

**YNW Melly
Double
Homicide
Retrial
Scheduled
for the Fall**



Screenshot of July 25, 2023 Pompano Beach City Commission Meeting

THE 4TH ANNUAL BACK **TO** SCHOOL

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY WAS A SUCCESS DESPITE RAIN

By China Boynton

Local businesses came together on August 19 to give away food, backpacks, and school supplies at Apollo Park. This year's event started at 10 a.m. when cars lined up to receive food distributed by Farm Share Food Bank. Over 500 families were fed while Humana offered health advice and Demesmin and Dover were on hand for free legal advice.

MANY sponsors came out to show their support like 99 Jamz' DJ Gee Smoove who came out and spun records for the crowd while footwear retailer DTLR showed up and handed out shoes. Volunteers from First Class Promotions handed out backpacks while children enjoyed a bounce house and snow cones. "It's a pleasure for us to give

back to the community it's in our nature, our parents set down the grass roots, so we are taking the baton and we're running with it," said Joselyn Jackson, Public Relations Specialist for First Class Promotions.

Jessica Williams who is the founder of South Promo coordinated the event with her team that originally wanted to hand out

■ *Back to School, see page 10*

Horses More Important Than People Say Black Residents in Northwest Pompano

By Kristen Hernandez

Pompano Beach, FL - City commissioners recently discussed defunding local equestrian park, Sand and Spurs, to free up taxpayer money that could better serve more pressing community issues. But during a July City Commission meeting, citizens in support of funding the park showed up in numbers to petition the motion.

Three commissioners flipped their vote, 4-1, to continue funding the park's \$400,000 a year price tag. After the meeting, it left residents of the Northwest area wondering - are animals and horses more important than certain people in this city?

■ *Horses, see page 10*

New Fire Academy at Blanche Ely High School

Students who want to pursue a career as a firefighter can sign up for the fire academy at Blanche Ely High School. The curriculum is taught by City of Pompano Beach firefighters. The academy focuses on real-world training, hazardous material management, fire suppression, incident command systems, and rescue operations.

The class will include hands-on simulations, classroom instruction, and mentorship from experienced firefighters. Students who graduate will leave with a Level 1 state certification and then can enroll with the city's academy for the Level 2 certification required to be a firefighter

in the state of Florida, according to Chad Brocato, Chief of Pompano Beach Fire Rescue.

"It gives them a sense of community," said Blanche Ely Principal Tavures Williams in a video on the school board's website. "Having the opportunity to get to learn from instructors that are actually in the field doing the real work will get the kids excited."

Zayvean Fulmore, a student at Blanche Ely is enrolled in the program, "this is going to help me learn more about being a firefighter and how to save people."

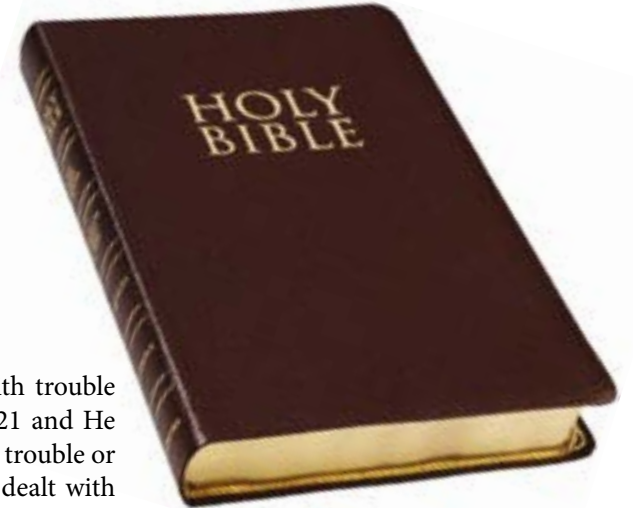
For more information, call Blanche Ely High school at 754-322-0950.





ONE MINUTE IN THE WORD

HOW TO DEAL WITH TROUBLE



The text says in Psalms chapter 23, verse 4:

Even though, I walked through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me.

Villij News

Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Nation of Ukraine gives us a wonderful example of what we should do when trouble is not only at our doorstep, but it's in our house.

- 1) Do we run from trouble?
- 2) Do we kill trouble?
- 3) Do we drown trouble?
- 4) Do we burn trouble up?
- 5) Do we squeeze the hell out of trouble?
- 6) Do we lock trouble up?
- Or
- 7) Do we learn how to face trouble?

The Apostle Paul dealt with trouble in Romans chapter 7, verse 21 and He said, "when I would do good, trouble or evil is always present." Jesus dealt with trouble in John chapter 16, verse 33. He said, "In this world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." And in our text, David found himself in trouble. He was that little sheep that strayed from the fold, but God will give you comfort in your crisis.

Put down your rod and take up God's rod, because his rod is your defense.

Time out! Pump ya breaks! Stop doing things your way and go God's way because his staff is for your direction.

Villij News

The trouble that you're facing at this moment, don't throw in the towel, but keep standing because this too shall pass.

And that's your One Minute in The Word. Listen, I'm not out of Word, I'm just 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's Question: Are you happy with the results you've been getting with the trouble you're facing? If not, then why don't you try putting your trouble in the hands of God.

Follow the One Minute Preacher
YouTube: @TLGFASHION
INSTAGRAM:
@THE1MINUTEPREACHER

BY REVEREND TIMOTHY GRIFFITH

I'm in the Book of Psalms, and it can sometimes read like it's taken from old movies. The good guys are the Israelites, and they fight with the bad guys, which are the nations around them.

Villij News

The trouble with trouble is that it's one of the easiest things to get into and the most difficult thing to get out of.

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
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

Q : We just moved into a new condo in a quiet neighborhood. I'm very proud of it, it's my wife and I's first home. The people in the community are friendly, but there's one guy that my wife is too friendly with. When we moved in, the neighbor and his wife gave us a welcome gift and said they were from the HOA. OK. Fast forward two weeks and I come home on my lunch break and the neighbor is in my house fixing a closet door that to my knowledge wasn't even broken. I asked my wife and she said that he came over and asked to check the door because the previous owner had issues with it. Since then, he comes over all the time, even when I'm home to check on us. She thinks he's just being helpful, but I think he's trying to get with my wife. Am I being insecure or is there something?

A : Chilleeee. This neighbor sounded fishy from the jump. Why are people bringing welcome gifts in 2023. This ain't 1940 and we don't bake pies for our neighbors. I hope he didn't give you food, because if you ate it, you're caught in his web. Your wife probably ate it because she's sipping his Kool-Aid. Coming home and seeing him unexpectedly is a major red flag for me. I don't like coming into MY HOME and seeing unexpected people – whether they are male, female or unknown. Why didn't wifey call you and let you know that he was there? That's between you and her. I don't know what your sign is, but I'm petty. Neighbor would find me cutting his grass at 6 am in a bikini – all eyes on me, so he understands that I got my house in order – don't worry about me and mines, unless you want me to take care of your wife. It's time to give that nosey neighbor the business.

As I See It

Pompano Pop-Up Shops

By David Miller

Pompano had its first business starter style event on Thursday, August 24, 6 to 10 p.m. You can work a gig, sell at the marketplace and now thanks to Small Biz CEDC, Pompano has a pop-up shop. What is a pop-up shop?

A pop-up shop is a short-term shop, open usually for just a day or two. This “here today, gone tomorrow” concept allows business owners to test marketing strategies, which they can later apply to their long-term goals. Anyone can open a pop-up shop. If you have goods to sell,

your customers will be excited for a different style of event. Don't hesitate to embrace the trend and plan your next pop-up shop event today.

If you attended a college, you know Thursday is a pop-up party night too. If you like to party and handle business, come do what you've been doing. I'm David, aka SideShow Pro, there was a time I promoted New Amsterdam brand's gin and vodka. Posters, T-shirts, flyers and cardboard cutouts are the best, ask Happy Liquor and Shark Liquor.

Business owners, get a Point of Sale

(POS) system that will support your needs. Your POS will need to be small enough to travel, mobile-friendly, and be able to manage your inventory. Without these features, your pop-up shop will quickly lose steam, forcing you to extend checkout times and guess on inventory.

Does your POS offer your business the support and flexibility you need? Are you ready to simplify your business, work it like a gig with the use of a new POS?

COME THROUGH! Shout out to the Tiger Trail Festival vendors, they vend every February. Come meet the Black

Xperience, donate to the “Teens Chasing Dreams Program” at the Pompano pop-up shop. We have Pompano's favorite food vendors, extremely marked down items and music by that boy Dj Sco!

We are celebrating Black August by showing love to black leaders and businesses. For more information about Pompano Pop-Up Shop call 954-586-4159 or visit www.smallinfobiz.net. Special thanks to Pompano clergy and shout out to the Circle of Brotherhood for being peace maker advocates. I love my community. Thanks for reading VillijNews.



Pictured left to right- Defendant Jamell Demons (YNW Melly) and co-defendant Cortland Henry (YNW Bortland)



Jamell Demons, aka YNW Melly, appeared in Broward County Court on Friday, August 4 for brief hearing regarding jury selection for retrial. Jury selection is scheduled for October 9th, pushed back one week from October 2nd



Christopher Thomas Jr. (YNW Juvy)

YNW Melly Double Homicide Retrial Scheduled for the Fall



Anthony Williams (YNW Sakchaser)

By Kristen Hernandez

Five years after the double murders of Christopher Thomas Jr. (YNW Juvy) and Anthony Williams (YNW Sakchaser), local Miramar rapper Jamell Demons, aka YNW Melly, will face retrial for the killings and is scheduled to begin this October. Cortland Henry (YMW Bortland) is the alleged accomplice and will be tried separately. Both victims and the two accused men are part of the YNW collective.

DURING a brief hearing in August, jury selection was pushed back a week and will now begin October 9. Demons was all smiles and appeared confident as he stood before the judge.

Another inmate leaving his own hearing shouted “Free

Melly” as he left, drawing laughter from observers. On his way out the courtroom, Demons appeared to mouth “I’m coming home” or “I’m going home” to his attorney.

Juror Speaks Out About Chaos During Deliberations

Broward County Circuit Judge John Murphy III asked the jury on two occasions to try and reach a unanimous decision.

A juror spoke out recently about tensions behind closed doors during deliberations. She spoke under the condition of anonymity with WPLG reporter, Ian Margol. She claimed jurors initially voted to convict Demons 11-1 on the lesser charge of manslaughter, except one juror who was “there to cause chaos.”

“From day one, she had issues with the foreperson selected, at one-point crossing her arms and saying she was ‘done,’ the juror told Margol. “When another juror asked her to not shut down and set her feelings

aside, she exploded. She yelled insults at anyone who had a different opinion.”

She also claimed the hold-out juror “manipulated” two other jurors’ opinions about the rapper’s guilt and persuaded them to change their vote.

“She announced to the group that they changed their minds, but when another juror asked why she was speaking for them, she exploded,” the former juror said. She added that the woman viciously threw insults, including gay slurs, at the man who questioned her.

On their third attempt at reaching a verdict, the jury was deadlocked. Without a unanimous decision, Judge Murphy formally declared a mistrial.

“It’s something we’re never going to forget. We were shaking at the end.”

The anonymous juror reportedly felt the need to set the record straight after Demons’ mother, Jamie Demons-King, claimed incorrectly in social

■ *Double Homicide, see page 10*

VillijNEWS
BROWARD COUNTY NEWS
VILLIJNEWS.COM

Publisher : A+ Editing & Content Creation

Editor-in-Chief : Attiyya Atkins

Distribution : Atkins United Moving

☎ 954-543-1423

✉ Villijnews@gmail.com

SEN. SHEVRIN JONES-D- INTRODUCED SB6 TO CONGRESS OFFERING SIDNEY HOLMES \$1.722 MILLION COMPENSATION FOR A LIFETIME TAKEN – AMOUNTS TO \$50,647 PER CONFINED YEAR

“I’m Their Political Poster Child for the 2024 Elections” Says Sidney Holmes

By Kristen Hernandez

Pompano Beach, FL - Sidney Holmes made headlines again when major news outlets recently reported that Holmes is seeking money from the state for wrongful incarceration.

Rather, Senator Shevrin Jones-D, introduced Senate Bill (SB6) to Congress, and voting is scheduled for February 2024. If approved, it’ll become law. Holmes, 22 at the time, was accused of being the getaway driver during an armed robbery in June of 1988. After being falsely identified by a secondhand witness, Holmes was given a 400-year sentence, and served 34 of them in state prison.



THE bill contains several stipulations but will compensate Holmes in the amount of \$1.722 million dollars for wrongful imprisonment. It also grants Holmes 120 hours of free college tuition but stipulates Holmes cannot hold the state of Florida liable. If he sues and collects any funds, he will have to pay the money back. Senator Jones did not respond to several requests for comment.

“I remember the day I was arrested like it was yesterday,” said Holmes, during an exclusive interview with Villij News. “We were having a family barbecue; it was like a reunion because everybody was there. It was a good time, because I was studying to be a medical technician. Then all of sudden, right in front of my family I was taken away in handcuffs, and I had no idea what was going on. What did I do wrong?”

Holmes wouldn’t see or hug them for the next three-and-a-half decades. The \$1.722 million the state is offering, divided by

34 years of wrongful confinement, amounts to \$50,647 per year, less than the average yearly salary for Holmes’ field of study. In 2022, Clinical Laboratory Technicians in Florida averaged a yearly income of \$57,100 according to United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Weak Apology

Holmes believes he’s being used as a political pawn. “All the publicity and media coverage is helping them [politicians] for next year’s election to get their hands on another seat. They’re using me as a poster child to enhance their political career.”

Holmes first viewed SB6 during his interview with Villij News. He pointed out the “apology” verbiage on page 3 that reads:

“The Legislature acknowledges that the state’s system of justice yielded an imperfect result that had tragic consequences in this case. As a result of his physical confinement, Mr. Holmes suffered significant damages that are unique to him...due to the fact he

was physically restrained and prevented from exercising the freedom to which all innocent citizens are entitled. The Legislature apologizes to Mr. Holmes on behalf of the state.”

Holmes said no one has verbally apologized for the terror and suffering he endured or discussed the bill.

“Nobody is telling me nothing. Everybody is making all this media coverage, and I wasn’t even aware of it,” Holmes said. “I’m not angry at anybody but I’m disappointed. I’m disappointed that they are trying to make a quick exit and just give me anything and that’s it. I am disappointed in that regard because I feel like I deserve more than that.”

A Lifetime Confined - “I Didn’t Do Anything Wrong”

“Before prison, I had a lot of goals and dreams, and I planned to accomplish them all,” Holmes said. “I was going to school, doing the right thing, but then suddenly it’s all taken away for no reason. That’s

how the system works. It goes against you when you’re trying to do something right. But God always has a plan.”

Prosecutors initially requested an 825-year sentence, but the judge felt that was too excessive. They instead settled for 400 years. Sentencing in terms of years rather than life, which offers opportunities for parole, ensures the person would die behind bars. After the Florida Innocence Project reviewed Holmes’ case earlier this year, a new judge ruled that Sidney Holmes was factually innocent of the accused crime and he was immediately released.

“I lost my father. He passed while I was in prison,” Holmes said in a soft voice. “That was the biggest disappointment. I’m blessed my mother is still with me, but my father is gone. Now I’m home and instead of hug-

ging him, I have to visit a grave.”

Four years ago, Holmes heard that his grandmother, the woman who was like his second mom, had died. “Because of the law, I couldn’t say my goodbyes to either family member or go to their funeral. You know, a 400-year sentence, that’s a high-risk situation because they probably thought I might try to escape or whatever. But escape was never in my mind. What is escape going to do? Ruin the rest of my life? No, because I didn’t do anything.”

Holmes has maintained his innocence since the day he was led away from the family barbecue in handcuffs. Now that he’s home and spending time with family, Holmes plans to coach young kids within Pompano Beach so they don’t fall into the same trap and get locked away for something they didn’t do.



CORRECTION

An article in the May issue of Villij News, titled “Sidney Holmes Exonerated After Serving 36 of 400 Year Sentence for Crime He Did Not Commit” incorrectly stated that Holmes was incarcerated for 36 years. He was incarcerated for 34 years.



**New Record: 56.54 sec.
Old Record: 59.08 sec.**

**4X100 GIRLS CRUSH JR. OLYMPIC RECORD
RUN IT SPORTS, SECOND YEAR PROGRAM**



Jurnee Smith, Malaya Feby, Christina McDougle, London Lee

NATIONAL BOYS NATIONAL GIRLS

- Bentley Slayden
- Jurnee Smith
- London Lee
- Arianna Mack

JUNIOR OLYMPICS BOYS

- Shavar Jackson
- Shalioh Smith
- Bentley Slayden

JUNIOR OLYMPICS GIRLS

- Jurnee Smith
- London Lee
- Christina McDougle
- Malaya Feby
- Janyliah Louis
- Brooklyn Tyson

AUGUST 4 AND 5TH, 2023
Pompano Shines at AAU tournament in Des Moines, Iowa



Helicopter Crash in Pompano Takes the Lives of Two

Broward Sheriff Gregory Tony announced the deaths of a Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue (BSFR) captain and an adult female civilian following the crash of a BSFR helicopter in Pompano Beach on Monday morning. The helicopter was on its way to the scene of a four-year-old that had been hit by a car in North Lauderdale.

AROUND 8:41 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 28, the flight crew was dispatched to a medical call regarding a traffic crash with injuries in North Lauderdale. The helicopter pilot attempted to return to the Pompano Beach Airpark. The

aircraft sustained an in-flight emergency and crashed into a small apartment building, east of North Dixie Highway and just south of Northeast 10th Street.

Two crew members, BSFR Pilot Daron Roche, 37, and BSFR Firefighter Paramedic Mikael “Mike” Chaguaceda, 31, managed to escape the wreckage. Roche has served with BSFR for four years, and Chaguaceda has served with BSFR for five years. Pompano Beach Fire Rescue transported the BSFR crew members and two civilians to Broward Health North hospital. According to the hospital, none of the individuals transported have life-threatening injuries and all are listed in fair condition.

BSFR Captain Terryson

Jackson, 50, died in the crash. Captain Jackson served with BSFR for 19 years. An adult female who was inside the apartment at the time of the crash was pronounced deceased on scene.

“Terryson was a rock star. He was one of the best of us, one of the brightest,” Sheriff Tony said. “He bled this profession inside and out, all day long. The type of effort and commitment he had for this community – impeccable. We’re going to suffer. We’re going to hurt, but this community should know that we’re prepared to answer the next call.”

Members of the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are on scene and will investigate the circumstances of the crash. In an

abundance of caution, Sheriff Tony grounded BSO’s aircraft fleet until the helicopters are re-inspected.

After the incident, Sheriff Tony said in an Instagram Live that the agency has a need for new helicopters.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



Attiyya Atkins
Scan to pay \$Tiyais



Ignite the Culture Celebrity Basketball Game

Ignite the Culture Celebrity Weekend Shines Spotlight on Student Access to Mental Health Resources



Markita Heard Unveils The Empower Kits

By Kristen Hernandez

Over the summer, Ignite the Culture Weekend presented a three-day series filled with a celebrity-studded charity basketball game, a flag football game with NFL players, and an open discussion panel to shine a bright light on the challenges children face during the school year, and the solutions.

VALERIE Wanza Ph.D, the new Deputy Superintendent for Broward County Public Schools, believes that parents play a vital role in their child's behavior and mental health status. She spoke at the mental health panel on July 20 at Blanche Ely High School's gym and emphasized the collective effort required to de-stigmatize mental health from state officials, parents and voters.

"The state of Florida has a mental health grant that helped us to access

a number of resources in the schools for students as it relates to therapists and counseling, but also some type of pre-screening so children can tell us up front how they feel, what they're going through, and what specific support they need," Wanza said. "We also have support for our employees because it's important their well-being is checked on regularly, so they're best equipped to provide for the students."

Wanza said children are still being affected by trauma caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"We're concerned about how our students came back to us after Covid. Many students were at home, accessing all kinds of portals or websites, and involved in activities that gave them challenges that we had to address when they returned," Wanza said. "We have plethora of resources that involve family counseling, individual counseling and opportunities for parents to get involved."

Wanza said it was the power of the voters that made free access to mental health services possible in the

■ *Ignite the Culture, see page 9*

Ignite the Culture

continued from page 8

school system. “The voters of this county also understood the need to invest in our children’s well-being. A part of the referendum that our voters passed, a portion of those funds go to implement activities and resources to address the mental health needs of our students. Students can reach out 24/7 online for help if they need access right away.”

Panel guest speaker and global thought leader Jibrial Muhamad, better-known as 19Keys, spoke directly to par-

ents who discipline their children with a heavy hand.

“You can get a ton of respect from your kids without beating them,” 19Keys said. “Teach parents how to act in front of their children. Teach your kids how to treat others. Mental health issues stem from these attacks from parents on children. Cursing the kids out; stop doing this to your kids. Trauma in their life will spill over to them losing control. That trauma is real. Mental health issues are real.”

Entrepreneur Markita Heard of Empower Kits organized the Ignite the Culture weekend alongside Above .500. Empower Kits is a metaverse, or a one-stop virtual shop, for empowering students with free resources that tackle several key aspects of a child’s development. Music artist, Wyclef, supported development of the Empower Kits, and makes an appearance within the metaverse.

“At the end of the year, our metaverse will be launched. Grab our notebook, scan the

code, and students will have access to a sprawling educational destination that tackles mental health and wellness,” Heard said.

The Empower Kits will offer access to live therapists, mentors, personal development, education, arts, entrepreneurship, health and wellness, technology and financial literacy in one virtual place. The key to accessing the metaverse will be through specially designed QR codes embedded within school supplies. Kids can use their

current gadgets like a phone or Oculus to access the metaverse.

In addition to the Mental Health and Wellness Portal on the Browardschools.com website, the school board is currently discussing the possibility of adding Heard’s Empower Kits to the school system as a free tool and resource for students. Ignite the Culture envisions a world where all minority students have access to free mental health resources by creating a positive social and environmental impact.



Ignite the Culture Celebrity Charity Basketball Game in Full Swing



Guest Panel at Ignite the Culture Charity Event Pictured Left to Right - Kaysia Early Esq, 19Keys, and therapist Dr. Jeff Rocker



Image Depicting Virtual Learning from Inside the Metaverse

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

954.545.7800
POMPANOBEACHARTS.ORG

Horses

continued from page 1

“To ask the citizens of Pompano Beach to subsidize horses for 20 to 30 people is vulgar,” said District 5 City Commissioner, Barry Moss, during the meeting. “People don’t even know it’s there, let alone use them.”

Long-time Pompano Beach resident, Tundra King, is part owner of a local family-owned private school, Moreland Academy on Atlantic Blvd. She sent Villij News an email voicing her concerns about the city’s decision. King was recently denied a request for \$25,000 to keep her school open for the summer because city funds aren’t permitted for private business use. Moreland students are primarily indignant and Black kids, with little access to extra money for school activities.

“Forget Moreland Academy for a moment, what about the deplorable conditions at other schools in Pompano, like Ely and Markham? Ely High School asked the city for rings and jackets, but they claimed they didn’t have money,” King said. “The energy we spent discussing horses is the energy we need to address the issues we constantly



Trip Advisor - Sand and Spurs Equestrian Park

ask help with. Not long ago, the city ‘found’ funds to help protect cats from inhumane practices used to euthanize them. Once again, animals got more attention than the many unhoused people sleeping in front of my business. Are they going to keep putting pretty buildings on top of them? The people in the NW don’t matter. That

\$400,000 should be helping the struggling families.”

Although she changed her vote, District 3 Commissioner Alison Fournier, brought up the idea to de-fund Sand and Spurs at a recent community workshop. “My initial proposal to stop funding Sand and Spurs was based on the same belief that the facility doesn’t reach

enough residents,” Fournier told Villij News. “It’s very hard to get approval to give riding lessons at the facility. I would like us to make that easier. We need to improve access.”

King feels that if Sand and Spurs offered free once-a-month riding lessons for children, or did therapy work within the NW District, she’d be all

for the continued funding. But King feels that the people of the Northwest have been neglected because of systematic racial injustice.

“Students from my school or community groups should have the opportunity to learn about horses and get exposure to learn about the upkeep of the animal, and experience the ride,” King said. “Someone mentioned they use some horses for people with disabilities and illnesses. Why don’t we have access to that? No one cares about the people in the Northwest area and it’s apparent why. It’s because the color of our skin is Black.”

King blames the vote flip on community backlash, and sent an email to City Manager, Greg Harrison. “Because they showed up in record numbers, it appeared the commission got scared and voted for this deal. The audience that spoke up is a true depiction of who is being serviced at the stables. The City is using funds for horses that are privately-owned. The citizens showed the Commission how white fear works, and you all fell for it; hook, line and sinker.”

Back to School

continued from page 1

700 backpacks filled with school supplies, but after word got out about this year’s drive that number swiftly increased to 1,200 backpacks.

“This is the fourth year that we’ve done the backpack giveaway for back to school and every year we do the backpack drive it gets bigger and better,”

Williams said.

Along with backpacks this year’s drive also featured barbers giving free haircuts, face painting and Florida Panthers tickets were part of a raffle along with three laptops donated by Albert Gibbs and the Leadership Academy.

“What we are focused on is

technology, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and leadership and we use mentoring as a catalyst to reach the children in the community,” said CEO and founder of The AG Leadership Academy Albert Gibbs.

“Our personal belief is that technology is the great equalizer for the black community so

that’s why we decided to donate three laptops to the community at this event, along with our time as well.”

People showed up despite the weather.

“We are especially excited about helping families with multiple children because the school supply list doesn’t get any short-

er,” Williams said.

Williams is already excited for next year’s school drive where she’s hoping to move to a bigger park and offer health screenings for the children as well as uniforms.

For more information on how you can help visit southpromo.com or call 954-560-4812

Double Homicide

continued from page 4

media posts that the jury was deadlocked 9-3 in favor of acquittal. She said it was the exact opposite, that nine jurors were convinced of Demons’ guilt.

“That’s just not true. I don’t want someone out there changing my vote.”

The Facts as We Know Them
On October 26, 2018, Demons and Henry, along with victims Christopher Thomas Jr. and Anthony Williams, left New Era Recording Studio in

Miramar in two separate vehicles. They are not seen again until Henry showed up at the hospital with two dead bodies, 103 minutes later. All four men have been friends since elementary school.

Prosecutors allege the appearance of possible gang members in YNW Melly’s music videos and social media posts prove the shooting was part of gang action, but the defense said that claim lacks cred-

ibility.

Authorities believe Demons and Henry staged a drive-by shooting by taking the car to a remote area and then fired several rounds into the back and sides. However, contradicting forensic evidence proved bullets were shot from inside the vehicle, from the left at close range.

The defense team called just one witness, Adrian Davis, to testify at the first trial. Davis

said he was with Demons the entire time, and when they heard about the murders, they cried together.

What Happens Next

Demons’ attorneys filed a motion last month to re-dispose lead Miramar police detective, Mark Moretti, before the new trial. Demons has added two new lawyers to his defense team and is reportedly replacing attorney David A.

Howard with Jamie Benjamin in an attempt to rejuvenate his defense.

Co-defendant, Cortland Henry, is also accused of two counts of first-degree murder and will be tried separately. Prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty in Henry’s case. Henry did not testify at Demons trial.

The murder weapon has never been located. Demons has pleaded not guilty.

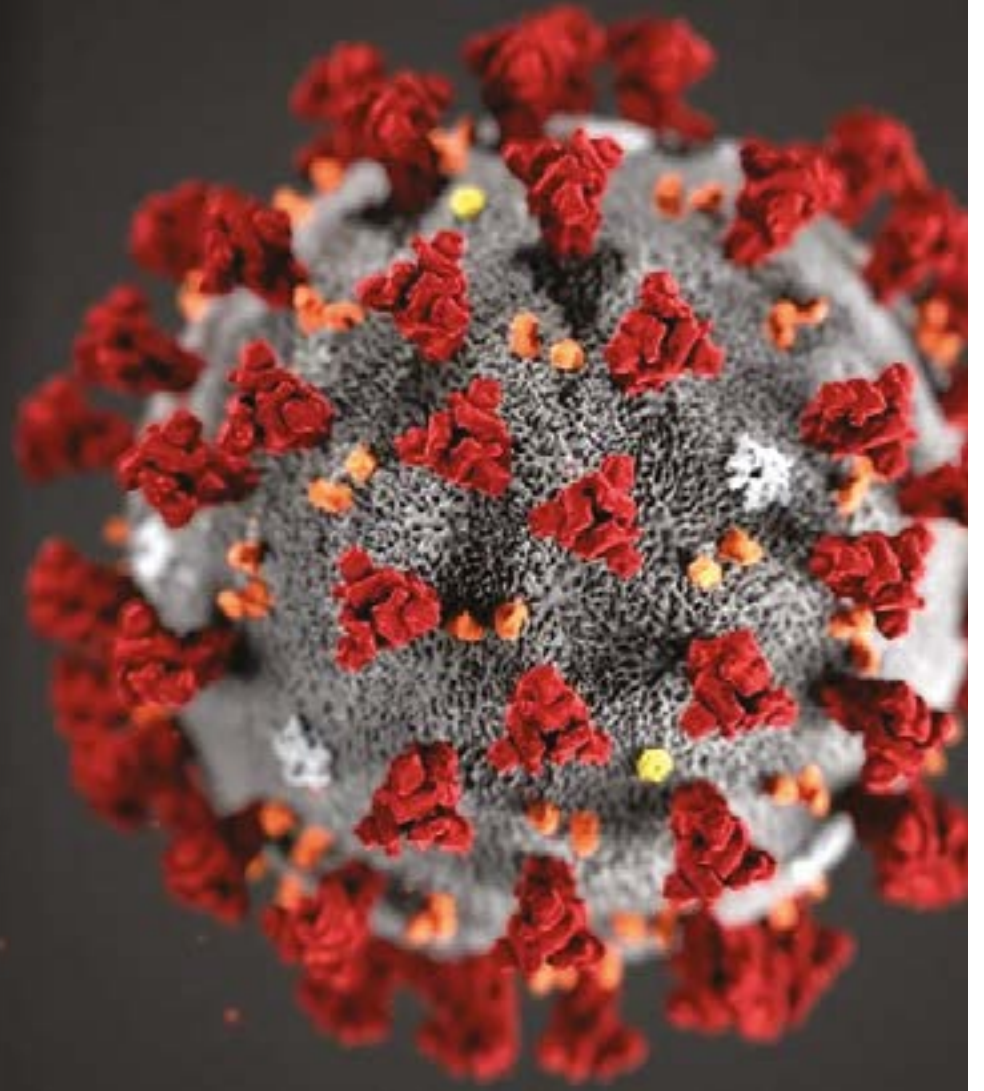
COVID-19 Data Update for the United States

Covid-19 cases are on the uptick. Please wear a mask and be safe. The data below is from the CDC.

Hospitalizations (from August 6 to August 12, 2023)
 Hospital Admissions: 12,613
 Trend in Hospital Admissions (from July 14 to August 12, 2023)
 +21.6% in most recent week
 Deaths (from July 14 to August 12, 2023)
 % Due to COVID-19 - 1.7%
 Trend in % COVID-19 Deaths (from August 13 to August 19, 2023)
 +21.4% in most recent week
 Vaccinations (from July 1 to August 19, 2023)
 Total Updated (Bivalent) Vaccine Doses Distributed
 152,508,460

Total Hospitalizations through August 9, 2023
 6,256,971

Total Deaths through August 9, 2023
 1,138,602



<p>SOULFUL SUNDAYS</p> <p>Have fun with the ReaXtion Band as they cater to the crowd with a funky, high-energy performance.</p> <p>AUG 13 6PM</p>  <p>SEARCH TO LEARN MORE</p>  	<p>LIVE AND LOCAL CONCERT SERIES</p> <p>Come enjoy James "sticx" Danson's musical genius skills with his Feel Good Music.</p> <p>AUG 18 7PM</p>  	<p>A Taste of JAZZ</p> <p>Live jazz plus wine tastings and educational encounters by Gold Coast Jazz Society.</p> <p>SEP 14 7PM</p>  	<p>iBAILA POMPANO!</p> <p>Love Bachata? Salsa? Merengue? Get ready to dance and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month!</p> <p>SEP 15 8PM</p>  
<p>POMPANOBEACHARTS.ORG 9 5 4 . 5 4 5 . 7 8 0 0 pompano beacharts pompano beach BROWARD COUNTY Cultural Division CULTURE BUILDS FLORIDA</p>			

Letter From the Editor



BLACK IS BETTER

It doesn't get hotter than August. Man, what a hot and busy month. The kids are back to school, finally. I'm tired of all the laundry and snack wrappers floating around my house. We're in school uniforms season! Eat at school season! Play with your friend's season!

Thank you to the teachers, you are more appreciated than you know. I know some of the schools don't have the resources that they need and that is frustrating. Like at C. Robert Markham Elementary, the staff and students won't have a cafeteria this year. They have dining portables right now due to construction.

BUT, heck, they weren't even going to have that. The kids were going to have to eat in the classroom. Let me just say if it was Stoneman Douglas,

the cafeteria would have been fixed prior to school starting. That brings me to my next point, August is Black Business Month. What does that really mean when there's a new holiday popping up constantly? It means nothing if you let it mean nothing. It means something if you let it mean something. Let's celebrate Black Business Month in unity and solidarity, just like the melanated folks in the Montgomery brawl did for each other. Especially, Unc with the chair and swimmer with the hands. In the business world, Black means success. If your sales and profit are in the Black, it's good news. It means you made money, and your business is growing. Let's take the Black on Black out of crime and put it into our businesses. Black people, support your local businesses, support your schools, support your community. Remember, it takes a Villij.

Sincerely,
Attiya Atkins, Publisher

ADVERTISE WITH VILLIJ NEWS

SOUTH FLORIDA'S GO-TO-SOURCE FOR BLACK NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT

In our community, sports, column, front page, back page, education, arts & entertainment and food sections



A D R A T E S

Ad Size	Full Size	½ Page Horizontal	½ Page Vertical	¼ Page	⅛ Page Horizontal	⅛ Page Vertical	1/16 Page
Columns	4 columns x 9.762 inches	4 columns x 4.812 inches	2 columns x 9.762 inches	2 columns x 4.812 inches	2 columns x 2.312 inches	1 columns x 4.812 inches	1 columns x 2.312 inches
Cost	\$150	\$100	\$100	\$65	\$50	\$50	\$30

CALL US TODAY AT
1-888-459-7483/954-543-1423

OR EMAIL
villijnews@gmail.com