



News >> Page 9
Senior Center Now Open

CITY HONORS FIRST BLACK LIFEGUARD DR. MOSES DIXON

By Attiyya Atkins

The city's first Black lifeguard taught hundreds of Black kids how to swim in Pompano Beach in the 1940s and 1950s.

NOW the city is keeping his memory afloat with a plaque honoring the work of Dr. Moses Dixon. The Pompano pioneer was commemorated at a ceremony at Mitchell Moore Park on June 27.

Pompano Beach City Commissioners paid homage to Dixon as the city's first Black lifeguard and the first supervisor of Mitchell Moore Park. Dixon worked at the park when Pompano Beach was segregated, and Mitchell Moore was called Westside Park and was for "Negroes Only."

Dixon hosted many swimming contests, softball, basketball, volleyball, tetherball, and other events for the Black community at the park. But he was most known for teaching young Black children



Negro Community News clip.

to swim at the pool.

The swim lessons were lifesaving in so many ways.

Generally, Black people have a fear of swimming. According to a recent study conducted by YMCA, USA Swimming Foundation, and the University of Memphis, nearly 64% of Black children do not know how to swim. Carmen Jones, community activist and daughter of Dr. Dixon, said that her father was not only teaching kids how to

■ *City Honors, see page 10*



From left to right: Carmen Jones, District 3 Commissioner Alison Fournier, Gospel Singer Canton Jones, District 4 Commissioner Beverly Perkins, Mayor Rex Hardin.



Artifacts and pictures of Dr. Moses Dixon provided by the Dixon and Jones family.



Pompano Prays, Mourning Lives Lost to Gun Violence

By Attiyya Atkins

Gun violence is killing Black communities.

And when the solution isn't easy, Black people must pray. That was the message at a community candlelight vigil held for some of Pompano Beach's gun violence victims on July 7 at Mount Calvary Baptist Church.

"You don't know the feeling until you know," said Pastor Branden Jones of Mount Calvary Baptist Church. Jones lost an older sibling to gun violence. July 7 was also International Peace and Love Day. "This has to be the time that our community comes together," Jones said.

There were prayers for love, prayers for community, prayers for the family, and more.

"We are only as strong as our weakest link," Jones said. "Nothing is going to change until we change first... change how we feel, how we act, how we treat one and other."

The church's altar showed pictures of some of Pompano's fallen soldiers: Kameron Brown, Jazzmine Brayboy, Anaysha H. Donjoie, Andrew Ford, Keltron Goodwin Jr., Leonard B. Hankins Jr., Jahmad Clarence Jacsaint, Dayvon Keith Johnson, Delana James Miller, and

■ *Pompano Prays, see page 10*

Higher Education Must Now Be Colorblind says Supreme Court Ruling

By Kristen Hernandez

Washington, D. C. - In a landmark ruling, the United States Supreme Court overturned a long-standing precedent that has benefited minorities like African American, Latino, and Asian Americans in higher education admissions throughout the nation. The ending of affirmative action practices that have been in place since 1965 will make it practically impossible for colleges and universities to take race into account.

The Supreme Court isn't overturning

prior cases authorizing affirmative action, and suggested how race has affected an applicant can still be considered. The first Latina Justice on the Court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said the "conservative majority made a profound mistake".

"It will close the doors of opportunity to people across the nation for schools, for business, for the military; it will have reverberation. We shall overcome," Sotomayor said.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first female Black Justice, accused the

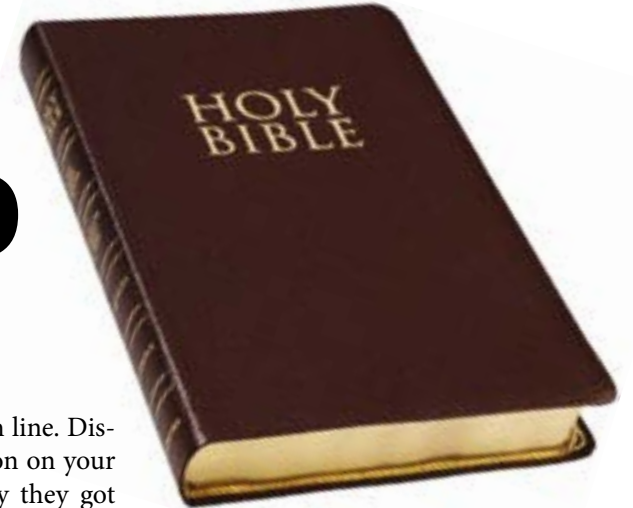
■ *Higher Education, see page 10*





ONE MINUTE IN THE WORD

HOW TO HANDLE DISRESPECT



to the dogs.

VILLIJ NEWS

One sure sign of Christianity is how we handle the javelin of disrespect. Do we follow it....(No)

Do we fight it.... (No) or
Do we forbear it.....(Yes)

VILLIJ NEWS

April 7 2022, Ketanji Brown Jackson showed us how to handle disrespect on a major stage with the world watching. Don't you act like a fool, when the fool is acting like a fool, because when the tape is reviewed the world will see who the real fool was.

VILLIJ NEWS

We've got to see disrespect for what it is, in the life of a runner, it's only the hurdle, and if we focus on the hurdle,

we will never get to the finish line. Disrespect shows up like a person on your job, who feels like every day they got to put you in your place, don't "Will Smith" 'em, smile at them!

This reminds me of our text this broken-hearted mother fell at the feet of Jesus and despite his words to her appearing to be disrespectful. She realized the place, she knew she had a problem, and she stayed focused on the plea. She did not respond with, "it takes a dog to know a dog", but she responded even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the children's plate, this statement arrested the conscious of Jesus because of this woman's faith and as a result he healed her daughter.

VILLIJ NEWS

Don't allow people's disrespect to

keep you from your blessing, sometimes disrespect is the last hurdle you must successfully cross to get to your breakthrough,

And that's your "One minute in the Word" I'm not out of words, but I am out of lines, until the next issue know this, I'm pulling for you and I'm praying for you. God bless you. Stay Connected.

Life Question: Are you convinced that God will not hold us responsible for how others treat us, but He will hold us responsible for how we treat them.

Follow: The One Minute Preacher
YouTube: @ TLGFASHION
Instagram: @ The 1 Minute Preacher

I'M in the Gospel of Mark and it shows us two attributes of Jesus Christ, we all should all possess, Service and Sacrifice

VILLIJ NEWS

Be humble enough to know you're not better than nobody and wise enough to know, I'm different from all the rest.

The text says in Mark Chapter 7 Verse 27, Jesus told her I should help my own family, the Jews. It isn't right to take the children's bread and throw it

Church Directory



APOSTLE
JOHN L. MOHORN JR.,

Word of Living God Ministries, 149 N.W. 26th Ave,
Pompano Beach, FL 33069
Service Sundays at 10 a.m., 7 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.



PASTOR
HENRY AND LADY BELINDA GOODWIN

3835 N. Andrews Avenue, Oakland Park, FL, 33309
Sunday School 8:45 a.m.; Sunday Worship Service 9:45 a.m.,
Wednesday Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR CHURCH, PLEASE EMAIL VILLIJNEWS@GMAIL.COM.

YOU ARE INVITED
WORSHIP WITH US
Service
SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 A.M.
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:45 A.M.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY 6:30 P.M.

PASTOR HENRY AND LADY BELINDA GOODWIN

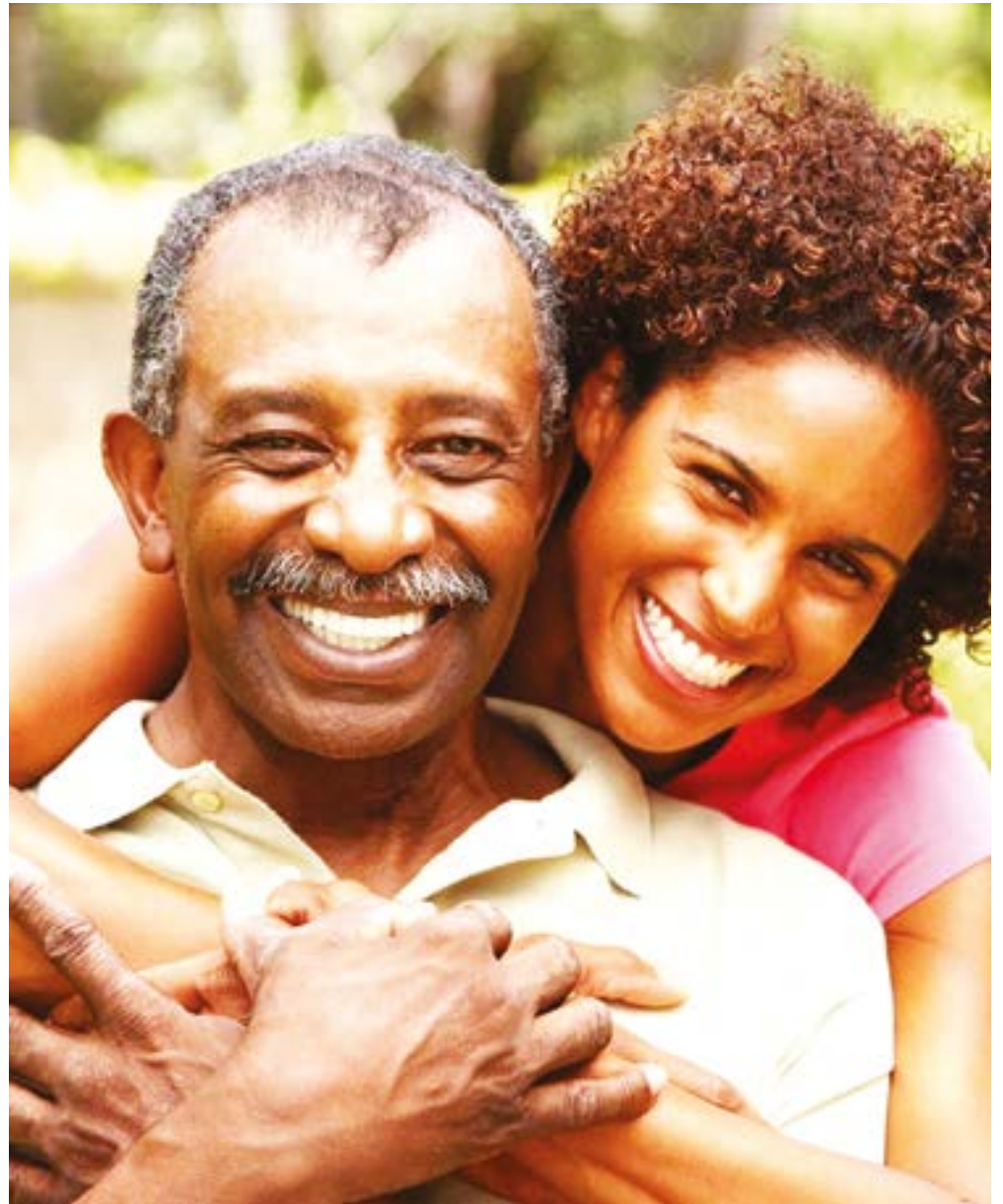
SERVICE
Sundays
WORD OF LIVING GOD MINISTRIES
APOSTLE JOHN L. MOHORN JR.
SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M., 7 P.M.
FRIDAYS AT 8 P.M.
WORD OF LIVING GOD MINISTRIES
LOCATION: 149 N.W. 26TH AVE, POMPANO BEACH, FL 33069

Ask Annie:

DEAR ANNIE,

Q : I'm having a real issue with my father-in-law. We were at a family get-together, and he caressed my booty while we were waiting in line. I was fixing my husband's (his son) plate and my father-in-law got behind me and really rubbed on my booty. I thought it was an accident because we were so close to each other, but he winked at me afterwards. My father-in-law is one of those think-he's-young types. He's got a six-year-old and he's at least 65. I think he's really trying to get at me. I don't know whether or not I should tell my husband or just continue to ignore my father-in-law's advances.

A : Ms. Ma'am, are you interested in the daddy? Do the daddy look good? Because not once did you say that you didn't like him touching on your booty. You like the son, maybe you want the original? The fact that you didn't tell your husband yet makes me think you might want a piece of that old man. You're the one that said he still got it. Do some soul searching and really think about if you want the Mister or the Senior. To me it sounds like you're in the mood for some aged meat.



Wealth Connect Recap

By Christina Williams

We all want to get rich, but don't know how. Something inside of us says well if they could do it, I can too. Then another voice says, but I don't know where to start.

I had the opportunity to attend the Wealth Connect in Miami, June 23 to June 25, and while my bank account is still not hitting six figures, I learned a lot that I'd like to share with you. The event included networking, a yacht party, and panel discussions from money-makers like Rick Ross, Stormy Wellington, 19 Keys, Runaway Billionaire, Claudienne Hibbert-Smith, Alvin Hope Johnson and more. It was hosted by serial entrepreneur

and mentor Annetta Powell, who got rich, lost it all, went to prison and got rich again.

Here are some things I learned:

- Start now, the power is in the project execution. Work out the kinks later.
 - Think highly of yourself and the Creator that made you. Do things of value because you are of value.
 - Surround yourself with money makers and high rollers, it will rub off on you.
 - The game is not free, my ticket cost nearly \$1,000.
 - Wealth is not just money, its freedom.
 - Taxes are important to rich people, understand why.
- Now, let's get rich together!



New Beach Wheelchairs

Pompano Beach announced this month that they have brand new beach wheelchairs for people of differing abilities. The beach wheelchairs have all-terrain wheels that allow the people who need them to explore Pompano Beach's shores. The wheelchairs are available on a first come, first served basis at lifeguard stations 2 and 7.



BLAISE LAW OFFICE, P.A.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

GOT AN ACCIDENT?

PERSONAL INJURY - CAR ACCIDENT - SLIP & FALL



BLAISE LAW OFFICE P.A.

954-388-5300

130 NORTH FLAGLER AVENUE
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33060

WWW.BLAISELAWOFFICE.COM

VillijNEWS
BROWARD COUNTY NEWS
VILLIJNEWS.COM

Publisher : A+ Editing & Content Creation

Editor-in-Chief : Attiyya Atkins

Distribution : Atkins United Moving

☎ 1-888-459-7483 ☎ 954-543-1423

✉ Villijnews@gmail.com

Black Genius in Flight Celebrates Juneteenth with An Ode to 50 Years of Hip-Hop

By Kristen Hernandez

Black Genius in flight showcased an unforgettable Juneteenth “edu-tainment” event, “An Ode to 50 Years of Hip Hop,” at L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center, 1409 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

THIS unique celebration involved not only the progression of hip-hop throughout the past five decades, but also raised awareness of Juneteenth and the birth of African American hip-hop culture here in Fort Lauderdale.

“A lot of people still don’t know what Juneteenth is, so through events like this, we celebrate and promote African American tradition through art, through poetry, and through live performances,” Akilah Gibbs, secretary and board member of Black Genius in Flight, said.

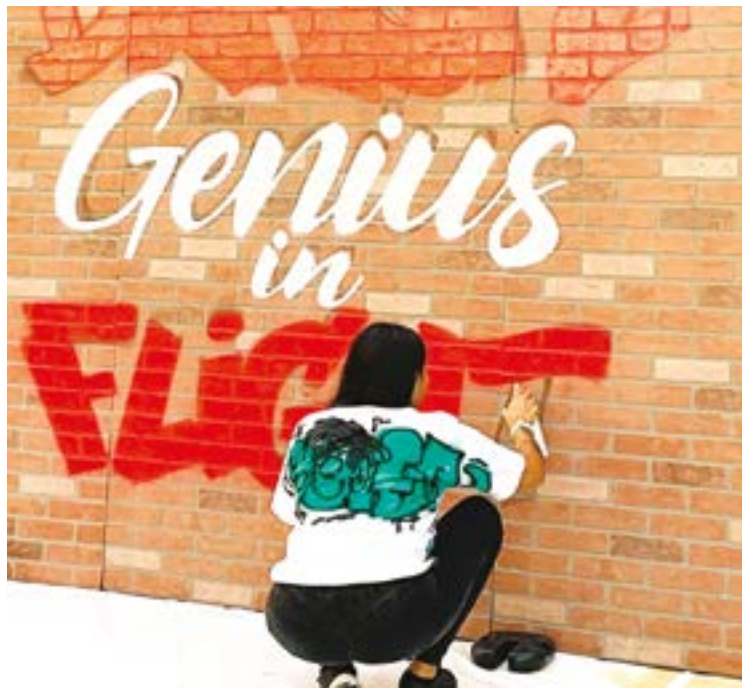
Each of the organic elements of hip-hop were celebrated in separate stations, or “experiences.”

50 Years of Hip Hop - The Experiences - It Goes a Little Something Like This

The Parking Lot Experience and The Lobby Experience - Visual Art, Fashion, Photography

Local graffiti artist, Mars, created a rolling wall mural steeped in ole’ school lettering, colors and style. Graffiti has played a significant role in hip-hop culture as a means for poor and underserved minorities to have a creative outlet for their artwork, with just a few bottles of spray paint.

The rolling mural experience transitioned seamlessly into L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell’s lobby. A pop-up fashion show and blue velvet carpet lined the entrance way. Displayed along the sides were several artistic photographic images of young ones dressed as 90’s hip hop icons, Kid N’



Play and SWV.

Local photographer, J. Lash, created the still photo gallery of 90’s culture, which served to remind the younger generation about the pioneers who helped to shape the rap and hip-hop we know today. Lined along the upstairs lobby was a continuation of the photographic display, but with candid images of hip-hop superstars like Queen Latifa and Fat Joe.

The Belaire Experience - African American Culinary Culture and Economics

In a dedicated space lined with books authored by local African American writers, Black Genius in Flight created a banquet of good music, great food, cigars and top-notch liquor, which are all necessary when celebrating hip hop culture. A stunning Juneteenth ice sculpture rose from the center of the room, overlooking the celebration while locals Leaned Back.

The Main Stage Experience - Physical/Aural/Oral

With just a piece of cardboard box, break dancers of the 80’s used their bodies to create movement that celebrated the ghetto. When the doors to the Main Stage area were opened, breakdancers were already spinning on their heads.

was a New York transplant, born in Queens, but Miami welcomed me with open arms,” Prince Rahiem said. “Give it up for the pioneers like Gigolo Tony because when we started, people started saying our music was corny and it wouldn’t be anything. But we were selling more records than they were. We fought hard to get our place in this hip hop game.”

“Black Genius in Flight is about altering culture in Broward County,” Wildman said. “New York hip hop artists were storytellers, and artists in the south were all about celebrating our lifestyle and enjoying life by having a good time. We helped

to give birth to Southern rap.”

Wildman told Villij News that the African American Research Library was the initial location for the Juneteenth celebration. But three days prior to the event date, the library director pulled out stating a conflict of interest due to an upcoming July event with a similar theme. Black Genius in Flight stepped in, and at the last moment secured the L.A. Lee YMCA/Mizell Community Center. Although forced to downsize, the experiences were well formed.

Like the Sugar Hill Gang, hip-hop you don’t stop.

www.blackgeniusinflight.com

“With rapping, breakdancing, and graffiti, we artists had something to say,” Wildman Teddy T, Em Cee during the event and legendary on-air personality for Power 96, 99 Jamz and the current program director for Flo Rida’s Strong Arm Radio, said. “DJs were involved in the rap culture that blew up and that’s the reason Southern rap is where it is right now. It’s based off what was happening here in Fort Lauderdale.”

On the main stage, two of the biggest female dee jays in Broward County, DJ She-J Hercules from 99JAMZ and KaiDot from Hot 105.5, ripped the stage and scratched through the classic hip hop era.

“Dee Jay-ing has always been a man’s world. It was important to highlight their talent, not only as the top DJs in South Florida, but also as women,” Wildman said.

Performances by local on-air radio personalities, Stichiz and KFoxx, had everyone on their feet. Before his performance, Prince Rahiem of the Get Funky Crew called for a moment of silence for those artists whose lives were tragically cut short.

“It’s about time to celebrate those times and those eras. I



Stichiz



Crowd enjoying the event

Kodak Black celebrated his second annual Kodak Black Day with a car show on June 11, followed by a concert on June 26.





McNair summer camp students at the ribbon cutting.

McNair Park Ribbon Cutting

McNair Park has gotten brand new blue facelift. The Collier City park recently got a multi-million upgrade, which was unveiled at a ribbon cutting ceremony June 21.

THE renovation of the park located at 951 NW 27 Ave includes a new synthetic football/soccer field with Pompano Cowboy Blue turf. It also includes sports lighting, an eight-lane Olympic-size run-

ning track, an upgraded basketball court, new playground equipment, a new 6,000 square foot clubhouse with exercise equipment and a private yoga room, an additional 270 parking spaces and a new concession area.

The McNair Park project is part of the city's G.O. Bond initiative. The city's parks and recreation department received a grant from the Health Foundation of South Florida for \$71,225 and matching funds of \$146,155 from the G.O. Bond to help complete the project.



McNair Park Staff at Ribbon Cutting

As I See It

Recap The biggest GO Bond project is here!

Roughly three million added to the original \$11 million...construction started 2021

The official ribbon cutting opening of McNair Park was great, but I'm sorry it lacked flavor. After all the formalities and dignitary protocol it was a little stagnant. Luckily, they served brunch under the tent. I, as Cultural Arts Ambassador, personally wanted to speak on the project but a space wasn't made for me. They don't trust me with the microphone. I was scratching my

head because no one from the McNair staff had anything to say.

People know me, that's the reason why I should've stood up and reminded the audience of the best historical display ever, honoring the coaches this year back in February 2023. I would've also mentioned that the Pompano fish sculpture was inspired and requested by the first Black woman elected in District 5, former Commissioner Cyndy Floyd. McNair Park looks amazing. The first performance on the brand-

new Astro turf was the BSO Band for the Tiger Trail Festival's and Collier City Trailblazers Exhibit during African American History Month.

The ribbon cutting event was held at 10 a.m. on June 21. I really think it could've been a hit if it was held on a Friday evening with music.

Moral of the story - the hood has a lot to say and don't be afraid of the nappy heads, when at a prestigious event.

From DAVID 11

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



Attiya Atkins

Scan to pay \$Tiyais

Modern Day Freedom Fighters Roll into South Florida During Multi-City Stay Woke Florida Bus Protest

By Kristen Hernandez

Stay Woke Florida rolled into Fort Lauderdale during their 31-city rolling bus protest encouraging black voters to take their power to the ballot box throughout the entirety of election season. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and the supermajority Republican stronghold has issued a slew of anti-woke legislation recently aimed at further dividing and already divided state in an attempt at redefining curriculum and programs within Florida higher education institutions.

LOCAL politicians along with national and local organizations partnered together to advocate for Florida's right to diverse, comprehensive education by speaking out against anti-CRT (Critical Race Theory), anti-trans, and anti-DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion). Bipartisan groups like Rainbow Push Coalition, League of Women Voters, American Federation of Teachers, NAACP, Transformative Justice Coalition and more began the 31-city tour in Jacksonville and made stops along the eastern coast of Florida, encouraging locals to Stay Woke, or stay asleep.

"I know it's hot out here but that's what it takes to stand up against fascism and Marxism in Tallahassee," Florida Senator of District 35, Shervin Jones said during the protest. "One hundred and sixty years ago, people that look like you and me weren't allowed to do anything in the State of Florida, because we weren't free. Look at us now. We've been here before. Change doesn't happen sitting on the sidelines. Use your voice and vote because that vote, your



voice, has power."

Two large buses rolled into South Florida, one loaded with 27 volunteers and the other filled with 500 banned books that were given away, including titles like *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall, and *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water* by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renee Watson.

"Governor DeSantis and his cronies passed a bill that's defunding our programs," college student Cedric Jones, 19, said during a speech. Jones was one of 27 volunteers that spoke out during the rolling protest. "Majors for students are being removed and some students

are having to start brand-new majors. Diversity, equity and inclusion programs are scraping pennies because there's no more money. They can no longer erase our history. Vote like my life depends on it, and vote like your life and livelihood depends on it. Because it does."

Proposed legislation, including not-yet-passed HB999, would ban gender study major and minors, bans DEI scholarships and further program funding, ban any "theoretical" studies, would require all students to take general education courses on Western values "necessary to preserve the constitutional republic" and bans general education courses

that present American history as anything "contrary to the creation of a new nation based on universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence", which could potentially erase mentions of genocide and slavery. HB999 also includes the troubling transferring of power of decision making over faculty hiring and tenure to a Board of Trustees appointed by the governor.

"Our state is where woke goes to die," Governor Ron DeSantis has said in almost every campaign speech since his second term of governorship was announced. In January during his inaugural speech, DeSantis said, "We reject this woke

ideology. We seek normalcy, not philosophical lunacy. We will not allow reality, facts, and truth to become optional."

"We're out here for love. Love for community, people, and our children," Cliff Albright said, co-founder and Executive Director of Black Voters Matter. "When we work together, there ain't nothing we can't do. So don't tell us what we can't do. We can take our power back and vote and believe in that power. Faith and belief are a powerful thing."

Marcus Arbery, Sr., whose son Ahmaud Arbery was hunted down and killed by three white men during a hate-driven shooting in Georgia, appeared with the protest in unity with other close relatives. They stood in silence wearing matching t-shirts with two words printed on them, "Never Forget".

"History is going to judge us for what we do and what we don't do in this moment," Senator Jones said. "We fight by pushing back and we can't stop here. Raise your voice at the ballot box in not just primary elections, but in general elections and they will see we're serious about our communities and about our futures. What do you want history to say about you?"



Senior Center Now Open

Pompano Beach's newly built Senior Center opened July 17. The center had been completed yet vacant for months. Seniors are excited to move to the new building and out of E. Pat Larkins.



Photo by David Miller.

Quilts inside the new senior center.



Photo by David Miller.

Mayor Rex Hardin, Congresswoman Sheila Mcferlis, District 4 Commissioner Beverly Perkins, Broward County Administrator Monica Cepero, Broward County Mayor Lamar Fisher.



Photo by David Miller

Senior Club member inside the new fitness center in the senior club.



Photo by David Miller.

Seniors meeting inside the new Senior Center

City Honors

continued from page 1

swim, but also preparing them for the future.

"He was teaching them about careers that would affect their life and how swimming could be a vital part of that," Jones said at the ceremony.

Jones applauded the new park director, Mr. Pete for his work at the pool. "He has the spirit of my

dad. He is in the pool creating swimmers." Dixon was a World War II veteran and served in Nagasaki, Japan, a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and a lifelong educator and student. He graduated from New York City College with his Bachelor's degree, received a master's degree from Columbia University and

earned a doctorate from the University of South Carolina.

"It's great to hear about the history of Pompano Beach," said Mayor Rex Hardin. "Anytime we have the opportunity to preserve our history I consider it very important." Dixon died in 2015 at the age of 87. When he was alive, he always mentioned the 4Ps:

"Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance," - a lesson taught to him by Blanche Ely.

The ceremony was attended by many community leaders including Broward County's Mayor Lamar Fisher, Pompano's District 4 Commissioner Beverly Perkins, Pompano's District 3 Commissioner Alison Fournier, Pastor

John Mohorn, former commissioner Tom McMahon, and gospel singer and Dixon's grandson Canton Jones.

June 27, 2023, was also proclaimed Dr. Moses Dixon Day by the city.

To see the plaque, visit Mitchell-Moore Park, 901 NW 10 St., Pompano Beach, 33060.

Pompano Prays

continued from page 1

Brian Wallace. All were killed by guns.

"We ask you Father God that every family member that has been impacted by senseless gun violence fill their hearts with love, with peace, with compassion. Oh Lord, we ask you to put a hedge of protection over our lives and our community," said Pastor Miguel Cruz of Un Nuevo Empezar Ministries and member of Pastors, Police, and People (PPP) at the ceremony. Pastor Anthony Campbell told a story of seeing one of his former students after school at Blanche Ely. Keltron Goodwin Jr. had graduated years before but stopped to talk to Campbell on campus. "Little did I know that was my last time seeing him," Campbell said.

Nationwide, Black people understand that pain of never seeing a loved one again. According to data from the Pew Research Center, 82 percent of Black Americans are worried about gun violence. Blacks are also 12 times more likely to die by gun violence than white people.

"I can't understand what you all

feel," Campbell told the families in the audience. "I want ya'll to know the community is here with you and you are not here by yourself. We are doing what the community should do in times like this...You cannot have community without unity."

Later in the evening, attendees lit their candles before singing "I Need You to Survive" in unison. Family members of the victims were given peace lilies with their late family members' name and picture and given an opportunity to speak. "It's unfair this happened to us," said Kim Duncan, mother of Kameron Brown. "Now our babies are gone, and no one can help us." Event sponsors, Mount Calvary Baptist Church, City of Pompano Beach, Local Love, Moms Demand Action, Coastal Waste & Recycling, and the Circle of Brotherhood, ensure that Duncan and other affected families are not suffering alone.

If you have any information regarding these murders, please reach out to Villij News at villijnews@gmail.com.



Jazzmine Brayboy, 22,
killed Feb. 16, 2022.



Anaysha H. Donjoie, 20,
killed Aug. 14, 2022



Andrew Ford, 32,
killed May 12, 2023.



Keltron Goodwinn Jr., 26,
killed March 3, 2019



Leonard B. Hankins Jr., 24,
killed June 22, 2016.



Jahmad Clarence Jacsaint, 18,
killed Dec. 11, 2021.



Dayvon Keith Johnson, 35,
killed Feb. 2023



Delana James Miller, 30,
killed Feb. 26, 2023



Brian Wallace, 18,
killed Feb. 14, 2019

Higher Education

continued from page 1

majority of having a "let them eat cake obliviousness" in how the Court's affirmative action ruling announced "colorblindness for all" by legal fiat.

"But deeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life," Justice Jackson added.

Jackson wrote in her dissent of Thursday's ruling that the majority had "detached itself from this country's actual past and present experiences" and that "no one benefits from ignorance". Jackson also wrote "the argument made by the challengers that affirmative action programs are unfair, and blinks both history and reality in ways too numerous to count."

In her dissent footnote, Jackson directed blistering remarks at the only other Black Justice on the Court, Justice Clarence Thomas, who voted in favor of the ruling although he benefitted from affirmative action during his admission to Yale Law School. "His opinion also demonstrates an obsession with race consciousness that far outstrips my or UNC's holistic understanding that race can be a factor that affects applicants unique life experiences."

In his book, My Grandfather's Son, Thomas wrote "Once it is assumed that everything you do achieve is because of your race, there is no way out. In everything

now that someone like me does, there's a backwash into your whole life is because of race."

House speaker, Kevin McCarthy tweeted his support saying, "The Supreme Court just ruled that no American should be denied educational opportunity because of race. Now students will be able to compete based on equal standards and individual merit. This will make the college admissions process fairer and uphold equality under the law."

President Joe Biden condemned the Supreme Court's ruling by saying, "This is not a normal court." On Twitter, Biden stated, "For decades, the Supreme Court recognized a college's

freedom to decide how to build a diverse student body and provide opportunity. Today, the Court walked away from precedent, effectively ending affirmative action in higher education. I strongly disagree with this decision."

Former President Barak Obama had strong remarks, tweeting, "Affirmative action was never a complete answer in the drive towards a more just society. But for generations of students who have been systematically excluded from most of America's key institutions - it gave us a chance to show we more than deserve a seat at the table. In the wake of the Supreme Court's

decision, it's time to redouble our efforts."

Michelle Obama, former first lady, also had strong feelings about the Court's ruling, and shared a personal letter of her experiences as a black woman pursuing higher education.

During the historic proceedings, the weight of history was evident in the chamber. Voters still have ways to have their voices heard, not just at the ballot box, but through letters to local state representatives. It's too soon to see the trickle effect such a monumental decision will have, but it remains certain the effects will be felt throughout our younger generation's future.

Clear Backpacks Scrapped for Upcoming 2023/2024 School Year

Broward County School Board Votes to Scrap Clear Backpack Initiative

By Kristen Hernandez

In a quick reversal during a contentious Town Hall meeting on June 13, the Broward County School Board voted 5-4 to do away with their clear backpack initiative because of parent and student backlash. Reaction from residents have been mixed, with some saying Broward missed the point on how to keep kids safe during the school year.

“MY son is 13 years old, and he is terrified for his life,” Jennifer Walker told Villij News. “I’m for anything Broward County does to keep my kids safe. My son shows me text messages



almost daily from other kids talking about how they’re going to ‘shoot up’ the school. I’m for uniforms, too, because little girls go to school like they’re going to a club. Like I said, I’m for anything to keep our babies safe.”

Broward County School Board took to Twitter (@browardschools) to post their announcement, saying, “The Board voted to not implement the clear backpack initiative for

the 2023/2024. As a result, clear backpacks will no longer be discussed at...the Special School Board Meeting on July 25, 2023. The District appreciates the community’s engagement and feedback on clear backpacks and other safety policies under consideration.”

Residents also took to Twitter and tweeted their support for the decision.

“This would not have stopped

anything. If someone was intent on bringing a weapon, they’d put it in their waistband or tape it to their body while carrying a clear backpack,” Jamainca653 wrote on Twitter. “What you need to vote on is metal detection, not invade the privacy of the student body.”

At least one metal detector wand has already been implemented at all Broward County Schools in 2022, however, parents

feel they need more. Wandering for weapons is already taking place at football and basketball games. The School Board said with all the social media threats and actual weapons found on campus in 2022, it is absolutely necessary.

For any Broward School Board updates or to view the Town Hall Meeting, visit their website for more information. www.browardschools.com/clearbackpacks.

LIVE AND LOCAL CONCERT SERIES

LaVie brings a vivacious stage performance for a night of jazz, soul and R&B.

JULY 21 | 7PM



Featuring Artist: LaVie

SOULFUL SUNDAYS

The Valerie Tyson Band carries a soulful and electrifying performance of classic and modern music.

JULY 9 | 6PM



Featuring Artist: Valerie Tyson Band

5th Sundays GOSPEL

LaNorris McFadden & P.R.O.O.F will blend contemporary and traditional Gospel music along with John Muschett & DVP, Danielle Davis & Revolution, and Desmond Jackson & Sovereign.

JULY 30 | 4:30PM



Featuring Artist: LaNorris McFadden & P.R.O.O.F



POMPANOBEACHARTS.ORG | 954.786.7877




Letter From the Editor



LEVEL UP

It's hard to know the truth when it's coming from so many different angles. The lesson I'm learning is that you have to run with YOUR truth. Lately, I've been feeling like so many people have been coming against me.

IT could be a lie, but I feel it as my truth. So I'm sticking with that. They want to stomp me out, but it's underneath the guise of mentorship and assistance. All help isn't good help, and all that is free isn't worth it.

Villijisaboutcommunityfirst, strengthening the unity in the Black community and most

importantly PROGRESS. It's amazing how many people don't want to see me and you succeed. For some reason, our success will damper someone else's success. NO! There are enough resources to go around. There is enough news to go around. There is enough love to go around.

The opportunity to level up shouldn't be taken lightly. I'm excited about this growth and it's only because of God's grace and for His glory that it can be done. If you're trying to level up in your life and you're wondering where all the pushback is coming from, understand that the fight is worth it. That is the only way that you'll ever get the respect you deserve.

Blanche Ely Alumni Class of 1966 Challenges Other Alumni To Give Back

By China Boynton

The Blanche Ely high school alumni class of 1966 recently continued their efforts to provide financial assistance to students from their alma mater. Ta'Niya Saunders and Ashleigh Battle were the two Ely graduates that received \$1000 from the alumni class. The class has been giving away financial assistance for local students for the past two years.

The scholarship applicants had to fill out an application and write an essay about their plans for continuing their education.

"We had a number of excellent candidates and it was a tough decision, but the two that were chosen were very worthy and had positive outlooks as it relates to their higher education," said 1966 BEHS Alumni Class President Henry Robinson.

The final decision was made based on the amount of community service each applicant completed.

"The ones that impressed us the most were Ta'Niya who wanted to be a hospice nurse and Ashleigh who wants to go into business, which is my field," Robinson said.

The ceremony was held at



Kiwanis Club Pompano West Members Marie Goodrum Johnson, Marie Bowers, And Joanne Gibbons-smith Donate Care Packages to Scholarship Recipients Ta'niya Saunders and Ashleigh Battle in Front of Blanche Ely House Museum.

Blanche Ely House Museum on June 9. The Kiwanis Club of Pompano Beach had members come and give support by handing out care packages of towels, and hygiene products, along with school supplies to each scholarship recipient.

"Marie Johnson, Marie Bowers, and I are part of the Kiwanis Club and we gathered our resources to give the scholarship winners some help with personal items they may need while away at school," Chairman and Treasurer Joan

Gibbons-Smith said.

Both students have lofty goals for their future. Ta'Niya Saunders will be studying nursing at Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach and Ashleigh Battle looks forward to studying business at Eastern Florida State College in Cocoa Beach.

The mother of scholarship recipient Ta'Niya Saunders, Deborah Jackson, was so impressed by the efforts of the BEHS 1966 alumni class that she has decided to try to have



Ashleigh Battle and Ta'niya Saunders Holding Scholarship Checks Presented by The Behs Alumni Class Of 1966.

her Blanche Ely 1988 alumni class help future graduates as well.

"I will be attending the '66 alumni meeting later in June so I can see how they go about bringing the scholarships into fruition because I'm not a teacher so this is a way I can give back to students from the school that helped my children and I become successful," Jackson said.

The 1966 Blanche Ely alumni class say that they're challenging other alumni classes to give away scholarships to local students

as well. "We are challenging other Blanche Ely alumni to come together and create opportunities for the young individuals in the community," said Gibbons-Smith.

Gibbons-Smith is hoping to provide more resources for aspiring young adults from Pompano Beach.

For more information on how you can sign up to be a 2024 scholarship recipient contact Buffie Phillips at Buffie.PhillipsLawrence@browardschools.com