

# The Miami Times

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Aretha Franklin  
Commemorative Edition

## THE QUEEN PASSES HER CROWN

### Memory book gives Aretha Franklin's fans a portal to say goodbye

Aretha Franklin lies in her casket at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History during a public visitation in Detroit Tuesday, Aug. 28.



**JANIAH ADAMS**  
Miami Times Contributor

In the quiet foyer of the Gregg L. Mason Funeral Home, a framed picture of younger Aretha Franklin stands on a small, round wooden table. On a golden stand just in front of a fountain sits a book for guests to say their goodbyes. With more than 200 signatures on the cream pages, fans and supporters imprinted their names and messages that simply read, "Queen of Soul" and "Rest in peace."

A visitor walking through the foyer wouldn't know the ties the Mason family has with Franklin's family. That's why the memory book isn't

only dear for those who come to sign, but also for Gregg Mason himself.

Growing up, Mason and his family used to spend many vacations in Detroit, Mich. Little did he know that his time spent there would acquaint him the songstress who by the time she died Aug. 16, she had accumulated 18 Grammys.

"Aretha Franklin, and I know that she is loved by millions of people, but I've had a strong love for Aretha since the '60s as a young boy, and I've kept up with her all of my life," Mason said.

During that same time, Franklin sent him a picture of herself.

"Aretha, she sent me a picture, and she signed

**SEE QUEEN 6A**

AP Photo/Paul Sancya, Pool

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

### PianoProdigy

Matthew Whitaker  
feels his way across  
the keyboard



Today  
90°



# VIEWPOINT

Editorials  
Cartoons  
Opinions  
Letters

BLACKS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY | AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 | MiamiTimesOnline.com

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## EDITORIAL

### Watch the spending at city and county budget meetings

Now that the Florida primary election is over, Miami-Dade County is set to have new representation. Others have been returned to their former positions. Those who are going back to their most recent posts should return filled with vigor, eager to fulfill campaign promises. And there are still others who you get to decide on again. These are the nominees from each party and independents who will face off at the Nov. 6 general election. Right away, you can witness how some of those who you elected perform because it is budget season.

Most cities and the county will be holding hearings on the fiscal year 2018-2019 budgets.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez's budget letter to residents is optimistic, saying that he will be working hard to protect Miami-Dade County's children. The children of your communities have been asking for protection for years. Ironic that it took such a horrific tragedy in our backyard of Parkland for our lawmakers to realize children have been exposed to way too much violence in their homes, on the streets and even places where they play and learn. As CEO, Gimenez, that was your priority all along. We also learned that the county officials and school officials cannot operate in silos.

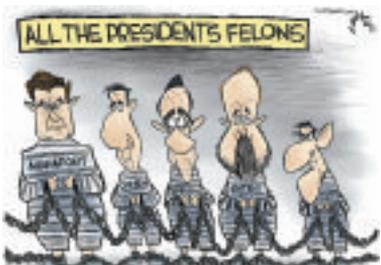
The county budget also addresses the affordable housing crisis. Will these newly elected officials champion increased funding for the county's Affordable Housing Trust Fund? While Gimenez didn't openly propose cuts to the program, expect increased fees at places such as libraries. The first budget hearing is 5:01 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6. Plan on attending this meeting. There will be another hearing later in September, and then the budget will be official.

Conversely, Opa-locka cannot balance its budget. The northwest city is holding its election Nov. 6. Get to know these candidates and find out what is their plan to help the city manager present a balanced budget. The city needs to come up with a plan or the state will keep its oversight going.

There is an adage, follow the money. Indeed.

The best way to know what happens to your money is to attend or watch budget hearings. You elected them; start holding them accountable about the accounting already.

## CARTOON CORNER



## Lies will be the Trump era's epitaph

EUGENE ROBINSON, *The Washington Post*

Whenever the Trump administration ends, we already have its shameful epitaph: "Truth isn't truth."

President Trump's lawyer Rudolph W. Giuliani made that unintentional confession of method and purpose last Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." From the beginning of the campaign, this whole enterprise has been a lie, a fraud, a graft, a cruel deception — a sustained and increasingly frantic attempt to obscure inconvenient truth.

Earlier in the interview, as if to illustrate the point he was about to make, Giuliani told what can only be called a bald-faced lie. He claimed that when Trump's son, son-in-law and campaign chairman met at Trump Tower in 2016 with a Russian lawyer offering dirt on Hillary Clinton, "all they knew is that a woman with a Russian name wanted to

meet with them. They didn't know she was a representative of the Russian government." But in email traffic setting up the meeting, Donald Trump Jr. was told that the promised "information that would incriminate Hillary" constituted "part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump."

Giuliani tried to peddle what White House counselor Kellyanne Conway once called "alternative facts" about the Trump Tower meeting. "Truth isn't truth" should be taken as a suspect's blurted admission of guilt.

Constant, relentless, shameless lying is not ancillary to the Trump administration. It is not a sideshow; it's the main event.

Sometimes they lie about little things. Last week, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders issued a rare correction — she



had claimed, falsely, that more jobs have been created for Blacks since Trump took office than during President Barack Obama's eight-year tenure. In acknowledging that this was absurdly wrong (the true figures are about 3 million new jobs under Obama and about 700,000 under Trump), Sanders claimed on Twitter that numbers she had given were right but "the time frame for

Pres Obama wasn't." Even that, however, was wrong.

The tallies that Sanders claimed are correct use as their starting points the months when the two presidents were elected, not the months when they took office.

Why obsess over a few obscure numbers? Because the figures were prepared by the Council of Economic Advisers, which in previous administrations has meticulously provided accurate, definitive information about the economy. It appears that Trump's vanity and insecurity have impaired the council's ability to perform its most important function, which is to tell presidents economic news they might not want to hear.

Little lies lead inexorably, of course, to big lies.



## Yes, it's OK for us to have a 'Black card'

DAHLEEN BLANTON, *The Chicago Tribune*

It has been brought to my attention that some white people are offended by the term "Black card."

They got really upset when I wrote a column recently suggesting that Blacks should consider giving Omarosa Mangault Newman's Black card back to her, now that she has turned on Donald Trump.

When it suits their purpose, these same people have no problem accusing Blacks of playing the "race card." But how dare Black people imply that there's a secret society that only Black people can join. That's discriminatory, they say. It's downright racist.

If white people were part of an exclusive society that issued make-believe membership cards, they argue, Black people would be up in arms.

White people are born with their membership cards stamped to their foreheads.

All of us, in fact, are awarded a racial card at birth. The only difference is that one is considered more valuable than the other.

The term Black card, though,

is simply a euphemism that Blacks use to express solidarity. It's just a thing we made up a long time ago to signify our birthright in a country that has long denied us equality.

It is a term we use to convey what it means to be Black, to pay homage to our unique culture, to give reverence to our heritage and to celebrate our endurance as a people. It means that we collectively share the experience and the unique joys and challenges it brings.

It represents an unspoken understanding that has been a part of our culture since slavery — that Black people, particularly those in powerful positions, cannot throw each other under the bus for personal gain. If we do, the entire race pays the price.

This is "unfortunate proof that racism is not restricted to white people," someone emailed. "One definition of racism (not to be confused with racial discrimination) is the 'belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that



race."

The key word missing from this man's definition is "superior." Having a Black card does not give us superiority over any other race. Neither does it guarantee equality — that's pretty clear to everyone.

It does not mean that Blacks are anti-white. In fact, it has nothing to do with white people whatsoever.

In a nation where Blacks are grossly underrepresented in all aspects of society, what's wrong with us having a little something strictly for ourselves?

A Black card does no harm to anyone, least of all white people. It doesn't keep white people from always being the first hired. It doesn't stop white

people from advancing quicker or accumulating more wealth on the average.

It doesn't stop a white worker from earning \$1 for every 75 cents a Black worker earns. It can't stop a white family from accumulating a median net worth of \$171,000 to a Black family's \$17,600.

It will not keep more than 70 percent of white people from achieving the ultimate American dream of owning their own home, while less than half of Black people can do the same.

By talking about our Black card, we aren't begrudging white people of anything they have achieved through hard work. It is always nice, however, when someone acknowledges that their white card gave them a head start, and it helps them maintain their spot at the front of the line.

"It would be great if we all simply carried an 'American card' or better yet, a 'human race card.' But those cards expired a long time ago. And after this combative Trump era, I'm not sure they can ever be renewed."



## Aretha Franklin's silent movement

ROCHELLE RILEY, *Detroit Free Press*

Death knocked on Aretha Franklin's door numerous times over the past few years. And she shut the door in his face.

She had too much to do. Some people might have thought it was the supper club she had planned to open downtown, not far from where she lived privately and quietly in Riverfront Towers on the Detroit River.

Some might have thought it was because she had that talk album to finish, the one she talked to me about last year, the one that would feature her friend, Stevie Wonder, who visited her Tuesday.

But many folks might not know that Aretha Franklin has persevered, survived and stayed, because she also was needed in a civil rights struggle that her father, the Rev. C.L. Franklin, helped lead, that his fellow soldiers like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Ralph David Abernathy



Aretha Franklin

knew would last longer than their lives — and that she quietly and anonymously helped fund for decades.

"When Dr. King was alive, several times she helped us make payroll," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, her friend of more than 60 years, who planned to visit her Wednesday. "On one occasion, we took an 11-city tour with her as Aretha Franklin and Harry

Belafonte ... and they put gas in the vans. She did 11 concerts for free and hosted us at her home and did a fundraiser for my campaign. Aretha has always been a very socially conscious artist, an inspiration, not just an entertainer.

"She has shared her points of view from the stage for challenged people, to register to vote, to stand up for decency," said Jackson, who said he has visited with her nearly a dozen times in the past "two or three years during the course of her illness.

"I was with her a few weeks ago. I was at one of her last Christmas parties, the one she throws every year."

Jackson and I speak of Franklin in the present, not discussing obituaries, but tribute. Not sadness, but triumph. Anyone but God saying when the Queen will leave the throne is talking above their station. Still, Jackson said, "I'm very sad. I'm

very sad."

Other ministers and civil rights activists concurred with Jackson's assessment of the socially conscious singer's contributions to the movement and to helping others, something she did nationally for decades without credit and something she did locally through New Bethel Baptist Church, without fanfare.

"Whenever there was a tragedy with families, any civil rights family, she was always giving," Holley said. "I wish I had the words to express it. She's a very special person in a sense that she sung the blues, but she never lost her roots with the church and her relationship with God. She used her talent and what God gave her to basically move the race forward. A lot of people do the talking but they don't do the walking. She used her talent and her resources. She was that kind of person, a giving person."



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Miami Times Photo/Felipe Rivas  
Lubby Navarro, Miami-Dade County Public Schools board member, Alberto Carvalho, Schools superintendent and Carlos Gimenez, Miami Dade County mayor pose with local police officers and a student.

# District's security tool could put Blacks at risk

Advocates fear privacy issues and are not sure RAPTOR keeps kids safe

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Advocates for people of color are concerned about a visitor management system that Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho on Friday said performs instant background checks after they swipe a government-issued ID looking to flag people with a "criminal past or has exhibited predatory behavior."

"As parents and visitors enter the schools with RAPTOR systems that automatically scan IDs and communi-

cate with criminal databases and notify, automatically, police departments should there be someone attempting to enter the school that has a criminal past, or has exhibited predatory behavior," Carvalho said. Carvalho, along with Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, was at Kendall K-8 Center, in Kendall, there to provide an assessment of the first week of this school year's enhanced security measures.

The district has added more than 100 police officers, 3,000 cameras, reduced entry points and expanded its

ID management system. The ID system requires that visitors to schools swipe a government-issued ID, which then performs an instant background check.

The district bought 280 visitor management systems named RAPTOR at a \$463,000 price tag. It had already bought 18 RAPTORs in 2016 and 36 in 2017. Overall, the district had 98 RAPTOR machines operating before the most recent purchase. John Schuster, M-DCPS spokesperson, said some schools had purchased their own RAPTOR systems up to 10 years ago.

"We purchased and deployed over the summer new technology, RAPTOR

SEE DATA 7A

# STREET Talk

COMPILED BY KISHANDA BURNS, digital@miamitimesonline.com

How do you feel about the actions of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency?



TIA ANDERSON, 23  
Miami

I feel like those actions are irrelevant. I'm in pharmacy school, and I have awesome classmates that are very intelligent and they were not born here. It's not fair for someone to choose whether or not they belong here. It's not anyone's choice to make. These actions are hurting kids and parents. It's sad.



ARTIMESE BRYANT, 21  
Miami Gardens

I think it's time to get rid of them (ICE). They're making unsatisfying decisions that are hurting a lot of people.



DAVID DINGLE, 31  
Miami

I've been reading about ICE actions recently because I know of some immigrants who are documented. These actions have been out of hand lately. Having families separated from each other is devastating. Some of these children are too small to be separated from their parents. It's scary for them.



XAVIER ANTHONY, 25  
Miami

I have friends that weren't born here in the U.S. Their parents moved here for them. A lot of things are happening in their country for them or their parents to not want to go back. They have told me stories about what their parents had to go through just to be here. So, the actions of ICE are not needed or wanted. They're not bothering anybody in my eyes.



DEXTER BERNARD, 38  
Opa-locka

I don't think it's right, especially seeing via social media how kids are being separated from their parents. I became friends with some who are immigrants and who came here for a better living for not only themselves but for their family and their future. It's not necessary.



MICHELLE HARRIS, 25  
Miami

It breaks my heart to see these things going on with immigrants and what they have to go through. Monthly check-ins, is that necessary? What's the reason for doing that? I see most immigrants just how I see those who were born here in the U.S.



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# City manager on then off chopping block

## Opa-locka officials considers firing Newall Daughtrey after four months

**NYAMEKYE DANIEL**  
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Just as Opa-locka's acting city manager was adding some final touches to the city's overdue five-year financial plan, he received a phone call that caused him to drop everything.

A special meeting was called for last Friday to terminate him from the position.

Newall Daughtrey is Opa-locka's second city manager in the past year. He replaced Ed Brown, who was fired in April.

"He has only been here five months; he hasn't had time enough to do what needs to be done," said Opa-locka resident Natasha English-Ervin. "I think to get rid of him right now is jumping the gun."

But Opa-locka Commissioner John Riley said he wants Daughtrey to be fired citing dissatisfaction with his handling of the city's finances.

"The commissioner is concerned about the city manager's failure to submit the city's 2015-2016 fiscal audit, which he said was due by June 30. He also said that the current budget is unbalanced.

The delay in the 2015-2016 audit has stopped the flow of the millions of dollars into the city that Riley said is contingent on the completion of the audit.

"We have lost \$7-million plus," Riley told *The Miami Times* ahead of Friday's meeting.

"I am concerned that money owed to the city is getting held because the city is not doing what it is supposed to do," said Riley.

Riley's attempt to fire the manager failed, 3-2, his only

ally, Mayor Myra Taylor with him.

Vice Mayor Joseph Kelley called the meeting "a sad commentary," that puts the entire city on standby.

"The bottom line is Mr. Daughtrey was hired a few months ago with this city in tremendous... a tough situation with the not only the finances not where they should be, but also not doing what we are supposed to be doing as a commission," said Kelley.

For the past three years, Opa-locka has had major shortfalls in the flow of money into the city. The municipal has struggled to come up with a viable payment plan for the millions in debt it owes to the county and other vendors.

In 2016, Gov. Rick Scott assigned a financial oversight board to help rescue Opa-locka from what state officials called a "dire" situation.

In late July 2016, then-Florida Inspector General Melinda Miguel referred to Opa-locka's financial status as "ground zero" after the city failed to make its first recovery-plan deadline, issued by the state.

Last month, Daughtrey received approval from the commission to present the plan to the state, which he did on Monday, along with the 2018-2019 budget.

Daughtrey said he was surprised when he found out his employment was an item on the agenda.

This is Daughtrey's fourth time as Opa-locka's city manager, and he has also spent time as assistant city manager. His first role was in 1973.

However, this is not the first



Opa-locka Vice Mayor Joseph Kelley, Mayor Myra Taylor and Commissioners Matthew Pigatt and John Riley at the Aug. 24 special meeting at Sherbondy Village Auditorium.

Miami Times photo/Nyamekye Daniel

time Daughtrey had to shovel through backlogged finances.

"When I came in the last time as city manager, I did not know that the city had not had an audit in two years. Had I known that, I would not have taken the job. I am good, but I am not Houdini," said Daughtrey. "This time because I knew, and everybody knew that the city did not have an audit in three years, it was obvious that unless someone really understood municipal government, who understood Opa-locka specifically, they couldn't be successful. No matter how good they are."

Daughtrey said that he and the consulting firm hired to help with the task, are physi-

cally working on the 2015-2016 audit, and he also confirmed that the budget he submitted is balanced.

*The Miami Times* exhausted several attempts to contact Riley regarding his claim about an unbalanced budget.

A balanced budget means the city must show that the money it takes in math

Revenues must be equal to expenditures, and it is required by the state, said Joe Geller, former Opa-locka city attorney.

Geller said the only way an unbalanced budget could be fixed is by increasing revenue or decreasing spending, which could lead to two consequences for the residents.

"They will somehow get few-

er services or a tax increase unless you are already capped," said Geller.

Daughtrey vowed to keep doing his due diligence and keep his commitment to "fixing" the city's finances on Friday.

One commissioner said he

will be watching Daughtrey and giving him time to prove himself.

"Mr. Daughtrey, I am going to hold my decision today until I see what you do with the budget," said Commissioner Timothy Holmes.

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# QUEEN

CONTINUED FROM 1A

it and it read, 'Gregg, reach out, Aretha.' And it was a black-and-white photo when she sent fit to me, and I think it was when 'Respect' was out," Mason said. "And the photos that are in the lobby are photos that I keep in my living room and the crown has been there for her from years back. It wasn't just for her passing, but I brought it down."

He met her during the '70s in Chicago, and again when she visited Broward County.

"She was just a real person, and she was very warm and open. My word is real," said Mason said. "She's just a real person."

Franklin, who died at age 76 after a battle with pancreatic cancer, will be buried in Detroit on Friday, after a four-day tribute. Swanson Funeral Home will oversee the funeral services at Greater Grace Temple.

"Swanson Funeral Home is a good friend of mine who also handled Rosa Parks and other dignitaries in Detroit," said Mason. "He handled my family, so we're very close."

Mason doesn't intend to go to the funeral services but will travel to Detroit after Friday to pay his respects to the family privately.

"That's when I decided to do the book, so when I go to Detroit, I would present that book to the family," he said.

He received a call from the family Saturday evening who said they were grateful for the memory book that was being put together in South Florida.

Once they heard about the opportunity to sign the book, all types of people from Miami-Dade and Broward coun-

## MEMORY BOOKS' SIGNIFICANCE

Franklin's isn't Mason's only public memory book effort. He set one up when Princess Diana died in 1997, then sent it to her family.

Beverly Brown Anderson came from Miami Gardens to sign the memory book. Along with her signature, she brought all her Aretha Franklin CDs.

"I always loved to listen to 'Ain't No Way,'" Anderson said. "Oh my goodness, that was just my favorite song. And her gospels really took me away."

Anderson never met Franklin but signing the book allowed her to connect with Franklin and her family in a way she never had before.

Memory books give the living the opportunity to connect with those who have died and help the families to keep the memory of their loved ones alive. This is what Mason had in mind when he set up the carefully curated shrine in the funeral home lobby and established the memory book for people in South Florida to sign.

Many funeral homes offer memory books, or the family may opt to purchase one of their own. Because of advances in technology, memory books, or guest books, are different than they were in the past. Some families opt to use an online guest book where people can leave to their names and messages, then request a printed copy. Also, whereas it used to just collect the names of those who attended the funeral, they now serve as a pathway to grieving and healing for the family.

Anderson, who attended a family repast for her nephew last weekend, believes memory books have a lasting effect.

"I lost my brother a year and a half ago, and when I get in my low moments,



Miami Times photo/Jamiah Adams

Anyone is welcomed to sign Aretha Franklin's memory book.

I can go in and sit down and just reflect on who thought enough of me to share their condolences and give a card," she said. "My family calls me the matriarch because when they need something, I have it. With the memory book Gregg Mason has, I think it's awesome as a funeral director that he would just share and for folks to come in and give their condolences."

Tracey Muhammad uses her memory book to keep moments with her father, who died three years ago, alive.

"At first, if I would open something and see his picture, I would burst into tears," she said. "But someone told me that to keep their memory alive, talk about them, think about what they did with you that made you laugh, you know, some things that you'll never forget."

Mason believes the memory book will help to show Franklin's family how much she was loved.

"It may not be read immediately, but in due time, they will find time to even go through, and I know there's thousands, but at some point, I feel it's important that they have something to look back on and enjoy with her homegoing," he said. "Many people who have expressed their love for her, and towards her, and for them now that she's gone."

ties came to pay homage to the former civil rights activist and performer. Mason said one woman called and asked for the book to be brought to her because she wasn't able to leave the house to come sign it. The funeral home staff made arrangements for the book to be brought to her.

The majority of the comments in the book refer to Franklin as the Queen.

"Ministers have come and everyone who knew her," Mason said. "But I think it's a gesture to bid farewell to the Queen of Soul."

“

I always loved to listen to 'Ain't No Way,' Anderson said. "Oh my goodness, that was just my favorite song. And her gospels really took me away."

Beverly Brown Anderson

# DATA

CONTINUED FROM 4A

technology, that uses government-issued IDs, scans an individual that is attempting to visit the schools, against any existing database for criminal background or predatory behavior, and then silently, to reduce the possibility of threat, communicates that to law enforcement," Carvalho said.

The upgrades are to comply with legislation passed following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre Feb. 14. A state mandate requires officers on every public school campus. The county deployed more than 100 officers, with help from the different municipalities, to meet the demand of having an officer in the 392 public county schools.

Schools' spokesman Schuster said the RAPTOR can screen out people with custody issues and other individuals who are flagged in adverse reports. The RAPTOR stores information such as pictures and names. "We can input names of persons who should not be entering a school," Schuster said.

Former public school teacher Dwight Bullard, who is now the political director of New Florida Majority, applauds all efforts to improve school safety. He wonders if the system will act more as an excluder rather than find and stop actual people who come to do harm at school. Bullard worries about the undocumented community, who may not have government identification, and former felons who have children in school.

Schuster said parents with no IDs can still enter schools provided the RAPTOR collects their name



Superintendent Alberto Carvalho and police officers at the Kenwood K-8 Center.

Miami Times Photo/Felipe Rojas

and a picture, after which a guard calls administration for further access.

"Snoop Dogg has a criminal record. Would he be excluded from coming on school grounds?" Bullard said.

Schools' spokeswoman Daisy Gonzalez-Diego said Tuesday the RAPTOR is only checking national databases for sexual predators.

When a reporter at the Kenwood press conference asked Carvalho to clarify what the RAPTOR does, he affirmed that it performs background checks.

"Did I understand you correctly that when folks swipe their government IDs, there's an instant background check run on them?" asked a reporter.

"That is absolutely correct," replied the superintendent.

Melba Pearson, deputy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida,

**“**  
I was not aware of this new system and/or added functionality of the existing system ... As a result, I am requesting additional information regarding the existing system and/or any functionality enhancements that will conduct 'immediate' background checks on parents visiting their child's school.  
**”**

Steve Gallon III

is concerned there is also a privacy issue that is part of this initiative to keep children safe.

"You have the government,

and the school as part of the government, looking into your private background, but it has no bearing on whether or not, [the background check] will keep the school safe, the students safe and the community safe," Pearson said.

Over-policing of schools has not shown to be more effective at improving school security, as well as reducing crime, she explained.

Undocumented parents also may be impacted by this type of school monitoring. Though M-DCPS by law has to keep undocumented students safe. Undocumented parents are often not able to access different forms of government-issued IDs, such as municipal IDs or driver licenses, said Tomas Kennedy, political director of the Florida Immigrant Coalition. "This is an example of lawmakers in Florida

putting Band-Aids on problems, and not addressing the systemic root issues of the situation," Kennedy said.

Kennedy, like Pearson, explained that this kind of monitoring doesn't solve the issues. "In fact, it aggravates other issues in our communities," he said.

Already the RAPTOR system has excluded someone from school grounds this semester, Carvalho reported. Friday morning, the RAPTOR system alerted local officers about an individual later identified as a sexual predator who was trying to gain access to the school. The individual was removed from the school by the local officers and later cleared, according to Schuster.

Schuster said the RAPTOR CEO told him it is illegal to do complete background checks on people without their consent. The RAPTOR isn't doing complete background checks, said Gonzalez-Diego Tuesday evening.

Still, it isn't clear how RAPTOR would exclude other than sexual predators. Board Member Steve Gallon III issued a memo last weekend, commending the efforts of the system to keep students safe but also seeking clarification of the statements Carvalho made during the Friday press conference regarding school safety measures.

"First, let me commend the smooth opening of schools and the enhanced security measures adopted by the Board and implemented by the District in partnership with the County and various municipalities," Gallon starts. "These efforts will provide the parents and community with an enhanced sense of security at the schools and safe-

ty for students."

He had several questions after reviewing footage of the Friday press conference:

"I was not aware of this new system and/or added functionality of the existing system ... As a result, I am requesting additional information regarding the existing system and/or any functionality enhancements that will conduct 'immediate' background checks on parents visiting their child's school."

He wanted to know if the measures had unintended consequences and legal implications. As of Tuesday evening, the district had not issued a written response, as he requested.

Added security measures include more than 3,000 high-definition cameras that are centrally connected with the county police department to facilitate rapid and integrated response in case of a crisis. Overall, the county has about 15,000 cameras that are part of the unified network closely monitored by the school system and county officers.

"We have restored normalcy in our community by welcoming thousands of kids to our school houses," Carvalho said. "Officers are on site and parents are happy."

Rodolfo Rodriguez, Kenwood principal, expects that increased security and police presence will result in smooth daily operations in the school and has heard positive feedback from parents. "It takes less than 30 seconds to come in and out, to do the background check," Rodriguez said. "It's smooth and quick, and they know their students are safe."

Miami Times executive editor Carolyn Gunniss contributed to this report.



# VETERANS SUPPORT OFFSHORE ENERGY

TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE, WE NEED AMERICAN ENERGY

Fisheries stand to benefit from the potential of large reserves of energy located off our shores. Advanced energy technologies today allow safe, environmentally-responsible and out-of-sight access to natural gas, oil and wind energy that could boost our state economy and strengthen our national security.

Offshore development also supports greater investment in everything from hospitals, tourism and food services to trucking and manufacturing. If the offshore Eastern Gulf of Mexico is developed, within 20 years, it could mean annual spending for our state of more than \$2.6 billion, and more than \$1.3 billion annually in state revenue if a revenue sharing agreement is reached.

That's why military veterans from across Florida support offshore energy exploration. Today's technology allows energy exploration to safely occur alongside commercial fishing, boating and recreation activities, and military operations.

\*Assumes a 27.5% revenue sharing of bonuses, rents, and royalties similar to Gulf states without an annual cap.

# BUSINESS

THE MIAMI TIMES | AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 | MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

Finance  
Technology  
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Money  
Small Business  
Careers

SECTION **B**



Brian Brackeen, center, talks to attendees at an Aug. 15 workshop on cryptocurrency in Overtown.

Miami Times photo/ Belynda Wesley

## THE DIGITAL HUSTLE: Cryptocurrency

**BELYNDA WESLEY**  
Special to The Miami Times

Black Miami showed interest in knowing about cryptocurrency, an electronic financial instrument that is changing the world of money.

Brian Brackeen, the founder of tech company, Kairos, shared his story about how he used cryptocurrency to shore up his young business, during a monthly meet-up of techies Aug. 15 at the Tribe Urban Innovation Lab in Overtown.

When Brackeen first started Kairos, which is best known for its facial recognition software, he was just like a lot of business starters — a man with a book bag

and a dream, pitching to different investors about how their money will be put to good use if invested. Just like many he received a ton of no's, broken promises and money that never came.

"My employees and I were working on Christmas. I wanted to give them a holiday bonus, and the money that I was supposed to receive, pulled out at the last minute," Brackeen said of times when the company was short on cash.

Once Brackeen discovered cryptocurrency, he used his new funds to turn Kairos into a greater company. "I bought those funds and bought a company called Motion Reader, a multi-million-dollar deal. Cryptocurrency made Kairos

**SEE DIGITAL 10B**



Bitcoin, pictured, is one of the popular forms of Cryptocurrency.

## Investing in bedroom business

Miami couple launches monthly sensual subscription box service

**FELECIA HATCHER**  
Black Enterprise

Studies have shown that a lack of focus on intimacy at home and in business can lead to a decrease in emotional intelligence, leadership, product design, customer service and self-care. It's a vicious cycle, but one entrepreneur is looking to help end it by thinking inside the box, the subscription box, that is.

In 2017, Dani Spikes founded the BeLoved Box, a subscription box designed to help busy couples inject some intimacy back into their lives. According to Spikes, the BeLoved Box was born out of necessity and started when Spikes used a couple of \$50 Ama-

“

Building a business, either by yourself or with your partner, can bring you closer and can be one of the most fulfilling experiences you'll ever have . . . ”

Dani Spikes

Spikes to start working on a host of other products via a subscription box model.

With a zero-dollar marketing budget, the couple relied on some unique guerrilla marketing tactics,



Photo courtesy of The Spikes

**Stephen and Dani Spikes**

zon gift cards to purchase her first small batch of all-natural ingredients to treat her husband's eczema. The massage oils she created with them were a hit with her husband, leading

like strategically leaving BeLoved Box products around hotels. A week later, she received a call asking her to pitch the product to the CEO of Roam Resorts, **SEE BOX 10B**



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS

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

**Got a Section 8 voucher? Here is how you use it**

To some, there's nothing like receiving an offer letter in the mail from Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development for a Hous-

ing Choice Voucher, better known as Section 8.

It's even joyous when notified your ranking number has made its way to the top of the list. Imagine that! All

those months and sometimes even years calling to check on the status of your application, looking in the mailbox and then the day finally comes that you're scheduled for an eligibility interview. Just be sure gather all documents requested. Do not miss the appointment. In South Florida, where rental rates outpace wages, Housing Choice Vouchers are considered to be the keys to affordable living for both full-time and part-time workers and a surefire way to not pay more than 30 percent of one's income on rent. Currently, the county's public housing



**Pierre**

department subsidizes rent for more than 16,000 families on Section 8, while thousands more have been waiting since July 2008. Valicia Day and her family waited seven years and finally got issued a voucher from Miami-Dade two-years ago.

"I was so anxious to get my voucher, I waited for a long time. When I applied I had two children, but when I finally got it, I had three by then. Now, that I got it, I want to know how to use it and what are the benefits to help me become independent, not dependent," said Day.

**VOUCHERS USED LOCALLY, BUT**

While housing programs provide assistance to many, there are ways to ensure your Section 8 voucher works for you. For instance, if you are already a participant of Section 8 and your housing needs change, some vouchers are portable, allowing you to move and not lose your voucher or subsidy. As with any process, there are steps that you must take first. To find out more information on portability for Section 8 vouchers, visit [www.miamidade.gov/housing/portability.asp](http://www.miamidade.gov/housing/portability.asp). There are also federal policies in place through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2013, which

protects all individuals who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, regardless of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. Those protected by the VAWA Act should not be denied admission (applicants); should not lose continued assistance (tenants), or face termination from participating in the housing program altogether. In fact, there are resources to help and an emergency transfer plan available for victims of domestic violence.

Offered as a voluntary option is homeownership. If you participate in Miami-Dade's Section 8 program, you just might be able

**SEE PIERRE 10B**

## THE ZIEGLER REPORT



Photos courtesy of JFC Miami

# Athletes serve up more than blocks

Miami Heat's Udonis Haslem and Ray Allen score big in restaurant industry

JENNY ZIEGLER  
Zsportsreport@gmail.com

How sad would the world be if everyone was only allowed one talent? And, as in the case with most professional athletes, said talent was all used up by the time you reach 40 years old.

You're considered over-the-hill, washed up ... done. While some athletes reluctantly fade out of the limelight, others are transitioning into that next thrilling chapter of their lives.

From the bright lights of the basketball court to the lights that are brightening up their kitchens, beloved Miami Heat stars Udonis Haslem and Ray Allen are showing that they are greater than the sum of their physical talents. These world champions are showing that they have brawn and brains.

Blocked is the notion of the "dumb athlete." "Shut up and dribble" — get outta here with that.

A mind is a terrible thing to waste and these champs are using theirs to continue living their best lives. And they have chosen the food industry.

Although everyone must eat, being a restaurateur is one of the hardest business ventures to find any sustained success. The industry is massive, and many restaurants don't make it past the first couple of years of operation.

You need sound financial backing, a good restaurant concept, good business decisions and location, location, location. Many an athlete has lent their name and their celebrity to restaurants only to see them fail within a few years.

Whether it be via established franchise models or a fresh new concept,

both Haslem and Allen have made success in the restaurant business look as smooth and as easy as a blocking an opponent's path to the basket or finding a sweet spot in the corner to drill a three-pointer. With a combined five championship rings between the two of them, these world champs are bringing opportunity back to a community that has shown them so much love.

In basketball ease, "feed me" figuratively means give me the ball, but literally, these athletes are feeding the South Florida community.

Haslem, known as Mr. 305, has been serving up good food in the Miami area for more than 10 years. He has franchise holdings in Einstein Bro Bagels, Auntie Annie's Pretzels, Subway and Starbucks.

Along with them, 30 new job opportunities for the unemployed and young adults from low-income families in the Miami community.

In a joint venture with his JFC Miami, business partner, Ramona D. Hall, the power forward recently opened an Einstein Bros. Bagels in MiamiCentral that will be serving Florida's Brightline train station passengers from Fort Lauderdale to West Palm Beach to Miami to Orlando.

### HE'S GOT RESTAURANT GAME

Two-time NBA champion, Allen, who will forever be remembered for his Game 6, 3-point shot in the waning seconds that propelled the Heat to a Game 7, and eventually, a third world championship has made Miami his home. And he is infusing the community through his restaurant called Grown — real food cooked slow for



In a joint venture with his JFC Miami business partner, Reginal D. Hall, Udonis Haslem opened an Einstein Bros. Bagels in MiamiCentral.



Udonis Haslem and Ramona D. Hall

fast people.

These days people are paying more attention to the foods they are putting into their bodies. No GMO. No preservatives. No hormones. No processed sugars.

Allen and his wife, Shannon are acting as point guards by dishing out a fresh twist on an old idea.

### HEALTHY FAST FOOD

In a first-of-its-kind restaurant, they are serving South Florida local, organic, nutrient-rich ingredients for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Upon request, there is also a vegan option for everything on the menu.

Their family-friendly environment includes an iPad bar equipped with nutrition and fitness-themed interactive games, designed to educate all on healthy eating habits. They also encourage their younger patrons to grow their own gardens.

Their ultimate goal is to offer tasty, healthy meals

while inspiring healthy eating habits and exercise.

So, when you are ready to get your eat on and possibly a celeb sighting, stop on by any of these local athlete-owned eateries.

And, as if he doesn't have enough on his "plate" already, Miami's favorite son will soon be joining his teammate and new business partner at MiamiCentral.

Dwyane Wade is his name and now serving up pizza is their game. Wade and Haslem have teamed up to open 800 Woodfired Kitchen. On the menu is wood-fired oven pizza, rotisserie meat and salads.

Maybe Wade can bring some of his wine collection to wash that down with.

Their first stop on the Wade/Haslem pizza tour will be in Aventura this fall. The next stop will be in MiamiCentral some time next year.

But if you can't stand the "Heat" then you better stay out of these hometown heroes' kitchens.



Photo courtesy of Black Professionals Network

## Black professionals network to achieve

"Together Each Achieves More" is the motto for the Black Professionals Network, and the members stick by it.

Every third Thursday of the month, the local group hosts a networking mixer. On Sep. 28-29, BPN will host its conference, Black Professionals Summit. The summit offers members cross-industry networking, professional headshots, workshops and an organization and business fair. The next mixer will be 6 to 9:30 p.m., Sep. 27 at Lique Miami, 3957 NE 163rd St., North Miami Beach.

## BOX

CONTINUED FROM 8B

leading to her first international distribution deal.

### COUPLE- PRENEURS AND INTIMACY

The National Federation of Independent Business says that between 800,000 to 1,000,000 businesses are run by husband-and-wife teams — meaning both partners are likely too swamped to remember to carve out time for intimacy at home.

Spikes, an avid user of her own products, understands the strain that a hectic work life can im-

pose at home as well as anyone, she runs the company with her husband Stephen Spikes.

"It's not easy for us," she said. "Our biggest obstacle is learning how to manage the balance between our marriage and business and remembering that our marriage is the reason why we started the business in the first place."

"Much like having a healthy relationship with self [can] prevent entrepreneurs from getting lost in the perils of starting a new business, having a healthy intimate relationship as a 'couple-preneur,' [or co-preneur] is essential to open lines of communication, building

trust, and consistency," Spikes said. "There is definitely a need for ensuring that those couples are not only meeting customers' needs, but their own personal needs as well."

### MASSIVE GROWTH IN THE SUBSCRIPTION BOX INDUSTRY

Finding that balance is easier than ever thanks to Spikes' subscription boxes. According to Inc, the e-commerce subscription industry has exploded recently, with 3000 percent growth in web traffic over the last three years with leading subscription box startups like Birch-Box and Curl Box. It's a brilliant delivery

system for Spikes' unique brand of intimacy injection. Couples who sign up for BeLoved Box get all the necessary supplies for their sexy stay-at-home dates sent to their door regardless of whether they remember it's scheduled or not, leaving no room for excuses.

### EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND INTIMACY IN BUSINESS

But lack of intimacy isn't just a problem with consequences at home. According to Spikes, it can have a profound impact on business as well.

"In our business, intimacy improves our leadership with communication and

familiarity. It improves our customer service and product design by preemptively facilitating our customers' needs before they're even articulated to us. It strengthens our staff by reinforcing a culture and an awareness that every contribution matters to the goal and growth of the company, and it enhances emotional intelligence, all of which leads to more profitability."

She's right. Close, intimate relationships have a significant effect on emotional intelligence — or EQ — and there are a ton of business benefits associated with higher EQs, especially for entrepreneurs. For instance,

leaders with high emotional intelligence are more popular and effective with their subordinates. High-EQ also aids in coping with stressful situations — something entrepreneurs encounter on a daily basis.

Prioritizing a renewed focus on intimacy should be an easy choice considering the benefits it can bring — both in the

bedroom and at work. Luckily, while the pitfalls that running a small business present for maintaining healthy relationships are very real, they're also very avoidable with a little attentiveness, according to Spikes. She firmly believes that the right attitude can help reframe the challenges as positives that actually help to strengthen relationships.

"Building a business, either by yourself or with your partner, can bring you closer and can be one of the most fulfilling experiences you'll ever have. Know that while you're building your business, you are also learning about your partner and yourself in a whole new way, and that's a very good thing."

## DIGITAL

CONTINUED FROM 8B

a 10-times better company."

Brackeen was speaking at a monthly meetup event by Black Tech Miami, a group designed to bring together tech entrepreneurs and innovators of color. This workshop was for the money makers, focusing on cryptocurrency.

Brackeen told The Miami Times he travels to different cities and countries to educate people of color on what cryptocurrency is and how it has benefited his life and business and how it could possibly benefit their life as well.

In the United States, the U.S. dollar is very stable, transferable and easy to use. In other countries, it's not easy to transfer nor

are they stable. Cryptocurrency was born for people in other countries who can now use this digital currency to

have the same benefits as a stable currency.

A Norwegian man bought \$27 worth of bitcoin in 2009 and forgot about them; He later discovering their value had shot up to \$980,000 at today's price. Bitcoin is the most known cryptocurrency. There are local bitcoin ATMs all around South Florida and the most common ones are inside your local gas station.

There are two types of cryptocurrency; equity and stock. People can use the digital currency as another way to buy real estate. The equities are changing the world, according to Brackeen.

Where does this digital currency even come from, and how can you get a hold of it? Cryptocurrency doesn't just exist; it has to be mined like gold out of the ground. Brackeen explains the currency is later held in a network called Block Chain that verifies if it is real or not.

"Anybody can mine with just a lap-

top at home; set up a login, install special software's and start mining. A regular computer can mine a few hundred dollars a month."

Essentially, bitcoin doesn't have any value, compared to the dollar. The currency doesn't mean anything until people believe in its value. When people believe in the coin, it then has value.

Brackeen believes if you invest in crypto now, you will be rewarded.

But just like everything in life, you have to take the risk. Cryptocurrency is trading just like regular stocks. You're investigating your money to hopefully have a profit at the end. Knowing when to hold and when to sell is the challenge.

According to Brackeen, to get your hands into the mix, you only need \$10 to start. If things go well, you will see an increase from 100 to 200 percent. You either cash in your earnings or re-invest for a bigger profit.

## PIERRE

CONTINUED FROM 8B

to purchase your very own home by using a subsidy from the Section 8 voucher. Interested in doing so, locate your client identification number and call 305-403-3222 to add your name to the "Interest List" for homeownership. There are also other "allowances" such as payment for utility bills that may be available to you.

After you have selected an approved unit, there are

disclosures that you must be made aware of such as lead-based paint and notification of your rights and obligations under the Violence Against Women Act, in addition to the lease. Should you require reasonable accommodations or a live-in aid to make your unit more accessible for you and your family to live in, there are some changes or modification that can take place.

### HOUSING OPTIONS AND TRAININGS

There are several ways to look for available proper-

ties being offered for rent, but be sure to beware of scams. One common site to search is [www.GoSection8.com](http://www.GoSection8.com). Also, keep in mind there is a time limit for you to find a place once you receive a voucher; you are able to request an extension or two. After finding a place, and if it's determined that the rental amount is far above your voucher amount, refer the landlord/owner to Miami-Dade County's resolution number R-1093-01 which was sponsored by County Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and later approved by the board

in 2011, which urges owners to lower rents. That ruling gives you the power to negotiate; use it. So you see, there are many ways to use your voucher. If it were me, I would make the most of my voucher and the resources, too. Soon, there will be training available for tenants from On the Grid Community Solutions LLC to inform and educate about housing rights.

Got a section 8 voucher? Have questions on how to use it? Share your story. Contact Daniella Pierre at [fordablehousingmatters@gmail.com](mailto:fordablehousingmatters@gmail.com)

### CITY OF MIAMI ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

IFB NO. 936381

MED-ENG EOD 10 BOMB SUITS AND ACCESSORIES

CLOSING DATE/TIME: 2:00 PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Monday, September 10, 2018 at 5:00 PM)

Detailed specifications for this bid is available at the City of Miami, Department of Procurement Charles Johnson at [cjohnson@miamigov.com](mailto:cjohnson@miamigov.com)

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

AD NO. 26783

Emilio T. González, Ph. D.  
City Manager

### CITY OF MIAMI ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

IFB NO. 700384

HOLIDAY TREE AND ACCESSORIES, MAINTENANCE, STORAGE, SETUP, BREAKDOWN FOR BAYFRONT PARK

CLOSING DATE/TIME: 2:00 PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

(Deadline to Request additional information/clarification: Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 5:00 PM)

VOLUNTARY: Pre-Bid/Pre-Proposal Conference: Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 10:00 AM; Location: Bayfront Park Management Trust ("BPMT") 301 N. Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33132

Detailed specifications for this bid is available at the City of Miami, Department of Procurement Charles Johnson at [cjohnson@miamigov.com](mailto:cjohnson@miamigov.com)

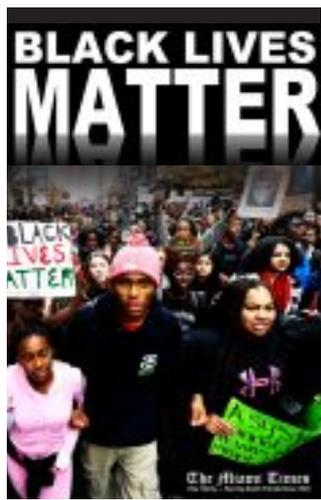
THIS BID SOLICITATION IS SUBJECT TO THE "CONE OF SILENCE" IN ACCORDANCE WITH CITY OF MIAMI CODE SECTION 18-74 ORDINANCE NO. 12271.

AD NO. 26784

Emilio T. González, Ph. D.  
City Manager



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## How affordable is South Florida?

RENTS AND HOME PRICES ARE HIGHER HERE; THE NATION'S 12TH MOST-EXPENSIVE AREA FOR HOMEOWNERS

**RON HURTBUSE**  
*Sun Sentinel*

How affordable is life in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties compared with the rest of Florida?

You might be surprised to find out where financial planning site SmartAsset.com ranks us on its affordability scale.

We think of South Florida as a high-cost region because of the attention given to pricey mansions, ritzy restaurants, boutique pocket dogs and luxury automobiles. But according to its new study, purchasing power in each of the three counties compared with the state's 64 other counties

**“**Counties that rank higher in our study have an income that more favorably covers that cost of living. Counties where the inverse is true will rank lower.”  
**”**

Ross Urken

is more favorable than we might assume.

In Florida, counties identified as having the strongest purchasing power tended to be smaller counties with waterfront profiles, including St. Johns, Nassau, Santa Rosa, Collier and Brevard — all of which were in the top 10.

Palm Beach County was ranked 15th, Broward County ranked 23rd and Miami-Dade County was 41st in purchasing power.

Yes, rents and home prices are higher here, and South Florida is the nation's 12th most-expensive area for home prices, as recent-



A view of the Ritz Carlton condo building in Fort Lauderdale, where condo sales have seen an uptick and prices have risen over the past year.

ly pointed out by HSH.com, which sells mortgage data to the home-selling industry. But that's balanced by lower prices generated by increased competition from more businesses such as car dealerships, grocery stores and home health-care providers, experts say.

The personal finance website estimated how much money it costs to live in each U.S. county — based on costs for housing, food and transportation — and compared that with median incomes for those counties to produce a purchasing power index.

Palm Beach County got the No. 15 spot on the list largely because its median income, \$55,277, is comparatively high compared with its estimated \$38,400 annual cost of living. Even though the county has the second-highest cost of living, its median income is

ninth-highest, resulting in a difference between median income and cost of living of \$16,877.

“Counties that rank higher in our study have an income that more favorably covers that cost of living,” SmartAsset senior editor Ross Urken said. “Counties where the inverse is true will rank lower.”

In Florida, counties with strongest purchasing power tend to have a lot of retirees who buy homes with income earned outside the county and can take advantage of lower overall prices for goods and services, said William Stronge, economist and professor emeritus at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

Broward has a median income of \$52,954 (12th-highest) and estimated cost of living of \$37,880 (fifth-highest), while Miami-Dade was 41st because of its more

narrow spread between median income, \$44,224, and estimated cost of living, \$35,087.

Costs are controlled in urban counties such as Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade because of what Stronge called “agglomeration economies” — those are benefits derived because of people and companies locating near each other.

Examples include home health-care workers who can charge less for their services because they have to commute a short distance to their jobs, compared with the same workers in rural areas who might have to drive 50 miles, he said. Shipping companies and restaurants that open in industrial parks also benefit the parks’ tenants by trimming commute costs to access those services, he said.

Because they are cluster-

ed, “then people meet and discover the latest techniques for managing and doing jobs and that improves efficiency,” he said. “That’s called an external economy of scale as opposed to an internal economy of scale, such as Henry Ford developing more efficient ways to run his assembly line. It’s when you get benefits from outside your firm.”

Similarly, urban areas draw more businesses to compete with one another, keeping prices lower for consumers, Stronge said.

Because supermarkets are both competing and serving larger customer bases, they can command lower prices from suppliers and pass the savings along.

In SmartAsset’s rankings, counties with the weakest purchasing power tend to have small populations, be inland and dependent on low-paying agriculture jobs,

including the bottom five: 63) Jackson; 64) Madison; 65) Dixie; 66) Glades; and 67) Putnam.

Nationwide, counties with the lowest purchasing power ratings tended to be concentrated in the Deep South — Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri — as well as New Mexico, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

States with high concentrations of counties with high purchasing power include Texas, Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, North and South Dakota, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Large-population states, including Florida, New York, California, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin, have roughly even distributions of counties with high and low purchasing power rates.



Photos courtesy of Stamina Academy

# Beyond Athletics

FORMER NBA PLAYER DEREK ANDERSON CREATES SCHOOL THAT TEACHES ACTS OF KINDNESS, REAL-WORLD LESSONS

CURTIS BUNN  
Urban News Service

Derek Anderson, the former San Antonio Spurs star, wants to teach Black kids how to talk to the police.

Growing up virtually homeless in Louisville, Kentucky, Anderson made the unlikely journey from inner-city high school to college basketball star at the University of Kentucky and then an 11-year career in the NBA, crowned by a championship with the San Antonio Spurs.

None of that would have happened, he said, had he not treated people with kindness from his earliest memory. Kindness is transformative.

That insight inspired him to create the Stamina Academy, an after-school and weekend program in his hometown. While free of charge, the school demands a lot from its students, who are boys ranging from fifth grade through 12th.

The lessons taught are what sets Stamina Academy apart. Instructors present scenarios

that students may encounter in everyday life and teach them how to manage potentially explosive encounters—including ones with law enforcement. The scenarios are filmed to be watched and studied.

In one film, a student plays a police officer who has just pulled over another student in a random traffic stop, as often happens in the real world. The pretend-officer challenges the student with increasingly uncomfortable questions. The student-driver learns how to keep calm and avoid feeling provoked.

"They see first hand how something can get out of hand and how something can be avoided," Anderson said. "They figure that if they respond with respect there could be no escalation to the situation."

The real-world lessons may be just as valuable as learning to diagram a sentence or remember what happened on July 2, 1776. "It's just as important that kids have strong life skills as it is they achieve

**“You never hear that from a coach. He’s a great example of what he wants the kids to become. We’re a family about community service and D.A. reinforces the spirit of gratitude.”**

Stephen Franklin

in the classroom." Anderson said. "We want to produce well-rounded kids who can avoid challenging situations through knowledge and being kind and positive, and who understand it all starts simply with being nice."

Anderson uses his calm demeanor has carried him

through, around and above various situations.

Staying calm wasn't easy. His father was not in his life and his mother, who battled drugs, often was not there. "When I wanted a job at the candy store and grocery store, I was kind and polite and it helped me get hired," Anderson said. "When I needed to sleep at someone's home, I was kind and grateful. Always. That's what got me through."

Anderson uses basketball to lure his 76 students. The former star player takes a hands-on approach to coaching, and his players benefit from his vast experience and know-how. "And who Derek is as a person is important," said Rontisha Toney, whose son, Austin, plays basketball and attends Stamina Academy after school and on weekends. "He focuses on the kids as people. He's positive. He's patient, always smiling. After practice, the player who performs the best in character and in play gets a belt that he gets to take home for the

night. That kind of stuff helps build character and let's them know it is more than just about the game."

Anderson is among the most-respected citizens in Louisville, largely due to the class and grace he displayed during his basketball career. Now he wants more young players to follow his lead.

He told the story of one of his 13-year-old students approaching an older woman at a Louisville Dairy Queen and paying for her order. "The woman cried," Anderson said. "If they perform acts of kindness everyday," he said, "it becomes a lifestyle. That's how you make change."

Stephen Franklin, whose 14-year-old son Miles, attends Stamina and plays for its team, said a gesture by Anderson stood out to him—and validated what he teaches the boys.

"My wife is busy, I'm busy. My daughter is in dance," Franklin recalled. "And I called D.A. [Anderson] to tell him I would be late getting Miles to practice. He shocked

me when he said, 'Want me to go get him?'"

"You never hear that from a coach. He's a great example of what he wants the kids to become. We're a family about community service and D.A. reinforces the spirit of gratitude."

Students can spend the night in the Stamina gym, where tents are set up on the basketball court. There is a shower, a sauna and a barber. Anderson provides food and clothes for those who need them.

He guesses he has spent about \$60,000 to make phase one of Stamina Academy a reality. He is seeking funds and property to build out a full-scale campus to teach more young men.

"The plan is to make it everything I wish I had growing up," he said.

"We have to be the example, be positive, to change the way people act, the way people deal with each other," Anderson said. "I say it all the time: Being kind is the greatest gift in the world."

# Barber's beard wax turns into hair care profit

Homemade all-natural product births business jackpot for Black family

CURTIS BUNN  
Urban News Service

Two years and 40 attempts later, Kevin Rodgers' hair-care product had to pass a final test: His wife's.

Following another late-night session where he mixed a special blend of natural oils in the kitchen of his Atlanta home, the 49-year-old Rodgers waited expectantly as his wife Lorraine rubbed the creamy pomade into her palms and then her hair.

"I needed her approval," Rodgers said. "After all that work, it wasn't done until she said it was."

She looked him in the eye, smiled and gave her husband the thumbs up.

SHWAXX Hydrate and Style was naturally born. The all-natural product Rodgers intended to manage beards was a multipurpose reality. Through his experimentations, Rodgers created a water-soluble pomade that softens, hydrates and conditions all textures of beards and hair, especially coarse, thick hair consistent with many Black people.

His product features Shea butter, jojoba wax and other organic ingredients that Rodgers toyed with for years before coming up with the

**“Some would say it was a struggle, but I would say it was a journey. An exhilarating journey.”**

Kevin Rodgers

right formula.

"Some would say it was a struggle, but I would say it was a journey," Rodgers said. "An exhilarating journey." But Rodgers also knew that developing a great product was only the first step in realizing his dream. His next challenge was to transform himself from a creative inventor to a savvy entrepreneur.

Rodgers earns his living as a barber at his own boutique Atlanta shop, The Tilted Crown, replete with two chairs. In developing SHWAXX, Rodgers would end his workday as a barber and begin his evenings in the kitchen of his Atlanta home filling pots with various oils, mixing them to create about 40 pleasant-smelling incarnations over two years, he said. He test-marketed eight



Photos courtesy of Urban News Service

Kevin Rodgers, founder of SHWAXX

of those versions on clients before settling on the blend that earned his wife's approval.

"Barbering is art and science," Rodgers said. "I study and practice the science of natural hair, the ingredients that can alter that hair and the results of these experiments. I chose to handcraft new products as an extension of my service as a barber."

Wife of 24-years, Lorraine, and daughters, Jaijah, a 2018 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Savannah State University, and Peyton, an incoming freshman at Howard Univers-

ity, served as his aides, stirring the oils, jarring them and applying labels to the finished product — or just supporting his vision.

Rodgers enrolled in the StartMe Small Business Accelerator program held at and sponsored by the Emory University Goizueta School of Business and nonprofit organizations that empower small businesses.

The 14-week program connects a select group of entrepreneurs to the knowledge, networks and capital needed to build and develop sustainable businesses. He became

one of just 24 peer selected ventures to receive startup capital through the program. SHWAXX was among the recipients of a Growth Seed Investment Grant.

"Halfway through the program... I stopped looking to win the seed grant, and focused heavily on my business plan, income statement and balance sheet," he said.

"StartMe gave us knowledge, network, and access to capital. We learned that knowledge must be converted into wisdom, network must become relationships and access to capital begins with a solid business plan and income projections. More specifically, I learned that accounting is the language of business."

He said he plans to use the \$4,000 award to help produce larger quantities of SHWAXX and to expand his marketing platform.

The goal, said Rodgers, who attended Norfolk State University with his wife after they met in high school, is for SHWAXX to evolve into a family business with his three women playing various significant roles in the management, production, marketing and selling of the product. "A local business and brand with global reach. Ultimately the SHWAXX brand will be a go-to product for natural hair consumers worldwide," he said.

As part of his marketing ef-

fort, he showcased SHWAXX at the Bronner Bros. International Beauty Show in Atlanta last February — one of the nation's most prestigious showcases for Black hairstylists, barbers and makeup artists.

One attendee, Cedric Frazier, owner of Anointed Cuts barbershop in San Antonio, was impressed. "There are all kinds of products being sold and I usually don't buy any at that event," Frazier said. "But Kevin said, 'Just try it.' I did—and I hit the jackpot."

"It's all natural and it's multi-purpose," Frazier added. "When my clients use it and come to me, I can cut their hair. But if they use traditional hair grease, it's going to be a long day. I have to shampoo their hair and get that stuff out of it. And with SHWAXX, you can use it on waves, dreadlocks, twists, beards. It hydrates the hair and you can style it at the same time."

SHWAXX received an even bigger boost through the hit television show, "Atlanta," which stars Donald Glover. It was placed in a scene in the first episode of the recently completed Season 2 of the Emmy Award-winning FX series.

"Over one million viewers have seen our SHWAXX logo [through the show]," Rodgers said. "Now we've got to help them understand what they saw... That's the exciting part."

# Piano Prodigy

MATTHEW WHITAKER FEELS HIS WAY ACROSS THE KEYBOARD

**JULIANA ACCIOLY**  
*Miami Times Contributor*

From the moment 17-year-old Matthew Whitaker stepped onto the stage, he won the crowd over.

His fingers moved confidently across the piano keyboard as he played his full debut album, "Outta the Box." Infused with R&B and gospel influences, the release, includes six compositions, many collaborations and four arrangements. It included a stirring rendition of the Brazilian song "Mas Que Nada" by Jorge Ben Jor, and the young artist played nothing short of a stellar set.

Matthew is blind.

There was a lot of soul and a lot of jazz in the Faena Theater in Miami Beach that Wednesday night. The intimate, sophisticated venue had unique charm and the local band a wonderful sense of improvisation.

Grammy-nominated record producer Rachel Faro and percussionist Sammy Figueroa were the curators and hosts. Matthew's concert was part of the Summer Jazz Series at the Faena Theater, a platform for outstanding emerging jazz artists like Matthew to showcase their work.

A New Jersey native, Whitaker has been playing professionally from the age 12. Born three months prematurely, he developed retinopathy of prematurity, an eye disorder which lead to his blindness after he

**SEE PIANO 2C**

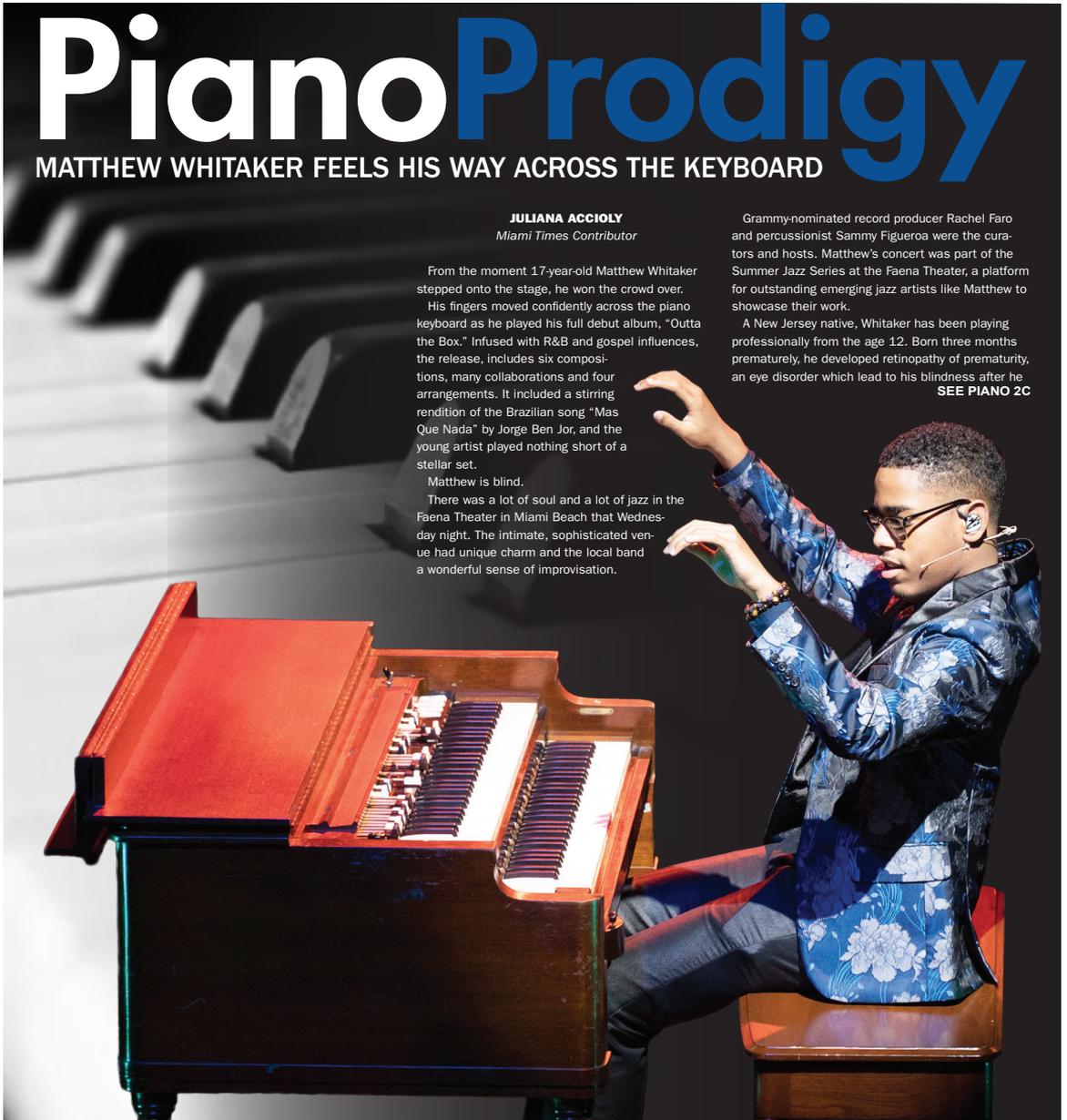


Photo courtesy of Anthony Magliore

## Local author feels connected to Wyclef Jean

Yanatha Desouvre wants musician to perform on 'The Daily Show' Miami

**FELIPE RIVAS**  
*frivas@miamitimesonline.com*

A local Haitian author feels a strong connection to fellow Haitian, multi-Grammy-winning musician and humanitarian, Wyclef Jean. He wants to commemorate Jean's musical legacy of more than 25 years, by getting him to appear on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah" as a guest and musical performer.

Yanatha Desouvre, a Kendall resident, is a polymath of sorts. He is an author, pianist, IT professional, marketing professional and professor who has been highly influenced by Jean.

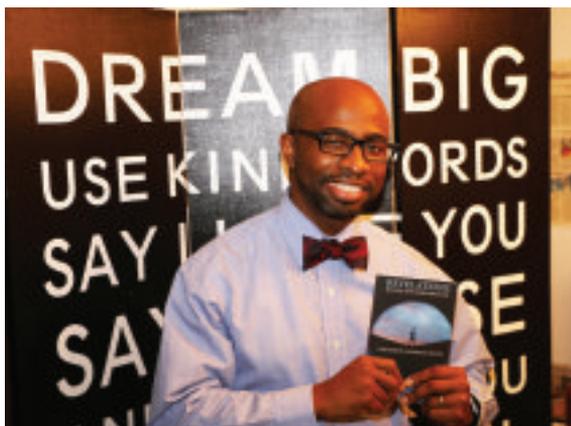
"The Daily Show" will film several "undesked" shows at the Fillmore Miami Beach at the Jackie Gleason Theater, which will air nightly from Monday, Oct. 29 to Thurs-

day, Nov. 1 at 11 p.m. Desouvre started an online petition to have Jean as a guest and musical performance.

As of Monday, Aug. 23, 19 people signed the petition. Desouvre's goal is to have at least 5,000 fans jump on board. He hopes to generate enough buzz to pique the interest of "The Daily Show" producers. "I gotta find a way to get myself and/or Wyclef on this show," Desouvre said. "There are so many things he's done in his career that it needs to be recognized."

The *Miami Times* attempts to contact representatives from "The Daily Show" were unsuccessful.

Jean found early success with the New York-based group, The Fugees, which featured Lauryn Hill. The group disbanded in 1997, after which Jean pursued a successful solo



Miami Times photo/Felipe Rivas

Yanatha Desouvre holds his latest novel, "Revelation: Roads to Redemption," where chapter titles are named after famous Wyclef Jean songs.

career. He was influenced by many artists and worked with acts such as Destiny's Child, Shakira and Whitney Houston.

But for Desouvre, being a Wyclef Jean fan is only part of the fuel for his petition. He has a deep-seeded connection with Jean that has inspired a lot of his personal works, both musical and literal.

Desouvre is the nephew of famous Haitian guitarists Amos Coulanges and Daniel Coulanges. Desouvre is the godson of Daniel, who died from complications of HIV in 1989.

"There are two degrees of Kevin Bacon separation between Wyclef and me," Desouvre said. Last year, while listening to Jean's remake of the Jacques Brel song "Ne Me Quitte Pas," from his album "Jouvert," Desouvre became teary-eyed because it was the same song that his godfather,

**SEE NOVEL 2C**

## NOVEL

CONTINUED FROM 1C

Daniel, affectionately sang to him as a child. Filled with emotion, Desouvre contacted his uncle, Amos, who informed him that he had a tape of Daniel's lost music, and sent him a copy.

In the tape was an acoustic rendition of "Ne Me Quitte Pas."

"When I saw the video, with each guitar string that my godfather plucked, I cried and cried," he said. "I was 11 years old when I last saw my uncle Daniel alive. My godfather was speaking directly to me with each string that he plucked."

Another song on the tape was an acoustic guitar rendition of "Killing Me Softly," a song that Jean covered while part of The Fugees. "Killing Me Softly" helped launch The Fugees to the national spotlight.

Desouvre is currently working on remastering Cou-

langes' newly found music in digital and physical CD format. He wants to expose new audiences to his late godfather's music and to encourage them to learn about their own HIV status.

He also plans on recording a posthumous duet album, where he will play the piano accompanying the harmonious sounds of his godfather's relevant titles.

In May, Desouvre's literature was featured in the Little Haiti Book Festival during Haitian Heritage month. His latest novel, "Revelations: Roads to Redemption," is the second in a series revolving around the character named Grayson Goodman and his team. The action-mystery-thriller novel addresses relevant topics such as mass shootings, police brutality and the NFL anthem protests. The series is described by a friend of the author as "the Haitian version of 'Mission Impossible.'"

Desouvre decided to pay homage to Jean by tilting the novel's chapters with song



Yanatha Desouvre's collection of published works, many of which have been Amazon best-sellers.

titles from Jean's extensive discography. He also honors Haitian proverbs by titling each chapter with a Haitian

proverb. Both the song titles and the proverbs serve as a preamble to the narrative of that chapter.

Desouvre has written a plethora of books in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. His books range from thrill-

ing novels to children books to audiobooks. Several of his books have been part of Amazon's best selling list.

## PIANO

CONTINUED FROM 1C

perceived too much oxygen in an incubator. The youngest of four siblings, he has been on quite a journey since then.

Matthew's journey has some similarities to Stevie Wonder, who was also a child prodigy. Wonder was born six weeks premature and also lost his sight due to retinopathy of prematurity. Wonder was discovered at age 11.

Matthew's musical talent became obvious to his family on his third birthday, when he played "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" with both hands on a toy keyboard. At age



Photo courtesy of Anthony Magliore

### Jazzmeia Horn

5, he became the youngest student at Lighthouse Guild in New York City and, a few years later, he earned the support of the Jazz Foundation of America. At 15, he was named a Yamaha Art-

ist, becoming the youngest musician to join the stellar group of jazz pianists. He has toured throughout Europe, Asia and the Middle East. On how music changed his life, Whitaker couldn't elab-

orate because as Faro said "music hasn't transformed Matthew's life because he was always music from the beginning."

His parents Moses and May Whitaker, whom he adores, value his education above all else. One of them is always on tour with him and insists on a routine of school work and regular activities such as playing video games, rock climbing and skiing.

His mother, who's Dominican born, noted that after a beginning of many sacrifices, "we just wanted to make sure he would survive." She still gets emotionally overwhelmed every time she sees him perform. "It is amazing how someone can be so passionate about something,"

she said.

A versatile pianist, young Whitaker has played the Apollo Theater, the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Stylistically, he "listens to everything" in the current music scene to distill it into his own sound while remaining rooted in the jazz traditions of keyboard deities such as Barry Harris, Jimmy Smith and Art Tatum.

He also plans on attending the Berkeley School of Music and wants to become a music director and producer. There's no reason to believe otherwise: his approach to jazz is that of a distinctive soul. He has that necessary dynamic touch and a penchant for dissonance, but most of all, his

imagination seems to know no bounds. He's immersed in the energy and spirit of the music he loves and lives to play. Judging from his fine performance and standing ovation, love of music, and time, are all he needs.

"Blindness doesn't stop him from anything, it's just a matter of him adapting to something a visual person can see," his father, Moses Whitaker said. "Doors just keep opening everywhere for Matthew to use his gift and share it with others."

"The final show of the Summer Jazz Series at Faena Theater is on Sept. 25 with Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist Jazzmeia Horn. Tickets start at \$50 at [www.faenalive.com](http://www.faenalive.com).

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# THE SOCIAL WHIRL

VENNDA-REI GIBSON | VENNDAL43@GMAIL.COM

And here we are as August ends and we approach Labor Day. I've been noticing the slight changes in the length of daylight of late and also noticing the fall decor being displayed in numerous stores. Brings to mind these words, "Oh, it's a long, long while from May to December; But the days grow short when you reach September."

And not to rush this time, but soon the season of fall will be here with its own agenda, so to speak. School is in, vacation is over, another social calendar will begin with many events. At 5 p.m. on Sunday, there will be a Voice Recital at the Church of the Transfiguration in



Heron

Opa-locka. The recital will feature two very talented vocalists, **Parker Burton**, countertenor and **Stephanie Heron**, soprano. **Burton** is from New Orleans and is a graduate of **Morris Brown College**. **Burton** has sung in operatic roles across the country including performance in New York and is among a growing number of countertenors. Since I had no idea of the meaning of the term countertenor, I am thankful for Google where I learned this: "A countertenor (also contra tenor) is a type of classical male singing voice whose vocal range is equivalent to that of the female contralto or mezzo-sop-

rano voice types. Countertenors often are baritones or tenors at their core, but on rare occasions use this vocal range in performance." **Heron** was born in New York and raised in Jamaica, West Indies, where she developed a love for classical music. **Heron** attended Andrews University, the flagship educational institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in Michigan. Both of these vocalists will be accompanied by **Lloyd Brockington**, a native of Orlando who taught vocal music at **Morris Brown College** in Atlanta, and also at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina. **Brockington** was director of the Concert Choir



Brockington

at **Morris Brown** where he taught **Parker Burton**. The really good news is that Sunday's afternoon concert is free to the public. You are encouraged to come and be inspired by the musical talents of these two vocalists. The past two weeks have brought both good and not-so-good news. Community tidings is what I like to call them. A quote attributed to **Maya Angelou** says, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." I thought of this when I heard of the death of two women I knew: **Alexine Delancy** and **Ruth Moore**. **Ms. Delancy** taught

physical education at Liberty City Elementary when I attended there. A few years ago, she called me and said she had something she wanted to give me, so I went to her home on **Percival Avenue** in Coconut Grove. We had a wonderful visit, reminiscing, she remembering more about me in the fifth grade than I remembered about myself. What she had for me was an old-school newspaper with an article I'd written. Honestly, I didn't remember being on the newspaper staff at Liberty City Elementary. It was touching that **Ms. Delancy DID** remember and reached out to share this with me. I felt the same way when I learned of the death of **Ruth Moore**. Her husband **Bennie Moore** taught me biology when I was in the 10th grade. He was more than a teacher; he was a mentor and motivator to his students. **Ruth Moore** never forgot me. Whenever I would



Burton

visit and worship at the Church of the Incarnation, she would come to me and say how much she enjoyed reading what I wrote. Both of these women had beautiful smiles, smiles that conveyed love, smiles that were heartwarming. I won't forget how they made me feel. In our lives we meet numerous people, some are unforgettable memories in the fabric of our lives. Rest in peace.

Sunday, Aug. 26 marked the 100th birthday of noted **NASA** mathematician **Katherine Johnson** whose story and career was told in the movie "Hidden Figures." Well-wishers all over sent birthday greetings with a post from <https://go.nasa.gov/Happy100Katherine>.

*I think I've caught up on the summer news and shared. The journey continues, indeed as we Live, Love, Pray, Laugh, Sing and Dance in the Whirl. Blessings*

## Patti LaBelle in recurring role for 'Greenleaf'

The church drama returns this week, find out what's in store this season

RODNEY HO

Atlanta Journal Constitution

During a cool March morning at the entrance of House of Hope Baptist Church in Decatur, R&B legend Patti LaBelle is shivering. A "Greenleaf" crew member drapes a robe over her between takes.

But once the cameras are rolling, LaBelle turns up the heat, playing a Type A Christian motivational speaker Maxine Patterson. Lady Mae Greenleaf (the steely Lynn Whitfield) has sought the advice of her old friend as she struggles with the dissolution of her marriage to pastor James Greenleaf (Keith David) following season 2

revelations of his expansive past infidelity with Lady Mae's sister Mavis (Oprah Winfrey).

"We're going to march the road girl and plant you a brand new one! Amen!" LaBelle's character says, before jumping into her limo and taking a call from T.D. Jakes.

There are plenty of new roads for the characters of OWN's "Greenleaf" when it returns Tuesday, August 28 at 10 p.m. as part of a two-night season three opener. And there are guest stars, too: Iyanla VanZant and Beau Bridges.

In the opening minutes of the season three, Lady Mae evokes her first line to her daughter Grace (Merle Dan-



Iyanla VanZant, playing herself, and Patti LaBelle (as a Christian motivational speaker) meet up with Lynn Whitfield's character Lady Mae during season 3 of "Greenleaf."

## Children's BOOK CORNER



CAROLYN GUNISS

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As children, we fantasized about what we wanted to be when we grow up. Sometimes what we wanted to grow up to be is driven by exposure, other times talent and ability lead the path. When the gift is physical, the very gift can feel like a burden. But once a child figures out that the gift can make an important contribution to their life and others, they learn to embrace it.

"Dancing in the Wings" by Debbie Allen helps young people understanding how to deal with what comes naturally in a palatable, real way.

Sassy likes to dance. She has big feet and is tall. Her brother, Hughie, she teases, has a big head. Mama explains that Sassy's feet will help her with her ballet lessons and that Hughie's forehead meant that he was smart. Mama was right on both fronts.



The Children's Trust

### Dance to your future

Book teaches self-confidence and redemption while coming of age



Debbie Allen

Sassy doesn't know how to control her limbs and sometimes is clumsy; she trips her teacher, Miss Katherine, during practice. And when it came to dancing with partners, Sassy was taller than all the boys and girls, so she had to watch the dance duets, in the wings of the stage.

The other dancers think Sassy is weird because she is so tall; they call her names. Sometimes Sassy fights back.

Dance class gets exciting when Miss Katherine says Mr. DeBato from Russia is looking for dancers for a

summer program in Washington, D.C. Mr. DeBato is tough on Sassy at the rehearsal. She is wearing the wrong color leotard, she's tall but her timing is off.

Sassy is chosen for the summer program. When she arrives, she meets her partner, a boy even taller than she is. So Sassy doesn't have to dance in the wings anymore.

Allen delivers messages about self-confidence, learning to grow and redemption in this beautifully illustrated book by Nelson.

This is a great book for children entering middle school. There they endure a lot of teasing, and there is a lot of fitting in. They can still feel positive about themselves with the support of their caregiver.

*Fun fact: Kadir Nelson is the brother of Salihah Nelson, vice president of Miami-based Urgent Inc., a youth and community development organization.*

dridge) from the very first episode two years ago about wondering if she was back in Memphis to "sow discord." Indeed, since Grace's arrival, coincidentally or not, Lady Mae's carefully constructed world has fallen apart.

"You and my sister [Oprah's character Mavis], you never had me until they're stewing in their own shame and sin," Lady Mae said. "Grace, you don't know the meaning of that word!"

"I didn't make Zora run away. I didn't make Kevin gay. And I certainly didn't send Daddy out the door to Auntie," said Grace, summarizing some key plot points from the first two seasons.

"You bang around this family like a bull in the china shop until everything is broken!" Lady Mae said, "acting like it's God's work."

"In this family," Grace said. "It is!"

Whitfield, in an interview on set in March, said this season is the culmination of the first two, a climactic battle for the soul (and leadership) of Greenleaf's Calvary church. Lady Mae is also having issues with her own kids. And there's that perpetual battle within herself.

"She's growing up," Whitfield said, "looking at the possibility of dispensable relationships she took 43 years to build. She is seeing that no matter how much she puts into her kids, she can't make them be who she wants them to be. And she is dealing with her own pain and hurt and complications of being a molested young girl herself."

And like many megachurches, the Greenleaf family faces its own reckoning with its finances and their own lavish lifestyle.

"I want to shine the light on the materialism of corporate religion," Whitfield said. "It's

so deeply counter to Biblical teaching... The planes, the Rolls, the 30,000-square-foot houses. Who really needs that? What does it take to be a shepherd? That's why I love doing this show. I feel like this show is of service."

Whitfield also isn't a fan of the cult of personality. "I want to be able to put forth be careful who you're following. The Bible tells you man will disappoint you every time. The relationship you're building is with God... I don't care if it's our pastor, a president, a lawyer or a doctor, you shall never place that man above us."

Whitfield's Lady Mae, though, has hardly become immune to her own ego. In one episode, she doesn't take kindly to Iyanla VanZant, who plays herself providing therapy for one of Lady Mae's daughters Charity (Deborah Joy Winans). When Lady Mae finds out VanZant had led Charity to blame Lady Mae for her issues, she tells VanZant she feels "bushwhacked."

VanZant, who in real life deals with angry clients all the time, is not fazed.

"You didn't ask me to come," VanZant said calmly. "I'll tell you this: when you get ready to deal with your pain, I vow that when you call, I'll be here."

In an interview after the scene, VanZant said she isn't an actress by trade and mostly plays roles that are essentially versions of herself like this.

"It's terror, human terror," she said, of Lady Mae's misdirected anger toward her. "It's easier for us to stay lost in the illusion we tell ourselves than face or confront the thing we fear most."

For Lady Mae, she said, it's about being exposed, it's about looking bad and being

abandoned.

"Lady Mae is not present," VanZant said, as if she were an actual person. "She's present in her role and image. I think that's very common place among leaders. They have to be who they think they have to be."

In real life, VanZant doesn't take on private clients anymore because she simply doesn't have the time shooting her show. (Her most recent season of "Iyanla Fix My Life" was shot in Atlanta.) But in her off time, she does watch a fair share of TV, name-dropping OWN shows such as "Queen Sugar" and "The Haves and the Have Nots" as well as "Law & Order: SVU," "Project Runway," "Top Chef," "Marriage Boot Camp: Reality Stars" and "Married at First Sight."

LaBelle, who is best known as a singer but has done a fair share of acting (recent credits include "Empire," "Daytime Divas" and "American Horror Story"), said she was honored to take on the role of Lady Mae's muse for five episodes. "It was so comfortable working with Lynn," she said. "I feel powerful with her, with Miss VanZant. It's three powerful women, women that don't play!"

Maxine, she notes, encourages Lady Mae to divorce the Bishop and take over Cavalry, "giving her the power to know she can do whatever she puts her mind to."

And given what happened with Oprah's character last season, there's a big question mark whether Mavis will be back at all season three - or ever. Whitfield, who spoke with me partway through production of the season, said, "We don't know yet. I would guess if we get a few more seasons, there'd be a reason for her to come back."

## Airbnb Getaways

# SANTA FE: FOR ART AND ADVENTURE

*A Georgia O'Keeffe fan takes his family on a quest for culture*

**RUMAAN ALAM**  
*Airbnbmag*

I tried talking her way with color. I tried praising the originality of her vision. I tried explaining the unorthodox way she lived—in times far more conservative than our own, no less. Finally, I went reptilian.

“Did you know that Georgia O'Keeffe had a snake's skeleton in her living room?”

This got their attention.

“A real skeleton?” Simon, 8, gasped. “Gross!” Xavier's reaction was more muted, awed, really. He loves snakes, animals, bugs, almost anything to do with the natural world. Nature—in paintings, in books, in documentaries—always has this effect on him, elicits some mix of curiosity, fear, and the healthy respect of a kid being raised in Brooklyn, where the closest he gets to nature is the occasional bold rat.

“A real skeleton,” I told them.

Xavier, 5, mulled this information, then pronounced, “I want to see that.”

When I was in college, O'Keeffe's desert landscapes and flowers were splashed all over dorm room posters, but I'd known her work for years. As a nerdy kid



**Xavier (in front) and Simon race out for a day of culture on their spring break.**



**In the Railyard District in downtown Santa Fe, an urban renewal project.**

# “

**There are four destinations atop Museum Hill (also home to the Santa Fe Botanical Garden): the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, and the Museum of International Folk Art.**

on trips to the National Gallery, I found myself drawn, time and time again, to her paintings, each startling, original, and revolutionary in its own way.

I've read the boys two beautiful children's books about O'Keeffe's life countless times: “My Name Is Georgia,” by Jeanette Winter, and “Through Georgia's Eyes,” by Rachel Rodriguez. They thrill at the illustration in Rodriguez's book of an older O'Keeffe asleep on the roof of her house at Ghost Ranch, blanketed by the stars, thinking it hilarious and kind of awesome that she climbed up to the roof in the middle of the night. But on some level, they understand what these books are trying to teach them: that this was a woman

unafraid to break from convention.

Which is why, faced with nine days of school break, David and I packed the boys up for Santa Fe: part family vacation, part pilgrimage. We were off to Abiquiú, where O'Keeffe's house is preserved just as it was when the artist left it for the last time in 1984—her spices meticulously organized in the pantry, the windowsills lined with rocks and bones, her dresses hanging in the closet—off to let the kids shake out their cooped-up winter selves in the New Mexico landscape that so inspired her. It's not that I hoped the trip would inspire them to become artists themselves. I wanted to show them what's possible in their lives—to see that

even for a woman older than their grandmothers, life remained an adventure.

The day we got to town, after a plane and car ride, we figured we'd wear them out with a bike ride before a visit to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum. This is our usual strategy; we'll run around in Central Park for an hour, then pop into the Met, or walk dozens of blocks on the High Line before a visit to the Whitney. Once they've expended that energy, it's easier to get them to look or, miracle of miracles, sit on a bench and sketch in a notebook while their dads stroll around for a minute.

Santa Fe sits more than 7,000 feet higher than New York. I felt awful—dehydrated and exhausted, hungover.

**SEE SANTA FE 5C**

**Simon kicks up some dust in the desert outside Santa Fe as his family looks on.**

Photos courtesy of David Land/Airbnbmag



# LIFESTYLE HAPPENINGS

COMPILED BY THE MIAMI TIMES STAFF  
EDITORIAL@MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

## EVENTS

### ■ The Miami Arts and Entertainment Council (MAEC)

Seventh Annual Paint Me Miami competition at 7 – 9 p.m. on Nov. 2, 8690 Biscayne Blvd #2. All talented artists, art students, up-and-coming artists and art aficionados are invited. The event is free. For more information, please visit the MAEC website at [www.miamigov.com/arts/](http://www.miamigov.com/arts/) or email Miriam Flores, [MiFlores@miamigov.com](mailto:MiFlores@miamigov.com).

### ■ Cardenas Marketing Network (CMN) Sports

An international soccer friendly event, Colombia and Venezuela; Sept. 7; Hard Rock Stadium, 347 Don Shula Dr. For more information and to purchase tickets,

please visit [www.hardrockstadium.com](http://www.hardrockstadium.com).

### ■ The Knight Foundation

Thoughts Over Coffee at 7-9 p.m. on Sept. 12 at 937 NW Third Ave. To dissect the thoughts of entrepreneurs. This event gives the community of entrepreneurs the opportunity to share their stories and experiences with other entrepreneurs or those that can relate. Please register at [bit.ly/2wcmfRj](http://bit.ly/2wcmfRj).

### ■ National Baptist Convention Health Bus Tour

1 – 6 p.m. on Sept. 16; 1899 NW 64th St. For more information, please contact Ms. Bryant at 305-301-6010 or email at [sg2back@aol.com](mailto:sg2back@aol.com).

### ■ Electronic Plan Review

The city of Miami representatives will host a ePlan community workshop at 10-11:30 a.m. on Sept. 22 at 7025 W. Flagler St. The workshop will inform the community on how the ePlan may affect them, the benefits of ePlan, protect dox and more. For more information, please email Kemarr L. Brown, program manager, at [enterpriseprojects@miamigov.com](mailto:enterpriseprojects@miamigov.com).

## SCHOOL MEETINGS:

### ■ Miami Northwestern Class of 1968

2 p.m. every fourth Saturday; African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave.; Info: Call 305-218-6171

### ■ Miami Northwestern Class of 1973

4 p.m. every third Sunday; location TBA; Info: Call 786-877-1176 or email [msoguns@aol.com](mailto:msoguns@aol.com)

### ■ George Washington Carver High School Class of 1966

Noon every second Saturday; 1234 NW 79th St.; Info: Call 305-300-7630

### ■ Miami 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

### ■ Booker T. Washington Class of 1959

11 a.m. Aug. 7 at Jackson Restaurant on 10th St and 3rd Ave in Overtown. For more information, call 305-989-0994.

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

## CLASSES:

### ■ Women in Transition of South Florida

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

### ■ Inner City Children's Touring Dance

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

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

## BOOK REVIEW

# 'Mabel and Sam at Home' is out of this world

They are plenty of chances to use imagination in this book for kids

TERRI SCHLICHSMEYER  
[bookworms@yahuoo.com](mailto:bookworms@yahuoo.com)

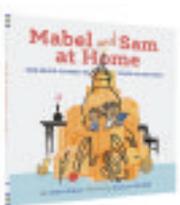
"Handle with Care."

That's what it said on the side of the box. Don't shake it, don't bump it, and whatever you do, don't drop it. What's inside there is important enough for careful lifting but, as you'll see in the new book, "Mabel and Sam at Home" by Linda Urban, illustrated by Hadley Hooper, the box itself isn't just a box.

Nothing was where it be-

longed, and movers were everywhere. It was a perfect time for Mabel and Sam to be underfoot, and that wasn't good. Just one place in the entire house was safe for little kids, and so "Mabel became a sea captain."

Once aboard their ship, Sam hoisted the sails and they left for adventure. It was a journey for the brave: there were rough seas and pirates, big fish and little fish. They managed to stay on board, though, until they saw land (although Sam pointed out



that they were already on land) and they found people who happened to have pizza.

After lunch, Sam noticed that his old rocking chair looked different. It wasn't where it used to be and it

"looked like a stranger." And so Mabel took him on a little tour of the old house, as if it were a museum.

Sam had to talk softly because loudness was disrespectful of others. That's how you act in a museum. There were amazing things to "behold" (a new word he learned) and all kinds of artifacts (another new word). It was the most wondrous tour, and Sam even found an artifact of his own.

At the end of the day, once they were in the new house, Sam and Mabel became astronauts in a rocket that Mabel found. There was a lot of space to explore in the

new house – um, maybe too much. Sam's bed was in a different room where it was far away from Mabel's rocket. There were aliens in the new house, too, but the "Astronaut Parents" had a solution ...

Change is coming. It always does, but knowing that doesn't make it easy to accept if you're just knee-high. "Mabel and Sam at Home" will show your child that there are many ways to cope.

But first, there's a gift for you inside this book: author Linda Urban tells three keenly clever stories that are just as much for grown-ups as they are for kids. You're

going to read this book multiple times because the dialogue between characters gives readers that in-on-the-joy feeling. Mabel and Sam both know they're pretending and so do we – and sharing the imagination is just too charming.

This book may be a bit long and over-wordy for the smallest children, though they'll love the illustrations by Hadley Hooper. The story itself is perfect for children ages 4 to 8 and for adults who can put aside their adulthood and pretend. If that, "Mabel and Sam at Home" is a book you'll absolutely care to read.

## SANTA FE

CONTINUED FROM 4C

Back home weeks earlier, paging through my O'Keefe book and planning our trip, I'd imagined Xavier being inspired to sketch flowers and skulls while sitting silently in the O'Keefe museum, Simon marveling at the oddity of the adobe streetscape and asking probing questions about the history of desert dwellers. I hadn't envisioned eating lukewarm macaroni and cheese out of a waxy box back at the house, where we ended up after a trip to the grocery store. But, collapsing into bed at 8 p.m. chugging ice water, I found myself, sheepishly, a little grateful that the kids had provided me with an excuse not to play tourist. It was supposed to be a vacation, after all.

There are four destinations atop Museum Hill (also home to the Santa Fe Botanical Garden): the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art, the Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian, and the Museum of International Folk Art. Aloned, David and I might have visited all, but as a family, after a good night's sleep and finding ourselves happily acclimated to the elevation, we opted only for the last.

It was a wise choice. One of the collection's treasures is the long-term installation of thousands of objects that belonged to Alexander Girard, the architect and industrial designer best known for his seminal collections of textiles for Herman Miller, the American manufacturer of Eames and Noguchi furniture. Girard and his wife, Susan, traveled the world, collecting as they went: painted dolls from Peru, ceramic figurines from France, earthenware

fruit from Mexico, embroidery from Germany, wooden birds from India, and unclassifiable oddities from Burma, Kenya, Turkey and the United States.

Afterward, Xavier wanted to head off into the brush to find the skull of a deer, a ram, or a cow, as I'd told him Georgia O'Keefe had done. Simon just wanted to kick up the red dust, which made such satisfying clouds. I couldn't fault the boys. Even the quietest museum couldn't compete with the allure of the desert outside its windows.

Easter Sunday, we escaped the city and drove along the Turquoise Trail, a stretch of highway that carries you through ghost towns, tourist traps, and mind-boggling scenery: alien red rocks, chalky outcroppings, the ghostly white forms of wholly barren trees that indicate the presence of a river. We pulled off the highway to walk around an adobe church, the wind biting, the graves so old their stones had gone smooth at the edges.

Then we took a detour to the Tinkertown Museum. David had discovered the baffling little attraction: a collection of homemade dioramas that jilt to life when you deposit a coin. The founder, Ross Ward, spent 40 years carving these scenes and filling them with his collections of antique tin toys and old carnival games. I might have been thinking about David Lynch when the plaster fortune teller's hands creaked over her cards, eerie sound effects and lights completing the scene, but the boys were mesmerized. They ran through the labyrinthine display, clutching the quarters required to animate some of the scenes until their sweaty hands were empty.

Later, we hiked through

Bandelier National Monument, thrilling at the pueblos and cave dwellings. The boys ran ahead, scaling ladders to sit inside caves just as people had centuries earlier, their enthusiastic screams echoing off the cliffs.

With the O'Keefe day finally upon us, we showed up at Abiqui early in the morning, before the crowds descended. It is an astonishing experience to be inside her rooms, the more special to be there just the four of us, as though we were the artist's guests, waiting for her to finish up some appetizers in the kitchen. The space was so much a reflection of one woman's tastes and point of view—textiles by her friend Alexander Girard and modern furnishings atop the traditional mud floor (such floors were once set with animal blood). A visit directly illuminates the art: You cannot help but notice how a picture window frames a landscape that could be an O'Keefe painting, or imagine how the road outside or the double doors in the courtyard evolved from a view into inspiration into a finished masterpiece.

Simon pointed out a ladder to the roof and wondered if O'Keefe had slept up there (she hadn't—that was her other home in New Mexico, Ghost Ranch—but I didn't bother correcting him), and Xavier was quick to spot the skull in the courtyard, recognizing it from a famous photograph of the artist by Yousuf Karsh. But after an hour inside a house where they couldn't touch anything, the boys were understandably fidgety. The rest of my family trekked to see some nearby petroglyphs while I stayed behind for the proper tour—visiting the house had been my dream, after all.



Photo courtesy of David Land/Airbnbmag

A yurt in Abiqui.

# TRINBAGONIAN

*a delicious way of life*

PROUD TO CELEBRATE  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S  
INDEPENDENCE DAY.

 Publix



## Church and state unite for West Grove residents



West Grove residents engaged with city and church officials during a community safety forum at Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church Wednesday, Aug. 22. The forum was designed to increase rapport between residents and officials. It was organized by RER Consulting Enterprise and the state attorney's office.

Miami Times photos / Felipe Rivas

City Commissioner Ken Russell addresses the West Grove residents.

Miami Police Chief Jorge Colina was present at the forum.

### Road reconstruction serves up traffic delays

alternative routes to avoid driving in the construction zone, which diverts traffic to the residential areas of West Grove, which includes parts of Grand Avenue.

Officer Chiquita Butler, commander of Coconut Grove, has placed more officers as well as flagmen along detour zones to deter speeding and increase traffic flow, she said. "We are all trying to work together to get the project completed as fast as possible."

For the year, overall crime in Grove is down 38 percent, with only six reported robberies, Colina said at the forum. "There was a time in the Grove when there were three or four robberies a night."

Much of the successful policing can be attributed in part to residents' feedback and positive interactions with the police officers around the community.

Pastor Robinson praised the work of the policing efforts in West Grove under the leadership of Commander Butler. "She does a magnificent job. She's there at all of the events, and she comes to the community meetings," he said.

Colina echoed the benefits that come with increased involvement in the community. He stressed the importance of back and forth communication between the Miami Police Department and the residents of the communities they serve. He reminds his officers that they are public servants as often as he can. Also, he touted the importance of being accountable to residents.

"I like to have the opportunity to explain any decisions

SEE UNITE 8D

FELIPE RIVAS  
frivas@miamitimesonline.com

With crime in a steep decline in the West Grove, residents attending a community safety forum focused on another issue: traffic.

The forum, held at Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Coconut Grove last Wednesday evening, sought to bring community figures to speak directly with residents.

The forum is the second of a series hosted by RER Consulting Enterprise LLC, the state attorney's office, and the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, designed to increase rapport between residents and influential local officials.

The local officials in attendance were Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Miami Commissioner Ken Russell, Miami Police Chief Jorge Colina, Pastors Nathaniel Robinson, senior pastor of Greater Saint Paul, and Apostle Dr. John H. Chambers III, founder and senior pastor of Believers of Authority ministries, were in attendance representing the faith community.

Many of the residents in attendance asked about how to improve the traffic in the area, much of it created by road improvement projects and increased traffic from the first week of school. At the moment, Bird Avenue is being improved with newly designated bike lanes, concrete sidewalks, drainage improvements, road pavement and markings.

The construction is happening on Bird Avenue to Mary Street, parts of U.S.1 to McDonald Street and Jackson Avenue. Drivers are seeking

“

For the year, overall crime in Grove is down 38 percent, with only six reported robberies, Colina said at the forum. "There was a time in the Grove when there were three or four robberies a night."





## A gift of grooming

Pastor Willie L. Williams Sr. and his wife, Creola, owners of Just Right Barber Shop recently celebrated their family-owned business 68th anniversary in Overtown. As part of the celebrations, the couple give haircuts and hairstyles children of Overtown in order to help prepare them for the new school year.

The Williams' partnered with Ultra Music Festival to provide more than 200 children and family members with food and services, 180 haircuts and 40 hairstyles. Miami City Commissioner Keon Hardemon, Miami Police and the Overtown NET provided support as well.



## Churches lead voters to polls

The historic Souls to Polls had greater significance this year as the lone Black gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum was ushered across South Florida by Black church leaders and supporters.

Gillum, Mayor of Miramar Wayne Messam, State Rep. Shervin Jones and local pastors joined voters and worshippers Sunday, Aug. 26 at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church for service. They then greeted voters at the Miramar Branch Library.



Photos courtesy of Gregory Reed



## CHURCH Listings

### CATHOLIC

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

### BAPTIST

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

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

### MISSIONARY BAPTIST

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

### Walking in Christ M.B. Church

Rev. Larry Robbins, Sr.  
3530 NW 214th Street • 305-430-0443

### New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Elder William Walker  
5895 NW 23rd Avenue • 305-635-3866

### New Christ Tabernacle M.B. Church

Rev. Harold Marsh  
1305 NW 54th Street • 305-835-2578

### Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church

Elder Johnnie Robinson  
1395 NW 69th Street • 305-835-8316

### New Mount Calvary

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

### Second Canaan

**Missionary Baptist Church**  
Rev. Jeffrey L. Mack, Pastor  
4343 NW 17 Avenue 305-638-1789

### Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. Van Gaskins, Jr., Pastor/Teacher  
7510 NW 15th Avenue • 305-418-0012

### True Faith Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor John M. Fair  
1890 NW 47th Terrace • 786-262-6841

### The Kingdom Agenda Worship Center

Prophetess Felicia Hamilton-Parramore  
630 Sharar Avenue • 954-707-3274

### AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL

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

### New Resurrection Community Church

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

### PENTECOSTAL

### New Faith Deliverance Center COGIC

Pastor Dr. Willie Gaines  
3257 NW 7th Avenue Circle • 305-335-4389

### New Life Christian Center

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

### MORAVIAN CHURCH

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

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

### ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

### NON DENOMINATION

**Lively Stone Church of Miami**  
Pastor David Doriscar  
8025 NW Miami Court 754-400-0899

Call 305.694.6210 to place your Church Listing

## UNITE

CONTINUED FROM 7D

we make," Colina said. "If you are not pleased about something, I do in fact want to hear about it because it gives me an opportunity to fix it."

Ruban Roberts, founder and CEO of RER Consulting, and president of the Miami-Dade Branch of the NAACP moderated the forum.

The purpose of the community safety forum was to make government figures available to the community.

"We want to bring government to the people, so they can have an opportunity to have a voice," Robert said. "We are coming to these communities that are primarily African-American, who definitely have a voice, so they can speak to government officials about some of their concerns."

Fernandez Rundle shared with residents information about resources available to them from the state attorney's office, which many residents are unaware of their existence. The resources include seal and expungement of records, help with child support and employment opportunities.

"One of the things that has really helped is our community outreach division," Rundle said. "They help build bonds, building bridges, trust and helps residents know who we are."

The state attorney's Community Outreach Division has been involved in the Grove, as well as other parts of the city, helping communities with crime prevention, education programs and closing the gap between police officers and residents.

The next forum is being organized for the Miami Gardens area.

## Kick off your Labor Day

"The Morrison Sisters presents along with Dave Nuby," 8 p.m., Friday, August 31 at The Historic Hampton House. For tickets and information, [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), 305-846-1956.

## FAITH CALENDAR

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

### Church of God of Prophecy

Youth Revival that will feature guest speakers that are ready to empower and equip its free to the public. Hosted by Pastor Errol Campbell and Youth Director Tricia Lewis, the event will start at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 31 at 16801 NW 19th Ave. For any questions for the speakers, please email [mgmt@shaninealessia.com](mailto:mgmt@shaninealessia.com). If you need any more information on the event, please call Tricia Lewis at

954-242-1262. To register, please go to [bit.ly/2MWw-JGW](http://bit.ly/2MWw-JGW).

### Miami Shores Community Church

There will be a block party to celebrate the end of summer with bounce houses, music, food, face painting, pony rides and more at 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Sept. 9 at 9823 NW 4th Ave. This event is free and to register, please go to [bit.ly/2MVS10J](http://bit.ly/2MVS10J).

### Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church

Bereavement sharing groups; 3-4 p.m. every second Sunday; Fall Into Fitness

Five-week Challenge: Starts 9 a.m. now until Sep. 16. For more in details call 305-634-2993

### The Kingdom Agenda Ministries Inc.

Free counseling, tutoring, health screenings and messages of services are being offered by Senior Pas-

tor Felicia Hamilton-Parramore; Call 954-707-3274 for more details.

### 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.

### 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.



Pictured is a billboard in 2016 above a gas station that reads "Feel The Burn," a play on then-presidential candidate Bernie Sanders' campaign slogan, "Feel The Bern."

Photo via AP/Nick Ut, File

## U.S. has highest STD rates in industrialized world

HEALTH EXPERTS SAY WE KNOW HOW TO STOP IT, BUT 'WE JUST DON'T NECESSARILY WANT TO PAY FOR IT'

LAUREN WEBER  
Huff Post

Public health experts on Tuesday called for President Donald Trump to declare a public health emergency in the explosive rise of sexually transmitted diseases, which have increased nationally for four years in a row. Cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis rose by 200,000 between 2016 and 2017 alone, to a total of 2.29 million, according to preliminary data released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The U.S. has the highest STD rates in the industrialized world, said David Harvey, executive director of the National Coalition of STD Directors, on a media conference call Tuesday. The current crisis preys on the most vulnerable in the population, he said, and costs the U.S. \$16 billion in preventable health care costs a year.

Public health experts on the call blamed the skyrocketing STD rates on a serious decline in public health infrastructure and funding. The purchasing power of federal STD funding has diminished

by 40 percent since 2003, they said.

"It is time that President Trump and [Health and Human Services] Secretary [Alex] Azar declare STDs in America a public health crisis," Harvey said. "What goes along with that is emergency access to public health funding to make a dent in STD rates and to bring these rates down and make sure all Americans get access to the health care they need."

Harvey estimated that \$70 million in federal funding is needed immediately to fight the growing threat and that \$270 million is needed for fiscal year 2019.

Over the past four years, since 2013, syphilis cases in the U.S. have increased by 76 percent, gonorrhea cases have increased by 67 percent and chlamydia cases have remained at record highs.

"We shouldn't be all that surprised by these increases when we look at the decreases in public health funding," said Michael Fraser, executive director of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. "We know what works for STD prevention. We just don't necessari-



ly want to pay for it."

Among the problems, the experts pointed to crumbling public health infrastructure, a widespread lack of awareness and education about STDs, the failure of doctors to screen or test for STDs, and the failure of patients to ask for such tests. There is a correlation with the opioid crisis and other drug use, the experts said, citing data that those aged 15 to 24 who reported drug use were more likely to be diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea or syphilis.

The experts also noted the emergence of drug-resistant gonorrhea strains, warning that without new treatments, a strain of gonorrhea could eventually develop that the medical community couldn't treat.

"After decades in progress against STDs, we're sliding backwards," said Gail Bolan, director of the CDC's Division of STD Prevention, who described the current rates as "skyrocketing."

"STDs are widespread in the U.S.," said Bolan. "They really cross urban and rural boundaries. They cross socioeconomic boundaries."

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Students Octuriya Howell and Farah Hudson and Kelise McCloud eat lunch the first day of school at KIPP Sunrise Academy.

Photos courtesy of KIPP Sunrise Academy



Teacher Charlene Manaoat with KIPP Sunrise Academy students

dents free after-school care until 6 p.m. When the students are older, KIPP follows them through each advancement, even in college, which Kress calls “the KIPP experience.”

“I am thrilled to have an alternative, public education option in our community for our children,” said Bernice McNair, whose son was part of the inaugural class at KIPP Sunrise Academy.

The Liberty City school is on the grounds of Poinciana Park Elementary School at 6745 NW 23rd Ave. It is part of a collective effort by the school district, Jewish Children’s Services, I Have a Dream, and the Urban League of Greater Miami’s We Rise Educational Initiative.

Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, the school board member for the area said that she is also excited about the new school.

“Our children are ready to learn, and our teachers are prepared to teach,” said Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall. “For the second year in a row, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has no F rated schools. And, for the first time ever, we are an A rated school district.”

The Urban League of Greater Miami’s We Rise Educational Initiative previously

“

**Our teachers and staff are excited to welcome our first class of KIPPsters, and bring an effective model and education alternative to students and families throughout the Liberty City community.”**

Leyla Bravo

identified a collection of failing schools in the community, and it now challenges parents to take on active roles in educating children. It also offers a vast amount of resources, which include affordable housing and career training.

The president of Urban League of Greater Miami, T. Willard Fair was one of the many community leaders who greeted the students last Monday for the first day of school.

Fair described the event as both unusual and emotional for him.

Kindergartens transitioning from pre-school or home can often bring tears or separation anxiety, but Fair said, he was surprised by the children’s attitude.

“There was only one child that cried and didn’t want to go,” said Fair. “It shows the caring and the climate of the teachers involved.”

Kress said the school plans to expand to offer a K-12 education for the families of Liberty City, “so all of our families can keep the KIPP experience.”

With seats still available, KIPP is still accepting enrollment applications for kindergartens and first graders.

Registrations are being accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis at [www.kippmiami.org](http://www.kippmiami.org) or call 786-309-7697.

## KIPPsters make history

LIBERTY’S CITY CHARTER ACADEMY IS THE FIRST TO OPEN IN SOUTH FLORIDA

NYAMEKYE DANIEL

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

The first day of school is often filled with photo-ops of kids in unwrinkled uniforms with freshly untagged book bags, and long hugs to allay separation anxiety. For the students at KIPP Sunrise Academy, those photos have historical significance. They are the first group of students at Liberty’s City only charter school and KIPP’s first South Florida location.

“Our teachers and staff are excited to welcome our first class of KIPPsters, and bring an effective model and education alternative to students and families throughout the Liberty City community,” said Leyla Bravo, founding principal of KIPP Sunrise Academy.

The faculty, staff and community leaders welcomed nearly 200 kindergartens and first graders to the school last week with confetti, high-fives and a man dressed as life-sized sun.

KIPP, which stands for Knowledge is Power Program, is a national nonprofit conglomerate of charter schools with a

20-year history in elementary, middle and high school education.

Part of the state’s school choice program, charter schools are publicly funded but independently run. There is flexibility in enrollment because parents are not tied to zones or districts.

In June 2017, Gov. Rick Scott signed a \$419 million education bill mandating that traditional public schools share funds with charter schools. Miami-Dade schools’ Superintendent Alberto Carvalho and local teachers unions have been strong critics of the decision. KIPP’s network includes schools in 20

states and the District of Columbia. The schools’ operations are monitored by regional nonprofits, while all teachers are trained by the KIPP foundation, another nonprofit.

The schools have longer days and offer character-building education, college prep and a “holistic environment,” said Monica Kress, managing director for KIPP Miami.

“We allow the kids to spend more time on reading and academics without cutting enrichment,” she said.

The extracurricular activities include visual and performing arts, sports and yoga. The Sunrise Academy also offers stu-

# Pastor OF THE WEEK



**Keith Butler**

PRESENTED BY



*Miracles made daily.*



## Keith Butler wants people to follow him as he follows Christ

Pastor has learned to consult God in everything he does

ISHKA N. HARRISON  
ishkehah@gmail.com

Keith Butler is no stranger to ministry. Twenty years ago, when he was just 15, he gave his first sermon at New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. Under the tutelage of his spiritual father, the late Arthur Jackson Jr., Butler knew early he wanted to be a pastor.

"I had the urge to pastor at [age] 19, maybe 20 because that's all I saw, so that's all I

knew. I've been around pastors all of my life," Butler said.

He went on to be a youth pastor, young adult pastor, and eventually became the lead pastor of New Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Liberty City.

Eventually, after serving at a couple of churches, Butler said he was asked by the iconic Reverend Samuel Atchison of Liberty City's historic Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church to become his assistant

and train to succeed him.

In 2006, Butler said Atchison told him he was going in a different direction and his services were no longer required. After being asked by another pastor to speak at his church, he said he noticed tons of Mount Calvary members in the congregation.

Once he went down to speak with the members, Butler said they told him Atchison had informed them of his departure and encouraged them to follow

him if they desired. They did.

The unique occurrence led to the formation of Logos Baptist Church, located at 5871 NW 24 Ave., in Miami. He has been the senior pastor there for the last 12 years.

"My story is so far different than that of others," Butler said. "When I hear people say the Lord moved on their hearts to start a plant over here or a plant over there, it was nothing like that for me. How Logos got started was about 100 people waiting for me asking me where are we going to worship next Sunday."

Once Logos was started, Butler said the ministry exploded. At one point, there were more than 800 people attending on Sundays. They built out a beautiful church at an old skating rink and spent nearly a million dollars. However, after some challenges led to location changes and a decrease in membership, Butler learned some valuable life lessons.

"My ultimate lesson that was learned out of all of that is to believe that my arms are really too small to box with God. The truth of the matter is, it was what I wanted. I never at any point really consulted with God and said is this where you want us to be ... We were growing so fast and it was going so good that I made moves based on the flesh," Butler said.

Today, Butler makes sure to consult God before making any moves, even if that means ad-

mitting he doesn't always have the answer.

"I'm in a season where I'm taking steps instead of producing strategies. ... I had to get into a place because of my history with God to say, 'Okay God, You don't have to show me the plan from A to Z for me to go with it; I'll just go, and You show me as I go, and unfortunately, that's not popular; but I don't want to make the same mistake as I did before by doing things my way and my way only. The best thing I can do is say you all follow me as I follow Christ,' Butler said."

Even, the church's outreach focus is motivated by scripture. Logos provides uniforms and clothing throughout the year for several foster kids, partners with Ronald McDonald House Charities to feed families every month and helps subsidize two nursing homes by providing tangible assistance and visitation to the residents. His wife, Chiquita Thomas-Butler also oversees a youth ministry called The Butler Angels.

"Those are the ministries and outreaches we're consistently involved with because the scripture tells us to remember the widows and orphans and those who are incarcerated, and we're now working on the incarcerated piece," Butler said.

In addition to his pastoral duties, the father of three considers himself to be one

of the best relationship counselors there is and is currently writing a book entitled "Bases Loaded: The Mind of A Successful Man."

"I have been divorced twice, married three times, and I know what we do to mess up. ... I counsel a lot of people, members and non-members. I do life coaching, and I'm very, very good at that. It's not a so-called Christian book. It's a book for men to let them know if you got something, you need to relish it and keep it," Butler said.

He admonishes people to seek God at all times, not just when things are going well.

"My ministry evolved from all the mistakes I've made. I express to people that a lot of times we seek God when things are going bad, but it's just as important to seek God when things are going well because that's when we have the tendency to make flesh moves, and when we make flesh moves, we fail to make flesh moves," Butler said.

Logos meets for service Sundays at 9 a.m. and Bible Study Tuesdays at 7 p.m. To learn more about the church, visit them on Facebook or download the Logos Baptist Church app from Google Play or the App Store.

*Do you know of a spiritual leader who should be featured in this column? Email Ishka at ishkehah@gmail.com with the subject line: POW Referral.*



Left to Right: Scholarship Chair Tiffani G. Lee; Scholarship Recipients Kai Cooper, Kiara Finlay, Ellington Rutledge, Gianna Sweeting, and Daejah Walker; and Chapter President Gail Ash Dotson.

## Greater Miami Links award students \$15K in scholarships

On Tuesday, June 19, The Links, Incorporated, Greater Miami Chapter, awarded five 2018 high school graduates General Scholarships of \$3,000 each at a reception hosted by the Miami office of Holland & Knight LLP.

Gail Ash Dotson, Greater Miami Chapter President, welcomed approximately 50 attendees to the annual event, noting the chapter members

"are committed to continuing this legacy of giving back to our community and recognizing outstanding student recipients with scholarships," Tiffani G. Lee, a Holland & Knight partner, is the chapter's 2018 Scholarship Chair.

The five recipients were: Monsignor E. Pace's Kai Cooper, daughter of Karen C. Cooper; Miami Lakes Educational Center's Kiara Finlay,

daughter of Monique and Derren Finlay; Barbara Goleman's Ellington Rutledge, son of Lenard and Martha Rutledge; Miami Palmetto's Gianna Sweeting, the daughter of Lisa Sweeting and Leroy Sweeting; and School for Advanced Studies' Daejah Walker, the daughter of Latonia Seymour-Walker. The awards will defray college education costs.

## Katherine Johnson turns 100

Many pay public tribute to the NASA trailblazer's centennial birthday

STACY M. BROWN  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Katherine Johnson, who hand-crunched the numbers for America's first manned space flight — a feat that finally got its Big Screen acknowledgment just two years ago, turned 100 on Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018.

"[On Sunday], we celebrate Alpha Kappa Alpha's own, Katherine Johnson. She's credited with crunching the numbers by hand that allowed NASA to launch the first U.S. astronaut into space," leaders of the Alpha Kappa Alpha said in a statement.

"We are women of many first. First and finest."

Many others paid tribute via statements and social media.

"If you haven't seen the movie about what she and other brilliant Black women at NASA accomplished, be sure to watch the fabulous movie, 'Hidden Figures,' in her honor," said comic book writer Grace Randolph.

"I stand on your shoulders," said Camille Alleyne. "You blazed the trail which I and so many have had the privilege to walk on ... Katherine, you are my hero. I love, honor and salute you," Alleyne said.

The recipient of the 2015 National Medal of Freedom, and a 2016 People Magazine



NASA/Bill Ingalls, Wikimedia Commons

**Former NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson is seen after President Barack Obama presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.**

honoree as being among the 25 Women Changing the World, Johnson enjoyed a brilliant 33-year career at NASA and her life story finally was told on the big screen in "Hidden Figures," the award-winning movie that starred Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monáe.

In an earlier interview, she told NNPA Newswire that she missed working.

"I'd go back now," she said. After leaving her teaching job in 1953, Johnson began working for NASA and was able to calculate the trajectory

for numerous space missions, including for the space flight of Alan Shepard, the first American in space and the trajectory for the famed 1968 Apollo 11 flight to the Moon.

"I'd do them over if I had to. I'd do anything for anyone," she said.

At an early age, Johnson developed enviable math skills so much so that even NASA officials wrote a story about her titled, "The girl who loved to count."

"I counted everything. I counted the steps to the road, the steps up to church, the number of dishes and silverware I washed ... anything that could be counted, I did," Johnson said.

"I entered college. I was 15. I was going to be a math teacher because that was it. You could be a math teacher or a nurse, but I was told I would make a good research mathematician, and they had me take all of the courses in the catalogue," she said.

When Astronaut John Glenn went to the moon, Johnson said her "Hidden Figures" crew acted as the computer for the mission. She said calculating everything involved in the flight became like a geometry problem.

"I felt most proud of the success of the Apollo mission. We had to determine so much. Where you were, where the moon would be and how fast the astronauts were going," Johnson said.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Apostolic Revival Center**

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

Rev. Dr. Gilbert S. Smith

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

**Liberty City Church of Christ**

**Services**  
Sunday Morning 8 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 5 p.m.  
Tue. Bible Class 6:30 p.m.  
Thurs. Followship 11 a.m.

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 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Ray Michael D. Screen

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

**Brownsville Church of Christ**

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

Min. Harrell L. Henton

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

**93rd Street Community Missionary Baptist Church**

**Services**  
7:30 a.m. Early Morning Worship  
11 a.m. Morning Worship  
Evening Worship  
1st & 3rd Sunday 6 p.m.  
Tuesday Bible Study 7 p.m.  
Website: cm93c.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. Ivery, 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 4 p.m.  
Mission and Bible

Pastor Douglas Cook, Sr.

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

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

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

1 (800) 254-ANGBC  
305-685-3700  
Fax: 305-685-0705  
www.newbirthbaptistmiami.org

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

**Pembroke Park Church of Christ**

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

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

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

**Hosanna Community Baptist Church**

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

## Hadley Davis MLK

**JOHNNIE RUSH**, 78, landscaper, died August 21 at North Shore. Service 2 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



**MEDA BETHAY**, 77, teacher, died August 26 at Kindred Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Liberty City Church of Christ.



**CHARLES HUMES, SR.**, 87, plaster attendant, died August 26 at Hampton Court Nursing and Rehab. Service 12 p.m., Friday in the chapel.



## EUGENE

**LINZY LOUIS FOWLER, JR.**, 57, prep cook, died August 25 at Memorial Regional South. Service 12 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



**ANGELA BYRD**, 59, clerk, died August 23. Services were held.



## Richardson

**PEARL PAULINE WALKER**, 78, died August 19. Service 9 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



**PATRICIA LOUISE WARE**, 64, died August 20. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.



## Wright and Young

**EMERALD ROMER**, 79, retired teacher, died August 22. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church.



**ANTHONY ROLLE**, 71, retired education administrator, died August 21. Services were held.



## Paradise

**MARY LOUISE SANDS**, 81, died August 20 at home. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Mt. Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church.



**FANNIE MAE BILLINGS**, 89. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Second Baptist Church.



## Hall Ferguson Hewitt

**BARBARA JACKSON**, 75, died August 20. Service 10 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



**HENRY PACE, SR.**, 81, longshoreman, died August 25. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Greater New Bethel.

## Gregg L. Mason

**DEACONESS SHIRLEE WRIGHT WALDEN**, 67, retired teacher, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, died August 22.



**Survivors** include: husband, Deacon Vincent Walden; sons, Philip J. Cunningham and Alexandro Casseus; daughters, Alexandra Casseus and Myeka Casseus; and other relatives and friends. Viewing 5-9 p.m., Friday at 93 Community Baptist Church, 2330 NW 93 Street. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at the church. Interment: Vista Memorial Gardens.

## Hadley Davis Miami Gardens

**ISIAH WILLIE BRAZIL, JR.**, 59, cargo supervisor, died August 25 at Memorial Hospital Pembroke. Service 10 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



## Grace

**DEBRA BURLEY**, 62, teacher, died August 17. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Greater New Bethel MBC of Liberty City.



## Eric S. George

**ROBERT DENMARK**, died August 22. Service 5 p.m., Friday in the chapel.



## Trinity

**JAMES ROBINSON**, 32, died August 22 at home. Service 3 p.m., Saturday at New Harvest Missionary Baptist Church.



## James C. Boyd

**MARKIETH SOMONIA MURRAY**, 63, died August 17. Services were held.



## The Mortuary Service

**STEVE "JIT" BRADLEY**, 59, died August 21 at home. Viewing 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Friday. Flowers are to be sent to the church. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Ebenezer United Methodist Church.



## Ray Williams

**ROBERT J. HOLLOWAY**, 61, city worker, died August 19 in New Port Richey, FL. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



## Nakia Ingraham

**SHARON GREEN**, 71, unit secretary, died August 21. Service 11 a.m., today in the chapel.

**NATALIE MORTLOCK**, 53, payroll clerk, died August 24. Service 7 p.m., today in the chapel.

**JACKIE WASHINGTON**, 61, mail carrier, died August 20. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Macedonia Baptist Church.

## Eric L. Wilson

**SPRING MURRAY**, 58, homemaker, died August 21. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Koinonia Worship Center, Hollywood, FL.

**KESLER COSMEY**, 63, auto detailer, died August 22. Service 12 p.m., Friday at House of God Miracle Revival Fellowship Church, Hollywood, FL.

**BARCKLEY SANON**, 25, died August 18. Service 11 a.m., Tuesday, September 4 at House of God Miracle Revival Fellowship Church, Hollywood, FL.

**LARRY BARFIELD**, 67, handyman, died August 22. Memorial Service 5 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.

**NANETTE HAYS**, 50, homemaker, died August 18. Services were held.

## Manker

**INGRID P. MCKINNIE PEARSON**, 69, secretary, died August 23 at Westside Regional Medical Center. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.

**BABY OLIVER JAROD CREWS, JR.**, 3 months old, died August 23 at home. Service 11 a.m., Friday in the chapel.

## Arcelays

**STERLING EVERIG WAITERS**, 83, realtor, died August 16 at North Shore Medical Center. Memorial Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Unity on the Bay.

## Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,



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

Birthdays wishes, sent to Heaven from your family below. We miss you and love you dearly and we wanted you know.

Your Birthday's not forgotten and your memory, lives on. We celebrate the life you had even though you've gone.

If we were given just one wish one that would come true. We'd wish you back beside us to spend this day with you.

We will always love and miss you and will often shed a tear. Especially on your special day year after year. We love you daddy!

## In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



**CHERYL C. BLUE**  
12/19/1950 - 08/28/2013

Never forget to tell your love ones that you love them. Sadly missed by your daughters, Sherry Robinson and Tangelia Jackson; sisters, Carmel B. Scott, Janie Blue, Nevada B. Washington and family.



Photo via AP/ Mike Dreyer

Pianist and composer George Walker in 1996, after he became the first Black person to win the Pulitzer Prize for music.

# Black composer George Walker dies at age 96

The Afro

George Walker, a Black Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, pianist and educator, died Aug. 23 at the age of 96. According to NPR, the pioneering virtuoso died at the Mountain-side Hospital in Montclair, N.J., from the results of a fall.

A prolific originator, Walker has composed over 90 works for orchestra, chamber orchestra, piano, strings, voice, organ, clarinet, guitar, brass, woodwinds, and chorus. A 1946 work, Lyric for Strings, has been one of most frequently performed orchestral work by an American composer, and his other works have been performed by virtually every major orchestra in the U.S. and many others abroad.

"His music is always characterized by a great sense of dignity, which is how he always comported himself," says composer Jeffrey Mumford, who, as a music professor at Lorain County Community College in Ohio, uses examples of Walker's music in his classes. "His style evolved over the years; his earlier works, some written while still a student, embodied an impressive clarity and elegance."

Even at the nascent stage of his career, Walker broke new ground. His 1945 debut made him the first Black pianist to perform solo at New York's Town Hall. Two weeks after that performance, he became the first Black instrumentalist to perform with the Philadelphia Orchestra. And, that year, he also became the first Black graduate of the renowned Curtis Institute of Music.

In 1996, Walker reached the pinnacle of his career when he became the first Black composer to win the Pulitzer Prize for his Liliacs for voice and orchestra. He was previously nominated for the coveted award in 1977 for his piece, Dialogus for cello and orchestra.

"This composer has finally gotten the recogni-

“His music is always characterized by a great sense of dignity, which is how he always comported himself. His style evolved over the years; his earlier works, some written while still a student, embodied an impressive clarity and elegance.”

Jeffrey Mumford

tion he deserves," said renowned conductor Zubin Mehta, at the time.

Walker was born in Washington, D.C. on June 27, 1922. His father, a West Indian immigrant, was a physician, and his mother, Rosa King, supervised his first piano lessons that began when he was 5.

Walker attended Dunbar High School and, upon graduation, was admitted to Oberlin College as a scholarship student in 1937. At the age of 18, he graduated from Oberlin College with the highest honors before joining the Curtis Institute. He later attained a doctoral degree from Eastman School of Music in 1956.

In addition to being a composer and musician, Walker was also an educator. He taught at Dillard University in New Orleans after his first European tour. Later, he held faculty appointments to the Dalcroze School of Music, The New School for Social Research, Smith College (1961-68) (where he became the first Black tenured faculty member), the University of Colorado (1968-69), Rutgers University (1969-92, where he was Chairman of the Music Department), Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University (1975-78) and the University of Delaware (1975-76, where he was the recipient of the first Minority Chair established by the University).

Walker has received numerous accolades for his work. In addition to his Pulitzer, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1999 and was inducted into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame in 2000.



**Willie James Jerry, Sr.**

Funeral Home: 1200 S. Dixie Hwy., Suite 11, Miami, FL 33139  
1944-1999 August 23, 2018 (Age 74)  
Celebration of Life Service: Saturday, September 1, 2018, 11:00 am  
at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 7800 N.W. 27th Avenue, Miami, FL 33150