

Steppin' ut *News!*

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

VOLUME 25
ISSUE 08

ARTS • CULTURE • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY

JULY
2025



**Running for
"COMMUNITY FIRST"**

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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 volunteer your services... PLEASE CONTACT US...

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**TAKING MOBILE
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

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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...

Kedu (How Are You?)
Steppin' Out Readers;

May Our Lord and Savior continue to Bless You as we continue to navigate this thing called Life.



I'd first like to thank you for your continued support over the course of these last 25 years. It's truly been a struggle, but your kind words and encouragement has allowed us to fight to make sure we can continue to bring you positive information about YOUR community. Never allow main stream media to make you feel as if the only news worthy stories that happen in your neighborhood are stories of violence, deception, and blight. Many neighborhood warriors through their churches, organizations, and individual efforts are doing positive things. Your schools their young minds so they can become quality contributors to our communities. Reach out to us and let us know what accomplishments are being achieved so we can report on them. We pledge to only report those stories that are truthful and accurate and not to promote those that would push false narratives within our community and culture.

I'd also like to thank Lifelines Counseling Services for allowing us to showcase the services that they provide to the community. Their counseling services are extensive and they have many resources that can help individuals and families to deal with difficulties that present themselves in day to day living. Although we've provided an outline of what they offer, space did not allow us to provide more details about their offerings. We encourage you to visit their website... www.lifelinesmobile.org or to call their offices at 251-602-0909.

Thanks also has to be given to Carlotta Davis, Stephani Norwood, and Jermaine Burrell. They are the first candidates for political office to reach out to you, our readers, through ad placement in Steppin' Out. That's an acknowledgement to you that they recognize the importance of you as an educated and informed voter and your importance in the offices they seek. Look to our next issue as these candidates have pledged to put in writing their pledges to you if elected. We'd also like to inform you that other candidates are coming on board in our July issue to do the same.

In our next issue, we will also be announcing the expansion of our media services and the addition of new locations as your continued support allows us to grow. Please tell your family and friends about us and call us about events and accomplishments in your neighborhoods.

Hambani Kahle (Farewell) and Thank You for Your Support and Continue to be Blessed!

GREG CYPRIAN
Publisher/Editor
STEPPIN' OUT NEWS



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The NEXT ISSUE of
Steppin' Out News
Will Drop...

AUGUST 2025





Taking Mobile to the Next Level Memphis Vaughan Jr.

EDITOR OF LITERARY WEBSITE... TimBookTu.com
Feedback can be sent to: mempv57@gmail.com

—Mobile— The City of Perpetual Potential

That's the unfortunate nickname that Mobile has been given. In my monthly columns, I generally try to recognize and highlight the things in Mobile that are positive and moving in the right direction. Over the years, I have discussed and recommended ways to make the city better and to shake off that dubious nickname. Yet, I find myself wrestling with the need to be more critical regarding the sluggish progress and lack of action in many areas by the leadership in the city and state. It often feels like we are better at taking one step forward and two steps backward. But, that doesn't have to be.

Here is a summary of some of the positives and negatives
(in no particular order):

POSITIVES

- The growth of housing in the downtown and inner core neighborhoods of the city.
- More restaurants and businesses in the downtown area.
- Focus on development in the Africatown neighborhood to recognize the Clotilda and its descendants
- Plans to revitalize the Martin Luther King Avenue corridor and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Reestablishment of the Amtrak service from Mobile to New Orleans.
- The Hall of Fame statues recognizing our native sons that were elected to the Baseball and Football Halls of Fame.
- A cruise ship returning with a potential for year-round service.
- A new civic center and future development in that area.
- Future plans for a Riverwalk development.

NEGATIVES

- Slow progress on infrastructure projects in Mobile such as the I-10 Bridge, McGregor Avenue, Three Mile Creek Trail, the widening of the US 98 parallel route from Semmes to the Mississippi line.
- A lack of tangible efforts to effectively combat crime such as new programs, increased law enforcement presence, or community-based initiatives.
- Limited initiatives aimed at enhancing student achievement, supporting teachers, and providing the resources necessary for better learning outcomes in the public school system
- Alabama suffers from a negative image due to poor state leadership and their concentration on irrelevant matters. This impacts growth in the state and makes it more challenging to attract diverse businesses, which are crucial for retaining and attracting a younger demographic.
- Slow movement on developing things for young people to do in the city.
- The viability of cruise ships remains uncertain due to limited ability to secure long-term contracts.
- Inadequate public transportation systems in the metro area.
- Planned Riverwalk development is underwhelming and only encompasses a small footprint.

To help the city shed its nickname, these projects should be implemented much more quickly, more robustly, and be sustainable. This will only happen with proactive leadership and a community that willingly supports these goals.♣



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Arthur L. Mack

FREELANCE WRITER

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For Carletta Davis, Running for Mayor of Prichard is AN ATTEMPT TO TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

"The fact is, what I have seen over the past sixteen years, and really my life, is that there is a window of hope for a candidacy, only for to be let down time and time again," she said. "I just decided that someone needed to run who understood policy, how policy affects the community, and there had to be someone with a connection to network that can bring resources to Prichard." Davis's hopes for the city are simple.

"My hope is that we turn to a direction that is prosperous and puts the community in a better status than what it is currently," she said. "My platform is community first — I just believe we've got to set a new foundation that has fertile ground for seeds for growth and change. I believe that we have to look at the assets our city has, and we need to grow from the inside out instead of expecting to grow from the outside in."

Davis, who graduated from Vigor in 1992, went to Faulkner State (now Coastal) Community College and Bishop State. After graduating from Bishop State, she transferred to Dillard University, and stayed there until her parents and grandmother became ill. Eventually, she graduated from Spring Hill College, majoring in Organizational Management with an emphasis on Communications. She lived for a time in Birmingham, where she was in the banking industry for six years. She was a community lender for Synovus Bank, and also worked for Wachovia Bank.

"Synovus Bank was the first bank I worked with," she said. "It was a learning curve for me because I actually was the only African-American female on the banking side at Synovus. I didn't work in the retail stores; I worked as a banker. I was then recruited by Wachovia Bank to be a community lender in Birmingham. Through that experience, with me being the community lender, I ended up engaging with Mayor Larry Langford, who was the mayor at that time, to do some community development work and being a partner with the city through Wachovia."

Davis returned to Prichard in 2009, and found the city was still stuck, for lack of a better word, in a rut. She said the experience she had while working in Birmingham would be of great use to Prichard, especially when it came to economic development.

"To be honest with you, it had not changed, which was somewhat disappointing," she said. "But I felt that what I learned in Birmingham meant that I had an opportunity to bring back things I learned back to my hometown. Being a community lender for Wachovia, I actually wrote a credit course for the home ownership program, what we now call Housing Choice vouchers (the Section 8 home ownership program). Prichard was not doing Section 8 home ownership at the time, so I felt that I could bring that program back to create more homeowners in the city of Prichard by utilizing Section 8 vouchers. I also headed up and sat on a loft district board headed by Mayor Langford, and I felt that I could bring that information back to Prichard as well."

Davis said she also started an innovation portal in Birmingham, and hoped to get it set up in Prichard as well. *"The lenders would be small black-owned businesses, and I had that knowledge as well," she said. "There were several different initiatives that I hoped to bring back to the city. It just didn't work out."* However, Davis worked on several community initiatives, with one of them was community advocacy work through the mercaptan crisis in Eight Mile. She said work such as that, along with integrity, was vital to her campaign.

"There has to be someone with integrity who can put the community first," she said. "I'm not running on a 'get back' candidacy, nor am I running on a come-up candidacy. That seems to be all that happens in our city every time we get ready to have an election. The community should be the reason why you are running, and that you should have something to offer. I think people are ready for change. I think people want to truly see something that is different and new. We have never had a Black female mayor in the city of Prichard in 100 years, and I think they (voters) are open to that concept. I believe there is a glimmer of hope here in the city; I believe people feel there is professionalism, and good rapport that comes with my candidacy, and so there is hope. I think people are really feeling good about the future."

**THE PRICHARD MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS ARE AUGUST 26, 2025
a Runoff, if necessary, Scheduled for September 23, 2025.**

Carletta Davis

Arthur L. Mack
FREELANCE WRITER
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Update on Civil Rights & Cultral Heritage District



Approximately 50 people turned out for a public engagement meeting held at Bishop State Community College on June 12 about progress made so far on Mobile County's new Civil Rights & Cultral District Heritage District.

Interested parties met in Bishop State's Yvonne Kennedy Business Technology Center to hear about updates made on the District, as well as what to expect for the next steps in the project, which encompasses the Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue area and will preserve historic sites, interpret the district's stories, and fuel revitalization through local heritage tourism.

Discussion was held during the meeting about the next steps of the project, which includes a historical context study, which will include identifying structures that are 50 years old and older. According to Katie Randall of Afore Preservation Consulting, the focus will be on identifying property to add to the National Register of Historic Places.

Mobile County Environmental Grants Director Tina Sanchez and Mobile County Public Affairs Director Sharee Broussard said the turnout proved people were committed to seeing the project through. "We wanted to get an engagement from people to do a context study on the research of the history of the Civil Rights Movement here in Mobile so we can attempt to get recognition on some properties in the National Register of Historic Places," Sanchez said. "It's really gratifying to see that this core group of people who have been with us for over a year now through the master plan process, and now as we go through the human side of the story."

"Because this project is funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), I'm proud of how far we've come with the community being involved in the planning process and in the early implementation projects," Broussard said. "People are coming to these meetings and seeing things come to fruition." Sanchez said Mobile County Commissioner Merceria Ludgood was the visionary behind the project, and was able to get it into the ARPA plan and was able to get money for the project. "She continues to seek getting funding from different pots," Sanchez said. "This kind of project takes long-term commitment and transformation, and takes a lot of money."

BELOW ARE PROJECTS ALREADY DONE OR IN THE PLANNING STAGES...

Historic Avenue Cultural Center [opened in October 2023](#) and features "Remembering the Avenue," a civic practice exhibition curated by Jada Jones through Alabama Contemporary Arts Center's Guest Curator Program. The exhibit enlists the local community in mapping history, legacy, and possible futures for historic Davis (now Dr. Martin Luther King Jr) Avenue.

Isom Clemon Memorial Civil Rights Park [opened in January 2025](#), featuring a bronze statue of Isom Clemon, plaques depicting key moments in Mobile's civil rights history, a sculpture by local artists Frank Ledbetter and Charles Smith entitled "Guardian of Labor, Liberty, & Love," as well as new benches, tables, and a play area for children.

Dave Patton House is being renovated to become a featured local legacy site for heritage tours and an event space. The project includes structural reinforcement, ADA-compliant upgrades, and preservation of the home's historic architecture and furnishings.

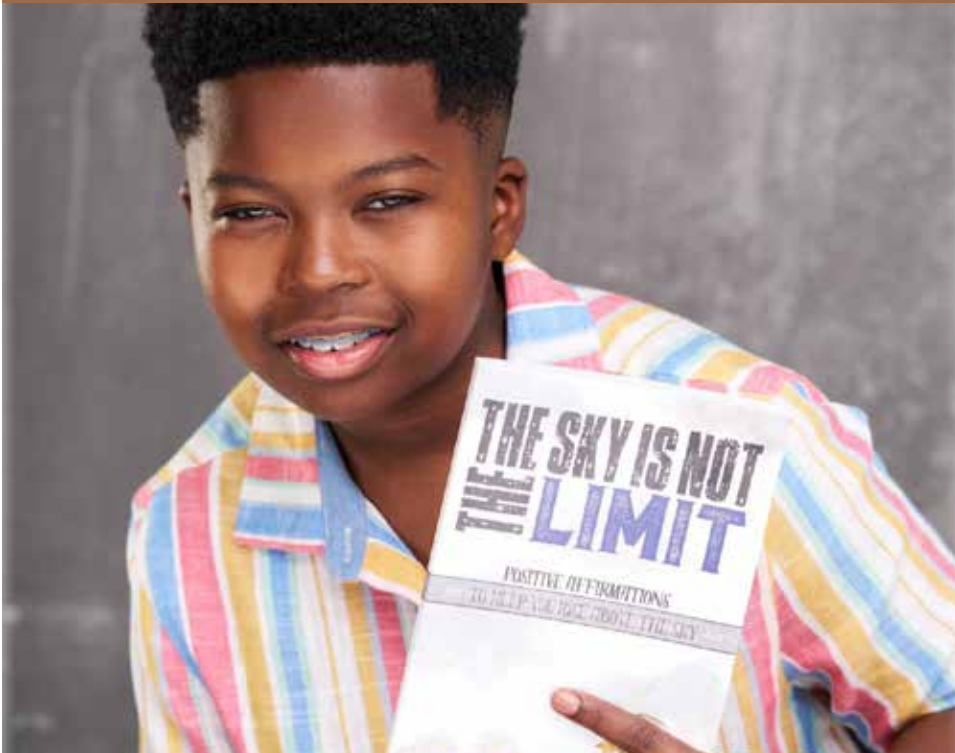
Crawford Law Firm project is in the planning stage to create a local legacy site that will highlight the many groundbreaking local legal actions that began in the offices of Mobile's "Dean" of Black attorneys, Vernon Z. Crawford.

Ace Theatre renovation/expansion through a public-private partnership is in the planning phase to create exhibit and event spaces.

Old Hodges Funeral Chapel project is in the planning phase. The building is being considered for renovation as the future headquarters of the Mobile Area Mardi Gras Association (MAMGA).

Joe Radford Thomas Memorial Pool restoration project is being considered, pending funding availability. A concept plan is complete.♣

Nicholas Buamah



12-Year-Old Black Author Gets 4th Book Published in the Library of Congress



ACTRESS S. EPATHA MERKERSON DONATES \$1 MILLION TO TALLADEGA COLLEGE DURING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

DID YOU KNOW...

CATHAY WILLIAMS born a slave in 1844, at 22 years old found herself a laundry worker of war contraband. But Cathay wanted to make her own living. After the war, in 1866, she decided to **pose as a man to enlist in the regular Army** using the name **WILLIAM CATHAY!**

After two years of service, and a series of illnesses, it was discovered she was a woman. Cathay was discharged in 1868 and continued on with her life as a woman again.

Cathay, who was later diagnosed with diabetes, applied for an Army pension and was denied. In 1893, she died at the age of 48.



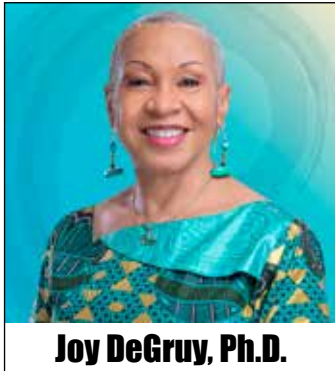
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Black People Don't Know History
Tommy Green
 Facebook Blogger
 Former Editor for the Mobile Beacon

Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome

In her book, Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome, Joy DeGruy, Ph.D. wrote, "Whole to Three-Fifths: Dehumanization." And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And, the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, Numbers 12:1-9.



Joy DeGruy, Ph.D.

When I bring up the issue of slavery, all too often I am met with these words: "Come on now, slavery was an accepted institution throughout the world for thousands of years. Every culture has had slaves. Americans were no different. I cannot begin to tell you how many times white people have presented this argument to me. Perhaps this is just another effort to trivialize or justify America's crime. Perhaps its just another way people try to resolve their internal conflicts. Whatever the motivation, the lengths people will go not to confront their own history has never ceased to amaze me. The truth is, American Chattel slavery was very different from most varieties of enslavement of enslavement that preceded it. It differed in the manner in which a person became a slave; it differed in the treatment of slaves; it differed in the length of servitude; most of, it differed in the owners viewed their slaves.

Before the European slave trade began in 1440, most people who became slaves became so as the result of war. Two societies went to war and the winners enslaved the losers. Sometimes, as was the case with Rome, a dominant society would need more laborers, so they made war on a weaker state and took the manpower they required. Europeans, however, systematically turned the capturing, shipping and selling of other human beings into a business that would develop into the backbone of an entire economy providing the foundation for the world's wealthiest nation.

Slavery is a brutal institution in any society, yet it seems the treatment of slaves by Europeans was particularly so. In ancient Greece, Rome and throughout African continent, though slaves were considered to be the property of their slave masters, they often had legal status. During the time of American chattel slavery, it was exceedingly rare for a slave to be freed and rarer still for a slave to buy his or her freedom. Though slave owners fathered many children by their female slaves they never married them, and the overwhelming majority of the children they fathered remained enslaved throughout their lifetimes," according to DeGruy.

Trump/Republicans have been lying about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), by saying the majority of the workers aren't qualified. An example, former Defense Secretary Lloyd James Austin III, a retired United States Army four-star general who served as the 28th United States secretary of defense from 2021 to 2025. [Pete Hegseth a DEI hire is the 29th Secretary of Defense, sworn in on Jan. 25, 2025. He is a former infantry officer in the U.S. Army National Guard and a Fox News host.](#)♣



Moments in Time
Paulette Horton

Cranford H. Burns



... a superintendent of the Mobile County Public School System, Burns was born July 01, 1907 in Cullman, Alabama and was one of eight children.

At an early age, Burns realized the handicaps which are created from inadequate educational opportunities, and decided to make education his life's work. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Alabama, and received a Doctor of Education degree in school administration at Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York in 1948. Before then, he held positions as a teacher, coach, principal, and supervisor in the Cullman County Public Schools from 1930 through 1944.

From 1944-1945, he was principal at Jackson County High School in Scottsboro, Alabama, and in 1945-1946, he was Director of Guidance Services, Extension Division at the University of Alabama. From 1946-1947 he was in school at Columbia University.

From 1948-1952 Burns became assistant superintendent in charge of Curriculum and Instruction in the Mobile County Public School System in 1948 and served in that capacity until 1952, when he was elected to the position of superintendent in the Mobile County Public School System, a position he held until he resigned in 1970.

During Burns' leadership, he increased guidance counselor services, and every school was visited by a nurse ten times a year. Psychological services were also added. One of his most outstanding achievements was upgrading the teaching personnel of the system.

Burns died on July 30,1996. Cranford Burns Middle School is named in his honor.♣

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Boots on the Ground

Registered voters won't and don't come to the polls in Toulminville, Creighton, Down the Bottom, Down the Bay, Maysville, the Camp-ground, Trinity Gardens, Plateau/Africatown and Black communities throughout Mobile County. Moreover, the same is true for voter turnout in white communities. I have obsessed over this fact. For starters, elected leadership continue to fail underserved communities election after election. Prisons are filled with our jewels, the best of the best. Young Black men and women put in prison for acting like young people act who don't look like them.

People are perishing. Where do guns come from? What choices and opportunities are available for children from underserved neighborhoods? Where/What are the safe spaces before and after school? How do Black youth get to the few options that are available? We know the problems, we need solutions.

Where dem voters at? Standing in lines to receive food baskets. Rolling up for free turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Free toys from a toy drive, and to add insult to injury, volunteers handing out the goodies some are appalled. Recipients are not grateful or more grateful. Give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day, show him how to fish he'll eat for a lifetime. Surprisingly, not one person has been killed by the police so far in 2025. Do you think the police know when to shoot unarmed Blacks or when not to shoot unarmed Blacks? Don't get me wrong. Trump's influence is visible. Sheriff Burch threatening folk not to even touch a rail. I'm proud of Sen. Figures for speaking up.

Where dem voters at? Polls open from 7am to 7pm on Election Day. The largest group of registered voters who don't show up at the polls are working people. These folk can't take off work and get paid for taking off to vote. Many work overtime or multiple jobs to make ends meet. There is and always has been two Mobiles. The haves and the have nots. Which basically is economic apartheid. On August 26, we get to choose new Mayor and Council Member. Too many continue making promises they will never keep. For now they are visiting neighborhoods that we'll never see them in again after this election. Insanity is doing the same think expecting different results.

Our communities have a lot at stake. We must come together, support a candidate who will ensure our needs, our interests, our community are heard and given resources we've been denied too long. One of us, who understands because they have shared our struggle. Only then can we begin to trust, participate in, and encourage others to vote. Elections have consequences. Mobile is being gentrified. What would Mardi Gras be like without The Avenue. Vote like your life depends on it. BECAUSE IT DOES!♣



"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them." These words from Ida B. Wells, an early 20th Century Black investigative journalist, sociologist, educator, and early leader in the civil rights movement, is the Battle Cry for Teresa Fox-Bettis. A dedicated community advocate and lifelong resident of Prichard, Alabama, Teresa has announced her candidacy for Prichard City Council, District 4. Driven by service, guided by integrity, she has an unwavering belief in the Promise of Prichard and the Strength of its people.

Bettis Brings a Wealth of Specialized Knowledge That No Other Candidate Can Match... Which Includes:

- Housing & Development:** HUD certification, legal training at John Marshall Law School, and 25 years of monitoring complex housing programs
- Environmental Justice:** Board leadership on Mobile Environmental Justice Action Coalition and Taproot Earth addressing and advocating for reduced climate and health impacts
- Economic Development:** Port of Africatown leadership and Building Alabama Reinvestment board service, focusing on business creation and financial inclusion
- Emergency Response:** Recognized nationally for Hurricane Katrina recovery leadership proving she can deliver under pressure
- Agricultural Innovation:** North Mobile County Farmers Market board service positioned to create Prichard's agricultural hub.

If Elected, Bettis Pledges to Bring Forth Her Vision and Priorities for District 4... That Include:

- Enhanced Public Safety:** Strengthen community-police collaboration, increase neighborhood patrols, and boost funding for emergency services
- Upgrade Infrastructure:** Repair streets, improve lighting expand sidewalks, and ensure reliable water and sewage systems
- Remove Blight:** Strengthen housing and land ordinances to hold slumlords and business owners accountable for maintaining their properties. Conduct a property assessment of District 4 and bring in funding through grants to help homeowners with repairs and support small businesses in maintaining their spaces.
- Affordable Housing:** Strengthen rental housing standards, create homeownership incentive programs, partner with non-profits and use her community development experience to create permanently affordable housing while building resident equity
- Support Local Economy:** Encourage small-business development through streamlined permitting, economic incentives, and revitalization of District 4 commercial corridors
- Invest In Youth & Education:** Increase access to after-school programs, mentorship, vocational training, and job readiness initiatives for students and young adults
- Promote Transparency & Civic Engagement:** Host regular town hall meetings, ensure meaningful dialogue, and prioritize open lines of communication with constituents. Launch Participatory Budgeting, where residents have input.

"As a lifelong Prichard resident, I've seen firsthand the resilience of District 4 families," said Fox-Bettis. "I'm seeking to serve you, the residents of District 4 as your City Council representative to harness that spirit, confront our challenges directly, and ensure every family in our district has the opportunity to thrive."♣

in the NEWS!

NATIONAL
STATE
LOCAL



After more than 120 years, 119 Bronze Artifacts looted by British troops from the Kingdom of Benin have been returned. The Netherlands returned the artifacts after a request from Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments that were taken in 1897 and included human and animal figures, plaques, royal regalia, and a bell...A recent Department of Justice legal opinion has reversed nearly 100 years that will allow Donald Trump to revoke national monument designations he feels aren't warranted. The first monument on his hit list is said to be the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Monument located at three sites; Graball Landing, MS, where Emmett's body was found; Sumner, MS, where Till's confessed killers were tried and found not guilty; and Robert's Temple Church of God in Chicago, where his open casket funeral was held...Donald Trump has become the First President in the 116 year tradition of the NAACP to not be invited to its annual convention... The Trump Administration has informed the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that the Suicide Hotline for LGBTQ Youth will be removed from the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline...

The WNBA has announced expansion intentions to three cities over the next five years; Cleveland, Detroit, and Philadelphia... Changes are coming for Downtown Mobile streets. One-way streets are being converted to two-way and stop lights are being converted to 4-way stop signs. Dearborn, Jefferson, Bayou, Warren, Lawrence, St. Joseph, St. Anthony, and Cedar will become two-way streets...Amtrak announced rail service between New Orleans and Mobile, the Mardi Gras Line, begins July 1st...The City of Mobile has unveiled the Hall of Fame Walk in front of the Convention Center that honors Native Mobilians and Baseball Hall of Fame members Henry "Hank" Aaron, Satchel Paige, Billy Williams, Ozzie Smith, and Willie McCovey, and Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee Robert Brazile...The Senior Bowl has announced Panini American as its new title sponsor. Panini is the world's largest licensed sports and entertainment collectibles company, and the exclusive trading card manufacturer for the NFL, NFLPA, and more than 100 colleges... The 2025 Gulf Coast Challenge announced its 8th annual game will be played at Ladd Stadium on October 4th between Jackson State and Alabama A&M...The 2025 3rd Annual Port City Classic will be played on November 15th at Ladd Stadium will be between Mississippi Valley State and Alabama State... See Ya! ###

Ingram Announces For District 2

Dr. Samantha Ingram, a proud Mobile native, former education administrator, business owner, and lifelong public servant, has officially announced her candidacy for Mobile City Council, District 2. "I have always believed that when we come together with a shared purpose, we can achieve greater things," said Ingram. "For the past 30 years, I've poured my heart into public education...working to improve schools here in Mobile and across the country. I've managed multi-million dollar budgets, empowered leaders, and focused on building stronger, more connected communities."

Ingram's extensive experience in governance and fiscal accountability includes serving as Deputy Superintendent for Mobile County Public Schools and as Chief of the Center for Instructional Leadership and Development with the United States Department of Defense.

"I'm running for City Council because I want every resident, no matter their zip code, to have access to affordable housing, youth opportunities, safe neighborhoods, and inclusive economic growth," said Ingram.

"District 2 deserves responsive leadership and real solutions. Together, we can make District 2 better."

###

AUGUST 26, 2025

VOTE

DR. SAMANTHA INGRAM

MOBILE CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT TWO

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DISTRICT TWO - TOGETHER!

For more, visit ingramfordistrict2.com

Samantha Ingram for District 2
 SamanthaForDistrictTwo



BLACK AMERICAN POLITICS

Joseph Mitchell PhD
CITIZEN MUSICIAN & POLITICIAN



A pundit is a person who offers opinion in an authoritative manner on a particular subject area, usually through the mass media. This writer offers an opinion based in his personal political and social experiences. We offer a global caveat* – “Is what we say believable; can you have trust in that which we espouse or say?”

**A caveat can be an explanation that ensures that something is clearly understood; an advisement that readers double check something for accuracy.*

We offer that you should vote for SOMEBODY! When you do that, by extension, you are voting FOR SOMETHING IN WHICH YOU BELIEVE.

The phrase "Negro codes off the street by sunset" refers to the historical practice in "Sundown Towns," where Black people and other minorities were expected to leave the town or face violence, harassment, or arrest after dark. Sundown towns existed throughout the US, according to BlackPast.org, with estimates suggesting there were as many as 10,000 cities, town, and counties.

For the time being, racial and ethnic memory will be described as “Cognitive thought patterns, emotions, and experiences that are believed to be transmitted from generation to generation.”

This writer offers that the prudent Black voter will use the ballot to elect persons who share OUR specific racial/ethnic memories. YOU MUST VOTE! We must vote IN OUR OWN BEST INTEREST! Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of controversy.

Adolf Hitler was not directly elected to power with a majority vote. However, the Nazi Party, under his leadership, achieved significant electoral gains in the years leading up to his appointment as Chancellor, capitalizing on the political and economic instability in Germany, according to the Holocaust Encyclopedia.

When you did not vote the last time, you helped to usher in America's own homegrown Hitler who is now, piece-by-piece, nationalizing EVERY militaristic predominantly WHITE organization accessible to his executive reach.

VOTE in your own best interest and protect YOUR OWN ASSets from shrinking to such an extent that you might as well KISS all of YOUR ASSets GOODBYE!♣

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Creole History Highlights

Tracy Neely

PRESIDENT: MOBILE CREOLE CULTURAL
AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Constance Hugon is dear to my heart. Born enslaved in New Orleans in 1774, she was emancipated as a toddler by her father, Juan Bautista Hugon. By the time she died in Mobile on October 16, 1845, she owned approximately one quarter of the block at Dauphin and Conception Streets. The Noble South Sidecar Lounge is the building she likely resided in the few years before her death. She had lived on the same lot from the time she arrived in Mobile, before 1808. Maybe, one day, a plaque will memorialize that a formerly enslaved, Free Woman of Color owned the property outright and contracted independently to have this building erected on her own terms during a time when women had no rights and women of color had even less. In 1840, Constance was in the twilight of a remarkable life, having lived through the American Revolution and the Creek Indian Wars. French was likely her preferred language under occupation of Spanish, British, and American flags. She probably spoke English and Spanish as well as she navigated the evolving territory, and later, town of Mobile. She had experienced the impact of Yellow Fever. Waves of the deadly virus and the high number of deaths shook everyone, both sick and well, to their core. The 1839 epidemic was devastating to the Mobile population. One can reasonably assume that anyone, who, like Constance, had lived well beyond the average lifespan of 44 years, and had observed a widespread deadly illness where the daily death rates were sometimes in the double digits, felt the presence of mortality at every turn.

That same year, Constance was busy. She wrote her will, shored up property ownership, and divided her accumulated wealth (approximately \$500K in today's money) among her seven living children and grandchildren. She also contracted to build the brick and slate structure at 201 Dauphin Street that looks across to Bienville Square today. According to the contract, John Sampson, as part of his agreement to lease the property for eight years at \$240 per year, was to...

"build a substantial brick house, two stories in height, the first story to be twelve feet high in the clear, the second story to be eleven feet high in the clear, having a front on Dauphin Street of twenty-five feet and a front on Conception Street of 35-feet, the walls of said building to be one brick and a half thick and the same to be plastered throughout with two coats of good plaster. The second story to be divided into three rooms with an entry or passage way and also a good and sufficient kitchen on said premise and the whole of said building to be covered with slate and the enter [walk] to be comprised of good and merchantable materials."

The property was known as the Alabama Exchange, a place to exchange money for goods. Constance had been a fruit seller for many of her years in Mobile, so maybe she intended it to be a green-grocer and fruit store. She had also baked and sold bread that bore her mark. But whether this was Constance's intention when she contracted with John Sampson can only be speculated. In her estate papers, a coffee house is also mentioned being in the building. Newspapers identify the location as a voting precinct. Indoor plumbing was added in November 1843. And on June 6, 1853, it was auctioned by her son, Lawrence Brue. Her estate received \$9,400.00 from the sale. Mobile County's deed books share a part of the story Constance would never know. Two years after her death, by virtue of a deed from the United States, Constance Hugon received the property as a Spanish Land Grant in right of Francis Suarez. Currently, the only known relationship between Constance Hugon and Francis Suarez is that he sold land to Miguel Yrigoyen, Keeper of the Spanish Royal Hospital, and father of six of Constance's eleven children.



The Dessert in Healthcare

Dorshell Ferrell, RN, LMT



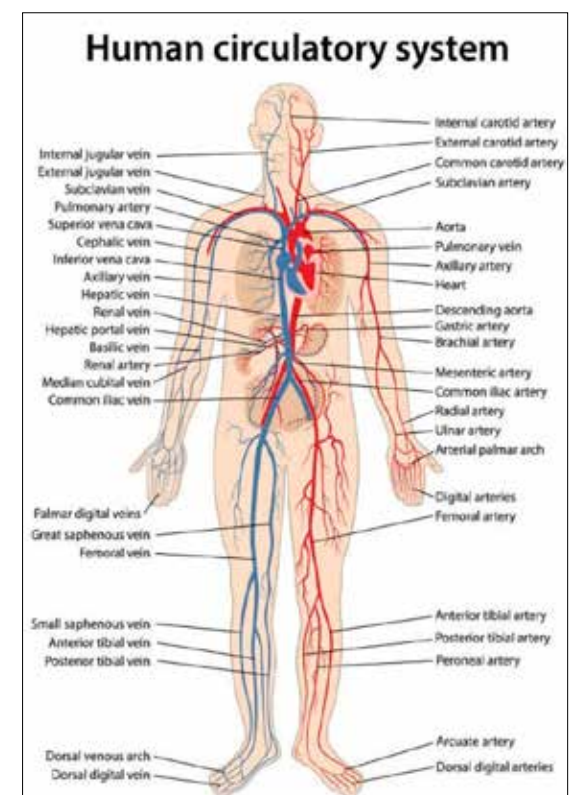
The circulatory system, also known as the cardiovascular system, includes the heart, blood vessels (arteries, veins, capillaries) and the blood. The heart is the muscle pump that pushes blood through the system. The blood vessels are a network of tubes throughout the body that carry blood through the body. The arteries carry oxygen rich blood away from the heart. Veins carry non-rich oxygen blood back to the heart for re-oxygenation. The capillaries are the tiny little vessels where the exchange of oxygen, nutrients and waste products occur between the blood and tissues (organs). The blood is the fluid that delivers the oxygen, nutrients and hormones to cells and tissues. The circulatory system plays a vital role in maintaining health by making sure that all parts of the body receive the resources necessary to function efficiently.

Massage increases circulation through a combination of mechanical pressure and vein dilation. The pressure in massage techniques directly apply pressure to muscles and tissues which pushes blood to tightened or congested areas to improve circulation like trigger points (also known as knots to your back/shoulders). Massage also promotes veins to widen which help increase blood flow, oxygen and nutrients to tissues; this promotes good circulation. Good circulation brings oxygen rich blood and nutrients to damaged tissues it needs to heal.

There are some massage techniques that can improve circulation: effleurage, petrissage, tapotement, friction and compression.

Effleurage is often used to improve circulation; it's a gentle massage technique that ranges in pressure. Petrissage is the technique that involves kneading, rolling and lifting the muscle to improve circulation. Tapotement like percussion is the technique that involves rhythmic, brisk tapping that increases blood flow to the treated area.

Finally friction increases blood flow by generating heat and stimulating vein dilation and compression techniques by repeating applying and releasing pressure. Massage techniques offer different approaches to physical and mental well being. ♣

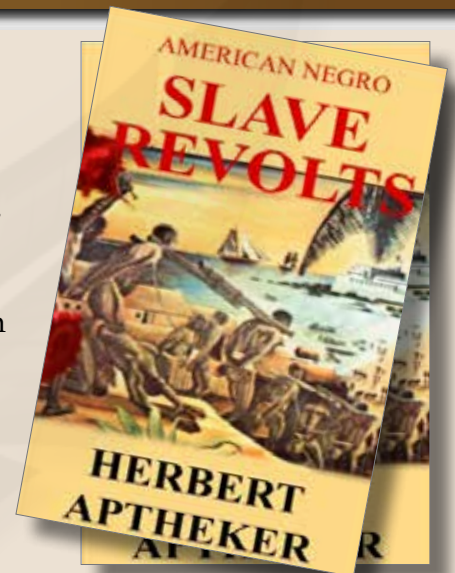


Literary Corner...



Herbert Aptheker

This is the first fully documented study of negro slave revolts in the United States. Dr. AP themed provides proof, obtained by painstaking research, that this content and rebellious mess were not only exceedingly common, but was characteristic of American Negro slaves. Special attention is paid to the famous slave rebellion of Nat Turner, into the revolts led by Denmark Vestry and Gabriel. This pioneering study remains a major contribution to the destruction of the myth of Afro-American docility.♣



Willie L. Dixon, Sr



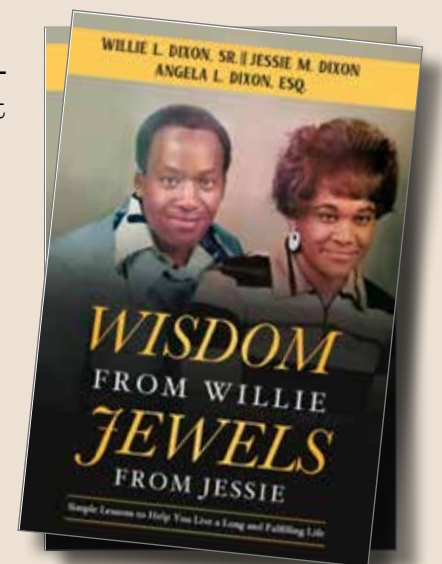
Jessie M. Dixon



Angela L. Dixon, Esq

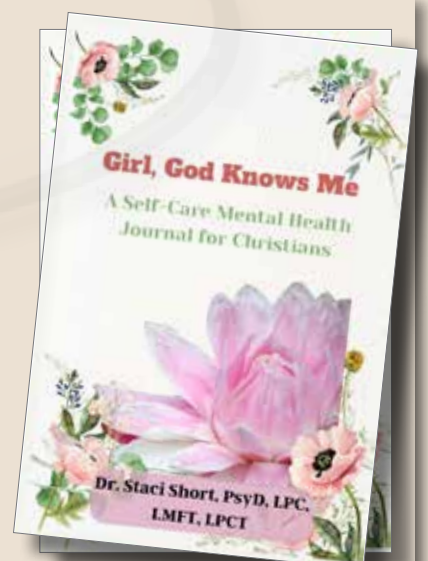
The authors, Willie, a native of Nicholville in Morengo County who moved to Mobile in 1957, Jessie, a native of Butler in Choctaw County who moved to Mobile in 1963, and Angela, born in Mobile and attended Alabama A&M, provide a memoir that shares fourteen life lessons anyone can learn from and build on. Willie and Jessie, at the age of eighty-five and seventy-five, have become published authors, proving that age does not matter in the scheme of things. All that matters is your willingness to lead a fulfilling life. The couple shares their early years, growing up in the South during the Civil Rights era with no modern conveniences, to the present day, retired and enjoying the many years of their labor

The book explores how their upbringing set a path for their life together contributed to community and family, including daughter Angela, a practicing lawyer in Humble, Texas, and an avid Game Show participant who won cash and prizes on Wheel of Fortune, The Price is Right, and Let's Make a Deal, and has also visited all 50 states and 7 Continents. The book touches on homeownership, finances, union work, volunteering, gardening, and traveling. They hope that once you read the book, you will be inspired to do what you desire.♣



Dr. Danyell Short

Dr. Short is a native of Dayton, Ohio, who attended Southern University, and who currently resides in Baton Rouge. The book is a heartfelt and empowering journal designed for women of faith who long to nurture their mental health while deepening their connection with God. The book speaks to the everyday experiences of Christian women navigating the complexes of modern life. Whether you're juggling family, work, or personal growth, this journal will help you process your emotions, strengthen your faith, and embrace the truth that you are fully known and deeply loved by God. Life can be overwhelming, filled with challenges like stress, anxiety, and self-doubt. But as a woman of faith, you're never alone in your struggles. Dr. Short is described as a compassionate therapist and dedicated Christian. This journalist offers a safe and sacred space to reflect, heal, and grow. Let it be a reminder that in every season of life-whether joyful or challenging-God knows you, sees you, and loves you, and He loves you unconditionally.♣





BLAQUE HISTORY 24/7-365

Elicia "E J" Jaxon



SAY HIS NAME! The Real Fire Behind The Bottle



They tell us legacy comes in bottles.
Golden, gleaming, poured neat or over cracked ice.
A symbol of class. Of culture. Of conquest.
But what they don't pour out is the truth!

Because, behind that glass of Hennessy—
Yes, That Hennessy—
Is a man whose name never made it to the label.

HIS NAME... PIERRE NEPTUNE... SAY IT!

Richard Hennessy was 19 when he staggered onto the docks of La Rochelle, bleeding from the leg, a young Irishman chasing survival and someday, fortune. He was met by Pierre Neptune, a freed Black man — older, wiser, and more dangerous to the world than anyone cared to admit. Dangerous because he knew things no one else did. Dangerous because he was kind.

Neptune saw the boy limping, close to collapse, and handed him a clay flask filled with something the world hadn't tasted yet — palm rum, spiced with cola bark and grains of paradise, aged by instinct and time, not machines. Hennessy's eyes lit up. That warmth, that heat, it wasn't just alcohol. It was alchemy. He begged Pierre to teach him. And Pierre did. For months, they rode the Charente River together. Barges moved slow, but the learning was fast. Pierre taught him how to build flavor with fire, how to tease sweetness out of sting, how to distill not just liquor—but history. His method: a light char, a fast age, a ghost of cola and spice.

Hennessy took notes. Every day and he promised Pierre a partnership. He said the world wasn't ready to see a Black man on a bottle, but the time would come. "Just wait," he said. "We'll share it."

THEN THE LETTERS STOPPED!

Hennessy filed a trademark alone. Never spoke Pierre's name again. Actually filed a complaint stating an old Black man was harassing him. Buried the truth so deep no one thought to dig. Then he bottled Pierre's legacy, slapped a label on it with a proud fist, and sold it to the world. The world drank. And still does!

Pierre Neptune? He died broke. Buried behind a crumbling wall near Cool Ridge. No headstone. No ceremony. Just the bitter scent of cola and earth. So every time you raise that glass, remember: you're not just sipping history. You're sipping theft. You're tasting fire that came from hands the world was too proud, too white, too cowardly to honor.

It's Pierre's burn you feel in your throat. It's his warmth rolling down your chest. It's his genius in your goddamn drink.

So next time someone calls Hennessy "a king's drink" or "the culture's cognac," ask them who lit the fire first. Say his name... Loud. Pierre Neptune!

The man they buried without a label, but whose spirit is still in every bottle!♣

2025 Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival

The 2025 Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival will celebrate its 27th year anniversary this year and what a celebration it will be. The festival will feature poetry, tributes to Mobile music legends, the contributions of young musicians, and of course, the sounds of America's original art form known as jazz. This year's presentation will be presented in two venues; opening night at a historic site for the African American community, and the following three nights at a historic venue in downtown Mobile.

THE FESTIVAL KICKS OFF WITH AN EVENING OF POETRY

Hosted by Mobile Legend Huggy Bear Da Poet

@ the **HISTORIC AVENUE CULTURAL CENTER**
564 Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue

The event will feature celebrity poet International Poet Masterpiece on July 24 at 6:00 pm. The following evening, the remaining slate of activities will move to The Temple Downtown located at 351 St. Francis Street. The lineup will feature, starting at 7:00 pm, the Annual Hosea London Jazz Music and Education Award Gala, Andrews Ayers and Friends, and The Marcus Johnson Summer Jazz Camp Orchestra with New Orleans' own Delfeayo Marsalis. Tickets are \$40. Saturday, July 26 will feature recording artist Roman Street, A Tribute to Quincy Jones by The Mobile Big Band featuring jazz and James Brown Band legend Fred Wesley, and Tonya Boyd-Cannon of The Voice with Keep It Live. Tickets are \$25. Closing night starting at 4:00 pm will showcase Secondline with the Excelsior Band, Alvin King and The 5th K'Necton, The Jukebox Brass Band, and Gino Rosaria. Tickets are \$25.

The festival will also honor five hometown heroes. The 2025 Hosea London Jazz Music Education Award will be presented to Professor Fred Irby, Professor of Music at Howard University and Professor Willie Lee Hill Jr., Retired Professor of Music at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Past President of The International Jazz Music Educators Conference. Also, being inducted into the Gulf Coast Heritage & Ethnic Festival Hall of Fame is Wesley, Mobile legend Joe Lewis, and Chip Herrington, Band Director of the Mobile Big Band Society Orchestra and it's founder, Ralph Holbert.



Professor Fred Irby



Joe Lewis



Fred Wesley



Chip Herrington



Willie Lee Hill Jr.

FESTIVAL HISTORY

On a cool evening in 1998, a group gathered at the home of Issac and Sandra Thomas in New Orleans, Louisiana and conceived the idea of a Jazz Festival to keep the music alive on the Gulf Coast. To give credit, in addition to the Thomases, there was Creola Ruffin, a jazz enthusiast of Mobile, Alabama, Kent Jordan, a New Orleans musician (Flute) and Mobile musician, Beyah Muhammad (Flute). On that spin, the Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival was established.

The idea was to host the Festival each year in a different city along the Coast, but ultimately, Mobile, Alabama became the one and only host city. Kent Jordan and Family, along with the E.B. Coleman Orchestra featuring Kamilla Ali and Shad Collins and friends kicked off the first Festival in 1999 at Cooper Riverside Park. The Festival has welcomed international, national and locally acclaimed jazz and music artists along with prominent jazz music educators to perform and teach youth and seniors of the Gulf Coast the unique art of jazz and improvisation.

Twenty-three years ago, the Festival began offering a summer jazz camp now named the Marcus Johnson Summer Jazz Camp for the famous Marcus Johnson, Director of the Bay City Brass Band, who is now deceased. Soon after its inception, the incomparable Hosea London, leader and manager of The Excelsior Band, raised the baton as chief clinician who enlisted a diverse roster of jazz educators to elevate the program. Presently, the camp continues to grow, as evidenced by the stellar performances by youth and seniors during the Hosea London Jazz Education Gala held annually. Furthermore, past performing artists and Jazz Camp alumni return annually to serve as mentors to the camp's aspiring young artists.

Over the years, the Gulf Coast Ethnic & Heritage Jazz Festival has branded itself as "The Festival of Unknown Artists Who've Become Famous". A few of those artists are Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews, Christian Scott, and Esperanza Spalding.

A diverse network of Gulf Coast area jazz enthusiasts and community partners continue to generously share their individual talents, experience and valuable resources with the CGEH Jazz Festival and 27 years later, the Festival is indeed grateful.

Since the moon is the first milestone to the stars, the Festival shares this celebration with you as they aspire even higher in fulfilling the purpose of "Keeping Jazz Alive for Future Generations!♣



Creola Ruffin
FOUNDER
Mobile, Alabama

Kent Jordan
MUSICIAN/FLUTE
New Orleans, Louisiana



2025 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

**JUL
24**

(THU)

AN EVENING OF POETRY

Hosted by **Huggy Bear Da Poet**
featuring International Poet Masterpiece

HISTORIC AVENUE CULTURAL CENTER @6:00PM

TICKETS \$10.00



**JUL
25**

(FRI)

- **Excelsior Band**
- **Delfeayo Marsalis**
- **Marcus Johnson**

ANNUAL HOSEA LONDON JAZZ & EDUCATION AWARD GALA

- **Andrew Ayers and Friends**
- THE MARCUS JOHNSON SUMMER JAZZ
CAMP ORCHESTRA w/**Delfeayo Marsalis**

THE TEMPLE DOWNTOWN @7:00PM

TICKETS \$40.00



**JUL
26**

(SAT)

- **Roman Street**
- **A Tribute to Quincy Jones**
by **Mobile Big Band** featuring
James Brown Band Legend **Fred Wesley**
- **Tonya Boyd-Cannon**
of The Voice w/Keep It Live

THE TEMPLE DOWNTOWN @6:30 PM

TICKETS \$25.00



**JUL
27**

(SUN)

- **SECONDLINE** with The Excelsior Band
- **Alvin King and The 5th K'Necton**
- **Jukebox Brass Band**
- **Gino Rosaria**

THE TEMPLE DOWNTOWN @4:00PM

TICKETS \$25.00



Gulf Coast
Ethnic &
Heritage

JAZZ

Festival

JULY 26, 2025

Tonya Boyd-Cannon

of

THE VOICE

\$25

**WITH KEEP IT LIVE
ROMAN STREET**

**A TRIBUTE TO QUINCY JONES BY
MOBILE BIG BAND FEATURING
INTERNATIONAL LEGEND FRED WESLEY**

THE TEMPLE DOWNTOWN 351 ST FRANCIS STREET 36602

7/24 AN EVENING OF POETRY \$10

HISTORIC AVENUE CULTURAL CENTER

**7/25 HOSEA LONDON JAZZ MUSIC AND
EDUCATION GALA @ THE TEMPLE \$40**

7/27 JAZZ IN THE CITY @ THE TEMPLE \$25

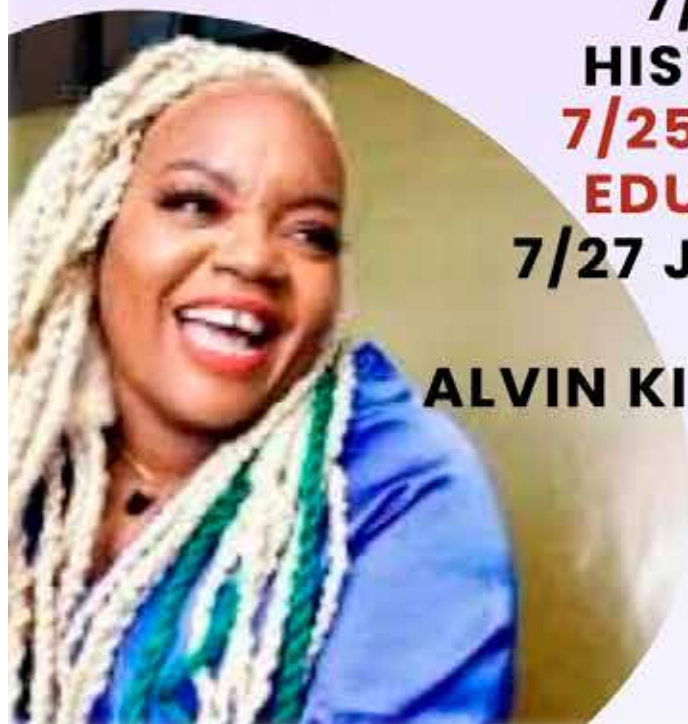
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MEDIA GROUP



The Portraits In Black Section of Steppin' Out Newspaper represents a collaborative effort between the 92nd Division Buffalo Soldiers of WWII, Sankofa Media Group Alabama, and Legacy 166, an Arts, Culture, Education, and Anti-Poverty Nonprofit Organization. This section will be used to highlight Military and Black History, to report events and activities that honor all of our veterans of all races, creed, and color in our country, and to highlight sponsors and supporters that choose to honor and support our nation's warriors, past and present. If you wish to donate and to become a sponsor to this effort, contact Sankofa Media at 251-217-1220 to get information for your tax deductible contribution.

PORTRAITS 'n BLACK

The Harlem Hellfighters

The United States is gearing up for a celebration on next July 4th 2026. America250 will be a celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The significance of this celebration being brought up in this article is two-fold; the three collaborators of this page will make a major announcement surrounding this celebration in a few months that will impact Mobile and Prichard, and, African Americans share a significant military contribution throughout America's existence. One such group of soldiers during World War I was the 369th Regiment of the New York National Guard. They were initially designated as the 15th New York (Colored) Regiment, however, the Germans they fought against nicknamed them "Hollenkampfer," which translates to "Hellfighters". They earned that name because of their fierce fighting abilities and their refusal to yield ground in battles.



The group was formed in 1916 and was comprised of African Americans mostly from Harlem and other parts of New York, although there were some members from Puerto Rico and other parts of the country. They fought for 191 days in France, which was longer than any other American regiment in WWI. Their major battles were the Second Battle of the Marne, the Meuse-Argonne offensive, and they were the first Allied unit to reach the Rhine River. The entire regiment was awarded the Croix de Guerre, France's highest award for bravery. Their bravery, tenacity, and resilience, challenged racial stereotypes and began to pave the way for greater integration of African Americans in the military, although prejudice towards Black troops continued through WWII and the Korean War and even in Vietnam. The 369th Infantry Regiment still exists today as the 369th Brigade. But this decorated group was not immune to the bigotry that the United States of America has always exhibited to Blacks in this country. It started with being denied a place in New York's Farewell Parade for National Guard Units leaving for WWI. They were told they couldn't participate because "Black wasn't A Color of the Rainbow." On their arrival, they exchanged rifles for brooms and mops, and assigned maintenance duties until General John J. Pershing was forced to use them as a result of the French demanding reinforcements on the frontlines. What is ironic is that Pershing was nicknamed Black Jack because

Continued on Page 22 – See **HELLFIGHTERS**



Carletta Davis

Restoring Trust and Building A NEW FUTURE FOR PRICHARD

A Vision for Hope and Leadership

The foundation of any relationship is trust. In Prichard, the trust between the people and their government has been deeply fractured.

Growing up here, I've seen the erosion of this trust firsthand—hopeful civic engagement reduced to near absence. I've witnessed the hurt and frustration of the community after voting for what seemed to be “the answer,” only to face disappointment. Conversations of hopelessness and uncertainty broke my heart.

In 2011, I began advocating for justice and equity, fighting for a seat at the table. Along the way, I've rarely seen consistent advocacy from those in leadership positions. My fight has been relentless and unapologetic.

Now, I've come to a crossroads in this journey, realizing that Prichard needs new political leadership — a new hope and vision for a thriving future. Trust must be earned back through leadership that values the pain of the community and seeks to give rather than take.

I've answered the call to become the next political ambassador for Prichard. Born and raised here, I graduated from CF Vigor High School in 1992. I envision Prichard as a place of pride and dignity, a beacon of hope for Mobile County. I honor our elders and their contributions, and I support the young families working to create safe spaces for their children. I see the sparkle in the eyes of our youth, full of imagination and belief in what our city can become.

I understand the skepticism that comes with promises from yet another candidate. So, I won't make promises. What I will do is share my heart's desire — to see the joy of laughter replace sorrow, to witness the proud look on faces when Prichard is mentioned, and to build a NEW FUTURE together.

This is the vision I offer to you — a vision rooted in love, hope, and unwavering commitment to our community.

Let Us Set the Course Forward... TOGETHER!

###

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HEALTH NEWS & INFORMATION...



The RSA Tower
201 Monroe Street
Montgomery, AL.
Phone: (334) 206-5520

Web Site: www.alabamapublichealth.gov



251 North Bayou Street
Mobile, AL. 36602
Phone: (251) 88

Web Site: www.MCHD.org

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/ILoveMCHD

Each month, the above mentioned health agencies issues multiple announcements to the public. Due to space and cost restrictions, these announcements are too numerous for Steppin' Out to include each month. However, we are dedicating some space, when available, to ensure that our readers get some of the information released for your health and wellness. We encourage you to direct friends, family, and co-workers to our newspaper and to visit the websites of the Alabama Department of Health and the Mobile County Health Department. Your health and well-being is important to us and hopefully we can help keep you informed of various health matters. Please continue to support us as we wish to continue to support you.

STAY SAFE FROM LAWN MOWER-RELATED INJURIES

State Health Officer Scott Harris states that lawn mowers can be "mean machines." An estimated 80,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year for injuries ranging from minor cuts to severe injuries such as amputations. Walk-behind and riding lawn mowers pose dangers to both the user and bystanders, and children are particularly vulnerable. From 2019 through 2023, there were approximately 24 lawn mower associated deaths in Alabama. The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, American Society for Reconstructive microsurgery, American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons, and American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons offer the following safety tips to help prevent lawn mower related injuries:

- * Children should be at least 12 years old before they operate any lawn mower, and at least 16 years old for a ride on mower.
- * Children should never be passengers on ride-on mowers.
- * Always wear sturdy shoes while mowing - not sandals.
- * Young children should be at a safe distance from the area you are mowing.
- * Before mowing, pick up toys, stones, and debris from the lawn to prevent injuries from flying objects.
- * Always wear eye and hearing protection.
- * Use a mower with a control that stops it from moving forward if the handle is released.
- * Never pull backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary - carefully look for others behind you when you do.
- * Start and refuel mowers outside - not in a garage. Refuel with the motor turned off and cool.
- * Blade settings should be set by an adult only.
- * Wait for Blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing gravel roads.
- * Avoid driving backwards unless absolutely required. Use extreme caution if it is necessary to drive backward. When purchasing a lawn mower, look for one with a forward control mechanism that stops the machine from moving if the handle is released.

Remember that lawn mowers are powerful machines and must be used properly to prevent what could be life changing injuries.

MEN'S HEALTH MONTH EVENT FEATURES DR. MICHAELS

Dr. Kevin Michaels, Health Officer for Mobile County, was a guest panelist last month at the Men's Health Month event in Montgomery. It was sponsored by ADHP's Office of Health Equity and Minority Health (OHEMH). June is celebrated as National Men's Health Month, with the purpose of raising awareness about men's health issues and encouraging proactive health measures. Key speakers from across the state spoke on oral health, diet, exercise, and mental health. The menu only event took over at RSA Tower. Dr. Michaels, Dr. Scott Harris, Alabama State Health Officer, and Dr. Brian Stone, Jasper Urological Associates, answered questions from men in the audience. William Kennedy, ADPH Senior Social Worker, moderated the engaging program. Dr. Michaels said it was a great event for men to share their concerns and to ask questions that were universal to all. The re-envisioned Office of Minority Health is the newly established OHEMH located in the Office of Governmental Affairs and Community Relations. Along with stakeholders input, it has developed a 3-year blueprint for elevating health as a priority in Alabama. To learn more, visit <http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/healthequity>.

SHELLFISH GROWING WATERS REOPENED

State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris announced that the reopening of portions of Mobile Bay that were temporarily closed to the harvesting of Oysters on June 01, 2025. This includes Cedar Point, Portersville Bay, Heron Bay, and Dauphin Island Bay. The order was effective at 12 noon on June 11, 2025. All Public oyster reefs are managed by Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Marine Resources Division (MRD), for harvest. Catchers are reminded to check with MRD for information regarding areas open for harvest. The Alabama Department of Public Health will continue to monitor bay waters and shellfish to ensure bacteriological safety. For additional information about the opening, contact Nan Steedley, ADPH, in Mobile at (251) 433-2428 or (251) 331-0651.

MCHD DEVELOPING COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

The Mobile County Health Department (MCHD) is continuing to invite residents to take part in the 2025 Community Health Assessment (CHA). The project, which began in June, is open through August 24. The public's response has been good so far, with the number of completed forms submitted having reached a third of the final goal. This voluntary and confidential survey is designed to capture the health priorities, concerns, and strengths of our community. Topics include chronic disease risk factors, emergency preparedness, and access to care. To reach as many voices as possible, the survey is available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. To take the survey, please visit <http://redcap.link/MCHDCHA2025>. If you have questions about the survey, please send an email to DataScience@MCHD.org.

FOWL RIVER SWIM ADVISORY

The Mobile County Health Department advises the public that the swimming water quality on Fowl River near Highway 193 at the Pelican Reef Marina is poor. Swimming in this area might lead to an increased risk of illness. Recent test at this sample site rose above acceptable levels. Monitoring will continue and the advisory will be lifted once bacteria values fall below the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) threshold of 104 enterococcus organisms per 100 milliliters for marine water. In the summer months, samples are taken once or twice a week at the most highly used sites and biweekly at the other sites. All sites are tested once a month in the cooler months. The Fowl River location will be tested again in the coming days.



Community Activist and former School Board Commissioner Robert Battles has officially announced his candidacy for Mobile City Council District 7, challenging incumbent Gina Gregory. Following the 2023 annexation and redistricting, District 7 now represents a fourth majority-Black district in the city, creating an opportunity for dedicated representation. Battles' campaign is centered on securing vital resources for underserved neighborhoods within the district, including sidewalks, and the revitalization of local parks like Hillsdale Park and the creation of a new park for the Mobile Terrace Community.

"Our district deserves a leader that will represent all people, all neighborhoods, and increase the quality of life for all residents of District 7," stated Battles.

The campaign has also focused on potential negative impacts of proposed federal budget cuts. Battles has publicly challenged incumbent Gina Gregory to clarify her stance on President Trump's policies, emphasizing the potential harm to low-income individuals and the Black community if programs like SNAP, healthcare, housing, and childcare are reduced. "Our community is already suffering, and cutting these vital services will hurt them even more. We must be ready to fight back and afford our residents an alternative to these cuts," stated Robert Battles.

To support his campaign, Robert Battles will be hosting a Campaign Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased by calling 251-241-9904. The fundraiser is generously sponsored by Mr. Cozy Brown and Dr. Gloria Johnson.

Website: www.BattlesforDistrict7.com
###

Your Vote Matters!

VOTE

ROBERT BATTLES

For City Council District 7

Vote Robert Battles for a Stronger, Brighter Community. A servant ready to lead for everyone.

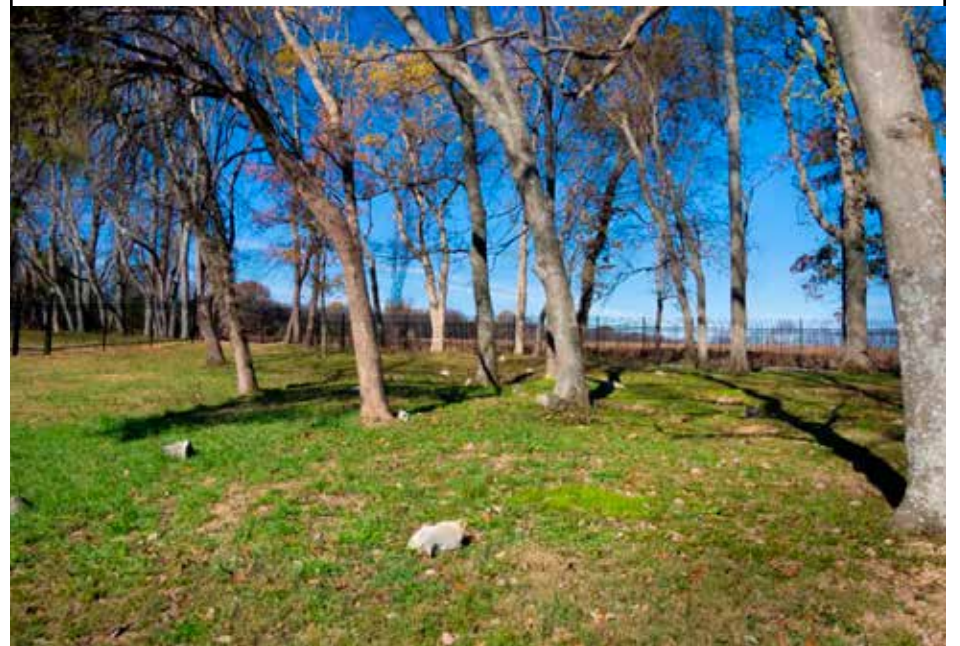
My Top Priorities

- ✓ **Community Development & Infrastructure**
Strengthen initiatives to ensure a safe, welcoming environment, more funding for all neighborhoods, sidewalks, park upgrades, and roads.
- ✓ **Public Safety**
My vision is to ensure that we have a transparent Police Department, safer communities, and more community watch programs.
- ✓ **Economic Development & Affordable Housing**
We must continue the economic growth for our city, as well as developing new economic growth, and support small business. As your Councilman I will also work to create more affordable housing for low income residents within our district.

AUGUST 26

**ACTION
No Promises!**

Historic Slave Cemetery Unearthed at Andrew Jackson's Estate



Archaeologists, with the help of a donor, have made a groundbreaking discovery at the Hermitage plantation in Tennessee, once owned by President Andrew Jackson. Through meticulous work and the use of ground-penetrating radar, James Green and his team uncovered the final resting place of 28 individuals who were enslaved on the property between 1804 and 1865.

The discovery of both headstones and footstones beneath the cleared woodland area has brought to light the long-suspected existence of a slave cemetery on the estate. At its peak, the Hermitage was home to at least 150 slaves whose lives and deaths are an integral part of the plantation's history. This significant find not only honors those who lived in bondage, but also contributes to the complete narrative of the site and the people who were part of it. With more potential graves believed to be located, efforts are underway to determine the next steps in this poignant chapter of American history. ❀

HELLFIGHTERS—Continued from Page 19...

he became a 1st Lieutenant commanding a unit of Afro-American Calvary known as the Buffalo Soldiers at Fort Bayard, New Mexico. While serving, a memo, signed by Colonel J.L.A. Linard, of the American Expeditionary Force Headquarters, voiced white American concerns that Black soldiers and officers working with the French were being treated with too much “familiarity and indulgence.” Why? Because, the French people were welcoming and mingling with them socially, which of course offensive to white soldiers and their Jim Crow segregationist attitudes. They even tried to reinstitute racial boundaries by putting up “White Only” signage on military bases and imposing curfews and other regulations meant to keep Black soldiers in line. Rumors were started that Black soldiers were underperforming and a danger to French women. But, the French ignored the memo and rumors and Black soldiers achieved time and time again. In fact, it is believed that the success of Black soldiers during WWI that upon their return to the US after the war, prejudice against those soldiers contributed to The Red Summer of 1919 where white mobs and police were angered by their wartime service and perceived increased assertiveness. Several were lynched in uniform.

NOTE: There is a Mobile, Alabama, connection to the Harlem Hellfighters; the regiment's band was led by James Reese Europe, who was born in Mobile in 1881. He was a Ragtime and early Jazz bandleader, arranger, and composer. Eubie Blake called him the Martin Luther King of music.♣



RE-ELECT

Stephani
JOHNSON-NORWOOD
Prichard City Council
District 2

AUGUST 26, 2025



HOW I SEE PRICHARD

Councilwoman Stephani Johnson-Norwood
Vice President Prichard City Council District 2

I am thankful to have this opportunity to share with the voters in Prichard and surrounding communities how I see Prichard. Many people still see us as a lawless, unkempt, littered city with little or no community pride. It's important to remind people that a community like Prichard can be revitalized, but it must have the right leadership with vision, purpose, and commitment to change the city's image. We are talking about "Rebranding Prichard."

Prichard, which for years had been used as the dumping ground by some surrounding communities, had to start with litter removal to clean up the city. In District 2, when we began the aggressive clean-ups and beautification efforts, we started to see a pathway to community acceptance and pride, which spurred interest in economic and community development.

This small community action, and other projects has led to people both in and out of Prichard, to proclaim that these actions and others like this could be the forerunners of the "Rebranding of Prichard."

In addition to the above, it must be clear that this effort, on how I see Prichard, must be based on a foundation of credible and sustainable programs that are value added for the enhancement and progression of economic and community development. Our Community can no longer afford shallow and self-service feel good proclamations that are built on fleeting titles and promises that never materialize.

The Prichard I see must create and stick to a dedicated pathway which starts with disciplined planning and experienced financial stewardship. While doing the above and more we must create and execute a pro-active citizen involvement environment for their education of the process and the anticipated outcome. The outcome will be good government and quality delivery of citizens services, i.e., Police, Fire, Public Works, environmental services, recreation and other quality of life aspects.

None of the above will be easy but with resolute citizens, honest hardworking elected and appointed officials and God's blessing, Prichard can begin the process of rebranding as a shining example what can be done!

###

"Still Working for a Brighter Day!"

SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

Evangelist Eitwanda Maxine Cleveland YORKTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH —CHICKASAW, ALABAMA—



In 2004, she preached her initial sermon and was licensed into ministry. A decade later, she was ordained, marking a powerful new chapter in her calling. Since then, she has served faithfully, building God's Kingdom with grace, purpose, and unwavering dedication. Her life and ministry reflect a deep love for Christ, her greatest love. A true servant-leader, she inspires others through her walk, wisdom, and steadfast faith. Her platform remains holy, honorable, and impactful. It is my honor to introduce my friend and spiritual mentor: Evangelist Eitwanda Maxine Cleveland. Hello Lady C, thank you for joining us. Let's begin!

Q. Can you share the moment you first recognized God's call on your life for ministry?

CLEVELAND: I was "baptized" (so to speak), to ministry as early as age 5, often serving on church programs. It felt natural—perhaps because I was a PK and I looked forward to every opportunity. At 19, I recognized my true call to ministry through dance. God used my movements to speak His Word without words, and I became known for this unique expression throughout Alabama and Florida. I ministered at church events, conferences, prisons, weddings, and funerals. My dance ministry, called the "Moving Word," opened major doors, including appearances on TBN and sharing the stage with gospel artist Ben Tankard. Though dance deeply resonated with me, I sensed there was more. This was confirmed when a prophetess spoke directly into my life, revealing things only God and I knew. She affirmed the anointing in my dance but also declared that God had placed a preached Word in my belly that I was not only called to move His Word but to speak it and minister to a dying world through His spoken Word.

Q. How did that calling unfold, and what confirmed it in your spirit?

CLEVELAND: I have always been a dreamer, experiencing vivid dreams where I could see and feel things before they happened. At 19, while in ministry at Church of Zion Christian Center, I realized these dreams were prophetic God revealing His plans to me. I also discovered my gift of discernment and a call to intercessory prayer. One recurring dream became more persistent. I would travel to different cities and states, visiting funeral homes and funeral services for strangers. In these dreams, I would stand over caskets and breathe life into the deceased. Growing up around the funeral services industry, sometimes working with my father, I believed these dreams pointed to a career in funeral services. But one

day, after waking from a similar dream, I heard a prophetess's voice from years before telling me I was called to minister to a dying world. I prayed for understanding, and God led me to Luke 4:18–19, confirming my calling to preach the gospel to heal the brokenhearted, deliver captives, give sight to the blind, and set the bruised free. God was calling me to preach. Evangelism is my God-given assignment. I boldly teach His Word with clarity and truth, without sugarcoating. God has given me a passion to teach so clearly that even a child can understand. I'm especially called to minister healing to women and help them walk in their God-given purpose.

Q. Your ministry now touches hearts across the globe. As a woman raised in Mobile, Alabama, how has this global platform shaped your journey?

CLEVELAND: With great humility, I see my life as a fulfillment of God's will as I surrender to His plan, forsaking my own. Following His lead has opened doors and placed me on platforms I never imagined. I was honored to minister globally reaching Uganda, Nigeria, Indonesia, Botswana, Guyana, Kenya, Beijing, and across the USA. This journey continues to reveal God's mercy, faithfulness, and abundant grace. I remain humbled, knowing it's not about me. Humility doesn't mean thinking less of myself, but thinking of myself less. My daily desire is to please God. I am simply a vessel for His purpose.

Q. As someone who understands the intricacies of being both a Pastor's Kid and a former First Lady, I recognize the depth and demand of ministry life. What have been some of your most impactful highs and challenging lows, and how have they strengthened your walk with God?

CLEVELAND: The most impactful moments are when someone thanks me for a word I spoke into their life often things I don't even recall. It's all God. The challenges come when I must minister truth while facing personal struggles, especially when it feels like the Word isn't working in my own life. Encouraging others while needing encouragement can be tough. Yet, I draw strength from both the highs and lows, knowing God is with me on the mountain and in the valley. I stand victorious, trusting that all things are working together for my good.

Q. I was deeply moved by the "Empowered Women, Empower Women" Conference that you and your mother, Pastor Flora Day-Reiss, affectionately known as "Pastor MOM" hosted in 2017. Could you speak to the

continued on Page 26... see **CLEVELAND**

SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

Pastor Kevin Graham Sr.

LITTLE WELCOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

—SILVERHILL, ALABAMA—

He is one of the most respected mentors in Prichard, Alabama—a bonus father to many who lacked a positive male figure. He lives what he preaches, going above and beyond in his calling for Christ. Pastor Kevin Graham, Sr. has sacrificed much, including personal relationships, yet God has sustained him through unwavering faith. As Senior Pastor of Little Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Silver Hill, AL, he remains a beacon in the community he's helped shape. He's my dear friend—affectionately known as "Black Aquaman," the preacher and teacher. Pastor Kevin, thank you for this interview. You promised transparency, so let's begin.

Q. Can you share the story of how your calling into ministry first came about, and the vision that God placed on your heart through it?

GRAHAM: I was called into ministry many years ago, but I didn't fully believe it until I had a divine dream while in Macon, Georgia. I saw Christ Jesus sitting on a rock, surrounded by a glorious atmosphere filled with His presence. Not long after, a pastor I had never met crossed my path and confirmed my calling. At the time, I was in college, and I later accepted the call under Pastor Brian Smith at the Campus Community Worship Center. In the years that followed, I married and became the father of three boys—Kevin Jr. (then 6), Jevin (then 4), and Devin (then 2). But my journey took a difficult turn when my wife gave me an ultimatum: choose between my calling from God or staying in the marriage. I spent countless nights on the floor, crying out to God for direction. He told me to get up and read His Word, and it was then I realized—I was living the life of Hosea. Eventually, I became a single father, moved from Louisiana back to Mobile, and raised my sons alone. I told God I'd only receive my wife back if it was His will—but she never returned. Still, God saw my pain, honored my obedience, and helped me raise three strong men. Today, Kevin Jr. is 27, Jevin is 25, and Devin is 22. I continue to praise Him for it all.

Q. What have you learned in your walk with God?

GRAHAM: In my walk with God, I've studied His Word for myself and discovered that true revelation from God is more valuable than being taught by man. Without that personal revelation, we have nothing. Growing up in church around people considered "holy," I came to realize that only a small percentage were truly living holy lives. The Bible teaches that it's hard for a rich man to enter Heaven. Jesus said, "Foxes have holes, birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head." He told the rich man to sell all he had, but the man walked away sorrowful. Today, we rarely see wealthy preachers giving up their possessions as Christ instructed. My journey has taught me that true holiness and obedience require sacrifice—and that revelation and a sincere walk with God matter more than appearances or material wealth.

Q. Do you have a favorite passage of Scripture that continues to speak to your heart? If so, why does it hold such personal meaning for you?

GRAHAM: YES!! John 15:7 has stayed with me for many years because it truly drew me closer to God during some of the toughest seasons of my life. This passage isn't just a verse to read—it became a lifeline that

carried me through struggles, doubts, and moments of deep need.

It reminded me that God's Word isn't meant to sit on a page or be recited casually; it must live within me, guiding my thoughts, actions, and decisions every day. Living by His Word means more than understanding it intellectually — it means allowing it to shape who I am at my core. When God's Word dwells richly in us, it changes us from the inside out. We become living reflections of His love, grace, and truth. This verse calls me to a deeper intimacy with Christ, encouraging me to abide in Him continually. It's a constant reminder that my relationship with God must be active and alive, rooted in His Word, so I can bear lasting fruit in my life and ministry.

Q. Since answering your call to the ministry, how has your life been transformed both in the challenges you've faced and the blessings you've received?

GRAHAM: The best way to answer this is in the book of Acts when GOD said, "I must show him the great things he must suffer for my namesake", I truly understand how uncomfortable this calling is, because Christ Jesus was loved and also hated. I do not preach for prosperity. I preach Love that covers a multitude of faults. You see, preaching to the Generation NOW vs. the generation of back then is challenging because we must try to understand the changes and the scriptures tell us that we must get Knowledge and Understanding just as King Solomon ask GOD. It is my mission to preach sermons that a 5-year-old can understand. We have to know that we do not preach for money, but we appreciate the gifts and offerings that the Spirit lays upon your heart to give. I struggle with things like any layman on earth does, but the message GOD gives me is important, even if it hurts and convicts your soul. I will never try to be popular with people, because this struggle is Very Real and I WILL continue to Preach the Gospel of Christ Jesus, whether the crowd is big or small.

Q. Mentorship is your life's passion, and you also work with the Mobile County Public School System. How has this allowed you to have a positive impact on the young lives you serve?

GRAHAM: DYNAMIC!! I am deeply committed to preaching and teaching the true Word of God, continually growing stronger in Christ, and producing fruit that lasts beyond a single generation. In today's world, many fruit trees are engineered to produce seedless fruit beautiful and pleasing but lacking the ability to reproduce. But my heart is set on being like a tree that bears genuine fruit with seeds, fruit that carries life and promise of continued growth. As long as there are seeds, the legacy of God's kingdom endures, and death has no final victory. My ministry is centered on the youth in Mobile, especially those near the Vigor High School community where I work. To truly reach these young hearts, I must first understand their world, their language, struggles, culture, and dreams. Just as Paul humbled himself to "become as they were" to reach them, I seek God's strength to connect deeply and authentically. It is through sincere love and spiritual guidance that I help them grasp the true essence of Kingdom building living lives rooted in God's purposes and love. Recognizing that music speaks across barriers, I've partnered with local gospel rap artists who resonate with today's youth culture.

continued on Page 26... see **GRAHAM**



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CLEVELAND... continued from Page 24

on importance of women uplifting one another, especially in seasons when we forget the power of sisterhood and support?

Cleveland: "Empowered Women, Empower Women" was birthed as a movement rooted in Revelation 12:11, which reminds us that we overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony. I believe that when we gain victory in an area, we are empowered to help others find the same freedom women and men alike. Ephesians 4:12 calls us to equip others for service, building up the body of Christ. In a world that constantly tears people down, we as believers are called to lift one another up. Empowerment is a Kingdom principle and it's what God desires from us.

Q. Your mentorship initiatives in the Mobile County Public School System, especially through programs like Girls in Pumps & Pearls and Guys in Loafers & Ties, have left a lasting impression. Will we see these impactful programs return?

CLEVELAND: This mentoring program is very dear to my heart as I founded this program in 2016 with the mission to build positive, strong and trusting relationships with youth through mentorship for preparation of leadership, along with college and career readiness. Interesting that you would ask of its return, as I have reached out to some business men/women, Ministers and Pastors to come alongside me to breathe life back into this program. We are planning to gear up for late fall of this year.

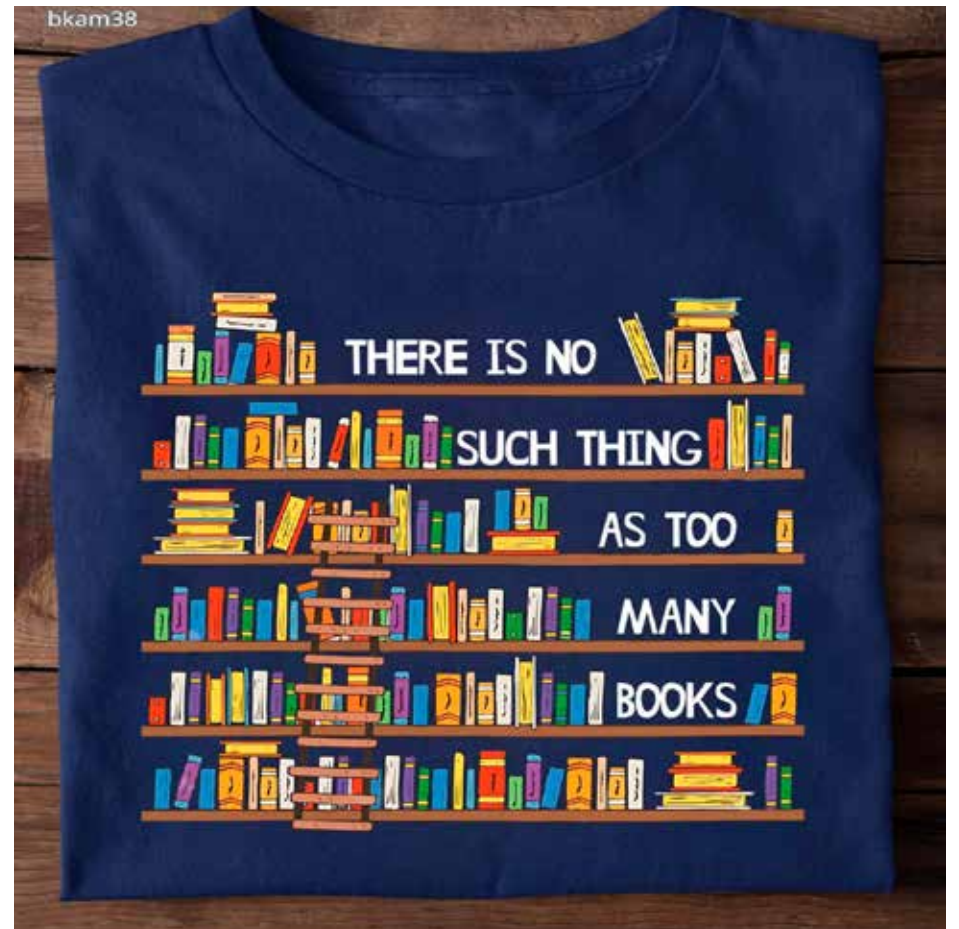
Q. Your grace as a wife, woman of faith, and leader is truly inspiring. As I look forward to interviewing you and your husband, Dr. Ledell Cleveland Jr., later this year, I'd love to ask: how do you maintain a balance of being elegant, anointed, and confident in your femininity? Also, please offer encouragement to those still preparing for their future in love and purpose?

CLEVELAND: I honestly can't explain it any better than saying that it is simply God's AMAZING GRACE. God's grace allows me to do things that are humanly impossible as I do them as unto the Lord. My best advice to those still preparing for their future, love and purpose is not to get ahead of God and stay focused. In all your ways acknowledge God and He will direct your path. Seek His Kingdom, His way of doing things and He will give you the desires of your heart.

GRAHAM... continued from Page 25

Together with other ministers, we strive to reveal God's goodness in fresh, relevant ways. By investing time, building trust, and walking alongside these young people, we open doors for them to stay connected not only with us, but, more importantly, with Christ, the true source of life and hope.

Pastor Graham, the members of Little Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Silver Hill, Alabama are so Blessed to have you. Your big heart and genuine love for the community both near and far are deeply appreciated by all who know you. From my perspective and many years of knowing you, you truly live the life you preach and teach. It takes great courage and authenticity to be as open and honest about your journey as you have been. You are truly an inspiration to many, and your example encourages others to walk faithfully in their own callings. Thanks again for your unwavering commitment and the powerful impact you continue to have.



f WWII
166

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A PURPLE HEART PROGRAM

AUG 07 @5:30 PM

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The 92nd
Film

Saturday

We invite you
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Expressions: Right or Wrong!

Lisa Johnson

Have you ever received a phone call and looked at your phone to see who's calling, only to shake your head? Immediately, you tell yourself, 'No, I'm not answering.' Why? Is it because the person calling wants to borrow money? Do they need you to pick up their kids? Do they want to gossip? Do they keep you on the phone too long when you talk? Could it be that while they're talking to you, they're holding another conversation with someone else, and that annoys you? Do they want to dump all their problems on you and expect you to fix them? Let me be the first to say that there's nothing wrong with helping people. There are times when we all need a helping hand and a listening ear. We all have loads to bear, but be careful that you don't pick up another person's load while carrying your own. Some people create unnecessary loads for themselves and, as a result, expect you to come to their rescue. When you allow other people to dump their load on you, your load becomes heavier, and you've internalized their problems, thereby leaving you stressed to the max! Set boundaries for yourself and peace of mind. Be that good friend and listener, but don't internalize someone else's problems. Find ways to help them, help themselves. Don't commit to something when you know that you don't have the energy, time, or resources. Your heart can be in the right place, but remember you're just one person. You can assist, but don't carry their load for them. Otherwise, how will they ever learn to stand on their own two feet and assume responsibility for their problems, especially the ones they could have avoided if you keep stepping in to help?

As much as you would love to say, "Yes, I'll be happy to help" every time that person calls, there are times when you simply have to say, "NO!" Protect your peace of mind and allow them to carry their load. ~Galatians 6:5♣

MOBILIANS! CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

**AUGUST 7TH, 6-8 PM
CRESCENT THEATRE**

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ALL CANDIDATES BEING INVITED
DECLINATIONS WILL BE NOTED**

Connect to Success!

Nathaniel Patterson

Writes about his insights and observations to create conversations, empowerment and solutions. Named "Top 200 Voices in Leadership" by LeadersHum in 2022 & 2023, Former Vice-Chair of Mobile Chamber and President, Dearborn YMCA. CONNECT on LinkedIn -or- (727) 485.3980



What Resonates With You... Sound Bites or Branded Distractions?

Corporate entities, political machines and small businesses spend billions to create phrases that resonate with their audiences. For some the strategy is to build a community of brand lovers, others desire to educate and inform in concise formats. While others are more devious, they want to create a distraction so you do not delve into the true actions, behavior and/or intentions of their strategic initiatives. Be very mindful of these branded distractions and coordinated sound bites, especially within politics. Many of your federal and state officials do not delve into proposed legislation and initiatives before voting. Too many of their interests is cultivating relationships for money or power and/or relying on junior staff to provide them a summary. I read several Republican initiatives. Their accompanying sound bites were distributed to Congress and Governors, who recited verbatim.

Trump's, 'Big Beautiful Bill' is the perfect example of branded distraction. The bill is a killer of middle and lower classes. Consider this sage common sense: When you reduce taxes, you reduce the revenue of the federal government, His bill tremendously increase expenditures. The result, a large increase in U.S. Debt - though he campaigned on reducing debt.

One more consideration: since 2000, 57% of U.S. debt is a direct result of George W. Bush and Trump tax cuts for the rich. If you take out the expenditures for Covid and The Great Recession, 90% of U.S. Debt increase comes from Republican Party failed renewal of Reganomics Trickle Down Theory.

Be mindful and smarter of branded distractions they will leave you and your future seeds in debt.

As Always Let's Be Greater! ♣

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Hats Off

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HAPPY 28TH WEDDING

Anniversary



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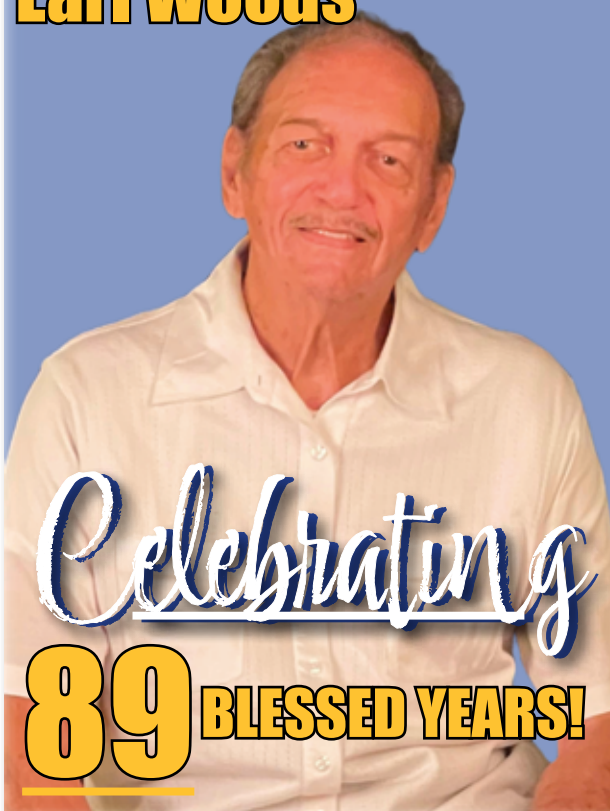
Congratulations!

Juanita Johnson



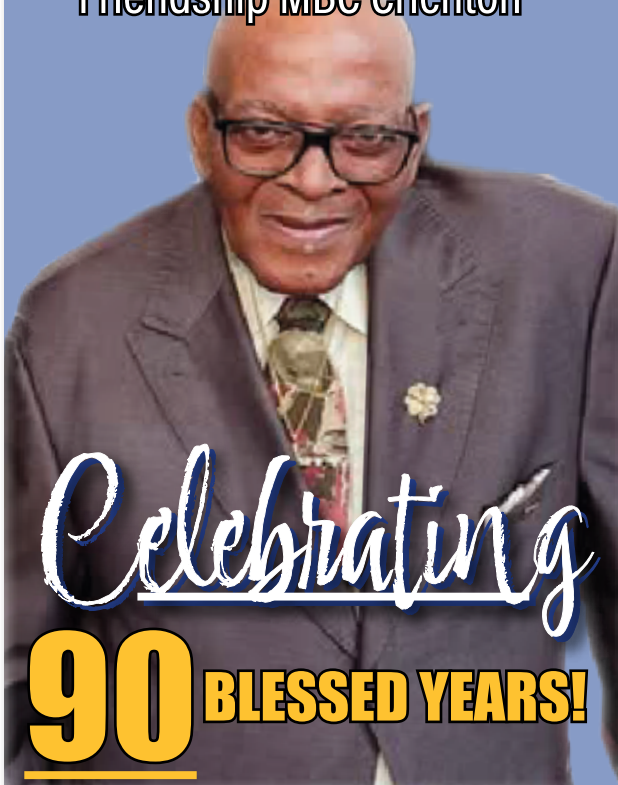
Celebrating
80 BLESSED YEARS!

HAPPY *Birthday*
Military & Merchant Marine Vet
Earl Woods



Celebrating
89 BLESSED YEARS!

HAPPY *Birthday*
Rev. Willie E. Jones
Friendship MBC Crichton



Celebrating
90 BLESSED YEARS!

HAPPY *Birthday*
Wardell Vaughan



Celebrating
94 BLESSED YEARS!

Hats Off

HAPPY 53RD WEDDING
Anniversary



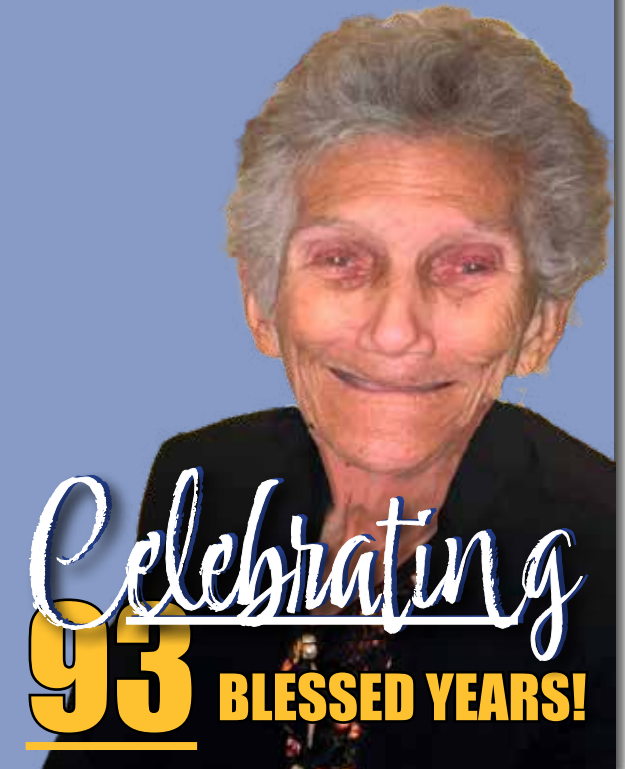
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HAPPY *Birthday*
Cassie B. Moore



Celebrating
93 **BLESSED YEARS!**

HAPPY 50TH WEDDING
Anniversary



**Michael & Josephine
TARTT SR.**

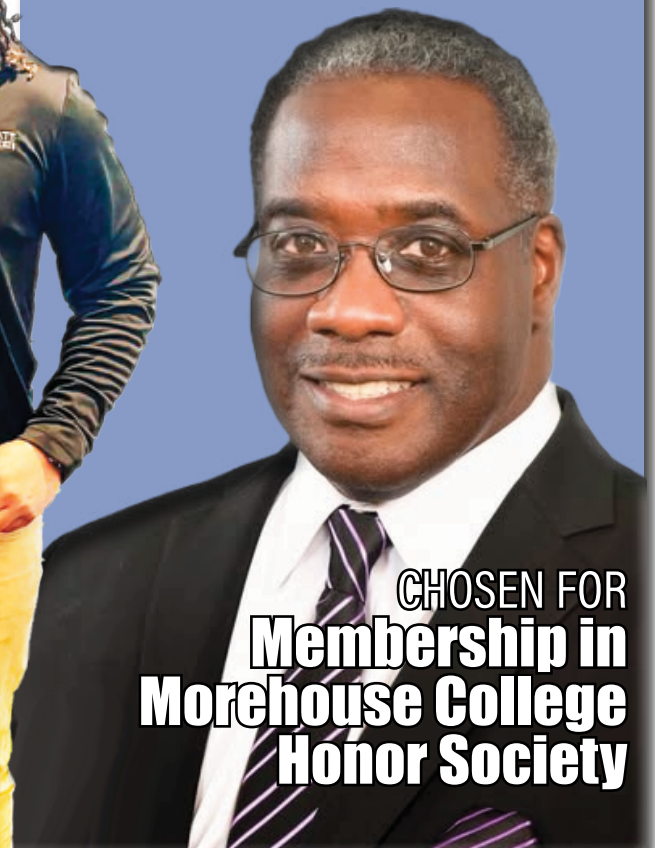
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**Jeremy and Jordan
Lipscomb**

GRADUATED FROM BISHOP STATE'S
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Congratulations!
Victor Lovett



CHOSEN FOR
**Membership in
Morehouse College
Honor Society**



Arthur L. Mack

FREELANCE WRITER

steppinoutnews@aol.com

Eighth Annual Gulf Coast Challenge



**Jackson State
University
vs
Alabama A&M**



The eighth annual Gulf Coast Challenge, featuring Jackson State and Alabama A&M, will be held at Ladd-Peebles Stadium on Saturday, October 04 at 4 p.m., and this year's game will have some exciting changes leading up to the event.

Concerts on Thursday and Friday, as well as a Saturday concert before the game, will be held at Ladd-Peebles Stadium, as well as other family-related events to be announced. There will be more vendors, more food, and more activities. Billed as the biggest college football game in the city of Mobile, the Gulf Coast Challenge features schools which have strong Mobile area followings. Last year's game drew nearly 15,000 people. In last year's contest, JSU (12-2 overall, 8-0 SWAC East) defeated A&M 45-38 and went on to defeat Southern 41-13 in the SWAC championship, then defeated South Carolina State 28-7 in the Celebration Bowl.

Mobile Sports Authority President Danny Corte said the foundation for the Classic was laid years ago when the Gulf Coast Classic, which was played for 35 years until 2009, paved the way for historically Black colleges to be showcased in Mobile. "The foundation was set years ago, and we as the Mobile Sports Authority are proud to be a catalyst in bringing HBCU football back to Mobile in 2016 with the Fifth Quarter Classic. That game eventually morphed into the Gulf Coast Challenge. To show you how far this game has come, the past seven Gulf Coast Challenges have generated an estimated \$39 million plus to the local economy."

A room full of Alabama A&M and Jackson State Alumni were on hand during a June 4 press conference at Ladd-Peebles Stadium to greet the head coaches of both teams, T.C. Taylor of Jackson State and Sam Shade of Alabama A&M and to hear remarks from both coaches. For Taylor, who is in his third year as head coach, the prospect of facing Alabama A&M in a strong SWAC East rivalry speaks volumes. "This game means a lot to the city of Mobile, but for us as players and coaches and staff, it's about the game," he said. "You're talking about an Eastern Division opponent, so there's a lot riding on this football game. Alabama A&M has a lot of tradition, the same as Jackson State, and we can't afford to take a loss in your division. You want to be undefeated in your division because when you come to the end of the season, you're playing for the Eastern Division championship, the SWAC championship, and the Celebration Bowl."

Taylor said he has quite a few starters coming back, notably quarterback Jacobian Morgan, last year's Celebration Bowl MVP. "He's a good quarterback," said Taylor of Morgan. "We've got quite a few guys coming back who played last year, and we've got some young guys that we put on the field last year that we feel good about. We had a pretty good recruiting year, and we're going to have a pretty good football team, I can tell you that."

Shade, a former University of Alabama standout, said he was excited about leading the Bulldogs (6-6, 4-4 SWAC East) and being part of a huge rivalry and having some Gulf Coast ties. "It's always exciting to have rivalries, but we have some other rivalries besides this one coming up," he said. "One of the big things for us coming to Mobile is that it's in the state of Alabama; we're right here at the top of the state, but I've got a lot of friends and former teammates from the Mobile area, so it's like a second home to me and I like coming down here. "From a recruiting standpoint, Mobile has a wealth of talent; it's been that way for years, and I don't see it changing any time soon. Anytime we're down here in Mobile, it's going to help us from a recruiting standpoint."

Shade said this is somewhat of a rebuilding year for the Bulldogs. "Right now, we've got a lot of work to do," he said. "We've been working since January on our football team to get ourselves prepared for this season. We've still got a long ways to go, but one thing I will say—our guys have taken everything we're teaching. They're trusting us; they're trying to be disciplined not only on the field but off the field. They've done everything we asked them to do, and time will tell how things work out."

For ticket information and events related to this year's Gulf Coast Challenge, visit www.mobilegulfcoastchallenge.com. ♣



A Special Salute!

Steppin' Out would like to highlight a special fella this month. Mr. Tommy Green Jr. will celebrate his 86th Birthday on July 22.

But don't think that will slow him down for a second. He's out almost every day scouting new sites for Steppin' Out. In fact, we had to slow him down until we could secure more racks to accommodate the new distributors he brought on board. Earlier in the year, he and his family vacationed in Ghana and based on the photos he took, he set foot on every inch of Ghanaian soil.

And that's not it for Tommy and the month of July...on the 14th, he and his lovely wife, Sheila Walters Green, celebrate 24 Blessed Years of Marriage. One of the things about Tommy that we love the most is that he's a 17 year veteran of the Mobile Beacon, Mobile's Black Heritage newspaper, and he actively blogs and forwards at least one story every week.

So Thank You Tommy Green for your dedication to Mobile and Black journalism, and for being you. WE ARE TRULY BLESSED!



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Mark Greene

SINGER

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Traffic Accident*



Loretta Swit • 87

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George Wendt • 76

ACTOR

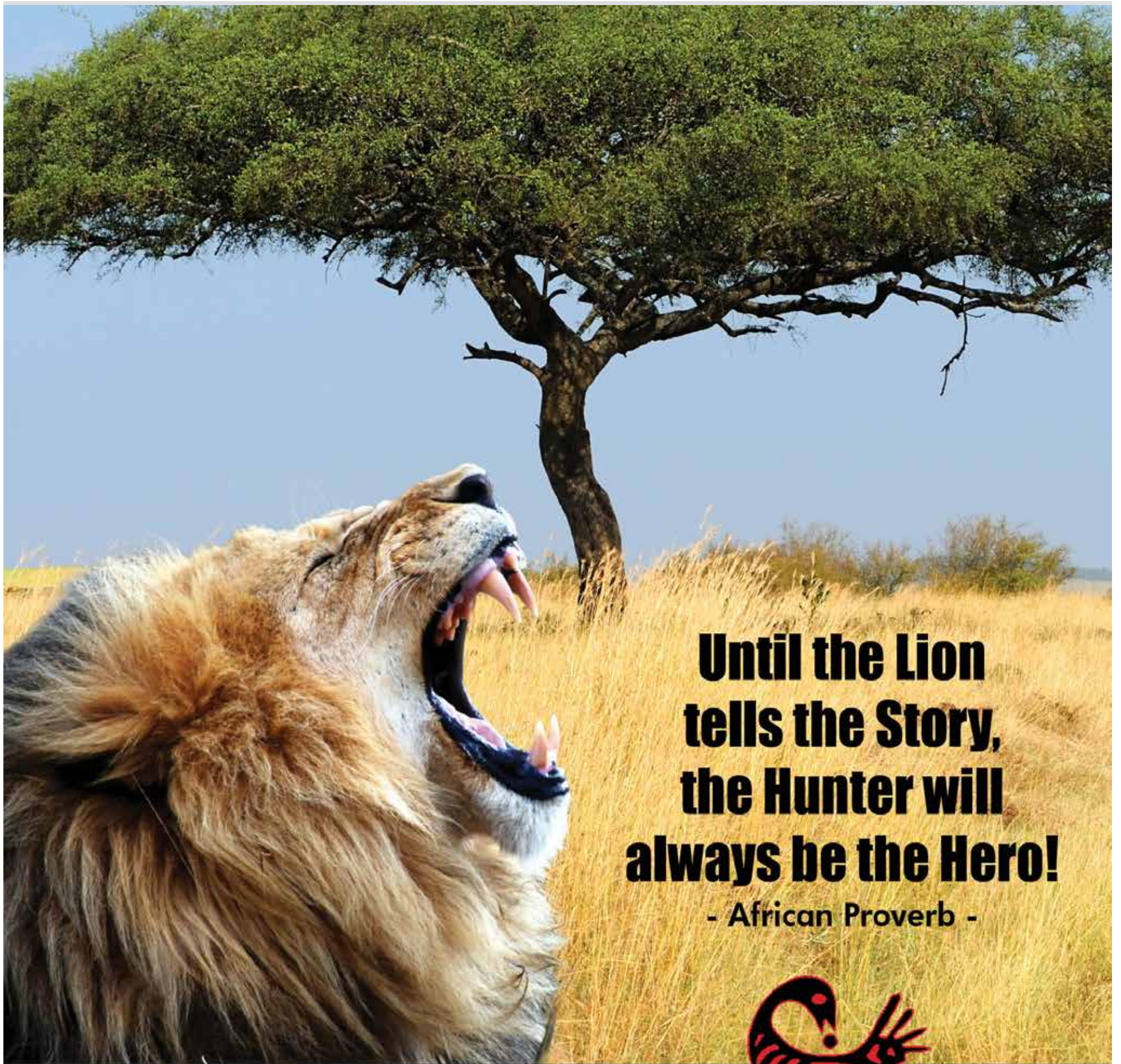
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tells the Story,
the Hunter will
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