

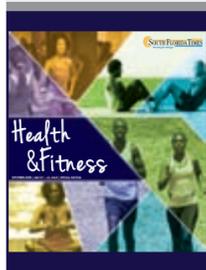
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REGION

Climate Change: Untold profits, utter devastation



PHOTO COURTESY OF ONESOTHEYREALLY.COM

Miami skyline showing the proximity of high-rises to Biscayne Bay.

By **AUDREY and FRANK PETERMAN**
 Special to South Florida Times

Walking along the Riverwalk trail to Las Olas Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale, it is alarming to see heavy construction and drilling equipment for a huge structure being built right on the southeast intersection, directly on the New River. Just a few weeks earlier onlookers marvelled at the sight of the river spilling into the road at high tide at that very same spot,

less than two miles from the Atlantic Ocean.

Equally alarming is the view from I-95 of how densely developed downtown Miami has become since just a few years ago. Once you could take a leisurely walk on Brickell at lunchtime to enjoy the Miami River where it empties into Biscayne Bay, but now mega structures soar skyward in that area blocking out the sun, and construction cranes dominate the skyline.

All of this new construction costs billions

of dollars and raises the asset line on owners' balance sheets by billions. Communities must wonder how can the builders get financing for these structures that may be under water within the lifetime of the mortgage? Shouldn't sea level rise be a factor in any feasibility study that approved the construction of these colossal structures right on the water?

Governor Scott, with his churlish dismissal of climate change, seems to believe he can hold back

the forces of nature by gubernatorial fiat. His actions in prohibiting state employees from using the words "climate change" are reminiscent of the pontiffs in medieval times who persecuted Galileo until his death for proving that the Earth moves around the Sun, and not the other way. Natural laws are forces unto themselves independent of ideology or politics. They persist uncaring of those such as Gov. Scott and their

PLEASE TURN TO **CLIMATE/3A**

BROWARD

Ric Powell: The depths of our heritage

By **JARRELL DOUSE**
 Special to South Florida Times

Stereotypes have long been a fiber within America's social fabric, but their stitching in the quilt of slavery and indentured servitude have their origins in the wide-range of epithets and misguided concepts referencing once enslaved



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHANNE RAHAMAN

Ric Powell

black men, women and children like the myth that blacks can't tread water. But even captured blacks thought to have idyllic

PLEASE TURN TO **HERITAGE/7A**

BROWARD



PHOTO COURTESY OF D. STEPHENSON CONSTRUCTION

CELEB: Stephenson autographs fan's footballs.

Dwight Stephenson: A profile of success

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

FORT LAUDERDALE — Former NFL player and Hall of Famer Dwight Stephenson has helped generate millions of dollars that went back into the South Florida community and economy by building his business and with philanthropic endeavors through his community foundation. Stephenson will be among six Hall of Famers, former pro football players who will participate as announcers in the 2015 NFL draft which begins Thursday, April 30 and will continue Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2.

Stephenson, a retired Miami Dolphins center, will be among 32 former players who will announce second round selections, according to the website, www.usatoday.com. Other Hall of Famers scheduled to announce draft picks include line backer Dick Butkus (Bears), quarterback Jim Kelly (Bills), cornerbacks Willie Brown (Raiders) and Mel Blount (Steelers) and 2015 electee defensive end — linebacker Charles Haley (49ers), according to the USA Today Sports website.

Stephenson's company, D. Stephenson Construction, has been a part of the Broward County landscape for more than 20 years and has expanded into Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties as well, creating many job opportunities in the tri-county area.

All Aboard Florida, which is a passenger rail project connecting Miami to Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Orlando, recently selected Stephenson's construction company to build the Argentelle Catering facility near its future Fort Lauderdale passenger train station, according to the D. Stephenson Construction website,

PLEASE TURN TO **STEPHENSON/7A**

NATIONAL

Tubman Museum to recast and reopen

Staff Report



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISADORA V. BROWN

Tubman Museum set to open.

PLEASE TURN TO **TUBMAN/2A**

MACON, GA — After 15 years of planning and construction, the Tubman Museum will officially open to the public on May 16. Founded in 1981, Macon's Tubman Museum is the largest museum in the Southeast dedicated to African American art, history and culture. The Tubman Museum is transitioning from its current location, an 8,500 square-foot building to a new 49,000 square-foot facility.

"We are excited to finally be able to share the new Tubman Museum with the Macon community and the Southeast region," said Dr. Andy Ambrose, Executive Director. "Our collections warrant a world class space to showcase these phenomenal artists and their pieces. We have so many stories that have gone untold because we

MIAMI-DADE

Abigail Price-Williams makes history as county's top attorney

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

Just as Loretta Lynch is making history by becoming the first black woman to serve as the nation's Attorney General, Miami-Dade County is poised to experience a similar milestone next fall when Abigail Price-Williams will become the first black woman to assume the role of Miami-Dade County Attorney.

During the April 21 County Commission meeting, which was televised, Chairperson Jean Monestime made the motion to appoint the attorney whom several commissioners said worked in tandem with outgoing County Attorney, Robert Cuevas, to create a top notch, family oriented legal department.

"She and her predecessor, Bob Cuevas, have worked as a team and that sense of harmony has spread throughout the County Attorney's Office," said Commissioner Jordan.

Unlike the partisan battle that

stretched Lynch's confirmation out for five months, Price-Williams' ascension to the county's top legal post comes with unanimous praise and admiration. Rebeca Sosa joined Monestime in the motion which was eagerly seconded by several commissioners.

"Abigail is more than capable to head the best 'law firm' in Miami-Dade County having worked within its ranks and alongside [Miami Dade County Attorney] Robert Cuevas for many years," said Commissioner Audrey Edmonson.

Not only was she universally approved by all commissioners, Price-Williams, who has been with the legal department for more than 25 years, was lauded with a standing ovation from the audience, many of whom were attorneys from the County Attorney's office.

The newest commissioner, Daniela Levine-Cava, has a unique history with Price-Williams. "I've known [her] since she was a law student and she was an intern with me at Legal Services of Greater Miami," she said



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Abigail Price-Williams

of Price-Williams, who earned her law degree from the University of Miami in 1984. With a vote of confidence, Levine-Cava added, "Just watch out."

One of the benefits of Price-Williams' selection is the smooth transition that the legal department is likely to experience.

"Abi can step in and make an

PLEASE TURN TO **WILLIAMS/2A**

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Tubman Museum largest in Southeast

TUBMAN, FROM 1A

didn't have the square footage to share them. Our new facility allows us to finally exhibit African-American art, history and culture in a way that it deserves."

The new Tubman Museum is located in the heart of downtown Macon in the Cherry Street Plaza. The new facility will house five primary exhibitions:

- **Harriet Tubman: The Moses of Her people** combines historical documents and photographs with works of art that address the legacy of Harriet Tubman as an abolitionist, a conductor on the Underground Railroad, and an activist for the rights of African Americans and women. The exhibit includes works by twentieth century masters like Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence, John Biggers, and William H. Johnson, as well as by younger contemporary artists, and a mix of academic and outsider art. The exhibition features works loaned from the Spelman College Museum of Art, the DuSable Museum in Chicago, and the Hampton University Museum in Virginia. This exhibit will be on view through January 2016.

- **Black Artists of Georgia** brings together collections of both academic and self-taught artists that confront cultural assumptions. Seeking to dispel stereotypical ideas about the subjects, media, imagery, and intentions of so-called "Black Art," this special exhibition celebrates the diversity of contemporary visual expression found within the community of African American artists in Georgia. Black Artists of Georgia features 49 works, executed in a variety of media, from 40 different artists, including Kojo Griffin, Romare Bearden, and Ana Bel Lee.

- **The History of the Dream** is a series of textile panels from a collection of over 130 commissioned works of art by prolific fabric artist, Wini McQueen. These selected works pay homage to the individuals, institutions and organizations that have made a positive contribution to the quality of life in Macon, Georgia, and who were instrumental in the founding and development of the Tubman Museum.

- **From Africa to America** is a chronological mural made up of nine panels by Wilfred Stroud. Each panel explores and celebrates a different era in African American history.

- **From the Minds of African Americans** celebrates the ingenuity, as well as the perseverance and creativity of African Americans by highlighting inventors of items like the Super Soaker™ and the gas mask.

"We are especially pleased to be able to present the new *Black Artists of Georgia* exhibition as a testament to the abundant variety of cultural influences and aesthetic choices that can be found within Georgia's community of African American artists," said Jeff Bruce, Director of Exhibitions. "Though it features only a small sampling of the works of

those artists, this exhibition constitutes an important marker in the cultural and artistic landscape of the Southeast."

The new Tubman Museum was developed by award-winning museum architects and planners, VernerJohnson. VernerJohnson's architectural design found its inspiration in the Tubman Museum's own collection. Like many forms of African and African American art, the building's basic structure and profile are simple and clear but are embellished with layers of nuance and symbolism. The brick portions of the façade are laid up in bands of alternating colors of brick which recall the traditional patterned brickwork of Macon's African American craft masons and are also reminiscent of traditional African and African American basket and textile weave patterns. The museum's north and south facades are large "canvases" in the color of a naturally-occurring clay from West Africa called *edo*, comparable to Georgia's red clay soils. A ribbed elliptical copper dome, intersected by two ridged roofs, is located over the museum's central public space and is essentially an ornamental "hat" for the building inspired by BaLuba masks and traditional African ceremonial headdress.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Harriet Tubman, c. 1885

The new Tubman Museum facility has unique spaces that can host a variety of events including meetings, cocktail parties and other special events. In addition, the Tubman Museum is equipped with full catering support for all of your special event needs.

The new Tubman Museum's grand opening, in partnership with the 19th Annual Pan African Festival of Georgia, will begin on May 16 at 11 a.m. with a ceremonial parade from the old building to the new Cherry St. location. After the procession reaches the new Tubman Museum, there will be an opening ceremony with a ribbon cutting and remarks from Richard Keil, the founder of the Tubman Museum, along with other dignitaries. At 1 p.m., the new Tubman Museum will open its doors to the public with guided tours and educational activities. Tubman Museum grand opening festivities will also feature a free concert in the Cherry Street Plaza featuring the S.O.S. Band and a Praise Day Celebration on Sunday, May 17. During grand opening weekend, there will be a special, discounted admission fee of \$5 per person for non-members (which can be applied towards the purchase of an individual, family, or upper-level membership to the new Tubman Museum).

The 19th Annual Pan African Festival of Georgia will also take place on the Cherry Street Plaza directly in front of the new Tubman Museum. The Festival includes: an African Marketplace of food, art, and merchandise; dance and music performances; and other family-oriented activities.

Normal operating hours of the Tubman Museum will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday – Saturday. Adult tickets are \$10 and child (ages 3-17) tickets are \$6. Memberships start at \$20 per year and include unlimited free admission for one year, a 10% discount at the gift shop and access to special events.

First black and first woman as top counsel

WILLIAMS, FROM 1A

immediate impact having worked in our legal office at the Aviation Department, Jackson Health System and with all of our administrators. Having that experience and institutional knowledge gave her a unique advantage to fill the role as our County Attorney," Jordan said.

Praise for the Howard University graduate extends beyond county hall.

Legendary attorney H. T. Smith was the first black assistant county attorney in 1976. As a defense attorney, he wasn't particularly interested in county government, but because "I wanted to knock down the all-white private club that had been established at the county attorney's office," Smith shared. "Somebody had to do it."

Smith said that he's thrilled about Price-Williams' historic appointment.

"I never thought I'd live to see a black person head that prestigious and well respected office," he said of Price-Williams, whom he called "brilliant," and "an even better human being."

Another legal legend, actually deemed so by the 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society, is attorney George Knox. His background bears striking similarities to Price-Williams because he, too, was a "first" as the first black to join the faculty of the University of Arkansas' School of Law. His background also includes legal service in the public sector as the Miami City Attorney from 1976-1982.

Knox said that he's very proud of Price-Williams' momentous feat. "As important, she is by far the most qualified, most experienced person. Knox added "It says something about her brilliance and capacity, that there was no opposition to the idea of following the tradition

of the succession of attorneys appointed from within."

Commissioner Dennis Moss saluted the outgoing and incoming County Attorneys. "Bob, you've done a wonderful job. You and Abi are a team," Moss said. Price-Williams smiled as the commissioners and audience members applauded her. Then she shared the spotlight.

"I wouldn't be sitting here but for his confidence in me and for his unselfish leadership, Cuevar (sic), as I call him, thank you very much for your support and your guidance," she said to Cuevar, who has been the county attorney for the past eight years. She told the commission that by appointing her, "You also honor the entire county attorney's office. I work with the most wonderful people in this community. Not only the lawyers, but the staff too."

The Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office provides legal representation to all aspects of Miami-Dade County government, including the Mayor and the 13-member Board of County Commissioners, the Property Appraiser, 25 county departments and numerous boards, authorities, councils and commissions. Although a governmental body, the County Attorney's Office has a diverse legal practice that includes virtually every area of law in existence except criminal.

Price-Williams informed the commissioners that her mother, Mildred Price, was watching the historic event on television; as she does most of their televised proceedings. She credits her parents with instilling in her a strong work ethic and faith in God.

In addition to her historic appointment, Price-Williams and her husband celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary last week.



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Opinion

WHAT WE THINK

The tragedy of frustrations unheeded

There are eerie similarities between the deaths of Freddie Gray in Baltimore and of Arthur McDuffie in Miami-Dade.

Both suffered violent deaths while in police custody. In both cases the police offered no explanation of what caused the fatal injuries. And in both cases, community outrage boiled over into street violence.

One difference is that the rioting in Miami happened after the criminal justice system turned out to be more criminal than just and exonerated the officers who killed Mr. McDuffie. The protests in Baltimore started within days.

In a perverse sense, that could be called progress but it is not the progress anyone wants to see. But there is an obvious reason for it. It is that instead of more respectful police officers and better policing, black America has been dismayed to see worsening disrespect towards young African-American males and a growth in the number of trigger happy officers.

That is due directly to the wider application of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that virtually gives cart blanche to the police to shoot and kill people, mainly blacks with impunity -- so long as they say they fear for their lives.

That has been the officers' defense as the number of clearly unjustified use of deadly force by the police has grown.

It has not helped that officers get off this way even when the incidents are caught on camera.

Nobody wants to see the rioting that has taken place most recently in Baltimore. Violence solves no good purpose whether

it is violence from the police or violence by deeply frustrated Americans who are fed up with law enforcement treating them as less than third class citizens.

Indeed, street violence in today's America has the result of immediately shifting the focus from the criminal behavior of the police, which sets off the incidents in the first place, to the criminal behavior of the rioters. The latest example is what is happening in real time in Baltimore. The same governor of Maryland who swiftly ordered the National Guard into Baltimore is the same governor who obviously turned a blind eye to the numerous complaints from citizens about police brutality, by some reports more than 100 in 2013 alone. As it was in Ferguson, Missouri, another flashpoint of police misconduct, so it is in Baltimore, Maryland.

The tragedy is that the community violence can be only expected to worsen, if not in Baltimore then in the next confrontation precipitated somewhere in America.

As some protesters were heard to say, "We got your attention now."

Until America takes seriously the on-going complaints by African Americans against police, until laws are changed to achieve genuine fairness regardless of race, and until police officer's Blue Wall of Silence becomes pierced by integrity and destroyed, frustrations and anger will continue to mount. Addressing these concerns promptly and effectively is fundamental to creating at least the basis for community trust in the people for whom the badge and gun are suppose to protect.

Wake-up people, the time is now!

While the cowardice of leadership may seem overbearing, non-action is ludicrous contemplation as a solution. The question for black Americans about their leaders is this: What action must be taken to harness the political activities of more than ten thousand black elected officials spread across America?

Here are some facts: There are black US Senators and Congresspersons, State Senators and Representatives, County Commissioners, Mayors, City Councilpersons, School Board Members, Sheriffs, and we have a host of judges at various levels, as well. (And there are other minor, yet important, elected positions within states and/or localities not listed here.)

Clearly, it is at once odd and a shame to have so many cannons seemingly strategically placed yet important "ordinance" including firing pins and firepower left behind or never ordered. In addition, everybody seems to be a general -- some may even consider themselves the top general -- of what turns out to be *that which counteth not*.

Cowardice fed by history is what's at issue here. If there is a genetic form of the malady, which I doubt, its randomness could not possibly include a grouping of diverse black politicians. No, I'm talking about learned behavior, a general adherence to moral turpitude -- imitating the slave masters' progeny.

Without the black vote, not one black elected official would be in office, anywhere. There is not even one black elected official that did not promise black constituents his/her loyalty, accountability and hard work on behalf of issues important to them. But black voters, like sleep walkers, are not conscious of real world reality.

What's real is black voting power and what black people can do with it and what it can do for us. First of all, black people have got to wake-up from sleep walking or snoozing ("you snooze, you lose") and otherwise not paying attention. Reality is this: Black politicians don't have the money to run for public office, and they can only garner a little cash from black communities.

Secondly, black people have got to stop lying to themselves, hiding from truth like ostriches with their heads in the sand. It is no secret that all black elected officials are bankrolled by what

is euphemistically called "downtown interests," meaning white businesses and business leaders, all of whom are deeply political conservative or liberal white nationalists.

The third thing, like the Trinity Christians believe in, is that "God helps those that help themselves." Therefore, the Black Church should and must be the organizing mechanism within all black communities. The time is now! Where there is a church whose pastor and leadership does not believe in helping the people where the church is located, boycott and drive them out!

Wake-up people, the time is now! The forces of evil have closed in on us -- in every way exterminating us with the deadly gas of intimidation, lynching by policemen's guns, brute force and the lawlessness of so-called "Law and Order." Black people must organize, now. Organize. Organize. Organize.

Wake-up black people and organize your power. Most often black politicians run for office in districts that are majority or near majority black or so-called "minority" voters. Change the dynamics of campaigns by utilizing "the people's army" to educate the black voting population and the youth, and to get out every vote. Don't allow any white nationalist money in the black community. All black politicians are to collect and spend white money to get out the white vote.

Put the full power of the people with black elected officials. They are cowards because they are alone. Black politicians mostly tread water in a sea of vipers. Black people must be their constant rescuers, be behind them ready to act, ready to support in any and every way. That's called *The Politics of Access*.

What needs to be planned is how and where a national conference of black elected officials can be held on the theme of: Black Political Organization, Agitation and Black Survival. Wake-up black people, the time is now!

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



Baltimore burns while cops have to stand down

Another incident between the Black community and cops; Another group of Blacks burning cars and looting businesses; cops just observing crimes with very few arrests; rampart destruction by roaming gangs of thugs taunting police daring them to even act.

So the good people in the City of Baltimore had to endure the actions of thugs destroying the place where they live while the so-called black leaders wring their hands acting confused as to how they got there in the first place. All they were trying to do was to protect people's First Amendment rights. But while their focus was on allowing black folk to vent, at least 16 cops are injured, others threatened and shot at in broad daylight.

The Bloods and Crips openly vow to kill cops; while members of the Nation of Islam brag about actually calling these criminal organizations together to "take the cops out". Then they changed their minds, I guess after they saw the city burning or watched roving gangs of youth tossing liquor bottles, rocks and bricks at cops and jumping on cars, burning cars, looting stores - in wild abandonment, without fear.

All these incidents happening again after a young black man died in the custody of the cops. This time the location is Baltimore, Maryland. And when the "leaders" (black politicians, preachers, etc.) are asked by media why these black folk are "mad," why they are angry at police, etc., the standard answer is racism, poverty, lack of hope, lack of education, lack of jobs and hatred of "the man who has his foot on our necks."

Same old excuses. Same old issues. Same old results. Same old violence. Same old situation where cops were harassed. And same old media personalities talking about black folk "having enough."

So I ask enough of what? Nobody wants to deal with the fact that while these protests start because of the death of one person, there are hundreds of blacks who die

at the hands of other black folk every year across this country.



How long do you listen to Don Lemon on CNN ask, "What next?" after watching the violence, the burning, the looting after the death of one person? The black talking heads (Van Jones, Dr. Lamont Hill) keep saying the same things trying to give a reason why - justification for

- blacks destroying their own communities. Communities, by the way, totally controlled by black liberals and black Democratic politicians.

I'm really tired of this self-serving drama. This time it became personal to me because one of my granddaughters had just recently moved to Maryland just outside of Baltimore and her young man belongs to one of the police departments that had to deal with this foolishness - not knowing if he would be one of those officers who would be hurt by these thugs bent on burning Baltimore down.

How long are we going to see this same old scene play over and over again in different neighborhoods and expect different results? This time the Mayor is black and the police chief is black. Yet they burned more buildings and looted more stores than they did in Ferguson, Missouri where the officials are mostly white.

When are we going to stop lying to ourselves? Finding excuses for black criminal behavior? Looks like each week lately there has been media coverage for protests turned riots over a black death by a white cop. I keep seeing this movie over and over again. Somebody needs to change the channel or flip the script.

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



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Israel's 67th Independence Day National Men's Cancer Month



Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) made the following statement on Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day:

"Today I am delighted to mark the anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel, known as Yom Ha'atzmaut, a day on which we celebrate its establishment and growth, and recognize the fortitude of the Israeli people.

"For 67 years, Israel has stood as a shining example of freedom and democracy in a region plagued by violence and oppression. Since President Harry S. Truman famously recognized the nascent state only 11 minutes after its founding, our two nations have shared the common bonds of democracy, economic vitality, and cultural affinity, tied together in an unbreakable friendship based on religious kinships and mutual interests.

"As a Member of Congress, I have been honored to travel to Israel 15 times and never cease to be impressed by the strength of Israel and its people. I will continue to do all that I can in Congress to ensure that Israelis have a secure

and peaceful homeland. It is my sincere hope that through diplomatic efforts the future will bring a fair solution that enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and prosperity. I wish the people and government of Israel a Chag Sameach, a happy holiday."

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) introduced a resolution to establish

NATIONAL MEN'S CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

June as "National Men's Cancer Awareness Month." (Please find attached a copy of the resolution):

"One in two men will be diagnosed with cancer over the course of their lifetime, compared to one in three for their female counterparts. These cancers can often be prevented entirely or improved with early detection. Thus, I am introducing this resolution to establish June as Men's Cancer Awareness Month. Its purpose is to heighten the awareness of preventable diseases and encourage early detection and treatment of cancer among men.

"The Men's Cancer Awareness month campaign has gained

momentum in states and cities across our nation. Joel Grisham, a constituent from my district, launched Not 1 Forgotten in 2013, to bring attention to men's cancer awareness after losing two close friends to cancer. Through his efforts, Men's Cancer Awareness Month is currently recognized in Fort Lauderdale, Atlanta, Augusta, Chicago, Miami Dade County, New York, Miramar, Los Angeles, Houston and many other cities."

"Designating June as National Men's Cancer Awareness Month will help to recognize the disparities that exist in the development of cancer in men. Furthermore, the establishment of June as "National Men's Cancer Awareness Month" will cost nothing. However, its impact will hopefully pay great dividends by indentifying cancer at an earlier stage, slowing the rate of cancer related fatalities, celebrating the lives of men currently living with cancer, and eliminating the taboo associated with many male cancers."

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Co-Chairman of the Florida Delegation.

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Seeds



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

By PIERRE B. BLAND, DVM

I often realize, where I enter so enters my profession. A challenge and burden I will fully accept. I see being a veterinarian as a privilege and a blessing. A lifelong dream fulfilled and a life time adventure. I was one of those kids who always knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. I am often asked what that was like.

I watched every episode of the weekly wildlife programs like "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom", "Bill Burrud's Animal World" and the quarterly National Geographic specials. "Daktari" was my absolute favorite. "Daktari," which is Swahili for "doctor," was a weekly drama set in an animal hospital/compound in Africa. For the first time, I say people who looked like me interacting with animals. Looking back, I find it ironic to see my first role models, be it probably subliminally, on network television than on the reality TV of the day. Even today with the availability of multiple TV networks based on nature and animals, diversity is sorely absent.

I voraciously consumed all the books and field manuals on

animals in my school's library and would beg and promise my parents anything if they would purchase the newest set of the World Book encyclopedia when the sales man came to call. We always had dogs as pets that were joined by the occasional bird, fish, and mice. I even almost talked my parents into purchasing (so I thought) a monkey. I would visit him at a pet shop during our weekly grocery shopping trip. The week I visited and he was not there, I was sure the monkey had been purchased by my dad and would be waiting for me upon our return home. Actually, the monkey had died and the pet shop manager was kind enough to let my Dad know, so he could tell me when he thought the time was right.

In my teens, I grew more practical in my views and actions towards a career in veterinary medicine. I was able to shadow a few local vets as they did their large animal rounds and saw patients in their clinics. In doing so, I experienced the universal career starting point of all veterinarians, cleaning cages. Literally starting at the bottom and working your way up. It is the one skill you develop that will be used throughout your career. I have come to realize it is one of the common points between doctor and staff. A good veterinarian leans early on, you should never expect your staff to perform a task you are not willing to perform yourself. Over the years, I have cleaned so many cages, it is a reflex action. Just doing something that needs to be done. The closest analogy I can come up with is the way parents become accustomed to changing diapers.

In retrospect, it is strange how such little stories become the seeds of a career. I am so thankful I was allowed to dream big and follow thorough to make my dream a reality.

Dr. Bland is a small animal practitioner offering house calls and office call to clients in the Broward County area. His office is located at 3225 N Andrews Avenue in Fort Lauderdale and can be reached at 954 673-8579.

Environment

National Park tourism in Florida created \$909 million in 2014

Staff Report

Atlanta — A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 10,667,459 visitors to national parks in Florida spent \$627.7 million in the state in 2014. That spending resulted in 9,758 jobs and had a cumulative benefit to the state economy of \$909.0 million.

"The national parks of Florida attract visitors from across the

The national parks sites in Florida are: Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park, Canaveral National Seashore, Castillo De San Marcos National Monument, De Soto National Memorial, Dry Tortugas National Park, Everglades National Park, Fort Caroline National Memorial, Fort Matanzas National Monument, Gulf Islands National Seashore, and Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$29.7 billion.

According to the 2014 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (30.6 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.3 percent), gas and oil (11.9 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.9 percent).

To download the report visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>.

The report includes information for visitor spending by park and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Florida and how the National Park Service works with Florida's communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/Florida.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDENSOFTWARE.COM

Big Cypress National Preserve

country and around the world," said regional director Stan Austin. "Whether visitors come to learn about early Hispanic settlement at Castillo De San Marcos National Monument or see the river of grass that makes up the Everglades, visitors come to have a great experience, and end up having an economic benefit to the communities they visit. This new report shows that national park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy - returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service - and a big factor in our state's economy as well, a result we can all support."

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and National Park Service economist Lynne Koontz. The report shows \$15.7 billion of direct spending by 292.8 million park visitors occurs in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 277,000 jobs nationally; 235,600 of those jobs are found in these gateway



PHOTO COURTESY OF FORTTOURS.COM

Fort Caroline National Memorial

Quit & Tell

Flordians are sharing their quit journey

If you already quit, tell us your story.
If you want to quit, try Tobacco Free Florida's 3 Free & Easy Ways To Quit and double your chances of success.
Join the 126,000 people that already did it with our help.
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Caribbean

Before they ran the race



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

By CALIBE THOMPSON

Around April 23rd, I embarked on my first visit to the Penn Relays. A mini version of the Olympics that focuses mainly on high school and college athletes, these games can change the trajectory of young people's lives. This is the place where folks like Usain Bolt, Shelly-Ann Fraser Pryce and Kirani James were "discovered" by the international sporting world. It was dreadfully cold, but the energy was amazing.

Even more impressive than the energy on the field was the energy of the group of folks who offer tactical support for our visiting Caribbean athletes. For the past 21 years, Irwine Clare, Vincent Hosang and a number of other activists and philanthropists have banded together for an initiative they call Team Jamaica Bickle (TJB). What started as one truck and some patties provided by Hosang's food company, has now grown into a fairly massive operation. Each year TJB collects the athletes when they arrive in the US, greets them with great fanfare, provides them with food, lodging and transportation for the duration of the games, and even finds agents to offer massages and acupuncture for their cold and aching bodies.

The event was visited by dignitaries and even Jamaica's newest starlet Kaci Fennell. But at this occasion the real stars were the athletes. In the TJB tent, it was everyone else who got up so that the athletes could be seated. It was these future Olympians and dominators of world sports who were put on a pedestal for three days.

I was invited to the Relays as a media mentor for an organization called Kidz Hub, which teaches children from seven to eighteen years old about journalism and work ethics. By the time the weekend was over, I felt like I was the one who had been schooled about what it really means to have a community rally for a common cause.

I saw the fullness of our unique sense of pride in track and field that weekend. I will never forget the lesson: that a champion should be made to feel like a champion even before he or she runs the race.

Calibe Thompson is the Executive Producer of the "Taste the Islands" cooking series, now airing weekly on South Florida's WPBT2 (Ch 2). For Caribbean-American heritage month, her next television project explores the concept of the American Dream from the Caribbean perspective.

Cubans welcome report of pope's visit

By ANNE-MARIE GARCIA
Associated Press

HAVANA — Cubans welcomed the news Wednesday that Pope Francis will visit in September, with many calling it a powerful reinforcement of his support for detente between the United States and Cuba.

The Vatican spokesman, Rev. Federico Lombardi, said Francis would visit Cuba on his way to the United States, but didn't provide details or dates.

Francis has been credited with helping the United States and Cuba reach a historic rapprochement by writing to the leaders of both countries and having the Vatican host their delegations for the final negotiations.

Francis' visit to Cuba would be a way for

him to push the process forward.

"His pastoral visit will serve to confirm his help for this process and the Church's traditional interest in peace and the good of all people," said Orlando Marquez, editor of a magazine published by the Archdiocese of Havana.

Francis is scheduled to visit three U.S. cities starting around Sept. 23. He will address Congress and meet with President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington, address the United Nations in New York and attend a church rally for families in Philadelphia.

"His being in Cuba and then going to the U.S. means that he's going to meet with both presidents. Symbolically, it's the continuation of what he's done, a message of closing distances between people," said Monsignor Jose Felix Perez, spokesman for Cuba's conference of Catholic bishops. "It's a great help to this moment in history between Cuba and the United States."

Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI followed up with a 2012 trip during which he voiced the Vatican's longstanding position that the U.S. embargo was unjust and only hurt the most vulnerable on the island.

Francis also has spoken out against the sanctions

while also condemning socialism. The church is planning to restore a dozen more churches, parish houses and other buildings in Cuba as part of quiet reconciliation between the Holy See and the government that has brought relations to a historic high point. Authorities have also given permission for the construction of the first two new churches in more than five decades.

The church and the Cuban government were in a state of open hostility in the years immediately after the 1959 revolution that put Fidel Castro in power. But a thaw began in the 1990s as Cuba removed a constitutional clause declaring the country an officially atheist state. Pope John Paul II paid a momentous visit in 1998 and urged a new era of openness between Cuba and the world, saying that Cuba should "open itself up to the world, and may the world open itself up to Cuba."

Experts say the percentage of Cubans who are practicing Catholics remains well below that of most of the rest of Latin America. Many of the practicing Catholics in Cuba rejoiced at Wednesday's announcement.

"This visit by the pope, besides the help that he gave to detente between Cuba and the United States, gives me a lot of faith that a life will get better and there are better days ahead for the Cuban people," said Catalina Rita, a 65-year-old street performer.

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Pope Francis

PHOTO COURTESY OF D. STEPHENSON CONSTRUCTION
Dwight Stephenson

Stephenson a mentor also

STEPHENSON, FROM 1A

www.dstephenson.com.

The ex-NFL star also founded the Dwight Stephenson Foundation, which combines sports and business communities in an effort to generate increased funding for charities that provide educational, health and human services to support the needs of children and families, according to the foundation's website, www.dwightstephensonfoundation.org.

Stephenson's construction company, based out of Fort Lauderdale, was established in 1992 by Dwight and his wife, Dinah, a lawyer, now has offices in Miami and Delray Beach. The former Miami Dolphins player said they wanted to start a family business that reflected some of their core values such as honesty, integrity and building long-lasting relationships with clients by providing good customer service.

The company has been awarded several major contracts over the years in South Florida including constructing the Urban League of Broward County's Community Empowerment Center and a \$4.4 million project intended to improve airline safety at the Fort Lauderdale - Hollywood International Airport by rehabilitating the ramps' three concourses and providing the labor, materials and other services needed.

Stephenson said that his business has brought in about \$25-\$30 million annually on average for many years, but the sluggish economy has negatively affected

the revenue generated over the past few years. He added that his company however still retains about 38 permanent employees, which continues to help boost the local economy.

Joseph Sanches, executive vice president of D. Stephenson Construction, said Stephenson strives to give back to the community by creating opportunities with his business and supporting educational programs through his charitable foundation. "I think (Dwight) is a compassionate businessman," he said. "He's interested in not just growing the company but he's also trying to give opportunities to young people who have potential but haven't been given the opportunities."

Sanches said Stephenson has stayed afloat for the last 23 years through the ups and downs of the economy and he thinks that is a tremendous accomplishment. "Many companies didn't make it through the last recession," he said. "For Dwight to keep the company going and keep people on the payroll even though things were tight and come through the other side of it, and now the company has grown is quite an achievement."

Stephenson said helping other small businesses and other minority owned businesses is one of the ways he gives back to the South Florida community which has given his company a great deal of support through the years. "I think we understand their challenges and issues better than anyone else because we actually paved the roads that they are coming (upon)," he said. "We have internship programs. We deal with students who are in college that are in the construction industry."

Stephenson said that the most challenging construction project for his company was meeting very tight deadlines with the Fort Lauderdale - Hollywood International Airport expansion. "We had about 90 days to start and get the construction work in place," he said. "And it was over the holidays."

But the ex-professional football player turned entrepreneur is grateful for the opportunities he has been given and says his business is growing and providing employment opportunities for others. "We want to grow our company, give people opportunities," Stephenson said. "They have the opportunity to work for an organization that has possibilities. That's something I'm trying to achieve."

Vestiges of slavery heritage abound

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHANNE RAHAMAN
Ric Powell

HERITAGE, FROM 1A

super human strength were not always able to bear the atrocities the Trans-Atlantic slave trade would present them with aboard ships whose routes would charter a westerly course, said Miami native and African art curator Dinizulu Gene Tinnie.

The event, "The Depths of our Heritage," took place on Apr. 23 at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center in Liberty City; where dozens convened for a talk-back session with scuba diving legend and local elder statesman Ric Powell.

Powell, who, in the 1960s successfully mastered Basic Underwater Demolition training at the Naval Amphibious Base in Little Creek, Virginia and the Navy's Underwater Swimmers' School in Key West, and first learned to scuba dive at the Truman Annex Institute (formerly known as the Underwater Swimming School); also pursued another passion—music.

That passion led him to the campus of Howard University where a blossoming relationship with Marshall Watkins (percussionist) and musical prodigy Donny Hathaway (singer and pianist) flourished into the Ric Powell Trio.

Powell recalls performing on Miami Beach, where he and other blacks were not permitted to lodge. Instead, they stayed at the Sir John Hotel and the Hampton

House in Overtown. Despite the restrictions regarding blacks on Miami Beach, it was a conversation with Hathaway overlooking the Atlantic that birthed his love for Miami.

Though he had a burgeoning musical career in Chicago, his heart was in another part of the nation. "I got a little lonely for the ocean—that beautiful ocean—it was so calm and so pretty [that] I told Donny that I had to eventually get back to Miami," Powell mused.

His journey back to South Florida began when he received a master's degree from the University of South Florida and later helped to draft the curriculum for the Inner-City Marine program (currently known as MAST Academy)—one of Miami-Dade County Public Schools premiere magnet programs.

A 1991 article in *Ebony* magazine by Dalton Narine, a Miami transplant from Trinidad, highlighted the significance of blacks' emergence at sea; inspiring Powell and other divers from around the country to get together in January '91 to form the National Association of Black Scuba Divers.

"That same year ...while teaching at Norland Senior High, I got together with Charles Cherry and Milton Felton and we formed the South Florida Black Scuba Divers. Along with the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, we were able to display some of the

artifacts from the Henrietta Marie which ran aground in 1700," Powell said.

He is particularly intrigued by the shackles that were used to anchor women and children to the ships' floorboards among other "precious cargo."

Tinnie explained that the Henrietta Marie is believed to be the largest repository of tangible artifacts from the early years of the slave trade discovered by Mel Fisher in 1972 some thirty-five miles west of Key West. "The Henrietta Marie traveled a triangular route likened by slavers—from England to the coasts of Africa, to the Caribbean, the Americas and, then home again. The French didn't want to encounter the once powerful nation of Haiti for fear of retaliation against slavery."

In 1993, the NASB placed a memorial plaque on the site of the Henrietta Marie. The marker faces eastward bearing the name of the slave ship and reads: "In memory and recognition of the courage, pain and suffering of enslaved African people. Speak her name and gently touch the souls of our ancestors."

Powell scoffed at a comment made by former Los Angeles Dodgers' Vice President Al Campanis during a 1987 *Nightline* interview with Ted Koppel when he asked, "Why aren't blacks good swimmers? Because they lack buoyancy," he answered.

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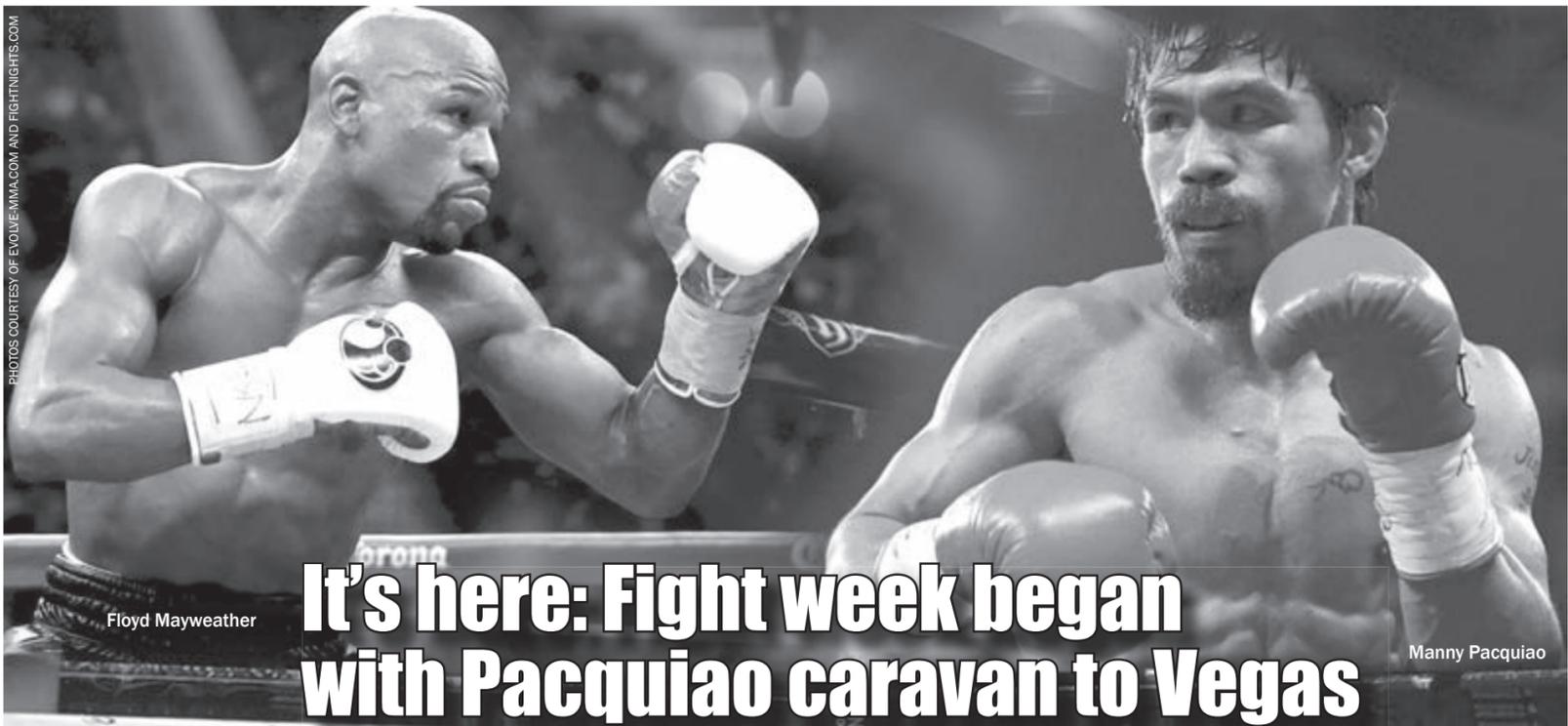
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Sports



Floyd Mayweather

Manny Pacquiao

It's here: Fight week began with Pacquiao caravan to Vegas

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS — The last time Freddie Roach was on the interstate linking Los Angeles with this boxing capital, he was written up for going 140 mph.

Roach drove a lot slower Monday as part of a colorful caravan of hundreds of cars heading down Interstate 15 with Manny Pacquiao for his showdown with Floyd Mayweather Jr.

"Manny will spar on Monday for the last time and after that we'll break camp and everyone will go to their cars and trucks," Roach said. "The entourage used to be about 100 cars, I'd say there might be 1,000 cars this time."

Fight week is finally here, and even in a city known for the outlandish it is shaping up to be something special. The richest fight in history has spawned \$100,000 ringside tickets, hotel rooms going for \$1,600 a night, and a pay-per-view price just

a nickel shy of a \$100 bill.

Even \$10 tickets to see the two fighters at the weigh-in are running as much as \$700 through online ticket brokers.

Everything is over the top for the megafight that was five years in the making. That includes the caravan that brought Pacquiao to Las Vegas, featuring hundreds of cars and a custom bus wrapped in Pacquiao's image for some of the luckier members of his entourage.

"I might have the fastest car," Roach said. "But if I get one more of those tickets I can't drive anymore. I asked the police officer, why do they make these cars so fast if you can't drive that way? I should have shut my mouth."

Pacquiao was scheduled to arrive at the Delano Las Vegas hotel at Mandalay Bay sometime early evening Monday following seven weeks of training at Roach's Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood. His arrival marks the unofficial kickoff to a fight week unlike any other in a city used

to hosting the biggest fights.

So far it doesn't look like promoters underestimated the demand for the fight. The cheapest ticket on the StubHub website Sunday was \$5,245, while ringside seats were being offered for as much as \$106,950. Even tickets to watch on closed circuit at various MGM-owned properties in Las Vegas - which originally sold for \$150 - were being offered at \$620 or more online.

Everybody will pay for a fight that will likely earn Mayweather \$180 million and Pacquiao \$120 million. Even Roach had to shell out \$70,000 for 20 tickets for family and friends, though he was able to get his at retail prices.

"My mother asked for four tickets and my mother gets whatever she wants," Roach said. "My brothers and sister all want to go. I'm happy I can afford to buy them tickets."

While Pacquiao will be arriving in town, Mayweather lives here and has been training at his own gym just west of the Las Vegas Strip. His

promoter, Leonard Ellerbe, said Sunday that Mayweather will treat the week just like any other big fight he has been involved in.

"It's a typical fight week, business as usual," Ellerbe said. "Floyd is going to put on a spectacular performance, you can count on that."

Ellerbe said he isn't surprised by the demand for anything to do with the fight, which will smash records for biggest gate and almost surely set records for pay-per-view sales.

"Everything is out of the stratosphere," he said. "It shows you the world wide appeal of this fight."

Roach can be forgiven if he speeds a bit on his way to town. A seven-time winner of the trainer of the year award by the Boxing Writers of America, he said Pacquiao guaranteed him a win last week so he would win the award for an eighth time.

"This will be my biggest win ever," Roach said. "This one really counts, it will be in the history books the rest of our lives. I think my guy is ready for it."

NBA announces exhibition game in South Africa on Aug. 1

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Luol Deng and Chris Paul will play in an NBA exhibition game in South Africa on Aug. 1, the league said on Wednesday in its biggest step to win some territory on the soccer-mad African continent.

The NBA and National Basketball Players Association announced details for its first exhibition in Africa, featuring the two All-Stars, and high-profile NBA coaches, including coach of the year Mike Budenholzer of the Atlanta Hawks.

The game will be at Ellis Park Arena in Johannesburg, South Africa's biggest city, and aired live in South Africa and other African countries, the NBA said in a statement.

Deng, who was born in South Sudan, and a two-time All-Star playing for the Miami Heat, will lead Team Africa against Team World, captained by eight-time All-Star Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers.

"I am extremely proud to be a part of the NBA's first game in Africa," Deng said. San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich and NBA commissioner Adam Silver will also attend.

More details of the squads will be announced later, the NBA said.

Basketball is more popular in West Africa than southern Africa, but South Africa's main cable TV network shows live NBA games, and the NBA has visited the country regularly to hold training and development camps and charity events.

The NBA opened an office in South Africa in 2010, establishing the country

as its base to develop a foothold on a continent that still rates soccer as its No. 1 game, but has an audience that's becoming more receptive to the NBA.

The NBA's announcement at a news conference in Johannesburg was made by NBA Africa managing director Amadou Gallo Fall, U.S. ambassador to South Africa Patrick S. Gaspard, and South African sports minister Fikile Mbalula. It was broadcast live.

"The NBA has worked hard to grow the game of basketball in Africa, and I am excited to take this next step of playing our first game on the continent," commissioner Silver said in a statement accompanying the Johannesburg announcement.

More than 35 players from Africa have appeared in the NBA since Hall of Famer and two-time NBA champion Hakeem Olajuwon was drafted by the Houston Rockets in 1984, the NBA said.

Olajuwon, who is from Nigeria, is an NBA Africa ambassador, and fellow great Dikembe Mutombo of Congo is an NBA global ambassador.

The NBA said those two would also attend the exhibition game, which will benefit charities including the foundation of the late Nelson Mandela.



Chris Paul

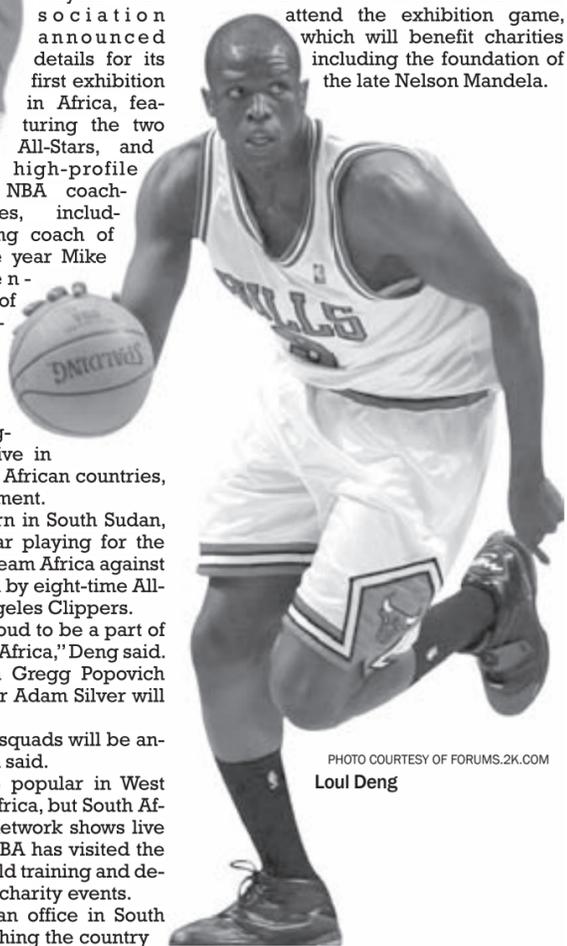


PHOTO COURTESY OF FORUMS.2K.COM
Loul Deng



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PALM BEACH

FAU national poll states Hispanics favor Obamacare, candidates who support it



PHOTO COURTESY OF TECHNOBUFFALO.COM

President Barack Obama

Staff Report

BOCA RATON — Hispanics nationally have a 60 percent favorable opinion of the Affordable Care Act and are finding it increasingly easier to afford healthcare, according to the latest survey conducted by the Florida Atlantic

University Business and Economics Polling Initiative (FAU BEPI) in the College of Business.

The March poll was conducted six months after a similar survey of Hispanics on Obamacare and offers a snapshot of their evolving opinions. Overall, Hispanics find it easier to afford

healthcare (23.1 percent to 15 percent) than they did in September 2014. Only 7.8 percent of those polled said they had no health insurance, compared to 15.7 percent six months earlier.

The numbers were especially pronounced for Hispanic women, as the percentage of females that are

uninsured dropped from 20.8 percent to 8.4 percent, and the number of Hispanic females on government insurance jumped 16.1 points (26.2 percent to 42.2 percent).

"This is excellent news, given that before the Affordable Care Act expansion of health insurance coverage Hispanics were far more likely than whites to be uninsured," said Monica Escaleras, Ph.D., director of BEPI. "With the decline in uninsured rates among Hispanics, the Affordable Care Act is reducing the ethnic disparities in access to healthcare."

Hispanic men are more likely to favor the Affordable Care Act than women (66.4 percent to 52.4 percent). The favorable numbers were highest in the southeast at 72 percent, and lowest in the northeast at 40.3 percent. Asked how the healthcare law will affect their vote in the 2016 presidential election, 45.2 percent of Hispanics said they will vote for a candidate that supports the Affordable Care Act, while 31.8 percent stated they would support a candidate that opposes it. Hispanics 35-54 years of age were most likely to vote for candidates that support Obamacare (50.9 percent vs. 32.1 that oppose candidates that support Obamacare).

Hispanics by a 20-point margin believe the federal government is responsible for providing coverage to its citizens (54 percent to 34 percent), a sentiment that grows stronger for those making the highest incomes (56.8 percent for those making \$75,000 and above).

The Obamacare poll was part of a monthly survey by BEPI of consumer optimism among Hispanics, which remained steady at 99.53, up one point from February and slightly down up from its January high of 100.69. The survey was conducted nationally from March 1-31. The polling sample consisted of 500 Hispanics with a margin of error of +/- 4.33 percent and a 95 percent confidence level.

BROWARD

Broward March of Dimes holds annual walk to save babies

Staff Report

FORT LAUDERDALE — On Saturday, thousands are expected to come together at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in Davie to take part in the March of Dimes' annual March for Babies, the nation's oldest walk fundraiser honoring babies born healthy and those who need help to survive and thrive.

Each year in the United States, one in nine babies is born prematurely — 29,000 of them in Florida. Though the U.S. premature birth rate declined for the seventh year in a row, it is still higher than most developed nations at 11.4 percent.

Pre-term infants account for a large proportion of infant deaths. More infants die from preterm-related problems than from any other single cause. Some premature babies require special care and spend weeks or months hospitalized in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) fighting for their life.

More than 5,000 people are expected to walk the 3-mile course at Nova Southeastern University, 3301 College Ave. Registration starts at 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARCH OF DIMES

PLEASE TURN TO MARCH OF DIMES/2B FOR THE CHILDREN: The March for Babies is expected to draw thousands at the Nova Southeastern campus.

MIAMI-DADE

New \$500,000 investment in security measures for Liberty Square public housing development

Staff Report

MIAMI — Miami-Dade Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD) is addressing residents' and community concerns about the violence around Liberty Square public housing development by investing over \$500,000 in security enhancements as part of the Liberty City Rising initiative.

A substantial upgrade has been done to the existing cameras, using \$170,000 of the budget allocated to security enhancements, and five additional cameras have been added throughout the site for a total of 26. These cameras are installed on 40-foot poles with remote capability and wireless transmission. They have been made vandal resistant, have high resolution, high speed, and can zoom a quarter of a mile.

These upgrades allow for the City of Miami Police Department (MPD) and Miami-Dade Police Department to view the cameras from their police stations, vehicles, laptops and smart phones.

In addition, PHCD has dedicated over \$260,000 to fund MPD off-duty police officers to patrol Liberty Square in the evenings and weekends. With the remaining \$70,000, an MPD police substation will also be established at the site before the end of the year.

"Ensuring the safety of all residents is essential to building a healthy and sustainable community," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez. "This investment, which is responsive to the needs of the residents, helps create a safe environment for families residing in Liberty Square."

"The Liberty Square residents deserve every effort on our parts to help stem the tide of violent crime plaguing their neighborhood," Miami-Dade Commissioner Audrey Edmonson said. "By installing these cameras, I am pleased that we are able to provide one more tool to help police and residents aid in fighting vandalism and crime."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMIDADE.GOV

Audrey Edmonson

MIAMI-DADE

MDC students mentor migrant kids, help them write their own books

Staff Report

HOMESTEAD — Students at Miami Dade College's (MDC) Homestead Campus are giving back to the community by mentoring migrant children to write books to call their own.

Pages for All Ages is a literacy-based project created in 2012 by Professor Yanelly Cordero to promote literacy through reading, psychology, and career-readiness for college students in developmental education.

The project pairs MDC students enrolled in developmental reading classes with elementary children attending the after school program in the Everglades Community Association in Homestead. The children reside within the community that houses farm workers and their families.

During its first year, the program proved to be successful with Cordero winning the Project Impact Award at MDC.

"I wanted to empower my students by putting them in mentor roles where they could strengthen the skills they were learning while



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIAMI DADE COLLEGE

HELPING HAND: Miami Dade College students mentor children as part of the Pages for All Ages program.

PLEASE TURN TO MDC BOOKS/2B

Around South Florida



ELGIN JONES
EJones@SFLTimes.com

Palm Beach County

MURDER
David Harris, 19, his brother Jesse Harris, 18, and Austin Taggart, 19, all from Jupiter, have been arrested in the beating death of 16-year-old Onesimo Marcelino Lopez-Ramos. Jupiter Police say their investigation is ongoing, but Lopez-Ramos may have been targeted because of his race.

SAFETY BREAK
Rep. Irv Slosberg, (D-Boca Raton) is rallying against a bill that has passed in both houses of the state Legislature that exempt some postal workers from having to wear seatbelts while working. The bill would apply to letters carriers in rural areas, many of whom drive their own vehicles. Gov. Rick Scott is expected to sign the bill.

ACQUITTED
Narcisse Antoine, 33, of Boynton Beach has been acquitted of murder and attempted murder in a re-trial. The case involves the 2009 killing of Brandon Hammond and another man, Jeffrey Thompson, who survived being shot multiple times. According to the police report, Hammond



ANTOINE

and Thompson were thrown out of Club Mystique in Boynton Beach and began harassing Antoine as he left the club. Antoine, who pulled a gun and shot both men, was charged with murder and attempted murder. In the first trial, jurors deadlocked on the murder charge, but found him guilty of attempted murder. A judge sentenced Antoine to 40 years, but that conviction was overturned due to the improper instructions given to jurors, an appeals court ruled. At his new trial, he was acquitted on all counts.

Broward County

NOW WHAT?
The Florida Department of Transportation has confirmed gravesites are located alongside Interstate 95 in Fort Lauderdale. So what happens next? The highway was built through the western section of the Woodlawn Cemetery and now they have confirmed area resident's suspicions that all of the graves were not relocated. Walter 'Mickey' Hinton, president of the Durr's Homeowners Association where the cemetery is located, is calling on Gov. Rick Scott to attend a meeting to address the issue with residents.

ADMINISTRATOR'S ASSISTANT
Former Sunrise City Manager Alan Cohen has landed a \$150,000 a year job with Broward County as an assistant to County Administrator Bertha to Henry.

Cohen stepped down as city manager last November amid a controversy over a supervisor's alleged bullying of subordinates.



SNIPES

RUN, BRENDA, RUN
According to published reports, Broward Supervisor Brenda Snipes is seeking reelection to the position. Snipes, 72, has held the post since being appointed in 2002 by Gov. Jeb Bush after he removed Miriam Olliphant from the office.

Miami-Dade County

SUSPECT ARRESTED
Aren Evans Lenton, 23, has been arrested in the shooting of three people in North Miami on April 12. Two of those victims died and the third survived a single gunshot wound. Lenton is charged with two counts of murder and two counts of attempted murder.

LUXURY LAWSUIT
The Village of Key Biscayne is suing the Miami International Boat Show, with its more than 700 boats. The lawsuit alleges the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), which produces the Miami International Boat Show, violated Florida's open government public records laws. The village seeks to gain access to licensing agreements the organization may have with the City of Miami to hold the show at Miami Marine Stadium.

There also are concerns with traffic and safety issues.

Monroe County



STACEY

INMATE ESCAPES
Sean Michael Stacey, 37, was last seen working outside the jail facility at the Monroe County Public Works. As a trustee, he wore a brightly colored orange jail jumpsuit and supervision was light. He went missing and was last sighted on High Point Key in civilian clothes. His orange jumpsuit was recovered nearby. Stacey is 6 feet tall, 200 pounds with blue eyes and short red hair. He has been in jail since September 2014 on burglary, grand theft and criminal mischief charges.

LOCAL PREFERENCE BAN
Republican lawmakers have passed a bill that would prohibit cities and local governments from giving preferences to local businesses when contracting for services. Marathon, Monroe County and Islamorada, like many other cities, give preference to local companies when awarding contracts for government projects that receive 50 percent funding from the state.

BACKYARD RANGES
Rep. Holly Raschein, R-Key Largo, supports legislation that would restrict where private gun ranges could be constructed. At present, local governments cannot restrict the construction of so-called 'backyard' gun ranges, even in residential neighborhoods.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARCH OF DIMES

Members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority participate in an earlier walk.

Annual walk will help save babies

MARCH OF DIMES, FROM 1B
a.m., with the walk stepping off at 8:30 a.m. The morning will be filled with activity, with the March for Babies Village offering food, entertainment, a Kid's Corner, exercise and activities for all ages. The village, located adjacent to the Don Paff University Center and in front of the Alvin Sherman Library, will be open from 7 am until noon. Complimentary parking will be available adjacent to the Research and Information Technology Center on the NSU campus. This year's event chair is Randy Gross, chief executive officer of Plantation General Hospital.

The Broward County 2015 Ambassador Family is the Dreyfuss family from Weston, whose son Jonah was delivered at just 31 weeks of gestation and spent 54 days in the NICU and an additional six days in the prenatal intensive care unit (PICU). After experiencing the emotional toll of a premature birth, the Dreyfuss family celebrated Jonah's first birthday this past November. "We are honored to serve as this year's March for Babies Ambassador Family," said Gabriella and Jeffrey Dreyfuss. "Without the March of Dimes, Jonah probably wouldn't be here with us today. We fully support the organization's mission and appreciate what they've done for our family and the community. "Motivating other parents and corporations to support their cause is our way of giving back to the March of Dimes."

Broward County's goal is to raise \$950,000. "March for Babies is our premier annual fundraiser, bringing together families in our community who have been touched by prematurity, birth defects or loss," said Gross. Communities nationwide have been walking since 1970 and have raised \$2.3 billion. For more information, visit www.marchforbabies.org/event/broward.

Students learn to write books

MDC BOOKS, FROM 1B

gaining confidence from teaching children," Cordero said. "It's a win/win for both MDC students and the community children." That same year, Professor Jessyca Perez approached Professor Cordero at the Service Learning Awards ceremony where Cordero won another honor, the Spirited Award. "I was very impressed with her passion and efforts to put this program together on her own," Perez said. "Yanely and I are both very passionate about literacy and instantly formed a connection." They joined forces and expanded the program from 15 MDC students to 42 students in the following academic

year. Since its inception, the program has served about 300 students. This initiative is supported by Enfamilia, an agency that provides education programs to help improve and preserve family life for a large population of migrant farm workers and low-income families living in Deep South Dade. The agency allows the use of its facilities, electricity, resources, and staff at no cost to the college or the project. Cordero and Perez are both looking to expand the program to juvenile detention centers and nursing homes. They also plan to bring other faculty from various disciplines on board. "I envision us working together to expand the program into the community even further for such a great cause," Perez said.

MDEAT BUSINESS EXPO

Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT)

North Central Dade Business Expo

FREE community event

A showcase of nearly 65 businesses

- Learn about products and services in your community
- Network with key business professionals
- Refreshments | Live entertainment Free raffles

Thursday, May 14, 2015
6 – 9 P.M.

Joe Celestin Community Center
1525 NW 135 Street, North Miami, FL 33161

Supporters:

- The Honorable Jean Monestime, Chairperson Board of County Commissioners District 2
- The Honorable Audrey Edmonson Board of County Commissioners District 3
- The Honorable Barbara J. Jordan Board of County Commissioners District 1

For more information, contact MDEATInfo@miamidade.gov or 305-375-5661.

MDEAT
Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust
Working Together for Economic Change

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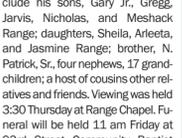


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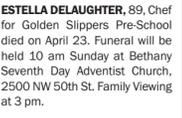


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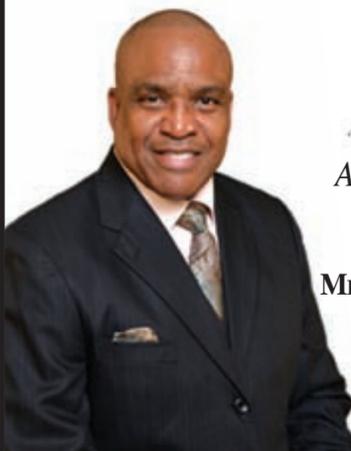
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Prayerful Living



THE REV. DR.
WALTER T. RICHARDSON

Living in the "shadow of death"

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." ~ Psalm 23:4 KJV

"Yea though I walk through the valley and the shadow of death, I will fear no evil" are the words that begin the fourth verse of Psalm 23 from the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. That entire Psalm (Scripture) is known as the Shepherd's Psalm. Most people of faith are familiar with this portion of Scripture, and it is the most recited, remembered, and respected text in all of religious literature.

It is apparent that violent death is so near each of us that it feels like death is walking with us and hovering over us, casting a large shadow. That very powerful and profound phrase "shadow of death" describes the atmosphere in which people in urban areas live, like in Overtown Miami where a 16-year old boy and a 10-year old child were randomly killed recently. A metropolitan area, where from south Miami-Dade County around Florida City, to the northern edge of the county, in a city like Miami Gardens, more than four dozen homicides have already occurred in 2015. And, the shadow of death also pervades the atmosphere where police officers work. While all first responders (fire fighters, rescue workers, police, etc) deserve our prayers because of the high risks involved in their chosen profession, police officers are more at risk of danger and death than most other professionals.

I recognize that some people are justifiably cynical about police work, and there are mixed sentiments about the value of the work of the police. I also recognize that occasionally codes and rules of proper procedures and practices are violated by some of those who are sworn to protect and serve all of us. But I'm challenged to find any profession where someone within that profession has not abused their power at some point. Ethical and moral violations are found amongst

politicians, presidents, principals, promoters, preachers, pontiffs, and yes, police. But, fortunately, there are also many more honest, hard-working heroes than there are those who violate the public trust. The days of those who still work hard to protect and serve are still here.

To quote former president Al Gore, "Some may think it's fashionable to proclaim that the age of heroes has passed. That the glory years of towering giants has faded into a mist of myth and fable. Well, if you're looking for heroes -- look around." Look at your next door neighbor, the woman who you see playing catch with her children on the front lawn. The man who invites you over for a backyard barbeque. The person who sits across from you in the place of worship. For it could well be that these men and women shunned lives of comfort and ease to engage in lives of service for their communities, and even their country. Some, indeed, awake every day, and with their badges donned, put their lives at risk for the rest of the community.

We are encouraged, even though law enforcement officers live daily with the reality of death, and the presence of the "shadow of death," because the Lord is with them and us. In the sobering but comforting words of Psalm 23, we notice the power of the Shepherd, who can and will overcome evil. We notice the promise of the Shepherd who will overshadow his followers with goodness and mercy. We are also blessed to have the provision of nourishment and shelter from the Shepherd, and the persistent, preeminent presence of the Shepherd. And even though we walk daily in the very shadow of the enemy called death, we have the protection and permanent preservation of the shepherd, and because the Lord is our Shepherd, we have perpetual peace. Amen!

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



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APRIL 30 — MAY 6, 2015

Valerie
Tyson 4C

South Florida songstress
pleases crowds for more
than three decades

technology

Freedom! These smartwatches leave the phone behind

By **ANICK JESDANUN**
AP Technology Writer

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Strap on the Samsung Gear S or the Sony SmartWatch 3 if you want to take a jog on the beach or head out for a bike ride without your phone clunking along.

One of my frustrations with early smartwatches has been how little they can do on their own. Sure, your phone might be with you most of the time, but sometimes you want to leave it behind. The Gear S and SmartWatch 3 still need to be close to an Android phone for a lot of things, but both do more solo than other smartwatches.

Samsung Gear S (\$300 to \$400, plus \$5 or \$10 monthly service fee)

The Gear S isn't the only smartwatch to notify you about new messages, Facebook updates and weather. It isn't alone in having an alarm clock, music playback and apps for tracking steps and exercise.

So what makes this watch stand out? Cellular connectivity. Other smartwatches use a Bluetooth wireless connection linked to your phone to receive calls, send texts and perform other tasks. The Gear S can do all that on its own.

The watch gets its own phone number. When your phone is nearby, calls and texts from the watch will go through your phone and carry your regular number. When you want to step away, you can still have calls, texts and other notifications forwarded to the watch. But calls you make and texts you send from the watch might get your watch's number. I've used the

Navigator app to get directions, though advance features such as rerouting when lost or vibrations at turns didn't work for me without the phone nearby. Many smartwatches are inaccurate exercise trackers, but with built-in GPS, the Gear S can more precisely track how far you run. The watch has a touch keyboard with tiny keys; it's clunky to use, but you can dictate messages by voice, too. The watch can also play music stored on the device or streamed through Samsung's free Milk service.

The unit I tested came from AT&T, which charges \$10 a month for 4G service on top of the \$300 for the device (\$200 with a two-year service agreement). Sprint charges \$10 for 3G service, while it costs \$5 a month for Verizon 3G and T-Mobile 4G service. The device costs \$350 to \$400 with those three.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMSUNG.COM

Samsung Gear S

Sony Smartwatch 3 (starts at \$250)

Sony's SmartWatch 3 joins the Gear S in having built-in GPS, something many smartwatches still lack. At least three running apps — iFit Outside, RunKeeper and MyTracks — use the watch's GPS and work without a companion phone. As with the Gear S, I found the Sony watch quite accurate in normal settings, such as runs in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. In New York, my stand-alone GPS watch from Garmin does better at factoring in tall buildings that block or distort GPS signals. But the SmartWatch still does better than many watches that rely solely on an accelerometer sensor.

You can also play music stored on the device, though the watch lacks a speaker so you need a Bluetooth headset. (Offline music playback is also common in other watches).

Sorry, the SmartWatch 3 has no cellular service, so you can't make or receive calls or texts, take notes or use the map function unless your phone is in your pocket or purse.

Wait for Apple watch?

People with iPhones will need to wait until April to see what, if any, stand-alone features will come with Apple's smartwatch. The ones out so far typically work only with Android phones. But if you have an Android phone, the Samsung and Sony watches stand out among the many choices.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAGMART.COM

Sony Smartwatch 3



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film

Scene from *Unfriended*

PHOTO COURTESY OF THEVERGE.COM

‘Unfriended’ has interesting plot

By **JOHN DEFORE**
The Hollywood Reporter

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Taking aim at cyberbullies on their home turf, Levan Gabriadze's *Unfriended* envisions an *I Know What You Did Last Summer*-style vengeance scenario conducted by a ghost entirely via social media. Presented as if it were being witnessed on one of the protagonists' laptops, the pic sticks with its gimmick more honestly than Nacho Vigalondo's *Open Windows*, a *Fantasia* entry with a similar visual conceit. Though it's substantially less successful in dramatic than in technical terms, the pic could draw some attention from genre die-hards in niche bookings.

The setting is a group Skype chat in which five high-school friends log on together for no reason other than to have company while wasting hours of their youths sitting alone in their bedrooms. Around the time they realize this is the anniversary of the suicide of Laura Burns, a classmate they hated, a mysterious sixth person enters the chat — an anonymous digital intruder claiming to be Laura's spirit.

Assuming this to be a creepy hacker, they try — and fail — to hang up on “him.” But this hacker has skills. He's soon taunting them (and a sixth friend) across an array of platforms,

controlling texts, video messages and the like. (The services are all depicted with their real brands — YouTube, Facebook, Skype, et cetera.) As they grow increasingly agitated, he turns them against each other by revealing secrets he has no way of knowing — betrayals, insults and worse — before proceeding to grisly physical punishments that apparently involve psychic control.

These kids are more loathsome than the average victims of slasher-flick boogeymen, and the young actors have little success (if they're trying) in making them interesting despite their shallow nastiness; as the film begins knocking them off in the usual ways, we can't even take pleasure in their deaths. By the gory final moments, the picture finds ways to wrench the annoyance level higher, with goofy onscreen animation and an inexplicable plea for help to the nonplussed denizens of Chatroulette.

While much of the screen-hopping that precedes this has a messy believability — with the lead bully flicking ADHD style between monitoring BitTorrent, choosing Pandora tunes, researching the paranormal on Wikipedia and using four or five different technologies to communicate with her frenemies — in the end, one would rather be back at one's own computer, tending to the tedious details of digital life, than watching this clique get pinged to death.

Movie association president predicts big box office year



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLOG.MPAA.ORG

MPAA Chairman and CEO Senator Chris Dodd

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

LAS VEGAS — It matters where you watch a movie, the head of the Motion Picture Association of America stressed last week at the opening of an annual gathering of theater owners in Las Vegas.

“Legitimately accessing content rewards the creators that drive America's flourishing motion picture and TV industry, a nationwide economic sector that exports six times what it imports,” said Chris Dodd, MPAA chairman and CEO in reference to the ongoing content piracy problem.

Dodd said piracy and illegal downloading remain top concerns for the industry, especially with 2015 expected to be a record-breaking year at the worldwide box office.

Dodd used the opportunity to promote the newly launched website www.wheretowatch.com, a search platform presented by the six member studios of the MPAA to provides information on where films can be seen legally online or in theaters.

But the major theme of the presentation was the upcoming slate of movies.

National Association of Theater Owners President John Fithian noted a number of reasons that 2015 will be a banner year, including the fact that studios are finally embracing the entire calendar year for releases.

“Clint Eastwood presented serious drama in January, February is a great time for love,” said Fithian, referencing high-earners *American Sniper* and *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

In a year that includes blockbuster releases such as *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, and *Jurassic World*, Fithian said there will be “at least four, and maybe six, billion-dollar global movies spread across the year.”

Key, though, is the there are more films with women at the center, and more films that appeal to all ages. Films such as *Cinderella*, *Insurgent* and *Fifty Shades of Grey* had women in leading roles and women make up 60 percent of the ticket-buying audience.

“Personally I'm so pleased that my daughter can see more women in leading roles than ever before,” he said.

music & pop culture

Valerie Tyson continues her groove after three decades

By ALLISON HORTON
Special to South Florida Times

Valerie Tyson is no stranger to performing on stage. She has been singing smooth jazz, blues, R&B, and soul for more than 35 years.

Local audiences get to hear her at least once a week. Tyson gives a show every Tuesday night from 8 p.m. to midnight at Blue Jean Blues, 3320 NE 33rd St. in Fort Lauderdale. During "Throwback Tuesdays," she performs Motown hits, R&B and blues. She also stays busy performing at concerts, festivals, weddings, and gala events.

She likes to perform all kinds of songs but her two favorites are *Ain't No Mountain High Enough* by Diana Ross and *This Is It* by Kenny Loggins. Her favorite singer is also a musical legend, Gladys Knight.

"I love and appreciate her voice, style and class," Tyson said. "She's awesome and moves me. I've been a fan of hers for years ever since I heard her sing. She is the cherry on an ice cream sundae."

Her musical taste is wide and varied. She is a huge fan of several performers including Barbra Streisand, Aretha Franklin, Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley, Frank Sinatra, John Coltrane, Natalie Cole, Heart, Annie Lennox, Steely Dan, Bonnie Raitt, Sarah Vaughn and B.B. King.

Tyson is gearing up for her next big performance May 28 at Piano at The Hard Rock Hotel where she will be selling her new EP, *Here I Am*. There will also be a live videotaping of the show.

"It is the first original music I've ever done," said Tyson of her EP and noted she plans to release a complete CD as well. "I have been blessed to make a great living singing and performing cover songs but it's the first time ever with my own songs."

Recently, she got a thrill when she hit the stage at the 10th Annual Jazz in the Gardens.

"It was a magical moment," said Tyson, a native of Hollywood. "I felt so blessed to be asked... [and] represent South Florida as one the local

entertainers." Tyson said. "I have been a spectator for many years and always saw myself performing there. It was very surreal being there but the moment we took the stage I felt at home, excited and just ready to give the people a great show."

Here I Am gave her a chance to help others. "I co-produced this with some amazing up and coming musicians: Jeff Davis, Annie Jules, J. Allen, Randy McGill, and Mike Marshall," Tyson said.

She added that fans can expect more. "I do have some future plans for collaborations with several other female vocalists in town but we're still on the planning stage."

Fans of Tyson can visit www.iamvalerietyson.com, her Facebook page *Valerie Tyson the Artist*, or follow her on Instagram @theartist-valerietyson.



ON THE COVER

PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES FOR JAZZ IN THE GARDENS
Valerie Tyson

PHOTO COURTESY OF JERRY OF UNIVERSITY STUDIOS

PHOTO COURTESY OF VALERIETYSONBAND.COM

PHOTO COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES FOR JAZZ IN THE GARDENS

Valerie Tyson's mix of jazz, blues and soul pleases crowds in different venues. Her new EP, *Here I Am*, will be on sale in an upcoming performance at the Hard Rock Hotel.

Staff Report

FORT LAUDERDALE — Five-time Grammy Award-winner Robert Cray brings the Robert Cray Band to Parker Playhouse with special guest Shemekia Copeland at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

Cray's unique playing style and signature blend of rhythm and blues, pop, rock, and soul bridges traditional and contemporary blues. The Robert Cray Band has taken home Grammy Awards for *Take Your Shoes Off* as Best Contemporary Blues Album and *Strong Persuader* and *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark* for Best Contemporary Blues Recordings, while Cray has also been honored with two Grammy Awards for collaborations with other artists.

Recognized for his masterful work as a guitarist and multi-talented singer, songwriter and producer, Cray's musical resume reads like a who's who in contemporary music. He has performed alongside Albert Collins, Buddy Guy, Muddy Waters, Eric Clapton and B.B. King and other music icons including Tina Turner, Keith Richards, Chuck Berry, Bonnie Raitt, Stevie Ray Vaughn and Willie Dixon.

Copeland, daughter of late Texas blues legend Johnny Clyde Copeland, is a two-time

Grammy Award nominee for her wide-open vision of contemporary blues, roots and soul music in the rich tradition of soul-drenched divas like Ruth Brown, Etta James and Koko Taylor.

Both the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois, by official proclamation, have declared Copeland to be the new "Queen of the Blues." She has earned eight Blues Music Awards and a host of Living Blues Awards including the prestigious 2010 Blues Artist of the Year. Copeland has opened for The Rolling Stones and played with Eric Clapton, Bonnie Raitt, B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, James Cotton and many others.

The Parker Playhouse, located in Holiday Park at 707 NE Eighth Street in Fort Lauderdale, is an affiliated venue of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$23 to \$53, and are available online at BrowardCenter.org, ParkerPlayhouse.com or Ticketmaster.com; by phone at 954.462.0222 or TTD/TTY at 800.359.2525; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center's box office.

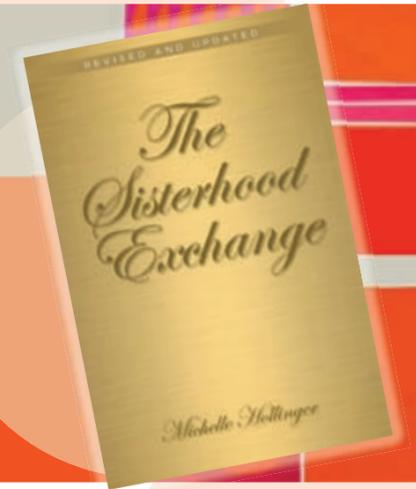
Robert Cray Band, Shemekia Copeland come to Parker Playhouse



PHOTO OF ROBERT CRAY COURTESY OF PARKER PLAYHOUSE / PHOTO OF SHEMEIKIA COPELAND COURTESY OF SANDRINE LEE

Shemekia Copeland, Robert Cray

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



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

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



Michelle Hollinger

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

travel

No longer wasteland, Orlando's cultural scene acquires taste

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
Associated Press

ORLANDO — Long derided as a cultural wasteland, Orlando's restaurant and performing arts scene has grown up in recent years, and it is starting to attract attention from national arbiters of taste.

Wine Enthusiast magazine recently named Orlando as one of the nation's top wine travel destinations, and *The New York Times* singled out the city's food scene when it placed the city at No. 13 on its list of "52 Places to Go in 2015."

Wise Bread, a website dedicated to penny-pinchers, calls Orlando the nation's top city for frugal foodies, and the real estate blog Movoto ranked Orlando the nation's No. 2 city for creative people.

The rankings barely mentioned what the city is best known for: theme parks.

"Orlando was very synonymous, and still is, with the Mouse, and Disney, and people didn't really look outside of Disney," said James Petrakis, owner of The Ravenous Pig in the tony Orlando suburb, Winter Park. "Now with some of these newer restaurants, people are looking at some of the smaller suburbs outside Disney for a true local culture."

Adding to the buzz about the cultural scene: a new \$500 million performing arts center downtown and an international hunt for a new symphony conductor that's attracted some well-known names.

"We've gotten some national validation for things that we already thought were cool, but we thought they were cool just because it was something different for us. But now we know it's cool here and it would be cool if it were in New York or San Francisco," said Kamrin Rife, who with her husband, John, and others, opened the East End Market, which houses a collection of artisanal bakers, coffee brewers, sushi chefs and a Basque restaurant.

Orlando always had a strong theater scene, thanks to the many actors who work at theme parks, and several acclaimed

annual festivals, such as the Bach Festival of Winter Park and a fringe theater festival. But the construction of the Dr. Phillips Center, financed partially with taxes on tourists, gives the city a world-class venue for local performing arts groups and national touring acts.

The hunt for a new musical director has led to sold-out shows as each of five finalists performs. Audiences get to vote for their favorite in what locals are joking is the classical music equivalent of *American Idol*. The finalists include Eric Jacobsen, a member of Brooklyn Rider, one of the best known and most cutting-edge string quartets around, and Mexican-American conductor Alondra de la Parra.

"All the candidates see the cultural community as on

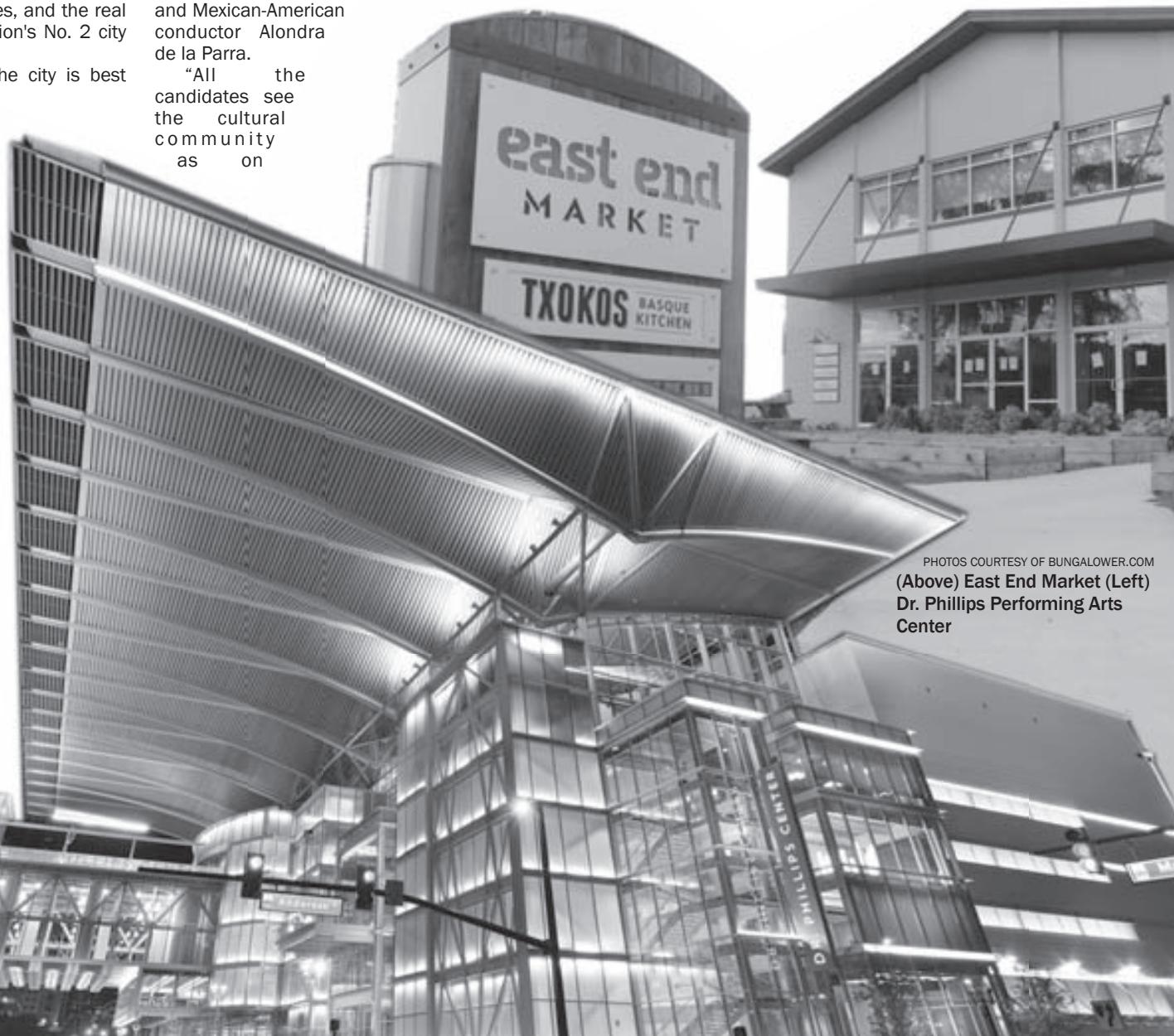
the cusp of something great," said David Schillhammer, executive director of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra.

There's a pent-up demand for more dynamic cultural events, said Glen Gentele, director of the Orlando Museum of Art, which is exhibiting the work of sculpture and landscape artist Maya Lin, and Orlando's arts patrons "are open and receptive to change."

Orlando used to be known as the chain-restaurant capital, a place where corporate restaurant companies would try out new concepts on the regular flow of tourists, and where every chain seemed to have planted a flag along the tourist corridor in the metro area's southwest region.

There always have been top chefs drawn to the kitchens at Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando and nearby resorts, but it has only been in the last decade that food entrepreneurs catering to locals have flourished, thanks to the low cost of setting up in Orlando, a vibrant food truck scene and the growth of local farms providing a variety of fresh meats and produce.

In the process, those gastronomical efforts have produced seven James Beard "Best Chef of the South" semi-finalists from central Florida in the past three years.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BUNGALOWER.COM
(Above) East End Market (Left)
Dr. Phillips Performing Arts
Center

events calendar

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

April 30th - May 9th

APRIL 30

Films on the Beach: The French Embassy Cultural Services presents a screening of *Pepe le Moko*, a 1936 French film that has been re-mastered. The film follows Pepe le Moko, a criminal on the run from the police who is lured out of hiding by his one true love. In French with English subtitles. 7 p.m. at SoundScape, 500 17th St., Miami Beach. Free. 305-673-7577 or www.mbculture.com.

Pippin: The musical makes its way to South Florida and shares the tale of young prince who takes a journey to discover the meaning of his existence. With music by Stephen Schwartz and acrobatics by Les 7 Doigts De La Main, this show is sure to dazzle. 8 p.m. today, and Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, 701 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$25-\$85. 561-832-7469 or www.kravis.org.

The Robert Cray Band:

Masterfully blending rock, soul, jazz, gospel and R&B, the band led by Grammy-Award winner Robert Cray performs. Cray's career spans forty years and includes collaborations with Stevie Ray Vaughn, Bonnie Rait and Tina Turner. Singer Shemekia Copeland will also accompany the band. 7:30 p.m. at Parker Playhouse, 707 NE Eighth St., Fort Lauderdale. \$23-\$53. 954-462-0222 or www.parkerplayhouse.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 904HAPPYHOUR.COM



Sunfest: The annual event continues with performances by Paramore, Hozier and more! Kids can also join in the show and meet the Minions from Universal Orlando and have their face painted, play in the bounce houses or make it a day on the beach. 5 to 10 p.m. today, 5 to 11 p.m. Friday, noon to 11 p.m. Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday along Flagler Drive from Banyan Boulevard to Lakeview Avenue in West Palm Beach. \$40-\$80 one-day, two-day and five-day passes available. 1-800-786-3378 or www.sunfest.com.

PHOTO COURTESY OF REDBRICK&ME

MAY 1

Lyric Live: Comedian Chello Davis hosts this live talent show featuring local singers, dancers, spoken word artists and more! The Jody Hill Band provides the live music. Tonight's show kicks off the second season. Happy hour is from 7 to 8 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. at the Lyric Theater, 819 NW Second Ave., Miami. \$15-\$25. 305-636-2390.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CDN.EVBUC.COM

Oliver! The Charles Dickens' novel gets the musical treatment with this production which features songs by Lionel Bart. The show follows Oliver Twist as he goes from London workhouses to hanging out with a gang of pickpockets before finding a home. 7 p.m. today, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday at the Borland Cneter for the Performing Arts, 4885 PGA Blvd., West Palm Beach. \$10-\$25. 561-904-3101.

MAY 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF SMDCAC & MIAMI-DADE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

All Kids Included Family Arts Festival: The ninth annual fest is designed for children with and without disabilities and features performances by Brazilian Voices, Magic Morgan, and more! Create fun art projects with the help of Dwayne Szot, artist and tour an exhibit featuring art by local students. The Miami Children's Theater will perform sensory-friendly production of *Peter Pan*. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center, 10950 SW 211th St., Cutler Bay. Free. 786-573-5300.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIEINMIAMI.COM

Design District Delights: Take a closer look at the new look and design of Miami's historic Buena Vista Neighborhood. Featuring cutting edge architecture and high-end boutiques, the tour includes a view of private art collections and more! 10 a.m. to noon meets at 4141 NE Second Ave., Miami. \$30. 305-375-5792.

Dog Loves Books: Louise Yates' New York Times Best Seller gets the musical treatment in this show presented by ArtsPower. The musical follows a dog who loves books enough to open up a book store. 2 p.m. at Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center, 1770 Monroe St., Hollywood. Free. 954-921-3274, ext. 254.

On the Move Fest: Enjoy a day of arts and crafts, live performances and more. Children can enjoy bounce houses, have their face painted, and play games! Presented by the St. George Civic Association. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. George Community Park, 3501 NW Eighth St., Lauderhill. Free. 754-300-6128.

MAY 3

Spring Musical Celebration: The Youth Orchestra of Palm Beach County performs. Listen to the group's soothing sounds and bring blankets and chairs for a comfortable time. 5 p.m. at Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. \$5. 561-393-7984.

MAY 4

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

MAY 6

All Arts Open Mic: Comedian Matt Bellak hosts this open mic event, which features local singers, spoken word artists, comedy and more! 9 p.m. at The Funky Buddha Lounge, 2621 N. Federal Highway Boca Raton. \$3 or two canned goods for charity. 561-512-8472.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HECOMMUNITYPICNIC.COM

MAY 8

Movies in the Park: Catch a screening of the Disney's *Big Hero 6*, an animated feature that follows an inflatable robot and a child prodigy who join a group of friends to become high-tech heroes. Before the film starts there will be face painting, a bounce house, music, games and food trucks! Bring a blanket and lawn chair for a relaxing evening with the family. 7 p.m. pre-show, film starts at 8:15 p.m. at Tamarac Sports Complex, 9901 NW 77th St., Tamarac. Free. 954-597-3620.

MAY 9

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.

food

Fresh Way to

FIESTA

Sweet ideas for
CINCO DE MAYO
celebrations

FAMILY FEATURES — Cinco de Mayo is the perfect opportunity to indulge in Mexican-inspired dishes, dips and drinks. This year, put a tangy twist on your festive favorites with a refreshing new flavor.

Watermelon is a versatile fruit with a flavor profile that pairs perfectly with many of the ingredients in traditional Mexican dishes. Sweet and juicy watermelon is a great way to cut the heat of spicier foods, and its texture lends an unexpected,

satisfying crunch in dips such as chunky salsas.

Whether you're hosting a Cinco de Mayo themed party or simply looking forward to an inspired meal at home, get an early jump on summer and let watermelon be your star ingredient.

For more recipes featuring low-calorie, no-fat watermelon, visit www.watermelon.org.

Servings: 12–16 tacos

- 2 medium avocados, peeled and chopped
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 teaspoons diced jalapeno pepper (or to taste)
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 medium garlic cloves, minced
- 1 can (4 ounces) diced green chilies, drained
- 2 1/2 cups diced watermelon, divided
- Salt, to taste
- Cooking spray
- 1 1/2 pounds cod
- Chili powder
- 12–16 corn tortillas
- 3–4 cups commercial coleslaw mix (shredded cabbage and carrots)
- 1/2–1 cup commercial salsa

For guacamole, mash avocados to mix of smooth and chunky in medium bowl. Add lime, jalapeno, cilantro, garlic and chilies and mix thoroughly. Add 1 1/2 cups diced watermelon and salt (if desired) and toss. Cover and refrigerate to let flavors blend.

Heat oven to 350°F. Spray cookie sheet with cooking spray.

Place cod on sheet and sprinkle with chili powder and salt. Bake for 12–20 minutes (depending on thickness of fish) or until cooked through. Remove from oven and cut into pieces.

Heat tortillas on grill or griddle. Top each with few pieces of fish, 1/4 cup coleslaw mix, heaping spoonful of guacamole, tablespoon of salsa and few pieces of remaining diced watermelon.

Baja Fish Tacos with Watermelon Guacamole

Watermelon Cilantro Salsa Tropical

Servings: 8–12

- 2 cups chopped seedless watermelon
- 1 cup chopped fresh pineapple
- 1 cup chopped fresh mango
- 4 limes (juice only)
- 1 cup trimmed and chopped scallions
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Toss all ingredients in mixing bowl and season with salt and pepper just before serving.

Watermelon Margarita

Servings: 1

- 1 1/2 ounces tequila
- 3/4 ounce Triple Sec
- 3/4 ounce Midori
- 2 ounces sour mix
- 6 ounces cubed, seeded watermelon
- 8 ounces ice

Blend all ingredients. Serve in 14-ounce glass. Garnish with lime and watermelon wedge.

