

# Miami Herald

## WATCHDOG

### Domestic violence workers' complaints shed light on issues

BY SAMANTHA J. GROSS  
AND MARY ELLEN KLAS  
gross@miherald.com  
klas@miherald.com  
Illustration: Tania Tefelasso-Davis

**TALLAHASSEE**  
For the eight years she was in an abusive marriage, Lisa LeBel had no idea there was a shelter in Ocala to help people like her. When LeBel eventually left her relationship and got a job on staff with the Ocala Domestic

Violence Center, it was a huge part of her healing. But after two years, she saw the side of domestic violence centers in Florida that was "so shady and disgusting that I had to leave," said LeBel, 43, of Dunnellon.

Violence/Sexual Assault Center, it was a huge part of her healing. But after two years, she saw the side of domestic violence centers in Florida that was "so shady and disgusting that I had to leave," said LeBel, 43, of Dunnellon. LeBel enjoyed performing

duties others wouldn't do, like taking victims to court dates and often escorting them to prenatal doctors' appointments and counseling sessions. But she only got paid for it if



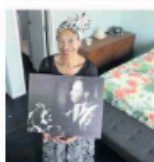
Tiffany Carr

she lived. LeBel's position was completely funded by what is called a "VOCA grant" or a Federal Victims of Crime Act, administered by the Florida Attorney General's office. And if she performed duties outside of her job description, the funding got pulled.

It was the first of many grie-

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## TROPICAL LIFE

### LANDMARKS TELL OF RICH CULTURAL BLACK HISTORY

From schools to a Brownsville hotel where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. stayed, pictured above, black history landmarks abound in South Florida. 1M

## Heart health



## SPECIAL SECTION

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We examine women's heart health, cardio risks of Hispanics and blacks, the benefits of a vegan diet, children's cardiac issues and more. 1UH



MIAMI HEAT | DWYANE WADE LGACY CELEBRATION

### EMOTIONAL CEREMONY FOR BELOVED D-WADE

Dwyane Wade's No. 3 jersey is raised to the rafters of AmericanAirlines Arena during halftime of the game against the Cleveland Cavaliers as part of the LGACY Celebration for the former Heat superstar on Saturday night. I hope I've inspired all of you. Thank you for making me a part of your legacy. Please know you are a huge part of mine. Wade said. **More coverage in Sports, 23A**

## GREEN ENERGY

### Ygrene, controversial PACE energy program, is booming in Florida

■ The Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) is exploding in Florida, according to a University of South Florida study of the biggest companies. Ygrene Energy Fund. Critics say it doesn't protect consumers.

BY ALEX HARRIS  
alex@miherald.com

A decade ago, if a Floridian wanted extra cash to replace a roof, install solar panels or a brand new air conditioner, the most common choice was a bank loan. But for the last few years, homeowners also have had a controversial new option.

SEE PACE, 6A



Junior Jean, 82, installed solar panels on his Miami-Dade home through PACE, which can leave some people in a financial hole.

## PHILANTHROPY

### Habitat for Humanity is on a house-building blitz in Miami

■ For 30 years, Miami's Habitat for Humanity chapter has been putting low-income families into low-cost homes of their own through its "sweat equity" approach. Homeowners and volunteers hammer together the houses.

BY ANDREW VIGUCCI  
av@miherald.com

Melissa Jones, a single mom with four kids, has a good job at a major corporation. But the growing numbers of Miamians, she has struggled with rising rent — and forget about buying to ever own a home. Or so she thought. But then she was turned

and the homeowners themselves. And so one warm morning last week, Jones found herself on her knees, going dark wood laminate to the floors of what will soon be her new Habitat home in the south Miami-Dade neighborhood of Goulds. That's after she spent much of the previous nine days helping to nail down the roof, put up drywall, frame and install doors and windows, paint



SEE HABITAT, 2A

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JOBS AND CLASSIFIEDS: INSIDE THE NEXT SECTION



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# Tropical Sunday

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK

Landmarks tell story of Miami's rich black cultural history

BY HOWARD COHEN  
hcohen@miamiherald.com

"Moonlight" helped cast a national glow on Miami's Liberty City neighborhood when it won the Oscar as the best film of 2016. Filmmaker Barry Jenkins and playwright/actor Tarell Alvin McCraney grew up in Liberty City and made it a focal point of "Moonlight."

"Part of the impetus for writing this story was that as a kid, I walked everywhere," McCraney told the Miami Herald when the movie opened in the fall of 2016. The places he must have seen help to tell the history of black life in South Florida and we can still learn from many of these landmarks that still exist.

There are places of worship like the First Baptist Church of Miami that was founded in Fort Lauderdale in 1904. Miami's Overton neighborhood is home to the Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church, established in 1896. And nearby, Saint Agnes Episcopal Church of Miami was established two years later in 1898.

We still have entertainment and cultural venues like the restored Lyric Theater in Overton. Schools named for notable African



Malcolm X trains his camera on Cassius Clay, sitting at the counter of Miami's Hampton House in 1966, surrounded by fans after he lost Sonny Liston for the heavyweight championship of the world title on Feb. 25, 1964, in Miami Beach. The next day, Clay announced he had become a member of the Nation of Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Ali.

Americans and conceived and built by pioneers like D.A. Dorsey (Booker T. Washington High).

And then there is the Hampton House in Brownsville where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. honed his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Here's a travelogue of just a handful of notable black landmarks in South Florida.

### THE HAMPTON HOUSE

When the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. traveled through Miami he did what black celebrities like Lena Horne, Muhammad Ali, Nina Simone, Jackie Robinson and Ray Charles had to do. The civil rights leader stayed at The Hampton House, a Brownsville hotel that served as a social hub for prominent African Americans in the segregated '60s. Despite per-

SEE BLACK HISTORY, 2M



The president/CEO of the Historic Hampton House, Charlyne W. Thompson, holds a photograph of Martin Luther King Jr. at the Hampton House in the 1960s. She is standing inside the room where he stayed. It is said that King wrote one of the early versions of his pivotal "I Have a Dream" speech at the Brownsville hotel.

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IMAGE DETAIL: RENÉ PORTOCARRERO (1912-1985)

Figure in Green Background, 1960  
oil on canvas, 24 x 19 1/2 inches

### FEATURING WORKS BY:

Lam, Carlos, Portocarrero, Victor Manuel, Carlos Enríquez, Mariano, Gattorno, Felipe Orlando, Mijares, Agustín Fernández, Carmelo González, Luis Martínez Pedros, Azosta León, Cárdenas, Gina Pellón, Soubrava, Mendive, Fabelo, Juan Roberto Diago, Flora Fong, Vicente Hernández, Florido, Giovanni, Besma, Irena Elán, Lilian García-Roig, Jorge Luis Santos, Sandro De La Rosa, Daniel Méndez and others.

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# Steph Sez

## GALA IN THE GARDEN, FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN, THAT IS!

Close your eyes and imagine the most lush, exquisite garden of entrancing hues of green...now, open your eyes and this vision is a reality, thanks to the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. To celebrate the luscious landscape and garden, hundreds of patrons flocked to the annual Gala in the Garden benefit which was hosted in a great, white Lakeside Marquee with flora suspended from the ceiling. Community leaders Swannee DiMare and Frances Sevilla-Sacasa once again chaired the formal, elegant black-tie affair which welcomed South Florida's movers and shakers donning crisp tuxes and floor-length designer gowns.

**STEPH SEZ**  
Stephanie  
Sayle Aagaard

Enchanting, captivating and mesmerizing...the Garden sits in awe as guests arrived to kick off the evening in the Adam R. Rose and Peter R. McQuillan Arts Center at the Garden where benefactors began the nighttime journey. Luxury auction items from jewelry to cruises were up for bid as generous partygoers donated funds for the scintillating experiences and more. Guests strolled down a beautifully lit garden path to the grand tent and were welcomed by a sweet aroma and breath-taking site. Picture this setting, visions of stars and light bouncing off the walls and ceiling of the grand structure as gorgeous green plants and orchids created a forest of beautifully hung ornaments over the dance floor. Centrepieces small and tall adorned the lovely tables amid the fragrant and populated venue full of dancing and more.

Event Chair Swannee DiMare addressed the philanthropic audience and thanked all for continuing to make Fairchild a priority in our community and beyond. Short on speeches, guests understood the reason for their patronage and are committed to Fairchild whose organizational mission is the exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants. Known for being a blast to attend and where the dance floor is simply always packed, this year did not disappoint. From the beginning to the end, the Gala in the Garden was a sure success.

### GOLDEN ANGELS

Angels is the perfect word for the absolutely heavenly donors and friends of Jackson Health Foundation. You guessed it, it was that time of year again when more than 550 philanthropists and community leaders gathered at the JW Marriott Marquis in downtown Miami for the annual Golden Angels Gala to benefit the Jackson Health Foundation Miracle Fund. "Oh, what a night" was had by the luminaries in our backyard who turned out to support and celebrate the incredible accomplishments of this Foundation and the benefactors behind it. "This is an incredible night that means so much to us and to our community," said Flavio Lizo, executive vice president and chief development officer of Jackson Health Foundation, the fundraising arm of Jackson Health System. "The role of Jackson Health Foundation is so important and greatly appreciate the fact that the community has come together to support Jackson Health System. It's important to note that while our tax dollars support the health system, those dollars don't take care of all the programs and services that are needed to help those less fortunate and to bring high quality healthcare to everyone in South Florida."



Paul and Swannee DiMare at the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Gala. Photo credit: Manny Hernandez/MannyOfMiami.com.



Dee and Vish Bell with Frances Sevilla-Sacasa and Eugenio Sacasa at the Fairchild Gala in the Garden. Photo credit: Manny Hernandez/MannyOfMiami.com.



Ronnie Brito, Laurie Jennings, Marvin Carsley, and Lucas Vidal at THE COLLECTION Presents the 2020 Jackson Hospital Golden Angels Gala. Photo credit: Seth Browne/WorldRedEye.com.



Terrell Hanks, Darrin Smith, Clifford, Clifford's Father, Gabe Nelson and Jason Jenkins at the 2020 event. Photo credit: Seth Browne/WorldRedEye.com.

The Golden Angels Gala, chaired by Fana Holtz and Silvia Rios Fortun, raised more than \$1.2 million to support the continued growth of Jackson. You can check out many new highlights of Jackson's support including The Christine E. Lynn Rehabilitation Center for The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, a new Critical Care Tower on the main campus of Jackson Memorial Hospital, and the new Jackson West medical campus in Doral housing the Jose Milton Memorial Hospital. "We are so proud to be part of this amazing event, hosted by the Jackson Health Foundation every year," said Fana Holtz, co-chair of the Golden Angels Gala and naming benefactor of Holtz Children's Hospital. "It makes

a huge difference in the lives of patients who come through the doors of Holtz Children's hospital and all the hospitals within Jackson Health System every day."

The event saluted the Golden Angels and the Golden Angel Society's honorary chairs, Roberts and Harvey Chaplin, Janie and Ron Kupferman, Philippe and Marvin Carsley, and Kon Gorin who have dedicated themselves to raising funds for programs and initiatives throughout Jackson Health System. Congratulations!! Notables feasted on a delectable culinary creations and ventured into numerous colorful vignettes for the Moroccan themed night.

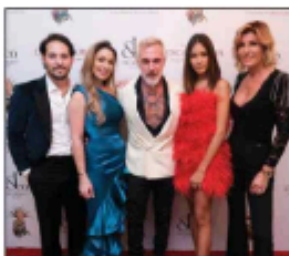
### A BIG NIGHT OUT

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Miami hosted its annual "A Big Night Out" event, honoring the organization's adult mentors (Bigs) at the Carnival Center for Excellence. More than 100 guests enjoyed an awards ceremony and speeches from special guests Terrell Hanks, a current Miami Dolphins linebacker, and Darrin Smith, a former NFL linebacker and University of Miami football player, who are both former "Bibles" themselves. During the event, Darrin Smith surprised a "match" with a pair of Super Bowl LIV tickets provided by the NFL.

### STEPH SEZ SCOOP



Mo Garcia and Seán "Diddy" Combs at Seán "Diddy" Combs at LIV. Photo credit: Seth Browne/WorldRedEye.com.



Rafael Gil, Alexa Iscove, Daniela Yacobi, Sharon Fonseca, and Raffaele Zardo at Encantación Mexican Sports Official Launch Party at Star Island. Photo credit: Seth Browne/WorldRedEye.com.



Kara Franklin and Stacy Miller at Greater Port Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau 2020 Growth Plan Launch. Photo credit: Seth Browne/WorldRedEye.com.



Shelton Lowe and Ken Gorin at THE COLLECTION. Photo credit: Seth Browne/WorldRedEye.com.

STEPH SEZ: If you want your social item in my column, please email me at [stephsez@hotmail.com](mailto:stephsez@hotmail.com)

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