



ALI CULTURAL CENTER COURTYARD RENAMED

TO HONOR HAZEL K. ARMBRISTER'S HISTORICAL LEGACY

A trailblazer, civil rights activist, educator, historian and Black pioneer

By Kristen Hernandez

Pompano Beach, FL – When Lydia Wilson stood before the podium in the Ali Cultural Arts Center courtyard, she appeared poised and steady. She held her back straight, shoulders out and her head up, just like her mother, Hazel K. Armbrister, taught her. But when she tried to speak, her voice cracked. Like an incoming tide, tears overwhelmed Wilson before she could gather her composure.

“My mom was the best mom I could ask for,” Wilson said through teary eyes on July 10, as the City of Pompano Beach named the courtyard at the Ali Cultural Arts Center after Wilson’s mother - a powerful community matriarch, leader, and friend to many.

The Hazel K. Armbrister Courtyard includes a sculpted

bust that captures her likeness, down to her strand of pearls. Now, Armbrister is a part of the building she fought to save from imminent demolition.

“She stood in front of a bulldozer in the 2000’s,” said Gwen Clarke-Reed, former friend and retired Florida State Representative. “And she refused to let them go any further. My

memory of her was trying to save this building, to have it remain for the community.”

Armbrister believed that saving the building could offer a beacon of hope to the northwest Pompano Beach community. “That building is more than just a broken-down place. It carries so much rich history, and I

■ *Courtyard Renamed, see page 10*

Property Taxes Decrease in Pompano

By Attiyya Atkins

Property taxes decrease in Pompano Beach for fiscal year 2025, according to the city’s budget. October 1 starts the 2025 fiscal year. The city’s tax base increased by approximately \$2 billion, a sign of strong economic activity. This increase means more taxable income in the city, which means a lower tax bur-

den for residents and business owners in Pompano Beach.

New Construction

New construction accounted for about \$349 million in 2024, an increase of 156 percent compared to July 2023, where total construction reached \$136 million.

Homeowners can look forward to a decreased millage rate of .8 percent to 6.25 percent for 2025 compared to 6.30 for 2024. The millage rate refers to property taxes paid for essential government services, such as emergency services, Bond projects, and city debts. The tax is collected as a 1/1000 percentage on a property’s value.

City Budget

The city’s budget for fiscal year 2025, which starts in October is \$487,383,722, an increase of 14.6 percent compared to 2024, due in part to increased water, wastewater and storm water fees, and increased property values and state revenue sharing.



ONE MINUTE IN THE WORD

2 CHRONICLES 15: 7

“ But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.”

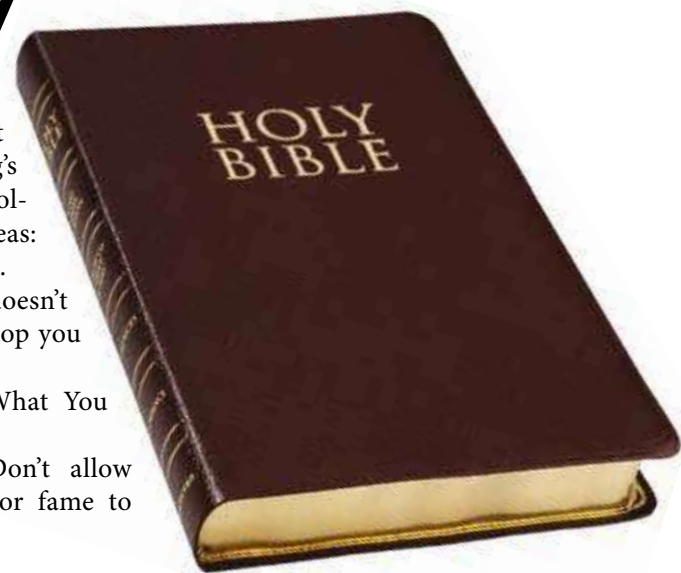
When I played quarterback the thing that I had to learn the most was to follow through. If you study all great quarterbacks the thing that they have in common is that when passing the ball they all follow through. Listen, if this is really going to be your year and you're going to make

great exploits - you got to follow through. Listen ladies, you've been dating him now for three years that brother needs to...follow through. Listen you're going back and forth on that business idea that God put in your heart, and your stuck in that dead end job you need to follow through. Listen I know it's been a long time and I know you haven't gotten it right, but

you need to learn how to follow through. Our text teaches us that the king's success depended on him following through in three areas:

- Number one: Obey God. Even if your family doesn't obey God that shouldn't stop you from obeying God.
- Number two: Finish What You Start. and Number three: Don't allow clicks views likes power or fame to stop you from relying on God.

And that's your One Minute in the Word. Listen I'm not out of word, 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.



I'm in the book of Chronicles where it chronicles the Golden Age and highlights the temple where the presence of God came to rest.

In 2 Chronicles 15 verse number 7,

Life's Question:
Are You Ready For More?
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Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:45 A.M.
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:45 A.M.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY 6:30 P.M.

OPEN ARMS DELIVERANCE
PASTOR HENRY AND
LADY BELINDA GOODWIN



Alison Fournier



Debresia LeSane



Audrey Fesik



Andrea McGee



Rhonda Eaton



Ed Phillips



Barry Moss



Sajan Kurian



Rex Hardin



Thomas McMahon



Beverly Perkins

Pompano Beach Candidates Running for Office

BY MIKEYLA BIEN-AIME

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4. Be informed.

OFFICE: MAYOR - AT-LARGE - KEEP IT TRADITIONAL OR NEW FACE ON DAIS?

Rex Hardin

Rex Hardin has been a long-time resident and active member of the Pompano Beach community. He served as a City Commissioner before becoming Mayor. Rex focuses on improving city services and infrastructure. He is involved in local organizations like the Rotary Club and the Sample-McDougald House Preservation Society. Rex also owns a local printing business and works as a real estate agent.

Debresia LeSane

Debresia LeSane is new to Pompano Beach politics and aims to bring fresh ideas to the community. She focuses on increasing community engagement and transparency. Debresia believes in listening to residents' concerns and working together to find solutions. She has a background in community service and wants to improve the quality of life in Pompano Beach. Her goal is to make local government more responsive and effective.

OFFICE: COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 1 - COUSINS ON DIFFERENT SIDES OF DEVELOPMENT

Audrey Fesik

Audrey Fesik is running for District 1 Commissioner with a focus on public safety and local services. She has been actively involved in community events and volunteer work. Audrey wants to ensure that the voices of residents are heard in city decisions. She believes in working closely with local law enforcement to keep neighborhoods safe. Audrey is committed to transparency and accountability in government.

Andrea Leigh McGee

Andrea Leigh McGee has been the District 1 Commissioner since 2018. She grew up in Pompano Beach and has a degree in Communications from the University of Miami. Andrea worked in the film industry and real estate before entering politics. She focuses on smart growth and creating job opportunities in the city. Andrea meets with residents and developers to ensure projects benefit the community.

OFFICE: COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 2 - UNAPPOSED

Rhonda Eaton

Rhonda Eaton is dedicated to improving local education and public services in District 2. She is active in various community groups and works to support local schools. Rhonda wants to make sure that city services are accessible to all residents. She emphasizes the importance of transparency and communication in local government. Rhonda is committed to making Pompano Beach a better place to live.

OFFICE: COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 3 PAST CANDIDATE VS. PREVIOUS PAST CANDIDATE

Alison Fournier

Incumbent Alison Fournier is focused on environmental sustainability and public health. She has participated in numerous local projects aimed at improving the community. Alison believes in working closely with residents to address their concerns. She wants to enhance public amenities and services in District 3. Alison aims to bring a new perspective to the city commission.

Thomas McMahon

Thomas McMahon has experience in local government and is dedicated to improving infrastructure. He focuses on community safety and effective

governance. Thomas listens to residents' needs and works to address them. He believes in maintaining transparency and accountability. Thomas is committed to enhancing the quality of life in District 3.

OFFICE: COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 4

John Jones

John Jones is dedicated to economic development and public safety. He has a background in business and believes in practical solutions for local issues. John wants to attract new businesses to Pompano Beach to create jobs. He is committed to making the city a safer place to live. John listens to residents' concerns and works to address them effectively.

Beverly Perkins

Beverly Perkins has been active in local politics, focusing on social justice and community development. She works to ensure that all residents have equal opportunities and services. Beverly is involved in various local organizations and initiatives. She believes in transparency and accountability in government. Beverly is committed to improving the quality of life in District 4, and has been a commissioner for

■ *Candidates, see page 10*

Imagination Unchained

A Three-Day Juneteenth Celebration by Black Genius in Flight

By Kristen Hernandez

Lauderhill, FL – Black Genius in Flight’s Juneteenth celebration showed South Florida what it means to be Black and unchained. The three-day event was presented at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center, located at 3800 NW 11th Place, Lauderhill.

“BLACK Genius in Flight brings the message through the music,” said Stichiz, featured R&B artist and radio DJ for 103.5 The Beat. “We spread it using poetry to art to the violin.”

With the help of Next Weekend Productions, the Juneteenth event was split into three cultural categories, each dedicated to the

selected themes of art, comedy and concert. Each day had surprise guests, like a performance by MTV’s Making the Band semi-finalist Marcus Terell and the Serenades; a discussion with filmmaker, Chavoita LeSane, about his documentary, On the Line; and a surprise performance by Grammy-nominated duo, Black Violin.

Opening Night – Cultural Arts The Juneteenth celebration kicked off with a showcase of local Black artists, screenwriters, producers and actors. Imagination Unchained highlighted the captivating works of Michael Love, who continued the legacy of the Florida Highwaymen, a group of 26 African American artists from the 1950’s through the 1980’s, that used bright, vivid colors to capture beautiful untouched Florida landscapes.



Attendees had an opportunity to have a frank and open conversation with Florida filmmaker, Chavoita LeSane, creator and executive producer of the documentary about his father “On the Line: The Richard Williams Documentary.” The film focused on the life story of Richard Williams, who catapulted his daughters, Serena and Venus Williams, into tennis legends. According to LeSane, the film “wasn’t the full story of my father.” “Future events will be more educational,” Belvit Jordan said, CEO of Next Weekend Productions. “More education progressively moves the story forward. Our focus is ‘edu-tainment’, a fun way to bring knowledge to people about the facts of our history as Black Americans. We’ve got three librarians who consulted on the fact checking element, so that what we’re putting on stage can’t be denied or debunked. No matter what angle we go, you’ll always get the truth.”

Freedom and Pride– A Night of Synergy

Black Genius in Flight combined Pride month into their Juneteenth celebration on day two, with “A Night of Synergy,” featuring headliner, Marcus Terell and the Serenades. The eve-

ning was hosted by Frankie Red Wordz, who introduced skilled beats by DJ Dimples, three-time consecutive winner of the Southern Entertainment Award’s Female DJ of the Year.

The night provided a fun, exciting evening of hilarious comedy, stunning visual arts and unified power.

The Banger – Signature Concert featuring Sons of MyStro and Friends

Imagination Unchained wouldn’t have been complete without the headline concert by Sons of MyStro, the talented, crossover duo that precisely mixed classical instruments with hip-hop, serving up a fusion of musical mastery.

“Saturday was ‘The Banger’, because when we’ve delivered a message and ‘drop the mic’, we’re not dropping anything,” Jordan said. “We’re going to ‘bang, bang, bang it up!’”

Guest performers were introduced by host, Nicky Gelin, and included sets by Stichiz; Young Wylin, top ten artist on Billboard; Emmy-nominated, Alexander Star; and award-winning poet, Ja Rhymes. Concert attendees were treated to a surprise performance by Grammy-nominated duo,

Black Violin, winners of Showtime at the Apollo in 2005.

“That ending with the surprise, Black Violin, was really moving,” said Marvin Dejean, 55, Pompano Beach resident, after the show. “It’s not just Black history, it’s our American history. The fabric of this country is changing. Awareness is changing people. The next generation is seeing a very different country.”

Our current political climate and constant division across the country needs the message of Juneteenth more than ever. The third annual Juneteenth experience, Imaginations Unchained, was a movement, not just a local event. It showcased the talented Black artists around South Florida who’s imaginations remain unchained, and creativity knows no bounds.

“The history of the contribution of Black people is in jeopardy,” Jordan said. “Folks are trying to change the narrative of the stories and history of our contributions. The new generation doesn’t know the truth, that the narrative will only change if we change the way we tell the truth. People of color in Florida are an asset to this country, we dream big, and we are world changers.”



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Peking Duck House Restaurant Reopens with Elevated Menu

PEKING DUCK HOUSE IS REINTRODUCING POMPANO BEACH TO AUTHENTIC CHINESE CUISINE

By Kristen Hernandez

Pompano Beach – It may be at the same location, but this isn't the same Peking Duck House that has been a Pompano Beach staple since 1985.

THE iconic restaurant at 1200 E. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach, reopened in February, after a severe storm caused significant water damage to the kitchen and storage areas during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During that time, restaurant management changed hands from a family-owned business to Unisolo, a South-Florida based restaurant management group. But the authentic Chinese flavors that Pompano residents know, and love hasn't been lost.

Gastronomy aficionados can choose rice or noodle dish options like the Tonkotsu Ramen with pork belly or short rib, Volcano Fried Rice - served lit on fire - different styles of Chinese



curry, crispy duck salad, Hunan-style jumbo shrimp - fresh from the sea, Dim Sum, and of course Peking duck cooked in an authentic Chinese fashion.

“The former owner’s father was the chef of Peking Duck House, and when he passed the menu was also passed to our

current master chef, Chef Lin,” said Apinya Punjanon, general manager of Peking Duck House. “All of our sauces are homemade, like our spicy mustard, hoisin sauce, and duck sauce, and they come with a signature blend of authentic Chinese spices. All guests should taste the authenticity and mastery our chef brings to your table.”

The restaurant’s namesake,

Peking duck, was a display of true culinary artistry and technical mastery. Traditionally, Peking duck was a feast exclusive to the Chinese rulers.

“It’s dry roasted for eight hours and coated with a honey glaze. The air-dry technique helps to create that golden, crispy skin and takes true mastery,” said Punjanon.

Owners of Unisolo Restau-

rant Group, Tina Wang and Chef Jason Zheng, own other restaurants in Parkland, Coral Springs and throughout South Florida, but wanted to stay true to the authentic flavors the restaurant is known for. “When we considered the acquisition of Peking Duck House, we knew it was a beloved restaurant, but we felt it needed some refreshing,” Wang said in a statement.

Peking Duck House’s menu is as exuberant as the Oriental motifs, carved wood accents, and vibrant masks that adorn the restaurant. The commitment to showcase the treasures of Chinese culture and reintroduce the essence of authentic, hand-crafted cuisine is clear. There is also a full bar with wine, beer and cocktails.

“More and more people are discovering a passion for Asian cuisine,” Wang said. “It’s healthy, it’s flavorful, it’s fresh, and it’s growing in popularity. We want to share the Asian culinary experience with as many people as we can. Our incredible chef has over 20 years’ experience, and he’s a genius at putting a contemporary twist on traditional specialties.”

Peking Duck House is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Tragedy and Outcry: Illinois Mourns Sonya Massey, Protests Erupt Against Chicago Police

APECC WIRE
CHICAGO, IL – The community of Illinois is in mourning following the untimely death of Sonya Massey, sparking widespread protests demanding justice and accountability from the Chicago Police Department. Massey, a 34-year-old mother of two, was found dead under mysterious circumstances on July 6, triggering shock, anger, and calls for a thorough investigation.

AT the heart of the controversy lies the growing distrust between residents and local law enforcement. Massey's family claims inconsistencies in the police report, citing a lack of transparency and communication from the authorities. "We just want answers. Sonya was a beacon of hope in our lives, and she deserved better," said Sarah Massey, Sonya's sister, during an emotional press conference.

In the following weeks, the streets of Chicago echoed with chants of "Justice for Sonya" as hundreds of protesters gathered outside the Chicago Police Department. The demonstrators held up signs with Massey's picture, demanding a federal investigation into her death and



systemic reforms to address police misconduct.

Leaders from various community organizations have joined forces, emphasizing the need for immediate action. "This isn't just about Sonya Massey; this is about a pattern

of negligence and abuse within our law enforcement agencies," stated Marcus Hill, a local activist. "We're here to hold them accountable and ensure no family has to endure what the Massey's are going through."

In response to the protests,

the Chicago Police Department released a statement expressing condolences to Massey's family and assuring a comprehensive investigation. "We are committed to uncovering the truth and ensuring justice is served," the statement read.

However, the community remains skeptical, citing past incidents where alleged police misconduct went unpunished. "We've heard these promises before, but where are the results?" questioned Lisa Thompson, a protester and long-time resident of Chicago's South Side. "We need more than words; we need action."

As the investigation continues, the calls for justice grow louder. Sonya Massey's legacy now serves as a symbol of the struggle for true accountability and reform within the Chicago Police Department.

For more updates on this developing story, stay tuned to Villij News. Together, we keep our community informed and united.





Pompano Beach Gets Buzzworthy New Mural Downtown

Submitted by Pompano Beach Cultural Arts

Pompano Beach Arts is proud to announce the completion of a stunning mural by Djerlens Chery, one of the 2023/2024 Artists in Residence (AiR) at Bailey Contemporary Arts. The impressive artwork, standing over 18 feet high and 87 feet wide, depicts a serene scene of a child lounging in a field of daisies, engrossed in a book about honeybees, which surround her. The community is now invited to experience this beautiful new addition to the city's artistic landscape on the west wall of the CRA-owned building located at 11 NE 1st Street in Pompano Beach.

“PUBLIC art depicting honeybees has become an iconic part of the City and a homage to Pompano Beach's agricultural history,” said Ty Tabing, Director of the Pompano Beach Cultural Affairs Department, operating as Pompano Beach Arts. “Thanks to a Broward County Cultural Division Grant, we were able to commission this outstanding piece, which will add to the already notable array of vibrant murals in the Old Town district.”

In November 2023, the BaCA AiR program invited its 2023/2024 artists to submit mural proposals. A selection committee, impressed by Chery's outstanding design, recommended his work during the January 2024 Public Arts Committee meeting.

“The mural represents a harmonious blend of nature and knowledge,” explained Chery. “It invites viewers to find peace and inspiration in everyday moments. The beautiful young model depicted is Camryn Mcknight, a student at Pompano Beach High School.”

Djerlens Chery's artistic talent was evident from a young age. He honed his skills at Dillard High School/Center for the Arts and the Visual Arts & Design Academy (VADA) at Broward College.



Mural artist Djerlens Chery



Excelling as a muralist, the Haitian American artist's large-scale works grace prominent locations in Fort Lauderdale, while his smaller pieces have been showcased at prestigious venues like the Bonnet House Museum & Gardens Orchid Festival, the Young at Art Museum, Parker Playhouse, K.C. Wright Art Show, FatVillage, and Mass District Artwalks.

Drawing inspiration from his mentors, Chery now shares his love of art as a teacher for the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Fort Lauderdale at Southside Cultural Arts Center. There, he inspires young children, teens, and seniors with his skills and creativity.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



Attiyya Atkins

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As I See It: Amazing Things are Happening in Collier City District 5

By David Miller

Well, what happened?

Since 2021, there has been a lot of construction work being done on the streets of Collier City, a predominantly African American subdivision in the City of Pompano Beach. Thirty years! Long anticipated infrastructure has been taking place on NW 27th avenue, and now we finally see some results from the General Obligation Bond at Ronald E. McNair Park for the 2023-2024 year.



THE Pompano Public Arts Committee installed our signature Pompano fish at the center at former District 5 Commissioner Cyndy Floyd's request. Floyd was also honored as an influencer along with 13 of our coaches at "Honoring the Pompano Cowboys Coaches" at the Collier City Trailblazers Exhibit 2023. This Black History Month event was a great event that also highlighted the bright blue field. Last year, the city's ribbon-cutting for our newly renovated, state-of-the-art park was a great function in 2023 as well.

My name is David Miller, a Pompano artist spreading Afro-futurism. I currently serve on the Pompano Beach Public Arts Committee. I suggest more art be placed at this center because

the fish is not enough. We are currently installing a mural on the main building at McNair Park. The decision-making process for the artwork was hard as we tried to focus on pro-athletes that grew up in Pompano Beach. Then we decided to show diversity by adding more ladies. When complete, this mural will be a reflection of athletes and people who played for, coached or made it to the professional level from Collier City.

This mural was created by Steven Teller, priced at \$15,000 upon completion. Teller's original design disrupted the community due to the athletes

chosen. Unfortunately, we had to remove Barry Krausse and replace him with legend James Jones, a strong recommendation by Mr. Van Warren Coach Peanut. After outreach to a tense community, we made an agreement. I stood out with the muralist while he painted the first Collier City legend, Johnny Jones. I'm hoping he comes back to finish this monumental piece before the holidays.

During this process, community leaders Phyllis Smith and Ron Thurston were upset that they weren't consulted and wanted to provide input. Because of this there is currently a hold on the completion of the mural. It was said "we have to constantly remind the City of Pompano that they should do more community outreach so you know what we want." The community knows who the greatest, directly from Collier City are, so a revised list was added with Latoya Jordan suggested by Karen Moreland Alford. It was said that aggressive threats were made to the artist that I don't agree with, but I had to take the side with the community when they expressed

"we have to always see and live with it, so the residents should have input on what's being placed in their front yard."

Personally, I really didn't like the color at first and I wanted faces without the helmet. I actually had to explain to the artist that this mural is not an opportunity for diversity and inclusion, this one is for the African American hoods, like the ones in Miami, Tallahassee, Gainesville and Jacksonville. This location is specifically a statewide reflection of what Black people from Collier City have produced. High level athletics, stellar level science trips and art programs have been signature for decades in northwest Pompano.

I shared the struggles I faced with creating mural art. I then was able to culturally educate the artist Steven Teller about a book called the "Miseducation of the Negro" by Carter G. Woodson. This book depicts how every time a Black person has a noteworthy achievement, a white person inserts themselves in the middle of the success, leaving a psychological effect. Again, this piece is not for

any random person from the neighborhood who was pretty good, or for a coach who still speaks on the good ol' days. This mural is for people who set the standard on the court, on the track and on the football field and then excel beyond it while being from Pompano Beach using the McNair Park in Collier City. The committee agreed on (James Jones, Latoya Jordan, Iris Davis, Coach Tommy Hunter, Lamar Jackson, Shayla Sanders, Tyrone Carter and Johnny Jones) to be the official names of the athletes for the McNair Center mural.

With cultural education invigorating our African American student athletes, they are educated at a high level and I'm confident that they can work for NASA. Apollo Park is like our rocket ship, then Ronald McNair Center is the astronaut. The future is bright as long as we invest in our future, we can blast off to the moon.

To submit your opinion piece to Villij News' "As I See It" section, email attiyya@villijnews.com or write a letter to 5200 NW 33rd Ave, Suite 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309.





Pompano Beach's Richard Macon, 94, Almost Swindled Out of Historic Freeman Macon Funeral Home

POMPANO BEACH, FL – Richard Macon, a 94-year-old long-time resident and owner of Freeman Macon Funeral Home, was almost defrauded of his cherished business. The incident, which took place on November 3, 2023, involved the fraudulent transfer of the funeral home property, valued at approximately \$200,000, to Debaris James, the son of Josephine Brown – an employee of the Broward State Attorney's Office.

MACON, who has been residing in a nursing home under the guardianship of his daughter, fell victim to an alleged scheme to exploit the elderly, a first-degree felony. James, who previously worked for Macon and works at the State Attorney's Office, is accused of notarizing the fraudulent transfer of ownership. Brown has been charged with a scheme to defraud and an attempt to unlawfully transfer property.

The fraudulent transaction was executed through a Quit Claim Deed signed by James at the funeral home where James used to work. Brown's

son, aware of the property's historical significance as a funeral home, allegedly had intentions of repurposing the site for a different business venture amidst Pompano Beach's ongoing development boom. The crime was discovered by the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

Freeman Funeral Home, located at 738 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd, has been a cornerstone of the community. Richard Macon, an original and former board member, and a steadfast advocate for the preservation of the historically Black Westview Cemetery, and was Delray Beach's first Black police officer.

WOMAN DIES FOLLOWING FATAL CRASH IN POMPANO BEACH

The Broward Sheriff's Office Traffic Homicide Unit is investigating a fatal crash that killed an adult female riding a moped-style, sit-on scooter.

According to detectives, shortly after 3 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 5, Broward County Regional Communications received a report of a traffic crash with injuries involving a 2021 Toyota C-HR SUV and a 2023 Taiznou scooter in the 7200 block of Southwest 46th Avenue in Pompano Beach. BSO deputies and Pompano Beach Fire Rescue responded. On scene, deputies located an adult female, Isabella Alzamora, suffering from life-threatening injuries. Paramedics transported her to Broward Health North where she was later pronounced deceased.

The preliminary investigation by detectives reveals that both vehicles were traveling southbound on Southwest 46th Avenue in the right thru lane. The driver of the Toyota, James Garrett, failed to observe the scooter ahead of his vehicle and read-ended the scooter. Alzamora fell backwards onto the hood of Garrett's vehicle and was subsequently projected south when Garrett applied the brakes.

Garrett remained on scene and cooperated with detectives. Neither driver impairment, excessive speed nor mechanical malfunction are considered contributing factors in this crash.

Former President Trump Addresses National Association of Black Journalists in a Divisive Interview

CHICAGO, IL – In a high-profile appearance at the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) annual convention, former President Donald Trump attacked journalists in a divisive interview.

On Wednesday, the July 31, interview started with Rachel Scott from ABC News addressing many instances of Trump's racist behavior. Scott mentioned instances such as telling a congresswomen to go back to where she came from, calling Black journalists' losers and racist, and hosting a KKK member at his Mar-a-Lago resort.

In response, Trump claimed that the NABJ moderators were late, involved in a nasty line of questioning, and ignorant of the things he has done in the Black community.

Trump reiterated that he has helped create opportunity zones

for Black people in South Carolina and helped fund struggling HBCU's throughout the state.

"I have been the best president for the Black population since Abraham Lincoln," Trump said. "I came here in good spirit. I love the Black population of this country. I've done so much for the Black population of this country."

Democratic candidate Kamala Harris did not attend the conference, further adding to Trump's angry disposition. Each presidential candidate has been invited to NABJ for more than 30 years. NABJ is a group that advocates on behalf of Black journalists and media professionals.

Throughout the interview, Trump repeatedly denied Harris' Blackness.

"The hostility Donald Trump showed on stage today is the same hostility he has shown throughout

his life, throughout his term in office, and throughout his campaign for president as he seeks to regain power," said Michael Tyler, the communications director for Harris' campaign, in a statement.

"Trump lobbed personal attacks and insults at Black journalists the same way he did throughout his presidency — while he failed Black families and left the entire country digging out of the ditch he left us in," he said. "Donald Trump has already proven he cannot unite America, so he attempts to divide us."

In a press release, the Trump campaign stated that "President Trump accomplished more for Black Americans than any other president in recent history by implementing America First policies on the economy, immigration, energy, law and order, and foreign policy."

CRASH KILLS PASSENGER IN POMPANO BEACH

The Broward Sheriff's Office Traffic Homicide Unit is investigating a fatal crash that killed a passenger in Pompano Beach.

According to detectives, shortly before 10:30 p.m. on July 15, Broward County Regional Communications received a report of a traffic crash with injuries at the intersection of Copans Road and Northwest Third Avenue. BSO deputies and Pompano Beach Fire Rescue responded. The preliminary investigation reveals that the driver of a 2017 Toyota Tundra, Jeidson Andrade, was heading eastbound on Copans Road approaching Northwest Third Avenue when a 2014 Honda CRV, driven by Roland Lapommeray, turned left into the path of the Toyota. The front of the Toyota impacted the passenger-side of the Honda.

Paramedics transported Andrade, and two passengers who were traveling in the Honda, to Broward Health North. One of the passengers was pronounced deceased at the hospital. Lapommeray remained on scene.

The investigation is ongoing.

Courtyard Renamed

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want little girls and women from our community to know who Florence Ali was and what she accomplished, right here in Pompano Beach during a time of segregation when there were little to no women business owners," she told the Westside-Gazette before her death in March 2021.

Family members and local community leaders were also present, including ceremony organizer and Armbrister's sister, Reverend Marguerite Kelley Luster. The courtyard

dedication drew residents and political leaders like Lamar Fisher, Broward County Mayor; Rex Hardin, Pompano Beach Mayor; and Beverly Perkins, Pompano Beach District 4 City Commissioner.

Armbrister's accomplishments run deeper than saving the Ali Cultural Arts Center from its demise. In the 1960's, Pompano Beach was deeply segregated, and the northwest was mostly farmland. The Black community was forced to pick produce and restricted from

doing many activities, including going to the beach.

Access to the beautiful beaches in Pompano was for white people only.

Long time Pompano Beach resident, Jerome McDougle, remembered when he'd have to take the hot and miserable hours-long journey, along with Armbrister, to the Colored Beach in Davie.

"To get there, we'd have to make our way to the Everglades and then board a ferry," McDougle said. "Then, we

walked to an overgrown strip of sand with no bathrooms or anything nearby, and that was our beach."

Fed up with the city's failed promises to provide infrastructure for beach accessibility and integrate South Florida beaches, Armbrister helped to organize one of several 'wade-ins' on the shores of Pompano Beach in 1961. The historical protests helped pave the road for Pompano Beach to become integrated.

It was this story, and the

stories of other Black residents, that Armbrister was determined to preserve when she started Rock Road Restoration Historical Group.

"Mom was a guardian of history," said Wilson, in a post-ceremony interview with Villij News. "She was also a guardian of people's lives. After she passed, I found hundreds of obituary clippings of residents in the northwest neighborhood. She saved them all."

Armbrister was a philanthropist at heart and had a deep passion for her community.

"Ms. Hazel wanted to ensure that the stories of Black residents that came before were not washed away by the tides of time," said Willie Brown, co-founder of Rock Road Restoration Historical Group.

He added: "She was a rock in times of change. She was steadfast, unmovable. Rocks are solid and hold things together. Rocks create damage. Her legacy is more than a monument. Like a rock on a road... let it set the foundation for us all to come together... to build the roads that bridge communities... and be those rocks that connect this city."

Candidates

continued from page 3

more than 20 years.

Edward W. Phillips

Edward W. Phillips is focused on improving public services and community engagement. He has a background in community service and local governance. Edward believes in listening to residents and addressing their concerns. He wants to make local government more responsive and effective. Edward is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in

District 4.

OFFICE: COMMISSIONER - DISTRICT 5

Grant Archer

Grant Archer has a background in business and public service. He focuses on economic development and improving local infrastructure. Grant believes in community engagement and listening to residents' needs. He aims to bring practical solutions to

the city commission. Grant is dedicated to making District 5 a better place to live.

Cyndy Floyd

Cyndy Floyd is involved in various community initiatives, focusing on public health and safety. She works to support local businesses and improve community services. Cyndy believes in transparency and accountability in government. She listens to residents' concerns and works to address

them. Cyndy is committed to enhancing the quality of life in District 5.

Sajan Kurian

Sajan Kurian is dedicated to improving education and public services in District 5. He has experience in community service and local governance. Sajan believes in innovative solutions to local issues. He listens to residents and works to address their concerns. Sajan is committed to making Pompano

Beach a better place to live.

Darlene H. Smith

Darlene H. Smith focuses on enhancing public services and community engagement. She has a background in education and community service. Darlene believes in listening to residents and addressing their needs. She is dedicated to transparency and accountability in government. Darlene aims to improve the quality of life in District 5.

Unity in the Community Scholarship Winners

Mike Blangor, President of Unity in the Community, presented four local scholarship recipients with a \$2500 scholarship, a laptop, and a gift basket from Raising Cane's at a July city meeting. The

recipients are:

Scentavia Bellamy: graduate of Dillard High School, will study Biology at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

Samantha Olivera-Montes:

graduate of Pompano Beach High School, will study political science at Valencia College in Orlando.

Liss Sanchez: graduate of Pompano Beach High School, will

study accounting at Florida Atlantic University.

Rosebeline Sineas: graduate of Blanche Ely High School will study Animal Science at University of Florida.

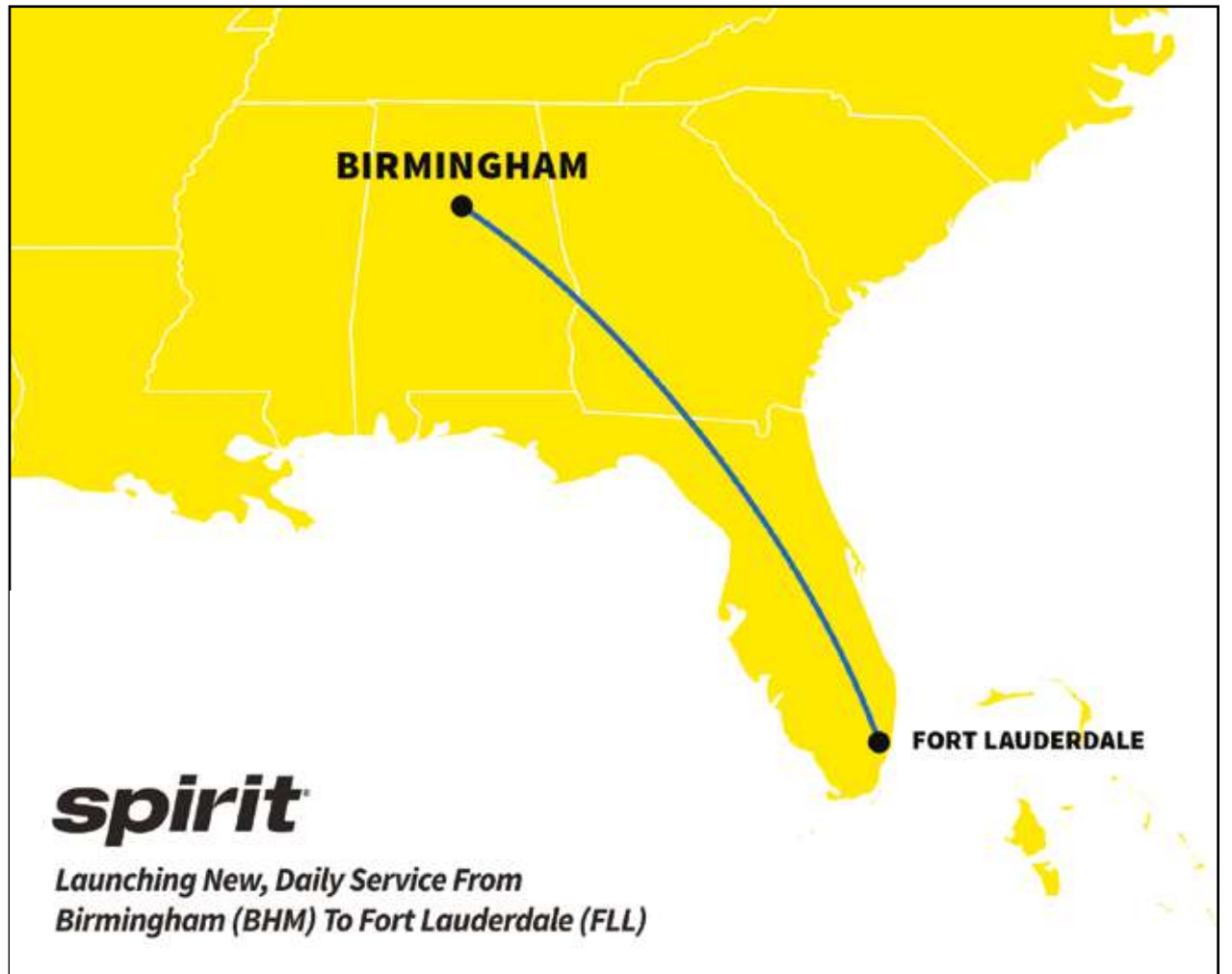
New Spirit Routes to Birmingham

Spirit Airlines will offer the only nonstop flight from Birmingham (BHM) to Fort Lauderdale (FLL) starting October 10. Spirit's launch at Birmingham will mark the first time the airline serves the state of Alabama and will provide low-fare flight options to the Sunshine State and one-stop connections to Latin America and the Caribbean.

“WE can't wait to welcome aboard Birmingham travelers looking for both an affordable and convenient way to enjoy Fort Lauderdale's beautiful beaches,” said John Kirby, Vice President of Network Planning at Spirit Airlines. “Our new daily service will make flying to Fort Lauderdale more accessible and will provide an attractive alternative to driving. It will also make it easier for our Florida guests to enjoy Birmingham's southern hospitality.”

To celebrate the new route, Spirit is offering limited-time introductory fares starting at \$69* for travel October 10 through November 19, 2024. All fares are one-way, subject to 14-day advance purchase and availability.

“This is a great day for our community,” said Darlene Wilson, Vice-Chair of the Birmingham Airport Authority Board. “Spirit Airlines is showing a tremendous amount of confidence in this market, and we are thrilled to have this new option available to travelers.”



SOULFUL SUNDAYS

Get ready to groove! Soulful Sundays is back!

Join Derek Mack and his band for a night of top hits from the '60s to today. Don't miss this powerful performance!



JULY 14 | 6-9PM

ALI CULTURAL CENTER
954.786.7877

POMPANOBEACHARTS.ORG
954.545.7800

POMPANO BEACH SOUNDTRACK vol. 1

LISTENING PARTY!

Join us at the Ali Cultural Center for the debut of "Pompano Beach Soundtrack Vol. 1"! Experience the vibrant beats and soulful melodies of Pompano Beach and celebrate with us as we unveil the album to the world. Don't miss it!

Purchase the soundtrack on:
Spotify Apple MUSIC
and all other music streaming platforms.



JULY 17 | 6:30PM

FLORIDA'S WARMEST WELCOME

BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA Cultural Division

Florida ARTS & CULTURE

Letter From the Editor



THEY DON'T LIKE YOU

July/August Issue

I did a lot of traveling in July. As I write this, I am in Chicago learning ways to be a better news leader, a better communicator, and a community advocate for you all. Travel is always a teacher. I've had time to reflect on my goals and the steps that I am making towards them. There's a unique balance between not getting too comfortable and enjoying your life. You have to keep pushing forward or you're going to fall behind.

TRAVEL makes you realize that home, that outfit, that car, are all creatures of comfort – you can do without it. But your lifestyle, your values, your preferences will be with you when you travel – it doesn't matter the address. Certain things are deeply rooted in you, and those things make you you. Do not shy from it. Everyone is not going to like you, so world peace has never been my goal. We need conflict, just as much as we need the resolution. Focus on things you can control, like your personal peace. Things have been trying me lately, my children, my staff, my network, but I've let go and realize that I can't control it all. I need to fall back and work on what I can. Haters always going to hate, so you should give them some material.



Q : Hi Annie. There's a lady at my job that I really like. She's always dressed really nicely, her smile is beautiful and I was instantly drawn to her. I've been working at the office for about six months now and I felt like she was flirting with me when we would see each other after team meetings and stuff, so I asked her out on a date. I was excited to see her, but when I came in for a hug. OH MY GOD. The hair on her head smelt terrible, it was like a mix of must and mold. I ignored and continued on the date, but I want your advice. Is this a deal breaker?

A : Now you know damn well, you don't want to be laid up next to some musty headed baddie. She probably ain't wash her wig or the hair underneath it. Not going to lie, sometimes the wig does get stinky – you gotta wash it. If you can't wash it, you gotta Febreeze it. There is no way I'm going on a first date with a fresh outfit and a dusty headpiece. Her priorities are off, and probably her PH balance as well. Sir, this is a risk. I suggest you keep the relationship work-centered, laugh and flirt at the water cooler, but don't bring stink to meet your mama!

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