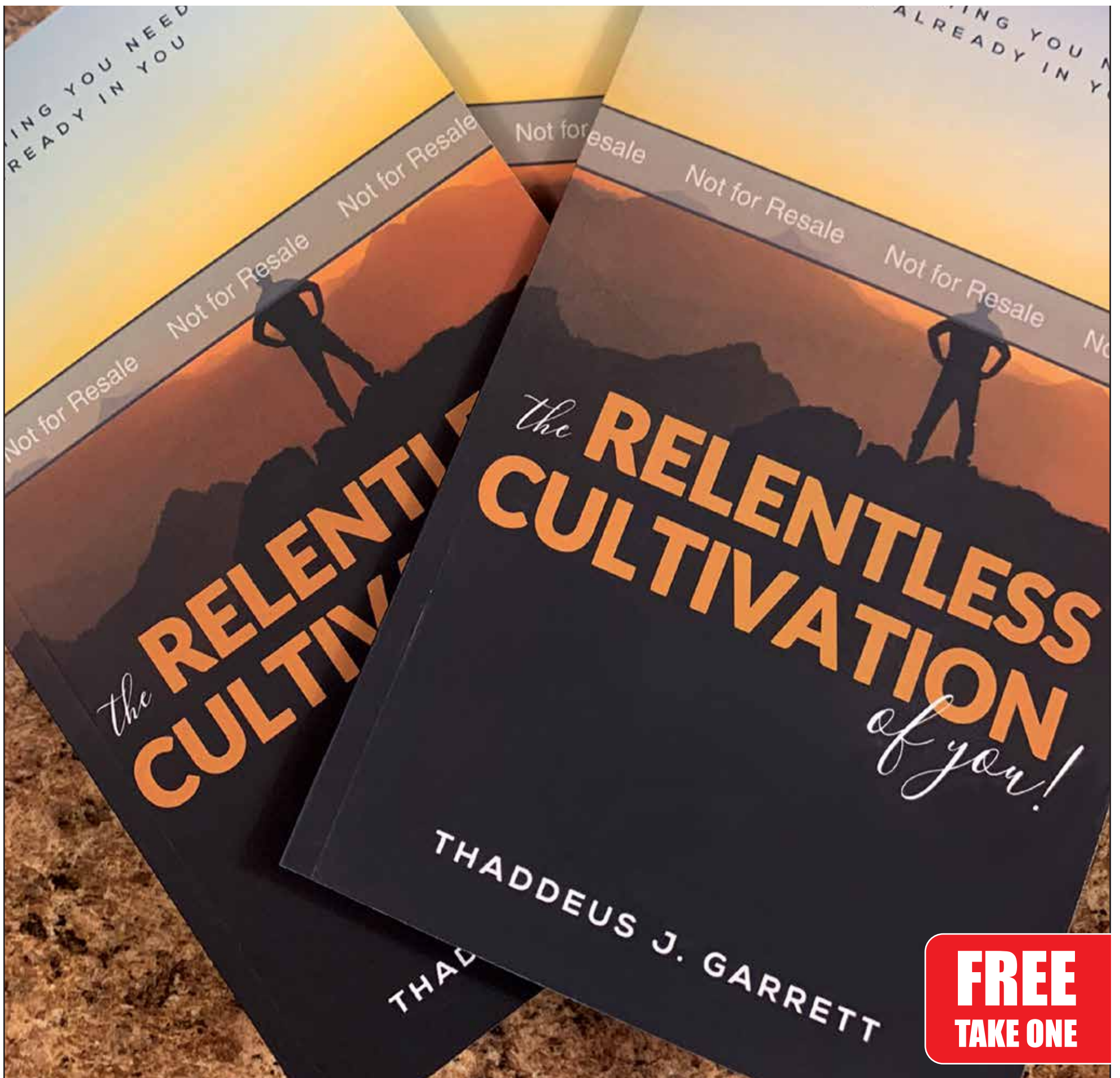


DECEMBER 10, 2021 • VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 08



Steppin' Out

COMMUNITY • EMPOWERMENT • ARTS • CULTURE



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Steppin' Out

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.

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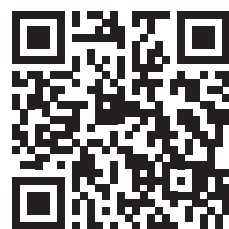
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THINK ABOUT IT

In order to solve our problems, it is necessary that we first STOP, BE STILL and THINK.

The ability to rationalize our thoughts is a special gift from God to those created in His image, and the ability to think gives us the power to become co-creators with God.

All that you see was either created by God or man; therefore, it is important for us to THINK before we act or speak because our words have the power to create.

If you are presently experiencing some adversity in life. STOP, BE STILL and spend some time alone with God, pray, and "THINK ABOUT IT"

Never belittle yourself for the mistakes that you make, In order to learn from your experiences mistakes are what it takes, The good book teaches "So a man thinketh in his heart so is he, So say to yourself "I believe in me," And always think positive about who you are, Giving thanks to God that you have come thus far, And remember that one thing effects another, The same as you effect your brother, Therefore pretend what you do to others is to yourself too, And then you will not offend another.

RESOURCES

The Holy Bible - Matthew 7:12, Colossians 3:17, Proverbs 23:7, and the book, "Poems To Live By"



THEOLA BRIGHT aka PRINCESS IREWAHLE`

Author, Katharine Drexel Society Literary Award recipient, Legacy 166, Mobile Writers Guild, On-Air Personality, Spoken Word of Mobile Poet Laureate, and writer for stage and screen - theolabright.com

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LAUGHTER

WE ALL LOSE!!!

An elderly couple was sitting outdoors at a cafe when they noticed Old Leroy who seemed to be having trouble crossing the street with an ungainly shuffle. The man said to his wife "Leroy surely has bad arthritis to walk like that." His wife replied "No, that's definitely old time rheumatism." They couldn't agree so the man decided to ask Old Leroy. He walked over to him and said "Excuse me Leroy, but my wife and I saw you having difficulty crossing the street and I told her that you have arthritis but she insisted that you have rheumatism. Which one of us was wrong?" Leroy said "The three of us are wrong." "Three of us are wrong", said the man, "How so?" Leroy replied, "You were wrong when you said I had arthritis and your wife was wrong when she said I had rheumatism and I was wrong when I thought I had to pass gas!!!" ☺

NO MORE QUESTIONS!!!

One day at school the teacher decided to give an oral quiz. She looked in the back of the class and saw little Leroy daydreaming. She said to him, "Leroy; George Washington not only chopped down his father's Cherry tree, but also admitted doing it. Now do you know why his father didn't punish him?" Little Leroy looked around and said, "Yea...because George still had the axe in is hand!!!" ☺

I'M PUTTING MY FOOT DOWN!!!

Two small county judges, Bubba and Billy Ray, both got arrested for speeding on the same day. Rather than call the state Supreme Court for a visiting judge, each agreed to hear the other's case. Billy Ray took the bench while the second stood at the defendant's table, and admitted his guilt. Billy Ray immediately suspended both the fine and costs. They switched places. Billy Ray admitted that he was speeding, too. Thereupon Bubba immediately fined him \$250 and ordered him to pay court costs. Billy Ray was furious. "I suspended your fine and costs, but you threw the book at me!" he fumed. Bubba looked at him and replied, "This is the second such case we've had in here today. Someone has to get tough about all this speeding!!!" ☺

AN HONEST MAN!!!

Bubba was backing out of a parking space hit a parked car. He looks around as a small crowd gathers and decides to leave a note. A lawyer returns to his car, a BMW, to find the head lights broken and considerable damage. There's no sign of the offending vehicle but he's relieved to see that there is a note stuck under the windshield wiper. The note reads, "Sorry. I just backed into your Beemer. The witnesses who saw the accident are nodding and smiling at me because they think I'm leaving my name, address and other particulars. But I'm not." ☺

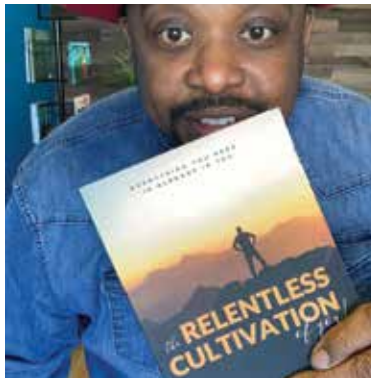
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Steppin' Out News CIRCULATES Throughout Mobile MONTHLY!

Our NEXT ISSUE Goes Into Circulation on

2021 DECEMBER 31





CLOTILDA
DESCENDANTS ASSOCIATION
WILL PRESENT THE 4TH ANNUAL

Spirit of Our Ancestors Festival

FEBRUARY 12, 2022

This year's event will feature the stories of slave ship Clotilda and Africatown being brought to life in a short stage highlight titled "An Ocean in My Bones," developed by playwright and award-winning director Terrence Spivey.

The roughly 45-minute one-act highlight is a precursor to the full-length stage play that will world premiere in Mobile, February 2024.

The festival will take place at historic Mobile County Training School (800 Whitley Street) in Africatown. The school was founded by descendants of Clotilda in 1880.

The Cleveland Ohio based Spivey, a graduate of Prairie View A & M University with a B.A. Degree in Theatre Arts and is also Artistic Associate of Mobile's IMANI Community Theater. He is the Artistic Director for Powerful Long Ladder in Cleveland where he once served in the same position for the oldest black theatre in the country, Karamu House, programming over 70 plays for 12 years.

"Bringing such a powerful story to life is an honor and a privilege like none other," said Spivey. During the festival, we will only have 10 to 15 actors, but the larger stage production will have up to 50. The Clotilda and Africatown ancestors deserve to have their voices heard after so many generations of being ignored and marginalized. It's time to let them bear witness to the struggles, hardships, and pain, but also the resilience, fortitude, and togetherness that allowed them to make a way out of no way."

Keynote speaker of the festival will be Dr. Joseph Brown, professor of Africana Studies at Southern Illinois University. He received a Master's in Afro-American Studies and Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University.

"In Africa, the people do not die," said Dr. Brown. "They send their spirits among us for aid and support. When we need them, they are there. Now, the ancestors gather around us as a cloud of witnesses. Not only do they rejoice in our existence, but they let us know in dreams, conversations and unexpected encounters that we are here for a reason."

TICKETS ARE FREE, but limited to first-come/first-served

OBTAIN TICKETS ONLINE beginning December 06:
www.theclotildastory.com/event/spirit-of-our-ancestors-festival/.

Doors Open 10 a.m. • Festival begins at NOON

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT JOYCELYN DAVIS
Call: 1(800)664-2603
Email: joycelyn.davis813@gmail.com



TERRANCE SPIVEY
PLAYWRIGHT and AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR

Tommy Green

Facebook Blogger & Former Editor for Mobile Beacon



Caste The Origins of Our Discontents Isabel Wilkerson, Author

In the book, "Caste, The Origins of Our Discontents, Isabel Wilkerson wrote, "There is a famous black & white photograph from the era of the Third Reich. It is a picture taken in Hamburg, Germany, in 1936, of shipyard workers, a hundred or more, facing the same direction in the light of the sun. They are heiling "hail to victory" in unison, their right arms rigid in outstretched allegiance to the Fuhrer.

If you look closely, you can see a man in the upper right who is different from the others. His face is gentle but unyielding. Modern-day displays of the photograph will often add a helpful red circle around the man or an arrow pointing to him. He is surrounded by fellow citizens caught under the spell of the Nazis. He keeps his arms folded to his chest, as the stiff palms of the others hover just inches from him. He alone is refusing to salute. He is the one man standing against the tide.

Looking back from our vantage point, he is the only person in the entire scene who is on the right side of history. Everyone around him is tragically, fatefully, categorically wrong. In that moment, only he could see it. His name is believed to have been August Landmesser. At the time, he could not have known the murderous path the hysteria around him would lead to. But he had already seen enough to reject it.

He had joined the Nazi Party himself years before. By now though, he knew firsthand that the Nazis were feeding Germans lies about Jews, the outcasts of his era, that, even this early in the Reich, the Nazis had caused terror, heartache, and disruption. He knew that Jews were anything but Untermenschen (inferior people), that they were German citizens, human as anyone else. He was an Aryan in love with a Jewish woman, but recently enacted Nuremberg Laws had made their relationship illegal. They were forbidden to marry or to have sexual relations, either of which amounted to what the Nazis called "racial infamy."

His personal experience and close connection to the scapegoated caste allowed him to see past the lies and stereotypes so readily embraced by susceptible members—the majority, sadly—of the dominant caste. Through Aryan himself, his openness to the humanity of the people who had been deemed beneath him gave him a stake in their well-being, their fates tied to his. He could see what his countrymen chose not to see. In a totalitarian regime such as that of the Third Reich, it was an act of bravery to stand firm against an ocean. We would all want to believe that we would have been him. We might feel certain that, were we Aryan citizens under the Third Reich, we surely would have seen through it, would have risen above it like him, been that person resisting authoritarianism and brutality in the face of mass hysteria.

We would like to believe that we would have taken the more difficult path of standing up against injustice in defense of the outcaste. But unless people are willing to transcend their fears, endure discomfort and derision, suffer the scorn of loved ones and neighbors and co-workers and friends, fall into disfavor of perhaps everyone they know, face exclusion and even banishment, it would be numerically impossible, humanely impossible, for everyone to be that man. What would it take to be him in any era? What would it take to be him now," said Isabel?

The story of the Jews in Hamburg German in 1936 relates to Black people in America in 2021. The Nazis were determined to turn the German citizens against the Jews by demonizing them. From 1619 to 2021, Black people have been defined as being not fully humans. The majority of white Americans support trump/Republicans' agenda of "Making America Great Again," which means restoring white supremacy in the extreme.♣

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MOBILE NATIVE WRITES NEW BOOK



ARTHUR MACK
STEPPIN' OUT CONTRIBUTOR

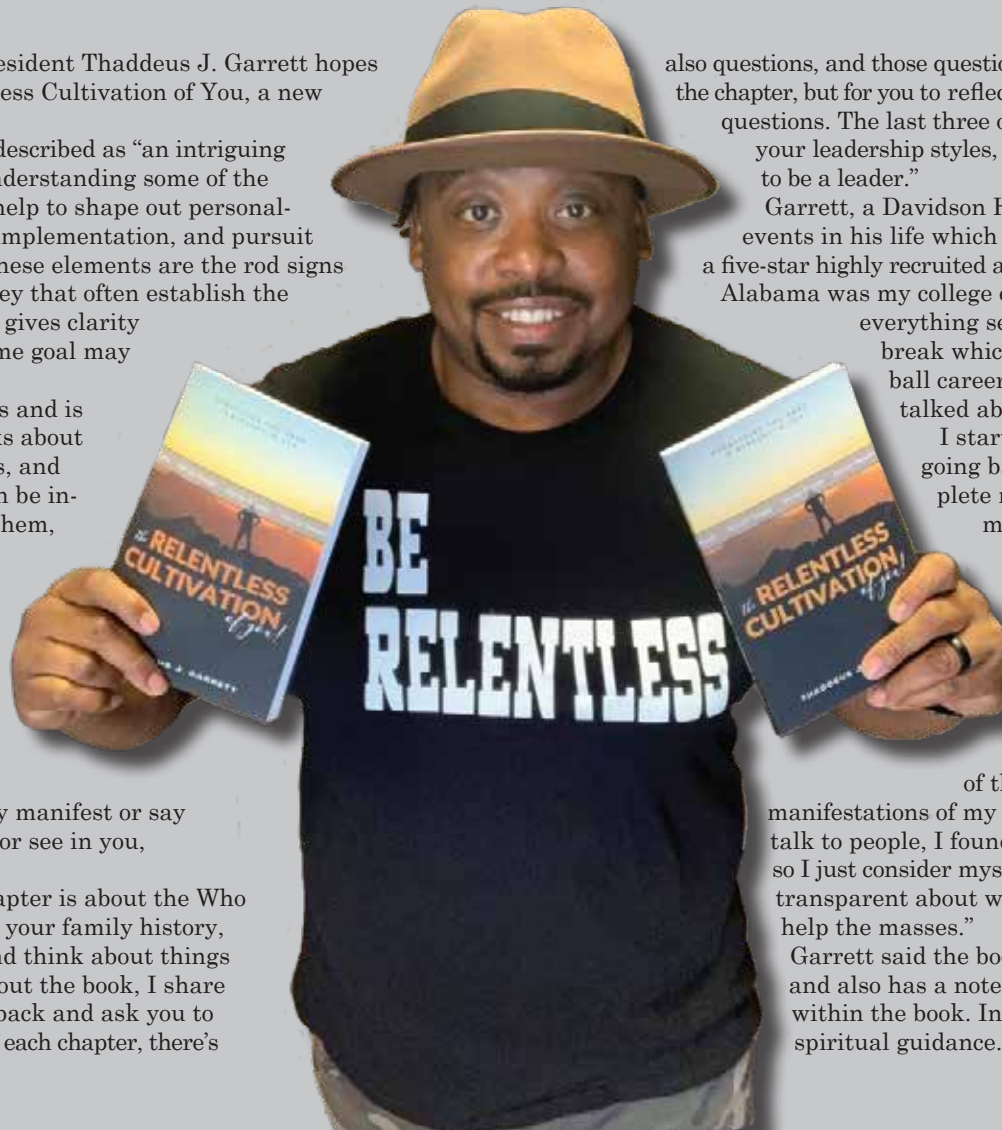
Mobile native and current Atlanta resident Thaddeus J. Garrett hopes to inspire the masses with *The Relentless Cultivation of You*, a new book he released last month.

The *Relentless Cultivation of You* is described as “an intriguing approach and unique perspective to understanding some of the elements from our past and how they help to shape out personality, our core values, the development, implementation, and pursuit of plans for our present and future...These elements are the road signs or markers along the path of our journey that often establish the route we take, and this understanding gives clarity to why several people pursuing the same goal may take distinctively different paths.

In his book, which has eight chapters and is designed for an easy read, Garrett talks about how he pursued his thoughts and goals, and also talks about how people’s hopes can be inadvertently dashed by people close to them, basically family members.

“It talks about how I became relentless in the pursuit of my inner thoughts and desires, and how to manifest those inner thoughts and desires,” he said. “We all have those desires in which we don’t speak, and a lot of times those thoughts and desires within us are killed by the closest people to us indirectly. You may manifest or say something that they don’t understand or see in you, but you see it within yourself.

“I take people on a ride. The first chapter is about the Who in You, meaning who are you based on your family history, how you act and how you maneuver and think about things based on your family history. Throughout the book, I share information about me, and then come back and ask you to reflect on that information. At the end of each chapter, there’s



also questions, and those questions don’t necessarily reflect on what’s in the chapter, but for you to reflect on yourself. They are leadership-based questions. The last three or four chapters talk about identifying your leadership styles, different components, and what it means to be a leader.”

Garrett, a Davidson High graduate, said there were several events in his life which prompted him to write the book. “I was a five-star highly recruited athlete,” he said. “The University of Alabama was my college of choice, and I had a full ride and everything set up. Then, I suffered a tibia/fibula break which didn’t allow me to complete my football career. So, the adversity within that, I never talked about it for years and years, and once I started manifesting other things, and even going back to the University of Alabama to complete my leadership degree, I looked back on my life. People walked up to me and asked me, ‘How did you do this?’ and ‘How did you do this?’

Another fun fact about me was I was part of the campus ministry and one of the largest cannabis franchisees in the country. I also spent over 20 years in the broadcast industry as an Ad Executive, so a lot of things I’ve done in my life have been true manifestations of my inner thoughts and desires. When I talk to people, I found a lot of people have fears to step out, so I just consider myself to be just an average guy. By being transparent about what happened in my life, I felt it would help the masses.”

Garrett said the book can also be used as a resource tool, and also has a notepad where you can physically write within the book. In addition, it also provides some spiritual guidance.

*continued on Page 15... see **RELENTLESS***

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THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

ARTHUR L. MACK
FREELANCE WRITER; Mobile, Alabama
Contact Info: steppinoutnews@aol.com



STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

With the increase in homicides in Mobile, as well as in many places in the country, there have been calls to find ways to put an end to the senseless violence going on in our cities.

One has to wonder if those calls are falling on deaf ears, because the violence seemingly grows out of control each passing day. It's almost as if people here are possessed by something, may be a demon or else some other spirit hell-bent on destroying us as a people. Other times, when we say or do something intended as a call to action, there are those who will do almost anything to discredit the action.

There is, however, one group who is trying to change the narrative, and in the process, open up a lot of people's minds. That group is Faith in Action Alabama, Mobile Hub. Faith in Action Alabama is a faith-based group formed in 2016 consisting of over 40 congregations across race and faith lines in Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, as well as Mobile.

Faith in Action Alabama's mission is to honor God by dismantling systemic racism to create pathways of opportunity for all Alabamians. On November 11, the Mobile Hub of Faith in Action sponsored a forum held at the Stewart Memorial CME Church on Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue in downtown Mobile to map out strategy to reduce the number of homicides in the city.

The forum brought out a number of politicians, including Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson. Victims of violent crime, as well as some who committed violent crimes but turned their lives around to help those around them and keep them from ending up the same way, spoke.

A plan was mapped out to have people go out into the areas where violent crime is committed and intercede in potential activity, using techniques of conflict resolution and de-escalation. In addition, there were hopes of using social media by producing daily messages emphasizing the need for peace in communities, working with social service providers,

I had the opportunity to cover the Nov.11 forum and rally. Those who were there were enthusiastic about having such an event in the community. However, I was somewhat disappointed — not at the rally itself, because I knew people there were serious about creating positive change. No, my disappointment was that there were not even more people at the event.

Maybe it was because people had become conditioned to the violence in our communities, and have accepted it as a way of life. Others, perhaps, simply didn't care, and that is a dangerous attitude to have. After all, it's just a matter of time before violence finds its way into your family. Then what?

That's why it's important to support events such as this. We have to let people who organize them know we stand behind them, and the only way it can be done is if we're present at these rallies as well as supporting the organizers. That includes getting on committees, going out into the streets, etc. It begins with us.♣

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Darron Patterson

Fifth-Generation Descendant of Clotilda Survivor Pollee Allen,
his great-great grandfather
CONTACT INFO: writestuf.dp@gmail.com



More Funds to Police Under-Funded Communities is Not the Answer

POLICE POLICE POLICE POLICE
POLICE POLICE POLICE POLICE
POLICE POLICE POLICE POLICE

When Steppin' Out Publisher Greg Cyprian first gave me this space in his newspaper to... well, talk about things, I had some specific stuff in mind.

That's why it's untitled, because I don't even know what I want to talk about until something just drops out of the sky in my direction.

For instance, this week I wanted to talk about Africatown's museum coming together. And then I thought I'd throw in some stuff about Vigor Coach John McKenzie and what he's done for Wolfpack football in their run to a state championship, as well as what new stadiums going up in Prichard and Toulminville will mean to those communities (I am a sportswriter, too, ya' know).

I even wanted to interview new Mobile City Councilman William Carroll and let you know his thoughts on what he sees as the future of Mobile. But then, I watched 60 Minutes on Sunday, and saw Dr. Phillip Goff.

Just so you know, Dr. Goff is an African American psychologist who researches the relationship between race and the police in the United States. He was appointed the first Franklin A. Thomas Professor in Policing Equity at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2016, the college's inaugural endowed professorship. The man has taught at UCLA and Yale, and is ... quite frankly ... a bad ass in his field.

What all this means is that Goff looks at reasons why police practices in particularly low income areas, differ so drastically than they do in more well-to-do places. And let's be real, there is a difference at the way many police departments view a call when it comes in off, for instance, any Martin Luther King street in America as opposed to a suburban 911 call.

Let's just be honest. Nobody's trying to be racist here. Just tell the truth.

So Goff's goal is to get city and state officials to stop funding money for more police to service communities that are otherwise under-funded for grocery stores, parks and recreation centers for kids, jobs programs and just about anything else where cuts have crippled those areas.

I reached out to longtime friend Mobile Public Safety Director Lawrence Battiste, but he hadn't gotten back by the time we went to print.

Goff wants to take fundamental laboratory findings out into the world, especially in the domain of public safety and policing, and replace them with better systems that have different intentions. He said that until about 2008, "There were no national data on police behavior, but not what police did to people in those communities."

Goff's work has shown that people almost unconsciously associate Black people with crime, and that they perceive Black children as being older than they are, and thus less innocent.

Part of the problem he says of law enforcement in minority communities is that police officers now are first responders in situations that would more appropriately be addressed by mental health professionals and other social service providers. "We don't need to have punishment as the only public safety and public health response," he says.

Needless to say, the man has some valid points.♣

We Want to Live! STOP NOW! LIVE NOW!

An Anti-Gun Violence Initiative |

FAITH IN ACTION ALABAMA, Mobile Hub
Pastor Marvin Charles Lue, Jr., Community Organizer



As Faith in Action Alabama, Mobile Hub continues the movement toward dismantling systemic racism to create pathways of opportunity for all Alabamians, and we continue to focus on decreasing gun violence in the Port City.

This initiative evolved from our night walks that began about three years ago. The night walks would occur one to two times per month in targeted neighborhoods. Our primary focus was to let the community know that we stood with them in the fight against gun violence, along with the notion that someone cared.

As we journeyed through 2021, gun violence seemed to escalate in the Port City daily. It seemed to be the topic at the start of each newscast. Therefore, Faith in Action Alabama Mobile Hub began to strategize how to combat this violence spreading throughout the city. It was no longer an activity that occurred at night, but now the shootings took place in broad daylight.

In the beginning, we connected with the founder of Advance Peace, a successful initiative that began in Stockton, California. Advance Peace was instrumental in significantly decreasing the gang and gun violence in Stockton. Many cities have adopted this initiative throughout the United States. Although Advance Peace has a successful track record, the City of Mobile is interested in a tailored initiative to decrease gun violence in the Port City.

With that in mind, the Stop Now! Live Now! initiative was developed. "STOP NOW! LIVE NOW!" is a plan with a purpose for peace and progress from the mind and spirit of a committed, concerned, and compassionate community presented by Faith in Action Alabama Mobile Hub. The problem that we face is the increase in gun violence and homicides in the Port City. This initiative aims to ensure that Mobile can become



the hospitality and industry hub that it strives to be. Beyond that, we all embrace the spirit of the city's goal to grow Mobile in terms of financial and physical growth by creating a safer and cohesive community. Therefore, "STOP NOW! LIVE NOW!" aims to stop the violence so that we can live for the possibilities of today and tomorrow.

The process of promoting peace comes through our universal motto and message, We Want to Live, which shall resonate loud and clear throughout the Mobile Community. Funding and implementing the STOP NOW! LIVE NOW! initiative that will include a staff of a project director, administrator, social agencies, and community ambassadors. The community ambassadors will be trained to become transformed former perpetrators who will intercede in potential activity through conflict resolution and deescalation to form

relationships to establish trust and resolve to prevent further gun violence.

The STOP NOW! LIVE NOW! success rate of progress will be seen through a decrease in violent crimes, particularly homicide and gun violence, in targeted neighborhoods; decrease in disciplinary issues in the school system; a solidified community coalition that consists of the faith community, community organizations, city and county government, families of victims, former perpetrators, and concerned citizens; a creation of safe zones and progress points; and additional staff to cover more of Mobile and the surrounding areas.

We welcome you to join us in this fight to take back our city. Your funds, time, and talents can help to stop this blight that is upon the Port City.

For more information, you may contact Pastor Marvin Charles Lue Jr. by phone: (786) 375.1011 or email: marvin@faal.org

LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE MOBILE AREA

ENGAGING THE NEXT Generation VOLUNTEER FAIR

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GET CONNECTED WITH YOUR COMMUNITY BETWEEN THE AGES OF 21 AND 40.

Emerging Leaders United Way of Southwest Alabama

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT KATHERINE PITMAN AT KPITMAN@UWSWA.ORG OR 251.433.3624

Looking to Make a Difference in the Mobile Area?

The United Way of Southwest Alabama Emerging Leaders (UWSWA-EL) is hosting the Engaging the Next Generation Volunteer Fair. UWSWA-EL invites young leaders between the ages of 21 and 40 seeking further involvement in the community to attend.

Guests can visit local nonprofits to find out about their mission and seek new volunteer opportunities. UWSWA-EL will provide everyone an evening of holiday food, music, and networking.

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION VOLUNTEER FAIR

THURSDAY/DECEMBER 09

6PM to 8PM

INNOVATION PORTAL

358 St. Louis Street • Mobile • 36602

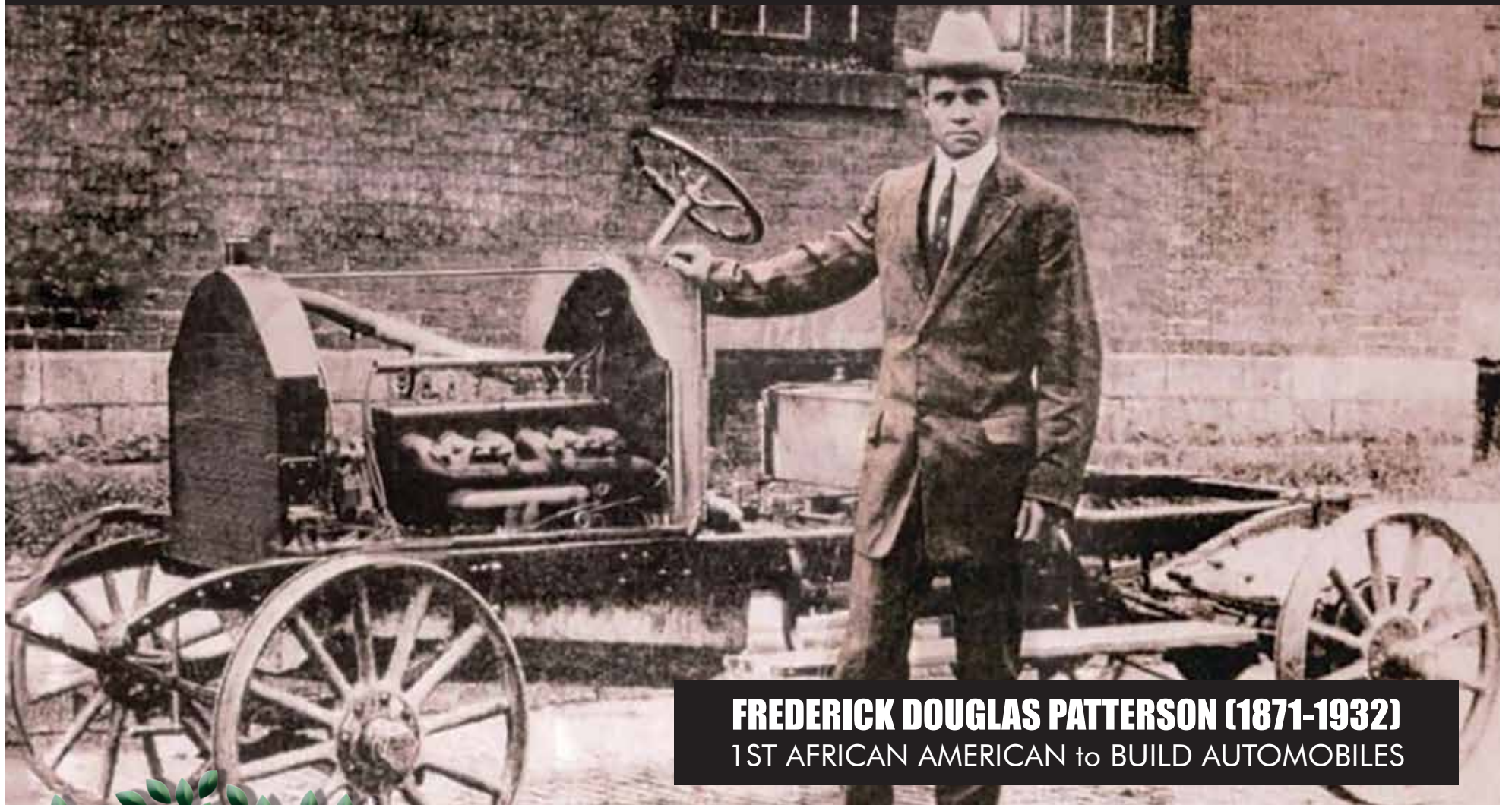
Nonprofit agencies that are interested in having a table at the event may reserve a spot for \$35. To register your agency, contact Katherine Pitman at (251) 431-3624 or kpitman@uwswa.org. Space is limited and available on a first-come first serve basis.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

Mobile County Commission, Shoe Station, and the United Way Emerging Leaders

Engaging the Next Generation is a collaborative program that was established in 2008 by Mobile United and Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood to showcase nonprofit organizations in the Mobile area and connect them with the innovators of the next generation.

BLACK THEN



FREDERICK DOUGLAS PATTERSON (1871-1932)
1ST AFRICAN AMERICAN to BUILD AUTOMOBILES

Frederick Douglas Patterson was the first African American to build motorized cars. His father, Charles Rich Patterson, a former enslaved person, created C. R. Patterson and Sons Company located in Greenfield, Ohio. Beginning in 1865, the company built fashionable carriages. Frederick Patterson inherited the company upon the death of his father in 1910 and began building motorized vehicles. The first Patterson automobile, the Patterson-Greenfield, rolled off the line on September 23, 1915. Unfortunately, Henry Ford debuted the Model T on October 1, 1908 and by that point had captured most of the American car-buying market.

Named after the abolitionist Frederick Douglass, Patterson was born on September 17, 1871 in Greenfield OH, the fourth of five children born to Josephine and Charles Richard. His four siblings were Mary, Catherine, Dollie, and Samuel. In 1888, Patterson attended Ohio State University where he played football and may have been the first Black player at the school on the varsity team. In his senior year, he left the university and taught school in Louisville, Kentucky for two years. His passion, however, lay in the family business so he moved home in 1897 and joined his father and brother. Samuel at C.R. Patterson and Sons. When his father, the family patriarch, and head of the company died in 1910, Frederick assumed leadership of the business and began to gear up to produce the Patterson-Greenfield automobile. The Patterson-Greenfield sold for \$850 and was reputed to be a higher quality automobile than Henry Ford's "Tin Lizzy" or Model T. The Patterson-Greenfield car had a forty horsepower Continental four-cylinder engine and reached a top speed of fifty miles per hour. Unfortunately, the Model T had cornered the automobile market. It sold initially for \$825 in 1908 when first introduced to the public, but over the years as Ford production expanded, the price by 1915 was \$360, the year the first Patterson-Greenfield debuted.

From 1915 to 1920, the company produced 150 Patterson vehicles of two styles, the two-door roadster and the big four-door touring car. The company slogan, "If it's a Patterson, it's a good one" described the company's carriages as well as the motor vehicles. C.R. Patterson and Sons, however, could not obtain capital to continue manufacturing the automobiles. By 1920 it had shifted production to buses and trucks and Patterson renamed the company to the Greenfield Bus Body Company. During the 1930s competition from Detroit became increasingly more intense.

Frederick Douglas Patterson, the first African American to build automobiles, died January 18, 1932 at the age of 60. In 1939 the company that had made carriages, automobiles, and buses and trucks, closed its doors after 74 years of providing fine transportation.♣



Hats Off



Photo by USDA

Nivory Gordon Jr
 Appointed by President Joe Biden
Alabama's First Black
DIRECTOR OF USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT!
 Gordon is an Alabama A&M Graduate and Wilcox County native in Alabama's Black Belt, who has served 34 years at USDA.



LaTrenda Torrence Salter
 Received Honors as
2021 Ms Alumni
LeFlore (Rattlers) High School
 Salter participated in the Toulminville Community Thanksgiving Parade.

Tomasema Perine Spencer
 Received Honors as
2021 Ms Alumni
Mobile County Training (Whippets) High School
 Spencer participated in the Toulminville Community Thanksgiving Parade.



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 A partnership between American Heart Association and A Servant's Love, Inc.) Which Serves Patients & Clients of Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy and Franklin Primary Health Center.



Jordan Peasant
 Performed in the **MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE** with the Macy's Great Marching Band in New York City, representing Mobile Christian School Band



Nia Allen
 Selected by **Prestige Models Magazine**
MODEL OF THE MONTH



SOURCE: WKRG 5 NEWS

Carol Little
 WINNER OF **GOLDEN APPLE AWARD**
 Teaches Government and Economics at Leflore High School
 She is also a Lawyer, former Assistant City Attorney and a former Municipal Judge

Cynthesis & Vincent Lang
 Celebrated their **48th ANNIVERSARY!!**



VIGOR DIDN'T HAVE TO RUN UP THE TITLE GAME SCORE... But their Reason Leads to a Whole Different Story



Darron Patterson

There's two things I need to get straight first so you'll have a good understanding of what I'm about to tell you.

Number one, I've played organized sports and been writing sports for over 40 years of my life. So I understand the mindset of athletes to whom competing means everything.

Second, and most important, for quite a while now I've been toying with the idea of writing a story about the difference between inner city public schools and those that are either privately funded or simply a one-high school town.

Now, with that said, this is about Vigor's 52-14 beat down of Oneonta in the 4A state championship game.

If you don't know the story let me fill you in on the ending.

With less than a minute left in the game, and leading by 31 points, the Wolfpack ran not one but TWO trick plays to score another touchdown. The first one didn't work and not only drew a chorus of boos from the Oneonta crowd, but some head scratching from a lot of other people ... including some that I talked to who were on the Vigor side of the field up in Birmingham.

Completely unfazed, though, that the first bit of trickery didn't work, Vigor ran the same flea-flicker pass play again and ... with many of their first-string players still on the field ... it resulted in a 36-yard TD pass with just 32 seconds to play.

When I heard my friend and radio color analyst Corey LaBounty describe the action, I texted him and asked if ... possibly ... Oneonta's players had done something to disrespect Vigor. It's the only possible way I could figure they'd pull off such a cut-throat move.

Of course, being all the way up in the press box, Corey had no idea what (if anything) was said on the field. But his two-word return text said it all: Cold blooded.

The play so rankled Redskins coach Phil Phillips that he refused to stand next to Vigor coach John McKenzie at the trophy presentation.

So the question is this: Should Vigor have run it up on a team that was already thoroughly beaten?

Short answer: No way!

Nothing Vigor did in the last minute of that game fit into anything anybody who's ever played the game ... on any level ... was taught: Sportsmanship.

But this is where Vigor's intentions get interesting.

McKenzie, a tough-minded old school mentality coach, told me early in the season that they had two simple goals: Beat rival Blount and win the state championship.

Check and Check!

But his players added something extra that they wanted to accomplish right after they beat up on Jackson in the semifinals, and that was to score at least 51 points in the championship game to eclipse the mark set by that monster 2008 undefeated Wolfpack team that beat Russellville 50-30 for the 5A title at Legion Field.

Now, McKenzie could've easily used this as a teachable moment, and told his guys we don't need any more points. Or he could've went the route he did, giving in to the wish of putting up half-a-hundred by his guys, many of whom who've had to use football as an escape from so many other things ... some not so pleasant ... for much of their lives.

McKenzie also said he's sick and tired of predominantly black schools getting called out by mostly white media for running up the score when nothing seems to be said when the tables are reversed.

Hmmmm. Sounds like a story for another day.

When I started researching the story about inner city athletics vs. that at suburban and privately-funded schools, I asked former Blount football coach Lev Holly about his thoughts.

Being from Jackson, as well as having played and coached there, Holly is uniquely qualified to speak to it from both angles.

He said at the time: "We get these kids (at Blount) for five or six hours a day and I get them at practice for a couple of hours. But when they leave me, a lot of them go to jobs that they need to support their families. Sometimes they're the only breadwinners for their mamas and siblings."

That was a chilling, telling statement from Holly, and was echoed by former Williamson Coach Dedrick Sumpter, too.

"Sometimes, when we're practicing, you can hear gunshots," Sumpter once told me. Many times I just want my guys to make it back to practice the next day," he concluded, describing things he went through as Lions head coach down in the tough Maysville community of Mobile.

To be honest, most inner city schools don't have near the parental and financial support suburban and one-school towns do. There are no thousand-dollar video boards, or sponsorship signs dotting their fields.

I remember a few years ago taking a group of inner city kids to volunteer during the Special Olympics at UMS-Wright's sprawling campus off Old Shell Road. When one of them saw the facilities, he asked me: "Is this a recreation center, Mr. Patterson?"

Are you buying what I'm selling here, folks?

When you think about it, many times athletics has been the one vehicle a lot of inner city kids have to break free of their surroundings and start down a road that can eventually lead to a better life for them and their families.

Lest we forget, it was Vigor that had a front row seat in the game with Williamson at Ladd Stadium, Friday October 15th... a game that had to be finished the following Monday because of gunfire that broke out on the concourse with less than three minutes left to play.

During the season I kept thinking that if Vigor runs into a school with just a few of the same type athletes it had, and with a large enough coaching staff to give each one of those players the attention they deserve ... mainly a good kicking coach ... the Wolfpack would lose.

It happened on October 28th ... St. Paul's 24 - Vigor 20. Their only loss.

Now, I'm not making excuses for what Vigor did in the last seconds of the title game. I'm just pointing out the reality of life for so many inner city athletes across this country and the things they go through that shape their mentalities.

To echo Coach Sumpter's point about what some city kids have to cope with, there hasn't been a high school game played under the lights at night in Detroit, where I lived for two decades, in over 30 years. They're all played at 3:30, right after school.

This Vigor team wanted to be remembered for whom they are and the odds they overcame to do what they did. And they saw putting 50 on the board as a way to put an exclamation point on one hell of a trying season.

Cold blooded? Yeah, it was.

But there's also an old saying in football: If you don't want your opponent to celebrate, keep 'em out of the end zone.

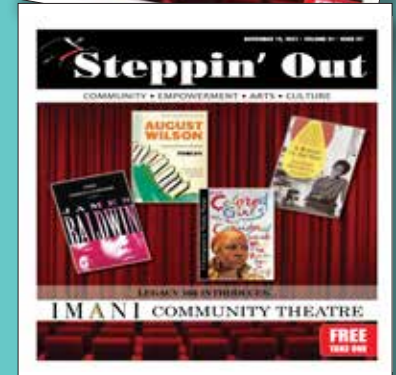
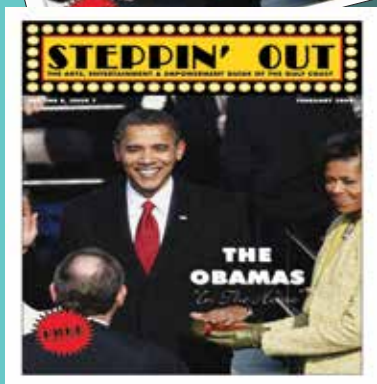
Enough said...♣



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TAKING MOBILE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

MEMPHIS VAUGHAN JR.

A native Mobilian and editor of literary website, TimBookTu.com
Feedback can be sent to: mempv57@gmail.com



Making Our Communities Better One Block at a Time

In past articles, I have encouraged you to get involved in your community by interacting with the political leadership and holding them accountable to fulfill their duties. By doing that, you are taking care of one aspect of building a better community. The other side of the coin is your own efforts to improve your community by getting more involved.

We all know that our governmental officials can't do it all by themselves. They need grassroots involvement to help make things better. This can range from keeping our neighborhoods clean by picking up trash, cleaning abandoned lots, working with volunteer and service organizations, and identifying needs and working to fulfill them.

Every neighborhood more than likely has a person that will go the extra mile to keep it as clean as they can. Several years ago, I wrote an article about my grandmother who lived on a street, Pearl Street, that was a few houses down from Martin Luther King Avenue (then known as Davis Avenue). She constantly picked up trash in front of and around her house that was dropped by people who had enjoyed themselves on the then bustling Avenue and dumped a lot of their refuse on her street. As a kid, I didn't quite understand why she was so vigilant in doing so but I soon understood that it was her way of trying to keep her neighborhood clean. There were other neighbors on her street that did the same but sometimes it seemed like a losing battle.

Today, we don't have as many of those people who will do that. I'm surprised at how many people will have nice cars and nice clothes but don't put as much effort into keeping their yard cut and maintained, let alone keeping the surrounding public areas clean. It seems that respect for ourselves, our surroundings, and for others has not been taught or not practiced as it should be. We must consider the village as a whole and do more for each other. Sometimes, when we give back to the community it will inspire others to do so. How can young people learn if they don't see others doing the right thing? We have all gotten desensitized to the problems and feel overwhelmed and hopeless in addressing them. But, we shouldn't give up yet.

Even the smallest effort can make a difference. I want to give a shout out to Mr. Jessie Johnson, who lives on Clinton Avenue near the McDonald's in Toulminville. He does the same thing my grandmother used to do. He's made a commitment to keeping the trash picked up along his stretch of Clinton Avenue despite the constant stream of people who still drop their trash on the street and in yards. He picks up trash, cuts the grass in front of unoccupied houses and does his best to keep his block looking neat. Now imagine if we all did the same thing. I'm sure that many of us do. So, let's try to encourage others and maybe we can make our community better one block at a time. ♣

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THINGS PARENTS SAY

INSTEAD TRY

"In my time we never..."

"It wasn't the best for me
but it doesn't have to be
hard for you."

"Just don't think too much..."

"What is making you feel
this way?"

"You worry too much."

"I understand why you
might find it hard..."

"It's not a big deal! You
have everything."

"How can I best
support you?"



MCHD Weekend "DRIVE THRU" Rabies Clinics



December 2021

The Mobile County Health Department provides low cost rabies shots for dogs, cats, and ferrets that are good for one year during weekend clinics. Here is the list of the rabies clinics planned during November in Mobile County:

- **DEC 04/SAT-10AM-NOON;** CITY OF MOBILE ANIMAL SHELTER, 855 Owens Street
- **DEC 10/FRI-10AM-NOON;** MOBILE COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER, 7665 Howell's Ferry Road
- **DEC 11/SAT-10AM-NOON;** PET SUPPLIES PLUS, 803 Hillcrest Road
- **DEC 18/SAT-10AM-NOON;** GLAMOUR PAWS GROOMING, 10005 Dauphin Island Pkwy (Theodore)

To adhere to social distancing recommendations, these events will be drive-through clinics. The cost of rabies vaccine per pet is \$12. All rabies shots are payable in cash. ♣

Tommy Green

Facebook Blogger & Former Editor for Mobile Beacon



Black Girls Missing

On November 30, 2021, Lurie Daniel Favors, Sirius XM reported, "A white missing girl is four times more likely to be found than a Black missing girl. There is a website named "Black Missing Foundation.com." The website post pictures and information about missing Black girls, which helps in finding a missing Black girl.

I Goggled and found three beautiful young ladies who I assume parents are looking for them. I will be posting information from time to time.

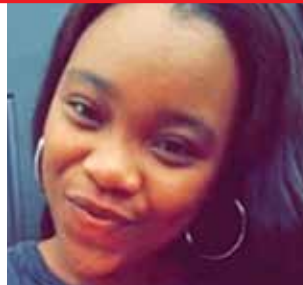


Relisha Rudd – Washington, DC

Relisha was just 8 years old when she disappeared from the D.C. homeless shelter where she lived with her family. She was last seen March 01, 2014 at a Northeast D.C. motel with Khalil Tatum, a janitor at the shelter. Police found Tatum's body on March 31, 2014 in a shed, dead of apparent suicide.

Keeshae Jacobs – Richmond, VA

On September 26, 2016, Keeshae, then 21 years old, visited a friend's house near Chimborazo Park on Church Hill. She wrote to her mother saying that she made it safely and that she would see her tomorrow.



Akia Eggleston – Baltimore, MD

Akia was last seen on May 03, 2017, in the Inner Harbor area of Baltimore City, MD. She was eight months pregnant when she disappeared and was reported missing on May 07, 2017, when she did not show up for her baby shower. Akia has not been seen or heard from since that time.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

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COVID-19 VACCINATION EVENT

VACCINE: Pfizer mRNA vaccine
Moderna mRNA vaccine
Johnson & Johnson single shot vaccine

LOCATION: Dauphin Island Town Hall
1011 Bienville Blvd | Dauphin Island, AL 36528

WHEN: December 13 | 9am - 12pm

Important: You must bring your CDC vaccination card for 2nd, 3rd or booster doses

We are not open on this date. For services, no appointments vaccine



COVID-19 VACCINATION EVENT

VACCINE: Pfizer mRNA vaccine
Moderna mRNA vaccine
Johnson & Johnson single shot vaccine

Sponsored by: The Alliance Medical Society Mobile County

LOCATION: First Baptist Church of Mobile
806 Government St, Mobile, AL 36602

WHEN: December 16 | 12pm - 2pm

Important: You must bring your CDC vaccination card for 2nd, 3rd or booster doses



Passings



Lee Elder-87 | GOLFER | First Black Golfer to play in the Masters



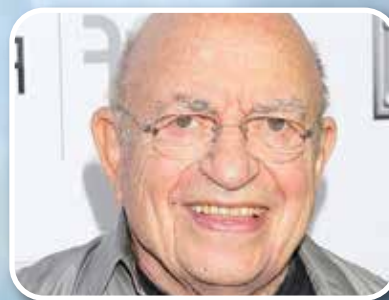
Virgil Abloh-41
ENTREPRENEUR/
FASHION DESIGNER
Louis Vuitton Menswear
Cancer



Yul Anderson-63
MUSICIAN



Lisa Brown-67
ACTRESS
As the World Turn, Guiding Light



Lou Cutell-91
ACTOR
Seinfeld
Pee Wee's Big Adventure
Honey I Shrank the Kids



Young Dolph-36
RAPPER
Murdered



LaMarr Hoyt-66
BASEBALL PLAYER
Chicago White Sox
San Diego Padres
Cancer



Sam Huff-87
NFL HALL OF FAMER
Washington Redskins
New York Giants



Marilyn McLeod-83
SINGER/SONG WRITER
Love Hanger
You Can't Turn Me Off



Charles Moose-68
POLICE CHIEF/AUTHOR
Montgomery County
Police Department/
Lead on DC Sniper Manhunt



Don Phillips-80
CASTING DIRECTOR/PRODUCER
Dog Day Afternoon
Fast Times at Ridgemont High



Stephen Sondheim-91
COMPOSER/LYRICIST
Westside Story
Sweeney Todd



Sylvia Weinstork-91
BAKER/CAKE DECORATOR

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We Are Better Than This

Allow me to stray from my normal focus in this article. My words are not meant to preach. But my heart is broken because we are better than this!

The first four reports on local news were about gun violence and African-Americans. Silence in the community has condoned this violence. The family members know who they are - they are your responsibility. Call me what you may, if I witness any violence, I am snitching because I am tired of the violence. Accountability and responsibility must not be neglected but enhanced.

Elders and young children are scared to go outside, to the parks, grocery stores, gas pumps. Recently, I was speaking with two elders, they said there used to be an unwritten rule in the Village: When Elders were present certain actions and words were ceased. Now even teens and pre-teens are cursing at them. We all know that the disruptive and felony actions are the minority of our community. But that minority is too loud.

I lived in South-Central Los Angeles when the gang body counts were exceeding 70 per month. We do not have a gang problem in Mobile, AL. We have hot heads, stupidity, who believe gun violence reinforces their reputation. Too many insecure, emotionally deficient people with guns.

The solutions need to start with more accountable families. But there is more to this: career development, economic development, life coaching, mentoring, recreation. My Uncle had a nonprofit in Watts that focused on academic retention and mentoring. The Gangs made his place a safe zone. They sent their siblings there to avoid their lifestyle. On occasion we visited the prisons, I witnessed too many tears, because they regretted rash decisions and gang loyalty. Nonprofits can offer programs and enhance life. But coaching, discipline, faith, hope, love - starts at home.

Yes, there is a focus on social injustice and sentencing disparities and deservingly so. But this #BlackonBlackCrime is within our communities, our homes. My MaDear (#RIH) said to focus on things within your control first. Then take care of the external. Churches, Families, Nonprofits, this is our Village. It is time to stop being silent!

As always... **Continued Success!**✦

NOTE: Nathaniel Patterson owned a marketing firm in Southern California for 24 years, was a corporate director for HMOs and Software companies and provided leadership on thirty Board of Directors.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 07, 2021

MOBILE CITY COUNCIL UPCOMING MEETINGS

MOBILE, AL – The Mobile City Council is looking for ways to help improve traffic conditions in the city. Additionally, the last council meeting of the year will be held at the History of Museum of Mobile. Please mark your calendar for the upcoming meetings.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Public Safety Committee @1:30 p.m.

The Council will receive an update from traffic engineering and Public Safety Director Lawrence Battiste regarding traffic calming devices policy and processes. This meeting will take place in the City Council conference room located on the 9th floor. Councilwoman Gina Gregory chairs the committee. Councilors Scott Jones and William Carroll, who both serve on the Public Safety Committee, will also be in attendance.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

Mobile City Council last weekly meeting of the year @10:30 a.m.

At least once a year, the Council meeting is held at the museum (the old City Hall) to carry on the tradition of having met in this location consistently since its opening in 1858. The City Hall on Royal Street is one of the oldest continuously used sites of city government existing in America. The pre-council meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Conference Room on the 9th Floor of the South Tower in Government Plaza.

The City Council will not meet the following Tuesday, December 28 and will resume regular meetings at 10:30 a.m. in the Government Plaza auditorium on January 04, 2022.

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RELENTLESS *(continued from Page 05)*

"It has a spiritual component," he said. "There are some Scriptures and verses for people to look up and understand God's promises and abundance. God does not want us to live in words of divorce, words of death, words of financial bondage. If you really have faith and if you believe in God's promise, you're able to manifest your inner thoughts."

Garrett said he wanted to make his book simple. "I wanted it to be a resourceful read, but I didn't want to make it overwhelming for people," he said. "I wanted it to be something everyone could feel comfortable with and get something out of it."

So far, Garrett said he has been getting a lot of good responses and feedback from the book, adding it took him a while to put his thoughts on paper and getting them into print. He said it was different from other self-help motivational books, but it was by design.

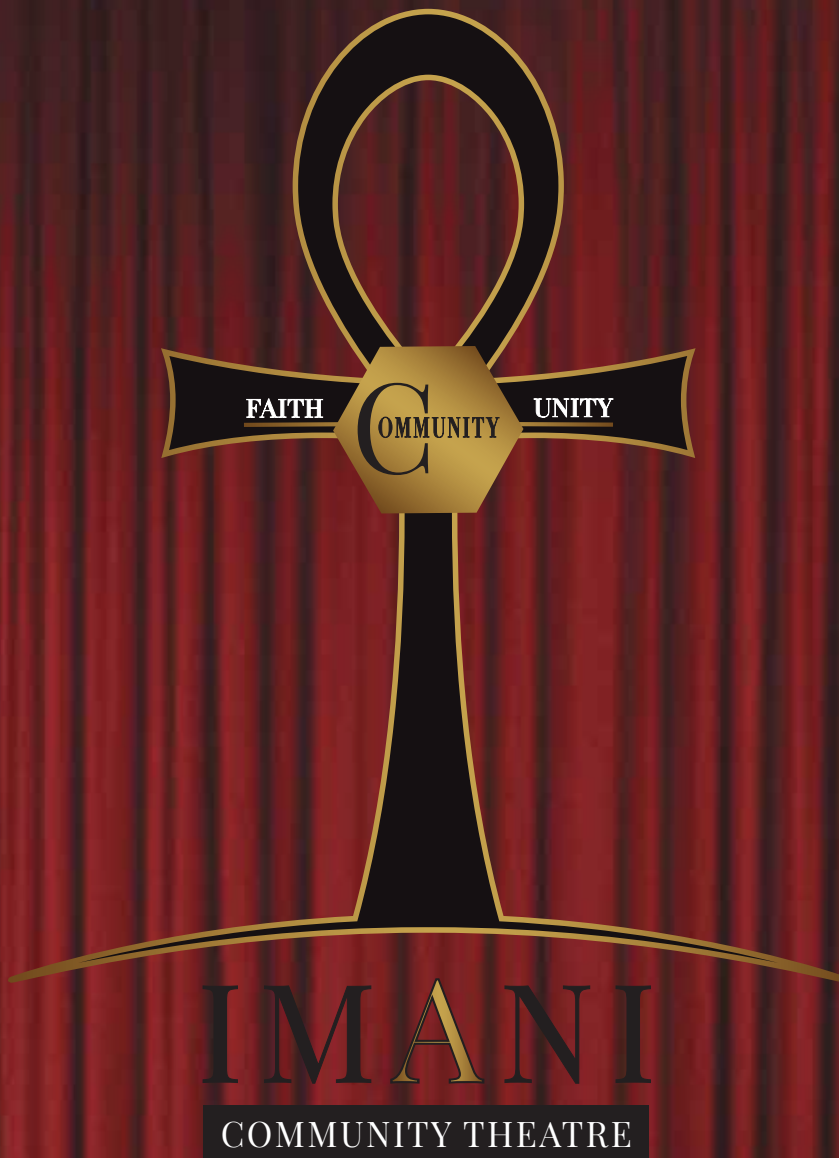
"The goal of the book is for you to protect and empower your inner thoughts and manifest those things, whether it's quietly or loudly," he said. "A lot of times, you just have to manifest the needs quietly, and when you verbalize those things, people don't seem to understand. It took me five years to write the book, and no one including myself six years ago, I didn't even say that I would write a book and have a published book. Sometimes, you just have to manifest it."

Garrett's book is available on Amazon and www.betherelentlessyou.com.♣

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