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PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIST.ORG

Hillary Clinton declares her candidacy for the 2016 presidential race.

By JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton spent nearly two years tiptoeing around a decision to run for president that much of the political world assumed was a done deal.

Clinton didn't make a final call until the holidays. She spent her annual Christmas vacation last year in the Dominican Republic wading through 500 pages of memos

and polling analysis, and discussing the material with her husband, former two-term President Bill Clinton.

When Clinton returned to New York in the new year, there was no meeting with staff or email to friends to announce her candidacy. The former senator and secretary of state simply started telling advisers to move forward with hiring and find a campaign headquarters.

Clinton formally launched her campaign Sunday in an

online video. The announcement cements her status as the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, back within sight of an elusive ambition and a history-making turn as the nation's first female commander in chief.

Already one of the world's most analyzed figures, the 67-year-old will be subjected to months more scrutiny of her wealth, her appearance and health, and her personal relationships.

To Clinton's critics, her campaign is the calculated next act in a master plan she's crafted with her husband.

Clinton friends bristle at that depiction. Interviews with nearly 20 people who have spent significant time with Clinton in recent years reveal a decision-making process that was slow, almost painstakingly deliberate, a reflection of Clinton's methodical and cautious nature.

Some of those interviewed requested anonymity in order to speak candidly about their private conversations with Clinton.

Clinton didn't shut down talk of another White House run after she left the State Department in early 2013, but she wasn't ready to jump back into presidential politics either. After returning to private life for the first time in more than two decades, Clinton told people that her main goals were to "walk, sleep and eat."

Last summer, Democratic officials told Clinton that if she was even considering running for president, she needed to hit the campaign trail for her party during the midterm elections. President Barack Obama was considered politically toxic, but candidates were clamoring to appear alongside the woman they hoped would be their party's next leader.

Clinton would headline 45 events for 26 candidates. More than half lost.

The Democratic defeats proved clarifying for Clinton. She concluded that the party had run scared, done little to defend its accomplishments on the economy and health care, and failed to articulate what it wanted to do in the future.

Clinton plunged into discussions about her own potential campaign and sought to answer the questions she felt Democrats had ignored during the midterms. She convened long economic discussions that centered on income inequality and the widening achievement gap. Foreign policy experts gave her their diagnosis of pressing problems in the Middle East and with Russia. Clinton took hand-written notes and stockpiled multi-page memos.

PLEASE TURN TO **HILLARY/7A**

MIAMI-DADE

Family is devastated by child's horrific murder

By MICHELLE HOLLINGER
Special to South Florida Times

MIAMI — His mother was unable to talk about his death. His great aunt was able to utter a couple of inaudible words before breaking down, too overcome with emotion to continue. His grandmother blames herself because she couldn't save his life. Ten-year old Marlon Eason was murdered by an unknown assailant as he played with a basketball in front of his home and his family is grappling to understand why.

Richard Ruffin said his nephew was a good kid, "just a good kid." Affectionately nicknamed "Merv" like his father, the little boy was his mother's only child, and the only child in the family who resided in the two-story Overtown townhouse with his mother, his Uncle Richard and grandmother, Dorothy Ruffin. His uncle said that Merv's death has left a huge void in the home, and in their lives.

The family agreed to an interview with the South Florida Times, which took place in the living room of their Overtown home. Just outside, yards away from the spot where Merv lay dying, is a small memorial



ALEXANDRA HARRIS/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

Marlon Eason Sr. consoles child's grandmother, Dorothy Ruffin.

of stuffed animals. During the interview, Merv's mother, Elizabeth Ruffin, rested upstairs, too traumatized to speak about her son's murder, although "resting" may be an inaccurate way to describe how she's

passing the days. Her brother said that he's watching her deteriorate.

A superheroes fanatic, Merv was shooting a basketball into a hoop on the evening of March 24 when the ball got away

from him and rolled into the street. A bullet that his uncle said was fired from yards away, slammed into his head. He was pronounced dead at Ryder Trauma Center, but his uncle believes he died where he was shot.

Richard, who was upstairs when Merv was shot, is adamant that the child was killed intentionally, not the victim of a random bullet. There were several people outside with him as he played. The boy's mother had departed a few minutes before the shooting, promising to take Merv to Target, his favorite store, when she returned.

"My sister wasn't gone a good five minutes before she got the phone call telling her that her son had been shot."

Any portrayals of Merv as something other than an innocent child are inaccurate, Richard said.

"Marlon was a kid, kid. He wasn't wise for his age. Just a simple 10-year old kid. He didn't talk very much, he just smiled all of the time. He loved basketball," said his uncle. "He was struggling in reading, but

PLEASE TURN TO **MERV/6A**

REGION

Will Marlins' payroll yield a championship?

By KYOTO WALKER
Special to South Florida Times

MIAMI — A long season ahead and high expectations, an infelicitous start wrought with injuries, the loss of two key players and a lagging offense, especially from star slugger Giancarlo Stanton, is not what the Marlins had bargained for with the lucrative contracts with its young players. The series opener against the Atlanta Braves, led by manager Fredi Gonzalez, former Fish skipper,

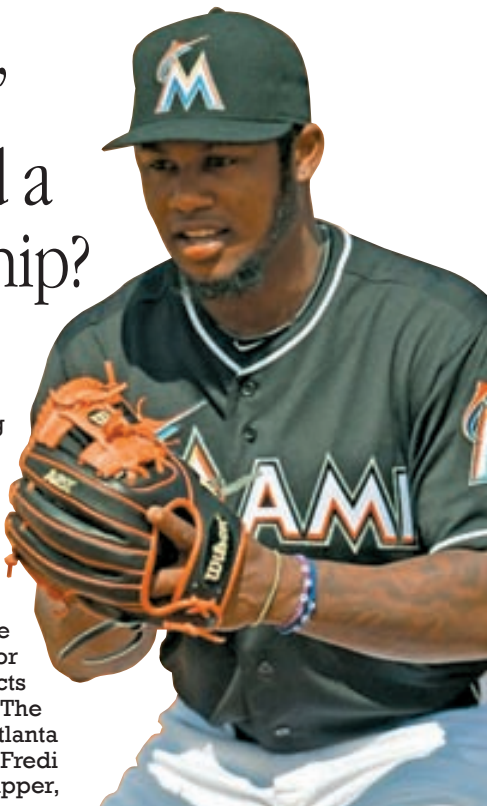


PHOTO COURTESY OF PCWALLS.NET

PLEASE TURN TO **MARLINS/6A** Hanley Ramirez

BROWARD

Cases with texting cops dismissed

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE — Prosecutors say they're dropping cases connected to four Fort Lauderdale police officers who lost their jobs following an investigation into a racist video and text messages.

The Broward State Attorney's Office reported Thursday that they had already dropped 12 felony cases, 19 criminal misdemeanor cases and one juvenile case involving one or more of the officers. Nearly 20 more dismissals expected.

Officials say 22-year-old Alex Alvarez resigned, while 30-year-old James Wells, 31-year-old Jason Holding and 25-year-old Christopher Sousa were fired.

The investigation began after a woman filed a complaint in October. The video included a doctored image of President

Barack Obama wearing gold teeth, images of a Ku Klux Klan hood and a police dog attacking a black man.

A spokesman for the state attorney's office says all of the dropped cases involve black defendants.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Fort Lauderdale Police Department

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Nation

Old slave shackles unearthed

By ALVA JAMES-JOHNSON
The Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Tony Watkins has fond memories of spending time with his great-grandmother in Lowndes County, Alabama.

Mary E. Russell Watkins, affectionately called “Ma'dear” by her children and grandchildren, owned 40 acres where she raised livestock and planted her own vegetables.

Watkins, who grew up in Columbus, Georgia, spent several years helping Ma'dear on the Alabama farm. And in 2009, she asked him to clean an old mill shack at the bottom of the hill. That's when Watkins made a startling discovery that changed his life.

Buried under the house was a pair of iron shackles that had been used to chain slaves. One of the links had a cut two-thirds into the metal, which indicated an attempt to escape.

When Watkins asked Ma'dear what the shackles had been used for, she said, “Boy, just go back and bury them.” And that only made him more curious.

Now Watkins, 44, is the author of a book titled, “*Shackled Again?*” The book recounts that experience and other stories along with historic documents, photos and personal accounts that he has collected while digging deeper into black history. On the cover of the book is a black-and-white photo of his great-grandmother's aunt, Martha Washington, taken in 1911.

In the book, Watkins argues that many black Americans are still shackled because they don't know their history and remain trapped in a cycle of socio-economic despair.

“When I was coming up I knew about Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass,” said Watkins, a Montgomery resident who left Columbus after finishing his junior year at Spencer High in 1989. “But I didn't know anything about the Freedom Riders; I didn't know anything about the foot soldiers, the ones that had to keep their mouths closed, or the people that were lynched.”

Watkins said his family moved to Columbus from Fort Stewart, Ga., near Savannah when he was 10 years old, and lived at Fort Benning until he was in the 11th grade.

His family still lives in Columbus. But when Ma'dear started aging, he went to help her take care of her property. He said he had lived with her as a little boy and always considered the farm home. Still, it was a major adjustment living outside Fort

Benning.

“Before that I didn't really experience racism because on base you had a melting pot of all of these races,” he said. “Then when I went to Bama, as I call it, and you had three lines -- you had a black line, a white line and a church line and those lines never crossed each other, even in 1989.”

Watkins said Ma'dear worked for a white family as housekeeper, and it was almost like she just accepted her place, even in that era. He said she had inherited the 40 acres from her husband's family and was also very independent.

Watkins said Ma'dear told him stories about her grandmother, Rosanna Jefferson, who was born a slave in 1856 on the Jefferson Plantation in South Carolina. But the information was sketchy, he said.

Watkins said his great-grandmother came from a generation that didn't dwell on the past or show much emotion.

Once they were at a funeral and he asked her why she didn't cry.

“Boy, if you cry one time, you'll always cry,” she said.

Ma'dear died in January 2014 at age 95.

“She lived a great life and I can tell you one thing about her, she was a warrior,” he said. “She was a warrior who raised 11 children by herself, her grands and her great-grands. She had enough love to go around.”

Watkins regrets that he didn't learn more about his family history before she died.

Now he's on a mission to collect as much black history as possible before others of her generation pass on.

In his book, he tells the stories of unsung heroes who participated in various civil rights events, including the 1965 march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, now known as “Blood Sunday.”

Two people featured in the book are the Rev. Fredrick Douglass Reese, who wrote the letter to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. inviting him to Selma, Alabama; and Joanne

Bland, who participated in the march as a child. Bland had experienced the pain of segregation when her mother died in the hallway of a Selma hospital because there was no colored blood” available.

“By age 11, I was marching in protest movements,” Bland is quoted as saying in the book. “I remember what it felt like to kneel and pray on the front steps of the Dallas County Courthouse. Even though I was not old enough to register to vote, I still liked being a part of the action. We were taught to ask God to ‘lift the hearts of those evil men who would not let our parents vote.’”

A chapter in the book deals with the lynching of black mothers in segregated communities.

“I always heard about the black men that were lynched, but I never heard about the black women,” Watkins said. “And those stories are very important to us because black women were beaten, raped and even lynched trying to protect their own families. These are stories that we need to know, not only as a black community, but as a community, because as ugly as the history is, it has to be told.”

Watkins said the book, which is self-published, is now available at Barnes & Noble college campus locations and also can be purchased on Amazon.

He said the book is selling well due to articles that have run in newspapers across the country, the anniversaries of events like “Bloody Sunday” and a renewed interest in black history by many in the community.

Watkins said he wrote the book while working two jobs -- one as an administrator with the Alabama Department of Transportation and part time as a meat and seafood clerk at the Fresh Market.

Watkins is now working on a sequel that will include interviews with former Secretary of State Gen. Colin Powell; Ambassador Andrew Young; and comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory.

Others in the book will include Moses J. Newson, a journalist who covered the murder of Emmett Till; Diane Nash, a leader and strategist of the student wing of the civil rights movement; and white freedom riders. One man he interviewed is 108 years old.

“When you hear these people dying out, ‘It's almost like, man, I can't lose another one,’” Watkins said. “Everyone has a story to tell and everyone has a history.”

He said there's much that people in today's black community can learn from their ancestors.

“I think if we go back to that community setting, to where we can talk to each other, and work with each other and help each other, then we can actually become a great community,” he said.

“What we have to do is work on our community, because if we can't work with our own people, what makes you think we can work with anyone else?”

Tuskegee Airmen exhibit to visit Bethune-Cookman University



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLIGHTMUSEUM.COM

The exhibit

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — An Air Force tribute squadron honoring the Tuskegee Airmen is bringing a traveling exhibit to Bethune-Cookman University.

The Commemorative Air Force Red Tail Squadron will have its Rise Above mobile theater exhibit at the Daytona Beach school Tuesday and Wednesday.

Through an original short film, the exhibition tells the story of America's first black military pilots and support personnel during their time in World War II. It also uses the theater's 160-degree panoramic screen to create for viewers the sensation of being in the cockpit inside the P-51C Mustang the Tuskegee pilots used.

The exhibit will run both days from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Opinion



Islam insults Obama again

On November 24, 2008, I wrote an article in which I talked about how Al-Qaeda insulted Barack Hussein Obama, our newly elected POTUS. Now that Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry are trying so hard to get a nuclear arms deal with Iran as the Supreme Leader of Iran, the Ayatollah Ali Hosseini Khamenei, keeps calling America “The Great Satan,” I thought it was time to revisit what our terrorist enemies thought about our “great leader” then.

The operatives may have changed, but the picture is still the same – Obama is still “facing a jihad.” Some of you may remember how Al-Qaeda called Barack Obama a “House Negro.” Then the debate between so-called “house Negroes” and “field Negroes” began in full force.

Ayman Al-Zawahri, Al-Qaeda’s No. 2 leader insulted Obama on the Internet, saying he was “the direct opposite of honorable black Americans “like Malcolm X, according to The Huffington Post’s November 19th article, *Al-Qaida No.2 Calls Obama A “House Negro,”* written by Maamoun Youssef and Lee Keath.

They quoted Al-Zawahri as calling Obama “abeed al-beit,” literally translated into “house slaves,” or loosely - “house Negroes.”

They further wrote Al-Zawahri’s message included “old footage of speeches by Malcolm X in which he explains ... saying black slaves who worked in their white masters’ house were more servile than those who worked in the fields...(also) using the term to criticize black leaders he accused of not standing up to whites.”

Now mind you, The Huffington Post also quoted Al-Zawahri as saying, “America has put on a new face, but its heart full of hate, mind drowning in greed, and spirit which spreads evil, murder, repression and despotism continue to be the same as always...Be aware that the dogs of Afghanistan have found the flesh of your soldiers to be delicious, so send thousands after thousands to them.”

Al-Zawahri also warned that Obama was “facing a Jihad (holy war) awakening and renaissance which is shaking the pillars of the entire Islamic world; and this is the fact which you and your government and country refuse to recognize and pretend not to see.”

These were almost the same words used by The Ayatollah just recently. One would think that these strong words from a terrorist would illicit strong reactions from our government leaders as veiled threats. But Nooooo! Obama wants a deal too much, he’s making nice with our enemies while throwing our allies, like Israel, under

the bus. This would be his legacy.

Anyway, what caused an uproar then were the words “house Negro” because they were used to refer to Obama.

Funny, this terrorist also called former Secretaries of State Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice “house Negroes” as well, but it was only when he referred to Obama that there was a problem.

It was all right to insult Powell, Rice and other prominent black Republicans, including me - but not Obama.

When asked in 2007 about Rice and Powell, Rev. Al Sharpton sarcastically left no doubt that he considered them “house Negroes” and himself a “field Negro,” but then he was insulted that someone would have the unmitigated gall to make such disparaging remarks about Obama, calling them racists during an interview on The O’Reilly Factor.

Hugo Chavez could call President Bush “El Diablo,” but Al-Qaeda couldn’t call President-Elect Obama “house Negro”?

Keith Boykin, editor of The Daily Voice, a CNBC contributor and BET political commentator, wrote in www.thedailyvoice.com “Oh no he didn’t.”

One blogger wrote on www.narbosa.com “...now you insulted Black Jesus, you better be ready to throw

down!”

That blog showed why for six years, Obama could do no wrong in the eyes of black folk.

I wrote then how I was sick of this idiotic debate.

A slave was a slave was a slave. And those who proudly call themselves “field Negroes” while they insult those of us they call “house Negroes” need to quit smoking those funny leaves they planted in the field. All it did was burn out their brains. Maybe that’s why they are so eager to have those funny cigarettes made legal now.

While they are getting “high” the same Islamic terrorists who wanted us dead on 9/11, still want us dead. But our POTUS Obama must have smoked so much during college, he thinks making deals with our enemies will make him great.

Greatness, like beauty, is only in the eyes of the beholder. Those who follow Islam will never love America. And Obama ain’t “Black Jesus.”

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



Ours is the language of unheard people

Even within the stratified ungated confines that tend to mark America’s mostly black and brown living spaces, there is a deep silence amid plenty of sound – people noise. Come Sunday morning, close by, in every direction, waits the spiritual ecstasy of Black Christianity. Afterward, the usual cacophony rises to an early evening crescendo. And the constant deafening masks the crying out and the voices of reason.

Church is black business – which is why there are so many. How can a people so poor, collectively, support so many churches and no one can be heard raising the issue of how illogical it is? There ought to be an outpouring of voices decrying the constant rise of female heads of households, teen pregnancies, drugs, crime/criminal justice, poor schools, unemployment and health issues therein. But Black Christianity is immune – or deaf, dumb, and blind!

Ours is the language of unheard people. Consciousness forbids silence and inaction. Strength and resolve is tested in many ways and few are left standing, many seemingly just whistling in the wind. All manner of opposition to comprehensive positive social change is positioned to quash liberation and the future. Silence is the conditioning process working. The sounds – the noise, drowns out the language of the unheard.

The language of unheard people speaks to the absurdity that body cameras for “public safety officers” (police) will somehow, magically perhaps, change attitudes. Imagine that, bamboozlement from on high claiming that negatives most white people learn about black and brown people from their families and

through other socialization from adolescence onward, can suddenly be turned to positives because of a camera.

White people in general, and public safety personnel specifically, have exacted violence against black and brown people even before the founding of America, when there were only a few colonies here and plantation slavery grew. Later, lynching parties were organized and/or supervised by sheriffs and sheriffs’ posses, Black Codes were devised as



laws against people of African descent, followed in time by Jim Crow, and then Segregation.

Criminal behavior unspoken about is that diabolical construct devised to maintain and exacerbate violence and harassment of black and brown Americans, especially: the purposeful recruitment and employment of public safety personnel from rural and small town white America for placement in non-white inner city neighborhoods. Objective: maintain an occupying force to ensure subjugation of the people many whites call “animals.”

No white neighborhood in America, no, in the world, would allow even a minority of black public safety personnel to patrol there. The mere thought of such an occurrence would send a political tremor, like a lightning bolt, directly to the soon-to-be-replaced sheriff or police chief. But throughout black America the silence is thick; no voice can be

heard denouncing the occupying force.

There is so much competition for customers (souls) between black preachers and a lean population to draw them from, that it is virtually impossible to pull churches together for religious, political, economic and social community betterment. Thus, the powerlessness syndrome expands and dramatically enhances the subjugation process.

Neo-conservative white nationalists on the right to the liberal white nationalist press on the left all roil about “black on black crime.” Local daily newspapers (there are only a handful of black ones in the U.S.A.) feature an average of three black crime stories – some just a photograph and a caption – every day. But “white on white crime” is more widespread and devastating. Black crime is good reading for white people because it reinforces their learned negative attitudes about black and brown people.

Again, that vacuous, awkward silence coming from black leaders is so achingly loud and the unheard speak about these matters under the tree and at the bar, on the street and in the car. And they know the so-called leaders are just pimping the people as their hustle for a government job. You want to know why blacks don’t vote in these gerrymandered districts? They know the area and the black people downtown interests back financially for public office. Please hear what the non-vote is saying!

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

Black History in April

ASHE

April 10, 1943: Arthur Ashe, first African American to win the U.S. Open and men's singles title at Wimbledon, is born in Richmond, Va.

ASHFORD

April 12, 1966: Emmett Ashford becomes the first African-American major league umpire.

RANDOLPH

April 14, 1775: First U.S. abolitionist society is founded in Pennsylvania; Ben Franklin is its president.

RANDOLPH

April 15, 1889: Asa Phillip Randolph, labor leader and civil rights advocate, is born in Crescent Way, Fla.

BATSON

April 16, 1864: Acclaimed soprano-baritone singer Flora Batson is born in Washington, D.C.

HAMPTON

April 17, 1758: Frances Williams, first African American to graduate from college in the Western Hemisphere, publishes a collection of Latin poems.

April 18, 1818: A regiment of Indians and blacks is defeated in the Battle of Suwanna, Fla., ending the first Seminole War.

April 19, 1938: Nana Annor Adjaye, Pan-Africanist, dies in West Nzima, Ghana.

April 20, 1909: Jazz musician Lionel Hampton is born in Louisville, Ky.

April 21, 1966: Pfc. Milton Lee Olive is awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for bravery during the Vietnam War.

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Health

Practicing While Black

By PIERRE B. BLAND, DVM

We see the stories all the time. People just minding their business, living there lives, and the unimaginable happens. Authority figures go off the deep end with their actions and lack of sensitivity. Many of us have experienced the frustration and humiliation of racial profiling. Thankfully my experiences have been more of an embarrassment than an endangerment of my well- being or life, but things start small and grow from there. From small acts of discourteousness grow the larger incidents of unvarnished hate.

A very close friend of mine moved to a local retirement village a bit over a year ago. I have visited him several times since his move. On each visit, I experienced trouble getting past the security gate and the problem became more evident with each visit. My friend even went so far as to alert the security gate of my impending arrival in hope of expediting my admission to the property. It got to the point I was being interrogated as to why I was visiting and required

to show multiple pieces of ID to the security guard, while I would watch car after car of people being waved into the complex. I could not see why I was being subjected to such scrutiny for any reason other than I was African American and being profiled because I was not entering the property to work for any of the residents. My friend agreed with my assessment and even complained multiple times to the management, to no avail. I finally explained to him I would no longer be visiting due the hassle and embarrassment I repeatedly experienced. As awkward as making that explanation was, it was all behind me, or so I thought.

I recently acquired two new client who both live in a retirement village, both located in the afore mentioned complex of my friend. Having a house call practice, acquiring clients in a retirement village is a very desirable thing. Acquiring clients in a retirement village that you have a history of being denied entry into, is not so desirable. In an attempt to make the best of an uncomfortable situation, I scheduled both client's appointments for the same day and an hour apart. I discussed with my new clients my concerns and instructed them to contact the security gate twice prior to my arrival for their appointments. With these precautions, the signage on my truck, and my wearing my work shirt with my logo, I figured my admittance to the property would be relatively easy, compared to my previous visit.



DAVID L. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

I arrive at the gate 30 minutes prior to my scheduled appointments. Being late for an appointment is not acceptable, no matter the reason, so it is better to be late than sorry. I announce to the guard, who I am, why I am here, and with whom I have an appointment. I also stated both clients have called the gate to let him know to expect

my arrival. The familiar litany of questions begin along with the request of identification. It is beyond belief to be asked for identification when you are in a vehicle that has your picture and name mounted on plaques on three sides while wearing a shirt embroidered with your name. I often wonder myself if it is great advertising or narcissism.

I request he check his log because my clients have called the gate in anticipation of my visit. The guard states no such calls have been made. I knew he was lying because I spoke with my clients and confirmed they called a few minutes prior to my arrival. He informs me I can't enter and must drive around to the "back" gate, about a half mile down the road. I request he call the other gate, and he states he won't and if I want to enter the property I would have to drive there. Begrudgingly, I turn my vehicle around and head for the "back" gate. The symbolism of it all is not lost on me.

As I approach the "back" gate, I see the guard stepping out of his shelter and he is waving. And smiling. I stop and he greets me by name. I explain my experience at the "front" gate and he is appalled. This guard explains he is the supervisor of security and is sincerely apologetic for the experience I had. He sends me on my way and asks that I exit this same gate when I depart after my appointments.

An hour and an half later I have finished my appointed rounds and return to the gate as per the request of the supervisor. He again apologizes for the bad experience and hands me a business card and a sheet of paper. He invites me to call and make an appointment to return to the facility for lunch with him and the head of human resources and explains the sheet of paper is a renewable 30 days entry pass. He also explains there will be repercussions for the other guard for his actions. I thank him and promise I will see him soon for lunch.

As I drive a way, I feel a bit of satisfaction and cynicism. Satisfaction because my appointments went well and will most likely lead to additional clients. Cynicism as to how well the pass will work and what will happen when it expires in 30 days.

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 SV.TIE.ORG

Insurance department posts plan enrollment figures and analysis

CONCORD, N.H.— The latest New Hampshire enrollment figures for President Barack Obama's health care overhaul law show Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield with 60 percent of the individual market.

The New Hampshire Insurance Department recently began requiring insurance companies selling plans through the marketplace to submit monthly enrollment numbers.

Anthem was the only company offering marketplace plans last year, but this year it was joined by four other companies. According to the latest numbers, a total of 45,504 people had signed up for plans in New Hampshire by April 1, and 60 percent of them chose Anthem plans. Just under 16 percent chose Minuteman Health, about 15 percent chose Harvard Pilgrim and just under 9 percent chose Maine Community Health. Assurant Health had less than 1 percent of the total.

While thousands individuals have signed up, employers have been slow to use the insurance market for small businesses.

The Small Business Health Options Program, also called SHOP, is available to companies with 50 employees or fewer. It opened last year, but technology problems hampered its debut, and it wasn't available online until recently. In January, only 36 businesses had signed up for plans covering 262 employees and family members. By the end of March, that had increased to 215 businesses covering 1,769 employees and family members. More than three-quarters of the companies chose Maine Community Health. Eighteen percent chose Anthem, with Harvard Pilgrim and Minuteman each picking up a handful of small group customers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA.ORGX

Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield

I ❤️ Fries

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Caribbean



Stock Photo

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Would-be extremist recruit from Jamaica detained in Suriname

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica — A Jamaican teenager has been detained in Suriname on suspicion of being a would-be militant hoping to join Islamic extremists.

In a statement, Suriname's police force says the 16-year-old was denied entry after arriving at the country's main airport on Saturday.

Police say the boy was trying to fly to the Netherlands and then to Turkey. They say a

regional intelligence service informed them that the Jamaican hoped to slip into Syria to join Islamic State militants.

Suriname police say the teen has been flown back to Jamaica.

Jamaica's national security ministry did not immediately provide comment.

Last month, Jamaica insisted there was "no evidence" of Jamaicans joining terrorist groups after a U.S. general identified the island as one of the regional nations producing a flow of 100 would-be militants.

Our distant cousins

By CALIBE THOMPSON

We say we are "Caribbean" like we're really all one ubiquitous people connected by something other than location. We do have a common spirit linked by rhythm, color, passion and a level of afro-centricity. But the language barrier between the Spanish, English, French and Dutch islands makes it so that we may as well all be at a family reunion where no one knows anyone else, and every cousin is five times removed.

On an average day, those of us from the English-speaking Caribbean don't cross reference with each other, much less with folks from the Spanish-speaking islands. When we come to the US, we often gather with our own nationals, but feel like kindred spirits when we hear the sing-song lilt of another English island accent. We may begin to mingle with Trinidadians and Jamaicans who share reggae and soca, Bajans who gave us Rihanna, and so on.



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

But while Americans often think to visit the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico for a Caribbean experience, a West Indian person will usually want to visit the US if they're still back home, or want to go back home if they're in the US. We just typically like our adventures presented in a language we easily understand.

That said, among the three largest Spanish speaking islands it is Cuba, the one treated like a pariah by the US that is most present in our general consciousness. The

island's communist regime and decades old friction with the United States has perhaps cast a bit of a stigma on Cuba in our eyes. Regardless, the English-speaking Caribbean islands have continued to maintain diplomatic relations with her.

Most of us don't know why the chasm between Cuba and the United States has remained so wide and deep when so many other previously strained international relationships with the US have been resolved. We do know that the idea of ostracizing so many of our fifth cousins so harshly and for such a long time, doesn't seem right.

Calibe Thompson is a personality, author and the Executive Producer of "Taste the Islands", premiering on South Florida's WPBT2 on April 27th at 7:30PM. For your free preview of her 2015 collection of writings, Things I Probably Shouldn't Say, visit www.calibe.net.



ALEXANDRA HARRIS/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

A teddy-bear memorial

The tragedy of youth violence

MERV, FROM 1A

was very good at math."

Ruffin, a second grade teacher at Jesse McCrary elementary school said that his nephew was very naive. "He still believed in magic." Theirs was a close relationship. "Marlin was like a little brother. Everywhere I went, you saw him trailing behind me."

Talking about her grandson is a struggle for Dorothy Ruffin. "Oh God, this is so hard," she said, clearly pained but determined to let people know who her grandson was. "He was a real smart little boy. He liked football, but basketball was his thing. I made sure that he went to school every day. He liked Spiderman and comic books. He was so sweet, and I had him in church. He was in church every Sunday. Everybody just loved him. He always had that big smile." Her voice trails off. "I'm just so sad that my baby is gone," she said, just above

a whisper.

Her effort to recall fun memories seems overshadowed by the image of him sprawled on the ground with a hole in his head. "We went on a trip last year to Universal Studios," she added. "He's going to really be missed."

Dorothy Ruffin's sister, Tammy West, recalled that Merv loved for her to cook spaghetti for him. "When it was good, he sat right there and ate it and asked for seconds," she said.

Richard chimed-in about how Merv loved to eat. "His favorite dish was chicken wings. He could eat some chicken wings, spicy buffalo. You couldn't give him a happy meal, he wanted an adult meal," he said. West said that a kid's menu was out of the question when the family went out to dinner.

Merv's father, Marlon Eason Sr., also called "Merv," arrived during the interview.

He said that he's "not too good, just sad." His namesake's murder, he added, "Just broke me down. My son, it's hard to believe. I'm tore up. He was real quiet. He didn't talk to too many people. He was just starting to open up. He ain't bother nobody."

The family seems determined to illustrate that theirs is a normal American family that experienced a horrible American tragedy. They want people to know that Merv was loved and supported; that he was a part of a good family that did normal things together.

They also want people to know the devastating details from the night Merv was killed.

"My 10-year old nephew was gunned down, a shot to the head, on his porch while he was playing basketball in front of my mother, my sister, my 4-month old nephew, my 5-year old cousin and my aunt, as well as a neighbor," his uncle explained. "These were people on their porch having discussions that they have every day, and someone chooses to stand yards away and target a 10-year old."

He doesn't buy media reports that Merv was not the intended target. "They targeted a child," he said. "And he died in a very horrible way."

He said that the police "are doing their job, but we need the community as a whole to advocate for bringing this person in."

It pains him that people question what the family was doing, implying that they are somehow responsible for Merv's death. He said that a recent discussion on a local radio station included people questioning why the child was outside at that time.

Clearly agitated at the implication, he points out that even though it was early evening and spring recess, "Every child has the right to be alone, with their family inside of the house, outside playing in front of their house without the fear of being gunned down. Without the fear of being killed."

The blame, he said, "needs to be on the suspects who chose to target my nephew and take his life."

He lowers his eyes, which are full of tears, as he describes what he saw after hearing the shots and running downstairs.

"I had to see my nephew struggling to breathe. He basically was choking off his blood, trying to breathe, trying to live."

His voice conveys a pained helplessness as he shares what his sister experienced. "My sister had to come and see her son lying down in a puddle of blood. And once he heard her voice, he tried to fight even more."

His said that the smiling image of Merv that is seen on the news masks the horror that his family experienced.

"We had to witness a hole in my nephew's head." The aftermath is a daily struggle. "I'm basically sitting here watching my sister deteriorate. I'm watching my mom deteriorate." Some members of the family are already in therapy. Merv's mother has yet to begin.

Ruffin said that she cries about her grandson daily. "I will remember this the rest of my life. When the bullet hit my baby, I told my baby to run, 'run, Merv, run.' I was so sure that he was right here with me," she said, motioning to her side.

He wasn't.

"I looked back and saw the bullet in his head. I had this baby (Merv's 4-month old cousin) in my hand. I remember rolling him on the ground. That was the most horrible experience that I've ever experienced in my life. Whoever did it, just come forward."

The bittersweet truth that she was present when Merv was born and when he died brings more tears.

"I want to tell my grandbaby that I'm sorry. Grandma is so sorry. I couldn't fix it for him. I always fixed things for him, but grandma couldn't fix that for him. I'm just telling my grandbaby that I'm so sorry. Merv, I'm so sorry," she said through sobs.

While the family doesn't know who the assailant was, Richard strongly believes that he was a young black man who belongs to what he calls a "heartless culture" that kills for the sake of killing.

He shook his head, "I don't think he knew him personally, but he still knew that he was a kid and he still chose to pull that trigger," Richard said. "Merv was a victim of this culture that doesn't value life."

Marlins' injuries may derail any hope for winning 2015

MARLINS, FROM 1A

at Marlins Park ended with a 3 - 0 sweep of Miami, followed by a 2 - 1 series win from American League opponent the Tampa Bay Rays at home. The Braves even took the first road trip game from the Marlins at Turner Field in Atlanta. The historically frugal ball club that invested millions into its young talent this year and seemed promising at spring training now appears to have a dubious future if things don't turn around soon.

Marlins president of baseball operations Mike Hill said right before the regular season started that the talent is there but there are things that cannot be controlled. "There are things that you can't control over the course of the season, injuries being one of them," he said. "There is some luck involved when you're talking about staying healthy."

Miami was dealt some bad luck recently when two of their key players, catcher Jeff Mathis and infielder Don Kelly, both fractured their right ring fingers and will possibly be out for weeks. And Stanton, the \$325 million man who hit 37 home runs last year

before his season ending injury when he was hit by a fastball in the face September 11, has yet to hit a single home run. Some may say it's cause for worry.

Hill said, however, if Stanton can stay healthy, and on pace that at 25-years-old, the young slugger will accomplish plenty and he still hasn't reached his full potential. "When you look at his record, (Stanton) is 25 and he has 154 home runs," he said. "If he stays on pace, who knows what will happen."

Hill said baseball has the longest season in professional sports, from February to possibly October or November if the Marlins make it to the post-season, and it is a rigorous schedule. "It's the mental part of it. It's the physical part of it," he said "It's the on field part of it. It's the spiritual part of it, because this is a very tough game. It's a game of failures, a game of adversity."

The Marlins have been criticize heavily in the past for trading players and have had to do a lot of work to repair that image, Hill said. This year they have secured ace pitcher Jose Fernandez, who signed a one year contract of an undisclosed amount and who the



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINEUPFORMS.COM

Marlins' baseball team

organization controls for the next four years. And outfielder Christian Yelich signed a \$49.5 million, seven-year deal. Stanton made history when he signed a \$325 million, 13 year contract extension.

Hill said that Stanton is one of the most prepared players that he has ever seen and he goes out on the field each time to be successful. "(Stanton) holds himself to a pretty high bar," he said, "And that's what we've tried to do as an organization to challenge our guys to hold themselves to the standard so that anything less than that is unacceptable."

Hill said that the players have to be mentally tough to make it successfully through the long, grinding season. "You need to

be mentally tough to not just survive but to excel," he said.

Hill said that the ball club is doing everything to help the team succeed and win another championship including providing them with trainers at every level and promoting proper nutrition. "We have a nutritionist," he said. "This year we'll have a chef that is with us in Miami that's providing menus to provide the players with the most energy when it's pre-game and post-game, foods that promote recovery and muscle regeneration."

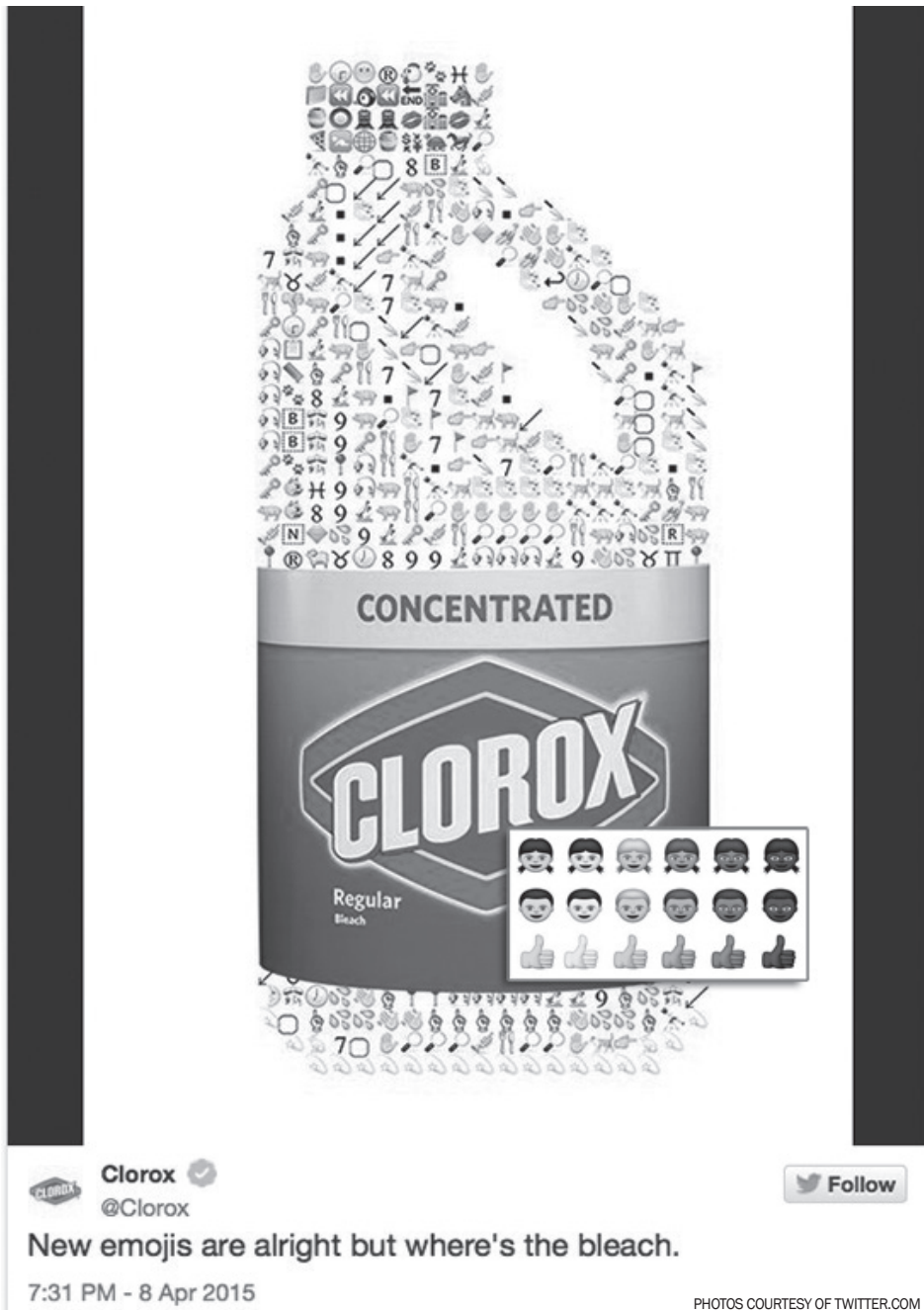
And Stanton, who is arguably one of the best power hitters in the game, Hill said, is ready to finish the task he started last year. "(Stanton) came up short in the MVP last year and

we came up short in that we didn't make the playoffs," he said. "And that's his goal and that is the goal of everybody." Time will tell if Miami will make it to the playoffs or win another championship but the organization seems hopeful.

Hill said the Marlins are trying to create and maintain a perennial winning team by holding onto its best players. "When I took over, that was really my focus, retaining our talent and growing with our talent and giving ourselves a chance to win every year," he said. "That's the goal and Stanton hopefully was the first domino in that whole process to show our fans and community that we are committed to build a perennial winner."

Business

Clorox apologizes for ‘emojis’ tweet



By **BRANDON BAILEY**
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Clorox has apologized for a social media misstep after the household products company sparked outrage by tweeting “where’s the bleach” in reference to last week’s introduction of new “emoji” cartoons for iPhones that include several faces of people with black and brown skin.

The maker of Clorox bleach and other products says it was attempting a humorous reference to other emoji symbols for objects like toilets and bathtubs that people use bleach to clean. But the corporate Twitter post hit a nerve when news reports and online discussions were focusing on the new collection of racially diverse faces that have been added to the symbols people can use in emails and text messages.

“I didn’t think it was malicious, but impact negates intent. This is someone being thoughtless, and really not focused on what was trending that day,” said Jazzmen Knoderer, a 29-year-old program coordinator at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. She joined other Twitter users in posting her dismay about the Clorox tweet after it spread online last week.

Clorox, based in Oakland, California, tried to make amends with another post that said, “Wish we could bleach away our last tweet. Didn’t mean to offend.”

The company also apologized in a statement Saturday that added, “We did not mean for this to be taken as a specific reference to the diversity emojis - but we should have been more aware of the news around this. The tweet was meant to be light-hearted - about having an emoji shaped like a bleach bottle to represent doing laundry or cleaning - but it fell flat.”

The gaffe is only the latest example of companies like AT&T and Kenneth Cole that have sparked controversy or offense on social media. DiGiorno Pizza apologized last fall for a tweet about having pizza, which used a hashtag - (hash)whyistayed - that others had adopted for discussions about the dilemma faced by women in abusive relationships.



Hillary Clinton participates in a roundtable discussion with students and educators during a campaign event at the Kirkwood Community College on April 14, 2015.

Hillary is focused on nation’s youth

HILLARY, FROM 1A

“She wanted to be satisfied that she had a set of policies and ideas that could really make a difference for people and she had a theory of change to get them done,” said John Podesta, her new campaign’s chairman. “She went pretty deep.”

The political data Clinton consumed underscored the demographic advantages the Democratic Party has built up among Hispanics, African Americans and women. Clinton seeks to pick off one or two percent more of the white vote and women than Obama.

What resonated with Clinton more than the policy papers and the polling were appeals to her sense of duty, a hallmark of her Methodist upbringing in the Midwest. She was by far the most qualified Democrat to run, supporters argued. If she didn’t run, what other Democrat could win?

“If a young Bill Clinton was out there today and she saw that and believed in that person’s ideas, character and competence, I am absolutely convinced she

would not run,” said Lynn Forester de Rothschild, a longtime friend and Clinton financial backer.

There was plenty that gave Clinton pause. She grimaced at the thought of giving up her privacy again. She worried about putting Chelsea, husband Marc and their baby in the spotlight. She felt bad that her candidacy would crowd out Vice President Joe Biden, a longtime friend who was also toying with a White House run.

Clinton was also mindful of chatter that she could be challenged from her party’s liberal left flank. She set up a meeting with Sen. Elizabeth Warren, whose anti-Wall Street positions were galvanizing progressives and stoking talk that she could launch her own 2016 campaign. The meeting was as much an opportunity for Clinton to gauge the mood of progressives as it was a chance to size up the seriousness of Warren’s repeated denials of a White House run.

By December, most of Clinton’s anxieties had been resolved. Her private deliberations over the holidays would put to rest her internal debate.

LEGAL NOTICE

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Economic and Property Damages Settlement

The Deadline to file a Claim is June 8, 2015

June 8, 2015 has been established as the deadline to submit a claim in the Economic and Property Damages (“E&PD”) Settlement with BP Exploration & Production Inc. and BP America Production Company (“BP”) related to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. So if you are eligible to file a claim, you must act soon.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

The E&PD Settlement Class includes people, businesses, other entities, and properties in the states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, and certain counties in Texas and Florida, that were harmed by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that occurred on April 20, 2010. The website DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com has detailed descriptions and maps of the included geographic locations to help you determine whether you are a part of the E&PD Settlement Class. Additionally, you can call 1-866-992-6174 or e-mail questions@DeepwaterHorizonEconomicSettlement.com to find out if a geographic location is included.

WHAT ARE THE PAYMENT CATEGORIES?

The settlement provides payments if you had economic loss or property damage because of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. By submitting a claim, you can request a payment in one or more of the following seven categories:

- Economic Damage
- Loss of Subsistence
 - Vessel Physical Damage
 - Real Property Sales Damage
- Vessels of Opportunity Charter Payment
 - Coastal Real Property Damage
 - Wetlands Real Property Damage

Economic Damage payments are available for Individuals and Entities that lost profits or earnings as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Incident. **Coastal Real Property** payments are available for property that was physically damaged in connection with the Deepwater Horizon Incident. Detailed descriptions of all seven categories are available at the website.

There is no limit on the total dollar amount of the E&PD Settlement. All qualified and timely claims will be paid in full once they are approved. The Settlement also allowed for Seafood Compensation claims, but the deadline for those claims has passed.

HOW DO I REQUEST A PAYMENT?

You must submit a Claim Form to request a payment. You can get a copy of the various Claim Forms by visiting the website or by calling 1-866-992-6174. Claims can be submitted online or by mail. If you have questions about how to file your claim, you should call the toll-free number for assistance. The claims process can be complex, so if you are eligible to file a claim, you should act now so you may complete your claim before the **June 8, 2015** deadline.

DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com
1-866-992-6174



Winner Jordan Spieth sets lowest 36-hole score in Masters history

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Jordan Spieth made Friday feel like Sunday at the Masters.

Fans rose to their feet and applauded when Spieth walked onto the 12th tee, and for the next two hours, ovations greeted him on tee boxes and greens. The red number next to his name on the leaderboard - 14-under par - was better than 11 of the last 13 winners.

It was easy to forget the Masters was only half over.

When the 21-year-old Texan tapped in for par and a 6-under 66, he broke the 36-hole record at the Masters that had stood for 39 years. Spieth was at 14-under 130, a two-day total matched by only three other players in major championship history.

And his five-shot lead over Charley Hoffman looked even larger considering that Spieth was a runner-up in his Masters debut last year, and he came to Augusta this year as the hottest player in golf.

"I got standing ovations walking to multiple greens," Spieth said. "I mean, that's something you can only dream about. It's Friday, too. I'd like to have the same thing happening on Sunday. Got a lot of work to do before that happens."

Hoffman tried to keep pace with Spieth and ran off three birdies on the back nine until closing with a bogey for a 68. He was five shots behind at 135, a score that would have been leading at 36 holes in the last three Masters. Hoffman didn't care about that.

"It's this year. It's not any other year," he said. "I'm just playing golf and I've only played 36 holes. And we've got a lot of golf left."

Dustin Johnson opened with a double bogey, and then became the first player in Masters history to make three eagles in one round. A bogey from the trees on the last hole gave him a 67, and he was seven shots behind, along with Justin Rose (70) and Paul Casey (68). Phil Mickelson (68) was eight behind.

One score that didn't matter belonged to Ben Crenshaw, a two-time Masters champion playing in his 44th and final competitive round on the



THE MASTERS: Final Round William Porter Payne, Chairman of Augusta National, shakes hands with Jordan Spieth of the United States after Spieth won the 2015 Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on April 12, 2015 in Augusta, Georgia.

course. He missed the cut and in a poignant moment, longtime Augusta caddie Carl Jackson came onto the 18th green for a long, warm embrace.

"I feel like I've won the tournament," Crenshaw said.

Rory McIlroy certainly didn't feel that way.

The career Grand Slam might have to wait for McIlroy, though he stayed alive for a green jacket this week "mathematically, anyway _ by making the cut. He went out in 40 and fell below the cut line, only to answer with a 31 on the back nine for another 71.

Even so, he was 12 shots behind at 2-under 142.

"I'm proud of myself the way I fought back," McIlroy said. "I'm going to need four more nines like that to have a chance, it looks like. Jordan has played a phenomenal two rounds of golf and doesn't look like he's going to let up."

Tiger Woods was on the same score as McIlroy and had a different outlook.

The four-time Masters champion made only one bogey in his round of 69 "ending a streak of nine straight rounds at Augusta

without breaking 70 "and said a few putts falling is all that has kept him from being closer.

"And I'm still right there," Woods said. "I'm 12 back, but there's not a lot of guys ahead of me. And with 36 holes here to go, anything can happen - '96 proved that. So we have a long way to go."

He was referring to Greg Norman losing a six-shot lead on the final day in 1996.

Spieth might find confidence in another reference.

The three other players who had a five-shot lead after 36 holes at Augusta - Herman Keiser in 1946, Jack Nicklaus in 1975 and Raymond Floyd in 1976. All went on to win. Floyd previously had the 36-hole record of 131 at the Masters in that 1976 wire-to-wire victory.

Perhaps even more valuable was Spieth's experience last year. He was tied for the lead with Bubba Watson and two shots ahead with 11 holes to play

when he fell behind and never caught up to Watson. What he learned that day was to be patient.

"The hardest thing to do is put aside wanting to win so bad, and just kind of going through the motion and letting my ball striking and putting happen," Spieth said. "I got off to a great start and had a

chance to win last year on Sunday. I'd like to have that same opportunity this year. Again, this is only the halfway point and I'm aware of that. I'm going to try and stay ... very patient these last two days and understand it's going to feel like a whole 'nother tournament."

Much like his opening round of 64, his second round was without much stress - it even included one unlikely birdie.

Spieth hit into a bunker on the par-5 eighth hole, so close to the lip that he could only advance it some 30 yards and still had 235 yards left for his third shot. Spieth hit a hybrid that caught the contours perfectly and settled 2 feet from the cup for a birdie.

Billy Horschel, playing with Spieth, was just short in two. He went up to the green to check the line and noticed Spieth's ball next to the flag. Walking back, he held his hands about a yard apart as Spieth was 100 yards away. Horschel shook his head and started laughing.

He's seen enough of this for two days. He's come to expect it. Spieth said Horschel told him after the first round that he should get a tape recording of "Nice hole, Jordan," to play on every tee box.

That's about what it has looked like. The question is whether Spieth can keep it going.

"It's a long, long way from being finished," Ernie Els said after a 72 put him nine shots back. "A lot of work still to be done, so we'll see. But he's very, very impressive."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTSVRATINGS.COM

Finally, Tiger posts round worth taking notice

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The man was so darned agreeable from tee to green you half-expected his post-round interview to begin:

"Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, I'm Tiger Woods and I'll be here all week. Don't forget to tip your server."

If you thought Woods conducted himself like a recent charm-school graduate at a few Masters events earlier this week, you should have seen him Friday, when he finally put together a round of golf worth getting warm and fuzzy over. He laughed a lot, worked the crowd, chipped the ball reasonably well, and even cracked the occasional joke.

Shooting 69 will do that for a tortured soul, especially since that was the best number Woods has posted at Augusta National since the final round in 2011. It was miles better than anything in his only two outings in 2015: a missed cut at Phoenix and first-round withdrawal at Torrey Pines.

"All you gotta do is believe!" a fan along the ropes shouted as Woods strode to the ninth tee after back-to-back birdies.

Woods cracked a wide smile. "I hear you bro," he said.

Walking off the same tee a few minutes later, after his drive curled to a stop at the right edge of the fairway, Woods caught caddie Joe LaCava talking with a friend.

"Get your mind back on golf!" he barked at LaCava in mock anger, then nearly burst out laughing.

If those few moments of brilliance on the course were reminiscent of an earlier

Woods, his demeanor was something almost entirely new. He isn't sniffing any roses yet, but he certainly seems more interested in the view. After an absence of 11 years, Woods returned to the par-3 contest with his kids and girlfriend Lindsey Vonn in tow.

Instead of the thousand-yard stare, he regularly made eye-contact with fans. Instead of threatening to helicopter a club down the fairway after a bad shot - as he did at No. 15 on Thursday - Woods simply dropped his head to his chest for a heartbeat, then quickly collected himself and headed down the fairway.

More telling, perhaps, he answered patiently when two of the seven questions he fielded post-round were about Jordan Spieth, the 21-year-old Texan who's stolen the spotlight and is threatening to run away with the tournament.

The old Tiger rarely made time to talk about anyone else.

Asked if he could remember what it was like to be 21 and leading the Masters - as he had in 1997 - Woods said, "Well, the difference is that he's separated himself between first and third. I didn't have that separation after two rounds. I believe I only had a three-shot lead at the time. So there's a big difference. He's put out a big enough gap between the rest of the pack."

And when the talk turned back to Woods, he turned reflective "at least as reflective as most of us could remember.

"Very proud of what I've done, to be able to dig it out the way I have," he said.

"I told you guys on Tuesday, I was at a pretty low (point) in my career. But to basically change an entire pattern like that and put it together and put it in a position where I can compete in a major championship like this," Woods added, "is something I'm very proud of."

He's been humbled by a lack of success and a variety of ailments, some self-inflicted, others beyond his control. At 39, nearly all of the sponsors who deserted him after the car crash at the end of his driveway have stayed away and his body has been betraying him with alarming frequency.

His pursuit of Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 career major championships has been stalled at 14 for seven years now.

One thing, though, hasn't changed: Woods still talks bravely about winning every time he sets foot on a course.

"I'm still right there. I'm 12 back (behind leader Spieth), but there's not a lot of guys ahead of me. And with 36 holes here to go, anything can happen, you know. ... There's so many holes to play and so many different things can happen."

Yet those pronouncements sound hopelessly dated now, even at Augusta National. There was a time when a charge by Woods up the leaderboard here - even a modest one like Friday's - sent ripples through the galleries and shivers down the spines of his rivals.

He may be in the same place, but that seems like an increasingly distant time.



Jordan Spieth

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCMP.COM



Tiger Woods

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLEACHERREPORT.COM

NEWS BRIEFS

Broward Health Department hosts free breast screening

FORT LAUDERDALE — The Florida Department of Health will hold breast cancer screenings for women from 10 a.m. to noon April 27, at the African American Research Library and Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd. There will be a van parked in the lot prior to the opening of the library.

Women between ages 50 and 65 who are uninsured and live in ZIP codes 33311, 33304, 33309, 33313 or 33319 are urged to apply. There are a limited number of slots available.

Those that qualify for the mammogram may be asked to also complete a research survey on women's health. Those who volunteer to complete the survey will receive a \$30.00 gift card. Women who refuse to participate in the survey can still have the mammogram.

To register, call 954-558-9180.

County launches new spay, neuter voucher program

MIAMI — A new voucher program from Miami-Dade County Animal Services offers low-cost spay/neuter surgeries for dogs weighing 50 pounds and over. The program—made possible by ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) grant funds—helps make sterilization of large dogs in our community more accessible and affordable.

The vouchers are available during regular business hours at the Animal Services shelter, located at 7401NW 74 St., Miami, on a first come first serve basis. The program is open to all Miami-Dade County residents owning dogs weighing 50 pounds and over.

Dog owners can redeem the vouchers to obtain sterilization, rabies and DHPP vaccinations, if needed, for \$30 at Miami-Dade County Community Spay Neuter Clinic, 10700 SW 211 St., Cutler Bay; or Humane Society of Greater Miami, 16101 West Dixie Highway, North Miami Beach. For appointments, call 305-749-1854 in South Miami-Dade, or 305-749-1827 in North Miami Beach.

Slot machines could be coming to Palm Beach, Lee counties



TALLAHASSEE — Slot machines could be coming to two Florida counties under a bill now moving in the state Senate.

A Senate panel on Wednesday took up a measure (SB 7088) that would extend an existing gambling agreement with the Seminole Tribe of Florida for one more year.

Without an extension, the tribe will have to shut down blackjack later this year under an agreement signed in 2010.

But the panel added several significant provisions in a series of close votes.

One of them would let tracks located in Lee and Palm Beach counties add slot machines.

The Senate Regulated Industries Committee also narrowly voted to let the state's greyhound tracks offer other types of gambling even if they stop holding live races.

The House is considering a similar bill.

Florida House pays tribute to Palm Beach State president

LAKE WORTH — Dennis Gallon, president of Palm Beach State College, was honored at the Florida State Capitol by the House of Representatives Thursday for more than 50 years of dedicated service in education. State Representative Lori Berman (D-Lantana) introduced the House Resolution (HR 9065) honoring Gallon.

"It is with great honor and pride that I recognize Dr. Gallon for his achievements and contributions to Palm Beach State College and our community," said Berman. "Under Dr. Gallon's leadership, Palm Beach State College has received many honors and recognitions, and his legacy will be forever embedded in our community."

Gallon is the fourth president of PBSC. He has served in the role for nearly 18 years, beginning in 1997. He will retire on June 30. More than 30 PBSC students and staff were present in the House gallery to share in the celebration with Gallon.

The search for Gallon's successor is currently underway.

Compiled from Staff, Wire reports

SOUTH FLORIDA

Campaign aims to find 1,000 trade jobs for students



Broward College student Nasaky Zele is in the Broward College North Campus manufacturing lab. Zele is currently participating in Broward College's Operation Re-Tool program and is completing the school's Engineering Technology A.S. program.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRAVIS JORDAN, BROWARD COLLEGE

Broward College student Austin Head works at the motor control system workstation in the Broward College North Campus manufacturing lab.

Staff Report

CLEARWATER — The Florida TRADE Consortium, a coalition of 13 state and community colleges across Florida, has launched a statewide campaign to place 1,000 Florida TRADE students into jobs in advanced manufacturing by April 1, 2016. Two South Florida colleges — Broward College and Palm Beach State — are playing key roles in making this happen.

Job fairs, campus events, manufacturing days and forums, and other activities will highlight the campaign

over the next 12 months. The first South Florida events occur this month, when CareerSource Broward, in partnership with Broward College, will host its first Florida Manufacturing Career Fair on Wednesday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Career Fair will be held in the Omni Auditorium, located at Broward College's North Campus, 1000 Coconut Creek Rd. in Coconut Creek.

The career fairs will be held across the entire state on April 22, as part of the Florida TRADE

PLEASE TURN TO TRADE/2B

PALM BEACH

The Clark Sisters raise a joyful noise

Staff Report

WEST PALM BEACH — The walls of Dreyfoos Hall may still be vibrating from the Kravis Center's recent 23rd annual Gospel Gala. Listen closely even now and you can hear the echoes from hundreds of hands fervently clapping, of feet stamping in praise, with a repeated chorus of "Amen" and "Hallelujah" empowering the room.

A Kravis Center Community Outreach Event hosted by the Center's Community Relations Committee chaired by Kravis board member John Jenkins, the annual concert has featured numerous gospel legends over the last two decades and this year's event was just as inspirational thanks to the event's headliners.

"Through its musical excellence and devotional tone, the Gospel Gala always provides a real spiritual and emotional uplift to everyone who attends," said Jenkins, who also praised Jane M. Mitchell, Chair of the Kravis Center's Board of Directors and member of the Community Relations Committee, who sponsored the spiritually inspiring event.

The Clark Sisters don't suffer from sibling rivalry. In fact, each is known for her distinctive vocals, these gospel singers from Detroit complement one another perfectly.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORBY KAYE'S STUDIO PALM BEACH

GOSPEL ALL-STARS: The Clark Sisters (L) meet The Spann Sisters.

Together, Jacky, Karen, Dorinda and Twinkie produce a wide range of vocals — from sweet to acrobatic trills to deep, soulful growls — that blend to deliver a powerful yet beautiful message. They've spent more than 30 years singing, preaching and evangelizing — across the country as well as abroad — and have sold millions of albums. The Clark Sisters are true gospel legends.

Gospel Gala 2015 started with a *Beyond the Stage* pre-performance musical presentation in the lobby, featuring the Hilltop Missionary Baptist Church Mass Choir from Riviera Beach, and

opening the performance for The Clark Sisters was the Port Salerno Church of God Celebration Choir.

"All of the singers were sensational," said Vanessa Young, the Kravis Center's director of community outreach. "From the happy pre-concert reception and meet-and-greet for members of the Kravis Center Community Relations Committee to the amazing local choirs to the awesome performance by Jacky, Karen, Dorinda and Twinkie Clark, this year's Gospel Gala was truly an exulting experience that everyone there will never forget."

MIAMI-DADE

Mourning builds affordable housing in Overtown

Staff Report

MIAMI — NBA Hall of Fame member and Miami Heat basketball legend Alonzo Mourning, through his AM Affordable Housing (AM) and Housing Trust Group (HTG) have closed on the financing of Courtside Family Apartments, a new 84-unit affordable housing development in Miami's historic Overtown neighborhood.

Courtside Family Apartments is the first of a three-phased master planned community; each phase of the revitalization initiative will provide much needed affordable housing for local residents.

"I'm extremely pleased that all our hard work has finally paid off," said Mourning, director of AM Affordable Housing, Inc. "Since we were first awarded the project in 2008, we have had to overcome many obstacles to get to this point, but we persevered and ultimately succeeded for this community. Our teamwork, dedication, high energy and hard work mirror the same qualities it takes to build a champion."

Mourning first conceptualized the development as



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOUSING TRUST GROUP

COMING TO OVERTOWN: Courtside Family Apartments is a joint partnership between Alonzo Mourning's company and the Housing Trust Group.

a way to continue his charitable work in the City of Miami. In 2008, Miami-Dade County granted an affiliate of AM Affordable Housing, a 65-year ground lease on approximately four acres of land at the Culmer Center.

Housing Trust Group is a leading real estate developer in Florida, the Southeastern U.S. and Arizona. Earlier this year the company opened Village Place Apartments, a \$15 million, 112-unit affordable housing community for ages 55 and up in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Developers say construction on the first phase of the project will begin in 30 to 45 days, and is expected to take 14 months.

"We look forward to continuing to work with Alonzo Mourning's AM Affordable Housing to build safe and secure affordable housing for the residents of Overtown," said Matthew Rieger, CEO of Housing Trust Group, who was chosen as AM Affordable Housing's joint venture partner following a competitive bidding process in 2008.

"Since this is our first venture into affordable

housing, we chose HTG as our partner because of their successful track record in South Florida, well known expertise in affordable housing and strong relationships in the community," said Mourning.

Once completed, Courtside Family Apartments will have 84 units, including four live/work lofts on NW Fourth Avenue, set-aside at various income levels at or below 60 percent of the area median income. Phase II will serve a senior population and includes an

PLEASE TURN TO COURTSIDE/2B

Around South Florida



ELGIN JONES
EJones@SFLTimes.com

Palm Beach County



COLD BUSTED!

BLAKE

Dennis Blake, 64, of Delray Beach is a retired school principal who has also worked as a 911 dispatcher in Indiana. He now faces up to 10 years in prison on charges that he arranged to meet what he thought was an underage boy for sex at a restaurant. It was actually an undercover police officer. Investigators reportedly also found evidence on his cell phone that he arranged another meeting with a 15-year-old at a Lantana home for sex, but the boy “chickened out.”



CAREY

Palm Beach County Inspector General John Carey will continue to meet with local officials in private, informal gatherings to brief and provide updates from his office. He says the meetings are simply community outreach efforts. Carey requested an opinion from the Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office, which agreed the meetings did not violate the state's open government Sunshine Laws.

Broward County

COLORED GRAVEYARD

An old burial ground commonly referred to as the “colored graveyard,”



BATTLE

FLAKKA DEVASTATION

Synthetic drugs such as bath salts, which had been popular among suburban youth, are now plaguing urban communities and low-income neighborhoods. The Broward Sheriff's Office and the City of Pompano Beach held a community forum on these chemical concoctions and highlighted the drug called ‘flakka.’ This devastating drug leaves users with severe paranoia, hallucinations, super human strength, violent erratic behavior and countless other conditions. Flakka is cheap and a thousand times more dangerous than crack cocaine. This is a critical issue and we all should be concerned. This stuff is bad, I mean very bad. It can be smoked, snorted, swallowed or injected.

HUMAN REMAINS?

For years, residents have insisted Interstate 95 between Broward and Sunrise boulevards was constructed through a portion of Woodlawn Cemetery, which is located in Durrs neighborhood of northwest Fort Lauderdale. Today the graveyard abuts I-95 on its western border. The Florida Department of Transportation intends to add an express lane to I-95 in the area and during a meeting with residents, officials agreed to conduct testing to determine if any human remains are present. Specially trained cadaver dogs were brought in and have alerted to several locations in the swale area of the interstate where human remains could be located. If confirmed, it could possibly disrupt the highway expansion. Durrs Homeowners

Association President Walter ‘Mickey’ Hinton is calling for expanded testing and other measures to preserve what he believes are gravesites.

Miami-Dade County

HIT & RUN

Miami Police officers arrested 29-year-old Gustavo Sanchez in the hit and run death of a female pedestrian. The accident occurred near Northwest Fifth Avenue and 54th Street. He is charged with DUI manslaughter and leaving the scene of a crash involving a death.



CASTRO

President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro are undoing more than 50 years of isolation. The leaders are cautious about specific plans and details, but normalized relations between the countries are on the fast track.

COURSE RENOVATION

Billionaire Donald Trump acquired and renovated the Doral Trump Country Club and now the Riviera Country Club in Coral Gables has announced a separate \$8 million project of its own. The Riviera will add numerous upgrades to its golf course to include two lakes, new fairways. The project is expected to be completed over an eight-month period.



MUÑOZ

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Guillermo Muñoz of Homestead Senior High has been selected Miami-Dade County Public Schools Principal of the Year. Muñoz took over the troubled school two years ago and

has gained statewide attention for its remarkable turnaround.

Monroe County

MOSQUITO WARS

The Monroe County Mosquito Control District is considering bringing genetically modified, sterilized male mosquitoes to the Florida Keys. They would help combat the spread of mosquitoes that carry the deadly dengue fever. Environmentalists are opposed to the plan, but U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports indicate one-third of the world's population live in areas at risk for infection.



RAMSAY

IN-CUSTODY DEATH

At the request of Sheriff Rick Ramsay, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement will investigate the death of a Marathon man who died while being transported to the Plantation Key Jail. Clifford Green, 39, died shortly after he was pulled over by Monroe County Sheriff's deputies. While en route, Green became ill. The deputy pulled over and began administering aid. He was under arrest for driving with a suspended license and drugs that were found inside his car. A Florida Highway Patrol trooper was also on the scene.

CORPSE TRANSPORT

Following complaints, the Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office will end the practice of transporting dead bodies in the back of uncovered pick-up trucks. Sheriff Rick Ramsay, County Administrator Roman Gastesi and others criticized Medical Examiner Thomas Beaver over the practice.

1,000 jobs is aim of campaign

TRADE, FROM 1B

Consortium's statewide “Drive to 1,000” campaign. Similar events will be held in Palm Beach and Miami-Dade counties.

The Palm Beach career fair is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Palm Beach State College's Public Safety Conference Center on the Lake Worth campus, 4200 Congress Ave. The career fair is free and open to the public. Veterans with ID may enter the fair early, from 9:30 to 10 a.m. The Miami-Dade event, in partnership with CareerSource South Florida, will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at of Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus, 300 NE Second Ave.

Broward College and Palm Beach State are part of the coalition of 13 state and community colleges.

“Florida TRADE's mission is to develop and deliver accelerated technical training programs that allow students to earn industry certifications and to acquire technical skills that lead to jobs in advanced manufacturing” said Dr. Gary Graham, Director of the Florida TRADE Consortium. “We are committed to placing our students into good manufacturing jobs across the state.”

The CareerSource Florida Network, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the Manufacturers Association of Florida, MAF Center for Advanced Manufacturing Excellence plus Regional CareerSource boards and regional manufacturing associations have joined Florida TRADE in the “Drive to 1,000”.

“Manufacturers in Florida are growing and hiring,” said Nancy Stephens, executive director of, Manufacturers Association of Florida. “They want employees looking for meaningful careers. Today's manufacturing is high skill and high wage. Those wages circulate through the economy improving the quality of life for all citizens.”

“Advanced Manufacturing is an important industry targeted for future growth in Florida,” said CareerSource Florida CEO Chris Hart IV. “CareerSource Florida is a proud partner in this collaborative effort to help Florida's manufacturers expand and compete, and Floridians secure rewarding, well-paying careers.”

For more information about Florida TRADE and the upcoming Florida Manufacturing Career fair, visit www.fltrade.org or www.mafmfg.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AM AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Alonzo Mourning

COURTSIDE, FROM 1B

estimated 120 units. Phase III's demographics are still to be determined, but the development will include approximately 80 residential units.

Developers say the new master-planned community aims to create a more pedestrian friendly environment on the grounds of the Culmer Neighborhood Center with access to governmental services, small business opportunities, and neighborhood-oriented shopping. The Courtside community will serve as a catalyst for the continued revitalization of the Overtown neighborhood. The families and residents of Courtside Family Apartments will enjoy an array of community amenities, including a multi-

Courtside Apartments coming to Overtown

purpose community room with gaming tables, theater/media room, computer lab, fitness center, and secure outdoor amenity area with basketball court, covered picnic areas, and gardens.

Construction will start shortly on Courtside Family Apartments, located at 1700 NW 4th Avenue in Overtown. Beyond adding to the much-needed inventory of safe, quality, affordable rental housing, this new development will create approximately 150 jobs during the 14-month construction phase with another approximate 35 permanent jobs when Courtside Family Apartments officially opens its doors. Phase II and III will follow thereafter as soon as financing is obtained.

Development costs are estimated at \$22.8 million. Project funding sources include: RBC Tax Credit equity estimated at \$9 million raised from the purchase of Florida Housing Finance Corporation low-income housing tax credits (LIHTC), construction and permanent debt financed by Citi Community Capital in the amount of \$3.31 million, funding in the amount of \$7.5 million from the Southeast

Overtown/Park West Community Redevelopment Agency, Miami Dade County Surtax loan for \$1.75 million, with developer equity making up the balance.

Courtside Family Apartments will incorporate green design and building techniques in the construction of Courtside Family Apartments, in line with National Green Building Standards



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOUSING TRUST GROUP

Matthew Rieger

(NGBS). Residential units offer eco-friendly features such as low-flow plumbing fixtures, low-VOC paint Energy Star qualified appliances and energy efficient HVAC systems.

Miami-Dade parks in contest to renovate site for Earth Month

Staff Report

MIAMI — This Earth Month, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Disney/ABC Television Group and ESPN are collaborating to revitalize parks across the United States, including one in Miami-Dade County.

Through an initiative of the NRPA called Parks Build Community, one of three park projects of the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department will receive a \$20,000 grant. Residents will choose the recipient.

County parks officials say they want to improve neighbors by providing places and programs that encourage people to be active and healthy. They want residents to vote each day through April 30 by visiting NRPA.org/Belnspired and select the project they'd like to see receive \$20,000 in grant funding to make improvements. At the end of April,

the Miami-Dade Parks project with the most votes will receive grant funding.

The project choices are: Community garden Planting at Goulds Park, 11350 Southwest 216 Street, Miami, FL, 33170 — This project would support the implementation of a community garden for the park, inclusive of an irrigation system, planter beds for growing fruits and vegetables and fencing. Once planted, the garden would be used to encourage children attending the park's after-school program to improve and expand their healthy eating choices.

Additionally, Miami-Dade Parks Therapeutic Recreation Hub at Greynolds Park project is competing in a separate “Wild Card” category, for a chance to receive a \$20,000 grant toward facility improvements. This Miami-Dade Parks project will help fund therapeutic recreation improvements, benefitting children with

disabilities, ages 6-14, enrolled in MD-PROS afterschool and summer camp programs at the Greynolds Park hub.

Participants can vote for Miami-Dade Parks' “Wild Card” project as a one-time write-in option at the registration prompt at NRPA.org/Belnspired by entering their first/last name, email address, age and type in Greynolds Park.

“Parks have immense power. They help families live healthier lives, connect kids to

nature, increase kids' access to sports and so much more,” said Barbara Tulipane, president and CEO of NRPA. “Parks Build Community is a great opportunity to share the power of parks during Earth Month while bringing essential funds to critical local park projects.”

Participants must be at least 18 years old to vote. For a complete listing of voting eligibility rules visit <http://www.parksbuildcommunity.org/public/fulfillment/rules.pdf>.

THE PROJECT CHOICES ARE:



Butterfly garden at Gratigny Plateau Park, 885 NW 117th St, Miami, FL 33168 — This project would expand and beautify the existing butterfly garden to better engage visitors who use the park's playground and fitness equipment stations.

Community garden Planting at Goulds Park, 11350 Southwest 216 Street, Miami, FL, 33170 — This project would support the implementation of a community garden for the park, inclusive of an irrigation system, planter beds for growing fruits and vegetables and fencing. Once planted, the garden would be used to encourage children attending the park's after-school program to improve and expand their healthy eating choices.

Soccer field enhancements at Oak Grove Park, 690 NE 159 Street, Miami, FL 33168 — This project would install additional amenities to enhance players' overall experience on the soccer field by adding additional goals, players' benches and perimeter fencing.

PHOTO COURTESY OF METROCITIZEN.NET/ ARMANDO-RODRIGUEZ

Come out and have a great time!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday	Live Jazz Band
Monday	Happy Hour - 4pm until closing Step & Line Dancing and Giveaways
Tuesday	Step & Line Dancing
Wednesday	Old School / New School
Thursday	Bid Whist w/ prizes to winners and Line Dancing
Friday	Smooth Jazz and Neo Soul by Derrick Hadley & Shantel Baker on vocals 4 - 9pm Happy Hour
Saturday	Old School / New School Step & Line Dancing and Giveaways

FREE BUFFET EVERYDAY



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James Gibbs, the Exalted Ruler, and Harry Murphy, House Chairman, thank the community for your support.

Please continue to patronize us.

With your help we can take this to a higher level.

Obituaries

Death Notice

Lonnie Beatty III



Brilliant and genius are the words often used to describe Lonnie Beatty III, 67. He is the eldest of three children, Marvin and Robert, born of Lonnie E. Beatty Jr., and Juanita (Casey) Beatty on October 25, 1947. Lonnie is the father of Eric Beatty of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Lonnie transitioned home on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

A retired Systems Analyst for the Michigan School System, Lonnie finished his career as the web Master and Director of Internet Technology for South Florida Times.

Although painfully ill for quite some time, the miracle of God's healing power consumed Lonnie and allowed him to resume his daily practice of reading, voraciously, without any pain. Thereafter, his transition was peaceful.

A reception will be held in Lonnie's honor at Range Funeral Home, 5727 N.W. 17th Ave. Miami, FL 33142, on Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m.

WADE FUNERAL HOME



LUC CHEVRIER, 84, Retired from Imperial Tobacco Canada, died April 9 at home. Arrangements are incomplete.

JEVON ANDRE DOUGLAS, 22, Mobile Mechanic, died March 30 in Lauderhill Florida. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at World Harvest Community Church of God, 1601 Lauderdale Manor Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - MLK



ROSABELL WILCOX, 62, Housewife, died April 7 at Bert Fish Medical Center. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday in the chapel.

RANGE FUNERAL HOME



FRANKIE LUE ANDERSON, Homemaker, died. Funeral 11 am Tuesdy in the chapel.

RICHARD T. JOHNSON, 58, Entrepreneur, died April 6. Service was held.

ANISHKA SMITH, 42, died March 30. Final rites and burial in Nassau, Bahamas.

ERIC GEORGE FUNERAL HOME



RICHARD DANIEL ANDREWS JR., 34, of Hollywood, died April 10. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Koinonia Worship Center, West Park, Florida.

MANKER FUNERAL HOME



JUANITA JACKSON, 90, Business Owner, died April 9 at North Shore Medical Center. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Friendship M.B. Church.

NAKIA INGRAHAM FUNERAL HOME



JENNIFER PAGAN, 39 Promoter, died April 8. Services were held.

RONALD PERGOLINI, 48, Sales, died April 4. Services were held.

MARCUS EDWARDS, 74, died April 3. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at St. Monica Catholic Church.

- Basic funeral services starting at \$1,995.00
- Traditional funeral services
- Funeral service with cremation
- Direct cremation
- Shipping to all parts of the United States, and Caribbean Islands



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HALL-FERGUSON-HEWITT MORTUARY



EARNEST DAWKINS, 79, Retired Metro Dade Police Officer, died April 12. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.

ALFRED FARNELL, 82, died April 11. Funeral will be held 1 pm Friday at Christian Fellowship Baptist Church. The Church.

LOUIS SAMPLE, 83, Field Representative, for Pan American, died April 11. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday in the chapel.

WILLIE WILLIAMS, 82, died April 13. Funeral will be held 9 am Saturday at Hall Ferguson Hewitt Chapel.



WRIGHT & YOUNG FUNERAL HOME



DOROTHY ALLEN, 80, died April 13. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at New Gamble Memorial COGIC.

SALLA ARCHER, 43, Mail Handler, for USPS, died April 7. Survivors include: children, DeAndrea and Darrius; mother, Gloria Archer; granddaughter, Destiny Bethea; siblings, Faydra, Sharon, Kimberly, Natasha and Kevin. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at St. Matthews M.B. Church.

TONY FORD, 57, Clerk, died April 4. Services were held.

DORIS HARRIS, 78, died April 10. Funeral 1 pm Saturday at Antioch Baptist Church of Brownsville.

ALPHONSE MESINOR, 51, Laborer, died March 28. Funeral 12 pm Saturday at St. James Catholic Church.



ROY MIZELL & KURTZ FUNERAL HOME



FRANK BOWENS, 91, of Dania Beach, died April 13. Funeral will be held 11am Wednesday, April 22 at Saint Ruth Baptist Church in Dania Beach. FL.

WILLIAM H. KELLY, 73 of Lake Worth, died April 11. Arrangements are incomplete.

WILLIE MAE MCGEE, 86, of Fort Lauderdale, died April 8. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at New Hope Baptist Church.



GLADYS WHITE, 84, of Fort Lauderdale, died April 10. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Worldwide Christian Center in Pompano Beach, FL.



REAL ESTATE

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Gibson Plaza
A Rental Community
For Seniors 62 and better
1 and 2 bedroom apartments
Starting at \$704

GIBSON PLAZA APARTMENTS

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KROMA
3670 Grand Ave
Coconut Grove

Office: 1-855-775-2214

- Lease up will begin March 16th, 2015
- Income restrictions apply
- Rents are subject to change



LEGAL NOTICES

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FL ORIDA NOTICE OF MEETINGS MEETINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION		
Date	Meeting	Place
4/30/15 12:30p	Audit Committee	KCW Bldg., Board Room 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
5/14/15 10:30a	Central District Schools Adv. -Joint/Open Mtg.	Parkway Middle School 3600 NW 5 th Ct., Lauderhill
5/13/15 6:30-9p	District Adv. Council (DAC) -General Meeting	KCW Bldg. 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
5/12/15 6:30-8p	District Adv. Council (DAC) -Steering Meeting	KCW Bldg., 10 th Fl. Conf. Rm 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
5/7/15 6:30-8:30p	Diversity Committee -General Meeting	KCW Bldg., Board Room 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
5/11/15 2:30-3:30p	Diversity Committee - Chair, Vice-Chair & Staff Mbr Mtg	Lauderdale Manors Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
5/4/15 3:30-5:30p	Diversity Committee - School Site Visitation Sub-Committee	Lauderdale Manors Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
5/11/15 3:30-4:30p	Diversity Committee - School Site Visitation Sub-Committee	Lauderdale Manors Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
5/18/15 3:30-5:30p	Diversity Committee - School Site Visitation Sub-Committee	Lauderdale Manors Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
5/26/15 3:30-5:30p	Diversity Committee - School Site Visitation Sub-Committee	Lauderdale Manors Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
5/5/15 9:30-11:30a	ESE - Autism Committee of ESE Advisory (ACE)	Baudhuin Preschool 7600 SW 36 th St., #2218, Davie
5/29/15 10a-12p	ESE - ACE Board Meeting	Dunkin Donuts 9740 Griffin Rd., Cooper City
5/20/15 6:30-9p	ESE Advisory Council Meeting	Piper High School, Sm.Aud. 8000 SW 44 Street, Sunrise
5/26/15 10a-12p	ESE Adv. Exec. Board Mtg.	JAFCO 5100 Nob Hill Rd., Sunrise
5/7/15 10a-12p	ESE Adv. Exec. Board Mtg.	JAFCO 5100 Nob Hill Rd., Sunrise
5/27/15 10a-12p	ESE Adv. Exec. Board Mtg.	JAFCO 5100 Nob Hill Rd., Sunrise
5/1/15 10a-1p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 3151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
5/8/15 10a-1p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 3151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
5/15/15 10a-1p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 3151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
5/22/15 10a-1p	ESE By-Laws Committee	Northwest Regional Library 3151 N. Univ. Dr., Coral Spgs
5/21/15 10a-12p	ESE - Down Syndrome Task Force Committee	West Regional Library 8601 W Broward Blvd, Plantation
5/11/15 9:30-11a	ESE - Down Syndrome Task Exec. Board Mtg.	JAFCO 5100 Nob Hill Rd., Sunrise
5/20/15 6:30-8:30p	ESOL Leadership Council -General Meeting	KCW Bldg. 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
5/7/15 7p	Facilities Task Force -General Mtg	Plantation High School- Media Ctr 6901 NW 16 th St, Plantation
5/21/15 7-8p	Gifted Advisory	McArthur High School 6501 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood
5/13/15 9-11a	Human Relations Committee	Lauderdale Manors Lrng. Cntr. 1400 NW 14 th Court, Ft. Laud.
5/21/15 7p	North Dist. Schools Advisory -Gen. Mtg	J.P. Taravella High School 10600 Riverside Dr, Coral Springs
5/21/15 6p	North Dist. Schools Advisory -Steering Mtg	J.P. Taravella High School 10600 Riverside Dr, Coral Springs
5/29/15 7p	North Dist. Schools Advisory -End of Year Celebration	J.P. Taravella High School 10600 Riverside Dr, Coral Springs
5/13/15 8-10a	Policy 6000.1 Committee	KCW Bldg., 13 th Fl. Conf. Rm 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
5/27/15 8-10a	Policy 6000.1 Committee	KCW Bldg., 13 th Fl. Conf. Rm 600 SE 3 rd Avenue, Ft. Laud.
5/14/15 9a	Superintendent's Ins. & Wellness Advisory Committee (SIWAC) (Purpose: Benefits Vendor's 2016 Contract Renewals as, well as any other matter the Committee deems important. Telephone conferencing or other telecommunications technology may be used in the conduct of this public meeting to permit absent Superintendent's Insurance & Wellness Advisory Committee Members to participate in discussions, to be heard by other Committee Members, and the public, and to hear discussions taking place during the meeting.)	TSSC - Annex 7720 W. Oklnd Pk Blvd., Sunrise
5/27/15 4-5p	Supplier Diversity & Outreach Program Advisory Committee	TSSC - Rm. #323 7720 W. Oklnd Pk Blvd., Sunrise
5/11/15 2:30-4:30p	Technology Advisory Committee (TAC)	BECON - MGM Room 6600 SW Nova Drive, Davie

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

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA NOTICE OF MEETINGS	
5/5/15 10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3rd Ave., Ft. Laud. •Special School Board Meeting •Regular School Board Meeting
5/12/15 10:00 a.m.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3rd Ave., Ft. Laud. •School Board Workshop
5/19/15 10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3rd Ave., Ft. Laud. •Special School Board Meeting/Expulsions •Regular School Board Meeting
5/26/15 10:00 a.m.	KCW Bldg., 600 SE 3rd Ave., Ft. Laud. •School Board Workshop

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

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PUBLICATION OF BID SOLICITATIONS

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 a special meeting on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held 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.

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Prayerful Living

The Power of Agreement



BISHOP HENRY FERNANDEZ

“Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” ~ Matthew 18:18-20 (KJV)

God has given you the ability to have whatever you desire. I know it probably surprises you that I would make such a statement. Especially if you’ve been struggling to make ends meet, and trying to hold on and believe things will get better. Well, I’ve got good news for you: Things are about to get better for you.

In fact, they are better right now because God’s Word says as a believer you can speak His Word over whatever it is you desire, and it is yours.

I don’t know about you, but I take that to mean that as long as His Word promises it, and I am in agreement with His Word, then it’s mine to have.

That’s how the power of agreement works.

Jesus said in Matthew 18:18-20: “Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

The Power Is In Your Mouth

When it comes to having what you want, you have power in your mouth to speak and see things happen. When you understand the importance of people coming together and agreeing on something, you’ll understand the power you hold over the devil. You can literally put him out of your environment. You can open your mouth and declare things to the atmosphere. You can declare certain things in your life because the Bible clearly says whatever you forbid and declare to be improper or unlawful will be so already in the heavens.

But don’t miss the key here. The operative word in what Jesus is saying is agreement: “That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:19).

That’s where the power is. When you and someone else are in agreement regarding God’s Word, then whatever it is that you agree on has to happen. That’s God’s promise. The simple truth is, if you want to walk in the power and authority God has given you then you must line up with, or come into agreement with, every aspect of His Word.

There are a number of places in the Bible where God calls for His people to walk in agreement and be obedient. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, for instance, God says, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves,

and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

God presented an opportunity, but it came with certain stipulations. He entered into an agreement that placed responsibilities on Him and His children — if they would do something, then He in turn would do something for them.

There is power in agreement. We see it work in the world’s system every day. Millionaires are born through the power of agreement. Industries are successful through the power of agreement. Nations become dominant through the power of agreement.

All God is asking from you, His believing sons and daughters, is to come into agreement with Him and His Word. Trust Him enough to just do what He asks, and watch Him work in your life.

Agree with God, and He will always agree with you.

Henry Fernandez is senior pastor of The Faith Center Ministries in Sunrise, Fla., and is author of the best-selling book, Faith, Family & Finances: Strong Foundations for a Better Life. For more information, go to www.henryfernandez.org or call 1-954-742-7832.



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 **SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES**
"Elevating the Dialogue"

technology Google, Microsoft battle drives down prices for PCs, tablets



Chromebook vs. Microsoft laptop

PHOTO COURTESY OF TECHNOPASION.COM

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE and ANICK JESDANUN**
AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO — Google is releasing its cheapest Chromebook laptops yet, two versions priced at \$149 aimed at undercutting Microsoft's Windows franchise and gaining ground in even more classrooms.

Various PC manufacturers have been working with Google to design lightweight laptops running on the Chrome operating system since 2011. Hisense and Haier make the newest versions. Hisense's Chromebook can be ordered at Walmart.com and Haier's version can be bought at Amazon.com.

Their arrival coincides with Microsoft's rollout of a lower-priced Surface tablet in an effort to reach students and budget-conscious families. Pre-orders have begun for that device, too.

As the prices for tablets and smart phones have been declining, it has forced on PC makers to lower their prices, said International Data Corp.

analyst Jay Chou. The success of the Chromebook line is intensifying the PC pricing pressure.

"It has been good news for consumers, but not so good for vendors," Chou said.

The cheaper version of the Surface Pro 3 sells for \$499, compared with \$799 to \$1,949 for the higher-end models. The discounted version has a slightly smaller screen — 10.8 inches rather than 12 — a slower processor, and less flexible kickstand — just three angles rather than unlimited positions.

The Chromebook has served a dual purpose for Google. Like the company's Android software for mobile devices, the Chrome system is set up so users will automatically begin using Google's search engine and other services, such as Gmail and YouTube. Google has used the Chromebooks as a prod to bring down the prices of all PCs, something the company wanted to do because it has more opportunities to show the digital ads that bring in most of its revenue when more people can

afford to buy an Internet-connected device.

"We cannot be happier that Microsoft is helping drive down the prices of PCs," said Caesar Sengupta, Google's vice president of product management for Chromebooks. "If Microsoft is reacting to (Chromebook's low prices), that's fantastic. We love it."

Unlike most computers, Chromebooks don't have a hard drive. Instead, they function as terminals dependent on an Internet connection to get most work done.

Despite those limitations, Chromebooks have been steadily gaining in popularity, particularly in schools, as more applications and services made available over Internet connections — a phenomenon known as "cloud computing" that has reduced the need for hard drives.

About six million Chromebooks were sold worldwide last year, more than doubling from 2.7 million in 2013, according to IDC. In contrast, sales in

the overall PC market slipped two percent last year, marking the third consecutive annual decline. IDC is projecting eight million Chromebooks will be sold this year.

Besides the \$149 laptops, Google also is attacking Microsoft on other fronts. Later this spring, Google and Asus are releasing a hybrid Chromebook that can use used as either a laptop or tablet with a 10-inch screen. Called the Chromebook Flip, it will sell for \$249.

In the summer, Asus and Google will start selling a new Chrome device that will provide people a cheaper way to upgrade an old PC. The device, called the Chromebit, is a stick loaded with an entire operating system that can be plugged into any

HDMI port. The Chromebit's price hasn't been set, Google says it will cost less than \$100.

Here's what you need to know about the cheaper Surface Pro 3 and new Chromebooks:

Graphic artists, engineers and finance professionals needing to run complex software might still want the company's higher-end Pro 3, said Dennis Meinhardt, director of program management for Surface. But the Surface 3 should be good for everyday tasks, he said, and brings the Pro 3's premium feel to a device that will be affordable to more people.

The new Surface model is thinner and lighter, partly because it gets rid of the fan — similar to Apple's new

MacBook laptop. At 214 pixels per inch, the screen resolution is comparable to the Pro 3's.

Battery life is promised at 10 hours for video playback. The Surface 3 runs the regular version of Windows 8.1, just like the Pro 3. In the past, Microsoft has used a lightweight version called RT in its cheaper tablets. The Surface 3 also has a USB port, a feature that distinguishes the Surface line from most rival tablets.

Both the Hisense and Haier models have 11.6 inch screens, two gigabits of memory and run on Rockchip processors. The Hisense machine promises up to 8.5 hours of battery power per charge while Haier is touting up to 10 hours of power per charge on a battery that can be removed for easier replacement.

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film

‘Furious 7’ film shows off sharp new Imax laser technology

By **RYAN NAKASHIMA**
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Deeper blacks, brighter whites, even bigger screens and better sound. When the high-speed action sequel *Furious 7* debuted, audiences at Hollywood's famous TCL Chinese Theatre saw every tire skid and fistfight in Imax's brand-new laser format.

Lasers are supposed to be able to heighten contrast. In laser-projected trailer footage of *Furious 7* shown exclusively to The Associated Press, details were noticeably crisper than images shown in a standard-sized auditorium

with a regular digital projector. Deep blacks, one of the touted benefits of laser projection, stood out boldly, particularly in actress Michelle Rodriguez's eyes and hair, a suit worn by actor Jason Statham, Vin Diesel's tank top, black car paint and shadows in the grooves of tire treads.

Furious 7 marks the first time a film premiered in laser. Imax's first laser projector just started operating in Toronto's Scotiabank Theatre in December. The Chinese Theatre, one of the largest Imax theaters in the world, is one of more than a dozen locations that Imax expects to outfit with laser projection

this year. Others include the AMC Loews Lincoln Square 13 in Manhattan and Empire Cinemas' Leicester Square in London. Tickets for laser-illuminated shows will be the same price as those shown in Imax's standard format.

Laser projection is more than contrast, though. The technology will allow more movies to be screened in giant theaters, said Imax Corp. CEO Rich Gelfond. Until now, digital projectors haven't been able to use all the real estate of the largest screens because industry-standard xenon bulbs weren't bright enough. And the high cost of Imax film prints,

which show more brightly than digital files, meant that only about eight big-budget blockbusters a year could be shown on giant screens.

Lasers change all that. Screens should be able to extend to 140 feet wide and utilize more of the screen at the top and bottom, Gelfond said. The Chinese Theatre can now show Imax movies at a width of 96 feet, compared with 86 feet in the past, said theater president Alwyn Hight Kushner.

Larger screens means being able to fill bigger theaters with more seats and build even larger auditoriums from scratch, said Gelfond. He hopes the better visual experience and 12-channel audio that Imax is rolling out with the laser upgrade will drive more moviegoers to want to see films in Imax, which typically cost a few dollars more than standard movie tickets. The laser system is expected to boost gross profits by around \$1 million this year, Gelfond told investors in October.

“I think over time, this will be the next big thing,” Gelfond said in an interview. “It's not going to change the world in a day. It's going to happen a pair of eyeballs at a time.”

Imax joins a host of other companies shifting to lasers, such as projector maker Christie, which has its own offering and a partnership with Dolby Laboratories Inc. Barco Inc. supplies its own projectors and provides them for Imax. There are about 25 screens worldwide outfitted with laser projectors and about half are Barco's, according to Barco vice president of digital cinema, Patrick Lee. Dolby is set to announce a rollout in the next several months; Christie said it has a half-dozen laser projectors installed.

Imax plans to use lasers only on its biggest screens — 80-feet-wide and above — and at institutions such as the Smithsonian, which has ordered three for all its Imax theaters. Imax has contracts with over 71 theaters to install its laser system so far.

Art Seago, the CEO of family-owned Santikos Theatres, said customers felt they had a better experience after the Santikos Palladium IMAX in San Antonio installed a Barco laser system in December. Seago plans to convert all of the company's big screens to laser projection.

“They know there is something different without us telling them it's laser,” he said. “We think it's the new standard for what a guest should expect.”

One drawback of the format is its hefty cost. Today's digital projectors cost tens of thousands of dollars apiece. Barco's Lee said its laser offering costs about four to five times that, a figure echoed by Christie spokesman Dave Paolini. Gelfond said the Imax system will cost only 50 percent more at first, and decrease over time.

Because of the cost, it remains to be seen how far the laser rollout will spread, said Keith Watanabe, director of business development for Miami-based Cinema Equipment and Supplies.

“Everyone that begins to see films like this will prefer it,” he said. “The question is, will people come up with the capital to make this investment a reality?”



PHOTO MONTAGE BY MJURY/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

Furious 7 as shown on Imax screen.

music & pop culture

Jazmine Sullivan relishes role as ‘spectator of life’

By **ALLISON HORTON**
Special to South Florida Times

In 2008, Jazmine Sullivan stepped onto the music scene with her debut single *Need U Bad*, produced by Missy Elliott, which became No. 1 on *Billboard’s* Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart. After a three-year hiatus, she is back with her third studio album, *Reality Show*, which debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard’s* R&B Albums chart.



The recipient of *Billboard’s* Rising Star Award, Sullivan recently spoke with the *South Florida Times* before her April 14 performance at the Fillmore Miami Beach at Jackie Gleason Theater.

She decided to take a break from the music scene after having a bad relationship. She began writing down her feelings and knew it was time to return with an album. She writes most of her songs, which she said is based on her real life experiences.

“I am a spectator of life,” Sullivan said. “I love writing and expressing myself.”

Sullivan has expressed herself ever since she was

a child growing up in Philadelphia and singing in church.

“My mother heard early I had a voice and encouraged me to sing,” Sullivan said of her mother, who was a background singer for popular 1970’s duo McFadden and Whitehead, best known for their hit, *Ain’t No Stoppin’ Us Now*.

At an early age, Sullivan began to meet some musical heavy hitters. At age 13, she met Stevie Wonder when she attended his grandson’s first birthday party and got a chance to sing.

“Stevie Wonder didn’t have a regular birthday party,” she said. “It had to be a jam session.”

At age 16, Sullivan got help from Missy Elliott for her first project with Jive Records. “It was very helpful,” Sullivan said of Elliott’s participation. “It got the record label’s attention.”

She was dropped from the label but when she re-signed with J Records, Elliott came aboard to help out.

“We stayed in contact,” Sullivan said. “We have a long history of working together and being friends.”

The two have collaborated on songs for other artists including singer Monica’s hit, *Everything to Me*, which was written by Sullivan and co-produced by Elliott. Sullivan has also written songs for Jennifer Hudson and Fantasia. Once the tour ends, Sullivan plans to begin writing songs for her next album as well as continuing to write songs for other artists. She also would like to work with some of her favorite artists including Frank Ocean, Pharrell, Beyonce, Chaka Khan and Stevie Wonder.

“I am a music fan,” Sullivan said. “Anyone I listen to, I would love to work with.”

ON THE COVER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHANE MCCAULEY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHANE MCCAULEY AND DELAWAREONLINE.COM
Jasmine Sullivan

Kendrick returns with an impressive sophomore album



By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**
Associated Press

Rapper Kendrick Lamar went three years without releasing an album, taking his time to craft an impressive sophomore effort in *To Pimp a Butterfly*.

This new album was certainly worth the wait following Lamar’s classic studio debut *good kid, m.A.A.d city*, which helped boost his stature as of hip-hop’s best.

Already a two-time Grammy winner, Lamar continues to demonstrate that he’s one of music’s best on the compelling and thought-provoking *To Pimp a Butterfly*, a play on the title of the Harper Lee novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. And much like Lee’s

novel, Lamar’s album overflows with metaphor, focusing on how innocent minds can be influenced by money, fame and worldly matters.

The album’s 16 tracks flow masterfully from one to another, a fusion of jazz, funk and hip-hop. It’s a compelling piece of work that features production by Pharrell Williams, rapper Terrace Martin, Boi-1da and Rahki.

Lamar’s socially conscious messages are once again easy to digest, especially on *Institutionalized* featuring Bilal, Anna Wise and Snoop Dogg. Lamar is strong on the Pharrell Williams-produced *Alright* and *How Much a Dollar Cost*, where he raps about the struggle of his fame with the assistance of James Fauntleroy and Ronald Isley.

The rapper touches on how some black entertainers such as actor Wesley Snipes have fallen victim to the entertainment industry on *Wesley Theory*, featuring George Clinton and Thundercat. He also offers other thoughtful tracks such as the upbeat *Momma*, *Hood Politics* and the album’s single, *i*, which took home a Grammy for best rap song.

Mortal Man is a 12-minute song that finds Lamar questioning the loyalty of people in troubled times. He speaks about the betrayal of influential leaders from Moses to Martin Luther King Jr., reads a poem then closes the song with a hypothetical conversation with Tupac Shakur before asking the late rapper about his perspective of today’s changing world.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THEWRAP.COM

Kendrick Lamar



PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNTRYOUTFITTER.COM
Olympic Gold Medalist, Gabby Douglas and her mother Natilie Hawkins stop for a photo-op during a ‘Stand Up to Cancer’ fundraiser.

Olympic champ Gabby Douglas’ family to get reality show

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Olympic women’s gymnastics champion Gabrielle Douglas can add another item to her resume: TV star.

The defending all-around gold medalist and her family will be featured in a new Oxygen reality show debuting later this year. The show, which will be co-produced by Douglas and her mother, Natalie Hawkins, among others, has the working title *Douglas Family Gold*. The series will follow the

19-year-old’s bid to become the first gymnast in nearly 50 years to repeat as Olympic champion.

Douglas became the first African-American to win the all-around title when she soared to victory at the 2012 London Games as part of the Fierce Five that also won the team gold medal.

She returned to training last summer and finished fourth at the Jesolo Cup in Italy March 28-30 in her first meet in nearly three years.

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By **GREG KELLER**
Associated Press



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TWITTER.COM AND BUMBUSU.ES
Selfie sticks

PARIS — “Selfie sticks” have now been banned at a French palace and a British museum, joining a growing list of global tourist attractions to take such measures.

The devices are used to improve snapshots, but critics say they are obnoxious and potentially dangerous. Officials at Palace of Versailles outside Paris, and Britain’s National Gallery in London, announced the bans last month, saying they need to

protect artworks and other visitors.

Other places that have put limits on the selfie-stick craze:

ITALY
Rome’s Colosseum banned selfie sticks last month as a security measure, both for the objects on exhibit inside and for the 16,000 daily visitors to the 2,000-year-old monument.

“The twirling around of hundreds of sticks can become unwittingly dangerous,” Colosseum spokesman Christiano Brughitta said.

Two American tourists were arrested after carving their names into the Colosseum’s wall — and then taking a photo with a selfie stick.

UNITED STATES
The Smithsonian museums in Washington

banned selfie sticks last month. Cameras and pictures are still allowed, but selfie sticks, tripods and monopods are not. Smithsonian officials say this is a preventative measure to protect visitors and museum objects.

AUSTRIA
Vienna’s Albertina, one of the city’s top art museums, prohibits selfie sticks. Museum spokeswoman Sarah Wulbrandt says visitors must check-in the sticks before entering.

BRITAIN
Besides the National Gallery, some English soccer teams have banned the selfie stick from their stadiums.

The National Portrait Gallery, adjacent to the National Gallery, says the sticks are allowed, but

“anything that may prove disruptive is reviewed on an ongoing basis.” The British Museum is “currently reviewing” its selfie-stick policy.

Some art-lovers praised the idea of a ban.

“If you go into an exhibition, surely the purpose is to see what is on show and not to take umpteen photographs of yourself?” said Bill Doig, a retired doctor visiting the National Portrait Gallery.

BRAZIL
Soccer stadiums in the South American country have also banned selfie sticks because of their potential use as weapons in fights between rival fans, police say. Selfie sticks were also banned from Brazil’s recent Carnival parades in Rio de Janeiro.



Tourists using selfie sticks in front of Imperial Rome Coliseum.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADVENTUSTOUR.COM, SELFSTICKSKENYA.WORDPRESS.COM TRAVGEARUS.COM

events calendar

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

April 16 - 25

April 16

Clematis by Night: Groove to the sounds of Save the Radio. The adult alternative rock band will perform their latest single *Add it Up* and will throw in a few covers of hit songs for good measure. 6 p.m. at 101 N. Flagler Dr., West Palm Beach. Free. 561-822-1515.

April 17

Awaken Your Power Within: Learn about the Kriya Yoga teachings of Paramahansa Yogananda, who first introduced yoga meditation to the United States in the 20th century. Brother Pranavananda, a monk with the Self-Realization Fellowship, will discuss the power of meditation and how to use it for more peace and happiness. 7:30 p.m. at Broward County Convention Center, 1950 Eisenhower Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. Free. 954-729-2046.

Robert Irvine Live: The English chef and restaurateur who has appeared in *Restaurant: Impossible* presents a unique interactive culinary show.

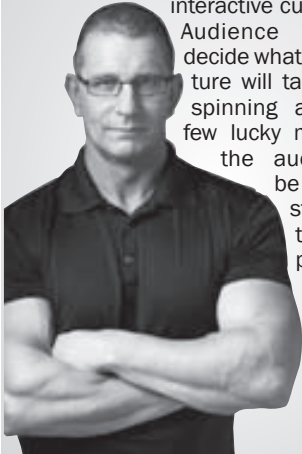


PHOTO COURTESY OF INDYWEEK.COM

Audience members decide what food adventure will take place by spinning a wheel. A few lucky members of the audience will be called on stage to participate. 8 p.m. at Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood. \$34-\$154. 954-703-7941.

Sleep Out: The Lord's Place hosts this eighth annual fundraiser designed to end homelessness in Palm Beach County. The evening features a silent auction, live entertainment and music. Stories on homelessness will be shared and at the end of the night, participants have the option to sleep outdoors in sleeping bags and tents in an effort to raise awareness. Food and beverages from Joshua Catering Company will be available for purchase. The Lord's Place hopes to raise \$200,000. 6 p.m. at the Meyer Amphitheatre, 105 Evernia St., West Palm Beach. 561-494-0125 or visit www.sleepout2015.org.

April 18



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOXIEDSIGN.COM

Origami That Flies: Learn how to make birds and other objects that fly with paper through the art of origami. 2 to 3 p.m. at the Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Free, but registration is required. 954-357-8243.

Party for the Planet: Celebrate Earth Day with an interactive percussion performance by Steve Gryb. Author Adam P. Rutstein will sign copies of his book *My Planet is Purple*. Participants can learn how buying produce locally can help save the environment. The fun continues on Sunday with music by a DJ, raffles and giveaways. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at Palm Beach Zoo, 1301 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach. Free with museum admission of \$18.95, \$12.95 children ages 3-12. 561-533-0887 or www.palmbeachzoo.org.

April 19

Concert Under the Stars: Florida Grand Opera's Young Artists perform and you can enjoy complimentary wine and desserts by Whole Foods. Take a walk around the gardens while listening to the music and enjoying the night air. 7 p.m. at Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, 900 N. Birch Rd., Fort Lauderdale. \$40. 954-703-2614.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ORGANISTE.NET

April 19



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMGKID.COM

Earth Day Celebration: The day includes a farmer's market, and exhibits featuring eco-friendly products. Live music, arts and crafts for the kids and more are included at the EarthSave and Tamarac Community Farmer's Market event. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans' Memorial Park, 7825 Southgate Blvd., Tamarac. Free. 954-597-3620.

Florida Turkish Festival: The 13th annual event features authentic Turkish food and coffee, fortune telling and more! Kids can enjoy arts and crafts with performances by the Dawn Rhys Belly Dance Group. Noon to 8 p.m. at Arts Park-Young Circle, 1 Young Circle, Hollywood. Free. 954-732-1076.

Two on Tap: Broadway stars Melissa Giattono and Ron DeStafano perform songs and dance to tunes from the Great American Songbook. From *Yes Sir, That's My Baby*, to *Fascinating Rhythm*, expect an unforgettable afternoon of song and dance. 2 p.m. at Meyer Amphitheatre, 105 Evernia St., West Palm Beach. \$25. 561-822-1515.

April 21



PHOTO COURTESY OF STAGEANDCINEMA.COM

Shen Yun: The Chinese dance and music company performs in a show that combines old legends, characters and historical stories. The show features classical Chinese dance and music. 7:30 p.m. today and Wednesday at Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$54-\$204. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org.

Veronica Guerin: A screening of the film starring Cate Blanchett based on the true story of an Irish journalist who exposed some of Dublin's most powerful crime barons and drug lords in the late 1990s. Presented by the Miami Jazz and Film Society. 6:15 p.m. at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave., Miami. Free. 305-638-6771.

April 22

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.

April 23

Earl Stewart: The author of *Confessions of a Recovering Car Dealer*, will discuss his book and share tips on how to get the best deals when purchasing or car or having your car serviced. 6 p.m. at Mandel Public Library, 411 Clematis St., West Palm Beach. Free. 561-868-7701.

April 24

Roberta Flack:

The '70s songbird comes to South Florida to sing some of her greatest hits, including *Killing Me Softly with His Song*, *Tonight I Celebrate My Love*, and *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face*. 8 p.m. at Broward Center



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIACLEVELAND.COM

for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. \$29.50 to \$75. 954-462-0222 or www.browardcenter.org.

April 25

Children's Bookfest:

The 10th annual event includes many activities for the entire family plus a book giveaway! Storyteller Windell Campbell will present and the Florida Grand Opera Young Artists will perform *Telephone*. E.B. Lewis, artist and illustrator, Nikki Grimes, poet and author, and Lucia Gonzalez, author of *The Bossy Gallito* are all scheduled to appear. Didgeridoo Down Under will discuss Aboriginal Australians and Fantasy Theatre Factory performs magic! 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCHOLASTIC.COM

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

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

food

Simplify
Weeknight
Meals

FAMILY FEATURES — Busy weeknights call for meals you can prepare quickly, but there’s no need to compromise on flavor and quality. One way to save time is combining fresh ingredients with frozen sides, such as those offered by Alexia Foods. Made with premium, natural ingredients and creative flavor combinations, they lend a deliciously gourmet complement to any meal. Don’t be fooled by the complex flavors of these dishes — they’re surprisingly fast to prepare, requiring only about thirty minutes of hands-on time (or less). For more time-saving recipes featuring real ingredients that serve-up exceptional taste, visit www.alexiafoods.com.

Almond Crusted Tilapia with

Parmesan Peas

Hands-on: 30 minutes
Total: 30 minutes
Servings: 4 (1 filet and 1/2 cup peas each)

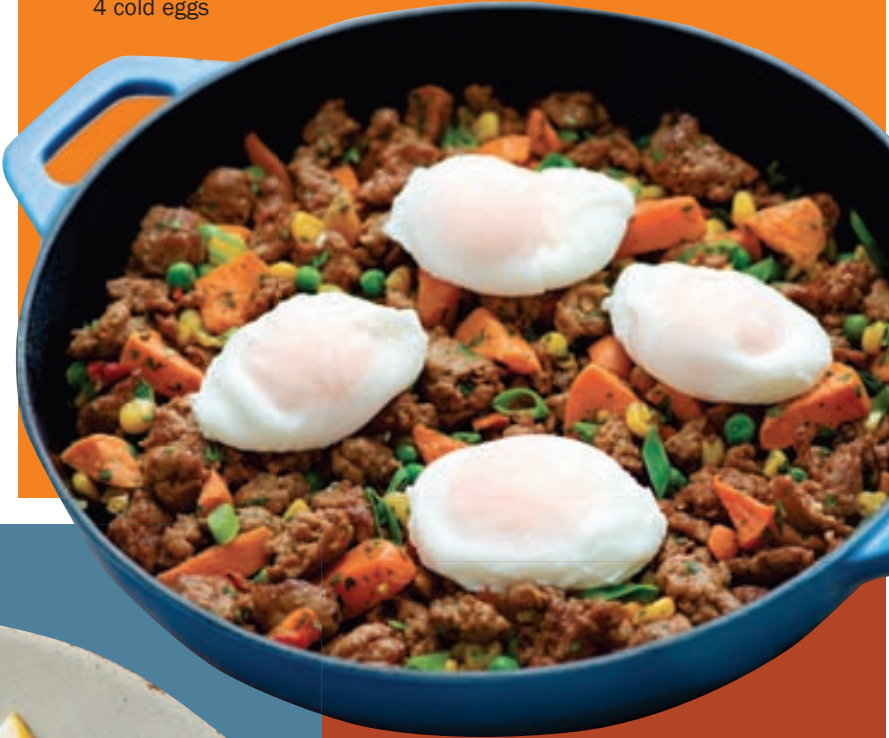
- 1/3 cup dry unseasoned bread crumbs
1/3 cup finely chopped almonds
2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
4 tilapia fillets (6 ounces each), or any white-fleshed fish such as cod, haddock or sole
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1 egg, beaten
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 package (12 ounces) Parmesan Peas
Lemon wedges



Combine bread crumbs, almonds and cheese in shallow dish. Sprinkle salt and pepper on fish. Coat fish with flour; shake off excess. Dip in egg until coated well. Place in bread crumb mixture and turn to coat completely.

Southern Sweet Potato Hash

Hands-on: 35 minutes
Total: 35 minutes
Servings: 4 (1 1/4 cups hash with 1 egg each)
1 pound fresh hot Italian turkey sausage, casings removed
2 packages (11 ounces each) Alexia Southern Sweet Potato Blend
2 green onions, sliced
2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
1 tablespoon distilled white vinegar
4 cold eggs



Heat large skillet over medium-high heat; add sausage. Cook 5–7 minutes or until crumbled, stirring occasionally. Drain. Add sweet potato blend. Cover and cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Uncover and cook 5–7 minutes more or until vegetables are cooked, stirring occasionally. Stir in onions and cilantro. Meanwhile, fill saucepan with about 3 inches of water. Heat until water simmers gently; stir in vinegar. Break 1 cold egg into small dish or saucer. Holding dish just above simmering water, gently slip egg into water. Repeat with remaining eggs. Cook eggs in gently simmering water 3–5 minutes or until white is set and yolk is cooked to desired doneness. Remove eggs with slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. Divide sweet potato mixture among 4 plates. Top each with poached egg.

Heat oil in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add fish; cook 3–4 minutes on each side or until fish flakes easily with fork and is golden brown (145°F internal temperature). Meanwhile, prepare peas according to package directions. Serve peas and lemon wedges with fish.

SFLTIMES.COM | APRIL 16 — 22, 2015 | SPECIAL SECTION

SUMMER



CAMP

CHILD



SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES
"Elevating the Dialogue"



Camps help children grow



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDRA HARRIS
Michelle Hollinger

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

It's been a minute since I had to decide on how my children would spend their summer. My youngest child is 15 and his aviation and basketball obsessions pretty much determine what he throws himself into from June until August.

Years ago, however, trying to keep his older sisters busy while also stimulating their thirsty minds was a challenge. Some summers saw them just hanging out the way that I did as a girl – carefree, sleeping late and having lots of unstructured fun with friends. Other summers included tennis camp, cheerleading, traveling with their grandparents and for one

of them, the top quality, amazing multi-faceted performing arts camp at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Liberty City.

I revisited the program for this special section because of its endearing relationship with its young charges and their parents. The center went through a scary spell a few years ago when threats of its demise were rumored; however, thankfully, it is still going strong. Longtime manager Marshall Davis and his staff continue to deliver outstanding services to youngsters who, like Ashlee Thomas, went from being an introverted little girl to an articulate college graduate who now serves as the program's marketing manager.

This section also includes quality camp programs that step out of the box by offering children something other than the traditional recreational summer camp experience.

Camp Chameleon combines the recreational aspect of traditional camps with old fashioned, get outside and run around like your parents used to activities. By incorporating a nice balance of indoor and outdoor activities, the Broward County camp keeps campers busy all day, five days a week.

Camp Broadway Miami at the illustrious Arsht Center offers children who may be curious about performing on stage the opportunity to do just that with an innovative week-long program that goes all out to provide campers an idea of what Broadway is all about. In addition to learning all aspects of a Broadway production, including a behind-the-scenes peek at how the production crew works, campers get the chance to take the stage with a grand production that family, friends and the general public eagerly attend.

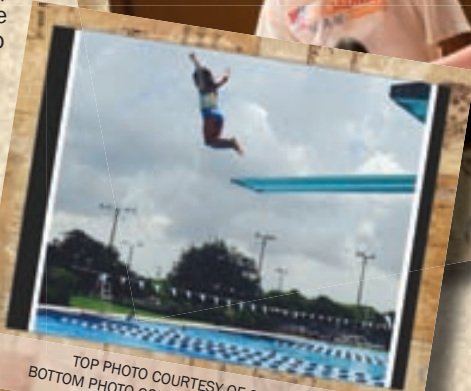
Camp Lingua, held at the Parkway School in Davie, offers children the chance to immerse themselves into new languages, learning or enhancing their Spanish, English, French, Mandarin and Portuguese. The camp also includes lab, sports, field trips, arts & crafts.

Miniature golfers can sharpen their skills at the Okeetchee, Park Ridge, and John Prince Golf Camps in Palm Beach County. Youth as young as six and as old as 17 can learn how to play and enjoy the game of golf. Instructed by PGA & LPGA Professionals, each student will learn putting, chipping, pitching, and bunker play; swing analysis and improvement; game knowledge and etiquette.

The YES (Youth Empowerment Summer) Camp in Miami is one of those experiences that can change a girl's life. The program is built on the knowledge that a young girl entering adolescence will receive messages from the media, society, social media and peers that can significantly impact the way that she views herself and the way that she views life. By helping girls to

discover their inner power and to own their unique voice through proven best practice approaches that incorporate arts, culture, fitness, affirmations and more, the YES Camp equips them with life skills and tools to help them successfully navigate adolescence.

Essentially, summer camps throughout the tri-county area offer something for everyone. Parents can pick and choose how their children will spend their summer and could very likely introduce them to a hidden passion that will have life-long benefits.



TOP PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMP BROADWAY
BOTTOM PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMP CHAMELEON

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMP LINGUA

Summer program offers wholesome fun



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAMP CHAMELEON

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

BROWARD — Once upon a time, before video games, social media and smart phones captured children's attention, playing outdoors for hours on end was considered good, wholesome fun. Camp Chameleon is dedicated to helping youth to experience this carefree, yet important pastime in its summer camp, which runs in three week sessions from June to August at the spacious Markham Park in Broward County.

In order to keep the focus on enjoying the outdoors, the camp emphasizes physical activity with a variety of non-competitive sports and games. Boredom is not a part of the agenda, as in addition to the outdoor activities, youth also participate in field trips to local pools and aquatic parks, bowling, movies, arcades, roller skating, painting, ceramics, indoor gyms and more.

"We have been at Markham Park since 2009. We are a traditional day camp that

encourages getting kids outside for good old fashioned fun and exercise. We emphasize nature, creative arts, athletics, aquatics, and daily field trips," said Lori Laurens, director of Camp Chameleon.

The camp offers something for children of all ages. Its Young Chameleons program is for boys and girls entering grades kindergarten through fifth. That program offers small, age appropriate groups with low camper to counselor ratios.

Campers have fun swimming, playing sports, discovering nature and the arts, and going on field trips five days a week.

For middle school boys and girls entering grades six through eight, there is Chameleon Teen Camp, with an itinerary designed with teen interests in mind.

High school students who have outgrown the camp experience can still benefit from Camp Chameleon's leadership program. Counselors in Training offers youth who will be entering ninth and tenth grade an opportunity to use creative and leadership

skills by assisting counselors and the camp director with special event planning and coordination. The only requirements are that they be responsible, playful and love young children. The CIT role affords youth the ability to earn community service hours that are required for high school graduation.

Camp Chameleon prides itself on offering something for everyone. For children who are drawn to nature, they will have a chance to explore local parks with hikes, fishing, animal and plant studies, naturalist guided tours, Everglades airboat rides and science experiments.

For those who are looking to express their artistic side, the camp offers arts and crafts including drawing and painting, ceramics, cooking, drama, dance, cheerleading and music, most of which can be put on display during the camp talent shows.

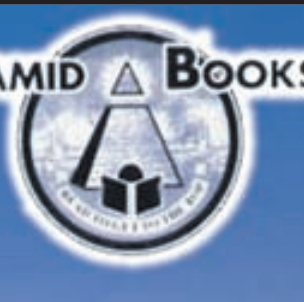
Young athletes will be able to flex their muscles and stay in shape with the camp's non-competitive athletics including conditioning, stretching, volleyball, basketball, soccer, flag football, tennis, track and field and racquetball. Some of the athletic activities that are less about sports and more about fun include good old fashioned games like kickball, dodgeball, boxball, food eating contests, group games, and Color War.

Children will be able to take advantage of the water fun while at camp with swimming at local pools, water playgrounds, slip and slide. No camp is complete without water balloon fights and wacky water games.

A registration fee of \$55 per child is required; and weekly camp rates range from \$145 to \$175.

For more information, please visit campchameleon.com or call 954-815-9054.






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Cultural Heritage Center offers quality camp experience

By MICHELLE HOLLINGER
Special to South Florida Times

MIAMI-DADE — Margarita Gayle-Major's relationship with the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center (AHCAC) is a full circle experience. As a teen, she participated in its programs and now, as a parent, she makes the weekly trek from Ft. Lauderdale to take her children to the Liberty City treasure that is responsible for her oldest son living his California dream.

"It started with me more than 30 years ago when I was a teen and I used to go there for after school programs. I stayed. One of my first jobs was there," said Gayle-Majors, who owns the Holistic Arts Development Center in Lauderhill.

Located at 6161 NW 22nd Avenue, the center offers the 10-week Summer Art Conservatory, a comprehensive instructional program that includes performing, fashion, and visual arts for children from five to sixteen years old. While it may fall under the category of a summer camp, what the center offers is so much more.

Gayle-Major's son, Najee Temple, 24, got his start at the AHCAC when he was 5 years old "and continued until he graduated," she said. "Because of his experience there, he got accepted into New World School of the Arts and then went on to a college in California to pursue his dream of becoming an actor. He now has a degree in theater and is now actively living and working in Hollywood."

It is not unusual for students to become regulars at the AHCAC, returning each year for the summer program while also participating in the center's after school activities year round. Like Gayle-Major, many parents are former AHCAC students who now bring their children to the program. It's also a launching pad for children interested in careers in the arts.

Their older brother is not the only celebrity that her children know. She said that they got the chance to meet tap sensation Savion Glover recently when he visited the center. Temple also makes it a

point to go back whenever he's in South Florida, not just to visit but, according to his mother, "To see how he can help out when he's in town. That's just the type of energy the place creates."

Marshall Davis is the longtime manager and is revered by his staff, students, parents and the community. The silver haired, soft spoken Davis, 65, is synonymous with the AHCAC, which started out as a traditional recreational program under Miami-Dade county's parks and recreation department.

"One of the things that we did was to change the concept of the program and make it a multi-art developmental program. We've been very successful at helping kids to actualize their skills. I brought my own kids here. Marshall Davis Jr. is a prolific tap dancer and my son, who goes by the name Cello is a stand-up comedian who has been on BET and with Tom Joyner on the cruise that raises money for colleges," said Davis, who has been with the AHCAC for more than 30 years.

A full circle AHCAC experience can also describe Ashlee Thomas' relationship with the beloved program. Thomas, 31, serves as the center's manager of marketing & community outreach. She and her siblings attended the center's program when Ashlee was nine-years old and their single working

mother needed affordable after school activities for her children. After hearing from several people about the high quality program at AHCAC, she checked it out and was amazed at what the program offered.

Ashlee learned to play the flute at the center and eventually expanded her instruction to include dance. She credits the program with bringing her out of her shell.

"I was a bit of an introvert," said the Florida State University graduate. That changed because of her involvement at the AHCAC. "I stayed from nine until 14 and became a volunteer until I went off to college." Whenever she was home on spring breaks or during summers, she was working at the AHCAC.

In her role as marketing manager, Thomas is eager to alert all of South Florida about the center and what it offers children, but she cautions parents to register early, especially for the five to nine year old category, which tends to fill up fast.

The program's popularity is due to its reputation for providing a smorgasbord of activities at very affordable prices. It doesn't hurt that all of the teachers are professional artists who are working in their crafts who, Thomas said, bring innovative arts experience to the kids.

"The service there and the quality of instruction is top notch. For what they charge (\$50 per week), it's a community based program so the fees are manageable," said Gayle-Major.

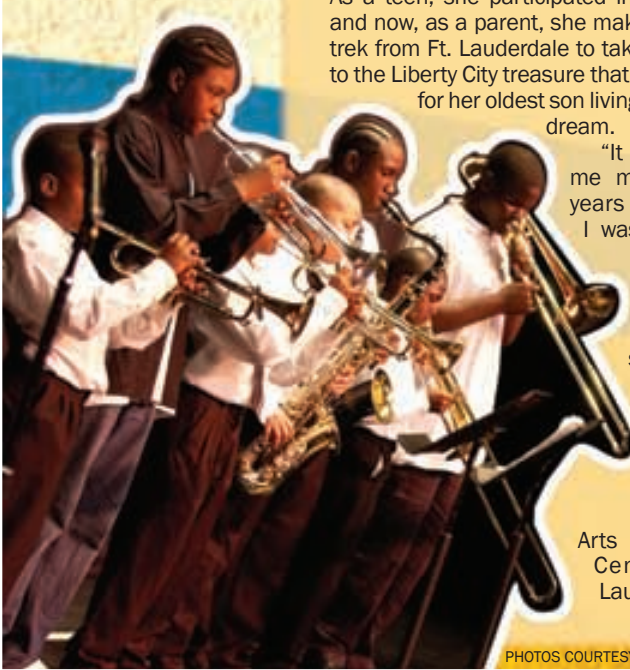
Thomas said that a typical day exposes children to a variety of instruction in the different art forms that engage both sides of their brains; the creative and the academic.

"The kids take about five to six classes per day. It's a multi-disciplinary program so they can choose from theater, dance, visual arts, fashion, journalism, creative writing. It's a really great dynamic program where students get a diverse range of the arts to participate in," Thomas explained.

"The end of the program culminates in three major performances. Students learn how to produce their shows. They have a fashion show where they create all of their own work; a visual arts exhibition. We also have a summer arts festival where music, theater and visual arts are put on display," she said of the standing room only events. "It finishes with a big recital at the Joseph Caleb Center."

Thomas sums up the program like this, "The center is really the heartbeat of Liberty City when it comes to cultural arts."

For more information, please visit ahcacmiami.org or call 305-638-6771



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

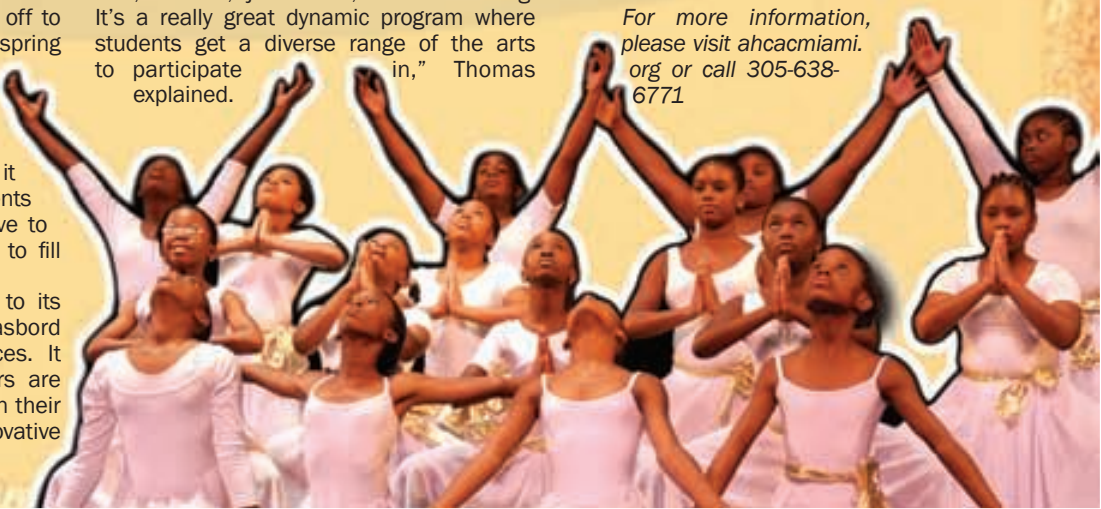




PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYTOP.COM

Youth can learn to golf during the summer

By MICHELLE HOLLINGER
Special to South Florida Times

PALM BEACH — Whether they're looking to emulate golf great Tiger Woods or are simply interested in learning more about the sport, youth participating in the Golf Camp at Okeeheelee in West Palm Beach will have fun while picking up important lessons on the course.

Keith Weachter coordinates the junior camp where children as young as 6 and as old as 17, whether they've never picked up a golf club before or have already fallen in love with the sport, will be able to learn golfing and, hopefully, lower their handicap.

Weachter's passion for the sport and his interest in seeing youngsters thrive at it are evident as he describes the camp.

"It's not only for the beginners who are new to golf, it's also for our seasoned veterans. We have a mix of kids. Usually we average about 20 students per day that are out there," he explained.

The camp's schedule is flexible, with opportunities for parents to enroll their children for the full-time, five days per week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. program. Or if they prefer, parents may sign their

kids up for half days, which run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 1 to 5 p.m. Campers may attend all five days, or fewer days, depending on what's convenient for them.

Changes to the schedule are the result of parents' suggestions, Weachter shared. What hasn't changed is the total immersion into golf that the camp provides.

"We do golf only. We don't run any other sports. We incorporate some games that are golf-related," he shared. "It gives them an opportunity to learn all about the game of golf, to learn about rules, learn about being on the golf course. They get to play some holes and have some fun," he said of the program that has been around for 19 years.

Founded by Donna Whites, owner of Junior Golf Foundation of America, Weachter said that many of their former campers continue playing the sport as they get older.

"We see kids that grew up doing our camps, they're actually out there playing in college, playing in high school." One of their stand out former campers is Brooks Koepka, who is "playing very well on the PGA Tour." Koepka is a graduate of Florida State University who has earned over \$2 million since turning pro in 2012.

Weachter's own interest in golf is longstanding. "I've been playing golf for a long time, I started playing serious golf about three years ago. I started out as a high handicapper just like everybody else."

He gets a kick out of teaching young golfers. "I decided that I wanted to teach juniors because they are our future," he shared. "Not only are we teaching them golf, we teach them about life."

For children new to the sport, learning the basics comes first.

"They've got to learn the basic five positions of the golf swing. They also need to learn the safety as well. It's a huge factor that we stress per day. We have a meeting before we even go out, safety is the biggest part."

And while they won't be able to call themselves golf pros after participating in the camp, he said, "You definitely see the improvement in the kids from the beginning of the summer to the end of the summer. Especially the ones that do it week after week. By the end of the 10 weeks you really do see a big improvement in their swing."

"We follow a lot with the First Tee program, we're actually an affiliate of them," Weachter said.

The First Tee program, which has as its motto, "positive youth development through the game of golf," reaches young people ages 5 through 18 through golf instruction and life skills lessons administered at chapters, military installations, and to students in elementary schools.

Gratification comes with the youth's satisfaction.

"You're able to see the smile on the kids' faces when they actually start hitting the golf ball," Weachter said.

Further evidence of the camp's success can be seen in its repeat customers.

"If you want to have a lot of fun and learn how to play some golf, we have top notch instructors out here that do a fantastic job. The kids have a blast and we get a lot of repeat business, seeing them coming back over and over again."

The golf camp begins on June 8 and ends on Aug. 14. Rates are offered on a per day basis, ranging from \$50 to \$95. For more information, please visit <http://www.golfproservices.org/jgfa/junior-camps>



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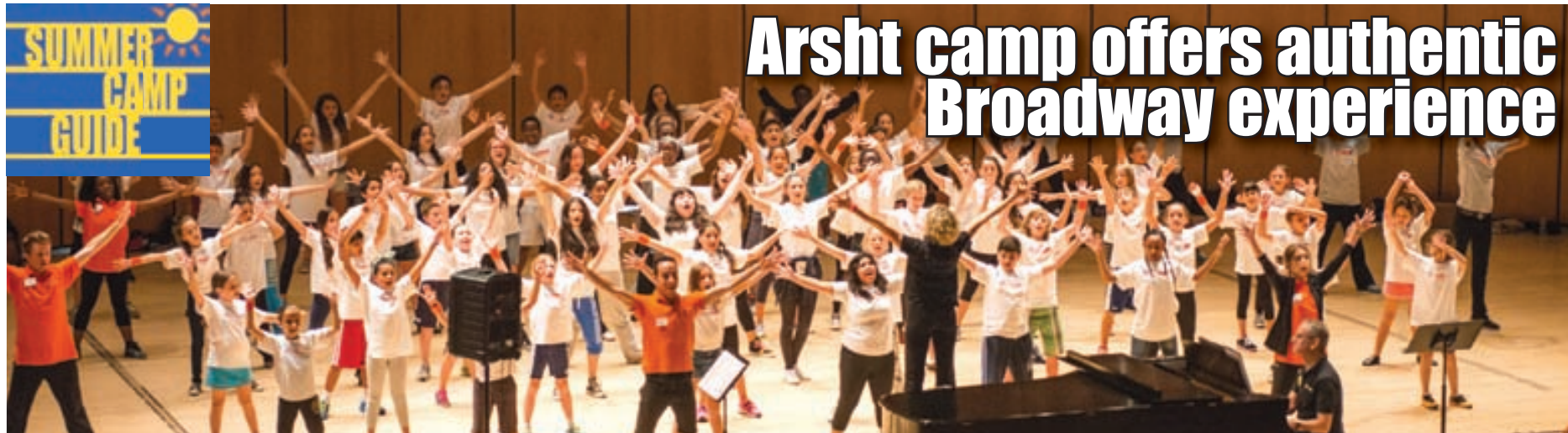


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Arsht camp offers authentic Broadway experience

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

MIAMI-DADE — Whether they possess a flair for the dramatic and need a stage on which to perform or they're on the shy side and could use a boost to open up, Camp Broadway Miami at the Arsht Center offers a safe, non-competitive space for children to flourish. The one week program is open to all skill levels, so those with innate dramatic urges but no experience will feel as welcomed as those who are "veterans" on the theatrical stage.

Jairo Ontiveros is the director for education and community engagement at the Arsht Center and he speaks from experience when he says that a theater program like Camp Broadway Miami can help a shy, insecure child to find their inner voice and become confident enough to make new friends on their own.

As a child, Ontiveros, 30, was encouraged by a teacher to participate in a theater show at school and he said that it changed his personality. "I'm a product of these types of programs. I excelled in academics, however, I wasn't the most popular kid, was a little chubby, had self-esteem issues." He said that

after becoming involved in theater, he became more outgoing and garnered the courage to make new friends and meet new people.

His childhood theater experience ultimately guided him to a career that helps children to have a similar experience; something that he sees happening with children who participate in Camp Broadway Miami, now in its second year. The program is affiliated with Camp Broadway National, housed in New York, which has been around for 20 years.

"The most important thing about this program is that children learn in very dynamic ways. What Camp Broadway Miami provides is that ability to explore, not only themselves, but a love of theater. Parents will be surprised to see, if their child has never been in a program like this, what a positive impact it can make on them in regards to their self-esteem and outlook on focusing on something like theater at such a young age."

The program is intense, but the only complaint from campers is that they don't want it to end, Ontiveros said.

"The campers train for the entire week under Broadway professionals from New York that have Broadway or national touring

credits to their name. They work with an artistic director, two musical directors, two choreographers," Ontiveros explained of the program that provides children with a real Broadway-type experience.

"They work with current working professionals on Broadway on stage blocking, line memorization, choreography, live accompaniments and they sing with a person playing the piano live. It really provides safe space for them when it's all ensemble based and it's non-competitive, which is at the core of Camp Broadway Miami," he said.

In addition to helping children to come out of their shells, the camp helps them to forge deep connections with their cohorts.

"The noncompetitive nature really lends itself to campers helping each other out," Ontiveros shared.

"They come in, they have to read music and it's something that they learn here. It brings children from diverse backgrounds together. There is a lot of self-esteem building through the rehearsal process," he said. Campers will get to strut their stuff for their family when they take the Arsht Center stage for the special finale musical performance that is open to the public.

The program costs \$800 and includes an official Camp Broadway t-shirt, healthy lunches, snacks and water. Campers will also receive an official cast of characters headshot to begin, or add to, their dramatic portfolio. Campers get to ask questions of their instructors and get an understanding of the making of a performance by participating in a backstage seminar with the production crew. Scholarships are available for parents who are interested in having their child participate but cannot afford to pay the fee.

"We recognize that there is a need in our community and we want to make sure that we fill that need," Ontiveros shared.

For information on the camp or to apply for a scholarship, parents should send an email to Education@arshtcenter.org by June 1. The deadline to apply for the camp is July 6th. Camp Broadway at the Arsht Center runs Aug. 3 - 8.

For more information about Camp Broadway please email jontiveros@arshtcenter.org or call 786-468-2264. If calling, please leave a voicemail and the staff will return your call within 24 hours.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAMP BROADWAY

Urgent Inc. helps girls affirm life

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

MIAMI-DADE — There is a period in a girl's life, just before she enters teenhood and heads off to middle school, which is a pivotal time that can determine how she sees herself and how she views life. Girls are inundated with messages from the media, peers and society that they are not enough. Unfortunately, they are messages that some girls believe.

From that limited perspective, girls are more likely to become sexually active before they're ready, experience eating disorders and underperform in school — all leading to a limited adulthood where they are far less likely to discover and express their life's purpose.

The Youth Empowerment Summer Camp (YES Camp) aims to prevent those disempowering messages from seeping into the way that girls think — about themselves and life — with a dynamic summer camp experience that is fun, informative, inspiring and transformative.

The program is offered by Urgent Inc. and is now in its 15th year. Camp manager Emily Gunter said that the program guides the girls to building their life-esteem.

"When you affirm your life and you affirm what talents you have to feed your family and your community. When you affirm the intelligences and geniuses in you...and you do it with confidence," she said, "you know that this is you."

Everything about the six-week camp is designed to empower girls; from the daily activities and affirmations, to the location of the program. Holding the camp on the University of Miami's campus allows the girls to step foot onto a college campus, some of them for the first time. The message behind choosing the location is clear — girls who visit a college campus early in life are more likely to believe that they can one day become college students.

"UM provides the space for free and we have the entire campus as our camp site," Gunter shared. "We use the swimming pools, the Cosford Theater. We use their class rooms for the actual grade based interactive camps, and we have the greens in front of us for sports," said Gunter, who is the author of 'Superlearning 3000: Learning Made Simple;' used extensively in the camp.

The program can accommodate 60 girls and the spaces fill up quickly, "because we're so popular and so thorough," Gunter said of the program that is funded by The Children's Trust. Roughly half of the girls are repeat campers who become mentors of sorts to their fellow campers, helping to guide some of the activities and affirmations. One of those affirmations is the camp's oath that the girls recite daily:

*Today is the best day of my life!
I am celebrating my life,
And all life around!
YES! Today & every day,
Is the best day of my life!
YEAH!*

Gunter said that the oath is powerful because "Every day they say that and it goes into their hearts and they live through those words that they're committing to."

The program helps the girls to embrace who they are and to recognize that, "There's only one you and not to be like anybody else. You can only be a good you," she shared.

Parents, she added, should be prepared to have dinner-time conversations about their daughters' camp experience because the girls will have plenty to share.

Experiential activities help the

girls to realize that they are capable of learning differently. Through African drumming, for example, Gunter teaches them five songs in five different languages to expand their minds.

The price of the camp is \$300, which includes lunch, snack and most field trips. Parents can pay in full or by the week for a program that helps girls to realize their potential. Gunter said that her message to the campers is this: "As soon as I give you more information, you can live better, you can affirm better. You are going to reach beyond your reach and see beyond your sight and know beyond your knowing."

As the camp progresses and the message sinks in, the girls' response to her question, "Are you ready to learn," is a powerful, "Yes!"

For more information or to register, please visit urgentinc.org.



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Children learn new language while having fun

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

BROWARD — One concern that many parents share is that their children may regress academically over the lazy summer months when learning new things takes a back seat to three months of merriment. Camp Lingua offers a fascinating solution by allowing children to do both — in this case, learning a new language while having fun.

The camp, located at Parkway School in Davie, offers children the opportunity to learn Spanish, French, Portuguese, Mandarin Chinese or English in week-long sessions that combines visual, auditory and physical practice in a language immersion environment which stimulates language acquisition.

According to testimonials from parents, the camp is a hit. Paula Fonte said that the camp helped her daughter to learn to speak up. “The experience at Camp Lingua this summer was fantastic. The staff was very supportive and helpful. My daughter really developed leadership skills and came out of her shell, so to speak.”

Johana C. Galavis is the program director and co-founder. She said that their full immersion approach has instructors speaking to the children in the language of their choice at least 80 percent of each day and everything about the camp, from the activities, to how the children are group, is designed to help them to learn a new language.

“The children are grouped by their ages, not proficiency. With a full immersion program, it doesn’t really matter which level they’re in because we’re constantly speaking to them in that language. The good thing about mixed levels is that some kids are more advanced than other kids, so they can help out the ones that don’t know as much,” said Galavis, who has also participated in language learning research for young children through Florida Atlantic University.

Camp Lingua’s approach makes learning a new language easier by giving children a chance to see, hear and put a language into action. A combination of state-of-the-art methodology and materials — including story videos, vocabulary DVDs, CDs, scripts and guides literally surround children with new language while ensuring a natural language learning experience. Learning a second language at a young age can pay dividends for a child’s future as bilingual adults typically have more career options than adults who speak only one language.

Ricardo Torrijos said that he was pleased with the camp because it is “fun, safe and the kids get a sneak peak of what speaking another language is about. They not just get language classes but also an immersion into its culture.”

For children learning a new language, the program takes their level into consideration when developing how they will be taught.

“Our approach towards each individual child is very customized. If they don’t know anything, we will partner them up with a kid who knows a little more. We also use a lot of props, and use the board to try to act things out,” Galavis shared.

Translating is a no-no, she said, “because then kids kind of wait for the translation. We use everything, all of our senses to explain the vocabulary and different topics that we cover.”

Alexandra Baumann sums up the camp’s appeal for parents concerned about their children losing academic progress during the

summer.

“Camp Lingua is both fun and educational.

Our kids came home with smiles on their faces every day.”

The full immersion approach has children learning without realizing it.

“We teach them language through culture as well, so we teach them about a different country where that language is spoken each week, and within that country, they get to do music and dance theater, cooking, arts and crafts,” Galavis explained. “They get to explore each country, their traditions and their customs and the geography, so they see where it’s located.”

Using age-appropriate textbooks chosen according to their level of proficiency, campers learn vocabulary, grammar, conversational skills, reading and writing. In addition to immersing the campers into the languages, the program includes a wide variety of activities that allow children to practice what they learn. Imagine having to speak only in Spanish while playing basketball, softball, baseball, soccer, kickball, volleyball, water games, yoga and gymnastics.

The program begins on June 8 with rates that range from \$225 to \$275 per week. The final two sessions in July and August offer Spanish only.

For more information or to register, please visit camplingua.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAMP LINGUA



This innovative and exciting summer camp adventure offers an intensive performing arts approach that focuses on dramatic composition and performance for students ages 9-11.

Under the guidance of seven teaching artists, campers will explore acting, dance, technical theatre and vocal music, which will culminate in an original showcase performance on June 26th. For campers with a keen interest in the performing arts, this curriculum provides an opportunity to expand their skills and learn new technical and performance skills.

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