

# Steppin' out *News!*

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

VOLUME 23  
ISSUE 06

**ARTS • CULTURE • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY**

JANUARY  
2024



# 2024 MARDI GRAS

## ABOUT STEPPIN' OUT

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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 LIVING IN BLISS



**TOMMY GREEN**  
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 BLACK LIVES MATTER



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The opinions expressed in the articles printed in Steppin' Out are those of the authors and may not reflect the views and opinions of Steppin' Out, it's owners, advertisers or other authors.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER...



Greetings Steppin' Out Readers,

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



# 2024 *New* CONTRIBUTORS



*Gwendolyn*  
Pugh-Hall



*Vernetta*  
Henson



*Tanene*  
Jackson



*Lisa*  
Johnson



*Tracy*  
Neely

# WHAT'S INSIDE...



## THE ARTS

**Black Theatre**

**04**



## COVER STORY

**Mobile Mardi Gras**

**05**



## CULTURE

**Black History on Stage**

**08**



## POLITICS

**Gun Violence**

**14**

**HAT'S OFF** ..... 18-21  
**STUDENT ACHIEVERS** ..... 22  
**CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE** ..... 26-27  
**MARDI GRAS SCHEDULE** ..... 29

**The next ISSUE of  
Steppin' Out News  
Will Drop...**



**FEBRUARY 2024**



**Greg Cyprian**  
PUBLISHER/EDITOR  
Steppin' Out News



## Black Theatre Gaining Ground in Mobile

I can remember the foolish rantings of some that Mobile doesn't need Black Theatre. And luckily, some in this beautiful city of ours are proving how foolish those type of statements really are. And some organizations, like The Joe Jefferson Playhouse and The Mobile Theatre Guild, have shown in their history of presentations that it's about quality theatre and the support of the Arts Community, and not about color.

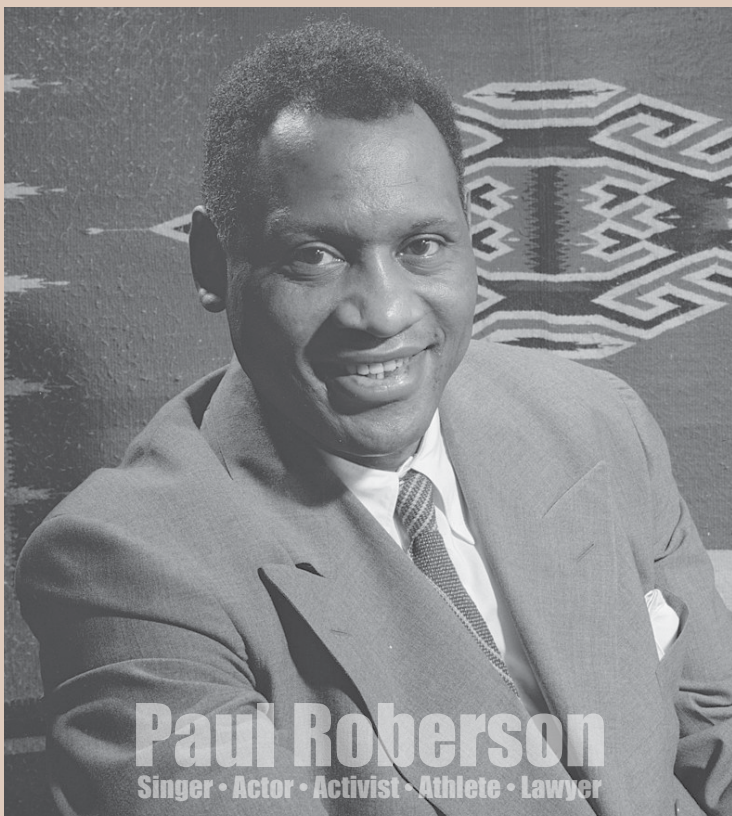
The Guild presented The Colored Museum a few years ago that convinced me of a multi-cultural audience base's desire for Black theatre. And now, The Playhouse will be premiering Gee's Bend on the 19th of January.

Mobile has seen a presentation of The Wiz by Company 28 Management & Productions earlier this year and the Year 3 production of An Ocean In My Bones in Africatown in February. March will open with Souls of Time written by Japonica Brown and composed by Mobile legend Yvonne Matthews. The show will debut at the Mobile Civic Center Theatre on March 01 at 7:00 pm. All aspects of this production is Mobile, Alabama based.

Mobile has a golden opportunity to promote Black Culture through Theatre and the Arts. My nonprofit Legacy 166 and Sankofa Media Group Alabama embraces the opportunity we have in front of us and what we, United, can do in this community. But, we will only promote individuals and organizations that represent the truth this community deserves.

I close with this quote from playwright David E. Talbert who wrote The Fabric of a Man. "The Black audience needs to be given the respect they deserve, and our art needs to be given the respect it deserves".

Amen!♣



**Paul Roberson**  
Singer • Actor • Activist • Athlete • Lawyer

**Greg Cyprian**  
PUBLISHER/EDITOR  
Steppin' Out News



# That Time of Year!

Once again, the Mardi Gras Season is upon us. It's one of the largest free parties (for revelers) in the country that ends on Fat Tuesday and is celebrated in Mobile, New Orleans, and in several cities across the country trying to get a piece of the King Cake. What motivates a city to take on this tradition and the major expense of putting on the Boom Boom? Why carry on this tradition of beads, coconuts, and doubloons in New Orleans and Moonpies, beads, and candy in Mobile? I'm not going to get into who started it first. Since my first day in Mobile and at the Civic Center, I was told in no uncertain terms that Mardi Gras was started in Mobile once it was heard that I was from New Orleans. In those same uncertain terms I responded with "it may have started in Mobile, but it was perfected in N'Awlins!!!" With that said, on to this story.

Mardi Gras culminates the Tuesday before the start of Lent, a six week long period in the Christian church that ends with Easter Sunday. Of course Easter is the day that celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. In our (Black) community, it's also the day of the greatest display of hats at Black Churches across this country, a Milliners' Dream. The word Lent is derived from the Anglo-Saxon term "lencten" which means the lengthening of days which signals the start of Spring.

The roots of Mardi Gras are related to the Roman festivals that ushered in Spring where participants over ate, drank until drunk, danced and partied (sounds familiar?), before becoming compliant with the Lenten season. However, some also say the festivities began because of the influ-

ence of the Catholic Church prohibiting the eating of meat and banning sex during Lent. So where did the term Mardi Gras come from. The French are credited with spreading the festival throughout Europe and Europeans brought it to the America's. Mardi Gras day has several names depending on where you live in the world.

In the Caribbean and Brazil it's known as Carnival Tuesday, while in England it's Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day, and of course in the United States and France, it's Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras Day.

The season begins on what is known as Three Kings' Day or 12th Night. That day is also known as the Epiphany, a Christian celebration that commemorates the Biblical story of the Three Kings, commonly called the Three Wise Men, that followed the star of Bethlehem which is located in Palestine, at that time in Northeast Africa. The term Middle East wasn't used until the 1950's and was created by the British after the building of the Suez Canal (go figure).

It is thought that Mardi Gras was introduced on March 03, 1699 by French-Canadian Explorer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville when he celebrated Mardi Gras Day which was happening in France.

So, bottom line is this. We don't care when it started, how it started, or where it started. We're just glad it's here. It's Boom Boom Time Mobile. Let's Get It! Balls, Beads, Parades, and Moonpies! Time To Party!!!♣

## Debra Braggs

VETERAN FASHION COLUMNIST  
AND LIFESTYLE REPORTER



# Happy New Year!

So, what have we learned? Do you ask yourself that question at the start of each New Year? I certainly do.

Last year we learned that blissful living is something we all deserve and can achieve -- but we must do the work. Hmm, working to be happy? Shouldn't that come naturally? Well, last year, I learned that we've got to put in a little work—teach ourselves how to enjoy the little things each day.

This year I'm manifesting more joy, more health and more healing for everyone I know. And I hope you are as excited as I am as we explore more about this journey toward the bliss-life. I wrote almost every month in 2022 about "bliss-breaks" – small actions we could all take each day to bring us more joy. Someone said to me, "you should patent that."

Well, I googled the words bliss-break, and sadly someone has beat me to the punch!

There is even a Facebook page titled Bliss Breaks. The owner of the Bliss Breaks Facebook page defines it as easy mental exercises to reduce stress, manifest peace, and capture joy in your life! Well, that's exactly what I was thinking.

So, NO I am NOT the first to think "bliss-breaks" should be a way of life, but I now have confirmation that I really was on to something. I am a firm believer that the concept can change our lives for the better, even improve our health and perhaps extend our lifespans.

Like I've said before, I don't know who taught us that joy isn't something to be experienced on a daily basis. However, I've learned (from the experts) that being joyful requires intentional behaviors that we're just not accustomed to practicing.

Doctors of psychology say If the secret to total happiness existed, we would have all found it by now. We know that money and success certainly can't buy happiness. Sadly, some of the most successful and richest people are not happy. Theologians say we won't find complete happiness on this side of heaven. But doctors, preachers and scientists alike all agree that no matter where each of us is in life, we can all be happier.

The famous teacher Depak Chopra says "Happiness is always there, awaiting to be awakened." Honestly, it's all a matter of how we look at things. In good times and bad, we CAN still find joy. Dr. Chopra says that happiness is an inner state —one that nobody can take away from you— and it depends on what you're willing to do to realize it. Trust me, it's worth the work. These days, our lives depend on it.

There is a lot of sadness in the world. And last year, more than 50,000 Americans decided that they couldn't take it anymore. That is a devastating number of suicides. In these times, we must learn to take care of ourselves pro-actively and intentionally!

We can't all attend yoga classes and teacher guided meditation sessions but we can surely take 15 minutes a day for ourselves. That is all a bliss-break requires – 15 minutes of devotion to selfcare!

My favorite "bliss-break" involves looking at photos of places I've traveled. From the beautiful waterfalls in Jamaica to busy billboards in Times Square -- I love to let my mind wander back to the places I've seen.

Sometimes my bliss-break is a short walk - focusing on all the beautiful trees, plants and animals around me that I often overlook during a busy day. I sometimes share pictures on my Instagram (@blisschik ) and invite readers to take a bliss- break with me. Whatever takes you to your happy place and brings a smile to your face--that is your very own bliss-break .

-continued in next column... see **NEW YEAR**

## MCHD Weekend "DRIVE THRU" RABIES CLINICS



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PET SUPPLIES PLUS, 803 Hillcrest Road (Mobile)

**01/20 • 10:00AM to NOON**

PINE AIR BAPTIST CHURCH, 10341 Highway 188 (Grand Bay)

**01/27 • 10:00AM to NOON**

B&B PET STOP, 5035 Cottage Hill Road (Mobile)

**\*\*DRIVE-THRU CLINICS • VACCINES ARE \$12 PER PET • PAYABLE IN CASH ONLY\*\***

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-RABIES QUARANTINE FACT SHEET-

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/assets/RabiesQuarantineFactSheet.pdf](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/assets/RabiesQuarantineFactSheet.pdf)

### NEW YEAR continued

The New Year is a great time to start creating your me-time. I encourage you to create those bliss-breaks and practice them daily.

In future columns we will discuss many more techniques to help us heal, thrive and create more joyful lifestyles.

Below are a few of Dr. Chopra's lifestyle tips to help us get started this month. I hope you will give some of them a try:

- Make time every day to relax. Make time every day to play.
- Let your brain experience the quiet inner state that is the gateway to higher consciousness -- be it thru Meditation, prayer, contemplation, self-reflection or yoga.
- Drink pure water; breathe pure air.
- Avoid the daily temptations of negativity, such as gossip, dwelling on bad news, venting our anger and impatience, and blaming others.
- Take responsibility for your own happiness.

The New Year is a great time to start creating your me-time. We can do this, and I hope you will stay on this journey with me. No matter what disappointments you've already experienced happiness is achievable- beyond anything you've imagined. Happiness is our birthright. As Dr. Chopra says, "it's just waiting to be awakened."

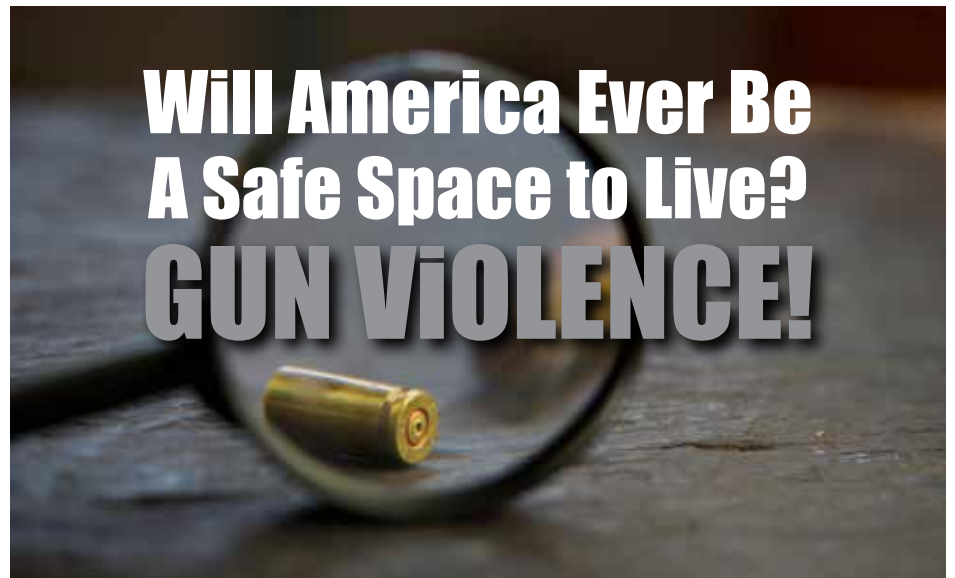
**Until next month, keep chasing your BLISS. ❖**



## TRUTH, FACTS AND JUSTICE

**Sabrina Mass**

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



The sadness of having firearms and violence in America is a question, do stricter gun laws make it a safer place to be. While we are knowledgeable that increasing gun violence has ran rampant and is a huge community concern in our city of Mobile, Alabama and surrounding counties. We are daunted with the question of what do we as citizens, tax payers, fathers, mothers, aunts, uncles, friends and even our children do about this situation, I call it another devastating pandemic, and as we all know from covid, a pandemic can wipe us off the face of the earth. We are then tasked with the question chiming off the word pandemic, is gun violence going to eradicate our culture, **THE PREDOMINATELY BLACK CULTURE**, are we suppose to rely on government, mayors or local elected officials to repair the issue, at this point I think not, to enlighten you why, it is simple, why have they not controlled the problem at this devastating stage. We as a people and the mostly impoverished poorest communities are suffering with. It is not as though the city does not have the funding to go fourth with a real solution, because as we know millions are being wasted on foolishness and things that are really not beneficial to the citizens as one unit. Millions could be put fourth to help conditions in our predominantly black districts, where we know statistically the gun violence is more prevalent, so the question becomes are the city leaders really concerned or is it just pandering for political points, I will let you as a knowledgeable individual debate on that talking point. There is also a relationship between mental health care access, domestic violence and the sad topic of suicide in all cultures. Why has Alabama loosened the gun laws, instead of passing tighter restrictions on firearm possession, think on that as well, and no, it does not violate an individuals constitutional right to carry and bear arms for protection. Today I will be attending an alleged peace forum at City of Mobile, Alabama in reference to resolving gun violence, there is a selected panel speaking on the very necessary topic, it will be interesting to hear how gun violence will be solved or contained. To end this, I must say the psychological toll from senseless gun violence is very heavy, particularly for victims, their family members and even those that have witnessed the trauma from the shootings. There is also to consider endemic gun violence damages in the learning environment of our children in the school setting, it can disrupt attendance, rates of retention, or even be toiled with gun violence in the very place our children and staff should feel safe.

**“When the POWER OF LOVE OVERCOMES the Love of Power,  
THE WORLD WILL KNOW PEACE.”**

—JIMI HENDRIX—



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# Black History on Stage

**Greg Cyprian**  
PUBLISHER/EDITOR  
Steppin' Out News



The story of a iconic Alabama town comes to life this month with the Stageplay **Gee's Bend**  
–Written by Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder; Directed by Sherrell Edmond

Winner of the 2008 American Association Award, the play depicts the history of Blacks during Jim Crow in the 1930's and the 1960's and focuses on a single family of the rural community of Gee's Bend. The town is now famous for the quilts but is made up of descendants of enslaved people who worked a cotton plantation established in 1816 by Joseph Gee.

After the Civil War, those enslaved people worked as sharecroppers. Women in that area, officially known as Boykin and Alberta, Alabama, carried on the tradition of quilting out of necessity which was learned during slavery. During the Civil Rights Era, those quilts were sold to many who were involved in the Movement and those sales became a means of economic empowerment.

The play will focus on the story of the women in the Pettway Family, Alice and her daughters Sadie and Nella, and Macon, Alice's husband. It begins in 1939 and takes you through segregation, family strife, and the Civil Rights Era. This is a riveting play that should not be missed and a great history piece for a young audience.



## **SHOW OPENS/CLOSES**

**January 19 – February 04**

**Joe Jefferson Playhouse • 11 S. Carlen Street**

## **SHOW TIMES**

**Fridays & Saturdays @7 pm – Sundays @2 pm**

## **TICKETS**

**\$20 Adults**

**\$15 Seniors/Military**

**\$10 for Students**

# Meet the Actors

**Sherrell Edmond** ..... **Director/Actor** ..... **Plays Sadie**

**Ravyn Otis** ..... **Actor** ..... **Plays Nella**

**Gemma Campbell** ..... **Actor** ..... **Plays Alice/Asia**

**Steppin' Out spoke with three of the members in the production. We asked them all the same two questions...**

## **What made you decide on this play or be a part of this play?**

**Sharrell:** I actually have a full circle journey with this particular play. I had the opportunity to perform in Gee's Bend as Nella while I attended Murphy High School. We took it to Trumbauer to compete. (Note: Trumbauer ) When the opportunity presented itself for me to direct Gee's Bend at Joe Jefferson, I accepted the next part of this journey of bringing my own personal vision of the show to life. Gee's Bend is a story that highlights the life of Black Women and Family underscored by the background of the South. The opportunity to bring Black stories to life is one that I could not pass.

**Ravyn:** I decided to be a part of Joe Jefferson Players' production of Gee's Bend because of the powerful story that is told about family and women during the Civil Rights Movement. I believe that it is important to see the Movement from the vantage point of those who lived the experience. There were Black people that believed in risking harm to make big changes, but there were also people who felt the need to survive above all else and remain safe. It makes the Movement even more human and creates a dialogue about family dynamics during that time.

**Gemma:** I became interested in the play after it was introduced to me by the director, Sherrell Edmond. I must admit I had to do my research because I was not familiar with the history of Gee's Bend.

After researching several documentaries on YouTube, I knew I wanted to be a part of this production and help tell the stories so that others know the history and will share this beautiful story from generation to generation.

## **What are you hoping the audience walks away with once they see this play?**

**Sharrell:** I hope the audience walks away with a keen sense of pride and a deeper understanding of this intricate part of Alabama's history. A lot of hard work and talent has gone into bringing this production to life. Hopefully, audiences walk away with something that makes them think of ways to create memories with family.

**Ravyn:** I hope that the audience walks away seeing themselves in the characters and being able to imagine themselves during that time. What would have been their stance during the Civil Rights Movement? How would they respond to the need for change?

**Gemma:** I hope the audience walks away with knowing the strength of this family and how life situations and circumstances can change through quilting. Quilting is taking pieces of scrap and making something beautiful, and that's what each of us do each day. I also hope the audience walks away talking about Gee's Bend being a great and enlightening production.♣



# GEE'S BEND CAST MEMBERS

**DIRECTOR/ACTOR: Sharell Edmond ..... CHARACTER: Sadie**

Sharrell Edmond is a graduate of Auburn University. She was able to obtain both a B.A. in Spanish and a B.A. in Theatre during her time on the plains. Throughout her tenure at Auburn University, she was able to perform in plays such as Intimate Apparel, Crumbs from a Table of Joy, Elephants Graveyard, All That Fosse and Hairspray at the local community theater. She recently completed graduate school, obtaining a Master of Education in Instructional Leadership from Alabama A&M University. Sharrell is currently the Spanish teacher for the mighty Mattie T. Blount leopards where she is working to create opportunities to expose students to the world of foreign language. No stranger to the Mobile area community theatre scene, Sharrell has appeared in various productions at both The Joe Jefferson Playhouse and Mobile Theatre Guild such as Nehebka in Aida , Lady in Plaid in The Colored Museum , Ronette in Little Shop of Horrors , Armelia in Ain't Misbehavin , and lastly as Deloris Van Cartier in Sister Act. She made her directorial debut at Joe Jefferson Playhouse by co-directing Anne and Emmett . It has been an honor and journey to bring her vision of Gee's Bend to life. It is her ultimate goal to continue create spaces and opportunities for black stories to be told and heard. Sharrell would like to thank her wonderful cast who each gave of themselves to tell this story. She sends a huge thank you to her mother and family for supporting her every step of the way. Thank you to all who believed in the project and saw to it that the communities of Mobile, Alabama be brought together through the love of the arts, but more importantly through the shared love of people.



*Sadie*

**ACTOR: Ravyn Otis ..... CHARACTER: Nella**

Ravyn Otis is a graduate of the University of South Alabama's theater program. She has performed in an array of productions while attending the program, and she was recognized for her performances as best supporting actress in The Water Engine , and best actress as Olive in The Women of Lockerbie and as Cassius in Shakespeare's Caesar. She has performed in the community of Mobile at the various houses such as Mobile Theater Guild, Chickasaw Theater, and Joe Jefferson Playhouse. Productions at Mobile Theater Guild include gracing the stage for The Colored Museum, Midsummer's Night Dream's Hermia, and Merchant of Venice's Portia. As a Joe Jefferson Player, she brought the First Witch to life from Shakespeare's Macbeth. She most recently performed as Annie in The Play that Goes Wrong with Chickasaw Civic Theater. She is currently the theatre teacher for Mattie T. Blount High School. She is honored to have the opportunity to portray Nella in this production of Gee's Bend.



*Nella*

**ACTOR: Gemma Campbell ..... CHARACTER: Alice/Asia**

This is Gemma's fifth production with Joe Jefferson Playhouse. Gemma is excited and humble to be a part of this production of history that took place in a small town near the Alabama river call Gees Bend, Alabama, and to have the opportunity to depict the strength of the women of this community, and to demonstrate how through their struggles they found a love in the beauty of quilting. Gemma's love for theater began at Chickasaw Theater. Gemma has performed in the following productions at Joe Jefferson Playhouse: 9 to 5 as Kathy, The Crucible as Tituba, Escape to Margaretville as Marley, and Sister Act as Sister Mary Theresa. At Chickasaw she has had the opportunity to perform in Nunsense as Sister Mary Hubbard, and Thoroughly Modern Millie as ensemble cast. When Gemma is not on stage you can find her at Mercy LIFE of Alabama where she has worked for 14 years as the Sales & Marketing Director. Gemma would like to thank her family, her companion Jeffrey Phillips for their love and support. Gemma would like to thank the director Sharrell Edmond, and the entire cast for this experience. Gemma says, "the best part about community theater are the new friends you meet that become family."



*Alice/Asia*

**ACTOR: Ottie James ..... CHARACTER: Macon**

Ottie James is a multidisciplinary artist from Prichard, Al. Curating art in mediums such as music, dance, and visual arts he is excited to stretch his talents deeper into the world of theater by taking on the role of Macon in Gee's Bend . Ottie will be making his Joe Jefferson stage debut in Gee's Bend. He has amassed success under his belt through the creation of music for the Netflix film They Cloned Tyrone , and through choreographing, dancing, and acting in the play An Ocean in my Bones . Currently, Ottie James is an artist in residence at the Alabama Contemporary Arts Center as a performance artist.



*Macon*

# PORTRAITS in BLACK

## Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates (1907-1998)

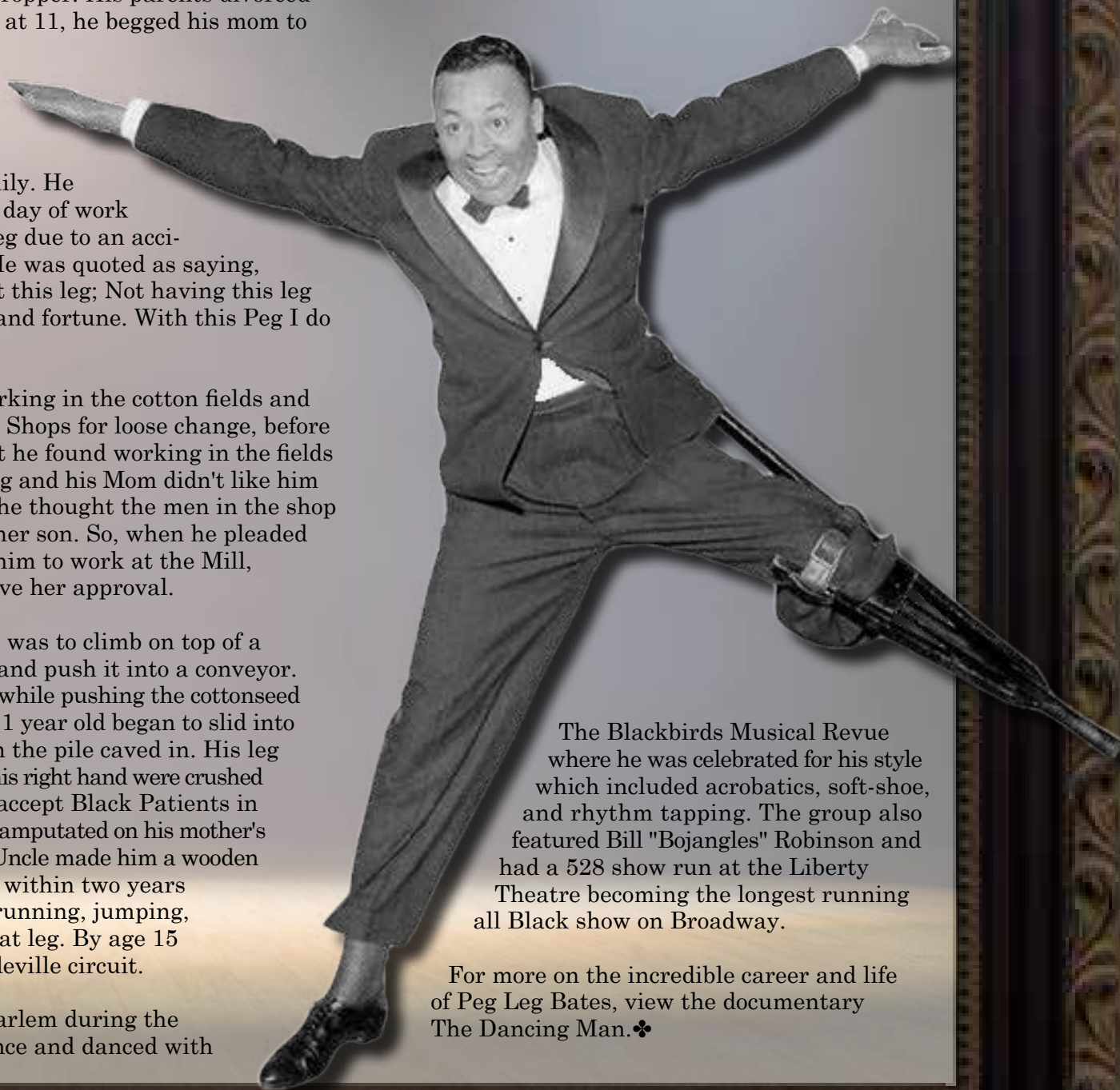
Bates called himself **"One Leg Dancing Man"**

was born in Fountain Inn, South Carolina. His father was a laborer and his mother a housekeeper and sharecropper. His parents divorced when he was 4, so at 11, he begged his mom to allow him to go to work at the Woodside Cotton Mill in Greenville to help his struggling family. He was on his second day of work when he lost his leg due to an accident in the Mill. He was quoted as saying, "I thank God I lost this leg; Not having this leg brought me fame and fortune. With this Peg I do not have to beg."

He started out working in the cotton fields and dancing at Barber Shops for loose change, before he lost his leg. But he found working in the fields to be back-breaking and his Mom didn't like him dancing because she thought the men in the shop were laughing at her son. So, when he pleaded with her to allow him to work at the Mill, she reluctantly gave her approval.

His job at the Mill was to climb on top of a pile of cottonseed and push it into a conveyor. On his second day while pushing the cottonseed with his feet, the 11 year old began to slid into the conveyor when the pile caved in. His leg and two fingers on his right hand were crushed. Hospitals did not accept Black Patients in 1918 so his leg was amputated on his mother's kitchen table. His Uncle made him a wooden prosthetic leg and within two years young Bates was running, jumping, and dancing on that leg. By age 15 he joined the vaudeville circuit.

He ended up in Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance and danced with



The Blackbirds Musical Revue where he was celebrated for his style which included acrobatics, soft-shoe, and rhythm tapping. The group also featured Bill "Bojangles" Robinson and had a 528 show run at the Liberty Theatre becoming the longest running all Black show on Broadway.

For more on the incredible career and life of Peg Leg Bates, view the documentary *The Dancing Man*. ♣



**IN THE KITCHEN WITH GRANNA**  
**Vernetta Henson**  
 FIFTH GENERATION DIRECT DESCENDANT THE CLOTILDA

Allow me to introduce myself. I am a fifth generation Direct Descendant of Mr. and Mrs. Pollee and Rose Allen, who came to America from Africa on the last known slave ship, the Clotilda, carrying Enslaved Africans. My name is Vernetta Henson, AKA "GRANNA"

I was reared in Mobile by my Grandmother Mrs. Ora (Nathan) Floyd who was a granddaughter of Pollee and Rose Allen.

My grandmother was an excellent cook and always took pride in preparing dishes that were pleasing to the eye as well as pleasing to the palate. We watched many cooking shows on television, as well as attended cooking expos when they came to Mobile. She would always let me be in the kitchen with her and made sure that I paid attention to detail. Whenever she let me try new recipes using cookbooks, she made sure that everything came out perfect.

I inherited my love for cooking and preparing delicious meals and desserts for my family and friends from her. It gives me so much joy when my dishes are requested. You see, the main ingredient in everything that I prepare is "love". I am known for my patience with young people who want to learn to prepare some of the dishes and pound cakes. I learned early on that teaching is more about letting the person prepare the dish, hands on, and guiding them along the way. That is the way I was taught.

Cooking and baking is my "gift", as well as my "passion. Being in the kitchen is therapy for me and this time of year brings back so many memories of comfort food as well as recipes passed down from our parents and grandparents.

Let's try something here, just for "old times sake". Would you share some of your family recipes and your recipes, so that we can show how cooking and food choices change from one generation to the next. and on that same note, if you are looking for recipes. let me know. I subscribe to many food publications and I collect cookbooks and designer cake pans. My daughter does not understand how I get pleasure reading cookbooks, it's because they are filled with so much history.

I don't mind sharing recipes and this is one of the many dishes that I learned from my grandmother, and then I am going to put my new day spin on it. Mind you that the recipes that they passed down were from memory and from getting a "feel" for when it was right.

**MY GRANDMOTHER'S "OLD SCHOOL" BREAD PUDDING**



- 1 LOAF of DAY OLD BREAD  
toasted and cubed
- 2 or 3 CANS of EVAPORATED MILK
- 2 or 3 EGGS; well beaten
- 1 stick of BUTTER
- 1 large can of CRUSHED PINEAPPLE
- 1 box of RAISINS; plumped
- SUGAR, CINNAMON and VANILLA to taste; Cover and Soak Overnight in the Refrigerator; Add more liquid if needed.

Bake at 350 for 1 hour 15 minutes  
 You may serve it with a rum raisin sauce.

**MY NEW DAY "DUMP" BREAD PUDDING**



- 2 LOAVES of FRENCH BAGUETTES  
toasted and cubed
- 1 qt of HALF AND HALF
- 1 cup of WHITE CHOCOLATE MORSELS
- 1 can of CRUSHED PINEAPPLE
- 1 pkg of DRIED CRANBERRIES; plumped
- 1 STICK of BUTTER,
- 1 can of PEACHES
- 2 EGGS; well beaten
- SUGAR, CINNAMON and VANILLA to taste; Cover and Soak Overnight in the Refrigerator; Add more liquid if needed.

Bake at 350 for 1 hour 15 minutes.

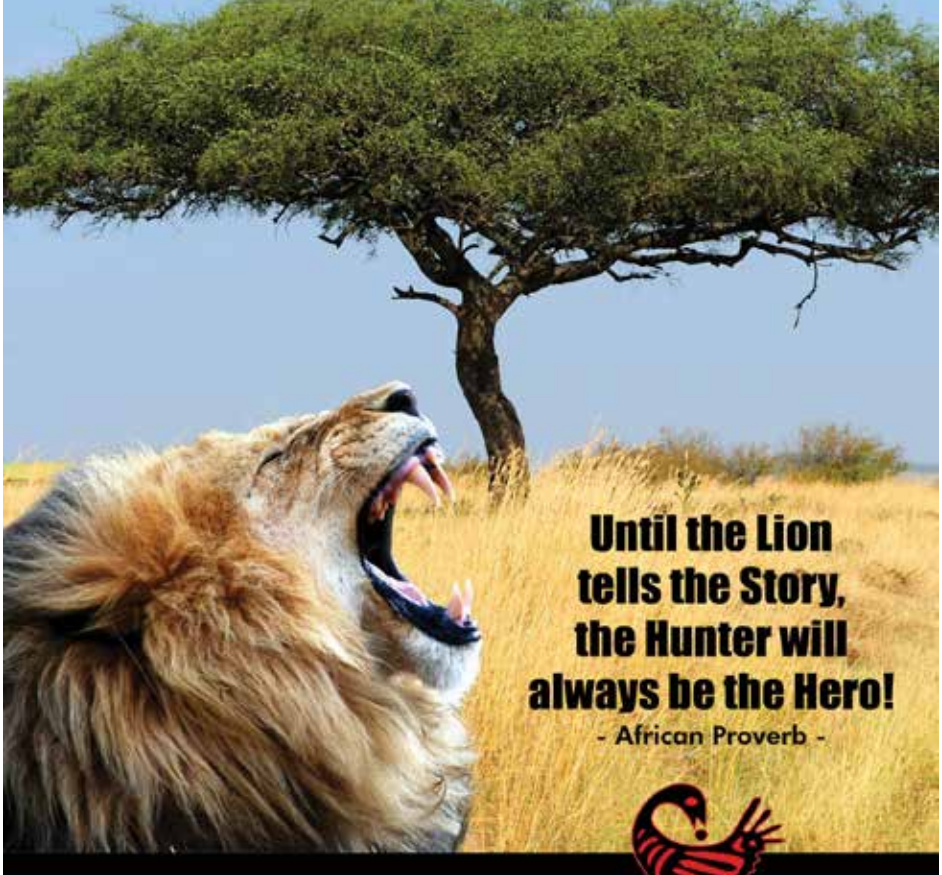
These are both delicious and easy to prepare. So let's get cooking with Grananna. Since we are coming up on Mother's Day, let's try an old school Jelly Cake and a pound cake.❖




**THE NARRATIVE**  
**Kimberly Williams Pettway**

**"Until The Lion Tells The Story, The Hunter Will Always Be The Hero!"**  
 -African Proverb-

For far too long people of African descent have lived (and persevered) underneath a narrative that was created for our demise. It is a narrative that has dehumanized our ancestry, erased our presence, minimized our contributions and made our successes exceptions rather than our norm. The truth about who we are and our contributions to this world have repeatedly been distorted to favor those who have benefitted from our sacrifices. It is high time we teach the truth not only about ourselves, but also about those who seek to perpetuate an incredibly false narrative about our existence. The aforementioned African proverb is indeed one of my favorites. It sums up the narrative of people of African descent perfectly. There are two things about this proverb that caught my attention. The obvious is the reference to the reality that hunters (defined by me as those who seek to mislead, exploit, oppress, conquer and ultimately destroy what it hunts) and it's misrepresentation of the truth. But I was also drawn to its reference to the "lion" as its prey. Lions are courageous, royal, and strong often regarded as the "king of the beast". I find the reference to the lion is a befitting reference to our people. We are divine, royal beings who have demonstrated time and time again that we will rise from the ashes despite continued efforts to disenfranchise us, to make us feel secondary. We are in the year 2024 and the system of white supremacy continues make strides in eradicating our truth as we see states across the US ban the teaching of Critical Race Theory. Ida B Wells stated, "They way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them." It is my desire to share our truth while dismantling the false narratives that have plagued our communities. I invite you to buckle up and join me as we embark upon this journey.❖



**Until the Lion tells the Story, the Hunter will always be the Hero!**  
 - African Proverb -



**It is Our Duty to Share the Stories About Our Ancestors!**

**SANKOFA MEDIA GROUP**  
 ALABAMA

## Mary Ellen Pleasant

BLACK ENTREPRENEUR AND MOGUL



Pleasant learned to read/write while being a domestic servant. moved to California worked as a Cook where she learned about investing by eavesdropping on the rich. She later used that knowledge to invest and build a successful empire of businesses... laundry service; dairy company; boarding homes; real estate and restaurants. Mary Ellen also funded other businesses, receiving 10% of their profits.

Using her wealth of \$30Million (\$864M today) she helped to free her people, provide runaway **housing, food and money and funded numerous** Slave Revolts and the Underground Railroad on behalf of ending slavery. She was assisted in this mission by abolitionist John Brown who was hanged in 1859 for helping Black Americans revolt.

Mary Ellen Pleasant died January 11, 1904

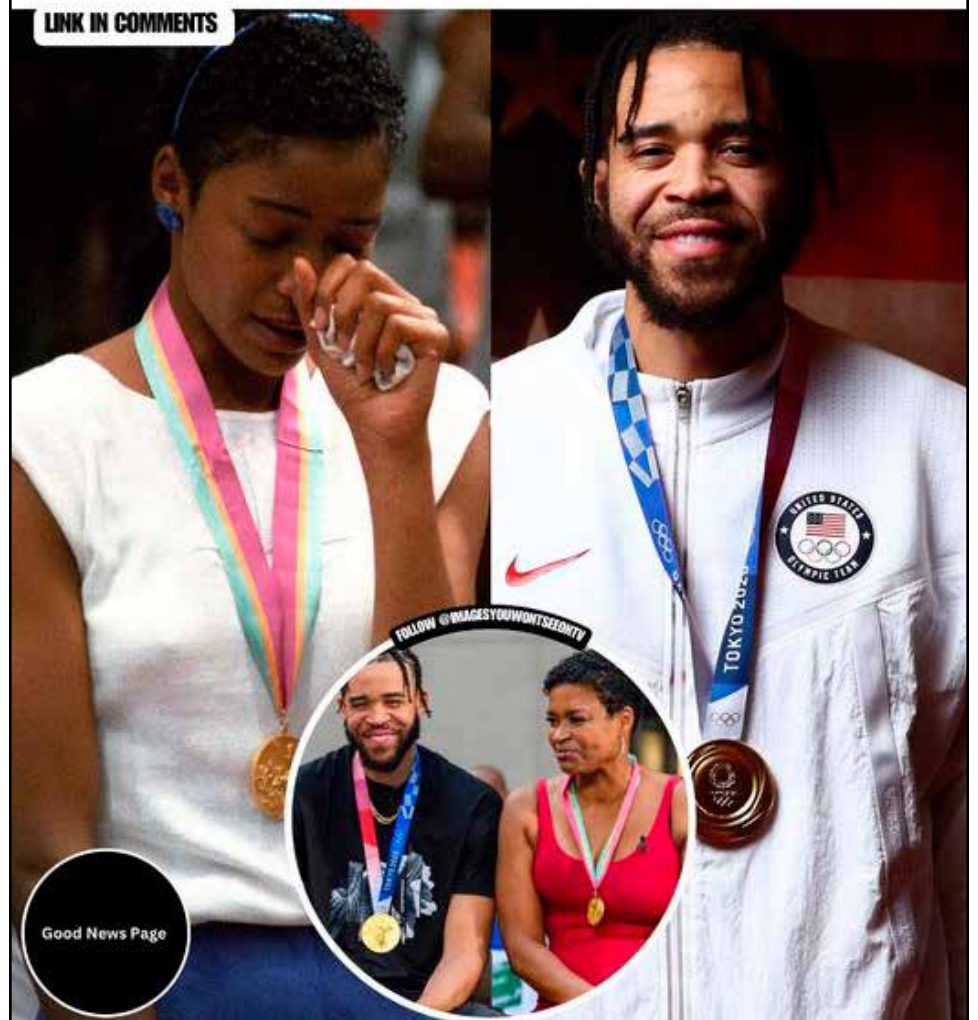
## DID YOU KNOW...

- James McCune Smith was the first African American person to earn a medical degree. He also started the nation's first pharmacy under Black ownership, and was the first African American to have their work published in a peer-reviewed medical journal.
- The Black Panther Party's Free Breakfast for School Children initiative inspired the USDA's free breakfast programs
- The "Negro Motorist Green Book" was a travel guide published 1936-1966 that provided African American motorists with information on safe places to stay and eat while traveling.

**Green Book Global** – a platform created by Lawrence Phillips to help African American travelers do something similar. A directory of rated cities and countries around the world for Black travelers. Learn about a destination's nightlife, affordability, history, relaxation, and most importantly what it is like traveling while black to get a good idea of what to expect when you visit.

**PAMELA AND JAVALE MCGEE HAVE MADE HISTORY, BECOMING THE **FIRST-EVER** MOTHER AND SON DUO TO WIN A GOLD MEDAL IN THE OLYMPICS.** ❤️

LINK IN COMMENTS



## 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



# 2024 A YEAR OF SELF-AWARENESS

Oxford Dictionary defines 'self-awareness' as conscious knowledge of one's own character, feelings, motives and desires. This alignment or misalignment is the foundation of decisions, personal challenges, business and career failures. WHO are YOU? WHY? HOW does this impact you and others. This lack of knowledge is a primary reason we have aging adults who do not mature.

It is terrifying to face yourself with an honest assessment of your past and present. But it is mandatory to not only have an evaluation but to have regular assessments. Our environment has an influence upon us. Yet as adults we are responsible for whom we become. Your initial responsibility is self. But faith teaches us and our cultural history mandates that we take care of the Village.

With the aforementioned in mind, I would like for you to add three priorities to your 2024 Year of Self Awareness.

### Learning, Unlearning and Relearning

Learning not education must become the focus of household training. Learning puts the focus on the individual, home training and personal development. We cannot rely on an education system that seems to assign failing grades and resources to our schools. By the way, congrats to Mattie T. Blount 2022 to 2023 Report Card. Why is it that the private schools who utilize and enhance the Catholic School curriculum succeed but public schools are challenged? Can part of the reason be the parents are more invested? We are in an era where the priorities of literacy will be learning, unlearning and relearning.

### African-American Men

I love my Brothers. Yet we are missing. As I speak with my national network, we see our Sisters in droves at churches, seminars, volunteering, workshops. Where are YOU? We make time for that which is important to us. YOU are better than this.

### Healthy Living

Upon my return to Mobile I gained over 115 lbs. ballooning to 305 lbs. The doctors were breaking out the prescriptions. But I lost the weight, no more prescriptions. What I found was nutrition, walking and gym workouts became a lifestyle change. We know a lot of this delicious eating is not good for us. I decided to control what I can. What about you?

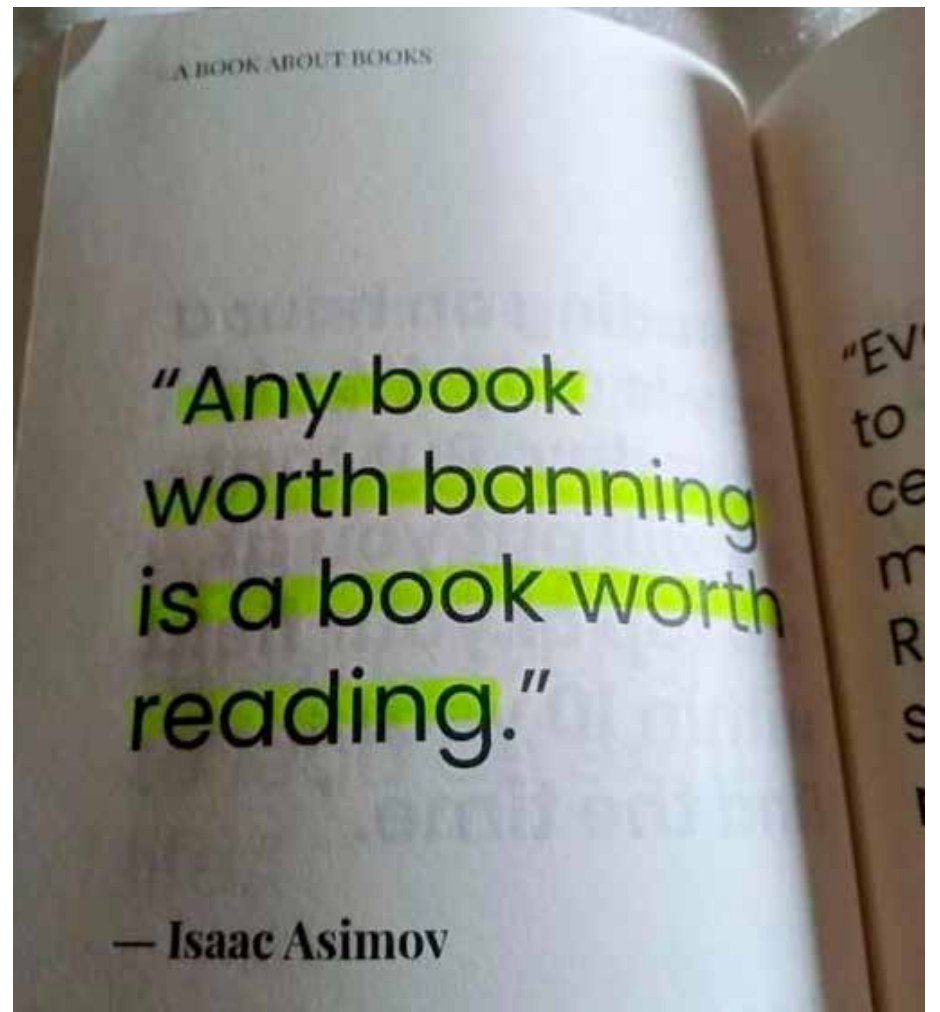
As always **LET'S BE GREATER!!♣**

## ADVERTISE

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### Info@SteppinOutMobile.COM



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE Collection Event

**JANUARY 20, 2024 | 9AM-1PM**

Seals Park, 540 Texas Street

Some accepted items include automotive fluids, aerosols, batteries, fluorescent tubes, paint, cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, among others. The event WILL NOT accept tires, explosives, firearms, electronics, pharmaceuticals, medical waste, appliances, equipment, and other prohibited items.

The event is open to Mobile residents and individuals only. Contractors and businesses will not be allowed to participate, and participants will be asked to verify the zip code of their home address.

Unlike similar events in the past, registration will not be required. Any resident is welcome to drop off approved items at any point during the event. For additional information about the event, please contact the City of Mobile's Environmental Services Department at (251) 208-7151.



## THINKING OUTSIDE OF THE BOX

**Arthur L. Mack**

FREELANCE WRITER

[steppinoutnews@aol.com](mailto:steppinoutnews@aol.com)



## It's Crazy Out There!!

As a guy who has seen a lot of things happen in 69 years of life, I can say this: It's gotten to the point that whatever is good is considered evil, and whatever is evil is considered good.

Let me also qualify the previous statement with this: We've had a tendency to become indifferent to things that are bad, as if they are to be expected. While that may be true, it doesn't mean we have to shrug them off.

The previous shooting death of 9-year-old Cailee Knight brought dismay, shock, and heartbreak to a lot of people. All of this was because of alleged gang violence, which makes it even more tragic. The sanctity of one's home was violated because someone wanted to settle a beef with an automatic weapon, and the mere thought of a child losing her life while she is sleeping should've been enough to make people's blood boil.

True, there were many who were outraged, so much so that they took to the streets. But what's even more frustrating is that even more people should've taken to the streets as well. More people should've been vocal about it, and had their voices heard.

I know what you're thinking — you're probably thinking that I'm expecting everyone in the Mobile area to drop everything, grab a picket sign, and scream "STOP KILLING OUR KIDS!!" at the very top of their lungs. It would be great if that happened, but I have enough sense to know that not everyone's going to be able to grab a picket sign and raise hell.

So, guys like me are frustrated because more people are dying in the streets because of some senseless crap and we're powerless to do anything about it; that is, except to continue to address the issue and support those who are making the effort to find reasonable solutions to the problem.

While I'm on the subject of ranting, let's talk about issues between some citizens and the Mobile Police Department.

Beginning with the death of Jawan Dallas in July of 2023, there were several instances of Black citizens facing death or injury from police actions.

The Dallas case was particularly interesting, not just for the fact that a young Black man was tased to death, but because his parents and other interested parties came to Mobile City Council meetings every week questioning the circumstances regarding the arrest, especially as to whether or not he was actually involved with committing a crime.

It wasn't until November when Dallas' parents were allowed to view the video showing him being arrested and tased. Although a grand jury cleared the police officers involved of any wrongdoing, and the Mobile County District Attorney's Office said their actions were not related to Dallas' death, questions still remain as to why he died in police custody in the first place.

That is the reason why Dallas' family filed a \$36 million lawsuit against the city of Mobile in Federal court — \$1 million for each of Dallas' 36 years on earth. Something tells me this matter is not over, not by a long shot. The Mobile City council is taking steps regarding the viewing of bodycam footage, but as one speaker said during one City Council meeting, there has to be transparency.

Not only transparency, but responsibility from all parties involved. Our brothers and sisters must do everything they can to stay out of trouble, and law enforcement officials should be careful not to wrongfully assume someone is committing a crime. Beyond that, we must go back to the Bible when it stresses loving one's neighbor. The way pop culture and the way of the world is nowadays, we're doing everything but that. Political unrest, racial unrest, petty beefs, etc., it's a recipe for disaster. Don't know about you, but I don't think I can stomach that recipe.♣



## CREOLE HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

**Tracy Neely**

PRESIDENT: MOBILE CREOLE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Welcome to Creole History Highlights in Steppin' Out, a column focusing on Creole History in Mobile and the surrounding area. It is not my intent to define Creole for anyone. It is a question I am often asked but can only be summed up as gumbo.

Whether Spanish or French, sometimes Italian, or even Germanic in some instances, it is different for every family and yet we all recognize it when we see it, shared in the food, religion, and traditions.

I was born in Mobile, the oldest daughter of Vincent and Jane Neely. I attended McGill-Toolen High School and intended to work in the family business at Crichton Auto Parts, but that ended with the death of my father in 1987. In 1990, I received my B.A. in English from the University of South Alabama and subsequently my M.Ed. in Collaborative Teaching in 1999. After briefly teaching for the Mobile County Public Schools, I accepted a private position that enabled me to be in my field while being a stay-at-home, single mom. I presently remain in this position, providing full-time residential care to a profoundly autistic, non-verbal, young woman in my home.

Through my father, I am a direct descendant of the Chastang, Collins, LaFargue, Rabby, Journee and Croizet families. I began my genealogical adventure in 1993 to satisfy my curiosity regarding my father's lineage. In 2011, I created the Facebook group 'Mobile, Alabama Creole Connections' as a grassroots effort to cull more information about Mobile's Creole population.

Since then, I have volunteered in the Mobile County Probate Court Archives with the late Coll'ette King and increased my momentum in genealogical studies. In 2017, I established and incorporated the Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society (MCCHPS) and began publishing "Mumbo Gumbo: A Journal of Coastal Creole Culture and History" I am a Lifetime Member of the Jamestown Society and past Registrar and Librarian for the Needham Bryan Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. I am also the Mobile County Representative for the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance.

Going forward, please feel free to write me with your questions and comments about Mobile's rich Creole history at [tracy.neely.mcchps@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.neely.mcchps@gmail.com) ❀

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**facebook**



**Scan to Visit Steppin' Out on Facebook!**

## BLACK AMERICAN EDUCATION

**Joseph Mitchell PhD**

CITIZEN MUSICIAN & POLITICIAN



She miscarried in her bathroom. Now she's charged with abuse of a corpse.

Brittany Watts was still hooked to an IV, sick for almost a week from a potentially fatal miscarriage, when a detective from the Warren Police Department in Ohio stepped into her hospital room. He assured her that she wasn't in any trouble.

For more than an hour, Detective Nick Carney interviewed Watts, 33, about the details of that morning and the whereabouts of the nearly 22-week-old fetus that was declared nonviable two days earlier. As Watts described miscarrying in her bathroom, a nurse at Mercy Health — St. Joseph Warren Hospital rubbed her shoulders and told her everything would be okay, Watts told The Washington Post in a series of text messages.

Two weeks later, Carney arrested Watts on charges of felony abuse of a corpse for how she handled the remains from her pregnancy. If indicted and found guilty, she faces up to a year in prison along with a fine of up to \$2,500, her lawyer said.

To describe Watts's experience, The Washington Post reviewed police reports, call recordings and more than 600 pages of medical records, interviewed her lawyer, and spoke to Watts via text message.

The arrest has outraged health-care professionals and reproductive rights activists — many of whom fear that the stigmatization and criminalization of women's reproductive-related outcomes is expanding in the 18 months since the Supreme Court reversed a nearly 50-year precedent that gave women the constitutional right to an abortion. Even before restrictions from the Dobbs decision took hold, low-income women and women of color, particularly Black women, were disproportionately criminalized while pregnant.

As many as 30 percent of pregnancies end in miscarriages, usually in the first trimester and often before a woman knows she is pregnant. Late miscarriages, such as Watts's, are relatively rare, and doctors say that there's no clear guidance for how fetal remains should be handled. In the past seven years, Ohio is among several states that enacted laws mandating that products of pregnancy be buried or cremated, although these rules typically apply to a health-care setting such as a clinic or doctor's office rather than individuals who experience a pregnancy loss at home or elsewhere. A judge last year blocked Ohio's law from being enforced pending a legal battle.

"Moving this over to the individual after a miscarriage just heightens the question, 'What are they supposed to do?'" said Dov Fox, a national health law and bioethics expert at the University of San Diego School of Law. "If it's already difficult for hospitals, for individuals facing difficult circumstances and navigating pregnancy loss to undertake the medical system is not just a tall order but a prohibitive one." ❀





**Tanene Jackson**  
OWNER/OPERATOR OF LOCS OF SOUL, LLC

As we head into the New Year, let's take some time to reflect on our existence, and be thankful that we made it. A lot of individuals were not as fortunate. Let's give thanks to being able to create our environment, friends, and support systems.

As we forge through the holidays and embrace a new year, let's all make the attempt to create and share love, understanding, peace, and safe spaces. With that being said.... Let me introduce myself.

My name is Tanene Jackson. I am the owner/operator of Locs of Soul, LLC., an eco-friendly dread/loc salon, a certified trichologist (WTS, NTTI), a member of the American Association of Drugless Practitioners, Master Barber, instructor, and locitian.

Currently, I'm working toward a master's degree in occupational health. Oh my goodness! Let me not forget... I am a contributor to Steppin' Out News. Speaking of Steppin' Out, my goal is to provide you (the reader) with educational and motivational content.

I am looking forward to sharing topics ranging from hair, health, motivation, ecofriendly products, and lifestyle. Now that you know who I am, let's bring the new year in with positive vibes, prosperity, growth, and information. **LET'S GO.....!**

## Expressions: Right or Wrong!

**Lisa Johnson**

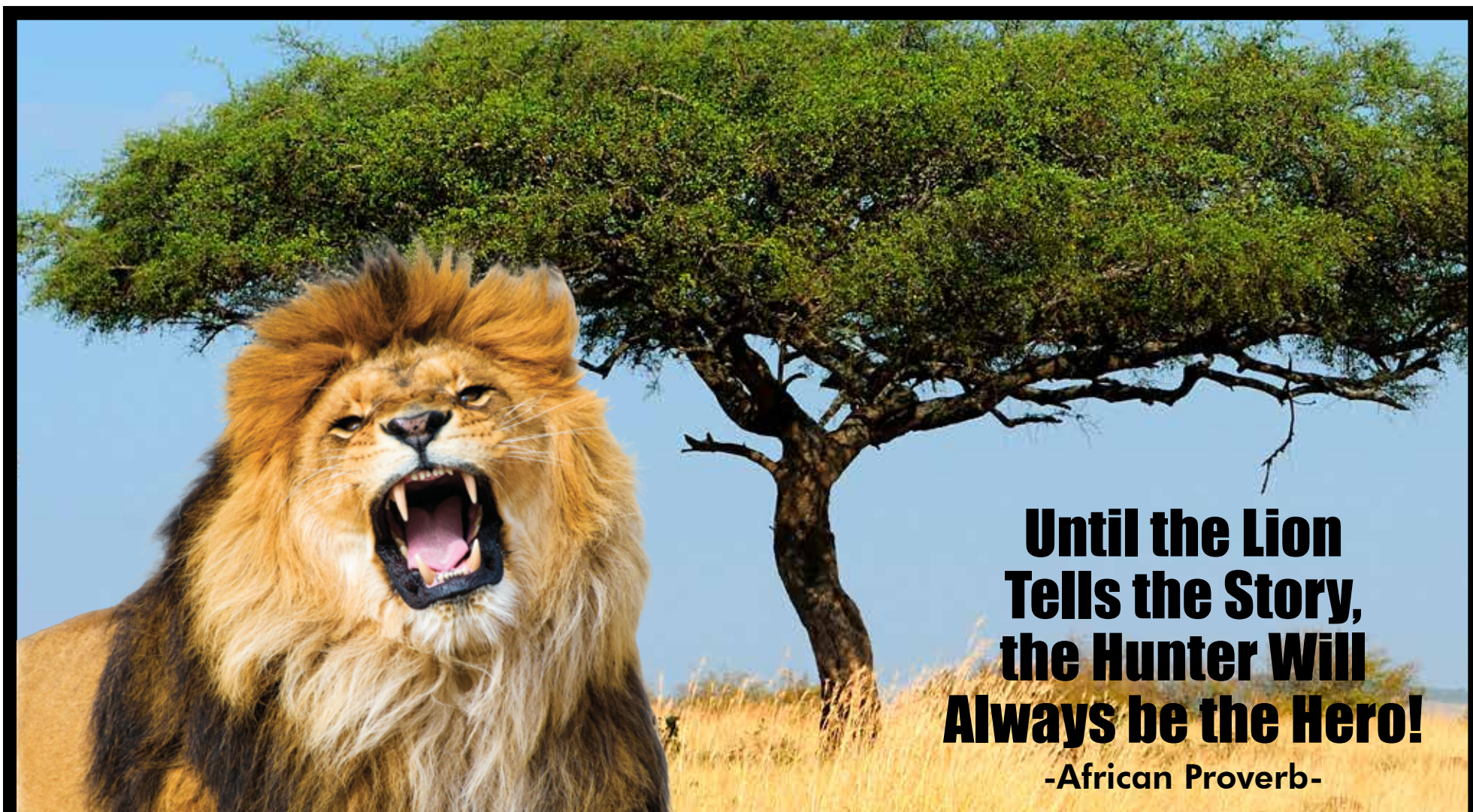


My name is Lisa Johnson. After working 26 years with the City of Mobile, I retired. Since my retirement of five years ago, I have been taking time to care for my health, relax, spend time with family, and friends.

I have been in a writing hiatus but with a nudge from a friend, I have decided to return to my writings. I love writing poetry and writing about life's expressions. People used to come to me and express how much they liked my articles. I never imagined the impact my writings had and so now I hope to have a positive effect on someone's life again.

Sometimes people are reluctant to share their life experiences or things they've learned from other people. Perhaps it's due to outright fear, fear of being criticized, fear of negative judging, or fear of opening a door to your life. I've learned that if you never share, how can you help someone else. How can you help a person to grow? How can you help a person keep from making the same mistakes you made?

It's my hope to do just that through my writings. So, check me out under: Expressions: Right or Wrong! ♣



**Until the Lion  
Tells the Story,  
the Hunter Will  
Always be the Hero!**  
-African Proverb-

**It is Our Duty to Share the Stories of Our Ancestors!**



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





ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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REP. ANTHONY DANIELS

DISTRICT: 256.539.8441  
ardaniels@ahouse.gov

**PRESS RELEASE**

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

**Representative Anthony Daniels' Bill Eliminating State Tax on Overtime Pay Takes Effect January 1, 2024**

**Montgomery, AL.** – Alabama House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels' bill to eliminate state income tax on overtime pay for hourly workers was enacted in the 2023 legislative session with unanimous bipartisan support with a 103-0 vote in the Alabama House and 30-0 in the Alabama Senate. The bill was signed on November 9, 2023 by Governor Kay Ivey during a special bipartisan ceremony at Hyundai Motors Manufacturing in Montgomery, AL and takes effect today, January 1, 2024.

The historic bill is the first of its kind in the nation. It has drawn considerable interest from other state legislatures, as well as significant attention in Congress. In Alabama, hourly and overtime wages are taxed by the state at 5%. With overtime pay at 1.5 times the regular hourly wage, the 5% taken out for taxes is more noticeable to employees. This tax break effectively gives employees a 5% raise on overtime, cost-free to employers, which will help employers who are currently struggling to fill positions due to shortages in the workforce. And, with this take-home increase, employees will increase spending in their local economy.

Rep. Daniels stated, "As people throughout Alabama celebrate the New Year, those who work overtime hours will also soon be celebrating a new and bigger paycheck that will reward their extra effort on the job. This is the type of pro-growth economic policy that will have a significant and immediate positive impact on hard-working Alabama families. It demonstrates what we can achieve when we work together in the best interests of the people we represent "

###



**MOMENTS IN TIME**

**Paulette Horton**

**Lulo Bates Leeper  
The Lady with the Maypoles**



Many children grew up off Davis Avenue. Back in the day, children were not allowed to wander outside their neighborhoods.

There were people who took a special interest in children living in the area and created activities for them. One of those people was Lulo Leeper, who was known as "The lady with the Maypoles." She was born in Mobile on August 10, 1891.

Leeper was a graduate of Emerson Institute, Dillard University and Alabama State Teacher's College in Montgomery. She was actively engaged in many civic and fraternal projects.

Because of her interest in giving local children a chance to perform before audiences, they enjoyed learning how to twine a maypole and do military drills. Twining maypoles and participating in military drills, in fact, was an annual affair, and drew crowds to Davis Avenue every year during May Day.

Leeper was an advocate for education and helped to raise money for the education of youth around the world. The Lulo B. Leeper Federated Mobile Club was named in her honor.♣

**WHEN THE RICH  
ROB THE POOR  
IT IS CALLED  
BUSINESS**

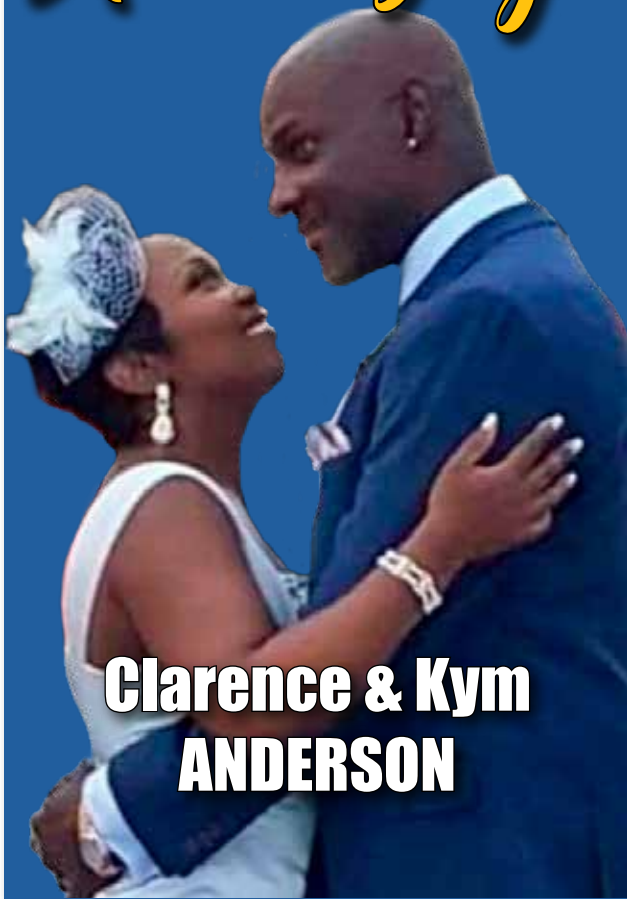
**WHEN THE POOR  
FIGHT BACK  
IT IS CALLED  
VIOLENCE**

Mark Twain  
writer



# Hats Off

**HAPPY 6TH WEDDING**  
*Anniversary!*



**Clarence & Kym**  
**ANDERSON**

*Congratulations!*



**BROTHERS OF BETA OMICRON LAMBDA**  
**CHAIR OF ALPHA FRATERNITY MOBILE**

**Selected as**  
**TOP ALUMNI CHAPTER**  
**FOR RECLAMATION OF ALABAMA**

*Congratulations!*

**Shelbonnie Hall**  
**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Vernon Crawford  
Bay Area Bar  
Association



**HAPPY 22ND WEDDING**  
*Anniversary!*



**Earnest & Linda**  
**GWINN III**

*Congratulations!*

**Jordan Pettway**  
**ORDAINED at**  
**Reckless Love**  
**Worship**  
**Center**  
**International**



# Hats Off

HAPPY 27TH WEDDING  
*Anniversary!*



**Jimmie  
& Jeanett  
BLOUNT**

*Congratulations!*  
**Marcus Doby**



**5TH GRADE  
SPELLING BEE  
WINNER  
Prichard  
Preparatory  
School**

HAPPY 29TH WEDDING  
*Anniversary!*

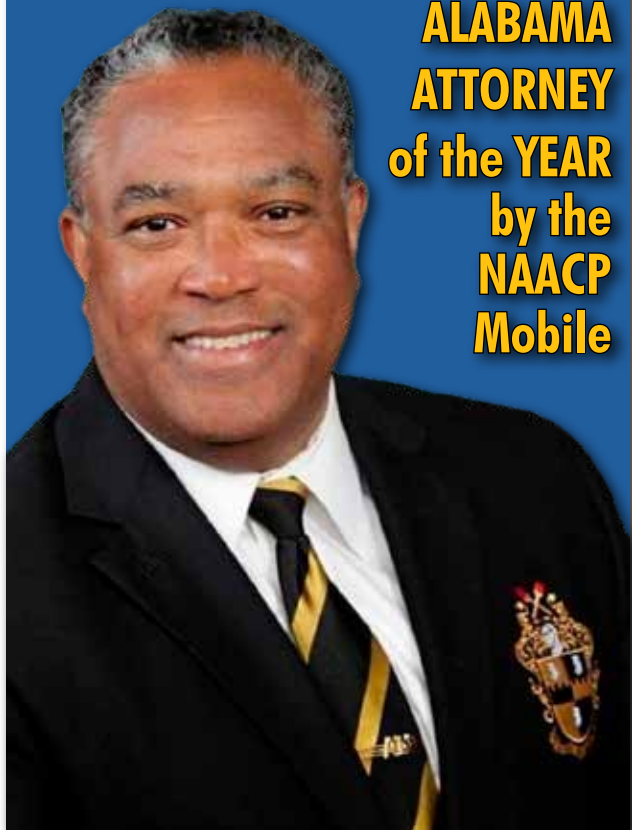


**Michael & Felecia  
SCOTT-NICHOLS**

*Congratulations!*

**Karlos Finley**

**ALABAMA  
ATTORNEY  
of the YEAR  
by the  
NAACP  
Mobile**



HAPPY 9TH WEDDING  
*Anniversary!*

**Jerome & Tamara  
DAILEY-WOODS**



*Congratulations!*

**Dionne Jackson**

**ACCEPTED NOMINATION for  
Columbia Southern University  
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
LEADERSHIP & SUCCESS  
Sigma Alpha Pi**



# Hats Off

**Congratulations!**  
**Eternity Williams**  
**4th GRADE**  
**SPELLING BEE WINNER**  
**Prichard Preparatory School**



**Anniversary!**  
**Darren Henningburg**



**8TH BUSINESS YEAR**  
**Henningburg's**  
**Pressure Washing LLC**

**HAPPY 35TH WEDDING**  
**Anniversary!**  
**David & Michon TRENT**



**Congratulations!**  
**Kayla Mitchell**



**Received her**  
**ADN(RN) PIN**

**Congratulations!**  
**James Averhart Jr.**



**2023 OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR**  
**presented by Rho Alpha Chapter Omega**  
**Psi Phi Fraternity Mobile**  
*(Averhart pictured in center)*

**Congratulations!**

**SARAH A. JACKSON**



**2023 MS ALUMNI**  
**Mobile County**  
**Training School**

# Hats Off

*Congratulations!*  
**Zandra Thornton**  
**2023 FIRST RESPONDER  
OF THE YEAR**  
Keesler Federal Credit Union



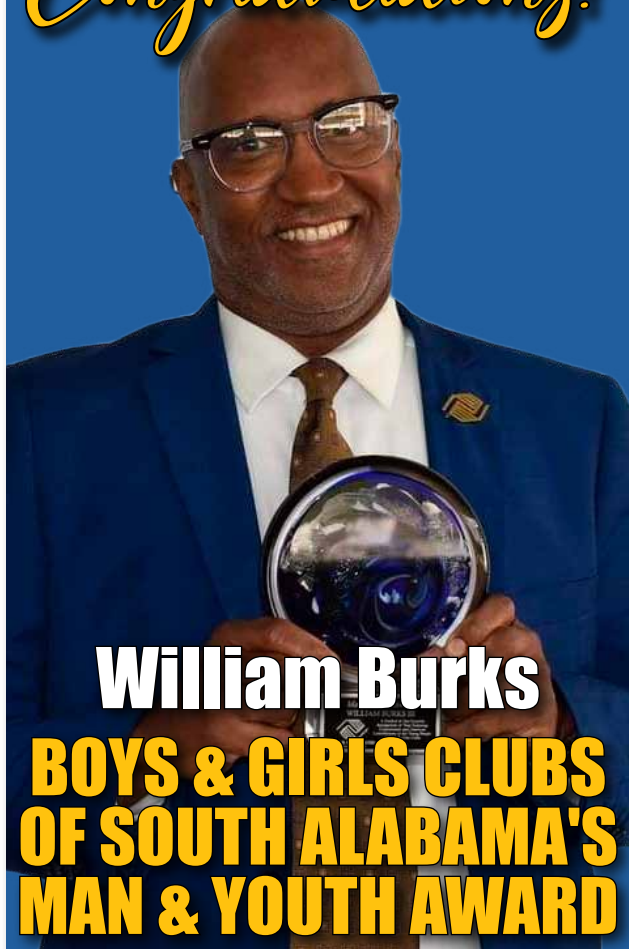
**HAPPY 36TH WEDDING  
Anniversary!**  
**Gerald & Stephanie  
GRAND SR.**



*Congratulations!*  
**Melody A. Patterson**  
**SEPTEMBER 2023  
DISTINGUISHED  
AUTHOR OF ALABAMA**



*Congratulations!*



**William Burks**  
**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF SOUTH ALABAMA'S  
MAN & YOUTH AWARD**

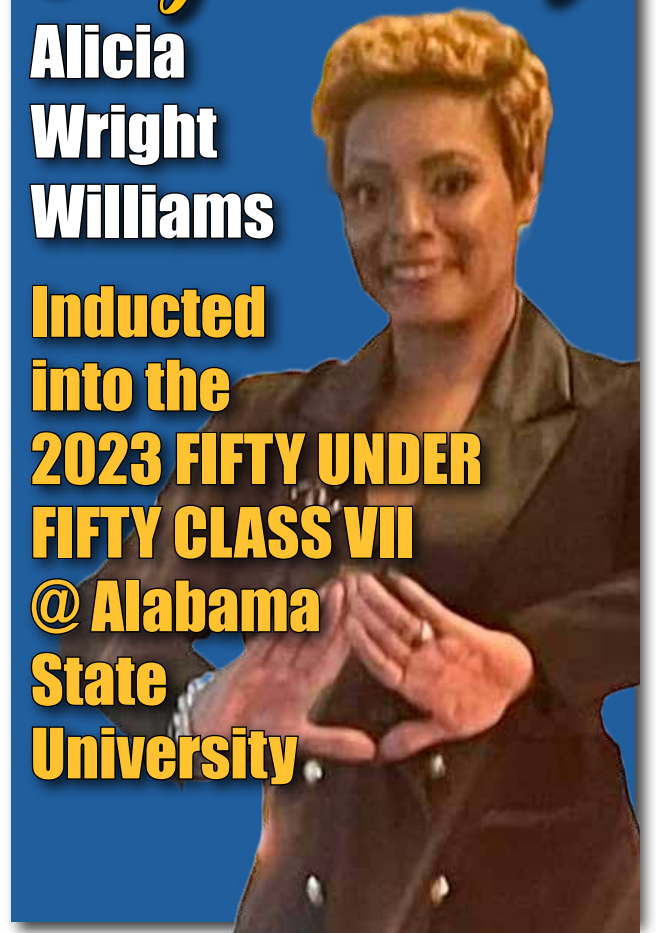
**HAPPY 25TH WEDDING  
Anniversary!**  
**Mike & Merlinda  
MITCHELL**



*Congratulations!*

**Alicia  
Wright  
Williams**

**Inducted  
into the  
2023 FIFTY UNDER  
FIFTY CLASS VII  
@ Alabama  
State  
University**



# Student Achievers

C  
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**Aleah James-Tyler**  
Kindergarten  
Most Pure Heart of Mary

★★★★★  
Honor Roll



**LaRon T. Bush**  
Grade 1  
Old Shell Road  
Magnet Elementary

★★★★★  
"A/B" Honor Roll  
Perfect Attendance



**Everett J. Jones**  
Grade 6  
Phillips Preparatory School

★★★★★  
"A/B" Honor Roll  
Perfect Attendance



**Keagan Jackson**  
Grade 5  
Faith Academy

★★★★★  
"A" Honor Roll  
Perfect Attendance



**Jada Miller**  
Dual Enrollment  
Accel Academy/Bishop  
State Community College

★★★★★  
"A" Honor Roll  
Perfect Attendance



**Mariah J. Rodgers**  
Grade 12/Dual Enrollment  
Murphy High School/  
University of Alabama

★★★★★  
"A/B" Honor Roll  
Perfect Attendance





## Black American Politics

**Joseph Mitchell**

Citizen • Musician • Politician



164 years later, some descendants of the slaves from the Clotilda had an occasion to sit across the table from the descendants of the people who stole their parents from Africa. This meeting was televised by CBS News, and went worldwide. The story was contained in the program "60 Minutes" and was hosted by Anderson Cooper. THIRTY MINUTES was recorded and televised.

At the end of the discussion between the two families, Anderson Cooper asked the President of the association representing the descendants, what did you want from this meeting? \*

I don't remember what the President of the group asked. With a broadcast audience ranging in the millions, the President might have voiced demands of these multi-million dollar descendants of the people who stole the Africans from Africa 164 years ago. \*\* The President might have asked for any or all of the wealth held by the descendants of slavers. The enslavers are multi millionaires, having an excess of somewhere in the vicinity of \$36 million. They still own property in Africa town. But I couldn't hear him over the noise of the blood rushing through my brain, heart and soul over WHAT HE DID NOT SAY!! \* \* \* \*

My ears may have heard him say something. Whatever it was that he said may very well have been transferred THROUGH my ears to my brain but my brain was overloaded with what HE DID NOT SAY. \* \* \* .MY brain COULD NOT WRAP ITSELF AROUND WHAT IT WAS THAT HE DID NOT SAY. \* . \* . \* !

Think about it another way: it's a 164 year-old football game. You are in possession of the football. There is only one second left on the game Clock. The defensive team is up by one point. You have the ball on the 1-inch line. Because of how you have played for the last 164 years, The defensive team has placed only two players on the field. Your team has all of its players in place, and all you have to do is call the right play to advance the ball and WIN. What play does your quarterback call?

He calls for "the 164 years backwards fumble play". He executed that play perfectly. The clock ran out with the fumbled ball resting on the 5 yard line.

GAME OVER! [Explicatives deleted.]

I am befuddled and at a complete loss for understanding why the representatives of the African descendants DID NOT DEMAND \$36 million and every square inch of property owned by the descendants of thieving murderers.

[Explicatives deleted.]

THE NUTSHELL.

Anderson Cooper GOT PAID.

The camera man GOT PAID.

The sound man GOT PAID.

The production staff GOT PAID.

The van driver GOT PAID.

The millionaires GOT TO KEEP EVERYTHING.  
\* . \* [Explicatives deleted.]

THE MILLIONAIRES GOT TO GO; DIDN'HAFTA SAY, "No" and GET TO GROW. \* \* \*.

The African slave descendants GOT [Explicatives deleted.] ♣

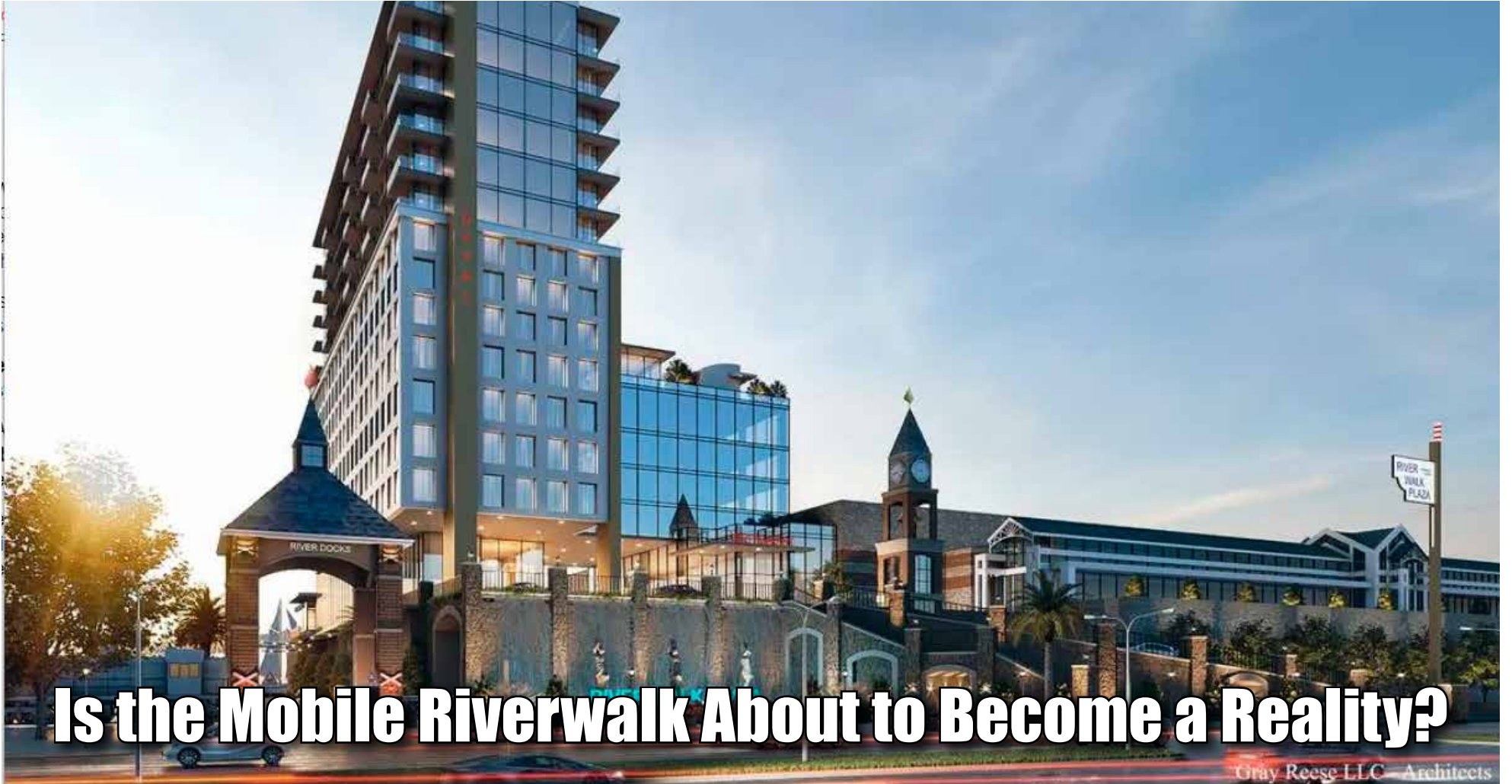


## TAKING MOBILE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

**Memphis Vaughan Jr.**

NATIVE MOBILIAN; EDITOR OF LITERARY WEBSITE... [TimBookTu.com](http://TimBookTu.com)

Feedback can be sent to: [mempv57@gmail.com](mailto:mempv57@gmail.com)



# Is the Mobile Riverwalk About to Become a Reality?

Gray Reese LLC - Architects

As a longtime advocate for development along Mobile's riverfront, I was very encouraged by the recent news of a proposed mixed-use project adjacent to the Convention Center. The project, called the Mobile Riverwalk, is slated to break ground in 2025, and will have a hotel, restaurants, offices, and residential units.

I am cautiously optimistic because numerous projects have been announced for downtown Mobile over the years only to fall by the wayside due to a variety of factors. A project like this is something that I've been wanting to happen for a long time. Because it will be right on the river itself, it could be the catalyst for more things to come that will provide better access and a reason to come to the riverfront.

This project fits into the vision of former mayor Mike Dow's String of Pearls. Just think how long ago that was and we're only now finally starting to see some of this come to fruition. Other proposals that the city has received from various urban planners have also called for something similar. We need these types of developments to make the city inviting and viable for residents and visitors.

I have written in previous articles about the riverfront and why it is critical to Mobile's growth and tourist attractions. The riverfront is integral with maintaining Mobile's heritage as a port city. The city's location on a natural harbor is the reason that it was found here over 300 years ago and why Mobile is a major port in this country.

But we let the industrial growth of our port overtake any leisure and recreation potential that was there. While the maritime industry is very important to the city's economy, tourism is also critical. We are starting to see a few more things happen that hopefully will all tie together to make the riverfront a destination. We have the cruise ship that brings tourists every week and soon Amtrak will have a stop along the waterfront. The Hall of Fame Courtyard, with statues recognizing Mobile's five Baseball Hall of Famers, is another attraction that is underway.

As we see this project and the other initiatives become a reality, it is hopeful that it will drive other projects to come to the riverfront and adjacent areas. The new bridge and I-10 interchange configuration and the development of the Civic Center property bodes well for great things to happen in downtown Mobile.

I will continue to advocate for more things downtown as well as other parts of the city, especially Africatown. I feel Africatown has the potential to be a major reason that people will come to Mobile to learn about its history and see all the other things the city has to offer. In future articles, I will continue to write about other happenings or that need to happen in our city. Please become more involved and stay engaged with our local and state leaders to bring the types of things that we want to our city. Vote for the type of leaders who will make these types of projects a reality. ❖



## BLACK LIVES MATTER

Tommy Green

FACEBOOK BLOGGER

FORMER EDITOR FOR MOBILE BEACON



## Black Women are Special

This is the fourth article on “Black Women are Special.” I am writing this article as an acknowledgement to my mother, who had to be my mother and father. I want African-American women to study the history of their fore-parents in America and Africa, so they can develop a connection with them.

I need to provide clarification on “Black Women are Special.” They are similar to salt that is used for seasoning food. The meal doesn’t taste as well without it. I have written numerous articles on Black men dishonoring Black women by talking negatively about them in the media. It may seem that I am against interracial marriages. However, I am not against Black people marrying rich white people, but I am against the number rich Black men marrying a white female living in the trailer park. However, I do want African-Americans to read “The Peculiar Institution,” which will explain why, in numerous instances, we are at odds with one another. The book will provide information on why we are so in awe of white people. We have been conditioned to value white people more than ourselves. This is not normal to think more highly of a group of people, whose physical attributes are different from ours. All of the images of whiteness that we are being bombarded with are intended to have us conflicted with ourselves.

Ben Arogundade was born on April 11, 1965 in London. He is an author, publisher, and voiceover artist. In the mid-1990s he launched his own style magazine. In 2000, he wrote his first book, *Black Beauty*, which explored Western culture’s perception of the black image. It deals with the history of the Black Aesthetic, from Antiquity to the present. The narrative documents the history of black and African-American make up, hair and beauty, from the first recording by European writers and travelers right through to today’s black celebrities of the stage and screen.

According to Ben, “In the beginning, beauty belonged to nature. It was race-less and classless. Beauty only had one rule, and that it was not gifted to everybody. Life was for everybody, but not beauty. The gods of genetics assigned each population their quantity. And even here in its original format beauty was a corrupt commodity. It was nature’s fascism – the gift that gave certain people power over others. Such was nature’s elitism. At the dawn of humankind beauty was said to have evolved as a biological signaling system that people used to identify the fittest candidates for procreation. Beauty was the original ‘money’, the currency of survival, and it was just as corrupting. This was the way of life. The way things were designed to be. Events turned when powerful patriarchs learned to harness beauty’s power. Suddenly beauty was in the eye of the beholder, and the beholders were white. As colonialists, the definition of beauty became their prerogative, as it would any conqueror. Consequently, a new racially defined theory of beauty began to evolve, with a singular European template.”

In ancient Greece, the profiles of Apollo and Venus were promoted as examples of the ideal human face. Later, German Renaissance painter Albrecht Durer devised a proportional system that positioned Europeans as paradigms of physical perfection, and which was subsequently to govern the aesthetics of Western fine art for centuries. In 1799, in the *Regular Gradation of man*, English Surgeon Charles White declared the superiority of white beauty when he stated that, ‘Ascending the line of gradation, we come at last to the white European, who being most removed from the brute creation, may, on that account, be considered as the most beautiful of the human race.’ Simultaneously, whiteness was promoted as the

continued on Page 30... see **BLACK WOMEN**



## NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications  
mbrvant@mchd.org | 251.690.8873

## WIC Program Names New Director

The Mobile County Health Department has announced that Monique McMillan has been named as the new District Nutrition Director for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition program for Mobile County. She is a native of Mobile and a graduate of Baker High School.

“My passion for women’s health has led me to WIC,” McMillan said. “Although new to the WIC program, serving the community that I grew up in drives my ambition to maintain and improve access of the program for our Community and participants. I am honored to serve as the new District Nutrition Director for MCHD’s WIC program.”

McMillan earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology (PreHealth) degree from Tuskegee University in 2018. While there, she assisted in prostate and lupus research with Dr. Honghe Wang and Dr. Marcia Martinez.

McMillan received a master’s degree in Family and Consumer Sciences, with a concentration in Nutrition, from Alabama A&M University in 2020. She then completed her dietetic internship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in 2021, which consisted of 1,286 supervised practice hours and 26 rotations.

“I completed two concentrated rotations of entry-level practice with Vanderbilt’s weight loss clinic and VUMC’s heart transplant team,” she said. “There, I was able to learn new weight loss treatments and better understand transplant nutrition.”

“I also worked as a clinical dietitian at Ascension St. Thomas in Nashville, Huntsville Hospital, and USA Children’s and Women’s Hospital. My areas of experience include inpatient rehab, cardiology, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and High-risk Obstetrics. I have a vested interest in women’s health, maternal health, cardiology, and weight management.”



**Monique McMillan**  
**DISTRICT NUTRITION DIRECTOR**  
MCHD’s WIC Program

# Celebrations of Life...



## Carol Adams Davis (1947 - 2023)

Carol was a native of Mobile and dedicated to the Preservation of Community and the Environment. She grew up and lived in the Leinkauf Historical District and was a member of the Sierra Club in Mobile, the Mobile Historic Development Commission, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Leinkauf Historic District Neighborhood Organization.♣

## Walter Battles (1942 - 2023)

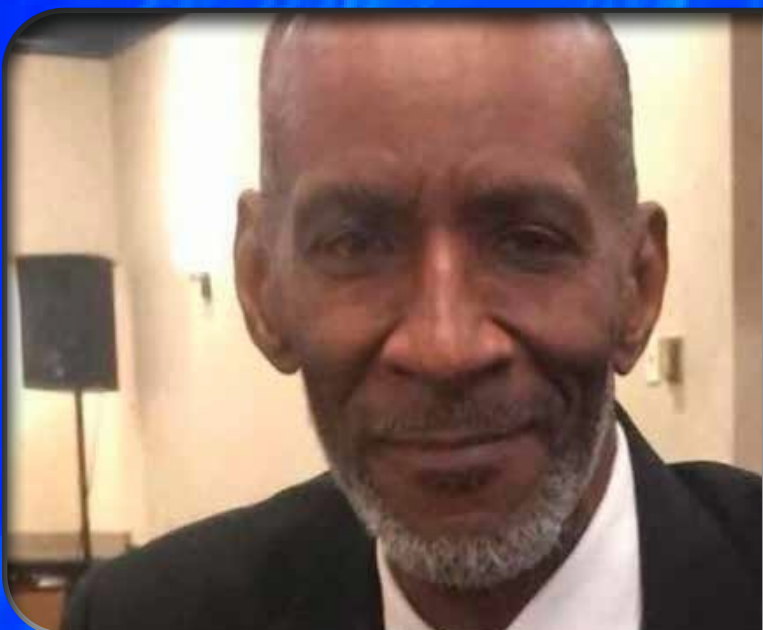
Walter was a native of Mobile and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church Maysville and served as Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Ministry and a founding member of the Mass and Senior Choirs. He was also a Grand Lord of the Knights of Peter Claver.

Battles was a retired manager/supervisor of Ingalls Shipyard where he worked for thirty-three years and also an avid listener of jazz who attended most of the jazz concerts that came into the city.♣



## Hubert Brandon (1953 - 2023)

Hubert "Drain" Brandon was a proud resident of Twinsburg, Ohio. He got his nickname because of his prowess on the basketball courts in his hometown and for his high school. Mobilians knew him from showing that same prowess in working with non-profits here and all over the country. He was a steadfast advocate of working for opportunities in the minority community but he shared his skills with any organization that asked. His easy going manner and his contribution to this and other communities will be missed.♣



# Celebrations of Life...



## Andre Braugher (1962 - 2023)

Born in Chicago, Braugher was an accomplished actor on Stage, TV, and Movies. His career included the Public Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park, where he appeared in Coriolanus, Much Ado About Nothing, and Hamlet. His career moved to television where he appeared in Kojak, The Court Martial of Jackie Robinson, and The Tuskegee Airmen. He also appeared in The Good Fight, House, and Thief. His film roles included Glory, Primal Fear, Poseidon, Salt, The Mist, and Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer. His most recent work in the comedy series Brooklyn Nine-Nine where he was nominated for four Primetime Emmy Awards.

He attended Stanford University initially majoring in Engineering but switched to Theatre. After graduating, he moved on to Juilliard in New York. His first role was in the movie Glory. He passed from complications with Lung Cancer. ♣

## A.C. Smith (1949 - 2023)

A freelance artist and native Mobilian, Anthony Carl (A.C.) Smith began drawing at the age of 2. He was a graduate of Davidson High School who was extremely gifted and could be seen all over the region doing caricatures. He was frequently hired for conventions and spent a lot of time in New Orleans working for the Saints and Pelicans. In Mobile he hosted Art Parties, workshops, and any activity that would allow him to practice his craft. He was one of the leading artist for Legacy 166, a nonprofit that provides free art activities in underprivileged schools. His art will serve has his legacy throughout the city. ♣



## Thomasena Spencer (1944 - 2023)

Born in Mobile, this Woman of God gave her life to Christ at an early age. She served diligently at Third Baptist Missionary Church in Whistler, and participated in all children's and adult's programs and enjoyed singing in the choir.

A graduate of Mobile County Training School, Bishop State Junior College, America College of Business, Bronx Community College, and Alabama State University, education and working with children were her passions. Employed with Mobile County Public School System, she organized the first girls dance line at C.F. Vigor High School and the first girls flag line at Mattie T. Blount High School.

She was a co-founder of the Prichard Sports Hall of Fame; a member of the Mobile County Training School Whippets National Alumni Assoc. and as president of Unique One's Social Club, provided over 300 hours of community service. ♣



# PASSINGS...

**Maurice Hines • 80**

**DANCER/SINGER/ACTOR • The Cotten Club**



**GEORGE "FUNKY" BROWN**  
DRUMMER/CO-FOUNDER  
Kool and the Gang  
(Lung Cancer)



**SHECKY GREEN-97**  
COMEDIAN  
History of the World; Splash



**HENRY KISSINGER-100**  
POLITICIAN  
Secretary of State  
National Security Advisor



**NORMAN LEAR-101**  
SCREENWRITER • PRODUCER  
Maude; All in the Family  
The Jeffersons, Good Times



**LAURA LYNCH-65**  
MUSICIAN  
The Dixie Chicks  
(Traffic Accident)



**LES McCANN-88**  
JAZZ PIANIST  
(Pneumonia)



**GEORGE MCGINNIS-73**  
NBA PLAYER  
Sixers; Pacers; Nuggets  
(Cardiac Arrest)



**SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR-93**  
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE  
(Dementia and Respiratory Illness)



**RYAN O'NEAL-82**  
ACTOR  
Love Story; Paper Moon  
(Congestive Heart Failure)



**SANDRA REEVES-PHILLIPS-79**  
ACTRESS  
Lean On Me; Round Midnight  
Ma Rainey's Black Bottom



**TOM SMOTHERS-86**  
COMEDIAN  
The Smothers Brothers  
(Lung Cancer)



**CALE YARBOROUGH-84**  
RACE CAR DRIVER  
NASCAR Cup Series Champion

# Mardi Gras

## 2024 PARADE SCHEDULE

### JANUARY...

**13 Saturday** .Krewe de la Dauphine.....1:00 pm..... D. Isle  
**20 Saturday** Dauphin Island Peoples' Parade..1:00 pm..... D. Isle  
**26 Friday** ....Conde Cavaliers..... 6:30 pm..... Rte A  
**27 Saturday**.Bayport Parading Society .....2:00 pm..... Rte A  
 Mystic DJ Riders .....2:00 pm..... Rte A  
 Order of Rolling River.....2:00 pm..... DIP  
 Pharaohs Mystic Society Parade.6:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Conde Explorers.....7:00 pm..... Rte A  
**28 Sunday** ...Massacre Island Secret Society ..6:30 pm..... D. Isle

### FEBRUARY...

**01 Thursday**.Order of the Polka Dots Parade...6:30 pm..... Rte A  
**02 Friday** ....Order of the Inca Parade .....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Apollo's Mystic Ladies Parade ....6:45 pm..... Dap  
**03 Saturday**.Mobile Mystics Parade .....1:00 pm..... Rte A  
 Mobile Mystical Revelers .....1:00 pm..... Rte A  
 Mobile Mystical Friends.....1:00 pm ..... Rte A  
 Maids of Mirth Parade .....6:30 pm..... Rte G  
 Knights of Ecor Rouge Parade ....6:30 pm..... Fhope  
 Order of Butterfly Maidens Parade ....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Krewe of Marry Mates Parade ....6:30 pm ..... Rte A  
**04 Sunday** ...Neptune's Daughter Parade .....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Order of Isis.....7:00 pm..... Rte A  
**05 Monday** ..Order of Venus .....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Miracle On the Bay.....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Order of Many Faces.....6:30 pm ..... Rte A  
**06 Tuesday** .Order of LaShe's Parade.....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Order of Olympia .....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
**08 Thursday**.Mystic Stripers Parade .....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
**09 Friday** ....Crewe of Columbus Parade.....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Krewe de Secondline .....6:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Maids of Jubilee Parade.....6:45 pm..... Fhope  
**10 Saturday** .Foley Parade.....11:00 am..... Foley  
 Krewe of Goats ..... 12:00 pm..... Pchard  
 Pritchard Carnival Association . 12:00 pm..... Pchard  
 Krewe of Sparta ..... 12:00 pm..... S'land  
 MCA Floral Parade ..... 12:00 pm ..... Rte A  
 Knights of Mobile Parade ..... 12:00 pm..... Rte A  
 Mobile Mystical Ladies Parade. 12:00 pm..... Rte A  
 Order of Angels Parad..... 12:00 pm..... Rte A  
 Joy of Life ..... 12:00 pm..... Rte A  
 Krewe of Mullet Mates .....2:00 pm..... M. Pte  
 Mystics of Time Parade .....5:45 pm..... Rte H

### FEBRUARY continued...

Mystics of Pleasure Parade .....6:00 pm..... OB  
 Shadow Barons Parade.....6:45 pm..... Dap  
**11 Sunday** ....Fort Morgan Parading Society ..... 1:00 pm ..... Ft. Mor  
 Arrival of King Elexis I.....2:00 pm..... Rte E  
 (at foot of Government Street)  
 Loyal Order of the Firetruck.....2:29 pm..... Dap  
 Joe Cain Parade .....2:30 pm..... Rte A  
 Le Krewe de Bienville Parade .....5:00 pm..... Rte A  
**12 Monday** ...MCA King Felix III Parade..... 12:00 pm ..... Rte A  
 Floral Parade..... 12:00 pm ..... Rte A  
 MLK Bus. & Civic Parade .....3:00 pm..... Rte D  
 MLK Monday Mystic Adult Parade3:00 pm ..... Rte D  
 Northside Merchants Parade .....3:00 pm ..... Rte D  
 Order of Mystic Magnolias Parade6:45 pm ..... Fhope  
 Infant Mystics Parade.....7:00 pm..... Rte F  
 Order of Doves .....7:00 pm..... Rte F

13

## FAT TUESDAY

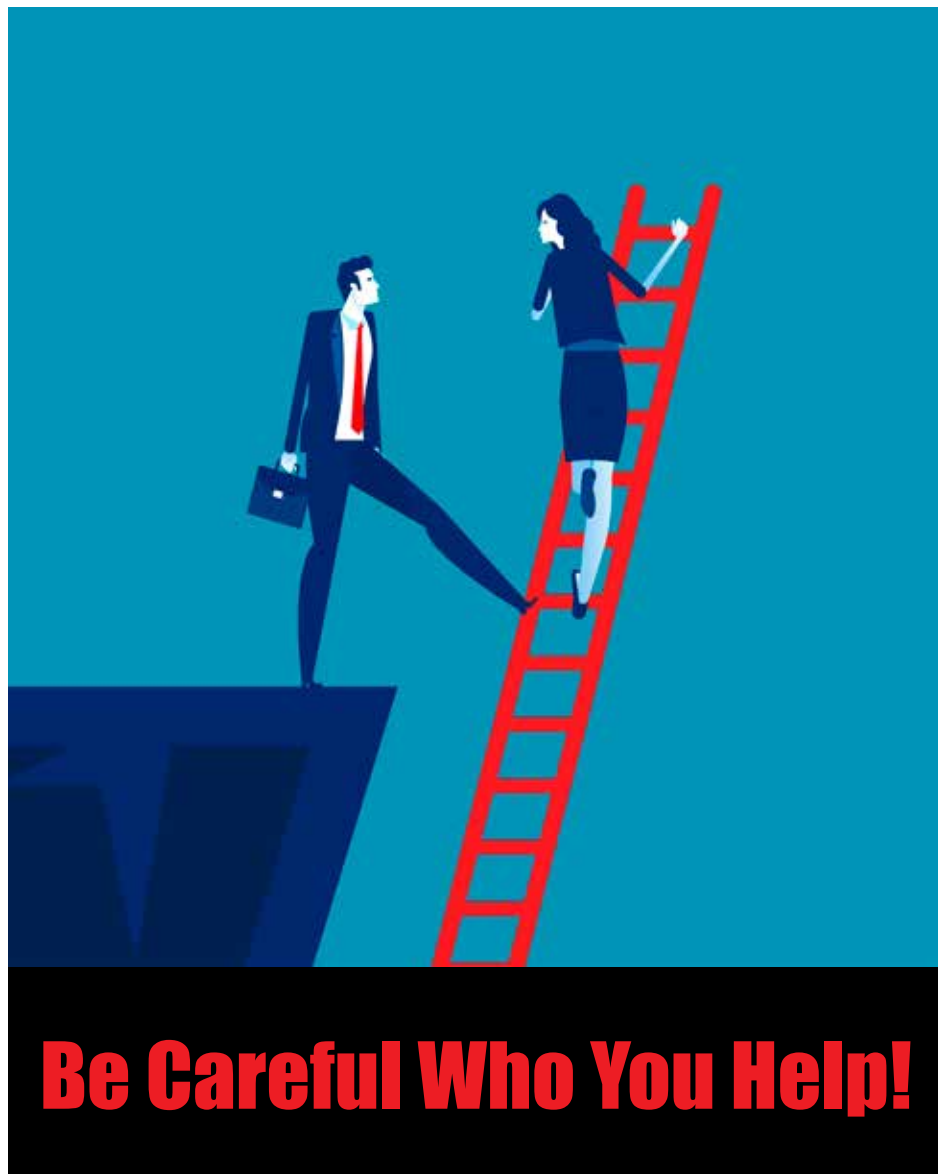
**Gulf Shores Parade..... 10:00 am.....GS**  
**Order of Athena Parade . 10:30 am..... Rte A**  
**Knights of Revelry Parade 12:30 pm..... Rte A**  
**King Felix Parade ..... 12:30 pm..... Rte A**  
**Comic Cowboys Parade .. 12:30 pm..... Rte A**  
**Orange Beach Parade .... 2:00 pm..... OB**  
**MAMGA Mammoth Parade.2:00 pm.....Rte B**  
**Order of Myths Parade.... 6:00 pm..... Rte C**

color of all things virtuous, clean and beautiful. White skin, in combination with red cheeks, was regarded as beauty's most desirable hue by the Elizabethans. The Queen herself with aid, had cheeks that were likened to 'roses in a bed of lilies,' by poet and painter Edmund Spenser," according to Ben.

I have had conversations with my granddaughters, so they can see themselves clearly without trying to emulate white women's values. The Root, Breanna Edward stated, "Emmitt Till was killed in Marion, Mississippi in 1955 because Carolyn Brant (white women) reported that he verbally and physically accosted her. In January 27, 2017, she admitted that she lied." This was a normalcy when I lived in Marion, AR in the 1950s. Before desegregation in the 1960s, Black parents informed their children about putting all of their trust in white people. The media is determining the destiny of a large number of our children because some families are using television to raise their children. Even with the privileges that white people have, television would stymie their positive growth. I told my granddaughters if a young man doesn't have a vision where he intends to be in five years, they don't need a relationship with him. Black parents teaching your children to love themselves and be proud of how God made them are not hating white people.

I have been gathering data to provide information on white values and looks that have been disseminated to keep Blacks in a situation that where will reject themselves. I know there has been such a degree of brainwashing that a large number of African-Americans will not accept this conclusion. We will continue to be at odds with ourselves until we begin to read our history and accept who God made us to be. Where we are today is not God ordained, but what Europeans have lied and done to us, and we have accepted their lies as truth.

**"THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES!" ♣**



# CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Commonwealth National Bank, who's headquarter is located at 2214 St. Stephens Rd, Mobile, AL, 36617, has filed an application with the Controller of the Currency on May 31, 2023, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to relocate our branch office at 2681 Springhill Ave, Mobile, AL, 36607. All accounts serviced at this location will be available at the 2214 St. Stephens Rd, Mobile, AL 36617 branch and our new location at 3959 Government Blvd, Mobile, AL 36693. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for District Licensing 500 North Akard Street, Suite 1600 Dallas, TX 75201 or by email at [Licensing@occ.treas.gov](mailto:Licensing@occ.treas.gov), within 30 days of the date of this publication.

## EMPLOYMENT

### CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

#### REQUIREMENTS

Valid Driver's License, Transportation  
Some Construction Experience, Ability to Work Some Weekend Days

#### PAY SCALE

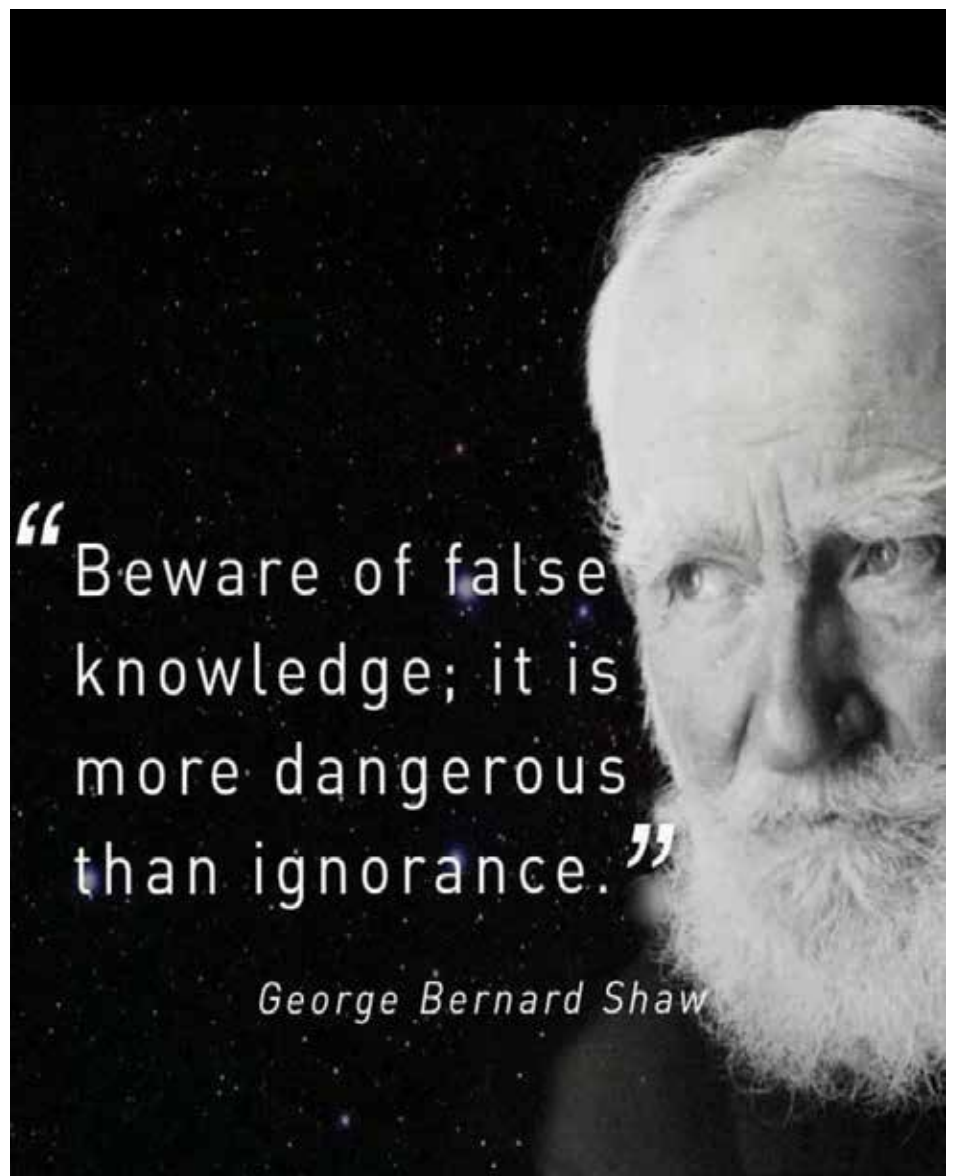
\$12-15 per hour depending on skill set. Will be able to work up.

#### EXAMPLES OF WORK INCLUDE

Sheetrock Hanging & Finishing • Painting • Exterior And Interior Renovation  
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Phone: 251-751-6545





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# 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

@USAArchaeology

@southarchaeology

@TheArchaeologyMuseum

Learn more at  
[SouthAlabama.edu/org/archaeology/museum](https://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.

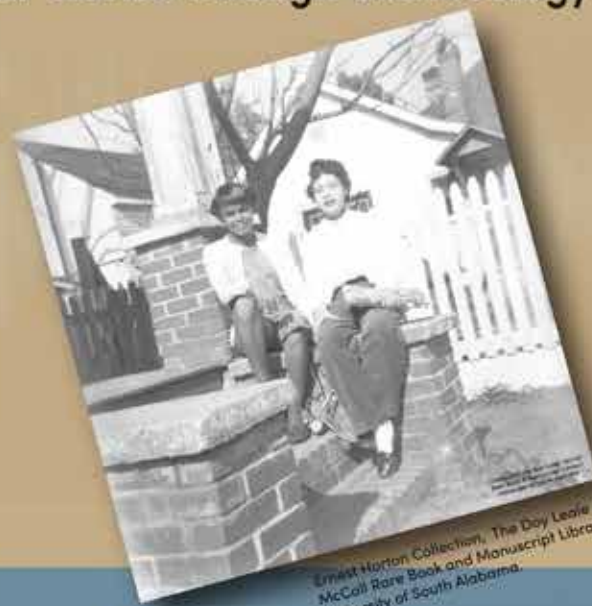
They lived in different parts of Mobile, but they shared much in common. As Black families, they navigated Jim Crow segregation. They all owned homes at a time when many Black Americans did not, and their homes were excavated by archaeologists.

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.



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

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



Ernest Horton Collection, The Day Leale  
McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library,  
University of South Alabama.