

OUR NEXT ISSUE



Keeping Black History Alive
365/24/7


SPECIAL SECTION/1D

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Jasmine Guy stars in celebration of Harlem Renaissance

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After the flood and before ...

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Education destroys the grip of homelessness



Priscilla Taylor, Mayor of Palm Beach County gives the keynote address at the graduation ceremony for Miami-Broward Rescue.

By MARGARITA SWEETING
Special to South Florida Times

When they came to Miami from Las Vegas in 2014, Robin Gottschalk and her pregnant daughter Crystal Gottschalk were looking for a new beginning. Robin couldn't find a job and relatives convinced her she'd have a better chance in Miami. Six weeks later they were walking in the streets with nowhere to go.

Robin and Crystal were two of more than 150 men and women who graduated during a special ceremony on Saturday from special programs offered by the Miami Rescue Mission designed to help the previously homeless regain the skills and resources needed to get off the streets.

"Now, I'm working full-time and my daughter is working part-time and going to school at Miami-Dade," said Robin, 56, who lives with Crystal, 20, and her son, Hezekiah I, in housing provided by the mission.

With the theme, "Diamonds in the Rough," the ceremony encouraged graduates to dream. "I don't care how old you are. You're never too old to learn. Just look around. Inspiration is all around," said keynote speaker Palm Beach County Mayor Priscilla Taylor.

For Robin and Crystal, that inspiration came from their faith in God.

After leaving their relatives, they were taken in by the Sisters of Charity in Miami and told they could only stay for three weeks. Meanwhile, Crystal was due to give birth. On their last day with the sisters, she went into labor and spent the next four days in the hospital. Desperate, Robin called a hotline hoping to get shelter if not for herself, at least for Crystal and her newborn son. On the last day in the hospital a van came to pick up Crystal and Hezekiah but Robin was to be left behind.

"It was hard. I saw them get into this van, I didn't know where they were going, I just knew they were going somewhere safe," said Robin.

She backed away from the van as it pulled away wondering what she would do next. Then, the van came back around and the driver signaled to her to come back. Crystal had pleaded with them not to leave her mother behind and they went back for her.

"I got in and we all just started crying, Crystal was crying, I was crying, the driver, everybody was just crying," she said.



Daughter and mother, Crystal and Rboin Gottschalk, respectively, graduate from Miami Rescue Mission

PALM BEACH



RIVIERA BEACH MLK BANQUET: Donna Brazile speaks passionately about the perspective of MLK in 2015, at the banquet on Friday, January 23.

Donna Brazile speaks of Obama, King, and personal responsibility

By DAPHNE TAYLOR
Special to South Florida Times

A few hundred people turned out last Friday night in Riviera Beach to hear Democratic strategist and political commentator, Donna Brazile as she defended President Barack Obama and praised the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Brazile was the keynote speaker at the Riviera Beach Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Banquet held at the Hilton Oceanfront on Singer Island in Riviera Beach. The honorable U.S. Congressman Alcee Hastings was master of ceremonies.

"I'm ready to defend the President on his State of the Union speech," said the commentator. "All the others want to do is whine, and block," she said, speaking of Congress, which is known for putting up roadblocks on the President's legislation. "I'm so glad Obama has discovered his pen (veto power). I have his back, and I know you do too," she said to the crowd at the black tie affair. "Our work is not done. When you take down walls, it sometimes leaves debris. And sometimes that debris is racism!"

Brazile urged the audience to see

the movie, Selma, produced by Oprah Winfrey and actor Brad Pitt among others. In Washington, D.C., Brazile and some other friends and supporters raised \$175,000 to take middle school children to see the compelling movie. She urged the audience to take a child to see the movie, which depicts the violence blacks confronted when trying to gain the right to vote during the Civil Rights era.

In a fiery speech, Brazile posed the question: 'What would Dr. King think of the world in 2015?' She gave a rousing answer, as she pointed out that Dr. King was more than just "a dreamer."

"Dr. King was not naive," she said. "He didn't think that protests and speeches would change consciousness."

So what would Dr. King think of the world we now live in? Brazile answered poignantly. "He would be delighted that President Obama was elected and re-elected. But he would be disturbed about the racial gap that remains between blacks and whites in terms of opportunity. He would be disturbed that too many kids are born into poverty. He would demand

PLEASE TURN TO BRAZILE/2A

STATE

Marissa Alexander, finally free

By KYOTO WALKER
Special to South Florida Times

After serving three years of incarceration, the Florida mother who fired a warning shot near her allegedly abusive and estranged husband has been set free. Marissa Alexander, of Jacksonville, was released from a correctional institution Tuesday, January 27. She left a Duval County courthouse a free woman after a judge ruled that she will not serve any additional jail time. Alexander was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2012 for the incident but the ruling was overturned. She could have potentially received up to 60 years in prison



Marissa Alexander gives a statement to the media after her sentencing in Jacksonville, Fla., Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015. Alexander, who claimed self-defense after prosecutors say she fired a gun at her estranged husband and his two sons, will be released from prison as part of a plea agreement for time served.

PLEASE TURN TO ALEXANDER/3A

MIAMI-DADE



Betty T. Ferguson



Oliver G. Gilbert III

Ferguson challenges Miami Gardens

By JARRELL DOUSE
Special to South Florida Times

With the opening of a new city hall, new leadership and a \$60 million general obligation bond, things seem to be going well in the City of Miami Gardens—for some, at least. Others, some

Miami Gardens' residents, are questioning the city's decisions. Former Miami-Dade Commissioner Betty T. Ferguson a Miami Gardens resident who was instrumental in the city's creation, is chief among those who challenge

PLEASE TURN TO MIAMI GARDENS/2A

Ferguson remains an agent for change

MIAMI GARDENS, FROM 1A

the city's contracting decisions.

On Jan. 15 a city council meeting reconvened following a deadlocked decision on the hiring of a new planning and zoning management firm on Dec 15.

The impasse began after Mayor Oliver G. Gilbert III and a few City Council members voted in favor of Calvin, Giordano and Associates, a firm that is already benefitting from several multi-million dollar contracts awarded to them by the city. Local residents and several council members prefer to award E.L. Waters and Company, LLC, with the contract - he is black and a resident of the predominantly black city.

While Waters isn't the only viable option for the contract that will be paid for with bond money, many support him because of his ties to Miami Gardens and is said to be reputable throughout the state for his workmanship.

Former Miami Gardens councilman Ulysses "Buck" Harvard, a proponent of Waters and Company said, "The city was originated to bring the government to the people." He said that Water's race isn't a factor. "I would like to see him awarded the contract because it would be nice to see someone who is from Miami Gardens who understands the City ... who has the respect and reputation to get the job done and so happens to be black."

Although Waters and Company is comparatively smaller than its larger competitors Calvin Giordano and Associates, Harvard said that Waters' profile proves he has the ability to "build capacity based on workload."

Mayor Gilbert said he is not budging from his support of Calvin, Giordano and Associates, because they "have the capacity and manpower to handle several projects simultaneously." Gilbert acknowledged the "passion in the room," but said, "The great things Waters and Company has done don't match the needs of the City."

Former Miami-Dade Commissioner and one of the city's founders, Betty T. Ferguson, read a three-paged speech at the meeting to explain why she supports Waters.

"Miami Gardens was instituted to provide opportunities to blacks that were not being given by the county. That was the driving force to create the City of Miami Gardens. So [it is difficult] to sit back and watch this city we struggled so hard to create start to operate just like the county was operating at not giving to blacks who were qualified and were ready for opportunities."

Ferguson said that Mayor Gilbert's rationale sounds familiar.

Though Gilbert isn't in favor of E.L. Waters and Company for the bond money, he is, in support of creating opportunities for blacks to do business with the Citys he says.

"The largest project in the city's history is the City Hall project ...Skanska International was the primary contractor. The subcontractors that had substantial participation were Foster Construction, Al Hill Plumbing, Copeland Construction, Toole Corporation and Garth Solutions—they are all black. The idea that the City doesn't do business with black businesses is challenged by the facts," the Mayor said

«I heard what the mayor said. Not only did I hear what the mayor said, it is the same thing that the county was saying to [us]. I was a county commissioner for 11 years ...I have heard it all," Ferguson said.

"He cannot come up with any excuse I have not heard... When do we as black people get a chance to grow our businesses?"

That chance is now. The mayor and his advocates were voted down in a 4 to 3 decision in favor of Waters and Company.

"Show us the money," Ferguson said.

Graduates of homelessness reveal courage



KHARY BRUNING/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

Graduates of Miami-Broward Rescue rejoice.

RESCUE, FROM 1A

They arrived at the rescue mission and Crystal and her son were taken to an upstairs area for families while Robin was downstairs in an area for overnights. Eventually, however, she was taken upstairs and the three of them called the mission home until the first week of January when they moved into their two-bedroom home in Allapattah.

"One thing I have to say, other places considered us two separate families because Crystal is over 18. But not here. They see us as one family and wanted to keep us together," said Robin.

Crystal added, "I was glad we were together even though it was hard living like that with so many different people. It's constant change. But, I had my mom and I had God. I just kept going because I know that God is always with me."

Holding on to God is a foundational truth for the mission and it was highlighted in every aspect of the graduation.

"We restore lives through the power of God," said Miami Centers Director Antonio Villasuso.

The Miami Rescue Mission, along with its Broward outreach centers, is a non-profit organization that provides food, shelter, job training and other services to the homeless of South Florida with locations in Miami, Hollywood and Pompano Beach, Florida.

Brazile challenges every politician to do more

BRAZILE, FROM 1A

that we do something about our public schools. He would demand that we take action NOW. He would challenge every politician in this room to do more. He would be alarmed at the mass incarceration of our young black men. He would say, 'stop killing our young people,'" she said, referring to youngsters Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner and others. "He would also call out attempts to dismantle equal opportunity and Affirmative Action," she added. "Dr. King would not be popular today, because he would take on all of these issues. It's not enough to remember Dr. King and his legacy, and not be compelled to act," said Brazile, urging the audience to get involved.

Brazile said she stopped going on TV shows where she was the token black political strategist and commentator. "I'm on TV because I fought. And I kept talking. But I don't want to be the only one of *anything*, she reiterated. "Dr. King was not for tokenism. He was not about grandstanding!"

Brazile said the last 10 years have been difficult ones for her. "But my work is not done. There are days when I want to slow down. The last ten years have been most difficult. It took me to go on national television to get help during Hurricane Katrina for my sister, who is disabled. She was left to die. I called Wolf Blitzer (CNN news anchor) personally." She eventually provided help for her sister, who survived the hurricane.

But it was her persistence that got her developmentally disabled sister out alive. "We have to remain vigilant," she told the crowd. "We must also vote, ladies and gentlemen. We cannot expect change if we do not get involved in the process. Hold on to your hope and faith. It's easy to become apathetic and to give up. Dr. King held on to his hope and faith. Had he lived, he would have inspired us to move forward. How should we proceed from here? We will continue to fight. We would keep the faith! Dr. King's legacy remains vital to the future of America! This is our moment. Don't stop marching. This is our time! God will use each and



ALAN LUBY/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

RIVIERA BEACH MLK BANQUET: U.S. Congressman Alcee Hastings served as Master of Ceremonies and is photographed with Riviera Beach Councilman Bruce Guyton, Donna Brazile and Council Chairwoman Judy Davis.

every one of you. God will make a way!" she concluded.

Brazile received a standing ovation. She mingled with the crowd, taking pictures and signing autographs.

Eureka Irvin, Chairwoman of the Riviera Beach MLK Planning Committee, said Brazile was an excellent choice as speaker for the banquet. "She was an excellent choice - I knew she would be. Before taking on any task I ask God for direction. I asked Him to give me a speaker to seek after I heard her name whispered in my ear. Sometimes I think we forget the simple things - like all people matter and change is not awful thing but you need courage for it. Ms. Brazile reminded us of that. I'm beyond pleased with the banquet and all of the month's MLK events in the city of Riviera Beach. I look forward to next year."

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Marissa Alexander

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Twenty years sentence reduced to time served and house arrest

ALEXANDER, FROM 1A

with a new trial.

The decision to send Alexander to prison for the incident received an outcry of injustice and racial inequality from her supporters from across the nation, especially in light of the recent acquittal of George Zimmerman, a white self-described community watch volunteer, who followed a black teenager, Trayvon Martin, as he was walking home from a local store in Sanford, Florida, engaged in an altercation with the youth and subsequently shot the teen to death.

In November, Alexander pled guilty to three counts of aggravated assault with a weapon in exchange for credit for time served, according to a report on the website MSNBC.com. A second trial had been planned for December in which Alexander could have potentially received a 60 year prison term if convicted, the site revealed.

Alexander, 34, who holds an MBA and is the mother of three, maintained that she was defending herself from her estranged and abusive husband, Rico Gray, nine days after giving birth, when the warning shot was fired, according to the website freemaris-sanow.org. Gray has been arrested for domestic violence twice and in a prior incident injured Alexander to the point that she had to be hospitalized, the site claims.

Reportedly, Judge James Daniel denied the state's request for an additional two years of probation and instead ruled that Alexander will serve two years of house arrest while wearing an ankle monitor, this was a part of an agreement reached in a plea deal last November.

Alexander's case has been ongoing since August 2010 and at a press conference in front of a Duval County courthouse, she thanked her supporters after being released from custody. "Although the journey has been long, and there have been many difficult moments, I could not have arrived here, where I am today without the many thoughts and prayers of so many people who have voiced their support and encouragement," Alexander said as she tearfully read from a prepared statement. "Words could never express my gratitude for those who have stood by me, including my children and family. I look forward to the full-time challenges of getting my two teenagers through high school and then college, as well as preparing my four-year-old daughter for nursery school."

Alexander also stated that she was grateful that Daniel handled her case with care and diligence. She said that she hopes everyone involved with the case will be able to move forward. Alexander added that she will continue to learn from this experience and the events from her past but she will not live in the past.

Nation

UN council calls for vote, inclusive governance in Haiti

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Visiting members of the U.N. Security Council on Sunday called for Haiti to organize credible elections as soon as possible and for the country's leadership to govern respon-

tests orchestrated by opposition activists have become frequent in congested Port-au-Prince.

"Not everyone in Haiti will be able to get exactly what he or she wants in the coming days or in the coming years, but it will be critical that all actors put the overall welfare of Haiti before one's par-



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIGITALJOURNAL.COM

US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power (L) speaks during a press conference after a meeting with Haitian President Michel Martelly (R) and representatives.

sibly and inclusively in the absence of a functioning legislature.

As the team ended a three-day visit, Samantha Power, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., told a news conference that the Security Council supports "strengthening of checks and balances at a time when the parliament is not performing its traditional role."

President Michel Martelly began governing Haiti by decree Jan. 12 when parliament was dissolved amid a bitter political stalemate. Since then, a new prime minister, 20-member Cabinet and more than a dozen secretaries of state have been sworn in. A new provisional electoral council has also been created to organize long-delayed legislative and municipal elections.

Until elections can be held, Power said Haiti's leadership will have to govern in an inclusive manner during a period of flux "in order to maintain the legitimacy of the state."

But she also suggested that Martelly's hardline opponents, who have been calling for his ouster, will have to actively work toward compromise. Disruptive street pro

ticular interest," she said.

During its visit, the U.N. said the delegation would assess the implementation of Security Council resolutions such as the strengthening and professionalization of Haiti's police force. Last year, the council extended the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Haiti by a year and plan to roughly halve the number of multinational troops from 5,021 to 2,370 by June. Its police contingent would remain unchanged at 2,601.

But during a Sunday visit to Haiti's police academy, Justice Minister Pierre-Richard Casimir asked the U.N. delegation not to make the planned troop reductions until Haiti's elections were over. Besides the long-overdue legislative vote, Haiti is due to hold presidential elections this year.

Chilean U.N. ambassador Christian Barros Melet later told reporters it was too early to announce any decision on the justice minister's request.

The U.N. has kept a peacekeeping force in Haiti since 2004, when a violent rebellion led to the ouster of then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

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Health

The dog, the priest, and the fashion statement



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

By **PIERRE B. BLAND, DVM**

I was sitting at my station in the treatment area working on the day's records. The back door swung open and a Golden Retriever was brought in on a stretcher. Not a good sigh. The pet had been referred by another veterinary clinic.

The story on my new patient was he had possibly ingested a foreign body. If that wasn't bad enough, he was also a repeat offender. His history included at least two previous incidents of foreign body surgery and removal. The possible foreign body remained to be determined. With dog's you never know. Over the years, I have removed steak knives, coins, face towels, marijuana, and panty hose from the stomach of dogs, so this could be almost anything. I reviewed his medical records and x rays from the referring veterinarian and proceeded to the exam room to talk with the owners.

Prior to entering the exam room, I peeked through the one way window into the room. I saw two gentlemen. An older stout, unshaven man wearing huge sunglasses, the kind you wear after a medical procedure, and a slightly younger, tall gentleman. I entered the room and introduced myself. The gentleman in the sun glassed responded "Hello my son." while handing me a business card from a stack conveniently stored in his shirt pocket. I graciously accepted and scanned it. The card identified him as a priest. "This may be interesting," I thought to myself.

After introductions with the second gentleman, we began to chat about their pet, Taylor. They discussed the two prior surgeries for the removal of a foreign body from his stomach and were very afraid there would be a third to-night. As we talked, tears began to stream from beneath the sunglasses of the older gentleman. Emotionally,

he shared how much Taylor meant to him. His best friend and companion. As the tears flowed, I handed him a box of tissues from the counter. He removed the sunglasses and I noticed very fine, delicate lines of sutures just above and below the upper and lower lids of each eye. As he gently dabbed the tears from his eyes, he stated, "I am ok. I just had a bit of work done last week." He smiled slyly and replaced his sunglasses. We discussed the diagnostic plan for Taylor and I departed to go to work on their pet.

An hour later, I met again with the Father and his friend to discuss my findings. I did think Taylor had probably swallowed something and recommended exploratory surgery. The Father began to cry again and I passed the tissues. I explained the procedure and prepared to leave to work on an estimate for the procedure, which the staff would go over along with consent forms. As the Father continued to cry and wipe his tears, the tall man interjected.

"As you develop your estimate, please remember Father is retired and lives on a limited income. Also take into consideration his contributions to the community as he is an icon within the community." I was a bit gob smacked by the statement and replied, "Yes, it will probably be a bit expensive and I believe in being fair to people. Being fair means treating everyone the same, especially when developing estimates." The tall man said, "You don't understand" and reiterated his previous proclamation, like a well-rehearsed monolog. Father continued to cry. "Just damn!" I thought.

I can think of only one situation in my life in which I was at a loss for words. This was not it. I retorted, "When you go to the grocery store, do you present Father's business card and explain his "status" in the community to the cashier with the expectation of receiving a discount?" The tall man replied, "No." "So why would you do it here?" I responded. My point made, I left the room. The estimate was accepted, consent papers signed, and within 20 minutes Taylor was on the operating table. As far as exploratory surgeries go, things went as expected and the patient did well. A foreign body was found in Taylor's stomach: a red silk T back thong.

In my postsurgical conversations with the Father, he conveyed his frustration with Taylor's third surgery and foreign body retrieval. He shared with me the two previously remove foreign bodies had also been underwear. Color, fabric, and style was not revealed. Father asked if I had a suggestion that my help prevent a fourth occurrence. My suggestion? A clothes hamper with a very heavy lid.

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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EFESALUD.COM

(Left) Tolbert Nyenswah

Only 5 people being treated for Ebola in Liberia, Monrovia

By **JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH**
Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Liberia said Monday that there are currently only five confirmed cases of Ebola in the entire country - a dramatic turnaround in the West African nation where the virus has taken its deadliest toll.

At the height of the outbreak in August and September, Liberia was recording more than 300 new cases of the virus every week. To date 3,636 Liberians have died of Ebola, according to the World Health Organization.

But the outbreak has begun to wane. Now there are now just five people in the country being treated for Ebola, Tolbert Nyenswah, who heads the country's Ebola response, said Monday.

In her state of the nation address Monday, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said that, at the height of the outbreak, Liberia was the "poster child of disaster."

"Our hospitals and clinics as well as our schools closed down. People ran away from their families and homes. Our economy was on the verge of collapse," she told lawmakers, adding that the initial response from Liberia and the international community was weak.

"I can say today that despite all of this that our nation has remained strong, our people resilient," said Sirleaf.

Sierra Leone and Guinea - also hammered by the disease - have also seen a dramatic reduction in cases, but they are reporting more new infections than Liberia.

Still, Nyenswah cautioned it is too early to say when Liberia will be Ebola-free because authorities must still track down every infected person. Just one missed infection could seed a new cluster.

In all, Ebola has sickened more than 21,000 people, the vast majority in West Africa, killing more than 8,600.

In another sign that the disease is fading, Senegal on Monday reopened its land border with Guinea, which has been closed since August.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VOSIZNEAS.COM

Obama administration on track to surpass health care goal

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Some 9.5 million people have already signed up for 2015 coverage under President Barack Obama's health care law, and the administration is on track to surpass its nationwide enrollment target set last year.

The Health and Human Services Department said Tuesday that, through the middle of January, more than 7.1 million people had signed up in 37 states where the federal government is running the insurance markets. At least another 2.4 million signed up in states running their own exchanges.

The health insurance exchanges offer subsidized private coverage to people who don't have access on the job. The deadline for 2015 enrollment is Feb. 15, and officials are expecting the numbers to surge at the very end.

HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell said it's still too early to take a bow, but she's "encouraged by the strong interest we've seen so far."

The top five states were Florida, with nearly 1.3 million signed up; California, with 1.2 million; Texas, with nearly 920,000; North Carolina, with nearly 460,000; and Georgia, with more than 425,000.

HealthCare.gov and the state exchanges have largely avoided the technology meltdown that turned the 2014 sign-up season into an embarrassment for the White House. But there is a cloud over this year's open enrollment season as well.

That's because the Supreme Court has agreed to hear another sweeping challenge to the health care law. This time, opponents argue that the legislation as

written does not allow the federal government to subsidize premiums in states that haven't yet set up online insurance markets.

If the justices accept that view, the vast majority signed up through HealthCare.gov would lose their subsidies, calling into question their ability to pay premiums. Consumers in states running their own exchanges would continue to receive financial assistance.

Supporters of the law argue that while its language may be difficult to parse, Congress clearly intended financial assistance to be available in every state. The case will be heard in March, and a decision is expected early in the summer. Of the top five enrollment states in Tuesday's report, only California is running its own market.

Last year, Burwell had set a national target of 9.1 million people enrolled and paying their premiums. It's still too early to say if that goal has already been met, because the number only counts people who've sealed the deal by paying their first month's premiums.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said in estimates released this week that it expects enrollment in the exchanges to average about 12 million people during 2015.

The health care law also provides additional coverage for low-income people, by expanding eligibility for Medicaid in states that accept. On Tuesday, Indiana became the 28th state to agree to expand Medicaid, and the latest state with a Republican governor to do so. At least 9.7 million people have gained coverage through the law's Medicaid expansion, which targets low-income adults with no children living at home.

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DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

For the color of our skin

By CALIBE THOMPSON

Many Caribbean people will say they never experienced racism until they came to the US. They will say that growing up, they didn't even realize that their white friends were white. I did experience racism in Jamaica. I went to a Catholic all-girls kindergarten and prep school run by Franciscan nuns who were mostly white or latina, and who absolutely showed preferential treatment to the white children. The term "black and ugly" is still a thing both here and back home. We've tried to replace the idea with "black and cool," but cool often ends up looking pretty ugly in the end.

We emulate the people around us who either look like us or like the people we want to be. Sadly, both here and back home, the people many of our youngsters want to be like smoke weed, disrespect police, and do reckless things for the sake of sport. We idolize deviance and then take to the streets to ask why police are stereotyping us and profiling us. The reality is, we're bringing it upon ourselves.

Most of the men we see in mug shots on TV are black or latino, and it seems from their composure that the part below the neck would be clad in white tank top and sagging pants. We look at the TV shake our heads and ask when they will learn and where the parents are. We've stopped taking responsibility as the village that should be raising good children. We're allowing the behavior of the bad eggs to get our sons and daughters killed by allowing those eggs to perpetuate the behavior that negative stereotypes are built on.

It isn't just racist white people who are wary of black people, we're becoming wary and weary of our own. Last week, over a hundred adult black bikers terrorized South Florida motorists on a highway for over an hour in the name of Dr King. They disrespected his legacy, they deteriorated the public sympathy built for truly innocent black men, and they reinforced the reason for the judgement that the rest of us now face for the color of our skin.

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.

Int'l financing package will help set up Jamaica wind farm



PHOTO COURTESY OF OPM.GOV.JM

In her address to the gathering, the Prime Minister Hon. Portia Simpson Miller announced the establishment of a special committee headed by Minister Omar Davies which will be monitoring all the projects of government to ensure that they meet their targets.

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica — A branch of the World Bank is helping set up nearly \$63 million in financing to help create and operate a new wind farm in Jamaica, which has long struggled with punishing electricity costs and a near total dependence on imported oil.

The International Finance Corporation says the installation is expected to sell 36 megawatts of power to the island's sole electrical utility.

IFC's Monday announcement comes as Caribbean leaders have converged in Washington for a Caribbean Energy Security Summit, hosted by Vice President Joe Biden.

The focus is on helping Caribbean countries convert diesel-powered energy plants to natural gas and increase use of renewable sources such as wind and solar.



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Opinion

I can't breathe!



I'm a young black male in a society that seems to not value people who look like me;

I am aghast when I see violence against young brown-skinned boys by police brutality.

I'm confused, sad, bewildered, puzzled... aren't the officers in blue suppose to **Serve and Protect**; Who's protecting me from the violence...seems more like neglect.

I can't breathe!

On the computer there are stories about Trayvon Martin who held nothing but skittles and iced tea; How did Zimmerman get away with making Trayvon the perpetrator on TV?

Michael Brown had both of his hands in the air surrendering, some witnesses say; But that would be the last moment of his life as his body lay in the street for more than 4 hours that day.

Obedient universal rules and buying snack, Doesn't make sense to shoot someone in the back, This is making me sad, angry and confused, Of this really twisted unexplained news.

I can't breathe!

Tamir Rice was only 12 years old like me, how could he be gone so early and so violently; He never got a chance to say I'm a just a kid playing in the park, please don't hurt me.

Eric Garner's last words ring in my ears as I try to make sense of the violence against black youth like me; Can't you see that I can't breath. Give me space, Hear

my words, Get to know who I am and you will see.

Choking someone to death is extreme, And even more so... killing a tween! This makes me devastated, enraged and perplexed And it makes me think... it could happen to me next.

I can't breathe!

They think, boys like me with dark colored skin In a hoodie with some friends is a sin; Some White police officers are not understanding; That negative stereotype is not upstanding.

BANG! BANG! BANG! the shots would ring out One by one... Not even realizing what they had done. They think, "whoops another dumb boy was killed" "He's probably been smoking weed with a gun, another job fulfilled."

I can't breathe! Do you even know who I am?

I am a gifted 'A' student, I am a talented actor, I am a brilliant pianist; I am a great athlete with goals and dreams of one day being a neuroscientist.

The actions of a few create unrest, mistrust, division and affect us all; Give young black boys and opportunity to succeed and fail, but pick us up when we fall.

Don't make judgments, don't assume, don't stereotype because it often ends badly for young black boys; Nonviolent protest, education, and know our words are not just loud noise.

I can't breathe...

About the author: The author is Thomas (Trace) Baxley, a 12 year-old sixth grader at Bak Middle School of the Arts in West Palm Beach, Florida.



By extension, another question also has to be asked: Are black people deaf, dumb and blind? Assuming that blacks, not unlike other people, mainly follow the leader or leaders -- black folks tend to follow preachers, politicians, teachers and social workers, entertainers and certain criminals. And the proverbial query is whether the blind has been leading the blind? After enormous struggle, sacrifice, brutality, and some deaths, blacks in the 1960s south wrangled their right to vote from an entrenched segregationist system totally dominated by the Democratic Party. Black leaders organized and otherwise exhorted black voters to use this new power to elect and reelect the same white nationalist Democratic Party politicians that had long propagated "segregation forever."

What sense did that make? What sense did it make for black people to lamely allow those Negro opportunists and nitwits to capitulate to the political party of slavery, the destroyers of Reconstruction, the inventors of "The Black Codes," "Jim Crow," and "sharecropping?" Southern white Democratic Party Congressional votes opposed all civil rights measures, but a combination of Republican and northern Democratic votes defeated the "Dixiecrats."

Negro leaders in the north and south joyously corralled blacks into the Democratic Party and gave Republicans who had sided with them the cold shoulder. Republicans and Dixiecrats began molding what became the conservative movement and today what was once the solid Democratic south is now the solid Republican south. Black leaders have absolutely no political power within their respective states, nor do they have any national power.

Negroes did not see that the wave of conservatism afforded Dixiecrats an opportunity for cell splitting -- some joined the Republican Party and some remained in the Democratic Party and thereby became a dominant force in both political parties. To these crafty souls political party labels is less meaningful than political philosophy. As a collective -- the conservative movement -- these white nationalists began to take control of Congress, indeed Washington, D. C., seemingly in toto.

So, is black leadership deaf, dumb and blind? That is a question that carries urgent validity. Take a look at 1986 and 1988 and see how black, no, Negro leadership apparently didn't hear anything, didn't know to do anything, and didn't see anything (at least

Is black leadership deaf, dumb and blind?

not until it was too late).

Under Republican President Ronald Reagan, the Democratic controlled Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 and Reagan signed it into law. This legislation called for mandatory minimum sentences if convicted for distributing cocaine. It included more severe sentences for distributing crack, which is used mostly by black people because it is cheaper. However, those persons convicted of distributing powder cocaine, which is used mostly by whites and is more expensive, will get lighter sentences!

In 1988, the Democratic controlled Congress added more to the drug policy. So the new Anti-Drug Abuse Act added "civil penalties" including the eviction of public housing tenants involved in drugs in or near the premises. In addition, if convicted of a drug offense you can no longer qualify for a student loan and you lose your right to vote. This draconian legislation included five years mandatory minimum sentences for possession of cocaine base, for first time offenders.

According to author Michelle Alexander in her best selling book *The New Jim Crow*, "Until 1988, one year of imprisonment had been the maximum for possession of any amount of any drug." Alexander reminds us how disparate members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) were about the legislation that passed 346 for it and only 11 against it. Alexander tells us that only six of the CBC members voted against the horror. Incredible!

"The War on Drugs proved popular among key white voters," writes Michelle Alexander, "particularly whites who remained resentful of black progress, civil rights enforcement, and affirmative action." Black leaders had no answers, no strategy to combat the "Law and order" insurgency that would standardize incarceration as a form of eugenics and decimate black communities, especially throughout America's inner cities.

The "Law and Order" monster now more than ever, brazenly victimizes black and brown people in broad daylight, no longer just undercover, and the people wave signs and march with no discernable plan. And the leaders still don't know to organize this political swarm. Deaf dumb and blind, they are.

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



NAACP Florida Economic Report Card shows major shortage of diversity and inclusion in the U.S.

Promoting diversity and inclusion in business hiring, government contracting and career advancement has become a central focus of the NAACP Florida State Conference in recent years. The general public has not been accustomed to the NAACP lending its voice on economic development issues, so we took a "deeper dive" into a topic that received little attention from our state leaders, elected officials, business leaders and actual decision makers in public and private organizations.

As you know, 75% of the state population is white alone and all others fall into other minority groups, according to the 2010 Census Results. These groups are Black/African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 2 or more races and some other race alone. Based on this data, we believe all communities deserve a piece of the pie from local government and private corporations.

Just a few days ago, we released a public Economic Development Report Card on the records of targeted cities, counties, school districts and private corporations in the State of Florida. Through the "Diversity Matters Initiative," our review examined their records on small and minority business spending, employment diversity, advertising and spending with veteran, minority, and women-owned businesses.

In summary, most local governments spend less than two percent with small and minority businesses. This is terrible when the Florida population is more than twenty-five percent minority. The City of Orlando and City of Pensacola outperformed all other governments in spending with veteran, minority, and women-owned businesses. Secondly, the workforce diversity of most local governments appear to be exceptional but advertising and marketing to veteran, minority, and women-owned businesses has been a general failure. Although the government entities we reviewed receive your tax dollars, many still do no track spending by race and ethnicity nor is this data captured in the respective vendor registration processes. In 2015, many governments still do not have a small or minority business program to enhance opportunities for these entrepreneurs. Our review has led to local advocacy efforts to Mayors, County Commissions and School Districts along with 4 sensible recommendations we will present for consideration by the Governor and Legislature:

- Require all local governmental entities to establish race-neutral programs (small business enterprise program), race-conscious programs (minority business enterprise program) or a hybrid approach to enhance economic opportunities to small and minority businesses.

- Require reciprocity by local governments to accept the state's M/WBE certification. (*This model currently exists in the State of Texas.*)

- Require all local governmental entities to track race and ethnicity in respective vendor registration processes to increase transparency, accountability and ensure accurate reporting of expenditures. (*This model currently exists within the State of Florida's Office of Supplier Diversity*)

- Conduct a statewide disparity study/small business participation study of spending by the State of Florida (Governor's Agencies, Cabinet Agencies and Non-Governmental Agencies)

The NAACP is calling on the local public to demand transparency and accountability in how your tax dollars are spent from your local elected officials! We encourage you to monitor the spending by your local school district, county commission, city commission, water management district and hospital district. The NAACP Florida State Conference will conduct this review annually and share with the general public. Our goal is to ensure diversity and inclusion is good policy and demonstrated in actual expenditures!

Submitted by Adora Obi Nweze, NAACP Florida State Conference President & Torey Alston, NAACP Florida State Conference Economic Development State Chairman

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

Business

The spies inside your cell phone

Many Apps Can Track Your Location And Share Your Information, Says Cybersecurity Expert

By GARY S. MILIEFSKY
Special to South Florida Times

You just had a flat tire along a dark country road. Luckily, you downloaded a flashlight app into your cellphone and now can put it to use.

But that flashlight, handy as it is, may be just one of many doors you unwittingly opened to let spies take up residence inside your phone.

"Most free flashlight apps are creepware," says Gary S. Miliefsky, CEO of SnoopWall (www.snoopwall.com), a company that specializes in cybersecurity.

Creepware is malware that spies on you and your online behavior, and could pass along information to others.

For example, Goldenshores Technologies, the company behind the popular "Brightest Flashlight Free" app for Android phones, agreed in 2013 to settle the Federal Trade Commission's charges that the software secretly supplied cellphone locations to advertising networks and other third parties.

The problem doesn't begin and end with flashlight apps, though. Many seemingly innocuous apps that people carry around with them on their mobile devices have the capability to eavesdrop on their activities.

"Consumers trust first and verify never," Miliefsky says. "As a result, most of their smartphones are infected with malware that they trust in the form of some kind of useful app or game."

Miliefsky offers these tips for ousting those spies inside the phone:

- **First, assume you've already been compromised.** It's nice to think all is probably well, but most likely it's not. Somewhere in the phone the spies are at work and it's time to take the privacy behaviors and privacy policies of these apps more seriously.

- **Verify the behavior and privacy risks for apps before installing**

them. Do some research and ask the question: "Why does this app need GPS, microphone, webcam, contacts, etc.?" Most apps don't need these ports unless they want to invade your privacy, Miliefsky says. Find an alternative before installing risky apps.

- **Do a smartphone version of spring cleaning.** Delete all the apps you don't use that often. Replace the apps that take advantage of too many of your privacy settings, such as GPS, phone and text-message logs, with similar apps that don't.

- **Turn off WiFi, Bluetooth, Near Field Communication and GPS except when you need them.** That way, Miliefsky says, if you are at a local coffee shop or in a shopping mall, no one can spy using nearby (proximity) hacking attack. They also can't track where you were and where you are going on GPS.

- **Check to see if your email has put a tracer on you and your phone.** "If you use a Google email account and have an Android phone, you'd be surprised that even with your GPS off, it's tracking your every move," Miliefsky says. You need to go into the phone's settings to turn off that tracking feature, he says. In your Android phone, go to "settings," then "location." Select "Google location reporting" and set "location history" to off.

Gary S. Miliefsky is CEO of SnoopWall (www.snoopwall.com) and the inventor of SnoopWall spyware-blocking technology. He is a founding member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and serves on the advisory board of MITRE on the CVE Program, and is a founding board member of the National Information Security Group. He's also the founder of NetClarity, Inc., an internal intrusion defense company, based on a patented technology he invented.

Environment

After the flood & before the rising sea

By FRANK PETERMAN

In the decade I was born our nation of 128 million people was in the grip of one of the first great man-made ecological disasters - the Dust Bowl. Although only about half million Americans were farming the thin soil of the Great Plains, in the 1930s their actions provoked a massive drought. Fierce winds swept across the Plains. Strong gusts sent the wispy soils spiraling into gigantic dark plumes rising 10,000 feet into the air, blotting out the sun, suffocating animals and stunting crops.

Relentlessly drifting east, the black plumes reached Chicago and on to New York where they blocked out the noon-day sun and caused street lights to come on at mid-day. Dust and grit from Oklahoma and Texas covered the Statue of Liberty. As an adult reflecting on that time, I am amazed that the activities of a relatively small group of people could create a disaster affecting such a huge portion of the nation.

So imagine the impact of our population that has now ballooned to more than 310 million, when every day since then we have spewed pollution from power plants, automobiles, farm equipment, trains, ships and assorted other pursuits that give us the lifestyles we enjoy today. Simultaneously the world's population has soared from approximately 2.3 billion in the 1930s to more than 7 billion.

The Dust Bowl showed us how man-made ecological disasters can develop unnoticed. Those of us fortunate enough to live in the "paradise" of South Florida now stand to inherit the disaster of sea level rise spawned by the effects of our greed, arrogance and ignorance.

Growing up here, I find it paradoxical how much I loved it and yet unwittingly reveled in its destruction. I learned to swim in the Dania Cut-Off Canal, chock full of manatee, and roamed the land with my friends feasting on mangoes, guava, papaya, sugar apples, mulberries, Bahamian cherries, crabapples, bananas and avocados. We could pick out the particular Snook we wanted for dinner as mullet roiled the water in great shoals. Catfish, bream and sun fish teemed in every fresh water body. People often said, "You cain't starve us in South Florida 'cause we can survive on mangoes and mullets or grits and grunts."



Even the development that boomed after the Great Flood of 1947 and permanently changed paradise extended its steely hand offering gifts from nature. As powerful diesel tractors cleared the palmettos to build condominiums and shopping centers, rabbits scurried from their warrens with school-boys wielding heavy sticks in hot pursuit. We would catch and skin them, slip a stick through the tendons of their hind legs and display them through the community for sale.

Out of ignorance we proudly cheered the "progress" that developed the beaches, filled in the wetlands and cleared the swamps. I happily worked at the Florida Lith-I-Bar company in north Dade that built concrete joist and beams for the Fontainebleau and Eden Roc hotels and the Sky Way Bridge in St. Petersburg. Every time I pass one of those places I feel a connection, and yet I now keenly feel how I participated in the destruction of the place I loved out of ignorance. There was nothing in my history books or geographical studies that warned of the destruction we were wreaking on paradise.

Now we stand to inherit the disaster of sea level rise spawned by pollution-melting glaciers, and our offshore islands that protected us from storm surges have all been developed. Will we take heed to the events of the past and the caution of the world's leading climate scientists? Will we act before the worst effects are upon us? That is the big question facing us today, not only in South Florida but in Congress where a viscerally anti-science majority has just taken charge.

(Third in a series by Frank and Audrey Peterman, national award winning environmentalists and authors living in Fort Lauderdale. Earthws@aol.com)

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5 Reasons Kids Should Play Organized Sports

By DANYEL SURRENCY JONES
AND DARNELL JONES

In the past 30 years, obesity has more than doubled in young children and quadrupled in adolescents, potentially leading to a host of chronic diseases later in life, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Conversely, the CDC reports that regular physical activity provides a long list of physical benefits for children, but that's not all. Daily exercise also promotes mental and emotional well-being that includes self-esteem.

"By now, I don't think anyone is surprised that regular exercise is good for children and inactivity is places them at risk for illnesses later in life, but when you take a moment to consider the data in-depth for children who exercise and play organized sports, the details of a child's future come to life," says Danyel Surrency Jones, president of Power To Give and co-founder of Powerhandz Inc., (powerhandz.com), a company specializing in athletic training products to improve performance in baseball, basketball and football.

- **Cultivates a positive attitude:** Sports are demanding. Come game time, a young athlete wouldn't last long with a negative mindset. "Practice is not cakewalk either," Darnell says. "As adults, we understand the need to hype ourselves before hitting the gym. The rewarding feeling we get walking out from the gym is similar to what young people feel after a game or tough practice."
- **Offers a sense of accomplishment, confidence and self-esteem:** As the CDC noted, simply being physically active builds self-esteem. We are physical beings who are not meant to sit in front of a

videogame for several consecutive hours. "Again, if you're a physically active adult, you feel that sense of accomplishment in outdoing your last performance at the gym," Danyel says. "Kids feel a similar way learning new skills and succeeding in a game, except more so."

- **Builds better peer relationships:** Kids want to fit in, but it's not always easy. Organized sports hurdles the high wall of social awkwardness so many children feel. Team sports such as baseball, basketball and football demand participants to work together for a common goal, which is a valuable lesson some adults still haven't learned while interacting at work.
- **More restraint in avoiding risky behavior:** Ideally, parents can get their children engaged – in anything that's productive, really. Bored or disengaged children have a way of getting into trouble. A student is less likely to misbehave in class or break the law if it means getting kicked off the team of a sport they love.
- **Greater family attachment and frequent interactions with parents:** Famous athletes say it all the time, "Thanks Mom. Thanks for driving me to and from practice, and thanks for showing up at the games." And that doesn't even count helping a child with actual practice – playing catch, squaring off one-on-one, etc.

Danyel Surrency Jones is COO and Co-Founder of Powerhandz Inc., (powerhandz.com), which specializes in performance-enhancing training products for athletes. Darnell Jones is an entrepreneur and investor, athlete and sales professional.



Elementary school kids playing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLERYHIP.COM

What makes the Super Bowl such a big deal?

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX — The Super Bowl, at its most basic level, is a game that determines the NFL championship.

It has become so much more since the first game was played in 1967.

Super Bowl Sunday has become an unofficial holiday in the United States, a day when families and friends gather to watch the game, the over-the-top commercials and big-name musical acts at halftime.

The game and the two weeks of hype, parties and the annual Media Day leading up it have turned the Super Bowl into a spectacle along the lines of the Olympics or World Cup, a royal wedding or papal celebration, the Oscars or Grammys.

A rundown of what makes the Super Bowl so special:

WHERE IT'S PLAYED

Cities bid for the right to host the Super Bowl and many use the game as a rallying point to build a new stadium and bring in revenue.

The game is rotated every year, usually to a warm-weather city or one with a domed stadium.

Last year's game was played in the stadium the New York Jets and Giants share in East Rutherford, New Jersey - the first outdoor game in a cold-weather city - and future games will be in San Francisco, Houston and Minneapolis.

Arizona's University of Phoenix Stadium, site of this year's games, has a retractable roof and a field that is wheeled outside so the grass can get sunlight.

THE COMMERCIALS

Super Bowl commercials have become a part of the show, luring in non-sports fans who might not otherwise watch the game.

The trend of making get-them-talking commercials started in 1984, when Apple created a memorable 1-minute spot based on George Orwell's 1984. Since then, the commercials have included talking animals and babies, supermodels and Clydesdales, sophomoric humor and tear-jerking moments.

The rate for this year's game is \$4.5 million for a 30-second spot.

HALFTIME SHOW

The halftime show has become must-watch TV instead of just a throw-in with the game.

This year's halftime show will feature Perry and rock guitarist Lenny Kravitz, extending a long line of big-name performers that has included Bruce Springsteen, The Who, Prince, Madonna and Bruno Mars with the Red Hot Chili Peppers last year.

And, of course, everyone remembers Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" while performing with Justin Timberlake in 2004.

THE PARTIES

Outside of the Oscars or Grammys, there may not be a bigger place for celebrity parties than the Super Bowl.

The parties before the big game are almost all star-studded and this year's bashes include DirecTV Saturday Night with Rihanna, Nelly performing at Playboy's and Drake at Bootsy Bellows' Pop Up. There also will be live performances in the Phoenix area by Snoo Dogg, Imagine Dragons, Enrique Iglesias with Pitbull and Zac Brown Band.

Millions of fans also gather in households around the country to watch the game together.

FABRIC OF AMERICA

Baseball is known as America's pastime, but football is woven into the country's fabric.

The NFL's rise came at the same time as television's and turned into a \$9 billion enterprise. The NFL season has far fewer games than the other major North American sports -16 compared to 162 in baseball - which makes every game an event.

But once the season gets to the Super Bowl, many of the fans don't get a chance to go. Tickets started around \$800 for this year's and most are snapped up by corporations, creating an American version of the Prawn Sandwich Brigade, those European soccer fans who attend games for the corporate hospitality rather than cheer on the teams.

TELEVISION AUDIENCE

The Super Bowl is one of the most-watched events in the world, routinely drawing more than 80 million viewers every year since 1990. The game has eclipsed 100 million viewers each of the past five years, with a record 111.5 million watching Seattle roll over Denver a year ago.

Millions more watch the game around the world.

GAMBLING

According to the American Gaming Association, Americans will place \$3.8 billion in illegal bets on the Super Bowl this year. Nevada sports books hauled in a record \$19.7 million in legal wagers on last year's game.

The Super Bowl also has some of the most exotic proposition bets anywhere.

For this year's game, bettors can put money on the what color Gatorade will be dumped on the winning coach, how long Idina Menzel will take to sing the Star-Spangled Banner, whether Patriots coach Bill Belichick will smile on camera during the game and the color of pop star Katy Perry's hair when she performs during the halftime show.

MEDIA DAY

Originally set up for media members to have access to every player on both teams, the annual Media Day has become an event in itself, a spectacle filled with sometimes-wacky questions and attention-grabbing stunts.

In 2008, a reporter from Mexico's TV Azteca wore a wedding dress and asked New England's Tom Brady to marry her. Another media day featured a reporter showing up with a puppet of Pittsburgh's Troy Polamalu, calling it his son.

Thousands of media members attend Media Day and fans can buy tickets to watch the festivities for \$28.50.



PHOTO MONTAGE BY MJURY/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

NEWS BRIEFS

Palm Beach Zoo seeks applicants for Volunteer Corps

WEST PALM BEACH — The Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society is announcing online applications are now available for the Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC). Youth ages 14-17 can apply online by printing out an online registration form and sending in the application, along with all required material.

This is the third year for the highly successful program, and interested teenagers can find out more information and download the application at www.palmbeachzoo.org/youth-volunteer-corps. The deadline to apply for YVC is February 10, 2015, and space is limited to a total of 45 participants, with 25 spots already filled by returning volunteers.

Village dialogue will focus on Afro-Cuban community

MIAMI — The Miami-Dade County Black Affairs Advisory Board will present a Village Dialogue titled “Uniting the African Diaspora: An Invitation from the Afro Cuban Community” at noon Saturday at HistoryMiami, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33130.

The panel discussion will examine the history and relationship between Afro-Cubans and African Americans in Miami-Dade County, especially in the wake of the recent steps toward normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuba.

The panel will be moderated by Nancy Ancrum of The Miami Herald. Panelists include Dr. Carole Boyce Davies of Cornell University, St. Louis Cardinals outfielder Jon Jay, Democratic Black Caucus of Florida President Henry Crespo, CBS4 Executive Producer Cari Hernandez, Civic Awareness Inc. President Andres Alburquerque, historian and artist Dinizulu Gene Tinnie, 100 Black Men of South Florida Secretary Basil Binns III, and attorney Rene Gordon. Noted historian and author Dr. Marvin Dunn and community activist Ricardo Gonzalez are also slated to present an overview of the two communities.

School Board updates name at MLK Elementary School

FORT LAUDERDALE — the School Board of Broward County, Florida, approved changing the name of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School in Lauderdale to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Montessori Academy. The name change reflects the new Montessori program implemented at the school at the start of the 2014/15 school year.

Through the input of parents, staff, community stakeholders and school partners, a request was submitted to ensure the school's name reflects both leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dr. Maria Montessori.

To learn more about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Montessori Academy and its academic programming, contact the school at 754-322-7550, or visit the school's website <http://mlking.browardschools.com>.

Maltz Jupiter Theatre earns 14 Carbonell nominations

JUPITER — The Maltz Jupiter Theatre has earned 14 nominations for the 39th annual Carbonell Awards, South Florida's equivalent of the Tony Awards.

The Theatre garnered the most nominations of any of the nominated organizations in Palm Beach County. By show, the Theatre earned nine nominations for The King and I and five for The Foreigner. Celebrating the best shows and performances in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, Carbonell nominations encompass the entire length of South Florida.

The nominations come just weeks before the Theatre's much-anticipated unveiling of shows for its 2015/16 season, set to be announced Feb. 9. The news also comes on the heels of a record-breaking subscription season with 7,626 subscribers.

Compiled from staff, wire reports

BROWARD

Young amputees are heroes in 5K race



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHILDREN'S DIAGNOSTIC & TREATMENT CENTER/JESSICA VONES

Brian Douglas and Saint Anthony's students

Staff Report

FORT LAUDERDALE— The Saint Anthony Knights of Columbus recently hosted the fourth annual UNISHRED 5K 4 Kids, a family friendly race for

all levels of experienced runners and walkers. More than 350 participants enjoyed a new scenic course, which winded through the historic Victoria Park neighborhood of Fort Lauderdale. Last year's race changed the life

of double-amputee Brian Douglas, 11, a Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center “Kid's Hero.” Brian served as the 5K 4 Kids race captain.

PLEASE TURN TO **DIAGNOSTIC/2B**

BROWARD



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIGHT STAR CREDIT UNION

Kids learn civics *American Idol* style

Fifth-grade students at Pembroke Lakes Elementary School recently took an electronic field trip back to colonial times to sing songs, dress in period costumes and watch Colonial Idol, a musical competition modeled after the current-day *American Idol*. Sponsored by BrightStar Credit Union for 60 Broward County elementary and middle schools, the e-field trips are broadcast online and allow students to interact with actors, ask questions and learn about life in colonial times. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Williamsburg, VA,

(www.history.org) which runs the world's largest living history museum dedicated to the study of 18th century American history and culture, provided the curriculum. Participating in Colonial Idol in the photo at right/left/above/below are (left to right) Keyla Jaramillo, a fifth grade student; Marjuree Larin, BrightStar Credit Union; Sandra Shipman, principal, Pembroke Lakes Elementary; Jenny Summerall, teacher, Pembroke Lakes Elementary; and Blaise DaCosta, BrightStar Credit Union.

MIAMI-DADE

Volunteers unite for MLK day of service

Staff Report

MIAMI — The life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement inspired more than 500 volunteers to participate in the MLK Day of Service, on Jan. 17 at Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and Gwen Cherry parks in Miami.

The event was hosted by Miami-Dade Parks and the Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, in partnership with AARP, Cabot Creamery, Miami Dolphins Special Teams Driven by Chevy, Florida International University, and the Miami Dade College Institute for Civic Engagement and Democracy.

Florida International University, in honor of its 50th anniversary, encouraged its faculty and students to take part in its 50-community service hours incentive, setting the tone for the day reminding all in attendance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous quote, “Life's most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

Volunteers completed various beautification projects, including painting, planting, and cleaning, making a



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

More than 500 volunteers from several organizations joined to spruce up Mc K Park.

difference in two community parks.

Recreation centers in each park received a one-room makeover, courtesy of The Miami Dolphins Special Teams driven by Chevy. Volunteers

painted the spaces in Miami Dolphins' colors and added Dolphins-themed furnishings and decorative pieces,

PLEASE TURN TO **MLK PARKS /2B**

PALM-BEACH

Center serves up sweet way to learn about Science of Chocolate



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA SCIENCE CENTER AND AQUARIUM
Alaina Kurtz and Chris Ortiz, Science Center Educators

Staff Report

WEST PALM BEACH — Science gets sweet at the South Florida Science Center and Aquarium's 10th annual “Science of Chocolate” event. Organizers say both science-lovers and chocoholics will delight at the delicious sights, sounds – and of course tastes – of science.

This interesting take on science takes place 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Feb. 7, at the center, 4801 Dreher Trail North, West Palm Beach.

At the day-long event, guests will experience instant chemistry with a variety of interactive chocolate experiments and activities, including liquid nitrogen chocolate, learning how to

paint with M&M'S, make and take items such as cocoa lip balm and face painting. A new feature this year is “chocolate taste testing,” where guests can explore the solvent and solute relationship. Testing the theory that chocolate “melts in your mouth,” the chocolate will act as the solute, with saliva acting as a solvent. The experiment will test three different methods of dissolving.

Additionally, there will be a variety of tasting stations, including Hoffman's Chocolates' famed chocolate fountain. Visitors can sample the cocoa creations, while learning the history, science and health benefits of chocolate, arguably one of the world's oldest and most-loved treats.

“The annual ‘Science of Chocolate’

event continues to help us achieve our new mission to ‘open every mind to science,’” said Lew Crampton, Science Center CEO. “It is a fun and tasty reminder that science is all around us and enjoyable teaching opportunities can be created at any moment. We are grateful to Hoffman's Chocolates for their continued sponsorship of this event, as their support allows ‘Science of Chocolate’ to be educational, unique and delicious.”

The South Florida Science Center and Aquarium is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call 561-832-1988 or visit www.sfsiencecenter.org.

Around South Florida



ELGIN JONES
EJones@SFLTimes.com



FIGHTING BACK

Amid increasing calls for an independent investigation into allegations by former Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey that he was fired for refusing to work on Gov. Rick Scott reelection campaign, the governor is firing back. Scott is adamant Bailey resigned, a claim Bailey denies. He says he was fired for refusing to target a county official who had done nothing wrong. Florida Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater and Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam are calling for an investigation.

Palm Beach County



BILLIONAIRES SEX SCANDAL

Virginia Roberts, is the woman who has filed a sworn court affidavit alleging she was a sex slave for music industry billionaire Jeffrey Epstein. Roberts says she was having paid sex with Epstein since she was 15 and also was paid to have sex other people, including attorney Alan Dershowitz and Great Britain's Prince Andrew. Both have denied the claims. Epstein has settled more than a dozen lawsuits filed over similar allegations that he is a pedophile and paid underage girls for sex at his various mansions.

NOT SMART

Deondrae Hall, 38, is facing charges after allegedly going to the Boynton Beach Police Station and asking two officers to loan him their guns to get revenge on



HALL

variant, disorderly intoxication and possession of cocaine.

WIRELESS WARS

AT&T has installed another 240 cellular phone towers throughout Palm Beach County, which will enable the company to handle more traffic on its mobile 4G LTE network. Expect a new round of price wars as Verizon, Sprint and T-Mobile are all competing against AT&T for customers.

Broward County

WAWA IS HERE

Wawa, the Pennsylvania-based convenience store chain is making the big move into the South Florida market. Wawa stores are opening in Palm Beach and Broward counties and will compete against 7 Eleven, Race Trac and others. Wawa is known for its fresh hoagie sandwiches and coffee. The stores also sell gas and other items.

COMMUNITY SUMMIT

Bethel AME Church's 2015 Men's Day Celebration will feature a powerhouse lineup for its "Real Talk: Our Community and Law Enforcement." Panelists for this no-holds barred discussion will include attorney Benjamin L. Crump, Broward Sheriff Scott Israel, Broward Public Defender Howard Finkelstein, Broward State Attorney Michael Satz, Broward NAACP President Marsha Ellison. Law Enforcement practices; the Ferguson, MO., and Eric Garner decisions; North Miami Beach Police Department's use of Black suspect's mug shots for target practice, community involvement and more will be discussed.

It will take place 1 p.m. Feb. 14 at Bethel AME Church, 405 N.W. Third Ave. in Pompano Beach. For more information, call 954-943-6220.

Miami-Dade County



TEACHER STALKED

Jordan Sotomayor, 18, is charged with stalking a teacher for more than a year. He is a student at Miami Sunset Senior High School. The teacher tried unsuccessfully to keep Sotomayor, who reportedly has a reputation for aggressively pursuing female students, away from her. He has been charged as an adult. Book'em Danno!



ASSAULT SUIT

Susan Ganz, 61, a physician, and Marla Geltner, 49, are claiming in separate lawsuits filed against the University of Miami that Vice Chair of Administration Rafic Warwar physically assaulted them during a staff meeting. They allege the attacks, which consisted of a karate chop, were witnessed by dozens of employees and was done in response to their raising concerns of personnel shortages, poor training and other workplace deficiencies.

Attorney and former state legislator Dan Gelber, who spoke on behalf of UM, said the college investigated the allegations and they were unfounded. UM has not released any details about any investigation.

PRINCIPAL RESIGNS

Dr. Lucia Cox, principal of Sunset High School, has resigned. She stepped down



COX

Monroe County



LOVING ATTACK

William Roberts, 63, of Tennessee is charged in bizarre assault in Islamorada. A woman called police to report Roberts knocked on her back door and was wearing only a sweater she had left inside her car. He allegedly began attacking her with a stick saying it was because he loved her. She managed to wrestle free and ran into her house to call police. Roberts fled and was captured a short distance away. The victim says she never saw him before and has no idea who he is.

FRIGHTENED TOURISTS

A family visiting from North Carolina barricaded themselves inside the at the Upper Matecumbe Key resort where they were staying after hearing gun shots. Robert Wells, 54, his wife Ruth grabbed their children, ran inside their rooms, and called 911. Sheriff's deputies arrived and determined the shots came from Jeffrey Spencer Bennett, a doctor whose property is across the street. Bennett said he was shooting at a large iguana that was sitting on his seawall and not in the direction of the family. They did not want to press charges after learning what had taken place.

Got a story idea? Please email
News@SFLTimes.com

Living WITH ETIQUETTE

Family time: let's set the table



By ROSE HEDGEMOND
Special to South Florida Times

So often with busy and conflicting schedules, it can be quite challenging for family members to come together and spend quality time at the dining table for a meal. Now more than ever it appears we are in an age, and society, of eat-on-the-go. Because of this fast-paced society, social graces have — for some — fallen by the way side and are not demonstrated as dominantly as possible.

Sitting down with kids and enjoying a family meal, and allowing children to set the table, is beneficial for a many important reasons. Also, during the holiday season, is the perfect time for kids to practice setting the table and exercise the use of table manners — plus it is a great time to get the family together without distractions of everyday life and simply celebrate the joys of the season.

Learning how to properly set a table is an important skill for kids to learn. And while it may be a little challenging at first, once the child properly learns how to set a table he or she will be more likely to volunteer to set the table on a regular basis.

Additionally, by teaching the child how to set the table you are spending quality time which is priceless. Finally, no matter whether your table is an imported high-end mahogany wood

in a setting with vaulted ceilings and crystal chandeliers or a small quaint piece in the heart of the home, the importance, and focus, is not on what kind of table as it is using the table you have as the center to communicate, share love and time. Here's to family time!

Below, are a few tips to the benefits of setting the table:

The ability and opportunity to teach children good table manners. Children don't arrive in this world automatically knowing what to do. We must teach them and that takes time.

The ability to spend quality time with your child discussing the day and learning about how they are developing in life. Note: Parents, this is not the time to scold, or nag, rather to gain information about each other to keep the lines of communication open. Examples of some starter questions: What is the worst thing that happened today? What is the best thing that happened today? What is the silliest thing that happened today? Parents should also answer the same questions.

The ability to send a very loud and clear message to children that family time is important. And your presence, sitting at that table, says that everything else is on hold and can wait. Note: This is a great time to put the phone down and turn the television off.

The ability to teach children how to set the table.

Enjoy each other, share love and spend time.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHILDREN'S DIAGNOSTIC & TREATMENT CENTER/JESSICA VONES

Ketsia Jean, Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler, Fort Lauderdale Striker's Hotshot and Brian Douglas

Young amputees are heroes in 5K Race 4 Kids benefit event

DIAGNOSTIC, FROM 1B

He completed the race without the use of formal running prosthetics. This past summer he was awarded a set of new running blades from the Amputee Blade Runners and proudly debuted them at the race.

Joining him this year was race co-captain Ketsia Jean, 6, who ran her very first race. Both CDTC Heroes were welcomed by cheering fans as they crossed the finish line. Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler was the Master of Ceremonies and presented Brian and Ketsia with medals.

Over \$33,000 was raised from the 5K 4 Kids, sponsored in part this year by UNISHRED, a local document shredding company. The race benefits children with special needs from Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center (CDTC) and provides scholarship opportunities for the Saint Anthony Foundation for Education (SAFE). The Saint Anthony Knights of Columbus began the 5K 4 Kids Race as a way to help support the needy children of Broward County.

"Words cannot express how grateful we are for the wonderful men of Saint Anthony's Knights of Columbus. The entire parish has been so generous to the center and our families. We are truly honored to be a beneficiary of the 5K 4Kids again," said Ana Calderon-Randazzo, executive director of Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center.

The Children's Diagnostic & Treatment Center is a not-for-profit organization that serves more than 11,000 children with special health care needs in Broward County. CDTC's mission is to promote the optimal health and well-being of children with special health care needs by providing them with comprehensive prevention, intervention, and treatment services, within a medical home environment. CDTC is a nationally recognized "Center of Excellence" which offers a unique system of care for infants, children, and youths with chronic illnesses, disabilities, and developmental delays. Medical care and social services are provided to children, regardless of the families' ability to pay.

Volunteers unite for service

MLK PARKS, FROM 1B

brightening the rooms for the children enrolled in the park's after-school program.

The event concluded with a reflective ceremony featuring Miami-Dade school board member and civil rights activist, Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall. She is a former recipient of the Civil Rights Advocacy Award, presented by the Florida Commission on Human Relations. In addition, Cabot Creamery made its first South Florida appearance with its "The Farmers' Gratitude Grille," that tours the nation providing lunches to thank volunteers for their service to the community.

"The 1,200 farm families who own Cabot Creamery Cooperative are proud to support Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces, and all of the wonderful volunteers on this very special Martin Luther King Day of Service. We believe volunteerism makes us a better nation and we're pleased to provide healthy meals to all the volunteers on this special occasion," said Roberta MacDonald, Cabot senior vice president of marketing.

For information on future volunteer projects at parks across the county, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Angie Gomez at 305-961-2781 or e-mail at angieg@miamidade.gov.

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Obituaries

Chicago Cubs Hall of Famer Ernie Banks dies at 83

By MIKE FITZPATRICK
AP Sports Writer

Even as the Chicago Cubs lost one game after another, Ernie Banks never lost hope.

That was the charm of “Mr. Cub.” Banks, the Hall of Fame slugger and two-time MVP who always maintained his boundless enthusiasm for baseball despite decades of playing on miserable teams, died Friday night. He was 83.

The Cubs announced Banks' death, but did not provide a cause. His family noted that he died of an apparent heart attack.

Banks hit 512 home runs during his 19-year career and was fond of saying, “It’s a great day for baseball. Let’s play two.” In fact, that sunny finish to his famous catchphrase adorns his statue outside Wrigley Field.

And on a cold winter night Friday in Chicago, the ballpark marquee carried the sad news for the entire town to see: Ernie Banks. “Mr. Cub.” 1931-2015.

“Words cannot express how important Ernie Banks will always be to the Chicago Cubs, the city of Chicago and Major League Baseball. He was one of the greatest players of all time,” Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts said in a statement. “He was a pioneer in the major leagues. And more importantly, he was the warmest and most sincere person I’ve ever known.”

“Approachable, ever optimistic and kind hearted, Ernie Banks is and always will be Mr. Cub. My family and I grieve the loss of such a great and good-hearted



PHOTO COURTESY OF DODGERSNATION.COM

Ernie Banks

man, but we look forward to celebrating Ernie's life in the days ahead.”

In a statement Saturday, President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama expressed their condolences “to the family of Ernie Banks, and to every Chicagoan and baseball fan who loved him.” The president said Banks became known as much for his optimism and love of the game as his home runs and back-to-back National League MVPs.

“As a Hall-of-Famer, Ernie was an incredible ambassador for baseball, and for the city of Chicago,” President Obama said. “He was beloved by baseball fans

everywhere, including Michelle, who, when she was a girl, used to sit with her dad and watch him play on TV. And in 2013, it was my honor to present Ernie with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

“Somewhere, the sun is shining, the air is fresh, his team's behind him, and Mr. Class is ready to play two.”

Though he was an 11-time All-Star from 1953-71, Banks never reached the postseason. The Cubs, who haven't won the World Series since 1908, finished below .500 in all but six of his seasons and remain without a pennant since 1945.

Still, he was inducted into the Hall of

Fame in 1977, the first year he was eligible, and was selected to baseball's All-Century team in 1999.

Banks' infectious smile and non-stop good humor despite his team's dismal record endeared him to Chicago fans, who voted him the best player in franchise history. One famous admirer, actor Bill Murray, named his son Homer Banks Murray.

“Ernie Banks was more than a baseball player. He was one of Chicago's greatest ambassadors. He loved this city as much as he loved — and lived for — the game of baseball,” Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said. “This year, during every Cubs game, you can bet that No. 14 will be watching over his team. And if we're lucky, it'll be a beautiful day for not just one ballgame, but two.”

Banks' No. 14 was the first number retired by the Cubs, and it hangs on a flag from the left-field foul pole at the old ballpark.

“I’d like to get to the last game of the World Series at Wrigley Field and hit three homers,” he once said. “That was what I always wanted to do.”

But even without an opportunity to play on the October stage, Banks left an indelible mark that still resonates with fans and athletes from all sports.

“Ernie Banks ... We are going to all miss you. #Legend,” quarterback Russell Wilson tweeted as he and the Seattle Seahawks were getting ready to defend their Super Bowl title.

Melvin Gordon, CEO who built empire from Tootsie Rolls, dies



PHOTO COURTESY OF CANDYINDUSTRY.COM

Melvin Gordon

CHICAGO (AP) — Melvin Gordon, who helped turn the enduring popularity of the humble Tootsie Roll into a candy empire, has died. He was 95.

The longtime Tootsie Roll Industries Inc. chairman and CEO died Jan. 20 in Boston after a brief illness, said Brooke Vane, a spokeswoman for the company's public relations firm. Gordon ran the Chicago-based confectioner for 53 years, overseeing the manufacture of 64 million Tootsie Rolls a day and other sweets including Junior Mints, Charleston Chews and Tootsie Pops.

The penny candy patriarch worked a full schedule until last month, the company said. He was the oldest CEO of a company trading on a major U.S. stock exchange, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Gordon celebrated the Tootsie Roll's 100th anniversary in 1996 by touring the Chicago factory with an Associated Press reporter. He scooped up one of the warm, gooey candies from the assembly line and tasted it, saying: “There's nothing like a hot Tootsie Roll.”

He boasted that Tootsie Rolls were almost indestructible.

“Nothing can happen to a Tootsie Roll. We have some that were made in 1938 that we still eat,” Gordon told the AP in 1996. “If you can't bite it when it's that old, you certainly can lick it.”

Tootsie Rolls were invented in 1896 by New York City candy maker Leo Hirshfield, who named it for his 5-year-old daughter, Clara, his little Tootsie.

Tootsie Pops, which are lollipops with Tootsie Roll centers, have been around for more than 80 years. A 1970 TV commercial posed the question: “How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?” The company says on its website that it's received 20,000 letters from children claiming to have solved the mystery, and the gimmick has migrated to social media, where a bespectacled character named Mr. Owl tweets the question.

Tootsie Roll has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since 1922. Gordon, a Boston native, married into the business in 1950 when he wed Ellen Rubin, whose father, William Rubin, was president of Sweets Co. Of America. Gordon changed the company's name to Tootsie Roll in 1966.

JAY'S FUNERAL HOME SCHREETCH BARTHELEMY , 23, Laborer, died January 3. Funeral will be held Saturday, at Jay-Johnson Chapel. ESTHER MAE DEAN , 76, Housewife,, died January 19. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Church of Christ Written in Heaven. ZENOLA ARNITA JACKSON , 53, Dietitian, died January 24. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Sweet Home. SOL JENKINS , 76, Truck Driver, died January 21. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at The Bethel Church. LILLAN PARKINS , 81, Nurse Aide, died January 25. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Jay's Chapel. JOSEPH SCOTT , 52, Janitor, died January 23. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday at Jay -Johnson Chapel. THOMASINA SIMPSON , 87, Nurse Aide, died January 21. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at New Mount Zion Baptist.	JAY'S FUNERAL HOME JAMES SMITH , 76, Golf Caddie, died January 20. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday, at Hurst Chapel. WRIGHT & YOUNG FUNERAL HOME LABRON BROWN , 23, Landscaper, died January 24. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday at Bethel Apostolic Temple. CATHERINE DURANT , 73, died January 21. Funeral will be held 10:30 am Saturday in the chapel. DEMETREUS HAYES , 42, Transporter, died January 15. Funeral 1 pm Saturday in the chapel. KENNETH MCCOY JR. , 23, Landscaper, died January 24. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. CREOLA NEAL ,, 90, died January 21. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at Mt. Hermon A.M.E. Church. TYRONE SMITH , 41, Taxi Driver, died January 24. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday at Peace M.B. Church. LESSIE THOMPSON ,, 78, died January 22. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Antioch M.B. Church of Miami Gardens. BARBARA WEINAND , 82, died January 12. Services were held.	RANGE FUNERAL HOME ELSTON DAVIS , 90, Retired Classroom Teacher, for Miami Dade County Schools died January 25. Survivors include: daughters, Regina Cook (Stephen), and Annette Davis; son, Elston B. Davis; a host of other relatives and friends. Litany Services 6:30p.m Wednesday February 4th, followed by Omega Psi Phi Memorial Service at The Historical St. Agnes Episcopal Church. Funeral 10 am Thursday February 5, at The Church. HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - MIAMI GARDENS ESTHER EMMANUEL , Retired Chef, died January 22, at Restored Living Facility. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday at True Worship Center. VERONICA GASCOGINE , 77, Retired Administrator, died January 21, at Aventura Hospital. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday at Church of the Resurrection. NAKIA INGRAHAM FUNERAL HOME ROSE LEE HIGGINS , 60, Home-maker, died January 24 at University of Miami Hospital. Funeral 1 pm Saturday at Jordan Grove Missionary Baptist Church.	ROY MIZELL & KURTZ FUNERAL HOME JULIEN DARIUS , 91, of Fort Lauderdale, died January 24. Funeral will be held 10 am Sunday, February 1 at Mount Olivet Seventh Day Adventist Church. ROOSEVELT GARY , 85, of Fort Lauderdale, died January 23. Funeral will be held 9 am Saturday at Pure Church of Righteousness. JESSIE JONES , 77, of Fort Lauderdale died January 18. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at New Birth House of Prayer for All People. DEVON MILLER , 42, of Fort Lauderdale died January 7. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday at Roy Mizell & Kurtz Worship Center. BARBARA ANN THOMAS , 75, of Fort Lauderdale died January 22. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Mount Bethel Baptist Church. VALDON THOMAS , 57, of Fort Lauderdale, died January 21. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at Roy Mizell & Kurtz Worship Center. JOANNE WILLIAMS , 66, of Fort Lauderdale, died January 25. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday at Community Church of God. PAX VILLA FUNERAL HOMES ANDRE MECEN DACEUS , died January 13, in Orlando, FL. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Philadelphia Haitian Baptist Church of Orlando - Orlando, FL. MARIE MAGALIE PIERRE , died January 15, in Orlando, Fl. Funeral will be held 10 am Tuesday, January 31, Christ Sanctified Church - Orlando, FL.	LAKESIDE MEMORIAL CHAPEL GUILLERMO VILLORIA VELEZ , 82, died January 7, in West Palm Beach, FL. Services were held. TRACY COLEMAN , 53, Tile Installer, died January 13, in West Palm Beach, FL. Services were held. MARA LOU GOLIGHTLY , 90, died January 16, in West Palm Beach, FL. Services were held. HALL-FERGUSON-HEWITT MORTUARY SHARON DAMES-MCKENZIE , 62, Housewife, died January 25. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Greater Bethel AME. ANNIE BELL MCKINNON , 88, Cleaning Supervisor, for Fountain Bleu Hotel, died January 20. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church.	HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - MLK ERNEST T. BRISTER , 75, died January 24 at Univ. of Miami Hospital. Funeral 12 pm Saturday at DaySpring MBC. ERROL ALEXANDER CULMER , 68, Truck Driver, died January 18, at North Mia Bch. Rehab. Funeral 12 pm Saturday in MLK Chapel. TANGELA THOMAS , 43, Supervisor, MB Convention Center, died January 24 at home. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at 93rd Street Baptist Church. DONALD ALVIN THOMPSON , 59, Avis Car Attendant, died January 25, at Jackson North. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday in MLK Chapel.
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HISTORY HISTORY
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film

‘Ring’ explores issues of love

By **KIMBERLY GRANT**

Special to South Florida Times

No matter how much we tell ourselves that career is important, there’s always that small voice inside of us that says that we just want to be married and have a family.

In Lifetime's *With This Ring*, Trista (played by a comically subdued Regina Hall) makes a vow with two of her friends, Viviane (Jill Scott) and Amaya (Eve Jeffers Cooper) to be married within a year.

It’s a typical romantic comedy premise from screenwriter and director Nzinga Stewart. Trista is a junior agent with a major Hollywood talent agency, who’s never afraid to speak her mind and go for what she knows to be right. Viviane is a successful celebrity gossip blogger and mother, who’s still in love with her child’s father, Sean (Jason George). Amaya is a struggling actress, who’s dating a married man, Keith (Deion Sanders). Keith’s wife, Kitty (Gabrielle Union) is too scary to leave, though.

In an age where men complain about women saying that they don’t need a man, this film is rather poignant. It speaks to both sides of that relationship conundrum. On one side, we don’t need a man to make our lives complete, because we have our careers and we make our own money. On the other side, we would really like to have a man (a companion to share the highs and lows of life with). Unfortunately, men get confused with our direct terminology – need vs. want – and get upset.



Regina Hall stars as “Trista” in the all-new Lifetime Original Movie, *With This Ring*.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB MAHONEY

Jill Scott stars as “Viviane.”

war with her only black peer at an all-white firm.

Instead of working with Nate, she villainizes him. That is until she faces termination and he tries to come to her aid. In the end, Nate makes bold moves to show Trista just how he feels; if she would only break down the walls she’s built to protect herself. That’s, yet another thing, that we women do to get through life. We build up a wall of protection with barbed wire at the top to protect ourselves from getting hurt; which works against most jerks, but keeps us from letting the right one in.

Viviane represents another type of black woman: the demonized “baby mama.” That woman is seen as angry and bitter with her child’s father and constantly berates him. But, Viviane, early on, gives voice to the real reason for her animosity: she still loves him and is afraid to tell him for fear of rejection. So, Viviane, like many other “baby mamas” needs to get over her fear and finally be honest with the love of her life. It’s a message that we women can sometimes be our own worst enemies.

Lastly, we have Amaya, the typical side chick. The audience gets to see one of the reasons that would cause a woman to knowingly steal a man: she’s not necessarily happy with her life and thinks that she can just supplant herself in another woman’s life. That almost never works and if it does, the victory is usually short-lived.

While the plot has some holes and the story speeds too quickly in the end, *With This Ring* is a romantic comedy that explores the female psyche and makes us take a look at ourselves rather than blame it all on the man. It’s a great and insightful watch.

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music & pop culture

RAISIN' CANE Starring Jasmine Guy at South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center

Staff Report

MIAMI — A production is inspired by the classic 1923 Jean Toomer novel *Cane* and works by the musicians, composers, poets, and actors of the Harlem Renaissance comes to South Florida to celebrate Black History Month.

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center presents *Raisin' Cane* at 8 p.m. Feb. 7. Tickets are \$25-\$45. There is a special pre-performance reception to benefit the Miami-Dade Professional Women's Alliance. For tickets and information, contact the Box Office by calling 786-573-5300 or online at SMDCAC.org. The Center is located at 10950 SW 211 Street, Cutler Bay.

Starring the award winning actress, singer, and dancer Jasmine Guy, a modern day Griot, and the acclaimed Avery Sharpe Trio, *Raisin' Cane* celebrates and honors the legendary voices of the Harlem Renaissance through text, song, music, movement, and imagery.

In the American Black community, during the years leading up to the Harlem Renaissance, there was a sense of building artistic expression. Outlets and avenues for its poets, musicians, novelists, artists, and actors were few. But in 1918, as the first great World War concluded and thousands of African-American soldiers returned home victorious, this mountain of artistic expression was now ready to explode.

The words and thoughts of Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, Zora Neale Hurston, W.E.B. Du Bois and many others,

became the voice of a new generation of African-Americans looking forward but still struggling with the past and present. These thoughts, songs, and images are woven into a panoramic experience that spans this extraordinary outpouring of artistic endeavor. *Raisin' Cane* is a window on this critical point in our history.



Jasmine Guy and bassist Avery Sharpe relive the Harlem Renaissance Era.

Jasmine Guy has a regular presence on film, television, and stage. She was the star of the Bill Cosby spin-off *A Different World* for which she won six consecutive NAACP Image Awards. Recent television work includes *The Vampire Diaries*, *Melrose Place*, *NYPD Blue*, and *Dead Like Me*. A former dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, she has also appeared in a



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GUNDRUN STONE

range of Broadway and national productions including *Chicago*, *Grease*, and *The Wiz*.

On film, she starred in Spike Lee's *School Daze*, as well as in *Harlem Nights*, and *Stompin' at the Savoy*.

Avery Sharpe is considered one of the greatest jazz bassists of his generation. He has performed and toured with many of the world's top jazz musicians including Wynton Marsalis, Dizzy Gillespie, Cab Calloway, Bobby McFerrin, Pay Metheny and others. Sharpe's extraordinary compositional skills are on display in *Raisin' Cane*. His exceptional works have been performed in every musical configuration from orchestras to the Grammy Award winning jazz recordings of Michael Brecker and McCoy Tyner. For performances of *Raisin' Cane*, Mr. Sharpe is joined by the renowned percussionist Kevin Sharpe and acclaimed jazz violinist John Blake.

The Production Design is by Gregg Bellon, Theatrical Projection Design by Daniel Foster and is Directed by Dan Guerrero with Executive Producer Gloria Johnson Goins.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RAISIN' CANE PRODUCTIONS
Jasmine Guy

ON THE COVER

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALVIN EVANS
Jasmine Guy

Iconic Flashdance comes alive on stage

Staff Report

WEST PALM BEACH — The pop culture phenomenon of *Flashdance*, which took the nation by storm as a major motion picture 30 years ago, is now live on stage with electrifying dance at its core at the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts.

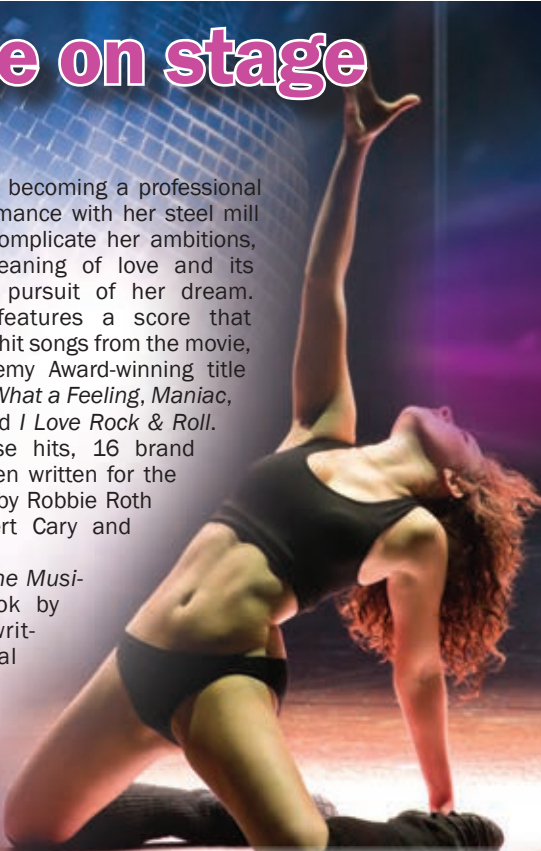
The curtain opens tonight through Feb. 1 at Kravis, 701 Okeechobee Blvd in West Palm Beach. Performances are 8 p.m. today and Friday; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Flashdance - The Musical tells the inspiring and unforgettable story of Alex Owens, a Pittsburgh steel mill welder by day and a bar dancer by night with dreams of one day becoming a professional performer.

With electrifying dance at its core, *Flashdance - The Musical* tells the inspiring and unforgettable story of Alex Owens, a Pittsburgh steel mill welder by day and a bar dancer by night with

dreams of one day becoming a professional performer. When romance with her steel mill boss threatens to complicate her ambitions, Alex learns the meaning of love and its power to fuel the pursuit of her dream. The production features a score that includes the biggest hit songs from the movie, including the Academy Award-winning title song *Flashdance* — *What a Feeling*, *Maniac*, *Gloria*, *Manhunt*, and *I Love Rock & Roll*. In addition to these hits, 16 brand new songs have been written for the musical with music by Robbie Roth and lyrics by Robert Cary and Robbie Roth.

Flashdance - The Musical features a book by Tom Hedley (co-writer of the original screenplay), and Robert Cary with direction and choreography by Sergio Trujillo (*Jersey Boys*, *Memphis*).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEREMY DANIEL
Jillian Mueller as Alex Owens

Christian rapper Trip Lee brings his brand of inspiration to Miami

Staff Report

MIAMI — Christian rapper Trip Lee is on tour again, and South Florida fans will get the first look at his new sounds later this evening.

Fuzion Promotions is presenting the first stop of Lee's 'Rise' Tour featuring KB and other special guests at 8 p.m. Jan. 29 at Central Church, 1300 SW 87th Ave. in Miami. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$25 for VIP.

Trip Lee is an acclaimed rapper, author, and Brag Ministry founder. With over 250,000 albums sold, he is one of Reach Records' (co-owned by Grammy-winning rapper Lecrae) top artists. He is also one of the Senior Pastors at the newly-planted Cornerstone Church in Atlanta. *Rise* is his fifth full-length studio album.

This will be Lee's first tour since "The Good Life Book Tour" in 2013. Some fans thought he'd stepped away from music permanently to pastor full-time. Along with label mate KB, he will go in for Jesus with a high energy and entertaining show.

Lee said he wants to inspire people to live intentionally with *Rise*. "I'd love for people to walk away from this album feeling called to live their lives right now ... Get up and live," he said.

Clinton K. Powell, the founder and president of Fuzion Promotions and Youth Pastor at Evangel Church International, said Fuzion will continue to bring fun-filled events that edify audiences and glorify God to South Florida.

"We're excited to have the Rise Tour in Miami. We were blessed to host Trip Lee's last tour 'The Good Life' and are proud to host this one. I love the way he empowers this generation not only through his music, but through his gift of writing as well. The *Rise* book and album are here to raise the bar for Christian living," Powell said.

VIP ticket holders will get a personal meet and greet with Trip Lee and be automatically entered into a raffle to win a 40-inch TV! To purchase today or get more information, visit fuzionpromotions.com or call 786-248-1297.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTESY OF REACH RECORDS
Trip Lee

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fashion

Milan designers spotlight normality this season



Calvin Klein Fall / Winter collection at Milan Fashion Week 2015.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THEFASHIONISTO.COM

MILAN (AP) — Tactile fashion is setting the trend on Sunday, the second day of Milan Fashion Week previews for next autumn and winter menswear.

Designers are luxuriating in mohair, cashmere and heavy knits, enveloping men in rich, luxurious knitwear, including oversized scarves, chunky sweaters and slumping caps. Dark shades dominate, with some flashes of pink, purple and red offering contrast and whimsy.

Here are some highlights:

Enchanting images

Massimiliano Giornetti wraps his looks for Salvatore Ferragamo in humungous scarves — signaling comfort chic, Milan's overriding message for next winter.

The underlying charm in the Ferragamo menswear collection came from the animal motifs that created a sense of enchantment. Geese fly placidly across the back of a

suit jacket, announcing winter's arrival. A shaggy buffalo peers watchfully from the side of a plaid double-breasted jacket or the front of a pullover. A zebra arches gracefully across the back of a peacoat, and a pink dragon fly is embroidered on a suit jacket sleeve.

The creatures, embedded in the garments, gave the collection an artistic, narrative flair. In keeping with the theme, bronze and horn claws become buckles and brooches.

Bottega Veneta

A soft corduroy jacket exemplifies the sort of lived-in looks at the heart of Bottega Veneta's collection for next autumn and winter. The jacket comes in surprising and pleasing shades of purple, dusty rose and green and is layered over knitwear and worn with baggy elastic-waist trousers.

Creative director Tomas Maier says the collection "is not about meticulous dressing, everything matching or looking brand new." In other words, it's about personal style, creating unique looks to populate a wardrobe.

Color contrast gives it all spark: purple against rust; Kelly green under olive; salmon pink with camel.

Mohair mop

Alessandro Dall'Acqua's fuzzy mohair skullcap, the key accessory for his latest No. 21 collection, is bound to be an instant hit next winter — providing both warmth and slumped-down style.

Dall'Acqua, presenting the third collection of his No. 21 line named for his lucky number and birthday, found comfort in mohair, which besides caps also turned up as bulky sweaters, featuring diamond, argyle or arching mermaid patterns, and socks worn under velvet sandals.

The color palate was blue and black, with just a flash of yellow.

Swat-team chic

There was a SWAT team chic uniform quality to the Calvin Klein collection for next year.

Italo Zucchelli's tone-on-tone outfits leaned toward an austere gray, black and blue palate, often in pebbled, cheetah prints. While there were tailored suits, the uniform vibe came through most strongly in the short-waisted jackets with a plethora of pockets worn with correspondingly high-waist trousers. Jackboots and leather baseball caps completed the uniform — for which there was also an optional rain poncho.

Zucchelli continued his exploration of high-tech fabrics, creating oversized trousers and cropped bomber jackets in vinyl and knitting Fair isle sweaters from an Alpaca/nylon mesh.



Chic styles by Ferragamo & other designers grace Milan runways.

ILLUSTRATION BY C. CHARLES/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

events calendar

COMPILED By MARISSA CLARKE
Special to South Florida Times

Jan. 29 - Feb. 8

January 29

One Noble Journey-A Box Marked Freedom: Michael Wiley portrays Henry “Box” Brown, a black man born into slavery who mailed himself to friends and family in Philadelphia in order to gain freedom. This one-man show gives an intimate look at Brown’s journey. Wiley will conduct a question and answer session following each performance. 11 a.m. today and Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday at Bailey Concert Hall, 3501 Davie Rd., Fort Lauderdale. \$10. 954-201-6884.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKEWILEYPRODUCTIONS.COM

January 30

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF SERENA RAMOS
Tess Brenner, Edward Lewis French in *The Tempest*.

The Tempest: Shakespeare Miami performs in this play that tells three different stories of people stranded on an island. Pack a picnic, bring a blanket or a lawn chair to enjoy the show. Dogs are not allowed. 7:30 p.m. at The Barnacle Historic State Park, 3485 Main Hwy., Coconut Grove. Free. 305-442-6866.

Outside the Box: ArtPlace America presents an evening of performances by YoungArts alumni, acclaimed artists and more! 7 to 9 p.m. at the National YoungArts Foundation, 2100 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Free. 305-377-1140 or e-mail OTB@youngarts.org.

January 31

La Boheme: Teatro Lirico D’Europa performs Puccini’s tale of young struggling artists living together in an apartment in Paris in 1830. The friends search for true love despite conflicts and an illness. The opera will be performed with full orchestra and English subtitles. 7:30 p.m. at Miramar Cultural Center, 2400 Civic Center Place, Miramar. \$40-\$45. 954-602-4500



PHOTO COURTESY OF FGOPERABLOG.BLOGSPOT.COM

Read Along, Sing a Song: Monica Kurtz, teaching artists of the Florida Grand Opera, leads students in a story. During the reading children can pick up an instrument, follow a dance, or sing a song to illustrate certain parts of the story. 4 p.m. at Hallandale Beach Branch Library, 300 S. Federal Hwy., Hallandale. Free. 305-403-3308, reservations required.

Savage Art Show: The animals at Zoo Miami put on their painter’s hats for an exhibit of original pieces. The tigers, elephants, birds, reptiles and more created fun art work that will be auctioned off to fund animal conservation projects. Dance to music and enjoy snacks or fare from food trucks as you check out the art. 7 to 11 p.m. at Bakehouse Art Complex, 561 NW 32nd St., Miami. Free. 305-576-2828.

Jan 31



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAMEBANGERS.COM

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Catch a screening of Michael Bay’s blockbuster hit about the comic book and cartoon superheroes. Donatello, Michelangelo, Rafael and Leonardo join forces to protect their home. The film stars Meghan Fox and Will Arnett. Bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy the film. 6:30 p.m. at the Margate Sports Complex, 1695 Banks Rd., Margate. Free. 954-325-5306

Kayak Adventure: Start your day watching the sunrise over Crandon Park. A naturalist will guide the group through the peaceful scenery identifying shore birds and other ocean life along the way. 6:30 a.m. at Crandon Park Nature Center, 6767 Crandon Blvd., Key Biscayne. 305-361-6767.

February 1

Harlem Renaissance Jazz: Maestro Aaron Kula presents a performance of songs that include tunes composed by Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong and W.C. Hardy. The songs are a part of the Florida Atlantic University Library’s Print Music Collection. 3 p.m. at Mandel Public Library, 411 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. Free. 561-868-7701.

February 2

Healing the Racial Divide: This three week conference kicks off with a discussion on “Black History in the Bible.” The conference is designed to create a dialogue and awareness. Guest speakers include Dr. Umar Johnson, Dr. Joy DeGruy and Jane Elliot. 7 p.m. at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. \$5, free for students. 754-242-4778.

Feb 4

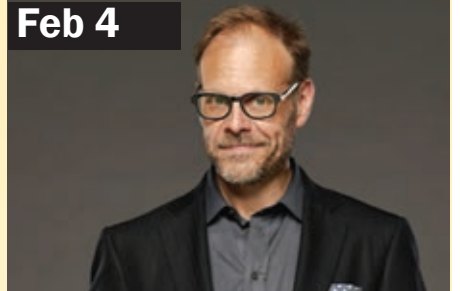


PHOTO COURTESY OF FOODNETWORK.COM

Alton Brown

Alton Brown Live! The Edible Inevitable Tour: The foodie and television personality presents this multimedia lecture featuring live music, food experimentation and puppets. 7:30 p.m. at Coral Springs Center for the Arts, 2855 Coral Springs Dr., Coral Springs. \$41.87-\$159. 954-344-5990.

February 4

Yoga in the Park: Bring your yoga mat, water, and a towel to relax and unwind with a yoga session by the bay. A certified instructor will lead you through the movements and the atmosphere is perfect to reduce your stress before returning to the weekday grind. 6 p.m. at Bayfront Park Amphitheater, 301 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Free. 305-358-7550.

February 6

Winter Star Gazing: Spend a night under the stars learning about the “Wolf Moon” from the Southern Cross Astronomical Society. A campfire will be made which is perfect for sharing stories and enjoying snacks. 7 to 10 p.m. at the Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead. Free. 305-247-5727.

February 7

Shade in the Sunshine State: Author and historian, Liz Coursen, will discuss Florida’s past in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts. The presentation will feature Jackie Robinson and his minor league debut in Sanford and Daytona Beach, Jacksonville’s 1960 sit-in, the integration of Florida schools and more. 2 to 3 p.m. at Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Free. 954-357-7443.

February 8

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

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

food

GAME DAY EATS

FAMILY FEATURES — It just isn't game day without great food to help fill your belly and spirits as you cheer your favorite team to victory. While traditional tailgate fare has a rightful place in any pre-game celebration, adding interesting new tastes and textures to your typical spread only enhances the excitement.

Quick, flavor-rich appetizers are an easy way to amp up your tailgate experience. Add diversity

to your menu with snacks that are as easy to prepare as they are likely to become new fan favorites.

You can save time while creating these delicious new dishes by relying on high-quality store-bought ingredients such as Sabra hummus and salsa. Flavorful hummus combines fresh chickpeas with the perfect blend of seasonings and ingredients to create a smooth and creamy spread every time, while each

flavor in the Sabra salsa line features a unique blend of fresh veggies for a distinctive taste that is delicious on your favorite chips or in your favorite recipe.

Turn up the heat this tailgating season with this spicy Mexican-style hummus dip that layers fresh cilantro and avocados with sour cream, cheese, hummus and salsa, or go Mediterranean with a toasty crostini covered in feta cheese, hummus and olives.

5-Layer Hummus Dip

Servings: 12

- 1 cup reduced fat sour cream
- 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped cilantro
- 2 ripe avocados; pitted and peeled
- 10 ounce container Sabra Supremely Spicy Hummus
- 1 cup reduced-fat shredded cheddar cheese
- 114-ounce container Sabra Roasted Garlic Salsa

1. In small bowl, whisk together sour cream, lime juice and cilantro. Set aside.
2. Mash avocados in medium bowl, then whisk until smooth.
3. Spread hummus in even layer on bottom of small baking dish. Sprinkle cheese evenly over hummus. Dollop avocado, sour cream mixture and salsa over cheese in layers, spreading each layer with spatula before adding next ingredient.
4. Cover and chill for at least 30 minutes. Serve with crispy tortilla or pita chips.

See our
Black History
Special Section
Next Week
Feb. 5th



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