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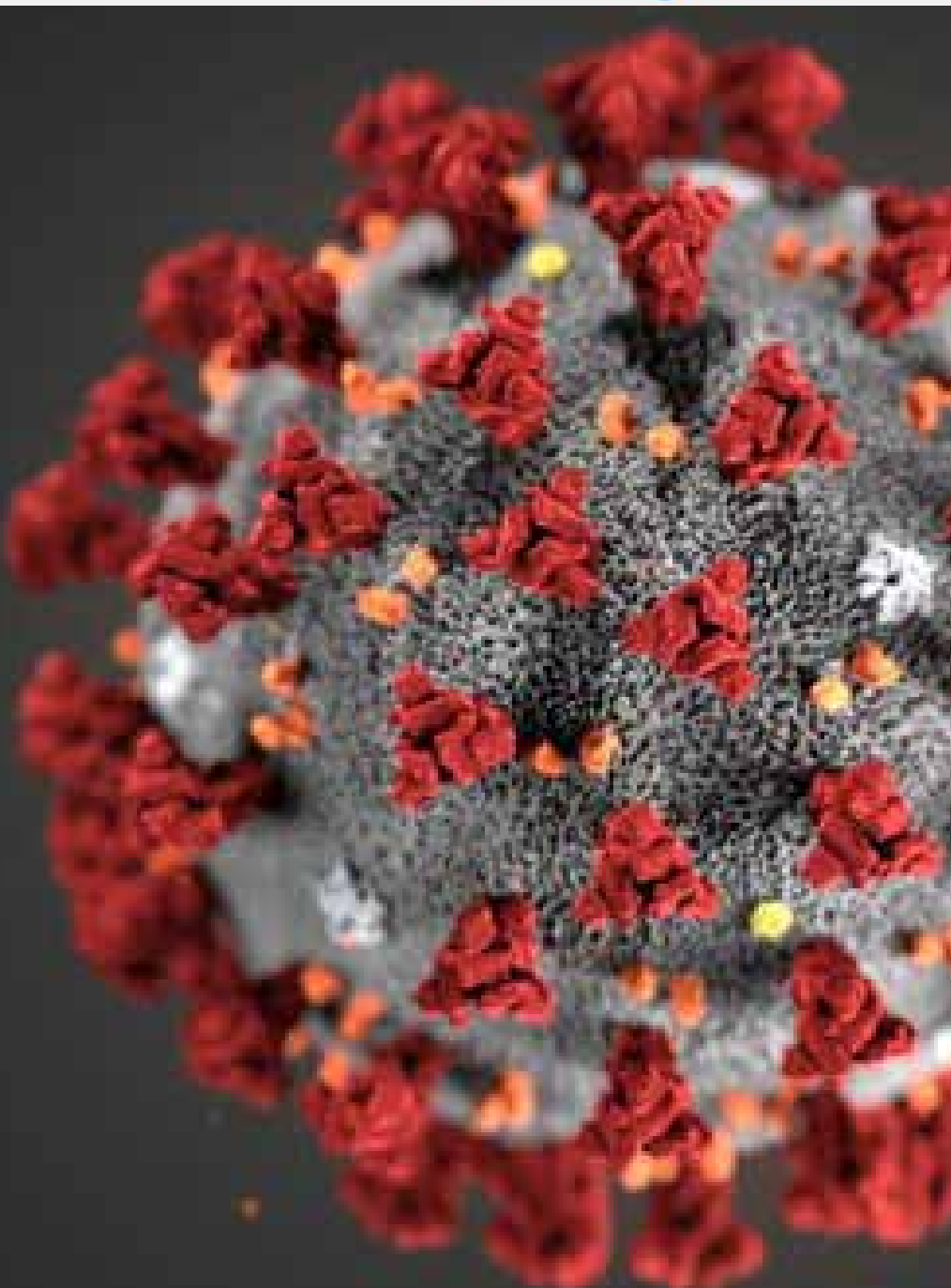


Steppin' Out

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Steppin' Out

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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 each month 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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REFLECTIONS

THE EMPTY CHAIR

A man's daughter had asked the local pastor to come and pray with her father. When the pastor arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows and an empty chair beside his bed. The pastor assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said.

"No, Who are you?" the old man asked.

"I'm the new pastor at your church," the pastor replied, "when I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the pastor closed the door.

"I've never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it always went right over my head."

"I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Joe, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here's what I suggest. Sit down on a chair, place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith, see Jesus in front of you. It's not spooky because he promised, 'I'll be with you always.' Then just speak to him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now."

"So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful, though. If my daughter caught me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The pastor was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the pastor that her father had died that afternoon.

"Did he seem to die in peace?" the pastor asked.

"Yes, when I left the house around 2 o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me one of his corny jokes, and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange, in fact, beyond strange, kinda weird. Apparently, just before daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on a chair beside the bed."

It is never too late to start a conversation with God. And who knows, in our last days, he just may be there with a lap for you to lean on. ✦

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LAUGHTER

I'm Glad You Can't Spell!!!

Betty Jean, who had passed away found herself standing outside the Pearly Gates, being greeted by St. Peter. She asked him, "Oh, is this place what I really think it is? It's so beautiful. Did I really make it to heaven?" To which St. Peter replied, "Yes, Betty Jean, these are the Gates to Heaven. But you must do one more thing before you can enter." Betty Jean was very excited, and asked of St. Peter what she must do to pass through the gates. "Spell a word," St. Peter replied. "What word?" she asked. "Any word," answered St. Peter. "It's your choice." Betty Jean promptly replied, "Then the word I will spell is love. L-o-v-e." St. Peter congratulated her on her good fortune to have made it to Heaven, and asked her if she would mind taking his place at the gates for a few minutes while he went to the bathroom. "I'd be honored," she said, "but what should I do if someone comes while you are gone?" St. Peter reassured her, and instructed Betty Jean to simply have any newcomers to the Pearly Gates to spell a word as she had done. So Betty Jean is left sitting in St. Peter's chair and watching the beautiful angels soaring around her when a man approaches the gates. She realizes it is her loser husband Bubba. "What happened?" she cried, "Why are you here?" Bubba stared at her for a moment, then said, "I was so drunk when I left your funeral, I was in an accident. And now I am here? Did I really make it to Heaven?" To which Betty Jean replied, "Not yet. You must spell a word first." "What word?" he asked. Betty Jean responded, "Czechoslovakia."!!! ☺

You Must Be Blind!!!

This police officer sees an old Ms. Willie Mae driving and knitting at the same time so after driving next to her for awhile he yells to her, "Now Ms. Willie Mae, you know better"! He points to her and yells, "Pullover"! She yells back at him, "No you idiot, a pair of socks"!!! ☺

Now That's Service!!!

One day, Leroy the cat dies of natural causes and goes to heaven, where he meets the Lord Himself. The Lord says to Leroy, "You lived a good life, and if there is any way I can make your stay in heaven more comfortable, please let me know." Leroy the cat thinks for a moment and says, "Lord, all my life I have lived with a poor family and had to sleep on a hard wooden floor." The Lord stops Leroy and says, "Say no more," and a wonderful, fluffy pillow appears. A few days later, six mice are killed in a tragic farming accident, and all of them go to heaven. Again, the Lord is there to greet them with the same offer. The mice answer, "All our lives we have been chased. We have had to run from cats, dogs, and even women with brooms. Running, running, running; we're tired of running. Do you think we could have roller skates so that we don't have to run anymore?" The Lord says, "Say no more" and fits each mouse with beautiful new pair of roller skates. A week later, the Lord stops by to see Leroy and finds him snoozing on the pillow. The Lord gently wakes the cat and asks him, "How are things since you got here?" Leroy stretches and yawns, then replies, "It is so wonderful here. Better than I could have ever expected. And those 'Meals On Wheels' you've been sending by are the best"!!!☺

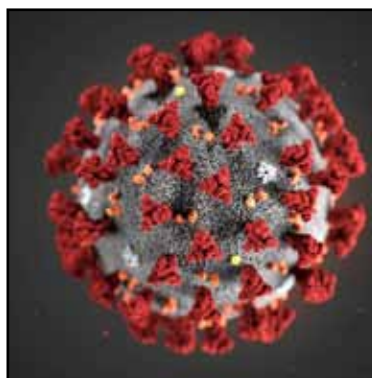
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THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

ARTHUR L. MACK

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After the Elections, Now What?



There is no doubt the Aug. 24 city of Mobile municipal elections had the most diverse field of candidates in recent memory.

Not only did three of the Mobile City Council races have a large number of candidates, there were candidates who had varying ideas, genders, as well as wide-ranging age groups.

Of the seven candidates running for the city council seat in District 1, at least four of them were under the age of 40. In the District 2 city council race, of the six candidates running, four of them had no previous political experience.

Three of the four challengers for Mayor (Fred Richardson, Karlos Finley, and Donavette Ely) were African-American. There were two African-American challengers for city council seats (Chamyne Fortune Thompson (District 1) and Wilecia Wright (District 5)).

In addition, there was an LGBTQ candidate (Kimberly McKeand, District 2) and a binary candidate (Tex Copeland, District 5). Not to mention people with business experience and a professed love for the city of Mobile.

As predicted, there will be runoff races for Districts 1, 2, and 6. There were some complaints of irregularities in some of the polling precincts in Districts 1 and 2, and at least one candidate is asking for a recount of votes.

That aside, there is one thing bothering me—the number 24. That, my friends, is the estimated percentage of registered voters who actually came out to vote. Of the 141,631 registered voters in the city of Mobile, only 34,254 cast ballots.

While it is not unusual for municipal elections to have a low percentage of registered voters turn out and vote, it has to make one wonder, especially with so many hot-button issues facing Mobile right now (infrastructure, annexation, crime, to name a few) if people REALLY care about what's going on in their city. It's not hard to see some of the races would not have even been close if the turnout had been much higher.

For example, District 2 incumbent Levon Manzie by far had the most votes in his race. Problem was, he did not have a clear majority, taking 47 percent of the vote. As a result, he will be in an October 5 runoff with William Carroll, who preceded Manzie on the City Council.

I say that to say this—many have made sacrifices to ensure people had the right to vote. There were some who gave their lives so we could have the right to cast ballots. Why there's so much apathy is beyond me, but even with the COVID crisis, the turnout could have, and should have, been much higher.

As a certified baby boomer, I'm well aware of the struggles made so I could have the right to vote. That's why when I turned 18 years of age, one of the first things I did—in fact, THE first thing I did—was register to vote. I wanted to make my voice heard, plus I owed it to those who made the sacrifices so I could have that right.

Now, with some states imposing voter suppression laws, it's even more important to use the right to vote. Those of you who are living in districts which have runoff races, be sure to study the candidates, especially their histories and platforms. It will be very important, because the choices you make—or fail to make—could affect you in the months and years ahead. ♣

LIFE HAPPENS

CYNTHIA POE

Loves communicating with people, lifting their spirits and learning about new places and things.
"Life is what it is, let's make the most of it."



I know sometimes life can be unbearable, with all that's going on in the country. With catastrophic tornadoes and hurricanes and calamities that's happening all around us. I know it may feel like more than we can handle. Just remember you are never alone. Have you ever thought about someone else maybe going thru something worst.

Just remember to take a deep breath, because there is always help and hope out there to help you get thru this critical time. Here are a few outlets to help you, the Red Cross, your local churches. Just don't be proud to ask for help. ♣

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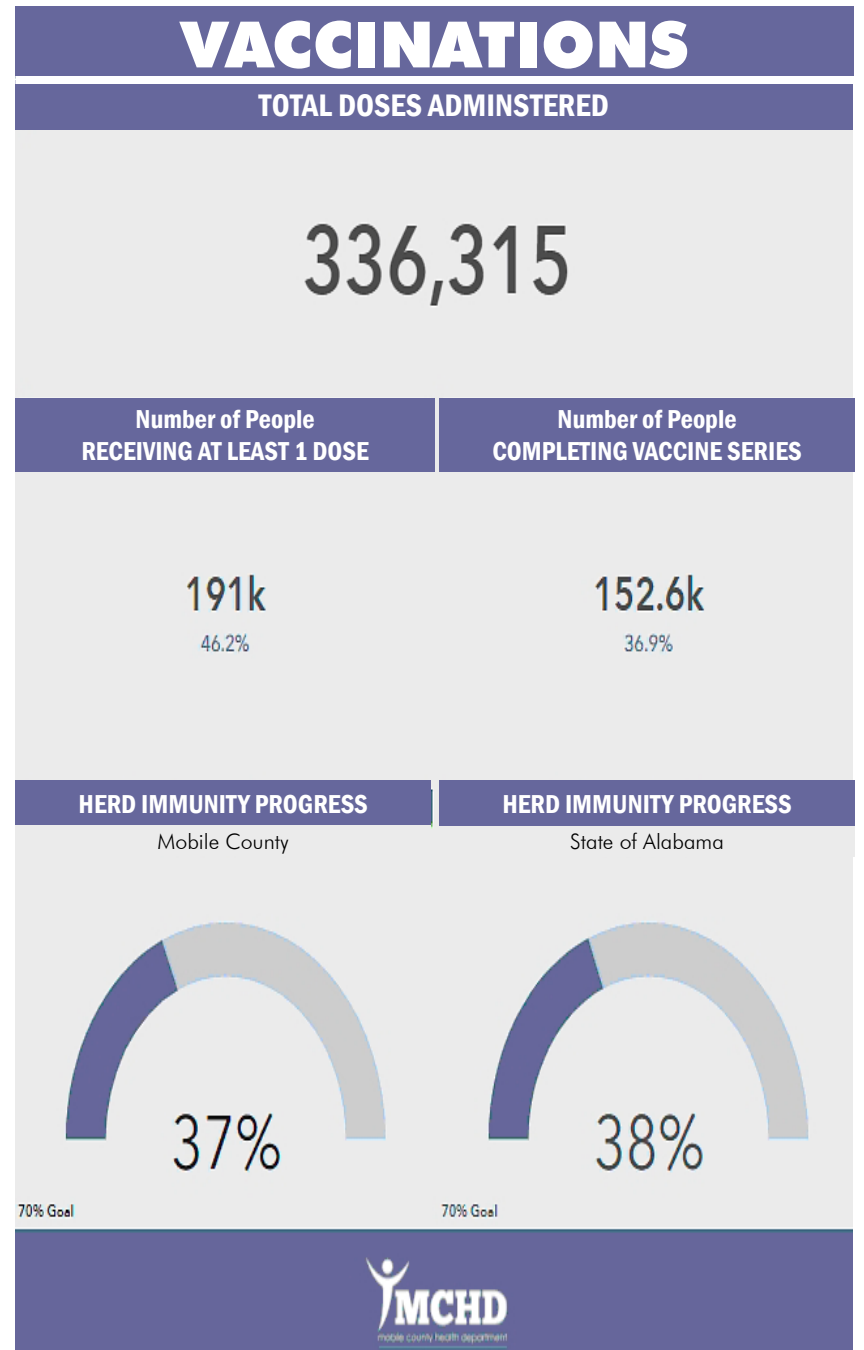
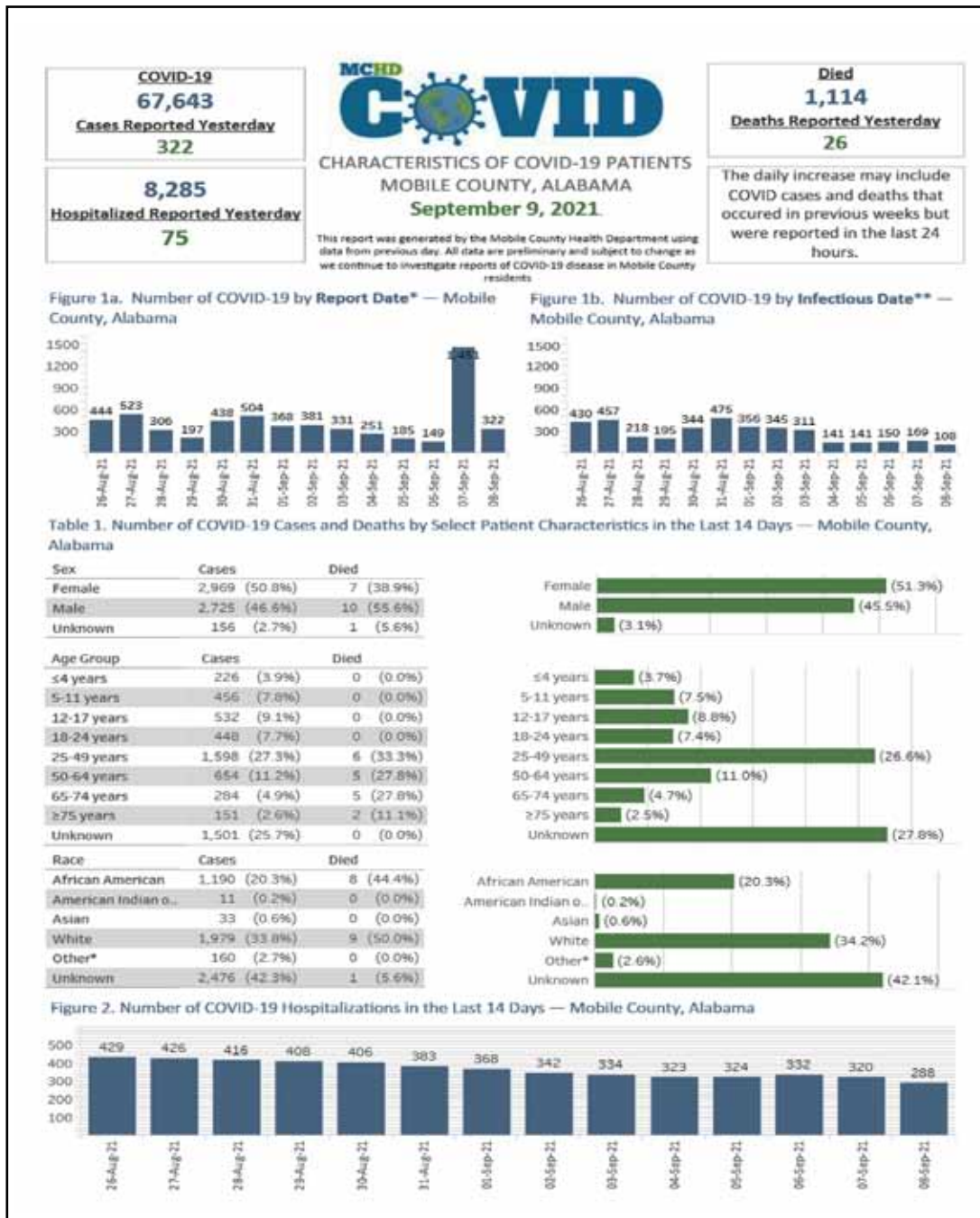
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MEMPHIS VAUGHAN JR.

A native Mobilian and editor of literary website, TimBookTu.com
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Can Small Town Charm Go Hand in Hand with Progress

Cities the size of Mobile all typically face the same dilemma. They offer the charm, relaxed pace and quietness that many people who live here enjoy and other that visit here may like. Cities like Mobile have less of the congestion, crime, and higher costs of living that make residing in a big city a drag. However, the bigger cities offer things that draw people to them: better jobs, more things to do, more progressive people, and excitement. Sometimes the intersection of the positives of smaller cities and the lure big city life can exist. My question to you is can Mobile achieve that intersection? Can the small-town benefits coexist with progressive ideas and amenities?

Until the Mobile metro area reaches a population that can support certain things such as a professional sports team; choice stores, hotels and restaurants; more leisure venues; and other facilities, we shouldn't expect these things to come to our city. We need a larger population base than we have to sustain some of these things.

However, we can continue to attract businesses, restaurants, leisure venues and other things that make the quality of living in Mobile even better. The city needs the things that will give our young people reasons to stay here and add to the fabric of the city. We shouldn't let all our talent end up in Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Nashville, and other places in this country especially if the city steps up their game to make the city more attractive.

Often what is lacking is the sense of being a progressive city that stays at the forefront of innovative and positive ideas that make the city vibrant and an effective place to live. The city must work hard to maintain the pace and not take forever to upgrade facilities, address long-standing problems, and bring new businesses and attractions to town. New technologies, best management practices, and other state-of-the-art facilities should arrive to our city before they are already outdated. Leadership should be focused on embracing those ideas.

One of my pet peeves, and I'm sure it's one held by many, is the lack of synchronized traffic signals on most of the major thoroughfares. How many times have you waited at a light that seems to take forever to cycle back through to a green signal, then you go a few blocks and get caught at the next light? This is the scenario on Airport Boulevard, Dauphin Street, Springhill Avenue, Schillinger Road, and other major thoroughfares.

The lack of leisure activities for our young people is another area that needs addressing. A water park or similar amenity would be a start.

While we complain to each other about things such as this, do we notify our elected officials to let them know that these problems need to be addressed and resolved? For many, they don't ever contact their leadership to make them aware of their concerns. While Mobile has gained a lot of things in the last few years that help to make it a better place, we must step up our game and be more focused on improving the quality of life. We can't rest on our laurels because other cities are not looking back. Let's take our positive attributes and the talent we have in the city and aggressively pursue the right things to make Mobile a more vibrant and desirable community.♣

What's Plaguing You?

-by AISHA DAVIS-WILLIAMS-

As I look around me all I see is the devastation of a community left behind! How could/can this be? A city with rich heritage, a colonial imprint mixed into the fabric of a slavery import; A town that black folk once boast about. Proud of what seemed to be fair conditions, to the point that they would not disturb any mere sense of peace with the invitation of a civil rights movement. Black Mobile, how dare you turn MLK around!

Was this a mistake? And has this mistake caused our communities to suffer? Economic inequality, substandard schools, lack of community resources, leading neighborhoods to be riddled with crime. Did we evolve so much into inclusion that we forgot about the importance of unity!

Let us not forget "We have each other!" Our pain now is centered in the heart of our communities. Let us take a hard look at our struggling areas of AfricaTown, the Bottom, the Camp Ground, and our once beloved economic engine, MLK area! We must wake up! I am plagued, how about you?♣



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Stimpson's Tone-Deaf "People First Plan" Misspending Biden's American Rescue Plan Funds for Covid-Impacted Communities

-by OCTAVIA WILLIAMS-

- President Biden's funds are intended to address inequities made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020
- Mayor Sandy Stimpson ARP proposal gives \$11 million to ALL city employees whose jobs were not directly impacted by the pandemic
- It includes \$8 million to renovate the Gayfers building in downtown, not in an under-served community

The Biden Administration's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan sent \$350 billion to states, counties and cities to combat the negative economic impacts of the global pandemic on suffering Americans, especially those who were already struggling on the bottom rungs of the economic ladder.

But you couldn't tell that by the way Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson planned to use the city's \$58 million allocation, of which it has already received half, \$29.1 million. Stimpson wants the City Council to approve his plan that would give all city workers \$5,000 each (and \$2,500 for each part-time worker), at a total cost of \$11.2 million, more than a third of the first half of the money. That's a nice incentive from a mayor seeking a third-term in the upcoming election. But none of these employees missed a paycheck due to covid-19. The funds are meant for first-line responders, not as a vote-for-me bribe among non-essential employees.

The U.S. Treasury regulations for spending ARP funds clearly outlines ways to help communities recover from covid-19 in ways that lessen negative public health emergency and economic impacts of the pandemic, that offer premium pay to essential health and frontline workers, that offset government revenue losses, and that invest in water, sewer and broadband (high-speed internet).

Some uses could include rental assistance to those who lost jobs or loved ones who were breadwinners and now can't pay their rent or mortgages. It would pay for systems that make high-speed internet affordable and available for remote learning or work. ARP spending could also include more resources for families with children to curtail the economic hardship due to the pandemic that could have long-term impacts on youths' health, educational, and economic outcomes.

So, how does giving \$8 million of the ARP funds, our taxpayer dollars, to a downtown building project-owned by a nonprofit that pays its executive director and secretary six-figure salaries -- address such issues?

Let's be clear. People elected President Joe Biden to address the concerns of ordinary citizens who feel their grip on the American Dream slipping away in favor of tax breaks to big businesses and the billionaire class. Conditions are worse for the lower rungs of society, especially black and brown people forced into poverty through generations of unfair practices and economic apartheid because of racism. Biden's Day One executive order and his ARP are SPECIFICALLY designed to address these conditions. In last year's presidential election, 60% of the City of Mobile's citizens voted for Joe Biden (while 64% voted for Sen. Doug Jones). In effect, plantation politics are officially over in the city; its citizens want equity, fairness and progress.

Clearly, Stimpson did NOT consult these citizens when he planned his People First proposals. Otherwise, there would be even more money for affordable housing (in under-served neighborhoods that desperately need it, NOT downtown), for mental health services and youth intervention to combat crime among teens (a measly \$100,000 for community-based violence prevention programs, really man?!?!), and WAY more money for tourism, since state tourism officials believe Africatown and Black cultural heritage can become Alabama's biggest drawing card, potentially generating billions of dollars for our local economy (more on that later). Also, do citizens using the old Woodcock School as a community center REALLY want it turned into housing, according to the Stimpson plan?

If the forward-thinking citizens of Mobile really want to make their voices heard, they should pay VERY close attention to Mayor Stimpson's ARP proposals and how the city council votes on them. And based on those decisions alone, the citizens who elected Joe Biden in Nov. 2020 should elect the best mayor and council members in August 2021 who will fairly and equitably use the \$58 million that our president sent to help us.♣

Common Knowledge

Financial Topics: Budgeting Tips

-by SIDNEY KING-



Sidney King

One of the most common financial topics that most people want to ignore is the concept of budgeting. While it is commonly known that prior planning prevents poor performance, it is also common to rationalize excuses why budgeting is not possible.

Set a goal to achieve a 50/30/20 budgeting system where 50% of your after tax (and tithe) income goes

to your needs (housing, transportation, insurance), 30% goes to your wants/rewards (shopping, travel, eating out) and 20% goes toward savings and debt payments. This may not be possible today because of outstanding debt but remember this is a goal that you are challenged to achieve. Through faith and discipline, ALL things are possible for those who believe in themselves and are willing to do the work.

Start out by writing down your monthly income and expenditures to set a baseline for your current situation. This is where most people will give up and declare it is not possible for them to succeed. A wise man once told me that there are two kind of people in this world, those who think they can and those who think they can't. Both are exactly right! You are never a failure until you quit, stop trying or blame someone else.

Now that you have an idea of your baseline and a mustard seed of hope that you can succeed, you are ready to take control of your financial future. In the beginning you will likely see less of your "wants" and more of your money going toward debt and savings. It is important to reward yourself as you achieve milestones along the way. For example, a person who wants to lose 50 pounds will likely give up along the way if they keep their eye on the 50-pound goal. However, if they set 5 or 10-pound goals along the way, chances for success become more believable and achievable. ♣

NOTE: Sidney King is the President and CEO of Commonwealth National Bank and a CPA with over 40 years of banking experience



Rev. Florence M McElroy

Featured Article:
LIFE LESSONS



*And do not forget to do good and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*
-Hebrews 13:16-

ANSWER THE CALL

We feel as if no one cares or people soon forget about us. As I age, I am discovering that neither is always true. It is not that people do not care; life happens quickly. Phone calls get missed. People cross our minds and before we can make contact: a car accident, a loss child, a forgotten bill, a disgruntled employee, an unexpected life moment happens.

Just this week people endured hurricanes, tornadoes, power outages, deaths, loss of job and loss of life. Maybe someone forgot to call back or check in. Before going to the negative of "they don't care," decide this week to pick up the phone, stop by, give, or help. The same amount of energy you are waiting on others to expend; decide to go first. Answer the call. Spend more time being positive and progressive, it will give people the opportunity to experience love and grace. The more you pour out the more you will need to refill.

In this time of uncertainty, we need more just because love. Light and darkness cannot coexist. Be the light; it will make your darkest moments disappear. Love is not measured by how often you do not receive or make a call but by how often you answer the call. We need each other, extend your hand first and allow others to grab hold and soon you will have a circle of support and love.

THE LESSON:

It is not always about you. Life is unpredictable, do for others what you are expecting others to do for you. ♣



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- ✓ **Tell others why** you are getting vaccinated and encourage them to get vaccinated.
- ✓ **Learn how to have conversations** about COVID-19 vaccine with coworkers, family, and friends.



12/09/20

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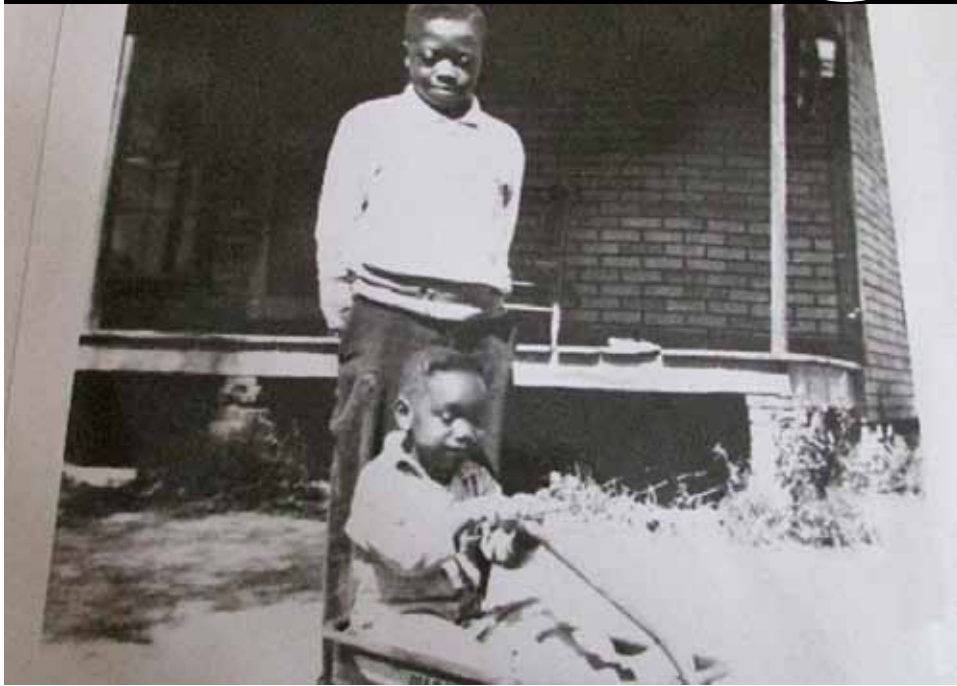
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Tommy Green

Facebook Blogger & Former Editor, Mobile Beacon



Tommy Green & Johnny Scott

Johnny Scott, my baby brother is sitting in the wagon, and I was in front of our home on a farm. My parents (Johnny & Mary Scott) were sharecroppers/tenant farmers) who worked for pittance wages. During the spring, we chopped cotton for \$2 per-day for 10 hours from five to six days a week, and during the fall, we picked cotton from \$2 to \$3 per hundred pounds.

My mother told me something when I was a very young boy. She called me Son, and she said, "Son you can't play with white people because they are like dogs. If you play with dogs, they will try to kiss you on your face." She meant that I shouldn't get comfortable around them because you can't trust white people. I have remembered those words all of my living days.

I attended J.S. Phelix High School in Marion, Arkansas from first grade through twelfth grade and graduated in 1958. It was a segregated school, and Black children were denied most of the supplies and amenities that white school had. When white students graduated, they were able to work for the Engineering department because they had received entry level instruction in Engineering. In 1957 & 1958, I worked as a laborer in construction during the summer on the Mississippi River, placing boards together to make a floor to slow down the speed of the current along the banks to reduce the chance of erosions. I told the supervisor my name in 1958 and told him that I had worked for him in 1957. He said, "Shorty, I have had a lot of boys working for me." I still remember his statement, and I haven't asked another white man whether or not he knew or remembered me.

This was the climate during segregation when Black people had to walk as though they were stepping on eggshells to protect themselves. Uscourts.gov stated, "On May 17, 1954, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren delivered the unanimous ruling in the landmark civil rights case Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. State-sanctioned segregation of public schools was a violation of the 14th amendment and was therefore unconstitutional. Although, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its historic ruling in the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, on May 17, 1954, the superintendent of Schools submitted a plan of gradual integration."

Zinn Education Projects stated, "On Sept. 12, 1958, Gov. Orval Faubus closed all Little Rock, Arkansas public high schools for one year rather than allow integration to continue, leaving 3,665 Black and white students without access to public education. During this year, ninety-three percent of white students and fifty percent of the Black students gained access to some form of alternative schooling."❖

BLACK LIVES MATTER

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Leo Alexander

Born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Copenhagen, Denmark and Mobile, AL. An award winning TV-News reporter and TV commercial producer in Mobile, New Orleans, Louisiana and Washington, DC.



Tanene Jackson

Featured Article:
TRANSITIONING BASICS



The New Cinderella & her Black Gay Fairy Godmother



We all know the story of Cinderella. She befriends a Fairy Godmother who dresses her up and sends her to the Prince's Ball in a chariot, but she must be home before mid-night because her chariot will turn into a pumpkin.

Now Hollywood decided to give the story a new spin by casting the Fairy Godmother as a Black transsexual female, which is a Black man who identifies as a woman. I'm all for a fresh look, but why a Black transsexual female? Why not a white transsexual female since the original Fairy Godmother was white? Plus there has to be more white transsexuals than Black since we're only 14% of the US population.

I have a problem with this because every other character was allowed to be the same as in the original story except Cinderella who is now Latina and the Fairy Godmother who is now a Black transsexual female. So the prince is a white man, but the Fairy Godmother has to be a Black transsexual female. Why wasn't the prince depicted as a heterosexual Black man if they wanted more diversity in the cast?

I'll tell you why ...in Hollywood's eyes the lead male character must be a heterosexual white man because that's the image they want to send around the world to every young girl who dreams of being Cinderella and someday marrying a prince. The fact that Cinderella is Latina is ok as long as she isn't too ethnic looking aka Black.

These are the games that Hollywood plays with the images of people of color especially Black folks ...don't think for one minute that there isn't a subliminal message being sent by making the Fairy Godmother a Black transsexual female. Because there is and that's why the Fairy Godmother should've been a white trans female. ♣

Far to many times, we as people take for granted the environment in which we thrive. We neglect our sources of life and energy, polluting the air and water, two essentials vital to life as we know it.

Unfortunately, we treat our hair, our bodies the same way. Being connected to Mother Gaia brings awareness to self and the environment.

Think about this. What do you do if food provided no nutritional value, water was a privilege, and a chance to breathe clean air was far and few between? What would you do?

The body needs all these things to function, yet people still create trash, poison water, and pollute the air. Everything seems from something. In return, Mother Gaia has gifted us with sickness and stress. Be kind to her and she will be kind to you.

At least once a day, take a moment to appreciate the air, water, and food by releasing gratitude, and good intentions. Just say Thank you. ♣



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Spring Hill College Provides Refuge to Students from Loyola University New Orleans in Aftermath of Hurricane Ida

Spring Hill College will welcome approximately 150 students from Loyola University New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. The students began arriving on campus Tuesday, August 31, with more expected this week. They are accompanied by members of their Student Affairs and Residential Life Staff.

Like most of New Orleans, the University completely lost power as a result of Hurricane Ida, and students are being relocated to places with electricity and other essential services. When students couldn't make it home, Tania Tetlow, JD, President of Loyola University New Orleans, and E. Joseph Lee, PhD President of Spring Hill College, began making plans for these students to come to Spring Hill.

Tetlow said, "We are so grateful to Spring Hill for helping us in our time of need. Their generosity has brought comfort and caring to our students. We cannot thank President Lee and his team enough for their quick planning and enormous kindness."

"It's an honor to assist the students, faculty, and staff from our sister Jesuit school," Lee said. This is part of our tradition of service. But most importantly, it's following Christ's example of helping those in need. We welcome them to the campus and to the city of Mobile."

Loyola is a sister Jesuit school to Spring Hill. Both are members of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU). In 2005, Spring Hill College housed Loyola students in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "We have a legacy of caring for others -- it's in our DNA -- from our faith life to our campus life here at Spring Hill," said Lee.

Founded in 1830, Spring Hill College is the oldest Catholic College in the Southeast and the third-oldest Jesuit college in the United States. Spring Hill combines the Jesuit tradition of excellence in education and a commitment to caring for the whole person -- mind, body, and spirit -- with innovative educational experiences. Located in Mobile, AL., Spring Hill's mission is to form leaders engaged in learning, faith, justice, and service for life. As a result, Spring Hill students are engaged, inspired, and transformed by their experiences.

-SHC-

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Exploreum Science Center Named **ATTRACTION OF THE YEAR** by Alabama Tourism Department



The Exploreum Science Center is proud to announce that it has received the Alabama Tourism Department Attraction of the Year Award for 2021. We are beyond thrilled to receive such a prestigious award, being among so many other amazing institutions in the state of Alabama.

Located in the heart of historic Downtown Mobile, the Exploreum has been a mainstay since moving to the area in 1998, previously having been located on Springhill Avenue. For almost 40 years, the Exploreum has provided world class exhibits, films, and events for people in the Gulf Coast Region, everything from dinosaurs to mummies to NASA artifacts, and has hosted artists and scientists from all over the world.

Receiving the Attraction of the Year Award in 2021 makes the Exploreum one of only two organizations to win it twice; the first time being in 2008 for the renowned Pompeii

exhibit. Past award recipients have included the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park, and the McWane Science Center, among others. It is an honor to be recognized among such highly-regarded organizations.

The past two years have been especially challenging for all of us, particularly those in the tourism industry. To not only have survived, but thrived, during these times speaks to the spirit of the Exploreum, its leadership, and its team. We are most appreciative to the Alabama Tourism Department, the City of Mobile, our visitors, donors, board of trustees and staff.

Now more than ever, as things begin to return to some sense of normalcy, we are looking forward to the future and continuing to make the excitement of scientific discovery accessible to the entire Gulf Coast Region. Thank you again for your support. ❖



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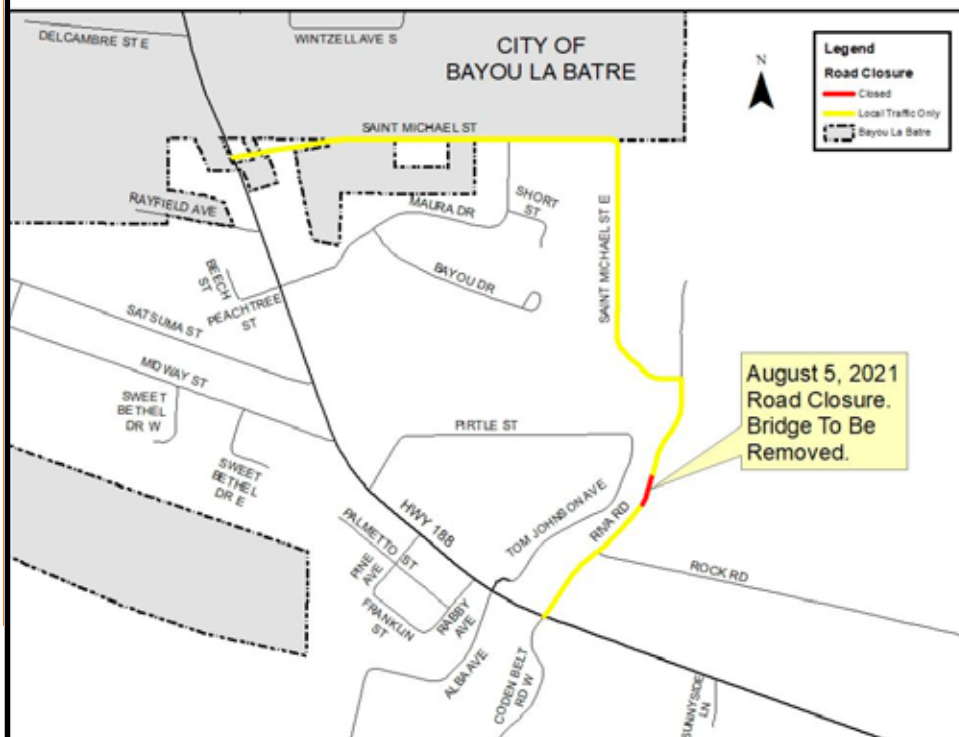
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THIS IS NOT YOUR PARENTS ECONOMY

Over the years I encountered parents and students who were perplexed, under-employed and unemployed because they did not understand the state of today's job market. I developed a workshop/seminar, "This Is Not Your Parents Economy" ©2017 which has been well received with college graduates and career professionals seeking advancement. Allow me to share a few thoughts.

So often the decision to identify a career is made on a like, a TV Show, by a family member and at times, a passion. Rarely is it a result of researching future potential, earning, hiring. Start with the Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook.

Success is not about brilliance. Yet relationships, resilience and resources. If success was about brilliance, the smartest would rule. Yet those who master the art of building positive relationships rule. Resilience becomes a factor during implementation. Rarely does a plan succeed without options.

MENTORSHIP

The cliché is 150% correct – No one is an island. You need people. It is not a crime to ask for assistance and guidance. The shame is not asking.

Many Are Good at Socializing (meeting people) but Poor at Advancing the Relationship (networking). Do not mistake socializing with networking. The art of networking is about advancing relationships by helping others and creating eyes and ears for opportunities.

KNOW THE PROFILE

Every position has a persona. Think about the desired behavior and outcome they envision for the position. Adapt your interview and testing skills for this persona.

LINKEDIN IS VITAL

You will need an active LinkedIn profile noting your achievements, education, volunteer positions, technology utilized. This profile should match your resume. Tell a story by sharing your journey and be active in relevant groups.

KNOW YOUR VALUE

My three best positions were acquired by direct mail. I do not target positions but outcomes. I identified leadership, told them over coffee, how my expertise could solve their problems. Two companies made up a title for me. The other remembered me after firing a high-profile recruit. Studies have shown that 60% to 70% of jobs and contracts never make it to public notices (databases). Be innovative.

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. ♣

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