

IN THIS ISSUE



OPINION/4A
 "Revolution is being tweeted"



ENVIRONMENT/5A
 Peterman's "Our Environment"



ONLINE
SFLTIMES.COM
 FLPD Spreading Christmas cheer

PALM BEACH



PHOTO COURTESY OF PORTPALMBEACH.COM

The Port of Palm Beach will remain unchanged for the moment due to community objection to dredging.

By **JULIANA ACCIOLY**
 Special to South Florida Times

At the center of a dredging debate the Port of Palm Beach has shelved its expansion plan. Looking to accommodate larger vessels, Manuel Almira, executive director for the port, says the development would bring an estimated \$7 million a year in benefits to the port and its tenants, creating jobs and boosting the economy. But community activists say the \$88.6 million project overlooks the negative effects on the residents along the inlet. A coalition of civic associations, environmental groups, the town and other municipalities around the port have raised

the issue of manatees and sea grasses being harmed, greater storm surges that will threaten waterfront properties with flooding and a rise in insurance costs. Similarly, recreation and surfing along the inlet corridor could also suffer from the degradation of coral reefs and water quality. Spread over an area of 162 acres, the port employs more than 2,400 people, contributing \$260 million in business revenue. With approximately eighty percent of its cargo being exported to the island nations of the Caribbean, it is the fourth busiest container port of Florida's 14 seaports. Its export structure supplies sixty percent of everything consumed in the Bahamas.

The dredging at the inlet at Palm Beach Harbor, which serves as a ship entrance, would widen the channel from 300 to 450 feet and deepen it from 35 feet to 39 feet. The maximum ship length would increase from 675 feet to 750 feet. "They are trying to convert our port into Port Everglades," says Michael Brown, communication director for the Palm Beach Civic Association. "But our port is about one-tenth of that port's size and was designed to serve the Caribbean. Making this into a big commercial port makes no sense."

PLEASE TURN TO **PORT/8A**

PALM BEACH



PHOTO COURTESY OF C.B. HANIF

Principal Dr. Emma Banks effects change while T.V. film crew produces a video at Inlet Grove Community H.S. Career Academy in Riviera Beach.

The creation of black genius

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

Dr. Emma Banks, principal of Inlet Grove Community High School Career Academy in Riviera Beach is not your average principal. She doesn't sit back and merely govern her 650 charter school students. She gets involved—really involved in each of their lives, and as she puts it, she thinks outside of the box. She's hosted a talk show, she's run a magazine, she holds a flea market at her school, and she's had mandatory Saturday reading classes for parents. She's even found a way to get TV personality and nationally renowned counselor Iyanla Vanzant to speak at her school's annual "My Teacher, My Hero" Scholarship Awards Gala in the spring. And as a result of her unique style, we could be seeing much more of her and her students ---on television!

Highly touted producers and camera crews were on hand last week to film the innovative principal and her students for a reality TV show. They captured her in all of her busy-ness on campus and off, counseling students, making home visits, finding a way to get students into college. Cameras even caught her convincing an expectant teen to return to school, despite her desire to drop out because of her untimely pregnancy. Banks was able to convince her to come back to school.

"When they made her, they broke the mold," said Diane Jacques of Banks. Jacques assists the school with special projects. She is the person who brought in the TV crews. She has a long-standing background in television and producing and instantly spotted something special about the principal and the career academy school. She was initially brought in to assist with a cooking reality show, produced by the school's culinary arts students. But once Jacques stepped onto the campus, she noticed something more. "We knew almost immediately that there was something big here," she touted. "They don't do things the normal way around here. Dr. Banks is one-of-a-kind." Jacques reached out to other producers, who then made a visit and did some skypping. They agreed that the school was worthy of a TV show. They subsequently made plans to film for one week. They all agreed there was something different about Banks.

Banks is small in stature, but big in heart. She cares deeply about each and every student on her campus, and she'll do whatever it takes to see them succeed. Jacques tells of one of her students who had a troubled home life, living with his father. Eventually he went into the foster care system and was in danger of dropping out of school. Several area schools wouldn't accept him. But Banks saw a future for him.

PLEASE TURN TO **BANKS/3A**

MIAMI-DADE

Good health and great toys



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN HICKS

The J. Trice Center celebration is attended by Juany Martinez and her children (from left) Francis 13, Brian 11, Amber 3, Hamilton 8, Isaiah 2 weeks old who pose with Santa.

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

Nicole Knight said she brought her children to the holiday fair "to get blessed." The 26-year old mother of four said the free toys being provided at the Jessie Trice Community Health Center at the agency's 11th annual Santa's Workshop would be a big help because of "what I can't buy for my kids." Knight lives near the center and attends the event yearly.

Eleace Sawyers, vice president for planning and business development, said that members of the community are welcome to attend the center's annual holiday community event; and as they enjoy the festivities, she wants them to also learn more about the myriad services provided by the health center. Sawyers said the organization provides a wide array of health services, including primary preventive health care.

PLEASE TURN TO **TRICE/3A**

MIAMI-DADE

Obama's Cuba plan praised, opposed



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANB.ORG

Jorge Mas Canosa

By **LAURA WIDES-MUNOZ**
 Associated Press

MIAMI — Hours before President Barack Obama announced an end to a half-century of U.S. efforts to isolate Cuba's communist government, the Cuban American National Foundation opened the doors to its inviting new headquarters, with a modern glass and concrete lobby in the heart of Miami's Cuban exile community.

The symbolism is hard to ignore: The lobbying group was founded in 1981 by veterans of covert U.S.-supported missions to overthrow Fidel and Raul Castro, and for many years it worked to undermine the communist government from offices in an unmarked Miami building outside Little Havana. A

PLEASE TURN TO **CUBA/3A**

SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES IS AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL



10, 9, 8, 7, 6,
5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Hoppin' John!



— WISHING YOU A —
Happy and Delicious New Year!

Enjoying black-eyed peas and rice for luck in the coming year is a tradition passed down through generations. When making your plans to ring in the New Year, you'll find everything you need to prepare the dishes that have a special meaning to you, your family, and your community at Publix.

Publix[®]

WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE[®]

A small woman with big vision

BANKS, FROM 1A

She welcomed him to Inlet Grove, provided him tender love and care, and now he is thriving in a web design career and has his choice of colleges.

"He's now so academic and is already



Emma Banks

PHOTO COURTESY OF C.B. HANIF

successful in a career, even though he's choosing to go on to college. Where would a kid like him have gotten a chance? Dr. Banks doesn't see the obstacles, she sees the opportunities. She believes that every kid — rich or poor, deserves an opportunity to get a quality education," said Jacques.

Banks also believes that every child is special and is worthy of attending college. She hopes to utilize the reality TV show to foster her college scholarships. According to Jacques, Banks has already raised a quarter of a million dollars for scholarships for her students. But she wants more. "I hope it's picked up by a network, because if this happens, we'll be able to provide scholarships for our students," Banks said in an interview after the filming.

By February, the school will know more about whether the show will be picked up by a television network. The producers are veteran heavy hitters in the industry who have worked in senior executive positions with numerous major entertainment companies. They certainly know TV Jacques points out. They were impressed with what they saw at Inlet Grove. They were able to obtain lots of exciting and dramatic footage, and expect it to make it to the TV screen.

"It was an exceptional opportunity. We were able to get an enormous amount of material. I think they were successful in gathering an abundance of material of the unique nature of the school," said Jacques.

The school is a conversion charter school which has such career choices as nursing, pre-med, architecture, journalism, web design, culinary arts, TV and film producing, pre-law, pre-engineering and International Baccalaureate.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN HICKS

Eleece Sawyers vice president for planning and business development passes out toys to attendees.

Snow, gifts and Santa at Trice center

TRICE, FROM 1A

OB-GYN, pediatrics, health education and dental services.

"We have over 32 locations, we serve over 30,000 patients in any given year. We are growing and we've got more centers to come," she said.

In addition to offering a substance abuse treatment program, the Trice Center also provides care for people living with HIV/AIDS, a Healthy Start program and mental health services.

"Our mission is to provide access to care. Our primary focus is to serve the uninsured and the underserved and anyone that wants to receive services from us. We're a patient centered medical home and if you do need service and care and you don't have a PCP (primary care physician), we'll be happy to provide that service," she said.

As she glanced at the parking lot bustling with families, Sawyers said she was hopeful that the number of people in attendance at this year's event would exceed the 500 people that attended last year.

Juany Martinez said that she brought her children to the fair, "to

have fun." The stay-at-home mother of five said that she recently returned to Florida from New York and appreciates the supportive environment at the center; which she said she will visit soon to learn more about its services. She said a caseworker from the health center visited her at home to inform her of the event.

The not-for-profit organization boasts a multicultural, multilingual, and multidisciplinary staff that serves a diverse population of patients who make more than 120,000 visits annually. Considered a mainstay in the community, the Trice center is located on NW 22nd Avenue in Miami, diagonally across from another community stronghold, The Joseph Caleb Center.

Hosting the fair, complete with bounce houses, pony rides, food, entertainment, "snow" and Santa, is an opportunity, "To give back to the community. We provide primary medical services to the community and we've done that for the last 47 years," Sawyers explained before joining staff to pass out toys.

"We don't turn anyone away," she said.

Organizations work with Cubans

CUBA, FROM 1A

guard kept out unwelcome visitors, and its leader Jorge Mas Canosa tended to leave little room for differing opinions.

But Mas Canosa's son, Jorge Mas Santos, has transformed the foundation since his father's death in 1997, and the new building is better suited to this latest, more direct and transparent chapter in U.S. Cuba relations.

It also reflects how a niche industry of passionate anti-Castro groups, sustained in part by millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars over the decades, will have to adapt to new ways of dealing with Cuba.

"I think now everybody is going to be - and should be - more open about the activities they do with the opposition in Cuba," the foundation's president, Pepe Hernandez, told The Associated Press in an interview.

Miami has hosted die-hard anti-communists organizations ever since Cuba's 1959 revolution, plotting the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion and countless failed efforts to assassinate Fidel Castro.

In the 1970s, it was dangerous for exiles to speak out against the hardliners. Some who argued

against isolating Cuba lost their legs in car bombs. Cuban-Americans who advocated ending the embargo and engaging with people in Cuba were threatened and harassed well into the 21st century.

Nearly all these organizations now focus on working with Cubans on the island, and only a few extremists advocate violence.

But many are furious at Obama.

"Barack Obama's announcement gives recognition to the illegitimate Raul Castro regime, this undermines international condemnation of this regime as the dictatorship it is," said Orlando Gutierrez. He runs the Cuban Democratic Directorate, which supports Cuban dissidents and runs a Miami-based shortwave radio program Cubans can call into from the island.

The Cuban American National Foundation is more interested in having a seat at the table as the Obama and Castro governments work out the details of restoring a relationship all but frozen five decades ago.

"We urge the Obama administration to confirm its support for the right of the Cuban people to be free by increasing the funding of the Cuba Democracy programs," Mas said in a statement.

AFTER CHRISTMAS ONE DAY SALE

50%-80% OFF STOREWIDE

SHOP FRIDAY, DEC. 26 FROM 6AM-10PM (IT'S A SALE TOO BIG TO FIT IN A DAY!)

ALSO SHOP SAT, DEC. 27 FROM 9AM-11PM HOURS MAY VARY BY STORE. VISIT MACYS.COM & CLICK ON STORES FOR LOCAL INFORMATION.

ONE DAY SALE DEALS OF THE DAY

SPECIALLY SELECTED ITEMS PRICED SO LOW YOU DON'T NEED A SAVINGS PASS! AVAILABLE ALL DAY, BOTH DAYS!

8 HOURS ONLY! 6AM-2PM FRI & 5 HOURS ONLY! 9AM-2PM SAT

DOORBUSTERS GET HERE EARLY, WHILE THEY LAST

OR, EXTRA SAVINGS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY UNTIL 2PM
SAVINGS PASS DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY TO DOORBUSTERS OR DEALS OF THE DAY.

★macy's WOW! \$10 OFF
ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL AND SELECT HOME ITEMS CANNOT BE USED ON DOORBUSTERS OR DEALS OF THE DAY

\$10 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE.
VALID 12/26 'TIL 2PM OR 12/27/14 'TIL 2PM. LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.

ALSO EXCLUDES: Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electrics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic apparel, shoes & accessories, Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, New Era, Nike on Field, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services, macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be \$25 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.

★macy's WOW! \$20 OFF
ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL AND SELECT HOME ITEMS CANNOT BE USED ON DOORBUSTERS OR DEALS OF THE DAY

\$20 OFF

YOUR PURCHASE OF \$50 OR MORE.
VALID 12/26 'TIL 2PM OR 12/27/14 'TIL 2PM. LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.

ALSO EXCLUDES: Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electrics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic apparel, shoes & accessories, Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, New Era, Nike on Field, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services, macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be \$50 or more, exclusive of tax and delivery fees.

FREE SHIPPING & FREE RETURNS AT MACYS.COM! FREE SHIPPING WITH \$75 PURCHASE. FREE RETURNS BY MAIL OR IN-STORE. U.S. ONLY. EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

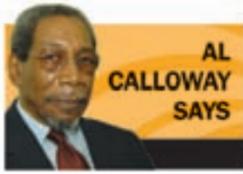


ONE DAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 12/26-12/27/2014. MERCHANDISE WILL BE ON SALE AT THESE & OTHER SALE PRICES THROUGH 1/3/15, EXCEPT AS NOTED.

OPEN A MACY'S ACCOUNT FOR EXTRA 20% SAVINGS THE FIRST 2 DAYS, UP TO \$100, WITH MORE REWARDS TO COME. Macy's credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excludes services, selected licensed departments, gift cards, restaurants, gourmet food & wine. The new account savings are limited to a total of \$100; application must qualify for immediate approval to receive extra savings; employees not eligible.

Opinion

Body cameras will not change white attitudes



You see how quickly black and white liberals and conservatives happily jumped out there with something they all could agree on? Yes, indeed, body cameras for police will immediately begin to ameliorate so-called "racial" tensions and the distrust it spawns in black and non-white Latino neighborhoods throughout America. Its rush to popularity even caused President Obama to hurry aboard.

Since medical doctors, scientists of all types, teachers, theologians and lawyers, especially, seem to be all in on this thing called "race," I must apologize for my persistent outlying position on the issue. I'm stuck on my fascinating undergraduate explorations in physiology and anthropology through which I came to understand that human beings are the human race!

It is only through non-textbook readings where searches reveal that American and European medical doctors and scientists of the 18th and 19th centuries created the notion of "races" to proselytize "white supremacy." They advanced that white people are the superior "race" of human "races," and blacks are the most inferior of human "races." Thus, the psychosocial justification for slavery and Native American genocide was manufactured.

White nationalism was implicit in the very founding and formation of this country. That is why both atheist and mostly so-called Christian men, were all involved, one way or another, in the lucrative Trans-Atlantic African Slave Trade that constitutionally enslaved black people

as mostly property and only part human. (Did you know that many presidents of the U. S. A. owned hundreds of African slaves?)

If white supremacy is the monster dragon, then white nationalism is the debilitating fire that the dragon spews. During the short lived Reconstruction period after the Civil War the South created the "Posse Comitatus" and the "Sovereign Citizen" movements. Posse Comitatus became an 1878 Act of Congress that stipulated that there is no power greater than the County — the County Sheriff is the only law.

Along with the white supremacist Sovereign Citizen movement (vigilante group), freed blacks were suppressed back into virtual slavery by County Sheriffs. Then came the terrible "Black Codes" and when that severe cruelty became too much for the nation to bear, "Jim Crow" was created, then came "share cropping," which was yet another form of virtual slavery. Each County Sheriff and his deputies oversaw everything, including atrocities of the Ku Klux Klan!

Barack Obama may be the only President in US history to have scant knowledge of this reality having been smothered in mid-west white culture. While still a child, Obama was also raised in Hawaii, which just became a state in 1959. And, he went to school in Indonesia, as well. Unlike how white parents teach their children this history from the white nationalist point-of-view, I doubt Obama actually learned anything from a black perspective.

If you happen to see Rev. Al Sharpton and Marc Morial, our new self-appointed so-called national "leaders," tell them to please read Dr. Gordon W. Alport's 1964 definitive book *The Nature of Prejudice*. In the book, Harvard psychologist Alport tells us why body cameras and other

such palliatives will not change the attitudes of white policemen.

Dr. Alport says there are five phases of prejudice. First there is *Antilocution*. The very young hear and are told negative things especially about blacks and other groups of people, as well. This leads to the second phase, *Avoidance*. As adolescents negative verbiage is used and isolation from blacks and other groups becomes a constant. This leads to *Discrimination*, the third phase. *Physical Attack* is the fourth phase and *Extermination* [genocide] is the final phase of prejudice.

Let us be clear, America. By your laws and by attitudes that you have allowed to become your unnatural "nature," policing to you, white America, means so much that is negative to me. That is my historical reality; and that is my reality from experience, observation, and storytelling under the tree, from neighbors, through church gossip and heard in the club.

There are just two things that need to be done immediately and they are both cost-effective. First, all law enforcement personnel geared to work in so-called "minority" neighborhoods must be vetted by an ethnically diverse panel of officers and neighborhood registered voters. Secondly, recruit more black and non-white Latino cops to patrol in perspective ethnic areas as white cops already patrol white areas by a gaping wide majority.

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

Breaking News! Visit us online at SFLTimes.com



This revolution is being tweeted!

Paraphrasing a popular Salt n Pepa Let's talk about race baby Let's talk about you and me Let's talk about all the good things And the bad things, that may be Let's talk about race

World-shifting events have taken place throughout 2014. The year will be noted for seismic changes in world politics for sure, but I think more importantly, the biggest changes have been in the ways human beings communicate with one another. Social media continues to offer new outlets and the possibilities are endless.

It is commonplace, every day fare, to view full revolutions being televised and broadcast on the smallest of screens; hand-held media devices keep us instantly connected to everyone, everywhere.

Like never before, we are truly networked-by hard wire, in the clouds, and by innovations still under development.

Our redefined connectivity reminds me of some old science fiction movies. You know the ones which show the alien visitor on earth searching for ways to 'speak' to earthlings, and then comes up with some universal non-verbal response-like a series of bleeps, sounds, and lights. Humans have adopted some new universal language: the # communicates across language/cultural barriers, i.e., #bringbackourgirls; #meetupfortheprotest, #thisandthat, et al.

Continuing to break down communication barriers, just recently, the Korean Hackers have brought SONY to its corporate knees through a series of key strokes and data manipulation. Look at the success of the recruiting films from ISIS; brilliantly designed to capture the souls of the disaffected young.

These advances in technology/communication must be better used to affect how we talk about race relations in the US and the rest of the world.

I admit that we have a unique and peculiar situation in the US: our constitution suggests that all should be equal, yet after two hundred fifty years under the 'democracy' experiment, blacks, nee African-Americans, are still struggling to be fully written in; and new struggles have emerged in the aftermath of the Reagan legacy of 'law and order' mandates. #blacklivesmatter!

Technology is being used to wage a burning fire of retribution, revenge, and religious conflagrations- and that's taking place here on our own soil.

James Baldwin warned us about these fires- the fires of using misinformation and manipulating minds and ideas to destroy. James Baldwin intimated that the fire next time would emerge from an ongoing, and never-ending talk about race in this country; that the tie in with religion and fanaticism is inevitable.

Pay close attention to how Obama has shifted the dialogue about human rights with his new policy to open dialogue with Cuba, and how the Pope has joined in as the newest game-changer as he continues to advocate for the policies of the historical Jesus: focusing on the poor! Radical.

In the global dialogue underway, some are just whisperings against oppression in the name of some God; others are in the form of small and large risings up against racism in all its practices (in some parts of South America, blacks have been either bred out of existence or simply, not included as a category on the census); public outcries and street demonstrations shown on global networks; class sit-ins; and sharp reactions to some religious distortions to justify violence.

In 2015, I would love to see technology being used to create a full scale marketing and promotion campaign designed by the brilliant advertising experts that would change the image of black males into something as desirable as a cigarette, or a new vodka drink, or even a new car.

I would have that image broadcast in all forms of media- every 90 seconds; developed into consumable product-action figures for boys and girls to play with; incorporated into music/lyrics; published in e-books- how about a story book that elevates the character of the black male to tell a new hero story.

What would that look, feel and sound like?

I challenge the millennials to get on it. The day of reckoning is here. This revolution is being tweeted!

Antonia Williams-Gary is a consultant with Miami-based Savings and Grace Enterprise. She may be reached at toniwg1@gmail.com



Robert Simms, our fallen Warrior

As we reflect upon the life and legacy of Bob Simms, we are reminded that he was a role model to the black men of his time. Bob is best described as a Warrior.

The term "Warrior" is often associated with images of power, confidence, accomplishment, integrity, chivalry, honor and integrity.

Beginning when he was Athletic Director at all-black Carver High School in Coconut Grove, and continuing through his extraordinary service as a pioneering leader and unwavering paragon of power and respect in Miami, Bob made it clear that high principles and courage do prevail against weapons of indifference and intimidation.

Bob earned his leadership credentials by the force of his character and presence.

When he was called upon by a desperate cadre of downtown business and civic leaders to help quell the disturbance following the acquittal of police officers in the McDuffie killing in 1980, Bob quickly and quietly convened forums within the black community where people felt comfortable venting their feelings, while nevertheless committing themselves to obtain peace in the streets of Miami.

Bob Simms succeeded because he taught us to bargain, not beg; to discuss remedies, not just dialog and whine; to stand upright, and not bow to risk or threats of injustice; to trust only those who were trustworthy, and to understand the beauty of our Afrocentric heritage.

True to his noble heritage, when Bob finished his work in Miami, he returned to his native roots in Tuskegee Alabama, the spiritual home of such African-American giants as George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington, as his final resting place.

May Bob Simms rest in peace. We are grateful that he passed our way. He touched the lives of many black men, and he made us better.

George Knox practiced law in Miami-Dade for 40 years, and served as Miami's City Attorney from 1976-1982

Read more Opinion columns online at SFLTimes.com. Log on today!



WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS

South Florida Times welcomes and encourages our readers to comment on opinions and other content in the newspaper and generally. Letters should be no more than 300 words and are subject to being edited for grammar, brevity and clarity. All letters become the property of South Florida Times. Include your name, address and phone number and send your letter to News@SFLTimes.com, fax it to 954-356-9395 or mail it to South Florida Times, 3020 NE 32nd Ave., Suite 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308, Attention "Letters to the Editor."

Contact Us

954.356.9360 • 3020 NE 32nd Avenue, Suite 200 • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308 • www.SFLTimes.com

PUBLISHER
Robert G. Beatty, Esq.
RBeatty@SFLTimes.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Michele T. Green
MGreen@SFLTimes.com

EDITOR
Andrea F. Robinson
ARobinson@SFLTimes.com

DIRECTOR OF WEB SERVICES
Lonnie Beatty III
LBeattyiii@SFLTimes.com

DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Robert G. Beatty II
RBeattyii@SFLTimes.com

SENIOR DESIGNER
Michele Jury
MJury@SFLTimes.com

ADVERTISING
Info@SFLTimes.com

CORRECTIONS
Please notify us of any errors that were published by emailing Robert G. Beatty, Esq., RBeatty@SFLTimes.com

BACK ISSUES
South Florida Times' back issues are \$1.00 per copy. To request a back copy please call 954.356.9360.

DELIVERIES
For any delivery issues, please contact Robert Beatty II at 954.356.9360

REPRINT PERMISSION
South Florida Times' content is protected under the federal Copyright Act.

No reproduction without written permission. For permission, contact the executive editor.

SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES is published every Thursday by Beatty Media, LLC.

Business

Contractors ill-equipped for secret Cuba programs

By JACK GILLUM AND DESMOND BUTLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When the U.S. government's global-aid agency launched secret plans to undermine Cuba's communist government, it didn't turn to the CIA for help. Instead, it used little-known contractors to carry out the operations - leading to multiple detentions and the high-profile arrest of American Alan Gross.

Gross' release from a Cuban prison Wednesday underscored the dangers for U.S. Agency for International Development's partners in Cuba. Those groups received millions of dollars to run clandestine operations, but repeatedly failed to avoid detection in a country where USAID's work is illegal.

Disclosures by The Associated Press this year revealed how one of those companies - working under USAID's supervision - sought to bring about grassroots change by providing a "Cuban Twitter" program called ZunZuneo, staging an HIV workshop to recruit activists in Cuba and infiltrating the nation's hip-hop community.

Those projects by Creative Associates International crossed paths with the company that Gross worked for at the time of his 2009 arrest, the Maryland-based Development Alternatives Inc., as he smuggled in sensitive technology - using backpacks and carry-on bags - to set up illegal Internet connections. He was arrested, convicted and declared a spy by Cuban President Raul Castro.

President Barack Obama said Wednesday the U.S. will re-establish diplomatic ties with Cuba. But it was unclear if such U.S. democracy efforts would ever cease, with administration officials reiterating this week that the pro-democracy work Cuba has long complained about would continue.

The programs, disclosed in a series of reports by the AP, were scrapped after they were discovered by Cuban officials or ran out of money. In the U.S., lawmakers were incredulous to learn of the amateur mishaps and ultimately directed USAID not to do certain work in politically repressive countries.



Alan Gross

But it's unclear what, if any, consequences are in store for contractors like Development Alternatives or Creative Associates.

Development Alternatives, better known as DAI, remains one of USAID's largest contractors. From 2009 through mid-December 2014, while Gross was imprisoned in Cuba, the company's revenues from work on 392 USAID projects totaled \$2.3 billion, according to data provided by DAI spokesman Steven O'Connor.

"We continue to be an active partner with USAID," O'Connor said Thursday. "Proud to be so."

Gross was paid more than a half-million dollars as a USAID subcontractor, according to U.S. officials familiar with the contract. They spoke only on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the case.

In the wake of his arrest, Gross sued DAI and USAID for \$60 million, alleging they did not adequately train him or disclose the risks he faced on the island. A federal court dismissed the case against USAID and the Gross family settled last year with DAI for an undisclosed amount.

Filed in 2012, the lawsuit alleged that Gross repeatedly voiced his concerns to DAI and USAID about the risks of his Internet project in Cuba and the dangers of being caught. But his warnings were ignored. DAI pressured Gross, the lawsuit said, to "finish the project or to find someone else who would." Gross and DAI, with USAID's approval, agreed to extend the project.

In a statement posted Wednesday on DAI's website, James Boomgard, the company's chief executive officer, welcomed Gross home.

"This is a joyful day," Boomgard said. "We are delighted by the release and safe return of Alan Gross, and immensely happy for him and his family."

PHOTO COURTESY OF PERSONALLIBERTY.COM

Environment

'47 Flood & Climate Change: Like Sleeping With the Enemy

By FRANK PETERMAN

As a young boy growing up in "colored town" west of the railroad tracks in Dania I lived through the great flood of 1947 that completely reshaped South Florida. Two hurricanes hit us within days of each other and like the Biblical flood, it seemed to rain for a full 40 days and 40 nights. Water swept in from the Atlantic and the Intracoastal, and when my dad packed the family into his truck and drove a short distance we saw fish flopping in the street and whitecaps breaking on US 1.

"When the water get to the top of this stick, I'm taking the boys and going to Alabama," mom warned my father ominously. She had staked a pole into a ditch and watched it every day to keep track of the rising waters.

When the rains finally stopped, the sun shone down on an inland sea - five million acres of water stretching from Lake Okeechobee across the Everglades and the Big Cypress Swamp to Broward and Dade counties. Dania sat right in the middle. Ninety percent of eastern Florida from Orlando to the Keys, stood under water.

The flood marked the end of Dania and much of Broward County as a farming community. That year, Babe Ruth had been our Grand Marshall at Dania's Annual Tomato Festival, but now the flood drowned the crops of tomatoes, beans, bell pepper, lettuce and other vegetables. And it disturbed the ecological balance, allowing salt water to penetrate the underground aquifers that provide our drinking water.

This natural disaster completed a process begun decades earlier when the Danes (for whom the city is named) built the Dania Cut-Off canal to get produce from their farmlands to the Intracoastal. Within a short time after the flood, once-rich agricultural fields became infused with salt and lost the capacity to support crops. The market was ripe for "development."

Out of the watery holocaust of the flood the Federal Government declared that such a disaster would never be unleashed on South Florida again, and put the US Army Corps of Engineers in charge of solving the problem. The 'Restudy' produced by the Corps led to the creation of the South Florida Water Management District and ultimately to today's reality, in which over half of the Everglades has been submerged under development and agriculture.

Among the greatest ecological disasters has been the pollution of our unique Lake Okeechobee, the headwaters of the Everglades and largest freshwater body of water

completely bordered by U.S. land. From a vibrant fresh water lake so clear that the sun penetrated to the lakebed, nurturing plants that fed fresh fish of every size, the Lake today is a polluted shadow of its former self. Make no mistake, most of us could not live here were

it not for the pumps operated by the District, but this comes at a terrible cost.

With sea level rise threatening South Florida as a result of climate change, I am reminded of the '47 flood and its stunning effects. This climatic threat will have a far more devastating impact over an extremely long period of time. Unlike the howling winds and driving rain of a hurricane, sea level rise creeps along almost like a silent killer. It's like sleeping with the enemy.

Living in a paradise of 300- plus sunny days, with gorgeous beaches and beautiful birds in every direction, it may be difficult to imagine all this changing. But climate scientists say it's inevitable. Living on our boat in a marina in the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale, we are witness to increasing flooding as higher tides pushes water over the docks and up to the top of sea walls across the way. Storm surges resulting from weather events will increase the dangers.

As a region, how are we preparing for these changes? Because it won't be enough to put a stick in the water!



Happy Kwanzaa



Celebrating our tradition, living the seven principles





North Florida tops winless Florida A&M 83-65

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Trent Mackey scored 22 points, Jalen Nesbitt added a career-high 20 and North Florida snapped a two-game skid with an 83-65 win over Florida A&M on Friday night.

Nesbitt also hauled in 10 rebounds to mark his first double-double, Dallas Moore added 17 points while dishing out six assists, and Beau Beech had 11 points for North Florida (7-5), which shot 55 percent from the floor and hit 10 of 22 from 3-point range. Mackey's 22 points tied his career high.

The Ospreys opened the game with a 9-2 spurt that included a 3-pointer from Beech to build a lead that was never challenged. They took a 38-21 advantage into the break and held off Florida A&M (0-10) over the final 20 minutes.

Jermaine Ruttle led the Rattlers with 15 points and nine rebounds, and Dalvin Roberts also had 15 points.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VAUGHN WILSON/FAU ATHLETICS
Jermaine Ruttle

PGA: Golfer, 103, may be oldest to record hole-in-one

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — A 103-year-old Florida golfer may have made history as the oldest person to record a hole-in-one.

The PGA of America announced on its website that Gus Andreone of Sarasota scored the ace Wednesday at Palm Aire Country Club. The group said it is likely that Andreone is the oldest golfer to score a hole-in-one, beating the previous record of a 102-year-old woman in 2007.

Andreone told Tampa Bay television station Fox 13 News that the ace marks his eighth since 1939. He said he used a driver on the 113-yard 14th hole of the Lakes Course, like he normally does, but then noticed something different. The ball hit the ground about 30 yards from the green and then rolled into the hole, he said.

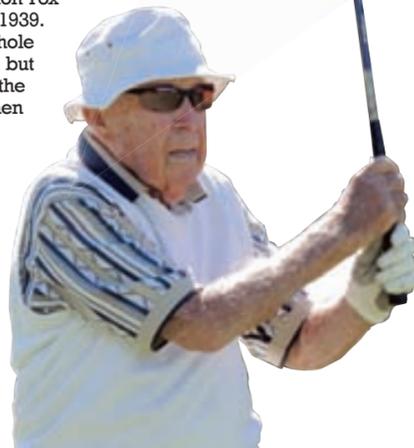
His golf partners jumped up and down, but Andreone kept his cool.

"I can't say that I felt any different about one or the other," he said of his most recent ace. "I just felt another hole in one."

One of Andreone's playing partners, Wayne Webster, said the 103-year-old is still at the top of his game. "At 103, the guy has a great game, hits all his drives down the middle," he said.

Andreone, who plays three times a week, pocketed \$80 for the feat, and says he looks forward to doing it again.

"As long as I can swing a club, even if I have to play three or four holes, I'm going to play golf," he said.



Gus Andreone

PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM BALONG

Steroids trial delayed for A-Rod's cousin



Alex Rodriguez

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BATTINGLEADOFF.COM

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge has delayed for two months the trial of a cousin of New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez on charges stemming from dealings with the clinic that illegally provided performance-enhancing drugs to baseball players.

U.S. District Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga postponed the trial of Yuri Sucart from Feb. 9 to April 6 - the day the Yankees open at home against Toronto. Sucart's lawyer said in a court filing that Sucart has serious health problems and can't fully participate in his defense.

Prosecutors say Rodriguez was a witness at Sucart's trial.

Sucart is charged with conspiracy and distribution of testosterone and human growth hormone to MLB players and other athletes through the Biogenesis of America clinic operated by Anthony Bosch.

Rodriguez served a season-long suspension this year for violations of the drug program and baseball's labor contract. He is owed \$61 million by the Yankees during the final three seasons of his contract.

AVENTURA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER

AVENTURA, FLORIDA *The City of Excellence*

2014-2015 *Upcoming Highlights*



So Good For The Soul: A Tribute to the Music of Motown
January 17



Back on Broadway
Celebrate the Magic of the Great White Way
January 23



The Doo Wop Project
The greatest Music in American and Rock History
February 7



The Bronx Wanderers
50s, 60s and 70s Rock N' Roll Experience
February 19



The Fella Sings Ella
An evening celebrating the First Lady of Song
February 21



Earl Turner's Box of 45's
Multi-talented songwriter, musician and dancer
March 29

TICKETS at aventuracenter.org
Ticketmaster 800.745.3000
Groups & Info 877.311.7469

#aventuracenter

All programs, artists, dates and times are subject to change.

IT'S NOT HALFTIME WITHOUT



SEE KATY PERRY LIVE AT
THE PEPSI SUPER BOWL XLIX
HALFTIME SHOW.

▶ #HALFTIME

PEPSI, the Pepsi Globe and LIVE FOR NOW are
registered trademarks of PepsiCo, Inc.



**HYPED
FOR
HALFTIME**

LIVE FOR NOW

Health

Animals, Jesus Christ and the symbolism of Christmas

By PIERRE B. BLAND, DVM

The holidays are upon us. With our family and friends in mind, we plan, shop, and prepare, but how often do we reflect upon the symbolism of the season? The most iconic symbol of the season is the Nativity, in which animals are a prominent part.



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

In the Nativity, the animal kingdom is represented by the classic trio of an ox/cow, a sheep/lamb, and a donkey. This iteration of the Nativity is seen in most displays, from homes, to yards and municipal complexes, to the spectacular "Living Nativity" productions of churches small and mega. The videos on YouTube show spectacular productions that include camels, horses, various birds, and practically any animal the producers are able to round up and get into the building. I was even in a Nativity scene as a kid. The animals were plastic and glowed from the light bulb inside them, but I digress.

The presence of animals at the Nativity is in fact a myth. How can this be? We all know from our earliest childhood memories "the ox and lamb kept time, purr rum pa pum pum." That noted, research shows though the Christ child was born in a stable, bible scholars and historians concur animals were not present. The Gospels present the narrative of

the birth of Christ with no mention of animals being present. Even Pope Benedict XVI confirms this in his book of 2012. Before you accuse me of being a blasphemous Grinch, let me explain how animals came to be depicted in the Nativity.

The addition of animals to the Nativity is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Many theologians acknowledged him for introducing the concept of the crèche or manger as a crib to the Nativity. A manger is defined as a trough or box from which animals are fed. Hence if there is a manger in the stable there must be animals present, thus subjecting the Nativity scene to over 2000 years of interpretation and elaboration. The tradition of showing animals present around the manger is so culturally entrenched, even the Nativity scene at the Vatican features the familiar animal trio and camels despite Pope Benedict's assertion. Animals are inherently tied to our history and culture. How could they not have been present at the most important event in the history of mankind?

There are more than 150 mentions of animals in the Bible. Animals are featured in many of our holiday trappings, from TV movies about a grumpy cat, to the song celebrating the ruminant who radiates light from his rubicund proboscis, more commonly known as a reindeer with a very shiny red nose. I find their inclusion in the Nativity and our other holiday traditions best explained by the often used Christmas exclamation: Comfort and Joy. Comfort and Joy.

Dr. Pierre Bland is the owner of "Dr. Bland's Vet House Calls", a veterinary house call service. He can be reached at 954 673 -8779 or at doctorbladvet.com. He is also the son of Mary Lois Bland and uncle of "Gracie" Spencer of High Point, North Carolina.

Caribbean

Jerk Turkey and Christmas Pudding

By CALIBE THOMPSON



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

It's the most wonderful time of the year for most. For workaholics like myself, we've probably just looked up and realized that the big day has actually come upon us because we've been inundated with holiday hullabaloo for the past two or three months already and it's all become a blur. I won't grinch up this week's column by talking about how we should still be fighting the powers that are victimizing our brothers rather than celebrating the season, because I truly believe we can do both.

The part about life, love and family that we should all enjoy should never be short changed. That desire to celebrate the root of our faiths, to give to the people we care about, to break bread with those we love the most even if it means traversing continents and seas. We do it because it is that time of year and all the love we don't have time to recognize year round now has a reason to shine and be relished.

This week, in our Caribbean homes across the US and throughout the international diaspora, you'll find turkeys that are jerked rather than roasted. Our Christmas cake will be more of a Christmas pudding, it's black and filled with raisins and prunes and currants that have been soaking in a vat of rum, wine and brandy since last December. And since we originally came from the British system, some of us still celebrate boxing day, so be careful. If we're comfortable enough with you, we may shoot you a light "box" across your jaw in the spirit of the season on the 26th.

We're mostly Christian so we'll probably say Merry Christmas rather than Happy Holidays. And if we're coming to your house for the holiday festivities, please be prepared to fill our take home containers, perhaps even before we get to the actual meal of the night. Wherever you are and whatever you do this holiday season, on behalf of my Caribbean-American family and friends, let me say a warm and heartfelt compliments of the season to you and yours!

Calibe Thompson is a personality, author, and the producer of The Caribbean Diaspora Weekly. For your free preview of her 2015 book "Things I Probably Shouldn't Say" visit www.calibe.net.

Concern for environment is paramount for city opponents

PORT, FROM 1A

Spearheaded by Mayor Gail Coniglio, the fight over the project made significant progress when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers withdrew its permit application with the state Department of Environmental Protection back in June. The DEP required more details of the Corps' plans to offset damage the project would create.

"There is no need for this project and even if they widen and deepen the channel there is no room at the port itself to accommodate larger ships," says Lisa Interlandi, a senior lawyer at the Everglades Law Center, a nonprofit public interest law firm that is representing the

coalition. "Port of Palm Beach is a niche port and needs to stay within it."

She adds that the center will support the port in an effort to improve what it already has instead of "putting energy and time into a project that won't pay off."

But Almira says the imports of yachts, liquid asphalt and diesel is also important to the area and that the narrowness of the inlet poses a big concern and challenge as the entry into the Lake Worth Inlet near-shore current pushes the ships south and forces them to enter at an angle as the channel narrows from 400 feet to 300 feet.

"Much of the concern of the residents along the inlet has been generated due to misinformation on how the

dredging will be conducted," he says. "The port and the Army Corps have plenty of time to work on mitigation efforts as the funding is not even yet in place. We are looking into four or five years before this even begins."

Almira acknowledges that the initial proposed depth might not be necessary and that in view of the friendly tone of the debate he hopes a compromise will be achieved. "We need to invest in the industry's future, not go backwards."

Sill, Peter Elwell, the town manager since 2001 says in the end, Palm Beach rejects any expansion.

"We would be delighted if the permit application were never reactivated."

Tobacco Free Florida.com

Florida HEALTH

TRUST THE QUITTER IN YOU

IT'S THAT INNER VOICE THAT TELLS YOU THAT EVEN WHEN YOU'RE DOWN, YOU'RE NOT OUT. IT'S THE GUT FEELING YOU GET BECAUSE THIS TIME CAN ACTUALLY BE THE LAST TIME. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND MAKE A PLAN. WITH THE HELP OF TOBACCO FREE FLORIDA YOU'LL DOUBLE YOUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS. FIND 3 FREE & EASY WAYS TO GET YOU STARTED. THERE'S DEFINITELY A QUITTER IN YOU. CHOOSE YOUR PLAN AT TOBACCOFREEFLORIDA.COM/QUIT

Free nicotine patches are available while supplies last and if medically appropriate. Call 1.877.U.CAN.NOW

Metro

SOUTH FLORIDA



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOVDELIVERY.COM
EXPANDING PROGRAM: SBA administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, pictured with President Obama.

SBA launches 2015 emerging leaders initiative in S. Florida

Staff Report

MIAMI — The U.S. Small Business Administration has launched its 2015 Emerging Leaders executive-level training series in 48 cities and communities across the country. And for the second straight year, South Florida is on the list.

The initiative has trained more than 2,400 promising small business owners in underserved communities, and its impact continues to expand in helping small businesses to grow and create jobs throughout the country. There are 22 new cities joining the initiative for the first time, including Birmingham, Charlotte, Salt Lake City, San Juan, Puerto Rico and Providence.

"The Emerging Leaders Program is a resource that can open lucrative doors for America's small businesses," said SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet. "The addition of over 20 new cities in 2015 will help serve even more entrepreneurs. Graduates of the initiative have measurably increased their revenue, and helped create jobs and drive economic growth in their local communities."

The Emerging Leaders Program has been a catalyst for expanding opportunities for underserved communities. Emerging Leader graduates have secured more than \$1 billion in government contracts and accessed \$73 million in new financing. Graduates also reported having created nearly 2,000 new full-time jobs since the program's inception. Sixty-two percent of surveyed participants reported an increase

in revenue while 70 percent of those surveyed reported maintaining or creating new jobs in their communities. The initiative graduated nearly 400 small business owners in 2014, representing the largest graduating class since it began in 2008.

The seven month executive intensive entrepreneurship education series includes approximately 100 hours of classroom time per participant and provides the opportunity for small business owners to work with experienced mentors, attend workshops and develop connections with their peers, city leaders and financial communities.

"The South Florida District Office was fortunate to host the inaugural class of Emerging Leaders Miami in 2014. Thirteen business owners graduated with a three-year strategic action plan to take their businesses to the next level," said SBA South Florida District Director Francisco "Pancho" Marrero. "In 2015, we will host two locations, Miami and Tampa and we are looking forward to another successful year."

Local recruitment for the 2015 training cycle is underway at selected SBA district offices, and classes are scheduled to begin in April. Information on how interested small business owners can apply and eligibility criteria can be found at www.sba.gov/emerging-leaders.

The hosting locations for the 2015 Emerging Leaders initiative classes are as follows:

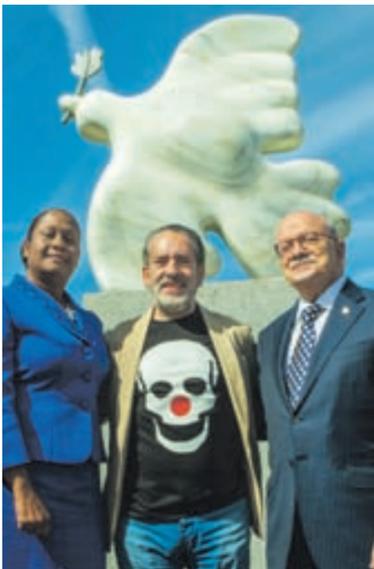
- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Albuquerque, N.M. | Honolulu, Hawaii | Oklahoma City, Okla. |
| Atlanta, Ga. | Houston, Texas* | Philadelphia, Pa. |
| Austin, Texas* | Indianapolis, Ind.* | Phoenix, Ariz. |
| Bakersfield, Calif.* | Jackson, Miss.* | Pittsburgh, Pa.* |
| Baltimore, Md. | Las Vegas, Nev.* | Portland, Ore. |
| Birmingham, Ala.* | Little Rock, Ark.* | Providence, R.I.* |
| Boise, Idaho* | Los Angeles, Calif. | Salt Lake City, Utah* |
| Boston, Mass. | Louisville, Ky.* | San Juan, Puerto Rico* |
| Charlotte, N.C.* | Memphis, Tenn. | Seattle, Wash. |
| Chicago, Ill. | Miami, Fla. | Sioux Falls, S.D.* |
| Columbus, Ohio* | Milwaukee, Wis. | St Louis, Mo. |
| Dallas, Texas | Minneapolis, Minn. | Syracuse, N.Y. |
| Denver, Colo. | Nashville, Tenn.* | Tampa, Fla.* |
| Detroit, Mich. | New Jersey, N.J. | Washington, D.C. |
| El Paso, Texas* | New Orleans, La. | Wichita, Kan. |
| Fargo, N.D.* | New York, N.Y.* | Youngstown, Ohio |

*new locations for 2015

For more information about Emerging Leaders, or to contact the respective local SBA District office in that area, please visit www.sba.gov/emergingleaders.

MIAMI-DADE

Peace reigns with MDC statue



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

Staff Report

Miami Dade College's (MDC) North Campus, 11320 NW 27th Ave. in Miami, unveiled the Dove of Peace, a sculpture by internationally renowned Spanish sculptor dEmo (Eladio de Mora), to mark Human Rights Day, Dec. 10. In photo at (right/left/above), MDC North Campus President Malou Harrison, left, celebrates with dEmo, center, and MDC President Eduardo J. Padron.



The Dove of Peace unveiling marks the permanent installation of this formidable sculpture, which will adorn the North Campus as part of the institution's "art in public places" within the Miami International Sculpture Park. The Dove of Peace, a universal symbol of world peace and diplomacy, will be prominently positioned at one of the Campus' main entrances.

Crafted in 2013, the one-of-a-kind art piece consists of a white marble dove that sits on a black granite base. It measures a total of 14 feet high from top to bottom.

BROWARD

Young Broward author is a hit at Science Museum



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER SMITH

LITTLE HELPER: Chris is pictured with senior paleontologist, Vince Schneider, preparing a 70-million-year old akrosaurus for research.

Staff Report

RALEIGH, N.C. — Most 5-year-olds (or adults for that matter) can barely read *Spinosaurus*, *Dromaeosaurus*, or *Tyrannosaurus rex*, let alone write a whole book about dinosaurs, but 5-year-old South Florida native Christopher Isaiah Penn Smith, can and did.

In fact, the vibrant, energetic kindergarten wrote and published *Guess Who, Mr. Dinosaur?* last year at age 4 while in preschool. Chris lives in Cooper City and attends kindergarten at Greentree Preparatory Charter School.

When Emelia Cowins, the Assistant Communications Director for the North

Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh heard about Christopher's book, she immediately knew he had to come meet some of his favorite dinosaurs in person. The museum recently opened its newest exhibit, *The World's Largest Dinosaurs*. Christopher and his book were a perfect match.

Earlier this month while visiting his family in North Carolina, Christopher was invited by the museum to be the story time guest reader and for a book signing. At the event, he sold and autographed his book. Christopher's cousin, national recording artist Yolanda Rabun, and guitarist Emily

PLEASE TURN TO CHRIS/2B

MIAMI-DADE

MIA names Martin top employee



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI DADE AVIATION DEPARTMENT

CONGRATULATIONS: Miami-Dade Aviation director Emilio T. Gonzalez presents award to Sandra Martin of British Airways.

Staff Report

MIAMI — British Airways Duty Manager Sandra Martin was named Miami International Airport's Employee of the Year at the airport's Annual Rewards and Recognition Year-End Gala yesterday for assisting a non-English speaking, elderly female passenger who was stranded at MIA en route from Columbus, Ohio, to her home in Accra, Ghana. Martin went

as far as staying with the elderly passenger overnight in the airport chapel when hotel accommodations could not be obtained.

"The compassion shown by Mrs. Martin to this passenger exemplifies the dedication to public and customer service we want all of our 40 million passengers to experience," said Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez. "It gives me

PLEASE TURN TO MIA/2B

PALM BEACH

Citizens will learn about justice

Staff Report

WEST PALM BEACH — The Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) has announced that it will host its 26th annual Citizen's Justice Academy next month.

The academy, which is free, is open to residents living in Palm Beach County who wish to learn more about the criminal justice system. The 11-week program begins on Monday, Jan. 12, and runs 11 consecutive Mondays with the exception of several federal holidays. It ends on April 13. The evening programs run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In the project, the CJC is boosting its collaboration with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Organizers say Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and his staff are committed to educating citizens and providing them with knowledge to be informed individuals. An enhanced curriculum includes learning about cybercrime and homeland security, and going inside a police car. There will be demonstrations and opportunities to see high-tech equipment.

Participants can expect to learn about local law enforcement including the Sheriff's Special Operations and will tour the

Main Detention Center, the Palm Beach County Courthouse, and the Medical Examiner's Office. Most of the program consists of classroom-style lectures with interactive presentations, and there is always plenty of time for questions and answers. Lectures will be provided by local, state, and federal law enforcement professionals.

The first month of classes will be held in the community room at the West Palm Beach Police Department, 600 Banyan Street in West Palm Beach. Classes will be held at different locations but will remain in the greater West Palm Beach area.

Due to space limitations, the class is limited to the first 50 enrollees. For anyone curious about the criminal justice system, this program offers a valuable opportunity to ask questions and learn from experts.

The program is sponsored by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners as a service to residents.

Visit the CJC website, www.pbcgov.org/criminaljustice/academy/, to register. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 8. Please call 561-355-4943 for information regarding registration or classes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INFOWARS.COM

Sheriff Ric Bradshaw

Around South Florida



ELGIN JONES
EJones@SFLTimes.com

GROCERY WARS

Whole Foods Market is fighting back in the battle of supermarkets in South Florida. The Texas-based natural foods chain is opening five stores in the area in the first half of 2015. Those stores will be in West Palm Beach, Pompano Beach, Plantation and Miami. Still, Whole Foods will have less than 30 stores in Florida, but is expected to announce additional store openings over the next year.

Palm Beach County



KOTTKAMP

THE APP

Former Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp is president of Audible Media Group (AMG); a company that provides real-time traffic information. Audible Media Group has been shopping its traffic app to governmental agencies, including the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Ric Bradshaw is reportedly open to give AMG access to its logs and data to provide traffic updates in Palm Beach County.



MITCHELL

IT'S A RACE

West Palm Beach City Commissioner Kimberly Mitchell has announced she will challenge Mayor Jeri Muoio for mayor. Muoio is seeking re-election in 2015, and this will be a hotly contested race that may get nasty.

POLICE PROTESTS

Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association President John Kazanjian led a protest in West Palm Beach in support of



KAZANJIAN

Broward County



IMPERATO

GUILTY AS CHARGED

Broward County Circuit Court Judge Cynthia Imperato, 57, was convicted of driving under the influence and reckless driving in an incident that occurred on Nov. 5, 2013, in Boca Raton. Palm Beach County Judge Mark Eissey sentenced Imperato to 20 days house arrest. She must also wear an ankle bracelet, serve 12 months' probation and pay \$2,531 in fines. Imperato will also have her driver's license suspended for one year, perform 150 hours of community service and have a device installed in her car that measures alcohol use before the vehicle will start. She is appealing but it is her second DUI conviction and raises the question if she should have received jail time or if she should voluntarily resign from the bench.



BROWN

VICTIM SUCCUMBS

Apollo Brown Jr., 8, the younger of two Dania Beach children who were critically injured in a hit and run accident, has died. He and his older brother Kelv'ron Florence, 14, were walking home from a school basketball game in Dania Beach on Dec. 8 when they were run over by a truck. Parts from the vehicle were recovered and it is believed to be a gray Toyota Tacoma pickup. It is missing its Toyota emblem and has damage to the passenger-side headlight. Anyone with information is asked to call Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-8477.



ARROBA

SMUGGLER'S BLUES

FBI agents have arrested several persons, including Christian Dupre Arroba, 28, and Marco Cannizzo Gaona, 29, on cocaine trafficking charges. They were arrested while unloading \$4.5 million in drugs from a jet at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. The drugs had been picked up from locations in South America and the Caribbean.



HANNA

FRAUD ARREST

Cathy Hanna, 42, of Fort Lauderdale, is a former director of admissions at Harbor Beach Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Fort Lauderdale. She has been arrested on multiple charges over the alleged theft of \$12,466 from an elderly dementia patient at the facility by taking the victim to the bank to withdraw the funds.



WEST

HEADED WEST

Former U.S. Rep. Allen West is pulling up stakes and moving to Texas. He has taken a job as CEO of the conservative Dallas-based National Center for Policy Analysis. West lost his reelection bid for a second term in Congress in 2012 to Democrat Patrick Murphy.

Miami-Dade County



GOODMAN

NEW TENANT

Convicted Wellington polo club founder John Goodman has now been transferred to the South Florida Reception Center in Doral. After processing, he will likely be transferred to a state prison to begin serving a 16-year sentence for DUI manslaughter in the death of Scott Patrick Wilson.



KAAYA

LOOKING UP

University of Miami quarterback Brad Kaaya is the Atlantic Coast Conference Rookie of the Year. Kaaya, a true freshman, set Hurricanes passing records with 2,962 yards and 25 touchdowns. Things are looking up for the Hurricanes.

FAMILY SECRETS

Maria Luzula, 52, of Miami and her son, operated call centers in Peru. Their business targeted unsuspecting people by falsely claiming they owed debts to various companies and faced lawsuits and arrest if they did not pay up. She and her son have been convicted and Maria Luzula has been sentenced to a lucky 13 years in prison. Her son's sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 25.

Monroe County



EIMERS

IN-CUSTODY DEATH

Calling previous investigations "tainted," the city of Key West Citizen Review Board has voted unanimously to send a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder requesting an investigation into the in-custody death of Charles Eimers, a 61-year-old tourist. In 2013, Eimers, of Birch Run, Mich., was pulled over by police for an illegal lane change, but did not stop and led police on a brief chase on the beach. He got out of his car and lay on ground. He suffered injuries, was unconscious and suffered a heart attack in his arrest. He died days later in the hospital.

BUZZARD POISONINGS

Twelve turkey vultures, or buzzards, on Big Pine Key have been poisoned in the last month. Authorities believe this may be due to the buzzards eating rodents that were killed with the poison. Wildlife officials are reminding the public to bury or properly discard dead rodents, and not to spread poison in a wildlife habitat.

Broward author, 5 signs books in N.C.

CHRIS, FROM 1B

Musolino accompanied him in two story-time sessions with the song, *Guess Who, Mr. Dinosaur?*, which was written for the book. It was a sing-a-long hit, especially with Chris' younger brother, Jacob, as well as with the other children and their families.

Museum Early Childhood Educator Beth Cranford had live animals for the kids to learn about and touch. Combined, both story time readings brought in 80 attendees, the museum's highest attendance, ever. During his visit to the museum, Christopher met Lindsay Zanno, director of the Paleontology and Geology Research Lab, and museum director, Emlyn Koster. He was also given a special tour of the museum's fossil collection by senior paleontologist Vince Schneider, and was able to participate in preparing a 70-million-year-old specimen for research. Of course, he visited the museum's newest traveling exhibit, the World's Largest Dinosaurs, which explores the biology of a group of uniquely super-sized dinosaurs—the long necked and long-tailed sauropods, The exhibit runs through April 12.

Christopher's favorite subject is dinosaurs, which led him to begin drawing similarities between the features of dinosaurs and those of modern-day animals. *Guess*



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTOPHER SMITH

AUTOGRAPH SESSION: Chris signs his book for a museum staff member with the help of his mom, Kymberlee Curry Smith.

Who, Mr. Dinosaur? is a children's book and teaching tool about the shared features between ancient dinosaurs and modern day animals. The book targets preschool and elementary readers, ages 3-6. The book also provides the pronunciations of featured dinosaurs and two fun learning activities — the "Dino Match-Up" game and a coloring page. Each activity encourages creative thought, dinosaur and animal recognition and fine motor development.

For more information about the book, visit <http://guesswhodinosaur.com>. The book can be purchased for \$9.99.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI DADE AVIATION DEPARTMENT

TOP EMPLOYEE: Sandra Martin, center, receives wishes from Rolando Aedo, Exec. VP, GMCVB, left; Emilio T. Gonzalez, MDAD Director; Ian Blackman, British Airways VP, Customer Service; Diane Coyle, British Airways Station Manager; and Ken Pyatt, MDAD Deputy Director.

Martin is MIA's employee of year

MIA, FROM 1B

great pleasure to thank and congratulate Sandra on this well-deserved honor."

In February, the elderly passenger was in MIA en-route to her home in Accra, Ghana through London, England. Upon her arrival at MIA, she discovered that she had lost her passport containing her entry visa and that she would not be allowed to continue to London. To complicate matters further, she did not speak nor understand English, and no one immediately spoke nor understood her Ghanaian native dialect.

When Martin learned of the situation, she was able to contact the passenger's son and explained that his mother would have to return to Ohio. The next available flight, however, was not until the next day. Martin tried but was unable to find a hotel room for the passenger. She then requested that MIA security open the airport chapel and allow the passenger and her to spend the night there, and she also purchased food for the passenger. In Martin's own words at the time, the passenger "reminds me so much of my own mother and I cannot bear leaving her alone to fend for herself."

The next day, Martin took the passenger to the American Airlines ticket counter, booked her ticket and checked her luggage on the morning flight to Columbus. Martin continually updated the passenger's son and also made sure that airport police escorted the passenger to her flight.

"Sandra's actions in assisting this elderly woman embody the MIA customer service philosophy that each traveler should be cared for as if they were your own family," said Miami-Dade Aviation Director Emilio T. González. "While all of our Employee of the Year nominees are outstanding in their own right, Sandra certainly went far above and beyond the call of duty and we are proud to name her our Employee of the Year."

In addition to being a 24-year veteran with British Airways, Martin is the matriarch of three children and three grandchildren. Her manager Diane Coyle says, "her strength is amazing."

As Employee of the Year, Martin was recognized with a stay at a local luxury hotel courtesy of the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Living WITH ETIQUETTE

what is the proper attire anyway?

By ROSE HEDGEMOND

Special to South Florida Times

Many may not believe this to be true; however, knowing the type of attire to wear is just as important in social decorum as the use of manners — and actually the two are parallel with each other.

The way you present yourself, or dress, is critical and is a statement as to how you should be addressed. I cannot begin to tell you how many events, and or functions, I receive inquiries on where guests ask my opinion on an invitation received where the attire selection is not clear. After all, attire selection may depend on the hour of the event, location of the event and the type of event (party or social) befitting for a specific look.

Not knowing, or understanding, which attire is most appropriate for a specific occasion is not only a social faux pas to a host or organizer of an event. It can be detrimental to the success of the event. There's nothing more uncomfortable than appearing at a function either under-dressed or over-dressed for the occasion.

So what should one do if the attire selection requested on an invitation may not be the appropriate attire to fit the occasions?

I, too, have received invitations when the requested attire is completely inappropriate for the setting of the event. Well, as a guest, it is in order to phone and inquire from the host if in fact the attire selected is correctly stated on the invitation. Asking a question is not in bad taste. After all, you did not give your opinion; you merely inquired about the attire selection requested on the invitation to ensure you're appropriately dressed for the occasion. Also, inquiring about the requested attire may clue the host that the attire selection requested may not be the best fit for the event... especially with multiple inquiries.



Rose Hedgemond is CEO of Avenues of Excellence and an etiquette and social protocol professional. Do you have an etiquette or social protocol question? Email her at info@avenuesofexcellence.com or follow her on Facebook at Rose Hedgemond and Twitter @AOE_IN.

However, one should still try to dress as requested on the invitation. Below are a few attire looks which may be worn for various social engagements.

Semi-Formal Attire: The definition of semi-formal attire can be somewhat confusing and for the most part flexible, particularly for women. Generally, semi-formal attire is defined as clothing that is more dressy than every day or business attire, but not so formal as to venture to tuxedos or embellished gowns.

Semi-Formal Dress: Notice the word "dress" after formal. This is not the same as attire. Semi-formal dress is considered formal wear and should be approached with this in mind. The type of clothing that is most appropriate for a semi-formal dress event will often depend on the event itself; semi-formal attire for a daytime wedding can be different from that worn to an evening business event or a party which would be semi-formal dress.

Cocktail or After Five o'clock Attire: For ladies, this includes a lovely little cocktail dress or the ever popular go to piece "LBD" Little Black Dress. Note: Be mindful as to how "little" the black dress is for a specific event. Ladies, if you feel uncomfortable wearing a dress, substitute it with a chic and stylish pantsuit or skirt suit. For gentlemen, stylish blazer/dinner jacket, pant, button down shirt (statement tie may be optional depending on venue) with nice polished shoes.

Formal Attire: There are two common kinds of formal wear — 1). Black tie and 2). White tie, which are for the most part simple terms for a suit and black tie and a tuxedo with a white tie. Women's formal attire is usually much different from men's attire. Even in countries where the garment is essentially the same, it is often more socially acceptable for women to wear, or don, more colorful patterns that are customary and or flattering to the figure. The key here for ladies is that formal means a full length gown — not a dress, rather a gown. There is a difference.

Pyramid Books

Pyramid Books celebrates Black History Month 365 days a year to educate all people about the African Diaspora; educating and expressing to the world the beauty and culture of a great people. We have a great selection and knowledge of the titles we provide and recommend.

Hours:
Monday Closed
Tuesday 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Wednesday 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Thursday 11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Friday 11:00 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday 11:00 am to 8:00 pm
Sunday Noon to 5:00 pm

**544-2 Gateway Blvd.
Boynton Beach, FL 33435
Tel: 561-731-4422
Fax: 561-731-0202
web: <http://www.pyramidbooks.net>
email: pyramidbks@aol.com**

We also specialize in hard-to-find books and may already have it in stock, even if the distributor says it is out of print.

Call us at 561.731.4422. We have a treasure chest of such books waiting for you.

Located in the heart of Palm Beach county in south Florida. Whether traveling north or south on I-95, we're easy to find.

Obituaries

Tuskegee Airman Lowell Steward dies in California at 95

VENTURA, Calif. (AP) — Lowell Steward, a former member of the Tuskegee Airmen who flew well over 100 missions over Europe during World War II, has died in California. He was 95.

His son Lowell Jr. says Steward died Dec. 17 of natural causes at a hospital in Ventura.

After graduating with a business degree from Santa Barbara College in 1941, Steward joined the Army Air Corps and trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama.

He was shipped to Italy in 1944 with the 100th Fighter Squadron of the famed all-black unit. From Capodechino Air Base in Naples, Steward completed dozens of missions in P-39 Airacobras and P-40 Warhawks. Later based in Ramitelli, Italy, he flew dozens more escort and strafing missions in P-51 Mustangs. He would fly 143 missions in all.

America's first black military pilots faced an unprecedented level of scrutiny under racial segregation. As a result, they held themselves to a higher standard, Steward often said.

"He would say, 'we had to be better because we were looked at harder. The odds were stacked against us. Some people wanted us to fail,'" Lowell Jr. said.



Lowell Steward
PHOTO COURTESY OF STRIPES.COM

Steward ultimately received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After being discharged in 1946, he moved to Los Angeles and tried to buy a house, only to be repeatedly denied bank loans because he was black.

"After several encounters like that he said, 'I need to figure out how to finance my own home.' That's when he went to real estate school," Lowell Jr. said.

Steward became one of the first black real estate agents in Los Angeles and had a 40-year career in the industry.

He helped organize and later served as president of the Los Angeles chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc., a group devoted to preserving the legacy of the fighter pilots. He also founded a scholarship foundation in the name of the airman.

In 2007, Steward was present at the U.S. Capitol when President George W. Bush presented members of the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Steward's wife of 60 years, Helen, died in 2004. In addition to Lowell Jr., he is survived by daughters Shelley Lambert and Pamela Mills, along with 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Robert Simms, ex-CRB head, dead at 87

By ANDREA ROBINSON
ARobinson@sftimes.com

Though he often held positions of authority, Robert H. Simms was a man of the people. He wore many hats as an educator, photographer, counselor and motivator. He was a social engineer before the term was coined. He did a lot of that engineering, bringing together diverse groups of Miami-ians during turbulent times.

Simms, known affectionately by his nickname "Bob," died of complications of pneumonia on Dec. 15 in Tuskegee, Ala., the place to where he retired a few years ago. He was 87.

He was born in Snow Hill, Ala. in 1927. He came to South Florida in 1953 to join the faculty of the George Washington Carver schools in Coconut Grove. In Miami, he and wife Aubrey, were founding members of the Church of the Open Door in Liberty City. They raised two children. One of them, Leah, became the first black woman to serve as judge in Florida.

Leah Simms said family and community were important to her dad. He embraced the children of the neighborhood and the schools as his own.

"He was for the children. His whole life was about raising children, directing children," she said. "He was always a school teacher."

Leah Simms recalled a time when her father was head of Physical Education department at Carver High. "I was a little girl I'd be in the gym waiting for him. He was always with students, trying to guide them and let them know how to live. Whatever else he was, he was always a school teacher."

Dr. Thomas Garvin, a physician and Miami native, was one of Simms' P.E. students. Garvin said under his tutelage he was exposed to different worlds, particularly through an afterschool mentoring group called Pilgrim Fellowship. The group brought together black students from various high schools so they could discuss issues of the day.

"I got to meet kids from Northwestern, North Dade, Booker Washington. You got to share ideas and thoughts and issues, and discuss issues with other folks, Garvin said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI.EDU/BOBSIMMS

Bob Simms and Aubrey Watkins Simms

"He knew people. He knew humankind. The insight he had was uncanny. This guy knew how to deal with people."

That quality would serve Simms well after he left the classroom. He gained notoriety and acclaim in the broader community because of his work in community relations. He joined the then-Metro Dade Community Relations Board as deputy director in 1967. A year later, he was appointed executive director. His arrival came at a key time in black U.S. history, with the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and growing social unrest in Miami. He was among the county leaders who called for peace during the 1980 McDuffie uprising, after the acquittal of police officers in the death of motorcyclist Arthur McDuffie.

He pushed a strategy whereby clergy and civic leaders articulated concerns of the angry masses, then give people a platform to speak and hold discussions, so healing can begin. "You let people vent. Then you bring in leaders who can transfer pain into an action plan," he said in a 2000 Miami Herald article.

Simms led the CRB until his retirement in 1983.

In addition to his daughter, survivors include a son, Dr. David Michael Simms; sister, Alberta Lillian Thompson; five grandchildren and relatives, and a Miami-Dade community that will be forever grateful. Services were held in Alabama. The family suggests that contributions be made to the Aubrey W. Simms Memorial Garden at the Church of the Open Door.

Valles, legendary jazz DJ, dead at 89

By ANDREA ROBINSON
ARobinson@sftimes.com

China Valles, the beloved "Mahj," who entertained night owls and jazz aficionados on South Florida radio stations for decades, died Dec. 17 at age 89.

Valles was an icon in broadcasting and music. Although he didn't play much — except a brief stint on alto saxophone while in the U.S. Navy — he had a passion for music, especially jazz, that dated back to his childhood in Massachusetts.

From the bio on his website, Charles "China" Valles began his musical career as road manager for saxophonist "Illinois" Jacquet in the 1950s. He wound up in radio after a car accident. Although he did not have experience, managers were so impressed with his knowledge of jazz they gave him the job.

"Before he was a DJ he was a manager He was into the music," said Alice Day, a longtime friend and local jazz vocalist. "He was a walking history book when it came to the music."

Valles interviewed musical giants such as Billie Holiday, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra. Ellington gave him the nickname, "Maharajah, Purveyor of Swirls," which Valles readily embraced as a compliment.

Day said Valles loved recounting his encounters with those legendary musicians. She recalls times when he would join her and other musicians to hang out until dawn.

"China would tell stories about his encounters, and his music friends. He had very powerful music friends. It was interesting to listen to his stories," she said.

Valles arrived in South Florida in 1962 to head an upstart jazz radio station, and eventually graced the airwaves including WBUS, WTMI and WDNA. He eventually started the Sunshine Jazz Organization, which performs each month at the Miami Shores Country Club.

Several South Floridians and others thank Valles for introducing them to that music genre. He also had a keen sense of up and coming artists, said Tracy Fields, a veteran radio broadcaster who hosts Evenin' Jazz on WLRN-91.1

One night, while working with the radio on, "not paying much attention, he mentioned a young pianist. I stopped



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEITH VALLES

China Valles

cold, stood in front of radio," Fields said. The pianist was Silvano Monasterios, the Venezuelan performer who is now world-renowned.

"China had a great ear, and a sense of greatness," Fields said. "Aside from his history and love and passion he devoted, he was a warm loving spirit. I never ran across the Mahj in a bad mood. He never said a bad thing about anybody."

Valles is survived by his wife, Thelma; son, Keith, and daughter, Judy. A viewing will be at 4 p.m. Friday at Church of the Open Door, 6001 NW Eighth St., Miami. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Saturday at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, 740 NW 58th St.

The Sunshine Jazz Organization monthly concert will go on in Valles' honor at 6 p.m. Sunday at Miami Shores Country Club, 10000 Biscayne Blvd.

JAY'S FUNERAL HOME



SANDRA COOPER, 50, Data Entry Clerk, died December 14. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday, at The Bethel Church.

KATRINA JEFFERSON, 70, Home-maker, died December 19. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday, at Kerr Memorial.

GWENDOLYN MITCHELL, 56, Sales Associate, died December 19. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday, at New Life Chapel.

CECINA REISER, 91, Entrepreneur, died December 16. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday, at Kingdom Covenant.



HERMAN THORNTON, 82, Retired from the Air Force, died December 20. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday, at Greater Mt. Zion MBC in Mobile, Alabama.

RANGE FUNERAL HOME



GLORIA WALLACE GORING, 85, Teachers' Aide, for Headstart program died December 18. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at Mt. Olivette Baptist Church.

MATTIE LEE KING, 85, Retired LPN, died. Arrangements are incomplete.

ELIZABETH KURTZ, 88, Retired Hospital Food Supervisor, died December 21. Memorial service 10 am Saturday at Universal Truth Center for Better Living.

SHIRLEY McCLOUD WILSON, 63, Media Specialist, for Miami Dade County School Board, died December 19. Funeral will be held at Bethany Seven Day Adventist Church.

SARAH MCFADDEN, 76, Retired Bank Teller, for Bank of America died December 20. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at St. Paul A.M.E. Church.

TEVEN T. NEALY, 36, Bus Driver, for American Coach, died December 14. Funeral 1 pm Saturday at Range Chapel.

WRIGHT & YOUNG FUNERAL HOME



"WILLIE" JAMES DAVIS, 78, died December 15. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday, December 27 at House of God Pillar and Ground.

NATHANIEL MAYE, 76, Vice President and Financial Secretary, of ILA Local #1416, died December 17. Viewing 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm Monday, December 29 and Funeral 11:00 am Tuesday, December 30, both will be at Bethel Apostolic Temple.

PAMELA ROGERS, 51, died December 16. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Mt. Olive Fire Baptist Church of God.

ERIC DEON VARNER, 19, died December 11. Funeral 1 pm Saturday, December 27 at 93rd Street Community Baptist Church.

WADE FUNERAL HOME



ELENORE HOETZL-SCHMITT, 93, Retired, died December 17, at Memorial Regional South. Arrangements are Incomplete

ROY MIZELL & KURTZ FUNERAL HOME



CLARA BLAND, 96, of Fort Lauderdale, died December 20. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Mt. Hermon A.M.E. Church.

BRENDA HOWARD, 54, of Fort Lauderdale, died December 20. Funeral will be held 1:30 pm Sunday at New Hope Baptist Church.



HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - Miami Gardens



LAWRENCE HARRIS JR., 80, Truck Driver, died December 18, at Memorial Miramar Hospital. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.

PAULA HINES, 87, Executive Secretary, died December 17, at Palmetto Hospital. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday in the chapel.

CAREY ROYAL RAM'N FUNERAL HOME



MARILYN BAXTER, 81, died December 21, at Westchester Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.

JEANNE KRAVITZ, 54, died December 19, at home. Funeral will be held 10am Thursday, in the chapel.

HERMINIA LUZ MARTINEZ, 93, died December 20, at Mount Sinai Medical center. Arrangements are incomplete.

Place your
CARDS OF
THANKS
and
DEATH
NOTICES
Here
Call Today
954-356-9360

Place
your
OBITUARIES
Here
Call us
today
954
356-9360

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

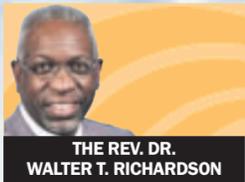
PUBLICATION OF BID SOLICITATIONS

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.

VISIT US ONLINE AT
SFLTimes.com

Log on **TODAY!**

Prayerful Living



Please Return These Gifts!

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. - I Corinthians 12:4-7

The slogan “the gift that keeps on giving” was used in the 1920’s when the Victor Talking Machine Company’s Victrola was introduced to the world. This displaying machine characterized by its concealed speaker horns would later become known as a “record player”... the gift that could keep on giving sound, music and enjoyment. Initially, these machines were not very affordable or accessible. But later with mass production and major advertising almost every home featured a “gift that kept on giving.”

Most gifts, at least those exchanged at Christmas, have limited lifespans and don’t and can’t “keep on giving.” Many gifts cost a lot more than people think they should, but to keep the spirit of Christmas alive sacrifices are made to make others happy. Yes, many people use money they don’t have to buy gifts others don’t really need, just to impress.

But wait. I know it’s Christmas. It’s not too late to give some additional gifts. These gifts that I suggest are always appropriate; gifts that cost no money and gifts that can and SHOULD be returned. These gifts are not found in department stores and malls, but come from the heart. And these gifts are more valuable than any that the eye can behold AND they keep on giving!

Give to everyone in your circle of family and friends (and enemies) the gift of LOVE. For love is the cure for

all the ills and wrongs, the cares, the sorrows, and the crimes of humanity. The answers all lie in that one word “love.” Lydia Maria Child, the 19th Century women’s rights and anti-slavery activist said, “Love is the divine vitality that everywhere produces and restores life.”

Give to everyone some LAUGHTER. From the Message Bible, *Proverbs 17:22* reads, “A cheerful disposition is good for your health.” Laughter also builds trust. Laughter facilitates healthy dialogue and deep relations. Dr. Maya Angelou was quoted as saying that she didn’t “trust anyone that didn’t laugh!”

The gift of LEGACY is shared every day, intentionally or not. For it does not matter much what you do. It matters more that whatever you do changes something from the way it was before you touched it into something that’s like you after you take your hands away. Your words, your ways, your wisdom impact other. Give yourself away!

The lost gift of LISTENING needs to be shared with family and friends, especially during this season. Face to face conversations are becoming rare. Conversations have changed from talking to texting. Cards and letters are being exchanged less frequently. Humans are communicating less personally, it seems. And when we do converse with each other, the other’s stories and experiences are less important than our own.

So, gift someone with ears and undivided attention. Wow! Have you ever been speaking with someone and, before you can even finish your sentence, they interrupt to share their own thoughts or finish yours for you? No listening. Or perhaps you are in the middle of making an important point and their attention is pulled away as they check their cell phone, send an email or reply to a text message? Give someone your ears, and they will return the favor.

These are varieties of gifts that need to be exchanged and returned!

Dear Lord:

We know that with more love, there’ll be less hatred and separation. We know that with more laughter, there’ll be less crying and sorrow. Help us to love and laugh more. Help us to leave a worthwhile legacy, and listen more actively. Thank you for your invisible but tangible gifts to us, for you are that special Gift that keeps giving! Amen

Dr. Walter T. Richardson is pastor-emeritus of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church in South Miami-Dade County and chairman of the Miami-Dade Community Relations Board. He may be contacted at wtrichardson@Bellsouth.net. Website: WTRMinistries.com.



ASK US HOW YOU CAN SAVE ON YOUR MORTGAGE CLOSING COSTS*

Unlock your dream of home ownership today.

At BankUnited, we understand that finding the right mortgage is just as important as finding the right home – which is why our Community Housing Assistance Mortgage Program (CHAMP) can help make your dream of home ownership a reality with:

- Low down payments
- Competitive rates
- Closing cost assistance
- Alternative qualifying guidelines



To learn more about our home mortgage programs, please stop into your local branch, call our Home Mortgage Center at 1-877-217-7058 or visit us at www.mortgages.bankunited.com.

 **BankUnited**
We're with you.



All loans are subject to credit and property approval. Borrower income limits (depending on county median) apply. Program terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Other restrictions, limitations and fees may apply. This is not a commitment to lend. The property must be located within BankUnited's CRA assessment areas in Florida and New York. To confirm your county's eligibility contact the BankUnited Home Mortgage Center at 1-877-217-7058. BankUnited's CRA officer is responsible for determining the eligible assessment areas. This offer is subject to change or withdrawal at any time and without notice. Other restrictions, conditions, limitations and fees may apply. Nothing herein is or should be interpreted as a commitment or offer to lend. All loans offered through BankUnited, N.A.

*You will be eligible to receive a discount on the closing costs if you meet the qualification criteria for BankUnited CHAMP Program and only when BankUnited will hold a first lien position. Offer valid for loans with an application date prior to January 31, 2015. Closing cost discount cannot exceed the actual amount of closing costs. Discount will be applied at the time of closing and will be reflected on your final HUD-1 statement. Cannot be combined with any other offer. This offer is subject to change or withdrawal at any time and without notice. Nothing herein is or should be interpreted as a commitment or offer to lend.

Member FDIC 
©2014 BankUnited, N.A.
NMLS#418452

SoFLO LIVE

SFLTIMES.COM

DECEMBER 25 — 31, 2014

#BLACK LIVES MATTER

4C

EMBRACING HERITAGE:

*Kwanzaa celebrations
have new meaning*

5C Winter Groove
Zo's main event returns

7C Events
Calendar

technology

Review: Better cameras, less glare in iPad Air 2

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — If I've seen you taking photos with a tablet computer, I've probably made fun of you (though maybe not to your face, depending on how big you are). I'm old school: I much prefer looking through the viewfinder of my full-bodied, single-lens reflex camera, even though it has a large LCD screen.

But as I tested out Apple's new iPad Air 2, I see why people like to shoot pictures with a tablet. Images look great on the large screen, and there's less guesswork about whether or not small details, such as lettering on a sign, will be in focus.

And what you see — and get — with the iPad Air 2 is a better camera. The rear one now matches the iPhone's 8 megapixels, up from 5 megapixels, and incorporates features such as slow-motion video. Packed with a faster processor, the 9.7-inch tablet is also 18 percent thinner and 7 percent lighter than the previous model, at about a quarter of an inch and just under a pound.

Apple is also updating its 7.9-inch iPad Mini, though the cameras, processor and dimensions haven't changed.

The tablets go on sale this week, starting at \$499 for the iPad Air 2 and \$399 for the iPad Mini 3. Both now have fingerprint ID technology to expedite online purchases through Apple Pay. Gold joins silver and grey as color choices, and pricier models have twice as much storage as before.

IMPROVED CAMERA

The iPad Air 2 takes sharper images. I can tell even before snapping the shot because I see all that detail on the screen.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TECHCITYNG.COM

iPad air 2

I'm able to read the small name tag on a baby bottle. Lettering on a van across the street looks clearer.

Last month's iOS 8 software update brought panorama and time-lapse features to the iPad. With the iPad Air 2, you can snap 10 shots per second in a burst mode — great for restless kids, as you can choose the best shots later. You also get slow-motion video, though only at 120 frames per second. The new iPhone 6 and 6 Plus offer 240 frames per second as well, so motion looks even slower.

The new Air's front camera gets a burst mode, too, and the front sensor is better than before at capturing light for indoor and night selfies.

Unfortunately, the iPad still doesn't have a flash. Although I prefer taking shots with natural light anyway, many people like the flash. My advice is to light subjects with the iPhone's flashlight.

BETTER VIEWING AND SOUND

An anti-reflective coating reduces glare on the iPad Air 2. It's a first for Apple and possibly a first for any consumer mobile device. I was dubious until I watched video with light shining in through my window. The coating didn't eliminate glare completely, but made video viewable. The glare was too distracting on last year's Air.

The coating also promises to improve contrast. However, I had to look hard to notice differences in some dull-color scenes in Showtime's *Homeland*. In many cases, the quality of the video stream makes a bigger difference.

To me, the iPad Air 2 also has better speakers. With the volume cranked all the way up, sound is louder on the new model. Apple says there shouldn't be a difference, though I'm not complaining. (My neighbors might, though.)

OTHER CHANGES

I'm glad to see the fingerprint ID sensor for unlocking both new tablets. Passcodes seem so last century, not to mention inconvenient.

That fingerprint can now be used to authorize Apple Pay purchases in apps. Unlike the new iPhones, the iPad doesn't have a wireless chip needed for in-store transactions. Then



iPad Air 2

again, I'd probably mock anyone who tried to wave a giant device over a cashier's payment terminal. But I can see myself choosing a tablet over a phone for online shopping, and the fingerprint with Apple Pay will work nicely for that.

For the iPad Air 2 only, there's a faster Wi-Fi technology called 802.11ac, though you need new home-networking equipment to take advantage of it. The Air also gets a barometer sensor to track elevation in fitness apps.

THE BARGAIN

Last year's iPad Air was a huge improvement over the 2012 iPad, so this year's update seems small by comparison. The improvements might not be enough for existing iPad Air owners to upgrade, but there's enough there for those who have older models or are getting their first tablets.

The update in the iPad Mini is less pronounced. That makes it less tempting to save \$100 by going for the Mini. For the same price as an iPad Mini 3, you can get last year's full-size iPad with similar technical specifications. Bargain hunters should consider previous versions of the Mini, including the original model for \$249, the cheapest iPad yet.

If you can afford it, though, spend more for added storage. For \$599, you get an iPad Air 2 with 64 gigabytes, compared with 16 GB in the \$499 base model. For \$699, you get 128 GB. You'll be surprised how quickly your iPad fills up with photos and video — especially now that I won't mock you.



PYRAMID BOOKS

Pyramid Books celebrates Black History Month 365 days a year to educate all people about the African Diaspora; educating and expressing to the world the beauty and culture of a great people. We have a great selection and knowledge of the titles we provide and recommend.

We also specialize in hard-to-find books and may already have it in stock, even if the distributor says it is out of print.

Call us at 561.731.4422. We have a treasure chest of such books waiting for you.



Hours:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Wednesday	11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Thursday	11:00 am to 7:00 pm
Friday	11:00 am to 8:00 pm
Saturday	11:00 am to 8:00 pm
Sunday	Noon to 5:00 pm

**544-2 Gateway Blvd.
Boynton Beach, FL 33435**

Tel: 561-731-4422

Fax: 561-731-0202

web: <http://www.pyramidbooks.net>
email: pyramidbks@aol.com

Located in the heart of Palm Beach county in south Florida. Whether traveling north or south on I-95, we're easy to find.

film

White cast of 'Exodus' reflects cinema tradition

By **SANDY COHEN**
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Put “ancient Egyptian people” into a Google image search, and none of the resulting photos resemble Christian Bale or Joel Edgerton, stars of Ridley Scott’s biblical epic *Exodus: Gods and Kings*.

The director-inflamed calls for a boycott of the film with his comments last week that he couldn’t have made such a big-budget movie if “my lead actor is Mohammad so-and-so from such-and-such.”

“I’m just not going to get it financed,” he told the trade paper *Variety*. “So the question doesn’t even come up.”

The question, perhaps, being: Should Hollywood be concerned about casting white actors to portray people who were definitely not white?

It’s an institutional problem, said professor Todd Boyd, chair for the Study of Race and Popular Culture at the University of Southern California. Hollywood is a place where profit is king, he said, and it rarely takes big-budget risks on casts of color.

“The way movies get financed, and the overall ignorance in this country about Africa, explains why you’d have a big budget film with a very well-known director backed by a well-known studio mogul and get this problematic representation in 2014,” he said.

The financial argument doesn’t hold up. What might make a movie successful is speculative, and those with diverse casts are just as likely to become global box-office hits. Consider the *Hunger Games* and *Fast & Furious* franchises. The latter has made more than \$2 billion worldwide.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM, KERRY BROWN/2014 - TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION

Joel Edgerton and Dar Salim in *Exodus: Gods and Kings*.

Exodus stars Bale as Moses, Edgerton as pharaoh-to-be Ramses, John Turturro as the Egyptian leader and Sigourney Weaver as his queen. Actors of color occupy minor, mostly non-speaking roles.

There’s a long history of such casting in Hollywood. Moses — who the Bible and historians would say came from the north African nation of Egypt — was only brown-skinned on the big screen as an animated character in 1998’s *The Prince of Egypt*. Otherwise, Hollywood’s version of the biblical hero has been white, played by actors such as Charlton Heston in 1956, and Christian Slater more than 50 years later.

Rupert Murdoch, who owns the studio that produced *Exodus*, defended its casting on Twitter.

“Since when are Egyptians not white?” he wrote.

He followed up with, “Of course Egyptians are Middle Eastern, but far from black. They treated blacks as slaves.”

Another biblical epic, *Noah*, also faced criticism for its all-white cast led by Russell Crowe and Jennifer Connelly. At the time of its release earlier this year, screenwriter Ari Handel said the filmmakers opted for an Anglo cast so as to avoid

calling attention to issues of race.

“They’re supposed to be stand-ins for all people,” he said. “Either you end up with a Benetton ad or the crew of the *Starship Enterprise*.”

It’s not unusual for some ethnicities to play others on screen. Mexican actor Gael Garcia Bernal portrays the real Iranian journalist at the center of *Rosewater* and Japanese actor Ken Watanabe played the fictional Arabic villain in 2005’s *Batman Begins*. Yet Boyd notes that actors of color are rarely, if ever, cast as white figures.

For example, he said, Hollywood wouldn’t make a movie about Princess Diana with Kerry Washington in the lead role.

“That’s basically the equivalent of what’s going on, but in reverse,” he said. “They would never neglect to cast a white actor as a (white) historical figure just because there were box office concerns.”

As Chris Rock wrote in his recent essay in *The Hollywood Reporter*, Hollywood’s reputation as a liberal place doesn’t seem to extend to casting actors of color in leading roles.

“We’re never ‘in the mix,’” he said. “When there’s a hot part in town and the guys are reading for it, that’s just what happens. It was never like, ‘Is it going to be Ryan Gosling or Chiwetel Ejiofor for *Fifty Shades of Grey*?’”



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMDB.COM

Ridley Scott

WINNER
TOP 10 LIST
ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR
AFRICAN-AMERICAN FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION

AFI AWARDS
ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR

Rolling Stone
TOP 10 LIST
ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR
PETER TRAVERS

WINNER
ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

UNBROKEN

THE UNBELIEVABLE TRUE STORY

UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND LEGENDARY PICTURES PRESENT A JOLIE PAS PRODUCTION A 3 ARTS ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION
“UNBROKEN” JACK O’CONNELL DOMHNALL GLEESON MIYAVI GARRETT HEDLUND FINN WITTROCK MUSIC BY ALEXANDRE DESPLAT
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MICK GARRIS THOMAS TULL JON JASHNI PRODUCED BY ANGELINA JOLIE, P.J. CLAYTON TOWNSEND, P.J. MATTHEW BAER, P.J. ERWIN STOFF
BASED ON THE BOOK BY LAURA HILLENBRAND SCREENPLAY BY JOEL COEN & ETHAN COEN AND RICHARD LAGRAVENESE AND WILLIAM NICHOLSON DIRECTED BY ANGELINA JOLIE
LEGENDARY PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13 VISUAL EFFECTS AND ANIMATION BY INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC
THIS FILM CONTAINS DEPICTIONS OF TOBACCO CONSUMPTION SOUNDTRACK ON PEARLPHONE RECORDS A UNIVERSAL PICTURE UNIVERSAL © 2014 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS



STARTS CHRISTMAS DAY CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

pop culture **Kwanzaa holds special relevance this year**

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

Refreshingly diverse crowds have embraced the trending hashtag extolling the value of black lives across the nation. #BLACKLIVESMATTER strikes a powerful chord as it appears that a blatant disregard for the lives of African Americans contributed to two grand juries' refusal to hold police officers accountable for ending the lives of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and Eric Garner in New York City, both unarmed black males. Had hashtags existed in 1966 when university Professor Maulana Karenga created Kwanzaa, #BLACKLIVESMATTER could have served as the impetus for the week long holiday created specifically to emphasize the inherent

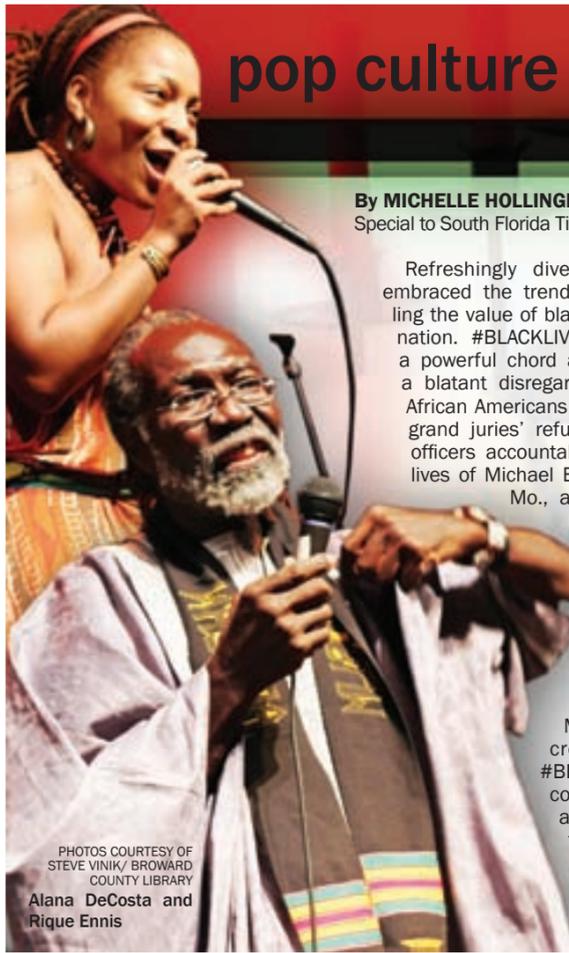
value of African American heritage. With the apparent need for a reminder that America's darker hued citizens are worthy of its declarations of equality, Kwanzaa takes on new meaning this year. Kwanzaa begins the day after Christmas and lasts for seven days, with each day devoted to the celebration of a different principle. This year's theme is "Practicing the Culture of Kwanzaa: Living the Seven Principles." One of South Florida's strongest Kwanzaa proponents is William "DC" Clark, who was drawn to the cultural celebration when he was a young firefighter and a member of the Progressive Black Firefighters in the mid-80s. Because he and a few others wanted a more vigorous approach to social change, they left the group to form I AM (International African Movement) MIAMI. Clark said that today's protests strike a familiar chord. "Ironically, in the late 80s, you had a lot of killings of black unarmed youth and men at the hands of the police here in Miami, which spurred us to go into the streets to protest the same things that they're protesting now." I AM MIAMI also created and hosted Miami's first Kwanzaa

Ball, a lavish family affair where community members decked out in African garb celebrated the seven principles. Clark pointed out that the nationwide protests of the murders of unarmed black males is being sustained because the protesters have, perhaps unwittingly, embraced one of the seven Kwanzaa principles. "Many people, when these protests first started, they thought it was going to be business as usual. In other words, black people would go out in the street for a couple of days, maybe a week or two, get that frustration off of their chests, and then go back to our mundane lives where nothing has really changed," Clark explained. "But in the past few weeks...things have changed. This protest is being sustained by a common core, or in this case 'Nia,' the Kwanzaa principle that means purpose." Charlene Farrington Jones, director of the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum in

Delray, said that the protesters have also embraced Imani (Faith) in what they're doing; and the entire country would benefit if it embraced Umoja, which means 'unity.' "Obviously, if everyone was here in the United States had any concept of what unity meant, they could never do some of the things that they do to other people; and it's really not a race thing, it's a humanity thing," she said. Clark, who believes in the Kwanzaa principles so strongly that he named his oldest daughter, 'Nia,' shares a similar perspective on Kwanzaa's first principle. "All seven principles are relevant, but the first one, Umoja...to strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race; if you had that, just that alone, you would see a better community, a more respectful community," he explained. He also believes that black people "can accomplish anything we put our minds to. We have an untapped resource of power that we fail to see within and to use," he said. "I wish this movement could continue and we could then really fully embrace self-determination (Kujichagulia) and cooperative economics (Ujamaa)," said Jones. "I do believe that if we came together as one and pooled our resources as one, we would be an unstoppable force." Michellehollinger303@gmail.com



Venus Rising dance troupe



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE VINIK/ BROWARD COUNTY LIBRARY
Alana DeCosta and Rique Ennis

Zo's Winter Groove: Popular event returning

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

SOUTH FLORIDA — For more than a decade, Alonzo Mourning's Summer Groove was the talk of the town; some might say the nation. After a hiatus, the Groove is back with a new season, venue and format. The inaugural edition of Zo's Winter Groove will start Saturday with events in both Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The activities bear the name of Mourning, former Miami Heat superstar and the 2014 Naismith memorial basketball hall of famer, as well as the Mourning Family Foundation. "For fifteen summers, my wife and I produced the one-week fundraising event Zo's Summer Groove and raised more than \$10 million during its tenure," said Alonzo Mourning. "Now after three years, as the Mourning Family Foundation, we can't wait to create yet another signature Groove. And there's no better place than Miami to do so. Not only is it America's winter playground, but it is my home." Other than the name, however, there are few similarities to the Summer Groove — though it is billed as the sister event. Whereas the summer version had several community-based free activities based in Overtown, Organizers say the Winter Groove — also known as ZWG — is a major fundraiser for Mourning Family Charities, the chief sponsor. The nonprofit offers a variety of programs during school, after-school, weekends and summer time, including arts, tutoring, physical fitness, health care and nutrition, and family-oriented activities. "Zo's Winter Groove is excited to present our Family Health & Wellness Groove with free



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK JAMES / CITY OF MIRAMAR
Alonzo Mourning and Commissioner Wayne Messam at press conference for 1st Annual Zo's Winter Groove Family Health & Wellness Day co-presented by the City of Miramar.

admission for children and families to enjoy a wonderful day of fun, games and fitness," said Bill Diggs, executive director of the nonprofit organization. "The Comedy Groove and the Golf Groove are ticketed events because ZWG is a fundraiser and this is how we raise the \$2 million it takes to feed and service 500 kids every day." This Groove features a Family Health & Wellness Groove on Saturday, a Comedy Groove on Sunday, and a Hall of Fame Golf Groove on Monday, hosted by Alonzo and Tracy Mourning. The first event, organizers say, recognizes Mourning's recent appointment to President Obama's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. Activities will include a 5k run/walk, football and basketball clinics, fitness classes, and health screenings; the event will be co-presented by the City of Miramar at Miramar Regional Park, 6801

Miramar Pkwy, Miramar. Comedy Show: This will be held Sunday at the JW Marriot Marquis, 255 Biscayne Boulevard Way in Miami, to fundraise while honoring previous and continuous supporters of the Mourning Family Foundation as VIP guests. Comedian Rodney Grant will host the show, featuring stand-up by Def Comedy Jam and Laff Mob's Robert Sumner, John "Honest John" Basinger, Karlous Miller, Robert Powell, and Ashima Franklin. The weekend "Groove" will then wrap up with Zo's Hall of Fame Golf Tournament at Turnberry Isle Resorts & Golf Course, 19999 West Country Club Drive, Aventura, FL 33180, on Monday, Dec. 29th. The tournament will feature over 80 golfers, Groove Golf Ambassadors, "Hall of Famers" and tastemakers from sports, music, television, motion pictures and business, including NBA legend Julius Erving and NFL Pro Bowlers Cornelius Bennett and Bruce Smith. All monies raised on the green will directly affect the lives of young children and families in the greater Miami area.

Contemporary, Traditional, Antique Reproduction Gallery



0% Interest & layaway available.

John Stembridge Furniture

Excellent Service Since 1953
Store Hours: Sun. - Fri. 10am-5pm
Closed Sat. for Shabbat

545 NE. 125th St. N. Miami 305-893-0800

FANHOUSE

Schedule
MONDAY: MNF
TUESDAY: COLLEGE NIGHT FREE ADMISSION
WEDNESDAY: KARAOKE - FREE WINE FOR THE LADIES
THURSDAY: POOL TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY: GROWN FOLKS NIGHT D.J. JEFF FOXK SPINS THE HITS FROM 70'S, 80'S, 90'S
SATURDAY: COLLEGE GAME DAY
SUNDAY: NFL SUNDAY WATCH ANY NFL GAME OF YOUR FAVORITE TEAM

Catering Available • *Best wings in Miami*
\$3 all day Happy Hour Drink Special

13914 N.W. 7 Avenue • Miami, FL 33168
(Across From the 7th Ave. Fleamarket)
Monday - Saturday 11am - Midnight
305 681-4100 Phone • 305 681-4101 fax
Follow us on INSTAGRAM: fanhouseSBG • www.fanhouseSBG.com

Powerful dance to African drums

Empress Addira

Spirited singing and dancing

Ubuntu dance performance

Alana De Costa teaches principle of Kuumba

Yao Afoj Lydia

Performing a libation ceremony

MIAMI-DADE

Diaspora Arts Coalition's annual Kwanzaa celebration "A Kwanzaa Experience 2014"

Friday, Dec. 26, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave. in Miami.
Cost: Free, however, attendees are invited to bring their favorite covered dish for the traditional potluck Kwanzaa family dinner, as well as travel size, toiletries (deodorant, toothpaste, mouthwash, etc.) and socks to benefit The Miami Rescue Mission, which serves homeless men, women and children.
For more information, call 786-237-5079 or visit www.dacmiami.org

25th Annual Mary Williams Woodard Legacy Kwanzaa Celebration

Saturday, Dec. 27 - 4 p.m.
African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave. in Miami
Cost: Free, however, donations of new books and new unwrapped educational toys are encouraged.
For more information, call Vanessa Byers vbyers1@me.com or call 786-294-5013

BROWARD

Kwanzaa Celebration Family celebration focuses on Kujichagulia, the principle of self-determination.

Saturday, Dec. 27, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
African-American Research Library, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale
Cost: Free
For more information, call 954-357-6282

Kwanzaa Celebration: A community celebration of Kuumba, the sixth principle of Kwanzaa, through ethnic dance, storytelling, art exhibits and stage performances

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1-5 p.m.
Bass Park, 2750 NW 19 St. Ft. Lauderdale
Cost: Free
For more information, call 954-828-8498

PALM BEACH

Kwanzaa Celebration

Sunday, Dec. 28, 4 - 7 p.m.
Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, 170 NW Fifth Ave. in Delray Beach
Cost: Free, however, guests are invited to bring and share their personal harvest so that someone else may benefit from their gifts.
For more information, call 561-279-8883 or visit www.spadymuseum.org

music



The Temptations,

PHOTO COURTESY OF FANART.TV

David Ruffin, Melvin Franklin, Paul Williams, Otis Williams, and Eddie Kendricks 1965

NEW YORK (AP) — When they're off-stage, members of The Temptations and The Four Tops — two of Motown's most iconic groups — have nothing but love for each other. It's a different story when the microphones are turned on.

"We're very competitive," said Abdul "Duke" Fakir, of the Four Tops. "That's the way Motown was built. Basically we competed all the while. But we competed in a wonderful way — brother against brother."

Fakir and Otis Williams, his opposite number in The Temptations, will renew their rivalry for the best tunes on Broadway this winter for a seven-concert stand between Dec. 29-Jan. 4 at the Palace Theatre.

The two men are the only surviving original members of their groups. "[He] and I are in the same position," said Williams. "[He] and I are the last remaining members of our respective groups. We have love for each other."

The Temptations had hits with *The Way You Do The Things You Do*, *My Girl*, *Get Ready* and *Ain't Too Proud to Beg*. The Four Tops are known for *I Can't Help Myself (Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch)*, *Baby I Need Your Lovin'*, *'Reach Out (I'll Be There)* and *Standing In the Shadows (of Love)*.

"I never would have imagined that I'd still be here singing songs that are half my age," joked the 73-year-old Williams. "Those songs feel fantastic even if it is 60 years later."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FOURTOPSENTERPRISES.COM

Abdul "Duke" Fakir a member of The Four Tops.

The two groups tour often and were last on Broadway in 1986. Their concerts are part nostalgia and part education, reminding the audience of the Motown sound and celebrating such songwriters as Lamont Dozier and brothers Brian Holland and Eddie Holland.

"I'm very committed on keeping the legacy as strong as possible and hopefully to strengthen it," said Fakir, 78. "We can only be ourselves, be the best we can and come out swinging."

The songs they'll sing are part of modern



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIRROR.CO.UK

Otis Williams from The Temptations

music's DNA and the men credit their timelessness to having a story to tell and a great groove. "You have some great music and some great lyrics, and all you have to do is just sing it and just let it flow," said Fakir.

Both were more critical when it came to discussing today's music, with

Williams admitting, "I'm not that impressed with some of the stuff that I hear on the radio." As for Fakir, the anger and personal attacks in rap and pop are a turn-off: "The more disrespectful you are, the better they like it. It's just changing times. That's the way of the world."

One irony of their upcoming Broadway concert series is that it will take place not far from the show *Motown*, about Berry Gordy's Motown Records — which features songs from both groups. Fakir and Williams have both seen the musical several times and like it.

"It just shows the greatness of Motown that we can be right down the block from the *Motown* show," said Williams. "You can leave that theater and come to our theater and see us do it in person."



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROMFIIH.COM

Eddie Holland, Lamont Dozier and Brian Holland



The Four Tops eager to compete

PHOTO COURTESY OF FANART.TV

Abdul "Duke" Fakir, Renaldo "Obie" Benson, Levi Stubbs and Lawrence Payton

events calendar

COMPILED BY **MARISSA CLARKE**
Special to South Florida Times

December 26 – January 4

Dec. 26

Art Beat Opening Reception: Art and Wine Promenade: Enjoy a glass of wine as you stroll the promenade listening to live music, view work by Streetside Artists and more! 6 p.m. at Northwood Village, between Broadway and Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach. Free. 561-822-2222 or www.wpb.org/northwood.

Friday Night Groove Karaoke: Belt out your favorite tunes with the help of Karaoke DJ Todd! Todd is a songwriter, composer, and musician who is sure to make this karaoke night one to remember 6 to 11 p.m. at Schnebly's Redland Winery, 30205 SW 217th Ave., Homestead. \$10. 305-242-1224 or visit schneblywinery.com/events.

Dec. 27

PAMM Art Storytime: Children ages 3-5 can enjoy an afternoon of arts and crafts and storytelling at the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) the fun starts at 1 p.m., at the museum, 1103 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. \$10, \$7 for member children, \$12 adults. Pre-registration is required call 786-354-5641.

Zo's Family Health and Wellness Day:

Alonzo Mourning, who was recently appointed to President Obama's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, hosts this event which features a 5K run/walk and health screenings. The day also includes mini football and basketball clinics. 8 a.m. run/walk, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. family day at Miramar Regional Park, 16801 Miramar Pkwy., Miramar. \$25 in advance, \$35 day of registration for walk/run. The family day is free. www.zoswintergroove.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOURNINGFAMILYFOUNDATION.ORG
Alonzo and Tracy Mourning

Dec. 28

King Mango Strut Parade: The 33rd annual parade, originally conceived by participants rejected from the Orange Bowl Parade, kicks off with the little Miss Mango and Little King Mango pageant. Expect wacky costumes, floats and a concert featuring local bands including Iko-Iko, Roadkill, and Memphis Kelly. The banana drops at 2 p.m. at Commodore plaza and Main Plaza in Coconut Grove. Free. 305-582-0955.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ART SEITZ
Richards Keith Strut band

Zo's Comedy Groove:

Get your laugh on with John "Honest John" Basinger, Ashima Franklin, Karlous Miller, and Robert Powell III. Comedian Red Grant hosts and the show is open to ages 21 and older. 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the JW Marriott Marquis Miami, 255 Biscayne Blvd Way. \$175 VIP tickets (include pre-reception), \$75. 305-421-8600 or zoswintergroove.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLATL.COM.
Ashima Franklin



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAFF MOB
Karlous Miller



PHOTO COURTESY OF CDN.LAUGHFACTORY.COM
John "Honest John" Basinger



PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUTUBE.COM
Robert Powell III

Dec. 29

PAMM Art Storytime: Watch Toy Story with the family! Bring a blanket, popcorn and relax in your favorite pajamas on the lawn of the Barnacle. The movie follows the adventures of Woody and Buzz Lightyear, two toys who develop a friendship in spite of their differences. 7 p.m. at the Barnacle Historic State Park, 3485 Main Hwy., Coconut Grove. \$5, \$3 children 2-5. 305-442-6866.



The Last Lecture-Randy Pausch: Close out the year with this inspiring film about Randy Pausch, a terminally ill professor who delivered a lecture that became a huge sensation. Video of the speech Pausch made to his students at Carnegie Mellon received millions of views online, and the book based on the lecture became a best seller. The film includes stories of his childhood, lessons he wanted his children to learn and things his children should know about him. Presented by the Miami Jazz and Film Society, also includes a screening of The Earth's Imagination. 6 p.m. at African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave., Miami. Free. 305-638-6771.

Dec. 31

Bayfront Park New Year's Eve: Watch the Big Orange drop in downtown Miami at this New Year's Eve party! The evening includes music by Funky Frank and concludes with a huge firework display over Biscayne Bay. 8 p.m. to midnight at Bayfront Park, 301 N. Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Free. 305-358-7550.

First Night 2015: Say farewell to 2014 with a party in downtown Delray Beach. The family friendly event concludes with a fireworks display. 4 p.m. to midnight at Old School Square, 51 North Swinton Ave., Delray Beach \$15. 561-279-1380.

Guys and Dolls: Damon Runyon's classical musical comes to town and follows Sarah Brown, Sky Masterston, and Nathan Detroit as they try to find a spot for a floating crap game. 8 p.m. at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$35-\$75. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org.

Rock'n Nooneyear's Eve Party: Kids can party like it's about to be midnight with this noonday party! Listen to music, view art and toast noon with a sparkling cider toast at the museum. Create a New Year's party hat at the art station and more! 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Young at Art Museum, 751 SW 121st Ave., Davie. Free with paid museum admission of \$14, \$12 seniors. 954-424-0085 or www.youngatartmuseum.org.

Jan. 1

Something Big: Start the New Year off with a relaxing morning of yoga set to live music! Presented by Yoga Journey, yogis of all levels and ages can participate. The first 300 participants to register will receive a gift bag. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mizner Park, 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Free. 561-362-0606

Jan. 3

Las Olas Art Fair: Kick off the new year by purchasing new art at this 27th annual event! More than 150 artist will display their work in this outdoor gallery. This interactive event allows visitors to speak with the artists, learn about new techniques and even commission a piece. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today and Sunday 600 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Free. 561-746-6615

Jan. 4

West Palm Beach GreenMarket: Take a stroll along the waterfront and pick up fresh flowers, fruit, produce and other foods along the way. Shop from more than 70 vendors while music plays. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 101 S. Flagler Dr., West Palm Beach. Free parking available at the Banyan Parking Garage. www.wpb.org/greenmarket.

Please email your event to news@sfltimes.com by the preceding Thursday at 10 a.m.

food

Servings: 8

Crispy roast duck with giblet gravy

FAMILY FEATURES — A memorable holiday meal always comes down to the mouthwatering meals served by the host. This season, impress family and friends with three traditional courses many come to expect at such a gathering: a juicy bird, a hearty side and a sweet ending. Featuring flavor-packed herbs, spices and the freshest ingredients, these recipes allow you to serve up the very best of the season to those you love.

Remove giblets and orange sauce packets from ducks and reserve for another use. Rinse ducks; pat dry with paper towels. Place breast sides up on rack in large shallow roasting pan. Roast according to package directions.

Place remaining duck giblets and necks in large saucepan. Add broth, water, onion, carrots, sage sprigs, bay leaf, thyme and peppercorns. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat; simmer gently uncovered 1 hour. Strain broth; set aside giblets and

discard remaining solids. If broth measures less than 2 cups add water to equal 2 cups.

Remove roast ducks from oven and transfer to rack of broiler pan. Preheat broiler. Pour off and reserve drippings from roasting pan. Add vermouth to pan and cook over medium high heat, stirring constantly with wooden spoon, until mixture is reduced by about half, 2–3 minutes.

Spoon off 1/4 cup fat from reserved drippings; transfer to medium saucepan. Add flour; cook, stirring constantly, over medium

- 2 Maple Leaf Farms Whole Ducks (5 pounds each), thawed if frozen
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup water
- 1 onion, unpeeled and quartered
- 2 large carrots, cut into 1/2-inch chunks
- 2 small sprigs fresh sage
- 1 large bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon black peppercorns
- 3/4 cup dry vermouth or dry white wine
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- Salt and pepper, to taste

heat 1 minute. Add 2 cups strained duck broth and wine mixture to saucepan. Add drippings to saucepan. Cook, stirring frequently, until gravy thickens. Chop reserved giblets and add to gravy. Simmer 3 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Broil ducks 5–6 inches from heat source until skin is well browned and crispy, 6–8 minutes. Cut each duck into quarters and transfer to serving plates. Pass gravy separately. Garnish with sage sprigs, if desired.

CREAMY SCALLOPED POTATOES

Butter 11-by-7-inch (2 quart) baking dish and set aside. Slice potatoes to 1/8-inch-thick circles. Place potatoes in large saucepan or Dutch oven; add water to cover by 1 inch. Cook until tender and cool slightly.

Heat oven to 350° F. In 2 1/2-quart saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion; cook 1 minute. Stir in flour and salt. Cook until mixture bubbles. Gradually stir in milk and cook until mixture boils. Reduce heat to low. Stir in sour cream and cheese. Cook on low until cheese is melted, stirring constantly. Layer half of potatoes in baking dish. Pour half the sauce over potatoes. Repeat with remaining potatoes and sauce. Sprinkle potatoes with paprika. Bake for 30–35 minutes or until bubbly and top starts to brown.

- 2 1/2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes, scrubbed
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups 2 percent milk
- 1 cup Daisy Sour Cream
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Asiago cheese
- 1/8 teaspoon paprika

Prep time: 45
minutes
Servings: 14



“Best by choice not by chance”
for free instant 24 hour web service visit our website
www.josephinsurancegroup.com



A-1 STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS

- FLOOD
- AUTO/PIP/SR22
- MOTORCYCLE
- RENTERS
- CONDO UNITS OWNER
- MOBILE HOME/RV
- MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
- LIFE
- HEALTH
- DISABILITY
- EYE/DENTAL
- BOAT

JOSEPH INSURANCE GROUP (JIG)
3600 South State Road 7, Suite 9, Miramar, FL 33023
OFF: 954-367-6005 FAX: 954-981-0144
OFF #2: 954 251-1381 general@josephinsurancegroup.com