



THE ROANOKE TIMES



HEATHER ROUSSEAU, THE ROANOKE TIMES

As part of an ongoing initiative of the Roanoke Arts Commission to connect artists with their communities murals are popping up around Roanoke. The recently completed Gainsboro YMCA mural is seen facing Orange Avenue and was designed by Bryce Cobbs and painted by Cobbs and Cameron Stallings.

Inspiring change through art

Public art used to empower artists as agents of community development

LUKE WEIR
The Roanoke Times

Where most people pass by a blank wall, some artists envision a canvas.

A previously unadorned tunnel along Roanoke's Lick Run Greenway is transforming into a colorful homage to neighborhood history, where the creek trickles beneath busy 10th Street Northwest.

With brush and paint, Katrina Legans carefully creates a mural at Brown-Robertson Park. The work-in-progress title is 10th Street Tunnel of Love.

"What I'm doing is community based," Legans said. "The goal of this whole

thing is to bring together people, and celebrate community, diversity, culture, abundance ... celebrating what we have."

Legans, a northwest native, said she spent about a month researching and interviewing people around the neighborhood for ideas to combine into her mural design.

"The mural is dedicated to Dorothy Brown and Hazel Robertson," Legans said. "They were two public figures here in the northwest neighborhood."

Brown was a taxi driver who would give free rides during emergencies, even for people just stranded in the rain, ac-

VIEW: For a video about the public art mural projects in Roanoke, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and click to connect. **NEWSVU**

cording to a placard at the park. Robertson was a daycare attendant known to provide free child care to families who needed it, the sign reads.

Both women died during historic flooding brought by Hurricane Juan in November 1985. Brown-Robertson

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Israel expands bombardment in Lebanon

BASSAM HATOUM, MELANIE LIDMAN AND BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

MASNAA BORDER CROSSING, Lebanon — Powerful new explosions rocked Beirut's southern suburbs late Saturday as Israel expanded its bombardment in Lebanon, striking a Palestinian refugee camp deep in the north for the first time as it targeted both Hezbollah and Hamas fighters.

Thousands of people in Lebanon, including Palestinian refugees, continued to flee the widening conflict in the region, while rallies were held around the world marking the approaching one-year anniversary of the start of the war in Gaza.

Strong explosions were reported near midnight after Israel's military called on residents to evacuate areas in Beirut's Haret Hreik and Choueifat neighborhoods. Associated Press video showed blasts illuminating the skyline of the densely populated southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence.

Earlier in the day, Israel's military said it killed two senior officials with Hamas' military wing in Lebanon. Israel killed several Hamas officials there since the Israel-Hamas war began, in addition to most of the top leadership of the Lebanon-based Hezbollah.

Israel's attack on the northern Beddawi camp killed an official with Hamas' military wing, his wife and two young daughters, the Palestinian militant group said. Hamas later said another military wing member was killed in Israeli strikes in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley.

Residents confronted the aftermath: smashed buildings, scattered bricks and

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■ **Inside:** More coverage, **B13-14**.

A week without driving

Proponents say it's an exercise in empathy

LUKE WEIR
The Roanoke Times

At the end of this year's national week without driving

challenge, Roanoke accessibility advocates hope it gets easier to walk, bus, bike and roll around the city in years to come.

Cyclist Ken McLeod said he participated in the nationwide event to try a week without driving from Monday to Sunday. But he acknowledged be-

fore the week began that it's truly a challenge in Roanoke.

"For a lot of people, a week without driving is like going straight to running a marathon," McLeod said. "Think of the people who can't drive, and how they have to get around

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Bikers make their way along Memorial Bridge on Friday afternoon in Roanoke.
HEATHER ROUSSEAU, THE ROANOKE TIMES

Hokies win at Stanford
SPORTS, B1

Musicals headed to the screen
EXTRA, D1

Weather
Partly sunny
High 80 • Low 59
FORECAST • A16

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