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NATION



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Protests foretold of Justice Department findings in Ferguson investigation.

Essence of Ferguson revealed: Racism embedded

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Justice Department investigation found sweeping patterns of racial bias within the Ferguson, Police Department — with officers routinely discriminating against blacks

by using excessive force, issuing petty citations and making baseless traffic stops, according to law enforcement officials familiar with the report.

The report, which could be released as soon as Wednesday, marks the culmination

of a months-long investigation into a police department that federal officials have described as troubled and that commanded national attention after one of its officers shot and killed an unarmed

PLEASE TURN TO **FERGUSON/3A**

NATION

First Lady: most important civil right, education



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYHERO.COM

First Lady Michelle Obama is applauded as she arrives to speak.

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Michelle Obama on Friday called education the “single most important” civil rights issue facing the country and pleaded with young people to make going to school a priority, even if all they have is a “bad school.”

The First Lady made her point at a Black History Month panel discussion at the White House celebrating “women of the movement,” including two women who were not deterred by the angry mobs that assembled outside their schools in Arkansas and Georgia during the civil rights era.

Award-winning journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault was the first black woman to attend the University of Georgia, and Carlotta Walls LaNier was one of the Little Rock Nine group of students who integrated Little Rock Central High School. President Dwight D. Eisenhower eventually sent federal troops to escort them.

“Those are just two of countless stories about how folks who came before us stayed hungry for their education and

PLEASE TURN TO **OBAMA/2A**

MIAMI-DADE

HBCU grads to visit Cuba

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

Ever since President Obama eased travel restrictions to Cuba in January, the number of people trekking to the communist island has dramatically increased. One group that is joining the mix is comprised of graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). The trip is being coordinated by local marketing executive and entrepreneur, Fabiola Fleuranvil, who is the co-founder of South Florida HBCU Alumni Alliance.

Fleuranvil, 32, said she's eager to combine the HBCU and Afro-Cuba experience during their people to people excursion, one of the 12 travel categories for Americans that does not require permission from the government. The social butterfly travels often, with plans to visit South Africa prior to her June 2015 trip to Cuba. She has visited Dubai - alone - and highly recommends the solo venture to others.

Of the people joining her for the trip to Cuba, “half of the people aren't even in South Florida. I am actually surprised

at the interest level in Cuba from people outside of this community vs. people who live here,” Fleuranvil shared. The group's size is limited to 21 and 15 of those spots are already taken.

As it relates to visiting Cuba, Carole Ann Taylor has been there, done that, and wants to return. Taylor is the co-owner and co-operator of Little Havana To Go, an eclectic and popular souvenir shop in the heart of the Hispanic community.

“Twenty-one of us went with Rosie (Gordon-Wallace) and a group called Common Ground to Cuba three years ago for the Havana Art Biennial,” an event that she called a bigger version of Miami's Art Basel. “Imagine Art Basel on steroids,” she said about the event, which she referred to as “phenomenal.”

Taylor said the trip is “an out of body experience” that African Americans should take. “The ingenuity, the camaraderie, the friendliness, the talent, the art, the people, the beauty, it was classic,” she shared.

With the easier access, many

PLEASE TURN TO **CUBA/2A**

PALM BEACH



ALAN LUBY / FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

Nontombi Naomi Tutu

Tutu speaks of passion and humanity

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

Just like her father, retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nontombi Naomi Tutu speaks in a quiet tone. But also like her father, her words, while soft-spoken, are those of great power and wisdom. Naomi Tutu captivated the audience February 20, when she delivered the keynote speech at the 14th Annual William M. Holland Scholarship Luncheon, presented by the F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr. Bar Association. The luncheon was held at West Palm Beach's Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts.

Tutu's message was one of shared community, shared humanity, and embracing difference. “Our differences are a part of the very gift that God has given us,” she cautioned the audience, in terms of accepting each other. She shared the poignant story of an ‘angry white man’ who was homeless and had attended one of her lectures. He challenged her repeatedly, and yes, he even annoyed her. He persisted with his rants, and she engaged him. Both seemed to relish the challenge. He eventually asked her to join him for a cup of coffee to continue the dialogue. Reluctantly, she accepted. It had been the perfect opportunity to prejudice, stereotype and dismiss someone who clearly aggravated her. But instead, she obliged and met with him. One meeting turned into another, and another and another. Clearly, he challenged her very thoughts and, unbeknownst to her, she came to see

something special in him. “If I had stayed in the knowledge of who he was, I would have missed the beautiful gifts he had,” she reflected.

Later, when he became homeless once again, she took him into her home for several months until he could regain his footing. Today, he is known as “Uncle Carl” to her family, and he is the one who encouraged her to attend divinity school. As a result, she is now pursuing a Master of Divinity at Vanderbilt University. It was a poignant lesson in acceptance and shared humanity – a lesson in not prejudging.

“Sometimes I am that angry black woman, but don't decide that as soon as you see me,” she said, cautioning against stereotyping. “When I think about empowering and encouraging those who are coming up to lead – don't let anyone tell you your race, gender, culture, the food you eat – tell you that you are less than a human being. Just know that you bring something into the conversation.”

Tutu also stressed the importance of helping each other. No one is meant to go the road alone. We all need each other – as in shared community, she repeatedly stated. “When we look at leaders who've gone before....being questioned, challenged, cared for by family and mentors became central to who they became. A sense of community,” she pointed out. “If we want to be true leaders with a sense of community and humanity, I ask two things: Look at the

PLEASE TURN TO **TUTU/2A**

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ALAN LUBY / FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

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Cuba an open door to HBCU grads



CUBA, FROM 1A

anticipate a commercialization of the country and fear that it may lose some of its authentic character.

"I encourage everyone to get to Cuba before it gets open all the way," Taylor said. "This is a phenomenal time to get there. I would say to every African American if you get the chance to do that, do that. It's a revelation," Taylor added.

One reason that she encourages African Americans to make the trip is because Cuba is "a mostly black Caribbean island. Very much African. I always saw it that way," she said of her perception of the island's racial and ethnic composition.

Her fascination with the Afro-Cuban experience could also explain why she, an African American, decided to open a retail shop in Little Havana fifteen years ago.

In addition to an innate fearlessness about trying new things, she also anticipated a growing interest in all cultures. She started out with a shop in Bayside (now closed) and said she would love to replicate her efforts in Little Haiti and Overtown.

"There was nothing here when I opened in 1999," Taylor explains about SW 8th Street and 14th Avenue, which is now bustling with bars, restaurants, and other retail shops. Taylor's shop is sandwiched between a McDonald's to her



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA HARRIS / FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES
(Top) Carole Ann Taylor in Little Havana's Domino Park. (Right) Fabiola Fleurvanil, (Lower left) Jaesyn Mixon

right and on the left, a small ceviche restaurant. A few steps away is Domino Park, a vibrant slice of Hispanic life where several tables are full of mostly older gentlemen concentrating on their next move.

Taylor's unusual decision to open a store in a community outside of her own is now viewed by many as a stroke of prophetic brilliance. As if on cue, a double decker bus full of tourists parks in front of her shop as a few of its passengers disembark. Many are interested in entering Little Havana To Go, but it is currently closed as it undergoes renovations.

The 70-year old dynamo and her son and business partner, Jaesyn Mixon, also own other shops, including two in Miami International Airport. On this Sunday afternoon, Mixon is manning a T-shirt stand outside of the shop, selling the 'Little Havana' embroidered shirts for \$5 in an inventory liquidation sale. Many other items are being sold at 50 percent off to make way for new merchandise.

Taylor said when the renovations are complete at the end of the month, the shop's offerings and its atmosphere will be transformed. "We have a liquor license, so we'll be serving drinks. A cigar roller will be here," she said, pointing to an area near the front of the store, "and artisans will also be here creating and selling their wares," she shared.

A person is a person only through other people



ALAN LUBY / FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

Nontombi Naomi Tutu and Carole Y. Taylor, Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeals.

TUTU, FROM 1A

crisis as a time to build bridges and find allies, and secondly, 'A person is a person only through other people.'

Each year, the F. Malcolm Cunningham Sr. Bar Association awards scholarships to third year law students who are preparing to take the Bar Examination. This year, the scholarship recipients acknowledged during the luncheon were: Dawn Boulding, Jalecia Coley and Paulinas Oraike.

Boulding is an evening student at Florida A&M University College of Law. She has worked full-time throughout her law school career while raising two daughters. She is currently the Family Court Manager for the 9th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. She aspires to practice Family Law. She will graduate in May.

Coley also attends Florida A&M College of Law. Since third grade she has dreamed of becoming a lawyer. She is currently a law clerk at Bryant Miller Olive working in public finance. Upon graduation, she hopes to secure a job with the firm or clerk for a federal judge.

Oraike attends Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville, Florida where he is among the top 10 percent in his class. He is a Dean's scholar and member of the Honor Society. He also attended school in Poland as well as Nigeria, where he is from. He intends to practice law in Florida.

All three recipients were on hand to accept their awards.

Tutu also gave words of wisdom to high school students from Inlet Grove Community School in Riviera Beach. She cautioned them to find their passion and to find people who encouraged them and also those who challenged them. "If you have that combination, you'll have success," she told them.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: South Florida HBCU Alumni Alliance travels to Cuba

WHEN: June 24–28, 2015

COST: \$2595 per person; \$600 deposit due March 18; cost is all-inclusive with flight, hotel, meals, full itinerary, tour guide and ground transportation in Cuba. Solo travelers can be paired with a roommate.

CONTACT: For more information or to book your trip, contact Fabiola Fleuranvil at Fabiola@BlueprintCreativeGroup.com.

Translate the victories

OBAMA, FROM 1A

paved the way for those who came after them, including me and so many in this room," Mrs. Obama told students, civil rights advocates, community leaders and others seated in the East Room.

"And today, thanks to their sacrifice, there are no angry mobs gathering outside our schools," she said. "Nobody needs a military escort to get to class, but that doesn't mean that our children

don't still face struggles when it comes to education."

Mrs. Obama, who attributes her own success to education and heads an initiative that encourages young people to pursue post-secondary education, said too many students still attend dilapidated schools or schools that lack the latest technology or the college prep classes and college counseling they need.

Students fall behind in life when they fall behind in school, she said.

"So, like many of you, I believe that education is the single most important civil rights issue that we face today," the First Lady said.

She said education will help solve issues like mass incarceration, racial profiling, voting rights "and the kinds of challenges that shocked so many of us over the past year," an apparent reference to police-involved killings of black men in Ferguson, Missouri, and Staten Island in New York City.

The First Lady urged the young people in the audience to "translate the victories that these women won into habits in your own lives."

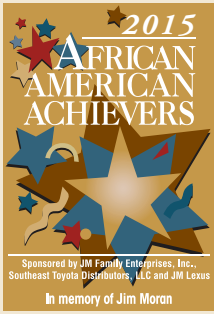
"That means going to class every day. Every day. No matter what obstacle life may throw your way, go to school," she said. "Go to the bad school that you have. Go to school."



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Michelle Obama speaks at Black History Month Event.

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Black Republicans ostracized

What is it about black Republicans that make black Democrats cuss them, ignore them or call them names?

When I was a Democrat, I never paid much attention to the negativity hurled at black Republicans probably because I never bought into the habit of gossiping about people or calling them names. My main focus had always been about people's deeds – whether positive or negative. I judged people by what they did, not by who they were.

So it came as a culture shock when I switched to the Republican Party – mainly because of how other people began to treat me. Here I was the same person, but with a different political perspective brought on by what I saw as hypocrisy in the way in which the black community was treated by the Democratic Party.

No longer was I “one of us.” I was now “one of them.” And then I saw the reality of viciousness. I even wrote a poem, entitled “Why Do You Call Me Names?” published in 2000.

Fourteen years later it still amazes me how deep the hatred goes for black Republicans –without any foundation. No one has ever been able to give me a rational determination as to why.

But it is there – a deeply engrained animosity - magnified by the level of horrific names attributed to us. Even more so when we dare articulate our reasons for not voting Democrat.

And, Heaven forbid, we say something negative about Obama. If this was Salem, we would be burned at the stake.

It is within this framework that makes the roadblocks set up by black Democrats for black Republican political candidates much more difficult to knock down. So decent intelligent Republican candidates have a harder row to hoe.

Former Maryland Lt. Governor Michael Steele had his face painted like “Little Black Sambo” in a newspaper article when he ran for Congress. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was depicted as a welfare-cheating “Aunt Jemima” in a cartoon.

And we all know what has been said about Colin Powell, J.C. Watts and Alan Keyes – Uncle Toms, House N*****s. And those are just the names we can print.

NFL great, Lynn Swann, got elected to the College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, taking the Pittsburgh Steelers to the Super Bowl three times with black folk screaming his name, but couldn't get them to vote for him for Governor of Pennsylvania in 2006 because he was a Republican.

He would have been the first African-American governor of Pennsylvania. By the way, there were three black gubernatorial candidates that year, including Ohio Republican Kenneth Blackwell, who also lost. Only the

Democratic candidate, Deval Patrick, won in Massachusetts.

When Allen West ran (and won) for Congress the first time, his social security number along with other very personal information was published in a newsletter sent to over 60,000 Democrats. Information about his wife and children were also published, causing one of his daughters to lose a scholarship to college and his wife to lose one of her most lucrative contracts.

And that's the way it has been for almost every black Republican candidate, particularly those for Congress. One of my Democratic friends said that it would be 250 years before a black Republican would be elected to Congress.

Why? Well, he couldn't really give me an intelligent answer. Just that they would have to be Democrat to get elected. Translation: black folk will only vote for a Democrat.

Funny, black folk swear that Republicans are racists. But when white Republicans will vote for a black Republican (man or woman) to represent them and black folk won't, then who's the real racist?

Thankfully, more and more, black Republicans are winning their races every year, thanks primarily to white Republicans, ask Congresswoman Mia Love and Senator Tim Scott (R-SC), the first African-American from the South to win a Senate seat since the 1870s.

In January, 2014, the president of the South Carolina NAACP, the Rev. William Barber II (a minister no less) called Senator Tim Scott a “Ventriloquist Dummy.” It was one of the nastiest names hurled at an elected official that I have heard. And it came from a black preacher who ran the agency created to protect blacks from racism.

The same goes for Congresswoman Mia Love, the first Haitian-American, the first black female Republican in Congress and the first black person to be elected from the State of Utah, according to Wikipedia. Mia had ugly things written about her by black liberals.

Only Black Republicans, including me, had positive things to say or write about her. She took it all in stride. I don't know what infuriated liberals more – that she was Republican, Haitian, Mormon or married to a white Mormon.

Such bias is blatant hypocrisy from a community who is supposedly Christian and followers of Jesus Christ.

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



Honor those who fought for – not against – the United States

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame was established in recent years to honor some of the best of our nation's military veterans – courageous citizens who served, fought and sacrificed to keep us safe and free.

But there's a disturbing and increasing prospect that some of our state leaders in the legislative and executive branches are poised to reignite the passions from the Civil War today. That's why it would be a mistake to induct Confederate soldiers into our state Veterans' Hall of Fame. It is the wrong place, wrong time -- and it would send the wrong kind of message in 2015.

Now is the time when we should continue to unite our state and our country. Now is when we should be honoring diverse veterans for their selfless service in defending our great nation, not soldiers who fought against it.

The lingering question confronting Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet – and the Florida Legislature – is whether to induct three Florida men who served the Confederacy in the Civil War: David Lang, Samuel Pasco and Edward Perry. Lang helped found what is now the Florida National Guard. Pasco later was a U.S. Senator, and Pasco County is named after him. Perry was a Florida Governor.

All three clearly moved on after serving the Confederacy, to their credit and the state's benefit, and had distinguished careers in Florida. They surely deserve to be remembered for their contributions to our state, but not in the Veterans' Hall of Fame.

More than 1.5 million veterans live in Florida --

the third largest population of vets after California and Texas. Wartime veterans today account for some 1.2 million veterans in Florida. These brave men and wom-



en fought for the United States of America. They put their lives on the line every day to protect our country, our freedom and our very way of life.

Confederate soldiers fought *against* the United States. They fought for states denying freedom to hundreds of thousands of slaves.

The Civil War was a dark period in American and Florida history. President Abraham Lincoln pledged to keep slavery out of territories that were not yet states. Florida was among the states to secede from the Union over that anti-slavery policy.

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs officials say the three Confederate nominees do not qualify as veterans under federal and state law, because they didn't serve in the U.S. military. But, Sons of Confederate Veterans, a group whose ancestors fought against the Union, disagrees.

This should not come down to what constitutes a veteran. The real and

larger issues are what the Veterans' Hall of Fame represents -- and what do we stand for in Florida?

The Hall should celebrate the finest Floridians who served the United States through military services. We should be honoring those veterans who exemplify what America stands for, not what the Confederate States of America represented.

Gov. Jeb Bush understood this when, in 2001, he had the Confederate flag that had long flown over the state Capitol finally taken down. He knew that the Confederate flag, unlike the American flag, does not represent all of us – and it should be history: a part of our past.

The Civil War ended 150 years ago. The Union was preserved, slavery was abolished and the nation slowly rebuilt. Florida rejoined the USA. We should surely remember and study that history – but it would be wrong to honor it in this misguided way.

Honoring Confederate veterans in Florida's Capitol today would be divisive – and would reignite issues that helped tear apart our country in the Civil War.

Instead, let's show our solidarity as a nation and state, support our soldiers and honor our U.S. veterans. They are the real heroes for all of us.

Adora Obi Nweze is president of NAACP Florida State Conference and Miami-Dade Branch; she can be reached at adoranwezel@bellsouth.net or (305) 915-4701. Oliver Gilbert is the Mayor of Miami Gardens; he can be reached at ogilbert@miamigardens-fl.gov or (305) 914-9170, ext. 2791.

Black History in March

March 5, 1770: Crispus Attucks is killed in the Boston Massacre, marking the start of the American Revolution.

March 6, 1857: U.S. Supreme Court rules against citizenship for African Americans in the Dred Scott decision.

March 7, 1539: Esteban de Dorantes, native of Azamoor, Morocco, sets out to explore what is now the Southwestern United States.

March 8, 1876: After three years of controversy, the U.S. Senate refused to seat P.B.S. Pinchback, elected as Louisiana Senator in 1873.

March 9, 1919: Nora Douglas Holt and other black Chicago musicians form the Chicago Musical Association.

March 10, 1845: Women's rights activist Hallie Quinn Brown is born in Pittsburgh, Pa.

March 11, 1948: Dr. Reginald Weir of New York City wins his first match in the USLTA Tennis Championship Tournament.



Crazy Republicans' internal arguments at all time high

The Republicans have the largest majority in generations, and they are fighting amongst themselves like cats and dogs. The Tea Party contingent wants to shut down the government, shut down the IRS, and repeal every initiative that was implemented by the Democrats for the last six years. This makes no sense because Republicans now have the power in both houses, and they want to teach President Obama a lesson.

All around the globe there is war and terrorists, and the Republicans have backed themselves into a corner by threatening to shutdown the Department of Homeland Security by withholding funding. Many Republicans thought by taking an extreme position, they would have leverage to stop the president's executive orders on immigration.

But President Obama and the Democrats knew that all they had to do is wait because there are only 54 Republicans in the Senate, and they need 60 votes to put House bills

on the Senate floor. Therefore, the House can vote on any crazy measure they can think of, but the Senate Democrats can filibuster the bill, and the bill will go nowhere. If Congress does not pass a DHS spending bill, the agency will partially shut down, and potentially furlough 30,000 employees.

The Democrats and the president want a clean bill with no riders stripping away the president's immigration actions. Even though the Republicans have all this new numbers power, they have no agreed-upon strategy or comprehensive agenda. They are still trying to figure out what they are going to do next, and at this point, they are not getting much done.

The Republicans have only gotten two bills to become law since they swept into office with the 2014 election. One bill was a leftover from last year that funds a terrorist insurance program, and the other a non-controversial bill to address mental health problems among veterans. In 2007, when

the Democrats had control of both houses, in two months they had seven bills signed by the president and made into laws.

At this point, there is too much infighting with the Republicans, and President Obama is waiting to veto any bill that does not make sense from his point of view. President of the Senate, Mitch McConnell, has worked out a bill that would allow funding until the end of the fiscal year for DHS. This is the beginning of compromise in the Senate, and this is good for the country.

The bill has passed the Senate, and now everyone is waiting for the House to make a decision on a bill to keep DHS open. On Friday, February 27th, Speaker of the House, John Boehner was not able to get a bill passed by the House because there is too much fighting in his party. The Senate passes a different bill to keep the DHS open for one week, and three hours before the Department is getting ready to shut down, a bipartisan bill is passed by the House.

Fighting and pointing fingers gets nothing accomplished in the House, and collaboration and compromise is essential to the democratic process. Both parties must respect each other's point of view because they need each other to get bills passed in the House. In the final analysis, each party must give up something to get some of what they want.

“There're terrorist attacks all over the world, and we're talking about closing down Homeland Security. This is like living in the world of the crazy people,” tweeted Rep. Peter King of New York, a former chairman of the Homeland Security Committee.

Roger Caldwell, a community activist, author, journalist, radio host and CEO of On Point Media Group, lives in Orlando. His book, The Inspiring Journey of a Stroke Survivor, details the story of his recovery from a massive stroke. He may be reached at jet38@bellsouth.net.

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

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CHANGING THE CURRENT.



Health



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

Dr. Doctor

By PIERRE B. BLAND, DVM

Here is a statement you probably thought you would never hear as an honest admission: Being a Doctor has its advantages. It gets people’s attention and garners a high level of respect, whether you deserve it or not. It is also not an assurance that people won’t be ... for lack of a better term...jerks.

Recently, I was asked to consult on a very interesting case. A young dog was exhibiting pain in his left elbow. He did not have a history of injury and was young enough that osteoarthritis was a very low probability. In the process of diagnosing and treatment of his ailment, he began exhibiting the same symptoms in his right elbow. He was diagnosed with an autoimmune arthritic condition and referred to a veterinary rheumatologist for further evaluation and treatment. The owner of the dog declined the referral and opted to treat the dog himself, contrary to the advice of his veterinarian. The reason for this decision? Because he is a physician. Let’s call him Dr. Doctor.

By his assessment, Dr. Doctor explained because he is a physician and because the same condition occurs in people he is at least, if not more qualified than a veterinarian to treat and manage his pet’s condition. He did so, as is his option, and disaster ensued. The pet’s condition worsened and he began to have side effects from Dr. Doctor’s treatment regime. At this point, I was introduced to the case.

Through the process of examining the pet, reviewing his diagnostic tests, and a very long conversation with Dr. Doctor, I came to this not so startling and obvious

conclusion: his treatment plan and execution was just bad and wrong. He couldn’t understand why the dog was not getting better and in fact getting worse. He exclaimed, “I don’t understand why this didn’t work. I am a physician.” To which I replied, “Yes, but you are not a veterinarian.”

People tend to think of their dogs and cats as children. That can be problematic in many ways, especially when it comes to medical treatment. At this point, I will state the obvious: The physiology of dogs and cats is different from that of humans. They can react differently to drugs and treatments than humans. The unfortunate experience of Dr. Doctor’s dog is proof the practice of medicine is an art. You have to be very observant of your treatment and diagnostic practices because they never seem to work exactly the same way in any two animals. It has been my experience that my patients have not read the same medical text as I, so they don’t know they are supposed to respond positively to all my treatments. Also, any time you are treating your own pet or the pet of someone you are very close too, it is unavoidable and inevitable you will lose perspective. In Dr. Doctor’s case, I think his choice was a matter of ego. We all know ego can be a killer, figuratively and literally.

With the intervention of good veterinary medical care, the dog is now well on the mend and Dr. Doctor has learned a valuable lesson. He is still a bit persnickety towards me due to my blunt response to his failed medical treatment. He suggests I could have been a bit less blunt in sharing my disapproval of his choice and I agree. I re-elucidated my disapproval: “Don’t pee on my leg and tell me it is raining!”

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 RESEARCH.VET.UPENN.EDU

Caribbean

Because we have heroes [part 1]



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

By CALIBE THOMPSON

Sometimes I write like I know about how most Caribbean people feel. Today I’m writing from the Jamaican experience. A Jamaican friend reminded me that we have heroes and it triggered an alternative viewpoint for me.

In America, I know about Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Rosa Parks. You call them “black leaders” or “change makers,” titles like that. In Jamaica, we have “heroes.” We have leaders too, but the people who changed the course of our country’s history are sold to us as heroes. From the time we are little children, we learn about strong black people with African features who violently fought off the imperialists.

The first of these was Nanny of the Maroons, a small woman whose legendary powers included catching bullets with her buttocks. Beyond the legend though, her documented tactical prowess allowed the Maroons to keep British forces from infiltrating their mountain stronghold. She’s my favorite because she is a woman, but our other heroes led slave rebellions and our country’s move to independence from British rule. We even have Marcus Garvey, who seems to somehow have been claimed as an American black leader (I suppose he was a black leader in America), but who was in fact Jamaican.

The friend I was talking to suggested that our leaders were warriors, fighters, they took what they wanted. They didn’t sit quietly in buses or seek out permits for peaceful protest. Maybe that’s why our nature is to be so proud and forthright, because we have warrior heroes rather than peaceful protesters.

On the flip side of this argument, I for one despise violent protests. But that’s probably because we live in a different time. I think back then, I would have been right by Nanny’s side leading the fight for freedom. Today the violence has gone too far and the war has to become more intellectual I think. We need to address laws, policies and practices that still enslave blacks in this country and yes, even back home.

There’s more to this line of argument so let’s pick this up next week, shall we? To be continued. ...

Calibe Thompson is a personality, author and the Executive Producer of “Taste the Islands”, premiering nationwide on PBS in April 2015. For your free preview of her 2015 collection of writings, Things I Probably Shouldn’t Say, visit www.calibe.net.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRITANNICA.COM

Marcus Garvey chairing a session of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, 1924.



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Business

Iconic Cajun food company celebrates 60 years

By WILLIAM JOHNSON
The Daily World

OPELOUSAS, La. — Eula Savoie started a business 60 years ago selling sausages made from a hand-operated meat grinder. Since then, it's become a regionally known business delivering some of the best of Cajun cuisine to the world.

Savoie's Sausage and Food Products is still located near Opelousas as Savoie's kitchen was. Now, with 110 employees, it's celebrating its 60th anniversary.

To mark the occasion, the company has issued a new logo, which reads "60 years of real Cajun food products. Savoie's, 1955-2015."

"Sixty years is a real milestone. There are not many niche food products companies that can say that," said Robert van Leeuwen, a vice president with the company.

He said the company prides itself in offering food products that are as traditional as they are as delicious. Savoie's specializes in smoked sausages, tasso, boudin, rice dressing mix and roux.

In 2001, the company launched a line of frozen entrees, including chicken and sausage gumbo, shrimp étouffée, pork stew and more.

"We place an emphasis on meeting consumer demands, and there is a great deal of demand nationwide for prepared meals," van Leeuwen said. "We're constantly innovating and expanding."

The company is now creating a line of premium frozen appetizers, including Cajun boudin bites made with ground pork, onion and rice.

"We're also doing jalapeño boudin bites and fried seafood appetizers," he said.

The company serves customers from Mississippi to Texas. Soon it plans to expand into Arkansas and Alabama through a growing relationship with major retailers such as Wal-Mart, Winn Dixie, Kroger's and Albertson's.

"It's a huge plus for us and for consumers," van Leeuwen said. "As more stores move here and the area continues to grow, so do we."

The company is also working to expand distribution to grocery stores in additional southeastern states including Florida and Georgia.

It all began with Eula Savoie, still known affectionately as "Ms. Eula."

"She started all this. She was an inspirational person and very hands on. You could find her in the plant every day," van Leeuwen said.

She died in 2010, but van Leeuwen said her children and grandchildren remain active with the company.

"We're now in the second generation of family ownership; moving into the third and growth is on our minds," he said.

"No matter how large we might grow, we'll always be a family company," said company president Freddie Lafleur.

The company is still headquartered on the original Savoie's Grocery site on Louisiana 742 just east of Opelousas.

"Many employees are from the same families who first worked for Ms. Eula proving we still consider ourselves first and foremost a family business. And when you taste

any of Savoie's Cajun food products, you'll see for yourself what it means to be a part of our family," Lafleur said.

In 1926, Eula Savoie was born to Ollie and Ezola Morris along the Little Bayou Teche. She grew up in a traditional Cajun home, speaking English and Cajun French. Because her mother was in poor health, Savoie learned to cook when she was just a child.

"Even though mother was sickly a lot of the time, it didn't stop her from showing me how to do things," Savoie said in a 2007 interview with this reporter. "My mom taught us how to make the sausage, boudin and hogshead cheese. That all comes from her. It's all based on her recipes."

In 1949, at her parents' suggestion, she and her husband, Tom Savoie, purchased a small country grocery store on La. 742 and opened it as Savoie's Grocery. While they didn't know it at the time, they were laying the groundwork for a Cajun food empire.

"We bought it so I could keep working. It's a job you can do while you're pregnant," Savoie said in the earlier

down the highway in the days before U.S. 190 cut through the area.

Soon, she branched out to selling her products throughout the area.

"That's how it all started. I was delivering the sausage made from one hog each week," she said.

As the business grew, she went from butchering one hog a week to two, then three. Soon she was buying hogs from other farmers.

To handle the growing business, Savoie moved the business into a building behind the store, hiring local families to handle the growing volume.

The 1960s was a time of diversification for the company. Savoie started offering other Cajun food products, such as rice dressing mix and jarred roux.

"1962 is when we began selling through stores other than our own," Savoie said.

In 1972, after she and her husband divorced, Eula Savoie bought out his interest in the business. At the time it consisted of 30 employees, working in a 5,300-square-foot processing plant behind the old grocery.

Savoie began investing in new, automated equipment for better production.

"We added new machinery as we could afford it, but never to replace an employee," she said.

In 1990, when Louisiana created the term "Certified Cajun," Savoie's was one of the first companies to apply for and receive the designation.

As her business grew, one of the first South Louisiana companies owned by a woman collected awards.

In 1991, she received the Louisiana Business Person of the Year award from the Louisiana Department of Economic Development. That same year, Working Woman magazine recognized her with an Entrepreneurial Excellence Award.

In 2001, she was awarded the prestigious national Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the Gulf Coast Region.

Also at this time, Savoie's acquired Acadian Fine Foods in Church Point, allowing for the distribution of ready-prepared seafood pies and Cajun entrees.

Today, Savoie's small grocery store has grown into a multimillion-dollar regional brand, supplying quality Cajun food products to national and independent grocery chains and stand-alone groceries. Her food, which can now be purchased online, is also a staple in some of the nation's top restaurants.



Eula Savoie and chef make sausage.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAVOIESFOOD.COM

interview.

In 1952, the Savoies purchased a 187-acre plot of land. They planned to go into the hog farming business and supplement their income from the store.

But in 1955, the price of hogs dropped and the cost of raising them became too much of a financial hardship. Savoie's mother suggested slaughtering the unsold hogs to make sausage and other pork-based products they could sell.

Using a hand-operated No. 3 home meat grinder and her mother's recipes, Savoie began making smoked sausage, boudin and hogshead cheese and selling them in her grocery store.

She said those items proved very popular and the store became a regular stop for truckers who traveled up and

E-book, Autobiography of Malcolm X expected

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK — One of the last major digital holdouts, "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," should soon be available as an e-book, the attorney for the late activist's estate told The Associated Press.

L. Londell McMillan said Friday that a digital edition will likely be out by May 19, what would have been Malcolm X's 90th birthday, and that the estate expects to self-publish the book. Saturday marked the 50th anniversary of Malcolm's assassination.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXSHARK.COM

Malcolm X

"Malcolm X was a fervent advocate for self-help, self-reliance and self-respect," McMillan said in explaining why the estate favored self-publishing over releasing the e-book through the publisher of the paper editions, Ballantine Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

"Today's technology allows for innovative means to share content and add to it for educational, cultural and commercial purposes. Malcolm X did not grant all rights to a publisher in

perpetuity. The works and rights of Malcolm X belong to his children and the community, not a publisher."

McMillan said that the estate, X Legacy LLC, also hopes to release an audiobook and to self-publish other works by Malcolm, including speeches, letters and diaries. In November 2013, the estate sued to prevent a Chicago-based publisher from releasing a diary Malcolm X kept near the end of his life.



"We shall vigorously file legal action to protect those intellectual property rights," McMillan said.

The autobiography is a collaboration with Alex Haley published in 1965, soon after Malcolm was killed. It was immediately acclaimed as a riveting account of Malcolm X's self-transformation, has sold millions of copies and is widely regarded as one of the most important memoirs in American history. Porscha Burke, a publishing manager and associate editor at Random House, told the AP that the hardcover and paperbacks of the autobiography were "precious jewels" and noted that the publisher had prepared special editions for the 50th anniversary of the book's release.

"While we would be honored to be asked to publish an e-book edition, we are aware, and respectful, of the estate's interest in publishing the work as an e-book under their own direction," Burke wrote in an email.


Agents have long complained that e-book royalties paid by traditional publishers are too low, but rarely have works as popular as "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" been self-published or released through a third party. J.K. Rowling decided to sell e-editions of her "Harry Potter" books through her own Pottermore web site. Such celebrated novels as Alice Walker's "The Color Purple" and Erica Jong's "Fear of Flying" are published as e-books through the digital company Open Road Integrated Media.

The number of works not offered electronically has shrunk rapidly in the past few years, with even such devotees of paper as Harper Lee and Ray Bradbury permitting e-books. J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye" and Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude" are among the few major books still unavailable digitally.



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WEST PALM BEACH

Mayor Muoio has a record of results. 5,000 new jobs for residents. Crime is down 16%. Over \$1.8 million in neighborhood improvements, road repairs and small business assistance. Programs including the Village Initiative, Promise Zone, and the Mayor's Youth Council will help improve education, housing, economic development and public safety. That's why so many community leaders and organizations support Jeri Muoio. Re-elect Mayor Jeri Muoio on March 10th to keep the good things going.



"WEST PALM BEACH IS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION"

ENDORSEMENTS: Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches - Economic Council of Palm Beach County
Palm Beach County Human Rights Council Voters Alliance - Realtors Association of the Palm Beaches
Associated Builders and Contractors - West Palm Beach Association of Firefighters - Police Benevolent Association
- AFL-CIO - National Organization For Women - SEIU Equality Florida - Ruth's List

Vote Tuesday, March 10! www.JeriMuoio.com

Fund by Jeri Muoio for West Palm Beach Mayor



art and culture

Portraitic Perspectives by David I. Muir

PHOTOS 2,3,6 AND 7 BY ALAN LUBY / FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES / PHOTOS 1, 4, 5 AND 8 COURTESY OF DAVID I. MUIR
(1) Rachel Martin - Regal Beauty (2) People looking at Halcyon Sealy (3) Looking at Allison Miché Johnson (4) Ashaine Briscoe - Who Me... Lucy (5) Danielle Bell - Lock Down (6) Looking at Kristine Alicia - Live in Your Dream (7) David I. Muir and his book *Pieces of Jamaica* (8) Crystal Garth - Jus A Lil Picky



NEWS BRIEFS

Local 4-H youth raise funds for Armed Forces Foundation

SOUTH FLORIDA — Members of the 4-H District XIII Council will hold a 4K run/walk on Saturday as part of 4-Helping Hands, which benefits military service members. Students ages 8 to 18 from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties make up the council.

The untimed race starts at 8 a.m., with check-in at 7 a.m., at Topeekeegee Yugnee Park, #12 corporate shelter, 3300 North Park Rd. in Hollywood. After the race, there will be food, drinks, music, fun family activities and awards.

All proceeds will benefit the Armed Forces Foundation, which supports service members and their families during times of need and transition to civilian life.

For more information, contact the 4-H District XIII Council at district13council@bellsouth.net.

Broward College awarded for volunteer service efforts

FORT LAUDERDALE — Junior Achievement USA will honor Broward College with a U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award during a gala dinner Tuesday in New York City.

The organizations receiving the awards provided Junior Achievement with significant volunteer resources during the 2013-14 school year.

"Broward College always strives to be a central fixture in the community, so it is an honor to be the only state college in Florida, as well as one of the three colleges and universities nationwide to be recognized to receive the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award," said Broward College President J. David Armstrong Jr.

Broward College is receiving the award at the silver level for providing at least 10,000 volunteer hours to local Junior Achievement offices during the year.

Jackson Health to build medical facility in Doral

MIAMI — Jackson Health System has announced plans to expand its medical care service to one of Miami-Dade's fastest-growing commercial and residential areas.

Jackson unveiled plans to purchase a 27-acre parcel of land, located at 7800 NW 29th St. Immediate plans for the site, located in Doral, will center on the development of a state-of-the-art outpatient campus that includes a free-standing emergency room/urgent care center for adults and children, as well as a children's ambulatory center for specialized pediatric care. Long-term plans could include the creation of a medical mall that will offer services such as same-day surgery, outpatient cardiac catheterization, dialysis, chemotherapy, outpatient rehabilitation, a wellness center, and more.

Students will compete in high school Ethics Bowl

WEST PALM BEACH — From moral issues of copying homework to violence against bullies to blocking uninsured motorists from refueling, teams of high school students will analyze and support ethical and philosophical cases on a wide range of ethical dilemmas during the fourth annual Ethics Bowl on Saturday.

The bowl will be held at Conniston Middle School, 3630 Parker Ave. in West Palm Beach, with 16 teams from 10 schools competing. The first round of competition will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The teams will work collaboratively to form an argument and then present their case for five minutes. Judges from various community organizations will rate the arguments on content vs. style and assign a score. The winners will advance to the National High School Ethics Bowl, held in April on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Compiled from staff, wire reports

MIAMI-DADE

Honor for Miami's first black millionaire



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

The Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department on Friday unveiled its new Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) and christened it Dorsey after D.A. Dorsey, Miami's first black millionaire. The TBM will bore 75 feet underground and install a 60-inch sewer main from Fisher Island to the Central District Waste Water Treatment Plant on Virginia Key. Students from MAST Academy submitted Dorsey based on his impact to the community. Dorsey

worked for Henry Flagler and the Florida East Coast Rail Road Company, and later owned what is now known as Fisher Island, which he sold to Carl G. Fisher. Dana Dorsey Chapman-Lewis, Dorsey's granddaughter, along with two great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren attended the name unveiling. They were joined by Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez and Commissioner Barbara Jordan.

MIAMI-DADE



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBIESCHLUSSEL.COM

Emilio T. González

MIA launches Mobile Passport control app

Staff Report

MIAMI — Miami International Airport is now one of just two U.S. airports to offer Mobile Passport (<http://mobilepassport.us>), the new U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) mobile app and the latest tech-based tool MIA has deployed to enhance the customer experience, county aviation officials have announced.

The mobile app — for iOS and Android devices — allows travelers to enter and submit their passport and customs declaration information using their smart phone or tablet instead of filling out traditional paper forms. Mobile Passport is the result of a partnership between CBP, Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) and app developer Airside Mobile. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport became the first in the country to utilize the technology last fall.

The free Mobile Passport app is available to U.S. citizens with a valid U.S. passport and Canadian citizens with both a valid Canadian passport and B1 or B2 visa status. Explaining the process, officials

SOUTH FLORIDA

Grace Arts Center puts twist on *Romeo and Juliet*

Staff Report

SOUTH FLORIDA — It may seem like an unlikely marriage — Shakespeare and hip hop, tango, spoken word and graffiti arts, but the cast of *R&J [romeoandjuliet] A Danced Drama* is bringing to the stage divergent art forms to re-tell a timeless classic, *Romeo and Juliet*.

The Fort Lauderdale-based Grace Arts Center bills its version of the Shakespearean masterpiece as a highly interactive, *avant garde* theater experience. The creators say *R&J*'s artists will engage young audiences with performances in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties beginning Friday at the downtown Broward County Public Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave. in Fort Lauderdale.

Romeo and Juliet is a timeless story about two young people who leave behind their neighborhood and trade a future of sorrows to train their beautiful minds. In this version, set in Miami at the turn of 20th century, the couple's choices change their lives, the course of their families — and their city — forever.

Clare Vickery, the founder and director of Grace Arts Center, has teamed up with Janet Erlick of the Fort Lauderdale Children's Theater (FLCT) to co-produce *R&J*. Grace Arts Center is a nonprofit organization that focuses on after-school arts programs, public art festivals, cultural events and recreational classes. The center provides performances in the tri-county area.

Erlick said the marriage of modern and classic art forms is the inspiration for the project.

"It's always wonderful to introduce Shakespeare to young audiences as the themes and characters still resonate strongly today," said Erlick. "This *R&J* project adapts the story and adds modern influences, music and multiple art forms to make a truly unique theatrical experience." She added that this past summer, FLCT alumni and students began to explore how to combine hip hop, stage combat, tango and street art to highlight the worlds of the Capulets and Montagues.

"The upcoming performances," she said, "will take that foundational work and expand upon it."

Vickery said guests can expect "the blending of two dance styles, classic Shakespeare and spoken word, graffiti arts, current and with retro melodies in a DJ produced soundtrack, with a little bit of South Florida history that punctuates the adaptation of this classic love story. The surprise ending is meant to encourage dialog with the audience about the art forms used and push boundaries in the arts while mastering the foundations."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES ARGYROPOULOS

PREPARATION: Actors Carmen Skyy and Marlon Migala appear at *R&J* dress rehearsal.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: *R&J [romeoandjuliet] A Danced Drama*

WHEN & WHERE: 6 p.m. Friday, Broward Public Library Theater, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale

7 p.m. March 27, Light Project at the Goldman Warehouse, 404 Northwest 26th St., Miami

6:30 p.m. April 14, Deering Estate, 16701 SW 72nd Ave., Miami

7 p.m. April 17, Crest Theatre at the Old School Square, 51 N. Swinton Ave., Delray Beach

INFORMATION: Tickets for the events are available at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/rj-romeo-and-juliet-a-danced-drama-tickets-15230036449> for \$15, or \$25 for a VIP ticket including a reception, meet and greet with the cast following the performance.

PLEASE TURN TO APP/2B



E. Wayne Gent

PALM BEACH

School district kicks off 2015 One Giving campaign

Staff Report

WEST PALM BEACH — The School District of Palm Beach County recently kicked off a fundraising campaign to support four nonprofit groups that do important work in the community and for public education.

The district's One Giving campaign will benefit four organizations: Education Foundation of Palm Beach County, Florida Future Educators of America, the United Negro College Fund and the United Way of Palm Beach County. Employees have an opportunity throughout the One Giving campaign to learn more about how these organizations support Palm Beach County and its students, and then choose which groups they would like to support with tax-deductible contributions.

"As Palm Beach County's largest employer, we know the

impact that we can have when we focus our efforts to help our community," said Superintendent E. Wayne Gent. "By all of us coming together as one, we can make a powerful difference in the lives of many individuals and families who are helped by these important organizations."

The campaign will run until March 13, and will be promoted through special events in the district. Contributions can be made through payroll deductions or one-time contributions.

More than 5,300 employees contributed \$281,620 during last year's campaign. This year, organizers hope to boost employee participation by 10 percent.

For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at (561) 357-1114. Learn more about One Giving at www.palmbeachschools.org/onegiving.

Around South Florida



ELGIN JONES
EJones@SFLTimes.com

Palm Beach County



COLBATH



SCOTT

JUSTICE SHORTFALLS
There is a \$1 million budget shortfall in the Palm Beach County Clerk of the Courts Office. Chief Circuit Judge Jeffrey Colbath has notified the judges to end most court proceedings each day by 5 p.m. The move is intended to avoid having to pay overtime to staff. Statewide, court clerks are collectively facing a \$17 million budget deficit. We haven't heard anything from Florida Gov. Rick Scott on how he intends to address the funding shortage.

SUPPLY CONSOLIDATION
Office supply retailer OfficeMax closed stores and consolidated operations after its purchase in 2013 by Boca Raton-based Office Depot. That company in turn closed 168 stores in 2014, and is now negotiating a merger with Staples, which plans to close even more stores. Competition from online retailers is increasing, and the number of office supply stores is

dwindling. It could end up hurting consumers, but we'll see.



COURIS

President John D. Couris said the collaboration will transform cardiac care in the region.

Broward County



JOHNSON

who reportedly was caught in a reverse prostitution sting in Dania Beach, from his \$165,000-a-year job.

ABUSE OR RIP OFFS?
There has been chatter about tighter regulations to curb a rash of towing firm complaints, but the gripes are still rolling in. Now, there are complaints of towing charges for the victims of automobile thefts. When a stolen vehicle is recovered, it is placed in storage until the owners

are located. Then, the police agency has to authorize the release, which can take time. Meanwhile, the towing companies are charging storage fees by the day. One Fort Lauderdale auto theft victim was forced to pay more than \$800 in storage fees that piled up while she argued with police to release her car.



LEVINSON

JEWELER DEAD
Mark Levinson, proprietor of Fort Lauderdale-based Levinson Jewelers, was found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. He gained notoriety for selling Ponzi schemer Scott Rothstein expensive jewelry that was paid for with money the disgraced former attorney made from his various scams. The sales led to Levinson being sued by a bankruptcy court trustee to return the money. He settled that case for \$650,000.

Miami-Dade County

WHAT?!
Florida International University has received a \$2 million grant from the Florida Department of Education. The money will be used for robots that will teach students math, science, engineering and other subjects. If this sounds like a joke, it's not.

SEXUAL VENGEANCE
Antonio Giansante Garcia of Miami Beach faces serious charges after an investigation determined he posted on social media



GARCIA

was angry over the break-up of the relationship. He is charged with possession of child pornography, promoting sexual performance by a child and other charges.

Monroe County

PURSE SNATCHING
Key West Police arrested Michael Soraghan, 45, in an alleged ride-by purse snatching incident. There have been several reported incidents by women of a man riding a bicycle up from behind them and snatching their purses, usually in the early morning hours. Soraghan was pulled over on a Trek cycle for not having lights when the officer noticed he matched the description and video footage of a suspect in one of the snatchings. He is suspected in other cases.

DEFENDER CANDIDATE
Monroe County Public Defender Rosemary Enright is retiring and will not seek another term in 2016. Enright is endorsing Chief Assistant Public Defender Patricia "Trish" Docherty Gibson for the post. Docherty Gibson, who announced her candidacy, is the frontrunner for the coveted position.



DAVID MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

OFFICIAL OPENING: A ceremonial ribbon cutting was held to dedicate the pathway project.

Legal community holds events to inspire young law professionals

Staff Report

FORT LAUDERDALE — In celebration of Black History Month, South Florida's legal community banded together for two events designed to empower aspiring young minority professionals.
On Feb. 25, the Urban League of Broward County dedicated the Pathway to Empowerment, envisioned by former Florida Bar President Eugene Pettis, and hosted a concurrent official reception for Jon M. Garon, the new dean of the Shepard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University.
The Pathway to Empowerment links the league's offices and training center, 560 NW 27th Ave., with the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd. Pettis served as the Florida Bar's first black president. Contributors included Urban League board member Sidney Calloway, a partner at Shutts & Bowen LLP; W. George Allen and Enid Meadows Allen; Jay and Rebecca Cohen; state Rep. Bobby and Yvette DuBose; Samuel F. Morrison; and Sen. Chris and Desorae Smith.
After the dedication, the Urban League hosted a welcome celebration for Garon. Sponsors included Shutts & Bowen LLP, the T.J. Reddick Bar Association, the Gwen S. Cherry Black Female Lawyers Bar Association, and the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at NSU.
The event included a cross-section of Broward's legal, civic, and academic leadership and judiciary communities.
At the reception, Garon and Calloway announced Nova's Global Law Leadership Initiative, an elective immersion

curriculum beginning with the August 2015 entering class designed to develop the technological, financial, and global



PATHWAY VISIONARIES: Eugene and Sheila Pettis stand at the Pathway to Empowerment structure, which links the Urban League of Broward County with the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center.

competencies essential to modern law practice, incorporating an international perspective and promoting minority empowerment.
"This is important for our own growth and for the growth of the community," said Calloway, a longtime legal and civic leader, and mentor to aspiring lawyers for more than two decades. Calloway is former president of the T.J. Reddick Bar Association and former chair of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce.

MIA becomes second U.S. airport to use passport app



PHOTO COURTESY OF OF MIAMI-DADE AVIATION DEPARTMENT

SMART TRAVEL: The Mobile Passport app works on smart phones and tablets, and is expected to help with the customs process at Miami International Airport.

APP, FROM 1B
said that after downloading the app, qualified travelers will be prompted to set up a profile using information contained in their passport. The app allows families traveling together to create multiple profiles. Once the profile is complete, travelers can use Mobile Passport to answer standard customs declaration questions, submit their information electronically upon landing, and take advantage of dedicated lanes for Mobile Passport users.
"MIA lobbied hard to be one of the very first U.S. airports to offer Mobile Passport to our passengers, and our partners at CBP and ACI-NA are to be commended for partnering in this effort," said Miami-Dade Aviation Director Emilio T. González. "MIA is the perfect fit for Mobile Passport. We are America's second-busiest port of entry, handling more than 20 million international passengers each year, and our organization is wholeheartedly committed to bringing the latest travel technology to our airport."
MIA has launched other tech-based amenities, which officials say improve the customer experience. In 2013, MIA was among the first three U.S. airports to introduce automated passport control kiosks as to speed up the immigration

process. The airport has 36 kiosks, and will add an additional 44 this year. Last year, MIA launched its own comprehensive mobile app, MIA Airport Official, for iOS and Android users to receive real-time flight information, shopping and dining options, way-finding tools and much more.
Last month, the airport introduced its new e-magazine, *MIA Connections* (www.miaconnex.com) — a one-stop guide in English and Spanish to the best of MIA and Miami for tablets and mobile devices. MIA is also the first airport in the world to deploy beacon technology across the entire terminal, and plans to integrate the beacon network into later versions of its mobile app.

Honey Shine holds first walk/run fundraiser

Staff Report

MIAMI — Tracy Wilson Mourning, philanthropist and founder of the Honey Shine Mentoring Program, will host the organization's first Honey Bug Run/Walk in honor of Women's History Month at 8 a.m. Saturday at Women's Park, 10251 W Flagler St. in Miami.
Organizers say the program is dedicated to the balance of mind, body and soul in girls and women. Honey Shine Inc.'s 5K race, they say, will further Wilson Mourning's vision of developing the well-rounded woman. Wilson Mourning looks to continue the celebration and preservation of the enlightenment of women after Honey Shine's expansion to Howard University in Washington, D.C., last fall.
"Honey Shine's mission of empowering girls is at the core of everything we do. With March being Women's



PHOTO COURTESY OF GESI SCHILLING
Tracy Wilson Mourning

History Month, we couldn't think of a better time to have our first 5K," said Wilson Mourning. "The location of the event comes as no coincidence; the Women's Park places an emphasis on the strength and influence of women, and has always welcomed our girls with open arms. We strongly encourage those who are interested in volunteering with Honey Shine to register for this event as it is a great opportunity for mentorship, engagement and wellness."
More than 150 "Honey Bugs" are expected to participate in the March run/walk. Patrons include the Mourning Family Foundation, JCP Printing and Designs, Baptist Health South Florida, and Miami-Dade County.
Registration is \$25 for Honey Shine Members, and \$35 for the public. For more information, visit www.honeyshine.org.

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Obituaries

Earl Lloyd, first black player in NBA, dies at 86

Associated Press

Earl Lloyd was a player and coach, an NBA champion and later a Hall of Famer. Within the basketball world, he's something much bigger.

He was a pioneer. Lloyd, the first black player in NBA history, died Thursday at 86. West Virginia State, his alma mater, confirmed the death but did not provide details.

"The NBA family has lost one of its patriarchs," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement. "Earl Lloyd, the first African-American to play in an NBA game, was as inspirational as he was understated. He was known as a modest gentleman who played the game with skill, class, and pride. His legacy survives in the league he helped integrate, and the entire NBA family will strive to always honor his memory."

Lloyd made his NBA debut in 1950 for the Washington Capitols, just before black players Sweetwater Clifton and Chuck Cooper played their first games.

Lloyd helped the Syracuse Nationals win the 1955 NBA title, joining teammate Jim Tucker as the first black players to play on a championship team. Lloyd later became the first black assistant coach with the Detroit Pistons in



PHOTO COURTESY OF POPCRUNCH.COM

Earl Lloyd

1968.

The National Basketball Retired Players Association said Lloyd "forever changed the game of basketball" on Halloween night in 1950. The organization hailed him as "a leader, a pioneer, a soldier." Lloyd missed the 1951-52 season while in the Army.

The 6-foot-5 forward averaged 8.4 points and 6.4 rebounds in 560 regular-season games in nine seasons with Washington, Syracuse and Detroit. Inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2003 as a contributor, Lloyd was 22-55 as Detroit's coach in 1971-72 and the first nine games in the 1972-73 seasons.

"Our franchise will always remember the impact and contributions Earl made to the game of basketball and to the Detroit Pistons as a player, head coach and television analyst," the Pistons said.

Lloyd, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, lived in Crossville, Tennessee.

West Virginia State President Brian Hemphill called Lloyd a "trailblazer who was a true champion."

"When Earl stepped out on the court on that fateful date in 1950, this remarkable man rightfully earned his place in the historic civil rights movement and, more important, he opened the door to equality in America."

JAY'S FUNERAL HOME



TRACEY BATTLE, 41, Beautician, died February 21. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Second Baptist.



JOHNNIE DUKES, 73, Laborer, died March 1. Arrangements are incomplete.

CAMILLE PAYEN, 93, Certified Nursing Assistant, died February 17. Arrangements are incomplete.

ALBERT TRENT, 45, Mechanic, died March 2. Arrangments are incomplete.

OTIS WILSON, 42, Receiving Clerk, died March 1. Arrangements are incomplete.

WADE FUNERAL HOME

HARRY DONALD DAILEY, 80, Retired Longshoreman, died February 24 at at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Funeral will be held 11 am Thursday (today) at Upper Room Ministries, 3800 Northwest 199th Street Miami Gardens, FL.

ROSCOE C. PHILLIPS, 90, Retired Maintenance Supervisor, died February 24 at home. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Butlers Temple Church of God in Christ.

MANKER FUNERAL HOME

MARILYN DENISE MOSS, 60, Teacher, died February 27 at Jackson Memorial Medical Center. Funeral will be held 1 pm Friday at Friendship M.B. Church.

A. J. MANUEL FUNERAL HOME - Hollywood



JOHNNIE HANKERSON JR., 52, Commercial Cleaner, died February 27, at Florida Medical Center. Viewing 6 to 9 pm Friday at Faith Center Lauderhill, 4061 NW 16 St., Lauderhill. Funeral 11 am Saturday at Faith Center Ministries, 5555 NW 95 Ave, Sunrise, FL.

WRIGHT & YOUNG FUNERAL HOME

JUANITA BAIN, 75, Caregiver, died February 26. Funeral 1 pm Saturday in the chapel.

SHIRLEY BAIN, 67, Clerk, died February 28. Funeral 2 pm Saturday at 93rd St. Community Baptist Church.

JIMMIE CLARK, 62, Security Guard, died February 27. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at Saint City Church of God in Liberty City.

GILBERT GARDNER, 46, died February 21. Funeral will be held 3 pm Saturday at Bethel Apostolic Temple.

JEWEL HARRIOT, 80, died February 28. Arrangements are incomplete.

TAKESHA HAYES, 39, Hairstylist, died February 22. Funeral 3 pm Saturday at Bethel Apostolic Temple.

DEBORAH SCOTT, 55, Postal Worker, died February 23. Funeral 11 am Saturday at First Baptist of Bunche Park.

ROY MIZELL & KURTZ FUNERAL HOME

LINDA LEE BURGESS, 60, of Fort Lauderdale, died February 28. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Holy Temple Restoration Ministries.

RANGE FUNERAL HOME

BERTHA BRANTLEY, 87, Retired Homemaker, died February 18 at Catholic Hospice in Hialeah Gardens. Funeral 10 am Friday at Greater New Bethel Baptist Church.



JACK JEROME SCOTT, 79, Retired Aerospace Engineer, died February 23. Litany Service 5 pm Friday at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. Funeral 10 am Saturday at the church.

JAMES C. BOYD FUNERAL HOME

BEATRICE JONES BEAL, 80. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Jame C. Boyd Funeral Home.

CARRIE JOHNSON EVANS, 71, Funeral service was held 1 pm Saturday in the chapel.

JEFFIE MAE HUGGINS, 97, Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at First Zion Missionary Baptist Church located at 125 S.W. 1st Court, Deerfield Beach, FL.

DESEAN MARQUISE KING, 18, Funeral will be held 3 pm Saturday at James C. Boyd Funeral Home.

GEORGE LEWIS JR., 50, died February 17.

JAMES SEARCY, 75, Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at James C. Boyd Funeral Home.

CAREY ROYAL RAM'N FUNERAL HOME

CARLOS MENA, 34, Died February 28 at Cleveland Clinic Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.

QUEEN ESTHER WILCOX, 57, died February 28, at home. Services 11 am Saturday, March 14, in the chapel.

HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - Miami Gardens

WILLIE BATTLE, 71, Construction Worker, died February 20. Funeral will be held 10 am Friday in the chapel.

QUINCEY BONNIE, 50, Laborer, died February 28. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday in the chapel.

JIMMIE CRAIG, 58, Truck Driver, died February 20, in Asheboro, N.C. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday in MLK Chapel.

BENJAMIN STURRUP, 71, Landscaper, died February 27, at the Claridge House Nursing Home. Services were held.

Place your Obituaries Here Call 954-356-9360

M A HALL FUNERAL SERVICES

TREVOR JAMES BOSTIC, 70, Construction Worker, died Thursday, February 26, at home. Remains were shipped to Jamaica for final rites and burial.

DOROTHY MAE WILLIAMS, 68, Homemaker, died Tuesday, February 24, at North Shore Medical Center. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Greater Love Missionary Baptist Church.

HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME MLK

ALPHONSO HOLIDAY, 79, Dog Groomer, died March 1, at home. Funeral was held.

WILLIAM EDWARD JENKINS, 61, Laborer, died February 28, at home. Funeral will be held 4 pm in the chapel.

DELORES RATCLIFF, 61, Retired, died February 19, at North Shore Hospital. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday in the chapel.

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Broward County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting bids for a variety of goods and services, construction and professional services. Interested vendors can view and download the solicitation documents via the Broward County Purchasing website at: www.broward.org/purchasing - current solicitations and results.

BROWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
The Broward County Community Action Agency (CAA) Advisory Board will hold their regular meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Edgar P. Mills Center located at 900 N.W. 31st Ave, Room 3031, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. For additional information contact Shatara Piedrasanta at 954-357-5801 or spiedrasanta@broward.org. For the complete meeting schedule visit www.broward.org/Human-Services/FamilySuccess and click Community Action Agency Board Meetings.

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Just a Closer Walk with Jesus

Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. ~ (Mark 8:34 NIV)

Three days a week, early in the morning, I work out in the gym. One morning last week, stressed and sluggish I dragged myself out of bed to exercise. Anxious to get my workout over, I increased the speed of the treadmill. Suddenly I noticed Jesus was on the treadmill with me.

Today God wants me to share with you what it takes to walk with Jesus. First,

we must deny ourselves, take up “our own cross” and follow Him. We must also love walking in the light. We must be dedicated to doing God’s work and clear about our priorities. These things all help eliminate the obstructions that keep us from drawing closer to Jesus.

Jesus shares deeper helpful ingredients to draw us closer to Him. In Mark 8:31-38 He tells the disciples to be prepared to suffer, and not to run from it but rather embrace it. He also shares with them that self-sacrifice is "The Way" to saving ourselves, and finding our true self.

As Christ shares this knowledge, He warns the disciples to keep quiet about His suffering, trial, death and resurrection. Peter protests the thought of this, and Christ quickly rebukes him.

Jesus, now seeing Peter and His disciples wavering and wondering about what to believe, confronts Peter and calls Satan out of him. In the final verses of the passage, Christ also points out, "If we're embarrassed over Him and the way He leads, then we are an embarrassment to Him." (Mark 8:38 MB).

There are times in scripture when Jesus either walks away or distances himself from would-be followers. Once, when a stranger asked to follow Him, and then began to make excuses about having to first bury his father, Jesus seemingly crudely responds to him saying, "Let the dead bury the dead." (Luke 9:57-62)

Then there was another time when a rich young ruler asked Him, "What must I do to be saved?" Jesus told him, "Sell all that you have and follow me." The young man was very rich and he loved his wealth more, so he turned around brokenhearted and walked away. (Mark 10:17-31).

At the gym, as time passed my energy increased, and there

was a strange excitement as my stride quickened. The time on the treadmill flew by. My number of reps on the Nautilus equipment also shot up. As the sweat popped off my body, I just knew Jesus was working out with me.

I had a wonderful time that day at the gym. It was the best workout ever. My initial sluggish attitude and stressed-out mental condition had changed. With the passing of every moment, I became more and more aware of working out with Jesus. In my tired and anxious state, I had drawn closer to Him. He was there beside me on the treadmill, beside me on the Nautilus equipment, and beside me during pushups on the mat.

By ourselves, we are weak. However, thank God, with Jesus we are strong! Jesus can keep us from doing wrong. We can be satisfied as long as we walk close to Him. Through this world of toil and snares, if indeed we falter who else really cares?

The problem is many of us want Christ to draw close to us and to walk with us, if not actually follow us. However, He distances Himself from such people. We either draw closer to Him and follow Him on His path, or walk away from Him on our own path.

Regardless of our age, God calls us every day to grow closer to him. We draw closer to Jesus when we go through trials and sufferings, even when the journey is to some unpredictable destination. As we walk with Jesus, we are transformed into whom and what God wants us to become.

As we walk with Christ, He challenges us to be clear about our priorities. To draw closer to Him we must make "first things first." His business is not that of helping us to avoid physical death, but rather that of helping us to find eternal life.

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

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URBAN BUSH WOMEN

Storytelling in motion

4C

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AAPACT celebrates Sisters!

7C

Events Calendar

technology

Open e-book format comes with headaches

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — In the world of e-books, you largely have a choice between Amazon's Kindle and everyone else.

Amazon.com Inc. distributes its e-books in a proprietary format that isn't compatible with other devices and systems. Other companies have embraced a format called EPub. In theory, that means books bought for one non-Kindle device can be read on another.

This is important because the device you own today might not be the one you'll want five years from now. You won't want to buy all your e-books again.

Unfortunately, trying to move my EPub books around gets frustrating. I should be able to read on Barnes & Noble's Nook devices the books I've legitimately bought for Kobo devices, for instance. But it isn't easy to figure out how to do. Instructions, if any, tend to focus on how to bring in books bought elsewhere, not how to move them out. And it took lots of Google searches to find some missing steps.

I'll go through a few examples:

Reading Kobo e-books on a Nook device

To its credit, Kobo's help section offers instructions on exporting its books to other devices: "Transfer Kobo e-books to non-Kobo e-readers by using Adobe Digital Editions." It goes on to explain that Adobe Digital Editions is a free app "that you can use to read Kobo books and transfer them to a non-Kobo e-reader."

Huh?

It took more digging to find out what that was about.

I went to Adobe's website to get Digital Editions for my Windows computer. I succeeded in moving *Catching Fire* from my Kobo account to that computer. But to read it on a Nook GlowLight e-reader, I had to connect the device to the computer and authorize it with my Adobe ID. It took a few tries to get that right. I then had to drag the file to the Nook and disconnect the e-reader.

I tried that with a Nook tablet from Samsung, but I couldn't authorize it through Digital Editions. I found a way to add my Adobe ID by going through the Nook settings on the device — not the regular settings. Once I did that, I couldn't find a way to sign out.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LITREACTOR.COM

Left to right: HP reader, Samsung Nook, Apple iPad, Kindle, Nook, Kobo devices.

Reading Nook e-books on a Kobo device

You couldn't simply reverse the steps because the Nook doesn't use Adobe's copy-protection technology. It has its own.

Fortunately, later versions of Digital Editions support the Nook system, but it takes some extra steps.

After downloading a Nook version of *Allegiant* to the Windows computer, Digital Editions told me I needed an unlock code. What's that? I tried my Nook username and password. That didn't work. It took some googling to find a clue in some online forum: It's the name on my Barnes & Noble account and the default credit card number. OK, that worked.

I then transferred the book to a Kobo Aura e-reader. However, I couldn't read it. Turned out the Aura had an older version of Digital Editions, while only the newer ones support Nook's copy protection.

Working with Apple's iBooks

I bought the *Game of Thrones* series from the Apple iBookstore, but Apple's copy protection doesn't work with non-Apple devices. Apple does make it easy to bring EPub books bought elsewhere — as long as they are free of copy protection. That eliminates Nook, Kobo and many other e-books.

Digital walls


Digital music used to be this way — until recording companies started selling songs without copy protection. Most e-books still have copy protection. Outside software is available to break the locks on EPub and Kindle books, but the legality is questionable.

In a sense, the walls Amazon has built with Kindle aren't so bad after all. Although Kindle books won't work on dedicated e-readers, Amazon makes Kindle apps for just about

every other device, including Samsung's Nook tablet and Apple's iPad.

Ultimately, trying to transfer books with Adobe software might be useful only when borrowing e-books from a library or commercial

service. Otherwise, the headaches aren't worth it. It's easier, for instance, just to install a Nook, Kobo or Kindle app on an iPad. This approach won't help if you use e-readers, but it should work with most phones and tablets.



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

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film

Will Smith ‘quiets the warrior,’ refocuses with ‘Focus’

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES — Things started to come into focus for Will Smith when *After Earth* bombed.

Once the biggest movie star in the world, his \$130 million sci-fi spectacle *After Earth* opened in June 2013 to a lousy \$27.5 million and would only go on to make up less than half of its production budget domestically by the end of its run. For

His daughter, Willow, “has helped me make a shift from winning and conquering to loving and connecting as a primary purpose for everything. She just absolutely demands attention to her thoughts and feelings. It’s a huge lesson for me to quiet the warrior in me,” he said.

It’s fitting that Smith’s first outing in this new stage is actually called *Focus* (just released in theaters), a sleek, intimate film from *Crazy, Stupid, Love* directors Glenn Ficarra and John Requa about a smooth, seasoned con-man and

“For me, it’s really important to maintain a positive energy, especially when it’s a comedy,” said Smith.

Robbie and Smith aren’t done with each other yet, either. They’ll both appear in the comic book film “*Suicide Squad*” for Warner Bros., which is currently in pre-production.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLIDER.COM

Will Smith and Margot Robbie in a scene from *Focus*

a man who once defined himself by his box office star power, the blow was crushing.

“From the time I was in my early 20s, I had this goal that I wanted to be the biggest movie star in the world,” said Smith on a recent afternoon at a suburban Four Seasons Hotel, lowering his voice to a faux-macho level when he says the words “movie star.”

“And I set out for conquer,” he said. “Smash! Conquer!” he exclaimed animatedly.

For a while it worked. Smith has had four movies that have grossed over \$200 million domestically, and 13 that have grossed over \$100 million, most with him headlining. Then *After Earth* happened and everything toppled.

“After the failure of *After Earth*, a thing got broken in my mind,” he had explained to a group of reporters at a press conference for his new film *Focus* a few minutes earlier.

“I was like, ‘oh wow, I’m still alive. Oh wow. I actually still am me even though the movie didn’t open at No. 1. Wait, I still can get hired on another movie?’ All of those things collapsed in my mind. Mr. July! Big Willie weekend! No. 1! Eight in a row! All of that collapsed and I realized I still was a good person.”

“It’s a huge emotional shift for me,” said Smith, who has since appeared in smaller roles in *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues* and *Winter’s Tale*.

his alluring and much younger protege, played by Australian actress Margot Robbie.

Smith and Robbie are meeting in the middle, in film and in life. Smith, in a self-defined new phase, and Robbie right as she’s about to break out into the mainstream.

“We couldn’t be more opposite,” said Smith of his co-star, seated next to her in the hotel.

“I wasn’t expecting to get along with him as well as we did. We didn’t have anything in common. He’s an ex-rapper. I’m from Australia,” added Robbie. “I, just like everyone, assumed he was really fun and funny. And he is really fun and funny. I wasn’t expecting him to be so intellectual and emotional and deep.”

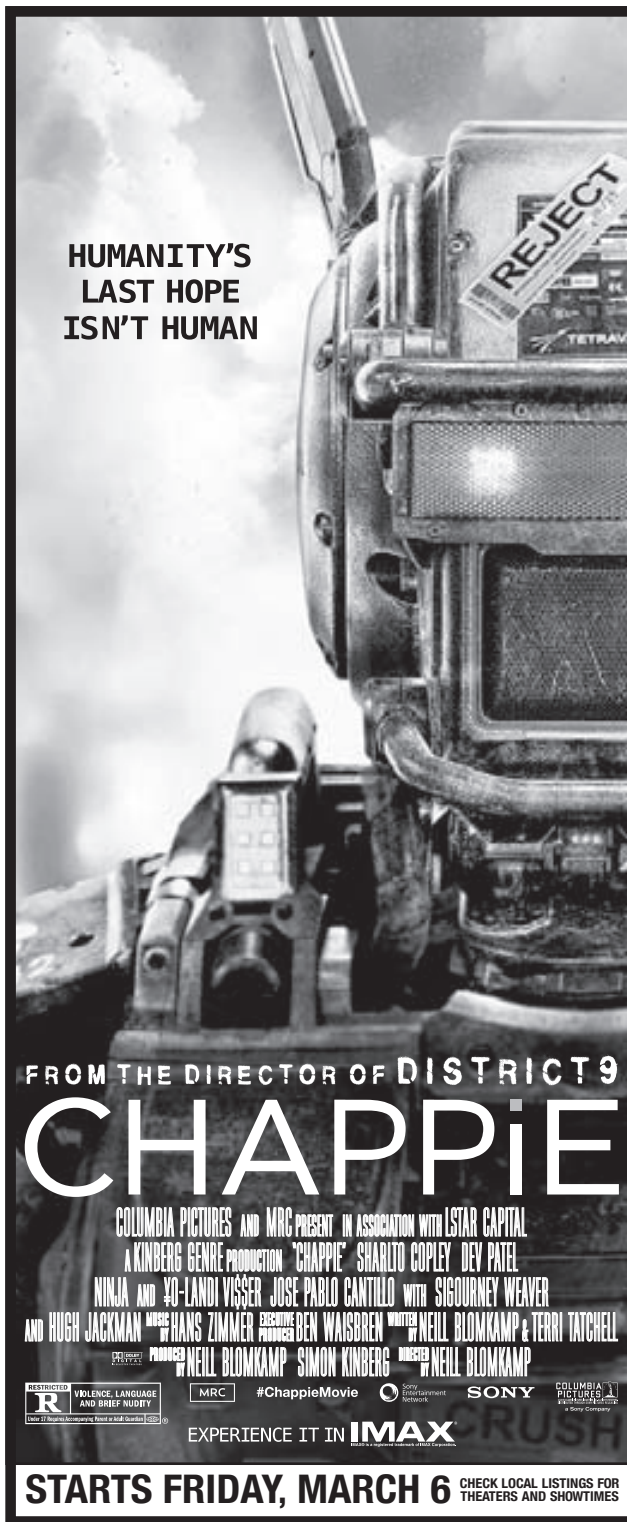
Smith laughed.

“Ooooh. Intellectual, emotional and deep?” he said. “That should be your headline.”

The two have a smoldering chemistry in the film and a playful, giggly way around each other off screen, often finishing each other’s sentences when they’re not making the other keel over in laughter.

They bonded over endless hours of conversation, chess, eating and going out with the cast and crew in the various shooting locations.

Both credit the directors for making the set as fun and lively as possible, but Smith helps to set the tone.



music & pop culture

URBAN BUSH WOMEN



PHOTO COURTESY OF KALAMU.COM
Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, founder and artistic director of Bush Women

Staff Report

MIAMI — A dance company that is committed to performing powerful under-told stories of the African Diaspora comes to South Florida this weekend as part of its 30th anniversary celebration.

South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, 10950 SW 211 St. in Cutler Bay, presents Urban Bush Women at 8 p.m. Saturday.

Urban Bush Women's storytelling through dance format is the vision of founder Jawole Willa Jo Zollar. The company is renowned for its heart-stopping performances in the United States, Canada and other countries. As UBW celebrates its 30th anniversary, it continues to use dance to bring

together audiences through innovative choreography, community engagement and artistic leadership development.

One performance slated for Saturday's program is *Walking with Trane*, a piece inspired by the life of John Coltrane and his seminal jazz suite *A Love Supreme*. Also featured are two other pieces: *Hep Hep Sweet Sweet*, an earthy and provocative new take on the swing dance and jitterbug of Cab Calloway's jazz age, and *Dark Swan* choreographed by former UBW dancer Nora Chipaumire, which reimagines a classic European ballet in an African context.

Urban Bush Women (UBW) burst onto the dance scene in 1984. The company weaves contemporary dance, music, and text with the history, culture, and spiritual traditions of the African Diaspora.

Under Zollar's artistic direction, Urban Bush Women performs regularly in New York City and tours nationally and internationally. Off stage, Urban Bush Women has developed an extensive community engagement program called BOLD (Builders Organizers and Leaders through Dance). UBW's BOLD program has a network of more than 29 facilitators who conduct workshops that bring the histories of local communities forward through performance.

Tickets for Saturday's performance are \$20 to \$40 with special youth and student pricing available. Contact the box office at 786-573-5300 or SMDCAC.org.

Production
features work
inspired by
John Coltrane

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICK MCCOLLOUGH

Urban Bush Women dance company tell stories of the African Diaspora.

'Les Misérables' to transform Maltz stage

Staff Report

JUPITER — The passion and imagery that is based on novelist Victor Hugo's classic tale, *Les Misérables*, will transform the stage at the Maltz Jupiter Theatre into 19th century France beginning Tuesday.

Survival of the human spirit prevails in this larger-than-life tale of compassion and destruction. Seen by over 70 million people in more than 42 countries, *Les Misérables* has received over 76 awards internationally, including eight Tony Awards and five Drama Desk Awards.

Les Misérables is set against the backdrop of a France still reeling from the effects of the French Revolution, where escaped convict Jean Valjean spends decades on the run from relentless police officer Javert. This smash hit musical features unforgettable songs, including *I Dreamed a Dream*, *One Day More* and *On My Own*.

The musical has been translated into 21 languages since opening on London's West End in 1985, where it remains onstage. It also plays in New York City, and in theaters in England, Australia, Japan, Korea and Spain.

"*Les Misérables* is undisputedly one of the greatest musicals of all time, and the Maltz Jupiter Theatre's production is not to be missed," said Andrew Kato, the theater's

producing artistic director. "This is your chance to see this large-scale worldwide phenomenon up close and personal. This stunning professional production will remind you of the simplest of truths: the redemptive power of unconditional, selfless love."

Directed and choreographed by Carbonell Award winner Mark Martino (*The Music Man*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Crazy for You*), the musical features a cast of acclaimed actors, including Aloysius Gigl as Javert, Gregg Goodbrod as Jean Valjean, Margaret Kelly as Fantine and Siri Howard as Cosette.

"*Les Misérables* offers a churning and compelling story about the struggle between opposites and contradictions: mercy and justice, compassion and duty, trust and betrayal, love and loss, dreams and reality, vengeance and compassion," Martino said. "This epic musical has a wonderful story, unforgettable characters and a soaring score that compels us to feel in our bones the fervor of rebellion, the sweetness of love, the sorrow of loss and the final joy and peace of salvation."

The production at Maltz Jupiter Theatre, 1001 E Indiantown Rd. in Jupiter, runs through April 5. Visit www.jupitertheatre.org for show times; tickets start at \$54. For tickets and additional information, call (561) 575-2223.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALICIA DONELAN
Sofia Dow appears as little Cosette in *Les Misérables*.

Sisqo's 'Last Dragon' has a nice bit of fire

By RON HARRIS
The Associated Press

It has been 14 years and a whole lot of thongs thrown on stage since R&B singer Sisqo's last album. The flamboyant Dru Hill front man is back with *Last Dragon*, a consistent album that delivers some solid songs, though probably lacks the chart-topping zest to which he's accustomed.

Sisqo never dropped off the musical map completely since his 1999 hit, *Thong Song*. He has had mix-tape songs and other solo works to stay busy. With *Last Dragon*, Sisqo's soulful, soaring vocals remain intact, emerging on tracks like *Let's Get Down Tonight* and *Lovespell*.

With a little auto-tune here and some nice slow jams there, Sisqo delivers a varied musical menu. Slow dance fans will appreciate *LIPS* while those looking to try out a few Sisqo-like dance moves will gravitate toward *A-List*, featuring rapper Waka Flocka Flame.

At this point in Sisqo's career, some might have expected him to mail this one in. But there is a nice bit of R&B theme and precision to *Last Dragon*, proving Sisqo still has plenty of fire.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BEARDEDGENTLEMENMUSIC.COM
Sisqo

Get your copy of the book that women are raving about, re-reading and buying multiple copies of to share with *sistahfriends!*



"A wonderfully written book about the joy and necessity of sisterhood. Michelle's book explains the reasons why we need to embrace relationships with other women (our sisters) and the consequences of jealousy and gossip. A must read; however, after reading it, it is also a "must do."— Angela Robinson - Whitehurst, Actress, Tyler Perry's *The Haves and Have-Nots*, *The Color Purple* Broadway Production

Never before has sisterhood been explored in a way that empowers women, individually and collectively!

Michelle Hollinger

The Sisterhood Exchange is available on Amazon.com as an e-book or as a paperback.

entertainment

Sisters! returns to celebrate, honor the female struggle

By **KIMBERLY GRANT**
Special to South Florida Times

MIAMI — Six years ago, the African American Performing Arts Cultural Theatre (AAPACT) opened its all-female cast revue of *Sisters! A Celebration of the Human Spirit* and *South Florida Times* was there to capture the excitement.

A lot has changed since 2009. Immigration reform is a hot-button issue in Congress. #Ferguson, the phrase “I can’t breathe,” and the terror group ISIS/ISIL are part of pop culture. However, the themes and struggles that existed back then are still quite prevalent today, which makes a play like *Sisters!* more timely than ever.

“This play displays the strength, love, joy and tragedy of black women in the 1800s and is an eye-opener for women and men today,” said Teddy Harrell Jr., CEO and co-founder of AAPACT. “In retrospect of today, with the domestic abuse of women in our own country remaining a problem, plays like *Sisters!* shed some light and much-needed awareness.”

Sisters! is on limited engagement this weekend at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave. in Liberty City.

Sisters!, the play, was written by Jerry Ayers, and is based on the 1984 children’s book *We are Your Sisters* by Dorothy Sterling. The play weaves true accounts of the

struggle of African-American women in the 19th century, and tells of personal struggles endured by black women back then and now.

“Reading the script, I immediately connected to knowing the struggle of the women that came before us and then seeing how much of their struggle parallels things that we go through today,” said Rachel Finley, who returns as director. “The idea was this [was a] collective movement that propelled them forward, and how they got through it out of a desire to have [something] better for their children.”

Born from a place where sisterhood was key to surviving the times, *Sisters!* links together stories of women who bonded over good, bad and ugly. With a new cast, Finley decided to go a different route for this year’s revival. The costumes and sets have been revamped and Finley has included additional multi-media formats to bring sharper focus to each vignette.

In a time when women are making strides in their careers and family, it seems like much has changed since the turn of the 19th century. However, some things never change. One character explores the struggles of being a single mother, not just because she has to raise her child without the help of a man, but also because she has to deal with being ostracized by her peers. In Finley’s opinion, that hasn’t changed much, even though it should. Life is

complicated. We should accept certain things and people as they are.

“The story that probably hit home for me the most is the story that ends Act One: a woman is caught with her baby son in a riot and he dies,” said Finley, an award-winning poet who graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a fine arts degree in the dramatic arts. “The way that Ayers tells the story and the horror with so much strength really touched my heart and I know the audience will be moved, as well.”

As the world keeps turning and time continues to tick on, women are making more and more strides in today’s society. *Sisters!* proves that together, women can achieve more and be more by having each other to lean on. However, *Sisters!* is also a black community story in that all of the characters are black women who show that we, as a people, can become greater, as long as we stick together.

It is Finley’s hope that each audience member leaves the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center with “a deep respect for our past, optimism about our future, and gratitude for how far we’ve come.”

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IF YOU GO

WHAT: AAPACT Presents: *Sisters! A Celebration of the Human Spirit*

WHEN: March 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. and March 8 at 4 p.m.

WHERE: Wendall Narcisse Performing Arts Theatre at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave. in Liberty City

COST: \$25 opening night; \$20 other times

PARKING: Free

CONTACT: (305) 763-2360 / theatre@aapact.com



REFLECTION OF SISTERHOOD: The cast of *Sisters!* pose for the camera. The play runs March 6-8 at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Liberty City.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUAN E. CABRERA

events calendar

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

March 5 - 12

March 5

A Legend in His Time: Country music legend Ronnie Milsap comes to town on his final tour. The Grammy-award winner is sure to perform a few of his hits including *It Was Almost Like a Song*, *Smoky Mountain Rain*, and *Stranger in My House*. 7:30 p.m. at the Parker Playhouse, 707 NE Eighth St., Fort Lauderdale. \$46.50-\$66.50. 1-800-745-3000 or www.broward-center.org.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MILSAP.COM

March 6

ARTcycle-Cyclists Matter: Visit the opening of this exhibit, which features ARTbikes — traditional bikes modified by artists for a whimsical look. The exhibit is designed to bring awareness to driving habits and start a discussion on putting an end to bike-related accidents in South Florida. The opening features music by The Brass King. 6 p.m. at Coral Gables Museum, 285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. Free. 305-603-8067 or www.coralgablesmuseum.org.

March 6

Travel as a Political Act: Rick Steves, a travel host on PBS, presents this lecture where he teaches the audience how to be better-informed travelers. 8 p.m. at Bailey Concert Hall and Fine Arts Theatre, 3501 Davie Rd., Fort Lauderdale. \$20-\$25. 954-201-6884.

PHOTO COURTESY OF APTONLINE.ORG

March 7

Asian Culture Festival: The Thai-American Association hosts a two-day celebration that features Asian crafts, art, music, dance and more. Sample East Asian cuisine and have fun with the family at the 25th annual event. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and Sunday at Fruit and Spice Park, 24801 SW 187th Ave., Homestead. \$12, \$5 for ages 6 to 12.

Galt Mile Wine & Food Festival: Grab a bite to eat and enjoy wine by the sea. This festival features live cooking demos by local chefs and a marketplace to purchase unique culinary delights. 4 to 8 p.m. at Galt Ocean Mile, 3351 Galt Ocean Dr., Fort Lauderdale. \$75. 561-338-7594 or www.galtmilewineandfoodfestival.com.

March 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF LETITBELIVE.COM

Let it Be — The Beatles Tribute: The story of the Beatles comes to life with this theatrical concert. Songs include *Till There Was You*, *She Loves You*, and *Day Tripper*. Pack a picnic and bring a blanket or lawn chairs to enjoy the show. 7 p.m. at Weston Regional Park, 20200 Saddle Club Rd., Weston. Free. 954-389-4321 or www.westonfl.org.

Read Along, Sing a Song: Monica Kurtz, teaching artist 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 Imperial Point Branch of Broward County Public Library, 5985 N. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale. Free. 305-403-3308.

March 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF TICKETS.MV.COM

Urban Bush Women: Founded in 1984 by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, the dance company is committed to telling little-known stories of the African Diaspora through dance. 8 p.m. at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, 10950 SW 211th St., Cutler Bay. \$20-\$40. 786-573-5316 or www.smdcac.org.

Waterway Cleanup: Join hundreds of volunteers as they gather to remove trash and debris from waterways, rivers and canals. The 38th annual event is one of the largest environmental events in the country. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Choose from more than 20 locations to pitch in. Call 954-524-2733 or visit www.waterwaycleanup.org to sign up. Following the cleanup enjoy food, drinks and door prizes at the Trash Bash, 1:30 p.m. at Bimini Boatyard, 1555 SE 17th St., Fort Lauderdale. Free.

March 8

Sounds from Hollywood: The Miami Symphony Orchestra presents an evening of tunes by Hollywood composers. Eduardo Marturet is the conductor. 6 p.m. at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. \$38-\$154. 305-275-5666 or www.themiso.org.

March 8



Stars of International Ballet:

An evening of dance featuring classical ballet and contemporary works. Dancers include Daniil Simkin from American Ballet Theater, Misa Kuranaga of the Boston Ballet, and Brooklyn Mack from the Washington Ballet. This performance is part of the Festival of the Arts Boca. 7 p.m. at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. \$25-\$100. 1-866-571-2787 or www.festivalboca.org.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BALLETBLOSSOM.COM

March 9

Walk on Water: In this 2004 film, an Israeli intelligence agent is tasked with posing as a tour guide to hunt down an aged Nazi. The agent befriends the Nazi's grandchildren and learns more about them. Presented by the Arts Council of Weston; the film is shown in Hebrew with English subtitles. 5 and 7:30 p.m. at AMC Weston 8, 1338 SW 106th Ave., Sunrise. \$7. 954-389-4321 or www.artscouncilwestonfl.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CINEMAPOLIS.ORG

March 9

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.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAYBUZZ.COM

March 11

Jazz in the Gables: Spend an afternoon outdoors and enjoy the tunes of the FIU Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Gary Campbell. Bring a lunch or pick up a treat from Catering by Lovables. 12:15 to 2 p.m. at Coral Gables Museum, 285 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables. Free. 305-910-3996 or www.jazzinthegables.org.

March 12

James McNeill Whistler & the Case for Beauty: A viewing and discussion of the documentary about the 19th Century artist. Whistler, who is credited with introducing a new form of painting, revolutionized the art world in his time. 2 p.m. at Mandel Public Library, 411 Clematis Blvd., West Palm Beach. Free. 561-868-7701.

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

food

Pasta Salad can be lighter, healthy

FAMILY FEATURES — Now is the time for diners to transition palates to lighter and healthier meals, especially those packed with fresh, satisfying ingredients.

Whether serving dinner at home or heading out to a picnic, Lemony Peas and Pasta Salad is a snap to make, with few steps and minimal preparation time. It's also packed with colorful fresh vegetables that are back in season once again.

Start by preparing the pasta according to package directions. Dreamfields penne rigate is premium pasta made from durum wheat semolina that has

the taste and texture of traditional pasta but with a healthy twist. A one-cup cooked serving provides five grams of fiber and seven grams of protein. While the pasta is in its final minutes of cooking, add two of nature's wonderful gifts: fresh sugar snap peas and green peas. A dressing of lemon zest and juice whisked into olive oil adds just the right amount of zip when tossed with the drained pasta and peas.

Then, add in crisp young greens such as arugula or spinach — the two can be blended, if desired. Once you've added a few shavings of Parmesan cheese on top, it's ready to serve. Have a taste

for fresh herbs with your pasta salad? You can choose anything from chopped mint to chives to parsley, or pick your own favorite to sprinkle on top.

For the best flavor and texture, be sure to prepare the pasta salad on the same day as it is served. This recipe yields enough for the whole family — including vegetarians — to enjoy. It's an easy way to make life just a little bit healthier.

Dreamfields can be found in the pasta aisle of supermarkets nationwide — just look for the black box. For more information and pasta salad recipes, visit www.dreamfieldsfoods.com.

Lemony Peas & Pasta Salad



Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 6-8

- 1 box Dreamfields Penne Rigate
- 2 cups sugar snap peas
- 2 cups fresh or frozen green peas
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice

- 2 teaspoons lemon zest, plus extra for garnish
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 cups baby greens (arugula, spinach or blend)
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh herbs (optional)
- Parmesan cheese, shaved

Cook pasta according to package directions, adding sugar snap and green peas during last three minutes of cooking; drain. Rinse with cold water; drain again. Place in large bowl. Meanwhile, combine lemon juice, zest and salt in small bowl. Whisk in oil. Toss with pasta and peas. Gently toss in greens and herbs, if using. Garnish with shaved Parmesan and additional zest, if desired.

Note: For herbs, use one or a combination of chopped mint, thyme, chives, basil, parsley or other favorites.

Nutrition information (1/6 of recipe): 328 calories; 8 g total fat (1 g saturated fat); 12 g protein; 56 g total carbohydrate; 9 g total dietary fiber; 0 mg cholesterol; 218 mg sodium.

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Funding for this project is provided in part by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

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