

# Steppin' ut *News!*

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

**VOLUME 26**  
ISSUE 02

**ARTS • CULTURE • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY**

**SEPTEMBER**  
2025



## National Sickle Cell Awareness Month



## 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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Featured Column

**MASSAGE: THE DESSERT  
IN HEALTHCARE**



**TOMMY GREEN**

Featured Column

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**



**PAULETTE HORTON**

Featured Column

**MOMENTS IN TIME**



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**THINKING OUTSIDE  
OF THE BOX**



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**BLAQUE HISTORY  
24/7/365**



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Featured Column

**BLACK AMERICAN  
EDUCATION**



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Featured Column

**VIEWPOINT**



**NATHANIEL PATTERSON**

Featured Column

**CONNECT TO SUCCESS**



**LISA JOHNSON**

Featured Column

**EXPRESSIONS:  
RIGHT OR WRONG**



**MEMPHIS VAUGHAN JR**

Featured Column

**TAKING MOBILE  
TO THE NEXT LEVEL**



**TRACY NEELY**

Featured Column

**CREOLE HISTORY  
HIGHLIGHTS**



**CHRIS WILLIAMS**

Featured Column

**CULTURAL JOURNEY HOME**

### \*\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\*\*

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.



We have a municipal election this month in Prichard and Mobile. I'm sure you've heard over and over again about the need to get out and vote. One only has to look at the mess in our nation's to understand why voting is important. Your voice has far more impact in local elections. You have the opportunity to help decide who will lead your city over the next 4 years. That's extremely important. This is a choice that should not be made based on skin color or who you went through high school with, Lord knows we've had enough of that already. Your choice should be about who you feel will look out for the best interest of you and your children. And let's not forget about those council seats. Are these people looking out for you and your neighborhood or are their decisions setting you and our community back? Are they making or will they make independent decisions or are they or will they rubber stamp the decisions made by others without regard to if that decision good for you? Make your voice heard both before and after the election!

Steppin' Out is growing !!! We'll be adding 30 new locations this month and increasing our printed papers to accommodate the demand for the paper. Thank you Mobile and Prichard, and Baldwin, we're gearing up for you.

A special thanks to the Gulf Coast Ethnic and Heritage Festival for allowing us to feature them in our July edition. The festival continues to get better every year and it is our pleasure to be a part of this great event each year. We'd also like to think those candidates for office in Prichard and Mobile that decided to advertise with Steppin' Out to reach you, our readers about their candidacy. They not only said that they support our community and small business, they actually showed it. Promises made, Promises kept. And our final thanks goes to our readers. You are not only picking up Steppin' Out for yourself, but also for others in your circles. We appreciate that. Keep reaching out to us to let us know what you'd like to see. That's one of the ways we can serve you better.

We've promised to add new features that we're still developing. We're close. You should see them in September along with an old favorite, Leroy and our Joke Section. Stay Tuned!

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

GREG CYPRIAN  
Publisher/Editor  
STEPPIN' OUT NEWS



WHAT'S INSIDE



BULLYING

09

COVER STORY

Sickle Cell Awareness Month

05



Saint Austin Cementary

12



Living in Ghana

14

LITERARY ..... 28-29

HAT'S OFF ..... 24-25

PASSINGS ..... 35

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

OCTOBER 2025



# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Stepin' Out will be making several additions, changes and upgrades in the next few months. We will make that announcements on this page under this Special Announcement Banner so you, our readers, can take notice of the additions, changes, and upgrades, that will be coming your way. These improvements are taking place based on the tremendous growth we are experiencing due to the increased readership, the commitment of foundational organizations coming on board to get their messages to you, the dedication of our contributors, photographers, and storytellers, the Black small business owners who are reaching out as advertisers and as distribution outlets, and our churches, who have always been the backbone and strength of our community. To all, we thank you, as we strive to keep you informed about the positive news and activities taking place in our community. To better serve you, beginning with our October edition we are adding two sections to the paper:

## GRAVE NOTES: STORIES AND HISTORIES FROM OUR CEMETERIES

We've given you a taste of what this column will look like this month. Contributor Tracy Neely, who has written a story this month on Mobile's St. Austin Cemetary, will share each month through this column. Cemeteries are full of stories—not just of the people who rest there, but of the communities that surround them. They reflect our history, our growth, and sometimes our neglect. When cared for, they are places of beauty; when forgotten, they can feel lost to time. Grave Notes will uncover these stories, showing how history, memory, and preservation come together in the resting places of our ancestors—and how each of us can help keep that legacy alive.

We want to hear from you! If you have questions about local cemeteries—present or forgotten—or know stories about the people buried there, please email Tracy at [tracy.neely.mchps@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.neely.mchps@gmail.com). Your contributions help preserve this shared history and bring these stories back to life. Let her use her expert resources to bring your stories into focus and share them here.

## IN MEMORIUM

This section was first requested by Africatown resident Ruth Ballard, a member of historic Union Baptist Church, several months ago (Thank You Ruth) when she emphasized the need for an obituary section. Because we are a monthly (we're working to change that) we knew that this type of information needed to be timely. So we decided to create a tribute section where our readers could honor their loved ones who have "gone on to Glory." This section will appear each month and will allow our readers to pay their respects to loved ones on holidays, birthdays, special occasions, or just because. Contributor Elicia "E.J." Jaxon will manage this section and she can be contacted at [elicia@juno.com](mailto:elicia@juno.com) for rates and information.♣



**Truth, Facts & Justice**

**Sabrina Mass**

RETIRED NURSE • CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

## BLACK VOTER INTIMIDATION TACTICS!!!

The phenomenon of black voters criticizing, opposing, or even suppressing the political actions of other Black Voters is complex and historically rooted. It involves dynamics around ideological divisions, class, religion, and respectability politics, political strategy, and external influence. Not all Americans share the same political beliefs, and deep differences sometimes emerge. This often times can lead to public tensions, especially online, with accusations of being “sellouts” or “naïve.” Some black citizens or voters critique others in the community for not aligning with what they see as “proper” political behavior. Some black individuals or groups actively support conservative policies that many in the black community view as harmful-leading to intra-racial backlash, I say who go with the flow of who you choose to support based on your own self or family beliefs. Black America in no longer monolithic, but divided into strata, which entails the elite, the mainstream middle class, the abandoned poor, and immigrants in America. In the digital age, Black voters who step outside community expectations may face harsh backlash of attempted public shaming, sometimes from fellow Black individuals. I will say this, when you find yourself being attacked by other Black voters-or engaging in tense intra-community political conflict-it can feel deeply personal, because it often touches on identity. Loyalty, and a history of ones own beliefs, in which I say stand your ground and fight for who and what you believe in. I say, protect your peace, stay grounded, use a wise strategic approach in handling these situations while protecting your integrity, and political rights. Just for the record, if someone is calling you names, threatening you, or dehumanizing you-even if they are Black-that's UNACCEPTIBLE. Don't let an attack for your rights destabilize you. Anchor your beliefs in values, history, and critical thought and know why you believe what you believe. In the United States, every citizen has a right to vote according to their own beliefs, interests, and conscience. That's the essence of democracy-not GROUPTHINK, but FREEDOM of political thought and CHOICE. No one should intimidate shame or intimidate you for your choices-whether you are voting Democrat, Republican, Independent, third party, or not at all. In closing, “We may disagree, but I have the right to vote for who I believe in-just like you.”

Black and White communities have fought and died for the right to vote freely – not just to support one party or candidate, but to make informed, individual choices without fear or shame.

I, Sabrina Mass, CHOOSE MY RIGHTS. My voice, my vote, my values – all belong to me. No one controls me. I stand on TRUTH, not PRESSURE. I CHOOSE FOR MYSELF and THAT'S THE FACTS ON THAT.♣

I have no mercy or compassion in  
me for a society that will crush  
people, and then penalise them for  
not being able to stand up under  
the weight.

-Malcolm X





## Putting a Face on Sickle Cell Disease Association of America —THE MOBILE CHAPTER—

September is Sickle Cell Awareness Month, and the Mobile Chapter of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America is sponsoring numerous activities to help the community become even more aware of its services. The Mobile Chapter, which covers nine counties (Mobile, Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Covington, Escambia, Monroe, and Washington) and has programs in case management, after school tutorial, summer enrichment, onsite laboratory-newborn screening, child and adult trait counseling, support groups, and free demand response transportation) is engaging in its most ambitious schedule as far as community awareness.

For the entire month of September, SCDA-MC of Mobile is conducting sickle cell trait testing at its headquarters (1453 Springhill Avenue). At press time, several events have been planned, including a proclamation signing during the September 09 Mobile City Council meeting, along with a Shine the Light 'Ungala' held at The Courtyard at Dauphin on September 11, featuring Dr. Wanda Shurney as the guest speaker. "What makes that so important is that Dr. Shurney's father is the founder of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America," said SCDA-MC Executive Director. "He was a prominent physician, so she's following in his tracks. We're fortunate for her to come down and be the guest speaker."

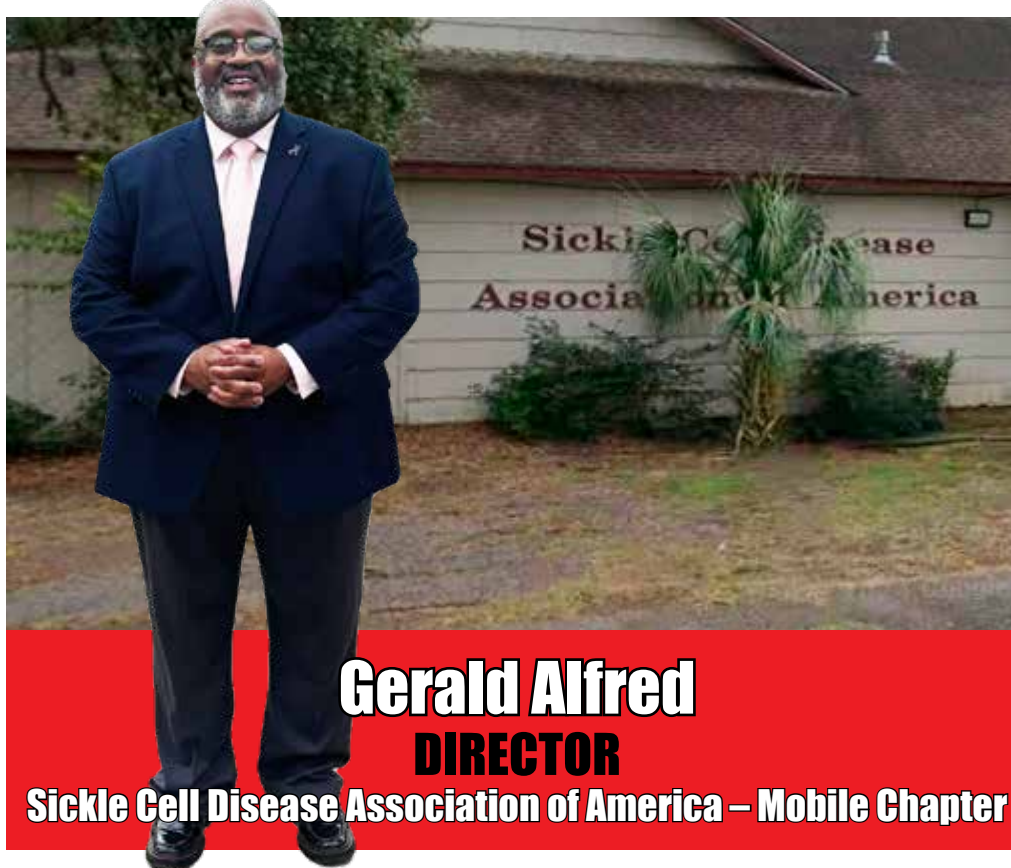
Alfred said there will also be testimonials from people who have the disease; as well as talk about this feeder footprint here in Mobile that has actually gained traction here in the United States. The program centers around education, empowerment, and research. There will also be a Sickle Cell Second Line with a special guest performer and the Jukebox Brass Band.

On September 12, there will be a 'Cycling for Awareness' held in conjunction with the September ArtWalk, along with the lighting of the RSA Tower on September 13. SCDA-MC has Open House events on September 04 and 11, and will also have two more on

September 18 and 25. "The Open House events are designed to let people know about who we are and put a face with the names," said Alfred. "That's one of the things I'm excited with as far as working with Steppin' Out, being able to put a face with the name. We have community health workers and social workers."

On Wednesday, September 17, there will be an USA/PACT Open House sponsored by SCDA-MC and the USA Johnson Haynes, Jr., MD Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at 2452 University Hospital Drive, which will center around the transition program.

"We have a partnership with USA Johnson Haynes, Jr. M.D., Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center that greatly benefits the community. Throughout the month we will be working with the Center. Especially with the Cycling for Awareness event and the PACT Open House, which is a Transition Program for individuals affected by Sickle Cell Disease. The Center is represented by some of the most capable doctors and staff in the business."



Saturday, September 20 will be very special, because it is the date of the SCDA-MC Radiothon. Alfred said unlike most radiothons, this one will be different. "I went in thinking it was going to be only one station through Cumulus Broadcasting," he said. "What was originally going to be one station is going to be five stations. The five stations are 97.5 FM (WABD), 93BLX (WBLX), 104.1 FM (WDLT), AM 900 (WGOK), and AM 660 (WXQW). "It's going to be big because it's going to start from 6:00 that morning and go until 10:00 that night. What we're hoping to do is stir the interest of the community; there'll be individuals crowding out the airwaves making donations on all five stations and challenging people to give. That'll be going on all day, and that's going to be pretty cool."

The monthly celebration will conclude with the Annual Blood Drive sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity on Saturday, September 27; 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Franklin Primary Health Care Center on Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue.





# A MOBILE THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US

## Together. Let's build the Mobile that we all deserve.

I'm Barbara Drummond, a lifelong Mobilian, a dedicated public servant, and someone who has spent my career fighting for the people of this great city. I've always believed that leadership isn't about titles—it's about service.

*"Together, we can build a brighter, more inclusive future—your vote is a powerful step toward a thriving community for all."*

**TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 23. 2025**

**ELECT**  
★ **BARBARA** ★  
**Drummond**  
FOR MAYOR

★ State Representative for Alabama House District 103 ★

★ Chair of the MAWSS Board of Directors ★

★ Chair of the Alabama House Democratic Caucus ★

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## IT STARTS WITH WATER—BECAUSE WATER IS LIFE.

Every day, families in Prichard turn on their faucets and pray their water is safe. But it's not. Brown water. High chlorine levels. Skin rashes. Headaches. This isn't just inconvenient—it's a public health crisis. I'm running because no mother should have to bathe her child in bottled water. No elder should have to boil water to brush their teeth. This fight for clean, safe water is personal—and it's urgent

## I'VE DONE THE WORK FROM THE OUTSIDE —NOW IT'S TIME TO LEAD FROM WITHIN.

When the mercaptan gas leak devastated the Eight Mile community, I didn't wait. I founded the We Matter Community Association, organized residents, and forced accountability. We got results—but we still had to fight. If I'd had the power of office, we could've moved faster and farther. That's why I'm stepping up now.

## FIXING WHAT'S BROKEN. FIGHTING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT.

That means creating jobs that pay a living wage, providing education that prepares our children for the future, and leading with vision to chart a bold new path forward. With courage and action, we can build a city where everyone thrives.

## PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE. REBUILDING TRUST. RESTORING HOPE

Every resident deserves to feel safe. But right now, too many families are living in fear due to rising crime, slow emergency response times, and neglected infrastructure. **I have a plan.**

## SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND BUILT TO LAST —THAT'S MY PROMISE

Housing is more than just a place to live—it's the foundation for a strong community. Too many families in Prichard are struggling with rising costs, unsafe living conditions, and a lack of quality housing options. **Let me fix this.**



MEET THE **YOUNGEST** BLACK PERSON EVER TO BE ACCEPTED INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL. AMAZING! DROP A ❤️



MEET THE **14-YEAR-OLD** VEGAN CHEF WHO BECOMES **CEO** OF A RESTAURANT SERVING PLANT-BASED DISHES. DROP A ❤️



MEET THE **6-YEAR-OLD** GIRL WHO BECAME GEORGIA'S **YOUNGEST** CERTIFIED FARMER, PROVING THAT AGE IS JUST A NUMBER.



**17-YEAR OLD TEEN FROM FLORIDA MAKES HISTORY, GETS ACCEPTED INTO ALL 8 IVY LEAGUE SCHOOLS**







## Confessions of a Bullying Victim

Not long ago, I was sitting at home thinking about the things that have happened to me in my lifetime. I thought about school, being skipped a grade because my reading ability was well above average. I thought about how proud my grandmother was because her boy was 'so smart.' But little did she realize it would create problems I could never imagine. I'm talking about being teased and bullied throughout my school years as a result of this well-intentioned attempt to enhance my academic standing. It was a bitter pill to swallow, and in an effort to get people to leave me the hell alone and let me study my lesson, I decided to lash out and go into violent fits of rage. It didn't work. Not only did these clowns not leave me alone, the teasing and bullying increased. Teachers and administrators threatened to have me expelled from school. On top of that, when I got into middle school, the bullying became violent. All too often, I wound up on the wrong end of fights. Almost all the time, the fights were initiated by the offenders.

I remember one time when my grandparents had this bright idea to get me a book satchel to carry my books. If I knew the torment it would've brought me, I would've taken said briefcase to the back yard and set it on fire. I'm sure they meant well, wanting to make it easier to carry my books, but the problem was that my classmates thought I was still being a little kid. Picture this: I'm walking down the hallway and some larger dude snatches my book satchel, and starts kicking it down the hallway. If there had been cell phones during those days, I would've been the laughing stock of the whole damn city. No one in authority did anything about it — in fact, let me tell you a story that caused me to have a flaming hatred towards bullies. During my middle school years, there was a class in which I made a bad grade on a test. One guy who made it his life's mission to torment me gave me a hard time about it. I decided that enough was enough, and I lashed out. Well, the principal got wind of it, and decided to put me and this guy in the same room until he decided what to do with us.

That's right... the bully and the bullying victim were placed in the same room. I don't know why he did it, but the bully kept picking on me. To add insult to injury, the principal gave both the bully and I hellacious beatings.

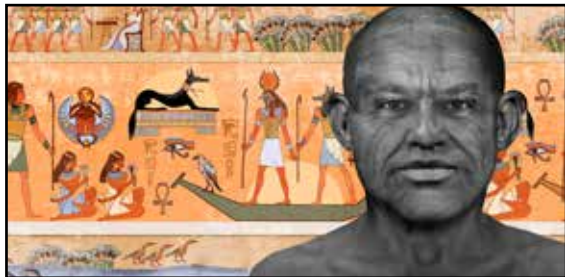
To put that into perspective, it was just like sentencing a robber and his victim to 20 years in Holman Prison. As bad as that was, there was this one physical education teacher in middle school who had it out for me. He would ridicule me during class. One time, I got a spanking because I wasn't able to lift 40 pounds over my head. I'm here to tell you, it may have been 40 pounds, but it felt more like 100. Then, I got a lick across my wrist because I failed to bank a basketball into the net. I was so damn glad to leave middle school, it wasn't even funny. Yet, the problems continued through high school, even during integration. That's for another column, but you get the picture. Just as bullying was a problem for me then, it's even more of a problem now.

Every time I hear about a school-age child being bullied to the point of taking his or her life, it upsets me to no end. When someone gets to that point, it's almost too late. It would be easy if the offending parties (i.e., bullies) were expelled from school, but it's easier said than done. Most school systems have little or nothing in place to punish bullies, and all of the programs in the world won't stop bullies using whatever means necessary to make their victims' lives miserable.

But there is an idea — far-fetched, but an idea nevertheless. There are some programs where students have peer groups to protect those who are being bullied. If there were mandatory programs placed in school curriculums and if there was mandatory expulsion for serial bullies, I guarantee you bullying would be greatly reduced, if not totally eradicated. Who's willing to step up to the plate to make it happen?♣

# in the NEWS!

## NATIONAL • STATE • LOCAL



Researchers analyzed DNA samples from Old Kingdom Egypt that shows the Ancient Egyptians were related to the peoples of North Africa and Mesopotamia. The remains of an Egyptian male were discovered at Nuwayrat, a site located 170 miles south of Cairo. He lived approximately 4500 to 4800 years ago...Archeologists confirmed that two two-century old Costa Rican shipwrecks were the remains of Danish slave trading ships, the Fridericus Quartus and Christianus Quintus, are not pirate ships as old tales claimed...Benin has appointed filmmaker Spike Lee and his wife, Tonya, a producer, author, and civil rights activist, as its ambassadors for African Americans in the U.S. They will promote Benin's initiatives centered on reconnecting Afro-descendents with their roots in the West African country through culture, history, and heritage...Target's CEO is stepping down after 11 years as the company faces slumping sales and backlash to its retreat on DEI. That decision angered shoppers who supported DEI policies and many minority shoppers exercised boycotts of their stores...It has been announced that ESPN won't air Spike Lee's docuseries about Colin Kaepernick because of Creative Differences. The network is owned by Disney (80%) and by the NFL among other entities. The project is still searching for a home...A national analysis conducted by Binghamton University confirmed that Black households are spending a significantly greater share of their energy cost (heating and cooling) than their white counterparts. The conclusions of the study was obtained by analyzing data from 65,000 census tracts nationwide...Household electricity bills in the U.S. have jumped 10% since Donald Trump returned to the White House. Experts attribute the increase to tariffs, green energy roll-backs, and rising datacenter demand. The current Energy Secretary has blamed Democrats for higher prices with no evidence to back his claim...Henrico County Virginia (Richmond) is proposing a \$16 million investment in a walking trail that would pay tribute to United States Colored Troops. The 3.2-mile trail would serve as a community walking route for residents and double as a historical marker trail honoring the troops for their service in a Union offensive during the Petersburg-Richmond Campaign...In an open letter to the Smithsonian, the White House wrote that "officials will conduct A comprehensive internal review of selected Smithsonian museums and exhibitions. This initiative aims to ensure alignment with the President's directive to celebrate American exceptionalism, remove divisive or partisan narratives, and restore confidence in our shared cultural institutions"...The bipartisan Sonya Massey Bill passed in the Illinois Senate unanimously and cleared the House with a vote of 101 to 12. Massey was the Black mother of two fatally shot by a county deputy after she called 911 to report a suspected prowler outside her Springfield, Illinois, home. Bodycam footage revealed Massey attempting to turn off a boiling pot of water. The deputy ordered her to step away from the stove, and she responded with "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus." The deputy drew his weapon, she repeatedly apologized, and despite her cries of "I'm sorry," he shot her three times killing her instantly. He was fired and indicted on multiple charges including first-degree murder. His background should have raised multiple red flags including a discharge from the army, two DUI's, and being cycled through six law enforcement agencies across Illinois. The bill aims to prevent officers with problematic histories from moving from agency to agency without proper scrutiny...The U.S. Military has removed the webpage honoring Alfred Masters, the country's first Black Marine. He enlisted during World War II on June 1, 1942...A Black woman with ties to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, former Governor Rick Scott, and a former state Board of Education chair was reportedly added as a MAGA plant as a Florida A&M University presidential search candidate. She was added late after the search committee had interviewed their three finalists for the job...PragerU, a conservative media organization backed by the Trump White House and promoting itself as an educational network, shared a video for kids saying Slavery is better than being killed. The group is being called out for promoting historically inaccurate and misleading messages to children. The Trump Administration has partnered with the group and are pushing them to replace PBS who Republican lawmakers killed off with the Big "Beautiful" Bill...Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of Defense and a member of the Congregation of Reformed Evangelical Churches that is built on a Christian Nationalist doctrine, is sharing a video of a pastor saying women shouldn't vote. It is reported that 53% of white women voted for the party that wants to deny their voting rights...The NAACP will be hosting town hall meetings with the goal of mobilizing Black voters for the midterm elections...

The Trump administration has been accused of telling lies about crime in cities with large Black and Democratic populations to setup an authoritarian regime. They are being accused of manufacturing stories on cities like Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Oakland, and Chicago, about uncontrolled crime and being in need of "rescue," in order to justify illegally taking control. However, data shows that policing policies in those cities has resulted in declines in violent crime, murders, and robberies...Trump has fired that agency's commissioner, who he previously hired, due to the agency citing that only 73,000 jobs were added in July by the economy. She also reported data from May and June showing 258,000 fewer jobs added than initially reported. Showing no evidence, Trump claimed the numbers were inaccurate and accused the commissioner of having faked the Jobs Numbers to hurt him...Donald Trump has removed three Democratic members of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. That move marks a significant expansion of executive power over regulatory bodies traditionally viewed as independent...The National Park Service has announced that the Trump Administration will restore and reinstall the statue of Confederate diplomat and general Albert Pike who fought fiercely to reserve the institution of chattel slavery. It is the only statue that honored a Confederate leader in the U.S. Capitol until it was knocked down and set on fire in 2020 during anti-racism protests...The Trump Administration has announced that they will restore the names of Confederate officers to seven U.S. military bases. The bases are Fort Hood in Texas, Fort Gordon in Georgia, Fort Rucker here in Alabama, Fort Polk in Louisiana, and three bases in Virginia: Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Pickett, and Fort Robert E. Lee...Senate Republicans voted to let Trump keep the jet gifted by the Qatar royal family and to be retrofitted for \$1 billion dollars in tax payer money. The plane will be used as Air Force One and Trump has stated that he will move it to his Presidential Library when he leaves office...A January 6 Rioter who admitted to urging rioters to kill law enforcement and faced six counts in connection with the riot, was a former FBI agent who berated police as "Nazis" and "Gestapo" and testified that he would be "morally justified" if he had assaulted them, was pardoned by Donald Trump on his first day in office, has been hired at the Justice Department as a senior adviser...The citizens of St. George, Utah, are upset that Donald Trump has pulled back a grant that was awarded to relieve a major traffic issue that has been an issue for years. The voters in Washington County, where St. George is located voted for Trump with 75.2 % of the vote...Federal judges who have blocked the orders of Donald Trump have been receiving boxes of pizzas delivered to their homes in the dead of night. It's a targeted intimidation campaign designed to show that Trump allies know where they live. In addition, DOJ attorneys have refused to provide basic information in court, ignored rulings, and challenged judges directly during hearings...The Community-Based Public Safety Collective is one of at least 554 organizations affected by the U.S. Department of Justice's abrupt termination of at least 373 public safety grants. Those grants mostly fund organizations that help neighborhoods affected by violence...The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is moving to withdraw from a discrimination lawsuit against a convenience store chain after an executive order by Donald Trump mandated the elimination of disparate impact liability from use in

**IN THE NEWS** (continued from Page 30)





## VIEWPOINT Betty Mack Shinn

### Remain Prisoners of Hope

Initially, there were three Black candidates who announced their intention to run for mayor in the city of Mobile. Those candidates being: Barbara Drummond, Jermaine A. Burrell and Lawrence Batiste. These candidates away from public scrutiny -- put their support together and endorsed the candidate they mutually decided had the best opportunity to take advantage of the majority Black vote. Basically, this was a decision to 'not split' the Black vote, giving Blacks a greater opportunity to win the mayoral seat. Their efforts were rewarded August 23rd. Barbara Drummond ran at the top of the ticket with the highest vote count on election night.

Mobile will have a runoff for mayor on September 23rd. Political junkies know the strategy it took to get to the runoff will not get Barbara Drummond into the mayor's office. Mobile has never had a female hold the office of mayor. There are folk who play down the importance of race and gender. I would argue that race, ethnicity, and gender roles matter significantly. These 'accidents of life' are critical in how we perceive ourselves and those around us. And, how we are perceived. We don't get to choose who our parents are. Therefore, at birth our race, ethnicity and/or gender are not within our control. Please know that elections have consequences. Every vote is important. I would admonish every reader to stay involved. Learn all you can about your local government and how it works. Find out what you can do to have a greater impact and influence on how your tax dollars are spent. I encourage those who are not registered to vote; even ex-offenders: Contact the NAACP, SPLC, League of Women Voters Mobile, for help to become a registered voter. Check your poll location for where to vote on September 23, 2025.

The city of Mobile turned Blue to elect and re-elect President Obama. Mobile elected a Black mayor in 2008, the same year President Obama was elected. The following term, 2012 Mayor Sam Jones was uncontested and served another term as mayor.

We have a superlatively qualified opponent: Barbara Drummond. A female, born in Mobile. She is ready to listen and work with us to make Mobile a better place to live. If you always do what you've always done, you will certainly, always get what you've always gotten. Rock the state of Alabama. Barbara Drummond's victory will give Alabama Black mayors in three major cities. Your vote is your voice. Vote like your life depends on it. The quality of your life is affected by your vote, and by not voting.♣



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Newborn screening is a state public health program that identifies newborns who may have a genetic, metabolic, or other congenital disorder that may not be apparent at birth. If left untreated, newborn screening conditions may cause serious illness, developmental disability, intellectual impairment, or death.

Each year in Alabama, approximately 200 babies are identified with a condition detected through newborn screening. The screening allows treatment to be initiated within the first few weeks of life, treating many of the complications associated with newborn screening disorders such as sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis. In Alabama, the newborn screening panel includes the dried bloodspot (heelstick), hearing screening, and pulse oximetry screening. The pulse oximetry screening helps detect critical congenital heart disease. The Alabama newborn screening panel includes 35 of the 38 disorders recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Parents need to know that their baby should have the newborn screening performed between 24 and 48 hours of age. They should also let the hospital know who their baby's doctor will be to ensure timely follow-up if needed. Parents should also ask about the newborn screening results at their baby's first doctor's visit.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, newborn screening is one of the top public health achievements in modern history. Newborn screening continues to expand as more disorders are being recommended to the national panel. The Alabama Department of Public Health Bureau of Clinical Laboratories and Bureau of Family Health Services work in conjunction to screen, follow up, and provide newborn screening awareness and education to improve the lives of Alabama's babies.

For more information, go to <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/newbornscreening/index.html>.





## Creole History Highlights

**Tracy Neely**

PRESIDENT: MOBILE CREOLE CULTURAL  
AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY



## Saint Austin Cemetery

.... at the corner of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Osage Street in Mobile. Tucked between houses and businesses, it can be reached only by a narrow strip of land between an auto shop and a spa. The site has been abandoned for many years, yet its history continues to come into focus through scattered records and community memory. The earliest documented mention dates to 1888, when a Mobile County divorce case referenced a rendezvous “behind St. Austin’s Graveyard.” This suggests the cemetery was already in use by then. Evidence points to its origins with the Mutual Aid and Burial Society, an African American organization that acquired the land from William Cottrell. Though no deed has been found, incorporation papers from 1878 indicate the cemetery was established around that time.

In 1887, the Mutual Aid Society transferred seven and a half acres to the newly formed St. Austin Benevolent Society. The deed was signed by a large group of members, many using only an “X” as their mark. Their names included Thomas Brown, John Epps, Aggie and Nelson Booker, Alfred and Martha Stokes, Louisiana Broadnax, John Swift, Philip Freeman, Laura Hughes, Sarah Walker, Benjamin Green, Minerva Blackledge, Thomas C. Smith, and others. They described themselves as the surviving members of the Mutual Aid and Burial Society, ensuring continuity for the cemetery’s care and management. More details came in 1932, when Nelson Birdsong, one of the original signers, gave a sworn statement. Birdsong explained that he had been active with the St. Austin Benevolent Association since its founding in 1887, serving both as a trustee and as sexton of the cemetery. He confirmed that William Cottrell sold the land to the Mutual Aid Society, although he did not provide the date. Birdsong also stated that the Mutual Aid and Burial Society eventually merged into the Benevolent Association.

Although many records remain missing, what survives shows that Saint Austin Cemetery was more than a burial ground. It was a community effort, created and maintained by African American men and women determined to provide dignity in death despite the challenges of their time.♣



# NAACP

## Freedom Awards Banquet

The Mobile, Alabama Branch of the NAACP is proud to announce its annual Freedom Awards Banquet, taking place on Sunday, November 02, 2025.

We are honored to welcome as our keynote speaker the distinguished Mr. Derrick Johnson, National President and CEO of the NAACP. Mr. Johnson is a nationally recognized leader in the fight for justice, equity, and freedom—a voice of courage and conviction in today’s civil rights movement.

Tickets are now available-but going fast! Seating is limited, so we encourage early reservations to ensure your place at this powerful evening of celebration and inspiration. Business ads and sponsorship opportunities are also available. Showcase your support for civil rights and community advancement while gaining valuable visibility. Donations to support the initiatives and memberships are available.

For reservations, sponsorships, or more information, please contact the NAACP at [mobilealnaacp@gmail.com](mailto:mobilealnaacp@gmail.com)

# NAACP

## Freedom Fund Banquet

November 2, 2025  
3:00 PM

THEME: “OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL:  
Pathways to Possibilities.”

Keynote Speaker  
**Derrick Johnson**  
NAACP, National President and CEO

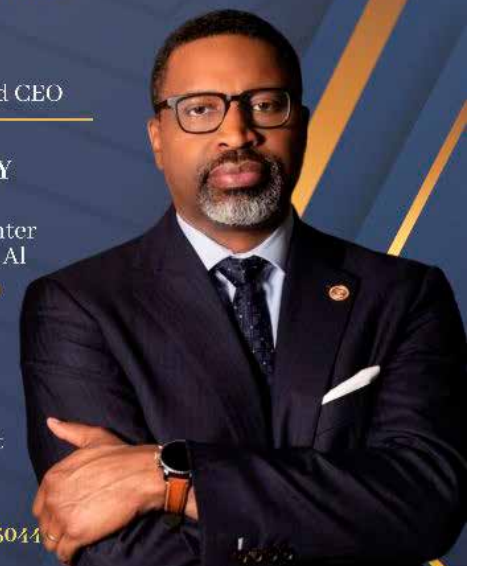
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BAPTIST CHURCH

Charles Owens Family Life Center  
545 Cody Road North | Mobile, AL

Tickets - \$60 / Tables - \$480  
VIP Tickets - \$120

For tickets contact:  
Harriette Holland  
Freedom Fund Banquet Chair  
251.689.4852  
Robert Clopton, Branch President  
251.333.0145

SPONSORED BY:  
NAACP Mobile County Branch #5044



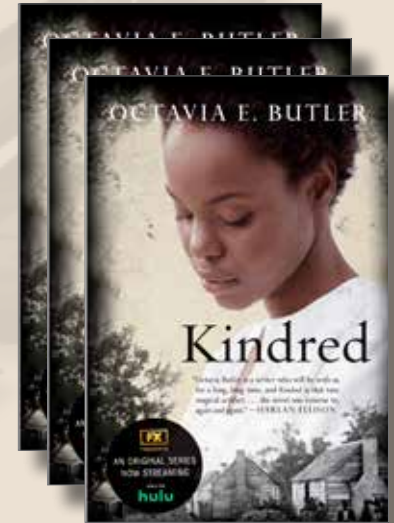


# Literary Corner...

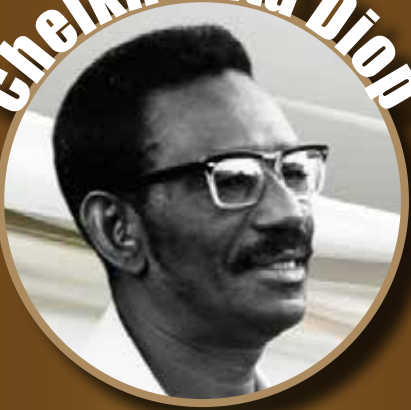
Octavia E. Butler



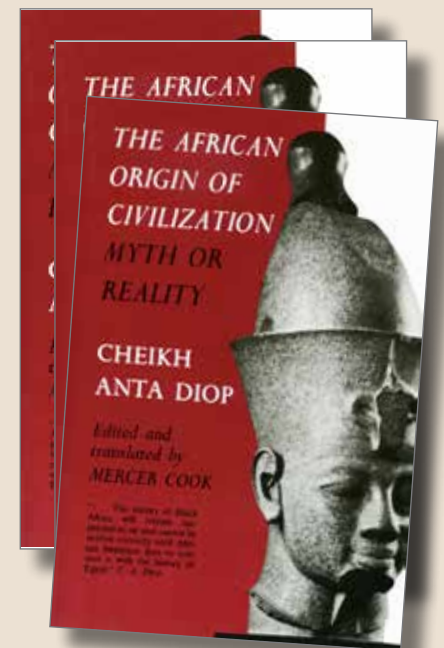
The author was renowned for numerous ground-breaking novels, including *Wild Seed* and *Parable of the Sower*. Recipient of the Locus, Hugo, and Nebula awards, and a PEN Lifetime Achievement Award for her body of work in 1995 she became the first science-fiction writer to receive the MacArthur Fellowship 'Genius Grant'. Her novels explore themes of Black injustice, women's rights, global warming and political disparity, and her work is taught in over two hundred colleges and universities nationwide. This book is about a modern-day Black woman celebrating her 26th birthday with her new husband, who is snatched from her home in California and transported to the antebellum South. The white son of a plantation owner is drowning and when has been summoned to save him. She is drawn back repeatedly through time to the slave quarters, and each time the stay grows longer, more arduous, and more dangerous until it is uncertain whether or not her life will end, long before it has a chance to begin♣



Cheikh Anta Diop



This book is a foundational work by the author arguing that civilization and humanity originated in Africa, with ancient Egypt being a Black African civilization that was a source of cultural development for the rest of Africa and the world. He used historical, archaeological, and linguistic evidence to challenge Eurocentric views, asserting a deep connection between Egyptian culture and other African societies, like Nubia. His work highlights Africa's role as the fount of human creative expression and a site of continued cultural dynamism, influencing later scholarship and exhibitions like The Metropolitan Museum of Art's "The African Origin of Civilization." Diop states that Homo Sapiens began as Black people in Africa and subsequently spread across the globe and that the advanced civilization of ancient Egypt was intrinsically Black African, drawing its roots from sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Nubia. He also argues that Egyptian civilization was influential, spreading across the Mediterranean and other parts of the world. His work critiques traditional historical interpretations that overlooked or downplayed Africa's significant contributions to early global civilizations.♣



Michelle Maiden



The author is a faith-based mindset coach who has dedicated her life to helping people break free from spiritual oppression and step into their God-given freedom and potential. She empowers individuals to recognize the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and embrace the identity and authority He has given to them. Her mission is to guide people in actualizing their highest potential, becoming the version of themselves who carries the anointing and blessings needed to transform their lives. This book is not a parenting book. It's a guide, a map, and a blueprint for navigating the cultural complexities of America as a Black a labeled person or child. Written from the perspective of a tour guide in a museum, Michelle walks readers through the exhibits of American society, explaining the spiritual and practical truths behind what they're seeing. This book envisions Black children as travelers arriving in a foreign land with no understanding of its complexities. How do they overcome the pitfalls, propaganda, deceptions, and distractions designed to pull them away from their divine identity and mission? By providing a clear and empowering perspective, this guide prepares them to see beyond societal illusions, reclaim their sense of purpose, and walk boldly in their God-given identity. This book serves as both a survival tool and a framework for transformation.♣

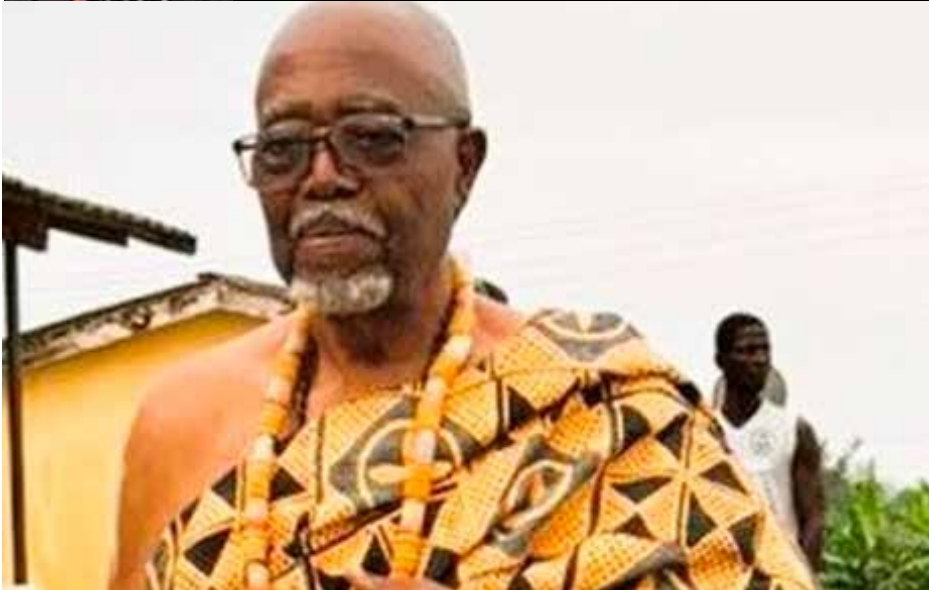






## Black People Don't Know History Tommy Green

Facebook and Steppin' Out Blogger  
Former Editor: Mobile Beacon



Black pastors & other leaders, I have been praying, trying to ascertain how Black people who have spent approximately 350 years in slavery/segregation, and they choose oppression over freedom. I can't predict the future, but if we hope to maintain rights, we need to study our African past and slavery in America. We can't continue trying to be accepted as full-blooded white Americans, which hasn't been beneficial to USES!! The following have confronted Black people since they have been in the presence of Europeans/whites; (1) Black people welcoming of Europeans were used to oppress them; (2) Africans had to lie in their waste for one to three weeks on ships coming to a new land; (3) Arrived in the Americas & sold as animals; (4) Families separated; (5) Men & women were raped by the slave masters as a form of control; (6) The enslaved Africans worked from dawn until dusk six days a week; (7) Africans remained in slavery until northern products were more costly than southern products because the south had free labor' (8) A compromise couldn't be reached, so the south and north went to war; (9) In April 1861, the Civil War started; (10) On April 9, 1865, the Civil War ended; (11) On January 31, 1865, the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment freed Africans; (12) Section 2, Congress has the power to enforce laws, which include free labor on farms; (13) On July 9, 1868, 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment granted citizenship to Africans; and (14) the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment allowed Africans to vote.

During the oppression of Black people, white women were supportive of white men because there has been an assumption by some that white women weren't participants in what was transpiring in the country. Also, they had a history of lying about Black men when they were in a relationship with Black men. Please remember Carolyn Bryant Donham (white woman) kept quiet while white men killed Emmitt Till, a 14-year-old Black boy from Chicago, IL who was visiting his relatives in Mississippi in 1955. She finally somewhat grudgingly admitted that Emmitt didn't do anything in her 80s, and this was the history before the 1960s. "I was hoping that one day she would admit it, so it matters to me that she did, and it gives me some satisfaction," said Wheeler Parker, 77, a cousin of Emmett's who lives near Chicago. For his part, Mr. Parker, a pastor, said he harbors no ill will toward Ms. Donham, and hopes that her admission brings her peace. "I can't hate," he said. "Hate destroys the hater, too. That's a heavy burden to carry."

I decided to post the information about crimes against humanity of Black people because the white racist (the hunter) didn't tell the story accurately, but Black people (the hunted) would have told a different story. Also, white society hated the 1960s when Black people loved themselves and stood up with their backs straightened for the first time. In addition, white people are very influential in USES's lives so we don't value the 1960s either.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER** *Still*



## Cultural Journey Home Chris Williams

One of the biggest and misrepresented secrets of the world is life in the Motherland. When you think of Africa and life there your mind quickly goes to primitive living, a coup de'etat, violence, poverty, lions and tigers. All true but there is also another side. I have found Ghana, in Western Africa to be one of the most peaceful westernized countries in Africa.

Living in Ghana, you are in the present and the past. It is one of the most thriving cultures of life. Tradition and a cultural identity are what makes you love your time here. There is the presence of Western culture with all the amenities that appease your taste from all countries in the world. You can also travel 5 miles from your 5 Star hotel and see the poverty and challenges that people face daily. No running water in homes, limited electricity and bad living conditions make daily living for some almost impossible. The one thing that does stand out in every village or place I have spent time is the strong family bonds and the respect for the elders that lead their community. Tradition from centuries ago are still going strong in today's life such family gatherings, weddings and burials where the whole village attend dressed in ancestral kente design which I find amazing with how the world is changing and the influences to move on from past ways of life.

In every place I have visited it is mandatory that I visit the elders of the village to show respect which is a custom that I have great respect for.

I can truly say that throughout my life that visiting the Motherland and experiencing the history of my people has been the most profound and educating experiences in my life. If you get the chance, visit and embrace the place where life began.

**The City of Mobile recognized the Mobile County Health Department (MCHD) for National Community Health Workers Awareness Week –August 25 to 29.–**

**The 2025 THEME:  
"Celebrating who we are, commemorating our achievements,  
& collaborating with equity."**



(L to R) Sequayah Chaney; Anthony Widner; Ashley Brown; Rochelle Williams; Tories Dunn; Mayor Sandy Stimpson; Patricia Kenny; Dr. Stephanie Woods-Crawford; and Sommerlyn Johnson





## The Dessert in Healthcare

### Dorshell Ferrell, RN, LMT



## Therapeutic Massage History and Touch Therapy

Massage probably began when cave men rubbed their bruises and patted their pain. Massage has been and will always be the most natural and instinctive means of relieving pain and discomfort. When a person has sore achy muscles, stomach pain, a bruise or a wound it is an innate impulse to touch and rub that part of the body to gain relief. We must be touched to survive. Touch is a hunger that must be fed, not just for well-being, but in order for us to survive. People who don't get enough touch are lonelier and less happy, they have less social support and a lower relationship satisfaction. Touch can improve every part of your life. In some way the pressure, vibration, temperature and muscle motion that move the skin enliven us with sensations. These sensations include experiences of pleasure, connectedness, joy, pain, sadness and longing. Touch itself is not only stress relieving; it's an element that is vital for our physical and emotional health. The simplest of touches has a powerful effect on your brain; a hand on your shoulder or a pat on your back. The lack of touch known as "skin hunger", causes stress including anxiety, mood disorders, depression and a weakened immune system. So, if inadvertent touch can affect you positively, imagine the powerful effect that intentional, compassionate touch therapy can have. This is what therapeutic massage does.

According to history therapeutic massage has been around for thousands of years. Its roots have been traced to Ancient China, India and Egypt. China used massage to restore balance and health through the body's vital energy or Qi. India practiced massage as a holistic system that focused on restoring balance between the mind, body and spirit through techniques like meditation and aromatherapy. Egypt has been credited with developing reflexology, a method of applying pressure to specific body parts to affect distant body parts.

During the Nineteenth century a Swedish doctor led to the development of a system of movements that formed the basis of modern Swedish massage. The twentieth and twenty first centuries therapeutic massage has gained scientific validation and became a respected part of healthcare as we know it today; sports medicine and holistic wellness approaches. It continues to evolve as a practice that supports personal growth and connection to the physical body. Therapeutic massage brings healing, restoration and rejuvenation for optimal overall health.♣

## USA Health Expands Nephrology Division

To meet the growing nephrology needs of community residents, USA Health has added Urshita Sinha, M.D., who will care for patients at the Mastin Internal Medicine Clinic and University Hospital.

Sinha was initially drawn to nephrology, the study of kidney disease, because of its challenges and complexities. "Regardless of one's subspecialty, nephrology plays a significant role," she said. "After all, the body is 60% water." Prior to joining USA Health, Sinha was a nephrology fellow at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

As a fellow, she learned about transplant surgery and renal diseases. She also developed her management skills, helping assess patients and perform renal biopsies. Sinha published most of her research during her time there. Sinha received international medical training. Originally from India, she earned her medical degree at Kasturba Medical College in India and completed an internship there as well. It was during that internship where she gained experience in a variety of fields, including nephrology and transplant surgery. She later completed her ACGME-accredited residency program at Hamad Medical Corporation in Qatar, where she also mentored students.

As part of the University of South Alabama's academic health system, Sinha will serve as assistant professor of internal medicine at the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine. Sinha further developed her teaching experience at Weill Cornell and Qatar University as a senior resident. In addition to her medical work, Sinha won the inter-university debate championship for the National Kidney Foundation in 2023 and contributed to published research.

She is accepting new patients at the Mastin Internal Medicine Clinic located at 2451 University Hospital Drive, Suite 102 in Mobile. To schedule an appointment, call 251-470-5890.

###



### Urshita Sinha, M.D.

Mastin Internal Medicine Clinic and University Hospital

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**Moments in Time**  
**Paulette Horton**  
AUTHOR... The Avenue

## Leonard Bernard Horton, Sr.

was born August 18, 1930 in Mobile, Alabama. Horton is one of Mobile's oldest living musicians and one of the oldest living graduates of Josephine Allen Private Institute, founded in 1895. He graduated in the class of 1947.



Horton shared memories from going to the school located off Davis Avenue from Down the Bay. He expressed to his father, Ernest Horton, an Overby photographer, that he wanted to take piano lessons. Horton took piano lessons from Ms Mary Lopez who lived in their neighborhood.

Through the years he has played with many beloved musicians in and around the Mobile area.♣



### Beta Omicron Lambda Chapter Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc

606 Saint Francis Street  
Mobile, AL 36602

Betaomiconlambda@gmail.com  
www.alphasofmobile.com

#### 25th Annual Blood Drive Honors Sickle Cell Warriors and Strengthens Community Ties

The Beta Omicron Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., in proud partnership with the American Red Cross, invites the community to join hands—and hearts—for the 25th Annual Blood Drive in support of Sickle Cell Anemia Warriors. This vital event will take place on **Saturday, September 27, 2025**, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the **Franklin Primary Health Mall**, located at 1303 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Avenue, Mobile, AL.

This year's milestone drive is more than a celebration of service—it's a call to action. Sickle Cell Disease disproportionately affects African Americans, with 1 in 13 African American babies born with the sickle cell trait. For those living with the disease, regular blood transfusions are not just treatment—they're lifelines. Yet, blood donations from individuals of similar ethnic backgrounds are crucial to ensure compatibility and reduce complications. "This drive is about more than giving blood—it's about giving hope," said Dr. Willie Patterson, President of the Beta Omicron Lambda Chapter. "We're standing with our brothers and sisters who battle sickle cell every day, and we're asking our community to show up for them."

The need for diverse blood donors is urgent. Blood from donors of African descent can provide the best match for patients with sickle cell, helping to prevent painful crises and improve quality of life. By donating, you're not only saving lives—you're uplifting a community that has long carried the burden of this disease.

#### How You Can Help:

- Schedule your appointment today at redcross.org Sponsor code
- Spread the word to friends, family, and neighbors
- Show up and give—your blood could be the match someone's been waiting for

Whether you're a first-time donor or a seasoned supporter, your presence matters. Let's make this 25th year the most impactful yet. Together, we can honor the legacy of service, amplify awareness, and bring healing to those who need it most.

♥ Empower. Uplift. Donate.

For media inquiries or more information, please contact: James Blackman

**251-295-5750**

**Jblackman05@gmail.com**



## 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



## ALLOW ME THIS: I'm Just Saying!!!

Anytime there are large sources of money you can find fraud and waste. It even happens quite often with small businesses who because of their budgets are often hit with employee embezzlement. Or things that do not get publicized because it may hurt their image, like attorneys stealing from trusts, City employees or managers stealing equipment. Trump's DOGE Team promised a lot, posted enormous amounts, yet the true numbers are only about ten percent of their postings. Any sane leadership expert will identify the insanity of terminating mass employees or intimidating them into retirement, without a plan to replace with quality talent. Oh but I forgot Trump qualifier, is they must be loyal to him, not the American people.

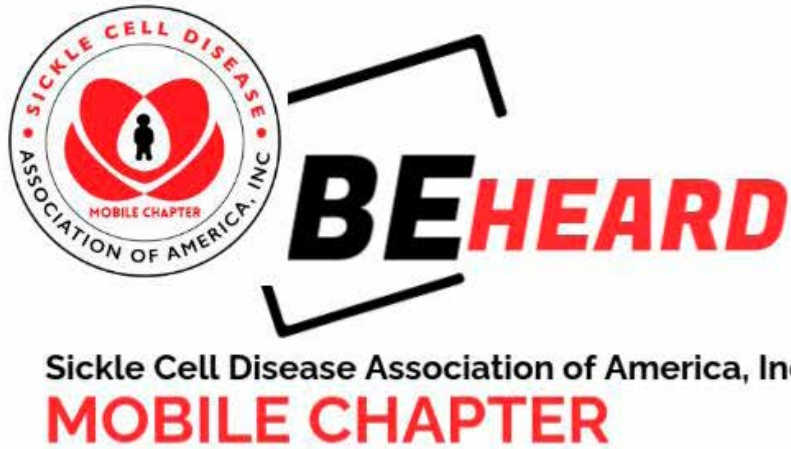
Three-hundred and fifty thousand (350,000) Black Women lost their jobs because of the purge of DEI, woke people and we are superior attitudes. To be honest this was not surprising based on Trump first term. What is surprising to me is that we as black and brown people are reliant on one income. As a youngster the elders preached not to trust the system—get a job AND have a business. Too many of our youth bought into the myth that college would ensure them a good job. Look at the debt and underemployment that is creating. Not everyone is college material. My true point is to ensure you have multiple income streams to protect yourself and family from people who rather see you replacing migrant labors.

If we were focused more on improving the quality of life of the Village, than getting a check. We would be speaking out on local atrocities: the pay disparity with companies who received taxpayer funds or federal contracts, the malfeasance of the procurement and political system, the structure that turned our institutions into low performing schools. But all most care about is their check.

My MaDear told me fear is an emotion. Never let it back you down. Once you standup they will run like cockroaches. We need bold, strategic efforts, not emotional rants or stark quietness. I'm just saying!!!

**As Always Let's Be Greater! ♣**





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Mobile, AL 36604  
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Fax: 251-432-3347  
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## September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month

Designated by Congress to help focus attention on the need for research and treatment of sickle cell disease. Mild sickle cell disease may have no impact on a person's day to day life. But the illness can be serious enough to have a significant effect on a person's life. It can lead to health problems like strokes, serious infections and lung problems, which can occasionally be fatal. The disease is caused by genetic variants in the HBB gene. This gene normally produces the oxygen carrying protein hemoglobin in red blood cells. To have the disease, a person must inherit one altered HBB gene from each parent. This genetic mutation causes red blood cells to become rigid and sickle shaped, leading to restricted blood flow and various health complications, such as pain, anemia, and organ damage.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder meaning it is passed down from parents to children. If a person inherits only one altered HBB gene from one parent and a normal gene from the other, they have the sickle cell trait. They are typically symptom free but can pass the altered gene to their children. To develop the disease, a child must inherit the altered gene from both parents. The HBB gene provides instructions for making beta-globin, a crucial part of hemoglobin. When the HBB gene has a specific change (a variant or mutation), it causes the body to produce an unusual form of hemoglobin, known as hemoglobin S (HbS). In individuals with sickle cell disease, this abnormal HbS causes their red blood cells, which are normally flexible, to become stiff and crescent shaped (sickled). These rigid sickle cells can block small blood vessels, disrupting oxygen supply to the body's tissues and leading to complications like chronic pain, severe anemia, and organ damage.

Here in Mobile, the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America-Mobile Chapter (SCDAA-MC) is led by Executive Director Gerald Alfred and a talented and dedicated staff, and partners USA Health Johnson Haynes, Jr., M.D., Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, Franklin Primary Health Center, Norman Hill Consulting Solutions, novo nordisk, and Pfizer. Its mission is to empower their clients and families with knowledge, through quality comprehensive programs and services. The organization advocates for individuals affected by sickle cell disease. They are the only Community Based Organization (CBO) with a in-house lab with a phlebotomist on staff and they work with community organizations, healthcare facilities, and government agencies to improve healthcare and support the search for a cure. The SCDAA-MC's goal is to enhance the quality of life for those with Sickle Cell Disease and their families, while advancing research for a universal cure. Though Sickle Cell Disease is a chronic and complex condition, SCDAA-MC is helping individuals live healthier and longer lives.

The SCDAA-MC offers free screening for sickle cell disease and traits.

If you are interested please call 251-432-0301.

### SICKLE CELL DISEASE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.



- Bridging
- Education
- Hope
- Empowerment
- Advocacy
- Research
- Dedication

### MOBILE CHAPTER

**Gerald E. Alfred**  
Executive Director

**Kevin Allen**  
Human Resources Bookkeeper

**Taryn Brooks**  
Project Director

**Felicia Amos**  
Newborn Screening Coordinator

**Chondra Stone**  
Community Health Worker

**Delia Ingram**  
Community Health Worker

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America-Mobile, AL  
1453 Springhill Avenue  
Mobile, Alabama 36604

#### STATS and FACTS

##### SERVICE AREA (by County):

- Baldwin
- Choctaw
- Clarke
- Conecuh
- Covington
- Escambia
- Mobile
- Monroe
- Washington



#### PROGRAMS:

Case Management, After School Tutorial, Summer Enrichment, Onsite Laboratory-Newborn Screening, Child and Adult Trait Counseling, Support Groups and Free Demand Response Transportation

[WWW.SCDMOBILE.ORG](http://WWW.SCDMOBILE.ORG)







# Seen, Supported, and Heard

Seen. Supported. Heard. These three words speak volumes about the direction of the Mobile Chapter of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America. Gerald Alfred, the Executive Director of the organization and his staff are repeating this Mantra across the community and their event, The UnGala, shows their commitment to getting their message out. "The UnGala is more than an event... it's a reflection of the mission of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America-Mobile Chapter (SCDAA-MC), said Alfred. Designed in a non-traditional way, it carries the same spirit as our warriors—bold, resilient, and full of hope. Through our BeHeard initiative, we amplify warrior voices and highlight their needs for care, resources, and community support. The UnGala is fun and energizing, but its purpose is serious: fundraising that fuels programs, advocacy,

and services. Together, we stand united with warriors, ensuring they are seen, supported, and heard."

To emphasize the meaning and importance of this annual event, the keynote speaker for the UnGala, Dr. Wanda Whitten-Shurney is the Chief Executive Officer & Medical Director of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA)-Michigan Chapter. Her late father,

Dr. Charles F. Whitten was the co-founder of what is now the SCDAA. This promises to be a dynamic event that will set a standard and deliver a message for fighting this disease and celebrate the warriors that deal with it everyday.

## Dr. Wanda Whitten-Shurney

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America  
—Michigan Chapter—



Dr. Wanda Whitten-Shurney has dedicated her career to advancing care, education, and advocacy for individuals living with sickle cell disease. Inspired early on by her father, the late Dr. Charles F. Whitten—co-founder of the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease (now Sickle Cell Disease Association of America)—Dr. Whitten-Shurney has been a lifelong champion of the sickle cell movement.

With over 30 years of clinical experience, Dr. Whitten-Shurney has provided compassionate, high-quality care to pediatric patients at the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Clinic at Children's Hospital of Michigan. She currently serves as CEO and Medical Director of the SCDAA Michigan Chapter and is a medical advisor for the Sickle Cell Reproductive Health Education Directive (SC RED). From 2016 to 2020, she contributed her expertise as a member of the NHLBI Sickle Cell Disease Research Advisory Committee.

A proud graduate of the Detroit Public School system, Dr. Whitten-Shurney's passion for science and advocacy began early—earning first prize for her Durfee Junior High School Science Fair Project on sickle cell disease. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan, earned her medical degree from Howard University, completed her pediatric residency at Children's Hospital of Michigan and spent a year in their hematology fellowship.

Currently, she is spearheading the development of the Charles F. Whitten Center of Excellence in the Henry Ford Health System, a pioneering initiative aimed at delivering comprehensive, wraparound services for adults living with sickle cell disease in Michigan.

Dr. Whitten-Shurney is widely respected for her patient-centered approach, emphasizing education and empowerment for families navigating the challenges of living with sickle cell disease. Known for her warmth, humor, and relatability, she is also a devoted mother to Simone and Cameron and a proud grandmother to Vanessa Rose. Outside of her professional commitments, she enjoys traveling, movies, ballroom dancing, and spending time with and spoiling her granddaughter.





## Watson Henderson Higher Achievement Award

The Johnson Haynes Jr., M.D., Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center (CSCC) recently honored the 2024 and 2025 recipients of the Watson Henderson Higher Achievement Award at a ceremony recognizing young individuals living with sickle cell disease who are pursuing higher education.

Mylaija Shavers, a member of the Class of 2024 at McGill-Toolen Catholic High School, and two members of the Class of 2025 - Asia Toney from Blount High School, and Sonara Dubose from Choctaw County High School - were recognized for their academic accomplishments and active participation in the Pediatric to Adult Care Transition Program (PACT). Each recipient received a monetary award between \$500 and \$1000 to support their next steps toward vocational training or college enrollment.

Now in its third year, the award was established in 2022 by Sylvester Ambien and Ardie Pack-Mabien, Ph.D., in honor of Pack-Mabien's grandparents, Mattie Watson and Henry Henderson. The award is presented annually to adolescents and young adults who have graduated from high school, submitted proof of acceptance into a higher education program, and demonstrated consistent engagement in their healthcare transition journey. Families, faculty and staff of the CSCC and Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Sickle Cell Clinic, and members of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America - Mobile Chapter attended the ceremony.

Since its inception, the award has provided more than \$4000 in educational support to seven inspiring young adults who exemplify perseverance, academic excellence, and a commitment to self-advocacy in managing their health and education. To learn more about the Watson Henderson Higher Achievement Award and how to apply, contact T'Shemika Perryman, RN, at (251) 470-5875 to schedule an in-person or virtual visit at the USA Johnson Haynes, Jr., M.D., CSCC Learning Resource and Development Center, located at 2451 University Hospital Drive, Moore Clinical Science Building, Suite 1530, Mobile, Alabama 36617.



## Registration for 2025 Sickle Cell Regional Conference

USA Health healthcare professionals are now invited to register for the 2025 Sickle Cell Regional Conference, a one-day educational event dedicated to advancing knowledge and care strategies for sickle cell disease hosted by the Johnson Haynes Jr., M.D. Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center. The conference will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Strada Patient Care Center first-floor conference room. Registration will be from 7:30 to 8 a.m.

The event, Sickle Cell Disease Practical Issues XIX: Nurses, Anchors of Healthcare in Sickle Cell Disease, will bring together leading experts to discuss the latest developments in pathophysiology, precision medicine, gene therapy, nursing management, and emerging treatments. This year's program is designed for advanced practice providers, nurses, medical and nursing students, community health workers, social workers, case managers, and allied health professionals. The conference has been approved for 6.3 CEU contact hours by the Alabama Board of Nursing.

Advance Registration Deadline: Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, at 5 p.m.

- \$60 general admission
- \$40 non-USA Health nurses, social workers, case managers and allied health
- No charge for USA Health advanced practice providers, nurses, social workers, case managers, interns, residents, and students with a USA ID.
- Late registration after Sept. 12 will be \$85 for most categories.
- Registration fee includes: conference syllabus, breakfast, and a box lunch.

Featured presentations include:

- Pathophysiology of Sickle Cell Disease – Felicia Wilson, M.D., a pediatric hematologist/oncologist with USA Health and professor of pediatrics at the Whiddon College of Medicine;
- Precision Medicine in Sickle Cell Disease – Antwan J. Hogue, M.D., the medical director of the sickle cell center and assistant professor of internal medicine at the Whiddon College of Medicine;
- Gene Therapy in Sickle Cell Anemia – Hamayun Imran, M.D., a pediatric hematologist/oncologist with USA Health and professor of pediatrics at the Whiddon College of Medicine;
- Nursing Management in Pediatric & Adult Sickle Cell Care – Jennifer Williams, CRNP, and Jessica King, FNP-C.

For questions, requests, or to receive instructions on how to register online and for special accommodations, contact the Johnson Haynes Jr., M.D. Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at (251) 470-5893 or [amabien@health.southalabama.edu](mailto:amabien@health.southalabama.edu).





# 2025 NATIONAL SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

**SEPT. 1-30**
**SICKLE CELL TRAIT TESTING**  
SCDAA-MC, 1453 Springhill Ave., Mobile, AL

**SEPT. 4,11,18,25**
**SCDAA-MC OPEN HOUSE**  
SCDAA-MC, 1453 Springhill Ave., Mobile, AL, 10am-Noon

**SEPT.9**
**PROCLAMATION SIGNING**  
City of Mobile: Government Plaza, 10th Floor 10:30am

**SEPT.11**
**2025 SHINE THE LIGHT "UNGALA"**  
The Dauphin at Cathedral Square: Downtown Mobile, AL... 6pm-9pm

**SEPT.12**
**CYCLING FOR AWARENESS**  
Sponsored by: SCDAA-MC and USA Johnson Haynes, Jr. M.D. Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center; LODA Art Walk

**SEPT.13**
**LIGHTING OF THE RSA TOWER**

**SEPT.17**
**USA /PACT OPEN HOUSE**  
Sponsored by: SCDAA-MC /USA Johnson Haynes, Jr. M.D. Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, 2452 University Hospital Drive, Moorer Bldg, #1530

**SEPT.20**
**SCDAA-MC RADIOTHON**  
Sponsored by: SCDAA-MC and Cumulus Broadcasting Company.

**SEPT. 27**
**ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE**  
Sponsored by: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Beta Omicron Lambda Chapter. Location: Franklin Primary Health Center, 9am-2pm




# BeHEARD RADIO-THON

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20  
6AM-10PM**

2800 DAUPHIN STREET, MOBILE, ALABAMA

[www.SCDMobile.org](http://www.SCDMobile.org)












## Trisickle for Sickle Cell Disease Awareness


**Art Walk - Cathedral Square**  
**Friday, September 12 from 6pm-8pm**





USA Health Dr. Johnson Haynes, Jr, MD  
Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center

SICKLE CELL DISEASE ASSOCIATION  
OF AMERICA MOBILE CHAPTER, INC.




# UNGALA


**THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2025  
6PM-9PM**

**THE COURTYARD AT DAUPHIN  
751 DAUPHIN STREET**

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO RESERVE YOUR  
FREE TICKET



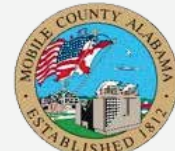
Attire: Males – Suit & Tie  
Ladies – Cocktail Dresses







# Extra Extra



## THE AFRICATOWN FOREVER HOMES PROGRAM and THE MOBILE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE BROKERS (NAREB MOBILE)

★ **FREE PUBLIC EVENT** ★

**PRESENTS**

### A HOMEOWNERSHIP EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE EVENT

**Saturday, September 27, 2025 | 10:00am - 3:00pm | Robert L. Hope Community Center | Africatown**

#### HOMEOWNERSHIP RESOURCE EVENT

The Africatown Redevelopment Corporation (ARC) will offer a FREE homeownership educational resource event to support individual and family needs on their homeownership journey. Discussions on how to qualify to purchase, rent and maintain newly constructed and revitalized historic homes in the Africatown Historic District (AHD) will be presented. The ARC currently has eight (08) new homes under construction with phased completions over the next two (02) to six (06) months. It has seven (07) historic home revitalization sites (inclusive of 10 historic structures) in progress with estimated completion times of six (06) to eight (08) months. These newly built and historically renovated homes will have a tremendous impact on both the in-fill housing stock and a supportive economic impact for the city, while creating an opportunity for generational wealth building through homeownership. These opportunities will be for first time homebuyers and renters. NAREB Mobile, together with area mortgage lenders, community banks, utility partners, home-maintenance professionals, estate attorneys, and nonprofit financial education organizations, will be present to educate consumers on grants for down payment assistance and other incentives for homes through the AFRICATOWN FOREVER HOMES PROGRAM - advancing wealth building through homeownership.

#### THE EVOLUTION OF THE ARC

The ARC was formed on September 10, 2021, by a legislative act introduced by Rep. Adline Clarke to the Alabama State House of Representatives. The Board of Directors were appointed by the elected officials representing the Africatown Historic District (AHD) community at all levels of governmental (city, county and state) leadership and the Clotilda Descendants Association and the Africatown Heritage Preservation Foundation.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER FOR EVENT OR**  
**Call 251-533-4344**



They assembled in January of 2022, formed a search committee and conducted a nationwide exploration for an executive director. On October 28, 2022, they hired former judge, Karlos Finley, Esq. As a first order of business, Finley finalized the organization's bylaws and secured its IRS code 501(c)3 status with an effective date of September 10, 2021. Since that time the organization has hired an administrative assistant, a dedicated realtor and a project manager. It has grown its community partnerships with individual communal stakeholders and developed relationships with local businesses, utilities, national corporations, public and private philanthropic organizations and individuals.

The ARC's success could not be possible without funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) administered through both Mobile County (\$3mil) and the City of Mobile (\$1.5mil). These significant contributions have allowed the organization to confidently enter onto the road to fulfilling its mission to revitalize housing, preserve history and attract commerce in the area known as the AHD. In June of 2024, the ARC took possession of a new state-of-the-art complex known as the Africatown Hall. It provides permanent office space for itself and several partnered community organizations. It is attached to the Foodbank which has facilities (refrigerated reefers) for food storage (perishable and non-perishable) to enhance the bi-monthly food banks conducted by the Africatown Community Development Corp., which provides healthy fresh foods to the community. Africatown is a food and commerce desert. The Foodbank makes a significant contribution to the community.

Africatown was founded by native Africans who were illegally trafficked into the country aboard the last known slave ship (Schooner Clotilde) to enter the United States in 1860. A concentrated group of survivors from the cruel and dastardly voyage were enslaved for 5 years in the Plateau, Magazine Point and Prichard communities located 3.5 miles north of the city of Mobile on a secluded peninsula until the end of the American Civil War in 1865.

They, along with other newly freed African American slaves from the Meaher and Bufford Plantations purchased land and built modest homes. They pooled their funds and resources to create a school for their children and a church for the community to worship. They appointed local leaders to govern their unincorporated community and by the 1920's Africatown was the 4th largest Black led community in the U.S. The African American migration of the 1950's, 60's and 70's, coupled with city annexation motivated by riverfront industrialization reduced Africatown's population to less than 1500 residents in recent years. "It is in the spirit of those original founders that we do our work", said ARC Executive Director, Karlos Finley.

The ARC's diverse unrestricted funding sources have enabled it to cover a broad spectrum of start-up costs that have produced a stable foundation for the corporation. That foundation has allowed the ARC to acquired historically significant home structures in blighted conditions. Having the latitude to address these priority issues has been invaluable.

#### NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION, REVITALIZATION AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

General Operating Support Grants provided by partners like, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Regions Bank, Renasant Bank, Commonwealth National Bank, Century Bank, SAK Construction, Alabama Power, Hargrove Foundation, Metals USA, Jack and Jill of America, Marc and Jessica Knowles and Rock & Roll Offs have been the life blood of the ARC. Through its "Africatown Forever Homes Program", the ARC has provided two new, 3-bedroom/2-bathroom affordable homes in the community for first-time homeowners. These are the first new homes constructed in the AHD in over 30 years. Through partnerships with the City of Mobile, Mobile County, and with funding by the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, two families now live in new quality-built energy-efficient homes. The work the ARC is doing has inspired a new pride in community residents.

#### FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY

The ARC's work in the AHD is far from concluded. It will be working well in the future to facilitate a healthy and sustainable community for families and children. The AHD has infinite potential with a world class museum voted the best new museum in the country by National Geographic and USA Today in 2023, a new city and federally funded welcome center under construction currently and nonprofit community partnerships with organizations that have congruent yet nuanced goals that they work synergistically to accomplish. These are the endeavors that will enhance the lives of our children by teaching them the greatness of their ancestors in real time and instilling self-pride to inspire them to attain the same. "Our primary goals are designed to serve current residents and generations to come", says Finley. "It is through our children that communities maintain their greatness. It is through our children that our legacies are upheld. It is through our children that our immortality is achieved."

Finley says, "The ARC is currently researching the development of a for-profit subsidiary to help fund the nonprofit parent organization. This will allow us to continue to foster the safety and health of the community's children and families, thereby increasing their ability to establish generational wealth through homeownership, community service and business ownership, while enhancing and improving the quality of life through a holistic approach to the growth of a healthy and sustainable community."

*Article written by:*

Karlos Finley, Africatown Redevelopment Corp.  
Andreda Randelson, NAREB - Mobile

REVITALIZE HOUSING



PRESERVE HISTORY



ATTRACT COMMERCE





# ATTENTION YOUNG PARENTS



Are you between the ages of 10-24, pregnant, or parenting?  
Is your child or children age 0-5? The Mobile County Health Department is here to support you through our Healthy Start Enhanced Program! Join a community dedicated to helping you and your little ones thrive. Our trained Parent Educators are ready to assist you with valuable information, resources, and tools designed to help your children learn, grow, and develop.

**PERSONAL VISITS:** Our professionals provide one-on-one support right in your home, offering parenting guidance tailored to your family's needs.

**MONTHLY GROUP CONNECT MEETINGS:** Join us for fun-filled gatherings where you can connect with other parents, hear from guest speakers, participate in engaging activities, and enjoy refreshments—all while building a supportive community around you!

**EARN BABY BUCKS:** The more you participate in our program, the more Baby Bucks you can earn! Use these bucks in our Baby Store to purchase essential items like diapers, wipes, baby clothes, toys, car seats, strollers, and so much more!

**FATHERHOOD COMPONENT:** A network for fathers to feel supported and make connections with other fathers while providing resources to them to help support their families. Don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your parenting journey while connecting with others who understand your experiences.



For more information about the Healthy Start Enhanced Program or to get involved, don't hesitate to get in touch with us at [healthystart@mchd.org](mailto:healthystart@mchd.org) or call 251-433-8715.

Ready to take the next step? Make a referral today by visiting:  
<https://redcap.mchd.org/surveys/?s=9H7WR4NX98MAP7F7&dag=VHeY>



mchd.org

MC  
HD

**HEALTHY START ENHANCED** offers services and support for mothers, children and their families before, during and after pregnancy.





## Taking Mobile To The Next Level

**Memphis Vaughan Jr.**

NATIVE MOBILIAN; EDITOR OF LITERARY

WEBSITE... [TimBookTu.com](http://TimBookTu.com)

SEND FEEDBACK TO: [mempv57@gmail.com](mailto:mempv57@gmail.com)

## You Must Do the Work

A long time ago, I learned an important lesson from my father about the value of hard work. He instilled in me a strong work ethic and taught me that if you want something, you have to earn it." Since the age of 11 until and other than my freshmen year in college, I have had some type of paying job. I've been a paperboy, janitor, fast food worker, camera salesman, engineering intern, engineer, Uber driver, Airbnb owner, and a few other odd jobs. On the non-paying front, I've served in a few volunteer positions: at church, in college, in the community, and in other capacities. And as a writer for this publication and as the editor/publisher/writer for the TimBookTu website, which I created over 25 years ago. I often find myself busy, with many responsibilities that require me to juggle tasks and set priorities in order to still leave space for leisure—or simply for doing z nothing at all. In the midst of it, I feel productive, and I suppose I embody the old saying: "If you want something done, give it to a busy person." (Sidenote: I'm not seeking any new tasks to add to my plate).

The reason I do many of these things is because I want to achieve my goals, I want to help others, I want to see a better society, and because it's in the Vaughan DNA. Too many people want to achieve things, but they don't want to make sacrifices. To accomplish your goals or to have something substantial, you must do the work. There are no shortcuts because anything worth having is worth working for. You must be in learning mode all the time and stay informed of what's going on in your life, the community, and the world. Be aware of the situation and what actions it may require to be successful. Achieving our goals will oftentimes require doing some physical work. I've come to realize that no matter what my place in life, I'm never above doing physical work when it's needed. I tend to feel a greater sense of accomplishment, when I've put forth a tremendous effort

Not every effort will be exciting—some tasks may feel boring or routine—but reaching our goals often requires tackling the challenges and stumbling blocks. The process may not always be thrilling, yet the outcome can be rewarding. Don't give up when things get difficult; stay positive, remain focused, and success will follow. Equally important, always be willing to mentor and share your knowledge with others. By planting seeds and guiding the next generation, we ensure that when we can no longer carry on, they will be prepared to continue the journey.♣



## Expressions: Right or Wrong!

**Lisa Johnson**

Sometimes life choices have simple answers, but we tend to make things complicated if the solution isn't complex. For example, I saw an IT professional create an unnecessarily complex solution for a problem that only needed a simple fix. Apparently, he wanted to prove his worth as a new employee. His complicated solution added extra steps and unnecessary stress. At any rate, in life, problems don't always require complicated answers. Good communication often makes solutions clear.

Sometimes the answer can be as simple as a yes or no. Have you ever felt the answer is too simple, especially when the situation is complicated? I remember having a severe headache that sent me to the emergency room. I just knew the doctor was going to prescribe me medication or give me a shot to ease the pain. To my surprise, the doctor told me to buy Afrin. I thought to myself, Afrin? But guess what, it worked! Another time, I was told to buy some over-the-counter vitamins, and it worked. This isn't to say all my visits involved simple diagnoses, but sometimes we get so worked up over what appear to be complex situations that have simple solutions. Did you know our bodies have pressure points that can ease tension and relax muscles?

Regarding disagreements or conflicts, do you tend to make things more complicated? Are there simple ways to resolve them? Try writing down the problem on paper and listing possible simple solutions without overthinking or going to extreme measures. Sometimes you can't see the picture until you're out of it. As humans, we can become emotionally charged, and those emotions impact our judgements. Step back from the situation and take deep breaths before problem-solving.

~ Proverbs 15:22; 17:14, 20:18; Genesis 13:8, 9~♣

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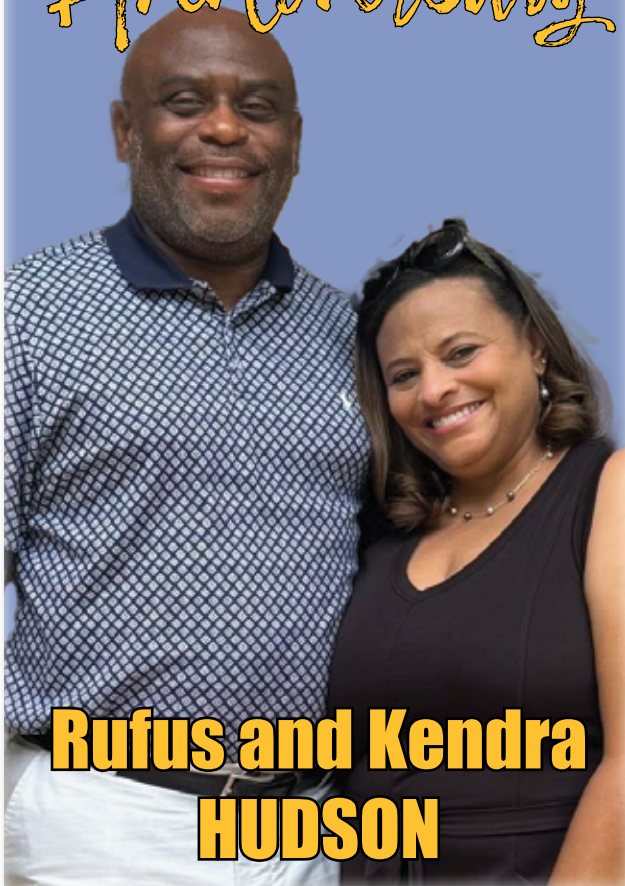




# Hats Off

**HAPPY 33<sup>RD</sup> WEDDING**

*Anniversary*



**Rufus and Kendra  
HUDSON**

**Congratulations!**

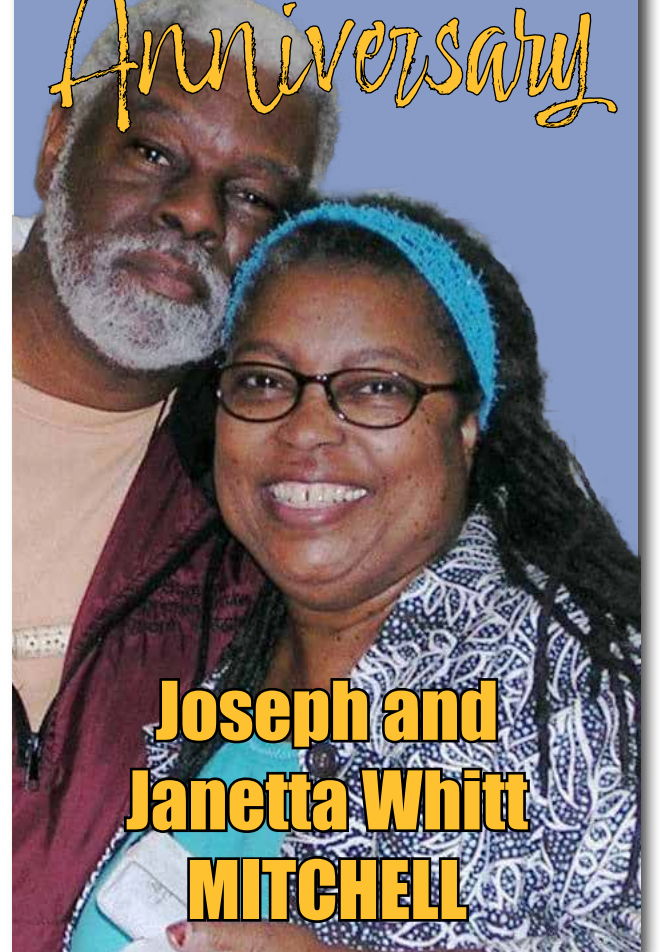
**Branden Turner**



NAMED  
**BIG TEN  
All-Conference**  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

**HAPPY 53<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING**

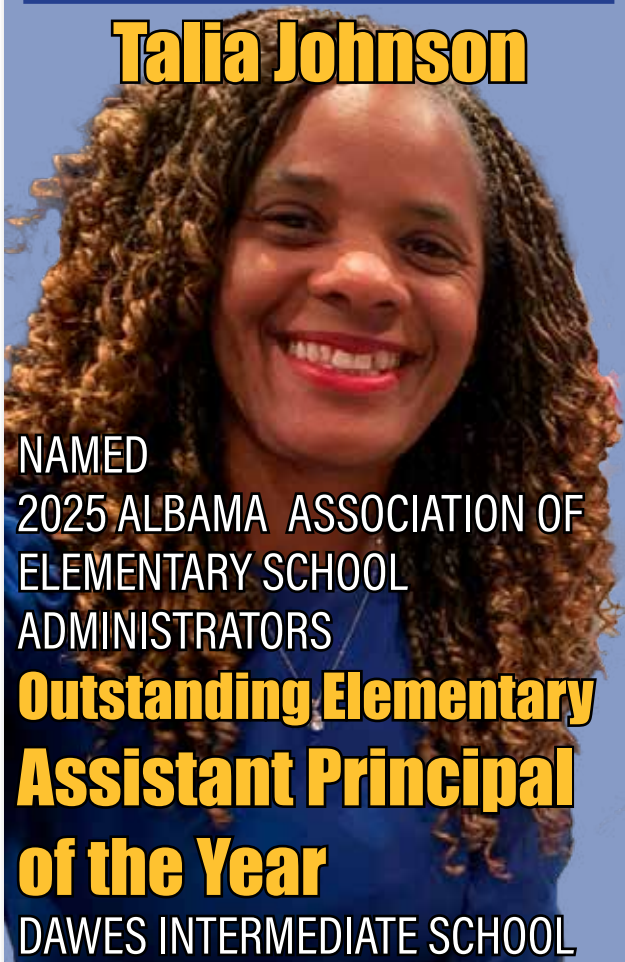
*Anniversary*



**Joseph and  
Janetta Whitt  
MITCHELL**

**Congratulations!**

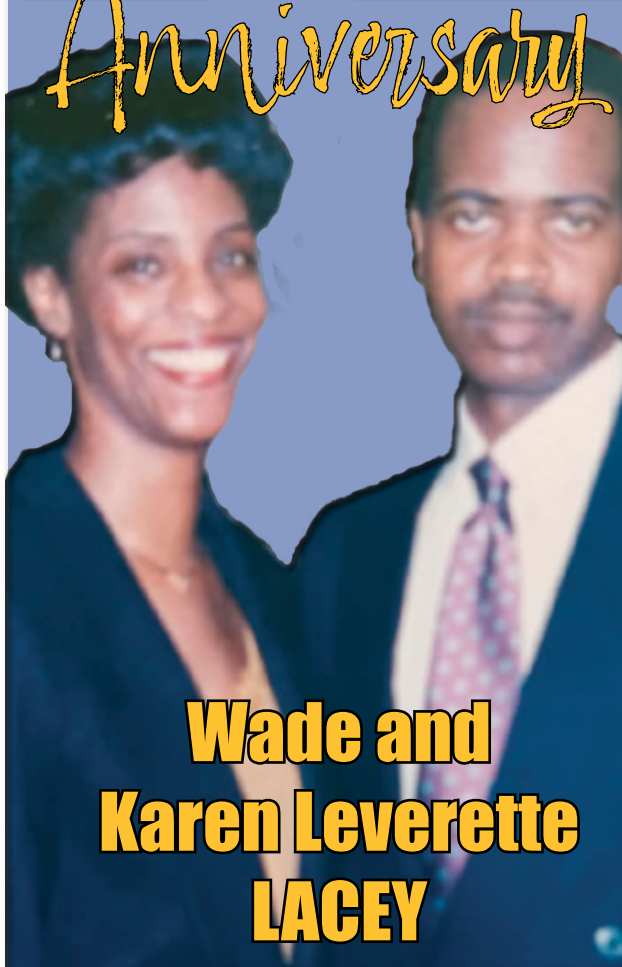
**Talia Johnson**



NAMED  
2025 ALBAMA ASSOCIATION OF  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ADMINISTRATORS  
**Outstanding Elementary  
Assistant Principal  
of the Year**  
DAWES INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**HAPPY 44<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING**

*Anniversary*



**Wade and  
Karen Leverette  
LACEY**

**Congratulations!**

**Frank Lucas Ed.D**

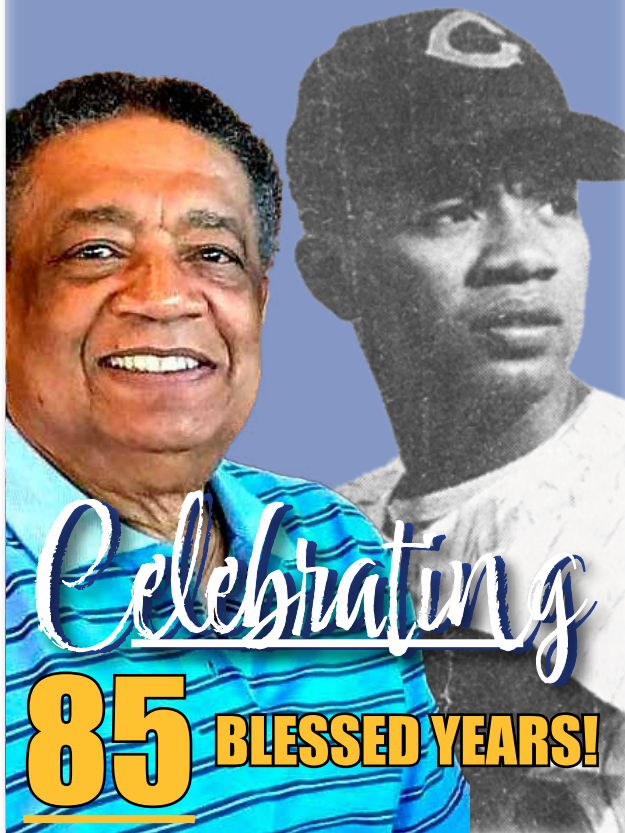


PROMOTED TO  
**Director of  
Student Records  
and Engagement**  
University of South Alabama



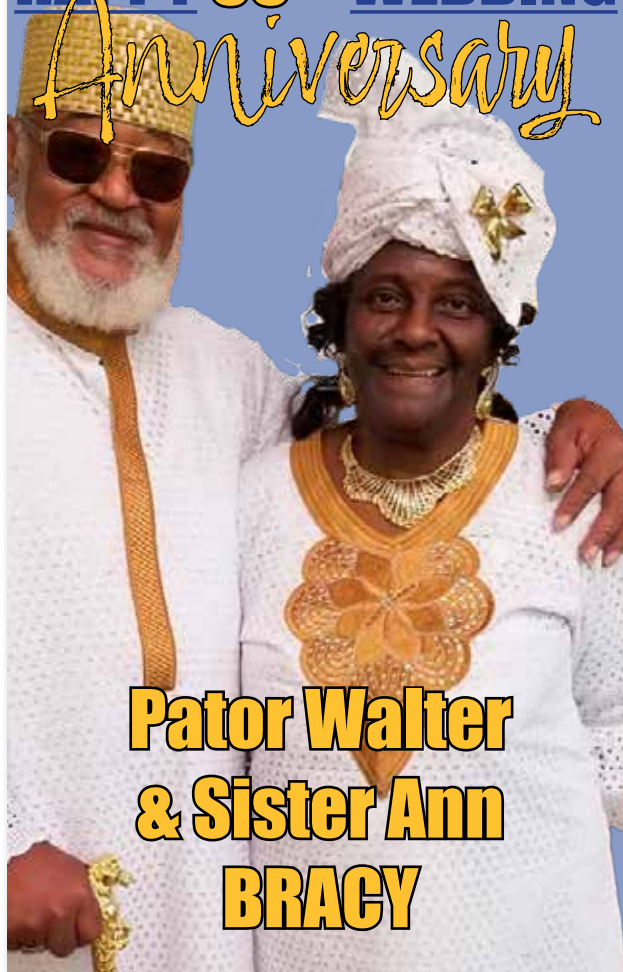
# Hats Off

**HAPPY** *Birthday*  
**Wilmer Sigler Sr.**



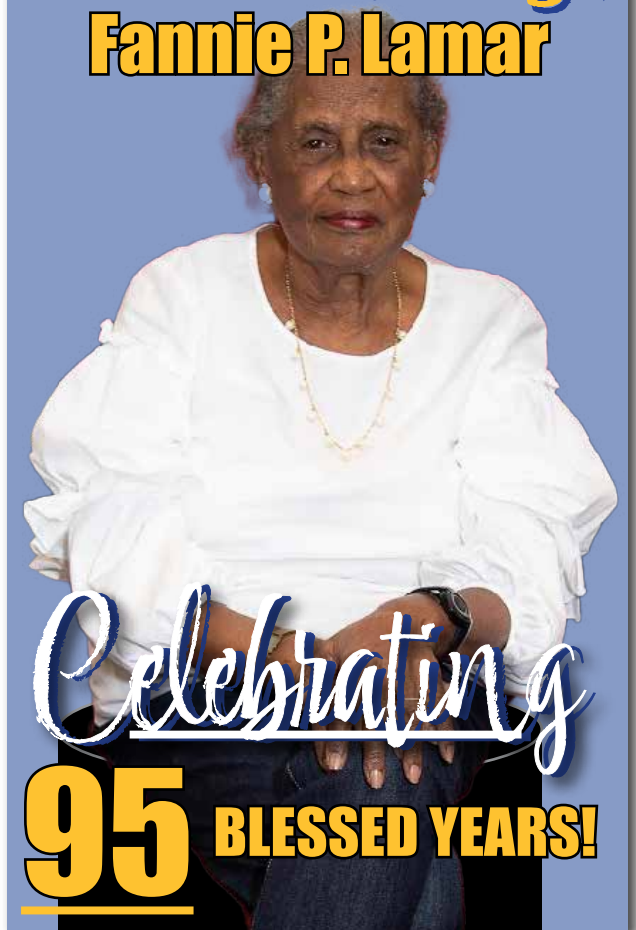
*Celebrating*  
**85** BLESSED YEARS!

**HAPPY 55<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING**  
*Anniversary*



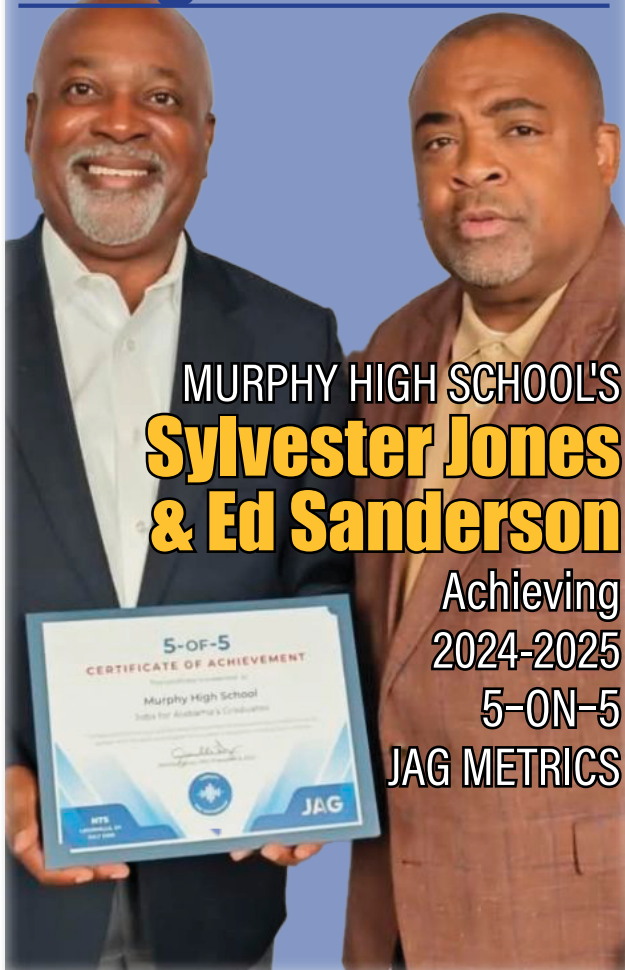
**Pator Walter  
& Sister Ann  
BRACY**

**HAPPY** *Birthday*  
**Fannie P. Lamar**



*Celebrating*  
**95** BLESSED YEARS!

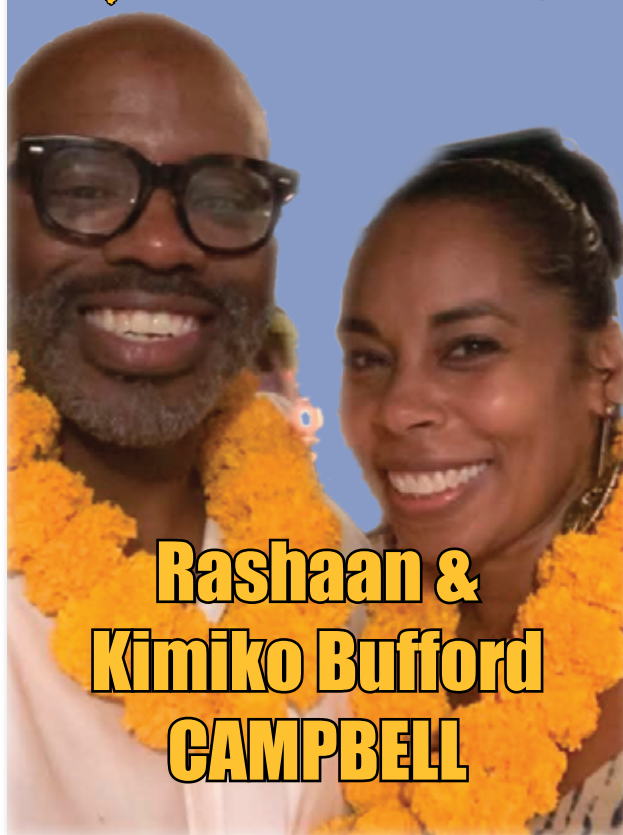
**Congratulations!**



MURPHY HIGH SCHOOL'S  
**Sylvester Jones  
& Ed Sanderson**

Achieving  
2024-2025  
5-ON-5  
JAG METRICS

**HAPPY 21<sup>ST</sup> WEDDING**  
*Anniversary*



**Rashaan &  
Kimiko Bufford  
CAMPBELL**

**Congratulations!**  
**Courtney Page**



NAMED  
**Youth Minister**  
PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC  
CHURCH





# BLAQUE HISTORY 24/7—365

## Elicia "E J" Jaxon



## The History and Origin of "The Picnic"

This message is a powerful, emotional reflection on the painful legacy of racial violence in America, particularly the horrific history of lynchings. However, it's important to clarify the historical accuracy around the term “picnic.”

### THE CLAIM:

There's a widespread claim that the word *picnic* is linked to lynchings of Black people in the U.S.—that white families would gather to watch lynchings and call it a “picnic,” combining the words “pick” and “n\*\*ger.” This narrative is often used to highlight the grotesque normalcy of racial violence in the past.

### THE TRUTH:

This **etymology is not historically accurate**. According to linguistic and historical scholarship:

- The word “**picnic**” originates from the **French word *pique-nique***, which appeared in the 17th century and referred to a social gathering where each person contributed food.
- It entered the English language in the early 18th century with the same meaning: a casual outdoor meal.

### WHAT IS HISTORICALLY ACCURATE:

While *picnic* doesn't come from the act of watching lynchings, white families did in fact gather to watch lynchings, especially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These events were often treated as public spectacles, and people—including

children—attended. Postcards were even made of these horrific scenes. This part of the message reflects a real and deeply painful truth about American history.

### WHY THIS MATTERS:

- **Misinformation**, even when well-intentioned or emotionally resonant, can distract from the real, documented atrocities.
- There is already ample evidence of systemic and racial violence without needing to modify linguistic history.
- Understanding both the emotional truth *and* the factual history is essential in preserving the integrity of the struggle for justice and remembrance.

### FINAL THOUGHT:

We absolutely should remember and honor those who suffered—and continue to suffer—from racial injustice. But we should also strive to do so with truth as our foundation. The pain is real. The history is real. And the fight to never forget must be based on both facts and feeling. ♣



# Mark Your Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 2025

### MOBILE/BALDWIN

#### CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**Community Yard Sale**, Lily Baptist Church, 9/20 @ 7 am

#### COMMUNITY ACTIVITY & EVENTS

**LODA ArtWalk**, Downtown Mobile, every 2nd Friday

**Spoken Word of Mobile Open Mic Night**, Toulminville Branch Library, every 3rd Monday @ 6 pm

**New to Medicare Free Monthly Educational Seminar**, Area Agency on Aging, GM&O Building First Floor Conference Room, 1st Tuesday Monthly

**Growth Alliance Task Force Meeting**, Mobile Chamber of Commerce, 1st Tuesday Monthly @ Noon

**Boys & Girls Club of South Alabama Community Partner Day**, Shelton Beach Rd., 9/5 @ 10 am

**First Friday Art Walk**, Gallery by the Bay, Fairhope, 9/5 @ 6:00 pm

**International Fashion Show & Exhibit**, Seals Community Center, 9/6 @ 4:00 pm

**Central Midtown Family Festival & Taco Tailgate Cook-Off**, 9/13 @ 10 am

**Fall Into Good Health**, Hope Center-Plateau, 9/13 @ 10 am

**Come Out Mobile 2025**, The Locale, 9/13 @ 6 pm

**Kids Day: Young Entrepreneur Showcase**, Innovation Portal, 9/20 @ 10 am

**Fall Shopper's Market**, Fairhope, 9/20 @ 10 am

**Tailgate With the Tooth Fairy**, Smile Center, 9/20 @ 10 am

**2025 Mobile Wish Night**, Renaissance Riverview Hotel, 9/25 @ 6 pm

**Mobile Flea Market Pumpkin Patch**, Schillinger Rd., 9/27 & 28 @ 8 am

**South Alabama Comic Con**, Convention Center, 9/27 & 28

#### CONCERTS/MUSIC

**Thirsty Thursdays Live Jazz Jam Sessions, Kazoola's**, Every Thursday

**October London and Kim Scott**, Saenger Mobile, 9/5 @ 8 pm

**Luke Bryan, Cole Goodwin, Adrien Nunez**, MS. Coast Coliseum, 9/6

**Joe**, Beau Rivage Theatre, Biloxi, 9/6

**Three Dog Night with Little River Band**, The Sound Amphitheater, Gautier, 9/6

**James Taylor and Tiny Habits**, Coca-Cola Amphitheater-Birmingham, 9/10

**Brad Williams**, IP Casino Resort and Spa, 9/12

**Phish**, The Coca-Cola Amphitheater-Birmingham, 9/13

**Kelly Price, Total, 702, Adina Howard, Kut Klose, Changing Faces**, MS. Coast Coliseum, 9/13

**Alice Cooper and Judas Priest**, MS. Coast Coliseum, 9/16

**Lee Ritenour**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 9/17-18

**Nelly, St. Lunatics, Ja Rule, Chingy, Jermaine Dupri**, Coca-Cola Amphitheater-Birmingham, 9/18

**Ali Siddiq**, Immersive Media Arts Center, Gulfport, 9/19

**Gulf Coast Summer Fest @Pensacola Maritime Park...**

**Down to the Bone, Adam Hawley, Nathan Mitchell, Alex Bugnon, Patrick Lamb**, 9/19; **Peter White, Gerald Albright, Jeff Lorber, Rob Zinn**, 9/20; **Spyro Gyra**,

**Kirk Whalum, Jonathan Butler, Najee, Mindi Abair**, 9/21;

**Great White with Slaughter**, Studio A at IP Casino Resort and Spa, Biloxi, 9/20

**Mindi Abair**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 9/20

**Lindsey Webster**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 9/21

**Alabama Shakes**, Saenger-New Orleans, 9/23

**Raphael Saadiq**, Mahalia Jackson Theater-New Orleans, 9/25

**John Pizzarelli**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 9/26

**Chance the Rapper**, Filmore-New Orleans, 9/27

**Joshua Redman**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 9/28

### COMING ATTRACTIONS

**Bill Frisell**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/1

**Bob James**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/2-3

**Charlie Wilson and El DeBarge**, Smoothie King Center-New Orleans, 10/3

**Alabama**, The Sound Amphitheater, Gautier, 10/2

**Grand Funk Railroad**, Hard Rock Live, Biloxi, 10/4

**Charlie Wilson, Babyface, El DeBarge**, Coca-Cola Amphitheater-Birmingham, 10/10

**Chris Brown, Jhené Aiko, Bryson Tiller**, Protective Stadium-Birmingham, 10/11

**Charlie Musselwhite**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/4

**Lisa Fischer**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/5

**Yellowjackets**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/9-10

**Grace Kelly**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/11

**Chris Brown, Jhené Aiko, Bryson Tiller**, Caesars Superdome-New Orleans, 10/16

**Kenny Neal**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/16

**Jeffrey Osborne**, Studio A at IP Casino Resort and Spa-Biloxi, 10/17

**Peter Frampton**, Saenger-New Orleans, 10/17

**Mother's Finest**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/17

**George Coleman**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/19

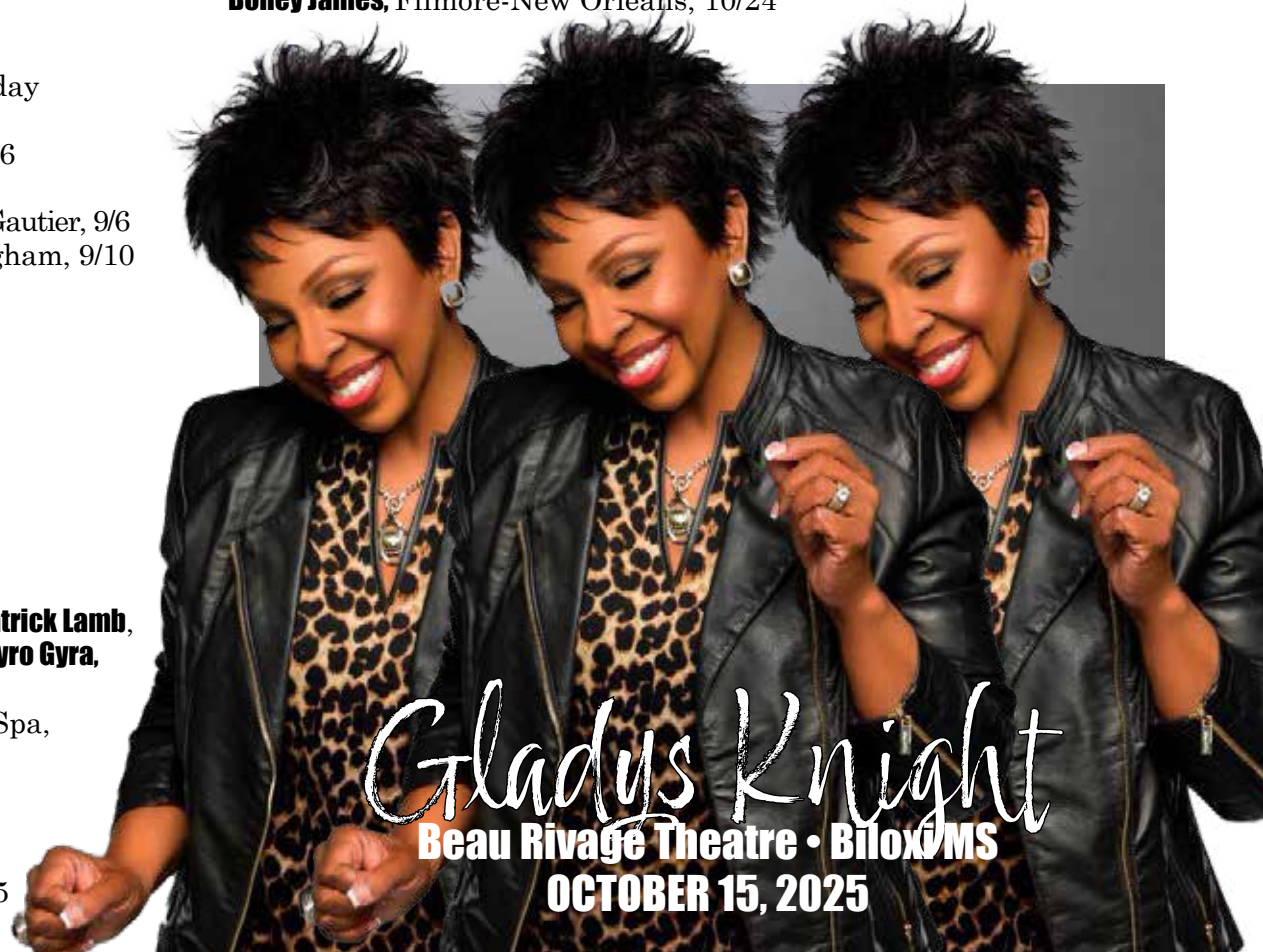
**NBA Youngboy, deebaby**, K3, Smoothie King Center, 10/19-20

**NBA Youngboy, deebaby**, K3, BJCC-Legacy Arena, 10/22

**John Legend**, Saenger-New Orleans, 10/23

**Stanley Jordan**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/23-24

**Boney James**, Filmore-New Orleans, 10/24



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**Morgan James**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/25

**Brian Culbertson**, Lyric Theatre-Birmingham, 10/28

**Paul McCartney**, Smoothie King Center, 10/29

**Brian Blade**, New Orleans Jazz Market, 10/30-31Ffaqà1a

**Tasha Cobbs Leonard and Naomi Raine**, BJCC Concert Hall-Birmingham, 11/4

**Tiffany Haddish**, Lyric Theatre-Birmingham, 11/9

**Kem**, Beau Rivage Theatre-Biloxi, 11/14

**DC Young Fly, Karlos Miller, Chico Bean**, BJCC Legacy Arena-Birmingham, 11/14

**Brandy and Monica, Kelly Rowland, Muni Long, Jamal Roberts**, BJCC Legacy Arena-Birmingham, 11/15



# SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

## PASTOR W.A. JAMES

### GRACE AND TRUTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

—1408 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVENUE • MOBILE, ALABAMA 36603—

Raised in the time-honored traditions of the "Ole' Skool," W.A. James was shaped by the wisdom of his grandfather and the unwavering love of his mother. After completing his education, he spent his early adult years traveling the world—experiences that would ultimately prepare him for a higher calling. When God moved in his life, he answered with conviction. Today, he is a devoted husband, father, preacher, and teacher at Truth and Grace Christian Fellowship Church. It is with great honor that I introduce to you the Reverend Dr. Washington A. James. Pastor James, thank you for taking the time to speak with me this month. Let's begin.

#### **STEPPIN' OUT: Can you tell us how your call into the Ministry first came about?**

**JAMES:** I returned to Mobile, AL for a 4 day leave from France in 1993. My Grandfather was 94 at the time and he asked me to stay home with him, and not got back to sea. I loved my grandfather so much that I stayed with him and took care of him until he passed in 2001 at the age of 102 years old.

Since answering your call to Ministry, how has your life been transformed Both in the challenges you've faced and the blessings you've received? **JAMES:** He raised me from my childhood, I attended Church on a regular basis. Therefore, the Holy Spirit was all ways apart of my life. While Attending Church with him one night, I heard a voice call me, "W.A." and it sounded like the voice of God. I began to attend Prayer Meetings everyday at 12 noon and the Friday Prayer Meetings. I said, "no more." That was the day the Spirit of the Lord, the Holy Ghost came upon me for the Ministry. The Prayer Meeting was led by a Preacher, Reverend Martin, Evangelist Mitchell, and Evangelist Charley.

#### **STEPPIN' OUT: Can you tell us a little bit about your childhood and what molded you into the seasoned Man of God you are now?**

**JAMES:** My childhood began in 1960. I was reared by my grandfather, Deacon Willie James, Sr. in a Holiness Church. My mother, Mary Morris assisted my grandfather with rearing me. The Church was previously known as Adam Street Holiness Church. Now known as Phillips Temple A.O.H Church. Phillip Temple was under the leadership of Bishop W. T. Phillips. Starting at the first grade until the sixth grade, I did my Easter Speech every year until the sixth grade. All of the Mothers, Deacons, Preachers, and Members showed me so much love until I



*could feel their presence. God was all ways in my life and I knew it. That's where the molding came from.*

#### **STEPPIN' OUT: 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?**

**James:** I chose to be remembered by the words of the late great Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from his album "Remaining Awake." On this album Dr. King speaks...No matter what is said, or talked about concerning me, Don't forget to say, "I helped somebody." I've known your wife, Lady Cynthia since my childhood and she has been a part of Kingdom building and a beacon of light and life lessons to many.

#### **STEPPIN' OUT: Tell us how she inspires you in your marriage and your Ministry?**

**JAMES:** Lady Cynthia James, came into the Church with a giving heart and a giving spirit. No matter what we did or what was suggested we do she was a vital part of the Ministry. In town, or out of Town she is all ways there to support the Church and me as well. She is an excellent Sunday School Teacher. Sunday morning she has an out going message of encouragement. She showed my mother, Mother Mary Morris a lot of love at her home. My family and in laws. All of my grands and great grands love her dearly. Especially, my daughter in laws. Cynthia shows concern regarding my appearance, our home and take good care of me. I chose to be remembered by the words of the late great Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. from his album "Remaining Awake." On this album Dr. King speaks....No Matter what is said, or talked about concerning me...Don't forget to say, "I helped somebody."





# SPIRITUAL CONNECTIONS

## EVANGELIST PEGGY MOSE

### ARK OF SAFETY CHURCH MINISTRIES

-2700 FIRST AVENUE • MOBILE ALABAMA 36617-  
BISHOP ELLIS HARPER, JR.

Evangelist Peggy Mose is a powerful woman of God whose daily worship and unwavering faith inspire everyone around her. A loving wife, mother, mentor, worship leader, and financial advisor, her devotion to God is genuine and life-changing. As a faithful member of Ark Of Safety Church Ministries under Bishop Ellis Harper Sr., she shares uplifting messages through her Facebook page. I'm blessed to call her my dear friend and sister in Christ.

Thank you so much Evangelist for allowing me to interview you this month. Let's get started!!

**STEPPIN' OUT:** Evangelist Peggy, we saw your calling into ministry a long time ago. When did you finally let GOD move and what was the vision that HE placed upon your heart?

**MOSE:** From a young age, people would often tell me they saw the hand of God on my life. For a long time, I resisted fully stepping into ministry. I was busy building, busy surviving, busy just doing. But there comes a time when you stop running and let God move. For me, it was when I finally realized that His calling was not just a suggestion, it was an assignment. The vision He placed on my heart was clear... to be a vessel of restoration, to empower people to know their worth in Christ, and to help them walk in freedom, spiritually and financially.

**STEPPIN' OUT:** For years, your passion has been helping people understand financial structure and responsibilities in life which has been successful. Tell us a little more about that passion?

**MOSE:** The vision connects deeply with my passion for teaching financial stewardship. I have seen too many families broken, stressed, or left begging in times of loss because no one ever taught them how to prepare. My mission has been to help people break cycles of lack, shift from surviving to building, and create legacies that out-live them. I believe finances are not separate from faith, they are a tool for kingdom impact.

**STEPPIN' OUT:** How has your life been transformed both into challenges you've faced and the blessings you've received?



**MOSE:** My life, like anyone's, has had its share of challenges, childhood trauma, rejection, and seasons where I felt unseen. But those valleys were not wasted. They taught me discipline, compassion, and how to fully lean on God. And in the same breath, I've seen blessings beyond measure, children who inspire me daily, a family that grounds me, opportunities to lead, and above all, God's unshakable presence through it all.

**STEPPIN' OUT:** 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?

**MOSE:** The Word of God has been my anchor. One passage I hold dear is Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you." This verse reminds me that no matter the setback God's blueprint for my life remains intact. It's a promise of hope, a guarantee of purpose, and a reminder that HE is not done with me yet. Some of us have laughed at some of the BEST Facebook inspirational posts of family and the spiritual lessons behind them. Tell us a little about hubby and kids. It is almost like seeing the newer version of the Cosby Show.

**MOSE:** Family is my heartbeat. If you've followed my posts, you know I love sharing little stories about my husband and children. They are my first ministry, my biggest supporters, and sometimes my comic relief. The lessons God teaches me through them are often the very same lessons I share with others. It's real life, but it's also kingdom life, showing that faith is not separate from family, it flows through it.

**STEPPIN' OUT:** It is powerful the way you connect with GOD in your daily worship. What is the most important message you will always preach to everyone who listens to your post?

**MOSE:** If there is one message I will always preach, it is this: "God wants you whole. Whole in spirit, whole in mind, whole in your finances, whole in your family. The world will try to make you settle for pieces, but God restores, rebuilds, and refills. My calling is simply to remind people of that truth until they believe it enough to walk in it."





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BLACK AMERICAN POLITICS

Joseph Mitchell PhD

CITIZEN MUSICIAN & POLITICIAN



MOBILE, Ala...The next mayor will start his term with a big pay boost. The Mobile City Council on Tuesday approved outgoing Mayor Sandy Stimpson’s request to hike the annual salary for the office from \$125,000 to \$195,000. The mayor first made the pitch at last month’s “State of the City and County” event. “I just want to say thank you,” the mayor said after the vote. “For the future of the city of Mobile, this is one for the most significant moves that the City Council has made.” The vote will give Mobile the highest-paid mayor in Alabama when the measure takes effect in November, after the August municipal election. But Stimpson told reporters that some municipalities have city managers that perform the same administrative duties as the mayor in Mobile. Most of those positions, he said, pay more than \$200,000 a year.

Thank you for your interest in registering to vote in the State of Alabama. Please note that the voter registration application may be used to register to vote OR update your voter registration information.

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NOTE: The following information was gleaned directly from the Internet. We advise that you double check for accuracy.

IN THE NEWS (continued from Page 10)

University projects that 1.4 million low-income families could lose their homes and face the possibility of being homeless... Donald Trump has decided to withdraw the U.S. from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) calling it Woke. He has also withdrawn from the World Health Organization and the Paris Climate Agreement arguing that it is not in America's best interests to participate...Former Attorney General Eric Holder has called the Texas redistricting effort a threat to democracy. He appeared along with House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries in a virtual call hosted by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to provide a high level overview to the House Democratic Caucus on the latest in the fight against Donald Trump's gerrymandering scheme in Texas and across the country...The head of FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Branch has resigned telling colleagues that the Trump Administration's disastrous response to the deadly flooding in Texas had driven him over the edge...Former President Barack Obama has released a public statement directly pushing back on Donald Trump's accusations of treason and election interference. "Out of respect for the office of the presidency, our office does not normally dignify the constant nonsense and misinformation flowing out of this White House with a response, but these claims are outrageous enough to merit one. These bizarre allegations are ridiculous and a weak attempt at distraction."

Alabama solicitor general Edmund LaCour has been nominated by Donald Trump for a federal judgeship. LeCour helped the Alabama Legislature defy the federal courts, including the Supreme Court, in order to dilute Black voting power...Alabama A&M is celebrating 150 years of existence this year and is also welcoming its largest first-year class in years. A large part of the newly enrolled students are Black men, a demographic typically underrepresented in higher education...Senator Katie Britt has advanced more than \$14 million in funding for Alabama. The funding is targeted toward law enforcement, university programs, and Port of Mobile projects... Representative Terri Sewell has cosigned an amendment to limit presidential immunity. The amendment would ensure no government official, including the president, vice president or congressional representatives, may be immune from criminal prosecution on the sole ground that their alleged criminal act was within the conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority of their office or related to their duty...The Alabama gubernatorial election is in November 3, 2026, and Tommy Tuberville in a speech at the Alabama County Commission Association convention laid out his plan for the state if he is elected. He wants to encourage some students to go into technical training after completing the 10th grade. He says students can get into the workforce faster after continuing their education in welding, plumbing, and other trades.

Amtrak service has returned to the Gulf Coast. The Mardi Gras Route will operate from Mobile to New Orleans with stops in Pascagoula, Biloxi, Gulfport, and Bay Saint Louis. There will be morning and evening departures from both cities...The City of Mobile has opened bids on the next "complete streets" project that is targeted for the area between Dr. MLK (Davis) Ave and Butcher's Lane. It is estimated the project will take between 18 to 24 months...See Ya!

HEADLINE SOURCES: Newsone, BuzzFeed, boldfact.com, newsbreak.com, Time, Newsweek, CNN, History Exposé, Africa News, Alabama Political Reporter, alreporter.com, AL.com Kyle Whitmire, Alabama Reflector

###



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# 2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

All Home Games Are CAPITALIZED

## NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

### REGULAR SEASON



S. 07 CARDINALS .....Noon  
S. 14 49ERS..... Noon  
S. 21 @ Seahawks..... 3:05 pm  
S. 28 @ Bills.....Noon  
O. 05 GIANTS.....Noon  
O. 12 PATRIOTS ..... 3:25 pm

O. 19 @ Bears .....Noon  
O. 26 BUCCANEERS ..... 3:05 pm  
N. 02 @ Rams ..... 3:05 pm  
N. 09 @ Panthers.....Noon  
N. 17 BYE  
N. 23 FALCONS ..... 3:25 pm

N. 30 @ Dolphins .....Noon  
D. 07 @ Buccaneers .....Noon  
D. 14 PANTHERS..... 3:25 pm  
D. 21 JETS .....Noon  
D. 28 @ Titans.....Noon  
TBD @ Falcons..... TBD

## COLLEGIATE GAMES

### SOUTH ALABAMA

S. 06 TULANE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 13 at Auburn ..... 11:45 am  
S. 20 COASTAL CAROLINA..... TBD  
S. 27 at North Texas ..... TBD  
O. 04 at Troy ..... TBD  
O. 14 ARKANSAS STATE..... 6:30 pm  
O. 23 at Georgia State ..... 6:30 pm  
N. 01 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE..... TBD  
N. 15 at Louisiana-Monroe ..... TBD  
N. 22 SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI..... TBD  
N. 29 at Texas State..... TBD

### ALABAMA

S. 06 LOUISIANA-MONROE..... 6:45 pm  
S. 13 WISCONSIN ..... 11:00 am  
S. 27 at Georgia ..... 6:30 pm  
O. 04 VANDERBILT ..... TBD  
O. 11 at Missouri ..... 11:00 am  
O. 18 TENNESSEE ..... TBD  
O. 25 at South Carolina ..... TBD  
N. 08 LSU ..... TBD  
N. 15 OKLAHOMA..... TBD  
N. 22 EASTERN ILLINOIS ..... TBD  
N. 29 at Auburn..... TBD

### ALABAMA A&M

S. 06 ALCORN STATE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 13 at Tennessee State ..... 3:30 pm  
S. 20 LANE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 27 at Bethune-Cookman ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 04 JACKSON ST. .... 5:00 pm  
O. 11 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ST. 2:00 pm  
O. 25 at Alabama State ..... 2:30 pm  
N. 01 at Grambling State ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 08 PRAIRIE VIEW... ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 15 FLORIDA A&M ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 22 at Texas Southern ..... 2:00 pm

### ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

S. 06 at Navy ..... 2:30 pm  
S. 13 AKRON ..... 7:30 pm  
S. 20 at Tennessee ..... 11:45 am  
O. 04 ARMY ..... TBD  
O. 11 at Florida Atlantic..... TBD  
O. 18 MEMPHIS ..... TBD  
N. 01 at UConn ..... 1:00 am  
N. 08 at Rice ..... TBD  
N. 15 NORTH TEXAS..... TBD  
N. 22 SOUTH FLORIDA..... TBD  
N. 29 at Tulsa..... TBD

### ALABAMA STATE

S. 06 at Southern..... 6:00 pm  
S. 13 MILES ..... 4:00 pm  
S. 27 at Florida A&M..... 2:00 pm  
O. 04 BETHUNE-COOKMAN ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 11 at Jackson State..... 2:30 pm  
O. 25 ALABAMA A&M (B'Ham).... 2:30 pm  
N. 01 at Prairie View ..... TBD  
N. 08 TEXAS SOUTHERN ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 15 at Mississippi Valley ..... 4:00 pm  
N. 22 ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF 12:00 pm  
N. 27 TUSKEGEE..... 2:00 pm

### AUBURN

S. 06 BALL STATE..... 6:30 pm  
S. 13 SOUTH ALABAMA..... 11:45 am  
S. 20 at Oklahoma ..... TBD  
S. 27 at Texas A&M ..... TBD  
O. 11 GEORGIA ..... TBD  
O. 18 MISSOURI ..... TBD  
O. 25 at Arkansas ..... TBD  
N. 01 KENTUCKY ..... TBD  
N. 08 at Vanderbilt ..... TBD  
N. 22 MERCER..... 1:00 pm  
N. 29 ALABAMA ..... TBD  
A. 29 at Baylor ..... 7:00 pm

### JACKSONVILLE STATE

S. 06 LIBERTY ..... 11:00 am  
S. 13 at Georgia Southern ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 20 MURRAY STATE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 27 at Southern Mississippi ..... TBD  
O. 09 at Sam Houston ..... 7:00 pm  
O. 15 DELAWARE ..... 6:00 pm  
O. 29 at Middle Tennessee ..... 6:30 pm  
N. 08 at Texas El Paso ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 15 KENNESAW STATE..... 1:00 pm  
N. 22 at Florida International ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 30 WESTERN KENTUCKY ..... 1:00 pm

### MILES

S. 06 at Edward Waters..... 3:00 pm  
S. 13 at Alabama State..... 5:00 pm  
S. 20 SAVANNAH STATE..... 2:00 pm  
S. 27 at Morgan State.. ..... 1:00 pm  
O. 04 KENTUCKY STATE..... 2:00 pm  
O. 11 at Lane College ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 18 CLARK ATLANTA..... 2:00 pm  
O. 25 at Central State ..... 12:00 pm  
N. 01 at Fort Valley Stat..... 2:00 pm  
N. 08 TUSKEGEE..... 2:00 pm

### NORTH ALABAMA

S. 06 at Southeast Missouri..... 6:00 pm  
S. 13 NORTHEASTERN STATE .....:00 pm  
S. 20 at Illinois State..... 12:00 pm  
O. 04 at Abilene Christian ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 11 CENTRAL ARKANSAS ..... 3:00 pm  
O. 18 EASTERN KENTUCKY .. 6:00 pm  
O. 25 at Austin Peay ..... 3:00 pm  
N. 01 at Utah Tech ..... 3:00 pm  
N. 08 WEST GEORGIA..... 3:00 pm  
N. 15 at Tarleton State ..... 6:00 pm  
N. 22 SOUTHERN UTAH ..... 1:00 pm

### SAMFORD

S. 06 CITADEL ..... 2:30 pm  
S. 13 at Baylor ..... 11:00 am  
S. 20 at Western Carolina..... 1:30 pm  
S. 27 FURMAN..... 2:30 pm  
O. 04 at Mercer ..... 3:00 pm  
O. 18 at Virginia Military Inst. 12:30 pm  
O. 25 CHATTANOOGA ..... 2:30 pm  
N. 01 at Wofford..... 12:30 pm

N. 08 EAST TENNESSEE STATE2:30 pm  
N. 15 at Austin Peay ..... 1:00 pm  
N. 22 at Texas A&M ..... 11:00 am

### SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

S. 06 JACKSON STATE ..... 4:00 pm  
S. 13 APPALACHIAN STATE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 20 at Louisiana Tech ..... 6:30 pm  
S. 27 JACKSONVILLE STATE ..... TBA  
O. 09 at Georgia Southern..... TBD  
O. 18 at Louisiana-Lafayette..... TBD  
O. 25 LOUISIANA-MONROE..... TBD  
N. 08 at Arkansas State ..... TBD  
N. 15 TEXAS STATE ..... TBD  
N. 22 at South Alabama ..... TBD  
N. 29 TROY ..... TBD

### TROY

S. 06 at Clemson ..... 2:30 pm  
S. 13 MEMPHIS ..... 11:00 am  
S. 20 at Buffalo State ..... TBD  
O. 04 SOUTH ALABAMA..... TBD  
O. 11 at Texas State..... TBD  
O. 18 at Louisiana-Monroe ..... TBD  
O. 25 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE..... TBD  
N. 01 ARKANSAS STATE..... TBD  
N. 13 at Old Dominion ..... 6:30 pm  
N. 22 GEORGIA STATE ..... TBD  
N. 29 at Southern Mississippi ..... TBD

### TUSKEGEE

S. 06 CENTRAL STATE..... 6:00 pm  
S. 13 at Jackson State..... 2:00 pm  
S. 18 at Benedict College ..... 7:00 pm  
S. 27 FORT VALLEY STATE ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 04 MOREHOUSE..... 6:00 pm  
O. 18 at Albany State ..... 2:00 pm  
O. 25 ALLEN COLLEGE..... 2:00 pm  
N. 01 LANE COLLEGE ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 08 at Miles College..... 2:00 pm  
N. 27 at Alabama State..... 2:00 pm

### WEST ALABAMA

S. 06 at Chosen University ..... 1:00 pm  
S. 13 CHARLESTON..... 1:00 pm  
S. 20 BARTON COLLEGE ..... 6:00 pm  
S. 27 at North Greenville Univ. .... TBD  
O. 04 LINCOLN UNIV. CA. .... 6:00 pm  
O. 18 WEST FLORIDA..... TBD  
O. 25 DELTA STATE ..... 2:00 pm  
N. 01 at Valdosta State ..... TBD  
N. 15 NORTHEASTERN STAT .... 1:00 pm



# 2025 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

All Home Games Are CAPITALIZED

## ALMA BRYANT

S. 05 at Fairhope  
S. 12 SPRINGVILLE  
S. 19 DAVIDSON  
S. 26 at Citronelle  
O. 03 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 10 at Daphne  
O. 16 ROBERTSDALE  
O. 24 at Foley  
O. 31 P.D. JACKSON-OLIN

## BAKER

S. 05 DAVIDSON  
S. 12 at Jackson  
S. 19 DAPHNE  
S. 26 HOUSTON COUNTY  
O. 03 at Robertsdale  
O. 10 FOLEY  
O. 17 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 24 FAIRHOPE  
O. 30 VIGOR

## BALDWIN COUNTY

S. 05 SPANISH FORT  
S. 12 THEODORE  
S. 25 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 03 SARALAND  
O. 09 at Murphy  
O. 17 BLOUNT  
O. 24 at Gulf Shores  
O. 31 at McGill-Toolen

## BAYSHORE CHRISTIAN

S. 12 at Clarke County  
S. 19 ST. LUKE'S  
S. 26 at Florala  
O. 03 at Washington County  
O. 09 CENTRAL (Hayneville)  
O. 16 CHICKASAW  
O. 24 at Blacksher  
N. 01 at J.F. Shields

## BAYSIDE ACADEMY

S. 05 at Orange Beach  
S. 12 MONROE COUNTY  
S. 19 at Flomaton  
O. 03 at Hillcrest (Evergreen)  
O. 10 at Cottage Hill Christian  
O. 17 EXCEL  
O. 24 at T.R. Miller  
N. 01 at Tuscaloosa Academy

## B.C. RAIN

S. 05 at UMS-Wright  
S. 12 ELBERTA  
S. 19 at Williamson  
O. 03 at LeFlore  
O. 10 CITRONELLE  
O. 17 at Faith Academy  
O. 24 VIGOR  
O. 31 at Davidson

## CHICKASAW

S. 05 at J.U. Blacksher  
S. 12 WASHINGTON COUNTY  
S. 26 FRUITDALE  
O. 03 at Central Hayneville  
O. 10 CLARKE COUNTY  
O. 16 at Bayshore Christian  
O. 24 at St. Luke's  
O. 31 SATSUMA

## CITRONELLE

S. 05 FAITH ACADEMY  
S. 12 WILLIAMSON  
S. 19 VIGOR  
S. 26 ALMA BRYANT  
O. 03 at UMS-Wright  
O. 10 at B.C. Rain  
O. 17 LEFLORE  
O. 24 at Elberta

## COTTAGE HILL CHRISTIAN

S. 05 at Hillcrest (Evergreen)  
S. 19 EXCEL  
S. 26 CHOCTAW COUNTY  
O. 03 at T.R. Miller  
O. 10 BAYSIDE ACADEMY  
O. 17 at Monroe County  
O. 24 FLOMATON  
O. 31 ST. LUKE'S

## DAPHNE

S. 05 MARY G. MONTGOMERY  
S. 12 FOLEY  
S. 19 at Baker  
S. 26 SPANISH FORT  
O. 03 at Davidson  
O. 10 ALMA BRYANT  
O. 17 at Fairhope  
O. 24 at Robertsdale

## DAVIDSON

S. 05 at Baker  
S. 12 FAIRHOPE  
S. 19 at Alma Bryant  
S. 26 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
O. 03 DAPHNE  
O. 10 at Robertsdale  
O. 16 FOLEY  
O. 24 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 31 B.C. RAIN

## FAIRHOPE

S. 05 ALMA BRYANT  
S. 12 at Davidson  
S. 19 ROBERTSDALE  
S. 26 at Theodore  
O. 03 at Foley  
O. 10 MARY G. MONTGOMERY  
O. 17 DAPHNE  
O. 24 at Baker

## FAITH ACADEMY

S. 05 at Citronelle  
S. 12 LEFLORE  
S. 20 ELBERTA  
S. 26 at St. Paul's  
O. 03 WILLIAMSON  
O. 10 at Vigor  
O. 17 B.C. RAIN  
O. 24 UMS-WRIGHT  
N. 01 at J.M. Tate

## FOLEY

S. 05 ROBERTSDALE  
S. 12 at Daphne  
S. 19 at Mary G. Montgomery  
O. 03 FAIRHOPE  
O. 10 at Baker  
O. 16 at Davidson  
O. 24 ALMA BRYANT  
O. 31 LEFLORE

## GULF SHORES

S. 05 at Saraland  
S. 12 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
S. 19 at Blount  
O. 03 at St. Paul's  
O. 10 SPANISH FORT  
O. 17 at Theodore  
O. 24 BALDWIN COUNTY  
O. 31 MURPHY

## LEFLORE

S. 05 at Vigor  
S. 12 at Faith Academy  
S. 26 at Jackson  
O. 03 B.C. RAIN  
O. 10 ELBERTA  
O. 17 at Citronelle  
O. 24 WILLIAMSON  
O. 31 at Foley

## MARY G. MONTGOMERY

S. 05 at Daphne  
S. 12 at Robertsdale  
S. 19 FOLEY  
S. 25 BALDWIN COUNTY  
O. 03 ALMA BRYANT  
O. 10 at Fairhope  
O. 17 BAKER  
O. 24 DAVIDSON

## MATTIE T. BLOUNT

S. 05 at Murphy  
S. 19 at Gulf Shores  
S. 26 at Coosa Christian  
O. 03 at Spanish Fort  
O. 10 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
O. 17 at Baldwin County  
O. 24 ST. PAUL'S  
O. 31 THEODORE

## MCGILL TOOLEN

S. 05 at Theodore  
S. 12 at Gulf Shores  
S. 19 at Saraland  
S. 26 at Davidson  
O. 10 at Blount  
O. 17 at St. Paul's  
O. 24 SPANISH FORT  
O. 31 BALDWIN COUNTY

## MCINTOSH

S. 12 SOUTHERN CHOCTAW  
S. 20 SWEET WATER  
S. 26 at Calhoun  
O. 03 at Millry  
O. 10 MARENGO  
O. 17 J.F. SHIELDS  
O. 24 at Fruitdale

## MOBILE CHRISTIAN

S. 05 at Satsuma  
S. 12 ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
S. 19 JACKSON  
S. 26 SAINT STANISLAUS  
O. 03 at Charleston (Ms)  
O. 10 at St. Michael  
O. 17 at Orange Beach  
O. 24 W.S. NEAL

## MURPHY

S. 05 BLOUNT  
S. 12 at St. Paul's  
S. 18 SPANISH FORT  
S. 26 at Williamson  
O. 02 at Theodore  
O. 09 BALDWIN COUNTY  
O. 16 at Saraland  
O. 31 at Gulf Shores

## ORANGE BEACH

S. 05 BAYSIDE ACADEMY  
S. 12 at W.S. Neal  
S. 18 SATSUMA  
S. 26 at Robertsdale  
O. 03 at Escambia County  
O. 09 at Jackson  
O. 17 MOBILE CHRISTIAN  
O. 24 ST. MICHAEL

## ROBERTSDALE

S. 05 at Foley  
S. 12 MARY G. MONTGOMERY  
S. 19 at Fairhope  
S. 26 ORANGE BEACH  
O. 03 ROBERTSDALE  
O. 10 DAVIDSON  
O. 16 at Alma Bryant  
O. 24 DAPHNE

## SARALAND

S. 05 GULF SHORES  
S. 12 at Spanish Fort  
S. 19 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
S. 27 MONTGOMERY CATHOLIC  
O. 03 at Baldwin County  
O. 10 ST. PAUL'S  
O. 16 MURPHY  
O. 24 THEODORE  
O. 30 CARVER (Montgomery)

## SATSUMA

S. 05 MOBILE CHRISTIAN  
S. 12 at St. Michael  
S. 18 at Orange Beach  
S. 26 ST. LUKE'S  
O. 03 at W.S. Neal  
O. 17 ESCAMBIA COUNTY  
O. 24 JACKSON  
O. 31 at Chickasaw

## SPANISH FORT

S. 05 at Baldwin County  
S. 12 SARALAND  
S. 18 at Murphy  
S. 26 at Daphne  
O. 03 BLOUNT  
O. 10 at Gulf Shores  
O. 24 at McGill-Toolen  
O. 31 ST. PAUL'S

## ST. LUKE'S

S. 05 at Washington County  
S. 12 CENTRAL HAYNEVILLE  
S. 19 at Bayshore Christian  
S. 26 at Satsuma  
O. 03 J.U. BLACKSHER  
O. 17 at Clarke County  
O. 24 CHICKASAW  
O. 31 at Cottage Hill Christian

## ST. MICHAEL

S. 05 W.S. NEAL  
S. 12 SATSUMA  
S. 19 at Escambia County  
O. 03 at Jackson  
O. 10 MOBILE CHRISTIAN  
O. 16 PENSACOLA  
O. 24 at Orange Beach

O. 30 UMS-WRIGHT

## ST. PAUL'S

S. 12 MURPHY  
S. 19 at Theodore  
S. 26 FAITH ACADEMY  
O. 03 GULF SHORES  
O. 10 at Saraland  
O. 17 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
O. 24 at Blount  
O. 31 at Spanish Fort

## THEODORE

S. 05 MCGILL-TOOLEN  
S. 12 at Baldwin County  
S. 19 ST. PAUL'S  
S. 26 FAIRHOPE  
O. 02 MURPHY  
O. 17 GULF SHORES  
O. 24 at Saraland  
O. 31 at Blount

## UMS-WRIGHT

S. 05 B.C. RAIN  
S. 12 VIGOR  
S. 26 at T.R. Miller  
O. 03 CITRONELLE  
O. 10 at Williamson  
O. 17 ELBERTA  
O. 24 at Faith Academy  
O. 30 at St. Michael

## VIGOR

S. 05 LEFLORE  
S. 12 at UMS-Wright  
S. 19 at Citronelle  
O. 03 at Elberta  
O. 10 FAITH ACADEMY  
O. 17 at Williamson  
O. 24 at B.C. Rain  
O. 30 at Baker

## WILLIAMSON

S. 04 ELBERTA  
S. 12 at Citronelle  
S. 19 B.C. RAIN  
S. 26 MURPHY  
O. 03 at Faith Academy  
O. 10 UMS-WRIGHT  
O. 17 VIGOR  
O. 24 at LeFlore

# HIGH SCHOOL GAMES





# Mobile County Expands Program for Disposing of US Flags

Mobile County residents may now bring old, worn, or damaged U.S. flags to several designated locations throughout the county for proper and respectful disposal. As a convenience to the public, the Mobile County Commission is expanding its flag disposal program to about 20 new locations throughout the county.

In addition to Mobile Government Plaza, residents may now bring worn or damaged U.S. flags to these locations for proper disposal:

- Historic Avenue Cultural Center**
- Mobile County License Commission Offices**  
(Michael Square, Theodore, Eight Mile, Citronelle)
- Mobile County Sheriff's Offices**  
(Administration, Southside Sub-Station, Northside Sub-Station)
- Chickasaw Library**
- Prichard Library**
- Satsuma Library**
- Citronelle Memorial Library**
- City of Semmes City Hall**
- Mt. Vernon Town Hall**
- Saraland City Hall**
- Dauphin Island Town Hall**
- Bayou La Batre City Hall**
- Grand Bay-St Elmo Community & Senior Center**
- Connie Hudson Mobile Regional Senior Community Center**

The U.S. flag disposal boxes are accessible at each location during normal business hours. All types of U.S. flags are accepted and should be folded respectfully before being placed in the box.

In 2022, Mobile County set up its first and only box in Mobile Government Plaza. Its popularity and usage prompted this program expansion. The initiative originated with the National Association of Counties and the Association of County Commissions of Alabama. It follows the U.S. Flag Code for flag retirement.



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### COMPANY: SICKLE CELL DISEASE ASSOCIATION, MOBILE CHAPTER SOCIAL WORKER: JOB DESCRIPTION

The Social Worker will provide overall case management services to clients with sickle cell disease and provide counseling services for those clients with sickle cell trait.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

##### Client Relationship Management

- Responsible for developing and maintaining client relationships by providing skilled assessment and intervention for families affected by Sickle Cell Disease.
- Uses case management theory and sound judgment to provide holistic services to clients affected by Sickle Cell Disease and Trait.
- Develops creative solutions for existing client situations to help the clients meet their goals as well as pursues new client opportunities.
- Develops innovative ways to enhance the client services program with constant assessment of current program offerings.
- Provides guidance and referrals to appropriate community services and resources for Sickle Cell clients within the service area.
- Performs thorough psychosocial assessment from a family-centered care perspective.
- Provides anticipatory guidance for coping with Sickle Cell Disease from a family-centered perspective.
- Performs comprehensive and ongoing assessment of family coping and family system integrity.
- Collaborate with family and team to identify options, goals and priorities for care.
- Offer family counseling, including cognitive behavioral skills training to facilitate effective coping.
- Performs mental health assessments as relates to coping with Sickle Cell Disease.
- Ensure that recommended services are delivered to clients in an effective manner.

#### ADMINISTRATION

- Responsible for client files administration.
- Ensures the development of an effective system of ongoing recruitment and cultivation of clients and produces monthly reports on activities.
- Ensures effective use of client management information systems.
- Fosters best use of resources, effective service delivery, and patient and family satisfaction.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- Helps sustain a culture of planning and of performance-based work and evaluation.
- Assists the Executive Director in the strategic planning process of the client services program.
- Assists with volunteers and interns within the client services department and coordinates needed resources within the organization.

#### Fund Development

- Participates in the solicitation and securing of financial support from individuals, foundations and corporations as needed.
- Participates in fundraising events and the planning process of said events.
- Other duties as assigned by the Executive Director

#### QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- Minimum 3 years case management experience
- Licensure appropriate to the State and organizational guidelines for location of practice. Will allow 6 months to obtain license.
- Demonstrated experience working with family systems.
- Knowledge and experience of theories, tools, and metrics for project design, planning - including logic models - and management of execution.
- Ability to work easily and effectively with a wide range of people, practicing leadership, motivation, team building and conflict resolution.
- Excellent attention to detail, accuracy, and quality.
- Able to manage multiple projects and responsibilities at once; ability to meet deadlines
- Must demonstrate ability to make decisions and exercise sound business judgement in the interest of the association
- Proficiency with MS Office including Outlook, Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Ability to learn new computing systems as needed for position
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills
- Must have the capability to travel, have a valid Alabama driver's license and reliable transportation.

###



# Passings



**Loni Anderson - 79**  
ACTRESS  
*All Dogs Go to Heaven*  
*WKRP in Cincinnati*



**Chuck Mangione - 84**  
MUSICIAN  
*Feels So Good*



**Danielle Spencer - 60**  
ACTRESS • VETERINARIAN  
*What's Happening*  
**Cancer**



**Wallis Annenberg - 86**  
PRESIDENT  
Annenberg Foundation



**Tommy Brooks - 71**  
BOXING TRAINER  
Mike Tyson • Evander Holifield  
**Colon Cancer**



**Lori Cannon - 74**  
LGBT ACTIVIST  
AIDS Awareness Advocate



**Tom Cousins - 93**  
OWNER  
Atlanta Hawks



**Hulk Hogan - 71**  
WRESTLER • ACTOR  
**Heart Attack**



**Jim Lovell - 97**  
ASTRONAUT  
Apollo 8 & 13 • Gemini 12



**Kelley Mack - 33**  
ACTRESS  
*The Walking Dead*



**Ozzy Osbourne - 76**  
MUSICIAN  
Black Sabbath  
**Heart Attack**



**Ryne Sandberg - 65**  
MLB PLAYER  
Chicago Cubs  
Philadelphia Phillies  
**Prostate Cancer**



**Jeffrey Louis Starr - 61**  
CHILD ACTOR  
*The Bad News Bears*

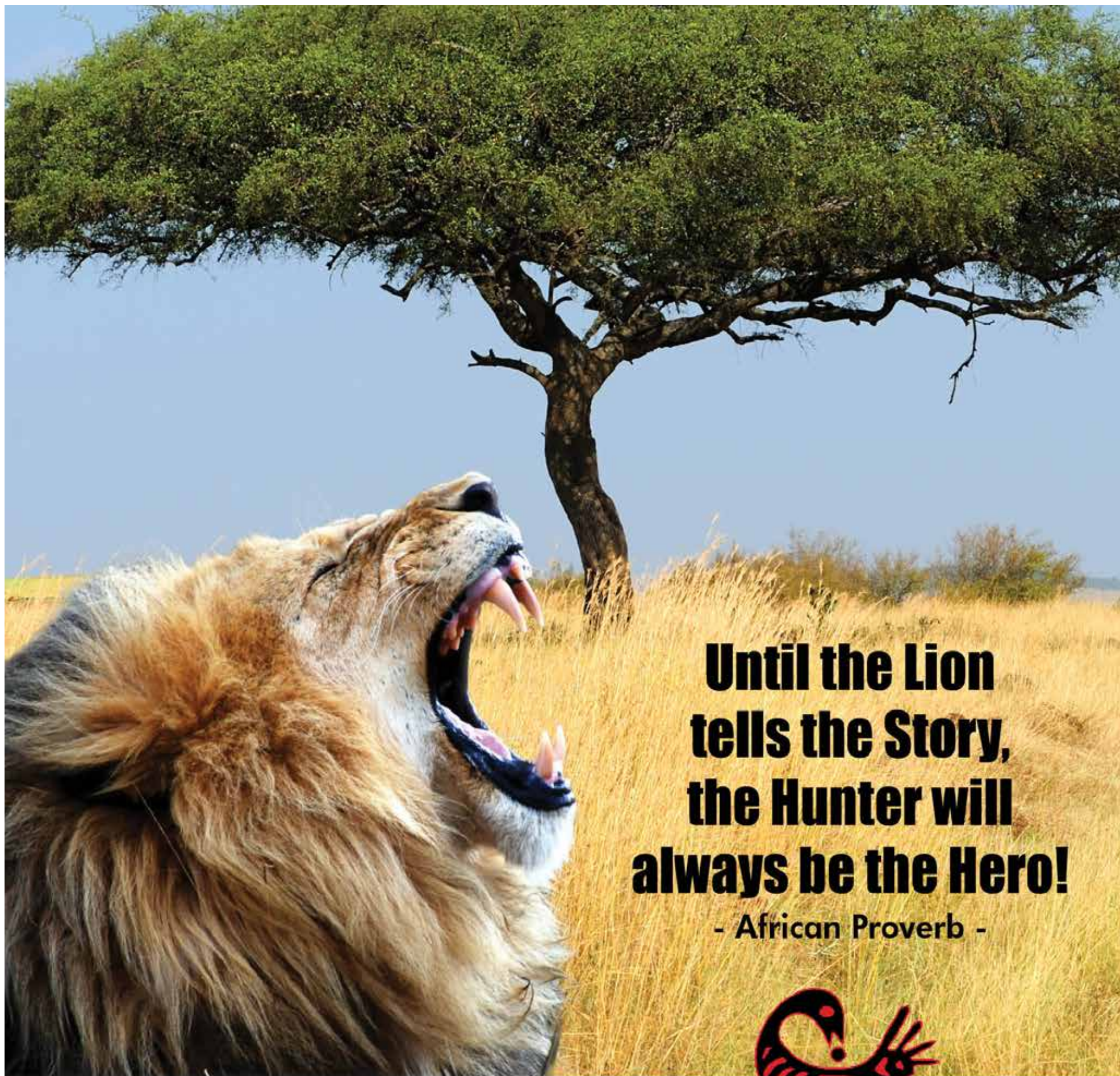


**Lionel Taylor - 89**  
NFL PLAYER  
Broncos • Oilers  
FIRST BLACK COORDINATOR



**Kenneth Washington - 89**  
ACTOR  
*Hogan's Heroes*  
*Westwood*  
Adam 12





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

- African Proverb -



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

