

"Reconnecting the Best of the African American Diaspora of Mobile: PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE"

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 10 **ARTS • CULTURE • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023



BLACK BEAUTY TRADITIONS



"Reconnecting the Best of the African American Diaspora of Mobile: PAST • PRESENT • FUTU

<u>ABOUT STEPPIN' OUT</u>

STEPPIN' OUT is a subsidiary of LEGACY 166 Inc., a non-profit organization with a Mission to provide Educational, Career, and Economic opportunities for Youth and the Underserved of Diverse Cultures; make available Cultural Activities for community participation; and deliver Quality of Life Skills Training through the Arts and Community Collaborations.

STEPPIN' OUT provides quality of life information to the community in each issue at no cost to the reader. Even though STEPPIN' OUT is not a "hard news' publication, the columns submitted by our contributors touch on subjects that address a wide range of community and cultural issues. Regular features include articles on health, history, entertainment, and finance. Articles on fashion, literature, and technology are some of the subjects that are occasionally featured.

STEPPIN' OUT and LEGACY 166 Inc. will continue to expand their roles in the community by offering internships and career training, and youth development and work opportunities. Volunteers are always needed with this mission.

STEPPIN' OUT Welcomes your comments and suggestions regarding this publication. For information on advertising, to comment on subject matter, or to volunteer your services... Please contact us...

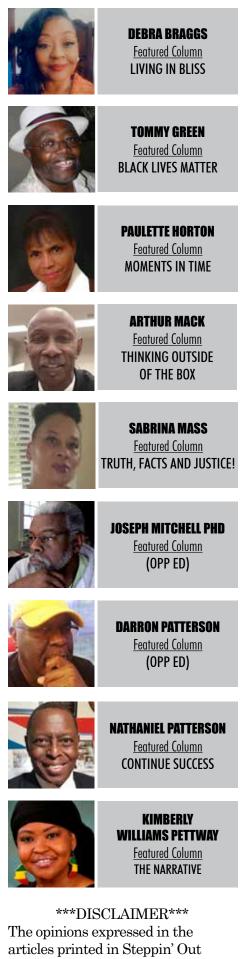
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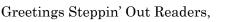
CONTRIBUTORS



are those of the authors and may

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MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER...





I would like to thank you for your continued support of Steppin' Out! The paper has been around for over 20 years, but our growth has been limited at best. Our focus on entertainment news, along with the effects of Covid to key contributors, has resulted in the paper being distributed inconsistently.

Since The Beacon, our Heritage Newspaper, has stopped printing, Mobile and the surrounding area now have shrinking opportunities for Black News. And, with radio stations being controlled by corporate entities, opportunities for exposure to positive information for our community are extremely limited. With that said, we feel it is most important to our community that we continue to maintain and publish Steppin' Out.

We are hereby making changes to raise the profile of the paper!

For the next few months, we will only publish digitally, while working on restarting our print edition. It is important that we not abandon the printed paper due to the number of citizens who do not utilize and/or do not have access to e-mail, social media, etc. Also, smart advertisers realize that "Likes" don't necessarily transfer to sales. When an ad is printed, it's easier for some people to store that information. An advantage for the advertisers and for persons saving the information.

The biggest change to the paper... We are changing the focus of Steppin' Out!

First, our logo has changed to now include the Sankofa... a bird with it's feet/body facing forward and it's head facing backward, which symbolizes "taking from the past what is good and bringing it into the present to make progress in the future."

We've also added a tagline to the logo that serves as the Mission Statement for Steppin' Out...

"Reconnecting the Best of the African American Diaspora of Mobile: PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE!"

As we move forward, we will become more Afrocentric with the stories and information we pass on to the community. We will cover more community news and the people working to make our community better. We will be working hard to make sure our community stays informed.

However, we sill stay true to the "vision" that brought the paper into existence... to offer Small Businesses an advertising opportunity at a rate that is affordable for a limited budget.

Please help us to grow within our community! We want you to share with us your stories, photos, as well as your story ideas. Also, please share the paper with friends and family who may not be aware of Steppin' Out. We have too much power and majority in his community to not take that advantage to empower each other!

Once again, thanks for your continued support!

GREG CYPRIAN Publisher/Editor STEPPIN' OUT NEWS





LAUGHTER

Second Opinion !!!

Leroy, a doctor and his wife, Willie Mae, are having a fight at the breakfast table. Leroy gets up in a rage and says, "And you are no good in bed either," and storms out of the house. After sometime he realizes he was nasty and decides to make amends and calls home. Willie Mae comes to the phone after many rings and the irritated Leroy says, "What took you so long to answer the phone?" Willie Mae says, "I was in bed." "In bed this early, doing what?" Shouts Leroy. Willie Mae smiles and says, "Getting a second opinion!!!"

Mistaken Identity!!!

Leroy is having dinner with a woman in a fine restaurant. Their waitress, taking another order at a table a few paces away noticed that Leroy was slowly sliding down his chair and under the table, with the woman acting unconcerned. The waitress watched as Leroy slid all the way down his chair and out of sight under the table. Still, the woman dining across from him appeared calm and unruffled, apparently unaware that her dining companion had disappeared. After the waitress finished taking the order, she came over to the table and said to the woman, "Pardon me, ma'am, but I think your husband just slid under the table." The woman calmly looked up at her and replied firmly, "Ohh no, My husband just walked in the door!!!"

Marriage Lessons!!!

On their 40th wedding anniversary and during the banquet celebrating it, Leroy was asked to give his friends a brief account of the benefits of a marriage of such long duration. "Tell us Leroy, just what is it you have learned from all those wonderful years with your wife?" Leroy responds, "Well, I've learned that marriage is the best teacher of all. It teaches you loyalty, forbearance, meekness, self-restraint, forgiveness --and a great many other qualities you wouldn't have needed if you'd stayed single!!!"

Dinner is Served!!!

Leroy, a wealthy man was having an affair with a woman for a few years. One night, during one of their rendezvous, she confided in him that she was pregnant. Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, Leroy paid her a large sum of money if she would go out to California to have the child. If she stayed there, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18. She agreed, but wondered how he would know when the baby was born. To keep it discrete, Leroy told her to mail him a post card, and write "Spaghetti" on the back. He would then arrange for child support. One day, about 9 months later, he came home to his confused wife. "Honey," she said, "you received a very strange post card today." "Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later," said Leroy. The wife obeyed, and watched as her husband read the card, turned white, and fainted. On the card was written "Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti. Two with meatballs, one without!!!"

He Needs Your Usual!!!

Leroy, an old man goes to the doctor for his yearly physical, his wife Willie Mae tagging along. When the doctor enters the examination room, he tells Leroy, "I need a urine sample, a stool sample and a sperm sample." Leroy being hard of hearing, looks at his wife and yells: "WHAT?" "What did he say? What's he want?" Willie Mae yells back, "He needs your underwear!!!"





CULTURE

WHAT'S INSIDE....

Native Son Stage Pursuit





COVER STORY

Beauty Traditions

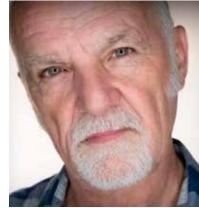




HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Civil Rights Memorial Park





JAZZ HISTORY

Hometown Legends Memorium



The next DIGITAL COPY of Steppin' Out News Will Drop...

OCTOBER 2023



TAKING MOBILE TO THE NEXT LEVEL MEMPHIS VAUGHAN JR.

Native Mobilian; Editor of Literary website... <u>TimBookTu.com</u> Feedback can be sent to: <u>mempv57@gmail.com</u>

Native Son of Mobile Pursues His Dreams in Entertainment

Recently, I had a conversation with Steppin' Out publisher, Greg Cyprian about some of his initiatives to highlight the talents of individuals who hail from Mobile, Alabama. He felt it is imperative that we feature them and use their experiences to inspire other youth here in Mobile to pursue their creative dreams.

This month I am devoting this space to highlight one of Mobile's own creative talents who is moving up the ranks in the entertainment industry, my son, Nickolas A. Vaughan. Nickolas is a 2005 graduate of LeFlore High School, where he served as the head drum major in the LeFlore Rattlers Marching Band. He was also in the choir during his years at LeFlore.

Nick has always been a very creative person – he and his two brothers, Memphis III and Austin, spent many days during the summer using a video camera to create their own movie productions. They also were very apt at using computer editing software. The brothers gained other useful skills assisting Mr. Palmer Richardson, a fellow church member at Toulminville-Warren Street United Methodist Church, videotaping at church, weddings, and other venues. Mr. Richardson taught hands-on videotaping skills to numerous young members of the church, skills that my sons currently apply in their respective professions. My oldest son, Memphis III, works as video editor for the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC. He has had the opportunity to film many political figures including President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush, at their private home in Kennebunkport, Maine, several years ago.

Nickolas earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Howard University. He performed in numerous theatrical productions at Howard including *A Chorus Line, R&J the Fatal Tour* and others. Upon graduation, he pursued his goal to be an actor by appearing in a variety of productions such as at the Ford's Theater (the theater where Lincoln was assassinated), the renowned Kennedy Center, Signature Theater, and Studio Theater.

He was the lead actor in the Thornton Wilder play, *Our Town*, at the Ford's Theater in 2013. His face was seen on banners and bus stop billboards around downtown Washington DC. My wife and I were very elated to see our son's face prominently displayed around town when we went to see the play. Also, during his DC years, he was an extra in the series, *The Wire*, and *Boardwalk Empire*. Other theatrical productions he has starred in includes, *The Piano Lesson, Dreamgirls*, and *Hairspray*.

After spending a few years in DC, Nick moved on to New York where he further honed his skills at auditioning and creating his own productions while living there. During that time he and several actor friends created **Show:UP!**, an immersive popup theatrical experience. Patrons would be notified of the time and location of the experience and then would be served a full-course meal and become a part of the theatrical experience. Part of the fun and challenge for guests was to distinguish between the performers and regular attendees during the numerous performances of **Show:UP!** in New York, DC, Detroit, and various other cities over the years.

Relocating to Los Angeles in 2018, Nickolas landed a position as a talent wrangler on the first season of the Emmy-nominated HBO reality series, *We're Here.* The series follows three drag queens around the country as they recruit small-town residents to participate in a one-night only drag show. The series highlights the challenges of young people coming out to their families and friends. He has also served as co-producer on a new HBO reality series, *Swiping America*, that is currently airing. The series features the online dating experiences of four individuals as they travel to different cities across the country. Nick aided in getting his brothers, Memphis and Austin, the opportunity to serve as production assistants on these series at varies times. As a result of this experience, Austin has established connections that enabled him to secure job opportunities in that field.

Now in its fourth season, Nickolas has moved up from talent wrangler to associate producer to producer. Each step has given him more opportunities to participate in the creative process of the series and to help make decisions in the selection of participants and how their stories will be presented.

During the summer of 2022, he spent three months in New York City developing his one-man show, *Project Nick Vaughan*, where he demonstrated his writing, acting, comedic, graphic editing, and video production skills to an enthusiastic audience at The Flea Theater in Manhattan.



continued on Page 06... see NICK

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Tommy Green Facebook Blogger Former Editor for Mobile Beacon



USBIN AUSTIN MORTIS

Mary Morris

...a native of Goldsboro, NC has been a resident of Mobile, Alabama for over fifty years. During that time, she has established herself as a power in the Cosmetology and Barbering profession. "Mrs. Mary" as she is effectively known as the owner and operator of a successful beauty salon operating in Mobile since 1962.

Mrs. Morris moved to Mobile in 1952 after completing a Cosmetology course of studies, she opened her own beauty salon in 1965, always striving to improve her knowledge of the trade. Mrs. Morris attended Southwest Technical College in 1970 where she trained as a Cosmetology Instructor. Mrs. Morris professional and educational background includes a wealth of experiences that include Charles Academy of Beauty. Carver State Technical College for Barbering and hairstyling, Summit Laboratory, Alberta-Culver-Associate Technician in Chemical Hair Relaxer, Instructor Southwest Technical College.

In 1980, Mrs. Morris was appointed by Gov. Fob James to serve as the first Black female on the Cosmetology state board of Alabama. Since that time, she has served on the Cosmetology board under Gov. George Wallace and Gov. Guy Hunt. Currently, Mrs. Morris serves as the first black female on the Mobile County Barbering Commission where she was originally appointed by then Gov. Robert Bentley. She was reappointed by Gov. Kay Ivey where she currently serves. In 1992, Mrs. Morris was hired as a Lab Technician at Carver State Technical College. She retired in 2007. Still thirsting for knowledge, Mrs. Morris pursued a degree from Ashford University and received a degree in Business Administration in 2014.

Mrs. Morris is the mother of four children: Twenette, Rev. Willie A James, Kenneth and Bryon Morris. She is a member of Grace and Truth Christian Fellowship Church. In addition, she is affiliated with the Order of Eastern Star, Alabama State Democratic Executive Board. Mrs. Morris exceeded her dreams, objectives and expectations in the fields of Cosmetology and Barbering that she set for herself many years ago; To operate a successful beauty salon, to work with Cosmetology and Barbering students, to serve the people of her chosen profession through involvement in professional organization.

She has never forgotten her parents' admonition back in Goldsboro, NC to put God first in everything; to succeed in school and to do the very best in whatever you envision.

Mr. Joseph Austill Morris, Sr., at native of Edgard, LA was born December 28, 1931. His parents were Nathaniel and Beatrice Edwards Morris, Sr. Joseph Morris was a graduate of Most Pure Heart of Mary High School in Mobile, AL. As a debonair young man, he utilized his talents as a Display Manager and Salesman at Top Men's Shop, Metzer, Master's Tuxedo and Sears. His accomplished line Kennedy, and Twinette (Herbert) Fequiere.He was the grandfather of 13 and six great-grandchildren, friends Cartean Wilson Morris and Mary James Morris, four brothers, one sister and many other beloved relatives and friends.

I feel compelled to recognize Mr. Morris musical accolades as a tenor Saxophonist. He was instrumental in in organizing several musical groups and played professional for many years with Bobby Blue Bland, Ray Charles, The Modern Men of Distinction Plus One, Total Darkness, The E. B. Coleman orchestra and the Excelsior Band. He reached back into the community and helped encourage others in the musical industry, including Fred Westley, Jr. who recognized Mr. Morris in his book. A truly amazing Figure, wonderful role model, thoughtful, generous, and happy for the success of others is none other than Mr. Joseph Austill Morris, Sr.



TRUTH, FACTS AND JUSTICE

Sabrina Mass

RETIRED NURSE • CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST COMMUNITY ORGANIZER • PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Let's define the term LEADERSHIP

Leadership is a set of behaviors used to help people align their collective direction, to execute strategic plans, and continually renew an organization.

There are also leadership traits that can be researched. While some people might naturally be drawn to management roles, good leadership is a combination of skills that anyone I would assume can master if dedicated or interested on pursuing the role as a leader. These important roles are strategic thinking, delegation, communication, integrity, empathy, flexibility, and enthusiasm.

Well ask yourself this: Are the elected leaders of your city and community following the pattern of the list of roles I just listed? It's a question that should be pondered. Do we see the supposed elected leaders as such people? Do they carry these traits daily or weekly while representing the public as they were elected to do such necessary jobs to move our city in a progressive, fair, equitable, and inclusive way, or are they just taking up space that is wasted day by day until the next election year?

Daily, I ponder these thoughts because believe it or not, leaders are an integral part of our society. They are necessary to make whole complete; they are essential or fundamental for our daily lives. A true leader is one whose magnetic personality inspires people for a cause — not by words, but by their actions. Some leaders forget that implementation of those decisions are as important as making those decisions. Without proper implementation, there will be no results. Similarly, decision-making will change nothing; it's how to get things done in an effective way that will help to accomplish the set goal. I would assume each of us understands importance of leadership when it comes to our country; more importantly, do we understand the importance of voting for true and fair leaders in our city that will benefit the people and not the supposed leaders.

We all try to vote for the best person in elections because it truly matters who is in office. As a nation and a city, we place no greater responsibility on trusting who we cast our votes for. When we cast our votes, we hope and trust that the person we vote for stands on the key words TRUTH, FACTS, and JUSTICE.

Honestly, that is not what is happening and we must continue to keep our eyes open, educate ourselves and others and truly hold those elected to their responsibility to do what is right for WE, THE PEOPLE.

I will leave you with this...

MAN'S CAPACITY FOR JUSTICE MAKES DEMOCRACY POSSIBLE, BUT MAN'S INCLINATION TO INJUSTICE MAKES DEMOCRACY NECESSARY, because truth never damages what is TRUTH. �



policies, programs, and initiatives to support physically active lifestyles and nutritious food choices for all Alabama citizens, is supported by the Governor of Alabama and the State Health Officer. ALPAN was developed by members and non-members of AWA from a wide range of regions and sectors across Alabama, including:
 Business and Industry
 Non-Profit, Volunteer, and Faith-Based Organizations
 Education
 Public Health

- Public Health
 Sports
 Public Lands, Parks, and Recreation
- Fitness and SportsHealthcare
- Transportation, Community Planning, and Access

ALPAN was developed using the Social Ecological Model, which addresses change at the individual, interpersonal, organizational, community, and public policy levels to ensure sustainable health behavior change reaches every individual, family, and community across Alabama.

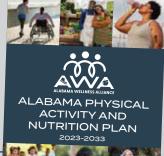
ALPAN seeks to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging so that every person has the opportunity to achieve optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, educational level, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or where they work, live, worship, and play. Working together, partners can promote health equity on the state and local level to address disparities and improve the health of all Alabamians.

State and local leaders, members and leaders of community groups, coalitions, and individuals working to improve physical activity and nutrition opportunities in Alabama, may use ALPAN to:

- Lead changes in policies, systems, and environments.
- Promote development, dissemination, and utilization of resources.
- Encourage healthy lifestyles across the life span.
- Identify strategies to improve personal health.
- Live active and healthy lives within communities.

If you are interested in joining AWA, or if you have any questions, contact us at <u>AlabamaWellnessAlliance@gmail.com</u> or visit our website at <u>alabamapublichealth.gov/awa</u>.

Access ALPAN here: adph.org/Extranet/Forms/Form.asp?formID=8785





NICK (continued from Page 04)

From his time at Howard University to the present day, Nickolas has consistently stayed humble and ready to assist others as they pursue their craft. He maintains a tight-knit circle of friends, several of whom work in the same industry, and they have supported one another by providing referrals, advice, and networking opportunities. Despite living away from Mobile for nearly two decades, he has made sure to highlight his Mobile origins, demonstrating his pride in his southern heritage.

As you can tell, I am very proud of his acting, producing, and creative achievements and his ability to share his knowledge, expertise, and contacts with others. Each time that I have attended his performances, I am amazed at his talent and skills. I find myself thinking, "Is that really my son?" I know there are still many great things ahead for him.

Another young man from our church and another, Nick, Nicholas Sims, is also pursuing his acting dreams in New York and is beginning to make waves.

The Legacy 166 program led by Greg Cyprian is fostering initiatives that will create additional opportunities in Mobile, enabling young individuals to nurture their abilities and draw inspiration from those who have paved the way. I eagerly await the moment when my son returns to Mobile, sharing his experiences, wisdom, and motivation with like-minded aspiring youths. You can follow Nickolas Vaughan's activities on his IMDB page at...

https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7083591/?ref_=nmls_hd*

Unwritten:

Archaeology and Oral History of Jim Crow Mobile

Opening Reception September 8th, 2023 from 6:00pm-8:00pm

Exhibition On Display September 2023-April 2024

Museum Hours Tuesday-Friday, 10am-4pm

Free Admission

USA Archaeology Museum

6050 USA Drive South, Mobile Alabama (251)460–6106 archaeologymuseum@southalabama.edu

OUSAArchaeology
 Osoutharchaeology
 OTheArchaeologyMuseum
 Learn more at
 SouthAlabama.edu/org/archaeology/museum



The USA Archaeology Museum is located in Mobile, Alabama on the Main Campus of the University of South Alabama. Parking for Museum visitors is in Lot 303.

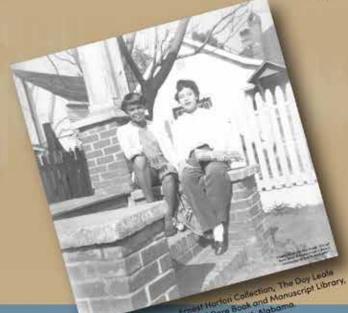
Meet the Lewis, Owens, and Griffin families.

They lived in different parts of Mobile, but they shared much in common. As Black families, they navigated Jim Crow segregation. They all owned homes at a time when many Black Americans did not, and their homes were excavated by archaeologists.

In the mid-20th century, development transformed their neighborhood, erasing homes, schools, and shops from the landscape. Though their houses are no longer standing, we can learn their stories through archaeology and oral history.



The National Endowment for the Humanities: Sustaining the Humanities Through the American Rescue Plan



PORTRAITS in BLACK

Moses Gunn

Born in 1929 in St. Louis, Missouri to a laborer, Moses Gunn was one of seven children. His family separated with the death of his mother and he left home to ride the railroad at the age of 12. Moses returned home and at 17 lived in the home of a teacher who taught english and diction. He enrolled at Tennessee State University where he majored in speech and drama.

During one summer he founded a theatre company called Footlights Across Tennessee which toured colleges in the south and the midwest. Upon graduation, he joined the army in 1954 where after service he did Graduate work at the University of Kansas from 1959-1961. While there he played Othello for the first time. He decided to pursue an acting career but first he taught briefly at Grambling College in Louisiana to save money before moving to New York.

He arrived in NYC in early 1962 and became an understudy in "The Blacks" off Broadway, earning \$15 a week. Six months later, he became a regular cast member. He became a two-time Obie Award winner, a NAACP Image Award winner, and a Tony Award nominee. An alumnus of the Negro Ensemble Company, he was best known for his betrayal of New York Mobster BumpyJohnson in the movie Shaft in 1971. His work also included stints at the New York Repertory Company, New York Shakespeare Festival, and many roles in movies and television shows.

Moses Gunn died in 1993 at the age of 63 from complications from Asthma.

Arthur L. Mack FREELANCE WRITER steppinoutnews@aol.com



DEDICATION: The Africatown Heritage House Bioswale

Another addition to the Africatown Heritage House landscape was welcomed as local leaders and residents celebrated the ribbon cutting officially opening the Africatown Heritage House's Bioswale (rain garden) on August 11 as a learning laboratory for Mobile County Training School's students and teachers.

The Bioswale, which is located between the Africatown Heritage House and the Robert Hope Community Center, was designed by Birmingham Southern College's Southern Environmental Center in an effort to demonstrate the power of plants for multiple uses, including erosion control and mitigation of pollution caused by stormwater runoff.

Bioswale is a low-lying area that collects stormwater with the intent of allowing it back to infiltrate back into the landscape. Benefits include creating a habitat for wildlife, beautification of function in drainage spaces, and reducing the need for excess irrigation. Plants in the Bioswale were purchased from local nurseries.

According to Dr. Roald Hasselhoff-Roelzema, BSC's Southern Environmental Center director, the plants, which include elderberry and Joe Pye Weed, are better than cattails.

"Most of the natural rain gardens you see around Mobile are ditches with cattails," he said. "The cattails are really good at dealing with pollution, but we selected plants that will stay in their place and we use it as a teaching classroom. We had to also tie into science and how it would help the middle schoolers. We talked with the teachers and asked what they were focusing on rather than saying we created the best outdoor science lab and then no one uses it.

The kids can research what each plant does. They are there to neutralize the heavy metal for pollution, to help dragonflies with nectar; it is there to help alleviate flooding. It's walking distance from the school; that's super important. With all the regulations we have for field trips, here's something that can be used by the school, by visitors to the Heritage House, by after-care programs done through the community center, and by senior citizens.'

I think this is a perfect addition for Heritage House; a perfect thing to be here and it adds to this salinity which we've been trying to achieve for people, and they walk away thoughtful," said Mobile

County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood. "This will be another thing for them to be thoughtful about. We know in Mobile we have stormwater management issues, and anytime we can create a solution I think it's great to do it. Sometimes they create things that aren't pretty, but this happens to be one that's beautiful.'

MCTS principal James Patterson said the Bioswale is very beneficial for the community. "It can get resources to where they can bring different things to the classroom and make learning more fun," he said. "Kids learn better when they see things in action and Birmingham Southern has provided that for us in a few other ways, and I'm so excited about the collaboration we have together and so many other things we have in the future.

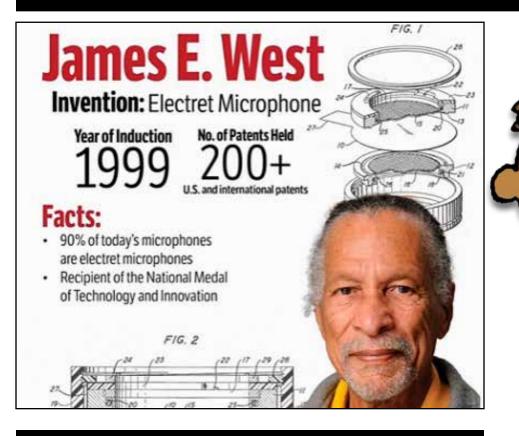
Once we dived into it, it has been a blessing for the students. With the aquatics lab on campus and this across the street, it's a great experiment for the kids and see what they're learning."

The proximity of the garden, which took about two months to complete, is a great way to establish partnership within the Africatown community.

You got three programs — a school, the Heritage House, and a community center, and this is a way of bringing partners to the community together," Hasselhoff-Roelzema said. "This is an exciting project because in Birmingham we have over 14,000 vacant lots, and that's a problem, because it leads to declining property values, dumping, and it's not a good thing.

We're expecting because of climate change there will be an increase in floods, more droughts, more forest fires, and more heat waves, and so if we can design and work with nature and take care of blight and making it into what we call ecoscapes and gardens, then we're helping and preparing the community"

The Heritage House's garden projects were made possible through collaboration between Mobile County Commission, the Mobile Area Lodging Association, the BSC Southern Environmental Center, Mobile County Training School, Mobile County Training School Alumni Association, and the National Academies of Science (NAS) Gulf Research Program.



JESSICA WATKINS, THE 1ST BLACK WOMAN ASTRONAUT TO LIVE AND WORK ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION



The INSPIRATION for

The Peanuts comic strip was created by Charles Schulz in 1950 with the main white characters Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus to name a few.

After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a (white) school teacher, Harriet Glickman, wrote to Schulz suggesting that he should intergrate the Peanuts. Glickman wanted to "do something to change those conditions in our society which lead to the assassination and which contribute to the vast sea of misunderstanding, fear, hate and violence." Shultz wrote back, "it would look like were patronizing our Negro friends."

Glickman reached out to her Black neighbor, communications engineer Kenneth Kelly, who in term wrote to Schulz.

On July 31, 1968, Franklin made his debut in the Peanuts comic strip!!



KEITH DAVID HAS BEEN THE VOICE OF OVER 70+ ANIMATED CHARACTERS. HE DOESN'T GET THE RECOGNITION HE DESERVES!



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

Joseph Mitchell PhD CITIZEN • MUSICIAN • POLITICIAN

U.S. Supreme Court SCAT (droppings of carnivorous animals)

On Thursday, June 29, 2023 the Supreme Court found it unconstitutional to consider race in university admissions, eliminating the principal tool the nation's most selective schools have used to diversify their campuses.

On Thursday, June 29, 2023, the Supreme Court 6-3 decision will force a reworking of admissions criteria throughout American higher education, where for decades the pursuit of diversity has been an article of faith. Thursday's decision reflected a central theme of Roberts's jurisprudence: reducing if not abolishing race as a factor in laws and public policy. In 2007, after less than two years as chief justice, Roberts wrote in a landmark opinion: "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to stop discriminating on the basis of race."

On Friday, June 30, 2023, the Supreme Court sided with a Colorado web designer's claim that the First Amendment entitles her to refuse commissions for same-sex wedding announcements, providing a victory for religious conservatives still smarting from the court's 2015 ruling granting marriage equality to gay and lesbian couples.

September 17, 1858, was an enslaved African American man who, along with his wife, Harriet, unsuccessfully sued for freedom for themselves and their two daughters in the Dred Scott v. Sandford case of 1857, popularly known as the "Dred Scott decision". The case centered on Dred and Harriet Scott and their children, Eliza and Lizzie. The Scotts claimed that they should be granted their freedom because Dred had lived in Illinois and the Wisconsin Territory for four years, where slavery was illegal, and laws in those jurisdictions said that slaveholders gave up their rights to slaves if they stayed for an extended period.

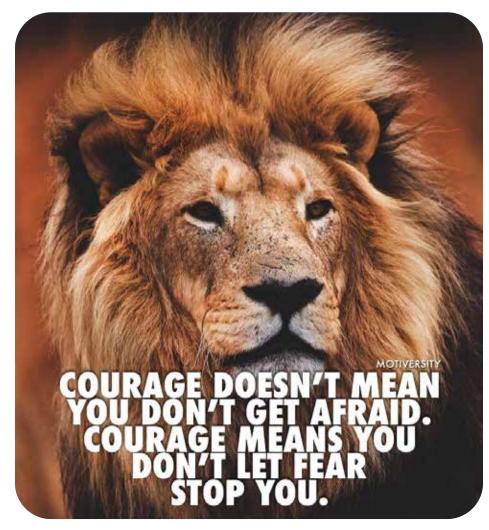
In this case, the United States Supreme Court decided 7–2 against Scott, finding that neither he nor any other person of African ancestry could claim citizenship in the United States, and therefore Scott could not bring suit in federal court under diversity of citizenship rules.

Separate but equal" refers to the infamously racist decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) that allowed the use of segregation laws by states and local governments. The phrase "separate but equal" comes from part of the Court's decision that argued separate rail cars for whites and African Americans were equal at least as required by the Equal Protection Clause. Following this decision, a monumental amount of segregation laws were enacted by state and local governments throughout the country, sparking decades of crude legal and social treatment for African Americans.

The horrid aftermath of "separate but equal" from Ferguson was halted by the Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education (1954) where the Court said that separate schools for African American students were "inherently unequal." While Brown has allowed for desegregation in the United States, the history of "separate but equal" remains an unnerving past for the country and the Supreme Court.

If you are following closely, you will see that the US Supreme Court has jumped all over the landscape in its decisions. It makes its decisions based upon who appoints them. When US presidents had slaves then slavery was OK. When presidents were elected, who opposed slavery then slavery went downhill and a Civil War erupted.

When you vote, then vote for people who oppose the NEW slavery. If you don't do that, then well....YOU GET WHATCHEW GOT!



Thinking Outside of the Box

Arthur L. Mack FREELANCE WRITER steppinoutnews@aol.com



See... I Told You So!

Tales

From the

Blackside

Arthur L. Mack

Toni Mo

Project

The

In my 2017 collection of short stories, Tales From the Blackside, one of the stories, entitled The Vanishing Heritage, dealt with the abolition of teaching Black History in schools.

The story's main character, Earl Frazier, who lives in the fictional town of Reynoldsville, is confronted with having to deal with a bill proposed by the State House that would abolish the teaching of Black History, saying it was revisionist. The governor, a man named Hiser, passed the bill into law, much to the disgust of Earl's wife Barbara.

Throughout the state, books about Black History are confiscated, and those who dare teach it are arrested and thrown in prison. It is a chaotic scene, to say the least, and things look grim.

Earl and Barbara, however, are undaunted, and recruit others to have the law overturned, ultimately uniting with Noah Craig — an NAACP official — and creating a state-wide movement. This movement, though controversial and risky, gained eventual world-wide support and changed a lot of people's hearts and minds. I concluded this story by saying failure to embrace one's history could eventually lead to its destruction.

Fast forward to recent events in Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a bill that would, in my words, water down the negative effects of slavery and claim that slaves actually gained some marketable skills while being held in involuntary servitude.

That notion is laughable at best, and downright stupid at worst. Please explain to me, good people, how can buying someone from a different land as a result of some tribal war, placing them on a ship filled to the gills, reaching another shore, and having families being torn from each other be beneficial for slaves?

How can being beaten for even the most minor transgression, working for pay from sunup to sundown without pay, constantly humiliated, and sometimes killed be beneficial and developing marketable skills? If slavery was so beneficial, please explain the numerous times many slaves tried to run away from inhumane conditions, and in some cases, staged slave revolts?

So, if slavery was so great, how come Nat Turner and Denmark Vesey, not to mention countless others, took it upon themselves and staged said slave revolts? Why then did Harriet Tubman and other help slaves escape and seek freedom?

It's simple, my friends — there are those who want to downplay the negative role slavery played in this country. Just like the Holocaust deniers, they want to say all these horrific things that happened in the past are a lie. There are those who don't want to own up to the fact America, for all of its greatness, had some terrible things happen in the development of this country.

It's not just happening in Florida, but in other states such as Texas. It should be enough to make you mad and ready to embrace the good, bad, and ugly when it comes to our history. And for those of you who think whitewashing the evils of slavery is a good thing, I've got some prime beachfront property in Alabama Village I'd love to sell you.

In the meantime, it's up to us to ensure we learn about our history. We should be more than willing to speak up against any efforts to eliminate the teaching of Black History, whether it's in our schools, in the media, or wherever. Otherwise, we're looking at even more Reynoldsvilles, and there won't be a happy ending.

The question is this...are we up to the challenge?*

CONTINUE SUCCESS!

Nathaniel Patterson Named to LinkedIn LeadersHum: "Top 200 Biggest Voices in Leadership to Watch For" in 2022 & 2023 Coach, Columnist, Facilitator, Public Speaker and Trainer Connect on LinkedIn or (727) 485.3980





May introduces the celebration of graduation, advancement to another level and career planning decisions. There are a plethora of choices leading up to the elevation of grade levels, apprenticeships, certifications, internships, jobs and/or volunteerism.

How Do Young People Prefer Making Career Decisions?

A Study conducted by the Junior Achievement USA: Insuring Career Success: "Teen Perceptions of Career Selection" documented that 80% "would prefer advice from professionals who work in a chosen field, compared to advice from parents or other family members (75%), advice from academic counselors or advisors (67%), information from TV, social media, or online (41%) or advice from friends (38%).'

My recommendation is to 1) ascertain their passion/talent, 2) research the U.S. Labor Department Occupational Outlook Handbook, 3) solicit career professionals from selected fields, 4) acquire advice from academic counselors, 5) compile professional or trade association research and 6) speak with your youth concerning market reality.

Be mindful college is not for everyone. The career path may mean a vocational school, community college, apprenticeship, trade training, and/or testing to acquire certifications. The future of trade is enormous. Yet many trades are now requesting technical knowledge.

Why It is Important to Develop a Career Plan

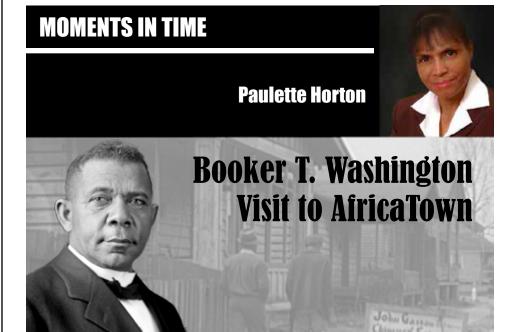
Do you (or youth) want a job or a career? There is a big difference in advancement, compensation, fulfillment and impact. Too many people fall into jobs that they accept for lack of choice.

A study of recent college grads by ResumeBuilder.com, documented that 21% are not working in their field of study and 21% more are working part-time. Better planning and research would enhance these numbers.

Effective research and soliciting professional recommendations will also enhance the expectations of our youth. While conducting career development workshops at several colleges: I asked what salary did they expect upon graduation, the most common answer was \$100,000. In Alabama, the median income is \$54,193. With that expectation, they should consider: Maryland (\$93,236), District of Columbia (\$87,539) and Colorado (\$82,427).

My point is that we need to be more proactive in helping our youth plan their careers. Expose them to choices, seek professional advice and conduct research to develop a plan that will help them make a footprint.

As always **CONTINUED SUCCESS!**



In the last speech of his life on October 25, 1915, Booker T. Washington said these words, "A few days ago, I visited a little colony of black people near Mobile, Alabama, several of who were born in Africa and came here on the last slave ship to reach America."

Washington was referring to Africatown, the place where slaves settled and developed into a community after being brought from West Africa onboard the Clotilda, the last ship to bring slaves to the United States.

"Several of the older people still survive and tell interesting stories about their early and varied experiences," he said. "A little way from the colony may be seen the hulk of the slave ship on which they were brought to this country."

Washington delivered the annual address before the American Missionary Association and National Council of Congregations Churches in New Haven, Connecticut. The speech was said to be magnificent. He ended this speech by saying, "To bring Negro education up to where it ought to be it will take the combined and increased efforts of all the agencies now engaged in this work. The North, The South, the religious associations.

the educational boards, white people, and black people, all will have to cooperate in a great effort for this common end."

The Clotilda, after years of speculation and searching, was found in 2019 by Ben Raines. As for Africatown, it proved to be a self-sufficient colony and proved to be a prime example of Washington's philosophy.



Literary Corner...



Sherrica Davis-Hunt

With a life motto of "Hunt for Greatness", Sherrica believes everyone should always strive to be greater than they were yesterday. She is passionate about connecting people and businesses to resources to help them achieve their goals. She believes in the power of networking, a skill set that has enabled her to significantly impact multiple industries with diverse populations while seamlessly adapting to her surroundings and being her authentic self. She hopes this book will inspire and encourage others to overcome the fear of networking.

Sherrica has 15 years of experience working in investment banking, technology, non-profit, and higher education sectors in marketing, business development and philanthropy. She is the assistant vice chancellor for anti-racism, diversity, equity, and inclusion at the Southern Illinois University Carbondale Foundation.

To purchase a copy of the book visit <u>sherricahunt.com</u>.





Chief Jason Lewis

Authoring his first of a 3-book series, Retired US Navy Chief was inspired by his wife to take his 24 years of journaling while in the Navy to write this book. Mentored by Historian Natalie S. Robertson and publishing work by Black Ink Coalition, Lewis tells his life's journey from birth to being accepted into the hollowed halls of the US Navy Chiefs. The book is written to provide an African centered solution to many of the issues he faced growing up in the inner city (Happy Hills the Josephine Allen Homes in Mobile, Al.).

The book is designed for adults and teens to begin a conversation about self identity and discovering their own place of acceptance. Lewis is the owner of Africatown Souvenirs LLC.◆





Jessica Norwood

Jessica is an entrepreneur, investor, artist, and philanthropist who has spent her career exploring the ways that money can be an expression of repair and spiritual care. She is a serial social entrepreneur, who works with a community of investors to provide believe-in-you money in order to create an economy that loves Black people and encourages others to do the same.

The book is a non-extractive approach to business capital that repairs racial injustice. It is patient, flexible, and antiracist.

She is the Founder and CEO of RUNWAY and leads alongside a powerhouse team of Women of Color who are committed to resourcing Black founders by providing start-up capital and nurturing their ongoing success. Her accomplishments and organizational Collaborations are to numerous to list in this limited space. Steppin' Out will do a follow-up Spotlight on Jessica in an upcoming issue to fully showcase the contributions and impact across the country. Stay Tuned for that spon to be released article.

For more information about the book go to jessicanorwood.com.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

PAGE 14

ESSICA NORWO



Congratulations! Merceria Ludgood

HONORARY MEMBER of the Buffalo Soldier's Association 92nd Infantry Division presented by President Eddie Irby Jr.



Congratulations! Stephanie Tilley Niece of Steppin' Out Publisher Greg Cyprign

becomes the first FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR of HBCU Prairie View A&M University (founded in 1876) Happy Birthday Sybil H. Runderson Celebrating 94Years



HAPPY 31st Wedding *AniverSary* Walter & Chery CALHOUN





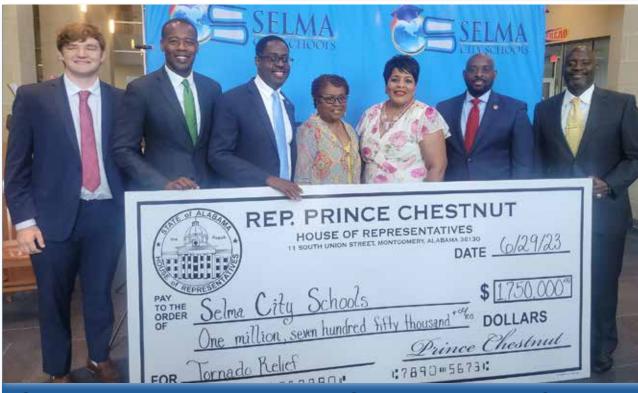




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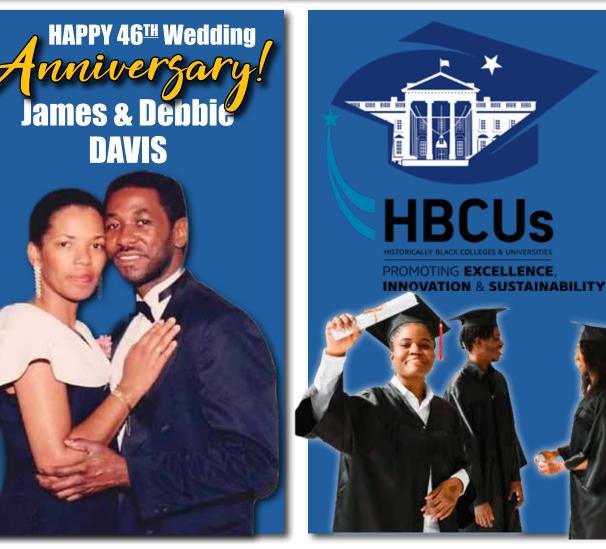
PULITZER PRIZE COMMENTARY for "STATE OF DENIAL" his work on Alabama's false history and the way history shapes the state today.





State Rep. Barbara Drummond • Selma Rep. Prince Chestnut Minority Leader Anthony Daniels • Rep. Kelvin Lawrence State School Board Member Dr. Tonya Chestnut

presented a \$1.7 million dollar check to the Selma City School System after the city was ravaged by tornado on January 12 of this year.





Johnathan & Euri Townsy CARR



HAPPY 30TH Wedding Anniversary! Rodney & Estella LEE



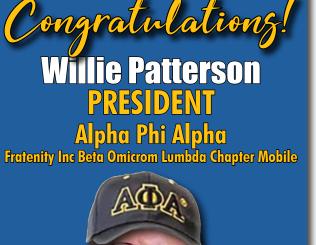






Jessica Norwood & Chandra BROWN founders of THE SOCIETY OF CLOTILDA





atsenf





Pastor Marion & Keava Boswell JONES FRANKLIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



Tyloria Tims Crenshaw DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI, PARENT and COMMUNITY RELATIONS at her Alma Mater SPRING HILL COLLEGE





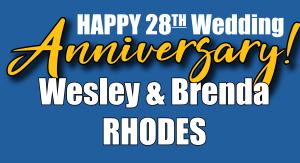
Talma Carstarphen APPOINTED PRESIDENT ELECT Junior League of Mobile



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

www.SteppinOutMobile.com







Congratulations! Justine Bixler NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR United Way of Southwest Alabama

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

Congratulations! ROBIN WHITFIELD Nominated

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT Finance and Bursary in the Office of Chief Financial Officer HOWARD UNIVERSITY



STOKES







9th ANNUAL S&M GOSPEL MUSIC INDIES AWARDS

Delarryc Dunklin

Honorary Musician of the







Dr. Benjamin Talton NAMED A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDITORS of the American

Historical Review

Congratulations! Spring Hill College Welcomes Dr. Vannee Cao-Nguyen ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT for Culture and Community andChief Diversity Officer



Congratulations! Dr. Maria F. Frederick Named Next DEAN OF HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL



Congratulations! Leon J. & Tomika B. DELL 5TH ANNIVERSERY OF PASTORING St. Joseph Baptist Church



Arthur L. Mack FREELANCE WRITER <u>steppinoutnews@aol.com</u>

GROUNDBREAKING

Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park

Members of Isom Clemon's family, along with Mobile city officials, county and state politicians, and local non-profit representatives participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for the Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park on Wednesday, July 26, across from the International Longshoreman's Association Local 1410 headquarters on Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue in downtown Mobile.

The Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park, named for local labor leader Isom Clemon, is a City of Mobile triangular park and is used as a popular spot for retired longshoremen. It is bordered by Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue, Congress Street, and Hamilton Street.

Clemon, was born in 1919 and passed away in 1994. He led the International Longshoreman's Association 1410, a labor union established in 1936 to represent the City of Mobile's African-American Longshoremen. Clemon was also one of the founders of the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), founded in 1960 to help African-Americans gain political access. He was also instrumental in helping get the first African-American delegates seated at a Democratic National Convention.

Led by Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood, the county commission provided some of its money from the American Rescue Plan Act into the park's design and construction and other projects that will be part of the museum. Additional funding came from the City of Mobile, the Mobile County

Commission, the downtown TIF (tax improvement fund), and other sources. In all, approximately \$1.4 million has been appropriated from various sources for the planned upgrades to Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park, which should be completed by the end of this year.

"This whole effort has been a labor of love," said Ludgood. "If you have been in this community at any time, this was a favorite spot. This is where people came, hung out, and told tales."

Former Mobile Mayor, County Commissioner and current State Representative Sam Jones recalled when he frequented the park as well as the influence of ILA Local 1410 in the community.

"This was the place where retirees, union members and members of the community and people just in general came and sat down and talked about various issues," he said. "I spent a lot of time up here as a county commissioner and mayor; and you could hear some of the things you needed to hear up here.

"These guys were not bashful about what they thought and what was going on in the community, So, I spent a lot of time up here. I was born about five blocks from here, so even as a kid I was coming through here. Isom Clemons was really someone with a lot of influence; ILA 1410 was one of the largest unions here and they had a real impact on what took place in this community.

"If you wanted to know where you stood as a local official, all you had to do was come to the park. That was the way it was here. It's really a place of emphasis for this community; most of the activities in the community took place here." The concept for the park was worked on for seven years, according to Downtown Mobile Alliance President Elizabeth Stevens. After getting grants and designs for the space, it was the late Mobile City Council president Levon Manzie who was instrumental in getting the park named for Clemon.

"Councilman Manzie got a special resolution from the City Council to name the park Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park in 2016," Stevens said.

"The pressure was on at that point to design a park that was worthy of that name." Downtown Mobile Alliance worked with Manzie and began efforts toward the design and renovation of the park, with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Mobile and others, but the COVID pandemic and Manzie's death in 2021 slowed the project down.

"He (Manzie) was a primary champion of this park," Ludgood said. "We just kept pushing on and pushing on until we got it to where it is today."

Darlene Clemon Moore, Clemon's daughter, thanked city and county leaders for making the park a reality, and reflected on the work her father did, not only for ILA 1410, but for the city of Mobile as a whole.

"We are so grateful for this opportunity for a great celebration of the work my father did," she said. "He was dedicated to everyone — the ILA, the union, but he was also concerned about people. He didn't care about the color of your skin; he just wanted everybody to do well, to be able to take care of their families, to be able to have a great education, and have the opportunities to vote.

"He helped found the Alabama Democratic Conference; there were about four or five others who helped organize it in Montgomery. He just wanted to help people get civil rights and be able to vote. That's what Dad did; he never stopped. He worked to show that whatever we did, we did the right thing for the community and for the people."

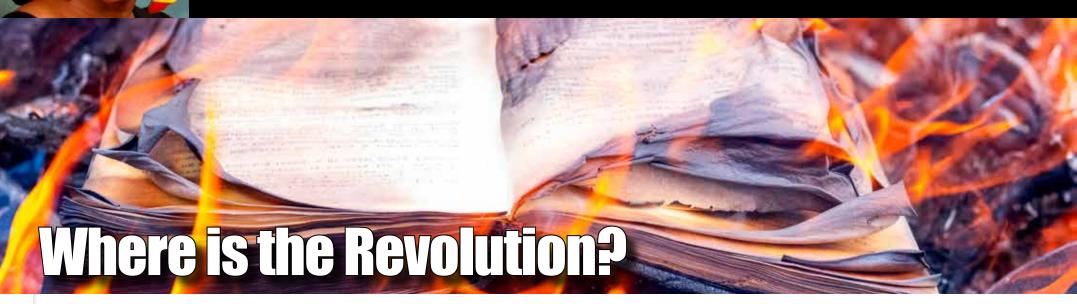
Parts of the museum include a play area, a larger-than-life bronze statue of Clemon accompanied by a series of educational relief plaques telling the story of organized African-American labor in Mobile as well as the ILA's role in the Civil Rights Movement. The art pieces were selected for the park through a contest that will be overseen by the Mobile Arts Council, and will be created and installed by Stephen Whyte Sculpture Studios.

In addition, a metal angel sculpture commissioned by the Downtown Mobile Alliance and created by Charles Smith and Frank Ledbetter will be placed in the park. A public engagement contest will be held to name the sculpture.

"This is clearly going to be the gateway as to what we want to accomplish in this area," Ludgood said. "We're hoping that the community will come out and get a feeling and sense of ownership. This is the first of many investments they can look forward to seeing in this community."

Kimberly Williams Pettway

THE NARRATIVE

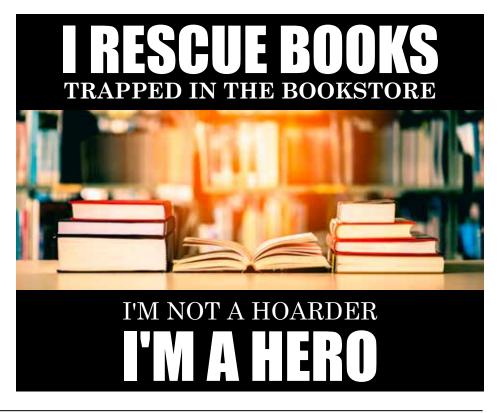


As we witness the continued re-creation of the false African American narrative in America, I find myself a bit disgusted. For a while I assumed I must have missed the uprising of African American parents insisting on truth in the classroom because my children are adults. I was shocked when I realized that very little was taking place. In fact, our state re-elected the governor who spoke against the teaching of Critical Race Theory (CRT), etc. and when the time came she did what she promised, banned them. We are witnessing a 21st century attack on the truth of OUR history in OUR country and for the most part, we are sitting idle. Why? In our great state of Alabama our governor banned the teaching of CRT, "divisive" and 'woke" concepts in K-12 and I saw no resistance. It was not until HB7 was introduced to also prevent these concepts from being taught in higher ed that I began to see activity to resist it by colleagues. To date, that bill hasn't passed. However, for K-12 not teaching these concepts seems to be an acceptable norm. As I've engaged parents and educators in the K-12 system, far too many have no idea these concepts were banned and/or what they were. The system of oppression in America and throughout the world has done an excellent job in hiding our truths and theirs. Nonetheless this is a system we've never accepted. This is the system our ancestors survived and fought. When did we become a complacent people? Our responsibility to ensure we are adequately represented in OUR American history did not end with the civil rights era. We should actively seek equity in every facet of our lives, including the teaching of our history and influence in and on OUR country. Where is the torch of activism that spanned from the eras of slavery to Jim Crow? Where is our fight?!

I am certain there are many reasons for our lack of mobilization around these issues. In my opinion the greatest contributing factor is our own lack of knowledge about our true history and power. We have passively accepted the history lessons birthed during a time when there were very intentional efforts to distort our truth. Fast forward some decades and here we are, unaware of our true narrative, allowing others to re-create our place and role in the foundation of our society with the same destructive intent because they believe it. They believe we are inferior; they believe we are nothing unique, that we are weak and of no real substance. These ideals have been so ingrained into our history lessons that many of us believe them too. In this vain, I guess it is clear why there is minimal advocacy around teaching true African/African-American History. Too many of us have bought the false narrative. Too many of us have internalized lies about who we are. Those who birthed our false narrative feared us. They feared our intelligence, strength, culture, communal nature, and our ability to adapt. Therefore, they needed to ensure that we would somehow internalize this inferiority and what better way to do it than to create a historical narrative that supports it. James Baldwin eloquently stated, "Ignorance allied with power is the most ferocious enemy justice can have." Both their ignorance and power is empowered and sustained by the teaching of a false African American history. If we are to create sustained change in this 21st century, we must uproot the lies. We must stand against it, unwavering, while demanding that our history is properly taught regardless of who it

makes uncomfortable. One of our greatest civil rights issues today is embedded within our educational system. What legacy will we leave? When will there be a shift? How long will we remain silent while those in power seek to distort our past?

Right now we should collectively be raising hell in every state that is seeking to erase or misrepresent our history. We should be attacking this on every front; the political system, the educational system and the family system. We should mobilize to ensure that candidates who support these ideals are not elected to office again. Presidential hopeful, Gov. DeSantis of Florida, should see and hear our wrath. If any group of people ensure that he does not make it to the white house, we should! We should be waging an educational war in Florida right now. We have enough resources among African Americans to purchase billboards throughout their state to blast our truths. But we can't just start or stop here. Until we can successfully have our truth taught, we must begin to teach it within our homes. The greatest barrier to that is too many of us simply don't know the truth. As a starting place, I encourage you to check out the 1619 project, the Library of Congress - African American Archives, and Africa Access review. There is a plethora of information, we simply have to be mindful of what we choose to believe. It is time out for passivity. We stood on the shoulders of giants for too long. We are tall enough to accept our responsibility of the fight for educational and historical truth. Let us stop whining and talking, it's time for a REVOLUTION.





The Creator's Corner

A quarterly column written by Erica Jones Massey, The Creator's Corner highlights creatives in the South who have exuded dedication to their crafts.

Each spotlighted creative is asked a series of questions that allows insight into their right hemispheres, their ideas of local and/or national events, and their most profound experiences.

Erica Jones Massey is an alumnus of Alabama State University and the University of South Alabama; retired educator and emerging author. Her first book of poetry Unbagged is available on <u>amazon.com</u>. Although she is not a trained journalist, she will enjoy every minute of meeting creatives -emerging and seasoned-

and sharing with you their experiences in artistry.

If you or someone you know is an avid creator, contact Erica at <u>ericajmassey@gmail.com</u>

ALEX "HUGGY BEAR" LOFTON

Native to Mobile, AL, Alex is a 52 year old, 1989 alumnus of LeFlore Magnet High School. Affectionately known as "Huggy Bear," Alex is instrumental as a spoken word artist throughout the U.S. Additionally, he is the recipient of the 2023 Lagniappe Readers' Choice Awards Winner for the Best Local Poet. Huggy says that the title of his autobiography would be the title of his first book Love, Laughter, Heartache and Pain, and he has reached an ultimate career goal once he has written a poem that ends poverty in the black community.

FACTS ABOUT HUGGY SHARED DURING THE INTERVIEW...

WHEN DID POETRY BECOME PASSION?

Being a great poet means being a great writer as well as a great performer. I kind of always knew I was a great performer. I tell people all the time that I've been getting standing ovations since my Easter speeches. Until I got to high school, I never shared my writing with anyone-except for a few love poems. It wasn't really until I started hitting the poetry open mics in the late 90s that I realized I truly had a gift. Hobby became a passion and a career when I performed at a poetry open mic for the first time in the Summer of '99. I received a standing ovation for my poem "Black Crisis."

WHAT ARE YOUR BEST EXPERIENCES?

I've been able to meet and share the stage with some of the biggest artists, activists, and entertainers in the business; but my greatest memories are from everyday people I meet who hug me tight, tell me how my poetry has inspired or moved them.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITES?

I'm kind of a history buff. At one time, I was big into the black gangster genre: Iceberg Slim and Donald Goines. Now, I'm reading more literature on socialism in theory. As for movies, I enjoy sci-fi action. I have a very eclectic taste in music. My playlist includes 70s soul music, '90s Hip Hop, to 80s classic rock.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

I would like to see more community involvement and engagement in the election process, especially with the local elections in the non-presidential cycles. Over 200,000 registered voters in Mobile County chose not to vote in the last cycle-many of them black. That difference alone could have affected the statewide governor's race. The senseless gun violence in our community always weighs heavy on my spirit. I wish I had the prescription for it all, but I feel in my heart that spoken word is going to play a part in it.

Mobile County Health Department Weekend "Drive Thru"

RABIES CLINICS



SEPTEMBER 09 10:00AM - NOON PET SUPPLIES PLUS 803 Hillcrest Road (Mobile)

SEPTEMBER 09 12:30PM - 2:00PM

MOBILE COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER 7665 Howells Ferry Road (Mobile)

SEPTEMBER 16 10:00AM - NOON

CITY OF MOBILE ANIMAL SHELTER 855 Owens Street (Mobile)

SEPTEMBER 23 10:00AM - NOON

PET FEST AT MEDAL OF HONOR PARK 1711 Hillcrest Road (Mobile)

SEPTEMBER 23

1:00PM - 3:00PM B&B PET STOP 5035 Cottage Hill Road (Mobile)

SEPTEMBER 30 8:00AM - NOON

EDDIE SMITH'S COUNTRY STORE 14045 Celeste Road (Turnerville)

Rabies Quarantine Fact Sheet

<u>www.alabamapublichealth.gov/</u> infectiousdiseases/assets/ RabiesQuarantineFactSheet.pdf



Ben Raines' Clotilda feud may be legit, but comes at wrong time

First, let me say that I have nothing against Ben Raines. As a matter of fact, we both have a healthy respect for one another as two career journalists who both once worked for the Mobile Press Register and who've both been blessed to have won awards for our work.

But this whole "Who found Clotilda?" thing he's got going on is overshadowing the REAL story of the perseverance our ancestors showed by surviving pure evil to not only live, but prosper.

Here's the background: Ben found what he thought was the longlost slave ship Clotilda in 2019 up in the Mobile River.

When tests on the wreck proved it wasn't the ship, Raines literally dove back into the alligator invested waters, and later found what would indeed be the remains of the last illegal ship to have ferried enslaved Africans to America in 1860.

Wanting to be sure of Raines' find this time, the Alabama Historical Commission hired SEARCH, Inc., ... famously known for finding the wreck of Titanic ... to validate his find.

I'll never forget the deep, booming words of SEARCH Senior Vice President Jim Delgado on that glorious evening before a packed room of onlookers at the Hope Center in Africatown: "Yes, it is Clotilda!"

Well since then, there's been anything but goodwill between the state, Delgado and Raines, who has accused both of trying to steal credit for one of the greatest archaeological finds in the last 100 years, and the only slave ship ever recovered.

I truly understand Ben's hair being on fire for what he says is a blatant attempt to erase his name from the history books. And if it were me, I'd probably be just as upset if not more.

But sadly, this feud comes at a time when the world's 'cultural heritage focus' has shifted to the opening of Heritage House Museum in Africatown these last few weeks, which is a remarkable exhibit explaining just who those 110 captives aboard Clotilda were ... NOT about the ship that brought them here.

I'm just about tired of everything that happens in the South being centered around what white people did as oppose to what the REAL story was.

From trying to take history books off shelves, to banning what can be taught in schools, to that Florida governor guy foolishly shaping his lips to say that skills enslaved people learned helped them later in life.

Say what?!? What a moron! There was NOTHING about slavery that helped ANY of the 12 million Africans caught up in the hundreds-years-old Atlantic Slave Trade.

It's time out for this altering and "spinning" of history now, so what white people's ancestors did to our folks won't look so bad. But I digress.

I've had this discussion with Ben before about being careful to not let the 'real' story of Clotilda get whitewashed by wood, sails, nails and an evil, wealthy white man (Timothy Meaher), who owned Clotilda and viewed black people as a cut BELOW a dog.

When Ben and I shared a stage at the downtown library for a discussion about Clotilda last year, the majority of people in that mostly white audience were only interested in getting their copies of his book (The Last Slave Ship) signed.

Hardly any talked to either of us afterwards about just those remarkable people in that cargo hold were.

It spoke volumes to me about the ongoing mentality so many Southerners still have.

But all we, descendants of Clotilda survivors, can do is keep telling the story ... an epic tale of how those resilient "teenagers" aboard Clotilda begat thousands of descendants who now live all over the world.

They taught us far more than any book ever could, and we vow to never let the world forget just who they were!



Steppin' Out columnist and feature writer Arthur L. Mack was recently recognized by the Alabama Sports Writers Association during its recent awards ceremony held at Burgess-Snow Field at Jacksonville State University.

Mack, who has been a writer for Steppin' Out since 2009 and is also a staff writer with the Citronelle-based Call News, received runner-up honors for the best Breaking News Story under the Special Categories designation. That story, entitled Saraland TRO Denied, was in the November 02, 2022 edition of the Call News, and dealt with Saraland High School's attempts to issue a temporary restraining order against a Daphne resident who claimed there was a violation of a rule involving a Saraland football player who had lived in Daphne before moving to Saraland.

That rule, according to the Alabama High School Athletic Association, states if a player moves from one school to another, the previous residence must be either vacated or rented to someone else. The accusation from the Daphne resident was that the player's father was still living at the Daphne residence.

Although the restraining order was denied because the attorney had gotten information about the case the day before the hearing was to take place, Saraland High was eventually cleared of any wrongdoing and went on to win the Class 6A football championship.

It is the 10th ASWA award for Mack in the last seven years. He has also received five Alabama Press Association awards.



TRIBUTE POMETOWN LEGENDS

Thomas Glenn "Catt" Sirten

Born January 18, 1955 in Flint, Michigan, Catte was the son of the late Thomas Garland Sirten and Reba Colvett Sirten. Catt was a beloved father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend who touched the lives of many.

Catt was a man of great integrity and compassion. He dedicated his life to making a positive impact on those around him and his community. He pursued a successful career as a radio DJ & photographer. Catt's hard work, dedication, and innovative thinking made him a highly respected professional in his field. Throughout his career, Catt was known for his "magic" and his ability to inspire and motivate others.

Catt began his career in radio shortly after graduating from West Limestone High School in 1973. Although he has been in a few markets, he settled in Mobile around 1984, when he joined 92Zew as the Program Director. It has been said that Catt played the soundtrack of the South and most likely played the soundtrack of your life. He introduced many to new music and artists, and famously promoted the music of local musicians. Catt's voice has been described as mellow, calm, and smooth-as-butter. Catt recently celebrated his 2000th program Catt's Sunday Jazz Brunch, it is also the second longest running jazz radio program in America. Catt's Brown Bag Concert series started in 1985 and is one of the longest running concert series in the Gulf Coast. This is just a short list of reasons Catt was known at the "music man".

"The reward of my work is not the money, because I am certainly not getting rich. The reward is getting to do all of this. If success is waking up each morning and loving what you do, then I am the most successful person I know. If I don't screw it up, I will get to do it again tonight." \sim Catt

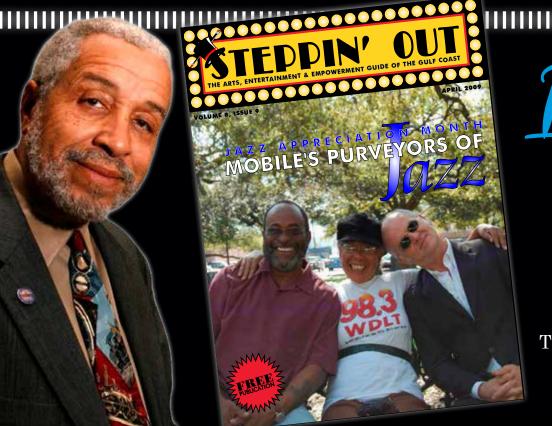
Anyone who knew Catt knew that he had a camera close by. He spent 18 years as director of photography for Mobile's BayFest music festival. His photography is featured in nine books including Mobile Bay Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow. Catt's Prints have hung in galleries, art museums, and most importantly - homes all over the Mobile area and even the world. Recently, he worked as an adjunct instructor, at Spring Hill College and Bayside Academy in Daphne, teaching video editing and related skills.

Furthermore, Catt supported all the local arts of Mobile, including but most definitely not limited to the Mobile Symphony Orchestra and the Mobile Ballet.

Beyond his professional achievements, Catt was defined by his unwavering love and commitment to his family. Catt was a devoted father to his children, and a doting grandfather to his grandchildren. He was a supportive and loving son, brother, and uncle. He delighted in spending time with his family, creating memories that will be cherished forever.

Those who had the privilege of knowing Catt will remember his kind-hearted nature, his cool and calm demeanor, and his genuine interest in the lives of others. He had a unique ability to make everyone feel important and valued. Catt cherished his friendships dearly, always going above and beyond to support and uplift those he cared about.

Thomas Glenn "Catt" Sirten has left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered as a true gentleman, an exceptional professional, and a warm and loving family man.



In Memoriam

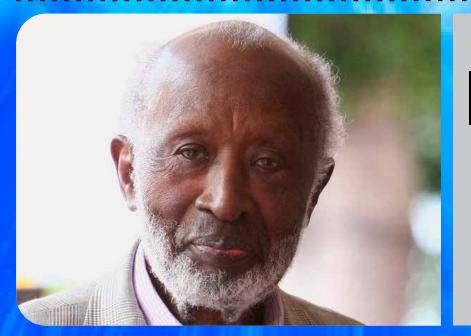
Mobile has lost four Jazz Giants over the course of the last two years...

Carmen Brown • Karl Hills Joaquin Holloway • Catt Sirten

They were truly the city's "Purveyors of Jazz" The Jazz Community Will Never Be The Same! **Rest in Peace Jazz Warriors!**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

www**.S**teppinOutMobile.com



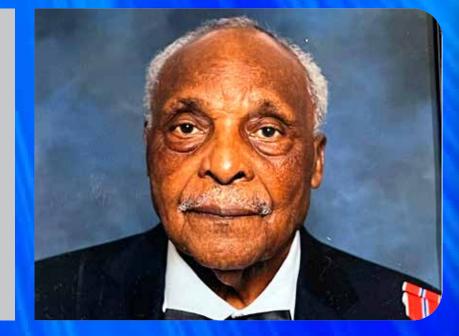
Clarence Avant 1947 - 2023

Born in Climax, North Carolina, in 1943, Clarence Avant was known as the Black Godfather in the entertainment industry. He was a music executive, a film producer, and a businessman. He worked for Motown and Tabu Records and helped to form Venture and Sussex Record Companies. He acquired KTYM-FM in Los Angeles and was recognized as the first African American FM Owner in that city. He also helped to negotiate the sale of Stax Records. He was known for his advocacy for African American artist in the industry and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2021.

Professor James Kennedy 1933 - 2023

Born in Thomasville, Alabama, McFadden was a resident of Prichard. He was a decorated member of the heralded 92nd Infantry Division Buffalo Soldiers. He was a sniper for the U.S. and served under General George S. Patton's 761st All-Black Tank Battalion that were part of the famous drive to Berlin, by Patton, to beat the Russians into that city.

His high school education was cut off by the war when he was drafted in 1943 and did his basic training in the mechanized calvary out of Fort Riley, Kansas. He was deployed to Italy and faced heavy combat. He earned several medals including the WWII Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge First Award, Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, Markmanship Badge with Carbine Rifle Bar, Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal and European-African, Middle-Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars.





Wyndell B 1965 - 2023

Inspired by Bobby Womack and Barry White, this native of St. Louis, Wendell Brown retained the Blues in R&B known as Southern Soul. He was President and CEO of Smoothway Music, his own record label. He began performing at the age of 5 by joining the gospel group The Sensational Wonders. He sang gospel for 10 years but as he matured his musical taste began to change, a fact he had to hide from his mother because of her strong connection to the church. He began to perform with a group he formed in high school called The Dream. He spent 20 years in groups before he decided to go solo. He left St. Louis for Minneapolis where he spent several years sharpening his skills but eventually wound up in Atlanta where his voice became legend. The 6'5" 298 lb. Wendell commanded the stage. He was diagnosed with Cancer a year ago which ultimately claimed his life. *****

PASSING



NICK BENEDICT-77 ACTOR All My Children The Young and the Restless Surgery Complications



RANDY FULMER–73 ANIMATOR Who Framed Roger Rabbit/Beauty & the Beast



RANDY MEISNER-77 MUSICIAN The Eagles/Poco Harem COPD



TONY BENNETT-96 SINGER 20X GRAMMY WINNER "I Left My Heart In San Francisco"



MIKALA JONES–44 SURFER Surfing Accident

BILL SHIPP-89

JOURNALIST

Atlanta Constitution



PAMELA BLAIR-73 ACTRESS Annie/A Chorus Line



JOHNNY LUJACK-98 FOOTBALL PLAYER Notre Dame/Chicago Bears



INGA SWINSON-90 ACTRESS Benson/The Miracle Worker



SINGER • Nothing Compares 2 U

ornor • 55

ANDREA EVANS-66 ACTRESS One Life to Live/The Bold and the Beautiful Breast Cancer



MANTAUR-55 PRO WRESTLER WWF/ECW



DERRICK WILLOUGHBY-49 NBA PLAYER Chicago Bulls



DJ CASPER-58 DJ/SONGWRITER Cha Cha Slide **Liver and Kidney Cancer**





BOBBY ELI-77 GUITARIST/SONGWRITER Love Won't Let Me Wait



MAGOO-50 RAPPER Timberland & Magoo



COMPOSER

WILLIAM FRIEDMAN-87 FILM DIRECTOR The Exorcist/The French Connection Heart Failure, Pneumonia



ACTOR/2X EMMY AWARD WINNER Mr. Robot/This is Us/Luke Cage • Lung Cancer

ALEX COLE-58 MLB PLAYER Pirates/Indians/Twins



JOHNNY HARDWICK-64 VOICE ACTOR King of the Hill



Cehpas Jones• 66

ALEX COLLINS-28 NFL PLAYER Seahawks/Ravens **Traffic Accident**



ASTRUD GILBERTO-83 BRAZILIAN JAZZ SINGER Lung Cancer



BRAY WYATT-36 PRO WRESTLER Heart Attack



ROBERT SWAN-78 ACTOR Hoosiers/Natural Born Killers/Backdraft **Liver Cancer**



JOHN WARNOCK-82 COMPUTER SCIENTIST Co-Founder of Adobe



LIVING IN BLISS

Debra Braggs

Veteran Fashion Columnist and Lifestyle Reporter

Selfish or Self-Care

"I'll be the first to admit that I'm no good at setting boundaries. All my life I have been a "people pleaser." I don't' like confrontation, I hate saying no and I would love it if all people could just 'get along.'

Well, in a world full of diverse races, religions and personalities – the thought of ALL people just "getting along" is unrealistic. During this journey of self-care, I have read over and over again about the importance of setting boundaries – in every aspect of our lives. Psychologists say that we often fail ourselves and others when we don't set healthy boundaries.

Boundaries are the separations that humans need—mentally, emotionally, and physically—to feel safe, valued, and respected, according to Dr. Carla Marie Manly, a clinical psychologist who authored the book Joy From Fear. "When our boundaries are too permeable, we might tend to let people take advantage of us, or accept abusive treatment," Manly said in an article for Living Simple magazine.

She said that our boundaries can also have a major impact on our mental well-being. "When our emotional boundaries are respected, we feel valued, honored, and safe. But if our boundaries are chronically disrespected, the ongoing feelings of despair and powerlessness can trigger <u>chronic anxiety</u>, <u>depression</u>, and even <u>trauma</u>," Manly said.

Have you ever said "yes" when asked by a friend or family member for a favor, and later felt immense regret about your answer? Is saying NO selfish or self-care?

Psychologists say we often feel compelled to say yes because we wonder if we are being selfish. But actually saying 'NO' might be the most self-protective and relationship-honoring thing you can do. If you're going to regret or resent doing the favor, it's best to just say 'NO.'

The doctor said that communicating boundaries can be challenging for most people, especially if you're a people-pleaser. But there are simple ways to handle boundary pushing without ramping up your energy, getting defensive or even justifying your answer.

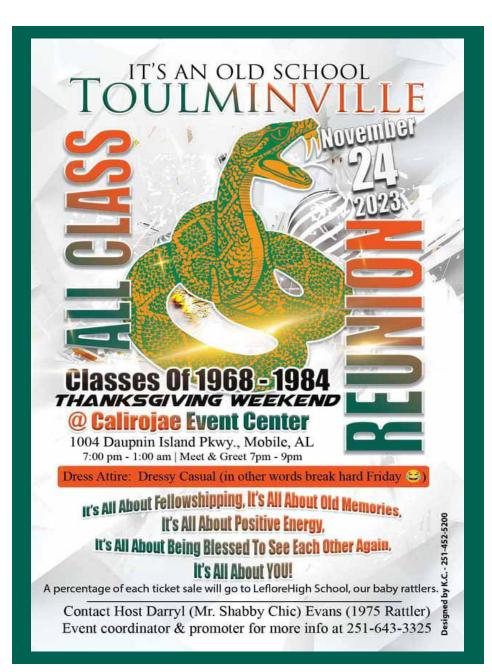
If you notice there is a pattern of people not respecting your boundaries, it could mean you are not consistent and you are teaching them that they can – and have permission to change and dictate your actions.

The old saying is true: We teach people how to treat us.

Here are some tips to understanding how and when to set boundaries: Start by thinking through what you need and want to accomplish by setting boundaries. You may not immediately know which parts of your life are most in need of boundaries, and that's ok.

Ask yourself if there is a relationship that makes you uneasy or is your interactions with that person making you 'feel some type of way.' If so, perhaps you need to evaluate your boundaries with that person. Boundaries are often very different depending on the situation and the

continued in NEXT COLUMN



people involved, according to Manly. While you may have flexible boundaries with an intimate partner, it is appropriate for employers and staff members to have more rigid <u>boundaries</u>.

Certain behaviors, such as sharing of personal information, sexual contact, and flirting—especially between management and staff—are generally inappropriate, and often illegal."

And when it comes to family members, the nature of healthy boundaries depends on the overall family dynamics. "If family members tend to be overbearing, fairly rigid boundaries may be needed for psychological well-being," she says.

Sometimes, setting boundaries with family members and friends can be the hardest task of all. I know lots of folks who have anxiety when it comes to drawing the line with relatives.

Manly said you must pay attention to relationship changes and hold your ground. When you establish healthy boundaries, naturally, the people who are used to you being a doormat may get irritated or upset.

In fact, Manly says that some may even continue to disrespect your boundaries. "As you move forward, you'll find that some people will be supportive of your healthy new boundaries," she notes. "Others may be unwilling to accept and honor the 'new you.' Sometimes the wisest move is to distance yourself from those who choose not to respect your boundaries."

At the end of the day, you have to be healthy and happy to help others.

And your self-care starts with stating your truth with dignity and courage. \clubsuit

2023 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES All Home Games Are CAPITALIZED





NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

PRE-SEASON

A. 13 KANSAS CITY Noon A. 20 at LA Chargers6:05 pm

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REGULAR SEASON

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S. 18	at Carolina	6:15 pm
6. 24	at Green Bay	Noon
D. 01	TAMPA BAY	Noon
D. 08	New England	Noon
D. 15	at Houston	Noon
D. 19	JACKSONVILLE	7:15 pm
D. 29	at Indianapolis	Noon
٧. 05	CHICAGO	Noon

0 28	MISSISSIPPI ST	TRA
N. 04	at Vanderbilt	IBA
N. 11	at Vanderbilt at Arkansas St	ТВА
	NEW MEXICO ST	
N. 25	ALABAMA	IBA
	AMA CTATE	
ALAD	BAMA STATE	
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C 00	MILES	6:00 pm
5.09	WILES	
S. 23	at Florida A&M	6:00 pm
S 30	ALCORN STATE	6.00 pm
0.07	DETUUNE	2.00 pm
0.07	BETHUNE	
0.14	at Jackson State	3:00 pm
0.28	at Jackson State ALABAMA A&M	3.30 nm
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N. 11	at Miss. Valley State	.3:00 pm
	at Prairie View A&M	
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N. 23	TUSKEGEE	3;00 pm
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	at Sam Houston	
	at Middle Tennessee	
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S. 30	ETSU	Noon
O. 07	at Wofford	
0.14	FURMAN	Noon
0.21	at VMI	.12:30 pm
O. 28	THE CITADEL	2:00 pm
N. 11	at Mercer	2:00 pm
N. 18	UT MARTIN	Noon
SOUT	THERN MISSISSIP	DI
S. 02	ALCORN STATE	6:00 pm
S. 09	at Florida State	7:30 pm
S. 16	TULANE	3:00 pm
S. 23	at Arkansas State	
S. 30		
	TEXAS STATE	
O. 07	OLD DOMINION	
0.17	at South Alabama	6:30 pm
O. 28	at Appalachian State	ТВА
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N. 09		
	at Louisiana	6.30 pm
N. 18	at Mississippi State.	
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	and the second se	0.00
S. 02	STEP. F. AUSTIN	
S. 09	at Kansas State	.11:00 am
S. 16	JAMES MADISON	6:00 pm
S. 23	WESTERN KY	
S. 30	at Georgia State	
O. 07	ARKANSAS STATE	3:00 pm
O. 14	at Army	
O. 28	at Texas State	2:00 pm
N. 02	SOUTH ALABAMA	
N. 11		
	at Louisiana Monroe	
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		0.00
	FORT VALLEY ST	
S. 09	at Kentucky State	Noon
S. 16	CENTRAL STATE	1:00 pm
	LANE	
\$ 30	at Alabama A&M	2:00 pm
	MOREHOUSE	
	EDWARD WATERS	
	at Savannah State	
	CLARK ATLANTA	
	at Miles	
N 22	at Alabama State	2:00 pm
		2.00 pm
WES	T ALABAMA	
A 31	ANGELO STATE	6.00 pm
5 00	at Limestone	11:00 am
	at North Greenville	
	MISSISSIPPI COL	
	DELTA STATE	
	at West Georgia	
	WEST FLORIDA	
	at Chowan	
	VALDOSTA STATE	
N. 11	at Shorter	. 11:00 am
1.20	D. B. C. M. S. F. C. C.	
170. 100	ave alleran	STOL STOL

2023 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES All Home Games Are CAPITALIZED

<u>HIGH SCHOOL GAMES</u>

ALMA BRYANT

- S. 01 HOLTVILLE S. 08 at Daphne **15 CITRONELLE** S. S 21 at Mary G. Montgomery S. 29 at Robertsdale О. 06 BAKER 0 13 at Foley 20 FAIRHOPE O. 26 DAVIDSON N. 03 NORTHRIDGE BAKER A. 25 THEODORE 01 at Wetumpka 08 DAVIDSON S. S.
- S. 15 at Foley S. 22 DAPHNE S. 29 DOTHAN 06 at Alma Bryant 0 13 at Mary G. Montgomery 0. O. 19 at Murphy O. 27 FAIRHOPE

N. 02 MARY G. MONTGOMERY

BALDWIN COUNTY

A. 25 at Davidson 01 at Foley 08 SPANISH FORT S. S. S **15 THEODORE** 22 at Blount 29 MARY G. MONTGOMERY S. 05 MCGILL-TOOLEN 0 0 13 at Saraland O. 20 MURPHY O. 27 at St. Paul's N. 03 at Robertsdale **BAYSIDE ACADEMY**

25 ELBERTA Α. 01 PIKE LIBERAL ARTS S. S. 08 at St. Michael's **15 WILCOX CENTRAL** S. 22 at Jackson S S. 28 at Cottage Hill O. 06 T.R.MILLER O. 13 at Orange Beach O. 20 ESCAMBIA COUNTY O. 27 at Satsuma

BLOUNT

A. 25 at Vigor 01 at Spanish Fort S S. 08 ROBERTSDALE 14 ST. PAUL'S S. S. 22 BALDWIN COUNTY S. 29 at Williamson O. 06 SARALAND O. 12 at Theodore O. 20 ST.PAUL'S O. 27 at McGill-Toolen N. 03 at Murphy

CHICKASAW

A. 25 at LeFlore 31 at St. Michael's Α. S. 08 at St. Luke's S. 15 J. U. BLACKSHER 22 at Francis Marion S 29 MCINTOSH S. O. 06 CLARKE COUNTY 13 at Fruitdale 0 **O. 20 WASHINGTON COUNTY** O. 26 at Washington County N. 03 at Satsuma CITRONELLE 25 MILLRY A 01 at Gulf Shores S

S. 28 MARY G. MONTGOMERY O. 06 at B.C. RAIN О. **13 WILLIAMSON** 0 20 at UMS-WRIGHT O. 27 at Leflore N. 03 ELBERTA **COTTAGE HILL CHRISTIAN** A. 25 ESCAMBIA COUNTY S. 01 at Satsuma

S. 08 at Excel 15 FLOMATON S. S. 22 at Thomasville S. 28 BAYSIDE ACADEMY 06 W.S. NEAL 0. **13 MOBILE CHRISTIAN** 0. O. 20 at Monroe County O. 27 at Hillcrest N. 02 ST. LUKE'S

DAPHNE

A. 25 at Murphy S. 01 CARVER S. 08 ALMA BRYANT S. 15 at Davidson S. 22 at Baker S. 29 SPANISH FORT O. 05 BALDWIN COUNTY O. 13 at Fairhope O. 20 MARY G. MONTGOMERY O. 26 at St. Paul's N. 02 at Blount DAVIDSON

A. 25 BALDWIN COUNTY S. 01 HILLCREST S. 13 DAFINE S. 22 at FAIRHOPE S. 29 at B.C. Rain O. 06 MARY G. MONTGOMERY O. 13 PARK CROSSING

- A. 25 at Bayside Academy S. 01 FAITH ACADEMY **08 WILLIAMSON** 15 at Leflore 13 GULF SHORES O. 20 VIGOR
- 15 MARY G. MONTGOMERY N. 03 BRIARWOOD CHRISTIAN 01 at Elberta
- S. . 22 at Citronelle 29 at St. Paul's S. S. O. 06 VIGOR 0
- O. 27 UMS-WRIGHT N. 03 at Leflore
- S. 15 at Alma Bryant S. 22 FAITH ACADEMY

FOLEY

- A. 25 PRATTVILLE S. 01 BALDWIN COUNTY
- S. S. 08 at Mary G.Montgomery
- 15 BAKER S. S. 29 at Saraland
- О. 06 FAIRHOPE 13 ALMA BRYANT О.
- 20 at Davidson О.
- O. 26 MURPHY N. 03 at P.D. Jackson-Olin
 - **GULF SHORES**
 - A.25 ST. MICHAELS S. 01 CITRONELLE
 - S. 08 at Faith Academy
 - 15 UMS-WRIGHT S.
 - S. 22 at Leflore
 - S. 28 at Murphy 06 WILLIAMSON 0.
 - O. 13 at Elberta
 - O. 27 VIGOR N. 03 B.C. RAIN

LEFLORE

- A. 25 CHICKASAW
- 31 at Williamson A.
- S. 08 at UMS-Wright S. 15 ELBERTA
- S. 22 GULF SHORES
- S. 29 B.T. WASHINGTON
- O. 13 at Vigor
- O. 20 at B.C. Rain **O. 27 CITRONELLE**
- N. 03 FAITH ACADEMY

MARY G. MONTGOMERY

- A. 25 at Williamson
- A. 31 at Charles Henderson
- S. 08 FOLEY S. 15 at Fairhope
- S. 21 ALMA BRYANT
- S. 29 at Baldwin County
- 0. 06 at Davidson
- 0. 13 BAKER O. 20 at Daphne
- O. 27 ROBERTSDALE
- N. 02 at Baker

McGILL TOOLEN

- A. 25 MONTGOMERY CATHOLIC S. 01 at St. Paul's S. 07 at West Monroe S. 15 at Robertsdale S. 22 MURPHY S. 29 at St. Michael's 0. at Baldwin County 05 12 SPANISH FORT 0 O. 20 at Theodore O. 27 BLOUNT N. 03 SARALAND **MOBILE CHRISTIAN** A. 25 ATHENS ACADEMY S. 01 ROBERT MUNROE 08 at W.S. Neal S. S. 15 EXCEL 22 MONROE COUNTY S. S. 29 at Orange Beach O. 06 HILLCREST O. 13 at Cottage Hill O. 20 at Flomaton
- **O. 27 THOMASVILLE** N. 01 CITRONELLE MURPHY
- A. 25 DAPHNE
- 01 SARALAND S. S. 08 at Theodore
- S. 14 ST. PAUL'S S.
- 22 at MCGILL-TOOLEN S. 28 GULF SHORES
- O. 12 at Davidson O. 20 at Baldwin County O. 27 SPANISH FORT N. 03 BLOUNT **ORANGE BEACH** A. 25 MILTON S. 08 at Jackson S. 15 SATSUMA S. 22 T.R. MILLER S. 22 T.R. MILLER S. 29 MOBILE CHRISTIAN O. 06 ST. MICHAEL'S O. 13 BAYSIDE ACADEMY O. 20 at Wilcox Central N. 03 FT. WALTON BEACH **B.C. RAIN** A. 25 EXCEL S. 01 at Vigor S. 07 BLOUNT S. 15 FAITH ACADEMY S. 22 at Williamson S. 29 DAVIDSON O. 06 CITRONELLE O. 13 at UMS-Wright O. 20 LEFLORE O. 27 ELBERTA N. 03 at Gulf Shores **ROBERTSDALE** S. 01 THEODORE S. 08 at Blount S. 15 MCGILL-TOOLEN S. 22 at Saraland S. 29 ALMA BRYANT O. 05 MURPHY O. 13 at St. Paul's O. 20 at Spanish Fort O. 27 at Mary G. Montgomery N. 03 BALDWIN COUNTY **ST. LUKE'S** A. 25 at Fruitdale S. 01 MARENGO S. 08 CHICKASAW S. 15 at Washington County S. 22 J.U. BLACKSHER S. 29 at Francis Marion O. 05 at J.F. Shields O. 20 at Clarke County O. 27 SWEET WATER N. 02 at Cottage Hill **ST. MICHAEL'S** A. 25 at Gulf Shores A. 31 CHICKASAW S. 08 BAYSIDE ACADEMY 15 at Escambia County S. S. 21 SATSUMA S. 29 MCGILL-TOOLEN O. 06 at Orange Beach O. 13 WILCOX CENTRAL O. 20 at Jackson O. 27 T.R. MILLER **ST. PAUL'S** A. 25 at UMS-Wright S. 01 MCGILL-TOOLEN S. 08 at Saraland S. 14 at Murphy S. 29 FAITH ACADEMY O. 06 at Spanish Fort O. 13 ROBERTSDALE O. 20 at Blount O. 27 BALDWIN COUNTY N. 03 THEODORE SARALAND A. 25 LIPSCOMB ACADEMY

O. 05 at Robertsdale

- S. 01 at Murphy S. 08 ST. PAUL'S
- S. 15 at Spanish Fort
- S. 22 ROBERTSDALE S. 29 FOLEY O. 06 at Blount O. 13 BALDWIN COUNTY O. 27 THEODORE N. 03 at McGill-Toolen SATSUMA A. 25 MCINTOSH S. 01 COTTAGE HILL CHRISTIAN S. 08 ESCAMBIA COUNTY S. 15 at Orange Beach S. 21 at St. Michael's S. 28 PLEASANT HOME O. 06 WILCOX CENTRAL O. 13 JACKSON O. 20 at T.R.MILLER 27 BAYSIDE ACADEMY 0 N. 03 CHICKASAW **SPANISH FORT** A. 24 FAIRHOPE S. 01 BLOUNT S. 08 at Baldwin County 15 SARALAND S. S. 22 at Theodore S. 29 at Daphne O. 06 ST. PAUL'S 0. 12 at McGill-Toolen 20 ROBERTSDALE 0 0 27 at Murphy N. 02 at Saraland THEODORE A. 25 at Baker S. 01 at Robertsdale S. 08 MURPHY 15 at Baldwin County 22 SPANISH FORT S. S. 29 OPELIKA S. О. 05 at MURPHY 12 BLOUNT 0 20 MCGILL-TOOLEN 0. O. 27 at Saraland N. 03 at St.Paul's **UMS WRIGHT** A. 25 ST. PAUL'S 01 at T.R. Miller S. S. **08 LEFLORE** S. 15 at Gulf Shores S. 22 at Vigor O. 06 ELBERTA О. 13 B.C.RAIN **20 CITRONELLE** 0 27 at Faith Academy N. 02 at Williamson VIGOR A. 25 BLOUNT S. 01 B.C. RAIN S. 08 CITRONELLE 15 at Williamson 22 UMS-WRIGHT S. S. S. 27 at Murphy O. 06 at Faith Academy 0 **13 LEFLORE** O. 20 at Elberta 27 at Gulf Shores 0 N. 02 SIDNEY LANIER WILLIAMSON A. 25 MARY G. MONTGOMERY A. 31 LEFLORE S. 08 at Elberta S. 15 VIGOR 22 B.C. RAIN S.
 - 29 BLOUNT
- S. O. 06 at Gulf Shores
- 0 13 at Citronelle
- 20 at Faith Academy 0
 - O. 25. ESCAMBIA COUNTY N. 02. UMS-WRIGHT

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

08 at Vigor

S

- S. 08 at Baker S. 15 DAPHNE О. O. 20 FOLEY O. 26 at Alma Bryant N. 02 JACKSON ELBERTA S. S S. 29 NORTHVIEW O. 06 at UMS-Wright 0.
 - O. 27 at B.C. Rain N. 03 at Citronelle

FAIRHOPE

- A. 24 at Spanish Fort S. 01 at Choctawhatchee S. 08 PENSACOLA CATHOLIC S. S O. 06 at Foley O. 13 DAPHNE O. 20 at Alma Bryant O. 27 at Baker **FAITH ACADEMY** A. 25 JAG (JEFF DAVIS) S. 08 GULF SHORES 15 at B.C. RAIN S.
 - 20 WILLIAMSON

Mark Your Calendar... September 2023

MOBILE/BALDWIN

<u>COMMUNITY ACTIVITY & EVENTS</u>

NOMOCO Farmer's Market-North Mobile County Food Park & Market, 9/2 @ 8 am Gulf Coast Motor Show Labor Day Showdown-The Grounds, 9/2-3 Africatown Community Day-Plateau Community Center, 9/3 @ 12 pm

Mobile Sierra Club presents Africatown USA Short Film and Speakers Jason Lewis, Ramsey Sprague, and Dr. Maj. Joe Womack, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 9/5 @ 5:30 pm Fall Movies In The Park-Hot Tub Time Machine, Tricentennial Park, 9/7 @ 6 pm

The Tree BBQ and Lounge Presents Ladies Night Thursday-Prichard, 9/7

Push For Peace Comedy Show presented by Sparkle Productions and Hosted by Ty Cross and Corey Tennyson feat Tanya Lewis, Small Fire, Nicole Miller, with performances by Tyler Banks, Little DP, Divine Purpose, Forest Hill Church of God, 9/8 @ 6:30 pm **An Evening with Chip Herrington Jazz5**-Peoples Room of Mobile, 9/8 @ 8 pm

Voices of Gospel Music Awards: Kickoff Celebration-Total Church Ministries, Eight Mile, Al., 9/8 @ 7 pm,

Main Awards Show feat Ernest Pugh, Higher Power Church Ministries, 9/9 @ 5 pm Kingdom Covenant Connections Unity Weekend-Event, Lyons Park, 9/8-10 Growth Alliance Task Force Opportunities Forum #1, Mobile Chamber of Commerce, 9/13 @ 10 am Mobile Chamber Networking @ Noon, Walk-On's Sports Bistreaux and Bar, 9/13 @ 12 pm The Tree BBQ and Lounge Presents Ladies Night Thursday, Prichard, 9/14 NOMOCO Farmer's Market, North Mobile County Food Park & Market, 9/16 @ 8 am National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMD Mobile Educational Meeting, Spring Hill

Baptist Church Activity Center Rm. 220, 9/18 @ 5:30 pm **Mental Health Professionals Luncheon**, No stellar Medical Center, Irvington, 9/21 @ 11:30 am **Business After Hours**-Mobile Chamber of Commerce, Mobile Fixture and Equipment Co., 9/21 @ 4 pm

The Tree BBQ and Lounge Presents Ladies Night Thursday, Prichard, 9/21 American Advertising Federation Mobile Bay Luncheon feat. Lynn Oldshue, The Original Ovster House, 9/28 @ 11:30 am

The Tree BBQ and Lounge Presents Ladies Night Thursday, Prichard, 9/28 NAACP Alabama State Conference 71st Convention, Mobile Marriott, 9/28-10/1 Community Foundation 2023 Women's Forum-Taking Command feat Keynote Speaker CDR Kelly Harrison USN (Ret) Naval Aviator, Battle House Renaissance Hotel, 9/29 @8 am NAMI Family Movie Day Carpool Cinema, Medal of Honor Park, 9/30 @ 6 pm

NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Banquet, Marriott Mobile, 9/30 @ 7 pm

CONCERTS/MUSIC

JOE LEWIS-Gambino's-Fairhope, Every Tuesday @ 6 pm **Joe Lewis**-Renaissance Hotel, Every Friday - Sunday @ 8 pm Thirsty Thursdays Live jazz Jam Sessions-Kazoola's, Every Thursday @ 8 pm Symone French-Manci's Antique Club, Daphne, 9/1 @ 7:30 pm Cedric Brooks Project-San Bar, Orange Beach, 9/1 @ 10 pm **Cedric Brooks**-Riverview Renaissance Hotel, 9/2 @ 8 pm Ms. B's Productions' Southern Soul Labor Day Showcase-Host Ms. Mary feat Prince Kwen, Young Fizzle, Terry Williams, Carlett, Allen! Maine, Chico Sauve, Ty Daniels, 9/3 @ 5 pm Joy In The Morning Presents the Tri-State Pre-Labor Day Gospel Celebration-with Host Evangelist Janice Moore, Isabel Davis, Delarryo Dunklin, Keosha Richardson, Thaddeus Fairley Sr., Ebony Jarmon, Greater Showers of Blessings civics prophet Charles Buchanan-Pastor, 9/3 @4 pm Symone French-Dauphin Island Sunset Series, Historic Ft. Gaines, 9/3 @6 pm **Cedric Brooks**-8 Reale Speakeasy, Orange Beach, 9/6 @7 pm **Symone French**-Flourish Fete Fundraiser, Daphne, 9/7 @6 pm An Evening with Chip Herrington Jazz5-The Peoples Room of Mobile, 9/8 @ 8pm Cedric Brooks-OSO w/ Jesse & The Jets, Orange Beach, $9/8 @ 8 \mathrm{pm}$ Cedric Brooks-Jesse & The Jets, Big Beach Brewing Company, Orange Beach, 9/9 @7 pm The Three Headed Monster Tour feat DC Young Fly, Karlous Miller, Chico Bean with DJ Filthy Rich. The 85 South Show: Mobile Civic Center, 9/9 La La Musiq-Higher Power Church Ministries, 9/9 Symone French-Sunday Brunch @ FIVE Bar, 9/10 @11 am Cedric Brooks-8 Reale Speakeasy, Orange Beach, 9/13 @7 pm Symone French-American Cancer Society's Vintage Affair, Country Club of Mobile, 9/14 @6 pm Cedric Brooks-Derrick Beach Resort, Orange Beach, 9/15 @ 6:00 pm **Cedric Brooks**-8 Reale Speakeasy, Orange Beach, 9/20 @7 pm Cedric Brooks-Ori & On The Rox, University of South Alabama, 9/21 @6 pm

Cedric Brooks Project-San Bar, Orange Beach, 9/22 @10 pm **Cedric Brooks**-8 Reale Speakeasy, Orange Beach, 9/27 @7 pm **Cedric Brooks**-Perdido Beach Resort, 9/29 @6 pm **Symone French**-Brickyard, 9/29 @10 pm

CULTURAL EVENTS

Reading with Alabama State Poet Laureate Ashley M. Jones-USA Student Center Ballroom $9/7 \ @ 5:30 \ \mathrm{pm}$

Ladies Night Paint Party-God's Masterpiece-The Family Workshop Center, 9/8 @6pm LODA ArtWalk Celebrates Disney-Downtown Mobile, 9/8 @ 6 pm Home Town Second Line For Jimmy Buffett-Riverview Renaissance Hotel, 9/10 @4pm MobiCon-Derick Snow-Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, 9/22-24 2Mobile Arts Council 11th Annual Throwdown-The Temple Downtown, 9/21 @6pm

FESTIVALS

Ferdinand's Place Labor Day Blues Festiva- Hosted by Ms. Mary and Music by DJ Chill Will with Jeff Floyd, Kai, Yogi, FPJ, Mr. Campbell, Lady T, Chico, 9/2

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Good Listener Storytime-Parkway Branch, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26 @11:00 am **Tuesday Time Out Storytime**-Grand Bay Branch, 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26 @2 pm **Wonderful Wednesday Storytime**- Theodore Branch, 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27 @10 am **Good Listener Storytime**- Moorer Branch, 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27 @ 10am, 9/6, 9/13, 9/27 @11:30 am, 9/6, 9/13, 9/27 @1 pm

Preschooler Storytime -Saraland Branch, 9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27 @10:30am Read and Sign (ASL) Storytime-West Regional Branch, 9/6-7, 9/13-14, 8/16-17, 9/27-28 @11:00am Shake, Rattle & Read-West Regional Branch, 9/6-7, 9/13-14, 9/20-21, 9/27-28 @10am North Mobile Book Club-Saraland Loop Branch, 9/7 0, 8/24 @10 am Rock n' Storytime-West Regional Branch, 9/7, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28 @4 pm Book-Worm Book Club-Ben May Main Library, 9/11, 9/18, 9/25 @ 4 pm Read & Play Storytime-Main, Ben May Library, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26 @10 am Good Listener Storytime-Semmes Branch, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27 @10:30 am Ebony Moments Book Club-West Regional Library, 9/14 @6pm By the "book" Book Club-Grand Bay Branch, 9/18 @2pm Reader's Choice Book Club-West Regional Branch, 9/19 @2:30pm Bernheim Storytime -Main, Ben May Main Library, 9/20 @10 am

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Mobile City Council-Government Plaza Auditorium, 9/5 @ 10:30 am
Mobile County Commission Conference -Government Plaza Assembly Room, 9/7 @ 10 am
Lego Fan Event Brick Convention-Mobile Civic Center, 9/9-10
Mobile County Commission -Government Plaza Auditorium, 9/11 @ 10 am
Africatown Redevelopment Corporation-Robert Hope Community Center, 9/12 @ 5 pm
Mobile City Council-Government Plaza Auditorium, 9/12 @ 10:30 am
Mobile City Council-Government Plaza Auditorium, 9/19 @ 10:30 am
Mobile County Commission Conference-Government Plaza Assembly Room, 9/21 @10am
Mobile County Commission-Government Plaza Auditorium, 9/19 @ 10:30 am
Mobile County Commission-Government Plaza Auditorium, 9/25 @ 10 am
Wade In The Water Monthly-All Saints Episcopal Church, 9/25 @ 6 pm
Private Officers International Conference-Daphne Civic Center, 9/26-28
Mobile City Council-Government Plaza Auditorium, 9/26 @ 10:30 am
Mobile City Council-Government Plaza Auditorium, 9/26 @ 10:30 am

MUSEUMS

Africatown Heritage House Museum-Clotilda: The Exhibition, Tues-Sat, 10 am-5 pm
Gulfquest National Maritime Museum-United States Coast Guard Art, ONGOING
Mobile Museum of Art, Spotlight-Alexander Calder, ONGOING
Mobile Museum of Art, Fantastical Forest-ONGOING
Mobile Museum of Art, Dusti Bonge-The Creative Life, ONGOING
Mobile Museum of Art, Kids Pottery-9/2, 12, 19, & 26 @ 4:00 pm
Mobile Museum of Art, Teen Drawing: Getting Started in Drawing-9/5, 12, 19, & 26 @4 pm
History Museum of Mobile Learning Lunch feat Ron Barrett:The Mardi Gras Theme
Whirlwind, 9/6 @12 pm
USA Archaeology Museum Special Exhibit Grand Opening Reception-Unwritten: Archeology & Oral Historyof Jim Crow Mobile, 9/8 @ 6 pm
Mobile Museum of Art, Vintage Family Day-9/16 @ 1 pm

Gulfquest's Birthday Party-Gulfquest, 9/23 @ 11 am

continued on Page 32.. see CALENDAR

CALENDAR... continued from Page 31

SPORTS

MMA The Fighters: Tales From The Cage, Henry Cejudo, Urijah Faber, Lyota Machida-Saenger, 9/28 @8pm

STAGEPLAYS South Baldwin Community Theatre Presents **The Guys**, 9/8-17



GUNGER15 Mike Epps, Beau Rivage, 9/8 Trace Adkins, Wind Creek Casino & Hotel, 9/9 Marshall Tucker Band, Hard Rock Live, 9/16 Marlon Wayans, Beau Rivage, 9/16 Symone French, One Thirty One Lameuse, 9/17 @ 11 am Symone French, One Thirty One Lameuse, 9/22 @ 11 am Air Supply, IP Casino Resort and Spa, 9/22-23 Chicago, Beau Rivage, 9/22-23 Sammy Kershaw, IP Casino Resort and Spa, 9/30

BIRMINGHAM

CONCERTS

JJ Williamson, StarDome Comedy Club, 9/1 Bennie Mack, StarDome Comedy Club, 9/3 Don D.C. Curry, StarDome Comedy Club, 9/8-10 R&B Music Experience: Tyrese, Trey Songz, Ginuwine, Legacy Arena, 9/10 Jerry Seinfeld, BJCC Concert Hall, 9/14 Kountry Wayne, StarDome Comedy Club, 9/15-17 Canton Jones, StarDome Comedy Club, 9/19 Raphael Saddiq and Tony Toni Tone, Concert Music Hall, 9/21 HaHa Davis, StarDome Comedy Club, 9/22-24 Heather Land, StarDome Comedy Club, 9/28 Marvin Dixon, StarDome Comedy Club, 9/29



FANTASIA w/Special Guest JOE Legacy Arena

Deon Cole, Alabama Theatre, 9/29 **Carlos Mencia**, StarDome Comedy Club, 9/30

MONTGOMERY

FESTIVALS

 Montgomery Smooth Jazz Fest-Riverwalk Amphitheater, Eric Essix, Alex Bugnon, Marion Meadows, Raheem Devaughn, Musiq Soulchild, The Whispers, 9/22
 Special EFX Allstars feat. Cheli Minucci, Elliot Yamin, Karen Briggs, Lao Tizer, Eric Marienthal, Brian Bromberg, Gene Coye, Grover Washington Jr. Tribute Band feat. Kirk Whalum, Everette Harp, Bill Jolly, Gerald Veasley, Billy Johnson, Pablo Batista & Donald Robinson, Kim Scott, Jonathan Butler, Miki Howard,

NEW ORLEANS

Angela Winbush, Stokeley, 9/23

Yung Bleu-Joy Theater, 9/2 Dave Chappelle-Smoothie King Center, 9/15 Drake & 21 Savage-Smoothie King Center, 9/20 Corinne Bailey Rae-Orpheum Theater, 9/26 Beyonce-Caesars Superdome, 9/27

FESTIVALS

Beignet Fest-City Park Festival Grounds, 9/23 @ 10 am

Westbank Heritage Festival-Alario Center, K. Michelle, Cupid, Juvenile, Choppa, 9/24 @ 12pm Westbank Heritage Festival-Alario Center Gospel Explosion, The Jones Sisters,

Arthur Clayton IV, Kim Che're, Household Of Faith, Ninevah Baptist Church, Westside Mass Choir, Regular Baptist Church, St. Joseph The Worker Church, Morning Star __Baptist Church, Alario Center, 9/24 @ 12 pm

Fried Chicken Festival-Lakeshore Drive between Franklin Avenue and the Seabrook Bridge, 9/30-10/1



SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

5-8PM

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