions can be directed to Mike Posey at [mposey@wgates.com](mailto:mposey@wgates.com).

# SLUM

CONTINUED FROM 8B

inoperable pool. A representative for the management company, Strategic Properties who took over in February, said they "are responding to maintenance issues as we receive them." After management checked their records, "only one request has been made since February, to remove a pigeon nest, which we did. During our next monthly meeting, we will address further the concerns about any infestation of pigeons. Both swimming pools have been inspected by the County and we are following a checklist of issues to reinstate the pool permit that had been expired for some time before we took over."

Strategic Properties appears to be taking steps in the right direction. The residents who live there now just have to hold them accountable.

## TAKE STEPS TO RID COMMUNITIES OF SLUM HOUSING

Whether you are a homeowner or a tenant, everyone has a responsibility to keep the residence in which they live safe and sanitary, according to Miami-Dade County's Minimum Housing Standards, regardless of how much you pay. If you are a renter, there are key components within your lease to what the owner of that property must adhere. The 10 basic responsibilities of an owner are outlined on Miami-Dade County's website. Be sure to check it out; you might be surprised to find out what owners are actually responsible for carrying out in addition to keeping the dwelling in good structural condition. Visit [www.miamidade.gov/building](http://www.miamidade.gov/building) to find out. While you are there, navigate to the neighborhood and building enforcement topic. There you will also find the responsibilities of a tenant, too.

Do you have concerns about substandard housing conditions? Contact Daniella Pierre at [fordablehousingmatters@gmail.com](mailto:fordablehousingmatters@gmail.com).



<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>Apartments</b></p> <p><b>1341 NW 52 Street</b> One brdm, one bath, air and appliances, light and water. \$625 monthly, first and last. 786-399-7724</p> <p><b>167 NE 99 Street</b> Three brdms, one bath, \$1,550. Section 8 Welcome. 954-914-9166</p> <p><b>2751 NW 46 Street</b> One bedroom, one bath, remote gate, \$950 monthly. First, last and security 786-423-0429</p> <p><b>8475 NE 2 Avenue</b> One and two brdms, Section 8 Welcome. 305-754-7776.</p> <p><b>ARENA GARDEN</b> FREE BASIC CABLE AND FREE WATER Remodeled two, three bedrooms, air, appliances, laundry, gate. From \$725. 305-374-4412</p> <p><b>CAPITAL RENTAL AGENCY</b> LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER 305-642-7080 Overturn, Liberty City, Brownsville, Alapatah, Apartments, Duplexes, Houses. One, Two and Three Bedrooms. Same day approval. Call for specials. 305-642-7080 www.capitalrentalagency.com</p> <p><b>PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE</b> 305-694-6210</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>GRAND OPENING</b> NEW ARENA SQUARE Walking distance to school from \$690. Remodeled one, two, three bedrooms, two baths. Central air, laundry, gated. Office 1023 NW 5 Ave. 305-372-1383</p> <p><b>NORTHSIDE AREA</b> One bedroom, air, own entrance, first and security to move in. Call 305-836-3667</p> <p><b>Churches</b> <b>LIBERTY CITY (to share)</b> Church for rent. (10 share). Call 786-380-3209</p> <p><b>Duplexes</b></p> <p><b>15 Ave - NW 55 Ter</b> Quiet, clean, central air, washer/dryer, tiled floors. Section 8 and HOPWA. 954-392-0070</p> <p><b>4625 NW 15 Avenue #B</b> Three brdms., two baths, air, \$1650 monthly plus deposit. Section 8 Ok. 305-490-9284</p> <p><b>638 NW 65 Street</b> One bedroom, one bath, appliances, tiled, gated bars and windows. Fenced yard. Water included. \$990 monthly. Section 8 Welcome. 305-389-4011</p> <p><b>730 NW 98 Street</b> Two bedrooms, one bath, Section 8, \$1,200 monthly, clean, quiet, secure. 305-305-9106</p> <p><b>7631 NW 2 Court</b> Two bedrooms, one bath, \$995. 305-965-1144</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>LIBERTY CITY AREA</b> Two brdms., one bath, first, last and security. Section 8 Ok. 786-565-2110</p> <p><b>WEST LITTLE RIVER AREA</b> Three bedrooms, one bath, 1,000 sq. feet. First and last. \$1200 monthly. 786-506-3748.</p> <p><b>Furnished Rooms</b></p> <p><b>1211 NW 51 Terrace</b> Cuarto por semana. Bano compartido, aire central. 786-320-2863</p> <p><b>1395 NW 58 Street</b> Room in beautiful home. Air, carpet, security bars. \$300 bi-weekly. First, last and security required. Call 786-372-1288</p> <p><b>13377 NW 30 Avenue</b> \$130 weekly, free utilities, kitchen, bath, one person. 305-987-9710 or 786-897-8371</p> <p><b>2915 NW 156 Street</b> Free utilities. \$160 weekly. \$600 move in. 305-624-3966</p> <p><b>83 Street NW 18 Avenue</b> Clean room. 305-754-7776</p> <p><b>MIAMI AREA</b> \$400 monthly. 786-506-3237 or 770-905-6585</p> <p><b>MIAMI GARDENS</b> Furnished room in private home, nice area. Call 954-708-4170</p> <p><b>MIRAMAR AREA</b> One bedroom, one bath, kitchen available, air, cable. 786-356-1686</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>NORTHEAST AREA</b> Room, free cable. Call 786-267-3836</p> <p><b>Houses</b></p> <p><b>1341 NW 55 Terrace</b> Three bedrooms, one bath, \$1,650 monthly. Section 8 Welcome. 954-914-9166</p> <p><b>1351 Dunad Avenue</b> Four bedrooms, one bath, central air, fenced yard, near all convenience, Section 8 okay. \$1,550 monthly. 786-367-4004</p> <p><b>LIBERTY CITY AND WEST PALM BEACH</b> New three brdms., two baths, tiled, \$1500. Section 8 Welcome. 786-488-7628</p> <p><b>MIAMI GARDENS AREA</b> Three bedrooms, two baths, \$1800 monthly. No credit needed. 786-571-4914</p> <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>Houses</b></p> <p>****ATTENTION**** Now You Can own Your Own Home Today With Free Cash Grants UP TO \$65,000 Any and all buyers 305-892-8315 House of Homes Realty</p> <p><b>PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE</b> CALL 305-694-6210</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>MYRTLE GROVE - Mid \$200</b> Nice three brdms., new kitchen/granite, family room, tile floors, new central air and exceptional landscaping. Owner may assist with closing cost. Call for free prequalification. Dorothea The K Company Realty 305-542-3353</p> <p><b>SPECIAL PROGRAM</b> First time home buyers. Free money. Call 786-571-4914</p> <p><b>REPAIRS</b></p> <p><b>AIR CONDITIONING</b> Great service, fast install, best prices. LICENSE #CAC056858 Call 786-393-0479</p> <p><b>General Home Repair</b> Plumbing, Roof Electrical appliance. Greg 786-273-1130</p> <p><b>AUTOMOBILES</b></p> <p><b>Truck For Sale</b> 2012 International. Contact Calvin 786-499-6137</p> <p><b>TWO-15 PASSENGERS BUSES FOR SALE</b>, 2000 Dodge and 1999 Ford. Call 305-621-1354.</p> <p><b>EMPLOYMENT</b></p> <p><b>FENCE INSTALLER WELDER and GENERAL LABORER.</b> CALL 305-652-5845</p> <p><b>CLASSIFIED DEADLINE</b> 4 P.M., TUESDAY</p>	<p><b>EMPLOYMENT</b></p> <p><b>ROUTE DRIVERS</b> We are seeking drivers to deliver newspaper to retail outlets in Broward and Miami Dade. <b>Wednesday Only</b> You must be available between the hours of 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. Must have reliable, insured vehicle and current Driver License. Apply in person at: The Miami Times 2525 NW 54th Street</p> <p><b>Truck Drivers Needed</b> CDL Class A and Route City Drivers needed. Kelvin 786-322-9467 or Calvin 786-499-6137</p> <p><b>MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p><b>ARE YOU READY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST?</b> Deb is ready to pay cash! As-is. 1-800-662-1077. www.Deb-BuysHouses.com</p> <p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>GENE AND SONS, INC.</b> Custom-made cabinets for kitchens and bathrooms at affordable prices. 14130 N.W. 22nd Avenue. Call 305-685-3565</p> <p><b>GOD'S HELPER</b> Snake drains, doors and lawn service. 305-801-5690</p> <p><b>SPIRITUALIST</b></p> <p><b>The Problem Solver</b> Rev Doc Raymond 404-917-4197 For all of affairs in Life</p>
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PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD  
CALL 305.694.6210

## Google has a hard time keeping its employees of color

Black women make up only 1.2 percent of its U.S. workforce, according to the company's diversity report

**HAMZA SHABAN**  
Washington Post

Google released its annual workforce diversity report Thursday, marking only modest changes from last year. The company remains mostly white and male. But the report offers a better view of what the workforce looks like as the company revealed its gender breakdown across ethnicities for the first time.

Overall, Google's global workforce is 69 percent male and 30 percent female, virtually unchanged from 2017.

In its breakdown on race and ethnicity, which covers only U.S. employees, 2 percent of Googlers are Black, up from 2 percent in 2017. Figures for Latinx workers also showed a modest improvement. Google reported that 3 percent of its workforce is Latinx, compared with last year's 3 percent. Asian representation at Google has increased modestly from 34 percent in 2017 to 36 percent.

When looking at the gender by ethnicity breakdown, women are less represented in the company's U.S. ranks when compared with men. Black women make up only 1.2 percent of the workforce, compared with 1.8 percent for Black men. Women identified as Latinx make up 1.7 percent, compared with more than 3 percent for Latinx men; Asian women account for 12 percent of the U.S. workforce, compared with 25 percent for Asian men. White women make up 15 of the workforce, compared



PHOTO CREDIT: Wikimedia Commons

The Googleplex is the corporate headquarters of Google Parkway located in California, near Silicon Valley.

with 41 percent for white men.

The diversity report arrived after a recent shareholder meeting in which employees and investors called for improvements to workplace culture and better enforcement of policies against harassment. An investor's proposal that failed to pass would have tied the pay of Google executives to meeting goals for diversity and inclusion.

The debate around the lack of gender and ethnic diversity in Silicon

Valley grew louder last year after an engineer at Google wrote an internal memo claiming that "genetic differences" might explain "why we don't see equal representation of women in tech and leadership." The memo spread quickly online, and its author, James Damore, was fired from the company for "perpetuating gender stereotypes." Responses to Damore's writing caused further turmoil at Google. Some employees who criticized the memo became tar-

gets of online harassment after their names were leaked to conservative websites and commentators.

In its latest diversity report, Google for the first time included new information tied to its hiring and attrition. The company reported that attrition rates were highest for Black and Latinx employees, indicating that keeping underrepresented groups fulfilled at work is another challenge for the company. Google reported narrow improvements in hiring

for technical positions, with hires for women up 1 percent, Latinx staff up 0.4 percent and Black employees up 0.1 percent.

"The data in this report shows that despite significant effort, and some pockets of success, we need to do more to achieve our desired diversity and inclusion outcomes," Google said in the report.

Danielle Brown, Google's vice president and chief diversity officer, told The Washington Post in an interview that company offi-

**Public Notice**

**MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OPENS THE WAITING LIST FOR A SPECIAL HARDSHIP PREFERENCE CATEGORY ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS PUBLIC HOUSING ANNUAL PLAN**

THE GENERAL SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM WAITING LIST REMAINS CLOSED

The waiting list is open for a special hardship preference category families only. Specifically, this applies to homeless families referred to the program by the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust. Homeless families must contact the Miami-Dade Homeless Trust at 1-877-944-HELP (4357) and follow their policies for a Section 8 referral.

The referral to the Section 8 waiting list does not guarantee assistance. Houses are issued based on funding availability.

For legal advice online, go to <http://legalsubs.miamidade.gov>

cially are admitted-ly not where they want to be, but she remained optimistic that things can improve.

In January, Brown instituted a new strategy for boosting diversity, which includes sharing the latest representation data with chief executive Sundar Pichai and the leadership team every other week, she said. Department heads are also tasked with meeting intermediate milestones related to hiring, development, progression and retention. One of Google's major goals is to reach or exceed the representation of available talent pools for Black and Hispanic employees in the United States at all levels of the company, she said.

"In order to achieve our desired outcomes, we need to do more, and we are really committed to that," Brown said.

Alphabet, Google's parent company, has roughly 85,000 employees worldwide, with the vast majority of them working at Google.



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## CHEVROLET AND NNPA OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE OUR 2018 DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED FELLOWS!



The wait is over! Chevrolet and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) are proud to announce our six Fellows selected for Discover the Unexpected (DTU) 2018 - a life-changing journalism fellowship.

Chosen from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) nationwide, our DTU 2018 Fellows each receive a \$10,000 scholarship, \$5,000 stipend and a journalism adventure in the 2018 Chevrolet Equinox.

Our DTU 2018 Fellows are geared up and ready to go discover stories of inspiration and innovation in our African American communities. Follow us and show our HBCU students some love along the way. The journey begins!

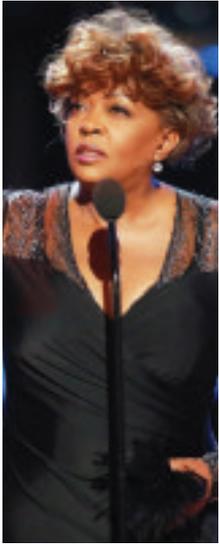


[NNPA.ORG/DTU](http://NNPA.ORG/DTU)

#DTU2018, #ChevyEquinox, #Chevy, #NNPA

## Artists shine at BET Awards

ANITA BAKER



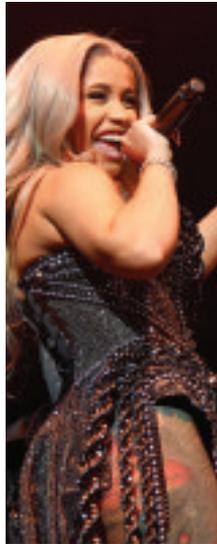
**Lifetime Achievement Award**

KENDRICK LAMAR



**Best Male Hip-Hop Artist Award**

CARDI B



**Coca-Cola Viewers' Choice Award**

TIFFANY HADDISH



**Best Actress Award**

CHADWICK BOSEMAN



**Best Actor Award**

XXXTENTACION, THE 20-YEAR-OLD RAPPER, SINGER KILLED LAST WEEK, REMEMBERED

## Comedy night gets major Hype

Miramar touts a social-media sensation

FELIPE RIVAS  
frivas@miamitimesonline.com

Comedic value and Caribbean vibes are coming to the Miramar Cultural Center.

As Miramar continues to celebrate Caribbean-American Heritage Month, the city will host a Caribbean Comedy Night 8 p.m. on Friday, June 29.

The event will feature top comedians from Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. It will be hosted by Majah Hype, with performances by comics Rohan Gunter, Chris Daley and comedienne Nikki Crosby.

Hype, known as the "Caribbean King of Comedy," enjoys worldwide success after using platforms like the now-defunct Vine, Instagram and YouTube to curate his Caribbean culture-based comedic style. Gunter and Daley, both

from Jamaica, and Crosby, from Trinidad and Tobago, also have a strong following with members of the Caribbean community.

"This is something the city wanted to see and brought all of us under one roof," said Hype.

Hype in his different routines capture the mannerisms and accents of the various Caribbean nations  
**SEE COMEDY 6C**

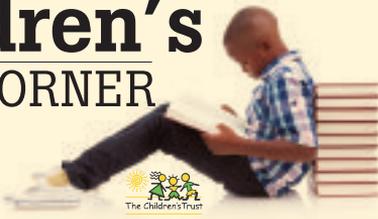
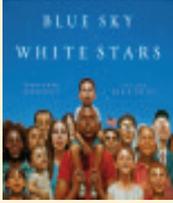
**Jamaican based comedian, actor and radio personality, Chris "Johnny" Daley, will perform his stand-up routine on Friday June 29 at the Miramar Cultural Center.**



SEE STORY **4C**

Majah Hype, known for his ability to accurately impersonate, Jamaicans, Haitians, Grenadians, among others, will host Miramar's Caribbean Comedy Night, as part of the city's celebration of Caribbean Heritage Month.

# Children's BOOK CORNER



## 'Blue Sky White Stars' pays homage to America's beauty

Book inspires patriotism with symbolic imagery

FELIPE RIVAS

[Frivas@miamitimesonline.com](mailto:Frivas@miamitimesonline.com)

"Blue Sky White Stars" written by Sarvinder Naberhaus and illustrated by Kadir Nelson pays tribute to our nation's greatest symbol of sovereignty and freedom to dream—the American flag.

Naberhaus' spare, poetic narrative tells a story of inclusivity, acceptance and unity. Nelson's illustrations carefully complement the lyrics with American representations of freedom, such as the plains of the Midwest, the Statue of Liberty at Ellis Island, and a stunning reenactment of the Civil Rights March.

The poetic value of the lyrics is heightened by Nelson's ability to present America's past, present and future. For example, the words "Sew Together, Won Nation," are displayed above an image of Betsy Ross sewing the first American flag on one



Michael Zamora/The Register

**Sarvinder Naberhaus. Jpg: Naberhouse displaying the her book in which sparse lyrics and powerful imagery are used to evoke a sense of patriotism, while reflecting on acceptance and inclusiveness.**

page, juxtaposed with the words "So Together, One Nation," displayed above the faces of Americans of different backgrounds and upbringings, on the following page. "Blue Sky White Stars" uses refrain and subtle changes in words

with powerful imagery to inspire young readers to embrace American ideals of freedom and pursuit of happiness, while embracing inclusivity. Another example of this kind of juxtaposition comes a few pages later when an image of a baseball game appears, with the words "All American" placed at the bottom of the pages. The following page displays an image of a Black American grandfather, who is wearing a hat that reads "World War II Veteran," and his grandson, as they listen to the baseball game on the radio with the same words "All American" placed above the grandfather's head.

"Blue Sky White Star" is an ode to America's natural beauty, historic moments and cultural heritage. The book celebrates the nation's most valued representations of patriotism and their inherent value for all Americans of different backgrounds.



Photo courtesy of Flickr By Ed

## IMFest gets Amara La Negra

Headliner Amara La Negra officially kick off the third annual International Music and Food Festival (IMFest) Tuesday in Miami Gardens. She was joined by Miami Gardens Vice Mayor Erhabor Ighodaro, who is behind the festival, at The Licking.

An international Dominican-American recording artist, La Negra is a breakout star of last season's "Love & Hip Hop: Miami."

IMFest highlights the diversity of South Florida and Miami Gardens by offering residents and visitors a multifaceted, culturally diverse event. IMFest 2018 takes place from 6 p.m. - midnight Saturday, Aug. 4.

"We are one of the most culturally diverse cities in the nation," said Ighodaro. "Miami Gardens is an eclectic mix of peoples from the Diaspora. We are proud that IMFest celebrates our rich mosaic of demographics by showcasing a variety of ethnic foods, vendors, and genres of music like Kompa, Reggae, Calypso, Merengue, Gospel, Jazz, Rap and Afro Jüjú. We are a world class city that's all about the business of cultivating cultural diversity."

\$10 early bird tickets are on-sale at [imfest2018.eventbrite.com](http://imfest2018.eventbrite.com).

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# THE SOCIAL WHIRL

VENNDA-REI GIBSON | VENNDAL43@GMAIL.COM

Summer is officially here and with it much rain, which hasn't dampened our fun in the sun. Picnics and other activities continue despite the weather.

However, the past rainy days of June were good times to stay at home and read. **Garrison Keller** said, "A book is a gift you can open again and again."

More to the point is this quote from **Frederick Douglass**: "Once you learn to read, you'll be forever free."

Sometimes I revisit old books. Some informative and entertaining books let me visit times before my time. There is an insightful book written by **Isabel Wilkerson** entitled, "The Warmth of Other Suns." **Wilkerson** chronicles the Great Migration that began in the early 20th century, when hundreds of thousands of Black people migrated from the South into dense, urban areas that offered relatively more economic opportunities and capital.

Many Blacks migrated from the South to the North and Midwest regions of the United States, but nowhere more so than in Harlem, which was dubbed "the Negro capital of the world." The New York City neighborhood was only 3 square miles, but Black artists, intellectuals, writers and musicians came. Black-owned businesses from newspapers, publishing houses and music companies to nightclubs, cabarets and theaters, helped fuel the neighborhood's thriving scene. Some of the era's most-important literary and artistic figures migrated to or passed through this New York neighborhood, helping to define a period during which our Black artists



Kappa League members celebrate College Signing Day.

reclaimed their identity and racial pride in defiance of widespread prejudice and discrimination.

It was called the Harlem Renaissance. It was, in the words of editor, journalist and critic **Alain Leroy Locke**, "a spiritual coming of age" for Black artists and thinkers, who seized upon their "first chances for group expression and self-determination." **Locke** was distinguished as the first Black Rhodes Scholar in 1907, and was the philosophical architect or "Dean" of the Harlem Renaissance. The Harlem Renaissance helped to redefine how Americans and the world understood Black culture. It integrated Black and white cultures, and marked the beginning of a Black urban society. **The Harlem Renaissance** set the stage for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s.

Lasting roughly from the 1910s through the mid-1930s, the period is considered a golden age in Black culture, which was shown in literature, music, stage performance and art.

During this period, Blacks in urban society formed social organizations. One such organization, founded in the summer of August 1927, at the height of the Harlem Renaissance, was **The Girl Friends Inc.** in New York. Today, **The Girl Friends** remains an historic organization of Black women with chapters in cities across the country. In May, the organization held its 83rd Conclave (national meeting) at Greenbrier Resort, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, hosted by the Norfolk Chapter of **The Girl Friends**. Miami chapter members attending included **Alexandria Holloway, Carolyn Blake, Beverly Crawford and Ann Pope**. **Pope** was elected to be a member of the National Nominating Committee.

At the conclave, **Alice Royer**, a 2018 graduate of Miami Norland Senior High was chosen as one of the national recipients of **The Girl Friends Fund Scholarship**. **Alice** is the daughter of **Juliet and Freddie Royer**. The

Scholarship Committee, was chaired by **Beth Reddick**. Congratulations to this young lady who will be attending the University of Florida in the fall as an English major. **Alice** eventually plans to attend law school.

Along with church and community organizations, our Greek organizations have also been working in friendship to serve our communities, so I'm also sharing some great news from the Miami Kappas (Miami Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.) After serving five years as polemarch (president) of the Miami Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, **Chris Frazier** has turned over the leadership of the local chapter to **Kyle Harris**, a native of Miami and a graduate of Norland High School. **Harris** was initiated into the fraternity at the Theta Eta Chapter, while attending Florida State University.

Under **Frazier's** leadership, the Miami Kappas purchased and



Kyle Harris, on the left, was named the polemarch of the Miami Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

renovated a property in Miami's West Little River neighborhood, which now houses the group's social and community service activities. The group also garnered several national fraternity awards, including being named Medium-sized Chapter of the Year four of the past five years; receiving the Community Service Award three of the past five years; named Website of the Year; hosted the Provisional Council in 2014, and the county's Kappa Founders Day in 2014.

"I would like to see the chapter be much more visible and relevant in the Greater Miami area," said **Harris**. "Doing so will increase membership, broaden our scope, engage members and inform the world of our good works." Like many other Greek-letter organizations, Kappa continue to move forward with a positive impact on the community. The fraternity was certainly on the move in June. On June 9, The Kappas celebrated with its Senior Luncheon, an annual tradition where members 60 years old and older are recognized



Royer

for their years of service to both the fraternity and community.

Later that day, the **Kappa Foundation**, the group's youth outreach program, treated the young men in its mentoring program, **Kappa League**, to an athletic-like College Signing Day, where each young man stood up before family, friends and a host of Kappas, and revealed which college they will be attending. Congratulations are in order.

We are so connected from our pst and to our future. We have immigrated to and migrated across America. Our neighborhood, our culture, our music, June, National Black Music Month, was initiated by President **Jimmy Carter** who, on **June 7, 1979**, decreed that June would be the month of Black music.

*We celebrate our music daily. It's an integral part of our culture. Blacks created jazz and more. We know how to put on our dancing shoes on our feet. Traditions... all memorable. And so it is as we live, love, pray, laugh, dance and sing in the Whirl. Blessings*

## Jordan says he once only sought white roles

The actor talks about not wanting to feed into the Black man stereotype

BRITNI DANIELLE  
Essence

Michael B. Jordan has been hot the scene since he played a wide-eyed, teenage drug dealer on HBO's critically acclaimed series, "The Wire." Since then Jordan has gone on to rack up accolades and star in a slew of films, including "Fantastic Four," "Creed," "Fruitvale Station" and this year's blockbuster smash, "Black Panther." While Jordan's acting chops have earned him praise from critics and his peers, the actor recently explained why he used to only seek out roles written for white men.

During a conversation with "Insecure" creator and star, Issa Rae, for "Variety's Actors on Actors" series, Jordan admitted that after starring in "Fruitvale Station," he didn't "want to go out for any role [that was] written for African-Americans."

For a while, he purposely sought parts that were originally written for white men,

like his starring turn in the 2012 sci-fi film "Chronicle," in which he played a character named Steve Kaczynski (after he was cast, the name was changed to Steve Montgomery). Back then, Jordan said he loved "just playing people. It didn't have to be specifically playing a Black guy."

Though he wanted to increase his available opportunities, Jordan said that he also pursued roles written for white men to avoid competition with his peers, who were often forced to contend for a handful of roles.

"It was just how do you reverse-engineer that problem, that kind of pitted competition between each other, and just put more opportunities out there for people to eat and be successful at what they want to do," he explained.

These days, after turning in star performances in so many different projects, we're pretty sure Jordan — who also has his own production company, Outlier Society Productions — goes after roles based on



the quality of the project, not the character's race. But it's interesting to hear how he strategically built his acting resume to get where he is today.

Michael B. Jordan is at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival in May. In a recent interview, Jordan says he avoided roles that would paint him as the typical Black guy.

## Adrienne Arsht Center

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Dreaming of a career in technical theater? This fall, the Arsht Center will be starting a paid Technical Theater Apprenticeship, a full-time, three-year program for residents of Miami-Dade County aged 18-24 from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented communities.

Please visit our website <http://www.arshtcenter.org> for more information and how to apply.

The deadline to apply is July 23, 2018.



# LIFESTYLE HAPPENINGS

COMPILED BY THE MIAMI TIMES STAFF  
EDITORIAL@MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### ■ City of Miami Gardens

10 a.m. – noon on June 28 there will be a free community food distribution hosted by Vice Mayor Erhabor Ighodaro and the S.E.E. Foundation; the event takes place at Bennett Lifter, 20701 NW 22nd Ave.; Info: Call 305-622-8000

### ■ City of Miramar

8 p.m. on June 29 the city of Miramar will host Caribbean Comedy Night, which will include top comedic talents from Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago; the event takes place at the Miramar Cultural Center, 2400 Civic Center Place; ticket for all ages required; visit [www.miramarculturalcenter.org](http://www.miramarculturalcenter.org) to purchase tickets.

org to purchase tickets.

### ■ Maroon Poetry Festival

10 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. on June 30 there will be a full day of events in Liberty City, including yoga, activities for children and a poetry session and discussion on art and culture; the free event takes place at the Belafonte Tacyoley Center, 6161 NW 9th Ave.

## 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](mailto:msoguns@aol.com)

### ■ 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 US1); 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 Sat-

urday; African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave.; Info: Call 305-439-5426.

## CLASSES:

### ■ Women in Transition of South Florida

Class: Free computer lessons for women; time, date and location TBA; Info: Call 786-477-8548

### ■ Inner City Children's Touring Dance

Class: Free introductory classical ballet workshops for girls ages 6-8 and 9-12; Time and date TBA; 1350 NW 50th Street; Info: Call 305-758-1577 or visit [www.childrendance.net](http://www.childrendance.net)

## OPPORTUNITIES:

### ■ South Florida Tuskegee Alumni Club scholarship:

Financial aid scholarships are currently being offered to returning and newly accepted South Florida students attending Tuskegee University. Please request applications by submitting your name and contact information to [sftacalumni@gmail.com](mailto:sftacalumni@gmail.com) by July 15.

The deadline for the Lifestyle Calendar is Fridays at 2 p.m.

# H.E.R., Meek Mill shine at BET Awards

MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

The 2018 BET Awards barely handed out any trophies with big stars like Cardi B, Drake and Kendrick Lamar absent, but the show included superior performances by rising singer H.E.R., rapper Meek Mill and gospel artist Yolanda Adams, who paid tribute to Anita Baker and nearly brought her to tears.

Baker, an eight-time Grammy winner who dominated the R&B charts from the early '80s to mid-'90s, earned the Lifetime Achievement Award on Sunday at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

The 60-year-old used her speech to encourage the artists in the room to keep music alive.

"I would ask that the music be allowed to play, that singers are allowed to sing, and rappers are allowed to rap, and poets are allowed to rhyme," said Baker, who was also honored by host Jamie Foxx, Ledisi and Marsha Ambrosius.

H.E.R., whose real name is Gabi Wilson, was impressive as she sang the R&B hit "Focus," played the electric guitar like a rock star and sang softly during the sweet love song "Best Part," where she was joined by Daniel Caesar.

Meek Mill, who was released from prison in April, rapped the song "Stay Woke" on a stage transformed into a street corner, featuring hustlers, children and police officers. A mother screams as her child is shot during the powerful performance, and an officer lays an American flag over the body.

Meek Mill also made a statement by wearing a hoodie featuring the face of XXXTentacion, the 20-year-old rapper-singer who died after being shot last week.

"We can't get used to these types of things. We're too used to young people getting killed," Foxx said when speaking about XXXTentacion later in the show.

The Oscar winner told the audience to "try to sneak a message in" their music.

"We got to figure something out," he said.

Snoop Dogg celebrated 25 years in music, performing the classic songs "What's My Name" and "Next Episode." The rapper also performed songs from his recently released gospel album, wearing a choir robe on a stage that looked like a church. Childish Gambino, whose



Meek Mill debuts new song "Stay Woke" while wearing XXXTentacion shirt at the 2018 BET Awards. Photos: Billboard



H.E.R. performs "Focus" & "Best Part" with Daniel Caesar at BET Awards 2018.

song and music video "This Is America" tackles racism and gun violence and became a viral hit last month, gave a short, impromptu performance of the song when Foxx brought him onstage.

"Everybody begged me to do a joke about that song. I said that song should not be joked about," Foxx said.

Foxx kicked off the show rejoicing in the uber success of "Black Panther," name-

dropping the records the film has broken and even pulled Michael B. Jordan onstage to recite a line from the film.

"We don't need a president right now because we got our king," Foxx said of T'Challa. (Director) Ryan Coogler gave us our king."

Foxx entered the arena with a stuffed black panther toy — with a gold chain around its neck — which he handed to Jordan. The film

won best movie.

"The film is about our experiences being African-Americans and also captures the experiences of being African," Coogler said. "It was about tapping into the voice that tells us to be proud of who we are."

At the end of his speech he told the audience to travel to Africa and learn more about the continent's history.

SZA, who was the most

female pop/R&B artist, while Bruno Mars was named the best male pop/R&B artist.

"Girls Trip" star and comedian Tiffany Haddish, who won best actress and gave her speech in a taped video, also said encouraging words.

"You can achieve anything you want in life," she said. DJ Khaled was the leading nominee with six and picked up the first award of the night — best collaboration — for "Wild Thoughts" with Rihanna and Bryson Tiller. He was holding his son on his hip onstage and also used his speech to highlight young people.

"All of y'all are leaders and all of y'all are kings and queens — the future," he said.

Migos won best group and gave a fun performance that even had Adams reciting the lyrics. J. Cole, Nicki Minaj, Janelle Monae, Miguel, YG, 2 Chainz and Big Sean also performed.

The BET Awards normally hands its Humanitarian Award to one person, but six individuals received the honor Sunday. Dubbed "Humanitarian Heroes," the network gave awards to James Shaw Jr., who wrestled an assault-style rifle away from a gunman in a Tennessee Waffle House in April; Anthony Borges, the 15-year-old student who was shot five times and is credited with saving the lives of at least 20 other students during February massacre in Florida; Mamoudou Gassama, who scaled an apartment building to save a child dangling from a balcony last month in Paris; Naomi Wadler, the 11-year-old who gave a memorable and influential speech at March for Our Lives; Justin Blackman, the only student to walk out of his high school in North Carolina during the nationwide student walkout to protest gun violence in March; and journalist and activist Shaun King.

Debra Lee, who stepped down as chairman and CEO of BET last month after 32 years at the network, earned the Ultimate Icon Award.

"The power of Black culture is unmatched. It's beautiful. It's amazing. It's everything. It's us," she said.

She ended her speech quoting former U.S. President Barack Obama, calling him "our commander in chief," which drew loud applause.

"And, it's Debra Lee, out," she said as she dropped her imaginary microphone.

Victorian gingerbread cottages are a popular attraction in Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard.

Wikimedia Commons



## THE BLACK HAMPTONS

A growing number of the Black elite are flocking to the historic summer getaway; Martha's Vineyard

Meet Carrie Davis. She is the daughter of a surgeon and the mother of two highly successful sons. For most of the year, Davis lives in Hyde Park—one block from former President Barack Obama—but during the summer, she packs her bags to live three months in a cottage on Martha's Vineyard that costs more than six times the average mortgage.

As in years past, this summer, Davis will not be alone. While many Black Chicagoans prepare to hit Lake Michigan this weekend, hundreds of other affluent Blacks from Chicago will jet set to Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, where they will live and play in ways many ordinary people of color will never be able to do in their lifetime.

The Kennedys boosted the profile of Martha's Vineyard, but Black wealth and power have made Oak Bluffs an enduring summer playground that has outlived Michigan's Idlewild and other historic seasonal Black destinations.

For more than a century, prominent and wealthy Blacks from New York and Boston have transformed this once segregated town in Martha's Vineyard into what is known today as the "Black Hamptons." Built by Black servants, Oak Bluffs is now a place to see and be seen, as America's Black elite and well-heeled come to party hard in a town that's delightfully stuck in time.

Victorian and ginger-

bread cottages have long been part of Oak Bluffs' identity. Doctors, lawyers, prominent politicians and business magnates pull out the fedoras, beach sandals and sundresses for a season of fun and relaxation.

The biggest draw of the town is Inkwell, a historic narrow beach that has been a symbol of Black pride since the 1920s. The beach got its name from a number of Black writers who frequented the area for inspiration during the Harlem Renais-

**I love the third week in August where the Blacks who own homes put color lanterns outside their homes. It's so beautiful. It's like Christmas."**

sance.

Revered for its history and beloved for its laid-back atmosphere, Oak Bluffs' popularity has remained steady over the decades, but in recent years, the appeal and popularity of "The Black Hamptons" has grown immensely with the help of a new and younger generation of Blacks who are inheriting homes that have been kept in the family for generations.

There is also a crowd of newcomers from across the country. Among them are prominent

Blacks from Chicago. Some are retired. Others are moneyed executives who work hard and party hard. Many are drawn to Oak Bluffs' laid-back atmosphere while others enjoy the non-stop hospitality of homeowners who never get tired of hosting social gatherings all summer long. An afternoon conversation can easily balloon into a party with lobster rolls, deviled eggs and blue cheese with crackers.

In addition to Davis, other Oak Bluffs jet setters from Chicago include McGhee Williams Osse, Co-CEO of Burrell Communications. Event promoters Steven and Dorothy Capers have put on a comedy show in Oak Bluffs for the last five years. Shirley Evans-Wofford, founder of one of the largest insurance firms in Chicago, Lambent Risk Management Services, makes the pilgrimage to Oak Bluffs during the summer.

Headquartered in Chicago, the Black college sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., has a massive annual beach party on Oak Bluffs' Inkwell Beach with many of its members from Chicago.

"The whole beach looks like pink and green," said Davis referencing the colors of the AKA sorority.

One famous Chicagoan, former White House senior advisor Valerie Jarrett, summers in Oak Bluffs. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spent his summer there, along with Edward



Photo by Getty Images

President Barack Obama and his daughter Malia Obama ride a bike during a vacation on Martha's Vineyard.

W. Brooke, the nation's first Black senator elected since Reconstruction. Film director Spike Lee owns a house there. In 2009, the Obamas rented an estate in Chilmark, about 12 miles from Oak Bluffs.

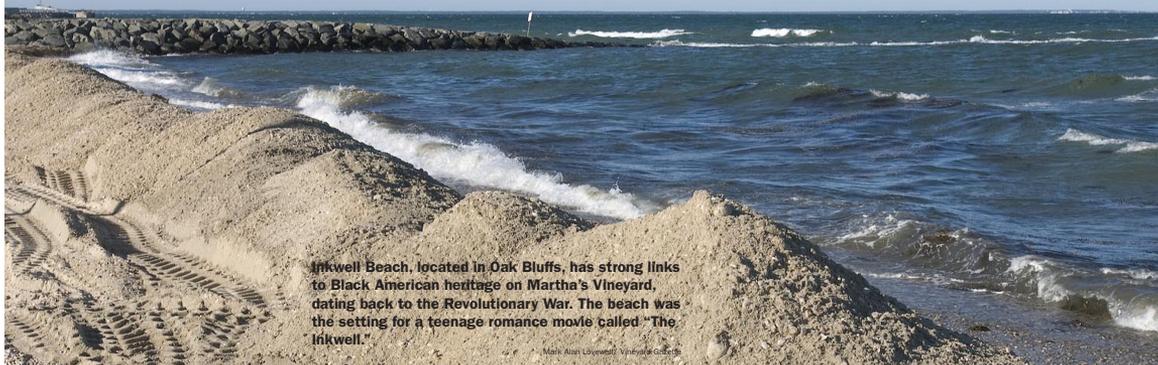
In 1912, Charles Shearer, the son of a freed slave, founded a summer inn, Shearer Cottage, with his wife, Henrietta. The inn provided lodging for self-made millionaire Madam C.J. Walker, and singers Paul Robeson, Ethel Waters and Lillian Evanti. The Shearer Cottage is the oldest and most well-known of the establishments that catered specifically to Blacks.

Blacks on the island worked as servants for white homeowners, but with their earnings, they eventually became

property owners, year-round residents and small business entrepreneurs, particularly in Oak Bluffs.

In the 1920s, these Blacks began to offer accommodations in their small cottages that attracted Black visitors from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and other Northeastern cities. As Blacks grew more prosperous during and after World War II, many of them now brought their families to Oak Bluffs, whose people and culture have now spread across all of Martha's Vineyard and includes far more people.

The history of Oak Bluffs is profiled in an extensive exhibit at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.



Inkwell Beach, located in Oak Bluffs, has strong links to Black American heritage on Martha's Vineyard, dating back to the Revolutionary War. The beach was the setting for a teenage romance movie called "The Inkwell."

Mark Alan Livewood, Vineyard Gazette

## BOOK REVIEW

# Kids, imagine, but don't get too carried away

Book explores when the world of make-believe becomes a real trip

**TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER**  
bookwormsec@yahoo.com

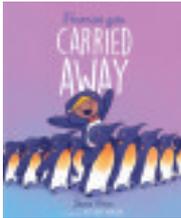
You love wearing your daddy's shoes.

You wear mommy's shoes, too. You love that clomping around, the wiggly-wobbly feel, and the fun of pretending that you're someone else. Dressing up is great, but be careful. As in the new book, "Harriet Gets Carried Away" by Jessie Sima, things could quickly get out of hand.

More than almost anything in the world, Harriet loved playing dress-up.

She had a whole trunk full of costumes, and she didn't need a reason to wear them. She just did, as often as possible and everywhere she went. Every dentist appointment, every day in the park, every birthday party.

And so, on the day of her own birthday party, Harriet was dressed as a "busy bee," and she certainly was busy helping her dad with the decorations. But before their guests arrived, they would need to buy snacks and party hats, so Harriet changed into her "extra-special er-



rand-running costume." It was her penguin outfit and when she was done, they took the subway to the store.

Once they were there, Harriet's dad hurried to the deli counter, so Harriet waddled off to find the best party

hats. She knew where they were but between deli and derby, she found "something else."

There were penguins! Dozens of them that looked just like Harriet in her black and white penguin costume, and they were apparently getting ready for a party of their own! They barely noticed that a little girl was in their midst; they just kept buying ice and taking it to a big balloon outside in the park. One of them told Harriet that they were going "back home" because the city was "a nice place to visit," but penguins didn't want to live there — and they took her with them!

Or, well, they tried, anyway, but Harriet didn't want to live the rest of her life on ice. She missed her dad, and she didn't want to miss her birthday party. But there was a problem: how would a little girl in a penguin costume ever manage to get home?

There are two ways of looking at "Harriet Gets Carried Away." Only one is good.

On one hand, this is a cute book that will appeal to a preschooler's imagination, with its theme of dress-up and make-believe. Harriet is a confident little girl who isn't one bit fazed by the adventure that her costume causes, and kids will get a kick out of the places she

goes because she was mistaken as someone she isn't. That kind of pretending is what preschoolers do best, and that makes this book relatable.

On the other hand, parents may have to take a deep breath, and put aside their reservations about unsupervised kids in big-city stores, and the issues of them going somewhere with someone they don't know.

The take-away here is to beware of your audience: for some kids, the caution may be warranted and the book postponed. For other 4-to-8-year-olds, "Harriet Gets Carried Away" may be an enjoyment shoo-in.

# Nina Simone's childhood home is a treasure

Four Black artists plan to restore the singer's deteriorating house

**ANDREW R. CHOW**  
The New York Times

The house where the singer Nina Simone was born is in bad shape. The ceiling is crumbling, the walls chipping, the floorboards sagging; stray wooden planks are strewn against the walls. Last year, it seemed inevitable that the house would succumb to time.

But, thanks to the teamwork of four artists and a nonprofit, the site has a new lease on life. Last Tuesday, the house in Tryon, N.C., was named a "National Treasure" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The organization will devise a plan to rehabilitate the house so that it might be used by future artists.

The house, where Simone was born in 1933 as Eunice Kathleen Waymon, has been the subject of failed restoration attempts over the years. Kevin McIntyre, a former economic development director for Polk County, bought the house in 2005 and invested more than \$100,000 of his own money before losing the property to money troubles. When the house went on the market in 2016, many assumed it would be knocked down.

Instead, four Black artists — the conceptualist Adam Pendleton, the sculptor and



Nina Simone

painter Rashid Johnson, the collageist and filmmaker Ellen Gallagher and the abstract painter Julie Mehretu — bought the house together in order to preserve Simone's legacy. The purchase caught the interest of the National Trust, which had recently started a \$25 million campaign to preserve historical sites related to African-American history. Simone died at age 70 in 2003 after a long career that made her a soul legend and civil rights icon.

"African-American women in jazz and in civil rights; their legacy is often undervalued, and there's an ongoing struggle for recognition," Brent Leggs, the director of that campaign — called the African-American Cultur-



Tavis Dove for The New York Times

The childhood home of Nina Simone has been designated a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

al Heritage Action Fund — said in a phone interview.

So, the organization decided to mark the house a National Treasure, a label that has been bestowed fewer than 100 times across the country. The team will begin an 18-month campaign with a \$100,000 internal budget, working with the local community, local organizations and the World Monuments

Fund to devise a long-term plan for how to preserve the place. Leggs estimates the full restoration will cost around \$250,000.

Pendleton and the other three artists will be actively involved in shaping the house's future. One idea is to turn the space into a home for an arts residency program, with hopes that future artists might be inspired by

the same surroundings that sparked a young Simone.

"I'm not interested in turning the house into a museum," Pendleton said in a phone interview. "I'm much more interested in restoring it so that it reflects what was like when the Waymons lived there. I think it's important to note that it looks like a very humble dwelling."

And while the crumbling house is very much of a different time, Pendleton says it has strong symbolic power in a fraught modern era. "Nina's politics challenged what America was at the moment she was alive — and challenged what America could be and what it would become," he said. "I think those are questions that don't die."

## COMEDY

CONTINUED FROM 1C

in a fashion that is relatable to his audience. The Caribbean Comedy Night event features a combination of skit-based as well as stand-up routines. Hype describes his skits, sketches and stand-up performances as "reality comedy." His inspiration comes from daily life, where he comes up with situations.

"These are things that people go through on a daily basis," he said. "These are things that we find funny as Caribbean people."

Through his success, Hype has paved the way for other Caribbean comics, as the demand for this cultural niche in comedy keeps rising.

"The reason I started doing this is because nobody else was doing it at the time," he said. "I felt there was a lack of comedic presence in the Caribbean community, and I wanted to bring that to the culture and Mainstream America."

Hype serves as an ambassador for the Caribbean people, giving a voice to a populous community often underrepresented in the comedy world. He has not publicly confirmed

**IF YOU GO**  
**WHAT:** Caribbean Comedy Night  
**WHEN:** 8 - 10 p.m., Friday, June 29  
**WHERE:** Miramar Cultural Center Theater, 2400 Civic Center Place  
**COST:** \$35, \$45, \$60 — VIP seating and themed drink  
**INFO:** Call the Box Office at 954-602-4500 or visit [MiramarCulturalCenter.org](http://MiramarCulturalCenter.org).

his Caribbean nationality. He wants to represent the wide breadth of Caribbean nations in his comedy, without alienating any particular nation.

"Those who know, know," he said about his background. "I always wanted to be that person that represents for the whole culture, the whole Caribbean."

The comics performing alongside hype have enjoyed success in their home nations and throughout the United States.

Daley, since a young age, has been a successful actor in Jamaica. He also directs and produces. He presents a radio

show in Jamaica that occupies a flagship spot.

Gunter was named South Florida Entertainer of the Year in 2016 after which he appeared in the web series "Toxic Love," produced by Flex FM Radio, based in Florida.

Crosby, the self-proclaimed first female stand-up comedienne in the Caribbean, has performed in Harlem's famous Apollo theater. She formed an all-female production company, Ha Ha Ha Productions, in 2008.

The city of Miramar

boasts a very strong Caribbean population presence. As of 2016, Jamaican residents make up about 13 percent of the city's population, according to City-Data.com. Haitians residents stand at about 12 percent of the population and West Indians residents at

2 percent.

"Doing the Caribbean Comedy Night in a city with a great Caribbean environment makes sense," said Camasha Cevieux, the center's director. "It's something we always wanted to accomplish."

**Nikki Crosby will represent for Trinidad and Tobago during the City of Miramar's Caribbean Comedy Night.**

**Rohan Gunter, South Florida's entertainer of the year for 2016, will bring the laughs on stage on Friday June 29.**



# YOU & YOURS

Faith  
Family  
Education  
Health  
Church News  
Parenting

SECTION  
**D**

THE MIAMI TIMES | JUNE 27-JULY 3, 2018 | MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM



**A:** Dancers from New World School of the Arts and Thomas Arthur Youth Ballet performed a rendition of "Somewhere" from "West Side Story."

**B:** Living statue Daniella plays the part of Lady Justice.

**C:** School Board member Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall and judicial candidate Renee Gordon attend the Children's Trust's Champions for Children Awards ceremony June 14 at Jungle Island's Treetop Ballroom.

**D:** Honorees at the Children's Trust's Champions for Children Awards ceremony

Photos courtesy of Gregory Reed

## Children's Trust shines a light on champions

Community stewards are recognized for showing service to children and families

*Miami Times Staff Report*

Local trailblazers who are committed to improving the lives of children and families were honored at a special ceremony at Jungle Island.

The Children's Trust celebrated the unparalleled achievements of some of Miami-Dade County's most dedicated civil servants and organizations at its 13th annual Champions for Children Awards Ceremony on June 14, at Jungle Island's Treetop Ballroom.

"It's critical to hold up as shining examples the individuals and organizations we should all emulate in building a community and culture that puts its children first," said James R. Haj, president and CEO of The Children's Trust. "We try to live by that every day at The Trust, but many others in the community are unaware of our award recipients' extraordinary achievements, achievements that are routinely changing the lives of children and families who often struggle in very challenging environments."

At the event, Miami-Dade Circuit Court Juvenile Division Judge Cindy S. Lederman accepted the David Lawrence Jr. Champion for Children Award for her lifetime

achievement and dedication to children. Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos J. Martinez received the Excellence in Public Policy Award and director of theatre for young audiences at Actors' Playhouse, Earl Maulding, accepted the Excellence in Direct Service Award.

The Champions for Children aims to inspire others to follow in the footsteps of those who have effected community impact.

Honorees in the category of Program of the Year included Concerned African Women, Fit Kids of America and Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School.

This year's ceremony had a featured presentation that the organizers said was in recognition of the divisions and strife that continue to plague society. It was a dance and vocal performance of "Somewhere" from "West Side Story" by Thomas Armour Youth Ballet in collaboration with Actors' Playhouse. The musical is an update of "Romeo and Juliet" that was inspired by a deadly youth gang fight outside a New York dance hall in 1955.

For more information about Champions for Children visit [www.thechildrenstrust.org](http://www.thechildrenstrust.org).



## Elected officials convene to keep promise to students

Diversion program under fire, after Stoneman Douglas school massacre

CAROL PORTER  
*Miami Times Contributor*

A diversion program meant to keep Broward County students who commit misdemeanors out of jail is under fire, saying it is too lenient to offenders, so Black elected officials and other stakeholders tried to quench the flames.

The Broward Black Elected Officials held a press conference June 19 in Fort Lauderdale outside the K.C. Wright building to defend the program that they call great but not perfect.

The focus of the press conference was the Promise (Preventing Recidivism through Opportunities, Mentoring, Interventions, Supports & Education) program, which helps troubled young people stay out of the cross hairs of law enforcement.

Under the Promise program, which covers kindergarten through high school, students are sent to an alternative program for up to 10 days and they and their families receive counseling. Police officers are notified after the third offense

“

**More must be done to protect our children. The Black Elected Officials are dedicated and committed to every student, so they can go to a school that is safe and can learn in an effective environment. Promise is a great program, but not a perfect one."**

Douglas High School Public Safety Commission on June 7 questioned Broward administrators about the program, querying its effectiveness to reduce crime on school campuses.

Elected officials and others who took part in the press conference June 19 were quick to point out the values of the program, and that the real focus should be on the all-too-easy access to guns and assault



Miami activist Tangela Sears joins Broward Black Elected Officials in support of the diversion program,



Broward County Commissioner Dale Holness speaks at a press conference June 19 in support of the Promise program and Superintendent Robert Runcie.

in a school year, although they can arrest a student on a first offense if they choose. The program was devised by the school district, police, prosecutors, public defenders, a judge and community groups including the NAACP to reduce the number of students being arrested for minor on-campus crime.

Critics have said the program has made campus police officers reluctant to arrest students like Nikolas Cruz, the 19-year-old former Stoneman Douglas student accused of killing 17 students and staff on Feb. 14. Cruz did not participate in the Promise program, though he was recommended for it.

The Marjory Stoneman

weapons. They also used the time to throw their support behind Broward County Superintendent Robert Runcie, who spearheaded the introduction of Promise in 2015.

Mike Payne, a member of the Black Elected Officials organization, a parent and a longshoreman, praised the improvements that had been made in the Broward County school system in recent years under the leadership of Runcie. Payne noted that the Promise program was a good program, but not perfect, and more must be done to protect children attending school.

Payne said Promise helped many young people turn over a new leaf and make changes in

SEE PROGRAM 8D

# Dear America, let the children be free to laugh again

Embedded in a border victim's journey

**DOREEN PRISCILLA BROWN**  
Special to *The Miami Times*



**Doreen Priscilla Brown**

They left their lands in the dark of night to search for freedom not knowing freedom would be an elusive sight.

For days and months they wandered, through rugged hills and mountains steep they wandered — through scorching heat and frosty nights they wandered!

Through caves, and crevices, and sinkholes and critters, they wandered.

But even as their journey beckoned them to turn back, yet they pressed on for a better day.

And for a rare moment when hindsight made sense, the thought of arriving made more sense than the thought of leaving.

Wilderness introspection can be a true friend, so you befriend the wilderness, if only for that reflective moment.

"Let the children laugh again" they mused; and if it be that we shall hear their laugh-

ter, then perhaps we, we too shall laugh.

So we pulled back the curtain and made ourselves think that it's real — we think that our journey to America's shores is real — we think that our muzzle will alas fall off and life in the land of the free and the home of the brave will be real.

A dream? Tell me not in dreaming context, for I dare not awaken to bitter but better and America will soon be home, sweet home.

So on to the Border we trod trusting that the bruises and scars will lead us to Lady Liberty and applause.

But ah, ah and at last we reached the border holding



Photo by David McNeen—Getty Images

**People protest the Trump administration policy of removing children from parents arrested for illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border on June 14 in Los Angeles, California.**

tight to each other, and the other to another.

Then soon we figured out that hell hath no fury like a dogmatist's scorn and our days of dreaming would soon be days of hope long gone.

They asked me nothing and I felt nothing — at first I thought, "not dreams again" — but nay, no dream this time.

For as the pain of jagged handcuffs pressed through my skin, I wondered if it all had to

do with the skin I'm in.

And the terror screams of my toddlers as they whisked them away was worse than hometown gangs on my bleakest day.

Then one by one, and two by two, I saw them, hundreds

tem himself in 1975.

"We are here today to continue the success of the Promise program," said Holness. "Not only is Promise successful, but there is an improvement across the board for this school board system, particularly focused on the time since Superintendent Runcie has been here. Ninety six percent of the schools earn an A, B or C. Before that we had 39 schools that were D or F. Today we only have six. We have the highest graduation rate in seven years. The list goes on. This is something we stand for. We want to continue to move forward with progress, and not be allow the unfortunate thing that our community suf-

fered, and not allowed it to go backwards especially with the Promise program." Broward School Board Member Rosalind Osgood said the real problem was too many guns in schools and in the communities. "We lost 17 individuals that were part of our team in February," she said. "It saddens and hurts us. During this time, some folks are choosing to target us instead of working with us. None of us wanted to lose a single life in the schools. We

problem was too many guns in the community and not a good program like Promise that might need tweaking. Sears said that hardening schools and having more officers carry guns in schools might be an answer but having school staff carry

guns was not a good solution.

"Having school staff carry guns is unacceptable," said Sears. "I ask you to stand with us to end this painful nightmare. We support you on banning assault weapons. We need your support on

of them lying in cages, wired boxes — my God — cages and boxes like traps for foxes and pigeon holes for trapped pigeons.

"What would Jesus do?" I asked myself? I'll tell you what I know he did: "Let the children come to me and don't stop them; for this is what the kingdom of Heaven is."

And following through on that, I read where he took them into his arms and blessed them.

So cheer up my weary traveler — cheer up; for justice deferred isn't justice denied, and soon you shall be free again, to laugh again — I pray that you will trust again.

Because I have a dream that one day your little brown children will find a place in America's home, because it is they who will possess and will help to make America great again.

So here's the thing: free the children to laugh again — with help from above and our generous friends, they will, they shall all laugh again!

*Doreen Priscilla Brown is an author, educator, speaker and community activist from South Florida.*

enforcing laws on violent offenders outside the schools. The schools are not made to put kids in jail. We have a system in place that can enforce that."

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

## PROGRAM

CONTINUED FROM 7D

their lives. Payne said Promise disrupts the school-to-prison pipeline and gives young people a second chance.

"The Broward County School Board has been under tremendous scrutiny from the media and from the community," said Payne. "More must be done to protect our children. The Black Elected Officials are dedicated and committed to every student, so they can go to a school that is safe and can learn in an effective environment. Promise is a great program, but not a



Miami Times photo/Carol Porter

**Sen. Perry E. Thurston Jr. joins other Black elected officials June 19 in Fort Lauderdale to push Broward's Promise program.**

perfect one."

### KEEPING PROMISE

Broward County Commissioner Dale Holness also echoed Payne's comments and added that graduation and jobs rates had increased for graduating students. He said many schools had become A, B or C schools that used to be D or F schools. Holness noted that the current school system was the most effective, and its members the most engaged since he had graduated from the school sys-

tem himself in 1975.

## 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 AME 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.*



In this photo, a couple enjoys a video game. The World Health Organization says video-game playing addictions are a mental concern.

## Compulsive video-game playing causes problems

“

**People need to understand this doesn't mean every child who spends hours in their room playing games is an addict, otherwise medics are going to be flooded with requests for help”**

Dr. Joan Harvey

The World Health Organization: Families, agencies should be aware of the risks

GENEVA (AP) — Obsessive video gamers know how to anticipate dangers in virtual worlds. The World Health Organization says they now should be on guard for a danger in the real world: spending too much time playing.

In its latest revision to a disease classification manual, the U.N. health agency said Monday that compulsively playing video games now qualifies as a mental health condition. The statement confirmed the fears of some parents but led critics to warn that it may risk stigmatizing too many young video players.

WHO said classifying “gaming disorder” as a separate addiction will help governments, families and health care workers be more vigilant and prepared to identify the risks. The agency and other experts were quick to note that cases of the condition are still very rare, with no more than up to 3 percent of all gamers believed to be affected.

Dr. Shekhar Saxena, director of WHO's department for mental health and substance abuse, said the agency accepted the proposal that gaming disorder should be listed as a new problem based on scientific evidence, in addition to “the need and the demand for treatment in

many parts of the world.”

Dr. Joan Harvey, a spokeswoman for the British Psychological Society, warned that the new designation might cause unnecessary concern among parents.

“People need to understand this doesn't mean every child who spends hours in their room playing games is an addict, otherwise medics are going to be flooded with requests for help,” she said.

Others welcomed WHO's new classification, saying it was critical to identify people hooked on video games quickly because they are usually teenagers or young adults who don't seek help themselves.

“We come across parents who are distraught, not only because they're seeing their child drop out of school, but because they're seeing an entire family structure fall apart,” said Dr. Henrietta Bowden-Jones, a spokeswoman for behavioral addictions at Britain's Royal College of Psychiatrists. She was not connected to WHO's decision.

Bowden-Jones said gaming addictions were usually best treated with psychological therapies but that some medicines might also work.

The American Psychiatric Association has not yet

deemed gaming disorder to be a new mental health problem. In a 2013 statement, the association said it's “a condition warranting more clinical research and experience before it might be considered for inclusion” in its own diagnostic manual.

The group noted that much of the scientific literature about compulsive gamers is based on evidence from young men in Asia.

“The studies suggest that when these individuals are engrossed in Internet games, certain pathways in their brains are triggered in the same direct and intense way that a drug addict's brain is affected by a particular substance,” the association said in that statement. “The gaming prompts a neurological response that influences feelings of pleasure and reward, and the result, in the extreme, is manifested as addictive behavior.”

Dr. Mark Griffiths, who has been researching the concept of video gaming disorder for 30 years, said the new classification would help legitimize the problem and strengthen treatment strategies.

“Video gaming is like a non-financial kind of gambling from a psychological point of view,” said Griffiths, a distinguished professor of

behavioral addiction at Nottingham Trent University. “Gamblers use money



of people, is more about entertainment and novelty, citing the overwhelming popularity of games like “Pokemon Go.”

“You have these short, obsessive bursts and yes, people are playing a lot, but it's not an addiction,” he said.

Saxena said parents and friends of video game enthusiasts should still be mindful of a potentially harmful problem.

“Be on the lookout,” he said, noting that concerns should be raised if the gaming habit appears to be taking over.

“If (video games) are interfering with the expected functions of the person —

whether it is studies, whether it's socialization, whether it's work — then you need to be cautious and perhaps seek help,” he said.

as a way of keeping score whereas gamers use points.”

He guessed that the percentage of video game players with a compulsive problem was likely to be extremely small — much less than 1 percent — and that many such people would likely have other underlying problems, like depression, bipolar disorder or autism.

WHO's Saxena, however, estimated that 2 to 3 percent of gamers might be affected.

Griffiths said playing video games, for the vast majority




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Volunteers at Greater Harvest Baptist Church in Brownsville serve children food on June 18 as part of the Summer BreakSpot program.

A little girl eats a free meal through a U.S. Department of Agriculture-funded summer meal program June 18 at Greater Harvest Baptist Church in Brownsville.

## SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM PROVIDES SPOTTY SERVICE

USDA feeds more than 4,000 statewide, but gaps remain in the county

**NYAMEKYE DANIEL**

*Ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com*

Jaquila Ragin and seven children filed into the Greater Harvest Baptist Church in Brownsville on Friday.

The youngest, a 1-year-old, is in a stroller. They all got in a line at the counter of the church's kitchen as they are served slices of

pizza, garden salad with a choice of juice or milk.

Ragin's family is among the nearly 150 residents that the church has been feeding every weekday since June 18 as part of a state-supervised summer food service program.

As parents find ways to supplement their income to replace free or reduced school meals, the Summer BreakSpot program that helps feed thousands of children during the break is not as accessible as it should be.

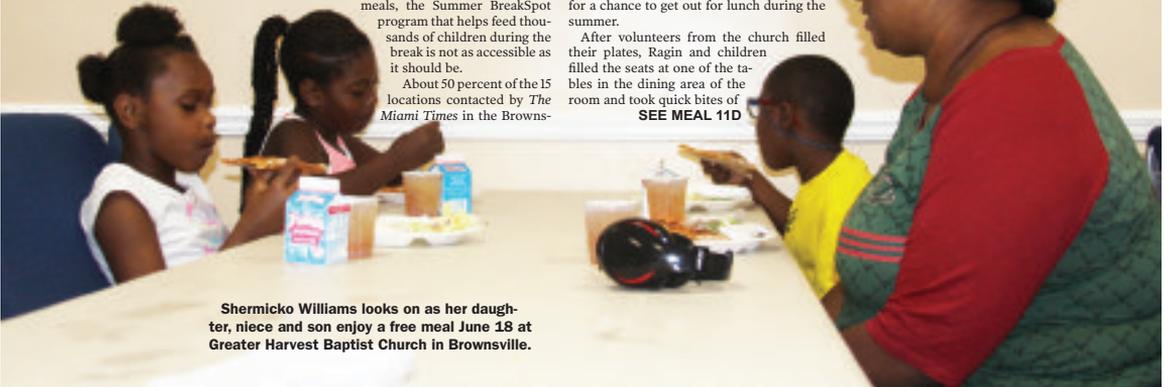
About 50 percent of the 15 locations contacted by *The Miami Times* in the Browns-

ville/Liberty City area have a disconnected or invalid number. Also, some locations are inactive or the service hours are incorrect as listed on the program's website, [summer-breakspot.freshfromflorida.com](http://summer-breakspot.freshfromflorida.com).

Representative for the Department of Agriculture, Kinley Tuten said that they are looking into the issue. Call ahead to the sites or call 211 before arrival. Ragin is happy for a chance to get out for lunch during the summer.

After volunteers from the church filled their plates, Ragin and children filled the seats at one of the tables in the dining area of the room and took quick bites of

**SEE MEAL 11D**



Shermicko Williams looks on as her daughter, niece and son enjoy a free meal June 18 at Greater Harvest Baptist Church in Brownsville.

Miami Times photos/Nyamekye Daniel

## South Miami Alpha fraternity brothers honor three students

The Iota Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. honored several local high school students at its annual Golden Affair Scholarship Fundraiser at the University of Miami Newman Alumni Center. The chapter awarded scholarships to three high school seniors on May 25. The seniors are Khaill Davis and Brandon Love of Coral Reef Senior High School and Tony Regalado of New World School of the Arts. The students were recognized for their demonstrated academic excellence and civic contributions to the community. In the fall, Davis will attend the University of Central Florida and major in biology; Love will attend Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to study business; and Regalado will matriculate to Florida International University to pursue a degree in finance.



Iota Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

# Pastor OF THE WEEK



Pastor Muche Ukegbu

PRESENTED BY



Miracles made daily.

## Muche Ukegbu transforms lives and builds diverse community

The Brook Church aims to quench the 'thirst for more'

ISHEKA N. HARRISON  
ishekali@gmail.com

"The Gospel changes people and people change the world." These words embody the core belief that drives The Brook, a family-centered, multi-cultural church led by Pastor Muche Ukegbu.

Located at 3918 NW 167 St., in Miami Gardens, The Brook was officially launched in April 2015 by Ukegbu, his wife Diamone, their three children Serenity, 7, Joelle, 6, and Noah, 4, and eight others who moved to Miami from

around the country. Yet Ukegbu, 32, is no newbie to pastoring. His trajectory into ministry seemed destined since birth.

Of Nigerian descent, Ukegbu said he was literally born dead. However, God stepped in, and he was miraculously resuscitated. As a result, his father named him Onyemachuekwu, which means "no one knows God's mind" in Igbo.

Though many family members were convinced God saved him because He had great plans for his life, the

things Ukegbu witnessed during childhood made him a skeptic.

"Everything around me said the opposite growing up. The poverty of city life in Houston, fights, brokenness inside, abuse, the whole nine, and I remember early on thinking God does not exist, or He does exist, but He could care less about me; and I just kind of lived my life saying, if you don't care about you, I don't care about you," Ukegbu said.

When he was 15 years old, an invitation to church from a friend that promised pizza

and girls forever changed his worldview.

"I went to church, and I heard the Gospel for the first time about God's love, God's design, sin, brokenness that entered into the world ... It floored me. It brought laughter to my experience, and I came to know Jesus," Ukegbu said.

Ukegbu went on to work in campus ministry, serve as a youth pastor in Denton, Texas under Pastor Dharti Lewis and help Lewis plant Blueprint Church in 2009 in Atlanta, where he eventually served as college pastor and family pastor.

In 2011, tragedy struck, causing Ukegbu and Diamone to question God's direction for their lives.

"My little brother was murdered in 2011, and so I started thinking about the future ...

At the end of 2013, Dharti was asking me where I saw myself in three to five years, which I'd already asked myself in 2011 ... That caused me and my wife to say, 'Ok God, where would you have us?' and that's when we started praying differently, like oh snap, it seems like it's not here."

After contemplating which city would give them global influence, provide opportunities to transform broken lives with the Gospel and be a diverse reflection of the world, the Ukegbus felt God was calling them to Miami.

"Miami is very fascinating because it is a cultural hotbed with ethnic and economic diversity... Miami looks like what the world will be, specifically the United States, in the next 15 years, and so it checked all those boxes, but more than anything, it was re-

**Diamone Ukegbu, Serenity Ukegbu, Noah Ukegbu, Joelle Ukegbu and Pastor Muche Ukegbu are the first family of The Brook Miami Church.**

Photo courtesy of Flor Michel



ally the peace from my wife's heart, which began to form peace in mine," Ukegbu said.

In 2014, The Ukegbus made the move to South Florida. Fast forward to today and the Brook boasts over 100 members. It is not uncommon to visit and hear them singing in different languages, listening intently to a sermon series, having Q&As about relevant topics or enjoying a concert/movie night.

Services are held on Sundays at 10 a.m. and non-City Groups meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in various neighborhoods so members can stay connected. During the month of July, the church is hosting Sanocho Sundays, during which they have one service at 10 a.m. then eat together at noon.

"People spend 40 hours a week, really 50-60 in Miami because the cost of living is so expensive, at work. The majority of their life is not spent in a two-hour window on Sunday," Ukegbu said. "It would be unwise to not deal with that part of life ..."

To learn more about The Brook Miami, visit [www.thebrookmiami.org](http://www.thebrookmiami.org).

Do you know of a spiritual leader who should be featured in this column? Email Isheka at

# MEAL

CONTINUED FROM 10D

the pizza, one of their favorite meals.

Even though, sweat stains her shirt,

"Whew — lunchtime!" she said. "It helps me not to be in the house all day; it's like an outing for us."

Ragin, a single mother is unemployed, and she relies on \$600 a month from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to feed her family. Ragin said she can easily turn \$7 into two meals for her family but with a little help from the school lunch program.

Three of Ragin's children who are school-aged, automatically qualify for free breakfast and lunch because she receives Snap benefits.

There is an income eligibility requirement for families who don't receive benefits. But even for her household of six, Ragin would have to make more than \$62,419 a year to be able to afford school lunch.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services created the Summer BreakSpot program to provide free meals at 4,000 schools and organizations throughout the state from June through August, when school is out. In order to completely close the meal gap, 180 more sites need to open in Dade County, ac-



**We thought it would be a good idea for the community because children are used to getting lunch at school. So, we don't know how they will eat in the summer."**

Veronica Watson



Miami Times photos/Nyameleye Dartie

**During the school year, Shermicko Williams' 8-year-old daughter and niece get free school meals. In this June 18 photo, the pair enjoys a free meal through the state's Summer BreakSpot program.**

will eat in the summer."

According to the Florida Department of Education, 68 percent of elementary students and 65 percent of middle schoolers in Miami-Dade County qualify for free or reduced meals.

Greater Harvest serves lunch between noon and 2 p.m. with an afternoon snack around 1 p.m. However, on the program's website, the snack time slot for the site is incorrect. Ragin found out about the meals after seeing a sign outside of the church.

On Friday, children in the dining room munched on cookies and play board games.

Volunteers recorded the number of meals as they were served, one of the requirements of being a meal site.

Before becoming a site, volunteers must be trained on food storage and the federal and state guidelines of the program. They are also required to monitor the meals, which are available to all individuals under 18 years old and adults with mental or physical disabilities.

Summer BreakSpot sites must serve nutritionally balanced meals that meet USDA guidelines, as seen on the federal food pyramid.

At 11: 50 a.m., Watson and the other church volunteers carried the boxes of milk through the propped-up door of Greater Harvest.

"They received the pre-prepared meals based on the state's weekly menu.

"If they don't like the meals, they don't come back the next day," said Watson.

Delivery of the food was or-

ganized by what the Department of Agriculture calls a sponsor.

Sponsors apply for the program to hire and train staff to prepare, deliver and serve the food. They "must be organizations that are fully capable of managing a food service program." Nonprofits and government entities are eligible to become sponsors.

The Department reimburses sponsors \$2.19 per meal for breakfast; \$3.85 per lunch or supper; and 91 cents per snack.

Watson said she did not know who exactly the sponsor is for Greater Harvest, but she believed the meals were delivered through the county. It is the church's first year participating in the program.

Kathy Wright has been serving meals at Edison Towers, 5821 NW Seventh Ave. For the past three years, and she said the sponsor, a pastor, has 11 sites in total. They serve 50 to 60 people a day at her site and one of the other sites sees triple that amount, she said. "The hours for both sites are not correct on the website as well."

Wright, who is in her 40s, grew up on school meals. Back then, she ate cold-cut sandwiches during the break through a similar program. Now, she feels content about serving hot food.

"I just want to give back," said Wright. "There are people that need hot meals."

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Apostolic Revival Center**

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

Rev. Dr. S. Gilbert S. Smith

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

**Liberty City Church of Christ**

Services  
Sunday Morning 8 a.m.  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 5 p.m.  
Sun. Bible Class 6:30 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 6 p.m.  
Tuesday Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Michael D. Screen

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

**Brownsville Church of Christ**

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

**Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church**

Services  
Early Worship 7 a.m.  
Sunday School 9 a.m.  
NBC 10:05 a.m.  
Worship 11 a.m.  
Worship 1 p.m.  
Mission and Bible

Pastor Douglas Cook, Sr.

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

**New Birth Baptist Church, The Cathedral of Faith International**

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

1 (800) 254-NBCB  
305-685-3700  
Fax: 305-685-0705  
[www.newbirthbaptistmiami.org](http://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. Bible Study 10 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m. Evening Worship 6 p.m. WEDNESDAY Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

www.PembrokeParkChurchOfChrist.com

954-962-9327  
3707 S.W. 56th Avenue, Hollywood, FL 33023

**Hosanna Community Baptist Church**

Services  
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.  
Worship 9:30 a.m. Bible Study  
Thursday 7:30 p.m. Youth Ministry  
Mon.-Fri. 2:45-3:00 p.m.

Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins

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

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

### Richardson

**GWENDOLYN SAUNDERS**, 80, retired educator, died June 21 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 10 a.m., Friday at Greater Saint James Missionary Baptist Church.



**CONNIE LEE BROWN**, 92, cookie operator, died June 24 at Aventura Medical Center. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Refuge Church of Our Lord.



**LOUIS JADE HUNTER**, 33, laborer, died June 23 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.



**CAROLYN JOAN MAYNOR**, 76, collection agent, died June 20 at home. Service 2 p.m., Saturday at Antioch of Miami Gardens Baptist Church.



### Hadley Davis Miami Gardens

**BETTY RUTH WAY**, 72, retired, died June 18 at Jackson Hospital North. Service 10 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



**LUTHER K. KELLY, SR.**, 91, retired, died June 19 at Holy Cross Hospital, Maryland. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Faith Temple Community Church of Jesus.



**ALBERTHA VARENCE**, 86, retired, died June 16 at home. Service 10 a.m., Sunday at Norland Seventh Day Adventist Church.



### Royal

**P.M. KENNETH A. WALKER**, 69, retired senior estimator, died June 19 in Warner Robins, GA. He was planning, but God had his own I miss and love you, Robin. Rest baby. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Emmanuel Baptist Missionary Baptist Church.



**GWENDOLYN R. WATERS**, 85, retired from Pan Am Airlines, died June 18 at home. Survivors include: Catherine Mathias, Guy Miller (Lakacia), Melody Bryant (Eric), Yolanda Robinson, and Fred Bryant (Beulah). Viewing 4 - 9 p.m., Friday at Royal. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.



### AJ Manuel

**GILLETTE EVANS**, 57, Viewing 5-8 p.m., Saturday at Bethel Baptist Church, Dania Beach. Service 3 p.m., Sunday at South Broward High School Auditorium.



### Range

**LOVELL MARSHALL, aka BLACKJACK**, 67, retired bus driver for Miami-Dade County Public Schools died June 16. Survivors include his daughter, Shanika Marshall; sister, Wanda Powell and a host of other relatives and friends. Service 2 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



**ROOSEVELT J. COLLINS**, 82, retired laborer for Eastern Airlines died June 20. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at St. Mary's Wesleyan.



**CECIL MOSES, SR.**, 95, retired truck driver for Central Truck Line Co. died June 22. Survivors include his sons, Cecil L. Moses and Darryl Moses; sister, Irene Range; and a host of other relatives and friends. Service 11 a.m., Thursday in the chapel.



### Eric S. George

**LUGUSTA CREWS**, died June 23. Service 11 a.m., Friday at Ebenezer Baptist Church Hallandale.



**RUTH LEE CONKLIN**, died June 17. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Central Baptist Church.



### Grace

**ANDRE C. STAFFORD**, 43, head of security, died June 19. Public viewing 4-7 p.m., Friday at Antioch of Miami Gardens. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at the church.



**DELORES ROACHE**, 76, administrator, died June 21. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at St. James A.M.E. Church.



### "TILLIE"

**ALTHEA LEE**, 33, claims examiner, died June 1 at Memorial Regional Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Monument of Faith Ministries.



### Trinity

**ERICE SHERMAN, aka "ARIEL LARAGE"**, 26, entertainer, died June 19 at Jackson North. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Greater New Bethel of Liberty City.



**Hall Ferguson Hewitt FRANCIS WHITE GAITER**, 83, retired probation officer, died June 20 at home. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Antioch Baptist Church of Brownsville.



### Wright and Young

**SHIRLEY PARMER MOSS-GORDON**, 60, social worker, died June 17. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Peaceful Zion Missionary Baptist Church.



**TAWANNA V. MARIN**, 48, corrections, died June 18. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Mt. Hermon A.M.E. Church.



### Gregg L. Mason

**IVELENE MCKINNEY**, 83, died June 20. Survivors include: sons, Eric Stanley and Vincent McKinney; daughter, Garnett McKinney; host of grandchildren and great grandchildren; brother, Johnny Stanley (Barbara Joy) and other relatives. Viewing 6-9 p.m., Friday at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at the church. Entombment: Caballero Rivero Southern.



### Range-Homestead

**SARAH L. CASON**, 75, homemaker, died June 20 at Jackson South Community Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Greater St. Matthews Holiness Church.



### Range-Coconut Grove

**MACK ARTHUR JAMISON**, 64, maintenance man, died June 20 at Catholic Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at St. Matthew Community Baptist Church.



### Paradise

**LAKITHIA ROSS**, 39, died June 22 at Jackson South Community Hospital. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Second Baptist Church.

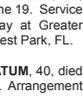


**SAMANTHA STALLINGS**, 49, optical engineer, died June 17. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Historical St. John A.M.E. South Miami.



### Eric L. Wilson

**ANGEL FITZPATRICK**, 29, student, died June 19. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Greater Mt. Zion A.M.E. West Park, FL.



**DESHAWN TATUM**, 40, died June 23 at home. Arrangement are incomplete.

**MYRTLE FRAY**, 90, died June 14. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Parkway Baptist Church, Miami Gardens, FL.

**PHILLIP RILEY**, 66, died June 20. Service 2 p.m., Saturday at House of God Miracle Revival Fellowship Church, Hollywood, FL.

**MATTHEW ALFORD JR.**, 75, construction worker, died June 23. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Kingdom Living Community Church, Hollywood, FL.

**GRANVILLE HERMAN DARBY**, 87, died June 18. Service 10 a.m., Sunday at Perrine Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

**JOSE MOGUEL**, 63, died June 18. Final rites in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

### Hadley Davis MLK

**COREN TAVON MOORE**, 34, correctional officer, died June 23. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at First Baptist Church of Bunche Park.



**JUNIOR CATILUS**, 25, laborer, died June 18 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.



**CAROLYN NERO**, 71, hospitality worker, died June 19 at North Shore Medical Center. Service 12 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



### Cabellero Rivero Southern

**WILLIE MAE GRANT**, 86, office clerk for Miami Dade County, died June 16 at Memorial General Hospital. She was laid to rest on Tuesday, June 19 at Caballero Rivero Southern Memorial Park.



**MONFRED JOSEPH**, 65, owner of Classic Men's Wear Store, North Miami, died June 18. He has served the communities of North Miami and Miami since 1986; receiving multiple awards and recognition for business, leadership and civic contributions. He is survived by beloved wife, Immacula Joseph; loving father of Fredline Joseph-Burley and Dr. Martine Joseph-Johnson; cherished grandfather of Lorenzo G. Johnson III, Joseph L. Johnson and Loren M. Johnson; adored son of Germaine Joseph. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at New Birth Baptist Church Cathedral of Faith.



### Mitchell

**ROBERT DALE JACKSON**, 44, disabled, died June 18 at Jackson North Medical Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

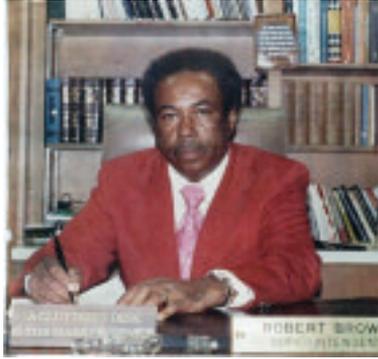


### In Memoriam



**DAISY M. BLACK**  
06/03/1948 - 06/29/2016  
It has been two years since God called you home, but it seems like only yesterday. Your memories will always live in our hearts, and we miss you dearly. Your family and friends.

**VIEW YOUR OBITUARIES ONLINE AT**  
WWW.MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM



Robert Brown

## Early Black Alabama school superintendent, army tanker, dies at 95

**DREW TAYLOR**  
Tuscaloosa News

Robert Brown, the son of sharecroppers who grew up to be one of the first Black school superintendents in Alabama, has died.

Brown, who was superintendent of Greene County Schools from 1970 to 1980, died from natural causes June 10 at the age of 95.

"He was a very driven person who cared about students," daughter Renetta Brown said. "He had students who think of him as a level you wouldn't believe."

Brown grew up as one of 10 children on a farm in Mantua and left high school to serve in the Army during World War II, where he spent three years as a member of the combined Allied Expeditionary Force. During his time with the outfit, Brown was part of the storming of the beaches of Normandy, France during D-Day on June 6, 1944. He was later part of the 761st "Black Panther" Tank Battalion, often referred to as one of the first Black tankers to join the Army.

After the war, Brown finished high school at Parker High School in Birmingham and later attended Alabama A&M University, where his initial plans were much different than what he ultimately went to do.

"He wanted to play boogie-woogie on the piano, but he had never even played piano before," Renetta Brown said.

At the encouragement of his teachers, Brown began studying science, which he studied during postgraduate work at Tuskegee University and the University of California at Berkeley. After graduating from Alabama A&M, Brown served as a science teacher at the former Greene County Training School, later becoming principal at the former Paramount High School and taught chemistry at Livingston University, now known as the University of West Alabama.

Brown's rise to becoming superintendent came at a time of rapid change in both Greene County and the rest of the country through the civil rights movement. By 1970, William McKinley Branch and Thomas Gilmore had been elected as the first Black probate judge and sheriff, respectively, of Greene County. Soon, the rest of the Greene County school board would be majority Black.

"I encouraged him to apply for the position of superintendent," said Rosie L. Carpenter, a childhood friend who worked with Brown in the school system's central office.

After going through candidates, the board selected Brown as superintendent of the school system, the first Black superintendent in Greene County's history. However, his time as superintendent was marred by constant death threats he received in phone calls to his home.

"We couldn't ride in the car with him for many years. However, Brown remained unfazed. He always said that if he could make it through WWII, he was not going to be afraid of anything or anybody."

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