



News >> Page 3  
A.D.A.M Challenge Day at Mitchell Moore Park Brings Family Fun



Extended Adderly Gillis family at the upgraded park

## ANNIE ADDERLY GILLIS PARK PLAQUE DEDICATION CEREMONY "BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS"

"IF YOU DON'T WORK IN YOUR COMMUNITY,  
IT'LL RISE UP TO HURT YOU."

By Kristen Hernandez

Pompano Beach, FL – Annie Adderly Gillis was a local pioneer, a lover of fancy decorative headpieces, and one of the original residents of Pompano Beach, moving here in 1934.

**T**HROUGH Gillis' Beach. Gillis' legacy was cemented within her beloved community on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at her namesake park -- Annie Adderly Gillis Park, located at 601 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd, where the **■ New Park, see page 7**

bloodline of seven children, 29 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren and 42 great-great-grandchildren, she is the matriarch of many of the current and future leaders of northwest Pompano



## Pompano Beach Stops the Use of ShotSpotter Gun Technology

By Attiyya Atkins

ShotSpotter, a tool used by Broward Sheriff's Office to track gun shots with the goal of reducing gun violence in the city, was not renewed by the City of Pompano Beach.

ShotSpotter is a gunshot surveillance system that uses sensor-based technology to detect and locate outdoor gunfire in real time. Once the system is alerted, ShotSpotter employees verify the information and immediately contact law enforcement. The information is often shared within seconds.

The Sheriff's office began using the technology in 2020 under a three-year program at a cost of \$780,000 a year, according to city documents. ShotSpotter went live in March 2021 in the northwest section of Pompano. Northwest Pompano

■ Gun Technology, see page 10

## Pompano Beach Middle School Opens On-Campus Food Pantry to Relieve Struggling Residents

By Kristen Hernandez

Pompano Beach, FL - Local families and residents are struggling to buy basic household items, and Pompano Beach Middle School principal, Lisa Livingston, envisioned bringing much needed resources directly into the neighborhood.

On Wednesday, April 24, the school unveiled its first on-campus food pantry that will be

operated by Homeless Hearts, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting hunger. With donations provided by Feeding South Florida, the middle school organized a ribbon cutting ceremony that brought residents and local officials out to witness the milestone and watch Livingston's vision come to light.

"Ms. Livingston felt she needed to bring hunger awareness into **■ School Pantry, see page 10**



Lisa Livingston, Principal of Pompano Beach middle school



Lisa Livingston (Center) and Tony Neal (Center, right) Cut Ribbon for Homeless Hearts Food Pantry Opening at Pompano Beach Middle School



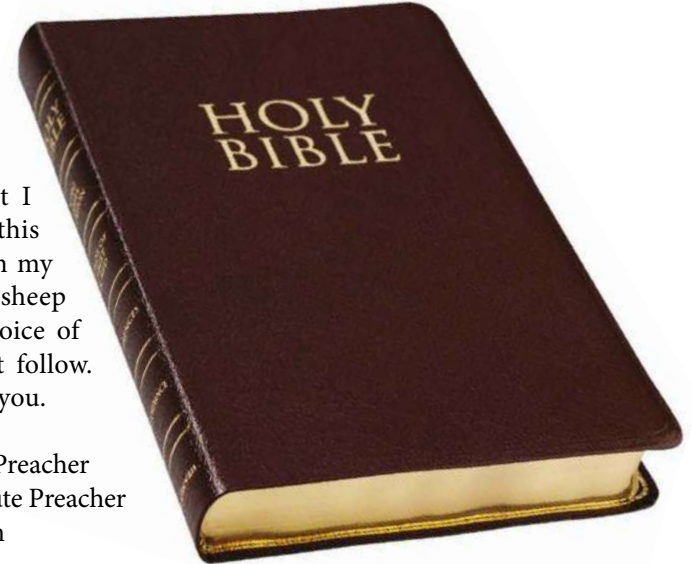
# ONE MINUTE IN THE WORD YOU BELONG

By The One Minute Preacher  
John 10:27, John 10:5

Sheep are never without a shepherd. A shepherd literally guides and watches all of these sheep to make sure that there's no wolves, there's no foxes, there's nothing that could harm the sheep because sheep are never without a shell. That's why I'm so glad I'm saved and filled with the Holy Ghost because even when I was out there in the world doing everything that I thought was

wrong, I was a sheep, but I wasn't lost because I had this shepherd. That was God in my life. The Bible says the sheep know my voice and the voice of a stranger they would not follow. Stay connected. God bless you.

Follow The One Minute Preacher  
Instagram: @ The 1 Minute Preacher  
YouTube: @ TLG Fashion



**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**

# A.D.A.M Challenge Day at Mitchell Moore Park Brings Family Fun

By Kristen Hernandez

The effects of a father's absence can have a negative impact on a child's life and follow them well into adulthood. Consequently, studies have proven that adverse behavior can be passed on to the next generation. Breaking the chain of another fatherless home was the main motivation for Mikelange "Mike" Olbel, CEO of Community-Based Connections, when he first organized A.D.A.M Challenge Family Fun Day at Mitchell Moore Park. This year's event, although an unpredictably hot day, highlighted community involvement, faith and fatherhood.

“A.D.A.M’s challenge was created to lead the effort to promote fatherhood and family preservation,” Olbel said, during 2023’s challenge. “We wanted our kids to come to a park in their own neighborhood with family and be safe.”

A.D.A.M (Awesome Dads Awesome Men) Day focuses on mentorship and leadership. The challenge was for local dads to bring their family and spend the afternoon together at the park. In the United States, there are about 18.4 million children that live without a father in the home. That’s enough to fill New York City twice, or Los Angeles four times over, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

“This is a great community resource for not only fathers, but for men who may eventually be one,” said James Nifong, father and Pompano resident. “It can help them be a better father figure and set them up for their future.”



Family fun activities at Mitchell Moore Park at A.D.A.M Challenge family day. Christian Holston.

Family time and mentorship weren't the only reasons for the 2024 A.D.A.M Day Challenge. Olbel also recognized the annual event brings community organizations together for residents to discover and utilize.

Organizations such as Chainless Change, who challenged Securus, the compa-



ny who dominates the state's prisons inmate phone system. Recently, Chainless Change helped to secure free 15-minute phone calls for inmates housed within Miami/Dade County and are currently advocating to do the same in Broward. The organization takes a unique approach to support and advocate

for anyone caught in Florida's prison system and their reentry into society.

Various activities, organization's booths, and vendors of all types lined the park grounds, and some donated their goods and services to the A.D.A.M. Day raffle. Dornette Thompson

■ Family Day, see page 11

## UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS: POMPANO BEACH

Tuesday, May 28th	City Commission Meeting	City Commission Chambers	6:00 pm
Tuesday, June 11th	City Commission Meeting	City Commission Chambers	1:00 pm
Tuesday, June 25th	City Commission Meeting	City Commission Chambers	6:00 pm
Tuesday, July 9th	City Commission Meeting	City Commission Chambers	1:00 pm



## LIFT EVERY VOICE AND VOTE POMPANO BEACH

Your vote matters, your vote counts. Don't let anyone tell you different. If you are not registered to vote, stop by E. Pat Larkins for assistance. Keep in mind these upcoming election dates for the City of Pompano Beach.

General Election Date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Qualifying Dates: Noon, Monday, June 10, 2024 – Noon, Friday, June 14, 2024

Elections for Office: District Commissioners 1 through 5 and Mayor-At-Large



Photo credit: BSO Facebook.

BSO deputy Brandon Marsten receiving an award for his life-saving efforts.

## BSO DEPUTY SAVES CO-WORKERS LIFE

Pompano Beach – Members of the Broward Sheriff’s Office work tirelessly to keep residents safe, but once in a while an officer goes above and beyond and can truly set themselves apart as a hero.

That was the case for BSO deputy Brandon Marston. On January 28, Marston responded to a two-vehicle crash at the 1500 block of S. Federal Highway. Courtney Spadafora, 30, was pushing her car into a nearby gas station after running out of gas. She was hit from behind by a vehicle and ran over, injuring her leg. She had life-threatening injuries and was close to bleeding to death.

Marston used his training and applied a tourniquet that would be essential in saving her life. The life he saved was the daughter of a co-worker, BSO community service aid Judy Smith.

Marston was awarded a city proclamation at a recent city commission meeting for his work and was called an “outstanding police officer” for his work that “really touches the heart,” according to Mayor Rex Hardin at the meeting.

# City of Lauderhill Announces Comprehensive Lauderhill Peace365 Campaign - Making Peace Personal, Everyday

The City of Lauderhill proudly unveiled its groundbreaking Lauderhill Peace365 Campaign, a concerted effort to cultivate a culture of peace and kindness throughout the community in April.

**S**PEARHEADED by Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn and developed in collaboration with the 100+ member/organizations of the Lauderhill Health and Prosperity Partnership, this initiative aims to address the escalating concerns surrounding gun-related and domestic violence crimes. Lauderhill Peace365 seeks to understand the root causes of

such behaviors and collaboratively implement solutions to eradicate them. In light of the increasing incidence of violence, it is imperative for every resident, business owner, and visitor to become active participants in effecting positive change within our community.

For more info, visit this website: Lauderhill Peace365 | City of Lauderhill (lauderhill-fl.gov)



**Publisher** : A+ Editing & Content Creation  
**Editor-in-Chief** : Attiyya Atkins  
**Distribution** : Atkins United Moving  
 ☎ 954-543-1423  
 ✉ Villijnews@gmail.com

# Sanders Park Elementary Wins Magnet School of Excellence Award

By Attiyya Atkins

POMPANO BEACH - Sanders Park Elementary, Broward County's only journalism magnet elementary school, has won an award of distinction for its academic standards, high-quality educational services and diversity initiatives.

**S**ANDERS PARK is one of eight schools in Broward County to receive a Magnet Schools of Merit School of Excellence Award by Magnet Schools of America (MSA).

MSA's National Merit Awards program honors the top magnet schools in the United States. These awards recognize magnet schools that demonstrate commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, successful desegregation efforts,

and consistently delivering a high-quality education. Other winning schools in Broward County include Northeast High School Biotechnology, Crystal Lake Middle International Affairs (IAB) & Engineering and Environmental Science, and Margate STEM Magnet Middle School.

Magnet schools that are the highest ranked in the "excellence category" are eligible to receive monetary awards and the chance to be named the nation's top Elementary, Secondary or New & Emerging Magnet School. One of the schools of excellence will be selected to win \$5,000 - which is attached to the Dr. Ronald P. Simpson Distinguished Merit Award, considered the most prestigious merit award. Magnet School of Excellence Awards are given to only a select group of magnet schools that have demonstrated the highest level of excellence in all facets of the merit award application.



## living room CONCERT SERIES

Join us at the Blanche Ely House Museum for the return of this intimate concert series. Paul Anthony & The Reggae Souljahs will seek to uplift, inspire, and empower the audience with their music.



BLANCHE ELY HOUSE MUSEUM

MAY 23 | 7PM



A performing arts festival and competition celebrating poetry, spoken word, and community outreach.



JUNE 12 - 15



POMPANOBEACHARTS.ORG  
954.545.7800



# Blanche Ely and Dillard High Marching Bands Outshine the Competition During Sound Check Fest 2024

By Kristen Hernandez

Davie, Florida – For the past year, student musicians at schools in Broward County trained like athletes for a championship game. Rehearsals were rigorous and the student's schedules strict. For them, Sound Check Fest was the ultimate win, and proof that their marching band, auxiliaries, and drumlines were the best.

**I**N April, marching bands from 16 high schools, three middle schools, and three historically black universities throughout the United States came to compete in Sound Check Fest 2024 at Nova Southeastern University in Davie. But it was the students from Broward County's historically Black high schools, Dillard and Blanche Ely, that stole the show with routines that "blew the roof" off Rick Case Arena.

"They deserve everyone's support," said Ray Nelson, one of two MCs for the event. "These kids could be anywhere else, but they're here."

Before the event, Miramar High School's Soldier Band held hands to pray.

"We're here to show everybody who we are, and express our feelings through music," said Yalina Williams, 15, of Miramar High School's Soldier Band. "Our percussion is the best!"

"Today promises to be a phenomenal show," said Ruthmore Exalant, 15. "We're about to show the world our patriotic pride, and our school pride. And we're going to win."

Each performer's synchronized movement was sharp and precise, and displayed skill and complete trust in one another. Each effectively brought the funk.

"All the athletes, dancers and band included, are held to a very high standard," said Xavier Gray, father of Diamond Dancer flagette, Xzaria Gray, 16. "My



Sound Check Fest competitors. Christian Holston.



granddad was a coach at Dillard. For us, being an athlete at Dillard is a family tradition."

Gray and his wife, Sharda Williams, had faith that the rigorous training their daughter endured would help the Dillard team take the title. As the main event playoffs began, waiting dancers stretched and practiced in the arena wings. Some sat on the floor either stretching or massaging their no doubt aching limbs.

When Dillard High School was introduced, the crowd's applause grew into a steady roar. Stomping feet shook the stadium like thunder. Quietly, the Diamond Dancers streamed out from the sidelines, with band members following behind. They were one band, one body, one heartbeat.

Each dancer rocked a sexy black leotard, wore a fur coat, fedora, cool shades, sported a pimp cane and wads of fake cash. Silently, the dancers and band members took their place,

each flagette stood paused in motion, waiting for their cue. When the band sparked its' first funky chord, the dancers erupted and made it rain.

"It's more than just having passion," Gray said. "In our neighborhood, it's a way of life. There is a lot of history linked to those streets when it comes to music... some great and successful athletes have come out of here. Music is different. Outside of sports, it keeps kids off the streets."

In addition to the routines and performances, Sound Check Fest 2024 announced scholarships for students. The Sound Check Be Heard Foundation helps students achieve their music education goals, and also honors outstanding educators actively continuing their own education.

"Sound Check Fest isn't just about the music; it's about fostering inspiration, creating unforgettable moments, and bringing people together through the

power of education and community," said Sound Check Fest founder Sheldon McLean.

Blanche Ely's music teacher and band director, Wisher Elias, was awarded the Elevated Scholarship to continue his studies at Florida International University. Local radio personality, Stichez, announced a unique scholarship from GirlsMakeBeats.org that was awarded to Malika Shabazz, aka Sparkle. At just 12 years of age, Sparkle is the youngest female DJ and multi-threat recording artist who produced an official remix for Janet Jackson.

The drumline was the only competitive part of the exhibition. The winner was Faith's Place from West Palm Beach, second place went to Palm Beach Lakes, and third to Piper High School's drumline.

For information about future Sound Fest events, tickets, scholarship information, and some video footage, check out Sound Fest, Be Heard 2024.

# It's So Collier City

By Attiyya Atkins, Publisher of Villij News

It's so Collier City,  
A piece of Pompano's Black history  
These streets are filled with love, it's no mystery  
Kings and queens working hard to earn their means  
Back in the day picking beans  
The servitude was a testimony to the dreams  
The dreams of black homeowners and black business owners today who are

doing their thing  
Now everything we touch, we bling.  
Collier City it's time to lift every voice and sing!  
I'm praying for the spirit of unity  
So we can collect our community  
From the gun violence and the political indecisiveness  
That's plaguing us  
Remember there is hope. We can save us.  
We're a Villij  
God made no mistakes when he made us!

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



Attiyya Atkins

Scan to pay \$Tiyais

## New Park

*continued from page 1*

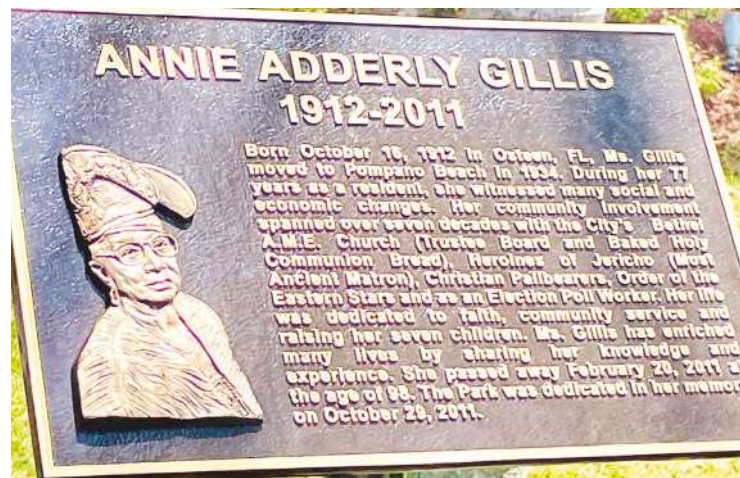
city of Pompano Beach presented a special plaque dedication ceremony in front of Gillis' family, friends and neighbors.

"You must know her to love her," said Gillis' granddaughter and Pompano Beach city commissioner, Beverly Perkins. "Before you wonder why this park was chosen to dedicate to Annie... a park that has a lot of drugs and known to be a homeless hang out...it's because Annie didn't mind. But we do. Now that the incredible rebuild is complete, Annie Adderly Gillis Park will soon have a brand-new parking lot that will extend over to 7th Avenue, making it more accessible."

Gillis passed away at 98 years old on February 20, 2011. The city of Pompano officially dedicated the park to Gillis later that same year. But the passive park needed a makeover first.

The CRA first gave the grounds a tremendous \$1.4 million dollar facelift in 2022, and transformed the space into a functional, tranquil park. The Covid-19 pandemic further delayed installation of the dedication plaque, which gives visitors a peek into the remarkable life of Pompano's historic figure.

Combating the issue of safety was the primary focus of the park's renovation. A large portion of the overhaul went into adequate lighting and security features that include live surveillance monitoring. The park now features interactive exercise equipment, walking



Official dedication plaque for Pompano Beach pioneer, Annie Adderly Gillis



Family members of Annie Adderly Gillis unveiled dedication plaque in their matriarch's honor.

trails, shade installations, and a space for special events and food trucks. There is also a dedicated space for the city's annual Light Up MLK holiday celebration, which is where Gillis lit the tree during the city's first event.

"Mom was selfless and had a huge heart," said Gillis' son, Ralph Adderly, known to family and friends as Uncle Ralph, before the dedication plaque was unveiled. "She was special. She witnessed so much history through socio

and economic changes in her 77 years as a Pompano citizen. She was one of the first black women to ever drive a car in the city. And she believed voting was a duty. She was a God-fearing believer, too."

Uncle Ralph spoke about the flood of 1948 that submerged much of the northwest district, leaving residents stranded and desperate for food and water.

"It was mom who took our family boat and sailed past this

very park. She brought resources to stranded neighbors and helped to rescue some off their roof tops."

The park dedication plaque features Gillis wearing one of her stunning handmade headpieces. Twenty years ago, Annie started creating her own hats, scarves and headpieces by recreating replicas of couture hats she'd see in fashion magazines. In almost every photo of Gillis she wore her own creation, and often sold them to family and friends for no profit.

"Grandma was a big believer that wearing a headpiece of any kind will keep out negative thoughts," said Perkins, who is frequently seen wearing her own fancy hat. "When in doubt, she'd say, 'pray about it.' Does everyone have their Bible?"

Perkins held up a tiny pocket Bible and all of Gillis' relatives whipped out their own. Gillis taught her children to volunteer

and work within their community. She believed that "if you don't work in your community, it'll rise up to hurt you."

In addition to raising her large family, Gillis provided clothing for the needy, had a lifelong dedication to the church, worked 15 years as an election poll worker, served as former president of Heroines of Jericho, held an acting membership within Eastern Stars, served with Christian Pallbearers for over 70 years, was Class Mother to the Blanche Ely High School Class of 1960, and collected elephant figurines.

"Do y'all remember those 'lucky' elephants?" asked Uncle Ralph, addressing the extended family members. "She loved and collected them. When she passed, there were over 200 laying all around the family pictures. Her last message was to be strong and courageous."



Granddaughter of Annie Adderly Gillis, Vivian, holding up her pocket Bible that all family members were gifted by their matriarch.

# Embassy Suites by Hilton Deerfield Beach Resort & Spa Completes Signature Restaurant Renovation

Reimagined Beach Terrace Restaurant Welcomes Guests with Breathtaking Ocean Views and Tropical Ambiance

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. – Embassy Suites by Hilton Deerfield Beach Resort & Spa unveiled its reimagined signature dining location, Beach Terrace Restaurant, after a nearly million dollar renovation in March. The transformed dining experience promises to transport resort guests and local residents to a tropical oasis with authentic Caribbean cuisine complemented by stunning oceanfront views and a modern ambiance inspired by the area's coastal charm.

“WE’VE long had the goal of featuring a restaurant that truly captures the serenity of Deerfield Beach, and we are absolutely thrilled to introduce the new Beach Terrace Restaurant,” said Jorge Madrigal, general manager of Embassy Suites by



Hilton Deerfield Beach Resort & Spa. “Careful consideration went into every detail of our renovation, sparing no idea to fully immerse our guests in the

essence of an unforgettable, authentic South Florida beach escape.”

The restaurant’s five-month renovation project includes a



full reconfiguration of its breakfast space, which now offers a more intimate and secluded experience for diners. A new Blender Bar has been added,

boasting a comprehensive selection of frozen beverages, craft beers and chilled wines. A new multi-purpose patio for outdoor

■ *Beach Resort, see page 11*

## SUMMER SPECIAL AT THE KIMPTON SHOREBREAK FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH RESORT

While there are many choices of things to do this summer, few offer the perfect combination of laid-back atmosphere and stellar dining and entertainment options like the Kimpton Shorebreak Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort. Perfectly located steps away from the beach and the hustle and bustle of “the strip,” the Shorebreak is a hidden jewel offering all the best of a beachside getaway. Whether you are traveling from across town or across the country, the 96-room boutique resort is a slightly under the radar summer destination worth checking out.

### FLORIDA RESIDENTS RATE

Those who live year-round in the Sunshine State know that they don’t have to travel far to enjoy a



sunny beachside getaway, and the Kimpton Shorebreak Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort is welcoming all Florida residents with 20 percent off all accommodations and waiving the property’s resort fee, an additional \$38 per night savings. Included in that waived fee are a number of amenities received by all guests of the prop-

erty including a nightly hosted evening Social Hour with complimentary wine and beer; morning coffee and tea service, a yoga mat in every room, fee free pet stays and no cost bicycle usage. Pets are welcome and there is live jazz in the onsite restaurant La Fuga on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for those wishing to enjoy

a drink or dinner with a musical backdrop. To book this rate, you must have a valid state of Florida ID. There

### RAISE THE ROOFTOP

Enjoy a \$50 credit and explore the innovative new food and cocktail menus at Escape Rooftop Bar – the property’s welcoming

rooftop pool and lounge. Soak in the best views of Fort Lauderdale, including magnificent western-facing sunsets and Escape’s new Sunset Happy Hour offering drink specials 30 minutes prior to, and after, sunset. And every Friday and Saturday all summer long “raise the rooftop” from 1PM to 5PM with guest DJs.







Wayne Mayers, Jr. FLL Chief Pilot, JetBlue; Nicky Tesser, Manager Brand Partnerships & Production Marketing, JetBlue; Nancy Hocking, Director Gateway Programs, JetBlue; Mariella Perez, Gateway Programs Manager, JetBlue; and Jim DeChant, Senior Major Gifts Officer, Broward College

# Broward College Aviation Program Joins JetBlue's Gateway University as First Community College Partner

The Emil Buehler Aviation Institute at Broward College officially kicked off its partnership with JetBlue's Gateway University, making it the first community college to join the major airline's groundbreaking pilot development program.

**T**HE longest-running path program for aviation college students, Gateway University was launched in 2008 to partner with top university aviation programs and address the career uncertainty many developing pilots experience when starting out. With one of JetBlue's largest crew bases at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and numerous destinations served from surrounding airports including Miami and

Palm Beach, Broward College is also ideally positioned to help area students study for in-demand careers that allow them to stretch their wings and fly while still maintaining their connection to home.

"The most fundamental part of any flight plan is knowing your destination and charting a clear path to that goal," said Nancy Hocking, director of Gateway programs, JetBlue. "Broward College has a strong reputation and has shown their ability to successfully prepare students for careers in aviation, and we're thrilled to welcome these pilots to our program and support them as they move forward on their course to a rewarding career in commercial aviation."

JetBlue's Gateway University program is a career-planning and mentoring initiative designed to identify and recruit

talented professionals into the pilot ranks. Students accepted into the program receive a conditional job offer as a first officer at JetBlue along with additional guidance and mentorship as they complete their education and follow one of several prescribed paths to gain experience and flight time at a partner airline. After completing all requirements and certifications, pilots in the program are able to officially join JetBlue as a first officer.

"Becoming a pilot is a well-paying and fulfilling career with a starting salary of more than \$100,000 for a first officer with most major airlines," said Russell McCaffery, Dean, Broward College Transportation Programs. "There is tremendous opportunity for upward mobility with senior captains making a \$500,000 salary."

Certified by the Federal

Aviation and Federal Communications Commission, the Emil Buehler Aviation Institute at Broward College is located at North Perry Airport in Pembroke Pines. Students are trained by FAA-certified flight instructors from Phoenix East Aviation in the air, and on the ground using state-of-the-art flight simulators.

Broward College's Airline Transport Pilot (R-ATP) certificate program offers a comprehensive education for aspiring commercial airline and private jet pilots. They earn instrument and multi-engine ratings, as well as become a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) and Certified Flight Instructor Instrument (CFII). Some courses are available online to offer a flexible schedule.

"We are so grateful for this partnership with JetBlue," said Megan R. Cottle, Vice President

for Advancement and Chief Development Officer for the Broward College Foundation. "The JetBlue Gateway University program will have a positive impact on our students providing them with the support and hands-on experiences that will fuel their future career success."

One of the top priorities at Broward College is to prepare students for fields that are actively hiring, increasing their opportunities of job placement upon graduation and fostering long careers in the field of study. For instance, one such field is aviation, where there is a high demand to develop a strong talent pipeline. Last July, Boeing released its 2023 Pilot and Technician Outlook (PTO) report, which projects that 649,000 new commercial pilots will be needed by 2042 to account for fleet growth and to replace retiring pilots.

## Gun Technology

*continued from page 1*

has the highest instances of gun violence within the city. At a March city commission meeting, the technology was not renewed due to questions of cost, effectiveness, and long-term feasibility.

Data provided by BSO Seargent Sharon Wesolowski at the March city commission meeting stated that in the past three years, the technology has responded to 1,349 cases, which led to 45 arrests, 32 involving firearms and two were for violent crimes. Mayor Rex Hardin said the results were not insignificant, but were not as

expected.

Instead, the city plans to pursue a recommendation from the city manager's office to use more license plate readers and cameras that go to the real-time crime center which opened in 2021.

The real-time crime center has 630 closed-circuit TVs, pan-tilt-zoom cameras, and automated license plate readers. The state-of-the-art facility opened the year that the city implemented ShotSpotter, but the real-time cameras are not monitored 24/7.

Commissioner Beverly



Members of the PPP (People, Pastors, Police) at the real-time command center.

Perkins said at an April meeting that she is advocating Northwest CRA Advisory for the city to put the more than

\$750,000 the city will save from removing ShotSpotter into staffing to monitor the cameras. Whitney Rawls, Chairman of the Northwest CRA Advisory committee, asked if the CRA could pick up the cost to keep ShotSpotter. Nguyen Tran, CRA director, said that it is a city decision.

Still, the Northwest CRA Advisory committee made a motion to recommend the city to reinstate ShotSpotter.

Since the March decision to not renew the program, Perkins has asked the commission to reconsider the motion.

## School Pantry

*continued from page 1*

the community," said Tiana Poitier, Assistant Principal of Pompano Beach Middle School. "She especially felt that resources should be available for any resident experiencing financial difficulty and have those resources available right here on campus."

Inside a room within the school cafeteria are carefully stocked pantry shelves arranged "mini-mart style." Available items include feminine hygiene products, pantry items such as canned soup, vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, rice, pasta, water, juice, bread, cereals, frozen meats, and produce. The food pantry is currently open for residents during school hours by appointment, Monday through Friday, and will also offer drive-thru distribution of pre-packed groceries every Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.

"There are currently 22 kids enrolled at Pompano Middle whose families are listed as homeless," said Tony Neal, CEO of Homeless Hearts, during an interview with Villij News after the opening. "It's a blessing to have the opportunity to do more. Hungry kids can come to school and see a room right here that can meet their needs."

Neal recalled his childhood and how his grandmother would bring him to Winn Dixie, but to the back where the dumpsters stood. She'd say, 'If you remember this, you'll never go hungry.' Using a long stick with a hook at one end, she'd reach over and whack at whatever boxes that were inside until she heard the tell-tale "whomp," and then order Neal to climb in to retrieve her prize.

"We'd pull out packages of water, still sealed, trays of

unopened frozen meats, and pallets of still-fresh fruits and vegetables," Neal said. "All that 'waste' was our goldmine."

Head of Facilities for Homeless Hearts, and on-site pantry manager, Camilla Harris, believes that caring means sharing.

"Having this room filled with food gives people hope," Harris said. "The grand opening was a tremendous milestone, but it's only the beginning. We need to reach another level with help from the community. We need donations. We need shelves, a freezer, and a freezer truck. We also need feminine hygiene items. The community needs to come to the school and see what's happening in their own backyards every Saturday, and volunteer."

Any Pompano Beach family experiencing financial



difficulty can utilize the pantry. Identification is required to enter, which lets Homeless Hearts track and offer ongoing support.

"A homeless heart is a faithless heart," Neal said. "And empty stomachs fall on deaf ears. It's the teachers that deal with the effects of not having enough. So, we're rolling out the red carpet for the moms who can't afford to shop at Trader Joes or Whole Foods. We want every family to see that there is room here in their

neighborhood that can meet their needs. You can't tell by someone's looks what their situation is. And if you can change one child's heart, you never know the effect that'll have on their life."

Contact Pompano Beach Middle School to make an appointment during school hours to visit the pantry. Drive-through grocery distribution is available every Saturday from 10am until noon, and no appointment is required.



## Family Day

*continued from page 3*

of Collier City waved her lucky number 524 raffle ticket in the air when event organizer, Pastor Ron Harper, called her digits.

“I come here each year, and this is the first time I won anything,” she said, grinning as she wheeled her new bicycle from the stage.

Speed Mob Crew’s hot rod Mustangs and Hondas made their annual ride to Pompano,

and crew members scattered themselves around the park. Every year, the crew takes time to mentor kids. The hot days’ sunlight amplified the kiwi greens, strawberry reds and lilac purple color of each supped-up ride.

“We’re here to help these kids, help guide them,” said Heather Stellato, Speed Mob Crew Mama, who rides with the rest of the Mob Crew

throughout Broward. “We usually each take this opportunity to speak to the young ones who show interest in our cars and tell them they can achieve this, too.”

The Community Based Connections social media pages and website contains additional information on the services they offer and about next year’s A.D.A.M Challenge Day.



## Beach Resort

*continued from page 8*

dining featuring innovative nano doors seamlessly transitioning from inside to outside, provides picturesque views of the Atlantic Ocean. This inviting space also serves as a perfect setting for groups, offering opportunities for corporate breakout sessions or social events. Beach Terrace can now service more than 230 guests with the option of 187 indoor seats and 50 outdoor seats.

Every detail of the restaurant’s transformative renovation, from the addition of new eclectic light fixtures to its nautical décor and stylish furniture, was carefully chosen to reflect the scenic setting of Deerfield



Beach. Throughout the restaurant, tropical artwork with underwater tones pops against the backdrop of white walls, while thoughtfully arranged mirrors enhance the bright, sun-soaked atmosphere. Other highlights of the renovation include styl-

ish new accent walls, a striking wine wall and a refurbished bar area adorned with sea glass tiles and wood planks. New blue carpeting throughout the breakfast area and hardwood flooring throughout the main dining area enhance the upscale ambiance.

The restaurant features a new menu complete with coastal flavors and locally sourced seafood for guests to savor from start to finish. Appetizer options include light and fluffy conch fritters with tingum sauce (\$17), mussels steamed in tequila broth (\$18) and lobster bisque served with crab dumpling (\$12). Patrons can choose from a collection of Caribbean-inspired entrees influenced by Executive Sous Chef Carlyle Bain, who honors his Bahamian roots with a seafood flatbread with garlic sauce, shrimp and crab meat (\$22); mahi-mahi casserole with mahi, mussels, shrimp and lobster stew (\$38);

and rasta pasta with jerk chicken, sweet peppers and gemelli in a butter chicken broth (\$28). A variety of handcrafted cocktails are also available, from a Caribbean mule with BACARDÍ Anejo Cuatro rum, coconut water, lime juice and ginger beer (\$14) to a cucumber paloma with Don Julio Blanco Tequila, cucumber and sparkling pink grapefruit (\$15).

Beach Terrace serves complimentary made-to-order breakfast to all resort guests. Lunch and dinner are available to resort guests and the public daily from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Poolside service is also available to resort guests during these hours.

**ASHANTI**  
CULTURAL ARTS

**IN LIVING COLOR**

**Ashanti Cultural Arts Programs Showcase 2024**  
June 2nd, 2024 3 pm | Pompano Cultural Center  
[www.ashanticulturalarts.org](http://www.ashanticulturalarts.org)

Sponsored in part by:

**JACK AND JILL** of America, Inc. Greater Fort Lauderdale Chapter

**The Links, Incorporated** North Broward County Chapter

**THE CORDISH COMPANIES**

**Mounthemon** smeehah

## Letter From the Editor



# SUMMER, SUMMER, SUMMER TIME

It's here. It's hot. It's sweaty. We're used to it in Florida, but it's hotter than before. Our Earth is burning up before us, and I can definitely feel it in the summertime, but it's only spring! I don't know how long it will take for us humans to get our act together and figure out a way to cure our Earth, but we need a solution fast.

**I**NDUSTRIALIZATION and selfishness have pushed us into a world we can ignore issues and rely on technology to fix the problem, but ultimately create a new one. I think all the Earth's residents need a prayer session, we all

need to unite hands and pray over our soil, our trees, our waterways, our animals, and our families. We are so disconnected from the dirt from which we came. I speak to you, but I also speak of myself. When I first got my house, it was a priority to have a garden so I could give back to the Earth that has given to me. It's cool in theory, but it takes work. Hard work that we are quick to dismiss or ignore at any sign of trouble. Watering and tending to my garden was one of the most relaxing and grounding things I used to do, but now with the heat... I'm not inclined. But without the water, without the care, the plants die. This universal principle applies to all that we do. This summer you will be tested... the temperature will be hot, but remember to water the things that are important to you.



**Q** : I have been with my boyfriend for about five years. When we met he was really rooted in his faith. He didn't go to church all the time, but he prayed and I could tell that his relationship with God was important. Fast forward to about two months ago, my boyfriend acts like he's never heard of the Lord. He says that he doesn't believe in God and that he doesn't exist. He's been doing more rituals and I've been finding strange things around our house. I'm concerned that my boyfriend is into voodoo. What do I do?

**A** : It sounds like your boyfriend is going through something. Somehow his faith has been shaken. It sounds like he's reevaluating his life due to some event – or it could be that he's always been into this and feels more comfortable expressing it. Either way, it's about how you feel. Voodoo is often misunderstood, but I know where I stand with it, I'm praise the Lord always... so I'm not going to compromise. You have to decide if him doing a little black or white magic is OK for you.

**Gain local clout!  
Advertise with  
Villij News today**