

## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

## Feds: Don't promote exchange

BY NICHOLAS NEHAMAS  
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The federal government has told Tallahassee-based public relations firm Salter Mitchell that it cannot promote the state's health insurance marketplace, a long-time client, because of a conflict of interest, according to the state and the firm.

Salter Mitchell also works for the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which administer healthcare.gov, the federally run healthcare exchange.

The firm relayed the federal decision to Florida last month, saying that it would not be able to market the state exchange during the open enrollment period, from Nov. 15 to Feb. 15, when Americans can sign up for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

The conflict arose be-

cause, starting in January, the state exchange will for the first time sell comprehensive health plans compliant with the ACA, although it will not offer subsidies as healthcare.gov does.

Rose Naff, CEO of Florida Health Choices, said that federal government's action, with its implication that the state exchange would compete with healthcare.gov, seemed "counter-intuitive."

"Their target market is individuals who qualify for federal subsidies. We're going after Floridians who don't need a subsidy," Naff said.

Gov. Rick Scott has sparred with the Obama administration over the health law. State legislators have so far refused to use about \$5 billion in federal funds to expand Medicaid to an estimated 760,000 uninsured Floridians.

A coalition of business interests and private citizens floated an alternate proposal, which is gaining traction among state leaders, that would allow Florida to expand Medicaid.

CMS spokesman Aaron Albright wouldn't comment on the conflict of interest decision. CMS had a contractual right to intervene, said Peter Mitchell, chairman of Salter Mitchell.

"Anytime we're doing work on one account that might overlap with another, we take it to the client," he said. "And CMS felt since Florida Health Choices was moving into comprehensive health plans that it presented a conflict to do promotional work for them."

This article was produced in collaboration with Kaiser Health News, an editorially independent program of the Kaiser Family Foundation.

## MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Girl, 16, who claims teacher took her virginity, files suit

BY CRYSTAL CHEW  
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A former South Dade Senior High student is suing the Miami-Dade County School Board for not providing her with better protection from her teacher who sent her lewd texts and had sex with the minor.

The 16-year-old, who goes by the initials C.R.R., is also asking for damages from her former geometry teacher Bresniel Jansen Mones, who the lawsuit claims sent her graphic texts and took her virginity on his desk in December 2013.

The suit asks for monetary damages and claims neglect on behalf of the School Board, which it says knew of a similar incident at the same school also involving Mones, five years ago.

The suit says that in the fall of 2013, the girl was the victim of "unlawful intentional sexual battery, statutory rape and other acts of sexual misconduct," and that Mones committed the alleged crimes "while working as an employee of the School Board."

Mones could not be reached Thursday and his criminal attorney — who represented him during an earlier plea deal after his arrest in January — was out of town. It's not known if he has representation in the civil suit filed Thursday.

John Schuster, spokesman for Miami-Dade Public Schools, wouldn't address the lawsuit, saying, "the district does not comment on pending litigation."

In January, Mones, 32 at the time, was arrested by

The lawsuit asks for monetary damages and claims neglect on behalf of the School Board.

Miami-Dade Schools Police after the school's principal learned he was having sex with the unnamed 16-year-old. A friend of the victim informed the principal, who notified police. Mones was originally charged with sexual battery, but reached an agreement with the Miami-Dade State Attorney for lesser charges.

In September, Mones pleaded guilty to sending lewd texts to his student through the school's email system and by text to the girl's phone. He also was charged with three counts of having sex with a minor.

Under the agreement, Mones was forced to register as a sex offender, never teach or babysit again and to stay away from minors. He agreed to 10 years probation, but the probation could end after eight years if he abides by the rules.

The civil suit filed Thursday says the School Board was aware of Mones' history and should have been more protective of its students at South Dade High in Homestead. The girl's attorney provided the Miami Herald with the results of an investigation by Schools Police into an incident in 2008 in which no probable cause was found to charge Mones.

The 10-page report shows MySpace and text message correspondence between Mones and another of his geometry students, but con-

cludes that Mones did not engage in "sexually inappropriate conduct" with the student. Still, it found that he might have broken a rule that forbids even the appearance of impropriety. He was never punished.

The civil suit contends Mones began teaching C.R.R. during the first quarter of 2013 and by the fall had sent messages that began as school-related, but escalated to a "very graphic, sexual nature." It says between September and December 2013, Mones had oral sex with the girl and that "the sexual abuse continued and escalated to rape," culminating in Mones "taking C.R.R.'s virginity on his desk in his classroom at South Dade High School on Dec. 20, 2013."

Eventually, at her request, the lawsuit says, the student was transferred to Felix Varela High. What she didn't know was that Mones lived directly across the street from the school. She's been home schooled since.

"The intentional sexual battery by Jansen and grossly negligent, indifferent and reckless conduct, and breach of trust and confidence by School Board has caused C.R.R. to experience severe and permanent psychological injuries and loss of her virginity," the lawsuit says.

Miami Herald Staff Writer Charles Rabin contributed to this report.

## OBITUARIES • MEMORIALS • SERVICES

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## DEATH NOTICES

**CAVALIERI PRIETO,** Milagros Laura, passed away December 17, 2014. She was a wonderful friend and beam of light to all who knew her and had an immense love for life. She was the most dedicated and loving mother of Christian, Valeria and Andrea and best friend and loving wife of Diego. Visitation 6 - 10 pm with prayers at 7 pm Sunday at VAN ORSDER CORAL GABLES, Mass of the Resurrection 12:30 pm Monday at the Church of the Little Flower, 2711 Indian Mound Trail, Coral Gables.

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**FASSBACH,** MARIAN HUGHES, 86, passed away after a long illness on Tuesday, December 16th, 2014. She was born in Miami on December 24, 1927. She retired from Bell South after 40 years of service. Marian then traveled the world after her husband, Harry, passed away in 1984. She was a member of the Pioneers, Elks Club and the Coral Gables Country Club. She is survived by Wendy Collins, John Hughes, Charles and Cynthia Norton, Mary Ann Monday and Family, Frances Fassbach along with many other nieces, nephews and other family members. A viewing will be held today, Friday December 19, 2014 at 11:00 am at Van Orsdel Kendall Chapel, Followed by a Celebration of Life service at 12:00 pm. The Burial will be private.

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**MORA, ORESTES RAUL**

Beloved husband, father of five, grandfather, brother, friend, coworker, coach, and mentor, Orestes Raul Mora, 64 years of age, passed away in Miami Jackson Hospital on Monday, December 15th, 2014. Orestes is survived by his wife, Lydia G. Mora, three sons Orestes Robert Mora, Daniel J. Mora, David J. Mora, daughters Odalys L. Hodges, Maribel G. Harder, and six grandchildren. His family would like to extend an invitation to those who wish to pay their respects. Viewing is at the Caballero Rivero Woodlawn Westchester Chapel (7pm-12am), 8200 SW 40th Street on Friday, December 19th.

## How to Place an Obituary

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## DEATH NOTICES

**PRESMAN, DR.**

**MARIO 'Pipa' Pressman** passed away December 15, 2014 in Beverly Hills, California. He was born Mieczyslaw Pressman in Poland on October 23, 1920. At the age of three, Mario left Poland for Cuba and shortly thereafter moved with his family to Quellota, Chile. When Mario was eleven years old, the Presman family returned briefly to Cuba before moving to the Dominican Republic where, after graduating high school, Mario entered the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo to study medicine. During the course of his studies in 1945, the Presman family moved once again back to Cuba where Mario restarted his medical education at the University of Havana and married his childhood sweetheart, Fanita Stone in 1946. After graduating medical school in 1951, Mario completed his Residency and Fellowship within the Department of Radiology and worked as an Associate Physician within the same department until 1959.

In 1960, after the Cuban Revolution, Mario accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor of Radiology at the General Clixto Garcia University Hospital, in central Havana but, after his brother-in-law Dr. Mario Stone was arrested and narrowly escaped execution, Mario, with his wife and two young children Marsha and George, decided to flee Cuba. In 1961 Mario arrived in Miami with one suitcase and speaking little English.

On arrival in Florida, Mario dedicated himself to obtaining the necessary certifications and qualifications that would allow him to practice medicine in the United States. While doing so, he secured a position at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Coral Gables, initially as a senior resident in the radiology department and then as a staff radiologist. Mario became a naturalized citizen of the United States on October, 3rd 1966. A year later received his license to practice medicine in Florida and was appointed Assistant Chief of Radiology services at Veterans Administration Hospital. In 1970 he became a Clinical Instructor on the voluntary faculty of Jackson Memorial Hospital and in 1972, a Clinical Instructor in the Department of Radiology at the University of Miami, School of Medicine. He worked in the radiology department at St. Francis Hospital in the mid-1970s and completed a year fellowship in nuclear medicine at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami between 1978 and 1979.

Throughout his career Mario continued to pursue a greater knowledge of his chosen discipline and consistently received AMA Physician's Recognition Awards in Continuing Education from 1974 through 1989. He was an active member of the Cuban Medical Association in Exile, the Cuban Radiological Society and the Dade County Radiological Society. On his retirement, Mario was a staff radiologist at the Veterans Administration Medical Center and an associate clinical professor at the University of Miami Medical School.

Dr. Mario 'Pipa' Pressman is survived by his beloved wife Fanita of 68 years, loving children Marsha and George and cherished grandchildren Brett, Max, Dash, Chanel & Skyler, dear sister Anita Wagner Sorojon nephews & Bigelman nephews.

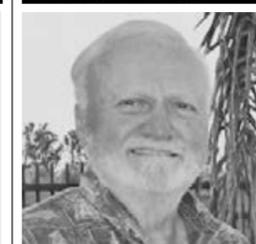
Chapel Service 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2014 at Levitt-Weinstein Eternal Light Funeral Center, 18840 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami Beach, FL 33180.

Arrangements by Blasberg-Rubin-Zilbert Memorial Chapel (305) 865-2353

## Keep their memory

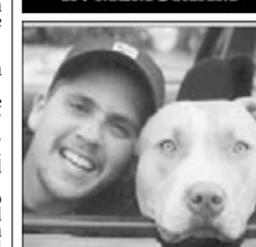
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## DEATH NOTICES

**HALL, ROGER EVANS,**

83, passed away December 10, 2014. He is survived by his wife Barbara, his 3 sons Christopher, Cameron, Jonathan (Lois), grandchildren Jonah and Kason, and sister Carol Hall (Pietro Daniele). Roger was originally from Los Angeles, CA and is a graduate of USC. Roger joined Arvida Company in 1969 and was responsible for Boca West in Boca Raton and Weston in Ft. Lauderdale. After developing Weston he became President and then Chairman of Arvida Company. After retiring from Arvida he started his own company, Hallmark Group, where he was involved in developing exclusive resort, hotel and residential properties in California, Mexico and Costa Rica. He will be missed by the many friends and colleagues that he touched with his generosity and compassion.

## IN MEMORIAM

**David R McKenzie**

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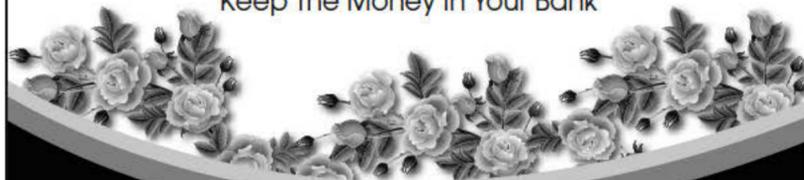
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