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NEWS

CUTLER BAY

DECEMBER 14 - 27, 2021

Connecting Communities

Flag football registration now open in Cutler Bay

BY GARY ALAN RUSE

Registration currently is open for the 2022 Winter Miami Under the Lights flag football season. League games take place at Lakes by the Bay Park in Cutler Bay.

Miami Under The Lights is powered by Under Armour, with a community partner, PDQ Chicken. The winter season runs January and February with games taking place on Friday nights.

Lakes by the Bay Park is located at 8551 SW 216 St.

Under the Lights is the exclusive youth flag football partner of Under Armour Inc. The league is for both boys and girls of all skill levels and promotes a competitive, confidence building, non-contact football experience.

"I'm very excited to be bringing flag football to Cutler Bay," said league commissioner Carson Kaleo. "I'm looking forward to seeing everyone out there."

Tentative Flag Game Schedule: Friday Games are 5-9 p.m.; Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28, and Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25.

The winter divisional champions will have the opportunity to register for the UA Flag Winter State Championships being held at One Buc place on Mar. 13.

Registration Fees: \$130, flag football regular registration fee ends Dec. 24, 6 p.m.; \$165, flag football late registration fee ends Dec. 31, 6 p.m. Registration closes on Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.

Divisions: kindergarten-second grade,



PLAYERS ARE PICTURED DURING A GAME.



• 6 v 6 format on 25- to 30-yard wide by 50-yard long fields.

• No pass rush, just a 4-6 second sack count. Emphasis on the pass game and run game limitations.

• 9-12 player rosters so everyone plays every game.

• No tryouts. No drafts. Rosters are formed by "friend" or "coach" request. Teams are not evened out by skill since there are no skill assessments.

• Single players will be placed on teams with some similarity and familiarity such as same school, neighborhood, organization, etc., as the other players on the team.

• All coaches are volunteer parents and not provided by Under the Lights.

• Trophies are awarded to the champions of the grade/age division.

• Games played Friday nights.

• Food at the games.

Refund Policy: For more information on refunds, visit the website at www.uaflag.com/page/show/6139554subseason=730373&tab=content or send an email to miami@uaflag.com.

All coaches and volunteers must provide the commissioner of the league with a current coaches certification and background check. Each certificate is valid for one calendar year.

To register, visit online at: <https://uaflag.launchtrack.events/register/miami-fl-winter-2022-under-the-lights-youth-flag-football-powered-by-under-armour>.

third-fourth grade, fifth-sixth grade, seventh-eighth grade.

Any registrations after Dec. 31 will be added to the waiting list. They advise that players will not have a uniform for Week 1 and there's no guarantee on friend requests as their rosters already will be set. You still can participate if they have space on their teams.

Siblings receive a \$15 discount. The first child is at full price with the second and additional children receiving the sibling

discount (not valid for Early Bird Registration pricing). Send an email to Carson Kaleo at miami@uaflag.com to receive your sibling discount.

General league information:

• Player receives an Under Armour game shirt and shorts.

• Head Coach receives an Under Armour 495 youth football.

• 6- to 9-game season including playoffs or consolation games.

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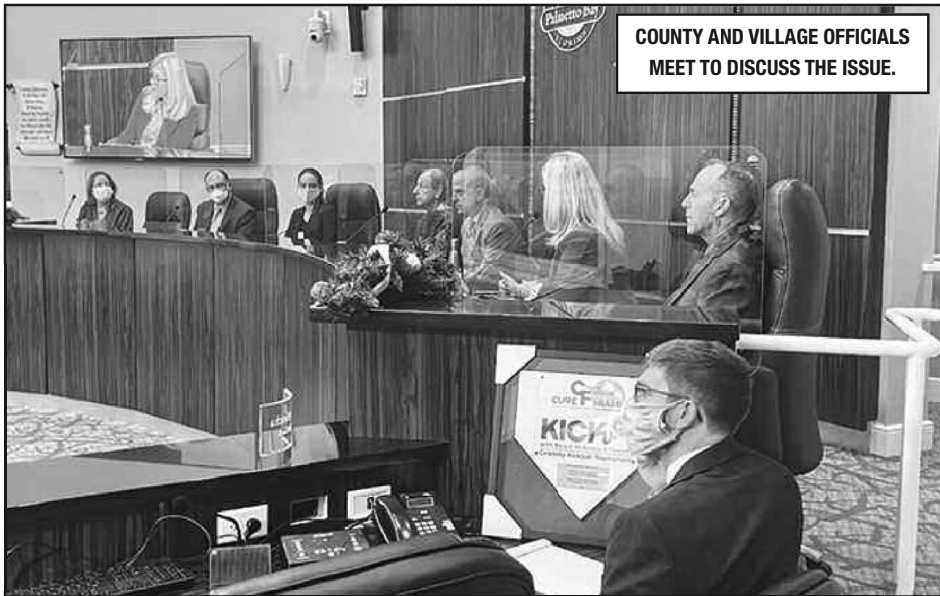
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Debate on SW 87th Avenue bridge continues in village



BY GARY ALAN RUSE

The long contested SW 87th Avenue bridge project over the C-100 Canal that the county has authorized over the protests of Palmetto Bay officials and residents is still the subject of meetings and debate.

During the regular monthly meeting of the Palmetto Bay Village Council on Monday, Oct. 1, the council voted 4-1 to reject the interlocal agreement and continue negotiations, with litigation as a possibility.

Then on Nov. 29, Palmetto Bay officials — including Mayor Karyn Cunningham, Village Attorney John Dellagloria and Special Counsel Gerald Greenberg, Manager Nick Marano, County Attorneys Bruce Libhaber and Annery Alfonso, and Executive Director Aileen Boucle of the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) — conducted a Conflict Resolution Assessment meeting in the Village Council Chambers to discuss the issues raised by the village concerning the Miami-Dade County Commission and TPO approvals of the SW 87th Avenue bridge project, a required precursor to litigation between two governmental entities.

Special Counsel Gerald Greenberg said that the action focused more upon the county commission than on the TPO itself, regarding the resolution passed to build the bridge.

“The village’s position is that it was improperly noticed and acted upon pursuant to a COVID emergency ordinance the county had passed, which was clearly designed to facilitate procurement of goods and services related to the COVID emergency,” Greenspan said. “Clearly, this is not a COVID-related bridge.”

Greenspan also said that it was an improper appropriation of funds, which should be done by ordinance rather than a resolution.

County Attorney Bruce Libhaber strongly disagreed.

“Issues of this being improperly noticed, less than 24 hours before, or being improperly funded by a resolution are wrong and are not what this meeting is about. This meeting is about the TPO, and that meeting was well noticed and about 70 people spoke there.”

The Conflict Assessment Resolution meeting was concluded pending a response from the TPO Board. Mayor Cunningham closed the meeting by encouraging residents to remain engaged by contacting the TPO Governing Board members. Up next is a joint meeting with representatives from the county, the TPO and the village, because the village is currently in mediation with both entities.

Meanwhile, the Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation and Public Works has scheduled a virtual public meeting to discuss the SW 87th Avenue bridge project.

According to the meeting notice, “The project scope includes a new roadway, storm water drainage system, signing and pavement markings, bridge lighting, fencing and landscaping along the project. The objective of the project is to provide connectivity for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians along SW 87th Avenue and to improve traffic network along the SW 87th Avenue corridor within the Village of Palmetto Bay. Funding for this project will be provided from the Road Impact Fees of District 5, pursuant to Section 33E of the Code of Miami-Dade County.”

The virtual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For additional information and to register for the Zoom meeting go to https://miamidade.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cbcUKUh0SnavKIPyEz9lOw.

For information from Miami-Dade County concerning the project, send email to DTP-WOutreach@miamidade.gov.



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THURSDAY, DEC. 16TH, 12-8 P.M.
SANTA PAWS
HOLIDAY PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA
Bring your pet to Southland Mall to take photos with the family and Santa for a paws-ively fun time.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18TH, 2:30 - 4:30 P.M.
THE YULETIDE CAROLERS
Come listen to The Yuletide Carolers as they stroll throughout Southland Mall dressed in Victorian-style attire, while singing holiday songs. It's a must see for the family.

**** All event dates & times are subject to change**

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Photo by Lynn Parks

“Baptist is just a shining star.”

Why I Give: Michael and Valerie Katz

A commercial real estate expert, Michael Katz knows a thing or two about building for success – which is why he is Baptist Health Foundation council chair for Miami Cancer Institute, part of Baptist Health. “I realized it should be my purpose to give what I can,” he says. “I just love thinking about how I can contribute to the Foundation and to the Institute.”

He is also involved in programs like the HEAT. HELP. CURE. Bounce Back from Cancer™, which raises funds for research at the Institute. “It’s a way to get across, in a different form, the mission of Baptist,” he says, “and also to raise awareness that Baptist is here to serve.”

But while Miami Cancer Institute is his philanthropic focus, Michael also believes in spreading the word about Baptist Health’s other specialties, such as cardiovascular, neuroscience and orthopedics. “Baptist has all these different Centers of Excellence – it’s not just limited to one. And that’s a great story to be told.”

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Palmetto Bay welcomes Hanukkah with menorah-lighting ceremony



PICTURED AT THE MENORAH-LIGHTING CEREMONY ARE (l-r) VILLAGE COUNCILMEMBER MARSHA MATSON, VICE MAYOR LEANNE TELLAM, MAYOR KARYN CUNNINGHAM, REBBETZIN CHANI GANSBURG, RABBI ZALMAN GANSBURG, COUNCILMEMBER STEVE CODY, AND COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK FIORE.

BY BARBARA CHOTINER

Beneath glittering palm trees and a star-studded sky, participants of the fourth annual Menorah Lighting at Village Hall enjoyed fresh donuts, chocolate gelt and hot latkes — traditional Hanukkah fare — on the first night of the eight-night holiday.

The event, arranged by Rabbi Zalman Gansburg and Rebbetzin Chani Gansburg, brought together dozens of people of all affiliations from the Palmetto Bay area, joining in a public display of unity and Jewish pride.

As festive music welcomed in the holiday spirit, children joined the celebration with their own exciting activities. Adorned in light-up glasses and light-up Menorah necklaces, the youngsters gleefully filled their own dreidels with an assortment of colorful candy.

Rabbi Gansburg inspired the crowd with

his words of positivity, sharing the implications of light overcoming darkness in our personal lives.

Honored dignitaries, such as the mayor and council members, engaged those attending with messages of community spirit, miracles, and their personal associations with Hanukkah.

Floren Esquenazi recounted the original story of Hanukkah — the struggles and perseverance of the Jews fighting for their religious freedom, and the miracle of our current existence. She expressed her thankfulness for living with religious freedom today.

Marine biologist Yigal Bernstein was honored with lighting the giant Menorah, followed by a joyous rendition of *Maoz Tzur* by the rabbi. Participants departed with a newfound appreciation for the holiday of Hanukkah and motivation to make the world a brighter place — one candle at a time.

Thanksgiving food distribution tradition continues in village

BY GARY ALAN RUSE

Palmetto Bay's District 1 Councilmember Patrick Fiore continued a yearly tradition he had started in 2010 by distributing food boxes to village residents on Sunday, Nov. 21. Mayor Karyn Cunningham accompanied Councilmember Fiore as she has in the past.

"I began this 11 years ago during my first term as councilmember," Fiore said. "Mayor Cunningham joined me a few years later and was kind enough to help me continue the effort, even during the gap between my terms. We were able to provide 30 families with boxes of food from Christ Fellowship Church. There were also gift cards from Publix Supermarket."

Fiore said that he wanted to acknowledge Ydania Peralta and her team of volunteers at Christ Fellowship Church for all their help in gathering the food donations and assembling the boxes.

Mayor Cunningham was pleased to take part in the distribution again.

"This is the 11th annual Thanksgiving Food Drive," Cunningham said. "The initiative began with Councilmember Fiore



MAYOR KARYN CUNNINGHAM (left) IS PICTURED WITH COUNCILMEMBER PATRICK FIORE.

and I have had the opportunity to participate with him since 2012. We are grateful for the collaboration with Christ Fellowship and Publix to be able to make the holidays a little easier for some of our Palmetto Bay families."

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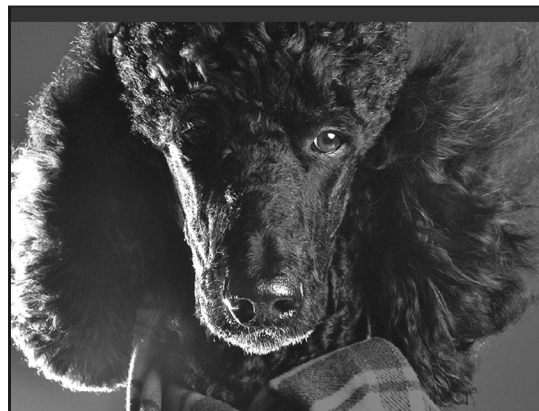
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Brightline celebrates magic of holidays throughout December

BY BRIANA CIRAULO

This holiday season, Brightline, the only provider of modern, eco-friendly, intercity rail in America, will be spreading holiday cheer through a series of festive holiday happenings taking place throughout the month of December.

Brightline will transform MiamiCentral station into a winter wonderland with its first-ever "ice" skating rink available to riders and those attending The Polar Express; a holiday bazaar; family activities, and holiday-inspired cocktails and treats at Brightline's new bar, Mary Mary.

MIAMICENTRAL'S WINTER WONDERLAND

This December, Brightline will transform MiamiCentral into a winter wonderland with a special opportunity for South Floridians to strap on ice skates and enjoy a pop-up "ice" skating rink in the center of the station. Access to the rink will be available to those with a Brightline train ticket, or a ticket on The Polar Express. Rink operating hours are Dec. 13-17, 3-8 p.m., and Dec. 11, 12 and 18-30 (closed on Christmas Day), noon-8 p.m.



SANTA CLAUS GREETES YOUNGSTERS ON BRIGHTLINE'S THE POLAR EXPRESS TRAIN RIDE.

THE POLAR EXPRESS

Simultaneously, in partnership with Rail Events Productions, Brightline is celebrating the return of the immersive family-oriented experience, The Polar Express Train Ride, at MiamiCentral presented by Walkers Shortbread. The adventure of this holiday classic comes to life when the festive Brightline train departs for a journey led by a cast of talented actors.

Set to the sounds of the motion picture soundtrack, passengers will relive the magic of this story as they are whisked away on The Polar Express for a one-hour trip to meet and interact with Santa. The Polar Express Train Ride operates Dec. 11-30, departing from Brightline's MiamiCentral Station.

Seats are available to book now at miamithepolarexpressride.com. Guests are encouraged to book early as this beloved holiday tradition is expected to sell out.

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Brightline's MiamiCentral station also will feature a holiday pop-up to keep kids occupied during school break which includes a themed photo booth perfect for family photos and a holiday card making station where children can write letters to Santa. Free, fun family activities during the pop-up also will include festive face painting, balloon twisting and glitter tattoos. The multi-station pop-up will take place Dec. 20, 22, 24, 27, 29 and 30, from noon to 5 p.m.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND MAKER'S MARKET

Head to the Bazaar at Citizens at MiamiCentral to celebrate the season and shop for holiday gifts from local vendors while enjoying a deejay spinning seasonal tunes. The Bazaar will be activated Dec. 11-12, noon-10 p.m. On Dec. 18-19, Brightline will activate a "Maker's Market" of local businesses that includes a selection of women's designer and menswear, swimwear, jewelry and accessories, home decor, beauty and activewear boutiques for holiday shopping.

Getting to the station to enjoy all December's action has never been easier with the launch of Brightline+. Brightline riders now will get to experience this new and first-of-its-kind branded, door-to-door booking service, which will include a Brightline-branded mobility fleet. The electric mobility fleet is Brightline's investment to provide travelers in South Florida a door-to-door solution to travel by train, powered by Brightline's new app and supported by the fleet.

For the most up to date schedule of holiday happenings at Brightline, visit www.gobrightline.com.

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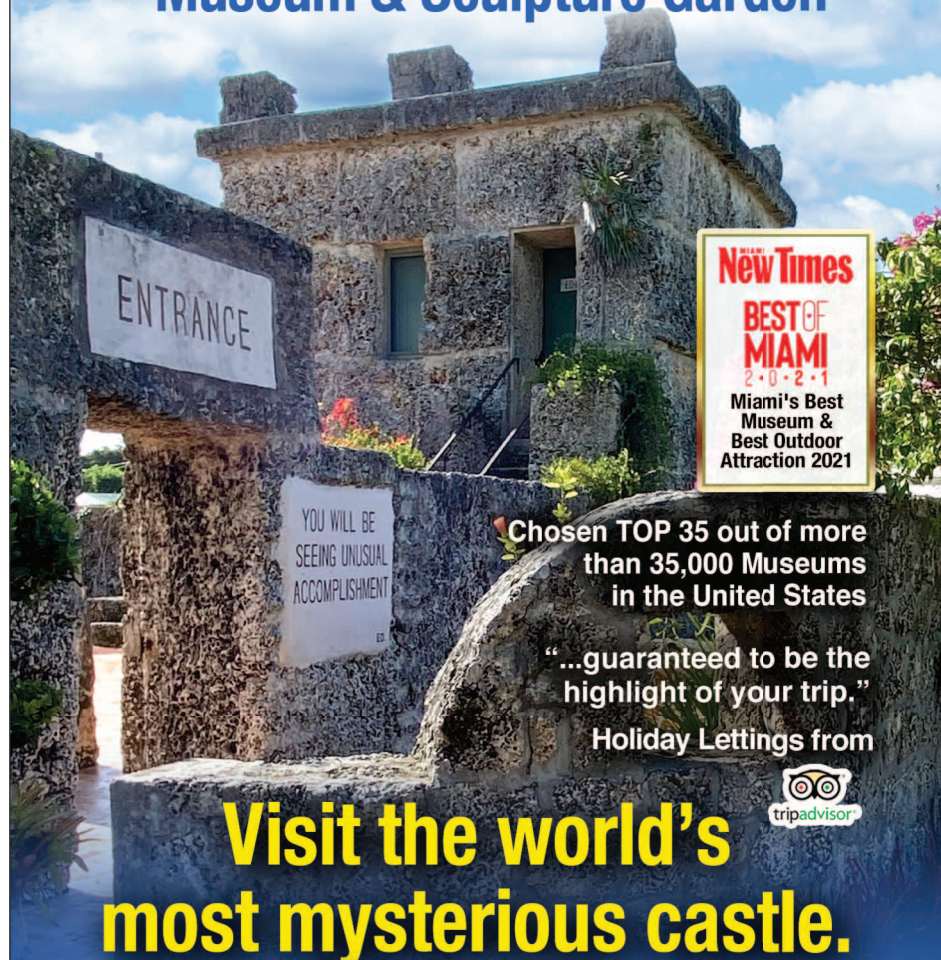


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Village honors Deanna Dalby with Principal of Year Award

TO MIAMI'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Drive by Howard Drive Elementary on SW 136th Street any day of the week and you are almost guaranteed to see Deanna Dalby escorting students to their cars, often in the pouring rain or searing heat.

Her open-door policy means she is always welcoming parents into her office to discuss various concerns and working hard to find solutions. She can be found cleaning up debris at the school after storms or blowing off leaves from the outdoor lobby to keep her school clean and safe. She volunteers to get pie in the face, silly stringed and have stunt bikers perform jumps over her head in order to engage her students.

After 17 years as the principal at Howard Drive, Dalby continues to dedicate her heart and soul to her students and families. She was acknowledged for her exemplary service to the community during a Palmetto Bay Council meeting on Nov. 1 where she was awarded the 2021 Greg Zawyer Principal of the Year Award.

The award was created by the Village of Palmetto Bay in honor of Greg Zawyer who served the students and parents of Miami-Dade Public Schools for over 40 years. A recipient of numerous honors and awards throughout his tenure, Zawyer also raised more than \$6 million in scholarships per year via community partnerships. Dalby was the second ever to receive this prestigious award as an outstanding principal in the Village of Palmetto Bay with Zawyer being the first recipient.

"Principal Dalby has been creating educational opportunities for over 37



DEANNA DALBY

years," said Luisa Santos, Miami-Dade School Board member for District 9. "She has a dedicated and wonderful career in education. She is a caring individual. I know from staff and faculty that when her staff is going through personal troubles that she is there every step of the way.

"She is also willing to do what it takes to make sure that her school continues to thrive. She embodies the educator's spirit in everything that she does. She knows that it takes a village to raise a child."

Mary Martinez is South Region Rookie Teacher of the Year

BY LEE STEPHENS

Teacher Mary Martinez's passion is getting her kindergarten students to learn despite distractions and challenges.

Even for kindergarteners, school life can both inspire and frustrate. But in the end, she and her students rely on a motivational message.

"Team work makes the dream work," explained Martinez, who teaches at Pinecrest Elementary and is South Region Rookie Teacher of the Year.

She is in her fourth year as a teacher in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, with the fifth year being the cutoff for the "Rookie Teacher" competition.

Her kids now have returned to in-class schooling, getting excited about the holidays, seeing old friends and making new ones. It feels like it was before COVID-19, but everyone understands things have changed and will continue to change — in many ways for the better.

The way Martinez sees it, dealing with COVID-19 has been an opportunity to teach in new ways and to learn how to adapt. She was teaching virtually for a year, which required learning and implementing strategies to motivate herself and students. Martinez watched the kids as they focused and strayed, keeping them interested by changing the lessons, by using different words and by getting them to work together even if they were miles apart.

Some of her best moments took place outside, when kids gathered at the park to



MARY MARTINEZ

see each other and their teacher.

"They would say, 'I'm bringing my Legos...to the park,'" she said. "They were so excited and really looked forward to our regular get-togethers."

Like all kids, the brightness in their eyes led the way for them to return to the classroom. They brought their energy and their enthusiasm, which was like sunshine returning to her life, Martinez said.

"I'm so excited to see where the rest of the year takes us," she said. "There is so much potential, so many fun things to do, so many great memories to create. It's going to be a great 2022."

Martinez is now competing for districtwide Rookie Teacher of the Year.

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Photo: Lynn Parks

Coogie, now 4 years old, shown reading his own story with mom & author Lynda Gordon!



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Area Stage Conservatory now presenting Road Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr. until Dec. 19

TO MIAMI'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Area Stage Company currently is presenting its next Conservatory (student) production, *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Jr.*, at the ASC Black Box Theatre in Sunset Place, 5701 Sunset Dr., Suite 286, in South Miami.

Remaining performances are Friday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, at 5 p.m.

ASC's director of Conservatory Education, Rebecca Ashton, directs and choreographs this wondrous production which will be performed by students ages 6-17.

For more than 50 years, *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* has captivated audiences in a world of pure imagination. Featuring the enchanting songs that you know and love from the 1971 film, in addition to a host of fun new songs, this performance is a scrumdiddlyumptious musical guaranteed to delight

every audience member's sweet tooth.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka, world-famous inventor of the Everlasting Gobstopper, as he stages a contest by hiding golden tickets in five of his scrumptious candy bars. This production will feature innovative, in-the-round staging, and a new, modern take on the charming tale that has been a worldwide favorite for decades.

Tickets are available now — General Audience, \$30/Students, \$15 — at www.simplerix.com/e/willy-wonka-tickets-82756.

All COVID regulations will be complied with and masks are encouraged at all times while inside the theater. Exposure to COVID-19 is an inherent risk in any public location where people are present. ASC cannot guarantee you will not be exposed during your visit.

FIU names Scott Carr new athletic director

BY MADELINE BARÓ

Scott Carr has been named Florida International University's new athletic director. Carr comes to FIU from the University of Central Florida where he has served as deputy and interim athletic director.

Carr, 49, who joined FIU on Dec. 1, brings 25 years of experience in intercollegiate athletics. Prior to arriving at UCF, Carr served as senior associate athletic director for external affairs at Auburn University. He also held positions at the University of Southern Mississippi and the FedEx Orange Bowl.

A native of Gainesville, Carr earned a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Florida in 1995 and a master's degree in sports management in 1997.

"Scott has a track record of helping student-athletes succeed on and off the field," said FIU president Mark B. Rosenberg. "We are committed to supporting our Athletic Department to ensure FIU competes at the highest levels of intercollegiate athletics. Scott is the right leader for FIU Athletics at this time in the history of our program."

FIU Athletics has had many successes in the past few years. The football team played in three bowl games, the swimming and diving team won seven consecutive Conference USA championships and the men's basketball team is on its way to its third winning season in the past four years. This fall, the men's soccer team defeated the No. 1-ranked team in the nation and became Conference USA regular season champions.

Off the field, student-athletes posted an overall GPA of 3.0 or better in 12 straight semesters and all the seniors on the 2021 football team graduated on time. Comprised of more than 450 student-athletes, FIU Athletics competes



SCOTT CARR

in 17 Division I sports.

"My family and I couldn't be more excited to join the FIU family and serve as your next director of athletics," Carr said. "I see the tremendous opportunities to grow FIU Athletics."

"We have an outstanding academic institution, a large, energetic student body, tremendous staff, coaches and student-athletes, passionate alumni and we're located in a phenomenal city. I can't wait to get started," he added.

"Athletics is a central piece to the dynamic, high-achieving university FIU has become," said Dean C. Colson, FIU Board of Trustees chair. "We are confident that under Carr's leadership our Panthers will thrive and match their academic success with countless achievements on the court, in the field and in the pool."

Carr succeeds interim athletic director Heath Glick who has led the program while a national search was conducted for a new athletic director.

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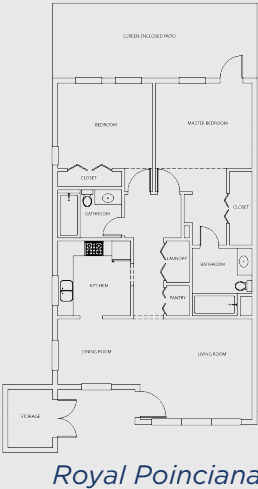
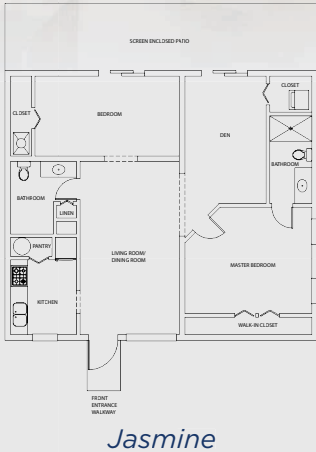
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Construction begins on Biscayne-Everglades Greenway Trail

BY CAMILA VARGARCEL

Construction has begun officially on the highly anticipated Biscayne-Everglades Greenway Trail.

The bicycle and pedestrian trail is the first of its kind to connect two national parks.

From families to the experienced, riders and pedestrians will be able to enjoy the 42-mile paved loop that links the natural, cultural, and historical resources of South Florida. The trail will take riders through Downtown Homestead and connect them directly to Biscayne and Everglades National Parks.



Residents can expect construction throughout the City of Homestead as the trail is being completed. The Biscayne-Everglades Greenway Trail seeks to offer a safe

and scenic route to the parks without concern for vehicular traffic.

The project is a result of a partnership between the City of Homestead and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) SUN Trail Grant. The trail is

entirely grant funded and is a part of the longstanding mission of the City of Homestead and FDOT to promote health, wellness, and a safe scenic route for riders.

HPS Energy recognized by FMEA with 'Building Strong Communities' Award

BY CAMILA VARGARCEL

Homestead Public Services (HPS) Energy recently received statewide recognition at the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) Energy Connections Conference for the City of Homestead's "See Something, Say Something" campaign.

HPS Energy staff reported items such as pot holes, trash, graffiti, illegal dumping, unsafe neighborhood conditions, and much more. They also attended local school Career Days and hosted tours of the Power Plant, Dispatch Center, and Line Crew demonstrations.

"We are honored to receive the 'Building Strong Communities' award. Our HPS employees are a part of the

community and strive on a daily basis to make the City a better place to live," said HPS Energy director Barbara Quiñones.

"As a municipal utility that offers our customers low rates and dedicated service, we are proud of what we do. The entire HPS Department loves the Homestead community and are thankful to personally serve our residents. At HPS, the citizens of the community are not just customers, they're neighbors," Quiñones added.

Homestead Public Service's Electric Department serves 26,203 customers and, for more than 100 years, HPS has made it possible for the residents of Homestead to own and control their energy future while receiving affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible power.

WASD awarded a \$424 million WIFIA loan to fund treatment plant upgrades

BY JENNIFER L. MESSEMER-SKOLD

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has allocated an additional \$424 million through a low-interest WIFIA loan to the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (WASD) — raising the department's total in federal funding to nearly \$1.1 billion during the last 30 months — that will finance vital upgrades to its Central and North District Wastewater Treatment Plants.

WASD is the only utility in the nation to receive four consecutive WIFIA loans since the inception of this program.

"Partnering with the EPA and utilizing their WIFIA loans allows us to accelerate wastewater projects, which demonstrate that investments in infrastructure can provide economic, environmental and employment benefits for our community," said Roy Coley, WASD director. "We not only look for innovative ways to implement new technologies as part of our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects, but we are just as committed to employing inventive financing opportunities. This allows our department to be a responsible steward of not only our natural resources, but also our customers' financial investments."

WASD will use the \$424 million low-interest loan to fund nearly half of a \$866 million upgrade to the department's Central and North District wastewater treatment plants to meet compliance requirements of the Ocean Outfall Legislation Program, a statewide directive to reduce nutrient discharges to the ocean and promote water reuse alternatives. Projects include the construction of deep injection wells, monitoring wells and other facilities that aid in higher level wastewater treatment processes.

"Congratulations to our partners at Miami-Dade County on closing your fourth WIFIA loan — a first for this low-interest loan

program," said Radhika Fox, EPA assistant administrator for water. "This project will improve water quality for wildlife and recreation and bolster climate resiliency while creating 2,700 quality jobs. These benefits for Miami-Dade County exemplify what the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal can deliver for communities across the country."

Department upgrades also include essential facility hardening that take sea level rise into account, resulting in improved site resiliency ensuring continued service reliability even during severe weather events.

"Investing and updating our county's treatment plants allows us to continue delivering reliable service to our community while also safeguarding the bay, protecting our clean water, and building for a more resilient future — and at the same time creating jobs for our residents," said Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. "These upgrades are investments in the future health and prosperity of our community for decades to come. I'm grateful to the EPA and Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox, a long-time fellow water warrior, for these key investments in the future of Miami-Dade."

This WIFIA loan will create 226 direct jobs related to the construction projects. The funding of these projects through a low-interest loan rather than other funding options will save customers \$88 million throughout the life of the loan, reducing future rate increases.

To date, WASD's four WIFIA loans have totaled nearly \$1.1 billion and will finance approximately \$2.2 billion worth of projects within the department's multi-billion-dollar CIP, create 760 direct jobs and save ratepayers approximately \$297 million in interest for the life of these loans when compared to other financing options.

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2022 Nissan Frontier delivers a good driving feeling



Grant Miller

CAR CORNER

Everyone loves the shape of the 2022 Nissan Frontier I have been driving — and so do I.

It looks great and it drives like a beast, with 310 horsepower coming from a 3.8-liter V6 engine. According to Nissan, no corners were cut with Frontier's full-length, fully boxed frame. A strong frame is what durability is all about, and Frontier has strength you can feel inside and outside the vehicle.

This monster generates 281 pound-feet of power at a starting price of about \$28,000. And don't worry, there's no "base engine." With Frontier, you don't have to upgrade because this engine and transmission combination comes standard.

This truck gets 18 miles per gallon in the city and 24 mpg on the highway, with 20 mpg combined.

So let's get down to the basics: the all-

new 2022 Frontier builds on Nissan's six-plus decades of midsize truck leadership with a bold new exterior, stylized interior and the latest driver assistance and connectivity technologies. It is an authentic midsize truck with a range of body, drivetrain and equipment configurations carefully selected to fit customer needs.

The 2022 Frontier King Cab is offered in 4x2 and 4x4 S and SV grades with a six-foot bed. The 2022 Frontier Crew Cab is offered in 4x2 and 4x4 S and SV (SWB and LWB) grades, as well as PRO-4X (4x4 only) and new-for-2022 PRO-X (4x2 only) grades. All Crew Cab models feature a five-foot bed except the SV LWB model, which features a six-foot bed.

When it's time to haul a full load, the 2022 Nissan Frontier utilizes direct injection, which gives you a quick response, with up to 6,720 pounds of maximum towing capacity. The smooth, nine-speed automatic transmission is integrated seamlessly into this powerful package of performance.

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the leaf springs over — instead of under — the rear axle.

This truck engineered for toughness and durability maximizes the tires' contact with the ground. The Frontier's front suspension helps it maintain grip in a variety of conditions, which is essential to driving with confidence. In the rear, the over-slung rigid leaf spring design helps deliver both off-road prowess and high-load durability. All these details matter and should make a difference when making a decision about a new purchase.

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Grant Miller is the publisher of Miami's Community Newspapers. He may be contacted by calling 305-662-2277 or by addressing email to <Grant@CommunityNewspapers.com>.



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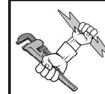
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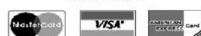
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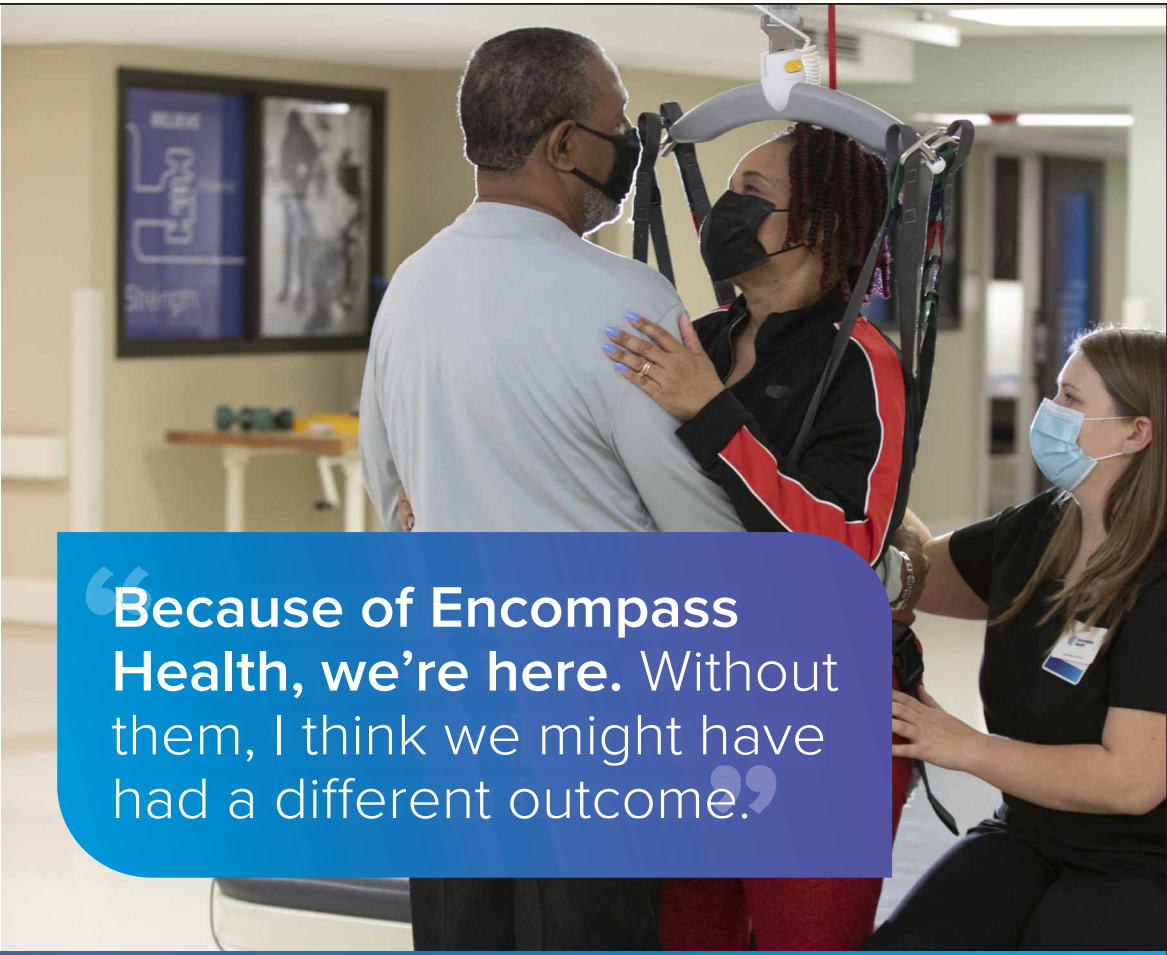
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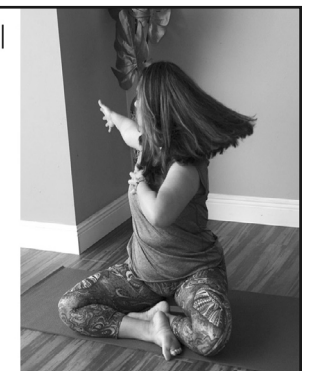
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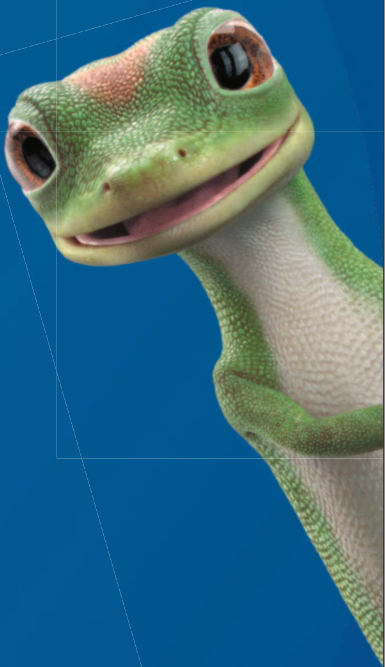
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