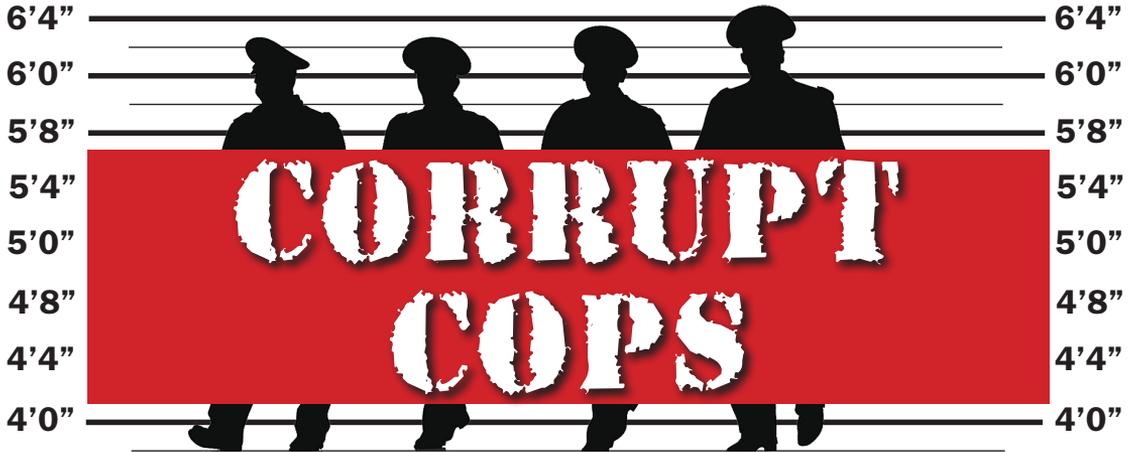


The Miami Times

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SPECIAL REPORT

False arrests of Black youth 'is a vestige of slavery'

K. BARRETT BILALI
Miami Times Contributor

Four former Biscayne Park Police officials have been accused of participating in the wrongful arrests of three innocent Black men.



In 2013 and 2014, the Biscayne Park Police chief and at least three of his officers denied the civil rights of three Black males by arresting them for crimes they knew the men did not commit.

The phony arrests were all because former Biscayne Park Police Chief Raimundo Atesiano wanted to maintain a record that the city clears 100 percent of its burglary cases, a justice department complaint said. But prominent Miami attorney H.T. Smith said what the police officers did was to continue a systemic way to control Black men.

Atesiano, who headed the 12-officer department, pleaded guilty Sept. 14 to "willfully conspiring to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate," violating three Black youth's "right to be free from unreasonable seizures," according to the U.S. Department of Justice. He faces up to 10 years in prison when

SEE COPS 10A



Yolanda Cash Jackson, left, was one of five hosts at a fundraiser Sunday at her office in Coral Gables. She is seen here with hosts Anthony Brunson, Marilyn Holifield and Willie Logan, and Democratic gubernatorial candidate and Andrew Gillum, center.

Gillum raises hope and money

Democratic candidate in dead heat with Republican opponent

CAROLYN GUNISS
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Carla Hill made an emotional plea about health care reform on Sunday at Forward Florida's meet-and-greet with Democratic nominee for governor, Andrew Gillum.

Hill was attending a fundraiser for Gillum at Becker & Poliakov in Coral Gables where Black Miami came out to show their love for the Tallahassee mayor, a Richmond Heights native.

Hill recounted how she is a two-time breast cancer

survivor who also has had a kidney transplant. Carla and her husband, Marlon, have always had good jobs, which translated to good health care. But Carla recently found herself between health insurance companies. Hill asked Gillum to address health care for Floridians if he is elected governor, Nov. 6. Gillum said he will.

Gillum, a progressive candidate, said if he is elected he will make efforts to offer Medicare to all and expand Medicaid, a move Gov. Rick Scott refused to make.

"If Gov. Scott had expanded Medicaid, 1.5 million more Floridians would have access to health care," Gillum said.

The boardroom at Becker & Poliakov was filled with friends and colleagues of former Florida Rep. Willie Logan and his wife Lyra, certified public accountant Anthony Brunson, attorney Marilyn Holifield and lobbyist Yolanda Cash Jackson, the hosts for the evening.

Donors had different tiers at which to show their support, starting at \$10,000 to be a chair to \$250 to become a friend.

Willie Logan said the event's totals exceeded the goal.

Holifield said Gillum has her excited about the possibilities for Floridians.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for Florida, for our country and our county. Gillum is platforming the issues that advance the interest of working people, small businesses and, indeed, large businesses," Holifield said.

Gillum is in tight fundraising and voting race with his Republican opponent, Ron DeSantis. During the first week of September, Gillum raised \$1.3 million and DeSantis, \$1.4. Recent polls have 3.7 percent more voters saying they would vote for Gillum, which is in the margin of error.

Unholy or wholly responsible?

Local pastor seeks redemption and more millions in amended lawsuit

K. BARRETT BILALI
Miami Times Contributor

Pastor Eric Readon is back, and he wants to dip into corporate media's pocket.

The controversial minister and businessman is upping the ante on his lawsuit against several community members and WPLG Channel 10.

He has amended his original \$12.5 million defamation suit and is seeking \$50 million in damages. The suit has 14 defendants.

The newly revised complaint has been served on the defendants over the past two weeks.

He has even included the parent company of WPLG, BH Media Group, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Group based in Omaha, Nebraska.

Readon said he is suing regarding a WPLG investigative report, which featured a local man who alleged that Readon had forged a check for \$9,000 and was forced to make restitution by the courts. In another segment, an elderly retiree said that Readon "stole" his dream home and sold it for \$378,000 without his knowledge. A landlord was on camera claiming that he was issued checks, which bounced and was seeking his money.



“

They didn't attack the entrepreneur; they attacked me as a man of God.”

Pastor Eric Readon

In all, the report turned Readon into a "thief and liar," said his attorney, Andrew Kassier.

Kassier also filed a notice of claim against Miami-Dade County Public Schools for an incident that allegedly took

SEE UNHOLY 6A

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HISTORICAL MARKERS

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VIEWPOINT

BLACKS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY | SEPTEMBER 19-25, 2018 | MiamiTimesOnline.com

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EDITORIAL

Injustice system needs reform now

How much more do we need to see and hear before law enforcement is reined in and turned around? Some may say that since the former Biscayne Park Police officers involved in framing Black men for crimes they did not commit were arrested, indicted and soon sentenced, that the justice system worked. But the fact that police would choose to falsely accuse Black youth just to maintain statistics tells us that we need serious intervention in Miami-Dade County.

The latest black eye by law enforcement seems like a throwback to the days of segregation and Jim Crow, when a white person could impute motives to a Black person, and it would be instantly the truth.

Police are supposed to serve and protect. This slogan is almost dead, since the national discourse on police and community relations involves distrust, blame and fear. Never mind that the residents of Biscayne Park were certainly let down because, while they thought they were safe in their beds, perpetrators of crimes in their city were left unchecked. Case closed.

The false accusations against these Black men happened in 2013 and 2014. One of the youth was a juvenile at the time. The thought of the disruption in their lives, the trauma they must have felt knowing they were being arrested for no reason, but not being able to defend themselves, is disturbing. Services need to be extended to these men.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Florida this past summer provided data that Black and Brown people get longer sentences from Miami-Dade judges. Now we have hard evidence that the corruption starts even earlier — just for being born Black and perhaps being male.

North Miami Beach Police used mug shots of Black men for target practice. North Miami Police have shot a Black man who was on the ground with his hands in the air. Taking these adverse actions collectively, it is clear the county has deep-rooted racial issues, and it's buried in our law enforcement.

And yet the drumbeat of change cannot be heard. The rallying cry demanding all law enforcement take diversity training is drowned out. Miami-Dade justice system is in a crisis. We need help now!

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The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, creed or color, his or her human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all persons are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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History doesn't stay stuck in time

CHARLES BLOW, *The New York Times*

Last Wednesday afternoon, I traveled to the charming but unassuming neighborhood of Juniper Hill in White Plains to speak with a living legend too few people know about.

Her name is Olivia J. Hooker, and she is a sharp and glorious 103 years old. Not only was she the first Black woman to join the Coast Guard, not only was she a psychology professor and activist, but she is one of the last known survivors of the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921. During the riot, white residents destroyed the prosperous Black neighborhood of Greenwood, which had come to be known as "Black Wall Street." A report by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot said, "It is estimated that approximately 11,000 Blacks resided in Tulsa in 1921, most living in the area of the Greenwood section." As many as 300 people were killed and 8,000 left homeless.

As *The New York Times* wrote in 2011 on the 90th anniversary, the Tulsa riot "may

be the deadliest occurrence of racial violence in United States history." And yet, as the Tulsa Historical Society and Museum points out, not one act of violence that occurred that day "was then or ever has been prosecuted or punished by government at any level: municipal, county, state or federal."

There was no news peg for my conversation with Hooker, no milestone, no major anniversary, but it is my philosophy that when life affords you the opportunity to sit at the elbow of a historical figure who has lived through things you've only read about, you take it.

So I entered Hooker's home and locked eyes with her, as a broad smile spread over her cheeks.

Shortly after I arrived, she began to speak, recalling an awesome story of a terrible time.

Hooker grew up in a happy house with three sisters and one brother — she was the fourth child — her parents and a grandmother. Their house

“People think that the horror of America's racial history is an unfortunate episode among ancestors, but it is not.”

was a small, five-room cottage, white with green trim, in Greenwood.

Her father owned a department store that carried his name, Samuel D. Hooker. "My daddy only had first-class stock," Hooker related with a smile and a hint of pride.

But that was all ripped apart one day in her sixth summer, when Greenwood erupted.

White men broke into their house as Hooker and some of her siblings hid beneath an oak dining table, draped with a tablecloth.

"They took a hatchet to my sisters' piano. They poured

oil all over my grandmother's bed." They "stuffed the dresser" with ammunition, Hooker told me. Maybe they had intended to burn or destroy the house, but they didn't.

She continued, "They took all the beautiful biscuits out of the oven and threw them out in the mud." "We both managed a laugh."

People think that the horror of America's racial history is an unfortunate episode among ancestors, but it is not. The civil rights movement was only 50 years ago. The Tulsa riot was less than 100 years ago. People alive today still carry that weight, still manage that trauma, still hide those scars.

American history is full of stories of Black people doing precisely what America says it wants of its citizens — being creative, enterprising and industrious, being self-respecting and self-sufficient — only to have white people destroy what they've built, impede their progress and erase their wealth.



The Botham Jean stories are wrong

MICHAEL HARRIOT, *The Root*

Come. Let me show you something.

Let me show you what it is to be Black. To be forever erased from the realm of the living with a bang and a puff of smoke. To disappear silently into an empty void or, even worse, to have your death dissected in a desperate futile search for the meaningless of your existence.

Such is the case of Botham Shem Jean.

As soon as Amber Guyger's police-issued firearm reportedly killed Botham Jean inside his own home, everyone began making excuses and asking why.

Maybe she was in the wrong apartment? Where did she park? How did she get in the apartment? Have you checked her key? How many hours did Guyger work that night? Oh, the door was open? Someone said they heard yelling. Was Jean armed? What if she genuinely feared for her life?

Many have wondered why police have charged Guyger with manslaughter and not murder. In Texas, murder is

when a person "intentionally or knowingly causes the death of an individual," as opposed to manslaughter, when someone "recklessly causes the death of another individual," according to the Texas penal code.

John Creuzot, a former prosecutor, defense attorney and judge described the manslaughter charge for Guyger as a "deviation from the norm," telling the Dallas Morning News he was "not aware of a case in which a person shoots another person in the torso, with death as the result, and is charged with manslaughter."

In spite of the fact that Guyger pointed a gun at Botham Jean and pulled the trigger, apparently prosecutors and authorities have automatically assumed that she couldn't have intended to kill Jean. Even the most imaginative Americans quickly dispel the notion that God-fearing, privilege-toting protectors and servers like Amber Guyger could be capable of such a thing. There must be a reason.

“No one is even willing to give Botham Jean a speaking part because a Black victim is never seen as human.”

But no one has told Jean's story. Ask his family if they care about Guyger's intent. Jean probably had no time to contemplate whether the bullet spinning toward his chest was fired recklessly or intentionally.

And that's why everyone is telling this story wrong. In telling the story of Botham Jean, we are willing to rationalize the actions of incompetent police officers and white people in general. In the retelling of this real-life murder mystery, we have managed to humanize Amber Guyger. But no one is even willing to give Botham Jean a speaking part

because a Black victim is never seen as human.

Just a dead Black thing. "We don't care why Black victims like Eric Garner gave up the ghost. We dismiss their humanity and fear by saying they 'shouldn't have resisted.'" Stephon Clark is dead because he ran. We still don't care to know what happened to Sandra Bland because, according to her critics, she could have saved her own life by simply complying. They never have voices. Just hashtags.

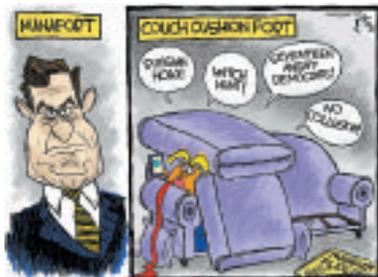
But the white stories are always told.

Here is a true story that has never been told:

On Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018, an armed burglar broke into the Dallas home of a Botham Shem Jean and shot him dead.

She was not a burglar, though. She was an excusable eraser. She was an innocent white woman who stumbled upon a tragedy and defended her life, which was obviously more valuable. But she is not a killer. She is a creator. ... of dead, Black things.

CARTOON CORNER



You can be Black, but not too Black

RENÉE GRAHAM, *The Boston Globe*

There I sat in my best (and only) suit, my sensible black pumps tapping nervously. The job fair recruiter, a middle-aged white woman, gave my resume a polite, but cursory once-over. Then she told me I needed to "lighten up" my resume, "if you know what I mean."

I didn't. She explained that some items, like my membership in a Black student journalist group, were "too Black," and might "raise a red flag" for some employers. That flag would point to my race, and possibly limit my post-college career choices.

While I'm sure this woman thought she was being helpful, it was a soul-crushing moment for me. It was a harsh introduction to the realities of

how to be Black while navigating white spaces and sensibilities. More than 30 years later, nothing has changed.

That's why I was more dismayed than surprised by a nationwide study examining the challenges faced by Black high school students. According to the survey, young Black people who expressed an interest in higher education or anti-racist activism were less likely to get responses from white college admissions officials.

Diversity in higher education is part of making amends for historical complicity with systemic racism.

Institutions of higher learning want diversity — so long as Black students check their concerns about racism and racial equality at the door.

"It's not a matter of whether

you're Black or not Black. It's what kind of Black person you are," said Ted Thornhill, an assistant sociology professor at Florida Gulf Coast University, and author of the study entitled "We Want Black Students, Just Not You: How White Admissions Counselors Screen Black Prospective Students."

"You have to be Condi Rice," he told me in an interview. "Not Angela Davis." In other words, be Black — but not too Black.

For his study, Thornhill created four email templates representing fictitious Black students interested in math and English; African-American history and culture; environmental stability; and anti-racism organizing. In inquiry emails sent to more than 500

white admissions counselors at small- to medium-sized predominantly white colleges and universities, the "students" asked whether their interests would make them a good "fit" for the school.

What Thornhill discovered is that admissions officials were about 26 percent less likely to respond to Black students who mentioned racial justice. Those numbers were even worse among white male counselors, who were 57 percent less likely to engage Black student activists. And it's not that the counselors were against all student activism. In the study, Black women who mentioned an interest in environmental sustainability were twice as likely to receive a response than those who cited racial justice.



The Miami Times welcomes and encourages letters on its editorial commentaries as well as all other material in the newspaper. Such feedback makes for a healthy dialogue among our readership and the community. Letters must, however, be 300 words or less, brief and to the point, and may be edited for grammar, style and clarity. All letters must be signed and must include the name, address and telephone number of the writer for purposes of confirming authorship. Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, The Miami Times, 900 N.W. 54th Street, Miami, FL 33127, or fax them to 305-577-5770. Email: editorial@miamitimesonline.com.



Andrew Yap, George Yap, Phaniel Dorius and Ashley Bell as they tour Leasa, the Yap's facility that started on bean sprouts.



Ashley Bell, Small Business Administration's regional administrator socializes outside of Smart Bites in Miami.

This is not your grandfather's SBA

Products such as microlending help minorities start, grow businesses

CAROLYN GUNISS
cguniss@miamitimesonline.com

Days before the first anniversary of Hurricane Irma, the U.S. Small Business Administration Region IV administrator Ashley D. Bell and Miami Mayor Francis Suarez signed an agreement that should strengthen small businesses in Miami. Dubbed a Strategic Alliance Memorandum, the alliance establishes a bond between Miami and the federal government.

are. "By signing a strategic alliance with the Small Business Administration, we are doubling down on our efforts to meet the needs of Miami's small business community. This allows us to provide entrepreneurs with the resources they need to succeed, driving economic growth, job opportunities, and diversity in the neighborhoods they serve."

SBA administrator Bell said the alliance further builds bridges that will "foster small business growth."

The attorney and former entrepreneur from Gainesville, Georgia was appointed by President Donald Trump.

A big part of Bell's job is to visit small businesses to learn more about the challenges they face and how the SBA can be of support. He also stops by to see how businesses it supported continue to thrive.

On his recent visit, he signed the alliance at Smart Bites, a healthy meals delivery service, located at 791 NW 20th St. Later that day, he visited Cream Parlor, an ice cream and sandwich takerout, located at 8224 Biscayne Blvd., and Lease Industries Co. Inc., an import-export health food business, located 2470 NW 76th St., in Liberty City.

Bell said Cream Parlor's owner is an example of the new SBA borrower. He applied for several loans online at high interest rates. The SBA partners were able to refinance his loan to make financing his business manageable.

On the heels of the Irma disaster, Bell touted the SBA's record of lending in Miami. The SBA gave disaster assistance to 6,000 Miami area businesses after Irma to the tune of \$222 million. In Miami Gardens' ZIP codes 33014, 33054, 33055, 33056 and 33179, the SBA backed more than \$3.5 million in business disaster loans since Irma, lending data show.



SBA officials Jonel Hein, Althea Harris, second and third from left and Ashley Bell, second from right, pose with the Yap family at their facility in Miami.



Ashley D. Bell
U.S. Small Business Administration administrator

Suarez said Miami has about 70,000 small businesses, and now his office will be a portal of information for small businesses. Many businesses, some of them may fall through the cracks when it comes to knowing about services available to them. The city will help funnel information to the business about SBA services.

"Small businesses serve as the backbone of Miami's growth and entrepreneurial ecosystem," said Mayor Su-

aster, Bell touted the SBA's record of lending in Miami.

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The SBA makes a guarantee

of the funds that lenders give to small businesses. It also empowers partners to help with training and assistance. Bell, who started his post in February, oversees more than \$5 billion in SBA-backed lending.

Leasa Industries sells \$10 million-a-year in sprouted beans and alfalfa and vegetables. Run by the Yap family, Leasa has been a fixture in the

community for more than 40 years.

"I started out making \$125 a week from bean sprouts. I lost money for the first four years," founder George Yap recalled.

Bell said he was impressed that Leasa had long-standing employees, some of whom had small blemishes on their history.

"Being able to go through

this factory and see people who have been here 18, 20 years and then meet their kids who just started three months ago, I think that is a testament to the power of small businesses to change a community, to change people's lives," Bell said. "I think it is a testament to what is Leasa's doing that many businesses need to

SEE SBA 4A

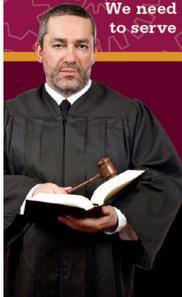
Judges • Lawyers • Legal Professionals Volunteer to Inspire!

Whether it's two hours a month or two hours a week, Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) is seeking professionals like you to invest a fraction of your time in encouraging local youth to grow into responsible citizens.

We need legal professionals like you to serve as volunteer judges for the

agency's Miami-Dade County Teen Court. As a volunteer judge, you will mentor young people and help them excel as youth attorneys for first-time juvenile offenders.

Join other South Florida attorneys and judges and volunteer with Teen Court today.



Court hearings begin at 6:00 p.m. and take place at the following locations:

Richard Gerstein Justice Building (Mondays)
1351 NW 12 St., Miami, FL
Courtroom 1-3

South Dade Government Center (Tuesdays)
10710 SW 211 St.
Miami, FL, Courtroom 2-2

North Dade Justice Center (Wednesdays)
15555 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, FL, 2nd Floor

Hialeah City Hall (every month)
501 Palm Ave., Hialeah, FL
Commission Chambers

Miami Gardens City Hall (1st Thursday of every month, 5 PM)
18605 NW 27 Ave.
Miami Gardens, FL

To learn more about MDEAT or how you can volunteer, visit www.miamidade.gov/EconomicAdvocacyTrust T 305.375.5661 • MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov

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SBA

CONTINUED FROM 3A

look at with their workforce. We don't have enough people working, and we need to have a bigger pool of people to occupy the jobs and this is a great example of trusting people who may have made mistakes in the past but who clearly through work ethic shows their commitment."

The *Miami Times* had a quick chat with Ashley Bell last week. He attended and graduated from Valdosta State University, and received his J.D. from Louisiana State University. Lighthouse College gave him an honorary doctorate. Before his appointment, Bell was associate director for External Affairs for the U.S. Peace Corps and special assistant in the Public Affairs Bureau of the United States Department of State. Bell said he was a part of the Trump Administration from day one.

He is married to Lauren, and they live in Gainesville, Florida with their three children.

MT: Tell us a little about yourself.

AB: I have been an entrepreneur since I was 22. I owned my business, and the only time I have not been an entrepreneur full time is when I joined this administration. I had a chain of retail stores, became a lawyer, had multiple law offices in multiple states. I worked in foreign policy in D.C. for the first year. After a year, the White House asked me if I was interested in going back to Atlanta, going back to an area which I know very well, and it was a natural fit.

How familiar were you with the SBA before working for it?

In starting my businesses, I didn't need SBA funding, but I was familiar with the SBA only from their counseling perspective. I had some friends working in the counseling arm of the SBA and part of what I tell small business owners now is everyone who starts a business, 'you don't know what you don't know, and especially that is how I relate to young entrepreneurs now. When I started my first business at 22, I probably should have sought more council, and if I would have, I would have made more money a lot quicker, but I had to learn the hard way and that is what a lot of young people have to do. I wish I had a relationship with SBA a little earlier in my businesses career. I probably would have had a lot more, even be more well-off had I. So part of my job at the SBA is to make sure entrepreneurs find out what they don't know and use that education to not make costly mistakes so that they can create more jobs and more wealth.

DOES THE SBA CONSIDER LENDING TO NONTRADITIONAL BUSINESSES?

A big part of what I do and what the SBA does is to make sure the lenders are understanding the changes in the marketplace, make sure that we are exposing them to our emerging leaders who come to our programs. We select young business owners and out of those classes, you are going to see things all over the place. You are going to see brick and mortars, you are going to see online, you are going to see businesses who purely operate off of Instagram. Because government sometimes can lag behind the marketplace, we need to constantly be interjecting ourselves into millennial entrepreneurship, and we need to make sure we are out here, that is why we are visiting businesses all the time. We always need to understand how the marketplace is changing and how we can educate our resource partners, how they can change with it. The numbers show that we have done a better job, have been more flexible with our lending products. I think you see more activity in our micro-lending now than you have

“

When I started my first business at 22, I probably should have sought more council, and if I would have, I would have made more money a lot quicker, but I had to learn the hard way and that is what a lot of young people have to do."

— Ashley Bell

ever seen. African-American lending is up 30 percent year over year. We are lending - micro-lending offers people up to \$50,000 and has a lot more flexible terms and requires less traditional paperwork to get access to that cap-

ital, and it is unsecured. And it is nonprofits who are doing it, so it is mission-based many times focusing on minority groups, women and veterans. And so that focus for SBA has really opened up a whole new lane for those businesses. Because many times, they do not need as much money to move products and to move their services because they do not have the traditional overhead that old-school businesses would have. Micro-lending is huge in helping startups.

IS IT PAYING OFF? ARE DEFAULTS VERY LOW?

Very low. Let me tell you why it's low. It is not because people are any smarter because they are just like I was when I was that age - 'you don't know what you don't know.' The difference is our micro-lending has a training and assistance component. The training and assistance component that comes with the micro-lending is the fact that you aren't just getting a check and good luck, here's your \$0 grand. Is the fact that you have a partner now, a nonprofit, whose job it is to not just lend you money but to help you understand how to use those resources wisely, not just to pay down debt

but to create more wealth and more opportunities for your business. So I believe micro-lending coupled with the training and assistance are keeping the default low and creating success stories.

THE SBA WAS FOUNDED IN 1953, IS IT RELEVANT TODAY?

SBA has the challenge of every institution that is in government. You have to be very intentional about keeping up with the times, to be purposeful about how we are trying to keep up with the marketplace and on our lending options. You can look at our program called Lender Match, which is where you can go online and apply for an SBA loan.

It is kind of like our version of Lending Tree, where you kind of sit in your pajamas, apply for a loan and it goes to a bunch of banks, and they all reply to you. So no longer do you have to put on a suit and tie, bring the file and go one by one and figure out who is going to take a risk on your dream. You can do a lot more electronically. We think that is part of how we are keeping up with the rest of the world. Entrepreneurs expect banks to be open 24/7. They shouldn't have to get there at 5 p.m. before closing; holidays shouldn't matter. We live in a world where everybody wants everything right now. Banking is going that way.

When We All Vote

Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. - Miami Chapter supports Michelle Obama in the "When We All Vote" and the United States of America Women for the Week of Action September 22-28 Campaign.

Join TLOD, Inc. as they sponsor: "When We All Vote - Dual Day Registration Block Party" on Sunday, September 23, 3-6

p.m. at North Dade Regional Library, 2455 NW 183 Street, Miami Gardens, FL 33056.

For additional information contact: Crystal C. Pittman, TLOD, Inc. National Area IV Director, 305-439-5426 or Betty B. Bridges, President, 786-320-2891 and Sharon A. Heath, Area IV Admin. Assistant, 786-258-3976.

A child's life...

But rich and powerful politicians like Rick Scott forget the children, the elderly and their families devastated by tens of millions of dollars in unnecessary healthcare cuts.

Oh yes, Rick Scott wants to go to the US Senate and continue his hurtful policies.

Bill Nelson has been fighting in the U.S. Senate to protect our families. He stood with President Barack Obama on the issues important to us, supporting the Affordable Care Act, helping millions of Floridians get access to quality affordable health care.

Bill Nelson is always working to put Florida families first. He will not forget us.

Nelson
for U.S. Senate

Priceless.



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Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust Homeownership Assistance Program (HAP)

Making Homeownership Affordable

First-time Home Buyer Program

MDEAT Homeownership Assistance Program (HAP) provides first-time homebuyers with down-payment and closing cost assistance through a zero-interest, non-secured, forgivable loan.

Educating Buyers

Housing Educator Workshops

HAP partners with housing counseling agencies from across Miami-Dade County, reaching nearly 1500 first-time homebuyers a year. HAP helps to increase their understanding of the purchase process so they can make well-informed purchase decisions for themselves and their families.

Expanding Our Industry Network

HAP Orientation Seminars

From realtors to closing agents to mortgage providers, HAP operates within a growing network of industry professionals. MDEAT trains and certifies these professionals which stimulates growth of the subsidized first-time home-buying market.

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Housing Advocacy Committee (HAC)

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Ballot referendums abound

Many lawsuits challenge controversial initiatives residents will vote on

K. BARRETT BILALI
Miami Times Contributor

Miami-Dade voters will have to decide on several hot-button ballot referendum votes in addition to the 12 statewide constitutional amendments.

The large number of statewide ballot referendum votes is a result of the convening of the Constitution Revision Commission. “Floridians SPEAK We Listen” is the motto of the commission, which meets to amend the state’s constitution every 20 years.

Some of the ballot referendums are facing legal challenges, which could push them off the ballot before November. In one case, Florida’s Supreme Court ordered the state to remove Amendment 8 from the ballot. The court agreed with the League of Women Voters’ complaint, which said the language and title of the amendment were vague and did not meet state standards.

The amendment would have limited school board terms to eight years, added more civic education and given charter schools autonomy from school board oversight.

On the ballot, voters will make decisions on gambling, crime victims’ rights and whether ex-felons will get the right to vote in 2019.

TEACHER PAY RAISE

A countywide ballot initiative that will be voted on in November will increase property taxes in order to provide raises for teachers and hire security personnel for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools district. Neither the school board nor the superintendent has laid out a definite plan to spend the money. The

A “yes” vote will give the public go-ahead for the city to lease the Melreese Country Club to the investors.

Voting “yes” on Amendment 4 will restore the right to vote for citizens with prior felony convictions who have completed their prison terms, parole or probation.

A vote on one of the two statewide ballot referendum items addressing gambling would effectively ban the controversial tradition of dog racing in Florida.

United Teachers of Dade and other support groups are advocating for the initiative. The measure will raise nearly \$232 million each year, costing the average taxpayer about \$142, for the next four years. In order for the special tax levy to continue, there must be another public vote.

Referendum 362 also has the support of a newly formed PAC. Secure our Future is advocating for additional security personnel and more money for Miami-Dade’s more than 18,000 teachers.

November’s referendum has also been accused of having vague language but has been revised. The school board voted back in July to include the initiative for public approval.

A KICKING STADIUM

Local voters will have the say on a proposal to lease land to investors and soccer legend David Beckham to build a 28,000-seat soccer stadium complex in Miami. The proposal has already drawn one lawsuit, which was dismissed by a judge. Critics of the project say the city did not follow its own guidelines in the bidding process for the \$1 billion project.

A “yes” vote will give the

public go-ahead for the city to lease the Melreese Country Club to the investors.

STATEWIDE ISSUES ON THE BALLOT

There are statewide questions on the ballot, which will need 60 percent of the vote to pass. Here are a few that have importance to Miami-Dade residents:

Voting “yes” on Amendment 4 will restore the right to vote for citizens with prior felony convictions who have completed their prison terms, parole or probation. Excluded are convicted murderers and those convicted of felony sexual offenses. There are an estimated 1.5 million citizens who will be granted their civil right to vote in 2019 and beyond if this measure passes.

Florida is one of four states in which a convicted felon cannot vote. Many have complained that the process of applying for clemency is long and arduous.

Amendment 6 adds Marsy’s Law to the state constitution, increases the judicial retirement age to 75 and prohibits judges from deferring to administrative offices to interpret law.

Marsy’s Law protects the

rights of crime victims from being further victimized by the criminal justice system, which is supposed to provide them justice.

A vote on one of the two statewide ballot referendum items addressing gambling would effectively ban the controversial tradition of dog racing in Florida.

“This is a black eye on our state,” said Pam Bondi, Florida’s attorney general. She told the *Daytona Beach News Journal* that dog racing is “cruel and inhumane.”

Republican Sen. Tom Lee, who sponsored the initiative, tweeted that dog racing is an “archaic tradition.”

Another change in gambling is wrapped in Amendment 3, which will require that a public vote be taken to authorize casino gambling in Florida.

Durrell Harris LOOKING FOR

Durrell Harris.
Please call Veronica Johnson at 305-420-5032

NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED BY MIAMI TIMES EDITORIAL DEPT.

Historic ribbon-cutting for Ethiopian Airlines

Miami-Dade Aviation Department and Ethiopian Airlines officials will welcome the airline’s inbound cargo flight with a water cannon salute and host a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the launch of two weekly freighter flights between the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa and Miami. The ceremony will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at the Miami International Airport Cargo Building 707 Rooftop, 6640 NW 22nd St. The launch creates the first-ever cargo-only route between the African continent and Miami International Airport.

Participants will develop and strengthen key partnerships with organizations and stakeholders and learn tools to lead as advocates and champions for change. To register and find out the requirements, go to overtowncnc.org/workshops.

Free College Day

Miami Dade College’s North Campus will open its doors to community members of all ages from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29 at MDC North, 11380 NW 27th Ave. Participants can enjoy free classes on various topics including criminal justice, science, technology, foreign languages, film, art, business and many more. Experience college life with our faculty via this free “One-Day Family Pass.” Participate in workshops that focus on computer skills, parent-child interactions, interviewing skills, resume writing, and how to pay for college. Workshops are for ages 8 and up. For information, call 305-237-1130 or at freecollegeday@mdc.edu.

English Cfdc

Practice English in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, through guided casual conversation over a cup of coffee or hot tea. Guided by a qualified volunteer instructor, this class gives new English language learners a chance to enhance and refine conversational English skills. The class is held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays at the North Miami Public Library, 835 NE 132nd St. For more information, please call the North Miami Public Library at 305-891-5535.

Free CoWork Fridays

Space Called Tribe hosts free CoWork Fridays every Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 937 NW Third Ave. in Overtown. Instead of working at a coffee shop or bookstore, anyone who needs a distraction-free working environment can use Tribe’s coworking space to be more productive.

Executive Leadership Development

The Overtown Children and Youth Coalition along with Catalyst Miami will host an Executive Leadership Development workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 25 at CIC Miami’s Everglades Room, 1951 NW Seventh Ave. Executive Leadership Sessions are designed to empower senior executives, middle managers and directors to reflect, recharge and reemerge as visionary collective impact and collabo-

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UNHOLY

CONTINUED FROM 1A

place on May 6, 2017. Valerie Wanton, a teacher at American Senior High School in Hialeah, reportedly showed Channel 10's investigative report to her class and remarked, "You do not want to be a crook like this man." Wanton knew the statement was false and defamatory, the notice said.

One of the 14 defendants is one of the most vocal community activists in the county, Tangelia Sears.

In an interview, Readon acknowledged that defamation lawsuits sometimes serve to prolong the negative accusations and complaints, but he will continue to fight to restore his reputation.

"People need to know it is still alive," said Readon. "Win, lose or draw, I have nothing to lose in this. I could win this case tomorrow, and some people are still going to feel the same."

Readon offered an explanation of what people saw in the WPLG report. He said the complainant, Lorenzo Johnson is his cousin.

About the \$9,000 check, Readon said he did not take it from his cousin's office as reported. Johnson gave Readon the check for payment for sound equipment which the church sold to Johnson.

The sound equipment was delivered, but Johnson tried to stop the check.

Readon said he never forged the check, and Wachovia Bank verified that the signature on the check was Johnson's.

When asked why the judge awarded his cousin \$9,000 plus interest, Readon said he wanted to appeal but ran out of money to pay his lawyer.

“

The way they portrayed this was like he was doing this under the auspice of the church."

Andrew Kassier

Kassier said "Channel 10 is the main case," that they are pursuing because all of the issues presented had nothing to do with the church. Readon was acting as a private businessman.

"My client has no salary from the church," said Kassier. "They also ignored that all of the people were family members."

"The way they portrayed this was like he was doing this under the auspice of the church."

The title of the news broadcast was "Unholy Acts." There were three broadcasts. Two were aired in May 2017 and the last one in November of the same year.

"They didn't attack the entrepreneur; they attacked me as a man of God," said Readon.

Kassier says that they have amended the lawsuit to \$50 million because Readon was removed from the board of his church and hundreds of members have left his congregation. Kassier also said that his real estate development business has suffered because contractors and suppliers refuse to do business with him.

Readon said that because of the negative publicity, the church has found it hard to find banks to lend it money. In addition, he has not been able to get bookings for

speeches and sermons in other churches.

Readon claims that his family members held what he called "Eric Readon takedown meetings" and points to Sears as the person who pulled everybody together.

"She doesn't like me," said Readon. "We had our differences, and she told me she was going to destroy me."

"I am shocked and dismayed that he would even try to involve her in this matter," said attorney Stephen Hunter Johnson, who has been retained by Sears.

"He's just angry. It is unfortunate that a man of God could not find another venue for his dispute with my client," Johnson said.

Johnson said the lawsuit fails to state a cause of action against his client.

"His complaint is just as empty as his coat," said Johnson.

Readon said that the lawsuit does not contain specific details of defamation, but he said that all the screenshots of Sears' Facebook posts will be entered as evidence during discovery in the case.

Several of the people who had complained about Readon on the TV broadcast were reached.

Latasha Blue, who Readon said is his wife's cousin, hung up upon the mention of Readon's name.

She appears in the TV broadcast holding three checks for \$1,000, which was reportedly a deposit on a Mercedes-Benz.

"I didn't even own a Mercedes at the time," said Readon. He said that the checks presented in the TV broadcast did not have his name on them, and he did not receive any money from Blue.

After each segment, WPLG invited Readon to comment, but he did not appear.

STREET Talk

COMPILED BY KISHANDA BURNS, digital@miamitimesonline.com

With hurricane season being unpredictable, what have you done, or are planning to do, to be prepared?



MARCUS STANLEY, 82
Miami

I've bought canned goods, water and a generator, just in case the power goes out. I also keep cash money in my wallet just in case the ATMs are down and also keep my gas tank full. As far as medication, I'll get them for at least two to three weeks, if I can get them prescribed ahead of time.



SHEILA JACKSON, 53
Miami

I've been buying water, canned goods, first-aid kits, batteries and flashlights just to get prepared for this hurricane season.



WAYNE ANDREWS, 51
Miami

I'm preparing already! I've bought food, coconut water, sweets and meat. I already have a grill and coal. I can't forget the candles, a flashlight or two and extra batteries.



CHAT ATKINS, 51
Miami

I'm planning to buy canned goods, water, crackers, tuna, peanut butter and jelly. I have to make sure that all of the phones are charged up and make sure I have a radio near me. Oh, and I can't forget chargers. It's always best to get ready for the hurricane.



FREDRICK WALDEN, 59
Miami

I'll get all my things and put them together. For my house, I'll gather all my shutters to protect my windows.



SHIRLEY BARR, 64
Miami

If anything, I'll buy canned goods or anything that I can eat off of just in case the power goes out.

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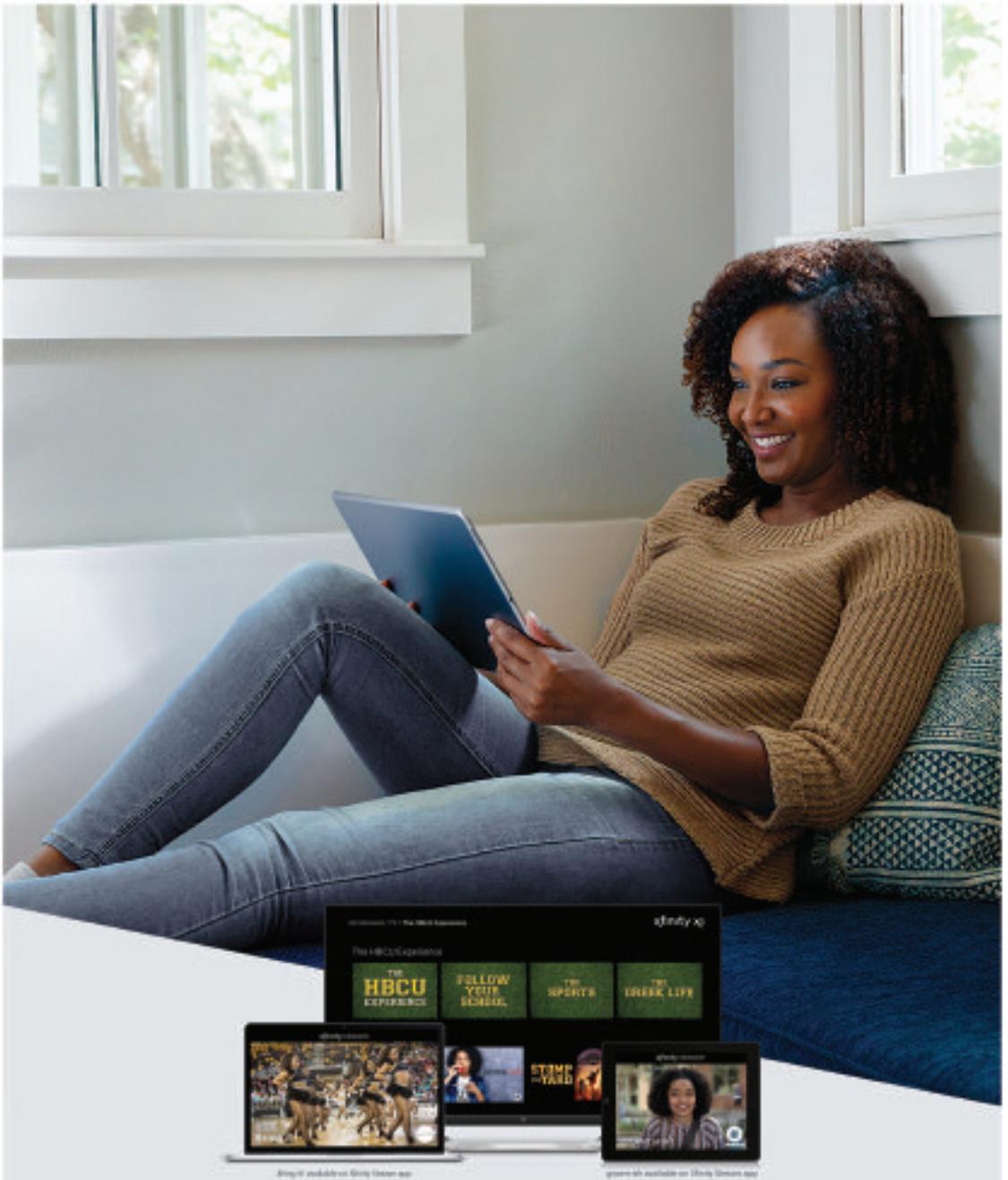
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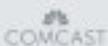
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Women's HEALTH ISSUES

Jackson PUBLIC HEALTH TRUST HEALTH SYSTEM

THE MIAMI TIMES | SEPTEMBER 2018

Man's second chance at life following motorcycle crash

A mystery began on May 20, when the new motorcycle that 27-year-old John Toro was enjoying was hit by another vehicle while he was leaving a Florida City gas station.

The next morning, Toro's brother-in-law drove to his house to give him a ride to work. When he knocked on the door and no one answered, he knew something was wrong.

Toro's sister, Jennifer Sanchez, then spent three days searching for him with no success. She retraced all his possible steps and even contacted local police. She also looked for him in several local hospitals, but she still could not locate her older brother.

"I was very worried. I knew something was wrong," Sanchez said. "The whole situation was very weird and nothing made sense to me."

Four days after his accident, Sanchez finally found Toro at Jackson South Medical Center. He was taken to Jackson South's trauma center with life-threatening injuries to his brain, as well as a broken neck and broken leg that was at risk of amputation.

Toro was in such bad shape that his sister could hardly recognize him. He underwent a craniotomy, a procedure in which doctors had to remove part of his skull in order to reduce the amount of swelling in his brain, as well as surgery to treat his broken leg and infections. After his surgeries, Toro was in an induced coma for nearly a month, leaving his family worried about his condition.

SEE TORO 10A



John Toro, whose life was saved at Jackson South Medical Center's trauma center following a motorcycle accident, is undergoing rehabilitation at Jackson Memorial Perdue Medical Center.



Blackberry Cobbler

INGREDIENTS:

- Cooking spray
- 4 cups blackberries
- 1/4 cup sugar substitute and 1/2 cup sugar substitute, divided use
- 1/4 cup water
- Juice from 1 medium lime
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/16 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 cups fat-free milk
- 1/4 cup canola or corn oil
- 1/4 cup fat-free, plain Greek yogurt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly spray a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan with cooking spray.
2. In a medium bowl, gently stir together the berries, 1/4 cup sugar substitute, the water, lime juice, and ginger. Let the berry mixture stand for at least 15 minutes so the juices can accumulate.
3. In a small bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder, salt, and the remaining 1/2 cup sugar substitute.
4. In a large bowl, whisk together the milk, oil, yogurt, and vanilla.
5. Add the flour mixture to the milk mixture, stirring just until no flour is visible. Don't overmix.
6. Pour the batter into the baking pan. Using a spatula, spread the batter in the pan. (The batter doesn't have to touch the edge of the pan; it will spread while baking.) Top with the berry mixture.
7. Bake for 50 minutes, or until a wooden toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Source: American Heart Association

Jackson's Alamo still stands

This year, Jackson Health System is celebrating its centennial – and its historic mission to provide the highest quality medical care to all members of our community.

When Jackson opened its doors as Miami City Hospital in 1918, it had 13 beds and a handful of employees. Today, it's one of the nation's largest health systems

with more than 2,100 beds and more than 12,000 employees.

A lot has changed since Jackson's humble beginnings 100 years ago, but its commitment to the health and wellbeing of the community has remained the same.

Centrally located on the Jackson Memorial Medical Center campus in the Health District, the

Alamo is Miami's oldest surviving hospital building. It serves as time capsule that showcases the municipality's early urban growth, healthcare pioneers and more.

However, in the late 1970s, the Alamo was set to be demolished to make room for the planned new East Tower at Jackson.

SEE JHS 10A



When to plan the first visit to the gynecologist

Oftentimes, just the thought of discussing the changes in a young woman's body that can lead to sexual desires sends many parents over the deep end. Yet there comes a time in their daughter's life when that development occurs. Keeping in mind that this discussion may make the conversation easier.

Confidential assistance for this challenging time for parents and their daughters is not hard to find. According to Dr. Jamell Walker, an obstetrician-gynecologist (OB/GYN) at Jackson South Medical Center, this is an optimal time to seek out the advice of a gynecologist.

We asked Dr. Walker for her advice on how parents can nav-



Dr. Jamell Walker

igate this important time in their daughter's development.

At what age should teens/young women begin seeing a gynecologist?

The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology recommends that young women have their first visit with an OB/GYN between the ages of 13 and 15. However, it's very individualized.

I recommend young ladies see a gynecologist when:

- They begin menstruating. This is a time in a girl's life when she has questions about how her body is changing, and some parents are uncomfortable discussing it.
- If they suffer from painful menstrual cycles, or heavy

SEE GYN 10A



EXPERT PARENTS CHOOSE US

Parents, did you hear the news? The pediatric services offered by UHealth - University of Miami Health System and Jackson Health System specialists will now be known as UHealth Jackson Children's Care. Where our experts work together, children can receive the best treatment possible, but it all begins with an expert parent choosing UHealth Jackson Children's Care.



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CONTINUED FROM 1A

sentenced on Nov. 27.

"The right to be free from false arrests is fundamental to our Constitution and system of justice," said Acting Assistant Attorney General John Gore. "Law enforcement officers who abuse their authority and deny any individual this right will be held accountable. As the Chief of Police, Defendant Atesiano was trusted by his community to lead their police officers by example; he has failed his community and the officers of Biscayne Park."

The officers violated the rights of the victims, who are named in the indictment C.D., E.B. and T.D.

Former officers Charlie Dayoub, Raul Fernandez, Guillermo Ravelo already pleaded guilty to framing the innocent Black men. Ravelo on July 26 was indicted on three counts of civil rights violations and faces a 10-year maximum sentence, "three years of su-

pervised release, and up to a \$250,000 fine." Ravelo's sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 4 in U.S. District Court in Miami.

The indictment said that Ravelo on Jan. 23, 2013 and Feb. 26, 2014, arrested C.D. and E.B. in connection with residential burglaries "despite Ravelo knowing that no evidence existed linking either of the victims to these crimes."

Both Fernandez and Dayoub are accused of falsifying and signing actual affidavits, which led to the unjust convictions.

The indictment said that on June 13, 2013, Fernandez and Dayoub's supervisor told them to arrest and charge T.D. for unsolved burglaries. Atesiano and Dayoub knew T.D. They both face up to a year in prison when they are sentenced Oct. 16.

T.D., a 16-year-old boy was falsely charged for four felony burglaries.

"This is a vestige of slavery and keeping Black people in check," said Smith. "They want to frame Black men and

make sure Black men have records to keep Black men down."

Richard Docobo, Atesiano's attorney said, "the facts do not demonstrate that any of the arrests in question were predicated on the arrestee's race or ethnicity. There simply is no credible evidence to suggest such a thing happened," during an interview with the Daily Business Review.

Smith disagrees. "There is nobody but Black people who were being targeted, and only Black people were being framed," said Smith.

This situation is nothing new to Black people, said Smith. But he said white people will have a better understanding of the system they support.

The fact that the police chief and officers facing prison sentences are Hispanic did not distract Smith from the bigger picture.



H.T. Smith

"It doesn't make a difference what race they [the police] were," said Smith. "The key is the police officers, irrespective of race and ethnicity, are doing what the power structure wants them to do. They don't do this to their own."

Atesiano reportedly sought to clear all open cases of home burglaries. He even announced a 100-percent success rate for solving burglaries at a village council meeting. At the same meeting, Atesiano gave reserve police officer Fernandez a certificate for his help in reaching a 100-percent burglary success rate.

The actual indictment states, "the existence of this fictitious 100-percent clearance rate of reported burglaries was used by Atesiano to gain favor with elected officials and concerned citizens."

"Most whites see the police as the entity to keep the sav-

ages away from them," said Smith. "They say, 'whatever you have to do to keep Black men in check, you do it.'"

"Police departments historically have been used to keep Black men in their place, from not participating in voting, from acquiring firearms, or from owning their business. There's no better way to do it than arrest them, and put them in jail," Smith continued.

Melba Pearson, deputy director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida said by not truly solving these cases, the officers involved got away with not making the community safer and destroying the lives of innocent Black men.

"This is the kind of thing that perpetuates the distrust that communities of color have towards police," she said.

Pearson said an Independence Review Panel would be helpful in holding police departments accountable.

"It would be a way to shine a light when officers are behaving in an inappropriate

manner," she said. However, Pearson said law enforcement needs to take more proactive approaches to training and develop a better-policing culture.

T.D. and other victims of the Biscayne Park Police's systemic framing are eligible for \$50,000 for each year they were wrongfully incarcerated, according to a global compensation bill passed by the Legislature in 2007.

The Innocence Project of Florida has been advocating and helping innocent prisoners in Florida obtain their freedom since 2003. So far, Florida has had to release 13 men after DNA evidence proved their innocence. Altogether, these men served more than 20 years.

A caveat to being eligible is not having any prior felony convictions, including the felony received while wrongfully imprisoned. The Innocence Project has been trying to change this caveat in Florida, which is the only state with a compensation law with such a provision.

GYN

CONTINUED FROM 8A

and/or irregular periods.

• If they are sexually active or if parents suspects their daughter is thinking about having sex.

Do you recommend abstinence? Is it still the best form of protection?

I encourage all young ladies to engage in abstinence until they're married, in a loving, committed, caring relationship irrespective of their age. Abstinence is the best protection against sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and it is the only form of birth control that is 100 percent effective.

What can parents expect their daughter to experience during a gynecology exam for teenage girls?

The type of exam performed depends on:

• If the teenager is sexually active or not.

• If she is not sexually active, the visit is usually a consultation, where we spend most of the appointment talking about her menstrual cycle and making sure she is maintaining her physical health. A vaginal exam is usually unnecessary.

• If she tells me that she is sexually active, then I explain the different ways to practice safe sex, including how condoms are used. I also discuss pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention. It is also standard to test for STDs.

• Pap smears are not applicable to women under 21 unless there are other risk factors.

What can parents do to make their children feel comfortable talking to them about their changing bodies and sexual intercourse?

The best thing a parent can do is engage their child in dialogue — over, and over, and over again. It may be uncomfortable at first, but your child may open up and share more than you expect.

Another option is making an appointment with a gynecologist, who can serve as a mediator. Girls may share things with the doctor that they're afraid to say to their parents.

In my practice, I usually excuse the parent from the conversation and then speak privately with my patient. During that conversation, I explain the importance of being open

and honest with your parents because they are your best advocates and are always looking to protect you.

Is there a typical age when young girls start getting their period and thinking about having sex?

Some girls begin menstruating as young as 8 or 10 years old, though the average age is 12. But the age varies because every girl develops differently.

Although it is never an easy conversation to have, parents need to understand that in general girls are engaging in sex and sexual behavior younger than they did in the past. The reality is that I have delivered babies to 12-year-old girls. Even though the human body is physically able to carry a baby at that age, however, that does not mean a girl that age is emotionally or financially able to be a mother and care for a baby. We, as responsible parents, have to step up to the plate to help our children make good decisions and know the repercussions of being sexually active at a young age.

When you factor in race, ethnicity, and culture are there changes to the age range that things happen?

It's pretty consistent

across the board. The biggest phenomenon I'm seeing are girls who maintain their vaginal virginity, but are sexually active by engaging in oral or anal intercourse. That is also risky because there are numerous sexually transmitted diseases related to these practices.

Speaking of sexually transmitted diseases, what are some of the biggest health risks teenage girls face?

Of the STDs that they encounter, the most prevalent is human papillomavirus, known commonly as HPV. That's why we encourage girls around the age of 12 to get the HPV vaccine.

These young ladies are also engaging in activity that

puts them at risk of other STDs, including chlamydia, gonorrhea, genital herpes, genital warts, Hepatitis B, HIV and AIDS and pelvic inflammatory disease.

Do you have any final advice that you would like to leave with parents of teenage girls?

Use your gynecologist as a resource. We provide information and education on safe sex and the prevention of pregnancy and STDs, and can help treat various issues related to periods that are missed or reproductive problems.

Learning about female health and taking care of their body from a young age is important. Women continue seeing their gy-

necologist for many decades, and it is important to develop a relationship with a physician they trust and feel comfortable with.

Dr. Jamell Walker, MD, ScM, FACOG, is an obstetrician and gynecologist and medical director at the Jackson Medical Group, The Women's Center at Jackson South Medical Center. Her specialties include adolescent gynecology, menopause management & hormonal therapies, minimally invasive surgery, laparoscopic and Da Vinci robotic surgery, cervical conization and abnormal uterine bleeding. To make an appointment with an OB/GYN, go to jacksonhealth.org or call 305-256-2150.

TORO

CONTINUED FROM 8A

Although Toro, a father of two, was fully aware of the extent of his injuries, he always remained optimistic about his future.

"I knew I was going to be back to normal," Toro said. "I always knew everything was going to be ok. I'm a very strong person."

Now, more than three months after his accident, Toro feels grateful for getting a second chance at life, and is working hard to get back on his feet.

It would take a comprehensive team of physicians and nurses to bring him back from the brink. Among the doctors were Gabriel Ruiz, UHealth trauma surgeon; Ian Cote, UHealth neurosurgeon; Gregory Zych, UHealth

orthopedic surgeon; Jaime Carbonell, podiatrist; and Gemayret Alvarez-Gonzalez, UHealth physical therapy and rehabilitation.

Toro is currently receiving care, including physical therapy, at Jackson Memorial Perdue Medical Center. He has recently taken his first steps since his accident.

With a new outlook on life, Toro is looking forward to spending time with his family and focusing on his education and career.

"I want to give my kids a good example and be a good father to them," Toro said.

His caregivers and family have found his speedy recovery to be miraculous.

"After a lot of work from the trauma, neurosurgery, orthopedic, podiatry, and ICU teams, along with therapy at Jackson South and Jackson Rehabilitation Hospital, he's had the most amazing recov-

ery," Dr. Ruiz said. "He would not have survived anywhere else. He is truly a miracle."

Chabellys Payares, a registered nurse who treated Toro in the intensive care unit at Jackson South, remembers how he and his family never gave up.

"We are supposed to inspire patients, but this patient and his family inspired me," Payares said. "John made an incredible recovery not only with the help of our Jackson staff, but mainly with his will to live."

The young father credits Jackson and his sister for saving his life and is now excited about what the future holds. He remains optimistic about his recovery and what this next chapter of his life has in store.

"I'm very proud of myself," Toro said. "I feel good and that I can overcome all my challenges. I feel strong again."

JHS

CONTINUED FROM 8A

Employees were not going to let that happen. They were determined to preserve the hospital's cherished history, and in 1977 organized the "Save the Alamo" campaign.

After two years of fundraising spearheaded by Jackson staff, Miami residents and community supporters, including Dade Heritage Trust, The Villagers, and the

Historical Association of South Florida, enough money was raised to save the building from demolition.

In February 1979, the Alamo was moved 476 feet.

A year later, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its architecture represents an example of Mediterranean Revival style designed by August Geiger, a prominent local architect who helped produce many of Miami's well-known structures, including the Miami Woman's Club, La

Gorce Country Club and the Dade County Courthouse.

A museum of Jackson Memorial's history is currently housed on the Alamo's ground floor, with Jackson Health System's Communication and Outreach Department occupying the second floor.

The building has become the centerpiece of the sprawling Jackson Memorial Medical Center campus. To learn more about Jackson's rich history, visit CenturyOfMiracles.org.

COMPREHENSIVE BREAST INSTITUTE
at North Shore Medical Center
COMPLETE BREAST CARE FOR LIFE

Breast Cancer AWARENESS MONTH

1 IN 8 WOMEN WILL DEVELOP BREAST CANCER IN THEIR LIFETIME.

Join us for a discussion and get the facts about prevention, early detection, symptoms and treatment options as we celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Register for this free event by visiting NorthShoreMedical.com/MammoEvent or call (855) 767-8772



SPEAKER

Terri Noe, M.D.
Radiologist

WHEN

Wednesday, October 3rd
12 Noon
Auditorium

1100 N.W. 95th STREET | MIAMI, FL 33160
WWW.NORTHSHOREMEDICAL.COM

NORTH SHORE
Medical Center

A popular Little Haiti staple lands at MIA

CHEF CREOLE SET TO OPEN SIXTH LOCATION IN ONE OF MIAMI'S BUSIEST PLACES

FELIPE RIVAS
frivas@miamitimesonline.com

Chef Creole will soon share its unique fusion of Haitian-Bahamian culinary tradition with the plethora of tourists and visitors who come through Miami International Airport on a daily basis.

Owner Wilkinson Sejour, affectionately known as Chef Creole, is well known around Little Haiti, but he has managed to attract the attention of county commissioners, a famous

chef, big-time developers and scores of loyal customers. Banks, however, have managed to overlook Sejour's popularity. Still, he has been able to open up six Chef Creole locations, the latest at the airport next week.

Jordan

Sejour almost had to remodel his original location because on Sunday, a Miami-Dade County Transit Metro struck a support beam, causing serious structural damages, according to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue.

Ten people were hurt at the Northwest 54th Street location, two with serious injuries.

The crash impacted business for the Chef Creole location due to the closing of the surrounding area. As of Monday, the bus was still lodged in the building as Miami Fire Rescue's Technical Rescue Team worked to stabilize the building.

The idea to open a location at MIA was suggested by County Commissioner Barbara Jordan.

SEE MIA 14B



Wilkinson Sejour stands in front of the new Chef Creole location at the airport.

MIAMI HERALD/PHOTO BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MATTERS

DANIELLA PIERRE, affordablehousingmatters@gmail.com

Renters: See us, help us

Affordable Housing Matters recognizes the second annual National Renters Month

While homeownership costs have gone up and down over the years, rental rates have just continued to soar. In fact, over the past 15 years, rents have grown much faster than household incomes.

More American households are headed by renters than at any point since at least 1965, based on a report from CNBC, a cable business channel. Grossly unaffordable rents, especially here in

South Florida, leave residents spending up to 50 percent of their monthly income on housing. The United States House of Representatives back in 2017 designated September National Month for Renters to raise awareness of the rental affordability crisis.

Ali Solis, the CEO of Make Room, a group working to address the rental housing crisis in America, issued the following statement ahead of National Month for Renters:

"Imagine working, sometimes more than one job, and you still can't afford to pay rent every month. Food, medical care and prescriptions often take a backseat



Pierre

to rent. This is a nightmarish reality in a country where dreams are supposed to come true."

It's because of that nightmare why tenant and housing justice groups in more than 45 cities across the country on Sept. 22 will march as part of National Renters' Day of Action. The action is being spearheaded by Homes For All, started in 2013 on the premise "that all people have a human right to housing."

TO RENT OR NOT TO RENT!

Owning your residence has benefits and so does renting a home or apartment. In some settings, renters



Rents have grown much faster than household incomes for the last 15 years.

are counted out in their local community because they don't pay their share of property taxes. I get it. Yes, but the owner of the property does pay, and in

Florida, that owner does not get a Homestead deduction that can run into the thousands of dollars.

In the long term, owning
SEE RENT 15B

Why the iPhone XR isn't coming out until mid-October

New phone options to be released during different times of year

SHANNON LIAO
The Verge

Last week, Apple announced its new iPhones, curiously giving the cheaper and more colorful iPhone XR a ship date of over a month after the more luxe iPhone XS and XS Max models become available on Friday. Why didn't Apple release all three phones at once?

In fact, Apple's release pattern is exactly the opposite of what it did last year when it chose to release its more affordable phones, the iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus, just 10 days after the Apple event in September, while the iPhone X wasn't available until November. This was due to OLED supply issues, and iPhone X sales initially suffered for it.

Reports that the iPhone XR, which starts at \$749 and features a so-called Liquid Retina LCD display, was facing supply issues floated around over this past summer. In July, Japanese blog Macotakara reported that supplier Japan Display had low yields in manufacturing the LCD panels. Ryan Reith, IDC's vice president of research on mobile devices, told *The Verge* in a phone interview that more specifically, it likely wasn't a hardware issue. "Everything we've been hearing, it's been an issue on the software side," he said. "There's a lot of software involved with the LCD screen, as it's the first [LCD display] with a notch and full screen."

Reith added, "Apple could not get enough of these displays. It's run into last-minute kinks with the contact manufacturer." He said that Apple has been in production for a while, but that the "quality wasn't hitting what they needed." Apple has had to tweak the LCD screen through software engineering to improve the visuals, as well as get its manufacturer to cut the material into a notched shape.

Canalys senior analyst Ben Stanton said to *The Verge*, "Apple would not delay the launch of iPhone XR for any reason other than the device is not ready to be shipped at adequate volume." He elaborated, "The constraint with the device is around the new LCD display, which has bottlenecked production."

Apple has not responded to multiple requests for comment. US-based IDC and Singapore-based Canalys track the parts that go into Apple devices and come up with estimates, and from those estimates they provide analysis.

Stanton said he doesn't expect customers will be so eager to switch over to a new iPhone as soon as possible that they'll end up buying an iPhone XS or XS Max model in the interim. "The price differential between the iPhone XS and XR is so great," he said. "Consumers will not be upsoled on impulse."

Despite the one month delay in the iPhone XR, both analysts agreed that Apple is betting hard on its cheaper product. Reith said that Apple knew it was pushing its luck on increasing iPhone prices up to \$1,449 this year for the 512GB storage option on the XS Max.

"Apple has heard there's a threshold for pricing. They realize there are a lot of people that won't go that high," he said.

The delay might cost Apple some sales on its iPhone XR model, as people might end up buying the XS Max while Apple struggles with its LCD supply issues.



Marques Brownlee, aka MKBHD, is best known for his reviews on hand-held devices.

YouTube tech influencers you should know

“

Keep in mind, this is not the definitive list, nor will everyone listed match your choice, but they are what we found is popular right now.”

These Black content creators can keep you informed about the newest gadgets

LORI SHEPHERD
UrbanGeekz

Who doesn't have a YouTube channel or two that they simply can't live without?

For tech, content creators have an even larger audience as viewers stumble across the videos while they search for a product name or brand on YouTube. And of course, there are YouTubers who have built a loyal audience and following.

Naturally, at *UrbanGeekz*, we are keen on all around nerdism. So, we thought it would be fun to compile a list of 10 tech influencers we think you should know about or subscribe to. Keep in mind, this is not the definitive list, nor will everyone listed match your choice, but they are what we found is popular right now.

1. MKBHD

Marques Brownlee is a YouTube sensation. Best known for his reviews on hand-held devices, Marques, aka MKBHD,

produces a channel that is informative, well-researched and an invaluable resource for tech consumers. Last time we checked, Marques had 6.5 million subscribers and it's clear why.

2. URAVGCONSUMER

Here's a channel any techie parent will love. Not only is the host up on the back-to-school gadgetry, but he's also keeping it real about cost and performance. He's always offering giveaways for viewers. We particularly love his Gadget Backpack series.

3. LAMARR WILSON

Oh, how we love Lamarr Wilson. He's just clever, cute, witty, and a bundle of information about everything tech. Love those sound effects!

4. TECHMEOUT

TechmeOut claims to deliver the information on everything technology. And it

does! From product reviews, unboxings, top apps to download for Android and iOS, tech tips, jailbreak tweaks, and more. We particularly like TechmeOut's product roundups. This lady has a channel that's the bomb!

5. SOLDIER KNOWS BEST

The host has a stellar channel packed full of informative details about the most popular products including TVs, smartphones, and more. Nice promo code opportunities too!

6. FISAYO FOSUDO

The Nigerian-based techie describes himself as a visual storyteller and tech YouTuber. He creates visually stimulating and well-polished videos on gadgets and hand devices. This young University of Lagos graduate is certainly showcasing the growing appetite for mobile devices in Nigeria and across the continent.

SEE TECH 15B

MIA

CONTINUED FROM 11B

"Jordan's support and legislation helped spearhead the negotiations with the airport," said Sejour.

Jordan praised the food served at Chef Creole and the tenacity of Sejour in a recent email.

"A poor kid from the streets of Little Haiti, by the ways of the Bahamas, has grown into a successful entrepreneur," Jordan said. Sejour has been "serving the finest Haitian cuisine throughout Miami-Dade County, and now has ascended to serving international customers at Miami International Airport. His food is simply delicious and airport patrons are going to love it."

Miami-Dade Aviation Director, Lester Sola, said Chef Creole will increase the diversity of foods served at MIA.

"With nonstop flights to more than 150 destinations around the world, our goal is for the future of the shops and restaurants at Miami International Airport to be as diverse as the passengers we serve, and as diverse as Miami-Dade County," he said.

"To that end, we are proud to welcome Chef Creole to our multi-cultural mix of dining options, and yet another local business to the MIA community."

For his latest restaurant, Sejour will have to adjust his business model, mostly because of a recently approved living wage ordinance for airport concession workers.

"When you come into the airport and you look at the overhead that it takes in order for you to try to make a profit, you are already behind the eight ball," he said.

In late July, the board of county commissioners agreed to institute a living wage ordinance for concession workers at MIA,

HUSTLE

CONTINUED FROM 12B

Sirius FM radio, and my background is in marketing. It's an area that is important for anything you want to do whether it's marketing your talent or starting a business and coming up with creative ways to market that business," she notes.

She goes on to describe her early days in radio when budgets were tight and she had to find ways to promote her show. "This was back when Twitter had just started. There was no Instagram yet, and I had to find ways to promote online. I would have people come in and film segments of my show so I could post it, but that content was getting picked up. And even now, there are so many people and so many outlets looking for content. So, if you can come up with something great and creative, and be an asset to somebody, that is something that people really need right now," she says.



An employee serves a guest at the new Chef Creole location at Miami International Airport. Photo courtesy of Jimmy Nickerson

an initiative that was supported by Commissioner Jordan. The ordinance requires airport concessions to pay employees \$12 to \$15 an hour, depending on health benefits.

The ordinance has not come into effect as of yet, but Sejour is already thinking how to adjust his business model to comply with the ordinance. "I have to make a decision, [on whether] I absorb the cost or do I pass it on to my customers," he said.

Sejour said the ordinance is good in a "general sense," but for small business owners, it can mean cutting into profits. The ordinance gives Sejour's company the responsibility that could be more easily absorbed by a larger company.

"But you will not be able to profit like a conglomerate," he explained.

At the MIA location's opening Wednesday, Sept. 19, employees will receive minimum wage, until the living wage ordinance is implemented in the airport. Minimum wage in Miami-Dade County starts at \$8.25 an hour.

When accounting for the living wage ordinance, Sejour is weighing reducing portion sizes or raising prices in the menu. "As a business owner, it is a catch 22 for me."

Though a learning curve is imminent for Sejour's new enterprise, he is hopeful that he will maintain the managing and culinary culture he has created at his previous five restaurants.

"Like any other business, you are going to have to roll with the punches," he said. "And once you are a proven success story in their home, they will allow you to push the envelope."

He has been able to finance his small concentration of successful restaurants with little support from banks.

"The biggest challenge was financing the different locations," he said. "I would have to finance my own endeavors."

Additionally, curating a menu and replicating it uniformly throughout the different locations were equally as challenging. "You

need to train people to be identical to your system," he said.

"People need to understand that what is going on at restaurant No.1 and 2, needs to go on at restaurant No. 3."

These same challenges are looming once he is fully operational in the airport.

He touts the support of the county commissioners as a reason to be hopeful for the future of his new business.

"They are very attentive; they have opened up the doors of possibility to keep this engine running," he said about the commission. "They know this engine represents employment for a community that is struggling."

Sejour's restaurants, including the MIA location, employ more than 50 people, most of whom reside in the Little Haiti area. "More than a busi-

nessman, I am my community's biggest supporter," he said. He is willing to take a chance on employees who have been denied by other employers, whether due to criminal records or lack of experience. "Growing up in Little Haiti, Lemon City, Liberty City, I understand that stuff happens. It doesn't make you a bad person, it just means you made a mistake; I'm trying to solve the problem."

Sejour was born in the Nassau, Bahamas to Haitian parents and started cooking at a young age. He opened the first Chef Creole location in 1992 and focused on mixing a luscious fusion of Haitian-Bahamian cooking traditions to craft an original menu that reflected his identity and background. "The flavor of our food is Haitian, but we mix it with Bahamian items," Sejour said.

Haitian cuisine relies heavily on ingredients like green onions, okra, oxtail and pork. Sejour fuses seafood-inspired options to reflect his Bahamian heritage. "Conch fritter, fried conch, fried shrimp, lobster, conch salad, these items reflect the Bahamas," he said. "Our style and presentation are what sets us apart."

ANTHONY BOURDAIN'S VISIT

The late world-renowned chef, Anthony Bourdain, who took his own life earlier this year featured Chef Cre-

ole on his show, "No Reservations," circa 2006. The show helped established Sejour as a Haitian culinary staple in South Florida.

"He was a guy that was so down-to-earth," he said about the late chef. "He felt like a homeboy, and it was natural." Almost 12 years later, "Bourdainians" come to visit the restaurant where Sejour and Bourdain enjoyed a traditional Haitian meal. Bourdainians are tourists who follow the different locations that Bourdain documented throughout his travels.

"To this day, they come to my store and ask if this is where he was sitting and order what we ate when we filmed the show," Sejour explained.

Come Wednesday, Bourdainians will not have to travel to Little Haiti to enjoy Chef Creole's cuisine; they will be able to order it as soon as they reach baggage claim. The restaurant is located before travelers enter security in Terminal E on the second floor near Door 11. The airport in 2017 saw an average of 838,633 passengers weekly.



SOUTHEAST OVERTOWN/PARK WEST COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PLEASE ALL TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Commissioners Meeting of the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency (SEOPW CRA) is scheduled to consider approval to amend the SEOPW Community Redevelopment Plan on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., at Camillus House, 1603 N.W. 7th Avenue, Building B, Miami Florida 33136.

All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information please contact the SEOPW CRA office at (305) 679-6800.

#30285

Cornelius Shiver, Executive Director
Southeast Overtown/Park West
Community Redevelopment Agency

SKANSKA

Invitation to Bid

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received on **Friday, October 19th at 2:00pm** by Jackson Health System (for Skanska USA Building) for the following independent Jackson Memorial Hospital project: **Jackson Health System – Project "D" – ORs 19 & 20**

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

**Jackson Memorial Hospital
Facilities, Design and Construction, Trailer #1
Attn: Skanska-Luis Mejia
1611 NW 12th Ave
Miami, FL 33136**

There is a mandatory pre-bid walk-thru scheduled on **September 28th at 9:00am**. Bid requirements and bid forms, specifications, drawings and other construction documents will be available on www.skanska-cloud.com (DocuPro). Bid packages include:

- Division 01 – Final Cleaning (SBE-C SET ASIDE)
- Division 02 – Demolition (SBE-C SET ASIDE)
- Division 05 – Misc. Steel
- Division 06 – Millwork
- Division 07 – Firestopping
- Division 08 – Doors (SBE-C SET ASIDE)
- Division 09 – Framing and Drywall (SBE-C SET ASIDE)
- Division 09 – Ceilings (SBE-C SET ASIDE)
- Division 09 – Flooring
- Division 09 – Painting (SBE-C SET ASIDE)
- Division 09 – Finishes
- Division 10 – Specialties (SBE-C SET ASIDE)
- Division 21 – Fire Protection
- Division 22 – Plumbing
- Division 23 – HVAC
- Division 26 – Electrical

Skanska is committed to supporting the economic development of Miami-Dade County small businesses through the SBE-C program. Miami-Dade County certified "small" business entities are encouraged to submit bid proposals. All subs interested in bidding this project will need to have gone through Skanska's prequalification process. It can be initiated at <https://apps.skanska.com/prequalification>.

All questions can be directed to Project Manager - Luis Mejia (luis.mejia@skanska.com), or Project Engineer - Blake Boswell (William.Boswell@skanska.com)

Skanska USA Building Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals in whole or part and to waive formalities and irregularities.

Each subcontractor is to identify their 1st, 2nd, 3rd, tier SBE participants as bid solicitation.

Each subcontractor is to provide a resume of prior health care experience with point of contact.

Please confirm that you have included the office of inspector general fee in your bid. Please confirm that you have read and understand wage & classification requirements associated with the Miami Dade Responsible Wage Act 2018 and have made reasonable adjustments for 2019.

All non-SBE subcontractors are required to provide a minimum of 21.5% SBE contribution to their direct cost of work scope. This breakout must be identified and reflected in the Bid.



MIDTOWN REDEVELOPMENT DISTRICT COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PLEASE ALL TAKE NOTICE that a Board of Commissioners Meeting of the Midtown Redevelopment District Community Redevelopment Agency is scheduled to take place on **Thursday, September 27, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.**, or thereafter, at Miami City Hall, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, FL 33133.

All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information please contact the Midtown CRA office at (305) 679-6866.

#30281

Pieter A. Bockweg, Executive Director
Midtown Community Redevelopment Agency



City of Miami Notice of Solicitation

ITB No.: 17-18-050

Title: Hadley Park Synthetic Turf and Park Improvements, D5
ITB Due Date Thursday, October 18, 2018: at 3:00 PM

Voluntary Pre-Bid Conference City of Miami

444 SW 2nd Avenue, 6th Floor South Conference Room
Miami, Florida 33130
Friday, September 28, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

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

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

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

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

DP# 29651

Emilio T. Gonzalez, City Manager

Classified



Sell It | Rent It | Find a Job | A Car
A House | An Apartment

THE MIAMI TIMES | SEPTEMBER 19-25, 2018 | MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

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Apply online today at: http://jobs.dadeschools.net for assistance contact Lourdes Rodriguez 305.995.1136. OIL CHANGE TECH Small business looking for an experienced oil change tech. For high volume fleet service. Medium/Heavy Truck experience a PLUS. Email: info@oilchangetoyou.com . ROUTE DRIVERS We are seeking drivers to deliver newspaper to retail outlets in Broward and Miami Dade. Wednesday Only You must be available between the hours of 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. Must have reliable, insured vehicle and current Driver License. Apply in person at: The Miami Times 2525 NW 54th Street SALES ORIGINATOR \$25 PER HOUR CALL 1-844-237-8015 myshortsaleapproval.com PERSONALS FUN, FLIRTY, LOCAL Women! Call 786-364-7785 Try Free! www.livelinks.com CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 4 P.M., TUESDAY	GEME AND SONS, INC. Custom-made cabinets for Kitchens and bathrooms at affordable prices. 14130 N.W. 22nd Avenue. Call 305-685-3565 SPIRITUALIST CATHRINE Spiritual leader. I solved all problems in Life, Love, Marriage, Business, Success. Remove your life. One visit will change your life! 786-569-8346 NEED YOUR PROPERTY SOLD? CALL 305.694.6210 PALERMO LAKES OPEN WAIT LIST 5311 NW 7TH STREET MIAMI, FLORIDA 33126 APPLICATION FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING FOR PERSONS 62 OR OLDER, OR HANDICAPPED, WILL BE GIVEN OUT ON A FIRST COME BASIS ON 09/21/2018 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. THE WAIT LIST WILL CLOSE AT 4:00 P.M. ON 9/21/2018. APPLICANTS MUST APPLY IN PERSON WITH IDENTIFICATION AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. 	PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD CALL 305.694.6210

No chance at Affordable Housing

Miami Times Staff Report

Martin Fine Villas, a brand-new senior living apartment complex is now open for leasing, or at least that's what an announcement on its website says.

"We will be distributing applications on 9/18, 9/19, and 9/20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1407 NW 7 St., Suite 7, Miami FL, 33125," stated the announcement for one and two bedrooms.

Yet on Sept. 18, seniors who were waiting in line from 8:43 a.m., were turned away because TRG Management Co., the professional apartment management division of the Related Group who developed the project, were out of applications.

Seniors were given the option to continue waiting in line until applications became available again or come back on Sept. 19.

According to the development's website, "Martin Fine Villas in Miami is a seven-story, mid-rise build-



Martin Fine Villas is located at 780 NW 13 Court, Miami.

ing with amenities such as surveillance cameras, card access entry, computer lab, community room, fitness center, laundry room and

trash disposal chutes on each floor." The for resident 55 and older is located at 780 NW 13 Court, Miami.

Neither Martin Fine Villa nor TRG Management was responsive to several calls made by *The Miami Times* on Tuesday.

TECH

CONTINUED FROM 13B

7. SUPERSAF

Safwan is one of the U.K.'s largest tech influencers bringing news, views, and reviews of the latest and most innovative technology on the consumer market. With more than 1 million YouTube subscribers, over

180 million video views, and a strong social media following, SuperSaf has a growing platform for trusted tech content.

8. AUSTIN NWACHUKWU

Austin works a day job at Google as an engineer. His side gig is his YouTube channel that now has more than 60,000 subscribers. He provides product reviews and first looks at the latest

9. CURIOUSJOI

What's it about? Well, the host is here to talk about all things GEEK! Video games, movies, TV, comics, and more! She also likes to cover all the hottest conventions, even the ones that aren't as well-known. This is an awesome channel hosted with

charm and natural engagement.

10. EVERYTHING TECHNOLOGY

Victor Kamanga is the founder and producer of Everything Technology, which is a YouTube channel focused on consumer electronics and related accessories. The teen prides himself on giving honest reviews of techie products.

RENT

CONTINUED FROM 11B

a home builds equity, which can lead to generational wealth. Most consider generational wealth, being able to leave offspring and others in a better financial position, the American Dream. But, renters have the flexibility to move; no monthly impact on a lessee's credit report; lowered maintenance cost or repair bills; access to ame-

nities; and no long term required commitment.

And, as with anything, there is a pro and con or some sort of drawback. I believe one of the main reasons why many renters haven't purchased yet, is due to availability and affordability, not necessarily because they don't want to.

OWN THE JOYS OF BEING A RENTER

Because of the state of the housing market, especially as it relates to renters,

celebrate where you live, proudly - and not only during the month of September, but each day of the year. You may not own now, but you still have a voice. You are not alone, there are about 111 million of us living in rentals.

Reach out to your local policymakers and share with them your concerns about housing affordability and the dire need to expand access to affordable rental options.

So to all my fellow renters, let's take this month to

recognize our resiliency and promote our existence as rightful upstanding contributors in our nation's economy. I'm so glad to know that renters like me finally get some sort of recognition rather than the usual stigma because we don't own a home.

Are you a rocking renter? How are you celebrating National Month of Renters? Let's hear about it! Share your story today. Contact Daniella.Pierre.affordablehousingmatters@gmail.com.

SOUTHEAST OVERTOWN/PARK WEST COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PLEASE ALL TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Commissioners Meeting of the Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency (SEOPW CRA) is scheduled to take place on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 5:00 p.m., at Camillus House, 1603 N.W. 7th Avenue, Building B, Miami Florida 33136.

All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information please contact the SEOPW CRA office at (305) 679-6800.

#30284 Cornelius Shiver, Executive Director
Southeast Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency

Public Hearing Date

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENTS TO FY 2015-2018 ACTION PLANS, AND CORRESPONDING FY 2013-17 CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG), HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM FUNDS (HOME), AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) PROGRAM FUNDS

The Housing and Social Services Committee (HSSC) will hold a public hearing on the substantial amendments described below on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., at the next regularly scheduled HSSC meeting if not approved, due to lack of consensus or dissent. Subsequently, the item will be considered for final action by the Board of Community Commissioners (BOC) at the meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2018 at 9:30 a.m., or at a meeting as determined by the BOC chair. Both meetings will be held inside the Board of County Commissioner Chambers located on the second level of the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW 1st Street, Miami, Florida 33125.

The purpose of the hearing is to give the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed Substantial Amendments to the FY 2015-2018 Action Plan, and Corresponding FY 2013-17 Consolidated Plan, which has been extended by U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) until September 30, 2018, to include the following:

- CDBG Recapture and Reallocation Amount: up to \$604,815.71
- HOME Recapture and Reallocation Amount: up to \$103,902.81
- ESG Recapture and Reallocation Amount: up to \$3,877.15

The public is invited to attend and comment. Comments may also be submitted in writing until Monday, October 15, 2018 to the attention of Mr. Clarence Brown, Director/Chief of Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD), 701 NW 1st Court, 14th Floor, Miami, Florida 33136 by calling (786) 868-4273 or via e-mail at CommunityDevelopmentServices@miamicity.gov

A copy of the proposed Substantial Amendments will be available for review online at <https://www.miamicity.gov/technology/> and at the Miami-Dade Department of Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD) located at 701 NW 1st Court, 14th Floor, Miami, FL 33136.

PHCD does not discriminate on race or sex in its programs, rental units, rental applications, waiting lists, or other activities. Any person who is denied housing or rental units in the manner described in this notice may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or the Florida Department of Banking Regulation (FDBR) at least 90 days before the HUD or FDBR hearing. For more information, call (800) 877-8777.

For legal case online, go to <http://legalsolutions.miamicity.gov>



Charles A. Smith/Jackson State Communications

Jackson State defender Ryan Griffin celebrates after a Florida A&M incompletion Saturday at Veterans Memorial Stadium in Jackson.

Lack of discipline costs FAMU

TEAM LOSES CLOSE GAME AGAINST JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, BRACES FOR SAVANNAH STATE CHALLENGE

ROBERT RIMPSON
The Fanuan

Penalties and poor clock management was the story for Florida A&M football in their 18-16 loss to Jackson State University.

Saturday night's game came down to the final seconds, and poor clock management by head coach Willie Simmons cost the Rattlers a chance to win the game.

With 1:09 left in the game, FAMU managed to drive all the way from the Tigers' 36-yard line to their own two after FAMU quarterback

Ryan Stanley connected with wide receiver Xavier Williams on a long pass. With less than 20 seconds left and a chance to win the game, the Rattlers elected to run the ball with no timeouts left. On 2nd down with 13 seconds left on the running clock, coach Simmons tried to quickly get the field goal unit on the field instead of spiking the ball and time ran out before the Rattlers could snap it.

"Obviously poor clock management on my part," said coach Simmons after the game. "We had no time outs so, you got to throw the

football. We ran a play that kind of gave us the option to run it or throw it, we hand the ball off and didn't get it and time was running down. I should've killed the ball and let the quarterback spike it...just poor clock management on my part. I assume full responsibility for that."

Penalties were also costly for FAMU. Although the offense was able to move the ball easily, racking up a total of 463 total yards, penalties and turnovers constantly killed momentum on the Rattlers' drives.

"It's poor fundamentals," Simmons explained. "Right

now, we're not playing very good fundamental football and that's coaching. We've got to do a much better job of stressing it. We may have to look at the way we practice, and we may have to implement some more individual time...to make sure we get fined tuned in our fundamentals."

FAMU committed 15 penalties which costed them 177 yards, and that's without mentioning the many holding penalties that were declined by the Tigers.

On top of all that, the Rattlers lost the turnover battle. While they were able

to force two interceptions on the defense end, the FAMU offense lost three fumbles.

Despite the gut-wrenching loss, Stanley is only allowing himself 24 hours to dwell on it.

"If I get in there moping around and crying or having my head down those guys will do the same thing," Stanley said. "I just got to keep my spirits high and tell them we have a long season ahead of us. Twenty-four-hour rule for a victory and a 24-hour window for a loss. You just got to watch the film tomorrow and get better."

Stanley's performance

is one thing the Rattlers can hang their hat on. He completed 26 passes in 37 attempts for 340 yards and a touchdown. The defense also put up a great performance, forcing two turnovers and only allowing JSU to convert 3 times out of 14 on third down.

"I think we fought hard right to the end," said linebacker Derrick Mayweather. "It just came down to the last minute."

The real test for FAMU starts this Saturday, as they open conference play at home against Savannah State at 4 p.m.



JENNY ZIEGLER, Zsportsreport@gmail.com

The NFL breaks silence about police brutality

League decides to speak as Colin Kaepernick chooses to stay quiet

JENNY ZIEGLER
Zsportsreport@gmail.com

Silence is golden, except when it isn't.

For all the wrong reasons and for far too long, the NFL has remained silent on the "specific issues" behind the protest started by the quarterback, Colin Kaepernick.

Initially, the league and its owners tried to make the protest about the flag — calling the protests unpatriotic. They tried to diminish the protests by classifying them as conduct detrimental to the team. They also tried to govern them by putting rules and punishments into place to make them go away.

They proposed highlighting players' work done in the communities and even offered to donate money to the athletes' causes of choice, still not acknowledging the protest started

by Kaepernick.

Their pressure and pacification attempts failed.

To date, the protests continue.

Even as they are being sued for colluding to keep Kaepernick out of the league, they have clung to the silent count.

That was until.

Nike, in one fell swoop or "swoosh" came out in support of Kaepernick's cause, making him the face of its 30th anniversary "Just Do It" ad campaign.

With all kinds of irony written all over it, the commercial aired during the NFL's season opener between the Atlanta Falcons and the reigning Super Bowl champion, Philadelphia Eagles.

"Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything."

Nine little words, yet they



Photo via Business Insider

Colin Kaepernick and former 49ers teammate, Eric Reid, kneel in support of social equality.

say so much.

Unable to make the collusion case go away and now with one of their biggest corporate sponsors protecting the QB's blind side, the league was left scrambling to save face.

Nike is the official apparel company of the NFL through 2028.

The multibillion-dollar sports apparel company putting its money and its branding prowess behind a man

and a movement, forced the league to take a look at themselves in the mirror.

Evidently, the league didn't like what it saw.

As it has finally decided it was time to "just say something."

The league released a statement on the issue at hand — social injustice. Jocelyn Moore, the NFL's executive vice president of Communications and Public Affairs released a statement

that read in part:

"The National Football League believes in dialogue, understanding and unity. We embrace the role and responsibility of everyone involved with this game to promote meaningful, positive change in our communities. The social justice issues that Colin and other professional athletes have raised deserve our attention and action."

Didn't know they were back on a first-name ba-

sis with the quarterback. First name Colin, last name Kaepernick. He hasn't worked for them in more than a year, even as there are teams that are desperate for quality quarterback play.

Kaepernick has remained relatively silent since first telling us why he was kneeling in protest back in 2016; to keep the focus on the real reason behind the protests — police brutality against people of color.

He even appeared on the cover of *GQ* magazine as their selection for Citizen Of The Year.

The issue ran with his cooperation and photos but had no direct statements from the athlete-turned-activist, only quotes from those closest to him.

He maintains a presence on social media liking and retweeting other's comments/statements relating to the issue, but does not speak directly on the issue himself.

He refuses requests for interviews, letting his protest do the talking.

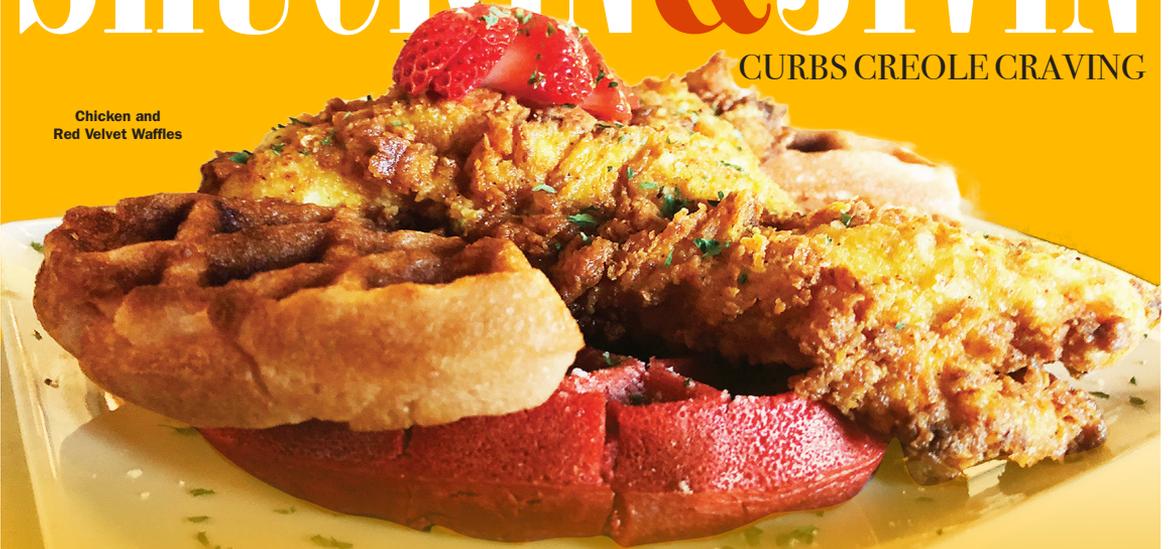
The NFL has its chance to be a frontrunner for the cause of social justice, but instead, it got sacked by the fears of owners, advertisers, a president and fans in lieu of supporting players.

The league called an audible, but it needs to get back into the huddle to draw up the next play.

SHUCKIN' & JIVIN'

CURBS CREOLE CRAVING

Chicken and Red Velvet Waffles



Sweet Butter Group's first restaurant brings Nawlins to South Florida

NYAMEKYE DANIEL

ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

Shonee-Alicia Randolph, CEO, and Ernest "Tayon" Anderson, COO

Right near the borderline where Opa-locka and Miami Gardens meet is a Southern cuisine treasure. Shuckin' & Jivin' Chicken and Seafood is a New Orleans style take-out haven that serves a delectable array of Cajun and Southern favorites.

When I first pulled into the strip mall on Northwest 167th Street and 47th Avenue, I overlooked the restaurant located in a small storefront on the right-side corner of the plaza.

But what Shuckin' & Jivin' lacks in presence on the outside is definitely made up on the inside. (The owner later explained that she was still waiting on larger signage to put near the roadside).

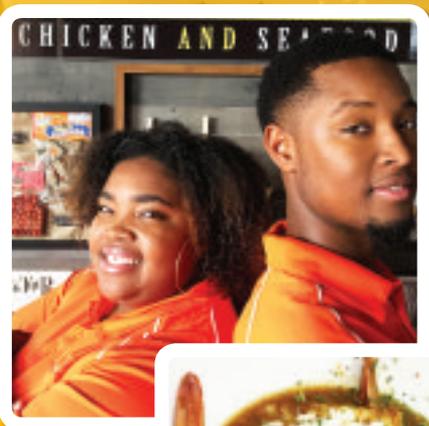
Opened on June 1, the inside of the restaurant is designed like a wooden shack in an old country town. The

walls are coated with a modern dark gray finish. Also, on the walls are old records, photos and memorabilia from the past.

The owner Ernisha Randolph called it an "old-school blast from the past." Streaming from a speaker in the background as she spoke were throwback tracks.

My date for the night, my editor, Carolyn Gunniss and I laughed, pointed and reminisced on the "times." We forgot that we were sitting in a strip

SEE NAWLINS 2C



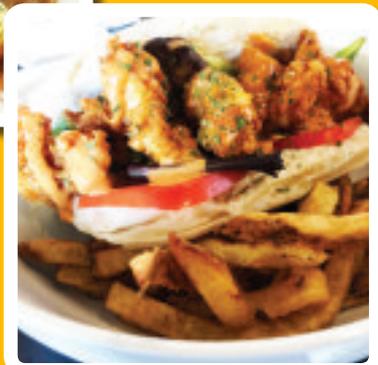
Nawlins Gumbo



Photos courtesy Shuckin' & Jivin'



Macaroni and Cheese



Po' boy sandwich

Miami Times Photo/Carolyn Gunniss

“

We take you back to a time when food was something you experienced not just something you ate.”

Ernisha Randolph

NAWLINS

CONTINUED FROM 1C

mall. Memories from our childhood, even though in different decades, came rushing back.

"I definitely had a copy of that album," she said pointing to the record sleeve for Michael Jackson's "Off the Wall" album.

Whitney Houston, Diana Ross and The Supremes and Nina Simone records are among the others that hang on the wall. Photos of legends like Mahalia Jackson and covers of *Jet* and *Ebony* magazines, pictures of toys, tangible games and candies dating back from the '50s to the '80s are all showcased. Most of the items were donated by Randolph's friends and elders in her community.

"We take you back to a time when food was something you experienced not just something you ate," said Randolph.

Randolph, who considers herself a connoisseur of Southern food, started by filling catering orders from her grandmother's kitchen 10 years ago.

The catering company, dubbed Juanita's kitchen, was able to secure million-dollar government contracts, but Randolph didn't stop there.

Randolph started a pop-up restaurant series called Sweet Butter. There is also a line of desserts, macaroni and cheese and collard greens all under the company's apron, Sweet Butter Group.

As for Shuckin' & Jivin, Randolph and her family took the time to plan every detail.

"I had to make sure if I am going to do this, I do it right," said Randolph, who also said other restaurant owners warned her about the challenges of the business.

There was no better place to start in the South than Louisiana. "I felt like of all of the cultures



Jivin Shrimp

Miami Times Photo/Carolyn Guniss

in Black food, Cajun is one that we, Miampians tend to shy away from," she said.

Shuckin' & Jivin is changing that.

After a brainstorming session, Randolph and the team came up with the first part of the name of the business, which they associated with the serving process for oysters. They then pulled from a popular phrase used by Black folks, shuckin' and jivin'. They later found out, the phrase had at one time evolved into a racist epithet used by whites to describe Blacks as lazy or lying to get out of a situation.

Randolph took her concerns with the phrase to a focus group of elders and progressive millennials.

WANT TO TRY SHUCKIN' & JIVIN'?

what
Shuckin' & Jivin,
Cajun-style food

how
It's a take-out joint, so
call ahead at
305-974-4751;
deliveries through
UberEats and Postmates.

where
4759 NW 167th St.,
Northwest Miami-Dade

cost
Price range \$10-\$20;
Takes credit cards

when
11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Monday through Thursday,
and 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Friday and Saturday

The overall response was positive. To them, 'shuckin' and jivin' means having fun or even dancing.

The aroma of the food and a genuine smile from Randolph's younger sister, Sarah Garcel Anderson greeted us inside. She showed us firsthand the definition of Southern Hospitality.

Did we leave South Florida? It smelled like it. There were scents this Caribbean-born girl had never been introduced to before.

We were promised some authentic Cajun food. I sat anxiously ready to embark on the adventure. I had never taken an actual trip to "Nawlins" before. The closest thing that I ever had to Cajun food prior to that night was Cajun chicken pasta from various national chain restaurants.

The first thing on Shuckin' & Jivin's menu we took a bite of was the traditional New Orleans po' boy sandwich. Every single inch of it tasted freshly made. The bread was soft without flaking at the touch. My lightly battered chicken was creamy and tender on the inside. It was coated with a sweet and spicy sauce that left a pleasant taste in my mouth.

I knew right then that there was no Shuckin' & Jivin in that kitchen, and it was a quality joint.

"Everything is made from scratch," Randolph said.

More dishes started pouring in than we could fit in our stomachs. There were Jivin' chicken and shrimp, fried pieces of chicken and shrimp covered in a sweet and salty sauce; what I guarantee is the tastiest chicken and waffles in South Florida; Cajun rice; baked macaroni and cheese, so good that it almost caused us to go elbow to elbow; Geechee shrimp and fish and grits, the cook's signature recipe; peach cobbler, made with fresh peaches; and the highlight of my

night, the gumbo.

It was my first time ever tasting gumbo.

"Well, you're in for a treat," Guniss said. She had taken the culinary trek to Nawlins before.

And oh my, Guniss was right. Although, all of the flavors were foreign to me, I could not stop sampling the dish the entire night.

Gumbo is a roux-based stew that is primarily made with shellfish, sausage and other meats. Because of my seafood allergy, my gumbo was prepared without shellfish, served around a bed of rice. She also excludes pork from the menu to accommodate others. Vegan options are available too.

It had a spicy kick that warmed the throat with a smoky flavor that woke up the taste buds and warmed the soul.

Randolph's family tree goes back to Georgia and the Carolinas, but she learned Cajun cooking from feeling her way around the kitchen.

"I can taste something, and I can go home and create it," she said.

Randolph said the gumbo has received thumbs up from both Nawlins' visitors and natives.

Customers drive from as far north as Miramar and as far south as Liberty City to taste the Louisiana cooking. So much so that the owner had to add tables and chairs for those who wanted to sample their food right away.

The menu also has a tribute to Miami - conch fritters. There is a tempting selection of desserts: Pound, lemon and red velvet cakes, peach cobbler, bread pudding, sweet potato pie, banana pudding, strawberry shortcake and more.

Randolph is currently stirring the pot for the future. She is working on systematizing each element of Shuckin' & Jivin. Her daughter and brother will be running this location. There is a franchise coming soon.

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THE SOCIAL WHIRL

VENNDA-REI GIBSON | VENNDAL43@GMAIL.COM

We are definitely in the swing and ready for all of the activities that are on the horizon this month. First, there is football and the roar of the crowd beckoned football fans as September arrived. Be it NFL or historically Black colleges and university games, kickoff time is here. Tennessee State kicked off its 2018 season with the Tennessee State football team earning a 34-3 victory over **Bethune-Cookman** on Friday, Aug. 31 at Nissan Stadium in the 20th annual **John A. Merritt** Classic. **Merritt** was born in Falmouth, Kentucky, and is an alumnus of Kentucky State University, where he played guard on the football team from 1947 to 1949. He earned the nickname "Big John." After graduation in 1950, Merritt earned a master's degree from the University of Kentucky in 1952.

He coached Jackson State University from 1953 to 1962, where he compiled a record of 63-37-5. Merritt led Jackson State to back-to-back appearances in the Orange Blossom Classic in 1961 and 1962 before being hired by what was then Tennessee A&I. At Tennessee State (as Tennessee A&I was renamed in 1968), **Merritt** had four undefeated seasons, claimed four Midwest Athletic Association titles, seven HBCU college football national championships: (1965, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1979 and 1982) and earned the school's first-ever NCAA Division I-AA playoff victory in 1982.

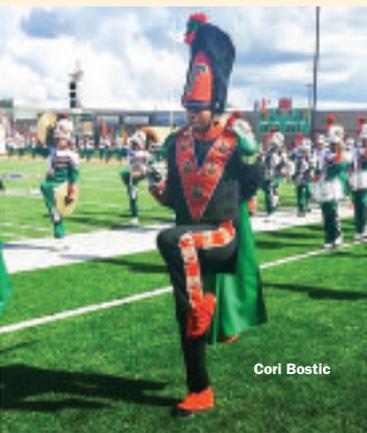
At Tennessee State, **Merritt** coached many players who went into the NFL. Among them were **Ed "Too Tall" Jones**, **Joe Gilliam Jr.**,

Claude Humphrey, **Mike Hegman** and **Richard Dent**. His coaching record at Tennessee State was 172-53-7, and he had a .828 winning percentage — far and away the best in school history. **John Merritt** Boulevard in Nashville, Tennessee is named in his honor, and the Tennessee State football team opens every season with the **John Merritt** Classic game.

There were other HBCU games played over the Labor Day weekend and, as halftime shows are so much a part of these HBCU games, fans were treated and entertained by HBCU marching bands.

HBCUSports.com took a poll which asked, "Which HBCU band are you most looking forward to seeing this weekend?" From the 486 persons polled, Florida A&M ranked No. 1, followed by Grambling, Southern, Jackson State, Alabama A&M, Alcorn State, North Carolina A&T, Prairie View A&M, Bethune-Cookman, Alabama State, Texas Southern, Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Norfolk State and Tennessee State.

In the debut of Rattlers' head coach **Willie Simmons**, FAMU defeated Fort Valley State. Another first was the debut of **Cori Bostic** as the first female drum major at FAMU. **Bostic** is making history. The Marching 100, as the band is called, was founded by **William P. Foster** in 1946, and only in 1964 did the band include female band members. These first female members were **Carmena Fennel**, **Carla Wilson** and **Debra Hines**. **Native Miamiian Shelby R. Chipman** is currently the director of bands at FAMU, and



Cori Bostic

we couldn't be prouder. History's being made and played. And indeed, #Blackgirlsrock!

Second, the fall month of September brings organizational meetings, church bazaars, community days, voter registration drives prior to the November elections and other integral activities.

Just as September began, Miami's national bridge club, known as the Holidays, held its 2018 Concourse (annual meeting) in Norfolk, Virginia. The concourse is always held over the Labor Day weekend. Representing the Miami Chapter were: **Shelaine Welters**, **Shirley McCoy**, **Carolyn Blake**, **Margaret McCrary**, **Vandra Woolfolk** and **Robbie Bell**. At the concourse, **Welters** received a trophy for

Crary and they invited interested members along with friends who were interested in playing bridge to an organizational meeting at the home of **Woolfolk**, July 17, 2004.

This group of 21 members organized and became the "Interest Group." Elected officers were **Margaret McCrary**, president; **Ruth Williams**, vice president; **Shirley McCoy**, secretary; **Vandra Woolfolk**, financial secretary; **Carolyn Blake**, treasurer; **Mattie Jones**, chaplain; and **Robbie Bell**, parliamentary. The application for membership into the Holidays was submitted and approved at the Washington, D.C. 2004 concourse. On Saturday, June 25, 2005, at 10 a.m., the installation was held at the Fontainebleau Resort, Miami Beach, making the Miami chapter the 23rd of the Holidays. National officers, members of the sponsoring chapter (Virginia Beach), and Holidays from various chapters, and friends joined the new Holidays for a weekend of festive "fun in the sun."

The Miami chapter was introduced officially at the 2005 concourse, hosted by the Metro Nashville Chapter. I'm certain that these bridge aficionados enjoyed their Labor Day weekend playing bridge. On Sept. 8, Just Us members met after their summer hiatus, at Brimstone Woodfire Grill in the Pembroke Lakes Mall. Gracious hostess **Geneva Knowles Woodard** welcomed members **Lois Lee**, **Patsy Graham**, **Emma Burnside**, **Cecelia Hunter**, **Camille Carroll-Perry**, **Cynthia Clarke**, **Juanita J. Miller** and **Shelaine Welters** shared their many summer adventures.

The Church of the Incarnation will host its Community Outreach Fair



Merritt

from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29 with food, fun, music, voter registration and more. The fair promises to be an exciting day.

The Historic St. Agnes Episcopal Church in Overtown hosts a Church Bazaar on Saturday, Sept. 22 and the community is invited from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The bazaar will have fabulous merchandise, chess lessons and games, including poker and checkers. The Steppers (home-grown) will also be on hand to teach interested persons the latest dance steps.

The Church of the Open Door/United Church of Christ, is in preparation for the celebration of their 60th anniversary on Sept. 28 and 30. The idea of starting a congregational church in our community is attributed to **Marie Faulker Brown**, wife of civil rights activist and prominent Ophthalmologist, **Dr. John O. Brown. Marie Brown**, along with several other founders and charter members made the church become a reality. The last living founder is **Enid C. Pinkney**. Over the years, Church of the Open Door has been involved in worship and service in the community with numerous outreach programs. A celebratory banquet is scheduled for Friday, **Sept. 28, at 7 p.m.** in the church's fellowship hall, followed by a worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 30.

Indeed, as I say, we make so much history every day, every week, all of the time as we mark our time. With elections on the horizon, we are making history, living history. Our votes are a part of these historic moments.

And so, Blessings, as we all Live, Love, Pray, Laugh, Dance and Sing in the Whirl.

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For us, by us: 5 Black-owned travel groups you should know about

onekathetraveler.com

Are you a Black traveler itching to see the world? Here are five groups shaping the Black Travel Movement and showing us how different and exciting Traveling While Black can be.

As a Black traveler, I've been very vocal about the lack of diverse faces and voices in the travel industry as a whole (see this post for one of my more detailed rants on the issue). Western travel media in particular is rife with tourism campaigns and travel shows that are practically devoid of people of color. To hear them tell it, Black travelers are few and far between, and "traveling while Black" an anomaly.

Sad as this is to witness, it's not altogether surprising: the quintessential globetrotter has long been depicted

as white. I mean, when a simple Google search for the term "traveler" yields these images what can you really expect?

But despite not being considered or targeted in mainstream travel marketing, people of color *are* traveling—for fun, work, education, and spiritual growth—more than ever before.

Especially Blacks. According to the *New York Times*, the Mandala Research firm found that nearly one-fifth of Blacks take one or more international trips per year, and they spend \$48 billion on travel within the United States *alone*.

And with the explosion of Black travel (often referred to as the "Black travel movement") has come the much-needed creation of Black-owned travel startups that provide resources and support for melanin-rich voyageurs. Could it be that traveling while Black is now a "thing"?

THE BLACK TRAVEL MOVEMENT

With this in mind, I'd like to feature five of my favorite Black travel groups. These companies work hard to provide experiences that are tailored to a more diverse set of travelers; they change the narrative about what travelers look like and how they travel.

These companies go further than just featuring brown skin on marketing materials—they travel to lesser known "brown" destinations, and offer itineraries designed to foster integration and appreciation (rather than just observation and appropriation).

They not only make Traveling While Black look good, they make it normal and feasible.

And if that weren't exciting enough, these five companies are all led by fierce, fearless sistas, who are as well-versed in how to run a successful business as they

SEE TRAVEL 6C





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STEP 2:

Attend the Kick-Off Event on Sat., September 22, 2018 at Betty T. Ferguson Recreational Complex



STEP 3:

Show up and exercise with the Mayor

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LIVEHEALTHYMIAMIgardens.COM



LIFESTYLE HAPPENINGS

COMPILED BY THE MIAMI TIMES STAFF
EDITORIAL@MIAMITIMESONLINE.COM

EVENTS

The Overturn Children and Youth Coalition
Free professional development workshops; now until Feb. 2019; Register: www.overtowncyc.org/workshops. Info: Contact Shari Benjamin at 786-477-5813.

The City of Miami

Hosting a community meeting to discuss the design of Marine Stadium Flex Park; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Sept. 20; 3501 Rickenbacker Causeway.

Black Professionals

Black Network
Black Professionals Summit conference; Sept. 27-29; Info: www.mybnpnetwork.org.

SCHOOL MEETINGS

Miami Northwestern Class of 1968
2 p.m. every fourth Sunday; 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.

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 305-696-11554.

Miami Jackson Class of 1971

2:30 p.m. every first Saturday; YET Center; 7090 NW 22nd Ave.; Info: Call 786-285-2533.

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

ASSOCIATION/CHAPTER MEETINGS:

The Citizen Advisory Committee
7 p.m. every second Thursday to discuss general community issues; Northside Police Station; 799 N.W. 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 University of Bethune-Cookman
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 St; Info: Call 305-758-1577 or visit www.childrendance.net.

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

Children to be enriched at FAU's Family Art Day

Miami Times Staff Report

Children and their families will have the opportunity to discover and engage with works by 12 artists featured in "New Art: 2018 South Florida Cultural Consortium Visual and Media Artist Fellowship Exhibition."

This annual exhibition, which features painting, photography, film/video and mixed media works by new and emerging artists from four southeastern Florida counties who have won the prestigious and highly competitive "South



Photo courtesy of Florida Atlantic University

Children take part in arts and crafts at Florida Atlantic University during Family Art Day.

Florida Consortium" grant, can be seen on Family Art Day.

The University Galleries at Florida Atlantic University's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters presents "Family Art Day" from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29 in the Schmidt Center Gallery and the Ritter Art Galleries, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton campus. The event, designed for children ages 5 to 12 and their adult family members, is free and open to the public.

Activities planned for the

event include hands-on art making stations, scavenger hunts in both galleries and interactive guided tours led by FAU art students employing a technique that engages children in discovering their work of art through their eyes, experiences and opinions.

While the Family Art Day program will occur in both galleries (the galleries are a five-minute walk from one another), attendees may begin at either the Schmidt Center Gallery that is located in the Performing Arts building (building No. 51

marked by a tall, white cubicle tower) or the Ritter Gallery, located in the Beezeway on the second floor.

Parking is available to the east of the Performing Arts building and the Visual Arts building (building No. 53) in a four-story parking garage. FAU is located one-half mile east of I-95 on Glades Road. For more information about Family Art Day or to RSVP to attend, email Khaulah.Naima.Nuruddin@knuruddin2013@fau.edu. For more information about the University Galleries, call 561-297-2661 or visit www.fau.edu/galleries.

TRAVEL

CONTINUED FROM 4C

are in navigating foreign territory. I'm deeply honored to know them all personally and have gleefully watched their ventures flourish over the years.

So, without any further ado, here are five Black-owned travel startups you should know about:

NOMADNESS TRAVEL TRIBE & TV

(for the budget-conscious Black travel junkie)

The brand: One part web-series, one part online travel community, the Nomadness umbrella was one of the first of its kind. Over 15,000 members strong and anchored by a popping Facebook group, Nomadness is a one-stop shop for the urban traveler looking to see the world by any means necessary. Members can chat travel and trade tips on the forum, arrange international meetups, participate in group trips, and rock branded merchandise that identify them as part of what is affectionally known as "Tribe." While adherents may be hardcore in their pursuit of passport stamps, they are also close-knit that the unofficial tagline of the group has become "Family by Choice."

The leader: Plucky Evi-Turquoise Robinson is as vibrant as her middle name suggests. A native of New York, she's a born hustler and innovator - she initially started NomadnessTV as a way to record her experiences living in Japan, France, and Thailand and show other Black people that they could travel too. She is also the brainchild behind NMDM ALTERNative Travel Conference, the first ever travel conference geared towards urban travelers. (Shameless plug: I spoke at a panel about travel blogging there!)

How to join: Tribe hopefuls can apply to join the group on Facebook by searching for Nomadness Travel Tribe on the site.

UP IN THE AIR LIFE

(for the Black traveler who enjoys the finer things in life)

The brand: A self-proclaimed "upscale travel company dedicated to social adventures", Up in the Air Life specializes in creating lifestyle experiences for working professionals who enjoy the finer things in life. While this travel tour company's online forum explicitly states that it's open to all travelers, its owners and employees are all people of color, and its tour offerings (which boast jaunts to places like Haiti, Brazil, and Colombia) are skewed toward locations that comprise the African diaspora. Members (known as Lifers) are wanderers who not only explore the world in style but live life to the fullest.

The leader: Software sales rep and travel enthusiast Claire Soares is an adventurer at heart: I first met her in London (where she flew, on a whim, for 48 hours from the U.S.) then in Madrid, Spain (the day before she ran with the bulls in nearby Pamplona). Affable and fun, Claire's zeal for life and knack for planning group trips for family and friends prompted her to found UITAL.

How to join: Sign up for UITAL's tours on their website and join their Facebook group for updates and travel advice.

BUCKET LIST BEASTS

(for the Black travel adrenaline junkie)

The brand: Bucket List Beasts is the startup that takes adventure travel to another level. Offering adrenaline-filled experiences that push the envelope (and the limits of your sanity), the emphasis is on living each day as if it were your last. Members post pictures of themselves bungee jumping, shark diving, and drinking shots of cobra blood to the group's online forum, and go on hosted trips to extreme destinations as far flung as Antarctica. Like surprises? Last year the enterprise hosted a mystery trip to Easter Island where attendees had no clue where they were going until they got to the airport. If you're looking for a group that will excite you and challenge you to break out of your com-

fort zone, this is it.

The leader: It's not hard to see why Sonja Mackey is known as "Lioness" to her friends and acquaintances. After all, she embodies her feline counterpart in every sense of the word: she's a fearless boss-lady with a competitive streak. Carpe diem personified, Sonja has traveled to all seven continents, done the world's highest bungee jump in Macau, and swum with crocodiles. If it's extreme, Sonja has done it, and would like to inspire you to do it, too.

How to join: Search for the Bucket Lists Beasts group on Facebook.

TRAVEL NOIRE

(for the savvy, ultra-hip Black traveler)

The brand: With features in major media outlets like CBS, The New York Times, and TIME Magazine, Travel Noire is the little startup that could. Now a huge digital platform dedicated to making travel more inclusive, Travel Noire's slick Instagram feed (which has amassed an impressive 340,000 followers) was one of the first to share a steady stream of real travelers of color interacting with jaw-dropping foreign backdrops. The message is loud and clear: not only do we travel, but we look darn good doing it. Artisanally crafted group experiences and travel education are at the core of the company's mission - group trips to places like Bali are offered alongside online seminars teaching newbies the art of travel hacking.

The leader: Zim Ugochuku is a visionary, wise beyond her years, and used to thinking outside the box. At 19, she cloned a gene and was the youngest precinct judge for the state of North Carolina, and this year she was included in *Forbes'* prestigious 30 under 30 list. Despite these heady accolades, she radiates light and humility - something I couldn't fail to notice when we both served as travel experts on Toyota's digital campaign for the 2016 Avalon.

How to join: Go to Travel

Noire's website to find information for upcoming excursions as well as details for how to join their online community #TNDistrict.

TASTEMAKERS

(for the Black traveler who has Africa on their mind)

The brand: This company's slogan is bold but sets the tone for its mission: jetsetters are encouraged to "Travel Africa, Skip Mediocre". With bespoke itineraries promoting immersive experiences in less-touristed places like Senegal, Rwanda, and Ghana,

Tastemakers Africa is changing global perceptions about travel to the continent. It also has a mobile app that links curious travelers to unique cultural experiences from Cairo to Cape Town and Addis Ababa to Accra. At the forefront of the movement to use technology to empower people of color to see more of the world, this insider's guide to experiences in the Motherland is perfect for the traveler who wants to scratch beneath the surface.

The leader: Chaeae Robinson has gone where few (wo) men have gone before in her

quest to encourage more millennials to travel to Africa. This tenacious entrepreneur has won many hats in her professional tenure (she has expertise in fundraising, media, and international development) and her work with humanitarian and public health agencies like the CDC, WHO, and CARE means that her resume reads a bit like an ad for alphabet soup. This superwoman, cited as one of the 10 Women to Watch by the United Nations, responds to the demands of a rapidly growing startup with aplomb.



Do you have **atopic dermatitis** or **eczema**?

You might qualify for a clinical study for a new investigational medication to treat chronic itch as well as other symptoms of atopic dermatitis.

Qualified participants will receive study-related care and medication at no charge as well as receive reimbursement for time and participation.

Baumann Cosmetic and Research Institute
4500 Biscayne Blvd, Suite 105, Miami, FL 33137
(305) 531-5788

LEMON CITY CEMETERY



TO BE LAID TO REST: HISTORICAL MARKERS

Miami Times Photos/Felipe Rivas

The Lemon City Cemetery Memorial lists the names of the 525 people buried in the land, many of whom were Black and Bahamian laborers that helped develop Miami in the early 1900's.

LEMON CITY CEMETERY, HOME TO MANY OF EARLY BLACK MIAMI SETTLERS, TO GET DESIGNATION

FELIPE RIVAS
frivas@miamitimesonline.com

A decade after its discovery, the city of Miami is set to place historical markers at the Lemon City Cemetery, located behind the Village Carver apartments. Educator and local historian Enid Pinkney, together with the Lemon City Cemetery Community Corp., championed the efforts to fight for the cemetery's preservation and its designation as a historical site.

Pinkney began preserving the Lemon City Cemetery in an effort to save Black Miami's history. During the process of standing up to the developers of the land, she found that she had a personal connection to one of the persons buried in the site. The octogenarian, no stranger to preserving Black history and culture, was also a key person in the preservation of the Historic Hampton House.

But as new neighborhoods form, Pinkney is worried that some areas will be forgotten. That is why she wants a marker to let people know that the land is a part of the Lemon City Cemetery. Right now, there're no signs around the area.

Discovered in 2008, the Lemon City Cemetery is believed to be one of the oldest burial sites of people of color in Miami and was designated a historical site in November 2009.

On Monday, during the cemetery group's monthly meeting, Keith Carswell, the city's director of the Department of Economic Development, assured Pinkney that the historical marker will be ready by the ceremony in early October.

"Everything is in order, and everything is progressing," Carswell said. Former Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado agreed to have the marker made for the burial site, but the marker was not delivered before he left office. Current

“The efforts of this organization in bringing awareness to the historical significance that people of color have made in this community, and preserving that legacy, is an unselfish endeavor. I think Ms. Pinkney is one of the unsung heroes in this community.”

Keith Carswell

mayor, Francis Suarez pushed Regalado's initiative forward. The city is expected to deliver the marker at an unveiling ceremony scheduled for Oct. 9 at the Lemon City Cemetery with a reception to follow.

"I think Ms. Pinkney is one of the unsung heroes in this community," Carswell said. "The efforts of this organization in bringing awareness to the historical significance that people of color have made in this community, and preserving that legacy, is an unselfish endeavor."

In April 2009, Carlisle Development Group and Biscayne Housing Group were in the beginning stages of developing a series of low-income housing buildings, when human remains were found while digging the land. At the time, the city had no records of the cemetery's existence. An examination of the remains and the land concluded that the construction site was indeed a cemetery, believed to date back to the early 1900s.

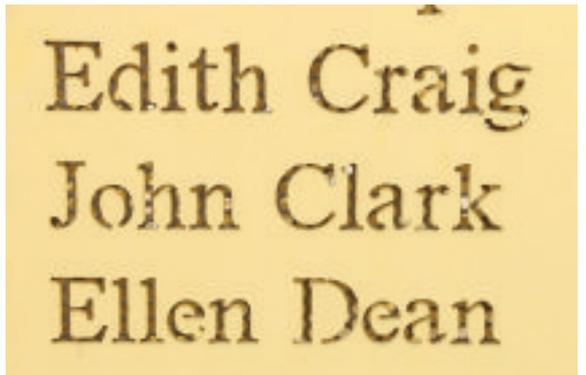
Further examination of the human remains concluded 525 souls were interred in the cemetery, the majority of whom were of Black American and Bahamian descent. Many of them were laborers who helped with the construction and development of Miami.

After the discovery of the bones, Pinkney formed the Lemon City Cemetery Community Corp. to fight the further development of the burial site. The developers did not want to stop the construction because the city had already approved the new affordable housing project, explained Pinkney.

"You got to respect the dead. You can't do that, it's disrespectful," recalls Pinkney about her talks with developers to stop construction in the burial site. Following Pinkney's efforts to preserve the cemetery, developers and the Lemon City Cemetery Com-



Lemon City Cemetery Community Corp. plans the unveiling of the state historical marker ceremony scheduled for Oct. 9.



John Clark was one of the 525 people buried in the cemetery. After examining historical records, Enid Pinkney was able to verify that John Clark was her grandfather.

munity Corp. compromised and reached an agreement. The construction continued for a building that was half-way built before the finding of the human remains. Developers left almost 2 acres of open grass unperturbed as a memorial site for 525 souls buried there and erected a large, three-sided yellow metal piece detailing the names of the la-

borers resting in the burial site. While in the process of the advocating for the preservation of the cemetery, Pinkney discovered she was personally connected to one of the 525 people buried there: John Clark, her grandfather. While looking at the records of the names of the people buried in the cemetery, she saw a familiar name but did

not think the person listed would be her grandmother's husband.

"Somebody had called me and asked me to look for their grandfather," she said. "I was in the Cs, and I saw John Clark. I said, 'that was my grandfather's name!'"

Pinkney, who never met her grandfather, thought the

SEE CITY 8D



Nicklaus Children's truck makes an appearance at the Farm Share event to provide knowledge to parents and kids.



A kid at the event takes a tour inside of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue truck and tries on a uniform.

Sharing the farm at the Circle of Brotherhood

KISHANDA BURNS
digital@miamitimesonline.com

Hundreds of adults and children came to the Circle of Brotherhood's headquarters in Brownsville for its free, Farm Share event on Sept. 15. With the help of Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church, who was the sponsor of the event, the Circle of Brotherhood

brought the community together for free health screenings that included vision, dental, STD/HIV and glucose. String book bags were given away along with canned goods and other food. Health information brochures rounded out the handouts. Children took a tour on the Miami-Dade's Fire Rescue truck, where they were

also able to get the feeling of carrying heavy equipment.

Farm Share uses inmates and volunteers to sort and package surplus food, which is then distributed to individuals, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, churches and other organizations feeding the hungry in Florida — free of charge.



Roy Hardemon, State Rep. for District 108 collects brochures at one of the health tables at the Farm Share event.

CHURCH Listings

CATHOLIC

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

BAPTIST

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

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

MISSIONARY BAPTIST

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

Walking in Christ M.B. Church
Rev. Larry Robbins, Sr.
3530 NW 214th Street • 305-430-0443

New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Elder William Walker
5895 NW 23rd Avenue • 305-635-3866

New Christ Tabernacle M.B. Church
Rev. Harold Marsh
1305 NW 54th Street • 305-835-2578

Valley Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Elder Johnnie Robinson
1395 NW 69th Street • 305-835-8316

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

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
Prophessess Felicia Hamilton-Parramore
630r 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

CITY

CONTINUED FROM 7D

gentleman could have been another person with the same name.

"When I looked where they had a spouse, they had Melvina Clark, who was my grandmother," she said. "I cannot even describe how I felt to see both names in print, in the book that listed the persons buried there. I felt like they were speaking to me from heaven, telling me to fight for this cause."

Pinkney, an educator in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system for more than 35 years, is no stranger in helping to preserve Miami's Black institutions.

Beginning in 2001, she has championed the efforts to help preserve the historic Hampton House, the go-to place to stay for Black residents and visitors during Jim Crow segregation. The motel attracted renowned Black figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali.



Miami Times Photo/Felipe Rivas

End Pinkney has helped preserve the Lemon City Cemetery and the historic Hampton House.

Pinkney is the president and CEO of the Historic Hampton House Community Trust, whose mission is to preserve an important piece of Miami's Black history. Her efforts prevented the demolition of the famed institution which, after desegregation turned into a derelict place, where loitering crowds would hang out, drawing negative attention to the neighborhood,

she explained. The Hampton House is turning into a cultural center. The once-famous motel is transitioning into a museum and archive of vintage jazz, as well as a studio and a school for musicians and a stage for performances. "People don't think we have a history worthy of preservation, and we have to show them that we do," she said.

FAITH CALENDAR

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

■ **The Universal Truth Center for Better Living**
Is having celebration lessons that will give the community to adventure in faith from now until Oct. 21. Info: Call 305-624-4991 or visit uttruthcenter.org.

■ **New Corinth Missionary Baptist Church**
Invites the community to a revival starting at 7:30 p.m. on from now until Sept. 21 at 1435 NW 54th St. For more details, please call 305-588-5030.

■ **African Methodist**

■ **Episcopal Church**
128th South Annual conference hosted by Rev. Michael K. Bouie and Mount Hermon A.M.E. Church in Miami Gardens; Sept. 24 – 29; Hilton Downtown Miami Hotel; Call Sara Cason at 305-776-3554 for more details.

■ **The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation**
2018 Community Outreach Fair; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sept. 29; 1835 NW 54th St; Call 305-633-2446 for more information.

■ **The Historic Christ Episcopal Church**
Celebrating their 117th year of history and faith; 9 a.m.; Sept. 30; 3481 Hibiscus Street; Contact Maria Clark at mfclark@bellsouth.net for more information.

■ **Mount Tabor Baptist Church**
All Miami Northwestern Senior Classes worship together; 9:30 a.m. Sept. 30; 10500 NW 7th Ave; Contact Sylvia at 786-423-0429 to RSVP.

■ **The Kingdom Agenda Ministries Inc.**
Free counseling, tutoring, health screenings and messages of services are being offered by Senior Pastor 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 A.M.E. Church**
Food and clothing giveaway every second Saturday. Call 786-277-4150 for more details.

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

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

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

■ **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



Red apples help to clean the liver and supports the immune system.

WAYS TO BOOST YOUR CHILD'S IMMUNE SYSTEM

WITH SCHOOL BACK IN SESSION, KIDS ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO MORE GERMS

ESTHER BLUM
U.S. News

The kids are back in their classrooms, and life is already bustling with after-school activities. In addition to homework, they may be bringing home coughs, colds and other maladies.

Obviously, there's no convenient time to get sick. So I'm all about making easy but impactful shifts to help families address food and health challenges. And as germs descend upon us, I've got plenty of simple ideas for naturally supporting your child's immune system!

1. Crack the code for hand-washing. This is one of the simplest ways to ward off colds. The secret to getting the job done is to make it fun. Try equipping your kids' bathroom with foaming soap, or soap bars in kid-friendly shapes. Or, make hand-washing a game by teaching your kids to blow bubbles through their fingers.

2. Prepare your natural medicine cabinet. Be ready at the first sign of a cough

or sniffle. Here are five immune-supporting items I keep in my cabinet at all times:

- **Black elderberry:** Take this at the first sign of a stuffy nose or scratchy throat. The antioxidant-rich black elderberry is a real immune health hero. It's been used since ancient times in remedies for colds, coughs and upper respiratory infections.

- **Vitamin D:** D3 is a natural flu fighter, so getting enough of this becomes even more important as days grow shorter and there's less sunshine. Parents and kids can either take vitamin D3 supplements, or make sure you're eating plenty of wild Alaskan salmon, which is a rich source of D3.

- **Zinc:** Liquid zinc boosts white blood cell production to kill off viruses; take the ionized form with food for best absorption.

- **Probiotics:** Since most of the body's immune cells line the intestinal tract, keeping the gut microbiome healthy and populated with friendly bacteria helps the immune system stay strong and fight bacteria and viruses.



Healthier food choices like fruits and vegetables help support a better immune system.

- **Omega-3s:** Also found in wild Alaskan salmon, omega-3s boost mental focus, as well as gut and immune health.

3. Sweeten their lunch boxes without sugar. Refined sugar has a negative impact on the immune system. So instead of sweets or even processed

chips, which may be loaded with hidden sugars, pack thinly sliced cucumbers with a side of hummus. Toss in fresh fruit slices to quell a sweet tooth.

4. Tempt them with nutritious afternoon snacks. Red apples are in season. They help clean up the liver

and support the immune system. Serve them sliced sprinkled with cinnamon. Kids also love pears dipped in chocolate hummus, and cassava tortilla chips cooked in avocado oil with a side of guacamole. Quench their thirst with smoothies or coconut water

instead of sugary, caffeinated sports drinks.

5. Take advantage of opportunities to serve healthy meals at home. I know all about a packed schedule once school starts. But when meals are prepared in your own kitchen, you have more control over what goes into them. When the weather turns cold, I get excited because it's bone broth season. Genuine, homemade bone broth helps us recover from colds, and it's my go-to afternoon pick-me-up. Pomegranates are also in season right now, and they're antioxidant bombs! Carrots support respiratory health, and they are freshest in the fall. And be sure to watch for seasonal heirloom tomatoes. They not only taste great in tomato sauces and gazpacho, but I pack them like candy into lunchboxes.

Making positive changes is a process. It takes time. Make it your goal to adopt one of these tips each month. Start now, and by mid-winter, you may notice fewer sniffles and coughs around the family dinner table.



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Members of the United Teachers of Dade rally outside of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools district office in Downtown, Miami on July 18.

MORE MONEY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Miami Times Photo/Nyamekye Daniel

November ballot question asks voters say 'yes' or 'no' to increase taxes to pay teachers, school security

NYAMEKYE DANIEL
ndaniel@miamitimesonline.com

A Nov. 6 ballot item will give voters the final say on whether to increase teachers' pay and hire more security personnel in Miami-Dade County.

Referendum item 362 asks voters to approve a property tax increase of .75 cents of every \$1,000 of the value of their homes to fund the incentives for the schools.

The item was formulated by Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent Alberto Carvalho.

Carvalho pushed for the tax increase due to the lack of funding by the state even after a record-high performance by the schools in the district. The board voted unanimously to green light the resolution on July 18.

"The District has experienced a severe shortfall in the funding provided by the

Florida Legislature for the District's normal operating expenses during the current and prior fiscal years, and such shortfall negatively affects the District's ability to attract and retain high-quality teachers and other instructional personnel," the resolution's language reads.

United Teachers of Dade President Karla Hernandez-Mats also said the state created the problem. Hernandez-Mats said the district is only getting .47 cents per student from Tallahassee. "We can't do more with less and that's why it was important to get a referendum on the ballot," she said. "Because the state government does not support us, we have to support ourselves."

The referendum authorizes the district to use the .75 cents tax levy from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2023, which would amount to about \$232 million



“

We can't do more with less and that's why it was important to get a referendum on the ballot. Because the state government does not support us, we have to support ourselves.

Karla Hernandez-Mats

a year. Miami-Dade Commissioners authorized the referendum to appear on the ballot 10-0 on July 24.

Of the funds, 80 to 90 percent would be allotted for teacher compensation and the rest would be used for increasing school security personnel, according to district spokesman John Schuster.

The amount of the pay increase will be negotiated through collective bargaining. Negotiations should start in December if voters pass the measure, said Hernandez-Mats. Teachers and instructional staff would start to see a change in their paychecks in 2020.

Since the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, school safety has been a top priority for the state. Gov. Rick Scott approved a bill in March that requires school resource officers and other trained law enforcement personnel to be assigned to each public school.

However, the "state's funding allocation" to M-DCPS was also "insufficient" to meet the requirements, the referendum reads.

Al Palacio, president of the Miami-Dade Schools Fraternal Order of Police, said they believe the referendum will address the lack of funding for school safety.

"We wholeheartedly believe that the public realizes the need for added school safety measures and to improve public education," said Palacio on the day school board members agreed to move the measure, July 18.

The board also agreed to assign a citizen oversight board to monitor the use of funds generated if the voters voted in favor of the bill.

Discussions on the specifics and qualifications for the oversight board are expected to take place next month, said Schuster.

Hernandez-Mats said the

language and intent of the referendum are clear and the oversight board will hold the district officials accountable.

"The oversight board will make sure the money is being spent on what it's supposed to be. That way the constituents and voters can ensure they are getting what they paid for," said Hernandez-Mats.

Critics of the referendum think the district should find other ways to cover teachers' pay raises.

"What happened to the millions of \$555 from the FL lottery Dept that claims to put it toward education. People play lotto every day. All don't win. Take some of those proceeds to pay teachers as well as the taxes on large sums of winnings; especially Powerball. The taxes alone could increase a lot of salaries - one state at a time!" wrote Facebook user, Ella Lilly-Ferguson in response to the referendum.

Opa-locka school gets \$25K in supplies from Amazon

Students and teachers celebrated donation on Friday

Miami Times Staff Report

Amazon Business teamed up with its new Opa-locka fulfillment center to surprise teachers and students at Robert B. Ingram Elementary School with \$25,000 worth of classroom supplies for the school year on Friday.

Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools Alberto Carvalho and School Board Member Steve Gallon II were there as well to share in the excitement and help welcome Amazon.

"It is always a great experience to stand with businesses that invest in our schools and students. There is no better investment than in the education and lives of our students," wrote Gallon on Facebook on Friday. "Thanks to Amazon for embracing their space and role in supporting our community and investing in our children."

On average, public school teachers spend \$476 of their



Photos courtesy of Amazon

Students from Robert B. Ingram Elementary celebrate after receiving a surprise of thousands of dollars of supplies from Amazon on Friday, Sept. 14.

own money to purchase essential items needed for the classroom, according to the National Center of Education Statistics.

"We know that teachers spend money out of their own pocket to provide and support their students," said Claudio Innocente, director of operations at Amazon. "We're proud to work with Amazon Business to support our local

teachers and help facilitate learning in the classroom, while shouldering some of their financial burden."

The donation included music supplies, instruments and art supplies. Additionally, more than 400 "swag bags" were given to students and school staff by associates from Amazon's new Opa-locka fulfillment center, which opened on Sept. 2.

Pastor OF THE WEEK



Pastor Kevin Tucker



Applying God's wisdom in life makes all the difference

Kevin Tucker's faith brought him to The Faith Center

ISHEKA N. HARRISON
ishekah@gmail.com

Like the biblical patriarch Abraham, Pastor Kevin Tucker took a major leap of faith when he moved to South Florida from Columbia, South Carolina almost a decade ago. He didn't know how things would pan out; he just trusted God enough

to believe they would. "Honestly, I moved on one word from God. I couldn't explain it as a child, but I always felt like South Florida was the place that God really wanted me to be, and in 2009, I really took that step of faith and said ... 'I'll just find out what my purpose is in the South Florida market when I get there,'" said 35-year-

Old Tucker. After volunteering with various nonprofit, church and community organizations throughout the years, it's fitting that Tucker's current purpose is serving as the full-time youth pastor at The Faith Center in Sunrise. Under the leadership of Bishop Henry Fernandez, Tucker impacts the lives of

youth and young adults ranging in age from 4 months old through 35. He relishes pouring into the lives of others, particularly the next generation because it has always been a passion of his to equip people with wisdom.

"One of my personal life purposes is to really extend the love of God to all people, but also encourage them to use the wisdom of God to deal with life's issues," Tucker said. "I believe the wisdom of God is critical to a healthier lifestyle, greater happiness, a well-balanced lifestyle, more stability and a good quality of life."

Yet he stresses that having wisdom and being perfect works two different things.

"One of the things that's important for me to communicate to our young people is that God is not looking for perfect people; He's looking for a surrendered heart," Tucker said. "Sometimes people don't really come to church or learn about God or do what God has called them to do because they feel like they have to be perfect and have everything right. No, just give God an opportunity to really lead your life."

As such, James 1:5 is one of his cornerstone scriptures, and he is writing a book that will help teach people how to

apply biblical wisdom to the issues they face in life. He will also relaunch a T-shirt line focused on positive messages in 2019.

"At The Faith Center, our core mission for our youth ministry is to nullify the negative predictions of our young people and help to rewrite their future, and so we spend time helping them activate their gifts, creating and making room for them to use their gifts, develop their gifts and fuel their passion because we recognize the more you tap into your passion, the less distracted you are with the negative things that can derail you," Tucker said.

To reach those beyond the church, Tucker serves as president and CEO of KMT Enterprises. Through Tucker's public speaking company, he teaches corporations, groups and individuals how to lead more effectively by mentoring, coaching and delivering keynote addresses. His bachelor's in economics and master's in entrepreneurship and leadership development further qualify him for the task.

He said his wife Katrina - with whom he has two children Braden, 9, and Kaiden, 4 - is very instrumental in helping him be successful in the ministry and his business.

"She helps serve as the backbone to a lot of the administrative and operational aspects of the ministry, so she gives me a lot of insight in terms of the strategies and the structures," Tucker said.

If he'd known being a pastor would have been this fulfilling, Tucker said he would have surrendered to his call sooner.

"You cannot walk in any calling or any anointing that you refuse to accept. ... Once you start doing it, you ask yourself, why did I wait so long because God never sets you up to fail," Tucker said. "Whether it's ministry, whether it's business or politics, whatever arena He's called you to, He always sets you up to win, and you can only win by being who He created you to be at the end of the day."

The Faith Center's youth and young adults meet 10 a.m. Sundays and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays for youth worship and arts service, tutoring, reading and homework programs. It also hosts an array of events throughout the year.

To learn more about The Faith Center's youth and young adult ministries, visit thefaithcenterint.org or follow them on Instagram @4.12ministries.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Apostolic Revival Center

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

Rev. Dr. Gilbert S. Smith

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

Liberty City Church of Christ

Services
Sunday Morning 8 a.m.
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Evening 5 p.m.
Tue. Bible Class 6:30 p.m.
Thurs. Fellowship 10 a.m.

Evangelist Eric W. Doss

1263 N.W. 67th Street
305-836-4555

New Vision For Christ Ministries

Services
Early Sunday Worship 7:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
Tuesday Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Michael D. Screen

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

Brownsville Church of Christ

Services
Lord Day Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5 p.m.
Tuesday Night Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
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: cmc.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. Levy, Pastor

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

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

Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church

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

Pastor Douglas Cook, Sr.

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

New Birth Baptist Church, The Cathedral of Faith International

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

1 (800) 254-NBC3
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 10 a.m.
Bible Study 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Evening Worship 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY www.PembrokeParkChurchOfChrist.com

Minister Kevin D. Jones, Sr.

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

Hosanna Community Baptist Church

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

Rev. Charles Lee Dinkins

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

Richardson

DANIEL CLIFFORD THOMAS, 77, laborer, died September 15 at North Shore Medical Center. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church.



TERRELL LAVAR BROWN, 26, funeral attendant, died September 3 at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Service 12 p.m., Saturday at Refuge Church of Our Lord.



GLENDA ANN OWENS, 60, teacher aide, died September 2 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church.



BRENDA GEAN JOHNSON, 73, bus driver, died September 9 at North Shore Medical Center. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Dade Memorial Park.



RALPH MITCHELL, 71, custodian, died September 9 at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Thursday in the chapel.



Hadley Davis Miami Gardens

VIVIAN SMITH WOMBLE, 61, retired, died September 8 at Memorial Hospital West. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church.



ERNEST LEE MILTON, 75, retired, died September 12 at Memorial Regional Hospital. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at New Birth Baptist Church.



Hadley Davis MLK

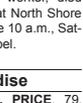
GEORGE LIVINGSTON, 87, retired, died September 13 at home. Service 12 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



JAMES DARRYL LEATHERWOOD, 23, rapper, died September 5 at Memorial Regional Hospital. Service 2 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



FLOZEL TROUPE, SR., 67, health care worker, died September 14 at North Shore Hospital. Service 10 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Paradise

MARTHA H. PRICE, 79, died September 16 at home. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Second Baptist Church.



PAUL MORNING, 77, died September 12 in Houston, Texas. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Second Baptist Church.



Range

MOTHER HATTIE MAE JOHNSON, 89, retired entrepreneur for Society Cab, died September 10. Survivors include her daughters, Phrasine Johnson and Linda Johnson Tucker (Michael); sons, Rev. Fernie Johnson (Mary), Pastor Moderator Carl Johnson (Esther), and Gary Johnson; 12 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; her extended family, 93 Street Community Baptist Church Members, and a host of other relatives and friends. Viewing 6-8 p.m., Friday at 93 Street Community Baptist Church. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at the church.



MARTHA LEE GREEN-ANDERSON, 57, nursing caretaker, died September 12 in Monroe County, Georgia. Service 10 a.m., Saturday at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church.



WILBUR E. COLEMAN, 74, retired entrepreneur, died September 11. Service 11 a.m., Friday at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church.

Manker

BETTY JEAN MCGRIFF, 74, day care worker, died September 10 at North Shore Medical Center. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.



SOLOMON MOORE, 72, mechanic, died September 11 at Kindred Medical Center. Service 3 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Eric L. Wilson

NAKAVIUS PAUL, 29, died September 10. Viewing 4-8 p.m., Friday at Greater Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Miami, FL. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at First Baptist Church of Brownsville, Miami, FL.



Eternal Rest

ALETHEA E. GREEN, 48, died September 2. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Tenth Tabernacle COG, Miami, FL 33147.

WILLIAM CARSON SEMMEL, JR., 68, died September 11. Private service with family.

Pastor Leroy Smith

PASTOR LEROY SMITH, JR., 58, died September 14. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Peace Missionary Baptist Church.



Trinity

JOBIE CUNNINGHAM, 59, laborer, died September 10. Service 1 p.m., Saturday at Opa-Locka Church Of God.



Hall and Jonas - GA

DAVID LEON WILLIAMS, 67, warehouse worker, died September 8. Services were held.



Range-Coconut Grove

ANGELA BOYD, 47, case worker, died September 12 at Baptist Hospital. Viewing 5-7 p.m., Friday at St. Mary First Baptist Church. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church.



JOYCE OLIVER SMITH, 56, environmental services, died September 13 at Jackson South Community Baptist Church. Service 2:30 p.m., Saturday at Glendale Baptist Church.



Gregg L. Mason

SHARON Y. MATTHEWS, security, Port of Miami, died September 11. Viewing 5-9 p.m., Friday, Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Bible Baptist Church. Interment: Caballero Rivero Southern Memorial.



Caballero Rivero

LINDA WATSON, 94, retired, died September 5 at home. Viewing 6 p.m.-12 a.m., Friday at Caballero Rivero Funeral Home, 3344 SW 8 St., Miami, FL 33135. Service 8 p.m., Friday in the chapel. Burial 12 p.m., Saturday at Memorial Plan Cemetery at 1301 NW 135 St., Miami, FL 33167.



Eric S. George

VERNA SYLVIA REYNOLDS, died September 3. Memorial Service 3 p.m., Sunday in the chapel.



Grace

INEZ MAY MCCOY, 77, home health aide, died September 8. Service 11 a.m., Saturday at Jesus People Ministries Church International.

Wright and Young

MASTER JAMES ROBERT WILBORN IV, 30 days, died September 7. Services were held.

Card of Thanks

The family of the late,



MOTHER MAUD CUNNINGHAM

Miami pioneer and faithful missionary who passed away at home on Sunday, September 9 wishes to thank the Pastor and officiating members of Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, along with the church auxiliaries, for their assistance in her celebration of life service; and loving neighbors and friends who sent condolences.

We deeply appreciate the cards, letters, hospitality, words of comfort and other expressions of kindness shown during our time of bereavement.

Sincerely, Gloria Adams, Goddaughter/Caregiver, Terry Brown, Goddaughter and relatives from the Bahamas.

Florida

VERA GILFORD, attorney, died September 16 at Memorial Regional Hospital. Services 1 p.m., Saturday in the chapel.



Nakia Ingraham

WILLIE K. KELLY, 80, truck driver, died September 13. Service 11 a.m., Saturday in the chapel.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



EDA MAY NEIL
05/15/1941 - 09/22/2015

Celebrating three years of our Queen passing into another Realm.
Love your husband, children, grandchildren, extended family and friends.

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,



JOSEPH A. HARRELL
09/20/1943 - 02/08/2017

To some you are forgotten, to some you are of the past. But to us, the ones who loved and lost you, your memories will always last.
The Harrell Family

Happy Birthday

In loving memory of,



LEOLA WALKER
09/20/1924 - 04/12/2005

Our dear lovely mother, wishing you a Happy Birthday in Heaven.
Your Children.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of,



WALTER SAPP
06/05/1961 - 09/20/2013

I love and miss you. You'll never be forgotten.
Love, Gloria

Former interim Florida Memorial president dies

BONNIE L. COOK
Philly.com

Michelle R. Howard-Vital, 65, the former president of Cheyney University and interim president of Florida Memorial University, where she lived and worked for seven years, died Tuesday, Aug. 21, of cancer at Duke Regional Hospital near her home in Durham, N.C.

Howard-Vital served for more than 30 years as a leader of universities in Illinois, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Florida.

cal scholars say the number seven in the Bible signifies completion," she said as the retirement was announced. "My last day will come on my seventh anniversary. Cheyney University has been a challenging and rewarding experience that I will cherish. I leave knowing that I've accomplished much to benefit the university."

She moved to North Carolina to pursue personal projects but wasn't idle long. In 2016, she became provost at FMU in Miami Gardens. A year later, she was appointed



Michelle R. Howard-Vital

In 2016, she became provost at FMU in Miami Gardens. A year later, she was appointed interim president. She held the post until health problems forced her to step down late last year.

She started at age 22 as an English instructor at the College Without Walls at Central YMCA Community College in Chicago. She loved teaching. "I cannot believe they are paying me so much - \$10,000 - to have so much fun," she told her family.

From 2007 to 2014, Howard-Vital was president of Cheyney, the oldest historically Black college and university in the country. It's known for giving inner-city students a chance to attend college.

Howard-Vital actively promoted Cheyney's brand on social media. She tweeted and developed a monthly digital newsletter and a presence on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. She posted on her President's Blog from April 2008 until May 2014.

In addition, she hosted public forums with speakers such as poet Maya Angelou, movie director Spike Lee, college professor Cornel West, novelist Alice Walker, and political activist and author Angela Davis.

"These speakers were brought to the campus to engage the students and community in academic dialogue," her family said. Howard-Vital decided to retire in July 2014. "Bibli-

Howard-Vital served as interim chancellor at Winston-Salem State University and associate vice president for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She held top posts at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Edinboro University, Chicago State University, and Harold Washington College in Chicago.

She received numerous awards, including the 2012 Women of Distinction Award given by the Philadelphia Business Journal.

Howard-Vital authored many professional papers. Her last writing was done with her daughter, Madelyn G. Vital, for an anthology, Michelle Obama's Impact on African American Women and Girls, published earlier this year by Palgrave Macmillan.

She was a member of the American Council on Education, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and The Links Inc., a volunteer service organization for women of color.

Howard-Vital enjoyed reading, blogging, traveling, interior design, and mentoring younger leaders.

Besides her husband and daughter, she is survived by a stepson, Gabriel M. Priestner; a brother; and a sister.