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MIAMI-DADE



Miami-Dade County made history when Jean Monestime, became the first Haitian-American to serve on the Board of County Commissioners, and again when he took the oath as Chairman.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

PLEASE TURN TO **MONESTIME/1B**

MIAMI-DADE



PHOTO COURTESY OF CJONES PUBLIC RELATIONS

Gloria Allred, Benjamin Crump and Martin Luther King III

Martin Luther King III, panel discusses justice

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

On the holiday established nearly 30 years ago to honor Martin Luther King Jr., the son of the late Civil Rights leader joined a group of panelists at the Miami Beach Loew's Hotel to discuss the 'State of Justice in America.' Joining King on the panel were attorneys Gloria Allred, Mark Geragos and Benjamin Crump, the attorney for the parents of Trayvon Martin.

Also present on the panel was Mark O'Meara, the attorney who represented George Zimmerman, the Florida man acquitted in the shooting death of unarmed teenager Trayvon Martin. Standing in the rear of the room observing the panel's session, were Martin's father, Tracy Martin, and his brother, Javaris Fulton, who were invited guests. The session was a part of the National Trial Lawyers summit occurring this week.

Attorney Hezekiah Sistrunk, National Partner of The Cochran Firm and incoming President of the National Trial Lawyers Association, moderated the session where divergent

views on the health of the criminal justice system were shared.

According to O'Meara, the system works as it should. "I don't think the system is completely broken. I still think it's the best system that we have and that ever has existed in the world. I truly believe that. We do a good job of attempting to protect the rights that we're supposed to protect," he said.

Crump said the system is broken because it fails to hold prosecutors and the police accountable and that there are different standards depending on who is victimized.

"Why do the rules change when there's a little black or brown boy dead on the street? I think it's because we try to make exceptions for others," he said. "For example, when Mike Brown or Eric Garner, we see [Garner being choked] in that video and we automatically say, 'well what did they do to deserve that?' We don't say that when a white person is killed. We say 'we're going to get justice.'"

King, who was ten when his father was assassinated in 1968, took exception to O'Meara's assertions that the system is not broken.

"It should be crystal clear in this nation that the system of justice that we call a criminal justice system is broken, surely for many blacks, and browns and poor whites...when 13 percent of African Americans in the population make up 40, 50, 60 percent of the jail population," he said. "Richard Pryor used to say that if you go down to the courthouse looking for justice all that you'll find is 'just us,'" a reference to black people.

"There is something called profiling. Systematically it's been structured that way. I call it a criminal system because it's not justice," King added.

Providing perhaps the most compelling example of why he said the system is "irretrievably broken" was Geragos, who said the population of California's prison system is 85 percent "people of color," by design.

"It is primarily populated by people of color because that is what the criminal justice system is designed to do, process people of color, warehouse them and do it quite effectively. That's why it's irretrievably broken,"

PLEASE TURN TO **PANEL/2A**

PALM BEACH

MLK Breakfast reaffirms the legacy



C.B.HANIFF/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

MLK BREAKFAST: Edith Bush (at podium) honors community members who uplift the mission of MLK.

By **KYOTO WALKER**
Special to South Florida Times

WEST PALM BEACH — For nearly three and a half decades, Edith C. Bush, the executive director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Coordinating Committee, has helped organize events in Palm Beach County in an effort to continue the legacy of the civil rights leader.

The 34th annual Martin Luther King Jr. scholarship breakfast was held Monday, Jan. 19 in downtown West Palm Beach at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd.

Bush said that the breakfast, sponsored by the MLK Coordinating Committee, is a culmination of a week of free events involving young people featuring poster and oratorical contests, poetry, photography and a unity service, all centered around honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The only event in which the group charged admission was the breakfast in order to fund scholarships for local youth, she said.

"We try to empower our community through arts and culture and the youth," Bush said. "We've

PLEASE TURN TO **BUSH/2A**

MIAMI-DADE



PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF U.S. REP. FEDERICA WILSON

MLK, 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project Breakfast

WILSON SCHOLARS: U.S. Rep. Frederica S. Wilson, (D. FL) (center,) announces scholarships for 84 students in the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project on Monday at the 22nd annual breakfast in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Television personality Judge

Glenda A. Hatchett, who delivered the keynote address, was joined by several South Florida judges to recognize the Wilson Scholarship Recipients. The sold-out breakfast was at Jungle Island in Miami. The program has awarded more than \$10 million in scholarships to date.

Scholarships are the designated goal



C.B. HANIF/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES
State Rep. Bobby Powell with Edith Bush at the podium at the MLK Coordinating Committee Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 19.

BUSH, FROM 1A

had some children go to some prestigious colleges from the (proceeds) raised from our breakfast.” She said that some scholarship recipients have attended highly regarded educational institutions such as Hampton University, Yale University,



C.B. HANIF/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES
Elvin J. Dowling presents keynote address at MLK breakfast.

Princeton University and some of the historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) as well. The breakfast’s theme this year was, “Pursue a positive dream, believe it, achieve it.” Keynote speaker Elvin J. Dowling said that King’s legacy should include a new wave of leadership as civil unrest sweeps the nation as a result of young black males being killed by white law enforcers. “The value of a black man’s life has diminished in this country,” he said. “The act of simply trying to get home can be met with deadly force for little black boys and girls.” Dowling added that peaceful protests can effect change greatly and drove the point home by using this quote from King, “The measure of a man is where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Riviera Beach mayor Thomas Masters said he thinks a way of continuing with King’s legacy would be to honor the current and first African-American president by renaming a major road in the city after the leader of this country. “I am going to propose to rename Old Dixie Highway in Riviera Beach, ‘Barack Obama,’” he said. “What will be profound about it is (that) it will intersect with Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd., which used to be Eighth Street.” Masters said that Old Dixie Highway is a county road so the proposal has to be cleared by the Palm Beach County Commission if it moves forward. But he is going to start a petition online and with a hardcopy of the petition to be circulated in the community to see if the prospective proposal is supported by the city’s residents. Rep. Bobby Powell Jr. - Riviera Beach, who was master of ceremony at the breakfast, said the event was not just a celebration of King’s legacy, but an opportunity for cultural remembrance. “I think the breakfast was an excellent opportunity for people to remember the legacy, the history and the overall importance that Dr. King played in terms of civil rights and moving the nation forward,” he said. “We’ve made many strides in moving forward in terms of civil rights. People have the opportunity to vote now. They have the right to vote. They have the right to live wherever they want, to go to school wherever they want. There is still a long way to go but the stumbling blocks, many of them, have been chopped down.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF CWJONES PUBLIC RELATIONS
Martin Luther King III engages the audience on the plight of black men.

The ‘criminal’ system is devoid of justice

PANEL, FROM 1A

said Geragos, a criminal defense lawyer whose clients have included Michael Jackson, and Chris Brown. “In terms of the politics of crime, for years in California it was a state prison mandatory offense for possession of cocaine that disproportionately fell upon the African-American community...until cocaine crossed over and started to get into the white areas,” he shared. Geragos explained that when many of his white friends’ children began facing mandatory state prison, then-legislator and future governor, George Deukmejian, intervened. “All of a sudden, [Deukmejian] provided for diversion in DE] which was deferred entry of judgment, so that we would have a safety valve for when the white kids got busted for what the black kids were going to state prison for.” Another example of the system’s brokenness was evident during George Zimmerman’s trial, according to Geragos. Because five whites were seated as jurors, he said the outcome of that trial could be predicted with “unnerving accuracy.” He added, “There was no way that there was ever going to be a conviction.”

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Nation

Nominations add intrigue if not diversity to Oscar race

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

The Oscar nominations added intrigue if not diversity to an Academy Awards race by favoring one late-season release (*American Sniper*) over another (*Selma*).

The flip-flopping of fortunes, however, did little to dislodge the humble coming-of-age epic *Boyhood*, which has steadily grown into the movie to beat in a little-seen Oscar field, closely followed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's back-stage ego trip *Birdman*.

The two films solidified themselves as favorites with best-picture and best-director nominations. *Boyhood* chalked up its expected six nominations, including supporting nods for Patricia Arquette and Ethan Hawke. And *Birdman*, (or the *Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*) landed a co-leading nine nominations, including best actor for Michael Keaton.

"I don't care how much people tell you: 'It's gonna happen.' When it happens, you're thrilled," said Keaton about his first nomination.

But the Oscar race - the near-culmination Hollywood's ever-expanding industrial complex called awards season - may have gotten more competitive in Thursday's nominations.

Clint Eastwood's *American Sniper* (six nods) Wes Anderson's *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (nine nominations) and *The Imitation Game* (eight nominations) all emerged as heftier contenders, while *Selma* largely fizzled.

Each joined a best-picture field that also included the Stephen Hawking biopic *The Theory of Everything* and the music school psychodrama *Whiplash*.

The modestly sized movies - all dwarfed by Hollywood's stampede of bigger blockbusters at the box office - make for a classy but not particularly high-wattage batch of nominees. That may challenge host Neil Patrick Harris to drive viewers to the Feb. 22 ceremony.

The nominees also amount to a distinctly white Oscars. All 20 of the nominated actors are white, which led to the trending Twitter hashtag "OscarsSoWhite" on Thursday.

Though Ava DuVernay's civil rights drama *Selma* was once seen as a major contender, it landed just two nominations. (The second was for best song.) David Oyelowo, who stars as Martin Luther King Jr. in *Selma*, was surprisingly left out of best actor.

The poor showing of *Selma* (and on King's birthday no less) came after nagging criticism over its portrayal of President Lyndon Johnson. Rev. Al Sharpton said the lack of votes for the drama about the voting rights movement was ironic and called the diversity of the nominations

overall "appalling."

It's a nightmare scenario for the Academy of Motion Pictures, which has in recent years sought to diversify its ranks. It also comes a year after the best-picture win for *12 Years a Slave*, during which there was much chest-thumping about Hollywood's thawing close-mindedness.

Whereas the late December arrival of *Selma* appeared to hurt its chances, similar timing was on target for Clint Eastwood's Navy SEAL drama *American Sniper*. Bradley Cooper, who plays lethal marksman Chris Kyle in the film, seemed to take Oyelowo's best-actor spot.

Wes Anderson's old Europe caper *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, which also won best comedy or musical at the Globes, has emerged as the most unexpected awards heavyweight. It managed nine nominations without a single acting nod and was instead repeatedly cited for Anderson's meticulous craft in directing, production design, makeup and screenplay.

The Grand Budapest Hotel (opening all the way back in March) is also the most lucrative best-picture entry, with \$59.1 million at the North American box office. (That, though, will soon change after *American Sniper* expands nationwide this weekend.)

Box-office hits were scarce. Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* reeled in five nominations in technical categories. David Fincher's popular and well-reviewed *Gone Girl* managed only a best-actress nomination for Rosamund Pike.

Marion Cotillard (the French-language *Two Days, One Night*) was the surprise nominee for best actress. She and Pike were joined by Felicity Jones (*The Theory of Everything*), Julianne Moore (*Still Alice*) and Reese Witherspoon (*Wild*). Those picks left Jennifer Aniston's pained and grieving performance in *Cake* on the outside.

The eight nominations for the World War II code-breaker thriller *The Imitation Game*, about pioneering computer scientist Alan Turing, included best actor for Benedict Cumberbatch and supporting actress for Keira Knightley. The film's distributor, the Weinstein Co., previously shepherded another prestige British period film (*The King's Speech*) all the way to best picture.

"I am knocked for six by this," said Cumberbatch of his first Oscar nod. "To ring my parents who are both actors and tell them that their only son has been nominated for an Oscar is one of the proudest moments of my life."

Steve Carell (*Foxcatcher*) and Eddie Redmayne (*The Theory of Everything*) rounded out the best actor category.

Redmayne, the freckled British actor who stars as Stephen Hawking in the film, said he was woken with the news: "I was half undressed



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOPTENZ.NET

The Oscar award

and stumbled to the door. I found my manager there brandishing a phone with a lot of screams coming out of it."

The eight best-picture nominees left out two wild cards that might have added a dose of darkness to the category: the creepy Jake Gyllenhaal thriller *Nightcrawler* and the tragic wrestling drama *Foxcatcher*. In the three years since the category was expanded to allow up to 10 films to be nominated, nine movies contended for best picture.

Foxcatcher helmer Bennett Miller (previously nominated for *Capote*) squeaked into best director, which also included Morten Tyldum (*The Imitation Game*). DuVernay and *Unbroken* director Angelina Jolie failed to crack the historically male category. Jolie's WWII survival tale landed three nods, including a 12th nomination for cinematographer Roger Deakins.

One of the most notable snubs came in best animation, usually a staid category. Despite critical love and major box office, *The Lego Movie* was left out of: *Big Hero 6*, *The Boxtrolls*, *How to Train Your Dragon 2*, *Song of the Sea* and *The Tale of the Princess Kaguya*.

"Lego" co-director Phil Lord tweeted a photo of a Lego-built Oscar, writing: "It's okay. Made my own!"

Other nominees came with the reliability of clockwork. Meryl Streep landed her 19th nomination (a record) for her supporting performance in *Into the Woods*. Joining her were Emma Stone (*Birdman*) and Laura Dern (*Wild*).

Aside from Hawke, supporting-actor nominations went to Robert Duvall (*The Judge*), Edward Norton (*Birdman*), Mark Ruffalo (*Foxcatcher*) and J.K. Simmons (*Whiplash*).

The nominees for best foreign language film went to *Ida* (Poland), *Leviathan* (Russia), *Tangerines* (Estonia), *Timbuktu* (Mauritania) and *Wild Tales* (Argentina). The acclaimed black-and-white *Ida* also surprised with a nod for cinematography.

Best documentary nods went to *CitizenFour*, *Finding Vivian Maier*, *Last Days in Vietnam*, *The Salt of the Earth*.

At least 50 Ebola hotspots, but new cases are declining

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N.'s Ebola chief says there are still at least 50 hotspots in the hardest-hit West African countries but new cases are declining in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and the deadly disease will be defeated.

Dr. David Nabarro said Thursday the latest report from the World Health Organization was "very good news."

In the week ending Jan. 11, WHO said Guinea reported its lowest weekly total of new Ebola cases since mid-August, Liberia had its lowest total since the first week of June, and new cases in Sierra Leone declined for a second week to the lowest level since the end of August.

Nabarro cautioned, however, that there are still "numbers of new cases that are alarming."

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Health

Genetics vs. environment in shaping our bodies

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — How a person's immune system does its job seems to depend more on environment and the germs he or she encounters than on genes, says new research that put twins to the test to find out.

After all, the immune system adapts throughout life to fight disease, said Stanford University immunologist Mark Davis, who led the work.

And while young children's immunity may be more influenced by what they inherit from their mother and father, Thursday's study showed genetic influences waned in adulthood.

"Experience counts more and more as you get older," said Davis, director of Stanford's Institute for Immunity, Transplantation and Infection.

Scientists know there is tremendous variation in how the immune systems of healthy people function. Davis asked if that's more a matter of nature or nurture, by comparing 78 pairs of twins with identical genetic makeups to 27 pairs of fraternal twins, who are no more alike genetically than any other siblings. Traits shared by the identical twins are more likely to be hereditary.

His team used blood samples from the twin pairs, who ranged in age from 8 to 82, to track more than 200 activities and components of the immune system. In three-quarters of the measurements, differences between pairs of twins were more likely due to non-heritable influences - such as previous infections or vaccinations, even nutrition - than genetics, the researchers reported in the journal Cell.

Then they compared the oldest twins, 60 and over, to those under age 20, when the immune system is still maturing. The youngest identical twins had far more immune similarity than the oldest. That makes sense, as older twins presumably haven't lived together in years and have had different exposures since childhood, they concluded.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MED.STANFORD.EDU

Mark Davis

When the researchers gave flu vaccine to participating twins, they found no sign that genetics determined how many flu-fighting antibodies were produced.

Most intriguing, the researchers found infection with a virus so common that most adults unknowingly carry it had a dramatic effect. Cytomegalovirus, or CMV, is dangerous to those with weak immune systems but harmless for most people, and prior research has shown it can rev up parts of a healthy immune system. Sure enough, the Stanford team examined 16 pairs of identical twins where only one had CMV, and found big differences in nearly 60 percent of the components studied.

Does that mean people should try to prime the immune system, rather than working so hard to avoid germ situations?

"I'm a strong believer in the power of dirt," Davis said with a laugh, but this study actually can't offer health advice.

"This just says the environment plays a huge role in shaping what your immune system looks like," he explained.

Investigating how that happens is important, said Dr. Megan Cooper, a pediatric immunologist and rheumatologist at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, who wasn't involved in the study. She noted that autoimmune diseases tend to run in families but whether someone born genetically susceptible gets sick may be shaped by their exposures.

"It's when you get those infections" that may be key to the impact on the immune system, she said.

Veterinary medicine is a contact sport



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

By PIERRE B. BLAND, DVM

It was a typical day of practice, or as typical as they get. I was finishing an appointment for an annual exam and vaccinations for a cat. The clients were a mother and her two preschool age children. I was issuing my finishing remarks for the appointment and asked, "So, are there any questions?" The little girl raised her hand and said, "Wow! You sure do have beat up hands!" I looked at my hands and replied "Well, veterinary medicine is a contact sport." I high fived the kids and the family departed the exam room.

From the mouth of babes comes the truth more often than not. I guess my hands are a bit "beat up." I have acquired my share of scars from encounters with small birds to lizards, cats and dogs, to monkeys. Some of the scars are more obvious while some are hidden or more mental than physical. They all tell a story, some more interesting than others.

There is the scar on the knuckle of my right index finger. I got that one from a really old cat that had only two teeth and a bad mouth infection. Somehow, she managed to sink both her two remaining canines into my hand. One into the knuckle from the palm and the other

from the opposite side. The infection in her mouth was so severe, between my pulling back and her deciding to let go, her upper canine was left in my knuckle. One tooth extracted, one to go. I pulled the tooth out of my hand, changed my glove and removed the lower canine.

Cat bites are notorious for becoming infected, so I made a trip to the emergency room after the cat recovered from the procedure. Even though I was treated at the ER, the bite became infected. I developed sepsis, ended up having a central venous line installed, and taking self-administered IV antibiotics for two weeks. I was off work by doctor's orders for over a month. I made the best of the situation by taking a vacation during my treatment, with my doctor's permission of course. I figured it was better to convalesce in the warmth of Palm Springs than in the rain and cold of a Seattle winter. My employer's reaction to my choice of recovery locality is another story.

Then there is the 4 inch scar on my left shoulder. It is the result of a shoulder reconstruction due to two male Cynomolgus Monkeys playing tug of war with my arm.

We were performing semiannual health checks for a colony of about 25 monkeys. We were in the process of herding the monkeys into a catch area so we could isolate, sedate, and examine each animal. I was walking across the enclosure toward the catch area, when I stepped in a deposit of post digested monkey chow, slipped and fell flat on my back. Two large males seized the opportunity while I was down. When most people think of monkeys, they think of small cute animals, but these Cynomolgus males each weighed at least 45 pounds and were as strong as a man. They raced out of the catch area, grabbed my left arm, and began dragging me across the enclosure while chewing on my hand. Luckily,

I was wearing a heavy pair of leather gloves, so my hands were only severely bruised from the biting, but my rotator cuff was severely torn as a result of being dragged about 10 feet across the enclosure. The resulting injury, surgery, and physical therapy took over a year of recovery time.

It was the single most painful experience I have ever had. At the risk of assault, I do compare it to child birth.

Of all my injuries, another involving a monkey was the scariest and in fact, life threatening.

I was stitching up some pretty severe lacerations on a male monkey, resulting from a fight with another monkey. The monkey I was working on had a known Herpes simian B virus infection. Humans who are infected with this virus can present with severe central nervous system disease which can result in severe neurological dysfunction or death. The entire time I was stitching his wounds, I was thinking, "Don't stick yourself. Don't stick yourself." As I silently repeated this mantra, sure enough I plunged the suture needle into my left index finger, creating a potential exposure to the virus. As a result I spent a year being tested for the virus and taking Acyclovir, an anti-viral drug. Thankfully, I was not infected and was strikingly thinner due to the nausea and gastrointestinal distress from my chemotherapeutic treatment.

My career as a veterinarian is far from over, so I am sure there are more work related injuries and scars to come. Hopefully the worst of them are behind me. Just in case, I will make sure to keep my health insurance current. Thank you Mr. President!

Dr. Pierre Bland is the owner of Dr. Bland's Vet House Calls. He can be reached at 954-673-8579 or at doctorblandvet.com.



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Caribbean

Haiti’s new prime minister faces instability, protests and delay

By **DAVID MCFADDEN**
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haiti has a new prime minister as it enters a phase of political uncertainty, with its parliament dissolved, opposition activists promising intensified street protests and its president ruling by decree because of a bitter standoff with lawmakers.

Prime Minister Evans Paul was selected last month but a political deadlock meant the Senate and Chamber of Deputies could not debate his nomination before their terms expired Monday.

Since President Michel Martelly can now rule by decree under the constitution, Paul automatically took

“It’s difficult to be approved by a parliament that is dysfunctional. And I’m not responsible for the dysfunction of the last parliament,” Paul, who was in the moderate opposition to Martelly before becoming prime minister, told The Associated Press.

The latest bout of political turmoil in Haiti has been brewing since shortly after Martelly took office in 2011 as a newcomer to politics with little support in parliament, which is critical in a country where the constitution deliberately curbs executive power.

Martelly was supposed to call elections in 2011 for a majority of Senate seats, the entire Chamber of Deputies and local offices. But six opposition senators used parliamentary procedure to prevent a vote while

the U.N. special representative in Haiti said Martelly has their support through the period of political flux.

During an AP interview at the prime minister’s official residence, Paul was sharply critical of violent anti-government street protests that have become increasingly common in downtown Port-au-Prince. Protesters calling for Martelly’s resignation have burned tires and thrown rocks at riot police, who responded with tear gas and water cannons.

“People have a right to peaceful protest, a right protected by our constitution. But there’s also people taking advantage of the situation and who want to create chaos,” said Paul, who replaced Laurent Lamothe after he was forced to resign as prime minister.

Earlier in the day, a group of anti-Martelly activists promised a fresh wave of street protests, insisting the president is a “dictator” who longs to rule by decree.

Haitian historian Georges Michel, who blamed both the government and the opposition for the impasse, dismissed that idea.

“You look at these protests calling Martelly a dictator who has to go and you see a thousand or a few thousand people on the streets. Is that really a big popular movement to remove a president? Of course not. Like him or not, he’s operating within the framework of democracy and I believe a majority of Haitians support him,” he said.

Others see the protests as a more troubling sign.

Mark Schneider, who has followed Haiti for the Washington-based International Crisis Group, said political leaders have failed the country’s citizens and set it on a very dangerous path.

“They allowed partisan and personal issues to carry the country over the cliff where the executive is ruling by decree and there is the greatest likelihood of political paralysis and street violence. These issues should have been resolved two years ago and they have been allowed to fester and now we are about to see the explosion,” he said via email.



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

Screaming at Bears

By **CALIBE THOMPSON**

True freedoms are part of the reason we leave the islands to take root in these foreign lands. From our homes where we are physically free but there are still colonialist undertones, the US, Canada and the UK seem to offer the greener grass of freedom to earn greater income and achieve much greater social status.

One of the freedoms our new first world homes tout above all others is the right to free speech. And while it’s a lovely idea, being able to say whatever is on your mind without fear of retribution seems to still be just an idea. The practice of indiscriminately free speech may have made sense before we knew that there were folks willing to strap bombs on and die to avenge the disrespect of their revered leaders, but now it’s getting another look.

There are religious radicals all over the world, both Christian and Muslim, who take their piety fueled discrimination to the extreme. But while those who are pathological will not be swayed from their missions of mayhem for any reason, it seems that if we would balance freedom of speech with respect and reverence for such things as religion, some of the heinous attacks of recent years might have been avoided.

Where some of us are from, there are folks who will end you just because you’ve accidentally stepped on someone’s toe. So those of us who care about ourselves and our families continuing to breathe may speak freely, but we’re careful who we offend. Even without threat of bodily harm, we’re mostly old fashioned when it comes to good manners. Sadly, in the first world fight for free speech, it seems that good manners got lost in the fray. We know that blurring the lines between free speech and disrespect may cost you your life. Sadly, more developed countries are now experiencing that reality in the worst of ways.

In light of recent events I think many of us would wonder, though you revere your right to free speech above all things, why scream at a hungry sleeping bear?

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF VE00Z.COM

HAITI'S NEW PRIME MINISTER: Evans Paul

office this week and began overseeing day-to-day government operations as the hemisphere’s poorest country faces social unrest that could undermine its fragile stability.

The former Port-au-Prince mayor said he deplored the fact that he was taking office without a vote and with no sitting parliament and blamed a group of opposition lawmakers for the deadlock. He said a new electoral council would be in place “in less than two weeks” to start organizing long-delayed legislative and municipal elections.

accusing the president of abusing his authority to appoint supporters to the electoral council and other posts.

Haiti’s parliament was unable to pass a law to organize the elections and extend lawmakers’ terms before it dissolved, on the same day the country marked the fifth anniversary of the devastating 2010 earthquake.

On Wednesday, the Organization of American States said it supported the efforts of Haitian authorities to “hold free, fair, and inclusive elections as soon as possible.” Earlier this week, a group of ambassadors and

The weapons of a movement.



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Comcast celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by honoring those who continue to march in his shoes.



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Opinion

Fear and sacrifice



THE
GANTT
REPORT

LUCIUS GANTT

I went to see the movie “Selma.” I enjoyed it. I enjoyed the fact and the fiction shown in the cinematic picture.

I enjoyed it because I lived it. My grandmother, Carrie Gantt, lived a few houses up from “Daddy” King’s house and a couple of blocks from his Ebenezer Church on Auburn Avenue.

I didn’t know Dr. King as a child but as a teen, I did attend Grady High School in Atlanta with King’s daughter Yolanda.

If you’re a regular reader of The Gantt Report, you probably know that my economic, political and social philosophy is a little different than Dr. King’s.

OK, OK! My philosophy is a lot different than the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior.

Dr. King truly believed in non-violence and I believe in using whatever strategies that will work when fighting for freedom, justice and equality!

Viewers of “Selma” know about Dr. King but they don’t know about Dr. King. All most of the movie goers know is what the ancestors of Dr. King’s enemies want you to know.

America’s devils only want you to know that King prayed, sang and marched!

But Dr. King was somewhat of a scholar. To perfect his change strategy, he studied civil rights and liberation struggles around the world. However, he was most influenced, some say, by the struggle for independence in India led by a small, frail man who preached and practiced non-violent civil disobedience.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi inspired Dr. King and Gandhi was the preeminent leader of the Independence movement in British-ruled India and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world.

There was a huge difference in the non-violent movements by the two men. Gandhi was supported by most people in India because most of the Indian people were being exploited and oppressed by the British and King had just as many haters as supporters and thousands of more enemies than Gandhi, in my opinion.

I hope most of the movie goers got a message from “Selma.” They will remember the beatings that were depicted in the movie but will they remember the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior that can help you in your life today?

For me, the main things that I learned from the life of Dr. King were about fear and sacrifice.

King taught me that a true freedom fighter, a true soldier for equal rights and justice has no fear whatsoever of his enemies! King wasn’t scared to stand up and speak out. King wasn’t even afraid to go to jail for what he believed in.

Also, to be a true community leader, you have to be willing to sacrifice. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior didn’t do what he did for monetary gain. He didn’t live in a White House or a mansion. King had a house in the hood like the people in his flock had. His children, Yolanda anyway, went to public schools not private schools with Secret Service body guards!

King’s children want money but their parents did not! Martin and Coretta wanted progress.

We have to understand that we can’t expect to see movies made about Nat Turner or Denmark Vesey. We won’t see streets named, buildings named or high schools named after some Black freedom fighters because we have to study and cultivate our own history, make our own movies and not settle for what devilish movie moguls want to produce and distribute.

I encourage you to see the movie “Selma” but you won’t impress me until you study the true life of Dr King and other black freedom fighters from America and from other countries around the world.

Anybody can go to google images, copy a picture of Dr. King and post it on Facebook or Instagram but that doesn’t show any love for King. Certain actions this time of year remind me of people who will burn a cross in your front yard one night and the next morning put a cross around their neck, attend your MLK rally and tell you how much they loved Martin. It is all just mis-directed symbolism!

Just eating popcorn and nachos and crying crocodile tears when activist get beaten on screen is not enough!

If you love the real Martin Luther King, stop being so scared to stand up for what you believe in!

Lucius Gantt is a consultant based in Tallahassee and author of the book *Beast Too: Dead Man Writing*. He may be reached at allworldconsultants.net

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RUTH JEANNOEL

The System Targets Black Lives Everyday

The deeply disturbing news that North Miami Beach police officers used mug shots of several black men for target practice is, simply put, absolutely disgusting. The action of these officers is deplorable and this behavior should be condemned by all people of good conscience.

But the issue at hand here is bigger than this case, these individual officers, or this particular police department. What we are dealing with is yet another example of the systematic de-valuing of black life that takes place in this society on a daily basis. The fact of the matter is that the system is always using us for target practice.

points to the deeper logic of white supremacy that is interwoven into the very conception of criminality and policing in America.

The idea of using photographs of black people for target practice is only possible within a context in which black skin is associated with deviant, criminal, and violent behavior. From the time our brains are capable of interpreting social cues, we are taught that it’s usually someone with a black face that is trying to get over, take what’s not theirs, or threaten the lives and property of other people. These messages are constantly reinforced through movies, television, and news media.

More importantly, the stigmati-

addressed simply by gaining the right to vote or making racial discrimination illegal. Dr. King recognized that our movement “*must address itself to the question of restructuring the whole of American society.*” He called into question the very legitimacy of an edifice that reproduces so much suffering despite having nearly endless resources at its disposal.

As we reflect on where we are in 2015, and look back on the state of the struggle during the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s, we see that while much has changed, the basic structure of American society has remained the same.

But we are living in exciting times when the prospect of deep change has fire and energy. Our movements are putting people into the streets and raising demands in ways many of us have never seen before. Our generation is calling for an end to state violence. We are calling for fair incomes and dignity at work. We are calling for climate justice. We have declared unapologetically that Black Lives Matter.

Superficial policy fixes will not quell our thirst for liberation. Nor will the firing of a few “bad cops.” In the spirit of Dr. King, the thousands of radicals that came before him, and the thousands that have come since, we are calling for the transformation of America. Anything less and we shall proceed, in the words of Dr. King, with a “divine dissatisfaction.”

“Let us be dissatisfied until America will no longer have a high blood pressure of creeds and an anemia of deeds. Let us be dissatisfied until the tragic walls that separate the outer city of wealth and comfort and the inner city of poverty and despair shall be crushed by the battering rams of the forces of justice. Let us be dissatisfied until those that live on the outskirts of hope are brought into the metropolis of daily security. Let us be dissatisfied until slums are cast into the junk heaps of history, and every family is living in a decent sanitary home. Let us be dissatisfied until the dark yesterdays of segregated schools will be transformed into bright tomorrows of quality, integrated education. Let us be dissatisfied until integration is not seen as a problem but as an opportunity to participate in the beauty of diversity. Let us be dissatisfied until men and women, however black they may be, will be judged on the basis of the content of their character and not on the basis of the color of their skin. Let us be dissatisfied.”

And might we add: Let us be dissatisfied until Black Lives Matter, until the targets come off of our backs, and until all people are free to live their lives in dignity and prosperity.

Ruth Jeannoel is Lead Organizer, Power U Center for Social Change.



When these types of stories come to light there is always an attempt by defenders of the status quo to eschew the idea that something is fundamentally wrong in this country. We are usually told that the theft of black life by the hands of police, other state institutions, or armed vigilantes is perfectly justifiable. This was the message delivered by the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s killer and the non-indictments of the officers who killed Mike Brown and Eric Garner.

In the case of the North Miami Beach Police Department, the Chief claims that there is nothing wrong with using black people’s faces for target practice. While most people, including many police officers, may denounce this act of blatant racism, we should not limit our criticism to the North Miami Beach Police Department (though they are certainly deserving of our outrage). What happened here in South Florida

zation of black people is solidified in policies that keep us at the bottom of nearly every quality of life indicator and result in our extreme over representation in the legal and incarceration system. Until the very foundations of white supremacy and capitalist exploitation are dismantled, black communities will remain pinned at the bottom of the American social hierarchy. Meanwhile, these cases of racial bigotry and police abuses will pop up to punctuate what is a steady current of disregard for our welfare.

It’s fitting that this story came to light on the eve of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. In 1967, in his final speech as President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. King warned that it would not be enough to simply integrate black people into the existing system. He understood that the deep issues facing black communities would not and could not be



THE POLITICS OF BLACKNESS

The hypocrisy of the manufactured hatred of success

When did success get to be a nasty word? Better yet, when did the successful get to be the dreadful villains? And finally, when did hatred of the successful get to be a political policy?

When Barack Hussein Obama aka Barry Soetoro moved into the White House.

Envy of other people’s success is nothing new. In fact, envy is one of the 7 Deadly Sins known to man as far back as the early Christian Church. But envy of other’s hard-earned success has now been transformed into a policy of “redistribution of wealth” promoted by POTUS 44.

It always fascinated me how people could hate folk they hardly knew just because they looked like they had a “better” life.

I once had a co-worker who would brag about how he used to beat up students in his school because they had “better” clothes. We all have heard stories about young black boys being beaten up just so thugs could steal their overly-priced Air Jordans.

Just this past December, all across the country, mobs of shoppers kicked, cursed and fought each other, sometimes even shooting guns - just to get the latest Air Jordans, which sold for almost \$200 in the stores and over \$600 on eBay.

Those same people who fought to pay \$200 for some stupid sneakers are the same people who rejoiced when Obama took the oath of office. Mostly minorities (Black, Hispanic) and young whites - all mostly lower income or NO income (welfare recipients) - some of the same types of people who joined some of the old pot-smoking long-haired white hippies and have now formed the Occupy Movement.

These are some of the same people expressing hatred for successful men and women, mostly white. But they seem to have nothing bad to say about music moguls, gangsta rappers or mega-millionaire jocks, mostly black.

Add to those categories the famous and infamous Hollywood stars, mostly Liberal.

How does someone who is willing to stand in horribly long lines to pay \$200 for some tennis shoes have the audacity to ridicule someone who spent long hours each day for years to build a business and financial security for his or her family?

How does a music mogul who made his millions by selling CDs with some of the most vile, vicious and violent lyrics in the industry have the nerve to complain about how someone made his fortunes and how much he should pay toward the betterment of society?

How does someone who leaves their home to sleep in tents in a government-owned park in the most squalid of conditions that rivals the villages in the Maasai Mara in Kenya on the East coast of Africa and eat food provided by somebody else for months have the cojones to spew venom at those who built a better home for themselves by working long hours for ten, twenty, or thirty years?

Those who joined the Occupy Movement and those who have just sat at home and complained that corporations are evil entities, rich people are selfish, and capitalism is the work of the devil and run by evil Republican warlords are myopic and hypocritical and have been used as pawns in the diabolical scheme to “fundamentally change” America.

All one has to do is look behind the curtain and see who’s pulling the strings. The young man who used to beat people up because he thought they had more than he did was moved to act in such a vicious way by someone else’s envy. And he became envious as well.

The Hungarian who has his hands (and his millions) in almost every global civil discord is a Socialist who wants to rule the world. Who fed the thousands of men and women who were sleeping on the ground in the parks around the country for all those months? Oh sure, there

were some unions who kicked in some funds, but most came from organizations owned by George Soros.

When Obama ran for President in 2008, nobody cared much about his politics, only that he was Black.

As a community organizer, his job was to teach his minions how to disrupt Corporate America, particularly the banking system and force them to loan money to low income people, mostly black, to purchase houses they couldn’t afford. So when Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac failed and the domino effect caused the greatest recession in recent history, the people who got forced loans were the first to falter.

Now as POTUS, this same former community organizer is continuing to promote class envy by blaming the wealthy 1% of the country as the reason the 99% is supposed to be suffering. But the 1% is not to blame and 99% of the people are not suffering.

In fact, over 40% of people don’t even pay taxes because they are either on government assistance or they don’t make enough money. So 60% of middle class and rich people pay 100% of taxes which finance 100% of government staff and government programs which the other 40% get for free.

So the hypocritical hatred and envy of successful people is manufactured by those who want total control over other people’s hard earned money. We used to be a nation where people valued success. Now success is a dirty word.

Sounds like a “fundamental change” in American values to me. But by now, isn’t Obama one of the 1%?

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

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Business

IRS taking steps to try to protect against identity theft

By CAROLE FELDMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rejected.

A notice from the Internal Revenue Service saying your return won't be accepted might be your first clue that your identity has been stolen.

"The IRS recognizes the first return submitted under a Social Security number, and usually the identity theft is identified when the second return is filed" under that same number, said Mark Luscombe, principal federal tax analyst for Wolters Kluwer Tax & Accounting, US.

Another clue might be an IRS notice saying you have unreported income. That could happen if someone steals your Social Security number and gives it to an employer to avoid being taxed on earned wages. You get the tax bill instead.

Identity theft could lead to long delays in getting your refund or bigger tax bills for unreported income.

"Tax refund fraud associated with identity theft (IDT) continues to be an evolving threat, one that imposes a serious financial and emotional toll on honest taxpayers and threatens the integrity of the tax administration system," the Government Accountability Office said in a report in August.

More than 236,000 tax returns processed last year were deemed fraudulent because of identity theft, and nearly \$1.2 billion in refunds from those fraudulent returns were blocked, according to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

The number of identity-theft returns is down significantly from 2012, and the IG said in a report last fall that new filters the IRS put in place to identify the crime may be responsible.

"The IRS is investing in that area," said Bob Meighan, vice president of consumer advocacy for TurboTax.

"People have to have confidence that the returns that they file are protected and secure," he said.

The IRS is providing identity-theft victims with a personal identification number to prove who they are when filing tax returns. In 2014, more than 1.2 million of these identity-protection PINs were issued by the agency, up from 770,000 the previous year.

The agency also has more than doubled the number of workers assigned to identity-theft cases since 2011, to about 3,000 in 2014, according to the GAO.

Beginning this year, the number of refunds direct-deposited to a single account is limited to three, another attempt to reduce identity theft. "The fourth and subsequent refunds automatically will convert to a paper refund check and be mailed to the taxpayer," the IRS said.

National Taxpayer Advocate Nina Olson wants the agency to do more.

She has called identity theft "an invasive crime that can have a traumatic emotional impact." She said early last year that she has called on the IRS to designate a single point of contact, someone who can provide "sensitive, holistic assistance" to an identity-theft victim.

Kathy Pickering, executive director of the Tax Institute at H&R Block, says prevention is the best defense. Don't give out your Social Security number or your date of birth, she says.

The IRS also advises people to protect their personal computers and Internet accounts, check their credit reports and avoid giving out personal information



ILLUSTRATION BY MUJRY/SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

over the phone, especially if you didn't initiate the call.

And beware of phishing attempts - online or over the phone that seek access to your personal information.

"The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information," the agency said. "This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels."

If you get a notice from the IRS that

leads you to believe you are an identity-theft victim, the IRS says you should respond immediately. The first step, the agency says, is to complete an Identity Theft Affidavit, Form 14039. It's available at www.irs.gov, and should be filled out and mailed or faxed according to the instructions provided.

If the issue remains unresolved, taxpayers should contact the Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NJREALTOR.COM

Jubliant first-time home owners.

Government policy change aims to help first-time homebuyers secure financing

By ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Uncle Sam wants to make it more affordable for Americans to buy their first home.

The recent policy changes affect government-backed home loans and could make it less costly for first-time buyers to come up with a down payment or to afford private mortgage insurance.

The changes center on the Federal Housing Administration and mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Last week, the Obama administration announced that the premium that borrowers with an FHA-backed home loan must pay for mortgage insurance will be dropped to 0.85 percent from 1.35 percent by the end of this month.

The move is estimated to save the average homebuyer \$900 a year, as well as help save money for homeowners looking to refinance their mortgage.

That followed an announcement last month that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which buy home loans from lenders and then package them as securities to be sold to investors, would be adopting new guidelines on down payments.

Specifically, the change would enable some borrowers to buy a home with a down payment as low as 3 percent, down from a minimum of 5 percent.

"These combined actions between the FHA, Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are a huge signal to the market that it's OK to lend to first-time homebuyers," said Nela Richardson, chief economist at real estate brokerage Redfin.

The share of U.S. homes bought by first-time buyers has been below average through much of the housing rebound. First-time buyers accounted for 31 percent of all previously occupied homes bought in November. That's well below the 40

percent that has been historically common.

For many, affordability remains an obstacle because they have insufficient savings or poor credit - hurdles that could keep them from benefiting from the recent loan policy changes.

Here are three things to keep in mind if you're considering applying for a home loan backed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or guaranteed by the FHA:

The Fine Print

The FHA's new 0.85 percent mortgage insurance premium is lower, but remains higher than historic norms. The rate was initially increased to raise FHA capital reserves, which took a hit during the housing crisis.

And the rate cut will do nothing to change the eligibility requirements for FHA-backed loans.

Not all borrowers will qualify for the 3 percent down payment on a home loan guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Under the terms announced last month, borrowers must have enough income to afford the monthly payments. And the rate is only good on homes that will be used as the borrowers' primary residence. Borrowers also will have to pay for mortgage insurance.

Freddie Mac's version of the loan program also requires that borrowers earn less than the median income.

Bank Lending Standards

FHA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have their own definition of a qualified borrower, but banks often go beyond these standards, raising the threshold for what it takes to qualify for a home loan.

Banks do this to shield themselves from the possibility that they might have to buy back loans they sell to the government should the loan go unpaid. That can happen if

the government determines that the lender failed to vet borrowers' creditworthiness properly.

"It could be something like a missing piece of documentation in the loan file that wouldn't necessarily cause the loan to default," said Tom Wind, executive vice president of home lending at EverBank.

However, the government has taken steps in recent months to clarify for banks the type of scenarios that would trigger a loan buyback in the future. That could motivate some banks to remove the additional credit standards imposed on government-backed mortgages.

Save by paying more

The low down-payment programs offered by government-backed loans help borrowers buy a home for less money upfront, but they can cost more over time, particularly when one factors in the cost of private mortgage insurance. While PMI is tax-deductible, consider paying more each month to help build equity in the home up to 20 percent. At that point, the borrower can apply to have the private mortgage insurance waived.

Generally, it's less expensive to get a conventional loan guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac because FHA charges higher premiums, even after the recent reduction. In addition, the interest rates are lower for conventional loans.

Fannie Mae also has a lower down payment requirement than FHA.

"The single best thing first-time homebuyers can do to improve their chances to qualify is to bring more money to the table for the down payment," said Sam Khater, deputy chief economist at CoreLogic, a real estate data firm. "Homeownership is about building equity, so anything that buyers can do to get a good start on building equity will help them achieve sustainable homeownership."

China's Xiaomi takes aim at Apple with new phone



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEVERGE.COM

Razor thin Xiaomi from China

By JOE MCDONALD
AP Business Writer

BEIJING - Rising smartphone star Xiaomi is moving up-market and taking aim at Apple's iPhone.

The Chinese manufacturer known for ultra-low-priced handsets on Thursday unveiled a new model that Chairman Jun Lei said is comparable to Apple's iPhone 6 but thinner, lighter and much cheaper. The phone starts at 2,299 yuan (\$375), less than half the 5,288 yuan (\$865) price of an iPhone 6 in China.

"We paid attention to every detail to make it as perfect as possible," said Lei, standing on stage before reporters at a convention center in Beijing.

Xiaomi, founded in 2010, passed South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. in the second quarter of last year as the best-selling smartphone brand in China by number of handsets sold. The company is expanding into India and other developing markets but has yet to announce plans to enter the United States or Europe.

The new Xiaomi could add to competition for Apple Inc. in China, a market CEO Tim Cook has said is expected to become its biggest. Other Chinese smartphone brands including Lenovo Group and Huawei Technologies Ltd. also have released models they say offer features similar to the iPhone but at lower prices.

Xiaomi "is a respected brand that already has an Apple-like following" in China, said analyst Brian Blair, who tracks mobile device makers at Rosenblatt Securities. Apple is still a relatively small player in China, selling about 45 million iPhones there last year, Blair estimates, but will continue to grow.

"Apple is very much a premium brand," said Blair. "The company that's more at risk is Samsung, which has been losing share in that market."

Wearing jeans and a blue button-down shirt with the sleeves rolled up, Lei showed a side-by-side comparison of Xiaomi's newest model, the Mi Note, and the iPhone 6, which went on sale in China in October. He said the processor power, performance and memory size were comparable and the Mi Note includes an improved camera.

While less expensive than an iPhone, the Mi Note's price is a departure for Xiaomi, whose other models cost as little as 699 yuan (\$114). Lei said the company will offer a professional version of the Mi Note with a more powerful processor and other features for 3,299 yuan (\$540).

Privately held Xiaomi said last year's sales tripled to 61.1 million handsets and revenue more than doubled to 74.3 billion yuan (\$12.2 billion).

The company, based in Beijing, recently completed a round of fundraising from investors that it said valued Xiaomi at \$45 billion, making it one of the world's most valuable technology brands.

Xiaomi ran into legal trouble in India in December after a court blocked sales while it hears a complaint by Sweden's LM Ericsson that the Chinese company violated its patents.

In a blog post earlier this month, Lei called the case a "rite of passage" for a young company.

Technology Writer Brandon Bailey contributed to this story from San Francisco.



NFL investigating whether Patriots used deflated footballs

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL is investigating whether the New England Patriots deflated footballs that were used in their AFC championship game victory over the Indianapolis Colts. “We are looking into it,” league spokesman Brian McCarthy wrote in an email to The Associated Press on Monday. “We do not have anything further to add at this point.” A halftime examination of each team’s footballs found 11 of the Patriots’ 12 game footballs were underinflated by 2 pounds per square inch. The inquiry was first reported by the website for WTHR-TV in Indiana, citing an unnamed source. “We’ll cooperate fully with whatever the league wants us to, whatever questions they ask,” Belichick said Monday during his regular conference call with reporters. He said he was unaware there was an issue until Monday morning. The Patriots have come under scrutiny with regards to NFL rules in the past, most infamously when they were punished for videotaping sideline signals used by the New York Jets during a 2007 game. Belichick was fined \$500,000, and the team was docked \$250,000 and stripped of its 2008 first-round draft pick. According to the NFL rule book, home teams are responsible for furnishing playable balls at all times. Each team brings 12 primary balls, while home teams are required to also bring 12 backup balls. Once the referee makes sure the footballs are properly inflated, they’re delivered to ball attendants provided by the home team. The league’s game operations manual notes: “If any individual alters the footballs, or if a non-approved ball is used in the game, the person responsible and, if appropriate, the head coach or other club personnel will be subject to discipline, including but not limited to, a fine of \$25,000.” Deflating a football could change the way it would

be gripped by a player or the way it travels through the air. The Patriots beat the Colts 45-7 to reach the Super Bowl. New England will play the defending champion Seattle Seahawks for the NFL title at Glendale, Arizona, on Feb. 1. Colts coach Chuck Pagano said he did not notice issues with the football. He did not specify when asked whether the Colts had reported the issue to officials. “We talk just like they talk to officials (before the game), we have an opportunity to talk to the officials about a lot of things, things that you’ve seen on tape like the formations we talked about last week,” Pagano said. “Every coach in the league gets an opportunity to visit with the officials about that kind of stuff before the game.” In Sunday night’s lopsided AFC finale, quarterback Tom Brady threw for three touchdowns and running back LeGarrette Blount gained 148 yards while scoring three touchdowns to send New England to its sixth Super Bowl in the past 14 years. Colts quarterback Andrew Luck had his worst game as a pro, completing only 12 of 33 passes for 126 yards, no touchdowns and two interceptions. On his regular weekly morning-after-game appearance Monday on WEEI radio, Brady said he wasn’t aware of the report about the league’s investigation into whether footballs were properly inflated against Indianapolis. “I think I’ve heard it all at this point,” Brady said with a laugh. “That’s the last of my worries,” he said. “I don’t even respond to stuff like this.”

AP Sports Writers Howard Ulman in Boston and Mike Marot in Indianapolis contributed to this report.



ILLUSTRATION BY MJURY/SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES



Lindsey Vonn

Tiger Woods

Woods shows up at Vonn’s super-G victory

By **ANDREW DAMPF**
AP Sports Writer

CORTINA D’AMPEZZO, Italy — The whole gang was there when Lindsey Vonn finally became the most successful women’s World Cup skier of all time. Her mother had come to Europe for the first time. The American’s once-estranged father came along, too. And then a masked man showed up as Vonn celebrated a super-G victory Monday for her record 63rd World Cup win to make the party complete. Wearing a mask with a skull design, boyfriend Tiger Woods weaved through the crowd unnoticed until he shared an emotional embrace with Vonn, who had no idea that the golfer was jetting to Europe for the occasion. “No way!” Vonn exclaimed when she spotted him. “It was an amazing surprise,” Vonn said. “I’m so happy that he’s here. ... Everyone important to me is here - my mom and dad and my sister and Tiger - it’s pretty incredible. I didn’t think it was going to get better than yesterday and today topped it. “I knew it was him immediately,” Vonn added. “He loves that stupid mask.” Vonn broke Annemarie Moser-Proell’s 35-year-old record of 62 World Cup wins with a flawless run down the Olympia delle Tofane course, finishing by a huge margin of 0.85 ahead of Anna Fenninger of Austria. It came a day after equaling the record with a downhill win on Sunday. “It’s funny for me to see that he has to wear a mask and hide,” Fenninger said of Woods. “He’s just a normal human but for us it’s a big thing that he’s here, because skiing is not as important like golf in the world.” Tina Weirather of Liechtenstein placed third, 0.92 back. “It’s such a big number,” Weirather, the daughter of champion skiers Hanni Wenzel and Harti Weirather, said of Vonn’s accomplishment. “I can’t even imagine winning so many races. She has done so much for the sport, because she’s a real superstar and that makes Alpine skiing more popular in the U.S. and Europe. We need people like that for our sport.” Vonn said Woods watched Sunday’s victory at home in Florida, so she couldn’t quite fathom how he made it to Europe so quickly. “I had no idea he was here,” Vonn added. “He told everyone to keep it a secret and I’m surprised. Normally no one can keep a secret in my family. ... He just showed up. ... He has a tournament soon. So he’s got a lot of work and I’m surprised that he was able to come all the way over here for a few hours to watch me ski.” A photo generated buzz about Woods missing his

front tooth. The culprit, according to his agent, was a camera. “During a crush of photographers as the awards podium at the World Cup event in Italy, a media member with a shoulder-mounted video camera pushed and surged toward the stage, turned and hit Tiger Woods in the mouth,” Mark Steinberg of Excel Sports said in an email. “Woods’ tooth was knocked out by the incident.” Race organizers said this was not reported to them. They added that Woods did request extra security and a snowmobile to exit the finish area, and organizers met both requests. “I was among those who escorted him from the tent to the snowmobile and there was no such incident,” Nicola Colli, the secretary general of the race organizing committee, told The Associated Press. “When he arrived he asked for more security and we rounded up police to look after both him and Lindsey.” Woods had been wearing a scarf with a skeleton pattern over the lower part of his face, sunglasses and a stocking cap. The photo was taken when the scarf was lowered. Woods first showed up in the athletes’ area when Vonn’s father, Alan Kildow, escorted him in shortly after Vonn took the lead. The golfer then surprised Vonn and gave the skier a hug. After 10 to 15 minutes of standing near Vonn with her family, Woods was shown into a white tent usually reserved for measuring skis. He stayed there for nearly an hour while the last lower-ranked skiers came down and during the podium celebration. After the podium celebration, Woods was accompanied by police to a snowmobile and taken away. Steinberg was traveling and did not say when Woods would have the tooth replaced. Golf’s biggest _ and most photographed - star returns to competition next week in the Phoenix Open, and his smile is sure to produce a stream of shutters from the cameras. Woods has a long history with cameras, often frustrated when shutters go off in the middle of his swing. One notable episode came during the Skins Game in 2002 when a corporate photographer clicked his camera as Woods was hitting a shot from the bunker on the final hole. His former caddie, Steve Williams, took the camera and set it on a steep bank of a pond so that it tumbled into the water. Another time, Woods was on the verge of his first bogey-free tournament at a World Golf Championship in Ireland when a camera clicked at the top of his tee shot. He made bogey, but still won.

AP Golf Writer Doug Ferguson in Honolulu and AP Sports Writer Andrew Dampf in Cortina contributed to this report.

Seahawks apologize for tweet comparing MLK, football

By Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Seattle Seahawks have apologized for a tweet that linked their improbable NFC championship game victory to Martin Luther King Jr. On Monday, the national holiday celebrating the slain civil rights leader, the team sent out a Twitter message that said, “We shall overcome.” The tweet featured a picture of an emotional Russell Wilson, the team’s quarterback, next to a quote from King and the hashtag MLKDay. Later, the team deleted the tweet and sent out an apology for poor judgment,” adding it was not the intent to equate football to “the civil rights legacy of Dr. King.” On Sunday, the Seahawks came from behind to defeat the Green Bay Packers 28-22. They will face the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl on Feb. 1.

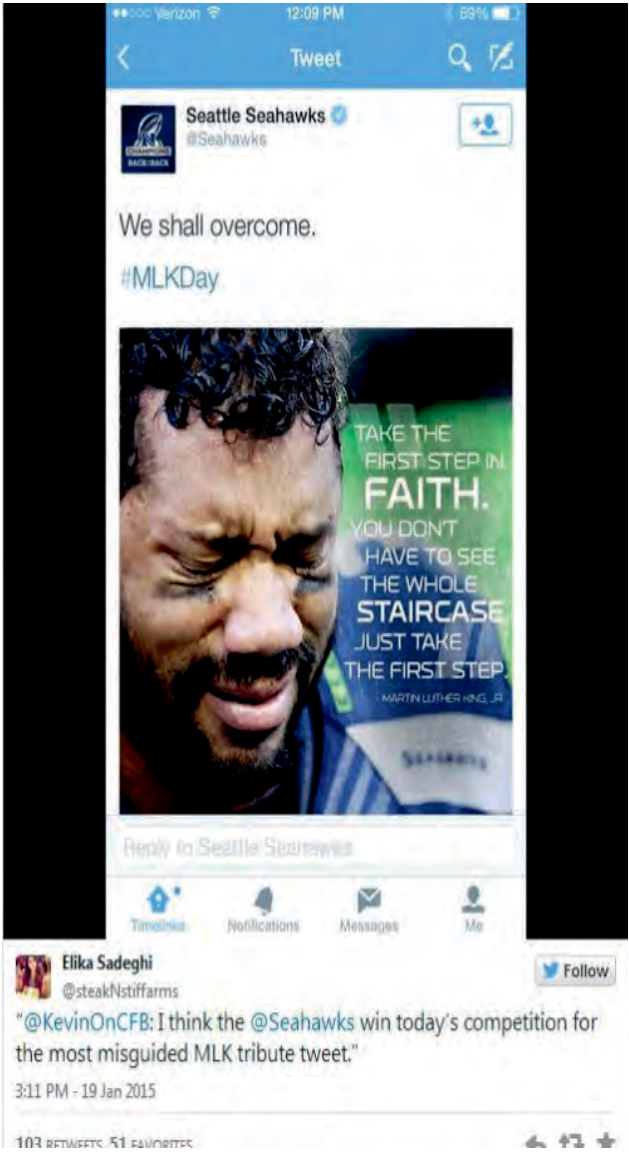


PHOTO COURTESY OF KICKOFFCOVERAGE.TUMBLR.COM

XXXX: Seahawks apologize for tweet comparing MLK and football The Seattle Seahawks have apologized for a tweet.

NEWS BRIEFS

Broward College, Strikers introduce business incubator

FORT LAUDERDALE — Broward College officials on Thursday introduced its new business incubator, the Innovation Hub at Broward College, at an open house on its Cypress Creek location. As part of the event, the College celebrated its partnership with the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, who will be collaborating with the incubator as they seek innovative solutions in sports business. Brazilian soccer legend Ronaldo, who is a part-owner of the Strikers, joined Broward College officials, along with Director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Jesse Panuccio and other local business leaders for a tour of the business incubator and discussion on possible opportunities.

The 5,400 square-foot Innovation Hub at Broward College is designed to be a mixed use business incubator, focused on housing a dynamic community of entrepreneurs, start-ups, mentors, advisors and investors, and serving as a one-stop resource for business owners, innovators and committed individuals pursuing their entrepreneurial ambitions. It will offer access to mentors – through Broward College’s collaborative partnerships with Broward SCORE, the Small Business Development Center and the Enterprise Development Corporation – as well as angel investors, including New World Angels. There will be seminars and workshops on various business topics focused on specific skills helpful to startup companies that will also be open to the public for a fee. This fee may be discounted or waived depending on the course and workshop. Through this intermingling of individuals and resources, the Innovation Hub seeks to serve as a business ecosystem that fosters efficiency and innovation.

Community Relations Board holds talks on trust of police

MIAMI-DADE — The county Community Relations Board is hosting a series of forums where residents and police officers can discuss concerns about interaction with law enforcement.

The first forum will be held 5 to 8 p.m. today at the South Dade Regional Library, 10750 SW 211th St. in Cutler Bay. Attendees can share insights and proposals with CRB members, law enforcement leaders and community activists. The goal is to reduce tensions and improve trust between residents and police.

Upcoming forums will be held 6:30 to 9 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Lehman Auditorium at Florida Memorial University, 15800 NW 42nd Ave.; and 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 11 at North Dade Regional Library, 2455 NW 183rd Street in Miami Gardens.

Rare WWII fighter planes headed to South Florida

BOCA RATON — In honor of our WWII Veterans, the Collings Foundation’s Wings of Freedom Tour is bringing extremely rare bomber and fighter aircraft to South Florida as part of 110-city nationwide tour.

Aircraft that will be on display include the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress “Nine O Nine” WWII Heavy Bomber, Consolidated B-24 Liberator “Witchcraft” WWII Heavy Bomber and P-51 Mustang fighter. The Wings Of Freedom Tour will be on display until Jan 25 at Boca Raton Airport Signature Flight Support, 3300 Airport Drive in Boca Raton.

The tour continues in Pompano Beach, Jan. 26 through 29, and Fort Lauderdale, Jan. 29 through Feb. 1.

Compiled from staff, wire reports

BROWARD

Chairman Monestime takes office



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI DADE COUNTY/RYAN HOLLOWAY

NEW LEADER: Chairman Monestime addresses his fellow commissioners and visitors to commission chambers in downtown Miami.

Staff Report

MIAMI-DADE — Miami-Dade County made history today when Jean Monestime, the first Haitian-American to serve on the Board of County Commissioners, took the oath as chairman and pledged to tackle the problem of economic inequality as someone who understands the struggles of the poor.

“Several decades ago, I arrived on the shores of Miami-Dade County as a teenage immigrant seeking a better life. Several decades later we are here experiencing the transformative power of the American Dream,” said Monestime, who was unanimously elected as chairman by his colleagues in November. “To the families and individuals in this community who are struggling to make ends meet, I understand the challenges you face.”

To address the income gap, he announced the creation of a new committee structure and a Chairman’s Council for Prosperity Initiatives.

Speaking to a chamber packed with supporters, dignitaries and family members, Monestime said the county is up to the challenge of addressing its problems.

“Our diversity is our strength. Our common goal is to build a stronger and most prosperous Miami-Dade County. Now is our time,” he said.

Newly installed Vice Chairman Esteban Bovo Jr. also took the oath of office.

Monestime represents a district that includes parts of Little Haiti, Liberty City, Arcola Lakes and North Miami. In his first term with the county commission, Monestime cites several actions that he considers accomplishments. Among them:

- Changing the small business set-aside program, increasing available contract funds by 10 times as much. The program has already doubled funds to small businesses participating in set-aside contracts.
- Sponsored an ordinance that would establish a local hiring goal for all construction contracts over \$1 million. That ordinance passed committee just the other day and will be considered by the full Board in a couple weeks.
- Sponsored changes to the Community Workforce Program so that those job opportunities, which are supposed to go to Miami-Dade residents, actually go to those residents.

Monestime also worked with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to ensure state support for a new Holiday Inn on Northwest Seventh Avenue, at the site of the old City Inn.

Monestime was first elected to represent District 2 in 2010, unseating longtime Commissioner Dorrin Rolle. He was re-elected in late August, beating back a challenge from Rolle. In his re-election bid, Monestime had key backing from prominent African American clergy and attorneys. Prior to his election, he served several years as a city councilman in North Miami.

BROWARD / PALM BEACH

ChildNet receives \$5,000 foster grant

Skills To Go Program introduces youth to career opportunities in technology



CARING FOR KIDS: Larry Rein, ChildNet Palm Beach County; Denise Caruso, AT&T; Pat Caruso, AT&T; Elizabeth Wynter R.B. Williams, ChildNet; Gloria Pazel, AT&T; Sarah Herceg, AT&T; Bill Pazel, AT&T; Louise Zehnder, AT&T

Staff Report

FORT LAUDERDALE — ChildNet, the community-based care lead agency in Broward and Palm Beach counties, received a \$5,000 grant from the local Florida Chapter of AT&T Pioneers to support foster care youth and young adults education and employment goals through the Skills To Go program.

The AT&T Skills To Go program has been successful in exposing youth to career opportunities in the technology and telecommunications fields. This grant will provide funding to support local foster care youth and young adults in Broward and Palm Beach County, offering a unique opportunity for these children to attain the training and supplies needed to further their career aspirations.

“Last year, 15 young adults in Palm Beach County and 15 in Broward County participated in the Skills To Go Program and field trip. The positive feedback and results were undeniable,” said Elizabeth Wynter,

director of community relations for ChildNet. “This program allows our community’s most vulnerable youth the opportunity to dream about educational and employment opportunities that will now be more within their realm of possibility. All they need is the help and support of organizations, like the AT&T Pioneers, that believe in them.”

AT&T Pioneers is a group of current and retired AT&T executives, staff and volunteers who effect immediate, tangible change in local communities. The organization is the recognized world-class leader in volunteerism and the world’s largest group of industry-specific employees and retirees dedicated to community service. Pioneers volunteer more than 15 million hours annually responding to the individual needs of their communities.

As the single private non-profit entity responsible for administration of the local child welfare system, ChildNet brings years of dedication to protecting abused, abandoned and neglected children in the communities it serves.

PALM BEACH

Mother to many: Theresa Peak helps children, young adults succeed



PHOTO COURTESY OF TYLER FEGLEY, PLACE OF HOPE

A REAL MOM: Theresa Peak, an on-site Residential Manager for Villages of Hope, recently was awarded the Guardians of Hope/Decade of Dedication award for her 10-year professional anniversary.

By MICHELLE BROWN
Special to South Florida Times

PALM BEACH GARDENS — When Theresa Peak joined the staff of Place of Hope 10 years ago, she had no idea she was about to become a mother to many.

But over the course of a decade, Peak, 45, has grown with the foster care organization, developing her education and skills, just as she has helped hundreds of young people develop their ability to cope with life’s challenges. Place of Hope Executive Director Charles Bender recently presented Peak with a Decade of Dedication-Guardian of Hope award for her dedication to the county’s largest foster care and child welfare nonprofit, and summed up her contribution this way:

“Theresa represents the type of parent that each of these children and young people deserve. She counsels them with honesty, maturity and love,” he said. “She has been a dependable force in their lives, encouraging, guiding and listening to them in way that makes them smile – and that is the heart of our mission.”

Peak is an on-site Residential Manager for Villages of Hope (VOH), a Place of Hope program that helps young people who age out of foster care transition successfully into adulthood on a campus-like setting in Lake Park. But in 2004, she started as a relief parent, working two days a week and one weekend a month in the foster care homes of Place of Hope Palm Beach Gardens’ gated neighborhood. She took the position on the

recommendation of a friend and saw it as an opportunity to impact young lives. At the time, she was a senior Central Control Officer for the Palm Beach Juvenile Detention Center, where she felt like she was reaching them too late.


“Place of Hope was still somewhat new, and I was going into the homes and seeing the challenges the foster parents were having with the kids. We were giving them the love and attention they needed to keep from going the wrong route,” Peak said. “The atmosphere was loving. I started off in the Brett Harris Weinstein Family Cottage, working with boys and girls. By the time I left, I had worked in all of the cottages, as well as the (Seven Stars’) shelter (for emergency services

PLEASE TURN TO PEAK/2B


Around South Florida



ELGIN JONES
EJones@SFLTimes.com




PRESIDENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS
Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush is off and running. The move is sending ripples through the field of potential Republican presidential candidates. Mitt Romney is now saying openly that he is considering another run and the polls has him out in front of Bush and others. Romney is now advocating measures to end poverty, believe it or not. Things are heating up and it should be an interesting political year.



SCOTT'S SCANDALS
The Republican Party of Florida has ousted Gov. Rick Scott's hand-picked chairman Leslie Dougher and voted in 44-year-old State Rep. Blaise Ingoglia instead. It is a defeat for Scott, who was riding high after easily winning reelection in November. What a difference a few months makes. Now there is a scandal brewing with Scott's ouster of FDLE head Gerald Bailey. Scott indicated Bailey had quit, which Bailey publicly denies. It now looks as if Bailey has gotten the same treatment as that of former Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll by Team Scott.

Palm Beach County



WORKER DEAD
Herminio Padilla Jr., a 48-year-old utilities worker at the East Regional Water Reclamation Facility in West Palm Beach, was found dead inside a sewer pipe. Police say his death appears to be accidental. He is believed to have fallen into a sewer tank and was sucked in the pipe.


NIT WIT
Marcel Holman, 25, was given an ultimatum to get a job or move out of the Delray Beach home where he was living as a border. He opted to go to jail instead of working and proceeded to break out his landlord's car window. He called police, told them what happened and was accommodated with handcuffs. He is charged with criminal mischief.

Broward County

VIOLENT ACCUSATIONS
Ahmad Ware, 16, of Ft. Lauderdale is charged with attempted murder and armed robbery. He is accused of shooting and robbing the victim, Kendrick Lemon, during a drug deal. Judge John Hurley set Ware's bond at \$150,000. This is a case of the dealer's word vs. the drug user's accusations.

BANKING ON KIA
Rick Case Automotive Group is set to open the world's largest car dealership in the world, according to company officials.


It will be a five-story Kia dealership in Sunrise at Sawgrass Mills. It will hold more than 600 cars and will eventually have 150 employees.



SUSPECT KILLED
Rontavis Holton, 21, was shot and killed by the victim of an armed robbery outside a Taco Bell restaurant in Pompano Beach. Ronald Farmer, 37, told Broward Sheriff's detectives that Holton was wearing a ski mask and sunglasses when he ordered Farmer at gunpoint to pull down his pants. Farmer then pulled his own weapon and shot Holton, who was pronounced dead after being rushed to a nearby hospital.


Miami-Dade County

CLUB ATTACK
Cody James Quaife, 34, is facing multiple charges after allegedly attacking a college student at the Cameo nightclub on Miami Beach, where he works as a bouncer. The attacked left victim, Youness Adlan, with multiple injuries including skull fractures. He remains in a coma.



TRADE RUMORS
Rumors persist that several Miami Heat players may be traded if the right offers are put on the table. Names such as Center Luol Deng and even Udonis Haslim are circulating. The Heat can still make the playoffs and if the rumors are true, they may be dumping

higher salaried players to begin an earnest rebuilding next year.



CHILD GANG RAPE
Seven men — Cornelius Edwards, Mark Evans, Jerome Grace, Greg Hill, Derrick Powell, Derrick Powell Jr. and Branden Sands — are facing charges related to the disappearance of a 16-year-old girl. The teenager was reported missing for several days and when she was located, she told authorities she had been gang raped, provided drugs and forced into prostitution. The investigation is continuing and there could be more arrests in the coming days.

Monroe County

HOMELESS SURVEY UNDERWAY
The annual count of the homeless will get underway next week around the country. The Florida Keys is no exception. Nearly 100 volunteers will begin counting the homeless, excluding those who are in jails. The federal government requires a Point-in Time (PIT) count, the results of which could impact homeless initiatives, potential funding or other resources and services.

NATURALIZED RELATIONS
A U.S. Congressional delegation visited Cuba to begin discussions aimed at normalizing relations with Cuba. Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson also traveled to the island. It's about time. Already, daily flights from Key West are being planned and people are lining up.

Peak helps foster children, young adults find their way

PEAK, FROM 1B

for boys).”

In 2007, Place of Hope received an opportunity to continue its work with the children who left the state system at 18 years old. Bender was approached by several supporters who were interested in finding apartments, which could be turned into housing for emancipated youth. At the time, only four organizations worked with kids who aged out and needed support with education, jobs and life skills. Bender created a position for Peak to help youth who would become clients of Villages of Hope.

“Tori was our first VOH kid. His sister, Cierra, had transitioned out of Place of Hope into a campus for emancipated youth, which turned out to be an expensive move,” Peak said. “Charles knew at that point that we wanted to offer similar services. When I took on the manager position, I became whatever these kids needed for me to be.”

Mother, aunt, counselor, driver, paperwork administrator, job locator, personal reference, nurse and friend – Peak covered the gamut of roles and continues to do so on Village of Hope's fully realized campus

of eight apartments, two cottages for extended foster care, JoAnn's Cottage maternity home and administration building. Currently, only Villages of Hope and Vita Nova serve emancipated youth for all of Palm Beach County, Peak said. In 2014, Villages of Hope gave 86 young people a place to live, while they worked toward successful independence.

Peak also grew with the organization, earning her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Management in 2014. She just began work on her Master's degree in counseling from Jacksonville Theological Seminary.

“I view what I do here as counseling, talking with them as they try to figure out what's next,” she said. “Some of them come to us homeless, but others come from households where there is simply no guidance, no instruction. This age is just as important as when they are little.”

Peak points to three success stories from Villages of Hope who let her know that what she does matters greatly. Maculene St. Louis came to VOH at 18 with a determination to leave by 23. Although she arrived needing a job and in debt, she would leave with a full-time job, thanks to a summer program brokered by VOH at the Department

of Families and Children, and with a healthy savings account.

Taquioya Hall also arrived at 18, and Peak remembers her as a loner, who rarely smiled. However, during her time at VOH, Bender caught Hall smiling and laughing with Peak, who made it possible for the young woman to trust someone. Hall graduated the program with a license in cosmetology and is a senior cashier at Home Depot.

And lastly, there is Dawn Turner, a young woman who Peak said, “turned around, came back and gave back.” Turner survived homelessness to become a homeowner through Habitat for Humanity. She works for JoAnn's Cottage as a Family Support Worker and also serves on the Board of Directors for Habitat.

When Peak worked for the Juvenile Detention Center, she remembers trying to help children who were accused of setting fire to a warehouse. The children were so young that the center had no clothes small enough to fit them. It was those memories that spurred her to step in wherever she could to turn the tide for other young people without caring caretakers.

“What I've learned is that you have to have patience,” Peak said, laughing. “And that the bond between me and these kids is really real.”



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Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE OF MEETINGS MEETINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION		
Date	Meeting	Place
2/11/15 9a	QSEC Review of Contractors Pre-Qualification/ReCert.	ISSC - Rm. #323 7720 W. Oklnd Pk Blvd., Sunrise
2/25/15 9a	QSEC Review of Contractors Pre-Qualification/ReCert.	ISSC - Rm. #323 7720 W. Oklnd Pk Blvd., Sunrise
2/12/15 9a	Central Area Adv. Steering Committee	ISSC 7770 W. Oklnd Pk Blvd., Sunrise
2/19/15 9a	Central Area Adv. General Meeting	Plantation High School 6901 NW 16 th Street, Plantation
2/16/15 6:30-9p	District Adv. Council (DAC) General Meeting	KCW Bldg. 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
2/11/15 5-6:30p	District Adv. Council (DAC) Steering Meeting	KCW Bldg., 10 th Floor 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
2/3/15 9:30-11:30a	ESE - Autism Committee of ESE Advisory (ACE) General Mtg.	Baudhuin Preschool 7600 SW 36 th St., #2218, Davie
2/3/15 11:30a- 12:30p	ESE - Autism Committee of ESE Advisory (ACE) Exec. Board Mtg.	Baudhuin Preschool 7600 SW 36 th St., #2218, Davie
2/23/15 10a-1p	ESE - Planning Task Force Committee	Arthur Ashe Campus, Rm. 177 1701 NW 23 rd Ave., Ft. Laud.
2/27/15 10a-12p	ESE - ACE Exec Board Meeting	Dunkin Donuts 9740 Griffin Rd., Cooper City
2/25/15 6:30-9p	ESE Advisory Council General Meeting	Piper High School, Sm.Aud. 8000 SW 44 Street, Sunrise
2/5/15 10a-12p	ESE Adv. Exec. Board Mtg.	West Regional Library 8601 W. Broward Blvd, Plantation
2/6/15 10a-1p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 3151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
2/13/15 10a-1p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 3151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
2/20/15 10a-1p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 3151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
2/27/15 10a-1p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 3151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
2/19/15 10a-2p	ESE - Down Syndrome Task Force Committee General Mtg.	West Regional Library 8601 W. Broward Blvd, Plantation
2/9/15 9:30-11a	ESE - Down Syndrome Task Force Comm. Exec. Board Mtg.	JAFCCO 5100 Nob Hill Rd., Sunrise
2/5/15 6:30p	Facilities Task Force - General Mtg	Dillard High School-Rm 209 2501 NW 11 th Street, Ft. Laud.
2/19/15 7p	Gifted Advisory	ITBA
2/24/15 8:30-10:30a	Instructional Materials Policy 6308 Change Committee	KCW Bldg., 13 th Floor 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
2/19/15 7p	North Area Advisory Council - Gen. Mtg	Coconut Creek Elementary 500 NW 45 th Ave, Coconut Creek
2/19/15 6p	North Area Advisory Council Steering Committee	Coconut Creek Elementary 500 NW 45 th Ave, Coconut Creek
2/9/15 6p	Parent/Community Involvement Task Force	McFatter Tech Center - Bistro 6500 Nova Drive, Davie
2/12/15 6p	Parent/Community Involvement Task Force	McFatter Tech Center - Bistro 6500 Nova Drive, Davie
2/19/15 6p	Parent/Community Involvement Task Force	McFatter Tech Center - Bistro 6500 Nova Drive, Davie
2/25/15 6p	Parent/Community Involvement Task Force	McFatter Tech Center - Bistro 6500 Nova Drive, Davie
2/11/15 8-10a	Policy 6000.1 Committee	KCW Bldg., 13 th Fl. Conf. Rm 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
2/25/15 8-10a	Policy 6000.1 Committee	KCW Bldg., 13 th Fl. Conf. Rm 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
2/25/15 10a	Superintendent's Ins. Advisory Committee (SIAC) (Purpose: Discussion on various Employee Wellness Initiatives and any other matters the Committee deems important. Telephone conferencing or other telecommunications technology may be used in the conduct of this public meeting to permit absent Superintendent's Insurance & Wellness Advisory Committee Members to participate in discussions, to be heard by other Committee Members, and the public, and to hear discussions taking place during the meeting.)	ISSC (Lobby) 7770 W. Oklnd Pk Blvd., Sunrise
2/25/15 2-4p	Supplier Diversity & Outreach Adv. Committee	ISSC (Lobby) 7770 W. Oklnd Pk Blvd., Sunrise
2/9/15 2:30-4:30p	Technology Advisory Committee (TAC)	BECON - MGM Room 6000 SW Nova Drive, Davie

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

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

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE OF MEETINGS	
2/3/15 10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3rd Ave., Ft. Laud. •Special School Board Meeting/Expulsions •Regular School Board Meeting
2/10/15 10:00 a.m.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3rd Ave., Ft. Laud. •School Board Workshop
2/24/15 10:00 a.m.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3rd Ave., Ft. Laud. •School Board Workshop

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

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

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.

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Obituaries

2 Tuskegee Airmen die on same day

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clarence E. Huntley Jr. and Joseph Shambrey grew up running track together in the same Los Angeles neighborhood in the 1930s.

When World War II broke out, they enlisted in the Army and jumped at the chance to join the all-black group of soldiers known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

After the war, they came back home together, married their respective sweethearts and rarely let a month pass without getting together or talking by phone.

So it was ironic but perhaps not all that surprising when both died on Jan. 5 at 91.

“They were friends all the way to the end,” Huntley’s nephew, Craig Huntly, summed up in an interview Monday with The Associated Press.

“As soon as I got the word that my uncle had died,” he said, “one of the first people I began calling was Joe. And I got no answer.”

After their enlistment in 1942, both men quickly set out to be part of what was then called the Tuskegee Experiment — the formation of the U.S. military’s first all-black squadron of pilots. The group went on to take part in more than 15,000 combat missions, earning over 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses.

As Tuskegee Airmen mechanics, Huntley and Shambrey did what they could to make sure the planes stayed in the air until the mission was over.

“When a pilot would go out, he would say, ‘This is my plane. You bring my plane back, please,’” Ron Brewington said.

Brewington, president

and historian of the Los Angeles chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc., said his group has only 20 members of the elite group left after the passing of Huntley and Shambrey. Most are in their 90s.

Counting pilots and ground personnel, there were perhaps as many as 19,000 Tuskegee Airmen,

Brewington said, but there are no accurate figures on how many are still alive.

Craig Huntly said his uncle and Shambrey weren’t looking to be pioneers or heroes when they enlisted. They were simply serving their country in a war abroad against fascism and one at home against racism.

“At that time black servicemen were pretty much relegated to menial type work and my uncle didn’t want to do that,” Huntly said. “But he was aware of the Tuskegee Experiment and how important it was.”

Not that it would bring a change in race relations immediately.

Years later, Shambrey would recall getting off a train in segregated Alabama where a hospitality station was welcoming returning white troops with handshakes and free coffee.

“When he and his buddies came off, dressed in their uniforms, of course they didn’t get any congratulations,” said Shambrey’s son, Tim. They even had to pay for their coffee.

By coincidence, Shambrey and Huntley were dispatched to Italy together in 1944 and came back home together.

As the years passed, neither man talked much about his military service, which isn’t unusual for Tuskegee Airmen, Brewington said.

Shambrey would throw barbecues from time to time and invite his old military buddies. As many as 150 people would attend.

Huntley’s daughter Sheila McGee said he had a ready answer when people asked about his service: “I was doing what I was supposed to do, and that was to serve my country.”

Both men served again during the Korean War, as combat engineers.

After their military years, Shambrey worked for the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Huntley worked as a skycap at airports in Los Angeles and Burbank, a job he held until his late 80s.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARHISTORYONLINE.COM

Clarence E. Huntley Jr.



Joseph Shambrey

JAY'S FUNERAL HOME



ESTHER MAE DEAN, 76, Housewife, died January 19. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday, January 31, at Church of Christ Written In Heaven.

SCHREETCH BARTHELEMY, died. Arrangements are incomplete.

SHARON CAMPBELL, 56, Manager, died January 13. Funeral was held 10 am Wednesday at Faith Christian Center.

RUDOLPH DAVIS, 86, Engineer, died January 2. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday at Faith Christian Center.

ALFREDA JACKSON, 57, Housewife, died January 14, 2015. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Full Deliverance Baptist Church.

MARY JOHNSON, 84, Retiree, died January 8. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Second Baptist.

LYNDA SIMPSON, 66, died January 14. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Zion National Church of God.

LARRY WILLIAMS, 52, Cook, died January 13. Arrangements are incomplete.

HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - MLK



GLORIA JOHNSON, 82, Retired Educator, died January 14, at Baptist Hospital. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Church of Ascension.

ROY MIZELL & KURTZ FUNERAL HOME



CLEMANTINE ALDRED, 93, of Fort Lauderdale, died January 13. Funeral will be held 1:30 pm Saturday at Roy Mizell & Kurtz Worship Center.

JAMES A. BREEDLOVE, 78, of Fort Lauderdale, died January 16. Funeral will be held 9:30 am Saturday at Roy Mizell & Kurtz Worship Center.

ERVIN JENKINS, 87, of Fort Lauderdale, died January 13. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Roy Mizell & Kurtz Worship Center.

LUCY MAE CATHERINE PENN, 74, of Dania Beach, died January 13. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday at Golden Heights Church of Christ.

ADELL SEABROOKS, 86, of Fort Lauderdale, died January 13. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday at Roy Mizell & Kurtz Worship Center.

WADE FUNERAL HOME



GERALDINE GREER, 70, Housing Specialist, died January 9, at home. Memorial Service was held 5 pm January 21, at Wade Funeral Home Chapel.

MINISTER BRANDI MCPHERSON, 28, Customer Service Representative, died January 11, at home. Service was held Saturday January 17, at Greater Wards Chapel AME Church.

HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - Miami Gardens



KRAIG TAYLOR, 41, CNA, died January 13, at Jackson North Hospital. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

HALL-FERGUSON-HEWITT MORTUARY



NORRIS JOHNSON SR., 67, Retired Security Guard, for MDCPS died January 14. Funeral will be held 2 pm Thursday, at Hall-Ferguson-Hewitt Chapel.

RUBY PERKINS, 100, Home-maker, died January 15. Funeral will be held 11 AM Saturday at First United Methodist Church.

JAMES RUCKER, 43, Sales Realtor, died January 15. Final Rites will be held in Jackson, Mississippi at Jackson Memorial Funeral Services 922 West Woodrow Wilson Avenue Jackson, MS 39213.

ANNIE R. SCOTT, 81, Retired Environment Service Worker, for JMH, died January 17. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at St. Matthews Freewill Baptist Church. Final Rites in Tallahassee, Florida.

DEZIREE P. WRIGHT, 58, Dietitian, for Spirit of Christ Daycare, died January 17. Funeral will be held on 11:30 am Saturday at Spirit of Christ Ministries.

JAMES C. BOYD FUNERAL HOME



PATRICK HUGH TAYLOR, 51, died. Funeral will be 11 am Saturday at James C. Boyd Memorial Chapel.

BABY GIRL INDYIA NICOLE WHIGHAM, died January 14.

CAREY ROYAL RAM'N FUNERAL HOME



HORACE CARRINGTON, 82, died January 20, at Cleveland Clinic Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.

BLANCA B. LACAYO, 65, died January 18, at Vitas Healthcare of West Palm Beach, Funeral 10 am Saturday at the Church of God In Christ of West Palm Beach.

DOROTHY MORTIMER, 82, died January 8, at Jackson Nursing Home. Funeral 12 noon Saturday at New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church.

DATILUS TERTILIEN, 72, died January 18, at Martin Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.

JOSEFA MARIN TORRES, 90, died January 15, at Kendall Regional Medical Center. Funeral 2 pm Saturday in Carey Royal Chapel.

WRIGHT & YOUNG FUNERAL HOME



CATHERINE LAYNE, 79, died January 11. Funeral will be held 2:30 pm Saturday in the chapel.

NAKIA INGRAHAM FUNERAL HOME



JAMES TISDALE, 52, Code Enforcer, for Town of Pembroke Park, died January 17. Funeral 11 am Saturday at New Macedonia Baptist.

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Prayerful Living

“DON’T WE ALL HAVE ONE FATHER?”



On Jan. 9, I was asked to bring greetings at a gospel Shabbat service, at Temple Beth Torah, a Jewish congregation. This was a Martin Luther King celebration and God gave me words on diversity.

We live in a diverse world — one I believe God created. Therefore, we all have the same father. Most people believe there is a God, and only one God. Regardless of what we call Him; Yahweh, Allah, Jehovah, Brahman, or God; He is still the same God, the one who made us. God meant for there to be diversity, and He ministers to us in a diverse ways.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.” I agree. Dr. King believed as Bishop T. D. Jakes and I believe integration was the key. If this is so, then why has integration failed? First, too many of us think in order to be accepted we must change who we are. Second, too many don’t practice integration, they practice tolerance.

Bishop Jakes says, “Tolerance is overrated — tolerating differences is politically correct, but tolerance requires patience and patience runs out. In order for people to feel fulfilled in life, they must be much more than tolerated, they must feel accepted for who they are and their needs and desires must be met, before there can be any successful integration or union”.

In the above scripture the Prophet Malachi (2:10-16) addresses two issues that provoke God: our giving and our divorcing. God’s children were cheating Him in their giving, and in their marriage to idol worshippers, as well as too easily divorcing the wives of their own nation.

To address this Malachi (2:10) raises three profound questions. “Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?”

Malachi is saying when we deal treacherously with God in covenant issues and relationships — like marriage and tithing — we defraud Him. To God, this is morally harmful. Then the cords that bind us to Him and to one another are broken, and this opens the door to all manner of injustice and dishonesty.

Corrupt practices are the genuine fruit and by-product of corrupt principles. The badness of men’s hearts and lives lead to loose and dangerous notions about society. Then we see the fabric of a morally just and sound community unraveling.

“Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?” (Malachi 2:10 ESV)

Dr. King also said, “There comes a time when one must take the position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but he must do it because conscience tells him it is right.”

To have successful integration there must be diversity in society. Diversity allows people to be who they are. Then we better meet their needs and desires and allow for a more successful integration of our communities.

Dr. King was such a loving and powerful force in society, his good self-concept was the key to his thinking on integration and diversity, and that’s why in the ’50’s he could lead such a diverse movement.

In a sermon preached in Chicago in 1967, King illuminates this as he said, “Before I was a civil rights leader, I was a preacher of the gospel. This was my first calling and it still remains my greatest commitment. You know, actually all that I do in civil rights I do because I consider it a part of my ministry. I have no other ambitions in life but to achieve excellence in the Christian ministry. I don’t plan to run for any political office. I don’t plan to do anything but remain a preacher. And what I’m doing in this struggle, along with many others, grows out of my feeling that the preacher must be concerned about the whole man.”

As I closed my message at the Temple Beth Torah, led by the Holy Spirit I used words from a hymn, and then invited the congregation to sing with me, When the Saints Go Marching In:

“We are traveling in the footsteps
Of those who’ve gone before
But we’ll all be reunited
On a new and sunlit shore
O when the saints go marching in
O Lord, I want to be in that number”!

As we sung and I took my seat, all were singing together these words, and the Holy Spirit took over the place, it felt for a few moments we were in the New Jerusalem at the Pentecost.

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

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"Elevating the Dialogue"



technology



Photographer Austin Mann used iPhone 6 in panorama mode.

PHOTO COURTESY OF APPLE.COM



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER.COM
Austin Mann

Apple turns stores into galleries for iPad, iPhone artists

NEW YORK (AP) — Apple is turning its retail stores into art galleries featuring the work of professional photographers and other artists who use iPads, iPhones and Mac computers to create.

Travel photographer Austin Mann used an iPhone 6 to take otherworldly panoramic photos of an Icelandic glacier. Mann, who recalls mowing lawns for a summer as a seventh grader to save up for his first, bright green iMac in 1998, says his use of an iPhone and high-end cameras is “split pretty even” when it comes to professional work.

“In the photography industry especially, when you are getting started you are always seeking gear, ‘If I could only get this \$1,000 lens,’” he says. Using just an iPhone to take great photos encourages people to “shift away from focusing on gear and equipment.”

Apple commissioned the work of 12 artists at various stages of their career to create works meant to inspire. Showcasing the people who use its technology — in this case, painters, photographers, filmmakers and other visual artists — is a shift for a company long focused on making its products front and center. The artwork, done on iOS devices and Macs using various apps, is displayed on Apple’s website as part of an ad campaign called “Start something new.” And the Cupertino, California-based company is replacing all product signage in its retail stores with the artwork.

Just as technology has transformed the way we work and interact with one another, it has also changed the way we create. For painter Roz Hall, that’s meant shifting away from the canvases and acrylic paint he started out using in art school to an iPhone app called Brushes. After not painting for many years, Hall in 2010 read about a group of artists

who started using their iPhones and sometimes iPads, which had just come out.

“I had an iPhone at home and I downloaded the Brushes app,” he says. “That was a wonderful, simple application.”

It was also challenging. When he painted on a canvas, he painted life-size works. Painting on a 3.5 inch-screen was an entirely different thing.

“What I liked about it was that there was no setup,” Hall says. With all the prep work that comes with traditional painting, he says, “by the time you have everything out the moment has (often) passed.”

Hall, whose website lists exhibitions in cities from San Francisco to New York to Shanghai, says he has not painted traditionally for many years. And he prefers painting on the iPad to using a traditional computer. Using the app Procreate to paint with his fingers on the iPad, “you don’t feel like you are fighting a computer to create your art. You feel connected to the artwork,” he says. “When I first used an iPad, it made me think of cave paintings, or when a child first paints using their finger.”

While some artists may look at digital painting as “cheating” — after all, you can delete mistaken brush strokes — Hall, who lives in Britain, thinks it actually makes artists more daring.

“If you spent 50 pounds (\$75) on canvas and another 50 pounds on paint, at some point you are going to get careful. You don’t want to waste what you spent,” he says.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF APPLE.COM

Roz Hall used iPad Air 2 and Procreate to paint his portrait series.

Alistair Taylor-Young, whose photography career spans two decades and has shot for fashion icons such as Armani and Fendi and magazines ranging from Conde Nast Traveler to French Vogue, took photos of rainy cityscapes with the iPhone 6 for Apple’s project. “Crystal Mosaic” uses the phone’s own camera app to bring drops of rain on glass into focus, showing ordinary scenes through a different perspective.

Taylor-Young bought an iPhone in 2007, when they first came out. Having worked with Polaroid cameras early in his career, he found the quality of the original iPhone’s camera very similar.

“It was quite soft and the colors were muted and distorted,” he says. “The moment I picked up the phone and started taking pictures, it reminded me of photography in its infancy. You couldn’t focus, change exposure. You just saw something and took a photo.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF APPLE.COM

Japanese-born, London-based illustrator Nomoco used the Brushes Redux App on an iPad Air 2.

film



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLLIDER.COM

THE WEDDING RINGER: (From Left) Doug Harris as Josh Gad and Kevin Hart as Jimmy Callahan show their “moves.”

Hart scores in ‘Ringer’

By **KIMBERLY GRANT**

Special to South Florida Times

In *The Wedding Ringer*, Doug (played by Josh Gad) pays Best Man, Inc. extraordinaire Jimmy Callahan (Kevin Hart) to pretend to be his best guy friend, Bic Mitchum, at his wedding. That seems easy. All Bic has to do is learn as much about Doug as possible to actually pass for Doug’s old friend. Bic, by the way, happens to be a military chaplain in the U.S. Army who has done tours in Afghanistan. Okay, so it’s not easy, nor is it a simple plot. Except, the film dives headfirst into the raunchy, R-rated arena to bring a male version of *Bridesmaids*.

In the script by screenwriters Jeremy Garelick (who also directed) and Jay Lavender, Bic and Doug comically form a bond over their shared love of being misfits. They form an unlikely union and fall in friendship in this instantly classic bromance. Hart and Gad actually have great chemistry even though, on

the outside, they look very mismatched. The rest of the cast includes Affion Crockett, Jenifer Lewis, Joe Garcia, and Whitney Cummings.

It’s easy to wrongfully write off *The Wedding Ringer* as another white film where a black man shucks and gives his way into a white audience’s comedy-loving hearts. You’ve got Hart playing a man who gets paid to be another man’s best man at his wedding. That plot point in itself has all kinds of connotation, considering that most black actors and actresses are usually relegated to playing the best friend in big budget films. Only, this time, Hart is a bigger star than Gad. Hart is also a comedian to his core and he obviously plays well with white audiences, which is why he has reached A-list status and can almost carry a film on his own.

But I digress. Hart, in an obvious mash-up of *The Wedding Planner*, *Hitch*, and the *Hangover* franchise, is funny and, thankfully, does not get consumed in coonery, a term some of you may not know. It refers to a

black person belittling themselves for the enjoyment of a white audience. This type of acting occurred a lot in the early part of the 20th Century because those were typically the only black roles available. A great example is Prissy the house servant (Butterfly McQueen) in *Gone With the Wind*. That’s where the phrase, “I don’t know nothing ‘bout birthing no babies!” came from. Gladly, we, the black community, have graduated from that type of entertaining.

This is a chick flick that for men. All of the chick flick and dude movie tentpoles are there (minus things exploding): weddings, flowers, bridesmaids, and an awesome wedding planner for the ladies to watch and a crazy bachelor party, the nuances of guy code, and hot girls for the men. This also makes *The Wedding Ringer* a great date film. Another great aspect of the film, other than the great comedy, is that it doesn’t specifically have a cookie-cutter happy ending. It’s a bit messy.

There is a lot of idiotic, cock-eyed, nincompoopery in *The Wedding Ringer* that’s just a tad on the offensive side. Like, when Doug accidentally sets his fiancé, Gretchen’s (Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting), grandmother (Cloris Leachman) on fire. Or, like when Gretchen’s father, Ed (Ken Howard), bullies Doug on the football field, because Doug is more of a lover and not a fighter. There’s also an unfortunate incident with a dog and some peanut butter, but it’s all in good fun.

Surely, everyone has seen the commercials touting the great audience reactions to the film and how hilarious they found it. They’re not off the mark. *The Wedding Ringer* is quite funny. It also makes you think about your own relationships and if the one you’re with is the right one for you. Because, Doug doesn’t just need his bride to love him, he also needs a good guy friend to hang out with and share a drink. After all, if this film doesn’t prove anything else, it makes one heck of a statement that friends are in fact the family that you choose. They’re also the ones who will fake being a U.S. Army chaplain for a few weeks; just to impress your fiancé’s family.



Jimmy (Kevin Hart) is on the run.



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Reggie (Affion Crockett), left, Endo (Aaron Takahashi), Otis (Corey Holcomb), Doug Harris (Josh Gad), Jimmy Callahan (Kevin Hart), Nadia (Nicky Whelan) and Kip (Alan Ritchson) in Screen Gems' *The Wedding Ringer*.

pop culture



PHOTO COURTESY OF JMARINA ABADJIEFF

Antibalas

ON THE COVER

PHOTO COURTESY OF MODLIN.RICHMOND.EDU
Zap Mama



PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLERY/HIP.COM/ BANBU.LT
African Drums Djembe

Rhythm of Afro beats: Antibalas and Zap Mama announce first-ever national tour

Staff Report

SOUTH FLORIDA — America’s premier afrobeat band, Antibalas, is teaming for a tour with Zap Mama, Marie Daulne’s international polyphonic vocal group, that will travel across North America in January and February.

Their show comes to South Florida at two venues. On Friday, the bands will perform outdoor doors in the Gosman Ampitheater at Kravis Center, 701 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL. Then, on Saturday, they head south for a performance at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, 10950 SW 211 Street in Cutler Bay.

The Congo-born artist Zap Mama and Brooklyn-based Antibalas join to celebrate the evolution of contemporary Afro music. From Afrobeat to Afro-Pop rhythms, Zap Mama mixes African vocal techniques with European polyphony. Featured in Broadway’s Fela!, Antibalas effortlessly seams Afrobeat with New York City Latin, funk and traditional drumming of Cuba and West Africa.

Antibalas, founded in 1998, evolved out of the same Brooklyn-based musical nucleus as Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings, and emerged onto the world music scene around 2000. After years of heavy international touring the band rose

to greater prominence in 2007 for its role in the musical direction of the Broadway musical Fela!.

“I’ve been a fan of Zap Mama for 20 years. We’ve never had the chance to collaborate before, nor with any other group on this scale. This is a thrill and a privilege for us to be working together,” said Martín Perna from Antibalas. “I think the energies and talents of each group are complementary and really exciting things will happen when we get to perform.”

The concerts will feature a brand-new presentation, deeply combining the two groups into one show specially created for this tour. “Every time I do a tour, I want the show to have its own unique story arc which, even if it’s not explicitly expressed, still gives a certain flow or cohesiveness to the presentation,” says Zap Mama founder Marie Daulne. “I’m very excited to explore the intersections between our globally influenced vocal harmonies and the polyrhythmic rhythms of Antibalas. I’m sure it will be an exciting and fun journey.”

Antibalas (Spanish for “bulletproof”), is a Brooklyn, NY- based big band inspired by the golden age of West African and Afro-Caribbean musical styles of the 1970s as well as the jazz and improvised music traditions of their native New York. Members of Antibalas are sought-after session and touring musicians, regularly recording and performing with a spectrum of artists including the Roots, TV on the Radio, Jovanotti, Arcade Fire, Allen Tousaint, David Byrne and St. Vincent, Angelique Kidjo, and Betty Lavette.

Zap Mama, is an all-female troupe of afropop vocalists based in Europe who first created a sensation in the US world music scene in 1991 with their critically-acclaimed self-titled release on David Byrne’s Luaka Bop label. Marie Daulne, known worldwide as the creative force behind Zap Mama, redefines the word “vocalist” by creatively expressing sound and storytelling through tone and pure voice. Melding afropop and with American and European urban music using ethnic polyphonic vocal structures, Zap Mama is a world-music revue that can transport the listener around the globe in the course of a song.

Tickets for the Kravis performance are \$15. Picnic baskets, lawn chairs, blankets and non-alcoholic beverages are welcome in the Gosman Amphitheatre. For more information, please call 561-832-7469 or visit the official website at kra-vis.org. Tickets for the South Dade show are \$25-\$45. Contact the box office by calling 786-573-5300 or online at SMDCAC.org.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JURGEN ROGIERIS
Zap Mama



Fairy tales come alive with music, laughs in ‘Into the Woods’

Staff Report

MIAMI — *Into the Woods*, the Tony Award-winning musical comedy by Broadway legends Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, plays Jan. 22 – Feb. 15 in the intimate Carnival Studio Theater (Ziff Ballet Opera House). *Into the Woods* is a magical story that reimagines classic fairytales such as Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and more.

Into the Woods features an all-star cast comprised of local talent and New York-based actors including Broadway’s Tituss Burgess (Jersey Boys, *The Little Mermaid*, *Guys and Dolls* and TV’s “30 Rock”) and Arielle Jacobs (*In The Heights*). *Into the Woods* is the inaugural production by DreamCatcher Theatre, a new South Florida-based company led by Miami native brother-sister team Natalie and J.J. Caruncho, and the Arsht Center’s latest arts partner.

Tickets to *Into the Woods* are \$50 and may be purchased through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office by calling (305) 949-6722 or online at www.arshtcenter.org.

Under the direction of Justin Fortunato, DreamCatcher Theatre and the Arsht Center’s production of *Into the Woods* takes place in the fairytale kingdom of the Brothers Grimm where, once upon a time, a baker (J.J. Caruncho) and his wife (Arielle Jacobs) were sent on a quest into the woods by a

mysterious witch (Tituss Burgess). Thrust into a world of magic and adventure, they find their story intertwined with a group of legendary characters including Cinderella (Annemarie Rosano), Little Red Riding Hood (Magan Dee Yantko), and a certain young man named Jack (Bruno Vida) who happens to have some very magical beans.

The musical’s creative team features direction by Justin Fortunato; music direction by Robert Neumeyer; choreography by Kiesha Lalama; Ron Castonguay as conductor; set design by April Soroko; costume design by Alberto Arroyo; lighting design by Bryan Kaschube; sound design by Rich Szczublewski; and prop design by Jodi Dellaventura.

“We’re thrilled to welcome DreamCatcher Theatre – our newest collaborator and a creative partner that shares our



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTIST MANAGEMENT
Tituss Burgess stars as the Witch.

belief on the transformational power of theater,” said Scott Shiller, executive vice president of the Adrienne Arsht Center. “All eyes are on *Into the Woods* as the Hollywood film debut of the beloved musical proved to be a holiday blockbuster. We’re excited to keep the momentum strong as we present the theatrical version – starring a brilliant mix of nationally-recognized and local superstars. This is a show for all ages and for all time!”

“DreamCatcher was founded of the deep belief that the stories we choose to tell, and how we tell them, truly matter. There is no better story to start our journey than *Into the Woods*,” said Natalie Caruncho, co-artistic director of DreamCatcher Theatre. “We have assembled a brilliant cast who are not only accomplished storytellers, but who also share our vision that great theatre can change lives. And we are so excited to be able to tell this beautiful story in partnership with the Arsht Center as part of their 2014-2015 Theatre Up Close season. We look forward to having all of South Florida come out to dream with us!”



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAN TURI
Dreamcatcher Theatre - Natalie and JJ Caruncho

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTIN NAMON
Little Red, Jack, Baker’s wife, and the Baker look up at a giant in a scene from *Into the Woods*.

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fashion



ILLUSTRATION BY ERICA BROWN / SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

Rosamund Pike, Amy Adam, Viola Davis, Uzo Aduba, Jennifer Lopez and Lupita Nyong'o

The redheads take it on the Golden Globes carpet

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — *Gone Girl* actress Rosamund Pike kicked off the glam on the Golden Globe Awards red carpet in a white, skin-baring gown just a few weeks after giving birth.

She earned wows from mamas everywhere wearing a Vera Wang Collection gown with large cutouts showing off her midriff, a low neck and a strappy back.

Ahead of the Beverly Hills, California, awards night hosted by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association was a parade of white, silver and red — with some black thrown in a la Amal Clooney with a pair of long white gloves to match.

Amy Adams, star of *Big Eyes*, went for a soft blue, one-shoulder Versace with classic draping across the front and a bit of drama in cascading folds at the back. John Legend's wife, model Chrissy Teigen, wore unusual long sleeves on a Zuhair Murad beaded sheath in rosy blush.

Lena Dunham, who often goes her own way on red carpets, was remarkably restrained in classic red.

"I'm wearing Zac Posen, my former baby sitter," she told E! "I'm sure my parents paid him, like, \$4.75 an hour. It was the late '90s."

She was matchy-matchy with her *Girls* co-star Allison Williams, for color anyway. Dunham's gown was smooth while Williams' Armani Prive was full-on beaded ruffles. Helen Mirren also wore red, a fine silk Dolce & Gabbana with stone detail.

Williams wanted a "real girl" dress after her turn as Peter Pan.

Also extending the red trend last year was Viola Davis, the *How to Get Away with Murder* star who stunned in a silk Donna Karan Atelier strapless with pleats and mirrored sequins on the corset.

Davis was joined on Planet Awesome by Uzo Aduba of *Orange Is the New Black*. She

chose designer Randi Rahm and a gun metal halter look with all-over beads and crystals.

Presenter Jennifer Lopez went for Old Hollywood in a silver Zuhair Murad art deco inspired caftan with a full cape, high slit and plenty of décolletage.

"I love him. He's one of my favorite designers," she said.

Fashion darling Lupita Nyong'o was in fluttery purple that faded to white at the bottom, while Naomi Watts walked with husband Liev Schreiber in a questionable yellow color but nicely cut silk strapless column gown from Gucci — and a stunning Bulgari diamond snake necklace.

Emily Blunt wore a full white couture gown by Michael Kors. The color made her nervous, she said, considering an early rain that cleared by carpet time, but "mainly because I'm clumsy and I have a baby that can spill stuff on it."

She added to E!: "It's a little soggy at the bottom."

Foxcatcher actress Sienna Miller had a bad bridal night on the carpet in an ill-fitting, heavily embellished white Miu Miu.

Long, sideswept hair had a moment. A va-va-voom buxom Jessica Chastain did it well when she paired her red hair with a shiny black Versace, low-cut and daintily knotted at the belly button.

The red heads ruled. Julianne Moore wore a silvery embellished custom Givenchy Haute Couture by Riccardo Tisci that went from embellished silver metallic sequins to black ostrich feathers at the bottom as she chatted about playing dress up.

"I think the fashion game has changed considerably in the last 10 years or so. We have access to things that we really didn't have access to before," she said. "It's really fun."

Co-hosts Tina Fey and Amy Poehler — in the first of many looks for the evening — evoked Mutt and Jeff, Fey in a bubbly look that was white in the front and black in the back and Poehler in loud blue with fabric to spare.



JENNIFER LOPEZ

THE BOY NEXT DOOR



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HIS OBSESSION.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES presents A BLUMHOUSE/SMART ENTERTAINMENT/NUYORICAN production A FILM BY ROB COHEN JENNIFER LOPEZ "THE BOY NEXT DOOR" RYAN GUZMAN JOHN CORBETT IAN NELSON AND KRISTIN CHENOWETH MUSIC BY RANDY EDELMAN NATHAN BARR EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS COUPER SAMUELSON JEANETTE VOLTURNO-BRILL ZAC UINTERMAN PRODUCED BY JASON BLUM AND JOHN JACOBS COSTUME DESIGNER ELAINE GOLDSMITH-THOMAS BENNY MEDINA JENNIFER LOPEZ WRITTEN BY BARBARA CURRY DIRECTED BY ROB COHEN
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STARTS FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES

events calendar

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

January 22 – 28

JANUARY 22

Clematis by Night: Enjoy a relaxing evening underneath the stars and listen to the sounds of Making Faces. The West Palm Beach-based band offers a mix of rock and reggae for a unique sound. Grab a bite to eat from a local vendor and chill. 6 p.m. at 101 N. Flagler Dr., West Palm Beach. Free. 561-822-1515.

Concert Under the Stars: Enjoy music by the University of Miami Frost Opera Theater. Listen to the music while enjoying wine, dessert and coffee sponsored by Whole Foods Market. 7 to 9 p.m. at the Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, 900 N. Birch Rd., Fort Lauderdale. \$40, \$35 Bonnet House members. 954-703-2614.

Democratic Women's Club of NE Broward: The group celebrates the 42nd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. There will also be a discussion on what to expect in the 2015 Florida legislature. Refreshments will be served. 7 p.m. at the Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 NE Sixth St., Pompano Beach. Free. 954-942-8711.

JANUARY 23



PHOTO COURTESY OF FANPOP.COM

Fey



PHOTO COURTESY OF POPSUGAR.COM

Louis-Dreyfus



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEEKYNEWS.COM

Colbert

The Second City Hits Home: Chicago-style comedy comes to town with the improv group Second City! Known for launching the careers of some of comedy's most famous names (Tina Fey, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Stephen Colbert), the Improv troupe is sure to make you laugh. Expect fun sketches, songs and more using local headlines. 7:30 p.m. at Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$39. 954-462-0222 or www.browardcenter.org.

Jan. 23



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Courtney Mickens

Soul in the City: Neo-soul singers Courtney Mickens and Nicole Clark perform. Mickens and Clark are alums of the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center. The concert includes appetizers served by the Northwestern Culinary Academy. 8 p.m. at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave., Miami. \$15. 305-638-6771.

StepCrew: The group performs their mix of Irish Step, traditional tap, and Ottawa Valley step dancing for a style all their own. The dancers will be joined by a five piece Celtic band and singer. 8 p.m. at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, 10950 SW 211th St., Cutler Bay. \$15-\$35. 786-573-5316.

Jan. 23

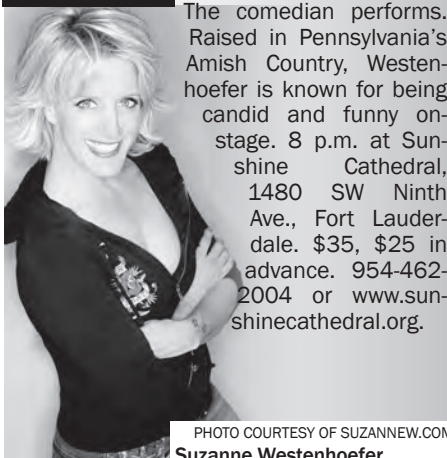


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUZANNEW.COM
Suzanne Westenhoefer

Suzanne Westenhoefer: The comedian performs. Raised in Pennsylvania's Amish Country, Westenhoefer is known for being candid and funny on-stage. 8 p.m. at Sunshine Cathedral, 1480 SW Ninth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$35, \$25 in advance. 954-462-2004 or www.sunshinecathedral.org.

JANUARY 23

Weston Winter Safety Expo: It will "snow" in Weston at this interactive safety expo, which features police, fire and rescue vehicles, booths and displays. Listen to music, dance and enjoy a hot chocolate and cookies! Take pictures in the Winter Wonderland photo area and watch presentations by the Broward Sheriff's Office, SWAT, the bomb squad and more! 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Tequesta Trace Park, 600 Indian Trace, Weston. Free. 954-389-4321.

JANUARY 24

The National Water Dance: Dale Andree, director of National Water Dance, presents a site-specific performance at the beach. The performance includes students from New World School of the Arts, Jubilation Dane Ensemble and Momentum Dance Company. National Water Dance is dedicated to using movement to bring awareness to save the environment. 5 p.m. On the sand behind the North Beach Bandshell, 7275 Collins Ave., Miami Beach. Free. www.nationalwaterdance.org.

The Rainbow Fish: Children are sure to be entertained and learn about sharing with this musical stage production. The Rainbow Fish is considered beautiful because of her shiny scales and she learns the true meaning of beauty when she shares her scales with others. 1 p.m. at Bailey Concert Hall, 3501 Davie Rd., Fort Lauderdale. \$10, \$5 children under 4. 954-201-6884.

Jan. 24

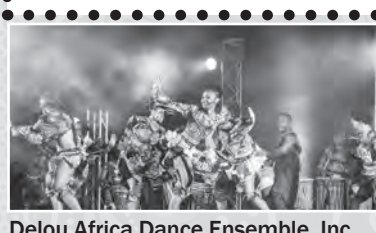
Seeds of the African Diaspora



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DELOU AFRICA



Delou Africa, a local educational and performing arts organization present an afternoon of live dancing, drumming and music. Delou Africa is focused on presenting West African Culture. 1:30 p.m. at the Adrienne Arsht Center Knight Concert Hall, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Free. 305-949-6722.



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