



## NEW RESTAURANT

CONCEPT TAKES A BITE OF THE POMPANO FOODIE SCENE

**BITE EATERY SET TO DEBUT MARCH 1ST... FINALLY**

By Kristen Hernandez

The argument about what to eat can be settled at Pompano Beach's newest restaurant, The Bite Eatery, soon to open at the Village Harbor Shoppes located at 2715 East Atlantic Blvd. Considered to be an upscale food hall, The Bite Eatery's unique landscape transformed the 9,000-square-foot space into a welcoming place for gastric globetrotters.

**N**INE separate restaurants, each with its own cuisine, décor, kitchen, staff, and menu, are slated to showcase a culinary tour like no other space in South Florida. Cultures such as Cuban, Italian, Mexican, New England, New York, Peruvian, and of course, **■ New Restaurant, see page 11**



## LINDA HOUSTON JONES: A PASSION FOR ARTS

By Attiyya Atkins

Linda Houston Jones, founder of Ashanti Cultural Arts, leaves behind a legacy of community advocacy, social justice, and a passion for the arts. Jones passed away in November, but her spirit will live on in the programs she's

■ *Linda Houston Jones, see page 11*

## LOCAL EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By China Boynton

February brings us lots of great gifts like Valentine's Day and winter weather, February is also known as Black History Month in the United States. Here's a glimpse of different local events to cel-

■ *Black History Month, see page 8*

## Pompano-No-NO! To Atlantic Blvd. Lane Closure

PROGRESS IN POMPANO PROJECT CALLED OUT BY CONCERNED CITIZENS, AGAIN

By Kristen Hernandez

The traffic on Atlantic Blvd. is a nightmare, residents say. Frustrated residents spoke up during the January 24 Pompano Beach city commission meeting, opposing the city's beautification project for the

Atlantic Blvd. and Dixie Hwy intersection. It doesn't matter that voters helped to pass the Progress in Pompano project in 2018 to create a walkable and bicycle-friendly downtown; traffic congestion is testing many residents' patience.

■ *To Atlantic, see page 8*





# ONE MINUTE IN THE WORD



## GENESIS CHAPTER 26 VERSE 32 (KJV)

Creation  
The Fall  
The Flood  
The Nations  
Villij News

People say..." You don't know what you've got till it's gone." Truth is you knew what you had. You just never thought you'd lose it.

The text says in Genesis Chapter 26 and Verse 32. That day, Isaac's servants came and told him about a well they had dug. They said we've found water.

Villij News

I want you to know in 2023, God is going to give you a 100-fold blessing this year. In Isaac's day, he planted crops. This is your day. Will you text

someone and tell them I love you? For that single mom, will you buy a bicycle for her son? And for that family you know is struggling... will you be a major blessing to them and watch God breathe on your seed?

This reminds me of our text. Isaac knew that everybody wasn't rooting for him. Some people want to see you walk right out on that stage and collapse. But can you copy off Isaac's paper today and Dig Again.

If climbing the mountain was easy then everybody would be on top. People and life have clogged up your wells and you're wondering why you're getting mud and not water. Baby, you've got to Dig Again. Dig through disputes,

dig through opposition, dig through lies, dig through being stuck in neutral, dig through people's negative opinions about you. Dig until it's room enough for you and your children's children to live your best life. And that's your One Minute in the Word!

Life Question: Have you allowed the missteps in life, the setbacks, the disappointments, the problems, the pain, and the persecution keep you from digging again?

Follow the One Minute Preacher on YouTube @TLG Fashion and Instagram @the1minutepreacher.

And it came to pass the same day, that Isaac's servants came, and told him concerning the well which they had digged, and said unto him, We have found water.

### DIG AGAIN

The Book of Genesis can be broken down into four major events:

## Church Directory



**BISHOP  
GARY MCLEOD**

Bishop Gary McLeod, Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church of Deliverance, 1401 S Dixie Highway E, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Service Sundays at 11:45 a.m.;  
Tuesdays at 7 p.m.



**PASTOR  
ROBERT STANLEY**

Pastor Robert Stanley, Hopewell Baptist Church, 890 NW 15th Street, Pompano Beach, 33060

Corporate Worship Service Sundays  
at 9:30 a.m.



**APOSTLE JOHN L.  
MOHORN JR.**

Apostle John L. Mohorn Jr., Word of Living God Ministries, 149 N.W. 26th Ave, Pompano Beach, Florida 33069

Service Sundays at 10 a.m., 7 p.m.;  
Fridays at 8 p.m.

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# Ask Annie

DEAR ANNIE,

I need help with my relationship. I'm really going through it with the mother of my child. She's got a nasty spending habit, and it's caused us to go into debt considerably. I really love her and was taught as a man to protect and provide and do what's necessary to make her happy.

ing problem a.k.a. my wife.

Sincerely,

Don't Wanna Be Broke No More

Dear Don't Wanna Be Broke No More,

**B**UT at this point, she's going out of control with the spending. She has spent the money that we put aside for our first home and is trying to get more money to go to the BEYONCÉ concert. She doesn't work. I take care of her and the kids. I do give her a good monthly allowance to spend to get new things, make sure her hair is done, and her nails are done. She's very well-kept, but she's really starting to become a hindrance to my dreams and goals that I have for myself and my family. So how do I deal with this spend-

First off, you shouldn't be providing for her because it makes HER happy. My grandma told me you can't make no one happy, that's their own business. If you want to provide, do it because you want to with no strings attached. To me, it sounds like you've made an environment for a parasite to get comfortable... for entitlement to sink in. Your girl has got no gumption, no wherewithal, no desire, and no ambition. Like why would you even let her spend the money for the house?!? She just wants to collect. Now, don't get me twisted. A good woman should

be treated as royalty because there are things that we can do that no one else can do. A man who finds a wife finds a good thing. We can bring life. We can nurture anything. We can grow anything, so some things need to be respected and appreciated. But it would be best if you went make yourself happy and encourage her to do the same. It sounds like she has some other voids and issues within her life so she resorts to spending money. Have you heard of retail therapy? It's a real thing. People spend money when they're experiencing grief or need to cope. It's important for you to check your wife and see what her deeper issues are. Think about therapy, it may be helpful. And if she wants to go to the BEYONCE concert and it's not hurting you any, let her go because it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. As a matter of fact, go ahead and start therapy after the BEYONCE concert because you're going to need those coins. My thoughts, you asked.



## 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

Boy oh boy, 2022 was a year! We thought we were done with COVID-19, sike... it was still messing with us, even more strains wanted to pop up. Will Smith smacked the hell out Chris Rock on live TV. Kevin Samuels, the irreverent and unlicensed relationship therapist, passed away; and rappers PNB Rock and Takeoff from the Migos were gunned down. Nia Long got cheated on, Kayne wouldn't shut his damn mouth, and we traded a top-secret spy so WNBA Britney Griner could come back home from Russia off a weed possession charge. That's the national scoop, but locally, how was it? Here we have some of the top moments of 2022 in Pompano and surrounding areas.

2022 in Pompano was a year of growth and a year of standing up for what you believe in. Notably, the fight to preserve part

of the Westview cemetery from being developed into a storage facility attracted local leaders. Some burrowing owls came in to try to save the day, but the fight is ongoing. The Isles Casino was bought out by Harrah's and is on its way to becoming a world-class destination. It's bringing Top Golf to town! Many vacant lots are now construction sites throughout the city. We were spared from Hurricane Ian's devastation and Kodak Black hosted his first ever Kodak Black Day featuring artists like Money Bagg Yo and Yungeen Ace. Beverly Perkins was elected to serve the city in District 4 for another term. Barry Moss beat out Cyndy Floyd for District 5, but Floyd remains involved in city happenings. Blanche Ely high school got a new principal, saying goodbye to Karlton Johnson. The Pompano Beach Fall

Festival came back for its second year, bringing Plies and other artists to the city. Ashanti Cultural Art's Chocolate Nutcracker was phenomenal. The Festival Marketplace threatened to close,

but its doors are still open. A lot happened in 2022. What I can say is that it was a foundation year, a year to refocus and plan so we can achieve larger and more far-reaching goals. It

was also a year of compromise and stepping out of our comfort zone. No one knows what 2023 will bring, but after a year like 2022, we know we're ready for anything.

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**POMPANO BEACH'S BLACK NEWSPAPER**

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# Looking to Save on Everyday Items? Check out Daily Dealz

By Attiyya Atkins

Daily Dealz, a discount store with a twist, opened in Pompano in December. Daily Dealz, located at 3772 N Federal Hwy, Lighthouse Point in the Venetian Isles Shopping Center, used to be Staples before it closed during the pandemic.

**O**N different days of the week, certain items in the store are priced extremely low. On Tuesday's everything in the bins is \$2. They are open seven days a week, and each day brings its own deal. The store is able to offer these deep discounts as

they buy liquidation items from stores like Target or online hubs like Amazon.

"I just bought a tub for my newborn for \$8. I saw it in Target the day before for \$22... for the same exact thing," said shopper Hailey Brooks. "The savings here are insane."

Brooks also had her eye on a Graco car seat, normally \$250, but at Daily Dealz for \$90.

Items at the store come directly from the store. They are not gently used, and tags are still on. They end up at Daily Dealz due to issues like overstock or a box that's a little to beat up to display on shelves.

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# Festival Marketplace Gets a Revival – Pending Sale of 470,000 sq ft Property Indefinitely on Hold

By Kristen Hernandez

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, shoppers were browsing the shops at Festival Marketplace located at 2900 Sample Road. An advertisement on the outside LED screen announced a new Demented Escape Room is “Coming Soon.” In the packed parking lot, Tamarac resident, Adina, loaded several bags into her trunk after spending hours browsing the clothes shops.

“THERE are so many good bargains to be found here,” said Adina, who declined to give her last name. “From my understanding, the deal fell through and I’m glad. There are things you can find here that you can’t find anywhere else.”

The change of ownership, and likely demolition of the marketplace for industrial space, is now on hold indefinitely. A good majority of businesses that line the aisles decided to stay despite the sale of Festival to Atlanta-based IDI Logistics, which was announced in the Villij News last year. According to an interview with the Sun Sentinel, the current owner and CEO of IMC Management, Yorum Izhuk said, “If I had to bet on it, the flea market is staying.”

The early days of the coronavirus pandemic had in-store retail shoppers turning to online mega shops, leading to a steep decline in Festival foot traffic. Now that COVID restrictions are lifted, businesses and shoppers are eager to return to the atmosphere and hustle of in-person browsing and bargain hunting, which is exactly what Festival Marketplace is taking advantage of.

Local shoppers Carol Ann Kunkle and Sam Williams of Pompano Beach walked the



jewelry booths, shopping for watches. “I come here to get my watch fixed because I just love coming here. It’s the best,” said Carol Ann. “Festival has an eclectic variety you can’t find

anywhere. This place is special.” Festival staff members at an information booth, who both declined to give their names, laughed when asked about the sale. “We’re here to stay,” said

one woman. “We are no longer being sold and we’re not going anywhere.”

Some employees weren’t happy about the news of the marketplace staying put. “I

was hoping to move on with my life and onto other things,” said Manny, a worker from NY Style Bagels and Deli. “Everyone I worked with has already left. I’m the only one still here.” Packed aisles littered with customers leisurely strolling about carrying bags of goodies proved shoppers disagree.

A glimpse of the Festival’s newfound revival can be seen in “Space for Lease” signs. Even though Festival Marketplace has been given a second chance, empty store booths left scattered among the open shops serve as a reminder the pending sale could still happen. The next year will determine what IMC Management decides to do with it. Stay updated on the latest events on the Festival Marketplace website.

Neither IMC Management nor IDI Logistics could be reached for comment.



# PALM 78: NEW RESTAURANT COULD BRING UPSCALE STEAK & SEAFOOD TO POMPANO'S DOWNTOWN

By Attiyya Atkins

If all goes as planned, downtown Pompano is set to be a destination comparable to Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood, and the county's other thriving downtowns. Still, there is work to do. That's why the Pompano Beach Community Redevelopment Agency has been working to transform vacant lots and buildings into a downtown area worth visiting.

**R**ECENTLY, a vacant building nicknamed the "Wash House," located at 11 NE 1 St., which has been empty for eight years, has found a developer and operator who will turn the former laundromat into a surf and turf restaurant with "tropical-infused cuisine," one-of-a-kind cocktails at an indoor/outdoor bar and rooftop seating.

Palm 78 LLC submitted a plan to the CRA to pay for the design, operation and maintenance of the 6,000-square-foot building. If the project is approved, the restaurant would be one of the anchor locations for Pompano Beach's downtown.



This wouldn't be Palm 78's first location. Owner Lino Joseph already opened a Palm 78 in Alpharetta, Georgia. Menu items include tomahawk steak, snapper, Cajun lobster fettuccini, and more. The restaurant

also serves brunch. Lino expects the demolition of the current building and the creation of the new restaurant will cost about \$5 million.

Joseph's business partner Henri Crockett, a former NFL

player for the Minnesota Vikings and Atlanta Falcons, and a Blanche Ely alum, recommended the location. The area, which city officials have dubbed "Old Town," has already gained attention as an

arts and entertainment district with its monthly Old Town Untapped event. Other restaurants have flocked to the location like South PMP Bar & Kitchen and Papamigos, both of which will open soon.





# Rap and Real Estate on MLK

By Attiyya Atkins

Kodak Black, Pompano Beach rapper and philanthropist, is stepping into the commercial real estate realm.

**T**HE rapper bought the property at 1511-1547 Hammondville Road (MLK). The property is .7 acres and includes two buildings, one 3,800 square feet and the other 4,900 square feet. Both buildings were built in the 1950s and are

commercially zoned.

According to the Real Deal, Kodak Black is considering keeping one building and renovating the other to build a new luxury retail space. Kodak paid \$1.8 million for the property, which is near the Golden Acres community where he grew up.

More development is planned for Hammondville. John Ghattas, a business owner specializing in custom automobiles, paid \$10.7 million for a warehouse at 2151 Hammondville Road.



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Attiyya Atkins  
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## To Atlantic

*continued from page 1*

“The whole Atlantic/Dixie process was flawed,” said commissioner Alison Fournier. “We may have asked the wrong questions of the engineers who tried to solve it. They were trying to solve where to add biking lanes on Atlantic when the question should have been, is this the right section of Atlantic Blvd for walking and biking lanes.”

Although voters overwhelmingly approved the city’s plan, most residents have not followed the project’s progression and weren’t aware of the changes, which include reducing the three east-west bound Atlantic Blvd. lanes and merging them into a two-lane thoroughfare. Pompano Beach Vice Mayor Andrea McGee attempted to clear up any “confusion and misinformation.”

“Yes, there was a new meeting where everyone was upset [over traffic congestion], so we passed a motion for Plan B. We spent months with engineers and contractors redesigning the entire plan. We went from an eight-lane reduction to a one-lane reduction,” said McGee.

In 2019, Atlantic Blvd traffic saw over 4,000 cars daily. The constant traffic back-up has increased wait times around the Dixie/I-95 area, causing much concern and intense frustration. Emotions ran high during the meeting, with dozens of residents yelling that they felt “lied to” and “duped.” One resident yelled out that this was “the worst gentrification project in America.”

First responder Chaunteal Fitzgerald voiced concerns over emergency response times. “As a 19-year career firefighter and citizen of this awesome city, I



worry for my neighbors over response time for police officers and first responders coming into my area to save my loved ones. I hope that was also a concern for you with shutting down this lane,” said Fitzgerald.

One resident yelled out to the commission panel that pictures of the redevelopment project “look very nice,” but mentioned the “killer train” and how it’s “not the place to stop traffic and take a walk.”

Former city commissioner Cyndy Floyd spoke directly to residents. “In helping to pass the unanimous decision of moving this project forward, I must ask the people of Pompano Beach to forgive me. If I’d known then what I know now, my vote

would have been different.”

Fournier went on to request a special referendum, or request to let voters decide by petition to demand the reconsideration and repeal of any legislative action. However, that motion was denied 3-2 with commissioners Fournier and Beverly Perkins voting in favor.

The scene in the commission chamber echoed a similar meeting almost a decade ago when the city passed the Pompano Beach parking garage and beach revitalization plan. “Thank goodness the commission kept course,” said McGee. “Because people were just as angry then as they are now. And look how incredible Pompano Beach is.” The rebuilt Fisher Family Pier

and Pompano Beach Fishing Village has become an essential beach destination for locals and tourists.

Vice Mayor McGee spoke to the Villij news about her vision for Pompano. “The project will realign Atlantic Blvd., creating a signature entrance to the heart of our city and set the foundation for our new downtown,” McGee said. “When I ran for office I wanted change, and this is what change looks like. We are listening to the people. We are asking people to listen to the facts. Once the project is complete, I’m certain residents will also see the value in what we’re doing,” she said.

The project has already begun and is expected to be implemented in segments. Segment one includes improvements on Dixie Hwy. from McNab Rd. to SW 3rd St. Segment two is expected to take around three months and will include improvements from SW 3rd St. to NE 10th St. on Dixie Hwy., and west of NW 6th Ave. to east of Cypress Road on Atlantic. The entire project is expected to wrap up in 2025.

Both sides of the Progress in Pompano Project agree on one thing: this project will determine the future of the city of Pompano Beach. To stay informed about project updates, check out the Progress in Pompano website.

## Black History Month

*continued from page 1*

brate the richness of being Black.

The month kicked off with the Tiger Trail committee and their black-tie gala, a gun violence forum, the William F. Boynton 5k run/walk event to honor the former track coach and his former athletes and students, and a business expo. The Tiger Trail Street festival will take place on February 18 from

10 am to 8 pm at 520 MLK Blvd in Pompano.

For something a little low-key, the Jan Moran Collier City Learning Library will be honoring Black History Month with an ongoing video presentation, crafts, and black heritage art and that can be seen in person on February 3rd and the 23rd.

Other events put on by the Pompano Beach Cultural af-

fairs committee will be hosting events like Jazz Reflections: The African American Women of Jazz, a free concert featuring Jazz vocalist and violinist Nicole Yarling on February 23 from 7:30 to 10 pm at the Pompano Beach Cultural Arts Center.

Also, the third annual Pioneers Ball, which helps celebrate pioneers in the community, is something to look forward to.

This year’s theme is “Making a Difference” and is dedicated to the contributions of African American Pioneers. Honorees of the event include frontline personnel, entrepreneurs, instructional/non-instructional personnel, community leaders, and community-based organizations that have inspired and positively impacted the community. The event also will include

a three-course dinner, live band, and an inspirational dance performance that will take place on February 25 at the Pompano Beach Cultural Center from 6 pm to 9 pm. Tickets are \$15-\$20 and can be purchased on Eventbrite. For more information on the events or programs mentioned, go online at [pompanobeacharts.org](http://pompanobeacharts.org) or [tigertrailfestival.com](http://tigertrailfestival.com).



# Pompano Beach Middle School: School Reimagined

By China Boynton and Attiyya Atkins

Imagine being a student in an eSports class where you learn the mechanics of video gaming (and play a few video games), or an engineering class equipped with 3D printing computers, or a debate class fashioned like a real courtroom. This is Pompano Beach Middle School, thanks to the Integrated Career Academy Networks (iCAN) program.



**P**OMPANO Beach Middle is one of Broward County's three iCAN middle schools, an innovative magnet school model that focuses on project-based and blended learning. It allows every student enrolled at the school to participate in a themed academy of their choice.

"You get to actually teach kids things that will help them in their lives, and they're excited about it rather than just the same boring curriculum," said Nicholas Myhre, technology robotics and eSports teacher at Pompano Beach Middle School. "I love teaching tech. This is where it's at because you give them an opportunity to learn something that actually means something in the real world."

In December, the Broward County School Board received \$14 million from the U.S. Department of Education to support programs like the iCAN program and other magnet schools within Broward County.

The five academies in the iCAN program consist of aviation technology and computer engineering, which prepares students for careers such as pilots, aerospace engineers, air traffic controllers, and more. eSports and athletic sciences draw on fields such as physiology, biomechanics, and robotics. Information technology, communication, and broadcast arts teach software applications and digital commu-

nication. This program also has a law component where students examine the principles within the legal system and debate within a mini-courtroom setup. And finally, a hospitality and tourism academy.

"I choose to let students work hands-on and give them their own autonomy to work on projects and learn through action," said Joseph Wells, who runs the communications and broadcast journalism program at the school. "It's important that they learn responsibility and accountability through action because that is how it is in the real world."

Payton Buggs, a student in the program, enjoys the challenge. "When you're in the class, you can either debate or do a speech where we either memorize a poem or write an original oratory," she said.

While students are free to choose which academy best suits them, all students are given the opportunity to learn with real

world applications.

The tourism and entertainment academy focuses on travel, leisure, food, and lodging industries, which is a crucial part of South Florida's economy," Jennifer Morden, Pompano Beach Middle hospitality and tourism teacher, said.

"We're trying to give them different career potentials that they probably don't know of or not thinking about and we're also working towards them being able to get career certification because it can help them get into a job easier," Morden said.

Aside from the iCAN program, the school also offers Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum and dual enrollment with Broward College.

In the past five years, Pompano Beach Middle has undergone construction to meet the needs of its students, including developing the five academy networks. This included upgrades to the park-



ing lot, media center, a new food service/multi-purpose center, and classroom upgrades.

"Pompano Beach Middle School is one of the older campuses in the city and our school-

ing now is different from when the building was built," said Principal Lisa Livingston. "So most of the former school has been repurposed in order to meet our current needs."

"We started with our original five academies, and things are still evolving within those academies," said Livingston.

Despite the construction and the change in classroom structure, principal Livingston is hoping to expand upon the improvements for the sake of the education of her students. A firefighter iCAN academy recently started and will pipeline to the iCAN program at Blanche Ely High School.

If you are interested in having your child attend Pompano Beach Middle School, you can apply online at [Browardschools.com](http://Browardschools.com) or contact the school directly at 754-322-4200.



# The Story of Superbowl Champs: Pompano Chiefs 6U

Forget the Kansas City Chiefs, Pompano Beach has its own Super Bowl championship team.

**T**HE Pompano Chiefs 6U youth football team has a year of bragging rights as Florida Youth Football League's (FYFL) Super Bowl champs. The Chiefs beat the Lauderdale Lakes Vikings in November.

The Vice Tribe of approximately 20 kids, some not old enough to tie their shoes correctly, traveled across the state to overcome their adversaries, scoring points and learning self-discipline along the way.

"Our 6u team is very important to Pompano," said Head Coach Japhus Jackson. "We're the



first team to win the Super Bowl in that league. We have top talent here."

Jackson along with assistant head coach Terrance Blue, and

other coaches Derell Stevenson and Mike Simmons are proud of their young athletes. "I never thought we would coach little kids," Jackson said. "I thought it

would take too much patience."

But the patience paid off. Since day one, the younger kids practiced better than the 12-, 13-, and 14-year-old athletes that Jackson

had coached.

"The big boys have attitudes, but the little kids are ready to work," he said. The boys traveled to Plant City, Orlando, Miami and more to beat their opponents, but one of the most exciting wins was against the Fort Lauderdale Hurricanes. "The Hurricanes were highly favored to win," Jackson said. The 6u Chiefs beat the Hurricanes in overtime, twice.

Jackson and his coaching staff plan to follow the kids throughout their football journey. "These kids won't play the same for anyone else," he said.

The coaches are proud of the family-like atmosphere they've created. "I love that we took the kids out of town, stayed with them, and showed them things they may not have seen before," Jackson said. It was Rudakai Atkins first time playing football. "I liked learning how to tackle and to run the ball," Atkins said. "I was really happy about winning the Super Bowl because we worked really hard for it."

For the coaches, this is all about giving back. Jackson, Blue, and Stevens were Pompano Chiefs themselves. "It taught me discipline and life lessons," Jackson said. The coaches hope that their young prodigies will learn the same. Workouts will start over the summer. If you are interested in signing up for the Pompano Chiefs, please contact Mitchell Moore at (954) 786-4131.



## Orange Bowl Field at Mitchell Moore Park Opens

CITY OF POMPANO PRESS RELEASE

The Orange Bowl Committee and the City of Pompano Beach cut the ribbon for the new field at Mitchell Moore Park, 901 NW 10 St. in December.

Orange Bowl, its partners, and the City completed approximately \$4 million in renovations which include a synthetic turf field and maintenance fund, an electronic scoreboard, new press box, shaded seating, enhanced walking trail, and building refurbishments. The two existing baseball fields will

also receive an upgrade. "The much-needed renovation of Mitchell Moore Park furthers Orange Bowl's commitment to youth sports in the South Florida community," a city press release said.

The park renovations is part of the City's General Obligation (GO) Bond initiative to fund projects in various locations in the City to beautify public areas, add and improve green spaces and enhance recreational parks.

"We are very excited to cel-

brate the unveiling of Orange Bowl's sixth legacy park project – Orange Bowl Field at Mitchell Moore Park," said Orange Bowl Committee President and Chair Frank Gonzalez in a press release. "We're so thankful for our partnership with the City of Pompano Beach to make this dream a reality, and we're thrilled for the residents of Pompano Beach that will be able to enjoy this newly renovated park for years to come."

This is the Orange Bowl's

sixth Legacy Park to the South Florida community and the second in Broward County, the first being Orange Bowl Field at Carter Park. Combined, and with the generous support of partners, Orange Bowl Legacy Park projects have committed more than \$25 million worth of improvements toward the beautification of the South Florida community and recreational park activities for residents and their families. Legacy Programs is one of the four pillars

of Orange Bowl Cares, its overarching community outreach program which also includes Community Engagement, Education and Youth Sports. For more than 85 years, the Orange Bowl has been one of South Florida's leading civic organizations, promoting championship sporting events, related premier entertainment and other year-round activities to inspire youth, engage our community and enhance the South Florida economy.

## Linda Houston Jones

*continued from page 1*



created through her non-profit organization.

More than 30 years ago, Jones was looking for dance classes for her children and couldn't find any that were a good match for her children. "None of the teachers looked like us," Jemilah L. Jones, daughter of Linda Houston Jones, told Villij News. "We would have to wear pink tights that didn't match our skin... my mom couldn't find the right classes for us, so she created her own."

Houston Jones' husband, Emridge 'EJ' Jones Jr., was a musician and connected her with

dance teachers that looked like their children. The organization grew to offer community sponsored events, like creating quilts, dance and arts classes in elementary schools, free dance classes, social justice programs, main stage productions and more.

"I was born with a passion for the arts," according to quote in Jones' obituary. "Whether I was a performer, the arts always gave me a way to express who I was. I am committed to providing a way for others to experience such joy from the arts... and thus you have Ashanti."

Ashanti Cultural Arts is

named after the Ashanti west African tribe, known for their royalty, richness, and diversity. The legacy of Ashanti continues as Jemilah and her brother Emridge Jones III will run the organization.

"She really enjoyed her life," Jemilah said. "She loved her community and wanted to empower people. She would always lead and connect people."

Linda received many awards throughout her life, including the ICABA Arts Professional Award in 2013. She was a grant evaluator for Broward County Cultural Affairs Division, and

past founding member of the Board of Directors of Art Serve Board. She was a member of the Broward County Diversity Advisory Council, Arts chair of both Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the North Broward Chapter of The Links, Inc. Additionally, she sat on the boards of the Broward County Cultural Commission, The Broward County Diversity Advisory Board and The Starting Place.

Through Ashanti, Linda was able to take 15 students on a five-day cultural trip to New York to take classes and tour Juilliard School of the Arts, Alvin

Ailey, Dance Theatre of Harlem and New York City.

She will be deeply missed by the community. "So sad to see this news," wrote Jan Goodheart on Facebook. "Linda was an inspiration to so many children."

Erica Anderson also wrote on Facebook "Mrs. Jones was a wonderful mentor and friend. I'll never forget her beautiful smile and meaningful advice when I was starting my teaching career. Condolences to her family and loved ones."

Visit the Ashanti Cultural Arts website for more info.

## New Restaurant

*continued from page 1*

American are some of the food choices available, all under one roof.

"We wanted a place where there is something for everyone," said Hector Torres, co-owner of two of those restaurants, Taco VibeZ and Beef Boyz. "First, we [the two co-owners] looked at space in Miami, then downtown Fort Lauderdale. But after seeing the (development) of Pompano Beach, I'm happy to have found Bite Eatery."

In the center of the newly anticipated foodie hotspot is The Bite Bar, offering a slew of unique cocktails, bottomless mimosas and craft beer throughout the day.

An array of strategically placed seating around the bar can be accessed by any customer regardless of which restaurant they dine in. Next to the bar is a small stage area for live music that will entertain guests several days a week. The Bite Eatery will feature an app where orders can be placed from any of the nine restaurants and bar, allowing guests to pay their tab in one location.

Bite Eatery is truly a trip for the taste buds. Taco VibeZ serves up authentic craft tacos that use fresh, local ingredients in dishes like chicken tacos on blue corn tortillas and Mexican street corn; Beef Boyz serves up craft

angus beef burgers with locally sourced ingredients; Deli Shack with homemade, spice-rubbed, slow-cooked meats and fresh NY style subs and sandwiches, Papa's Pizzeria has a unique brick oven serving up hot, fresh pizza, Ceviche Time serves up locally caught seafood that's artfully displayed in their Peruvian-style ceviche platters, Mama Mia crafts homemade pastas and pasta dishes, all from scratch, Lobstar offers buttery, soft lobster rolls done New England style, Abuelita's Cuban Bistro dishes up homemade plates like carne asada, just like abuela used to make, and for your

sweet tooth there's Moop with their ice-cold, homemade gelato pops and treats on a stick.

"Once the last few inspections are complete, the Eatery should open towards the end of February, but if I have to give a date, I'll say March 1st," said Torres.

The grand opening has been pushed back several times over the past two years and Bite Eatery has suffered for it. The Covid-19 pandemic and massive import delays have all played a part in the setbacks. The establishment is vision of the Golle family. To get the project off the ground, the family had to deal

with staffing shortages, supply chain issues, and city inspections which all added more time to the already delayed opening.

"It's been a long time coming, but we're almost ready to open," said Torres. "We're at the home stretch."

The Golle family's vision is to "create a food hall concept unlike anything else South Florida offers," according to their website. Their dedication and hard work with this unique project has come to life in Pompano Beach and will likely change the way people dine in the future. Stay updated on menus and opening events on the Bite Eatery website.

**Letter From the Editor**



# BLACK UNDER ATTACK

My God, does it ever stop? Black people, my people, are always being persecuted, judged, and written off. It's time for us to stand together, build on what our black leaders have done for us. We might still be slaves if Harriett didn't trek the underground, we may be still sitting in the back of the bus if Rosa didn't make a fuss.

**T**HERE'S no telling, only guessing what life would have been like for us without our Black freedom fighters. But trust me, it wouldn't be pretty. I come to ya'll with something on my mind this Black history month and the month's beyond. The lack of unity and understanding between us is disheartening. We as a people are always looking for justification and validation on the outside when it really comes from home.

In 2023, I want us black people to fight for the things that are important to us: better jobs, safer neighborhoods, reduction of gun violence, more ways

to make money and smarter ways to spend it. And I want us to band together to attack anything that attacks us. See what happened with Kayne and his rants against the Jews. We can't let our trauma hold us back, but rather let it unite us and bring us forward. Right now, the thing that is most under attack is our Black history from Florida Governor Ron Desantis, who is on a mission to ban an African American AP History class as a start to a far-reaching ban on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion movement. To me, this sounds like fear. Fear not only of Black people, but the people of all races who seek to understand

our struggle and help the world be a better place. I will tell you, African American history classes aren't only for Black people, in fact a considerable amount of people from other races love to hear about our resiliency, ability to overcome, creativity, and other inspiring attributes. During this month, I want to thank people like attorney Ben Crump who has been fighting Desantis on his ban. I want to thank people like Joseph Wells of Pompano Beach Middle School who has instilled an underlying current of love when it comes to education, community leaders like T-Dogg of the Pompano Beach Fall Festival who consistently shows people the power of believing in their dreams, politicians like Beverly Perkins and Cyndy Floyd who fight tirelessly for their districts and city, and I would like to thank myself and my family for choosing prayer over malice. So this Black History month, I would like you to find the good in you and the good in your community. How can you use your gifts to make our people stronger? Talk to a friend about it.

We need a change.

Sincerely,

Attiyya Atkins

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