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Haitian families may legally migrate to the United States

LEGAL MIGRATION: Congresswoman Frederica Wilson announces new laws on legal migration of Haitian families to the United States in the presence of members of the Haitian community and representatives of the 5,000 Male Role Models in Miami on October 21, 2014.

By **MICHELLE HOLLINGER**
Special to South Florida Times

Orleus Louima made his way from Haiti to the United States by way of the Bahamas in 1989. While riding the bus during a 2007 visit to his homeland, he met the woman who would become his wife. They exchanged phone numbers, began a courtship and in 2009, Louima wed Suze Cadet. But the couple have yet to reside under the same roof because his attempts to bring

his bride to America have been in vain.

That could soon change. Louima, 67, was on hand on Tuesday as Congresswoman Frederica Wilson announced the implementation of the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program at a press conference while standing in front of The Torch of Friendship in downtown Miami.

"This is a historic moment," Wilson said about the program that the Department of Homeland

Security (DHS) will implement in early 2015 to expedite family reunification for certain eligible Haitian family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the U.S.

Wilson said that since 2010, when Haiti experienced a devastating earthquake that left 250,000 dead and caused \$14 billion in damages, she had written several letters to President Obama requesting the program that would allow many Haitians to legally join

families in the U.S. Although she said that he constantly assured her that something was being done, it wasn't until July that she received "my most promising response."

In the letter from Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Wilson was informed that "The White House has asked the Department of Homeland Security to respond to you." And on October 17, the department

PLEASE TURN TO **WILSON/2A**

PALM BEACH

Black Americans struggled and died for the right to vote

By **DAPHNE TAYLOR**
Special to South Florida Times

Sybrina Fulton, mother of iconic slain teenager, Trayvon Martin, says she's not a celebrity! But with one look at her date book, you'll find that she is as much in demand as any other noted individual or world-wide celebrity! She recently returned from Switzerland where she gave a speech at the United Nations, and she's hobnobbed with some of the biggest names in the world, such as Aretha Franklin, Jay Z and Beyonce, the Obamas and many, many more. But Fulton insists, she is as down to earth and normal as they come, doing things like going to the mall, (even though she is clearly recognized!), curling up on the sofa watching westerns, keeping up with doctor's appointments, and yes, even going for a much-deserved spa day. But this amazing woman, who has been uncannily thrust into the spotlight, says she is on a mission to transform lives.

As founder of the Trayvon Martin Foundation, now with sprawling offices on the campus of Florida Memorial University in Miami, she has a full plate, jet-setting from coast to coast, speaking out on justice, injustice, racial profiling and more. These days, she wants people to take her experience and knowledge

and make it work in their favor. Through the tragic loss of her baby son, Trayvon, in 2012, at the age of 17, she has learned much about the justice system. And she wants to pass along that knowledge to the uneducated (about the system), the uninformed and anyone who will listen to her conventional wisdom. Over the course of these challenging two years, she is now able to define what pleases her about people, what bothers her, and what would make her most happy about the African American race.

With just under two weeks until Election Day, she has a message for the black community: go out and vote, whatever you do! These days, she's making a passionate plea to the African-American community about exercising this precious right. It pains her that her own people will not take advantage of their unalienable right to vote. "People died for us to do this!" she exclaimed. How can we expect change if we don't vote, she asks, emphatically, sitting in the conference room of the foundation - pictures of Trayvon in his trademark "hoodie" hanging above us. It's a tragedy, she says, that we traditionally vote in such small numbers, and she's afraid we'll never make a difference if the trend doesn't change. She doesn't understand why we take it so lightly and she's urging her people to change that. "That's what speaks the loudest - those votes. You can march, rally and do all those other things, but if you look at it - President Obama wouldn't have gotten elected if we didn't get out and actually vote. We did it!", she says. "But we need to make sure our young people vote even when it's not a presidential election. We have to hold our public officials accountable," she said passionately.

She says it's not important who she will vote for on November 4, instead she is urging the community to look closely at the candidates and decide which one will benefit "your community," she said. "I don't want people to follow me. Select someone who most represents you and your community," she advised. "I want to reinforce that this is our opportunity to get our voices told," she said.

Because she is so passionate about voting, she wants to issue a challenge to



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMIURBANLEAGUE.ORG
Sybrina Fulton

PLEASE TURN TO **VOTING/2A**

MONROE



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEYWESTCITY.COM
Commissioner Clayton Lopez

By **MICHELLE HOLLINGER**
Special to South Florida Times

In eclectic Key West, a guitar-playing commissioner jamming with his siblings in a band called "Total Recall," is not out of the ordinary. Ordinary could hardly be used to describe Commissioner Clayton Lopez and his inclusive leadership philosophy.

Born and raised in the southernmost tip of Florida, Commissioner Clayton Lopez brings a fiscally conservative, socially liberal approach to the position that he has held for nine years. His is a unique way of serving that includes a willingness to buck popular opinion.

For example, when some local ministers refused to allow gay participation in the Christmas parade during the 1990s, Lopez and his wife, Pam, marched in the parade to protest. His commitment to championing the rights of all people, including the gay community, has earned him three 'Celebrating Achievement and Pride Awards' from gay organizations citing him as a 'Community Friend.'

The only black commissioner was elected in

2005, soon after Hurricane Wilma ripped through the city. Lopez had to hit the ground running to assist his constituents while dealing with his own loss.

"My wife and I lost our home in Hurricane Wilma," Lopez told the South Florida Times.

He said that he spent his first term plus one year living in a FEMA trailer, providing him a bird's eye view of the devastation experienced by his constituents because he and his family experienced it, too.

Lopez, 61, said that he and his fellow commissioners worked together to assist people after the storm.

"We banded together and helped deliver supplies, ice and other necessary things," said Lopez, who will leave office in 2016 due to term limits.

Whether he is in office or not, Lopez said that he will always serve, in part, because it's in his DNA.

"My father [Charles Lopez Sr.] was always involved in politics although he never ran for or held office. My grandfather was always involved in the community and helping others. These are the two men, as well as my uncle and other men in the community, who

saw something in me that I did not see in myself," Lopez explained.

A Key West health clinic is named after his grandfather, Roosevelt Sands Sr. "My uncle, Roosevelt Sands Jr. is also someone that is well known for his community service."

Lopez was 13-years old when he helped organize and participate in a march against a segregated Key West skating rink. He said that while the racial tolerance in Key West has certainly increased, the black population has not.

"Racially, minorities, the black population has diminished," he explained. "The earliest settlers were the Bahamian settlers and a large number of them were black. Back in those days, there wasn't a lot for them to depend on besides each other."

Being the only black on the commission comes with advantages and disadvantages. Lopez said that they often mirror each other.

"Advantages are that I can give a perspective that my colleagues are maybe sympathetic to, but may not be able to feel

PLEASE TURN TO **LOPEZ/2A**

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Legal migration of Haitian families to the United States announced by Congresswoman Frederica Wilson.

Haitian community is ecstatic with change

WILSON, FROM 1A

announced its plans to implement the program. Wilson was joined at the press conference by Marleine Bastien, president of the Haitian Women of Miami (FANM). “With courage, dedication and perseverance we’ve made it half way. I say half way because only those with priority dates for within the next two years now qualify. Why this distinction, we don’t know. Suffice it to say that we will continue to fight,” said Bastien, who credited the bipartisan delegation of Wilson, a Democrat, Republicans Congresswoman Ileana Ros Lehtinen and Congressman Mario Diaz Balart and Democratic congressmen Alcee Hastings and Joe Garcia with supporting the initiative. Bastien said that she plans to keep a close eye on the process. “We want to make sure that the regulations will be clear, simple and that the fees will be reasonable enough so as not to hinder the implementation process. This is the first step, the fight is not over,” she said. One of South Florida’s most prominent immigration advocates, Cheryl Little, expressed frustration that the government took so long to approve the program. Little is the founder and executive director of Americans for Immigrant Justice, (formerly Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Inc.).

“Family unity is supposed to be the cornerstone of our immigration laws, the heart and soul of our immigration laws, and yet over 100,000 Haitians have languished in Haiti, some for 10 years or longer waiting to be reunited with their loved ones here in the United States,” Little said of Haitians who have had their visas approved, but were still denied entry to the U.S. “We are urging Congress to do something about our broken immigration system.” Steve Forester, immigration policy coordinator for the nonprofit Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, expressed cautious optimism and noted that the initiative differs from other immigrant reunification programs. “It’s nothing like the ongoing Cuban program under which tens of thousands have been paroled; but it’s a limited victory which we’ll have to fight to expand and to make sure that they implement it properly. Our foot’s in the door,” he said. “I look forward to personally welcoming and rolling out the red carpet for the first wave of recipients of this program. I can hardly wait to see them get off the plane and come to the United States of America,” said Wilson. Louima said that he’s ready for his wife to join him. “I apply for my wife in 2010, that’s enough, I want to get my wife,” he said. Michelle Hollinger can be reached at michellehollinger303@gmail.com

Committed service

LOPEZ, FROM 1A

or understand fully as I can,” he said. “But that’s also the disadvantage because when I go to present an issue that deals primarily with the African American or minority in general population, the majority of my colleagues are very sympathetic, very empathetic, but the fact is that I have to really work sometimes to make them understand what if you haven’t been through it, it’s difficult to understand.” Commissioner Teri Johnston has shared the dais with Lopez for the past seven years. She said that it is an honor to work with him. “Commissioner Lopez is a man of principles and integrity with a deep, deep commitment to family and community,” Johnston said. In the two years that he has left to serve as a commissioner, Lopez said that he wants to see “shovel to ground,” regarding the development of affordable housing. “There are a number of things on the table but I have to confess that we haven’t done enough, myself included.” Developing the property on the Truman Waterfront is a chief priority. “Ten years prior to my becoming commissioner, this property has been on the books and we’ve been hearing all of these wonderful plans that were supposed to take place that would have provided affordable housing and nothing was done. We’re looking closer to actually making that happen,” said Lopez, who expects to see ground broken in 2015. Meanwhile, Lopez and his siblings recently performed at the city’s annual Goombay celebration. Although most of their gigs are for charity, he said that they play “every chance we get.” “My brother, my sister and I have been playing for over 50 years. My sister was so young that we used to have to get permission for her to play with us in the clubs,” Lopez explained of the band’s early years. As far as his political legacy, Lopez said, “It’s not about the politics, it’s about the service.” Michelle Hollinger can be reached at michellehollinger303@gmail.com

Fulton strongly pushes Get Out The Vote

VOTING, FROM 1A

the black community. “We need everyone to encourage seven people to vote in this election. The number “seven” is historically a great number. We can’t stay in our own little box. We need to encourage someone else. Just encourage seven people. That’s it. Seven! If everyone did this, we could be a GREAT community! People don’t think it matters, but it does,” she stresses. “Your two cents makes a difference.” She’s passionate about another aspect of the judicial system, and that’s jury duty. It’s another of her pet peeves that she wants to educate the black community on. She knows jury duty is something most people don’t want to do. But the outcome is detrimental to our community when it comes to a controversial trial, she points out. If everybody continuously tries to get out of jury duty, then there will never be any black jurors in the jury pool, she stresses. And she has seen first hand, through the highly touted Trayvon Martin trial, how this makes all the difference in the world.

“We can’t continue to do this. It hurts us in the end,” she insists. “When you get that jury summons, you’ve got to go willingly! We need you on the jury,” she urged. Fulton says it’s just another part of the system where the African American community is uninformed. “We have to learn these systems so that they’re not working against us,” she points out. Fulton says in addition to speaking on such issues, she now devotes her time to helping others, using her painful experience to make life easier for others in similar situations or those who’ve suffered from tragedy, and not just gun violence. She’s formulated a “Circle of Mothers,” to help heal the hearts of mothers who have lost children tragically. This year, 50 mothers came to a retreat – all expenses paid, at the luxurious Bonaventure Resort and Spa in Weston, Florida. Many of the mothers were from high profile cases that have played out in the news media including some mothers from the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting tragedy. Mothers of lesser known cases were there also. Slain rapper Tupac Shakur’s mother,

Afeni Shakur, was keynote speaker and life coach Lisa Nichols, led the ladies through healing sessions. They laughed, they cried and they reflected on the lives of their loved ones. Next year, Fulton hopes to offer the retreat, whose main sponsor is the Trayvon Martin Foundation, to even more mothers. “I want 100 women to attend. It has to be even bigger next year,” she said of the retreat, which is usually held a week after Mother’s Day. “I’ve got to go higher with it! I try to keep in touch with the mothers. I want them to feel so special,” she lamented. Fulton said God has used her son’s tragic death for a purpose. “Even though I don’t understand what God’s will is –and I don’t. But I now know that it’s not just about Trayvon. It’s definitely for a higher purpose,” she said reflectively, as she closed shut an album full of photographs. For more information or to make a contribution to the Trayvon Martin Foundation, call the Foundation at 786-504-4235. Daphne Taylor can be reached at journeynews2@gmail.com

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Justices allow Texas to use new voter law

By SAM HANANEL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court said Saturday that Texas can use its controversial new voter identification law for the November election.

A majority of the justices rejected an emergency request from the Justice Department and civil rights groups to prohibit the state from requiring voters to produce certain forms of photo identification in order to cast ballots. Three justices dissented.

The law was struck down by a federal judge last week, but a federal appeals court had put that ruling on hold. The judge found that roughly 600,000 voters, many of them black or Latino, could be turned away at the polls because they lack acceptable identification. Early voting in Texas began Monday.

The Supreme Court's order was unsigned, as it typically is in these situations. Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan dissented, saying they would have left the district court decision in place.

The law sets out seven forms of approved ID -- a list that includes concealed handgun licenses but not college student IDs, which are accepted in other states with similar measures.

The 143-page opinion from U.S. District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos called the law an "unconstitutional burden on the right to vote" and the equivalent of a poll tax in finding that the Republican-led Texas Legislature purposely discriminated against minority voters in Texas.

Texas had urged the Supreme Court to let the state enforce voter ID at the polls in a court filing that took aim at the ruling by Ramos, an appointee of President Barack Obama. Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican who's favored in the gubernatorial race, called Ramos' findings "preposterous" and accused the judge of ignoring evidence favorable to the state.

The court had intervened in three other disputes in recent weeks over Republican-inspired restrictions on voting access. In Wisconsin, the justices blocked a voter ID law from being used in November. In North Carolina and Ohio, the justices allowed limits on same-day registration, early voting and provisional ballots to take or remain in effect.

Texas has enforced its tough voter ID in elections since the Supreme Court in June 2013 effectively eliminated the heart of the Voting Rights Act, which had prevented Texas and eight other states with histories of discrimination from changing election laws without permission. Critics of the Texas measure, though, said the new ID requirement has not been used for an election for Congress and the Senate, or a high-turnout statewide election like the race for governor.

Ramos' issued her ruling on October 9. Five days later, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans put her decision on hold and cited a 2006 Supreme Court opinion that warned judges not to change the rules too close to Election Day.

The challengers in Texas said that the last time the Supreme Court allowed a voting law to be used in a subsequent election after it had been found to be unconstitutional was in 1982. That case from Georgia involved an at-large election system that had been in existence since 1911.

Castro: Cuba will join US against Ebola

By ANNE MARIE GARCIA

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba stands ready to cooperate with the United States in the battle against Ebola, former leader Fidel Castro said in an article published Saturday.

Cuba is sending about 460 doctors and nurses to West Africa to help fight Ebola, an effort that was praised on Friday by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

The U.S. is sending hundreds of soldiers to set up clinics and train health care workers and it also has sent officials from the Centers for Disease Control to help in training.

"With pleasure we will cooperate with U.S. personnel in that task," the 88-year-old ex-leader wrote in the Communist Party daily Granma. He said it would not be to seek peace between two countries long at odds, but "for the peace of the world."

Castro did not say what form cooperation might take.

He also noted that Havana plays host on Monday to a meeting of leaders from the ALBA alliance of leftist Latin American nations that is meant to raise more support for the fight against Ebola.

He said such medical cooperation is "the greatest example of solidarity that a human being can offer."

Jorge Perez, the head of Cuba's top tropical medicine institute, told The Associated Press on Friday that Cuba is ready to send still more doctors if there is enough funding and infrastructure to support them.

"There are countries that have resources and can send money, but there are also those who can send human resources. It's not just doctors. We also need nurses, technicians," he said.

In Washington on Friday, Kerry mentioned Cuba as one of the "nations large and small stepping up in impressive ways to make a contribution on the front lines."

Perez said that despite the United States' chilly 55-year relationship with Cuba's communist government, Kerry's words were "an important gesture."



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Fidel Castro

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Opinion

WHAT WE THINK

No on Marijuana Amendment 2

Do African Americans really need *more* drugs in our communities? The answer alone is enough reason to vote No on Florida's Constitutional Amendment 2 in the Nov. 4 General Election. The question, however, illustrates the serious problems with the measure that has pushed Florida to the forefront of the marijuana legalization debate.

On its surface the amendment, which "allows the medical use of marijuana for individuals with debilitating diseases as determined by a licensed Florida physician," sounds innocent enough. The idea that it truly will be highly controlled and regulated by the Department of Health is wishful thinking at best. The recent pain prescription epidemic that made Florida the unofficial pill mill capital of the country comes to mind.

Once again it's all about the money. But Florida voters are being asked to carry a misguided sense of compassion to the polls and pass the-called medical marijuana measure with Grand Canyon-sized loopholes. The state Supreme Court's narrow 4-3 approval of the ballot language is just a sign of the landmines. Chief Justice Ricky Polston in dissent noted that a narrow and limited marijuana program is the "precise opposite" of what the amendment would deliver. Problems he cited included broad disciplinary immunity for physicians.

Worse, the amendment is fatally flawed in that 60-percent approval by voters would enshrine de facto legalization of marijuana in the state Constitution — above legislative and court regulation.

Moreover, from the vantage point of the biggest victims of the disproportionate impact of the War on Drugs, a bit of perspective is in order. African-Americans never produced the heroin, cocaine and other ravagers of our communities. So the irony is galling. While gourmet marijuana dispensaries spring up in other communities, untold numbers of our youth crowd the nation's jails, or are caught up in the criminal justice system on possession charges, denied the right to vote on laws that, to their detriment, enrich others. "After 40 years of impoverished black men getting prison time for selling weed," says Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*, "white men are planning to get rich doing the same things."

Florida needs to take a deep breath and do better. The citizens who can impact this law should vote early, and vote No.



Unfortunately, with merely an exception or two, Florida's black leaders have done it again: run away from an important issue of our time that may have a direct effect on black communities throughout the state. Constitutional Amendment No. 2 on the November 4th General Election ballot calls for a yes or no vote on the "Use of Marijuana for Certain Medical Conditions." What does that amendment mean, really?

Does a yes vote for this amendment open the floodgates for "pot shops" and growers as it has in California, Colorado, and other states where "medicinal marijuana" has been approved? Does the Florida public really understand the amendment? Except for the Urban League of Greater Miami, led by T. Willard Fair, what other black leader is known to have held educational workshops and community forums on this issue in Miami-Dade County?

Fair has gone on record stating that Amendment 2 "Would have a negative impact on public safety for our residents." He says the amendment "is a threat to African-American children and their pursuit of educational excellence — I will not vote to legalize the street drug marijuana, label it medicine and make it available to anyone, at any age, for any condition."

The Obama Administration opposes the legalization of marijuana as does the 20,000 doctors who are members of the Florida Medical Association. The Rev. Dr. O'Neal Dozier, Senior Pastor of the Worldwide Christian Center Church in Pompano Beach, who is also an attorney, has

Has black leadership gone off the rails?

not only educated his congregation, but reached out to the wider community, including the black press, urging a no vote on the spurious Amendment 2.

"I support efforts to help those suffering from real debilitating illnesses," wrote Dr. Dozier in an October 9th South Florida Times Op-Ed article, "but Amendment 2 goes far beyond that worthy cause. It is nothing more than a 'smoking gun' evidence of a back door attempt to legalize recreational use of marijuana in Florida."

I surmise, with abundant certitude, that black people are used to, that is, "conditioned" to, being told what to do — it's the lead sheep syndrome. So, black leaders tend to not invest time and effort in attempting to educate their constituents. Quick results are obtained from just giving the people directions, instead of engendering transformation. Therefore, black communities grow staid, the result of a lack of hard work by so-called leaders.

A recent flyer stuck in the doors of Broward County's black voters' homes or apartments makes my point. It is ostensibly from the Broward Black Elected Officials (BBEO) for the Countywide Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort. On the front side are color photographs of 43 of the 44 black elected officials of Broward County, with other omissions being black sitting judges who are not on the November 4th ballot.

The flyer urges people to vote. On the backside it instructs voters on who and what to vote for or against. It tells black people to vote

yes for Amendment 2. Imagine that! First of all, did you know that, minus black judges, there are more than 40 other black elected officials in Broward County?

Secondly, do you know how many elected and church leaders have held workshops or otherwise educated the public on the pros and cons of Amendment 2, or any other item on the ballot? So, presumably, with scant, if any, communication between Broward's black elected officials and their combined constituents, leaders have decided how black people should vote!

It is a moral imperative that all black leaders reshape their modus operandi and "come to Jesus" as the saying goes. This is the 21st Century and the nonsense must stop. Leaders are servants of the people, and, therefore, ought to be accountable to the people.

The Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches is also out of line with its support of Amendment 2. Did a majority of NAACP Branches in Florida vote to support Amendment 2? In each instance was the membership properly informed?

Clearly legal marijuana is another negative for black neighborhoods. The silence is stunning. There seems to be no fight left in apparently worn out and/or compromised leaders—what a shame, what a shame.

Al Calloway is a longtime journalist who began his career with the Atlanta Inquirer during the early 1960s civil rights struggle. He is writing a book of essays. He may be reached at Al_Calloway@verizon.net.

Florida faith-based groups recognize Amendment 2 inadequacies

Tallahassee, Fla. — The Vote No on 2 Campaign today showcased the Florida Baptist Convention and Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops recent announcement regarding their opposition to Amendment 2, the ballot initiative to legalize medical marijuana.

In a meeting on September 22, 2014, the Florida Baptist Convention went on record in opposition of Amendment 2, saying "[the] Board does not believe legalizing an addictive drug without strong regulatory oversight is an appropriate solution."

They also called upon Florida Baptist pastors to diligently encourage their church members to promote and vote to defeat the Amendment.

In addition, the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote in a white paper: "At first glance, the proposed amendment appeals to a sense of empathy and implies safe and limited use by the infirm; however, closer inspection reveals that the framework established by Amendment 2 is problematic in the following ways:

- Potential for fraud and abuse
- No assurances of quality, consistency in products
- No requirement to try alternatives first
- Allows for greater access to marijuana by youth."

The Vote No on 2 Campaign is a grassroots campaign, bringing the truth about Amendment 2 to the voters of Florida. Its coalition includes members of law enforcement, business leaders, constitutional law attorneys, doctors and other medical professionals, parents and Floridians from all walks of life. Amendment 2 is simply a guise to legalize pot smoking in Florida and the goal of this campaign is to point out the loopholes and explain why this amendment is bad for Florida.

For more information on the Vote No on 2 Campaign, please visit www.voteno2.org, follow @saynoamendment2and like [FB.com/noonamendment2](https://www.facebook.com/noonamendment2).



The Politics Of Blackness Dumb & Dumber

In a few weeks, the voters of Florida will go to the polls to pick a governor, among other things. All of the handicappers are betting on the left to pull off the Sunshine State which used to be totally controlled by the Democrats for over 100 years. That is until the Republicans figured out how to take over.

But this November 4th, the voters have a clear choice between Dumb and Dumber.

Which one is dumb, you ask? Well, none other than Governor Rick Scott. The millionaire corporate CEO turned stupid politician. He went through several chiefs of staff, all of whom he supported when they were accused in corruption scandals, while he threw his Lt. Governor, Jennifer Carroll, under the bus for being falsely implicated in a state and federal probe of a so-called veterans non-profit charity involved in an illegal gambling, racketeering and money laundering scandal.

The Lt. Governor's only "crime" was that she owned a public relations firm that represented Allied Veterans of the World, including creating a film for them. But since she was the Republican Lt. Governor at the time almost 60 people associated with Allied were being arrested, the press decided to link her with them.

Now anybody with any inkling of common sense knows that just because you do PR for a company does not mean that you know what's actually going on in their day to day business operations. You just publicize what they tell you to.

Yet Rick Scott let his staff demand her resignation. He didn't even have the courage to speak to her and ask for an explanation nor give her a vote

of confidence either publicly or privately.

This was the second time someone had come after Jennifer Carroll. An Obama groupie who the Lt. Governor hired on her staff (first mistake) turned against her and fabricated a story accusing her of having a lesbian affair with another staff member. And when Jennifer tried to defend herself (second mistake), a lesbian organization came after her.

The liberals knew she was low-hanging fruit and proceeded to try and destroy her. They knew that she could very well be the first African American and female governor. But since she was a Republican and not a Democrat, they came after her with a vengeance. And Rick Scott did nothing. He used her to bring in the black vote when he ran, then threw her to the wolves. So he gets the dumb award. You can read about him in Jennifer Carroll's autobiography "When You Get There."

But Charlie Crist is even worse. Funny how some of the liberal gay judges wanted to "out" Crist when he was the Republican Governor of Florida; now they applaud him for double-crossing the Republicans and becoming a Democrat (that is after he became an Independent). So I guess he still must be a closet gay, but he's OK because he's a Democrat like they are.

But that doesn't change who he really is and what he has done. I guess Vice President Joe Biden has forgotten (or forgiven) that the former director of the Republican Party of Florida (RPOF), James Greer, implicated Charlie Crist in participating or instigating some of his crooked dealings.

Greer is just finishing up his 18-month prison sentence for stealing money from the RPOF and threatens to expose all in his upcoming book.

If anyone wants to know other things about Charlie Crist, they might want to ask some of the black Republicans. They have some choice words for him - probably worse than the white Republicans. So in my book, he gets the dumber award.

But Black Democrats love him now. He even gave some money to the NAACP when he was governor. And the Black preachers don't care that he cut education funding and allowed state universities to raise tuition up to 15 percent per year (check out one of the paid political advertisements paid for by the RPOF).

They just tell their congregations that Governor Rick Scott cut education funding and they need to vote for Charlie Crist so that the education funding can be restored. So the man who cut education funding when he was governor, will now restore funding cut by the present governor, right?

Don't you just love how black voters are manipulated every election season? They will vote for the Democrat every time regardless of whether what they are told is true or not.

Dumb and Dumber — what a great choice we have in 2014.

Barbara Howard is a political consultant, radio host and commentator and motivational speaker. She is Florida State chairwoman for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Trade & Travel goodwill ambassador to Kenya. She may be reached at bhoward11@bell-south.net.

Reverend Rafael Bienvenido Cruz speaks about blacks



The father of Republican Texas Senator Ted Cruz said, "Black people need to be educated about Democrats so that they will vote Republican" while speaking to the Western Williamson Republican Club at the August 21, 2014 meeting. He added, "The average black does not understand the minimum wage is bad."

Blacks didn't ask Cuban Rafael Bienvenido Cruz for his advice. It's a mystery as to why the subject of 'blacks' is so important to him. He joins other Republican racist who continue to insult African Americans by suggesting that they are dumb and uneducated which is why they vote for the Democratic Party. Rafael and other Republicans assume that blacks don't care about the issues. And, there are several important issues like jobs, education, housing, voting rights and health care.

For once, African Americans would love to see a policy proposal from Republicans that benefit blacks and America as a whole. Instead, blacks hear that if they were smart, they would vote Republican. No one votes for a political party that insults them. Instead, what African Americans hear from the Elder Reverend Cruz is pure racial hatred

Rev. Cruz is certainly not an expert on black people nor is he an expert on labor markets, the minimum wage or education. He is, however, by his own admission, a traitor, a deserter and deadbeat father.

Rafael Bienvenido Cruz was born in 1939 in Matanzas, Cuba. He is the son of a RCA

salesman and an elementary-school teacher. As a teenager, he fought against his own government which was led by Fulgencio Batista. He joined former dictator Fidel Castro's guerrilla groups which eventually overthrew Batista.

And of course, before the final battle was won he deserted Castro's guerillas and fled to the United States in 1957 after a family friend bribed a Cuban immigration official. He studied mathematics and chemical engineering at the University of Texas and graduated in 1961.

Rafael Cruz later married and had two daughters. He worked in the energy industry. His marriage ended after a few years so he left his family and moved to New Orleans where he met his second wife, Eleanor Darragh. They married and moved to Calgary, Alberta, Canada in the late 1970's and had their first and only child, current Texas Senator Rafael Edward Cruz.

Cruz and his family later came back to Texas where he eventually became a U.S. citizen in 2005. Also while back in Texas he became a born-again Christian and a Reverend leaving his days as a Roman Catholic behind.

Today, the 74 year old does several speaking engagements. His disparaging comments about blacks made every major publication and website. Blacks are still puzzled as to why anyone is listening to Rev. Cruz. It is safe to assume that he echoes the thoughts of the Republican Party about African Americans.

Nevertheless, Rev. Cruz should stick to the things he knows and not say demeaning things about any racial group. With his background, who's listening anyway?

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Caribbean

Irving launches the flying classroom

(BLACK PR WIRE) – Tokyo, October 21, 2014 — Bar-
rington Irving, who holds the Guinness World Record as the
youngest person to fly solo around the world, met with United
States Ambassador to Japan, Caroline Kennedy and Jamaica's
Ambassador to Japan, Ricardo Allicock, to talk about his
groundbreaking educational project, the Flying Classroom.
Launched from Washington, D.C. on September 23rd,
the Flying Classroom is making stops in 13 countries
this fall on the first of three global trips. During each
trip, Captain Irving, a National Geographic Emerging
Explorer, carries out ground, air, and sea expeditions

designed to teach students about real-life applications
of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics,
History, Geography and Humanities (STEM+).
“Captain Irving is helping to solve one of the major
challenges that teachers face, which is figuring out how to
captivate the imaginations of our children and bring class-
room material to life. I was delighted to have the opportu-
nity to learn about his work,” said Ambassador Kennedy.
“He is an inspiration to students,” said Ambassador Al-
licock. “His Flying Classroom engages them so they each
feel like they’re getting special attention. He gives them

access to science and math-related adventures they would
never experience on their own.”
Many students in the U.S. are following this first-ever inter-
active STEM+ learning adventure through a school curricu-
lum; others have access to Captain Irving's travels and expe-
ditions through videos and a blog on the flyingclassroom.com
website. Flying Classroom expeditions include learning how
to build sustainable cities in Shanghai; diving to see the condi-
tion of coral reefs in Bali; and gathering poisonous snake ven-
om in Palau that will be used in medicines that can save lives.
From September 23rd through November 18th, follow
Captain Irving and his team through regular expedition up-
dates at www.flyingclassroom.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yourflyingclassroom, on Twitter at @Cap-
tainIrving, and with hashtag #flyingclassroom.

A Woman’s Place



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID I. MUIR
Calibe Thompson
By **CALIBE THOMPSON**
Special To South Florida Times

There is a misconcep-
tion, probably due to the in-
fluence of American-dom-
inated television, that the
good old days in the West
Indies involved matronly
housewives being kept fi-
nancially by hardworking
men. While the culture still
is strongly in favor of a man
being able and willing to
take care of his woman's fi-
nancial needs, the reality is
that most women in the Car-
ibbean are used to work-
ing, and they have been
from before emancipation
until today.
However, while women
in the good old days played
the submissive more often
than not, today's Caribbean
woman occupies a spec-
trum of roles. From the con-
servative Traditional Wom-
an to the Modern Mom, the
wealthy Sugar Mama to the
opportunistic Gold Digger
and the influential, 'keeps it
all together and looks good
doing it' Power Player.
You'll find a little of the
Traditional Woman's role
in each of the others. You
see, we remain a largely
traditional community when
it comes to women, and
it seems that as much as
our women have become
leaders and champions in
the outside world, they are
still expected to remain
subservient at home.
Somehow if the woman
stands up for certain rights
or demands equal respect
in every aspect, she isn't
looked at as confident and
asserting her authority.
Instead she is looked at as
trying to be a man.
Of course, as outspo-
ken and unabashed as I
am, I've had that accusa-
tion hurled at me quite
often. My response: If by
that you mean I don't want
to be treated like a child
or made to suffer things
I am uncomfortable with
in silence. That I want
my opinion seriously ac-
knowledged in my re-
lationships and in busi-
ness... then yes, I suppose
I AM trying to be a man.
(smile)
On the Power Player
end of the spectrum, some
women have found bal-
ance with strong men who
are not intimidated by
their partner's success.
Others like myself have
decided to adhere to the
wise words of the very
astute Lady Gaga: "Some
women choose to follow
men, and some women
choose to follow their
dreams. If you're wonder-
ing which way to go, re-
member that your career
will never wake up and
tell you that it doesn't love
you anymore."

*To watch the extended
perspective and much
more on Caribbean Amer-
ica, set your DVR or tune in
to each Sunday's episode
of The Caribbean Diaspora
Weekly on SFL / The CW
Network (Ch 39 / Comcast
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real change in households. FIU is
educating 21st century physicians.”

Cheryl Holder, M.D.
Associate Professor
Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine



**Herbert Wertheim
College of Medicine**

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAM DEFENDERS

Dream Defenders combine activism, technology and social media to fight racism

By **MICHELLE HOLLINGER**
Special to South Florida Times

The video of a woman conversing with her young son in their kitchen looks like a routine interaction from a middle class African-American home. As he sits at their kitchen counter playing a video game on a small electronic device, she asks, "Did you study?" He replies affirmatively. After making certain that he has, she asks her young teenage son to wear "that vest." The youngster sighs uncomfortably, then asks, "Mom, are you serious?"

Her next statement captures a growing sentiment among African-American parents of young black boys across the nation:

"I need to know when I'm at work that you're going to be safe. Do it for me."

After he reluctantly agrees, she helps her son to don a black bulletproof vest.

The one minute and 24 second long public service announcement is the work of the Dream Defenders, a group that is being called the next generation of civil rights leaders. According to its website, the mission of the Dream Defenders is to "develop the next generation of radical leaders to realize and exercise our independent collective power; building alternative systems and organizing to disrupt the structures that oppress our communities."

Fusing the power of technology and social media to deliver visually compelling messages, the PSA is the latest video created by, or that features, the Dream Defenders in its quest to dismantle a system that, according to the PSA, results in an African American being killed every 28 hours "by a police officer, security guard or vigilante."

Dream Defenders first garnered national

attention and the support of legendary entertainer and activist, Harry Belafonte, who joined the group during their 31-day sit-in at Governor Scott's office in 2013. The sit-in was the organization's response to Zimmerman's acquittal in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin and their call for Scott to call a special session to address the state's controversial "Stand Your Ground" law.

In a different, but also compelling video, the group's executive director, Phillip Agnew, 29, responds to a white man's assertions that neither he nor his relatives are responsible for what their ancestors did to black people. The exchange between Agnew and Ross Kaminsky, a white columnist for the American Spectator, was captured during a filming of a Sept. 26 PBS special, 'America After Ferguson,' a town hall meeting held at the University of Missouri one month after Officer Darren Wilson shot and killed unarmed teen, Michael Brown.

Kaminsky took issue with Agnew's statement that blacks must be organized in order to deal with "a system that has, for 400 years, perfected the method of repression of people that look like me, look like us."

PBS host, Gwen Ifill, moderated the discussion among the diverse audience of black and white, young and old that was broadcast live and is currently available for viewing on the PBS website.

"I understand the feeling of the system isn't fair, it's biased against us, but then when you start going to this idea 400 years of repression and 'the system is still designed to hurt us, it's still designed to keep us down,' that starts feeling, to me, like racism against me just because of the color of my skin," said Kaminsky.

When Ifill asked him if Kaminsky's

assessment of his remarks were accurate, Agnew replied, "No, absolutely not. I never mentioned black, white or people. I mentioned systems."

Agnew surmised that based on America's system and its history, Officer Wilson could escape an arrest and conviction for killing Brown. He reasoned that even if Wilson is arrested and convicted, "it will not alleviate the problems that are happening here and that are happening around the country," because they are systemic.

"It's about a system of police repression, police harassment, racial profiling. We've got a school to prison pipeline, we've got a war on drugs that's been afflicting, dividing and killing our community since it started. We've got a war on the poor, [and] we've got a war on immigrant communities."

Agnew said the system also overwhelmingly depicts black males as dangerous and malevolent, which greatly impacts on how some people, like George Zimmerman, perceive them.

He was to have spoken on August 28, 2013 in Washington at the event commemorating the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech; however, at the last minute, was told that there was no time left for him to speak.

Undaunted, he videotaped the speech and made it available on YouTube. The video, 'Our March,' now has over 64,000 views.

Michelle Hollinger may be contacted at michellehollinger303@gmail.com

For more information about the Dream Defenders, please visit dreamdefenders.org.

Voter turnout, races, critical in Palm Beach

By **C.B. HANIF**
Special to South Florida Times

(WEST PALM BEACH) — It was one small step for a young man that some hope will be part of a quiet leap in voting in the Nov. 4 general election.

David Bailey acknowledged that his mom made him do it, when he registered to vote on a Saturday afternoon at the Right Turn International center on Tamarind Avenue in West Palm Beach.

But the newly minted 18-year-old said he would have done it without her urging, "For me. For the future. For the future."

Operating on the principle that "you bring the services to the people," Linda Lewis, director of the community center, was partnering with the League of Women Voters on Sept. 27 "to try to get as many people registered to vote as we could."

Questions such as turnout and voting rights that were mentioned then, also dominated days later when the Together We Stand Democratic Club of Palm Beach County hosted its sixth annual Community Roast.

Between jabs at the "roast-ee" — West Palm Beach Commissioner Sylvia Moffett — during the Oct. 11 event at Airport Hilton in West Palm Beach, the focus also was on key individual races.

To underscore one reason why his mostly Democratic, fellow African-Americans should vote, incumbent state Rep. Bobby Powell assessed the makeup of the state Legislature: 45 Democrats and 75 Republicans forming the 120-member House of Representatives, 14 Democrats and 26 Republicans in the Senate.

"Our Cabinet is entirely Republican," Powell said. "You've got Gov. Scott who is a Republican, Adam Putnam who is the commissioner of Agriculture, Pam Bondi who's attorney general, and then you've got our very own from Palm Beach County, Jeff Atwater, who is the chief financial officer. So the election is important because we need to kind of balance it out, in order to have some type of support on our side."



Lynn Hubbard



Jean Enright

of Palm Beach commissioner. She likes his views on other issues too, she said. "I know that he was a Republican years ago. But people change and things change. He supports President Obama. We support the president. And therefore I believe and I'm hoping that all African-Americans come out to vote this time."

CONGRESS

On the federal level, Lynne Hubbard, a Together We Stand member and also president of the Palm Beach County chapter of the Democratic Black Caucus, cited the U.S. District 20 congressional race in which incumbent Rep. Alcee Hastings is being challenged by Republican Jay Bonner.

"That's a very important seat for our

community," said Hubbard, a former Riviera Beach councilwoman, "because (Hastings) is such a wealth of knowledge and information about the process and how it works, and what the different topics, issues, systems, policies and procedures mean to our community."

STATEWIDE RACES

Among other contests, Hubbard emphasized the District 89 House race in which Powell is being challenged by a write-in candidate, and the commissioner of agriculture post held by Putnam.

"There's a Democratic African-American candidate, Lt. Col. Thaddeus Hamilton, with 25 years or better in the Department of Agriculture," Hubbard said. "He has received numerous environmental awards from even Republican presidents," but even though he is especially well qualified, she said, "has gotten very little attention from the Florida Democratic Party, to my dismay." In that race, she added, "The hope is that Democrats vote Democrat down the ballot."

AMENDMENTS

Similarly, Hubbard said, "We're telling folks to vote yes-yes-no-yes-yes on the five constitutional amendments on the ballot." Those cover water and land conservation, medical use of marijuana, appointment of judicial vacancies, the Children's Services Council and school operational needs.

The marijuana amendment has perhaps been most debated. Supporters such as Hubbard see possibilities for "a great legal campaign to get our boys out who are in jail just on possession charges." Enright said she doesn't see "any benefits to the black community," adding that "if you're ill the physician can prescribe marijuana for you as far as the pain."

As for Amendment 3, a change from electing judges to gubernatorial appointment, "I just don't feel it is right that we should allow an outgoing governor to do that," said Powell.

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Community leader Fair says blacks must vote against Amendment 2

By **MICHELLE HOLLINGER**
Special to South Florida Times

If the amendment to allow medical professionals to prescribe marijuana to sick patients passes, it should not happen as a result of support from the black community, according to a prominent community leader.

"Anybody who cares about our community would be [against] voting for Amendment 2," said T. Willard Fair, president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Miami.

Fair said that the black community already suffers from the presence of illegal drugs in its midst.

"Can you imagine what would happen if it was legal," he asked. "For us to want to vote to make it legal makes no sense whatsoever."

Fair is referring to Amendment 2, which will appear on the Nov. 4 ballot. The ballot issue refers to the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes only, however, Fair said that because of loopholes, he sees it "as nothing more than a gateway to legalizing everything else. All you got to do is look around and see what happens when it gets legalized."

United For Care facilitated the petition-initiative that brought the constitutional amendment to the ballot with over 1.1 million signatures. The amendment is supported by a number of medical organizations, including the American College of Physicians, the American Nurses Association and the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

Twenty-one states and Washington, D.C. currently provide legal access and protection under state law for seriously ill patients whose doctors recommend the medical use of marijuana. According to a 2003 WebMD Medscape poll, 76 percent of physicians and 86 percent of nurses favor "marijuana for medicinal purposes."

Fair said he fears that the legalization of medicinal marijuana will lead to the legalization of recreational marijuana, the impact of which he predicts will have a devastating impact on communities like Liberty City.

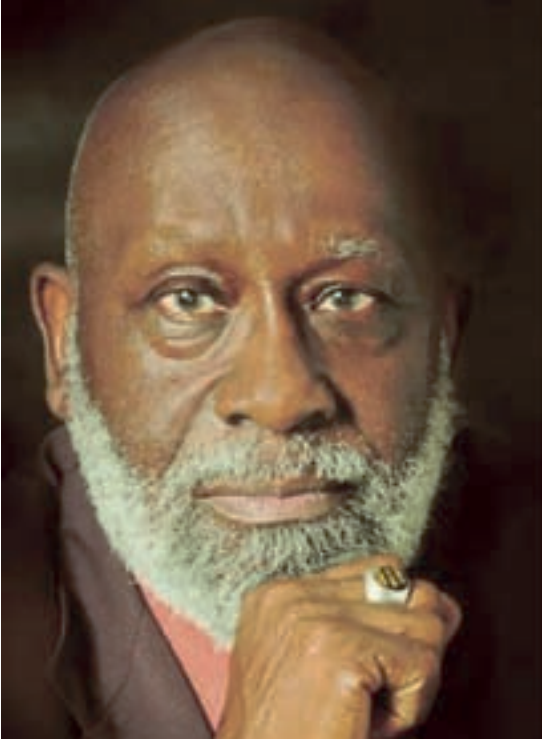
Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd agrees. He told the Tampa Tribune that, "This amendment, as a matter of fact, is a wolf in sheep's clothing."

Judd is president of the Florida Sheriff's Association, which opposes the initiative.

He warned that the proposed amendment is "cleverly written" for "use and abuse," will lead to children legally obtaining marijuana and predicted crime rates will soar.

"You will pay more taxes because it's going to take more policing," Judd said.

Fair said the recent shooting of 15 people at a Miami nightclub is an indication of marijuana's danger.



T. Willard Fair

FILE PHOTO

"The other day, a young man 17 years of age shot up a night club where there were kids in it. And when you look at his history, he also has been suspended already for smoking marijuana," he said. Fair said that a middle school principal recently told him that he caught ten students smoking marijuana on school grounds.

The Urban League of Greater Miami held a community event to vocalize its opposition to the proposed amendment on Wednesday at the Miami-Dade Police Department.

Amendment 2 proponents say that the information being provided by opponents is misleading.

Ben Pollara, campaign manager for United for Care, said that he's surprised that the Urban League of Greater Miami is taking a position on the amendment, since it is outside of the agency's scope of services.

"I categorically reject [Fair's] statement," said Pollara, who added that the initiative is about providing treatment options to people with debilitating diseases and will not result in an increase of drugs in the black community.

Pollara said that the prohibition of marijuana has adversely impacted black communities because drug laws are "largely racist" and have resulted in the disproportionate imprisonment of young black marijuana users.

He told the Tampa Tribune that opponents "appear to be intent on confusing voters."

"Our opponents can keep trotting out the same discredited talking points for months, but the people of Florida are smarter than that and will approve Amendment 2 this fall," he said. "And poll after poll shows that."

Fair asked "everyone who cares about our children" to attend the "Making it Legal Doesn't Make it Right," event and voice their opposition to the ballot measure. "Shame on us if we don't participate," said Fair, who added that no one in the black community has spoken up against the amendment.

"I'll be so happy if the black community sends a resounding no on the issue," he said.

Michelle Hollinger can be contacted at michellehollinger303@gmail.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF C.B. HANIFF

'LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT YOUNG MAN': State Rep. Bobby Powell, known for his presence throughout the community, gives Inlet Grove High School student Brandon Martin an assist with his tie during the recent My Teacher, My Hero Awards at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

Richards says record warrants re-election

By **MICHELLE HOLLINGER**
Special to South Florida Times

Although some in the legal community have pegged him an "easy mark," vulnerable to being defeated, Judge Ian Richards' record presents a solid defense in his bid for re-election. The 39-year-old jurist whose leap from the bench to defend a woman in his courtroom thrust him into the spotlight is being challenged by attorney Claudia Robinson in the Group 27 nonpartisan election for County Court Judge.

Richards points to his record to explain why he should be re-elected, spreading the credit for his effectiveness to his staff and the attorneys that worked in his courtroom. He said that a warning from an experienced judge that having 1100 cases would result in someone dying while waiting for trial prompted him to develop a more efficient approach to handling domestic violence cases in his courtroom.

"I started a process where we cut out continuances that were not necessary and set cases for trial. According to the constitution, you're not only entitled to a fair trial, you're also entitled to a speedy trial."

As a result, Richards streamlined the domestic violence unit by lowering the active caseload countywide to under 800 cases and reducing the wait time for trial by almost half. In addition to making the system more effective, Richards said that his approach helps both victims and defendants to minimize serious disruptions to their lives.

"If you're a mother with two children and you're in domestic violence [court] and either side asks for one continuance, your boss may allow for you to come back to work with no problem. But you ask for two or three continuances, there's a potential likelihood with that many days missed from work that you're going to get fired," he shared.

"That is a game that's played sometimes in the justice system. I try to avoid that because I don't believe that you should force victims to give up on cases because you string out the cases into infinity," said Richards, the first African-American judge to win a countywide election in Broward County.

Richards explained that defendants also suffer because multiple continuances force them to remain in custody for extended periods of time, compelling them to take unfavorable pleas to avoid the potential loss of employment and subsequently, their



FILE PHOTO

Judge Ian Richards



FILE PHOTO

Claudia Robinson

house and car.

"I don't favor either the state or the defense. I favor the constitution in making sure that just because you happen to be a victim with not that much money or a defendant with not

that much money that folk can't use the system to force you to disappear or force you to take a plea," he said.

He also orders defendants and victims to undergo mental health counseling and drug rehabilitation when warranted.

"We can try and make sure that when families come into the domestic violence system, they leave safer than when they first came into the justice system by looking at the root cause of the problem and trying to solve that root problem," Richards said.

The case that involved him jumping from the bench and tackling a man who attacked his former girlfriend in court occurred just three months after Richards took the bench in 2008. Richards said he instinctively responded.

"The only thing that went through my mind was 'I can't believe that this guy is attacking this woman in front of me,'" he said.

Richards said that he has given up trying to determine why, with a record as effective as his, he is being challenged for the seat. Richards was in the top five percent of judges for the number of jury trials presided over from 2009 to 2012; and he boasts a less than 0.1 percent reversal rate for cases that are heard for appeal.

In the Nov. 4th election, Richards will face Claudia Robinson, a former police union attorney who specializes in government law. In the three person primary election in August, Richards received 43.52 of the vote and Robinson received 32.61 percent.

Robinson replied to emailed interview requests and agreed to be interviewed, however, did not respond before this story went to press.

According to her website, Robinson came to the United States from Nicaragua at 2 with her mother and lived in Liberty City.

She has practiced law for eight years, beginning as an assistant public defender in Broward.

"Since most of my clients were in custody, I had to remain understanding to their feeling of wanting to be free while I adequately prepared their case for trial or otherwise. This balance of understanding and trial preparation required significant patience and assertiveness on my part—qualities that I believe are crucial as a judge," Robinson told the Daily Business Review.

Michelle Hollinger can be reached at michellehollinger303@gmail.com.

DR. BRENDA C. SNIPES
BROWARD COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

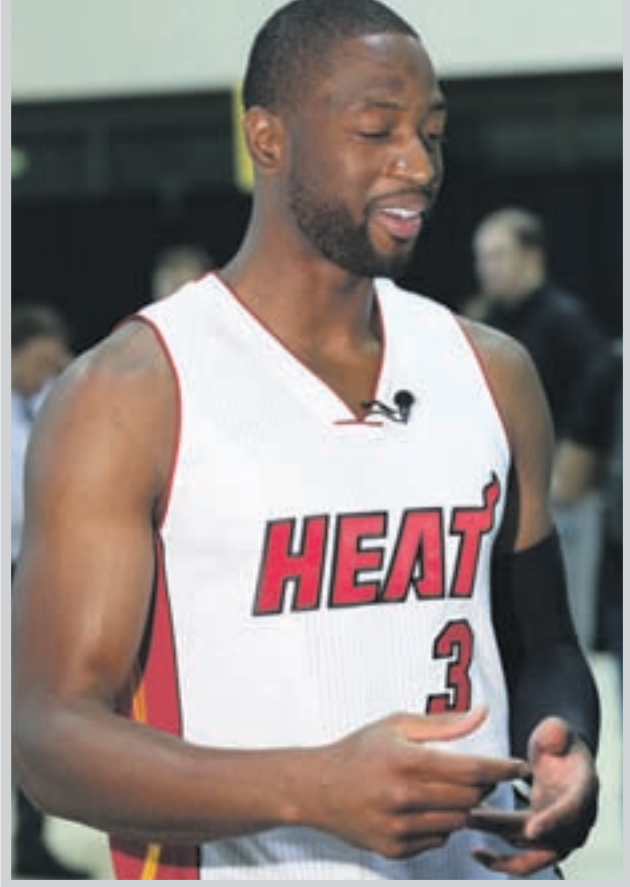
2014 EARLY VOTING SITES
GENERAL ELECTION
OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 2, 2014
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. AND Saturday - Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

African-American Research Library 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., (NW 6th St.), Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311	Northwest Regional Library 3151 University Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33065
Coral Ridge Mall—Northwest Entrance 3200 N. Federal Highway, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306	Parkland YMCA 10559 Trails End, Parkland, FL 33076
Davie/Cooper City Branch Library 4600 SW 82nd Avenue, Davie, FL 33328	SOE at Lauderdale Hill * 1445 N. State Road 7, Lauderdale, FL 33313
Deerfield Beach Westside Park 445 S.W. 2nd Street, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441	SOE at E Pat Larkins * 520 Martin Luther King Blvd., Pompano Beach, FL 33060
Emma Lou Olson Civic Center 1801 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach, FL 33060	Southwest Regional Library 16835 Sheridan Street, Pembroke Pines, FL 33331
Ft. Lauderdale Branch Library/Art Serve 1350 E. Sunrise Blvd., Room 130, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33304	Sunrise Senior Center 10650 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise, FL 33351
Hallandale Beach Cultural Comm. Center 410 SE 3rd Street, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009	Tamarac Branch Library 8701 W. Commercial Boulevard, Tamarac, FL 33321
Hollywood Branch Library 2600 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, FL 33020	Weston Branch Library 4205 Bonaventure Boulevard, Weston, FL 33332
Miramar Library 2050 Civic Center Place, Miramar, FL 33025	West Regional Library 8601 W. Broward Boulevard, Plantation, FL 33324
North Regional Library/BC 1100 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek, FL 33066	Wilton Manors City Hall 2020 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

General Election:
November 4, 2014
7:00 am to 7:00 pm



MIAMI HEAT



Dwayne Wade

Reinvention of Miami Heat



Shannon Brown



Andre Dawkins

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID ROSARIO

By KYOTO WALKER
Special To South Florida Times

MIAMI — The Miami Heat is a new team in the absence of LeBron James but the organization will continue to strive for the best, according to head coach Erik Spoelstra. However one constant remains, Dwyane Wade returns for his 13th consecutive year with the Heat as an unrelenting leader for the team which both Spoelstra and players admit must regroup and reinvent themselves. “I’ve always been a leader in this organization and with this team,” Wade said. “That doesn’t change no matter who comes in or (who) doesn’t.” The Heat kicks off its 2015 season Wednesday, Oct. 29 when it hosts the Washington Wizards at the AmericanAirlines Arena in Miami.

This will be the first time in four years without powerhouse forward LeBron James, who returned to his hometown team the Cleveland Cavaliers. The previous seasons with James included two NBA championships (2012 and 2013), and four consecutive Eastern Conference championships (2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014). Miami was widely thought of as the “team to beat,” but head coach Erik Spoelstra said at the Heat’s media day last month at the AmericanAirlines Arena that being perceived as an “elite” team is not the goal, however being competitive is.

“We have a ‘Heat’ standard, and that’s to compete for an NBA title every year,” he said. “This is a new team. Each year competition forces you to have to reinvent and change. So we all need to get better and we’re all definitely on board with that.”

Building a competitive team may mean that some players may have to fight for their positions, Spoelstra said. “We want to start the process of building a very competitive team,” he said. “It’s a different group. I’m telling everyone right from the ‘get-go’ (spots) are open for competition. Right now it’s an open canvas. We have to build and start working on the habits that are so important for us.”

And now that the “Big Three,” James, Wade and Chris Bosh, have been dismantled, higher expectations have been placed on Wade and Bosh. “I don’t want (Chris Bosh) to put too much on himself. All he has to do is go out and play basketball the way he knows how,” Wade said. “He’s a very talented guy. One of the most talented guys in the (forward/center) position in this game.”

The team will be focused on winning games this season not replacing James, Wade said. “We can’t replace LeBron. We’re a different team,” he said. “Everyone’s opportunities will be different. Everyone’s responsibilities will be different.”

Wade said the players, coaches and front office have all had time to get used to the idea of moving forward without James. Veterans Ray Allen and Shane Battier (retired) are also no longer with the Heat but Chris Andersen, Mario Chalmers and Norris Cole are all returning.

Wade said that he is not sure how his role on the team will change this year in James’ absence but he will do whatever needs to be done for the team to be successful. “Obviously I will have the ball in my hands a little but more this year,” he said. “I’ve always been a play maker for this team. I will continue to be that. I’ve always been somebody who scored the ball at a high rate. I’ll do everything else I need to do for my team when needed.”

Rookie Andre Dawkins said that he expects to learn a good deal from Wade this year. “The greatness he’s displayed in his career so far, and he’s still got a lot left in the tank,” Dawkins said. “The best part of his game might be his mentality. (Wade) is a fierce competitor. He doesn’t want to lose and you couple that with his basketball ability and you’ve got a really great player.”

Nobody knows the future of this new team or how good they can be but building good habits will be key, Spoelstra said. “We will work to try to improve in specific areas and hopefully every single month we’ll get better.”

TENNIS

Russian official sanctioned for derogatory remarks about Williams sisters



PHOTO OF SERENA WILLIAMS COURTESY OF CWESN / PHOTO OF TARPISHEV COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES
Serena Williams (left) condemns Tarpishev’s comments as racist and sexist.

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Russian Tennis Federation President Shamil Tarpishev has been suspended from any involvement with the WTA Tour for a year after referring to Venus and Serena Williams as “the Williams brothers” on a Russian television talk show.

WTA Tour chairman and CEO Stacey Allaster said in a statement Friday that Tarpishev would also be fined \$25,000, the maximum allowed under WTA rules, and that the tour would also seek his removal as chairman of the Kremlin Cup tournament in Moscow for a year.

Allaster said his remarks were “insulting, demeaning and have absolutely no place in our sport” and that he owed the Williams sisters an apology.

“Mr. Tarpishev’s statements questioning their genders tarnish our great game and two of our champions. His derogatory remarks deserve to be condemned and he will be sanctioned,” Allaster said.

Tarpishev, who is also a member of the International Olympic Committee, made the comment about the Williams sisters in a joke during an appearance on a late-night talk show with former Russian tennis star Elena Dementieva.

Dave Haggerty, the president and chairman of the U.S. Tennis Association, also called on Tarpishev to issue a formal apology to the sisters.

“Mr. Tarpishev is expected to conduct himself with the highest degree of integrity and sportsmanship,” Haggerty said in a statement. “Unfortunately, his comments do not embody either of these traits and in fact were reprehensible.”

World No. 1 Serena Williams is an 18-time Grand Slam winner in singles, while her sister Venus has seven singles major titles. Serena Williams attempted to defend her title at the WTA finals in Singapore on Wednesday. Serena lost in the round-robin match ending her 16-match winning streak, where she is the two-time defending champion.

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BROWARD



PICK ME UP: Courageous women get a makeover

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEW LAUTIN PHOTOGRAPHY
Wanda Anderson and Michelle Bair before and after photos.



By **ANDREA ROBINSON**
arobinson@SFLTimes.com

LAUDERHILL — Wanda Anderson and Michelle Bair grew up in different worlds. Anderson, who is black, hails from Pompano. Bair, who is white, calls Jacksonville home. But through circumstance called homelessness, their worlds collided on a path that can lead to depression, anger and gross stress.

On Wednesday, they got a bit of respite. Anderson and Bair were among nearly a dozen women who received free facials and makeovers at LifeNet4Families, a service agency that mainly provides food and basic services for homeless women and families in Broward County.

The session was a welcome change for Anderson, 54, who said she's had an extended rough patch with homelessness and health issues. A few days before, she was discharged from Broward General, where doctors ordered she wear a C-Pack monitor — a challenge for

someone who has no place to live. "With all the other issues I have, right then I wasn't thinking about nothing. I was smiling from cheek to cheek," Anderson said. "It makes you feel different for a moment. I haven't smiled and felt good about myself for a while."

LifeNet provided the services as part of an observance for Breast cancer awareness month. In between getting information about the health condition, that strikes more than 230,000 women per year. The agency, founded in 1985, touts its mission as providing a seamless system of care, in Broward County, to reduce the pain and suffering of individuals and families in poverty by providing necessary food, ancillary services and referrals.

This means serving approximately 70,000 individuals and families annually, helping them obtain food and other basics. While reducing hunger is the primary goal, spokeswoman Monica Cupid said agency staffers also help clients regain or maintain stability by providing clients with access to on-site shower facilities, haircuts,

clothing, counseling, referrals, job readiness preparation, emergency financial assistance, mailing address usage, and mail retrieval services.

The face makeover session, a joint effort between Mary Kay Beauty Consultant, La Verne Wilkins and LifeNet4Families, paired the women with makeup artists in a session that is part makeover, part makeup therapy during breast cancer awareness month.

Clients were treated amid the signature pink atmosphere, while receiving literature on self-breast examinations, talk with professional consultants, "shop" for clothing, and feel empowered to regain control of their appearance, and in doing so, improve their confidence.

"It's just a way to make you feel pretty," said Lisa Frederick, Director of Programs/Administration at LifeNet4Families. "We all want to feel pretty." It may seem like a small thing, but a makeover can make a big difference," she said. "They'll go through the session and

PLEASE TURN TO LIFENET/2B

MIAMI-DADE

Foundation calls attention to bullying



Jonathan Spikes

PHOTO COURTESY OF JONATHAN SPIKES FOUNDATION

Special to South Florida Times

MIAMI — In keeping with the national initiative and campaign to end bullying in public schools, the workplace and life in general, the Jonathan Spikes Foundation in conjunction with several community partners will launch Affirming YOUth, an empowerment program.

The four-hour anti-bullying workshop will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, at the University of Miami's Storer Auditorium, 5250 University Dr. in Coral Gables.

Organizers say Affirming YOUth will address cultural issues such as; academics, body image, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS, misguided assumptions and other systemic issues, which are precursors, that influence bullying amongst youth. The program is part of the Let's Talk It Out, Conflict Resolution/Anti-Bullying Program that is already approved through Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Organizers say Affirming YOUth is effective because it allows participants to become stakeholders in the outcome. It also allows them to share their experiences and offer tips on how "we" can stand together against hate, prejudice and stereotypes.

A study by the University of California at Los Angeles found that 20 percent of U.S. students in grades 9-12 reported have experienced bullying or are feeling bullied, while 28 percent of students in grades 6-12 report the same. Experts agree that most incidences of bullying occur during middle school.

The launch of the initiative is in recognition of National Bullying Prevention Month. Foundation officials hope to foster an atmosphere of understanding and compassion in South Florida.

Affirming YOUth will be facilitated by a panel of noted professionals in Miami-Dade County, including psychologists Charles Gibbs and Alyssa Rothenberg, who will also moderate open discussions after each topic to give students an opportunity to have open dialogue to process and understand the information being presented.

"I strongly believe that once youth can see past labels and stereotypes and "Talk It Out," then we have achieved the most critical milestone of all — enabling young minds to celebrate each other's cultural and personal differences and building better communities through compassion and understanding," said Spikes, founder of Affirming YOUth.

Affirming YOUth is free. Parents and students are welcomed to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be served. To register or inquire about participation, please visit www.AffirmingYOUth.com.

MIAMI-DADE



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTONIO BALLADARES

Major contributors to community

The Center for Family and Child Enrichment Inc. (CFCE) in Miami-Dade county celebrated its 37th Anniversary with a Masquerade Gala on October 19th, 2014 at the Newport Beachside Resort to honor and recognize six prominent organizations and community leaders for their outstanding contributions to the community and their commitment to helping to improve the lives of others. From left: Delores Dunn, President, Dr. Cheryl Brewster, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Honorees: Melissa Alonso, El Dorado, Jason Kasten, Irie Foundation, Rev. Carl Johnson, 93rd Street Community Baptist Church, Judge William Thomas,(2) members of Potential Church, Gary Williams, Calder Casino & Race Course, Denisha Sinclair, Fund Development Asst., CFCE.

PALM BEACH

New initiative will boost HUBZones program

Special to South Florida Times

WEST PALM BEACH — The administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, Maria Contreras-Sweet, announced the launch of Destination: HUB. The news could mean opportunities for more South Florida companies to compete for federal contracts.

For over 17 years, the HUBZone program has served as one of SBA's signature initiatives and has helped small businesses in urban and rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities. In Palm Beach County, the zone is primarily in the far western area, encompassing the towns of Belle Glade, Pahokee, Clewiston, South Bay and the Lake Okechobee area.

The program encourages economic development and employment growth in distressed areas by providing opportunities for firms to become active participants in the federal supply chain. Destination: HUB will promote and highlight HUBZones for opportunities in federal procurement.

"More than any other SBA initiative, the HUBZone Program has been a critical resource, creating jobs, alleviating poverty and reducing unemployment in our nation's most vulnerable communities. The program has had a transformational effect on small businesses all across the country.

SBA's Destination: HUB will put a spotlight on our underserved small businesses and promote HUBZones as ideal places for government contractors to do business," said Contreras-Sweet.

"In our 2013 scorecard, we reported that HUBZone businesses only received 1.7 percent of federal contracts — well short of our 3 percent goal. This new initiative

is an example of how the SBA is actively working to achieve that goal," said Contreras-Sweet.

"In FY 12, SBA South Florida District had 129 HUBZone firms that were offered \$250 million in federal contracts," said SBA South Florida District Director Francisco "Pancho" Marrero. "This program can provide many opportunities for small businesses that are

located in challenging geographic areas of our district."

Destination: HUB will promote and support HUBZone firms in federal contract opportunities, while ensuring local economic development boards, government officials, federal buyers, and prime contractors work hand in hand to bring more sole-source and set-aside awards directly for these HUBZones.

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Around South Florida

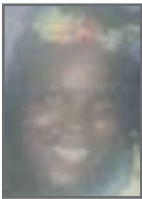


ELGIN JONES
EJones@SFLTimes.com

Palm Beach County

IN TROUBLE

The low income Auburn Trace Apartments in Delray Beach are in trouble. A foreclosure lawsuit has been filed over a \$4.2 million mortgage. The complex, located in the southwest area of the city, has become rundown, even though it received taxpayer subsidies from the city.



MISSING BODY

Annie Hughes, 54, died on June 1 and funeral services were handled by the Taylor Smith West Funeral Home in Belle Glade. That service included a cremation after the funeral, but her family says they have yet to get her ashes. After contacting the funeral home numerous times, they were provided a cremation certificate, but no ashes. A check with the company listed on the certificate revealed they never performed the cremation. According to a lawsuit filed by the family, funeral home staff is not responding to questions and Hughes' body has not been located.



RED LIGHT

Both the city of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County are halting their red light camera enforcement programs. Palm Beach County Administrator Bob Weisman confirmed the move comes as a result of a ruling by the Florida 4th District Court of Appeal. The ruling questions the legality of tickets issued based on the cameras.

TOUGH TIMES

Rosemary Martoma, wife of former hedge fund manager Mathew Martoma, is trying to save the couples' \$1.9 million



Boca Raton mansion from seizure. The husband is serving a 9-year prison sentence over his insider trading conviction. Federal authorities are moving the seized \$9.3 million in assets, including luxury items, the home and \$4 million in the bank.

Broward County



BOOKED!

Alfonso Garcia, 60, made his first appearance in court over Medicaid fraud charges. He is accused of creating fake invoices for an accomplice in a bogus prescription drug scheme. Garcia is charged with Medicaid fraud, trafficking and conspiracy to traffic in contraband prescription drugs, organized scheme to defraud and money laundering. His bond was set at \$300,000 and he faces up to 125 years if convicted on all charges. Book'em Danno!



WANTED

Hollywood Police are seeking information on a suspect who attempted to abduct two girls and in a separate incident, a woman. The incidents happened around 6 a.m. last Friday morning on Funston Street as the children were on their way to school. They screamed and fought off the attacker. Later, a woman reported being grabbed from behind and threaten with a knife. The woman struggled with the suspect until a car drove past and he fled. He is described as 30 years old, 5'7" and 140 pounds. He was wearing a black baseball cap, black jeans and had a beard. Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 954-493-8477.

TOW TRUCK THIEVES

Be on the lookout for tow truck drivers stealing cars. These thieves are striking around South Florida because most people believe they are conducting legitimate business. Cars have been stolen

from parking garages, shopping center lots and driveways. There is even a case in Fort Lauderdale where a property owner's car was stolen from a fenced in yard with a tow truck. The vehicle was found by Plantation Police, but they refuse to release it to the owner. Stay tuned for details. It's a mess.



MONITOR YOUR CHILDREN

Peter Fosenbauer, 54, was arrested after investigators tracked child pornography activity over the Internet to his computer. Authorities say he coerced a 9-year-old girl to expose herself while chatting with the child on the Internet. These allegations are just one more reason why children's Internet activities must be monitored 24-7. There are a lot of nuts out here.

Miami-Dade County

ATM CONVICTIONS

Six Romanian nationals have been sentenced to prison for installing card skimmers on South Florida ATMs and stealing their account information. They made fake ATM cards and stole an estimated \$340,000 from 314 bank accounts.



SHUT DOWN

Coral Gables Hospital shut down the entire facility after a patient arrived at the emergency room stating he may have been exposed to Ebola and was suffering symptoms. The man is a commercial pilot and told hospital staff he had recently travelled to Nigeria. Fortunately, he did not have the virus, but was the chaotic response the proper course of action? Centers for Disease Control Director Dr. Thomas Frieden, has implemented a number of precautions and procedures. Hopefully all facilities that provide medical services are readying their operations for Ebola patients, because its only a matter of time.



ABANDONED BABY

Sara Montoya, 29, is facing charges after she left her 3-year-old child home alone, who wandered away. The child was found alone in a park and was handed over to Hialeah police officers. Officials say after Montoya learned that police were seeking her whereabouts, she, herself went missing for over 24 hours before turning herself in to police.

Monroe County

HOUSING CRISIS

Key West City Planner Don Craig expressed doubt that the municipality's affordable housing crisis would be resolved in the near term. Monroe County is restricted from over development due to limited resources and a capacity to handle waste, sewage and drinking water for new residents. Many of the workers in the Keys travel to work from the mainland, due to the high home prices and rent payments. The city is exploring the possibility of turning over property to its Housing Authority for affordable home development.



HOT CONTEST

Monroe County Circuit Court judge candidates Jack Bridges and Bonnie Helms are engaged in a quiet, but hotly contested race. Bridges is a Mosquito Control District Board member for northern Monroe County. Helms has practiced law in the Keys for over two decades. The incumbent, Judge Tegan Slaton, had to be removed from the bench twice in recent months after dozing off during trials. He remains on leave due to health problems and was defeated in the August primary. The winner of the race will likely be assigned to handle the county's backlog of foreclosure cases. Monroe County circuit judges earn an annual salary is \$146,079.



Homeless women get boost from makeovers

LIFENET, FROM 1B

they'll just, for that brief moment, feel empowered that at least tomorrow they can face life again and keep going."

A year ago, Bair, 42, lived with her father in Lake Worth, until their home went into foreclosure. Now, she said, she lives out of a

car in the Lauderhill area with her boyfriend, Gary. Dizziness and blurred vision from a head injury caused by a car crash several years ago makes it tricky to walk along South Florida streets. For transportation, she sometimes relies on a bicycle. She's hoping to regain strength and return to work at Publix, where she once

worked as a customer service clerk.

Like Anderson, Bair said the makeover was uplifting.

"Once it was all finished, it was such a good feeling. You could see how much better we felt about ourselves," Bair said. "Being able to do something for yourself in this tough time

is uplifting. There's a lot of stuff going on in the streets and you don't always get positive vibes. It's tough being homeless. "

Anderson said she's hoping to live. As of now she's living on the street, except for times when friends let her stay for a few days. "I have my clothes in the bushes and all that," she said.

Ironically, Anderson said she just happened to stop by LifeNet on spa day.

"Most time I just come to eat. I peeked in, and saw all the pink," she said. "I needed something to lift me up. I was slumped down, because I'm thinking of death and health."

The makeup session took her mind off her woes. "I was the jazziest woman ... putting on eye shadow, lip stick. We were having such a good time I forgot my problems."

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LEGAL NOTICES

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE OF MEETINGS MEETINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION		
Date	Meeting	Place
11/12/14 9a	ISSEC Review of Contractors Pre-Qualification	ISSEC - Rm. #323 7720 W. Old Rd. Pk Blvd., Sunrise
11/20/14 12:30p	Audit Committee (Purpose: Assist the School Board and Superintendent in matters pertaining to the fiscal management of the School System and any other matters that may come before the Committee.)	KCW Bldg., Board Room 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
11/13/14 9:30a	Central Area Adv. Council Steering Committee	ISSEC 7770 W. Old Rd. Pk Blvd., Sunrise
11/13/14 4p	Central Area Adv. Council General Meeting	Hair Middle School 9100 NW 21 st Manor, Sunrise
10/20/14 6:30-9p	District Adv. Council (DAC) Bylaws Committee Meeting	Dunkin Donuts 4499 N. University Dr., Landerhill
10/27/14 6:30-9p	District Adv. Council (DAC) Bylaws Committee Meeting	Dunkin Donuts 4499 N. University Dr., Landerhill
11/3/14 6:30-9p	District Adv. Council (DAC) Bylaws Committee Meeting	Dunkin Donuts 4499 N. University Dr., Landerhill
11/12/14 6:30-8:30p	District Adv. Council (DAC) General Meeting	KCW Bldg. 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
11/17/14 6:30-9p	District Adv. Council (DAC) Steering Meeting	KCW Bldg. 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
11/17/14 6:30-8:30p	Diversity Committee General Meeting	KCW Bldg., Board Room 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
11/17/14 1:45-2:45p	Diversity Committee - Chair, Vice Chair & Staff Mgt Mtg	Lauderdale Manor Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
11/3/14 9-2:30p	Diversity Committee - School Site Visitation Sub-Committee	Lauderdale Manor Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
11/10/14 5-6:30p	Diversity Committee - School Site Visitation Sub-Committee	KCW Bldg., Board Room 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
11/10/14 2:15-3:30p	Diversity Committee - School Site Visitation Sub-Committee	Lauderdale Manor Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
11/17/14 2:45-4p	Diversity Committee - School Site Visitation Sub-Committee	Lauderdale Manor Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
11/24/14 4:15-5:30p	Diversity Committee - School Site Visitation Sub-Committee	Lauderdale Manor Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
11/18/14 9:30-11:30a	ESE - Autism Committee of ESE Advisory (ACE) General Mtg	Handshill Preschool 2600 SW 36 th St., #2218, Davie
11/18/14 11:30a- 12:30p	ESE - ACE Board Mtg.	Handshill Preschool 2600 SW 36 th St., #2218, Davie
11/21/14 10a-12p	ESE - ACE Exec Board Meeting	Dunkin Donuts 9740 Griffin Rd., Cooper City
11/19/14 6:30-9p	ESE Advisory Council Meeting	Piper High School, Sun. Aud. 8000 SW 44 Street, Sunrise
11/10/14 9:30-11a	ESE - Down Syndrome Exec. Board Mtg.	JAFCCO 5100 Nob Hill Rd., Sunrise
11/6/14 10a-12p	ESE Adv. Exec. Board Mtg.	West Regional Library 6601 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation
11/7/14 10a-12p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 1151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
11/14/14 10a-12p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 1151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
11/21/14 10a-12p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 1151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
11/13/14 10a-2p	ESE - Down Syndrome Task Force Committee	West Regional Library 6601 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation
11/17/14 10a-1p	ESE Planning Task Force Committee	Arthur Ashe Campus, Rm. 177 1701 NW 23 rd Ave., Ft. Laud.
11/6/14 7p	Facilities Task Force - General Mtg	Edlund High School-Rm 209 2501 NW 11 th Street, Ft. Laud.
11/6/14 6:30p	Facilities Task Force - Needs Assessment Sub-Comm.	Edlund High School-Rm 209 2501 NW 11 th Street, Ft. Laud.
11/19/14 6:30-8:30p	Florida State Standards and Assessments Committee	KCW Bldg. 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
11/25/14 6:30-8:30p	Florida State Standards and Assessments Committee	Weston YMCA Family Ctr 20201 Saddle Club Rd., Weston
11/20/14 7-8p	Gifted Advisory	THA
11/13/14 10a	Legal Services Committee	KCW Bldg., 11 th Fl. Conf. Rm 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
11/20/14 1p	North Area Advisory Council- Steering Committee	Coral Glades High School 2700 Sportplex Dr., Coral Springs
11/20/14 1p	North Area Advisory Council- Exec. Mtg.	Coral Glades High School 2700 Sportplex Dr., Coral Springs
11/20/14 4p-7p	North Area Advisory Council- Steering Committee / Gen. Mtg	Coral Glades High School 2700 Sportplex Dr., Coral Springs
11/12/14 11a	North Area Advisory Council Chair/Officers Mtg	Cocacore Gourmet Bakery 2708 N University Dr., Coral Spgs
11/19/14 11a	North Area Advisory Council Chair/Officers Mtg	Cocacore Gourmet Bakery 2708 N University Dr., Coral Spgs
11/3/14 5-8p	North Area Advisory Council By-Laws/Policy Comm. Mtg.	Northwest Regional Library 1151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
11/12/14 5-8p	North Area Advisory Council By-Laws/Policy Comm. Mtg.	Northwest Regional Library 1151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
11/18/14 5-8p	North Area Advisory Council By-Laws/Policy Comm. Mtg.	Northwest Regional Library 1151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
11/24/14 5-8p	North Area Advisory Council By-Laws/Policy Comm. Mtg.	Northwest Regional Library 1151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
11/13/14 9-5p	Parent/Community Involvement Task Force	McFatter Tech Center - Bldg 6400 Nova Drive, Davie
10/23/14 10a	Superintendent's Ins. Advisory & Wellness Committee (SIWAC) (Purpose: Review RFP for Employee Benefits Insurance Consultant Services and any other matter the Committee deems important.)	ISSEC (Lobby) 7770 W. Old Rd. Pk Blvd., Sunrise
11/13/14 10a	Superintendent's Ins. Advisory & Wellness Committee (SIWAC) (Purpose: Review Draft RFP for Retirement Plan Administration & Investment Management Services and any other matters the Committee deems important.)	ISSEC (Lobby) 7770 W. Old Rd. Pk Blvd., Sunrise
11/10/14 2:30-4:30p	Technology Advisory Committee (TAC)	HECON - MGM Room 6600 SW Nova Drive, Davie

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, prohibits any policy or procedure, which results in discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. Individuals who wish to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint may call the Director, Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department, at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158. Individuals with disabilities requesting accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), may call Equal Educational Opportunities/ADA Compliance Department, at 754-321-2150 or Teletype Machine (TTY) 754-321-2158.


Notice is hereby given that two or more Board Members of The School Board of Broward County, Florida, may be participating.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE OF MEETINGS	
11/4/14 10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3 rd Ave., Ft. Laud. •Special School Board Meeting / Expulsions •Regular School Board Meeting
11/18/14 10:00 a.m. Immediately following the School Board Org. Mtg.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3 rd Ave., Ft. Laud. • School Board Organizational Meeting • Leasing Corp. Meeting (Purpose: To hold the Corporate Annual Meeting as required by the Bylaws which include Nomination of Directors, Election of Directors, Election of Officers.)
11/25/14 10:00 a.m.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3 rd Ave., Ft. Laud. •School Board Workshop

Regular School Board Meeting – Public speakers listed on the agenda will be heard at 12 p.m. or as close to that time as possible. **Workshops** – Public speakers will be permitted three minutes each to address a topic at the conclusion of Board Members' discussion on the topic. The times for items on the agenda are only estimates. The actual start times for these topics may vary up to an hour or more depending on the nature of the items and the length of the Board discussions and public comments.

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Telephone conferencing or other telecommunications technology may be used in conducting this public meeting to permit absent Board Members to participate in discussions, to be heard by other School Board Members and the public, and to hear discussions taking place during the meeting.



The School Board of Broward County, Florida
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS
HIGH SCHOOL FORUM
Parent/Community Involvement Task Force
Monday, November 17, 2014
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Indian Ridge Middle School
1355 Nob Hill Road
Davie, FL 33324

Notice is hereby given that two or more Board Members of The School Board of Broward County, Florida, may be participating.

Obituaries

BAIN RANGE FUNERAL HOME - Homestead



APRIL A. AVANT, 48, Bus Aide, of Homestead, died October 12. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Greater St. Matthews Holiness Church.

JAMES C. BOYD FUNERAL HOME



AARON ALDRED, 65. Funeral will be held Saturday, at James C. Boyd Funeral Home.

JOSLYN JACKSON, 71. Funeral will be held Saturday at Episcopal Church of the Atonement located at 4401 W. Oakland Park Boulevard, Lauderdale Lakes, FL.

LUCIOUS 'MAXWOOD' McCORMICK, 68. Funeral was held 11 am Wednesday at James C. Boyd Funeral Home.

RUBY DEE MURPHY, 58. Funeral was held October 18, at New Hope Baptist Church and Entombment at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

GENEVIEVE SMITH, 94. died. Graveside Service was held Friday, October 17, at Westview Cemetery located at 1900 N.W. 22nd Court, Pompano Beach, FL.

MANKER FUNERAL HOME



WILLIAM LINCOLN ROBINSON SR., 82, died October 17, at Aventura Medical Center. Funeral will be held Saturday at Holy Temple Missionary Baptist Church, time to be announced.

MINISTER HUNTER RUSSELL JR., 74, Retired Bus Driver, died October 20, at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Funeral will be held 12 noon at New Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

PAX VILLA FUNERAL HOMES - Orlando



MOTHER CHRISTENE ANDERSON, died October 10, in Orlando. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Balls Temple First Born Church-Orlando, FL.

BAIN RANGE FUNERAL HOME - Coconut Grove



BENJAMIN F. BARRETT JR., Retired Police Officer, of Richmond Heights, died October 14 at home. Funeral will held 2:30 pm Saturday at Mt. Hermon A.M.E. Church. Final rites and burial will be held in Beaufort, SC.

RICHARD EDES, 51, Salesman, of Miami, died October 11, at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.



BENJAMIN L. EVERETT, 54, of Coconut Grove, died October 14 at home. Funeral will be held 2:30 pm Saturday at Beulah Baptist Church.

ROWENA FINLAYSON, 92, of Homestead, died October 14, at Brookwood Nursing Home. Private Services were held.

RORY JACKSON, 54, Restaurant Manager, of South Miami, died October 19, at Mercy Hospital. Funeral will be held 10 am Monday at Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church.



JOE L. TATUM, 65, Retired Educator, of Miami, died October 16 at home. Final rites and burial will be held in Columbus, TX.

HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - Miami Gardens



REGINA CHERYL ANDERSON, 48, Homemaker, died October 15, in Summerton, South Carolina. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday at Rock Of Ages Missionary Baptist Church.

JOHNNIE JONES, 51, died October 20, at Jackson North Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.

RANGE FUNERAL HOME



JOHN DEAN McMULLEN, 90, Retired Laborer, died October 18. Funeral will be held 1:30 pm Saturday at St. Matthew Freewill Baptist Church.



DR. ARTHUR EDWARD WOODARD, 85, Retired School Administrator, for Miami Dade County School Board, died October 8. Survivors include: daughter, Vanessa Woodard Byers; son, Harlan E. Woodard; brothers, Charles Woodard (Mary), Otis Woodard, Marvin Woodard (Alisha), Carl Woodard (Patsy) and Emory Woodard (Carol), granddaughter, Nivia Woodard; sister, Betty Guyton, Mary Woodard; and a host of other relatives and friends. Public viewing 5 to 8 pm Friday at Range Chapel. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Miami Central Senior High School Auditorium.

COLEY WILLIAMS JR., 85, Real Estate Entrepreneur, died October 16. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses.

ROY MIZELL & KURTZ FUNERAL HOME



DORIS L. STRIGGLES, 83, of Fort Lauderdale, died October 21. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at New Mount Olive Baptist Church.

HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - MLK



MORRIS HOLMES, 88, Maintenance, died October 19, at Mount Sinai Hospital. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at New Birth Church.

KENNETH JAMES OUTLER, 61, Retail Salesman, died October 16, at Memorial Regional Hospital. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at MLK Chapel.

Place your Obituaries Here
Call 954-356-9360

WRIGHT & YOUNG FUNERAL HOME



BABY PRIMA-AMORE ALEXANDER, died October 14. Graveside Service 11 am Thursday at Vista Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

ALICE BELLAMY, 67, one of the first black correction officers, died October 13. Services were held.

JEFFREY DOUGLAS, 53, Laborer, died October 12. Funeral will be held 11 am Thursday in the chapel.

ROBERT HARRIS, 81, died October 17. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Peace M.B. Church

OLEST NOEL, 43, died October 11. Arrangements are incomplete.

LOIS SIMON, 68, died October 15. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Mr. Hermon A.M.E. Church.

GERALDINE STRONG, 59, died October 17. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Peaceful Zion M.B. Church.



HALL-FERGUSON-HEWITT MORTUARY



WILLIE HOWARD, 71, Construction Laborer, died October 12 in Griffin, GA. Memorial Service will be held 11 am Saturday at Hall-Ferguson-Hewitt Chapel.

ROSA McCLENDON, 97, died October 18. Arrangements are incomplete.



JAY'S FUNERAL HOME



JULIO CORALES, Arrangements are incomplete.

CATHERINE KINSEY, Arrangements are incomplete.

OSCAR DANIEL WILLIAMS, 67, Mechanic, died October 14. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Mt. Pleasant MBC, located at 11591 SW 220TH Street, Goulds, FL.

Arthur E. Woodard, legendary coach, 86

By **ANDREA ROBINSON**
arobinson@SFLTimes.com

MIAMI — Arthur E. Woodard was a man of the people. Legendary football coach, civic leader, teacher and school principal, he made time for just about everyone, and improved many lives along the way.

Woodard, 86, died Oct. 8 in Miami after a long illness. However, his legacy of activism, empowerment and encouragement lives in perpetuity in the lives of those he touched.

"He liked people and people liked him. He was very much a conversationalist, and liked to impart what knowledge he had to young people," said his son, Harlan. "He always wanted things to be just right.

He was empathetic to other people's conditions, and always wanted to help them obtain a positive outcome."

Woodard, a native of Live Oak, grew up in South Miami-Dade County. He graduated from Mays High, then went to Florida A&M College in Tallahassee, the university he would champion the rest of his life. There, he made a name for himself in athletics, especially football. He won a Black National Championship, three Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference titles and was selected All-American Tackle-honorable mention. After graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and rose to the level of Captain before he was honorably discharged.

At Florida A&M he met the love of his life, Mary Williams. They married in 1952, and enjoyed a union that lasted 58 years until her death in 2010. The couple raised two children: Harlan and Vanessa Woodard Byers. They raised their young family in the North Florida town of Defuniak Springs. Woodard was head coach in four sports: football, basketball, baseball and track at Tivoli High School.

His accomplishments are recorded at the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), which notes, "In a 13-year career at Tivoli, Woodard's teams won more than 100 games and were undefeated in at least five seasons. Tivoli also won the Northwest Florida Big Bend Conference title several times during Woodard's tenure. He was



PHOTO COURTESY OF WOODARD FAMILY
Arthur E. Woodard

named Coach of the Year in 1962-63." FHSAA inducted him into the Hall of Fame in 2008.

In 1968, he relocated his family to Miami, where he was an assistant football coach and Athletic Director at Miami Central High. He earned a Master's degree and Doctorate in Education Administration and became Assistant Principal at Miami Edison Senior High School. In 1979, Dr. Woodard was named principal of Miami Douglas MacArthur High School – North, a position in which he served until retirement in 1991.

Away from education, Woodard was known as the go-to person when things were right, and especially if something was amiss. Harlan Woodard said many days, people knocked on their front door seeking assistance. His dad readily responded.

"It was always an adventure. There was always something, an issue going on. My father would jump up and try to address things," he said.

Woodard held memberships in several organizations, including the King of Clubs of Grater Miami, Model City Optimist Club, CIVITAN of North Miami and the National Alliance of Black School Educators. He served on the board of Miami-Dade County Office of Community Development. He also was a life member of the FAMU National Alumni Association, and the FAMU Miami Chapter, where he could always be seen at regular meetings and special events, particularly the annual Kwanzaa celebration, which was championed by his late wife, Mary.

Harlan Woodard said that with such boundless energy, his father reminded him of Superman.

He recalled around Christmas 2000, his father's car was struck broadside while heading home from a community meeting. His vehicle was totaled. He watched as paramedics placed his dad – bloodied and in a neck brace – on a stretcher and took him to Northshore Hospital.

"Seeing him in that condition was terrifying," Harlan Woodard said. Fortunately, there were no broken bones, so he was treated and released.

The next morning, Harlan watched in amazement as his father went on the lawn in his pajamas to pick up the newspaper "as if nothing had happened. That was a Christmas miracle for me, my best Christmas ever."

In addition to his son and daughter, Woodard is survived by a granddaughter, Nivia Woodard; two goddaughters, Wilma "Cookie" Strong and Artlyn Kim; siblings, Charles Woodard (Mary), Otis Woodard, Marvin Woodard (Alisha), Carl Woodard (Patsy), Emory Woodard (Carol), Betty Guyton, and Mary Woodard; and numerous relatives and friends.

A viewing will be held 5 to 8 p.m. Friday 10/24/14 at Range Funeral Home Chapel, 5727 NW 17th Ave. Memorial service is 11 a.m. Saturday at Miami Central High School Auditorium, 1781 NW 95th St.

PUBLICATION OF BID SOLICITATIONS

Broward County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting bids for a variety of goods and services, construction and architectural/engineering services. Interested bidders are requested to view and download the notifications of bid documents via the Broward County Purchasing website at: www.broward.org/purchasing.

Prayerful Living



THE REV. DR.
R. JOAQUIN WILLIS

“My dear brothers, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”
— James 1:19 NIV (The Message Bible)

When we talk too much and listen to little, we communicate to others that we think our ideas are much more important than theirs. James (1:19) wisely advises us to reverse this process. If you put a stop watch on your conversations and kept track of how much you talk, and how much you listen, would you think you talk too much or too little?

Listening is an art, and so is speaking. With practice, listening can become a highly developed skill that can lead to greater knowledge; resulting in wisdom, understanding, clear interpretation of facts, and intentions.

Good listeners are a treasure to most people, and organizations, because they often become the most critical thinkers. Most good listeners would agree, “We hear more when we say less.”

Many listen with the intent to find fault; forming points of rebuttal rather than hearing what is truly being said. God wants us to hear each other and especially to hear Him. If we openly listen we hear more clearly what God and others want us to hear.

In another biblical passage, the ‘Parable



We hear more when
we say less

of the Wicked Tenant’ (Matthew 21:33), we are told God built a fence around His vineyard (which includes all his children). The fence is symbolic of the Old Testament covenant. In marriages today couples are struggling to effectively communicate with each other. Why? Because marriages today are ‘contracts’ based more upon partnership agreements, (i.e. prenuptial agreements), and less upon a biblical covenant, so our word as human beings has less and less value, and meaning.

In covenant marriages we learn that God speaks, and it is He who teaches us how to speak and to listen carefully to each other. We follow his teaching by honoring the commitments made at the altar by husbands and wives.

God waits, being gracious to all, (whether married or single) to see if we

are going honor commitments made to Him, as tenants in His vineyard. By attentively listening to Him and others, we show ourselves faithful to Him and His Word.

James (Jesus’ brother) advises us to get rid of all that is wrong in our lives and humbly accept salvation’s message, which is “the word (He) planted in you, which can save you” (James 1:21).

James (1:20), speaks of the anger that erupts when our egos are bruised – we say then, “I am hurt, my opinions are not being heard.” When injustice and sin occur, we should become angry because people are being hurt. But we should not become angry when we fail to win an argument or when we feel offended or neglected. Selfishness never helps anybody.

In the Parable of the Wicked Tenant, the landowner sent many servants to collect the rent from His harvest, but the “Wicked Tenants” beat one, stoned the other, and killed the third. The servants sent by the landowner were symbolic of the Old Testament Prophets. Israel knew in its history; God had sent, Jeremiah and they beat him, God sent Isaiah and they killed him, and they stoned Zechariah. But at no time did they listen.

The religious leaders in the parable refused to hear, because they were too busy finding fault with and indicting Jesus; to busy talking to understand His message, just as they had not listened to the prophets. This is why Christ spoke in parables, in the first place, because Christ knew good listeners, would hear more, often, because they said less.

When we listen to find fault, we are forming rebuttals to points that God wants us to hear. If we listen with an open heart, we hear more clearly what God wants us to hear.

The Rev. Dr. R. Joaquin Willis is pastor of the Church of the Open Door UCC in Miami’s Liberty City community. He may be reached at 305-759-0373 or pastor@churchoftheopendoormiami.org

Jewish group shifts view on Nazi benefit payments

By RICHARD LARDNER AND RANDY HERSCHAFT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An influential Jewish advocacy group said Tuesday it no longer supports allowing suspected Nazi war criminals to receive U.S. government pension benefits.

World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder said in a statement to The Associated Press that U.S. law should be changed to stop the payments.

Lauder’s statement followed an AP investigation that found dozens of Nazi suspects collected millions of dollars in benefits after being expelled from the United States.

Since 1979, at least 38 of 66 suspects kept their Social Security benefits. Of the 66 suspects, at least four are alive, living in Europe on these payments. The AP also reported that the payments gave the U.S. Justice



Ronald Lauder

PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLDJEWISHCONGRESS.ORG

Department leverage to persuade Nazi suspects to sign voluntary departure agreements.

The payments flowed through a legal loophole that the World Jewish Congress lobbied to keep open during the 1990s. The thinking at the time was that Nazi suspects would agree to depart the U.S. voluntarily if they knew their benefits payments would continue. The expectation, Lauder said, was that suspects would be held accountable for their alleged crimes in the countries they returned to. Yet only 10 suspects were ever prosecuted after being expelled.

The Justice Department denied using the benefits as a tool for removing Nazi suspects.

The time has come to end the payments. Lauder said. “There cannot and there should not be such a thing as legal closure when it comes to genocide, and we support the U.S. authorities in their efforts to track down all suspected Nazi war criminals, no matter what their age is today, and to bring them to justice,” Lauder said.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF DIVASAND DORKS.COM
HTC Re Camera

With Re, HTC goes beyond smart phones

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — Everywhere you look, people are using smart phones and tablets to snap pictures and record video of concerts, speeches or even their kids' ballet recitals — and instantly share the experiences with friends and family. At many events, people aren't even looking at the stage; they are watching through their screens.

HTC thinks there's a better way — and they're betting you won't mind carrying around an extra device about the size of a small candy bar. With the new Re camera gripped discreetly in your hands, you can take stills and video while still experiencing the event directly — not through a screen or viewfinder.

No more annoying people behind you by blocking their views with your phone or tablet. (In fact, no one may realize you're recording at all. HTC says the Re will at least make a sound when you take a picture or start recording.)

The Re marks HTC's effort to expand beyond smart phones. Its flagship HTC One smart phone earns high praise from users and tech reviewers but the company's global market share is tiny compared with Apple's and Samsung's. According to IDC, HTC's market share was less than 2 percent in the second quarter, the latest period available.

How do I use it?

The camera, which will hit stores in about a month, resembles a miniature submarine periscope. It's about four inches long; its diameter is about the same as a quarter's.

One quick press snaps a 16-megapixel still image, while a long press starts video recording at 1080p high definition. You can transfer images wirelessly to your phone or an online storage account.

Would-be filmmakers can attach the Re to tripods and other accessories. The camera is waterproof, so you can leave it outside for time-lapse video. (Apple added the time-lapse feature to iPhones in its iOS 8 software update, but you can't use your phone for other things while you take the video.)

How much does it cost?

For \$199 you get just eight gigabytes of storage, but you can add up to 128 gigabytes more with a microSD card.

Any drawbacks?

There's no display or viewfinder. You point the device toward the stage and hope you're not cutting anyone off. You can use a companion smart phone app as a viewfinder, but that

defeats the point of not needing to have your phone out while enjoying an event.

What else is coming from HTC?

Next month HTC is launching a new mid-range smart phone called the Desire Eye. The phone's front camera will match the 13 megapixels found on the rear, meaning sharper selfies and videoconferencing than what smart phones typically offer. The front camera also will use face detection to keep subjects in focus and permit voice commands such as “cheese!” to snap the shot. HTC plans to bring many of these features to its high-end HTC One devices, too, through free software updates.

The 5.2-inch Desire Eye will be available in early November through AT&T. No details on price yet.

HTC also is launching a free app for iPhones and non-HTC Android phones that lets users create a highlights video. Current HTC phones have a Zoe feature that automatically grabs images taken on a given day and stitches them together into a video, complete with music.

The free app “allows us to get HTC in more people's hands without having to make them do a smart phone change immediately,” says Jason Mackenzie, president of HTC America. “So the next time that customer is buying a smart phone, they now have been introduced to HTC.”

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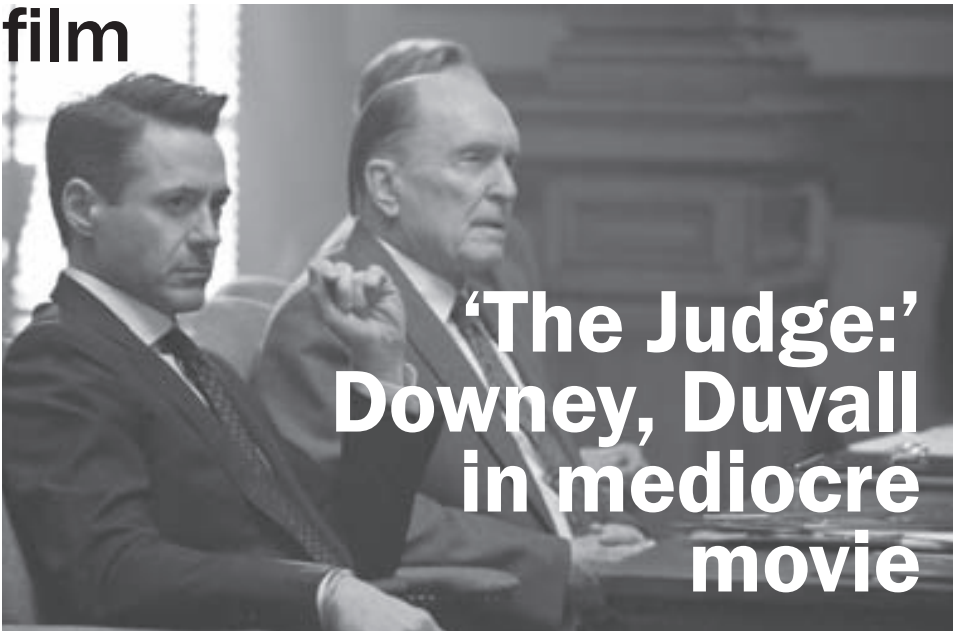


PHOTO COURTESY OF HITFIX.COM

Robert Downey Jr. and Robert Duvall keep *The Judge* afloat.

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Just put Robert Downey Jr. and Robert Duvall in a room together and you'll have a movie, a truism that *The Judge* does its damndest to disprove.

David Dobkin's film doesn't leave a melodramatic stone unturned, adding to its courtroom drama a sentimental tsunami of story lines: a mother's funeral, a father-son reckoning, a fight with cancer, a dash of alcoholism, a custody battle, a mentally challenged younger brother, and a hint of possible incest, to boot. Objection! Badgering the moviegoer.

But for a moment, the big-budget sheen of *The Judge* and its contrived, kitchen-sink emotionality is forgotten. Downey's big-city, high-priced lawyer, Hank Palmer, helps his ailing father, Duvall's Judge Joseph Palmer, in an excrement-soiled bathroom, pulling him into the shower while they both struggle for an excuse to keep Hank's young daughter outside.

Even with the scene's gratuitous realism, it's the one natural moment in the otherwise schematic *The Judge*. As it is, the considerable appeal of seeing two fine actors as perfectly opposite each other like Duvall and Downey — one a rigid old cowboy, the other a manic pinball — is limited by the film's ceaseless heart string-pulling. This is a movie that uses Bon Iver's mawkish *Holocene* not once, but twice.

Hank is a glib Chicago defense attorney (“innocent people can't afford me”) who returns to his Indiana hometown for his mother's funeral and a reluctant reunion with his domineering father, from whom he's long been estranged. Despite being a community pillar, Judge Palmer is arrested for running over and killing a man he once put in jail.

Hank defends him, along with a sheepish local lawyer (Dax Shepard) against a severe prosecutor (Billy Bob Thornton). The case is less the driver of the story than the frame for Hank's return to his roots (Vincent D'Onofrio and Jeremy Strong play his brothers, Vera Farmiga his ex-girlfriend) and bonding with his father.

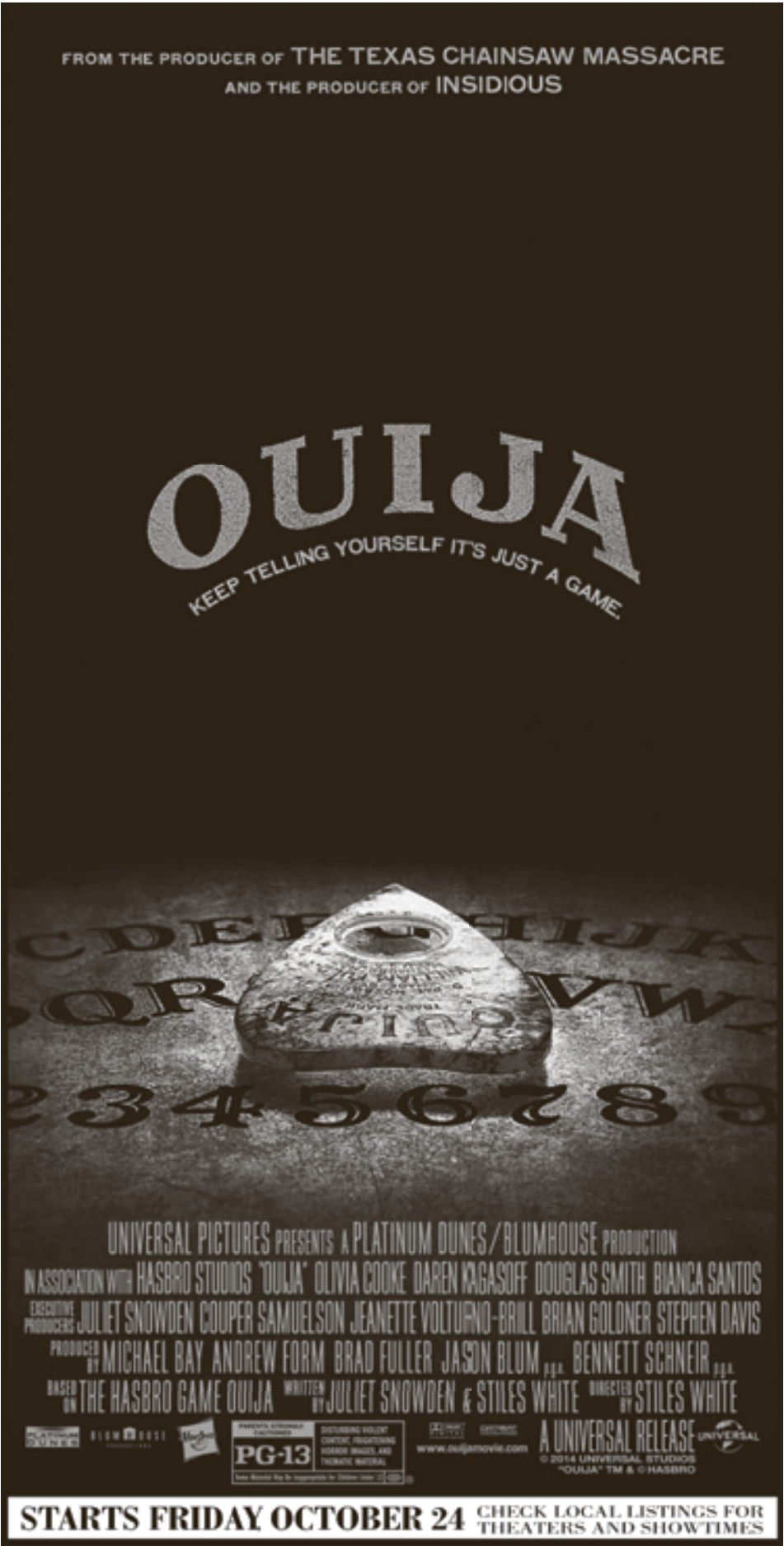
Duvall (who perhaps ought to have had more scenes dishing out justice on the bench in a movie called *The Judge*) is in his wheelhouse, playing a tough-talking, joke-dishing old man, but one haunted by regret and humbled by encroaching old age.

Downey, too, is in typical form, though he's never much tested to go beyond his easy, hyper-verbal charm. But his live-wire act remains a thing to behold. Where one actor reacts once, Downey reacts half-a-dozen times, alert to every word and gesture.

Seemingly anxious that in today's cinema there's no place for a simple courtroom drama or a coming-home tale, *The Judge* fuses the two together. This is, after all, Downey's first drama since 2009's *The Soloist*; he's had *Iron Man* and *Sherlock Holmes* franchises to attend to.

Dobkin (largely a director of broad comedies like *Wedding Crashers*) won't rest his constantly moving, always swooping camera. Large portions of the movie are over-lit by cinematographer Janusz Kaminski, who has shot some beautiful movies *Lincoln*, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*), but his penchant for flares and blown-out windows here gives the film an artificial flatness.

If in eight years, Downey's dramatic output amounts to *The Judge* and *The Soloist*, we can only feel that something is being squandered. Instead, we get a perpetually watchable film in that lazy-afternoon-cable-movie kind of way. If *The Judge* proves anything, it's that talented, likable actors like Downey, Duvall, D'Onofrio and Farmiga can keep a mediocre movie humming.



pop culture



ON THE COVER
Etienne Charles
PHOTO COURTESY OF
MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

PHOTO COURTESY OF REVIVEMUSIC.COM

Etienne Charles

Staff Report

MIAMI — From actress Jasmin Guy in *Raisin’ Cane* to Alvin Ailey-trained dancers featured in an eclectic mix of styles from TU Dance, visitors to the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center can view an array of talent this arts season.

Center officials say the venue’s 2014-2015 season of performances offers an array of entertainment options in dance, music, theater, family shows as well as the finest Broadway touring productions.

One of the shows features Trinidadian trumpet player Etienne Charles, who performs in Miami for the first time at 8

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Etienne Charles opens Miami Nice Jazz Fest at SMDCAC

p.m. Nov. 1 at the center, 10950 SW 211 St. in Cutler Bay. His performance is part of the Miami Nice Jazz Festival.

Perhaps more than any other musician of his generation, Charles brings a careful study of myriad rhythms from the French, Spanish, English and Dutch speaking Caribbean to the table. He is hailed by *Jazz Times* as “A daring improviser who delivers with heart wrenching lyricism.” Charles plays from his latest recording *Creole Soul*, which received worldwide critical acclaim for its fusion of root grooves from the Afro-Caribbean.

The band includes: Etienne Charles trumpet; Brian Hogans, alto sax; Victor Gould piano; Alex Wintz, guitar; Ben Williams, bass; Obed Calvaire, drums; special guests Leon Foster Thomas, percussion and steel pan; Keith ‘Designer’ Prescott, vocals; and Roger George, vocals. Opening act will be the University of Miami Frost School of Music Jazz Sextet. SMDCAC promises the new season will have more performances, more artists and more unique experiences than ever before. There is something for everyone. Patrons can choose from an incredible lineup in the 961-seat main stage theater.

This season the main stage features two touring Broadway productions, *Guys and Dolls* and *Jekyll and Hyde* as well a theatrical production of *Raisin’ Cane* starring Jasmine Guy and the *Avery Sharpe Trio*. *Culture Shock Miami* will present a graphic novel story *The Intergalactic Nemesis* and comedy acts also take the stage with the Chicago-style improve group *The Kinsey Sicks* with their production of *America’s Next Top Bachelor Housewife Celebrity Hoarder Makeover Star Gone Wild!*

Exceptional productions in dance on the main stage include: *Noche Flamenca* with Soledad Barrios (Flamenco), *Urban Bush Women* (Contemporary Dance), *Ballet Memphis* (Presented by *Culture Shock Miami*) (Ballet), *Alonzo King Lines Ballet* (Ballet), *Step Crew* (Irish Step Dancing) and *TU Dance* (Contemporary Dance).

Highlights in music on the main stage include: world music powerhouse *Zap Mama* performing with *Antibalas* (the band from the Broadway production of *FELA*), and if you love great Prohibition era jazz as well as jazz from the 30s and 40s don’t miss *The Hot Sardines* (Miami Nice Jazz Festival).

Family-friendly shows at SMDCAC include large-scale spectacles like *Peking Acrobats* from China and *Mummenschanz* from Switzerland (mime, masks, theater) as well as productions



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
PHOTO OF ALLAN HARRIS COURTESY OF ALLANHARRIS.COM
RAISIN’ CANE COURTESY OF CINSTAGES.COM

ON STAGE THIS SEASON: (From top to bottom) Allan Harris, Raisin Cane, TU Dance, and Urban Bush Woman.

like *Dino-Light* which use light wire to create beautiful visual effects.

SMDCAC brings back its acclaimed *Cabaret Series* which allows patrons to get up close and personal with table seating and service in the 130-seat Black Box Theater and features jazz, comedy and burlesque shows. And, back for its second year, *Black Creek Nights* offers local, national and international bands, food and drinks in a unique indoor/outdoor dance party atmosphere. Black Creek Night opens in November with Ukrainian punk band *Dakhabrakha!*

Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 786-573-5300 or online at SMDCAC.org. Subscriptions are currently available for certain main stage shows. For more information on subscriptions visit the Center’s web site or call the box office.

Cultivating young audiences for 10 years

By **BROOKE HENDERSON**
Special to South Florida Times

MIAMI —Thanks to a joint effort from the Miami-Dade County Public School System and the Department of Cultural Affairs of Miami-Dade County, high school and college students have productions from 90 different organizations to choose from as their first step into live art.

In the 2014-2015 season, Culture Shock Miami will present seven different disciplines of dance, music and theater, as well as spectacles of sight and sound at the South Dade Cultural Arts Center, 10950 SW 211th St. in Cutler Bay. This program, for arts lovers ages 13-22, is founded on the premise that immersing the youth in cultural experiences now refines the audience members of the future.

This year’s program started Oct. 11, with *The Intergalactic Nemesis: Target Earth*. That performance took the audience on a mad dash from Scotland to Tunis to the Robot Planet, all to save humanity from a sludge monster invasion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI-DADE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

Another one of a kind performance will make its way to the Main Stage on Jan. 23. With a little Irish luck, the Step Crew will weave an atmosphere straight from the Iron Age by combining three extraordinary styles of dance: Irish Step, traditional tap dancing, and Ottawa Valley step dancing. This act boasts three world-class fiddlers complete with a five piece Celtic band and vocalist.

Then, Culture Shock is going to Memphis — the Memphis Ballet. Guests will witness this groundbreaking, nationally sought- after company perform some of their annually produced original work on April 25. Classic ballet is revived and recharged as these dancers celebrate the human form. Made possible through the support of the New England Foundation for the Arts’ (NEFA) National Dance Project Presentation, performances will include *Devil’s Fruit* by Julia Adam, *Party of the Year* by Matthew Neenan, and *In Dreams* by Trey McIntyre.

The music doesn’t stop there. On Nov. 15, Noche Flamenca will show South Florida just why it is Spain’s most successful touring company. Under the direction of Martín Sanguelo, these dancers demonstrate the transcendent emotional power of flamenco with integrity. The complex art of flamenco dance is respected in each of its facets, and the audience will feel the consideration.

Shakespeare’s not dead — not when The Improvised Shakespeare Company is still around. Feb. 14th will be a day to remember as actors create a totally improvised Shakespearean masterpiece right on the stage. Characters are born and slain each performance as these highly skilled actors weave never heard before dialogue into a story as the audience watches with baited breathe.

Precarious maneuvers. Gravity defying displays of grace. Impossible contortions. The Peking Acrobats are for their pageantry and high energy but also their astonishing technicality and skill. These masters of agility and grace will redefine human possibility on Feb. 21, accompanied by traditional Chinese instruments and high-tech special effects.

The world of Mummenschanz is silent, allowing the ordinary to appear extraordinary. Objects with the help of light and shadow become a representation of the human condition in an amazingly sensory experience. The audience will be surprised into laughs and awed by the culturally transcendent visual spectacle. In one night, a multiple of stories will be told in a single one. At 3 p.m. on Feb. 28 and March 1, silence will become its own language.

The best tickets can be found through CultureShockMiami.com. All productions will be held at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center in Cutler Bay. Admission is \$5; in addition, two-for-\$5 and free passes to cultural hotspots, landmarks, and museums are also available. These include The Wolfsonian, Vizcaya Museum & Gardens, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum of Science, Miami Children’s Museum, Perez Art Museum Miami, Bass Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art.

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travel



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.COM

Painted Desert Inn, 2006

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The buildings at Petrified Forest National Park are held up as an example of modern architecture with their flat roofs, low silhouettes and large windows that opened up to the vast expanse of rainbow-colored desert.

Spanning dozens of acres, the structures provided everything the park staff and visitors would need: a gas station, restaurant, community building, maintenance shop, housing, even a two-room elementary school. The National Park Service entrusted the design to prominent architects Richard Neutra and Robert Alexander ahead of the agency's 50th birthday, and it's the only project of theirs still standing within the Park Service.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently designated the Petrified Forest compound a national treasure because of its architectural significance.

Outside national park boundaries, saving midcentury modern structures has been a chore. There are plenty of examples that have been threatened by the wrecking ball, including a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home in Phoenix and Philip Johnson's Glass House in New Canaan, Conn.

Petrified Forest buildings named national treasure

The Petrified Forest complex was on track to be demolished in 1993, but lack of funding derailed that plan and it was declared safe in 2004, said park Superintendent Brad Traver.

"I think that's the right decision," he said. "I agree this is an important complex. It's unique in the National Park Service."

The complex is visible from Interstate 40, about 25 miles east of Holbrook and beyond the trees. Visitors can also see them up close and go inside — they house a visitor center, administrative offices, restrooms, a store and more. The design of the complex is meant to blend in with the surrounding landscape of rainbow-colored petrified wood, fossils from the dawning age of dinosaurs and petroglyphs left by American Indian tribes who once lived in eastern Arizona.

Each year about 850,000 people visit the park, which drew attention for two finds over the summer of a large ancient village of pit houses and an animal new to the park's record. Traver said crews found what is believed to be the remains of an ancestor of both crocodiles and dinosaurs among hundreds of fossils.

Traver said he hopes to bring attention to the buildings, too, with a future exhibit that will explain its history and the plans to rehabilitate the buildings. The overall character of the complex remains intact. Some work has been done to stabilize the foundation and repair a cracked concrete floor. Sewer and water lines also are planned.

The roughly 35 buildings were part of the Park Service's Mission 66 program, a 10-year effort starting in 1956 to introduce modern architecture before the agency turned 50.

Neutra finished the complex in 1965, and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.

Ed Soltero, an assistant vice president at Arizona State University and university architect, said Neutra paid particular attention to how the buildings at the Petrified Forest would respond to the harsh Arizona desert, and they have held up.

"Buildings are trying to capture view, trying to capture natural daylight, mitigate the heat with large overhangs, very clean lines," he said. "Always trying to strive for the best for the occupants that were inside. You see a lot of this in this particular building."

The designation as a national treasure comes with guidance on restoring the buildings and expertise in sustainable practices. Chris Morris, a National Trust for Historic Preservation spokeswoman, said the designation means the public will still be able to experience Neutra's modernist architecture in person.

The complex is the only piece of Neutra's left in the National Park Service, according to Morris. Neutra designed the 1960s Cyclorama Center at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania. But, it was demolished in March 2013 after preservationists lost a lengthy court battle.

"There's nowhere else to go within Arizona or within the National Park Service," Morris said. "This is the only place within all of those public parks and monuments that you can experience a Richard Neutra design that up close and personal."

IF YOU GO...

Petrified Forest: <http://www.nps.gov/pefo/index.htm>

Chocolate-covered bugs served up at insect museum



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUDUBONINSTITUTE.ORG

BUG HEAVEN: The Beetlemania exhibit at the Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium celebrates creepy crawlies.

By **STACEY PLAISANCE**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The menu includes crickets and wax worms on toothpick skewers for dipping in a fountain of melted chocolate, along with "tarsal toffee" made with bug legs and mealworms and fudge infused with crickets and marshmallows.

What looked like a Halloween trick was actually an array of treats being served up at the Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium in New Orleans.

The 23,000-square-foot facility is the largest free-standing museum in the United States dedicated to insects. It houses thousands of live bugs, including beetles, cockroaches, wasps, bees, ants and termites. It also has a butterfly exhibit created to resemble a Japanese garden.

Insect-infused cuisine is also a huge draw. Thousands annually visit the museum's Bug Appetit kitchen, where six-legged critters and worms are cooked and served.

There is a Tiny Termite Café with bug-free foods for the less-adventurous eaters. "We get every range of reaction in here," said Zack Lemann, the museum's animal and visitor programs manager. "There are people who come here knowing about Bug Appetit, and they come to eat the bugs. We also have people who have trepidation and anxiety. Some just won't try it."

Lemann said the FDA allows 60 or more microscopic insect fragments for each 100 grams of chocolate — so it's not a huge leap to just go ahead and have a whole bug.

The chocolate-infused bug fare was being offered as a special "treat" alongside the museum's year-round offerings of chocolate "chirp" cookies — made with, yes, crickets — sugared wax worms and spicy Cajun crickets.

"I wish I could get her to eat vegetables like she eats bugs," said Val Russell of her 8-year-old daughter, Porter, who ate three chocolate-dipped wax worms and went back for seconds of the cricket-infused fudge.

events calendar

COMPILED By MARISSA CLARKE
Special to South Florida Times

Oct. 23 - Oct. 26

October 23

Florida Grand Opera Season Preview Party: Get an early listen to some of the Florida Grand Opera's pieces for this season as performed by the newest group of Young Artists. In addition to the music, complimentary wine and light bites will be served followed by an optional dinner with the Young Artists. 7 p.m. Il Forks Prime Steakhouse, 501 Silks Run, Hallandale. Free, reservations requested. 954-457-3920.

Oktoberfest: The Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club hosts this fund raising event with live music by Meg Taylor Music, German food (with hot dogs for the kids) and more! 5:30 p.m. at the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club, 20 S. Andrews Rd., Fort Lauderdale. \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance. 954-401-2007.

The Truth About Fairy Tales: The history of fairy tales around the world are explored with Dr. Janet Towell, professor of reading education at Florida Atlantic University. Explore tales by Hans Christian Anderson to the Brothers Grimm with a few contemporary children's books throw in for good measure. 3 p.m. at Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Free. 954-357-8243.

October 24

Dunlap and Pennington: Sing along to your favorite tunes including Broadway hits, pop songs, jazz and more as the classically trained concert artists put on a show. Dunlap plays on a custom grand piano and Pennington brings it on a Wersi, a custom-designed part electronic keyboard, organ, and computer to create the sound of a symphonic orchestra. 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Ft. Lauderdale, 2501 NE 30th St., Fort Lauderdale. \$10. 954-563-4271.

Oct. 24



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE.COM

Big Bang 18: Choreographer Sean Green of Sean's Dance Factory, presents an innovative dance production that features brilliant dancers. Performing hip hop dance to a variety of tunes, it is sure to be a memorable show. 7 p.m. today, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday at the Rinker Sr. Playhouse at Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$20. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org.

Oct. 24



PHOTO COURTESY OF DSTSOUTHBROWARD.ORG

Fifty Shades of Crimson: Enjoy an evening of wine tasting, live entertainment and networking with The Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc. South Broward Alumni Chapter and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. The evening includes a live auction, door prizes and more! 6 p.m. at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, 300 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach. \$30 at the door, \$25 in advance. 954-303-3585.

Fall Festivus: Wear your favorite costume and enjoy carnival attractions, a maze, horse rides and more! Food trucks will be on hand so you can purchase your favorite treats and there will be prizes for best costume. 6:30 p.m. at Christ Covenant Church, 4700 SW 188th Ave., Southwest Ranches. Free. 954-434-4500.

Halloween Hoopla: Celebrate all hallows eve a little early with music, arts and crafts, face painting and more! Play games, eat candy and win prizes at this event which is perfect for the entire family. 6 to 8 p.m. at Tamarac Park, 7501 N. University Dr., Tamarac. Free. 954-597-3674.

Oct. 25



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEABBEYRESORT.COM

Halloween Family Celebration: Make Halloween snacks, carve a pumpkin and play games at this annual event. The kids can wear their best costumes for a contest at 1 p.m. 10 a.m. at the Banyan Room at the Miami Beach Botanical Garden, 2000 Convention Center Dr., Miami Beach. Free. 305-673-7256 or www.mbgarden.org.

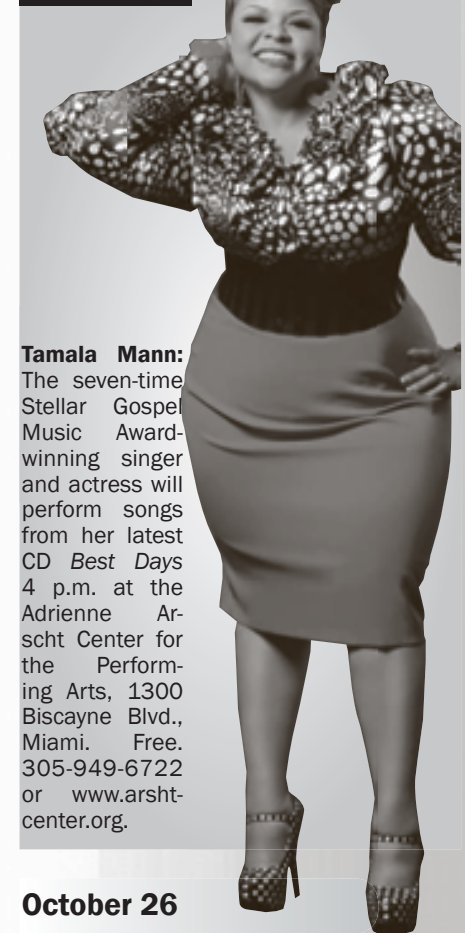
October 25

Harvest Festival Concert: Guitarist Rob "Wild Boar" Moore performs. Moore first got his start in the 1970's Chicago blues scene and will bring his brand of country-western. 7 p.m. at St. Johns United Methodist Church, 4760 Pine Tree Dr., Miami Beach. 305-613-2325.

Moonfest: Party like it's 1999 at the 22nd annual event open to ages 21 and older. More than 20 performers will take one of the three stages, including Brandon V, Chazz Royall, Franscene, Jude and the Gravel Kings. 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. between the 100 and 500 blocks of Clematis Street, West Palm Beach. \$10 day of, \$7 in advance, \$75 VIP tickets. 305-879-2906 or www.moonfestevents.com.

Scarecrow Festival & Contest: The annual celebration features music by the Short Sraw Pickers, arts and crafts, a bake sale and a scarecrow contest! Presented by the Historical Society of Palm Beach. 2 to 5 p.m. at the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, 300 N. Dixie Hwy., West Palm Beach. \$10. 561-832-4164, ext. 103 or www.historicalsocietypbpc.org.

Oct. 26



Tamala Mann:

The seven-time Stellar Gospel Music Award-winning singer and actress will perform songs from her latest CD *Best Days* 4 p.m. at the Adrienne Arscht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Free. 305-949-6722 or www.arsht-center.org.

October 26

Festival Miami: Cellist Dave Eggar and alumni from the YoungArts Foundation perform. 6 p.m. at the University of Miami Gusman Concert Hall, 1314 Miller Dr., Coral Gables. \$20-\$35. 305-284-4940 or www.festivalmiami.com

Kendall Village Farmers' Market: Grab fresh fruit, homemade jam, artisan goods and more with over 40 local farmers on hand and you are sure to find the perfect treat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Kendall Village Center, 8705 SW 124th Ave., Kendall. 305-318-6148.

food

Sweet potatoes: heaven on taste buds



Sweet potatoes, and I smell fall in the air.

Did I mention recently that we are in the fall season? Okay, this is Florida and seasons are not common here but you have to admit that lately the afternoon and evening breeze comes close to feeling like a change of season.

My Caribbean heritage didn't allow me to experience seasons. After being here for almost 30

years though, I can now anticipate the wafting aromas of spices like nutmeg, mace, cinnamon, allspice, cloves, ginger, and cardamom.

I foresee family caterings for dinner over mulled wine, fire places, fresh powdery snow, cakes and more.

I duly anticipate the sinful smells and tastes of sweet potatoes. Yes, sweet potato pie, baked sweet potatoes with molasses ginger caramel and crumbled walnuts, sweet potato pudding (Jamaica, Caribbean), baked sweet potato with marshmallows and sugar cane syrup, sweet potato bisque with chunks of crab or crawfish, sweet potato gratin with chorizo and cilantro cream and yes, coconut sweet potato flan with toasted coconut flakes. I wasn't thinking fall when I made this dish a few year ago, but I'm thinking, Why not? I shall share this with you, I must. Yes, fall is upon us and sweet potatoes or yams will be filling our storehouses.

So sweet potato or yams: Let's make it clear, if you don't already know. Sweet potatoes are not yams, they are two different vegetables and not even in the same class or description. Yams are starchy tubers native to Africa, usually dark in color with very tough fibrous skin with sometimes yellow, white or purplish flesh. They can be small or even grow to feet in length.

Yams are found in the pots of most African and Caribbean homes. They are used in soups or just as sides mashed with butter or sometimes used to make porridge. Yams in all their forms are often referred to as provisions and you can find them in most

Caribbean markets that sell produce.

There are many varieties of sweet potato, but mainly two common varieties found in the states popular in the American South. There is the paler skinned variety with a yellowish toned flesh. When cooked it is softer, crumbly and not very sweet. Its darker skinned counterpart produces a deep orange flesh which is firmer, moist texture and sweeter in taste. In the Caribbean the sweet potato there (Boniato) has a purplish skin with white flesh and sweet drier texture. The latter is usually found in most Caribbean markets selling produce.

Have no fear, sweet potatoes are a perfect foil for almost any protein selection. Goodness, we already do this for most thanksgiving spreads on our plates all with the honey baked spiral sliced ham, herbed roasted turkey, port glazed goose maybe and of course if you are West Indian a nice spicy Roast beef. Salty and sweet together with heavenly spice notes are a symphony on the palette.

So with all that said, will you make something different with sweet potatoes this fall and holiday season? I think you must. I say add some mascarpone cheese to that sweet potato pie, add coconut milk to that sweet potato bisque with a hint of nutmeg, mace and spiced rum. Make it your "food on Fiyah!!!" season.

Coconut Boniato flan w/ toasted coconut shavings

8 – 10 servings

- 1 ea Dried coconut, cracked and drained. Reserve the meat and water.
- 1 ½ cp sugar
- 1 ½ cp or 15 oz can of coconut milk
- 1 cp milk
- 1 cp peeled and grated Boniato
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp Sriracha sauce
- 1 tsp freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp finely chopped scotch bonnet pepper
- ¼ cp Captain Morgan's Spiced rum
- ¾ cp sugar
- 6 ea eggs
- 2 -3 cps coconut shavings
- 2 Tb sugar

Method:

- 1. Heat oven to 350 deg. Heat about 12 cups of water also.
- 2. Using the back of the chef knife, crack the coconut in the middle over a bowl. Strain the liquid from the coconut through a fine sieve along with a piece of cheese cloth. Reserve the liquid. Crack the shell of the coconut some more and remove the meat. Using a vegetable peeler, begin shaving the



pieces of coconut on the sides. Place shavings on a half sheet pan with parchment paper and sprinkle sugar over them. Place in oven and toast until just light golden brown. Remove and cool on rack.

3. On medium heat in medium sauce pan, add the sugar with ¼ cp of the reserved coconut water. Cook the sugar until it is a light caramel color. Remove from heat and add about 2 table spoons of caramel in 6 ounce ramekins. Quickly twirl the ramekin around to coat the side of the ramekin a little. Easier to do one ramekin at a time so caramel doesn't harden. If the caramel in pot hardens, reheat quickly and continue.

4. While caramel is cooking add the next twelve ingredients to a blender and puree for about 10 – 15 seconds. Ladle four ounces of liquid in each prepared ramekin. Set ramekins in a baking pan and pour hot water to halfway up the ramekins. Place in oven for about 50 minutes or until a pick comes out clean. Remove from oven and bath and let cool. Refrigerate for about 1 hour.

5. To plate, run a small pairing knife around the rim of a ramekin and place a plate atop the ramekin. Invert the plate and remove the ramekin so the flan comes out. Garnish with some coconut shavings on top of flan.

Sweet potato couscous risotto

- 4 Tb olive oil
- 1 Tb butter
- 3 ea cloves garlic, finely diced
- ½ cp onions, diced
- 1 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 Tb Fresh thyme leaves
- Season with Salt & pepper
- 4 cp Pearl/Israeli couscous
- 3 cps sweet potato, medium diced
- 6 cps water or chicken stock
- 1 ½ cp coconut milk
- ½ cp grated parmesan cheese
- Salt & pepper to taste

Method:

- 1. Add oil and butter to 4 qt stock pot on medium heat.
- 2. Add garlic, onions and red pepper flakes and sauté for 2 minutes then season with cumin, ginger, thyme, salt & pepper
- 3. Add the sweet potato and couscous and stir to get grains coated. Stir for about 2 minutes then add the liquid.
- 4. Let liquid come to a boil then reduce the heat to a simmer. When liquid has reduced and almost absorbed, add the coconut milk and cheese and stir. Cook for another 5 minutes while stirring then remove from the heat. Check for seasoning.

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