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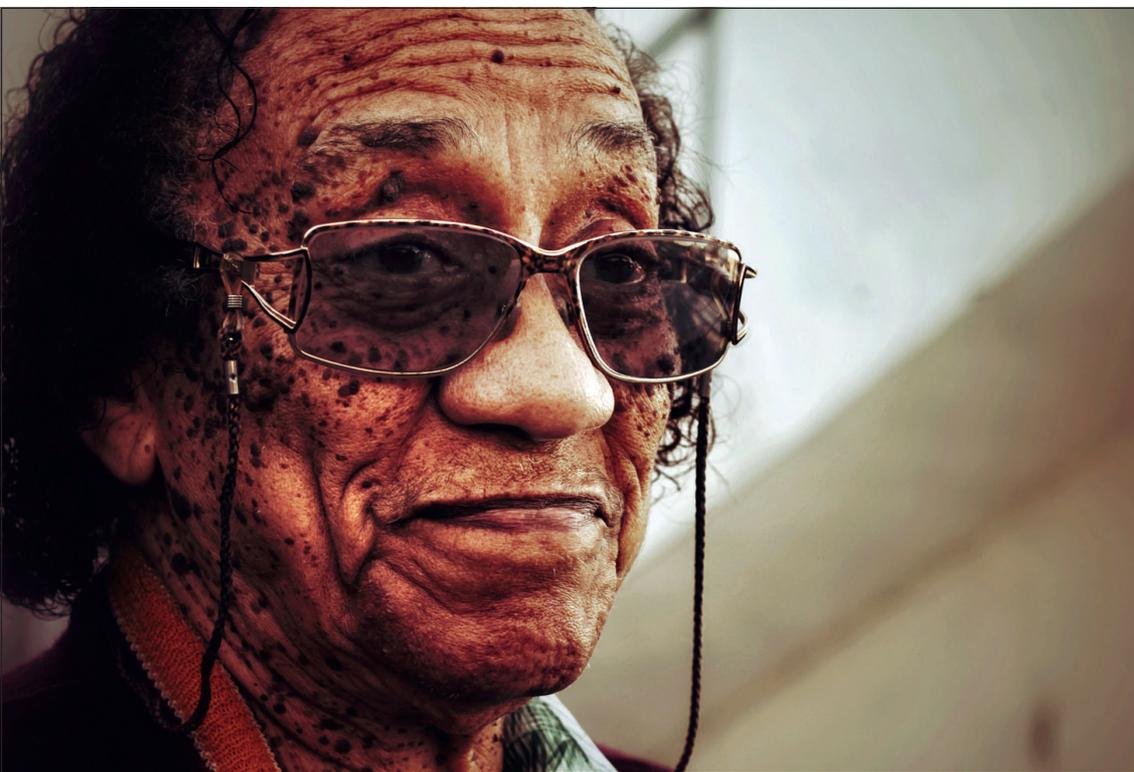


PHOTO / JOSE ZARAGOZA

Dr. Effie Gear died last week, leaving behind a career that centered around the Belle Glade area.

Dr. Gear Leaves Legacy

Lifetime Raider passes on

BY JOSE JESUS ZARAGOZA
The Sun

They say she had a quality that is difficult to explain.

She had an air of meekness, but it was a show of duplicity since when she spoke the room would become silent. Her voice was not overpowering, but it carried a strength reinforced by the understanding that she had been

through much in her life.

She spoke to the people of Belle Glade as though she personally understood their plight. And that is because she did.

Dr. Gear died last Wednesday from complications from heart surgery.

People interviewed for this article expressed a deep sense of sorrow for the loss of one of the Glades area's brightest advocates. Her unrelenting work in the area marked some of the most positive highlights in its history, including the desegregation of schools, the construction of Glades Central High School, and the work she put into championing the idea of a new hospital for Belle Glade to replace an aging, deteriorating facility.

The message was that the Glades area deserved better, but her manner

of communicating this was laid out eloquently, and in the end, proved effective. She was there when Lakeside Medical Center opened in Belle Glade.

Terri Calsetta, with Lakeside Medical Center, still remembers how Dr. Gear would take time during every major holiday to visit with patients at the hospital.

"She was one of the most compassionate women I have ever met," said Ms. Calsetta. "She really cared that these people were in the hospital, so she would give up her holidays to bring them joy. She was a phenomenal woman."

Nancy O'Neal echoed the same

SEE GREAR • 13

Fred Taylor and Santonio Holmes Host Football Speed Camp

BY NAJI TOBIAS
The Sun

It was a nice return home for Fred Taylor and Santonio Holmes.

For the third consecutive year, the two Glades Central Raiders alums and legends – both of them have had several years of NFL experience on their resumes – collaborated on a community outreach initiative and hosted their football and speed camp on May 19 at Pioneer Park.

More than 150 campers took to the fields at Pioneer Park, as the attendees – most of who hail from the Glades Central high school football team and from the Glades Glen Browns, Glades

Youth Panthers and Okeechobee Center Bulldogs youth football programs – participated in a series of circuit, conditioning and fundamental drills that were geared toward improving their skills on the gridiron.

And the Palm Beach County's Sheriff's Office, one of several sponsors for the Third Annual Fred Taylor/Santonio Holmes Football Speed Camp, joined both Taylor and Holmes in hosting a series of motivational speaking sessions to two different camp groups - elementary/middle

SEE CAMP • 11

New Tae Kwon Do School Instills Physical, Mental Discipline

American T.K.A Students Celebrate their Graduation to Yellow Belt

BY AMANDA RAMOS-GUY
The Sun

Tae Kwon Do (TKD) students of American T.K.A, located on North Canal Street in Belle Glade, celebrated their graduation from white belt to yellow belt on Saturday, May 19th. The ceremony took place in the gym of the First Baptist Church. Proud

parents, friends, and relatives packed into the gym to watch as the excited students performed techniques they have learned.

The crowd was entertained with performances from other students who have earned their black belts. Other entertainment for the event included a musical number performed on traditional Korean drums and student demonstrations.

The ceremony celebrated the children's achievements and gave them a taste of what they can achieve if they

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